

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

June 14, 1988

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love your wives**
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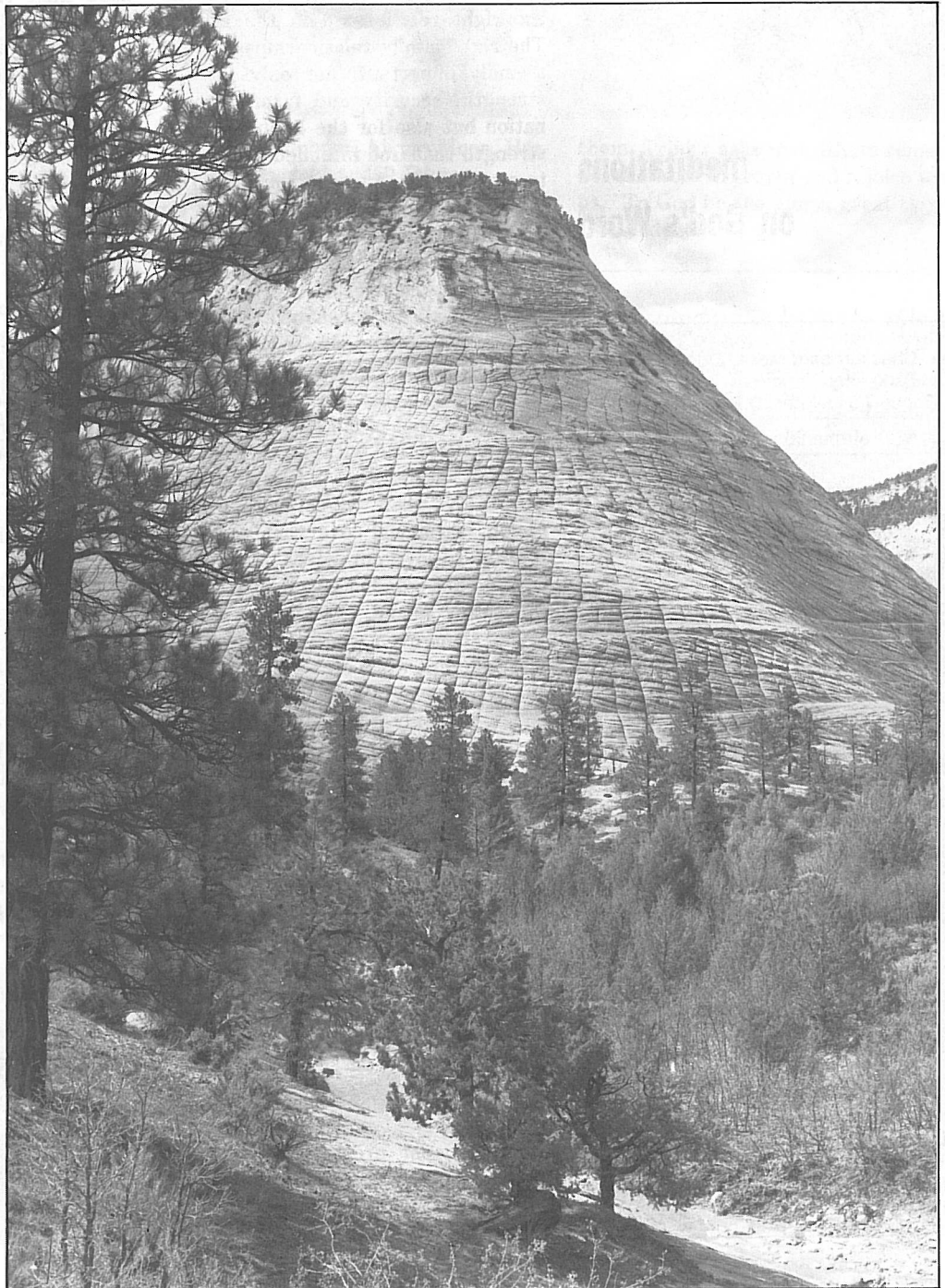
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LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

cover photo
Checkerboard Mesa, Zion National
Park, Utah
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

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THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Husbands, love your wives

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her... So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies... And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Ephesians 5:25, 28; 6:4).

Strong families make a strong society. Consequently, there must be the right relationship in the family. The right family relationships are extremely important, not only for the strength, security and future of our nation but also for the happiness and strength that God intended our homes to provide. From the portion of Scripture these verses are taken from we can learn much about the role husbands and fathers are to play in God-pleasing family relationships.

First of all, we must have husbands who love. Christ's love for His Church is enduring. On the last day He wants His Church to stand by His side without even a spot of sin splashed on her from without and without a wrinkle of sin from within. That is how husbands are to love their wives: with a self-giving, sacrificial love that endures. We are to love our wives even when they do not respond to our love as we think they should. We are to keep on loving them even when the novelty of marriage has worn off. We are to love our wives just as we love our own bodies not only because they are one flesh with us in marriage but also because they are one with us in the Body of Christ.

This love we have for our wives is not just something we talk about, nor is it something we can take for granted. This is a love that must be practiced, spoken and put to work in our homes. I make it a practice to tell my wife each day that I love her because Christ tells His Church that. Why will a man be polite and courteous to all he comes in contact with during the day and come home and yell at his wife at night? Why will he pick up the smallest piece of paper dropped by a pretty woman and then refuse to pick up his own socks off the bedroom floor? Why will he be a regular Dale Carnegie in

complimenting people whose business he wants but never compliment his wife for the good meals she prepares? We husbands can think of many other examples where God-pleasing family relationships call for genuine, self-giving, sacrificing love on the part of the husband.

The normal result in a Christian marriage is children. And children also have their responsibilities in a God-pleasing family relationship. They are to honor and obey their parents. But if they are to do this, fathers must give the kind of discipline and instruction that makes it possible for their children to honor and obey them. Today there are far too many fathers who allow their children to grow up without proper guidance or restriction of any kind. Letting them do as they please and taking a soft, permissive attitude is wrong.

On the other hand, however, if all we can speak are words of criticism, if our words are too sharp, or our punishment too severe, children can easily become discouraged and find it very difficult to honor and obey as they should. "Discipline" means correction as needed followed by instruction in what is right.

