



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

June 21, 1983

THE LAKESHORE

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

AT THE MASTER'S FEET



Pastor Emerson Anderson

Men who make a difference

We are told we live in a nation where many men are not men in the true sense of the word. We who live in large cities see the evidences. Many are unfaithful in marriage and desert their children. A long list of failures could be given. No doubt there are men in the church who fail to reflect God's intent for manhood, though they may rate well by present-day church standards. We believe a man can't be what he ought to be unless he is a man whose soul is drawn Godward. Men need to recognize and give time to the spiritual part of their being.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

is published biweekly (except for the first issue in July and the second issue in August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

All communications concerning contents of this magazine should be addressed to: Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor, Newfolden, Minn. 56738.

Layout design: Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad. Editorial Board: Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Rev. Francis Monseth, Rev. Robert Lee.

Send \$10.00 subscription to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

Volume 20 Number 12

USPS 588-620

Cornelius was such a man. Read about him in Acts 10. Scripture says he feared God, gave alms to the needy, and prayed continually. Cornelius' soul was awakened to spiritual things. Notice that he was not only concerned for himself but also for others. Of all that God placed in His visible creation on earth, people are highest on His scale of importance. "What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Cornelius had his priorities right when he made his soul of utmost importance. In Acts 10, we find him seeking the Lord in prayer. He seems to be drawn to this by an unseen power. No doubt the Spirit of God was preparing him for what was to come. He seems to be convinced that the help he needed would come only from God. How different from many modern churches and Christian homes. Some act as though it were more true that "God helps those who help themselves." Not so for Cornelius. He started at the right place. He started by seeking a relationship with God.

Now let's notice Cornelius' relationship and influence over those for whom God had made him responsible. He was not a man living for things. Many men fail at this point. Cornelius was a man with a heart for people and they knew it. To them his life reflected genuine concern for people. His family and friends knew he had such concern. There was a sincerity in his being which greatly and favorably impressed those around him. When Peter came to Cornelius' house to preach, Cornelius, having gathered his relatives and close friends together, could say, "We are all here present before God to hear all that you have been commanded

by the Lord." Here was a man truly seeking God, and that affected other lives for good.

We who are men, with men's responsibilities, need to take this to heart. We can never be all we ought to be if we neglect what Cornelius put first. We, as a starting point, need souls strongly awakened toward God. From that point we should go on to full maturity, being men who regularly sit at the Master's feet. When we step out of our private meeting place with the Lord we will bring along those qualities, and that message, which will be a genuine blessing to our families. They will know we are worthy to be heard and followed. God made wives and children with a natural desire to be led in His way by husbands and fathers. Many today are longingly waiting for it. Men, let's be godly leaders. That is our high privilege and awesome responsibility. Our nation needs such men. Our business-world needs such men. Our Association needs such men. Our churches and homes need such men. Let's be men who long for and seek intimate fellowship with Jesus. Let's be men who can lead the way back to God. Perhaps the failure of men to be the men God intended is the point at which our nation first went astray.

Heavenly Father, we men confess our sin of failing to be proper, godly leaders. Forgive us and put into our hearts the strong desire for intimate fellowship with you and our Savior that we may fulfill our stewardship toward others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(Ed. note: Father's Day is past, but this article directs our attention once again to the need of godly men, a message which is always timely.)

To the 21st Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations assembled at the ARC, Osceola, Wisconsin, June 15-19, 1983:

Grace and Peace!

What a privilege it is to greet you at our beautiful Retreat and Conference Center. Ever since the 1979 Conference approved the purchase of the facility, we have looked forward to having an annual conference here. The dedication service on Sunday morning will be a joyful experience for us all.

We are here because of concern for and interest in the kingdom work. We will spend these days evaluating what has transpired in our congregations and through our common endeavors in the year that has been concluded. We shall prayerfully face the challenges of making decisions for the work for days ahead. How good it is to have God's Word which challenges us to move "forward with confidence." The riches of God's grace are more than sufficient to enable us to be pleasing unto Him during our brief sojourn here below. May the Holy Spirit make us sensitive to His leading and guidance, that our decisions at this conference may truly be "for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

Our gratitude is expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dietsche for the invitation and welcome they have given to us for this conference. We know that through the tireless efforts of these friends and fellow-laborers things have been made ready for us to be here and enjoy this conference. None of us can really know the effort they have put forth to make it possible to have the conference here.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



TIMES AND TRENDS

Today, many Christians who view the unrest and turmoil in the nations of the world, ponder the question:

"O Lord Jesus, how long,
how long
Ere we shout the glad song,
Christ returneth! Hallelujah!
Hallelujah! Amen."

"Peace" is on the lips of statesmen and religious leaders the world over. Where in our western world is the individual who does not sincerely long for peace? The prolonged negotiations in the Middle East to secure an agreement between Lebanon and Israel clearly demonstrate how complicated and fragile the peace process is today. It is somewhat alarming to see how deeply involved religious leaders are attempting to become in securing world peace. Many of them do not hesitate to speak out on the nuclear freeze, when military experts cannot agree on the policies best for our nation.

We may be asking ourselves where we should be in the midst of these demonstrations and declarations. The Bible reminds us, "For when they say, peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape." Our world is a shrinking world and we cannot turn our backs upon the problems that face us in this life. But we must never forget why we are here. It is not to make a heaven on earth. Christ has put us here to be a salt

and a light, that men might observe that we have been with Jesus, and that because of Him our goal is set on eternity. The commission Christ gave His church has not changed, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

The social, political, environmental and economic problems are there. As a Church we must keep our priorities straight. There surely will be times when our witness for Christ must take the shape of compassionate and loving deeds of mercy. There are times when the voice of the Church needs to be heard on issues of the day.

As individual Christians it is our duty to act and speak as God gives us convictions based on His Word. Surely, the fellowship of Christ's sufferings are experienced as we see about us human need, lives destroyed by sin, and evil increasing about us. We suffer with Him, as His love compels us to become involved and to take our stand as the opportunities present themselves.

The Church continues to be under pressure from society to modify its stand on moral issues. Liberal clergymen are all too eager to appease the world and turn away from the standards of God's Word. An example of this is the Minnesota Council of Churches' endorsement of the gay rights movement last fall. More than ever we need to get our guidance and direction from the Word of God. What was sin in the days of Lot and Noah is still sin in our modern 20th century.

Other issues that will continue to face Christians in days to come include ERA, the gambling issue and abortion. Every believer who makes Christ Lord of all will face his responsibility in moral issues. Christians need to investigate the stand of political candidates and support those who value Biblical commands.

OUR AFLC

We observed the 20th anniversary of our AFLC last year. Our church body has grown and matured. We fear that many among us are beginning to take our AFLC for granted.

✠

MESSAGE . . .

The work is well enough established so that we no longer have to ask if we are going to make it. The freedoms guaranteed the congregations under the *Fundamental Principles* are accepted routinely. We need to ask ourselves again and again, "What if the AFLC were not here tomorrow?"

