

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

June 2, 1987



Photo by Joel Strasser

# at the MASTER'S FEET

## He commanded the fathers

"For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments" (Psalm 78:5-7 NASB).

What an incredible and convicting testimony on fatherhood we have in these verses. The comment has been made that what is conviction to one generation can become tradition with the next and die out in the third. How many of us live in communities that two generations ago had strong moral standards and where the church was the main source of influence in the community. What is the church's place

today in these same communities? Sadly enough, spiritual apathy tends to run high even in conservative areas of the country. What has happened?

I believe the psalmist gives us not only a clue to what has happened but what must be done to restore spiritual vitality to communities across the nation. The admonition to Israel was that fathers should teach the "established testimony" to their children, in other words, what God had commanded Israel, God commanded fathers to teach their youngsters. When Martin Luther wrote the Catechism, he did so not to have it used as a confirmation textbook, but as a resource for fathers to use in teaching their children the established testimony of God as found in Scripture. I embrace the Catechism because the Catechism embraces the authority of Scripture as the means of grace.

When we bring our children to the Lord in Baptism, we promise that we will teach them the Ten Commandments, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer and that we will instruct the children in the Word of God and nurture them in the chastening and admonition of the Lord. How many young people, though, come to their first confirmation class with little knowledge of Scripture and an inability to even recite the Creed or the Lord's Prayer? Fathers, it's time to become teachers to our children!

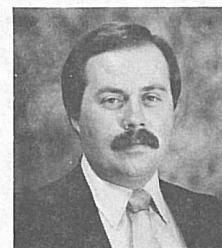
In most homes in America today it could be generally stated that if there is spiritual instruction, it is initiated and carried on by the mother. I even know of Christian homes where it is the mother who suggests that there be a time of family devotions and prayer. Have Christian men in America also become intimidated by a system that says "religion is for women and children?" I hope not!

Several weeks ago, I heard a young pastor share a message in which he stated that the reason Judah was in such deep spiritual trouble when Josiah came to the throne was because the people had lost "the Book." When the temple was being repaired, the Book of the Law was found by Hilkiah the high priest. When King Josiah heard the words of the Book, it says that he tore his clothes in agony to think how far the people had wandered. The sins of the people were contemporary with our day. Children were being sacrificed, lawlessness was everywhere, and there were even temples of homosexual prostitution next to the house of God (see Jeremiah chapters 7-8).

Have we lost "the Book" again today? How far must our society slide before fathers will once again realize their responsibility as teachers to their children?

A young mother once took her five-year-old son to the doctor for a pre-school checkup. She asked the pediatrician, "When do you think we should start teaching our little boy about values and spiritual things?" The pediatrician responded emphatically, "Woman, hurry home, you and your husband are already five years late."

Children do not embrace the Christian faith by osmosis, they need to be instructed in the things of the Lord. God has commanded that fathers teach their children so that the generations to come will not forget the works of the Lord, but rather through faith, by grace, keep His commandments.



by Pastor  
Robert Lewis

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Volume 25 Number 11

# *The* **Blessings** *and* **Responsibilities** *of* **FATHERS**

The experience of being a father has been presented by several men in our congregation the past few weeks. Our adult Sunday school teacher conceived this fine idea. Sharing by a number of our men on this subject has certainly proved extremely interesting and profitable for all of us.

I would like to now share some thoughts for Father's Day concerning the blessings and responsibilities of being a father. Having a specially designated day for honoring fathers gives us an excellent opportunity to focus our attention on fathers. My wife and I once asked a young Japanese lady if they had a Father's Day in Japan. She laughingly replied, "In Japan every day is Father's Day," meaning that Japanese men are always doted upon by their wives and children. Since in America we have a day actually set aside in honor of fathers, it is therefore fitting to give special attention at this time to the topic of fatherhood.



*by Rev.*  
**Einar Unseth,**  
**Bismarck, N.Dak.**

Having been blessed by God with six sons, I feel that I can express myself not only objectively, but also subjectively, on this matter. *For me, being a father is a great blessing.*

*Fatherhood is a blessing because children bring much happiness.* The Book of books reminds us of this fact in Psalm 127:4-5, "As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man (warrior); so are the sons of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies at the gate." A warrior is very glad to have an ample supply of weapons which can fly where he cannot. He can accomplish feats with them that he could not do without them. Man invented the arrow because he discovered that he could kill game at a distance with a sharp-pointed slender shaft pulled back from a bent bow of wood by means of a cord. With many of these arrows in his quiver he had the potential to kill much game and to protect himself from his enemies. Arrows bring him happiness because they enable him to accomplish more things.

When Pastor George Knapp of Brazil was asked about the place of children on the mission field, he replied that they are a real asset because they help to open doors for the missionary. Per-

mit me to cite an example of this from my own experience. While serving as a missionary in Japan, I would distribute flyers at train stations and public schools for special services. I would take national Christians as well as our own little boys to assist me. On one occasion an unfriendly man shook his head and refused to accept the flyer from an adult of his own race. Thereupon I told one of my boys to run after him and offer him a flyer. This same man smiled, accepted the flyer, and thanked my boy. As a father I was indeed happy to see how my boy opened the door. I was happy to have some arrows in my quiver. Fatherhood is a blessing because children bring happiness.

My first experience of this special blessing was on the morning of November 5, 1953. In the wee hours of that morning I was awakened by my wife who said, "I think that you are going to become a father today." Though our baby wasn't due for another three weeks, I immediately arose, filled our car's radiator with water (since I had drained it the night before) and drove my wife to the hospital. After sitting in the waiting room for a half-hour and thinking of what it would be like to be a father, a nurse came out of the delivery room and announced to me, "Mr. Unseth, you have a fine baby boy." Instantly I felt in my heart that unique happiness that God gives to the parents of children.

One person stated, "Those who have many children are generally the happiest." A man said to a pastor with many children, "These are what make rich men poor." The pastor surprised him with this reply, "No, these are what make a poor man rich, for there is not one of these we would part with for all your wealth." Children bring an enormous amount of blessing to a father.

*Fatherhood is such a great blessing because children are a gift from God.* Psalm 127:3: "Lo, children are a heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward." All of our children are a precious gift to us from God, since "It is He that has made us, and



## FATHERS . . .

not we ourselves." God gives children to us as a gracious favor. Of course, children are a blessing only if they follow the God who created them. The daughter of a dying man said to him as she knelt by his deathbed, "There is no greater blessing than for children to have godly parents." Her dying father replied, "And the next, for parents to have godly children." Indeed it is a wonderful blessing to be a father of children who make him happy by living for Jesus.