When we are reminded of things like these, it's easy for us to become discouraged, because not one of us can live up to God's ideal by his own strength. Each one of us has failed often, also in our family relationships. But Christ died for these sins also. When we have personally accepted Him, not only as Savior, but also as Lord and Master, we can turn to Him daily for strength and help to live together in the Christian family. May God bless our family relationships.



by Rev.
Jerome C. Nikunen

Isn't the perceived paradox of justification and sanctification at the heart of most church problems? It is also at the center of Christian joy and power.

Paul is forthright in stating that works have nothing to do with earning salvation. "For by grace you have been saved through faith and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God — not because of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph. 2:8). However, it is neither biblical nor Christian to place a period here. It misrepresents Paul's position. If we stop here in the teachings of Paul in Romans, Ephesians and his other Epistles, we do an injustice to God's plan for His church. Here is the Pauline paradox: All the kind deeds and pure living cannot put us right with God; but there is something radically wrong with the individual or church that does not teach the importance of good works and sanctification, as these follow justification. We are "created in Christ Jesus for good works."

The Scriptures are perfectly clear on the subject that the children in the household of God should live as the family of God and not as the family of carelessness and worldliness. "We are in the world but not of the world." William Barclay told about the engineer on a river ferry boat. His boat was old and he did not care much how it looked. The engines were begrimed and ill-cared for. One day the engineer was soundly converted. The first thing he did was to go back to his ferry boat and polish the engines until every part of the machinery shone like a mirror. One of the regular passengers commented on the change. "What has happened?" he asked. "What set you to cleaning and polishing these old engines?" "Sir," answered the engineer, "I've got a glory and a joy." That is what Christ does for a man. He gives glory, joy and power. He is able to live in the power of the Gospel. In this power he experiences assurance of salvation... "grace alone." "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, 'Rejoice'" (Phil. 4:4). We have "His spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." We are by virtue of Christ's death on the cross in His family and in His inheritance.

My baptismal certificate hangs above my desk to remind me that the Lord used first this important sacrament to make Christ's sacrifice effective in my life. I Peter 3:20-21: "Who formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to

A Perceived Paradox that Presents Power

God for a clear conscience through the resurrection of Jesus Christ."

Secondly, He renews this in the sacrament of the altar as I receive it once a month or as often as my church offers it. His gift, His goodness, His love and His sustaining power *give* me the desire to follow Him more closely. I ask Him, "How can I fear, love and trust in You above all things?" He answers, "Follow My commandments." Paul further underlines what renewal accomplishes, in Phil. 2:14-16, "Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of Life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain."

Thirdly, I would like to pick up the thought "that I may have whereof to glory in the day of Christ"... also that "we are in His inheritance." One of the reasons that I became deathly serious about my salvation as a youth was that I had learned on the farm to ask, "What will the crop amount to if we plant this and if we work in the field this way?" "What will I get? What will happen in the end?" My pastor told us often that hell or heaven were our choices. Believe me, I wanted to go to heaven forever! I heard in my inner heart, and still do, Rev. 2:10: "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."

Three weeks ago I ventured back into the dentist's office — one of my least desired experiences. The dentist always tries to keep it from hurting, but it always does. He wants me to be comfortable, so he hangs his suction tube in my mouth. (I would rather rinse out my mouth like I used to do as a boy at the dentist's in Williston, N. Dak.). After he has drilled a while and squirted water on the drilled tooth, he asks me if

"All the kind deeds and pure living cannot put us right with God . . ."



by Rev. Orville Hiepler
Camarillo, Calif.

"I perceive no paradox between pure grace and an emphasis on good works."

it is uncomfortable. What can I say? He has my mouth full of paraphernalia. All this is like the law that when God says "Do this!" and "Do that" — oh, how it hurts and I don't like it. My tooth hurt before I went to the dentist and now I'm really messed up because so much of the tooth has been drilled away it won't work properly. The Lord drills away at our consciences and makes us aware that we have to do something about our sin — but what??? The dentist finally says to me that the discomfort he is causing will soon stop and you will have a *gold crown*. I am ready to say, "Anything, Doc." Yes, the Lord Jesus, in His perfect life and shed-blood on Calvary, says, "I have atoned for your deserved, eternal punishment and I will give you the crown of life." A gold crown — it's worth it! It is further summarized in Romans 6:23, "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord!"

This brings me to some of the most spiritually joyful times in my life. First, I recall so vividly the fun of piling into a grain truck at Epping, N. Dak., with 37 other youths, heading for Lake Metigoshe Bible Camp. I didn't know that in seven days, as I would return to our little church, to my loving farm family, and my high school friends, I would have with me a new lifetime commitment to Jesus. That experience in the Word with godly faculty and youth brought the influence of my baptism, my confirmation and my family into a renewed life with my Savior. Secondly, among the many highlights of a 25-year-old was my marriage to Florence Borstad of Tioga, N. Dak., and being ordained into the holy ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. I have been privileged in serve in the smallest as well as in the second largest church in our district and seeing many souls saved. This has been so exciting and fulfilling that I have said several times that if I could have retired at the age of 25 and have done anything one wanted to do, there is nothing I would sooner have done than what I have as my wife and I have served Him in the four parishes and in the many concomitant areas of service.

Thirdly; What happened to me and my congregation on Jan. 1, 1988, has brought me one of the most spiritually joyful times in my life. We have joined the AFLC. This was further consummated on Jan. 19th, when I had my first immersion into the fellowship of pastors, wives, seminary students and faculty of the AFLC at the Association Retreat Center. I saw the perceived paradox present real power, that we are children of the most high God. This group ac-

cepted my conservative, evangelical emphasis and I was really exposed, being the Bible study leader at the conference. Now being in the AFLC is like being back home. Dr. Francis Monseth and the Rev. Richard Snipstead have been like real Christian brothers to me in making this a reality. It is like returning to the church and the emphasis I knew at Epping.

In summary: as I view Ephesians 2:8-10, I find myself personally so thankful for that grace! Also I realize that I am most fortunate to know His salvation and to live in His church. I perceive no paradox between pure grace and an emphasis on good works. I want to serve my Savior, the most high Lord and King.

There are those times that I feel like Peter as I face the King. Luke 5:8: "Peter fell down at Jesus' feet saying, 'Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.'" However, the Lord takes this estrangement away. "Your sins are forgiven; go in peace." For man believes with his heart and so is justified, and he confesses with his lips" (Rom. 10:10). Then Paul adds, in Romans 10:11: "No one who believes in Him will be put to shame."