The AFLC had a reasonably good year as the reports from the various department heads will indicate. We also had our problems and our difficulties. May God use them to draw us closer to Himself, as we are reminded that our sufficiency is not of ourselves.

STEWARDSHIP

One of the areas of greatest need before us was our failure to reach the minimum goals for the last fiscal year. We had the largest budget request ever, and we received the greatest amount in offerings and gifts ever received. But we also had the largest shortage ever as the following figures will indicate:

1981-82 minimum goal . .	\$914,003.00
Total gifts received	782,317.08
Short of goal	\$131,685.92

In the area of Schools and Home Missions, where the largest deficits occurred, cutbacks and adjustments were made to reduce the budgets. It was not possible to do this in all areas of the work and the shortages have created some real problems for the work. In particular, General Fund was left with a large shortage. There are always unexpected projects and expenses that have to be picked up by the General Fund. In years past we have talked about a "summer slump," but this year it has been with us from the beginning of the fiscal year. We face some serious financial needs in our AFLC at the time of this writing.

We do not want to sound like a broken record. It is so easy to approve the budgets on the conference floor, but the approval does not mean much unless our people will all willingly and sacrificially get behind the work of the AFLC, as God has entrusted it to us.

A Stewardship Workshop was held here at the Retreat Center last September. Dr. Waldo Werning was our speaker. His emphasis was "The heart of the whole field of stewardship boils down to a matter of the heart." He emphasized that stewardship stems from a living relationship with Jesus Christ. As His faithful children, He asks us to trust His guidance and direction for our lives. Dr. Werning's Biblical emphasis was one that we feel we need and can use in our AFLC.

A number of our congregations have followed through with a program. We trust that blessing and growth may be the result in each case.

STATISTICAL REPORT

Our AFLC requests a statistical report from our congregations every two years. The alternate year we do a survey of pastors' salaries. We are in the process of completing our statistical report for this year. We have not received reports from all the congregations at the time of this writing. Indications, on the basis of those congregations reporting to date, are that our AFLC experienced about a 4% growth. This does not include any figures from seven areas of home mission work where congregations are not yet organized.

Out of the 109 congregations that have reported, 66 have indicated an increase in their confirmed membership. Eleven congregations reported no change in membership, and 32 reported a loss in confirmed membership. Twenty-nine congregations have yet to report.

Congregations reporting a loss in membership are in rural communities or small towns, to a large extent. This would indicate that the rural population is still decreasing. It also indicates the importance of establishing congregations in urban areas.

EVANGELISM

We are thankful to God for our evangelist and his dedication to the task before him. It does not become easier to interest people in special meetings. We do, however, hear good reports of how our evangelist is being used and that precious souls are being saved.

More than ever, we need to be "instant in season and out of season" in the witness and proclamation of the Word. Where the Law and Gospel are proclaimed, there repentant sinners will lay hold of Christ as their only Savior from sin and death and the power of Satan.

Evangelism is the task of the whole Christian Church. The witness of a believer to an unsaved friend or neighbor may be the only method that will reach that soul. Some of us shrink back from even being willing to share our faith in everyday conversation with a neighbor. Someone has said that evangelism is one sheep telling other sheep where there is good pasture. We can all be involved in that kind of evangelism. We thank God for our faithful pastors in our AFLC who are preaching the whole counsel of God. We do not need to be fearful of inviting our friends and neighbors to come to hear the Word.

PASTORAL SUPPLY

Of this year's seminary class, nine have indicated so far that they desire to serve as pastors in the AFLC. Several have summer internships to complete before they are ready. We are grateful to God for each of these men.

Our number of vacancies continues fairly constant in spite of additional men being added to the roster.

We have a number of pastors who have been without a call for some time. We find this to be a most difficult situation. Our office can

"Someone has said that evangelism is one sheep telling other sheep where there is good pasture."

only make congregations aware of the men that are available as a congregation desires to call a pastor.

This year we have had additional men resign from parishes without a call. The reason is not always easy to define. One thing is clear, however. There is an increasing pressure in the ministry. We hear of "pastor burn-out" as a result of frustrations and pressures. Perhaps in the business of ministering to other people, a pastor neglects his own spiritual growth and his own family.

One writer has stated, "To be an ordained minister, one becomes a servant of all, possessed by all, and no longer possessor of one's own self or own soul."

Churches and congregations need to give serious thought to the pastor's total welfare. This includes the spiritual as well as the material needs.

Our society is a better educated one, and because of this greater demands are made on a pastor and society has higher expectations of him.

The ministry is no place for any man who does not have the burning call of God in his heart, and a love for people in his soul.

PENSIONS AND HEALTH INSURANCE

Our Pension Board has made a study of the Pension program for our pastors. Our program has included health insurance, life insurance and a retirement program. With health insurance costs continuing to rise at rates far above the national inflation rate, less and less money has been left for the retirement program. The pastors on the lower salary scale simply do not have any funds set aside for retirement.

The Pension Board is therefore presenting to this conference, a recommendation that will separate the Pension Program and the Health Insurance program. We want to call this to your attention so that you can be studying the report and be ready to discuss and act on these proposed changes in the Pension Program.

The struggle to provide an adequate group health insurance program at a somewhat reasonable rate continues. Health care and hospitaliza-

"The day may come when we will find it necessary to enter into some co-operation with those of like mind and spirit."

tion costs this past year increased by over 20%, while the national average inflation rate was about 4%. Under those circumstances, the inevitable result is higher rates.

The AFLC has changed companies for coverage three times in the last four years. We have been able to save our men some money in doing so. But the Board feels that it is important that we establish a longer period of experience with a reliable company.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

Last year the Annual Conference voted to increase the rate of the subscription of *The Lutheran Ambassador* to \$10.00 annually. This was done to avoid the necessity of further increases in subsidies from the other boards. The result has been that a number of our people are not renewing their subscriptions when they come due. We have had about a 7% loss of subscribers after the rate increase. It is understandable that none of us wants to pay more than necessary for our paper. But the high costs of printing and postage make it necessary. It is difficult to understand that our church paper does not hold a higher place of importance for so many of our AFLC people.

We have a fine paper. Efforts continue to maintain and improve the quality of the publication. The search for a more reasonable qualified printer continues, but we do not want to sacrifice the quality of the appearance of our paper for a monetary saving.

NEW HYMNAL

A report will follow on the results of the study by the committee on a new hymnal. The results would indicate that the AFLC is not ready to move ahead on a new hymnal. We need more time to think and pray through the importance to our church body of such a hymnal. We trust that we will keep the hymnal project before us for future consideration.

The importance of good music in our churches cannot be over emphasized. It must be taught, just as anything else that has value must be taught. We continue to urge our pastors that they will not take the easy out and simply give the people in their congregations what the people might like to have in the way of hymns and music. The best is available to us. Let us be willing to expend the energy to teach good music and develop among the people in our congregations the sense of what is good music.