*Being a father is also a responsibility.* Since our children belong to God by virtue of creation, our biggest responsibility is to raise them for Him. For God claims what He has made. The creature is to reverence its Maker. We are to teach our children the high honor of being God's special creation.

In Deuteronomy 6:6-7, God tells us how we are to raise our children for Him, with these words, "And these words which I command you this day shall be upon your heart, and you shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." First of all, these words must be in the father's own heart by personal faith in the Lord and a deep love for God's Word. Words from other books reach the mind, but words from the Bible desire entrance into our hearts. Fathers must hide God's Word in their own hearts. Then we are to teach God's Word diligently to our children.

The most effective way to fulfill this crucial, God-given responsibility is through the conducting of daily family devotions. Christian parents will bring

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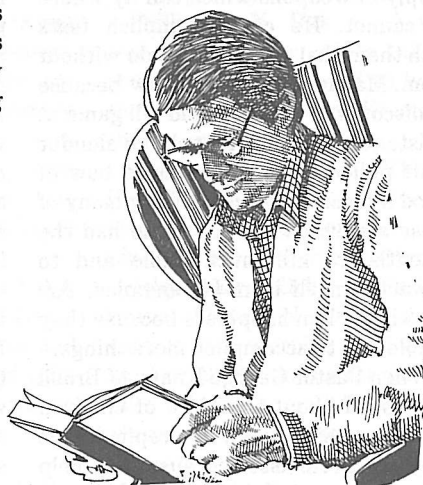
"Of course, children are a blessing only if they follow the God who created them."

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their infants to the Lord in Baptism and then will faithfully pray for them and teach them God's Word in family devotions.

Through family devotions, fathers can fulfill their responsibility of influencing their children for Christ. Dr. Charles Sheldon recalled, "The first impression of a contented ideal in life and an idea that filled it to make it practical, that I can remember, centers about the habit of family worship, which was established by my father and mother on their wedding day. The regular reading of the Bible, the singing of a simple hymn, the kneeling down in the family circle while Father offered the morning prayer, praying for us often by name, the quiet moments of meditation that followed before we went out of that little log house on the Dakota prairie to begin the day's work on the ranch, produced lasting results in my thinking and profoundly influenced my conduct."

When my wife and I got married, we hadn't taken any course on parenting. However, God had laid it upon my heart to start having regular family devotions from day one. I'm thankful that God impressed me with this responsibility. I sincerely believe it is



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"I'm thankful that God impressed me with this responsibility" (of having family devotions).

this practice more than all else that has been used of God to bring all of our children to a personal commitment to Christ and to be living for Him today.

As we approach Father's Day, may all of us fathers thank God for the blessing of being fathers (of having children given to us by God) and let us commit ourselves to raising our precious children for Christ. For those of you who yet have your fathers living on this earth, be sure to express your thanks to them, and to God for them.

## *a letter from Clifford Johnson*

Dear Pastor:

It has now been quite some time since we have communicated with you. We trust that in these intervening months you have been richly blessed as you have labored for our Master. And, we are encouraged by the many reports of continuing prayer for revival in many of the congregations. The need has never been greater.

By now, it is hoped that most congregations have made plans for their special evangelistic meetings in October of this year. Inasmuch as these meetings will be held by all the churches during the same month, there is the strong possibility of a shortage of speakers. So, it is important to plan now. This is a wonderful way in which to, in part, commemorate our 25th Anniversary in the AFLC. There is something uniquely and powerfully encouraging in the realization that all the congregations will be having this emphasis at the same time.

Our Committee would be blessed if it could be of help to you in this special evangelism effort. The Bible School and Seminary, to the best of their ability and within time available, are willing to help by sending singing groups and deputation teams. If you are experiencing difficulty in securing a speaker, please let us know and we'll do what we can to help. In any case, please do let us know what your plans are - who your speaker will be, and the



# Update on the India situation

On March 5 the World Missions Committee received the following communication from the Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India, the church organized with the help of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations:

To the Mission Committee,  
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.  
Dear Brethren in Christ,

We the following Gospel workers of the Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India thank the Missions Committee and all the members of the Association for their prayers and help in the past. We appreciate your prayers and support for our Church even now in the ministries as the Lord leads you. Rev. B. Dasari our Director who is the founder and chief administrator will decide

all details along with the newly formed BFLMI on behalf of this Church body.

(Signed by 31 persons)

Bible Faith Lutheran Ministries to India is the new organization which Rev. Dasari has organized in the U. S. to assist the church in India.

At a recent meeting of the World Missions Committee of the AFLC, the following resolution was passed:

That we acknowledge receipt of the letter received March 5, 1987, from the Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India. Since they have rejected our efforts to restore our official relationship with them, therefore, no official relationship now exists between the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and the Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India. If there are those who would still desire to give to the India work, they may send their gifts to Lyle Guhl, treasurer of the Bible Faith Lutheran Ministries to India. (The address of Mr. Guhl is 2840 Norwood Lane North, Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.)

Contributions to the work in India are no longer being handled by the AFLC Business Office. This includes gifts to the Moriah Children's Home.



dates. Need we add that it is very important that much prayer preparation be made beginning now for these meetings.

The Committee is recommending that as a fitting observance of our 25th Anniversary the month of November be set aside in your church for an emphasis in your program. This could center on the real uniqueness of our church - its freedom, its doctrinal stand on the Word of God, and its emphasis upon personal repentance of sin and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as the only Savior from sin. Also, our history is most fascinating! Our Committee is truly excited about the development of a 30-minute video cassette reviewing this history. We are hopeful that a brief promotional "teaser" will be ready by Conference time and that the final product will be available in September. We are also trying to develop other commemorative materials as well. We do have a wonderful heritage that deserves remembrance.

May we again suggest that you consider a prayer retreat for some weekend this year before the evangelistic meetings in October? Wouldn't it be a wonderful blessing if two or three con-

gregations, or a District, would hold such an occasion?

As you respond to us, we would be greatly interested in your own impressions as to the results of the past year's prayer effort, as well as the current year focus on our anniversary, and upon revival. We would like to prepare an article for the *Ambassador* based on your response. We feel such an article would be interesting as well as encouraging. We would like to know if prayer is still continuing; are cottage prayer meetings being held? Is there a developing hunger for revival? Has there been any discernable impact upon the congregation by our year of prayer emphasis? Other impressions?

Let us continue fervent in prayer! Let us work while it is day, for the day cometh when no man can work. Let us labor while we still enjoy being in a time of grace. May II Chron. 7:14 continue to be our challenge as well as our promise for great and tremendous blessings.