Yes, the *perceived paradox*, rightly understood, will make us workmen "created in Christ Jesus for good works." No man shall receive glory . . . the glory is to God. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

Biographical Information

Orville Hiepler was born at Spring Brook, N. Dak., to Gustav and Anna Hiepler. He received his B.A. degree from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., and his theological degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn. He has done graduate work at UCLA, Sacramento State University and Biblical Seminary, New York, receiving a Ph.D. from the Graduate School of Theology in Glendale, Calif., in 1971.

Orville Hiepler was ordained into the ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in 1945 and has served parishes as follows: First, Pasco, Wash.; Gloria Dei, Sacramento, Calif.; Trinity, Hawthorne, Calif.; and First, Camarillo, where he has been since 1978. He began church schools at Sacramento and Camarillo. He has served on numerous church and civic boards.

Pastor Hiepler and Florence Borstad, Tioga, N. Dak., were married in 1945. They have three daughters, Dorene, Ilene and Nelene, and one son, Mark. Pastor Hiepler enjoys jogging, golf and travel abroad. He has directed 12 tours overseas including two world mission tours.

Pastor Hiepler is on the fellowship clergy roster of the AFLC.

The Call to Holiness

"Pursue peace with all men, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord" (Heb. 12:14). "But as He who called you is holy, you also will be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (I Peter 1:15-16).

These passages of Scripture reveal that God wills for us to grow in holiness. "Be holy, for I am holy" (I Pet. 1:16). God's call to holiness is of the utmost importance in our Christian walk. If we would draw ever closer to our blessed Lord and if we would seek a deeper experience of His grace and blessing, we must pursue holiness through obedience and faith. As our Lord testifies, in John 14:21: "He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him." In Hebrews 12:14 we are reminded that without holiness no one shall see the Lord!

Since holiness is so important to our Christian walk, what is it? What is this holiness that we are called by our Lord to pursue? Holiness is simply the character of our Lord Jesus Christ. When the Bible calls us to pursue holiness, it is calling us to become more like Jesus. In Galatians 5:22-23 we are given the definitive portrait of true holiness in Jesus Christ. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

Holiness is a fruit and a work of the Holy Spirit. Note how Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, writes: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, etc." It is the Holy Spirit who applies to our heart Christ's holiness

and character. In our own power we can never grow in holiness. Only through the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit can we grow in holiness to the glory of God.

Since God calls us to grow in holiness, and since growing in holiness is so important for our Christian walk, how do we grow in it? We grow in holiness by practicing daily repentance from sin. As Paul reveals in II Cor. 7:1, "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." If we would grow in holiness, we must confess our sins on a daily basis and experience God's cleansing through the blood of Jesus.

God is calling us to pursue holiness through repentance and faith. May we respond to our Lord's call and truly pursue holiness, without which no one will see the Lord. And may we claim for ourselves the prayer and promise in I Thessalonians 5:23-24:

"May the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful, and He will do it" (RSV).

*Pastor Mark Bateson
Colfax, Wis.*

Note: All of the biblical quotations are from the New King James Version except the final one.

Once more

That's it! We arrived in Brazil *once more* on January 29th, the land to which God has called us, the land where we have been blessed as we've worked for Him in His vineyard.

From Rio de Janeiro we went by bus to Jacarei, Sao Paulo State. There we visited our family, Carlos and Karen (daughter) dos Santos, and helped Kaileen celebrate her fourth birthday and Karla her sixth birthday on February 8th.

Helen was glad to be back and get thawed out after that Minnesota winter. Her Norwegian blood felt a surge of joy at the Atlantic Ocean waves playing on the beaches of Brazil.

After 30 years here we feel we know what to expect, but even then it is a surprise when it happens. While visiting one day with other missionary friends, thieves broke into the Santos' home. They relieved us of a number of material things. Praise the Lord, isn't that what Paul admonishes us to do in all things? After a few days some items were recovered and recently some more. The Lord is good.

Our arrival in Campo Mourao came just before the Youth Camp. As we tried to get settled, we visited camp and enjoyed seeing the young people. It was not hard to get settled as the young couple who lived in our home while we were gone had taken good care of things.

Very soon after our arrival, classes began, on March 1st, at the Bible School and Seminary. There were books to order and lessons to prepare even though we did not know how many students were coming. The big day came and with it ten students for the Bible School and three men for the Seminary. After the first week two sisters became homesick and left. Two others have since come so we remain at ten. Two other sisters were very desirous of coming but their father is in the forest in Rhondonia opening up a farm. He hasn't returned in time to give his permission for them to study here.

We praise God for each student and for the opportunity to teach them from God's Word. I am teaching four courses



Typewriters replaced

How hard it is to read handwriting that looks like scribbling. Here at the Bible School this year we have some students whose handwriting abilities are lacking. For this reason I'm giving

lessons in calligraphy. The students are paying more attention in this area and are becoming better.

Maybe you've had trouble with your calligraphy and solved this as we are doing here at the Bible School, by learning to type.

Here at the Bible School we have had a typing class for many years. Typing is a very good thing to know and it is like learning to ride a bicycle, one never forgets how to do it once it is well learned. Some students arrive here with this knowledge, but most of them don't.

We had had eight machines here at our Bible School, but in early 1987 our building which housed these machines was broken into at night and the typewriters "created legs and walked off!" It was a great loss to us and saddened us very much.

The AFLC World Missions Committee and Field Conference then approved a project in which many of you have taken part. You have given generously and now four brand *new* typewriters and one used one have been purchased.

What a joy this is to me as their teacher to have these new machines for my students. I am teaching them to care for and appreciate this most welcome gift to our school from you who are interested in our mission work here in Brazil.

Thank you so very much to all of you who gave to this project.

in the Bible School and one in the Seminary. Helen has two courses in the Bible School.

Along with teaching, there is the maintenance work in which we are involved. There are always door locks that won't lock, light switches that don't switch, faucets that only care to leak, curtain rods that come down instead of staying up and curtains that need to be replaced. It seems sometimes as if these things have been saved up for our return!

We will be working in Lar Parana church in conjunction with Pastor Cleodo Fruhauf, the Brazilian pastor. I will be teaching in the Sunday School and some evening Bible studies. Helen is involved with a Saturday girls' club. We are also taking part in Evangelism Explosion III, so there isn't any time left for mischief!

It is great to return and see the progress made in the national churches, both in numbers and in the taking on of responsibilities by the Brazilians.

Summing it up, it's great to be back and feel the tug of the harness again.

We covet your prayers and continued support for the kingdom's work here in Brazil.