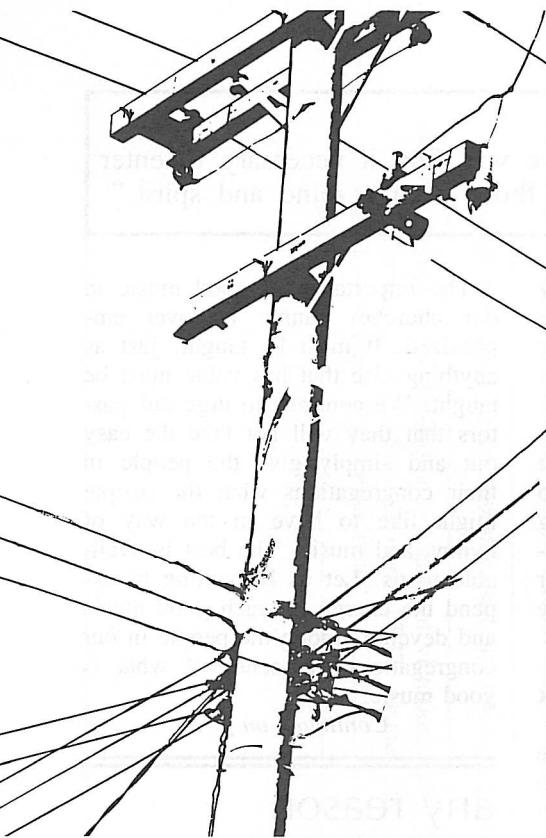
Continued on p. 8

any reason for sadness?

Many years ago I heard an anecdote from the life of Martin Luther which was very much to the point. The reformer was periodically very affected by religious scruples. Once he sat in his study in deep and melancholic thought. Then his wife, Kathy, knocked at the door. As she entered the room dressed in black, her husband got frightened and asked who was dead. "God is dead, the pious and wise woman answered. Luther got angry and would have reprimanded her because of this. But she forestalled him by asking why he behaved like he did if God was not dead, but living. I think we often all need a plain sermon like that. God is not dead or far away from us. He is the Father of Jesus Christ, who loves us. If we give ourselves to him, our fears and sorrows have to loosen their grasp. We have no less reason than the man who prays in Psalm 43 to ask our soul why it is sad and restless:

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

Immanuel Lutheran Church,
Tel Aviv, Israel



THE POWER of PRAYER

tapping
spiritual
resources

long as the base and wicked part of our nature has the upper hand in our lives we often find ourselves caught in the terrible struggle of trying to use the all-loving God to bring vengeance and judgment over our situations or people who cross us. Prayers, as the one described, even though relating our heart's deepest wishes cannot and will not be answered. They cannot be answered because they are in contradiction to the very nature of God.

God is not in the business of retaliating. Men will forgive if an offense is small enough not to be of any great injury to them, but God will forgive the greatest and most aggravated offence against Him (Isaiah 53). Man would have punished the guilty and satisfied justice, but God punished the innocent to justify the guilty.

"Man would have punished the guilty and satisfied justice, but God punished the innocent to justify the guilty."

God is so loving, so kind, and why not say, "so different," that our prayers and desires can't be satisfied unless we stop rebelling and forcing Him out of our lives by having everything our own way. We have a description of God's loving nature and His prayer for us in the second part of II Peter 3:9 "...but (God) is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." Why would He want us to come to repentance? So that our soul's desire or prayer be answered. The desire humanity has, as a whole, is that of joy, peace and happiness.

The Book of James gives us five reasons for unanswered prayer. It says: "ye lust and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: Ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (4:2,3).

If anyone uses this passage as an excuse for unanswered prayer he automatically classes himself as lustful, murderous, covetous, adulterous, worldly, proud, sinful and blasphemous. Is it any wonder that God does not answer the prayers of such people? Would you? No man can ask amiss if he is in Christ and is mindful of asking according to the promises, and seriously considers the conditions that the Word presents to those who come with their requests.

Let us look into the mystery of prayer as Jesus taught it to His disciples. One of the most revealing explanations came when He said, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: he that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit, for without Me ye can do nothing . . . If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. Herein is My Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit."

This glorious revelation of our oneness with Jesus and with the Father, and — through this union— this assurance of answered prayer, is the greatest truth our minds can conceive. It is so overpowering, so incomprehensible to our finite minds that it baffles all attempts at explanation.

Jesus said that we are all branches and that He is the vine, by which He implies that we are all branches of our Father. For He added, "In that day ye shall know that I am in the Father, and ye in Me and I in you." Do people care to become that intimate with God, especially when society teaches us to be so private, so independent and so exclusive? When expressions such as "be yourself," "do your best," "do your own thing," are so common in the everyday way of living?

Jesus said, "I am the way . . . no one comes to the Father but by Me."

Continued on p. 8

Looking for an illustration on prayer, I came across the following: A pious but cranky old lady was greatly annoyed because her neighbors forgot to ask her to go on their picnic. On the morning of the event they suddenly realized their affront and sent a little boy to ask her to come along. "It's too late now," she snapped. "I've already prayed for rain" (Sunday School Times).

You can't help it, having to smile at such an illustration, but the more one thinks about it the more he comes to the conclusion that that illustration describes both sides of our wishes, desires, or frail personalities. It describes our old and new natures: one that wants to fight back, rebel, hate; the other that looks for peace and has a quiet confidence in Him who has control of everything and the last word in all circumstances. As



*By Rev. Yeddo Gattel,
Minneapolis, Minn.*

The flagship of the fleet

Text: "As Thou hast sent Me into the world even so have I also sent them into the world" (John 17:18).

Down at Annapolis, where we make our midshipmen, a professor once asked his class to write an essay on the topic, "Why the Spanish Armada Failed." One of the midshipmen wrote, "The Spanish Armada failed for lack of three ships." When the professor read this, he was very surprised because the Armada was a great fleet of nearly 300 ships, most of which were destroyed in a storm off the coast of England. What difference could three ships make? But he soon smiled, when he read what the student had added: "The three ships for lack of which the Spanish Armada failed were 'marksmanship,' 'seamanship,' and 'leadership.'"

These truly are good ships, aren't they? And do you know there is a whole fleet of these ships which all of us should make place for in the harbor of our lives and which we should be ever using on life's wide sea? Some of these ships are "friendship," "fellowship," "comradeship," "sportsmanship," "partnership," "worship." Then there is the ship which is the flagship of this whole Christian fleet of ships—"Stewardship."

If you were asked to tell what kind of ship this stewardship is, what would you say? How would you define *Stewardship*?

Let me tell you how a little chap in a New York Sunday School defined it. For a number of weeks, his Sunday School teacher had been helping him to understand stewardship and then one Sunday his teacher asked him to write out what he thought stewardship meant. This is what he wrote: "Stewardship means that life is a great ship, loaded with a rich cargo of many things to be delivered to many people in many places. God is the owner but I am the captain of the ship."

"Everything I have aboard, all my possessions, my talents, my time, my health, my strength, my capacity, my personality, my privileges, my money, is a cargo to be delivered. God has entrusted it to me for His children in every place. I do not own what I possess; I owe it. God has made me the captain of the ship (His steward), and it is my job to bring the ship to the right port and discharge the cargo. That's stewardship. Everything I have aboard is for delivery."

