



THE LUTHERAN **AMBASSADOR**

June 13, 1989

LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

COVER PHOTO

Pilot Mountain, near Banff, Alta.,
in the Canadian Rockies.
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

Volume 27 Number 12

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor

Rev. Robert Lee, Assistant Editor

Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Layout Design

Editorial Board:

Dr. Francis Monseth

Mr. Sheldon Mortrud

Rev. Wendell Johnson

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Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change" (James 1:17).

The privilege of being a father is a high and noble task. It's not a calling one takes upon one's self for a brief moment, after which one goes one's own way. Once begun, it normally lasts all of life. Therefore it's important to reflect on some marks of a good and caring father.

In Ephesians 5:25, we read, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her." Where deep love and respect are shown for one's mate, children have a good example to which to look. To belittle and abuse one's wife is to teach children it's alright to mistreat family members in an uncaring, callous way. As Christ died for the church, husband and wife are to completely give themselves to one another. Here youngsters learn true consideration and compassion.

A father is also called to see that his family's physical, mental and spiritual needs are met. In I Timothy 5:8, we're told, "If anyone does not provide for... his own family, he has disowned the faith and is worse than an unbeliever." Selfish desires and wants are not to come first, but the concerns and needs of others.

Another concern is discipline. Proverbs 3:12 declares that a father reproves "the son in whom he delights." This is never to be done in hate but rather to aid and assist children to be what God wills them to be. "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 6:4).

Not only is the father to be a guide in secular and worldly matters, He is to be the spiritual priest of the home. As such he is to "tend the flock of God that is in (his) charge" being an example to the flock (I Peter 5:2-3). He is not only to urge other family members to take God's ordinances and statutes seriously. He himself is to lead the way. The fruits and gifts of the Spirit are to show daily

A high calling

in his own life. He should be a man of prayer and a faithful reader of God's Word. Attendance at worship, Bible study, prayer meetings and giving of time and means to the Lord's work and to charity should be a regular part of his life. Example is indeed an important teacher. The call to love one another as God has loved us (I John 4:7-12) is also for the home. A father should not be ashamed to tell his family he loves them and also show it in deeds and acts.

How is all of this to occur? Does a father just grit his teeth and say, "I'll do it or else"? No, not at all. God knows we're but flesh (Psalm 78:39) and that even our best deeds are like filthy rags (Isaiah 65:6b); in self, "no one does good, not even one" (Romans 3:12b). The ability to fulfill God's call to fatherhood must come from another source, God Himself. Not only is God to be the central example a father should follow, but every endowment, every qualification must come from Him. No one has it in himself to be a competent father. All good gifts come from above, from the Father of lights who alone is consistent and faithful. The only way an earthly father can fulfill his tasks correctly is as God in Christ is regenerated in him through Word and Sacraments, and he ceases to be dependent on his own abilities so Christ in him becomes his new wholeness. He is to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh" (Romans 13:14), his own supposed strength, self-glory or himself.

May those of us who have the high calling to be fathers realize this and ever flee to Jesus, being filled with and controlled by Him, so we may fulfill our mission, ever looking to Jesus as the author and finisher of our calling.



—by Pastor
Christian Oswood

The man whom God knows and trusts

Genesis 18:17-19

When we speak about "Father's Day" the central thought must always relate to the home and to children in that home, for it is there that a man as a father can be at his very best and can shine most fruitfully to the glory of God.

Someone, I do not know who it was, has coined the saying, "If you're too busy for God, you're too busy." There's a lot of truth in that saying, which could well be applied to a large number of the people of our country today.

But this morning as we worship and consider God's Word on this Sunday we call Father's Day, I'd like to rephrase that statement a little and turn its focus and say, "Fathers, if you're too busy for your children, you're too busy."

God's holy Word presents us a picture of the ideal family. At the beginning of our human race, God Himself established the family as the basic unit of a godly society and throughout the inspired Scriptures He has stressed the importance of every member of that unit; God will not go back on His Word.

Upon creating our first parents, God joined them in marriage which was to be a lifelong relationship and He blessed their union with children. In the 127th Psalm, we read: "Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is His reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man, so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them."

In that family relationship, under God, each person has his responsibility and each, although different, is of equal importance. Just as the Apostle Paul, in the 12th chapter of I Corinthians, likens the Christian congregation to the human body in which every member has his or her individual place and function, so it is within the family.

The husband and father is to be the provider and protector of that family he has established. The wife and mother, using the means provided by her husband, is to be the homemaker, turning the house into a home with a pleasant, loving atmosphere, and each child, being provided for by the parents, is to learn respect, responsibility and discipline so that he can take his respective part in making home life a more pleasant experience for all.

We may sometimes marvel at how well a

mother is able to provide for the physical needs of her children and keep them together when she has lost her husband, and a woman doing so certainly deserves much credit. But the truth is this places an undue burden upon that mother and she and her children are really not able to function as a family should.

There is yet another most important sacred responsibility given under God to the father of the family. The father is also called by God to be the spiritual head and priest of his family and this is the calling of every father of every family.

It is sad to say there are many fathers who provide well for their wives and children in their material needs, yet never have a thought as to their spiritual needs.

Among the Hebrew people of the Old Testament, the father who was faithful to the Lord would gather his family together in the home and each week or each day he would be their teacher. He would recite to them the stories of God's dealings with His people, how He had led them in the past and had established them in the land of promise, teaching them in the ways of the Lord, teaching them to pray, interceding for each member of his family and teaching them by word and by example to confess their sins when they had done wrong and to receive assurance of forgiveness from the Lord. When the father shows by personal forgiveness that he is walking with the Lord, the sons and daughters of that family are much more apt to follow in the footsteps of the Lord. This is the application of those words in Proverbs 22:6: "Train up a child in the way that he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." It is God's promise that godly parents will have godly children.

According to Deuteronomy 6:6-7, the Lord God had warned the Israelite families against idolatry before they entered the promised land and He said, "These words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." In other words, God's intention for His people was that the ways of the Lord were to be the chief subject of their daily conversation.



"God's holy
Word presents
us a picture
of the ideal
family."

by Pastor
Robert D. Giles
Tucson, Ariz.

"In heavenly
places your
children
will also bless
you for
teaching
them to
follow Jesus
as their Lord
and Savior."

It was this personal relationship with their Lord that kept the Israelites together as God's people. They knew they were precious in His sight. But when that teaching by the fathers broke down by neglect or carelessness, the people of Israel drifted into sin, to follow the ways of idolatry. When God's Word was forgotten they began to be defeated before their enemies.