Missionary George Knapp

Zeli Vieira

I GOD GIVE US MEN!

God give us men — large-hearted, manly men;
Men who shall join its chorus and prolong
The psalm of labor, and the psalm of love.
The time wants scholars —
 scholars who shall shape
The doubtful destinies of dubious years,
And land the ark that bears our country's good
Safe on some peaceful Ararat at last.
The age wants heroes — heroes who shall dare
To struggle in the solid ranks of truth;
To clutch "The Monster error" by the throat;
To bear opinion to a loftier seat,
To blot the era of oppression out
And lead a universal freedom on.

Author Unknown
(*Youth's Favorite Poems*)

More than the world

The blood of Jesus
wins for a sinner more
than all the world; it wins
heaven and the ever-
lasting salvation of man.
Eternal is our gain, even
if we lose all the world
but win Jesus.

—F. Hammarsten

CONTRAST OF WORDS AND ACTIONS

While the singing of a hymn should be a great experience, too often there is a disparity between singing the words and acting them out as suggested by these lines:

1. We sing, "Onward, Christian Soldiers" and wait to be drafted into His Service.

2. We sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and are content with 15 seconds a day.

3. We sing "O, For A Thousand Tongues" and don't use the one we have as we should.

4. We sing "There Shall be Showers of Blessings" but do not come to church services when it is raining.

5. We sing "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" and let the least little offense sever the tie.

6. We sing "We're Marching to Zion" but fail to march to Sunday School or church services.

7. We sing "Serve the Lord with Gladness" and gripe about all we have to do.

8. We sing, "Cast Thy Burden on the Lord" and continue to worry ourselves sick.

9. We sing "The Whole Wide World for Jesus" and never invite our next door neighbor.

11. We sing "Throw Out the Life Line" but are content with throwing out a fishing line.

Letter to the editor

ANSWERED PRAYER

As the AFLC moves into a second quarter of a century of ministry, we reflect on many prayers God has answered. Some answers to prayer, however, almost escape our attention, although they are noteworthy.

I suppose a few in our AFLC may be among those who heard the reports read at the 1987 Annual Conference and noticed a magnificent answer to prayer tucked away in the report of the World Mission Executive Director. Pastor Enderlein noted that the maturity of the national leadership of the Free Lutheran Church in Brazil would ensure an ongoing church if our missionaries had to leave. Praise the Lord! A viable nationalized church. Prayers of many years have been answered.

For this landmark in our mission work, mature national leaders, we should first of all thank God. Secondly, we must commend our faithful AFLC mission line — missionaries, executive director and board. Of course, this prayer would not have been answered

without the efforts of the whole AFLC mission team, which includes every supporter of AFLC World Missions.

"And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him" (1 Jn. 5:13-14 NASB). We know that "His will" includes the proclamation of the Gospel to "every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues" (Rev. 7:9). We know, therefore, He hears our requests for all cultural groups to at least hear the Gospel. And because He hears, we know He answers, and some from every people, group, and language will be saved and disciplined to maturity. The Bible tells me so.

I wonder what answers to our mission prayers will surface in Pastor Enderlein's 1988 report?

*Sincerely in Christ,
Reuben Unseth
Hancock Mich.*

The New Paganism

By *Harold Lindsell, Harper and Row*, 256 pages, hardback, \$16.95.

In this book, Lindsell claims it is not right to say Western society has been taken over by humanism, since there is a Christian humanism which is biblical. Rather, according to him, Western society is thoroughly pagan. He takes his definition of a pagan from Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, which says in part, "one who has little or no religion and delights in sensual pleasure and material goods: an irreligious or hedonistic person." The claim is made that Western society is pagan in its intellectual, moral and cultural climate, and also in its comprehensive concept or apprehension of the world, that is, in its world view. For Lindsell, the post-Christian age has fully arrived in the Western world. He says it is as pagan as Japan, China or India.

It is pointed out that the Church began in a world which was totally pagan and that it has gone the full circle. The Church of our day must function in a totally pagan world.

In this book there is a short history of the world from creation to the age of the Enlightenment of the eighteenth century. Lindsell writes briefly of the Enlightenment and the philosophers who gave birth to it. It is his claim that this Enlightenment is responsible for the New Paganism in the Western world. Even the Church has been seriously influenced by its philosophy. Liberalism in the Church is the fruit of the Enlightenment philosophy. The author says there is need for spiritual renewal on a large scale. Without a new theological perspective that is intellectually sound and psychologically provocative, there is no remedy for liberal Protestantism's "tired blood." I think Lindsell could have said more on how the New Paganism has, and is, seriously influencing Evangelicalism.

There is a chapter on the victory which the New Paganism has scored against our educational system. Educators, led by John Dewey, who rejected the Judeo-Christian world view and pushed Darwinism and rationalism, convinced many that biblical creation-

ism was unscientific and hindered human progress. Lindsell claims that, at best, most Christian institutions of higher learning are teaching conflicting points of view which fragment the Church, weakens her witness, and furthers the decline of the Hebrew-Christian tradition. Obviously non-Church higher learning is thoroughly pagan. The book contains a good section on Marxism in the world, especially as it uses the Church and liberation theology to promote itself in the world.

In one chapter Lindsell deals with Karl Barth and his theological attempt to give place to modern science and a transcendent God in the same world. He claims Barth failed in this attempt. He makes a big case of how unscientific modern science is as it strives to keep from coming face to face with God to Whom it is morally responsible and by Whom it will be judged.

The author concludes by reminding his readers the Church will always be because Jesus promised to build it, even when the gates of hell are storming against it. The Church's task is one — to evangelize the world. The responsibility of the people of the church is two-fold. They are to evangelize their world and to change their society by bringing biblical insights into the political and other arenas of public life. This is necessary so society may be conformed to the commandments of God.

Lindsell makes a strong case for Christians educating their children in thoroughly Christian institutions. The

only alternative to that is to let the pagans educate them according to their thoroughly pagan world view. In fact, Christian education is Lindsell's key to the hope of Western society returning to a Judeo-Christian world view. Such Christian education should be from early age through the highest of higher education.