In Him,

Clifford E. Johnson, Coordinator  
25th Anniversary Committee, AFLC  
192 Heavenly Acres Road  
Esco, Minnesota 55733

## He gives a new name

No man fails until he pronounces and accepts his own failure. The Greek theology held that no man could ever escape from his deeds, but the Christian theology says that by the power of Christ you can. Christ not only forgets and forgives, but He gives us a new name as well as a new chance.

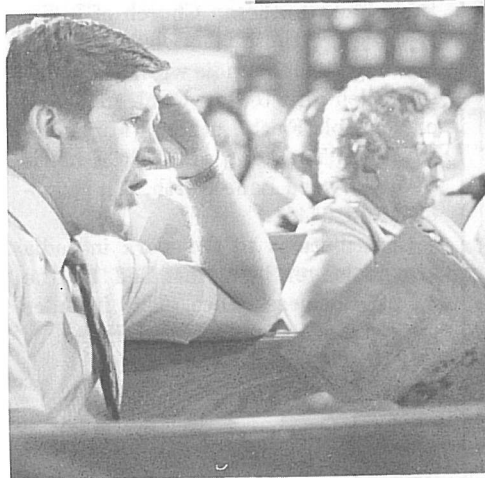
Clarence E. Macartney

Choral Club, 1986-87

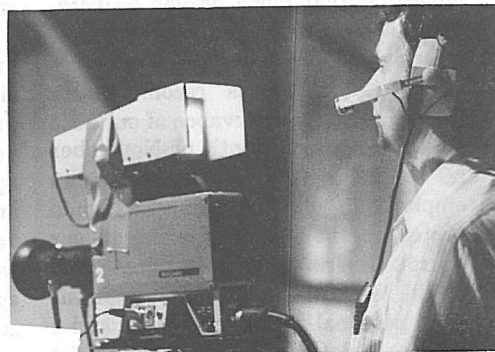


Brian Dahl, Borup, Minn.

Photos by S. Hjermstad



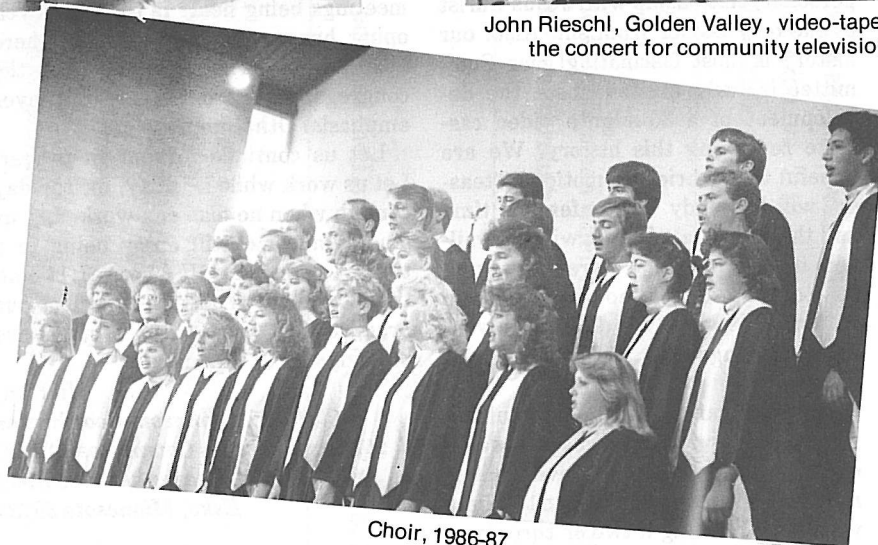
School Board member Ralph Peterson, Portland, N. Dak. joins the audience in singing under the direction of Rev. Don Greven.



John Rieschl, Golden Valley, video-taped the concert for community television.

## Concert, graduation close school year

On May 15, AFLBS had its Home Concert at 8 p.m. On Saturday, May 16, thirty-seven Bible school students and four seminarians graduated, including a certificate of Pastoral Studies to Rev. Emerson J. Anderson, Cleveland, Ohio. Dr. Francis Monseth gave the commencement address at the 1 p.m. service.



Choir, 1986-87

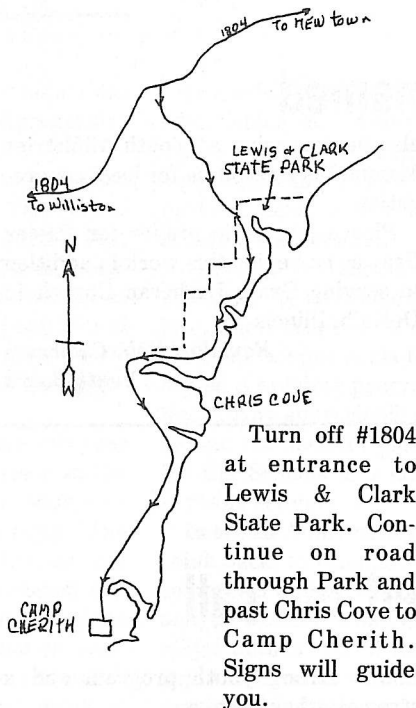
## Mon-Dak-Ada Family Bible Camp

Mon-Dak-Ada Family Bible Camp will be held June 29 through July 3 at Camp Cherith, Lake Sakakawea, N. Dak. This year's theme will be "Rooted in Christ," from Colossians 2: 6-7.

Campers are asked to bring a Bible, notebook, bedding, towels, wash cloths, personal items, sporting goods, musical instruments and music. Skirts or dresses are preferable for women for evening services.

Campers are asked not to bring radios, record players or tape players. Recorders are allowed to record sessions.

Shorts are for recreation only. No bikini bathing suits. No fireworks.



## ARC Family Camps

"Revive Us Again" is the theme for the AFLC Family Camp which will be held June 29-July 5 at the Association Retreat Center at Osceola, Wisconsin. (A second week, with new faculty, will be held in August 10 - 16.)

The theme verse is Psalm 85:6 and the theme song is "Revive us again."

Dr. James Gerdeen will be the evening speaker. Pastor Ken Thoreson will be the Adult Bible Teacher. The Dean of the camp is Rev. Laurel Udden; Ass't. Dean is Rev. Richard Anderson.

Camper fees are adults \$50, teens \$45, grade school \$35, under 4 free. Maximum family fee \$160. Recreation vehicles are \$5.00 per day. Send registration of \$2 per individual or \$5 per family to: ARC, Route 1, Box 92, Osceola, Wis. 54020.