It's a wonderful fleet of ships we sail with when we are on board the good ship "Stewardship." Here they are: "Friendship," "Fellowship," "Partnership," "Comradeship," "Sportsmanship," "Worship."

By stewardship, everything we have becomes the means of a wonderful "partnership" with God. He, the owner, and I, the manager for

Him—His steward—are on the same job and He and I have "*fellowship*" together. I am no longer to account myself His servant but His friend; so all life, in all its phases, as I deliver the goods which God has entrusted to me, becomes a constant "worship" of God.

This is what stewardship means: "Life is a great ship loaded with a rich cargo of many things to be delivered to many people in many places." Let's set the rudder so that each of us may come to the right port and deliver the goods God has entrusted to us to deliver.

HYMN

Sing and memorize—"Jesus calls us o'er the tumult."

(Call particular attention to all stewardship implications in the hymn.)

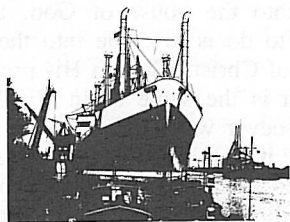
Jesus calls us o'er the tumult
Of our life's wild, restless sea,
Day by day His sweet voice
soundeth,
Saying, "Christian, follow Me."

Jesus calls us from the worship
Of the vain world's golden store,
From each idol that would keep
us,
Saying, "Christian, love Me
more."

Jesus calls us: by Thy mercies,
Saviour, may we hear Thy call,
Give our hearts to Thy obedience,
Serve and love Thee best of all.

TO TEACH — God's gifts to us are for all His children, as well as for us. We are partners with God, who owns all; His stewards on whom He is depending to deliver the goods for Him.

—Guy L. Morrill
Stewardship Stories,
Harper and Brothers
Publishers.



"'Everything I have aboard,
all my possessions, my
talents, my time, my
health, . . . is a cargo to be
delivered. God has entrusted
it to me . . .'"

REPORT . . .

ANNUITIES AND WILLS

Mr. Miedema is developing a good program for our AFLC in annuities and wills. As he continues the important task of assisting our people in preparing wills, he needs the cooperation of our pastors. He spends much time and travels in making valuable contacts. The blessings that will come to the AFLC as a result of the work are stupendous.

MERGER AND ECUMENICAL THRUSTS

We mentioned in our last annual report that a proposal for merger was to be voted on last September by the ALC, LCA and AELC. All three bodies approved the merger. A 70-member commission has been working for over a year to formulate the structure of the "new church." The date for bringing together nearly six million Lutherans is 1988.

Lutherans and Episcopalians have teamed up in joint ministries which

include worship, Bible study, and evangelism. The bishops of the three merging Lutheran bodies joined the bishop of the Episcopal Church in celebrating the Eucharist in the National Cathedral in Washington last January.

Lutheran campus pastors have asked their national church body leaders to establish "interim sharing of the Eucharist" on campuses between Lutherans and Roman Catholics.

Recently, at a conference held in Minneapolis, church leaders called for a new "inclusive" ecumenical structure or a forum to discuss issues of common concern and to provide a united witness. Leaders at this conference included Dr. Billy Graham, Bishop David Preus, ALC, and Archbishop John P. Roach, Roman Catholic. The intent is to include Roman Catholics, Baptists, Lutherans, conservative evangelicals, Pentecostals and "other non-aligned churches," as well as churches in the present National Council of Churches and National Association of Evangelicals. Dr. Bohlman, president of the

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has proposed that a new inter-Lutheran Association be formed to replace the Lutheran Council/USA. The new structure which would seek to include all Lutherans could be ready to operate as early as 1985.

We share these matters with the Conference, not for the purpose of our consideration of any participation, but that we might realize what is taking place in religious circles about us. The day may come when we will find it necessary to enter into some co-operation with those of like mind and spirit.

LUTHER'S BIRTHDAY

On November 10 of this year, the Lutheran Church observes the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's birth at Eisleben, Germany. We trust that our congregations will utilize this opportunity to mark the occasion by special Reformation rallies and other events that will reemphasize our Lutheran heritage.

(Continued on p. 14)

PRAYER . . .

In a most unique way He combined the consciousness of God and the consciousness of man. He stood at the point where humanity and divinity meet. "Whatsoever ye shall ask in *My name*, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

Prayer to Jesus is very simple. You take your own or your brother's need very deeply into your heart and identify yourself with it. Then in a completely trustful manner, forget yourself, your brother and your problem, turn completely in thought to God and rise to that consciousness which Jesus taught, or oneness with the Father, and of oneness with Christ. Then having risen to that high place, pray until the peace of God comes upon you. Then your prayer is answered. It may sound very simple, but isn't that what Christ taught us?

But before we rise to this state of peace and oneness, the doors of our prison house must be opened so we may have access to Him. That door will lead us to what John the Baptist

called "repentance," or Paul, "dying to self." According to Jesus, the meek, the humble, the poor in spirit, the persecuted, those who turn and become as a little child, are the ones who find the secret key that unlocks this door into the Kingdom of heaven. Jesus summarized it so beautifully when He said, "He that loseth his life for *My sake* shall find it."

Doesn't it sound strange that the word helplessness seems to describe it all better than anything else, helplessness and trust?

Again it may appear to be a heroic accomplishment to transfer our complete trust to God when our old nature and self-centeredness want to trust in our own accomplishments and our own power of doing and undoing things.

God wants us to rest in our helplessness, meekness and emptiness with a perfect willingness to be helpless, meek and empty. It is our very helplessness that draws God's

infinite help; it is our very emptiness that opens all of heaven's infinite resources to fill us. Consider for a moment the "... man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought Him, saying, 'Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean,' And He put forth His hand, and touched him, saying, 'I will: be thou clean.' And immediately the leprosy departed from him:" (Luke 5:12,13). Wouldn't you say that man was in a state of helplessness, meekness and emptiness?

Having opened that door which lets you step from the wilderness of self into the house of God, all we need to do is to come into the presence of Christ. Then in His presence, which is the same as in His Name, whatsoever we ask for will be done. Then it is that "Ye shall see the heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man" (John 1:51).

☆☆☆

editorials

THANK YOU, PASTOR ANDERSON

Pastor Emerson Anderson of Cleveland, O., centered his devotional articles, which have appeared on page 2 of each Ambassador these past six months, under the theme of worship. That has been a timely topic, for all of life for the Christian is to be an act of worship to the Lord God. Life should be lived to glorify God, and that in itself is worship.

Thank you, Pastor Anderson, for being our writer in the first half of 1983. You have not disappointed us. Many lives have been touched. Through your writing, and various speaking engagements, you have reached well beyond the Cleveland area to the different sections of the Association.

May the Lord bless and guide you in the coming days of opportunity in His kingdom.

Our new writer for the months of July to December will be Rev. Philip Rokke, our pastor at Reva, S. Dak. Pastor Rokke serves one of our most "western" parishes. To serve it he must cover many miles even though his church building, Slim Buttes Lutheran, is near at hand. As a western pastor he is well acquainted with the grand sweep of the prairies, which remind one of the ocean of life which all must traverse.