Lindsell took up a large subject when he chose to write on why we are now pagan. The weakness of his book, as I see it, is his attempt to cover too large a subject in too small a book. He has tended to over simplify in some areas, probably because he wished to keep his book such that it would be read by more people. I cannot fault him for that. He covers a subject the masses need to be aware of, and understand. A more advanced student may wish he had gone into greater detail. I can recommend this book because it deals with an important matter and does contain enough information that most of us will be greatly helped by it. By it we can see what has happened to our world and we can learn of what kind of thinking the people we seek to evangelize and work with are thinking. I came away from the book more convinced that the only thing which can change our national course is a large exposure to the Word of God, with a good application of God's Law made relevant to our day. Though the book is a little expensive, it is worth the price.

*Rev. Emerson Anderson
Cleveland, Ohio*

Dwight L. Moody said this in his tribute to Charles Spurgeon in June, 1884.

"I knew very little about religious things when I was converted. I did not have what he has had, a praying father. My father died before I was four years old. I was thinking of that, tonight, as I saw Mr. Spurgeon's venerable father here by his side. He has the advantage of me in that respect, and he perhaps got an earlier start than he would have got if he had not had that praying father . . ."

EDITORIALS

NOW IS THE TIME

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread." Perhaps you have read or heard that saying. That may well be said of what we are about to write, for the subject is one we've not seen addressed in a church paper, much less editorially. But it does seem that now is the time to offer some thoughts on this topic.

What we have in mind is the suggestion to women's groups in the church that thought be given to providing, among all the other good food for which our Ladies Aids are famous, some alternate foods for those people who are (1) dieting or (2) must watch what they eat for health reasons. Sometimes the would-be-eater is left little choice. He must either transgress and eat what he knows is wrong for him or content himself with only a cup of coffee or a glass of water while others eat pleasurably.

Admittedly, there are all kinds of eating restrictions mandated or self-imposed which prospective eaters may be laboring under. Those charged with providing lunches could get quite frustrated trying to please everyone. But it would be an appreciated gesture by many if Aids could draw up some guidelines for offering some alternatives for those who cannot freely eat all foods, which certainly includes baking.

Having ventured this far, we may as well set forth some examples:

Some people must refrain from eating chocolate because of allergies or the cholesterol content. It would be good if what is offered with coffee is not all chocolate-based.

Diabetics and some others are to stay away from sweets. It would be a kindness to have something available for them such as fresh fruit or sandwiches. At some annual conference coffee breaks apple slices have been set out, a thoughtful gesture. And many times baked goods are very rich. Some would prefer things less rich, however that could be done.

Church dinners or suppers can avoid deep-fried foods or present alternatives for people who need them. Unbuttered vegetables would be welcome by some and simpler desserts.

Speaking of simpler, life used to be that way. People just ate what tasted good, with little thought or knowledge of what was good or not good for them. Today more is known and some folks must forego what they previously enjoyed. May we suggest that local Aids discuss, if it can be done without splitting the Aid or the congregation, this matter of serving sometime and decide if any changes should be made in the kinds of food which is served in lunches and meals in the church. Some potential eaters (aren't we all?) would appreciate a little help in following a regimen they have chosen or which has been forced upon them.

HATS OFF

Some of our states, Minnesota and North Dakota, among them, are flirting with the idea of getting into the lottery business. Somewhere the notion persists that lotteries solve a lot of problems and produce revenue in a painless way, even in a "fun" manner.

We have expressed our opposition to lotteries before. Our purpose in writing today is to commend two former governors, one in each state, one from each major party, who have come to the forefront in opposition to the establishing of lotteries in their states. They are Albert Quie, Republican, Minnesota, and Arthur Link, Democrat, North Dakota. It is with pride that we note that they are also Lutherans.

More power to these men for lending their prestige and stature to this fight. They are men who should know something about how government is run and what the legitimate sources of revenue are. In a recent letter to a newspaper in his state, Gov. Link correctly notes that money put into a lottery, perhaps \$22 million a year in North Dakota, is removed from local economies and not used to buy goods or services from local businesses. We could ask, who gains or suffers when that business is lost?

The North Dakota attorney general, Nicholas Spaeth, is also to be commended for his "philosophical objection" to the lottery. He points out that lower and middle income people buy most of the tickets and that any money generated by a lottery would probably only replace other sources of revenue.

But back to the two men we mentioned earlier, we salute Govs. Quie and Link for taking the stand they have. We expect it of them but it's still good to see. May their cause be successful. We don't want our states to be another New Jersey or New York and, down the road, another Nevada.

In addition to what has been said above, there is the deeper argument against the lottery and that is that gambling goes against the biblical standard of diligence and love for one's neighbor.

MEN FOR THE MINISTRY

On Sunday morning a larger number of men will be ordained into the ministry of the Association than usual. We have had some very small numbers some years. Once there was only one in a whole year. This year there are about nine.

This is certainly a cause for great rejoicing, this larger group. The men have been well trained. They have met the requirements we have set. The men are among the first to go through the one-year internship program. Each one is going to a challenging field to work. The prayers of a humble and grateful church fellowship go with them to their parishes.

The challenge also remains for the AFLC to pray out more workers, especially men who come up through our congregations, which must be our chief and normal source of supply. But men have and will also come from without the Association as the Lord directs them to us and they see that we have a situation compatible to their convictions and desires.

God bless and enable the new workers who join us this year.

Youth Evangelism Ministries Conference

The Youth Board, in cooperation with our Association Free Lutheran Bible School, will be hosting a Youth Evangelism and Ministries Conference, July 24-27, at the Bible School campus in Minneapolis. A special program has been planned for giving practical training and experience in youth evangelism. Speakers for the conference include Youth Resources Director Pastor Dennis Gray, sharing on "The Why and How of Luther League Evangelism," Mr. James L. Johnson, speaking on "Friendship Evangelism," Dr. Francis Monseth, leading a session on "Evangelism and Its Relationship to Baptism," and soon-to-be Pastor James Ritter giving some practical helps on "Evangelism Follow-Up and Discipleship."

Small group discussions will also be an encouraging and helpful time to discuss these topics together, as well as other concerns vital to youth. Innovative activities are also being planned for the afternoon, which can be helpful for Luther Leagues to take home and use in their own youth group meetings. Special evangelism services have also been planned for Monday and Tuesday evening with Pastor Jack Aamodt speaking.

We are grateful for a grant from Aid Association for Lutherans enabling us to offer this conference free of charge to the youth. This conference will be limited to 150 applicants. We encourage as many congregations as can to send one or two youth leaders to this conference. The pre-registration form for the conference is on the brochures that have been sent out to AFLC pastors and congregations. The pre-registration forms should be sent to the Association Free Lutheran Bible School, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

We look forward to seeing many youth at this conference and know that God will bless us as His Word goes forth.