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

**Health Certificates:** Law requires that any young person under eighteen must have a health certificate signed by a physician if he/she attends camp without a parent or guardian. Ask your pastor for a copy of this form or write to Rev. Laurel M. Udden, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

## Wilderness Family Camp Lake Park, Minn. July 22-26

### RESERVE NOW!

#### Camp Guidelines

Do not bring radios, record players, bicycles or tape players. Recorders can be used for sessions only.

Shorts are to be worn for recreation only. Dresses or skirts are to be worn in all sessions, pant suits are acceptable.

Absolutely NO bikini bathing suits. Absolutely NO firecrackers or fireworks.

#### Daily Schedule

Monday - Supper 5:30

#### Daily Schedule

7:00 - Rising Bell and Devotions

7:30 - Flag Raising/Prayer Time

7:45 - Youth Breakfast

8:00 - Adult and Children Breakfast

8:30 - Clean up

9:00-9:50 - Bible Classes/all ages

10:00-10:45 - Adult Choir and Discussion

Youth Discussion

Confirmation Discussion

11:00-11:45 - Missions Hour/older group

## Lake Bronson Family Camp

Plan to attend the AFLC Family Bible Camp at Lake Bronson, Minn., July 6-12. Lake Bronson is located in extreme northwestern Minnesota, where the call of the whippoorwill has signified day's end for campers for many years.

The size of the camp adds to the family atmosphere as those attending might possibly have made acquaintance with the entire group before the week is over.

Galilee Bible Camp borders Lake Bronson State Park which is one of the most often visited of Minnesota's 60-plus state parks. Improvements are continually being made in the park, with emphasis this year on the quality of fishing and of the swimming area. The "Chicken-fight" team of Balmer and Rokke, which retired undefeated just two years ago, may be back this year!

Among the speakers will be Rev. Christian Oswood, adult Bible teacher, who recently joined our AFLC. His deep commitment to a true and accurate understanding and presentation of the message of God's Word is a blessing that we look forward to sharing.

(Ed. note: Full details on the camp week will be given next time.)

—Committee

12:00 noon - Youth Lunch

12:15 - Adult and Children Lunch

1:00 - Quiet Time/Choir

1:30-4:30 - Recreation and Free Time

5:00 - Youth Supper

5:15 - Adult and Children Supper

7:00 - Prayer Time/all ages

7:30 - EVENING SERVICE

9:15 - Afterglow

10:00 - Dorm Devotions

11:00 - Lights Out

#### Sunday Schedule

7:00 - Communion Service

8:00 - Breakfast

9:30 - Bible Classes/all ages

10:45 - Worship Service

12:00 noon - Dinner

For more information, contact Mr. Bob Dietsche, Camp Manager, Route 1, Box 92, Osceola, Wis. 54020, or call (715) 294-2877.



## AFLC Youth Worker named

The Youth Board and Luther League Federation are happy to announce that Rev. Dennis Gray has accepted the call to serve as part-time (one-fourth time) AFLC Youth Worker and began his work on June 1. Pastor Gray is available on a limited basis to speak and work with district youth Luther Leagues. Among other things he will

also be preparing a "Youth Ministries Manual" as a resource for local congregations.

Please join us in prayer for Pastor Gray as he begins this work in addition to serving Grace Lutheran Church in DeKalb, Illinois.

*Rev. Joel Rolf, Chairman  
Youth Board*



## I accepted the call

The call to become the youth worker in the AFLC came to me about three months ago. Certainly, I reason, there are others who are more qualified for this opportunity. And, certainly there are pastors in the AFLC who are more qualified.

I accepted the call after much prayer and with the 100% approval of my church council. Also, I accepted the call on the basis that there are many qualified men who can also serve as resource people for youth work in the Association.

There are no "experts" in youth ministry and there are no "quick and easy methods" for working with young people. There are those times when not even the most interested and concerned pastor and when not even the most concerned of our Christian youth, can seem to have a Luther League which is active.

I have the belief that youth work begins in the cradle. There are strong feelings that the active Christian family is the real "youth worker" and without strong families Luther League work is always going to be quite a struggle. It has always seemed to me that where adults are interested and concerned about youth, there one will

find a strong youth program and a strong Luther League.

These people are the "significant others" or the "adult guarantors" who love youth and have a God-given concern for them. These people represent the future to youth and are willing to spend their time with them. They listen more than they talk. These are the people who have placed youth on their prayer list and who remember them often before God's throne of grace.

They are also the persons who do not approach kids with a judgmental attitude or a condemning spirit. They do not place kids in categories nor do they generalize and think all kids are the same. They approach each individual as an individual and they help him or her become what God wants that person to become.

As youth worker, then, I see myself as a resource person. I am making myself available to share ideas. This means, also, to share your ideas about youth work. Write to me or call me and share those ideas. We must work together as a team. I need to know what has worked well in your church and in your district.

I can be contacted by phone at 815-758-2531 or by letter at 1121 South First Street, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

*—Pastor Dennis Gray*

## July is Youth Month

July is Youth Month in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The Luther League Federation encourages every congregation to recognize the youth in some way during July.

Luther Leagues could be in charge of the morning or evening service. A suggestion for these services will be coming from our "Youth Resource Department" soon. This suggestion will be mailed out to all the pastors of the Association. If others wish this material, write Pastor Dennis Gray, 1121 South First Street, DeKalb, Illinois 60115 or call 815-758-8727.

It is also suggested that a special offering be taken by Luther Leagues to be used for youth work in the Association. These offerings can be mailed to the treasurer of the Luther League Federation. This money will be used to help pay the expenses of the Luther League Federation.

*—Dennis Gray*

## On Victorious Living

These words (1 John 5:4) here spoken do not mean that you are born of God and yet remain in the old, dead, worldly nature, and live on in sins, to the delight of the devil just as you were before, but that you resist the devil and all his works. Thus, if you do not overcome the world, but are overcome by it, you may well glory in your faith and in Christ, but your own deeds witness against you, that you are not a child of God.

*Martin Luther  
(Day By Day We Magnify Thee)*

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# editorials

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## CONFERENCE APPROACHES

Here are some scattered thoughts as the 25th Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is only two weeks away.

Much attention is focused on the Organizational Conference which formed the AFLC and was held in Thief River Falls, Minn., Oct. 25-28, 1962. The registration list for that Conference has been lost. It would be a real find if it should somehow turn up. We hope that the registration people at this year's Conference will have some plan to find out who of those who are present this year were also present Oct. 25-28, 1962, whether as official representatives of congregations or as just plain visitors.