And may the Lord bless you, Pastor Rokke, as you share the Word with our Ambassador family in the next months through the feature, "At the Master's Feet."

ON TO KALISPELL. In three short weeks approximately 200 youth, pastors and advisors will be on the shores of Flathead Lake near Kalispell, Mont., for the biennial Luther League Federation convention. Pray that this great youth gathering will make a significant difference in the lives of all who attend.

The age of youth is a crucial period of life. What happens then pretty well determines the "set of the sail" for all of life. There can be conversions at any time of life, but the likelihood of that happening drops so much with each passing year, according to statistics, that it is discouraging.

Youth is a time of decision. Therefore, it is saddening to see some of the wrong turns that young people make, getting themselves into unwise, compromised and even tragic situations, from which some of them never get out. We are thinking of their experimentation with drugs, including alcohol, sex, dishonest practises, gambling, etc.. Some have had precious little good example at home to follow. Others have had good parental guidance but go off the deep end anyway.

The Luther League convention will challenge our leaguers to keep on following Jesus, if they know Him now, or to turn back to Him if they have wandered from the covenant of baptism. The young people at Kalispell will be called on the follow Jesus Christ now, under the theme "Pressing On."

The location of this year's convention, a church camp on the west shore of Flathead Lake, will bring the convention attenders to one of the beauty spots of a state, Montana, which abounds in grand scenery. Four years ago some of us looked down from Big Mountain, north of Whitefish, where our church's annual conference was held, and viewed Flathead Lake from a hazy distance. But here is a convention on the lakeshore itself.

Getting there will be an adventure, too. From whichever direction we approach Flathead Lake, all of us who come from a distance will cross some of the great agricultural lands of America and all will see great mountain vistas as well. A tour of Glacier Park will be offered on Friday afternoon for those desiring it.

Our congregations at Kalispell, Faith, in the city and rural Stillwater, are hosts to this convention and they, together with Pastors Richard Bartholomew and Dale Mellgren, will provide that same great hospitality we found at the annual conference at Big Mountain.

This writer was in Europe when the first convention was held in Kalispell, in 1967, but he hopes to be at this one, the Lord willing, travelling by car caravan.

An ironic note to this convention is that the church's youth worker, Rev. Kenneth Pentti, will not be present due to another worthy commitment at the very same time. No slighting of the LLF was intended, but it does point out that the designation "youth worker" doesn't have the definite relationship to the Luther League Federation that one might expect there to be.

At any rate, may the LLF convention bring rich blessings to the life of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and to individual young people. Again, pray for the convention.

FAMILY BIBLE CAMPS

It is unfortunate that the Luther League Federation convention falls during the week that the first Family Bible Camp, the one at Lake Bronson, Minn., is being held. We were not privy to the discussions that went on allowing that overlapping, but the conflict may have been unavoidable. Both events will be hurt somewhat by the other, but we trust each can carry out a successful program. And they will.

Our family camps, the other is at the ARC, Osceola, Wis., serve hundreds of people each summer. It is interesting that their combined attendences hardly equal those of the first years when only one camp was held, and that at Alexandria, Minn. Perhaps the success at Alexandria was partly due to the novelty. Another reason may be that neither Lake Bronson or Osceola offers as attractive a location, or certainly as central a location, as Alexandria did. Still a third factor is that there are more summer church activities available than in the '60s and early '70s. A new one now is the Wilderness Camp by Lake Park, Minn.

The family camps offer special opportunities for family vacations. The whole family may come. There are classes for all above four years of age and babysitting

◇

AFLC Family Bible Camp

Galilee Bible Camp
Lake Bronson, Minn.
July 11-17

FACULTY

ADULT BIBLE TEACHER	Pastor Einar Unseth Bismarck, North Dakota
YOUTH BIBLE TEACHER	Pastor Dennis O'Neil Shevlin, Minnesota
CHILDREN'S BIBLE TEACHER	Judith Wold Thief River Falls, Minnesota
CHOIR	
EVANGELIST	Pastor John Strand Remer, Minnesota
PROPHETIC TEACHER	Mr. Jim Sundby Karlstad, Minnesota
PRAYER LEADER	Mr. J. A. Grimstad Thief River Falls, Minnesota

STAFF

DEAN	Pastor Leslie Galland
MANAGER	Sheldon Mortrud
ASSISTANT MANAGER	Don Balmer
TREASURER	Sonia Balmer
DEAN OF WOMEN	Delores Fast
DEAN OF MEN	Pastor Mark Antal
NURSE	Ruth Antal

SCHEDULE

7:30	Rise & Shine
8:00	Breakfast
8:30	Faculty Meeting
9:00	Bible Hour
9:50	Break
10:15	Bible Class and Discussion Hour
11:00	Bible Prophecy and Current Events
12:00	Dinner
1:00	Quiet Time or Choir
2:00	Recreation
5:30	Supper
7:00	Prayer Time
7:30	Evening Service
9:00	Campfire
10:00	Devotions
10:30	Lights Out

Sunday

9:30	Communion Service
11:00	Morning Worship
12:15	Dinner

LOCATION—Galilee Bible Camp is located in the Lake Bronson State Park, two miles E. of Lake Bronson, Minn., which is on highway No. 59, north of Thief River Falls. Signs in the State Park will direct you to the camp. A state park sticker is not needed if you tell the park officials you are going to the Bible Camp.

Mail/Phone—Send mail in care of Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn. 56734. After 2:00 p.m., Monday, July 11, you may call 754-6321. Please do not arrive before 2:00 p.m., Monday.

Bring—Bible, notebook, bedding, towels, wash cloths, personal items, sporting goods, musical instruments, PLEASE, no radios, record players, tape recorders (except to record sessions), bikini bathing suits, firecrackers, Shorts are for recreation only. Dresses or skirts are to be worn to all sessions. Pant suits may be acceptable.

Lodging—Dormitory rooms are available for teens and single people. Ample space is available for those who have campers or tents. Some dorm rooms can accommodate couples or small families.

Weekly Rates—

MEALS AND LODGING:

Adults	\$35
Youth (12-19)	30
Children (4-11)	25
Children under 4	free
Maximum family rate	130
Registration fee per person	1
Registration fee per family	2

Individual meal tickets are available at the registration office. Rates for those staying in camping vehicles or tents who do not purchase meal tickets: \$3.50 per vehicle per day.

EDITORIALS . . .

available for the very young. These camps provide Bible classes and Bible preaching. They are a time in which to come aside from the busy pace of everyday living.

Why don't you consider spending a week at one of the family camps? There is room for you at either or both. The program for Lake Bronson Camp is to be found in this issue. The one for Osceola will appear next time.

Pray for these camping opportunities.