*Pastor Joel Rolf
Chairman, AFLC Youth Board*

at the AFLBS campus
July 24-27
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn.

Sunday, July 27
6:00-8:00 p.m. — Registration
8:30 — Informal Service
Daily Schedule
Monday - Wednesday Noon
7:00 a.m. — Rising Bell
7:30-8:10 — Breakfast
8:30-9:00 — Small Groups-Morning
Watch Devotional Time
9:15-10:00 — Workshop I
10:15-10:45 — Small Group Discussion
11:00 — Workshop II
Noon — Lunch

1:00-1:45 p.m. — Workshop III
2:00-5:00 — Activities
5:30 — Supper
7:00 Small Groups/Prayer Time
7:30 Evangelism Service
9:00 Afterglow

Pre-Registration required.
Limited to 150 applicants.
Evening speaker: Pastor Jack Aamodt
Workshop Speakers:
—Pastor Dennis Gray, "The Why and How of Luther League Evangelism" (2 sessions).
—Mr. James L. Johnson, "Friendship Evangelism (2 sessions).
—Dr. Francis Monseth, "Evangelism and its Relationship to Baptism" (1 session).
—Pastor James Ritter, "Evangelism Follow-Up and Discipleship" (2 sessions).



Faith Lutheran Church of Running Valley, Colfax, Wis. has six Mission Sundays incorporated in their Sunday School program each year. This year, the Junior Bible Class has presented special skits for these mission programs. Pictured are: (seated) Brian Buchner and Laura Volbrecht; (back row) Jolene Paulson, Derek Horn and Krista Wagner.

Invite
a friend to Bible Camp
this summer!

13. When you feel like a spiritual failure, what thought should spur you on?

- A. Jeremiah 29:11
- B. Ephesians 2:10
- C. Philipians 1:6

14. No matter what challenge you face, how confident can you be in the Lord's provision?

- A. II Corinthians 9:8
- B. I Timothy 3:16-17
- C. Ephesians 3:20

Self-acceptance is basically a spiritual issue. To reject yourself is to reject God's grace. When we realize how valuable we are to God, our attitude toward ourselves begins to change. At last we are free to live without condemning ourselves, free to evaluate honestly our God-given abilities and appearance, and free to trust God in every area of our lives.

*"To the praise of the glory of His grace,
wherein He hath made us
accepted in the Beloved."
(Ephesians 1:6)*

Personal Application

1. In the past, how have you been a slave to your own feelings about yourself? Remember Galatians 5:1.
2. Thank God for the way He has made you thus far, especially for your "thorn." Think of ways He wants to reveal His power in your weakness.
3. Don't dwell on your failures! You can expect to make mistakes: learn from them and keep on going.
4. Ask God to show you how you can most effectively take an *active* part in His Kingdom work — in your church, your community, and even the world. Claim Philipians 4:13.

THE HIGHER PERSPECTIVE

WMF BIBLE STUDY #7

JULY, 1988

From Self-Condemnation to Self-Acceptance

How do you feel about yourself? Are you always putting yourself down, saying that you're no good and making excuses for not doing God's work? Low self-esteem cripples many Christians. Even though they trust Christ for their salvation and know God's promises, they struggle with a terrible feeling of inferiority and inadequacy that prevents them from reaching their full potential. Seeing God's perspective can change that.

Low Self-Esteem

David Seamands, in his book, *Healing for Damaged Emotions*, states that self image has four sources: outer world (experiences of life, how you were treated, etc.); inner world (our physical, emotional, and mental make-up, defects, etc.); Satan and all the forces of evil; and God and His Word.

1. What is often at the root of feelings of inferiority and low self-respect? II Corinthians 10:12 (see also Romans 12:2a.)

2. Even great men of faith made excuses to God because they felt incapable for God's assignments to them. Can you identify with these examples?

	Man	Excuses
A. Exodus 4:10,13		
B. Judges 6:15		
C. Jeremiah 1:6		
D. Matthew 25:25		

3. A. Where do people often put the blame for their lacks and imperfections? Isaiah 45:9 and 10

B. Why is this sin?

4. In Mark 11:25, what two areas of forgiveness must be taken care of before we can experience freedom? (One we must do and one we must accept.)

Accepting the Truth

We must make it clear that self-belittling is not Christian humility. What's the difference? Self-condemnation destroys faith and peace, shows distrust in God's work in my life, and actually becomes self-centeredness. Self-sacrifice is surrender of my own rights and my own will to the Lord and humbly relying on His wisdom and power, and this frees me from slavery to self so God can have His way (Romans 12:1-3).

5. Never forget: *Satan condemns; the Holy Spirit convicts.*

Read II Corinthians 7:10-11. Describe the two kinds of sorrow for sin and their results.

Worldly	Godly

6. If you have honestly confessed your sin to God and are trusting Christ as your Savior, how can you know for sure that you are forgiven and personally accepted by God? (Put your own name in these verses as you read them.)

A. Psalm 51:17

B. John 5:24

C. Romans 8:1-2

D. Romans 8:16-17

7. How can we thank God for our physical imperfections and limitations? How does this strengthen our view of God and His ability?

A. II Corinthians 7:7

B. II Corinthians 12:9-10

8. Why is it wrong for us to compare ourselves to someone else and feel inferior? I Corinthians 12:18-23

9. God's command is to love your neighbor "as you love yourself" (Matthew 22:39). To clarify, think of characteristics of a fleshly self-love (pride) vs. a God-honoring attitude of self-acceptance (self-respect).

Wrong	Right

Confidence in Christ

10. What is proof of your worth to God?

A. Psalm 139:13-16

B. Romans 5:7-8

C. I Peter 2:9

D. Matthew 10:29-31

11. Where must we put our confidence?

A. Philippians 3:3

B. Galatians 2:20

12. Even as Christians, we know we will still sin and make mistakes. What must we remember?

A. I John 1:7

B. I John 2:1

C. I John 3:20

Looking back at the first annual conference 25 years ago

The first annual conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was held at the Missions Center (now St. Paul's Lutheran Church) and Benjamin Franklin School Auditorium, Fargo, N. Dak., June 12-16, 1963.

Theme: "An Open Door" (Revelation 3:8).

Speakers: Pastors John Abel, G.A. Almquist, Morris Eggen, Julius Hermunslie, Raynard Huglen and John Strand; and laymen Robert Rieth and Wm. Svanoe.