How often have we heard an unchurched and disinterested father excuse himself by saying, "Oh, my wife has enough religion for our whole family."

We must thank the Lord for every wife and mother who takes her children to Sunday School and church, who will see to their spiritual upbringing in spite of her husband's carelessness, but we must also say right here is where the father of those children is neglecting his most serious responsibility and is also missing one of life's most precious blessings. If the father of the family is neglectful in his God-given calling to be priest and the spiritual guide to his family, is it any wonder if the sons of that family drift away and even become lost to the Lord?

Fathers, when you stand before the judgment seat of Christ, will you be charged with the sin of the spiritual neglect of your sons or will they also be there with you to hear your Lord say, "Well done, good and faithful servant"?

In our brief sermon text, the Lord God paid Abraham one of the greatest compliments ever recorded in the pages of Scripture.

As two of the angels who had visited at Abraham's tent advanced toward the city of Sodom in the late afternoon, Abraham and the Lord stood together on the hillside overlooking the valley of the Jordan.

There the Lord asks Himself a question, "Shall I hide from Abraham the thing I am about to do?" The obvious answer is, "No, don't hide it — *share* with faithful Abraham." And then the Lord says: "*For I know him. I know I can trust Abraham. I know he will command his children and his household after him and they shall keep the way of the Lord to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him.*"

The Lord God was able to say, "Abraham's life is an open book to Me. I know him. I know he will do right and as a faithful father he will also teach his children and household to keep the ways of the Lord."

Fathers who hear or who read this sermon today, "Is the Lord able to say the same about

And I am sure that
there is nothing that dis-
couragees Satan more
than to see Christian par-
ents praying for their
sons and daughters.

Reinhold A. Hingst

you? Can the Lord say: I know you. I know you are a man who is listening to My voice and who has a true spiritual concern for his family. Therefore, you are a man with whom I am able to share my secrets. I know this father will teach his family to faithfully walk in God's ways. If Abraham, living some three to four thousand years ago, holding fast to God's promises, could faithfully teach his children the way of the Lord, how much greater is our opportunity who live on this side of Calvary to show our children that the shed of blood of the Savior has washed away our sins and has made us new creatures in Him.

I tell you, there's *nothing* more precious in the sight of God than that a father will teach his children about Jesus and to walk in the ways of the Lord. Surely the rewards will be great and your praise and thanks to the Lord will be greater when through eternity you know that your children are also there with you and you know it was your witness and your example as their father that led them to make their decision to surrender their lives to Jesus and thus to walk in the ways of the Lord. In heavenly places your children will also bless you for teaching them to follow Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Fathers, you may sometimes think that your opportunities for spiritual influence on the lives of other people is very limited. Others may seem not interested, not always willing to listen. But your children who are growing up in your household, who love you, admire you, look up to you and who constantly try to pattern their lives after yours, these are the greatest, most receptive mission fields anyone could ever hope for. They're all your own for only a few short years now. Soon they are out on their own. But the Lord God gives you the opportunity to make them yours and His for all eternity by your prayers and your living witness for Jesus Christ.

This will surely be treasures in heaven. Amen.



AFLC SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE FOR 1989

Mon-Dak-Ada (June 26-June 30)

Mon-Dak-Ada Camp involves the Western North Dakota, Eastern Montana and Canadian Districts of the AFLC. The camp will meet at Camp Cherith on the north shore of Lake Sakakawea in North Dakota. Contact Mr. Bill Sheldon, Rt. 1, Box 24c, Ray, N. Dak. 58801.

Galilee Bible Camp

Located on Lake Bronson, Lake Bronson, Minn. **Pre-Teen Camp** — June 25-29, Pastor Verle Dean will be the speaker. **Teen Camp** — June 25-29, AFLC Youth Resources Director Rev. Dennis Gray will be the evening speaker. A Luther League Advisors' meeting will take place at 3 on Sunday afternoon. The theme is "Sorting Your Values."

Eastern North Dakota District Youth Camp (June 25-30)

The theme for the camp will be "Youth In Christ," based on I Tim. 4:12. Rev. Dale Mellgren of Tioga, N. Dak., will be the speaker. The camp will be held at the Cooperstown Bible Camp located near Cooperstown. District pastors will also give messages.

Minneapolis District Youth Camps (June 25-30)

The theme will be "That I May

Know Him." this Jr./Sr. High Camp will have Rev. Tom Olson, Rev. Einar Unseth and Rev. Ralph Rokke as speakers.

Bethany Bible Camp

Senior Youth Camp — June 25-30 Junior Youth Camp — June 21-30

The speaker for Senior Camp will be Rev. Russell Tessman and for Junior Camp, Rev. Tony Stockman. Bethany is located on Grace Lake seven miles east of Bemidji, Minn.

South Dakota-Nebraska District Youth Camp (June 26-July 2)

The evening speaker will be Pastor Verle Dean and Bible Study leader will be Rev. Ronald Knutson. The camp is located on Pickerel Lake, southwest of Sisseton, S. Dak.

West Coast District Camp (July 6-9)

This camp will be at the Moran State Park on Orcas Island. Rev. Douglas Reitsch of Spokane will be the speaker, with the district pastors participating.

Big Sky Family Camp (August 26-28)

Rev. Del Palmer will be the speaker at this camp. It is sponsored by the Faith and Stillwater Lutheran Churches of Kalispell, Mont.

AFLC Family Camps at the ARC

July 2-8: Evening speaker will be Rev. Lyndon Korhonen; and Adult Bible Teacher, Ralph Tjelta.

August 6-12: Evening speaker will be Dr. Steven Lombardo; and Adult Bible Teacher, Rev. Donald Richman.

An **Adult Youth Workers' Forum** will be conducted by Rev. Dennis Gray, Youth Resources Director, on Thursday of this week.

AFLC Family Camp

at Lake Bronson (July 10-17)

AFLC president, Rev. Richard Snipstead will be the adult Bible study teacher at the Family Camp. Rev. Bruce Dalager will bring the evening messages.

West Central Minnesota Camp (July 26-30)

Grades 7-12 will attend this camp. This year the camp will be held at the Wilderness Camp located near Pelican Rapids, Minn.

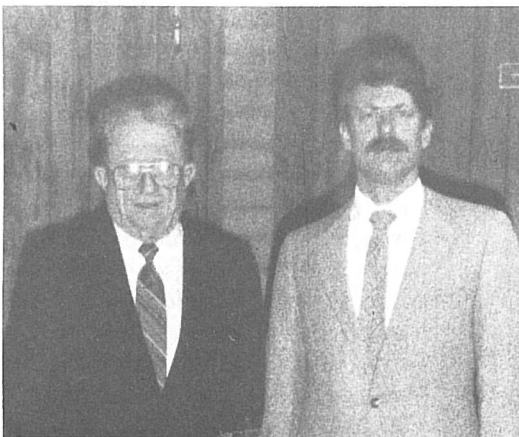
Northern Michigan District Family Camp (August 6-11)

This camp will take place at the Lake Ellen Baptist Bible Camp located near Crystal Falls, Mich.