**Does your faith
move mountains
or do mountains
move
your
faith?**

22. Are there times when we mistake presumption for faith? What does Matthew 4:7 tell us? _____
23. There are special promises made to those who exercise faith in the Lord. What are they?
 Matthew 21:22 _____
 John 1:12 _____
 John 14:12 _____
 Hebrews 4:3 _____
 James 2:5 _____
 I Peter 2:6 _____
 I John 5:14 _____

24. If we would look for an example of faith, of faithfulness, we should not look at men or women but at God Himself. Let us read the following verses which describe the divine faithfulness of God: Deuteronomy 7:9, I Kings 8:56, Psalm 36:5, Psalm 89:1, I Corinthians 1:9, Hebrews 6:18, I Peter 4:19. Divine Faithfulness of Christ: II Thessalonians 3:3, II Timothy 2:13, Hebrews 2:17, Hebrews 10:23, Revelation 1:5, Rev. 19:11.

25. What is required of stewards? I Corinthians 4:2 _____

26. Let us look at the following examples of faithfulness of men in everyday situations: Genesis 39:6, II Kings 12:15, Nehemiah 13:13, Daniel 6:4, Hebrews 3:5.

27. When Christ was here on earth He gave some warnings concerning unfaithfulness. Let us read them: Matthew 21:43, Matthew 25:24-30, Luke 16:12.

28. There are several areas of unfaithfulness. Let us look at several of these: covenant breakers - Jeremiah 11:10; apostasy - Exodus 32:1, II Timothy 4, 10, I John 2:19; forsaking Christ - Matthew 19:22, John 6:66.

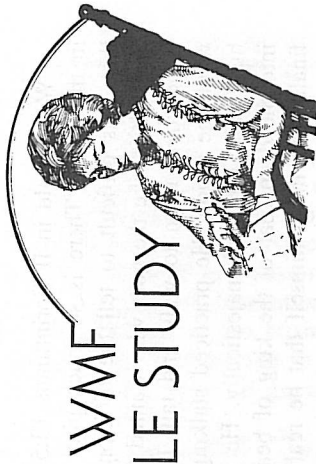
29. Should children be taught the principle of faithfulness? Lamentations 3:27 _____

30. Let us read about the rewards of faithfulness: Luke 19:17, Revelation 2:10, Revelation 20:4.

31. What is Paul's challenge to us in I Corinthians 16:13? _____

Hymn Suggestion: "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

July, 1983



WMF BIBLE STUDY

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

FAITHFULNESS

In this study we will look at both faith and faithfulness. Faith is a gift of God wrought by the Holy Spirit. Faithfulness is a fruit of the Spirit. Faith is the essential element of faithfulness, yet faithfulness is different from faith.

Hebrews 11:1 describes faith in this way: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

1. What is the source of our faith? Hebrews 12:2 _____

Because faith has its source in God Himself, it flows freely to us. It then become active in our being, flowing out to others and back to Him.

2. What is the object of our faith? Mark 11:22, Acts 20:21, II Corinthians 13:14 _____

3. How is this faith given? I Corinthians 12:9a. How does faith come? Romans 10:17 _____

4. In whom should our faith be placed? II Timothy 3:15 _____

5. How are we justified? Habakkuk 2:4, Romans 3:28, Romans 5:1, Galatians 3:24, Galatians 2:16, Philippians 3:9 _____

6. What does faith lead to in these verses? John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, I Peter 1:9 _____

We are told in II Corinthians 13:5, "Examine yourselves, whether ye are in the faith." There is so much play acting today, even within the church, that it is difficult to tell the difference between the imposter and the real thing. It is like the goat who wanted to be a lion. He convinced himself that if he could learn to walk and talk like a lion, and go where lions go, he would be a lion. He practiced stalking through the jungle and tried to swish his stubby little tail majestically. He also tried to turn his pitiful little bleat into the deep roar of the king of beasts. He worked and worked on it and finally convinced himself that he really looked and sounded like a lion. He then decided that he was ready to go where lions go. One day about lunch-time he marched in to lion territory and you can imagine what happened. Sometimes people think that because they've learned to walk, talk and act like Christians, they really are. But if they have never personally placed their trust in Jesus Christ, they are phonies. They lack that unfeigned faith which we read about in II Timothy 1:5.

7. What does I John 3:23 tell us that faith must be united with? Faith work-
eth by _____. Galatians 5:6 (Philips Trans.), I Timothy 1:5 -
8. What must accompany faith? If not, what happens to faith? James 2:17, 20
9. What three things does faith produce? Romans 5:1, Romans 15:13, I Peter 1:8. _____
10. What does faith assure, in II Chronicles 20:20? _____
11. What do we find faith to be, in Ephesians 6:16? _____
12. What is faith, in Hebrews 11:6? _____
13. Of what must faith be an essential part, in James 1:5-6? _____
14. Let us look at the following examples of victorious faith: Genesis 15:6, 22:8, Joshua 14:12, I Samuel 14:6, 17:37, Daniel 3:17, Acts 27:35. What do you learn about their faith? _____

15. Let us look at some examples of faith that was tested? What would have been our reaction? By a strange plan of campaign, Joshua 6:3; by reducing a general's army, Judges 7:7; by requiring dependence upon a poor widow, I Kings 17:9; by demanding the last morsel of bread, I Kings 17:13; by requiring what appeared to be useless work, II Kings 3:16, by requiring extensive preparation with no blessing in sight, II Kings 4:3.

16. Now let us look at some examples of faith honored by Christ and the Apostles: Mark 1:41; 2:5, 5:34, 10:52; Luke 7:10; John 4:51; Acts 14:9.

17. In the following verses let us look at some of the obstacles that test the faith of believers: Matthew 15:23, Mark 10:13, Luke 5:18-19, Mark 5:35; John 9:24, John 11:3-6.

18. In these verses we see examples of unbelief of Christian men. Are the circumstances involved here ordinary circumstances? Should this make any difference? How would we react? Genesis 17:17, Numbers 11:21, Matthew 17:17, Matthew 17:19-20, Luke 1:20, Luke 24:11.

19. We know from Scripture how it grieved Christ when he saw the lack of faith in His followers. What does Christ do, in the following verses?

Matthew 14:31 _____

Matthew 17:17 _____

Mark 4:40 _____

Luke 24:25 _____

20. Sometimes the doubts that cloud the skies of believers are only momentary and we need reassurance. Let us look at some of these: Genesis 15:8, Judges 6:17, Matthew 11:3, John 20:25.

21. What admonition is given in the following verses? Philippians 1:17,27, Titus 1:13, Jude 3 _____

HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS



Mason, Wis.

Moland Free Lutheran WMF honored six ladies. (L. to R. seated) Ruth Hokanson, Agnes Blaser, Ruth Dybedal, (standing) Bonnie Roberts, who presented the pins, Pastor and Mrs. Harris Van Someren, Violet Berweger, Lil Heino and Freda Peters (not pictured). A memorial was given for Ruth Nelson.

Binford, N. Dak.



Bethany WMF recently gave honorary membership pins to Edith Miller, Lillian Amundson, Clarice Miller and Evelyn Miller. (not pictured) Evelyn Miller recently passed away. Blessed be her memory.

WANTED:

The Women's Page needs your input! Send your clear photos, typed news items, testimonies, general interest articles, poems, etc., to Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, 16980 Duck Lake Trail, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55344.