Prayer Hour Leaders: Pastors H.C. Molstre, E.P. Dreyer and Layman Roy Mohagen.

Some of the Conference decisions:

...rejoiced in and okayed the purchase of the mission headquarters in Fargo.

...suggested that every congregation have at least one week of evangelistic meetings a year.

...recommended a budget of \$9000 for the year for administration.

...recommended the goal of sending out three missionary couples during the coming year.

...proposed that the country of Brazil be the site of the AFLC's first world mission endeavor.

...authorized the Association to establish a theological seminary in 1964 at a place to be determined and to consider beginning a Bible School at the same location when possible.

...recommended a budget of \$30,700 for missions and \$13,500 for the Seminary and Doctrine area.

...expressed its willingness to join 'in prayer and work with all men of good will toward the day when equal opportunity for all American citizens will not only be the law of the land, but reality.'

...advised that nondenominational materials for Sunday Schools will lack the Lutheran understanding of the Sacraments.

...recommended a budget of \$500 for parish education.

...recommended that the Youth Committee secure a part-time youth advisor (pastor or layman) to assist

congregations in Luther League and Bible Camp work.

...suggested that a stewardship secretary be elected by the Stewardship Committee to oversee the stewardship program.

Officers elected at the first conference: President — Rev. John P. Strand, Tioga, N. Dak.; Vice-President — Rev. F.B. Monseth, Valley City, N. Dak.; Secretary — Rev. Richard Snipstead, Greenbush, Minn.

Total registration was 361 lay people and 17 pastors.

WANTED

HYMNBOOKS

Dovre Lutheran Church, Winger, Minn., needs additional copies of the following hymnal: *Hymns of Praise and Service*, compiled by Homer Rodeheaver and George W. Sanville. Music editor, B.D. Ackley. Published by The Rodeheaver-Hall-Mack Co., Winona Lake, Indiana.

If you can supply a quantity of these books, please contact Meredith Bursheim, Box 125, Winger, Minn. 56592.

SONGBOOKS

Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., would like to buy some used songbooks. Specifically desired is *Singing Youth*, arranged by John W. Peterson, copyrighted by Singspiration, Inc., 1966, 6th printing. World Distributors, Zondervan Publishing House, Grand Rapids, Mich.

If you have any of these books to sell, please contact Curtis Thompson, Newfolden, Minn. 56738

ACADEMY TEACHERS

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

Congregational representation

Here is an unofficial comparison of the total attendance figures for the last four annual conferences of the AFLC and the percentages of congregations represented at each.

1984 (Minneapolis, Minn.) 84 out of 145 — 58%.

1985 (Osceola, Wis.) 80 out of 148 — 54%.

1986 (Warm Beach, Wash.) 68 out of 151 — 45%.

1987 (Thief River Falls, Minn.) 111 out of 156 — 71 %.

The 1987 Annual Conference was the 25th in the church's history. The congregation in Canada is counted in the statistics.

LES KJOS DIES

On Wednesday, April 27, Les Kjos of Kalispell, Mont., passed away. Les was instrumental in starting the AFLC work at Stillwater Lutheran Church and in the forming of Faith Lutheran Church, both of Kalispell. In 1983-84 he worked as a lay missionary in Brazil. Les also served on a variety of AFLC boards and corporations. — *Corr.*

WCLA SETS ANNUAL MEETING

The World Confessional Lutheran Association, which headquarters in Tacoma, Wash., will hold its annual convention this year in Oklahoma City, Okla., July 6-8. The theme will be "Catching the Vision."

Among the speakers at the event will be Dr. Paul G. Vigness, editor of *Lutherans Alert Magazine*, Dr. Robert Giles, and Dr. Lloyd R. Nelson. The closing address will be given by Dr. Reuben H. Redal, president of the WCLA.

CORRECTION

In the May 17 issue of the *Ambassador*, it was reported that Pastor David Barnhart was leaving the parish ministry. Pastor Barnhart informs us that he will continue to serve full-time as director of Abiding Word Ministries and also serve as senior pastor of Living Word Lutheran Church, Eagan, Minn. Pastor Marlyn Kruse has accepted a call from Living Word as associate pastor.

We regret the error. *The Editor*

from here and there . . .

Weslaco, Tex. — Rev. Oskar Salge, who has been involved in Mexican mission work for many years, is to preach at Faith Lutheran next Sunday, June 19. A daughter of Pastor Salge, Judy, attended AFLBS some years ago.

Camarillo, Calif. — Two lay couples and Pastor and Mrs. Orville Hiepler of First Lutheran are in attendance at the AFLC Annual Conference in DeKalb, Ill., this week. They will witness the ordination of their new assistant pastor, Keith Quanbeck, on Sunday.

Cokato, Minn. — Through Jan. 31, Good Shepherd Lutheran had received \$20,594 from Lutheran Brotherhood Church Extension. Nearly 500 congregations have received similar support since the LB program was instituted.

Minneapolis, Minn. — The last men's prayer breakfast of the season for Medicine Lake Lutheran was held on May 7. James Dobson's series, "Focus on the Family," has been the basis for the discussions.

DeKalb, Ill. — The Sunday School picnic for Grace Lutheran was held on May 29. The potluck meal was international in flavor with each family bringing favorite cuisine from other countries.

Tiogo, N. Dak. — The Zion Ladies Aid sponsors a food bank as an ongoing ministry to assist families who need this kind of help from time to time.

Williston, N. Dak. — Recent new members at Emmanuel Lutheran are the Wes Stilwell family, the Wayne Johnson family, the Merle Johnson family, Connie Reier and children, Eleanor Lahren, the Elmer Jorgenson family, the Harvey Lee family, the Rod Sveet family, Colette Atanasu and children and Mrs. Hazel Nygaard.

Eben Jct., Mich. — The Benton family of Burlington, Ia., presented a program, largely musical, on Sunday evening, May 22. The team consists of husband, wife and daughter.

Drummond, Wis. — From the May newsletter: "Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

Grafton, N. Dak. — At the Spring Music Night at Bethel Lutheran, the adult choir from Victory Lutheran in Park River joined the Bethel choir in

three selections. Aid Association for Lutherans matched \$750 of the offering which was designated for Galilee Bible Camp at Lake Bronson, Minn.

St. Paul, Minn. — Faith Lutheran of Minneapolis brought the program for Family Night at Victory in Christ on Apr. 10. The church and children's choirs sang and Pastor Ralph Rokke brought the message.