Vernon Youth Festival (August 17-20)

Teenda Gowdy and Peter Minks are the speakers. Information can be received by writing Vernon Youth Festival, 2106 45th Avenue, Vernon, B.C. V1T 3M8.

Son installs father as pastor



Pastors Robert and Daniel Giles

On Sunday, the 23rd of April, we had a big day at Living Faith Lutheran Church in Tucson, Arizona. On that particular Sunday, Rev. Robert D. Giles was officially installed as pastor of Living Faith after having served in that capacity for the past two months. But what was a bit unusual about the service was that the one officiating at the installation was Pastor Giles' own son, the Rev. Daniel H. Giles, currently serving as an AFLC missionary in the city of Aguascalientes, Mexico. Now and then we have heard of a father having the privilege of installing his own son as pastor of a congregation, but never before have we heard of a son installing his own father in that sacred office. We think this event may qualify to be a "first" in the history of the AFLC.

— Corr.

'89 FAMILY CAMP AT THE ARC

"Occupy till I Come" Luke 19:13

Week 1

July 2 - 8

Evening Speaker — Rev. Lyndon Korhonen; Adult Bible Teacher — Rev. Ralph Tjelta.

Camp Staff: Dean — Mr. Lee Schierkolk.

Theme Song: "O Master Let Me Walk With Thee"

Week 2

August 6 - 12

Evening Speaker — Dr. Steven Lombardo; Adult Bible Teacher — Rev. Don Richman.

Camp Staff: Dean — Mr. Larry Johnson.

COSTS: Adults — \$60; Teens — \$55; Grade School — \$40; Under 4 — free.

* Maximum family fee — \$180.00. Recreation vehicles — \$5.00 per day.

Costs for partial weeks: Meals only: Breakfast — \$ 1.50; Lunch — \$3.00; Dinner — \$2.00. Room per night — \$5.00; \$2.50 — *under* 9 years of age; Free — *under* 3 years of age.

*Family rate is limited to both parents and children only.

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

Please remember to bring your Bible, pen, paper, a good supply of bedding, towels, wash cloths, personal items, sporting goods and musical instruments.

All children and teens who attend either week of family camp without parents must have, to register, a letter from their parents assigning a legal guardian who will be at the camp with them. This is to assist the camp staff in any emergency that may arise, and also provide accountability for those youth who attend this way. It is not meant to discourage them from coming.

Camp Guidelines

- Do not bring radios, record players, bicycles or tape players. Recorders can be used for sessions only.
- Shorts worn for recreation only.
- Dresses or skirts are to be worn in all sessions; pant suits are acceptable.
- Absolutely NO bikini bathing suits
- Absolutely NO firecrackers or fireworks.
- We ask all who register to prayerfully consider how they can assist in making this week of camp special for all. Please sign up for K.P. and

the like when asked.

Association Retreat Center

Mr. Bob Dietsche

Camp Manager

Route 1, Box 92

Osceola, Wisconsin 54020

(715) 294-2877

**Sunday July 2nd
and
Sunday, August 6th
5:30 p.m. — Supper**

Daily Schedule

7:00 a.m.	Rising Bell & Devotions
7:30	Flag Raising/Prayer Time
7:45	Youth Breakfast
8:00.	Adult & Children Breakfast
9:00-9:50	Clean up
10:00-	Bible Classes/all ages
10:45	Youth Discussion
	Confirmation Discussion
11:00-	Missions Hour/older group
11:45	
12:00	Youth Lunch
12:15	Adult & Children Lunch
1:00	Quiet Time/Choir
1:30-4:30	Recreation & Free Time
5:00	Youth Supper
5:15	Adult & Children Supper
7:00	Prayer Time/all ages
7:30	EVENING SERVICE
9:15	Afterglow
10:00	Dorm Devotions
11:00	Lights Out

**Saturday,
July 8 & August 12**

8:00 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00	VBS Program
10:00	Clean-up
11:00	PRAISE SERVICE
12:00	Dinner

from the files of *Folkebladet*
July 23, 1919

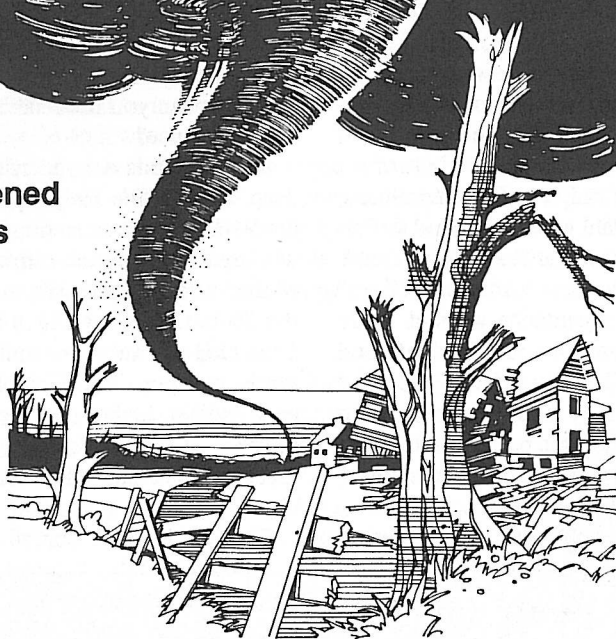
Through newspapers word has already come out about that terrible storm. But because we were in town and saw the destruction firsthand, we would like to say something about it.

It was on Sun., June 22, around 4 o'clock in the afternoon that we began to hear a kind of thunder, but it was only a rumbling. We understood later that it was the raging of the elements many miles away that we heard. About 5 o'clock heavy rain began to fall, mixed with a little hail, and a little later the devastation came. To account for the widespread destruction it appeared that there must have been several cyclones which went in different directions and everything in their paths fell before them. Trees were torn up by their roots or broken off, no matter how large they were, and the same with telephone poles. Houses were lifted up and moved away; some were turned upside down.