It is very fitting that our Conference Committee this year has asked Rev. John P. Strand to preach the sermon at the opening service of this year's Conference. He spoke on Friday morning of that first Conference on the topic "The Church We Seek." There was little doubt after his talk but that he would be the first president of the Association and that was so determined the following day. We have no notes on the sermon, at least that we can put our hands on now, and unfortunately the message has been lost to posterity. Many of us have, however, heard Pastor Strand speak at later times on some of those themes he must have sounded in that talk at Our Saviour's Church on that long ago Oct. 26.

Pastor Strand also preached the sermon on that Friday night at a service in the Knox Elementary School Auditorium. His topic then was "Press on to Sanctification." (The overall Conference theme was "Press On to the Goal," Phil. 3:1-16.) As many of our readers know, Pastor Strand guided our church for over 15 years.

There is no question but what the thoughts of some of us will be flashing back almost 25 years now and then as we gather in Thief River Falls in a couple of weeks. Delegates must be sure to visit Our Saviour's Lutheran Church where the organizational Conference began. It has been added on to since then and remodelled. Then go east a block to Knox School where the Conference was moved when the church became too small to accommodate the people who came to plan a new church fellowship (actually, to continue the old) or just to see what was going on.

Our Conference this year is the 25th. It should be kept in mind that the first regular one was held at what is now St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fargo, N. Dak., June 12-16, 1963. At that time the church, the former home of Messiah Lutheran, LCA, was simply called the Mission Headquarters. That Conference was historic, too, in that it set up the permanent committees and adopted the first regular budget, which amounted to all of \$44,200, but we may have to be corrected on that total.

In looking at what may come up at this year's Conference, it is hard to say what major items there may be. Mission work in India seems a dead issue, according to the report found elsewhere in this paper. Conference action could dictate some action, but it is doubtful if there is support for doing more than the World Missions Committee has done.

Home Missions finds it difficult to keep up with its goal of establishing new congregations. There are hardly enough active pastors to meet the demand, for one thing. New congregations joining the AFLC may compete for available pastors. Some of our Home Missions works are thriving, others are a struggle.

We used to talk of a building project at our Schools, primarily for the Bible School. That issue has been quiet of late. There has been a need for the Association to catch up with her budget goals first. Whether the idea of venturing out on a building program will come up this year, we don't know. Any appreciable increase in seminary enrollment will dictate the need for more classroom space. A larger library for the Schools is a must somewhere down the road, but perhaps not yet.

In all, an Anniversary Conference is special. It is a time to think back, to reminisce. We can compute how far we have come, to a certain degree. Then it is natural to look forward and to wonder what goals we should set and where our major efforts should lie. Are there any new directions we ought to take? It will be interesting to see what visions our president and the various agencies share about the AFLC future under God.

Please pave the way for the 1987 Conference with much prayer. The Association began with prayer, has relied upon it through the years and must move forward in total reliance upon the Lord.

Welcome to our part of Minnesota. You will find Thief River Falls a friendly little city which has boomed since 1962, fallen back somewhat and now thrives again. You will notice a fine junior college and area vocational-technical school, greatly expanded medical facilities, churches of many denominations, lovely homes, excellent retail and wholesale stores, very good schools (we'll be meeting in one of them) and much more, around the place where two rivers meet, the Thief and Red Lake Rivers.

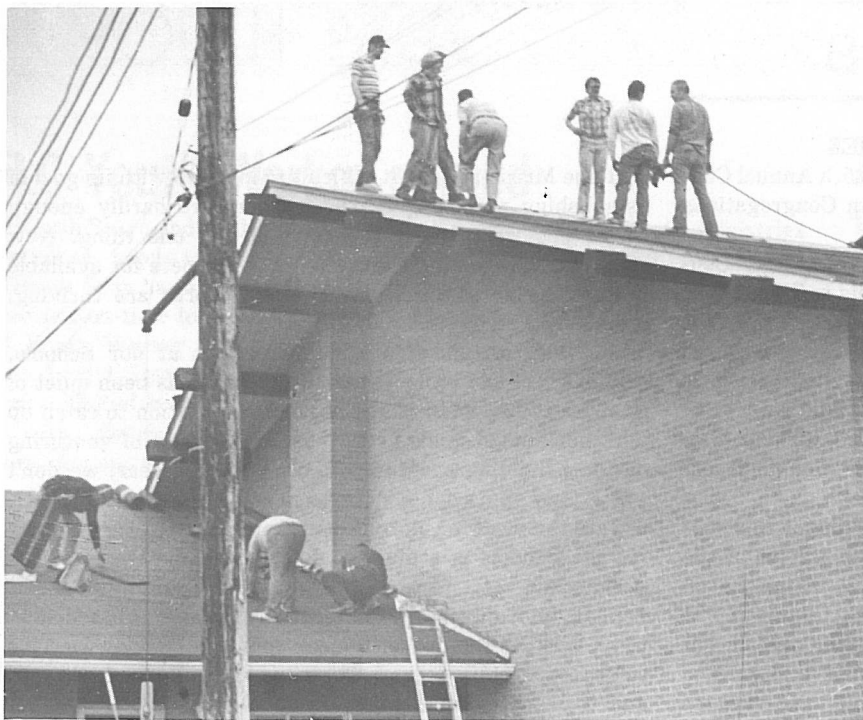
## NEXT YEAR

Word has come that an invitation will be extended for next year's Annual Conference to be held in DeKalb, Ill. Other invitations may well be given on Saturday afternoon of the Conference when opportunity is afforded for that.

It is good that our church moves its Conferences around. It does something for an area when the Conference is held within it. We in the Northwestern Minnesota District feel that way about this year's Conference. We are sure that Association people look forward to going to DeKalb for a Conference sometime. It is in an area where our church will be experiencing some growth, from what we hear.

The question will be whether or not 1988 is the year to go there. It had been a standing policy that every third Conference be held at our church headquarters at Medicine Lake. That policy began in 1965 and was kept in force until

◇



A roof top class in practical studies? AFLTS students and faculty have re-shingled the north side of headquarters building. Jon and Allen Presteng, Grafton, N. Dak. directed the project. Dr. Monseth is pictured on the far right.

## Officers to be elected at Annual Conference

**\*Designates incumbent**

Nominations are made from the floor for the constitutional officers and there must be at least two (2) nominations for each position.

**President (3-year term)**

**\*Rev. Richard Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.**

(Having served three consecutive terms, the incumbent must receive a three-fourths majority on the first ballot in order to be re-elected.)

**Vice-President (1-year term)**

**\*Rev. Robert L. Lee, Minneapolis, Minn.**

**Secretary (1-year term)**

**\*Rev. Ronald D. Knutson, Canton, S. Dak.**

## EDITORIALS . . .

this year when the invitation from Thief River Falls was accepted due to the historic significance. The third years also coincided with the elections of the president. That tie-up has now been broken.