Newark, Ill. — At Family Mission Fellowship on May 15, Bob and Lois Schoonveld of Wycliffe Bible Translators presented the program. Mrs. Schoonveld has an aunt and uncle at West Lisbon Lutheran.

Thief River Falls, Minn. — Rev. Silas Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn., spoke at the Memorial Day service at Satersdal Church on Sun., May 29. He is a former pastor of the congregation, now defunct.

Minneapolis, Minn. — Joyce Winters gave a dramatic presentation of the woman at the well (John 4) at the "Mother and Others Event" at Faith Lutheran on May 9th. Dessert was served following the program.

Roseau, Minn. — On Mother's Day the men of Roseau Lutheran served breakfast to honor the women of the congregation.

The May potluck dinner at Spruce Lutheran honored the confirmands and their families.

Canton, S. Dak. — The WMF of Redeemer Lutheran hosted an Ascension Day brunch and guest day on May 12. Women from Arlington, S. Dak., and Pipestone, Minn., were invited as well as local guests.

Minnewaukan, N. Dak. — "Cham-pions for Jesus" was the theme of the Vacation Bible School at Trinity Lutheran. It concluded on May 27.

Dalton, Minn. — Ottertail County Sheriff Gary Nelson was guest speaker at the parish senior honor banquet at Kvam Lutheran on May 4. There were nine seniors this year.

Amery, Wis. — A new group, Home Builders Fellowship, has been started in Amery Lutheran. At the first meeting on May 21, a tape on "The Christian Family" by Pastor Larry Christenson was heard. This followed a potluck supper.



Virginia, Minn.

Lay Pastor Clifford Johnson and his wife Eileen have been serving Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Virginia, Minn., for one year now on a part-time basis. Pastor Johnson has agreed to continue another year. Each Wednesday and Sunday he drives up from Cloquet, Minn. Pastor Johnson (left) is shown in the picture shaking the hand of the congregation's president, Dr. Arne Luoma. May the Lord be magnified in the ministry here. —*Corr.*

Ishpeming, Mich. — We are rejoicing after having a few days of ministry with Pastor David Barnhart. He was here at Hope Lutheran for a spring banquet on Saturday evening, May 14. Friends from around the area came to hear Pastor Barnhart speak on the theme "Blessed Assurance." He spoke at the morning service on Sunday, on Israel in prophecy at the Sunday School, to leaders of the congregation at lunch at Bonanza restaurant, and at the evening service. On Monday morning he addressed the area ministerial. On Monday evening he was taken to Escanaba where he shared before going on to the Copper Country to speak at other churches. —*Corr.*

Morris, Ill. — New ceiling lights have been installed in the church sanctuary of Bethlehem Lutheran. They enhance the beauty of the church, give better light and make for easier and safer bulb replacement.

Kalispell, Mont. — Faith Lutheran participated in a banquet sponsored by Open Doors, the Bible distribution organization begun by Brother Andrew, on May 16 at the Outlaw Inn in Kalispell. Don and Marion Roberts told about five trips they have made to the People's Republic of China.

Ground broken for church addition in Grand Forks

Trinity Lutheran Congregation of Grand Forks, N. Dak., broke ground for the building of its new sanctuary after the morning service on Sunday, April 17.

Pastor Bruce Dalager led the congregation to the designated area east of the present structure, where he conducted a service of prayer and asked the Lord's blessing upon the building of the new sanctuary, and the congregation.

Members of the Building Committee, Church Council and Finance Committee took part in turning over the sod adjacent to the present chapel completed in 1967.

Members of the Church Council include: Ron Johnson, president; Roger Thompson, vice-president; David Anderson, secretary; and Ed Olsen, treasurer; Trustees: Don Johnson, Bill Janzen, Morris Trengen, Orville Vignes, Ray Dunham, Frances Drake and Dee Gabrick, WMF president; Deacons: Ron Johnson, Roger Thompson and Ed Olsen.

The congregation's Finance Committee chairman, Ray Anderson, together with committee members Ed Olsen, Orville Vignes and Albert Moen were in charge of the initial fund raising.

Construction is to begin soon. The members of the Building Committee are Douglas Moen, chairman, Stanley Miller, John Thompson, Scott Vogs-

Pukwana, S. Dak. — Ten years ago found members of the parish spending much time in prayer: "Lord Jesus, send us a pastor who can supply the needs of our churches." Pastor Philip Featherstone was the answer to our prayer. He will be retiring June 30 and we are going to honor him at a potluck dinner followed by an open house at the Ola Hall, June 19. Pastor Featherstone and his wife Hazelle will be moving out of the parsonage into a home they have purchased in town. —*Members of St. Olaf and Pukwana Churches.*



lund, Ray Dunham, Alvera Moen, Harriet Vignes and Lyndell Johnson.

Trinity Congregation praises God for the many blessings He has granted

them. Trinity asks that others remember the work in prayer and rejoice with us. "To God be the glory, great things He has done."

I want to grow in knowledge and understanding to be more able to glorify my Father's Holy Name in truth and in Spirit.

I want to become all that you have in mind for me to be and I commit myself to that one purpose in my remaining years to be more like Thee, please Jesus.

D.M.



Dewey Melby, Badger, Minn., 88 years young and a member of Oiland Lutheran Church, Greenbush, loves flowers. He is shown here with what he calls a Thanksgiving cactus on the left and a Christmas cactus on the right. Dewey is also known for his witness through singing.



A Psalm of Rivers

The rivers of God are full of water:
They are wonderful in the renewal of their strength;
He poureth them out from a hidden fountain.

They are born among the hills in the high places:
Their cradle is in the bosom of the rocks:
The mountain is their mother and the forest is their father.

They are nourished among the long grasses:
They receive the tribute of a thousand springs:
The rain and the snow are a heritage for them.

They are glad to be gone from their birthplace:
With a joyful noise they hasten away:
They are going forever and never departed.

The courses of the rivers are all appointed:
They roar loudly but they follow the road:
The finger of God hath marked their pathway.

The rivers of Damascus rejoice among their gardens:
The great river of Egypt is proud of his ships:
The Jordan is lost in the Lake of Bitterness.

Surely the Lord guideth them every one in His wisdom:
In the end He gathereth all their drops on high:
He sendeth them forth again in the clouds of mercy.

O my God, my life runneth away like a river:
Guide me, I beseech Thee, in a pathway of good:
Let me flow in blessing to my rest in Thee.

Henry Van Dyke