The storm came from the northwest and touched down north of Lake Alice and took a strip on each side of it. The worst destruction was on the west side where the nicest residential area in town was left in ruins. That strip went south, between two or three blocks wide, took the courthouse, went over the Northern Pacific Railroad tracks, where it destroyed the bridge and stopped in the west quarter. Another strip seems to have gone from the northwest to the southwest and gone by the house where the undersigned was staying and took among other things the former United (Lutheran) Church and parsonage and Zion (Lutheran Free) Church, and the N. P. passenger and freight depot. Seven freight cars were picked off the tracks and some were sent well out in the park and lie in ruins three-four blocks to the southwest, even as far as the Swedish college. Further to the southwest some farm homes were destroyed. Mr. Sahol's house, where we were, suffered some damage and we thought one time that it would go down. But as if through a miracle of God none of the six of us were hurt, even though we

Tornado in Fergus Falls

It happened
70 years
ago



worked in water while pieces of glass fell around us.

As soon as the worst of the storm was over, we went out to see if we could be of any help. When we came to the N. P. Depot two men lay dead. A little ways from there two old people were lying under the ruins of their home calling for help. Even though blood ran over both faces and hands we saw men hurry to give aid. We saw a man who had found his wife and children on the street, their home destroyed, and they hugged one another and the parents cried like children. The worst happened at the old Grand Hotel, where most deaths occurred, and quite a few were injured. While the men worked with all their might to move the rubble and rescue the trapped, a group of women wrung their hands and wept as we heard the groaning of the poor people below. Very fortunately, none of the three hospitals in town were damaged and there the sick and injured were brought. We went down to one of them and saw some of the severely injured as they were

brought in. O how thankful we were to God that we had been spared.

Of all the churches in town, two stood undamaged, a little Methodist church and the German Lutheran church. Some public assistance will undoubtedly be forthcoming to help alleviate the needs, but in respect to the churches people are most likely to take care of their own. The Norwegian Lutheran Church had a representative in Fergus Falls to inspect the disaster and make an estimate of the losses, and the church will provide help. It can be expected that the same has been done by the Lutheran Brethren for their people in town. The people of Zion Congregation, who also lost their church, turned therefore in all brotherly spirit, through their president, Mr. O. S. Molden, especially to the Lutheran Free Church, with an appeal for help, which is herewith recommended. The appeal speaks for itself. We would only want to add that those who have banded together are older members of the congregation with a free church conviction, and with God's help have had

such a church in that place for some time. A couple of members of that congregation suffered a personal loss through the storm in that they lost their home. There is no reason to think that Zion can get such a (new) church as they had before since it was a large, beautiful church in every way; but if they could manage to make a basement to begin with, more could be done later on. It is important that all of us who were spared such misfortune feel that we owe a debt of gratitude both to God and man and that we remember that we aren't better than these others who have been struck by God's chastising rod. May we all humble ourselves before Him who has all power in heaven and earth.

As far as we know there are now 57 dead as a result of the tragedy and it is said that over 200 are injured. It is a wonder that not more were killed. If the storm had come three hours later when people had been gathered in the churches, things would undoubtedly have been worse. But God directs all things, even the smallest little details and we can see many wonderful things even in this storm that show that, but which we don't have the opportunity to talk about here.

If the pastors of the Lutheran Free Church congregations will be so kind as to lay the need before their people at a Sunday service, and then either take up an offering or also a subscription for Zion Church, we believe that God will open hearts to come to the aid of these friends; for those who have compassion on the needy give to the Lord.

And now the matter is most heartily commended to you.

*Pastor O. M. Bakke
Battle Lake, Minn.*

(Translated from Norwegian)

More is said about
prayer and less is
done about it than
any other subject in
the Bible.

REPENTANCE MOVEMENT

by Evald J. Conrad
former director of the Lutheran
Evangelistic Movement.

From a message delivered at Mission Farms, Medicine Lake, on July 25, 1948.

If the LEM is going to stir the land it must be a repentance movement. The spirit of repentance must characterize the leaders of the Movement as well as all. The message of repentance must be sounded clearly and boldly. Every great spiritual movement that God has raised up in the past history of the church has been a repentance movement. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance. People came from far and near to the River Jordan confessing their sins. Oh, how the note of repentance was struck at that time.

When Jesus opened His public ministry, He began with the message of repentance. So we have His words in Matt. 4:17, "From that time began Jesus to preach, and to say, Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Jesus, continuing His ministry, preached repentance. We have His stirring words in Luke 13:5, "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

The great spiritual movement that began on the day of Pentecost started with repentance. When the 3,000 broken, contrite sinners cried out, "What shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Peter repeated the word of repentance in his very next sermon: "Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord."

So we feel the message of repentance, heart repentance, must be voiced today with boldness and clarity. *We fear that message is lacking in many a pulpit today, and the result is deadness, indifference, worldliness and lukewarmness among church members.* Oh, that we had many John the

Baptists in our day who would cry out in the deserts and wildernesses of our time, "Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

In the 7th chapter of II Corinthians, the apostle Paul gives us a good definition of true repentance. "Godly sorrow worketh repentance unto salvation." There is no repentance without godly sorrow. Through the Word of God which the Corinthians had received from Paul, they had been moved to godly sorrow. Some people say they do not want any emotion in their religion. I ask, how can you have godly sorrow without emotion? And how can you

have repentance without godly sorrow? And how can you have salvation without repentance?

Repentance is not superficial. It is a deep work of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God when mind, heart and will are truly stirred to turn about-face, confess and renounce sin, and come to the Father. *That is the need of the hour.* God grant that the spirit of penitence may ever be in our hearts and may always characterize the spirit and message of the LEM. Then we will be indeed a river that will make glad the city of God.

Thus far, Evald J. Conrad.

A note to our pastors

Why can we not have more of repentance movements right in our local congregations? You pastors will have to take the lead in this. We, your parishioners, are all like sheep. Some of us are lost and don't even know it. Others of us are bound by sin and need help to get free. Very often we are complacent and lukewarm and need strong warnings from the Word. You, our pastor, will have to spend much time every day quietly and helplessly in the presence of the Holy Spirit so He can show you how profound the need is in your own life for daily repentance. There is much to repent of because God has seen fit to leave in the breast of every human until his dying day a nature which is "sold under sin." Our understanding of the extent to which this nature influences us is rather shallow. "In repentance and rest you shall be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength" (Isaiah 30:15). A paraphrase of this verse is, "In the acceptance of death for yourself your ego and your pride in abiding contentedly in the

grave of all your own ambitions however religious and good they may seem to be, you shall find life and hope; in the cessation of all struggle in behalf of yourself and in abandoning yourself into the power and love of your Maker and Redeemer, you shall find all strength."