The question for delegates to debate week after next is whether or not to have Conferences two out of three years (last year in Washington state) so far away from the AFLC's center and whether or not to have five years, if the DeKalb invitation is accepted, intervene between Conferences at Medicine Lake. If DeKalb doesn't invite for 1988, no problem. If it does and/or some other church does also, then one or both of these points must be kept in mind.

### COMEBACK

The Sixth Commandment has made a comeback of sorts in the recent Jim Bakker and Gary Hart stories. And that's good.

The Commandment has always been in effect since God gave it on Mt. Sinai. We don't mean that it hasn't. But it has come under some very rough going in these last 20 years of so-called enlightenment. Many people have literally "trashed" it and pay it no more heed than the most insignificant statute of American law.

Under this way of thinking every person is his own judge

of what is right or wrong about sexual activity. Some would teach that there *isn't* anything wrong about it in any circumstances. If one chooses to be sexually active before or apart from the marriage covenant, fine. There may be some social consequences of sex as one wishes, but if one can handle that, fine. God's law is considered as not applicable.

God says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery." What evidence is there that the great permissiveness of today is the better way? Do all the pregnancies of unwed women, infidelity in marriage, the AIDS epidemic, the acceptance of homosexuality as a life style as honorable as the heterosexual reveal that a better way has been found, that our world is a richer, more wholesome place than under God's order? We think not.

God's way is the best way in matters of morality and in all things of which the Commandments speak. The sooner our world comes back to its senses about this the better off it will be.

If Jim Bakker and Gary Hart have done wrong, and there is evidence to that effect, we can be glad that there has been reaction against it, that people hold those in public life to a high standard (apparently we haven't always done this). May we continue to hold a higher standard than before. It has been good to see that there is some recognition that there is a Sixth Commandment: "Thou shalt not commit adultery."



5. How can something good (God's Law) result in death?  
vs. 10-13 \_\_\_\_\_

B. After his regeneration, vs. 14-25

1. How does Paul the believer feel about God's Law? vs. 15, 16, 22, 23 \_\_\_\_\_

What makes the difference? v. 6 \_\_\_\_\_

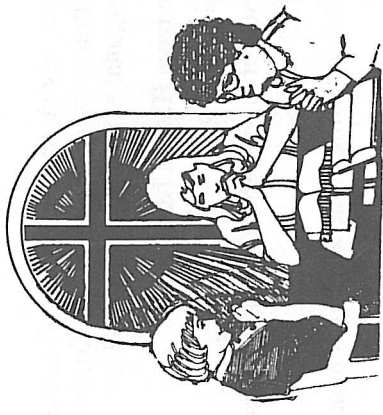
2. To what extent is the believer successful in doing God's will?  
vs. 15, 17, 21 \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this so? vs. 18, 23 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is his hope? v. 24. Cf. chapter 8:11, 17, 21, 23 \_\_\_\_\_

Hymn No. 284 (*Concordia*): "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

— Dr. Mary Lindquist



# WMF BIBLE STUDY

Studies in Romans  
*God's Righteousness by Faith*

## Chapter 7

### RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION: DELIVERANCE FROM THE LAW

Hymn No 259 (*Concordia*): "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

In this chapter Paul describes the third result of justification by faith, deliverance from the Law. In chapter two, he has shown how the Law convicts those who make it their hope of escape from God's wrath. What has he taught about the Law in the following passages?

3:20-21 \_\_\_\_\_

3:31 \_\_\_\_\_

4:13-14, 5:15 \_\_\_\_\_

5:20 \_\_\_\_\_

Now in chapter seven the doctrine of the Law as related to justification is summarized through an illustration from life and through Paul's personal experience with the Law.

I. An Illustration from Human Law, vs. 1-6

A. The central lesson, v. 1

1. Paul first states the central teaching of his illustration, v. 1.

What is it? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How is this teaching illustrated in human law? vs. 2-3 \_\_\_\_\_

3. How does this teaching apply to the believer? v. 4 \_\_\_\_\_

B. The believer's new relationship to the Law, vs. 5-6

Paul describes the new relationship to the Law and the difference it makes in the life of the believer.

1. How did his former relationship to the Law affect his life?  
v. 5 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is his new relationship to the Law? v. 6 \_\_\_\_\_

What change does that make in his life? \_\_\_\_\_

II. Paul's Experience with the Law, vs. 7-25

A. Before his regeneration, vs. 7-13

1. What good effect does the Law have on the sinner? v. 7 \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the apostle mean when he says that he was alive before the Law "got through" to him? v. 9 \_\_\_\_\_

3. What bad effect does the Law have on the sinner? vs. 8, 11 \_\_\_\_\_

4. How does an unbeliever feel about God's Law? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you seen that same feeling in a child's response to some command? Give an example. \_\_\_\_\_

How do we see the same tendency in ourselves? \_\_\_\_\_

# 25th Annual Convention Women's Missionary Federation of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

June 17, 1987

Registration ..... 9:00-9:30  
Prayer Service ..... 9:30-10:00  
Leader: Mrs. Ella Rorvig, Dalton, Minn.

## Prelude

Organ: Mrs. Charles Vigness, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Piano: Mrs. Carl Reed, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Singspiration .. Mrs. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Devotions ..... Mrs. Sylvia Molstre, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Welcome .. Mrs. Norman Peterson, Thief River Falls, Minn

Response ... Mrs. Wendell Johnson, WMF President,

Stacy, Minn.

Music ..... Miss Solveig Swenson, St. Hilaire, Minn.

Bible Study ..... Dr. Mary Lindquist, Grand Forks

Hymn Sing

Business Meeting

Memorial Service

Leader: Mrs. Norman Haugen, Murdock, Minn.

Offering "MY MISSIONARY FOR A DAY"

Recognition of Past Presidents of the WMF

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Table Prayer

## AFTERNOON SERVICE

1:30 p.m.

Prelude ..... Mrs. Charles Vigness  
Mrs. Carl Reed  
Singspiration ..... Mrs. Bruce Dalager  
Devotions ..... Mrs. Karl Stendal, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Unfinished Business  
Music ..... Group from Bethel Lutheran, Grafton, N. Dak.  
Message ..... Rev. and Mrs. George Knapp, Brazil  
Hymn Sing  
Offering MY MISSIONARY FOR A DAY  
Greetings  
Presentation of Honorary Membership Pins  
Comments  
Benediction

## PRAYER BREAKFAST

For all women

at

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

Thursday, 7:00 a.m.