THE WOMEN'S PAGE

WMF Spring Rally review

Southwest Central Minnesota

The Southwest Central Minnesota District WMF held its Spring Rally at Zion Free Lutheran Church, Wadena on Tuesday, May 3. The day's events focused on "Jesus Priceless Treasure" as the theme. A slide musical presentation was given by a group of ladies from Dalton. The afternoon speaker was Pastor John Strand.

Mrs. Rod Stave sang a solo and Mrs. Norman Haugen directed the district choir. Mrs. Floyd Johnson was re-elected president. Mrs. Gary Gravely was elected treasurer. Mrs. Ernes Nash and Mrs. Robert Eastwood were again elected to the Program/Nominating Committee.

A total of 156 were registered for the day.

—Mrs. Roger Rasmussen

South Dakota

Calvary Lutheran Church of Wallace, hosted the South Dakota District Spring Rally. The many baskets of flowers decorating the church illustrated the theme "Thy Word is like a Garden."

After Dorothy Wibete's welcome and opening devotions by Mabelle Nelson, Missionaries David and Janet Abel spoke. They challenged us with the urgent need of world missions. They also expressed with gratitude the value of letters, clothes, cards, and above all, the encouraging strength received from the prayers of our ladies here.

Seventy-three ladies registered for the day.

—Mrs. Emma S. Sakariason

Northern Minnesota

The Northern Minnesota WMF Spring Rally was held April 16, at Badger Creek Lutheran Church with Oiland WMF serving as co-hostess.

An inspirational program in word and song centered on "Walk in His Light." The 126 ladies registered re-elected Mrs. Delores Mortrud as vice president and Mrs. Sharon Christianson as cradle roll secretary. Mrs. Barbara Johnson and Mrs. Annette Kirkeide continue to serve as president and secretary.

—Mrs. Annette Kirkeide

Minneapolis

"Caring" was the theme of the Minneapolis District Spring Rally held on April 12, at Sunnyside Free Lutheran Church of Stacy.

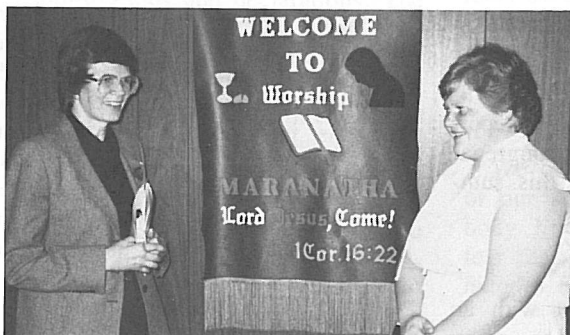
The rally began with a singspiration led by Mrs. Wendell Johnson. Mrs. Pfaffendorf welcomed the guests on behalf of the host WMF. Special music was provided by Pastor and Mrs. Wendell Johnson. The morning Bible study leader was Pastor Ralph Tjelta of Minnesota Valley Free Lutheran Church.

Mrs. Burton Boyum presided over the business meeting which included reports or letters from Mrs. Carolyn Dyrud, Mrs. Joyce Knapp and the ARC. Election of the officers was held with Mrs. Esther Larson, vice president; Mrs. Ronald Horn, secretary; Mrs. Betty Christopherson, cradle roll secretary; and Mrs. Gerald Mundfrom, missionary-for-a-day secretary, chosen to serve for the next two years.

The afternoon opened with devotions by Mrs. Lyle Aadahl. Salem Lutheran WMF of Radcliffe, sang two songs. The message was brought by Mrs. Ted Berkas, Minneapolis. She used gloves to illustrate the kinds of love and caring intended to be exercised by Christian women.

Afternoon coffee was served by Hope Free Lutheran WMF, Wyoming. Jan Carlson and Evelyn Knutson served as organist and pianist for the day.

—Mrs. Ronald Horn



Northern Michigan

Mrs. Jeanette Nelson and Laura Claywell welcome guests to the Spring Rally at Maranatha Free Lutheran Church, Chassell.

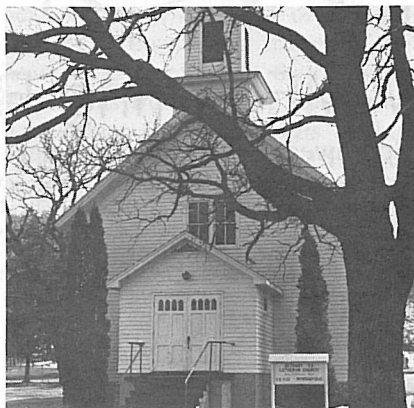
No AMBASSADOR until July 19

The next Ambassador will come to you on July 19. The number of issues per year for our magazine has been reduced to 24. Therefore, the first issue of July is being omitted in addition to the second one in August.

Our July 19 issue will contain a full report on the 1983 Annual Conference, as well as a program for the Family Bible Camp at the ARC near Osceola, Wis., and the Wilderness Camp near Lake Park, Minn.

The Editor

news of the churches



Bethany Lutheran begins two worship services

The most exciting news for Bethany Lutheran Church comes after 112 years.

Just a little over three years ago, the little white historical church that sits on quiet West Church Road east of Brodhead indirectly became part of a fundamental Lutheran body known as the Association of the Free Lutheran Congregations when they called their present minister, Kenneth Thoreson. At that time a dedicated and determined council member stated, "We are just 13 members or so from closing our doors." Two years ago Bethany officially became part of the AFLC as it continued to grow in numbers and activities.

On April 17th Bethany Lutheran Church received six more new members, which brought the total number of new members in a three and one-half year period equal to Bethany's seating capacity. Because of the increase in attendance and membership, the church council president, James Thompson of Orfordville, announced the need for a second worship service every Sunday, starting May 15th. They are held at 8:00

REPORT . . .

IN MEMORIAM

During the past year, two of our faithful pastors departed this life. We remember their witness and ministry among us with gratitude and pray that their memory may be blessed among us.

Pastor Kenneth Anderson passed away on July 3, 1982, at Zumbrota, Minnesota, at the age of 53 years, 10 months and 3 days. At the time of his death he was the pastor of Hauge and Emmanuel congregations of the Kenyon parish. He was also the chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee and had served as vice-president of our AFLC. Funeral services were held at Hauge Lutheran Church at Kenyon, Minnesota, on July 7.

Pastor John DeBoer passed away on March 17, 1983, at Kenyon, Minnesota, at the age of 87 years, 8 months and 12 days. Funeral services were held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Kenyon, on March 21.

EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

(This section is omitted here, but may be found in the report as it will be printed in the Annual Report which will be available to congregations and individuals later this summer.)

IN CONCLUSION

We conclude this report with an expression of thanks to so many

people who have in so many ways given of themselves so generously for the advancement of the work of the Kingdom of God. We desire to mention one person who has served our AFLC for so many years in a most faithful and dedicated way. Orpha (Flaten) Schaffhauser leaves our AFLC offices this year to join her husband in God's call of service to them. We say "thank you" for the privilege of having been able to work with you.