A Prayer to be Prayed by Pastors

"Bow down Your ear, O Lord, hear me; for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am holy. You are my God; save Your servant who trusts in You! Be merciful to me, O Lord, for I cry to You all day long. Rejoice the soul of Your servant, for to You, O Lord, I lift up my soul. For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You. Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. For in the day of my trouble I will call upon You, for You will answer me" (Ps. 86:1-7).

Praying for the saints and especially our pastors,

An AFLC Parishioner.

EDITORIALS

STRONGER HOMES

It goes without saying that one of the great needs of our country and Canada is for stronger homes. Anything that can be done in that direction is very welcome.

In too many domestic situations the father is a weak role model. That isn't as it should be. He ought to be someone his children can pattern themselves after without question. And a mother should be a parent a child can emulate without fear of going down a wrong track.

Parents exert great influence over those entrusted to their care. They are their children's first teachers and most influential ones. They are watched closely by those marvelous imitators who sit around the family table. How good it is if the example given them is worthy of copying. How sad it is when it isn't.

To be the best parent possible it is necessary to be in tune with the Lord Christ, who gives all wisdom for everyday living in the family relationships. It means having received God's forgiveness through Christ so that a merciful, forgiving spirit can be shown to one's own family. It means getting help from the Lord to walk wisely each day, setting a course that others in the family can follow in good conscience.

The husband and father is to be an active participant in the family devotions, yes, the leader. How fortunate it is if children see that Father handles the Bible and reads from it, that he isn't a stranger to the Book.

God be with the fathers of our land. Wives and mothers have great responsibilities, too, but today, in this month of Father's Day, we are thinking primarily of the dads.

Honor Father on this day and every day. Give him cause to rejoice that he is loved and respected. Remember the commandment to honor Father and Mother. It is still in effect. The disobedient and disrespectful have a hard road to travel.

BIBLE CAMPS

It is our privilege to call attention to the directory of camping opportunities in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations this summer in this issue. The information has been gathered mostly by Pastor Dennis Gray, our Youth Resources Director. There are many camps available in our church and one somewhat near you.

Many camps are for children and teenagers, but there are also some for families. How rich a week at camp for the whole family would be. Investigate the possibilities of your family going to one of our camps this year.

Camps are places to which we can draw aside from the hectic pace of life and where we can devote ourselves for a few days to the spiritual. That's important. We covet that for you, as a youth at a young people's camp or as a family or adult at a camp where families congregate. Consider Bible camping this year.

Is your life a shining witness

With a testimony true?

Could the world be won to Jesus

Just by what they see in you?

—Adams

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences - February 1 - April 30, 1989

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN APRIL	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	%* TOTAL
General Fund	\$ 169,600.00	\$ 13,304.77	\$ 34,353.60	20
Schools - (AFLTS) ..	128,237.00	7,150.34	13,024.14	10
(AFLBS) ..	187,650.00	8,340.56	22,678.28	12
Home Missions.	397,564.00	17,826.92	53,158.34	13
World Missions.	325,730.00	20,247.69	45,260.51	14
Capital Investment ..	30,000.00	2,075.06	6,333.37	21
Parish Education	69,500.00	2,070.39	5,285.78	8
TOTALS	\$ 1,308,281.00	\$ 71,015.73	\$ 180,094.02	14
1987 - 1988.	\$ 1,057,504.00	\$ 72,646.09	\$ 187,365.28	18
*Goal 25%				

A fortunate conflict

—By Judy Mayland and
Naomi Halvorson

A group of high school students mingled in the hallway sharing their plans following their upcoming graduations. Nearby, two Bible School students discussed an upcoming "Church History" exam. Down the hall, Bible School alumni laughed as they remembered their bygone days at AFLBS.

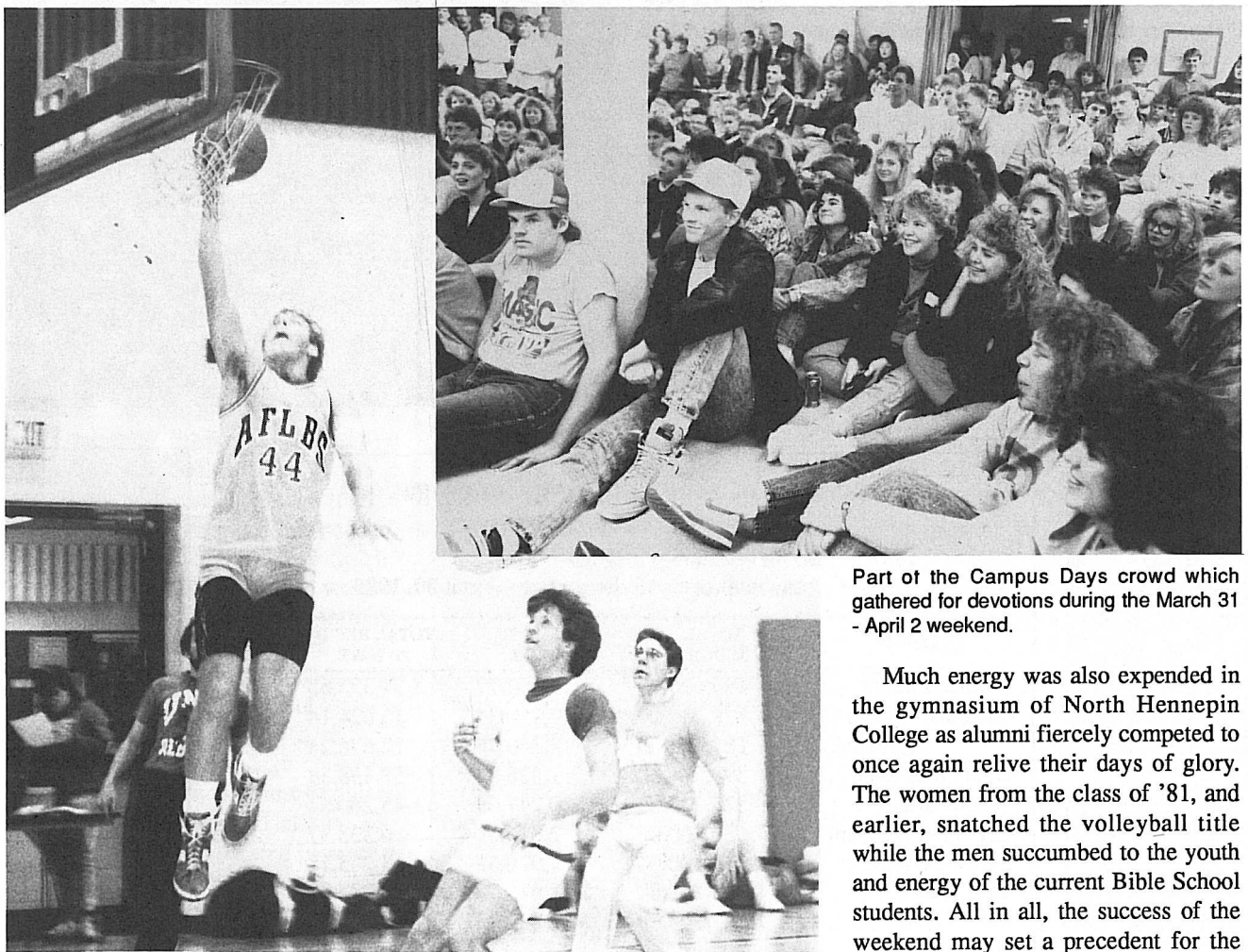
What brought these three groups together? For the first time ever, Campus Days and Alumni Tournaments were held on the same weekend. What started out as an apparent conflict