Message by Mrs. George Knapp

## FESTIVAL SERVICE

8:00 p.m.

Thursday Evening

June 18

## Prelude

Organ: Mrs. Gary Erickson, Thief River Falls

Piano: Mrs. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls

Singspiration ..... Mrs. Bruce Dalager

Devotions ..... Mrs. John P. Strand, Remer, Minn.

Music ..... Group from Maple Bay Lutheran, Mentor

Installation of Officers ..... Rev. Richard Snipstead,

AFLC President, Minneapolis

Offering

AFLC SCHOOLS

Offertory

Flute solo: Miss Janeen Galland, Thief River Falls

Hymn

Message ..... Rev. George Knapp

Hymn

Benediction

## ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences February 1-April 30

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN APRIL	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL*
GENERAL FUND	\$208,000.00	\$ 6,597.25	32,576.55	16
SCHOOLS - (AFLTS)	99,834.00	3,926.76	21,818.90	22
(AFLBS)	152,060.00	7,509.23	33,393.07	22
HOME MISSIONS	\$280,000.00	8,106.13	34,611.14	12
WORLD MISSIONS	250,000.00	9,502.22	40,911.82	16
CAPITAL INVESTMENT	25,000.00	403.37	5,312.09	21
TOTALS	1,014,894.00	36,044.96	168,623.57	17
1986-87 -	1,084,478.00	38,615.92	148,176.07	14
GOAL 25%				

## Women's Missionary Federation

*In memoriam gifts*

Adeline Synneva Norheim,  
Rugby, N. Dak.  
Emma Berg, Dalton, Minn.  
Vernon Anders, Faith, S. Dak.  
Selma Brekke, Watertown, S. Dak.  
Haagen Holland, Webster, S. Dak.

*Blessed are  
those who die  
in the Lord*





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# news of the churches

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## *from here and there . . .*

**Badger, Minn.** — Mr. Tom Olson, who will be a senior in seminary this fall, will be serving the parish (Badger Creek and Oiland) this summer. The parish has been vacant since the death of Lay Pastor Gustav Nordvall in January. Mr. Olson recently concluded his year of internship at Our Saviour's Lutheran in Thief River Falls, Minn.

Baccalaureate for five seniors from the parish was held on Sun., May 17, in an evening service at Oiland. Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn., conducted the service.

**Minneapolis, Minn.** — Medicine Lake Lutheran is planning a congregational family "cook-out" on Sat., July 25, at the Oak Knoll area of Baker Park.

Rev. and Mrs. Rodger Olson of Ferguson Falls, Minn., presented the evening service program on May 17, the last one of the season. The program was largely musical with interspersed verbal witness.

**Greenbush, Minn.** — United Lutheran high school graduates were honored at a baccalaureate service on Sunday morning, May 24. A potluck dinner followed.

**Thief River Falls, Minn.** — Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran are busy getting ready for hosting the 1987 Annual Conference of the AFLC. On May 14 and 16 there were work days at the church for cleaning up the building and grounds.

**Canton, S. Dak.** — Several things have been done in and around Redeemer Lutheran of late to beautify the church and grounds. The basement walls and dining room floor have been painted, a number of trees have been planted in the yard and a new tract rack and additional clothes rack space have been installed.

**Newfolden, Minn.** — Farewell dinners in honor of Rev. and Mrs. Larry Haagenon were held at Bethania and Westaker Churches recently and gifts given to them. They have now moved to Grand Forks, N. Dak., where they are making their home.

Rev. Hubert DeBoer, River Falls,

Wis., is serving as vacancy pastor at Newfolden. Now retired, he served between pastors in the parish some years ago.

**Eben Jct., Mich.** — The Sunday School of Calvary Lutheran had its picnic on Sun., May 31, together with the congregation after the morning worship. It was held at the Jack Tyner farm (if it didn't rain). Awards were given, games were played, a potluck dinner was enjoyed.

**Tioga, N. Dak.** — Luther League Olympics were held on Sun., May 3, in the afternoon. It was under the leadership of Jim Rasmussen, who was the intern at Zion this past year.

Beaver Creek Lutheran hosted the spring district W.M.F. Rally on Sat., May 2. Rev. and Mrs. George Knapp were present.

**Grand Forks, N. Dak.** — Miss Rachel Mundfrom will be commissioned for missionary service under Lutheran Bible Translators at Trinity Lutheran on Sun., June 7. Perhaps *The Ambassador* will carry a report on that special service later.

**Minneapolis, Minn.** — A Mothers and Others Tea was held on Tues., May 12, at Faith Lutheran. The theme was "Come," based on the "Comes" of Jesus.

**Dalton, Minn.** — A banquet honoring graduating seniors of the parish was held on May 13 at Zion, hosted by the Sarpborg Ladies Aid.

**Williston, N. Dak.** — A work day was held on Apr. 18 to take care of some tasks that needed to be done on the church exterior of Emmanuel Lutheran and the grounds.

**Grafton, N. Dak.** — The men of Bethel Lutheran hosted the Mother-Daughter Banquet on Sun., May 17. Singles were welcome to attend, too.

**Ishpeming, Mich.** — Pastor Peter Franz, Minot, N. Dak., gave Bible studies each morning at Hope Lutheran, Apr. 26-30, on the theme "In Times Like These" from II Timothy. In the evenings the services followed the theme "Men Who Met the Master." On Monday night five pastors sang for the

service, namely, Herbert Franz, Peter Franz, Michael Klenner, Ernest Langness and Harvey Jackson.

On Sunday evening, May 3rd, an "afterglow" service was held and blessings came forth which had been received during the week. "To God be the glory!" writes Pastor Jackson.

**Kalispell, Mont.** — A series of films called "Maximum Marriage" have been shown this spring at Stillwater Lutheran for Faith and Stillwater congregations. They were on Sunday nights at 6:30.

**Ferndale, Wash.** — Pastor James Fugleberg of Triumph Lutheran was the speaker at the community Good Friday Service at Evergreen Community Church.

New members at Triumph Lutheran are Mr. and Mrs. Andy (Tammie) Nichols and their three children, Joey, Shannon and Christy.

**Middle River, Minn.** — Emmanuel Lutheran, Ringbo, hosted the Annual Meeting of the Galilee Lutheran Bible Camp Corporation on May 4. Re-elected president was Ray Christianson of Greenbush, Minn.

**Webster, S. Dak.** — The 85th anniversary of Tabor Lutheran Church will be held this weekend, June 6 - 7, with services Saturday night and Sunday morning and afternoon. Rev. Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, and former pastors of the congregation, Trygve Dahle, Howard Kjos and Raynard Huglen, will be present.