Our AFLC is made up of people and congregations who are drawn together by their love for their Lord and a desire to serve Him.

The mercy and grace of God continue to humble us. He has permitted us to be heirs of salvation. He has entrusted us with the precious, life-giving Word to be shared with our fellow men. He continues to provide for our every need, above what we could ask or think. We give Him praise and thanksgiving.

The future is unknown before us. There may be difficulties and even dark days ahead. We need not be discouraged, but we press on with confidence because our trust and our hope is in God. Let us therefore press on in that confidence, remaining faithful to Him who has "redeemed us from the hand of the enemy" and has "set us over the work of His hands."

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Richard Snipstead

New members at Grafton

Received into membership at Bethel Lutheran Church, Grafton, N. Dak., on Sunday, February 27, were Mr. and Mrs. Don Carlson, Sonja, Deana and Julie, Mr. and Mrs. Phil Condit, Craig and Heather, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Fedje, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Gunhus, Janet and Bob, Kathryn Kibler, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lessard, Jason and Jeremy, Mrs. Dwight Sando and Leith, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ward, and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Werner, Dawn, Diane and Derek. Rodger Olson is the pastor of the congregation.

A dedication ceremony was also held that Sunday and will be reported on later.

and 10:30, with children's and adult Sunday School at 9:15. An air of optimism is evident in the congregation as the start of two services is a first for this church formerly known as West Luther Valley.

The six members who were recently received into Bethany fellowship either by transfer or adult instruction are Mrs. Donna Reavis, daughter Jenny, and Alan Updike, all of Brodhead, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pittenger of Janesville and Julie Wettstien of Orfordville. Others who recently joined are Mrs. and Mrs. Chester Wilson and their children, Billy, Tricia and Cory of Brodhead, Mrs. William Crum and daughter Sara of Avon and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brotzman of Milton.

Pastor Thoreson is pleased to announce a new group within the church called "His Helping Hand." They are men willing to make themselves available, according to Scripture, to be a helping hand to the widows and elderly within the church whenever there is a need.

Oldest student to attend AFLBS dies

Rev. Herbert S. Larson, the oldest student to attend Association Free Lutheran Bible School, at age 76, passed away on May 16 at Brooklyn Park, Minn. He was 85.

Pastor Larson was an off-campus student in the winter quarter of 1973-74, when he took a class in Revelation taught by Rev. Arnold Stone.

Born near Osseo, Wis., in 1897, Herbert Larson attended St. Olaf College, the Lutheran Bible Institute and Luther Seminary. His pastorates (ELC and ALC) were at Lisbon and Fairdale, N. Dak., and Mentor, Rothsay and Gary, Minn. After retirement he did interim and visitation work at McLeod, N. Dak., and Perley and Glyndon, Minn. He also had the unique experience of serving a church in Norway for about two years.

He is survived by three daughters, a son, ten grandchildren, five great-grandchildren and a sister. His wife pre-deceased him in 1958.

Blessed be his memory.

A tribute to two faithful servants

Faith Lutheran Church of Running Valley near Colfax, Wis., has lost two faithful members through death. Ruth Hanson went home to be with her Lord on Feb. 8, following a bout with cancer.

Her interest in music prompted her to share her talents in her church and community. She taught piano lessons in her home. She served as church organist and pianist within the various organizations of her church. Her love of singing was evident, often singing duets with her sister Esther or adding her alto voice to the church choir.

At one time she served as president of the Martha and Mary Mission Group. Among her survivors are her husband, Andrew; a son, Roger, and daughter-in-law Jean of New Auburn, Wis., a daughter, Kathleen, of Burnsville, Minn.; one sister, Esther Anderson, of Sand Creek, Wis.; two brothers, Melvin Everson of Bloomer and Wilhelm Everson of Colfax.

An organ lamp was dedicated to her memory at the morning worship service on May 8.

Roger Dietsche, 46 years old, was called home to glory very suddenly on the evening of April 13.

Roger loved music, listening or singing. Over the years he sang in male quartets with his brothers and friends, also in choirs and with his wife Merline in duets.

For the past years he had served as secretary of the church, as well as deacon. He also taught Sunday School and served as Luther League president. Later he helped with the cassette tape ministry.

At the time of his passing he was a fieldman for Falls Dairy, working in the Sand Creek area.

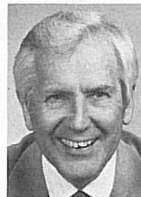
He leaves to mourn: his wife; one daughter, Jolene, at home; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Dietsche of New Auburn; two brothers, Robert, of Osceola, Wis., and Ronald of Colfax; and one sister, Barbara, Mrs. Rodney Stueland, Roslyn, S. Dak.

Blessed be their memory. They will be missed!

Dr. Strommen to be at Summer Institute

Dr. Merton Strommen will be the guest instructor at the annual Summer Institute of Theology to be held on the campus of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary July 25 through August 5. He will teach a course in youth ministry during the first week of the Institute.

Born and raised in the former Lutheran Free Church, Dr. Strommen received his education at Augsburg College and Seminary and the University of Minnesota. His career includes service as an elementary school teacher, parish pastor, college instructor, campus pastor and youth director for the LFC. Since 1958 he has served as director of Search Institute (formerly "Lutheran Youth Research") with offices in Minneapolis. He has authored and co-authored a number of books including *Profiles of Church Youth*, *A Study of Generations*, *Bridging the Gap*, and *Five Cries of Youth*. He has lectured before conferences of educators and



theologians, of youth and youth leaders, in all parts of the United States. Dr. Strommen is married to the former Irene Huglen (sister of the editor). The Strommens have five sons.

Other courses offered this year are *Studies in Joshua*, taught by Amos Dyrud, *Colossians*, taught by Philip Haugen, and *History of Awakenings*, taught by Robert Lee.

The Institute registration is open to laymen, lay-pastors, pastors, and seminarians. For more information, write or call:

AFLTS
3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441
(612) 545-5631

Aspelund Church to celebrate 100 years

The Aspelund Lutheran Church of Vang, N. Dak., will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary on Sunday, July 24. All former pastors and friends of the congregation are invited to come and join in this celebration of praise and thanksgiving. Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., with former pastors of the congregation, Rev. John Strand and Rev. Dennis Gray, speaking.

Aspelund Lutheran is located 10 miles west of Walhalla, North Dakota. The congregation is presently served by Pastor Rodger Olson of Grafton, N. Dak.

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

Second-class postage
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

BIRDS THAT SING

Sometimes we feel like a bird in a cage,
Or one with a broken wing,
But God knows us all and cares for each one,
And even a bird in a cage can sing.

Jesus tells about the birds of the air,
How happy and trusting they are;
So what is our reason for anxious care,
When God's love reaches all near and far?

Let us cast our cares on our Father in heaven
And sing with His joy in our hearts,
Giving thanks to God for His mercy and love,
Until sadness and worry depart.

Laura Norum
Amery, Wis.

"Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" (Matthew 6:26).

How to get to the Luther League Federation Convention in Kalispell, Montana

July 12-17