turned out to be a blessing in disguise. As Alumni Director Lynell Hartman and former Director Deb Anderson began planning the alumni tournaments last fall, they discovered that the site designated for the tournaments was unavailable with the exception of the dates set aside for Campus Days. As they planned further, it began to dawn on them that perhaps combining the two would be advantageous. One of the objectives of the Alumni Association is to encourage other alumni as well as current and prospective Bible School students. By gathering past,

current and future AFLBS students, alumni would have an opportunity to carry out this objective in a visible way. As Lynell Hartman states, "The most important thing we wanted students to see was that two years in God's Word was important to us. During that time we built lasting friendships and grew in faith and knowledge of God and His Word."

The weekend proved to be a success both qualitatively and quantitatively. The alumni enjoyed interacting with both current and prospective students. Saturday evening's activities of a combined banquet and program provided a good opportunity for interaction among all three groups of people.

With more than 200 high school students, Campus Days 1989 was the best attended ever. The 200 alumni and 100 Bible Students kept the campus alive with energy.



Action in the Alumni tournament

Part of the Campus Days crowd which gathered for devotions during the March 31 - April 2 weekend.

Much energy was also expended in the gymnasium of North Hennepin College as alumni fiercely competed to once again relive their days of glory. The women from the class of '81, and earlier, snatched the volleyball title while the men succumbed to the youth and energy of the current Bible School students. All in all, the success of the weekend may set a precedent for the plans of future alumni tournaments.

MY CHURCH, MY CHURCH, MY DEAR OLD CHURCH

1) My church! My church! My dear old church!

My fathers' and my own!

On Prophets and Apostles built,

And Christ the cornerstone!

All else beside, by storm or tide,

May yet be overthrown:

But not my church, my dear old church,

My fathers' and my own!

2) My church! My church! My dear old church!

My glory and my pride!

Firm in the faith Immanuel taught,

She holds no faith beside.

Upon this rock, 'gainst ev'ry shock,

Tho' gates of hell assail,

She stands secure, with promise sure,

"They never shall prevail."

3) My church! My church! My dear old church!

I love her ancient name;

And God forbid, a child of hers

Should ever do her shame!

Her mother-care I'll ever share;

Her child am I alone,

Till He who gave me to her arms

Shall call me to His own.

4) My church! My church! I love my church!

For she exalts my Lord!

She speaks, she breathes, she teaches not

But from His written word;

And if her voice bids me rejoice,

From all my sins released,

'Tis through th' atoning sacrifice,

And Jesus is the Priest.

PSALMS IN THE NIGHT

WMF BIBLE STUDY

JULY 1989

PSALM 84

Memory Verse: "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O Lord of hosts! My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God."

(Psalm 84: 1 and 2)

Purpose of the Psalm: To express love for God's house.

Part I — Verses 1-4

This division of the Psalm ends with the word _____, which means _____. This is also found at the end of verse 8.

There is a beatitude in each section of the Psalm.

1) Apply the word "amiable" to the tabernacle of God.

2) What is the psalmist's feeling towards God's house?

Is this our experience? _____ Do we have a longing for God's house? _____ Is this true in the world today? _____

What does Psalm 42:1,2 say in this connection? _____

3) What references to nature are made in this portion? _____

4) Who are the blessed, in verse 4? _____

5) Is it the building that is so important, or is it the living God? _____

Explain _____

Part II — Verses 5-8

1) What man is blessed, in verse 5? _____

2) Verses 6 and 7 show us the hardships of the pilgrims on their journey to the temple.

What was their source of strength? _____

Relate Isaiah 40:31 to verse 7 _____

3) Do we rely on God for our strength? _____

Part III — Verses 9-12

1) Verses 8 and 9 are a prayer by the psalmist asking God for what? _____

2) How does the psalmist express his love for God's house in verse 10? _____

Do we share his feelings? _____

Read I Chronicles 26 for the various positions assigned in the temple. What would the psalmist do? _____

Rather than what alternative? _____

3) In verse 11, what will God give to those who walk uprightly? _____

Is it worth it? _____

4) Notice the key words in verse 12 — *blessed - trust*

Is this limited just to certain people? _____

What does Psalm 2:12b say? _____

Let us spend some time in prayer for our church – its leaders, the auxiliary organizations, our schools, foreign and home missions; above all for the members of our churches that we might be witnesses for the living God.

Don't
miss it!

Local Bible Camps

See p. 5

1989 Luther League Convention

July 17-21

Vernon, B. C.

The only sermon that never
wearies us is that of an
eloquent life!

I was at the bottom of my class until
I met Christ, and then I said to myself,
"This is no place for a Christian," and
left it.

E. Stanley Jones

YOUTH PAGE

South Dakota District holds rally

On March 18-19, Grace Lutheran, Bruce, S. Dak., hosted the spring youth rally for the South Dakota-Nebraska District Luther League Federation. Thirty-eight leaguers and adults arrived on Saturday morning. We were involved in some get-acquainted activities which were followed by a short Bible study.

After dinner we held a business meeting. Due to the weather the president and vice-president were unable to be present so the meeting was led by Lee Ann Tvinnereim of Webster, S. Dak. The new vice-president is Kim Huffman, Bruce, the new pastoral advisor is Pastor Brian Pearson, Arlington, S. Dak., and Carol Nelson of Canton, S. Dak., was re-elected secretary. After the adjournment of the

meeting the youth gathered at the school in Volga for recreation.

Then we moved to Brookings for the banquet. The speaker for that was Pastor Joel Lohafer of Bruce. We returned to the church for a short after-glow and from there we left for the homes of the people who had invited us to stay with them.

On Sunday morning we attended the worship service and Sunday School and were served a potluck dinner. This concluded the spring rally and everyone returned home safely.