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## NEEDED

One small utility tractor. Must have power takeoff and be able to handle small loader — preferably a Case. Contact Mr. Ernest Miedema, Business Administrator, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Plymouth, Minn. 55441. (612) 545-5631.

Devotion to doctrine is good, but as a substitute of personal faith in Christ, it can become a subtle idol of the heart."

—Bernhard Christensen  
*Fire Upon the Earth*

# 25th Annual Conference

of the

## Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

June 17 - 21, 1987



### Wednesday, June 17

- 9:00 The Conference Committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.
- 8:00 The opening service of the Conference, with the sermon on the text by Rev. John Strand, Remer, Minn. The service leader is Rev. Jay Erickson, Fosston, Minn. AFLC President, Rev. Richard Snipstead, will open the Conference and appoint necessary Committees.
- Offering to General Fund.

### Thursday, June 18

- 9:00 Devotions.  
Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Adoption of the Conference agenda.  
Election of the Nominations Committee for the 1988 Conference.  
The President's Report.  
Report of the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, Pastor Terry Olson, Valley City, N. Dak.  
Report of the Business Administrator, Mr. Ernest Miedema, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Report of the Director of the ARC, Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, Wis.  
Financial Report, Miss Debbie Beaman, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Report of the Family Bible Camps  
Osceola, Treasurer, Mr. Gary Modean, St. Paul, Minn.  
Lake Bronson, Treasurer, Mrs. Don Balmer, Thief River Falls, Minn.  
Wilderness, Treasurer, Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn.  
Report of the Budget Analysis Committee.  
Report of the Nominating Committee, always in order.  
Election of nominees for the Missions Corporation and the Schools Corporation.  
Report of Committee No. 1 (Administration).
- 11:30 Prayer Hour. Leader: Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 2:00 Devotions.  
Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Elections:  
President - 3-year term  
Vice-President - 1-year term  
Secretary - 1-year term  
Selection of nominees to the Home Missions Committee - one layman; World Missions Committee - one pastor; Board of Trustees - one layman and one pastor's unexpired term.  
Continuing discussion of Committee No. 1.

### Lincoln High School Auditorium Thief River Falls, Minnesota

Conference Theme: "His Kingdom is Forever"  
Text: Psalm 145:13



Election of nominees to the Co-ordinating Committee - two laymen and one pastor to an unexpired term.

Election of Committee No. 1 for the 1988 Conference.  
Report of Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Pastor Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minn.  
Report of the Dean of the Seminary, Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, Minn.  
Report of the Dean of the Bible School, Pastor Donald Greven, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Report of the AFLBS Alumni Association, Miss Deb Anderson, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Report of Committee No. 2 (Schools).

5:30 The Schools Corporation Annual Meeting.

8:00 The Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation. Speaker: Pastor George Knapp.

### Friday, June 19

7:00 The Missions Corporation Annual Meeting.

9:00 Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Continuing discussion of Committee No. 2.  
Election of Committee No. 2 for the 1988 Conference.  
Report of the Schools Corporation Annual Meeting.  
Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee, Pastor Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis.  
Report of the Director of World Missions, Pastor Eugene Enderlein, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Pastor Herbert Franz, Dollar Bay, Mich.  
Report of the Director of Home Missions, Pastor Elden Nelson, Minneapolis, Minn.

Christ with me,  
Christ before me,  
Christ behind me,  
Christ within me,  
Christ beneath me,  
Christ above me,  
Christ at my right,  
Christ at my left,  
Christ in breadth,  
Christ in length,  
Christ in height.

St. Patrick (d. 490?)

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

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Second-class postage  
paid at Wanamingo, Minn.

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## SCHEDULE . . .

Report of the Chairman of the Commission on  
Evangelism, Pastor Verle Dean, Sedan, Minn.  
Report of Committee No. 3 (Missions and Evan-  
gelism).

11:30 Prayer Hour - Pastor Dyrud.

2:00 Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Continuing Report of Committee No. 3.  
Report of Missions Corporation Annual Meeting.

5:30 Pastors' Banquet.

8:00 Laymen's Service. Leader: Mr. Paul Flaten,  
Newfolden, Minn. Speaker: Mr. Bernhard  
Nelson, Portland, N. Dak.  
Offering to Schools.

### Saturday, June 20

9:00 Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Continuing discussion of the report of Committee  
No. 3.  
Election of member to the Commission on  
Evangelism - one layman.  
Election of Committee No. 3 for the 1988 Conference.  
Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications  
and Parish Education, Dr. Mary Lindquist, Grand  
Forks, N. Dak.

Report of the Director of Parish Education, Mrs.  
Ralph Tjelta, Minneapolis, Minn.

Nominations for nominee for Editor of *The Lutheran  
Ambassador*.

Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Pastor  
Allen Monson, Dickinson, N. Dak.

Report of the President of the Luther League Feder-  
ation, Pastor Curtis Emerson, St. Cloud, Minn.

Report of Committee No. 4 (Publications, Parish  
Education and Youth).

11:30 Prayer Hour - Pastor Dyrud.

2:00 Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Election of members to the Board of Publications and  
Parish Education - one layman and one pastor's  
unexpired term.

Election of member to the Youth Board.

Election of Committee No. 4 for the 1988 Conference.

Election of the Colloquy Committee for the 1988  
Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board,  
Pastor Robert Lee, Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions,  
Mr. Norman Haugen, Murdock, Minn.

Report of Committee No. 5 (Stewardship and  
Pensions).

Election of member to the Stewardship Board -  
one layman and one layman's unexpired term.

Election of member to the Board of Pensions -  
one layman.

Election of Committee No. 5 for the 1988 Conference.

Report of special committees.

Election of one member to the Budget Analysis  
Committee - 3-year term.

Report of Committee No. 1 as the Committee on  
General Resolutions.

Invitations to the 1988 Conference.

8:00 Youth Night at the Conference. Leader: Pastor  
Curtis Emerson, St. Cloud, Minn.

Speaker: Pastor Dennis Gray, DeKalb, Ill.

Offering to Capital Investments.

### Sunday, June 21

8:00 Communion Service.

Leader: Pastor Ernest Langness, Ishpeming,  
Mich. Speaker: Pastor Raynard Huglen,  
Newfolden, Minn.

10:30 Worship Service.

Leader: Pastor Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls,  
Minn. Speaker: Pastor David Molstre, Fargo,  
N. Dak.

Offering to World Missions.

2:00 Ordination Service.

Speaker: Pastor Richard Snipstead,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Choral Union.

Offering to Home Missions.

Conference Committee:

Pastor Richard Snipstead, President  
Pastor Ronald Knutson, Secretary