*Carol Nelson
Secretary*

(Ed note: Do any of our other districts hold rallies or conventions? We would be glad to get reports of them and print them here.)

fellowship corner

The promise of revival

It was with great interest that I read "Why Principles and Practices of Evangelism."

Praise the Lord for a spirit of discernment given to our church leaders. I say a hearty "Amen" to the biblical stand which they have made known to us. Through the years we have attended many evangelistic services in our own church and also surrounding churches at Edinburg, Park River and other Lutheran churches. Also some of which were a different denomination. The LEM used to have services in some of these areas. Today one has to look a long time before finding these kinds of meetings being held. This, I believe, is the reason for losing the young people.

When an evangelist holds services with the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the Christians are edified and receive a new vision of the fields white unto harvest and the young folks would sense that they had better be ready for Jesus' coming. This also produces that genuine love and unity which the Lord desires of us (Eph. 4:11-16).

The enemy knows his time is short and we need to be in earnest prayer one for the other and be very sensitive to the Lord's leading, making sure whatever one thinks or feels lines up with the Word of God.

Through Christian radio and articles in our *Ambassador*, the Lord has been showing me to wait on His timing, also not to go ahead or try and figure out what I feel should be done. Trusting His timing, then, it will be beautiful when the outcome is taken care of. I just praise the Lord for all the answers to prayer we have had through our prayer meetings at church and prayer request time during the service. To God be the glory, great things He has done, and is doing.

So, beloved, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might, putting on the whole armor of God and, having done all, to stand. No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper (Is. 54:17). Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye who trust in the Lord. Also I Cor. 15:57, 58: "But thanks be to God, which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus

Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know your labor is not in vain in the Lord." Praise the Lord!

We know we shall receive the promise of revival, because it is according to His will and found in His Word.

Bless all in Christ, keep looking up to Jesus, and like one dear brother said many years ago, who was also an evangelist, "Stay sweet, its not so easy to do." Good admonition, so we don't become discouraged or bitter.

*Mrs. Reuben Ivesdal
Edmore, N. Dak.*

**At every breath
you draw, four souls
perish never having
heard of Christ!**

BOOK REVIEWS

DOMINION THEOLOGY: BLESSING OR CURSE?

H. Wayne House and Thomas Ice
(Portland Oregon: Multnomah Press,
1988)

In the last several years, a new movement has been making its presence known in evangelical circles. Sometimes called Christian Reconstructionism, sometimes "dominion theology," it represents a shift in the agenda and mission of the Church as defined by historic Christianity. Two authors, H. Wayne House and Thomas Ice, have undertaken the task of analyzing the work of the leading writers of dominion theology and offer a very timely and careful analysis of its major tenets.

Among the dangers of dominion theology cited by the authors is the goal of applying the civil laws of Moses in modern society, including the stoning of rebellious youth, capital punishment for homosexuals, and the advocacy of one central theocratic rule. Exhibiting an optimistic view of the future, the new movement envisions a time when the world will be basically Christianized as the Church succeeds in bringing into "dominion" every level of society. It is only when the Church has reached this zenith of pervasive control that the second coming

of Christ will take place. Indeed, the post millennial system of prophetic interpretation is part and parcel of dominion theology.

This book is commended as a biblical expose' of a movement that has the potential for misleading many Christians today. Its effects are already evident among some charismatics and fundamentalists, as well as representatives of mainstream evangelicalism.

—Dr. Francis W. Monseth

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JESUS

John F. McArthur, Jr., Zondervan,
Grand Rapids, Mich., 1988, 253 pages,
hardback.

The ministry and writings of John McArthur, Jr., are widely known. He is the most respected Bible teacher of many people. His influence on the evangelical pastors and churches in our country has been considerable. Therefore, this book, which a reviewer in the October 24, 1988, issue of *World* magazine has said "may prove to be among the most important books of the year," is bound to attract much attention. In it the author deals with what he considers to be non-biblical evangelistic methods, and the "easy-believism" of our day and how they have affected the evangelical churches in our land.

Chaplain Skramstad training in family counseling

A former Valley City native who is now an Army chaplain stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas, is presently part of a somewhat elite group attending Kansas State University.

Timothy Skramstad, son of Orien and Adeline Skramstad of Valley City, is one of five Army chaplains enrolled in a program at K-State that trains chaplains to serve as directors of family-life centers on U. S. military installations around the world. He is pursuing a master's degree in marriage and family therapy.

K-State is the only university in the United States authorized by the Army for chaplains to receive their master's degree in marriage and family therapy, according to an article in the *Kansas State Collegian* which featured a story on the chaplains.

Most civilian chaplains spend the majority of the time counseling with much of it concentrating on individuals. The Army centers provide a different service. They counsel soldiers with marital or family problems, which is called conjoint counseling. Conjoint counseling involves the family as a

BOOKS AVAILABLE

Pastor Mundfrom is an AFLC clergyman and the writer of the following publications:

The Threat of False Doctrine — The dangerous effects of the liberal, ecumenical and charismatic movements upon the doctrine of the church, 144 pages, \$5.00.

The Depressed Christian — A help in better understanding one's own depression, with helps and suggestions as to how best to cope with it. Also a good help in knowing how to minister to the depressed, 110 pages, \$2.50.

Baptism, A Covenant — Stresses the fact that although much blessing is promised to the Christian in Baptism,

he does have a responsibility to God, and that Baptism is the establishing of a covenant (or contract) relationship between God and the baptized, 130 pages, \$4.00.

Falling In Love — We do have control of whom we fall in love with, 22 pages, \$5.00.

The Dangers of the New Age Movement — (a ten-page tract) A condensed review clearly stating the characteristics and subtle evil teachings of this most dangerous modern movement, \$.10 each or \$9.50 per 100.

Please allow 9% for postage or a minimum of \$.90. Send order to: Mercy and Truth Publishers, Route 1, Box 503, Osceola, Wisconsin 54020.

McArthur insists there must be a radical dealing with sin in a person's life which will result in true repentance. Otherwise there has been no true conversion. He says that true conversion must include a change in the convert's life which results in godly living. He is in sharp disagreement with those who say a person can have Jesus as Savior without having Him as Lord. He champions what is called "Lordship salvation."

We have no controversy with McArthur's concern for today's easy-believism and the problems it is producing in the churches of our land. We can agree that something has been wrong with preaching and teaching where deep conviction of sin and godly sorrow that leads to repentance have been lacking. However, we cannot

continued on p. 16

unit. No other military activity uses the whole-family concept to help improve family relationships.

The need for family counseling has developed over the past 30 years as the number of married soldiers has increased, according to the Kansas State Collegian. Today the Army is predominately made up of married soldiers, said one of the chaplains.

According to Skramstad, despite the different lifestyle, he does not think Army families have more problems than civilian families have.

"I've never seen any statistics to indicate the divorce rate is any higher with military families than in the American population as a whole, but the usual sources of support — family, friends and church — are not there, so military families tend to turn to the chaplain for help."

The Valley City native said counseling is fulfilling because of the opportunity to work with people in real-life crises, such as AIDS patients and people with serious family problems. He said working in the Army also gives him the opportunity to work with people from different backgrounds.

The curriculum in the program Skramstad is enrolled in includes courses in family education and consultation, conjoint and group counseling techniques and human sexuality. The 14-month program also includes a 10-hour week counseling practicum at the Fort Riley Family-Life Center.

Upon completion of graduate school, Skramstad will be assigned as a director of a family-life center. He will counsel, train other chaplains in family counseling methods and teach classes to enrich the quality of life in military communities.

Skramstad, a 1967 graduate of Valley City High School, attended two years at Valley City State University and graduated from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. He later completed seminary studies in Minneapolis, Minn., at the Association of Free Lutheran Church Seminary.

Skramstad and his wife, Evonne, have three children — Katie, Nathan, and Rachel. — Valley City (N. Dak.)

Times Record

Church to be built in Illinois

From a small Bible study group in early Jan. 1987, Pastor James Asp led the band of believers in worship and assisted them in joining the AFLC by June, 1987.

The congregation meets on the second floor of the ABC Day Care Center in Chillicothe, where they have been located since starting the church in late Jan., 1987. When Pastor Asp wanted to "retire" again in Sept., 1988, Pastor Richard Long became the full-time pastor of the congregation which had grown to 55 members (15 families).

Today, through the grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the congregation continues to grow (63 members/17 families) and is now planning a new worship facility.

Shown here is a picture of the scale model recently built to help members of the congregation visualize the final

HOME MISSION NEWS



structure. A building fund has been started and details are being worked out with Larry Eftefield. He will be the general contractor of the project and is a member of Epiphany Lutheran Church, which he designed and built several years ago.

The building will be located on a lot (130 ft. x 251 ft.) at 1604 Hoyt St., in Chillicothe, that was purchased a little over a year ago with the help of the AFLC Home Missions Committee.

Morton Sill

Building Committee Chairman

Where do you stand

What kind of disciples are we? As church members, how do we rate in our discipleship?

Of all church members —

10 per cent cannot be found.

20 per cent never pray.

30 per cent never read the Bible.

40 per cent never give to the Kingdom.

50 per cent never go to church.

60 per cent never give to missions.

75 per cent never serve in the church.

85 per cent never attend midweek services (if their church has them)

90 per cent never have family worship.

95 per cent never won a soul to Christ.

Parish Newsletter

Dalton, Neb.

Many parents are benevolent tyrants, snuffing out initiative and personality.

E. Stanley Jones

Personalities

Rev. Emerson Anderson, Cleveland, O., has accepted a call to serve on the pastoral staff of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minn. He will have special responsibilities with the new Grace Lutheran Church, Floodwood, Minn., a mission congregation that has been planted by St. Paul's.

Rev. Martin Horn, Zumbrota, Minn., has resigned as pastor of Our Savior's, Zumbrota and Mt. Sion, Kasson. He will begin graduate studies at Bethel Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., after his marriage to **Priscilla Mundfrom** on June 24. He plans to return to the parish ministry following completion of his studies. Rev. Horn's new address is: 8101 46th Ave. N., Apt. 204, New Hope, Minn. 55428.

VIRGINIA, MINN.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Virginia, Minn., held special services, April 9-13. Pastor John Rieth, Amery, Wis., was the evangelist. — *Corr.*

BOOK REVIEW

agree with McArthur's solution to the problem. The writings of this book, throughout, reveal serious mingling of the Law and the Gospel. For example, he does not hesitate to make God's insistence on repentance and surrender to Christ's Lordship a part of the Gospel. On page 21, he says, "The gospel Jesus proclaimed was a call to discipleship, a call to follow Him in submissive obedience..." In other instances he makes repentance a part of saving faith. An example of this is found on page 172 where he says "We have seen already that repentance is a critical element of genuine faith."

It is noteworthy that McArthur includes Lutheran theologian C. F. W. Walther's *The Proper Distinction Between The Law and Gospel* among the books in the extensive bibliography included in his book, however I was not able to find any other place where he made reference to it. It would be interesting to know what McArthur would have to say about Walther's teachings.

As Lutherans we believe that the proper distinction between the Law and the Gospel is a basic rule for interpreting Scripture. We believe that the proper teaching and preaching of the Law and the Gospel will produce true repentance and genuine conversions and also will result in godly living on the part of Christians. It would be hard

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

Second-class

to prove that godly living is more prevalent in the Lutheran Church of our day than in non-Lutheran evangelical churches, but that may only prove that our Law/Gospel belief is more theory than practice. If we believe that God's Word is still powerful and sharper than a two-edged sword, then we must also believe the revival we long and pray for will not come except through Law/Gospel preaching and teaching. We should seriously examine ourselves regarding this.

Although McArthur's book contains some good insights on various Scripture portions, I cannot recommend it without reservation. If you are a person not understanding the Lutheran

Law/Gospel teaching you would do better putting your money into Walther's *The Proper Distinction Between The Law and Gospel*. It is published by Concordia Publishing House. If you already understand the Lutheran Law/Gospel concept, the only benefit McArthur's book may be to you would be to arouse you to the serious moral problems in the church today and to show you how the non-Lutheran "Law within the Gospel" concept of non-Lutheran Protestantism is understood and put into practice.

The present price of McArthur's book is listed at \$14.95.

Pastor Emerson Anderson
Cleveland, Ohio

FAMILY BIBLE READING

from a letter
to the American
Bible Society,
by J. Edgar Hoover

"Inspiration has been the keynote of America's phenomenal growth...and the backbone of its greatness...This inspiration has been from faith in God... and in the belief that the Holy Bible is His inspired Word. Reading the Scriptures within the family circle is more important today than ever before. As a small boy I sat at my mother's knee while she read the Word to me and explained its meanings with stories as we went along. It served to make the bond of faith between us much stronger. Then there were those wonderful nights when my father would gather all the children around him and read aloud verses from the Bible. This led to family discussions which were interesting, lively, and informative. Those wonderful sessions left me with an imprint of the power of faith and...prayer which has sustained me in trying moments throughout my life."