



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

June 4, 1985

BIBLE CAMP SEASON
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

at the MASTER'S FEET

Father's Day

When I think of Father's Day my thoughts center on the family and home — my wife, our children and their spouses, our grandchildren, my parental home, my father and mother, sisters and brothers, family devotions both morning and evening.

Father read from *John Goszner's Treasury*, "Bible Meditations for each Day in the Year," each morning and prayed out loud and Mother read from *Book of Family Prayer* by N. J. Laache every evening and also prayed. I remember how deeply it touched my young heart when in their prayers they mentioned my name. Then I remember Sunday School in church during the summer months. In the wintertime Father and Mother conducted Sunday School for their family in our home. After public school closed in the spring there were four weeks of Daily Vacation Bible School.

At the age of 13 confirmation instruction began ("reading for the minister", we called it then). I shall never forget Confirmation Day. Christ was so near and dear and from

the bottom of my heart I meant those promises to "renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways . . . to believe in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit . . . and by the grace of God continue steadfast in the covenant of (my) baptism, even unto the end . . . to remain faithful to the teaching of the Christian Church, and to be diligent in the use of the means of grace." But alas, I gradually drifted away from that precious and tender relationship with my Lord.

Now why do I reminisce about these things as I try to write about Father's Day? You see, I owe a great debt, both physical and spiritual, to my father and mother for their humble faithfulness to God, family, church and country. I want to share a personal testimony to the grace, mercy and love of God in my life.

Under God, Father and Mother did their best to bring up their children in the fear and love of the Lord. They were sincerely concerned for the spiritual as well as the physical welfare of their family, also for their neighbors.

During the time of my post-confirmation years, when I drifted away from fellowship with my Savior, I could not escape the convicting power of the Holy Spirit who was calling me back to Jesus. Oh yes, I tried to enjoy life with worldly friends and amusements and it seemed to be fun, but those seasons of fun were really very brief, because often the convicting hand of God was heavy upon me. And Father's and Mother's mentioning my by name during family prayers made deeper impressions on my soul than ever. It especially touched me when Father, whom I at times thought was stern, humbly prayed to God for his own shortcomings and sins.

Thanks and praise to God, at the age of 17 years the blessed spirit of God overpowered me and led me to

repent of my sin and receive Christ as my personal Savior. By His grace He has kept me day by day and let me experience that the grace of God and "the joy of the Lord is (my) strength" (Nehemiah 8:10b) in every circumstance of life.

I thank God for letting me be born and raised in a Christian home where Father and Mother were faithful, diligent workers (farming was their means of supporting their family — nine children in all). They were always very busy but never too busy to gather their children for family devotions every morning and evening.

Now I have had the privilege of being a husband for about 37 years, a father for about 36 years, and grandfather for about seven years. The blessings of a happy Christian marriage, home and family cannot be fully expressed with words but it can be experienced. "Bless the Lord, O my Soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name!" (Psalm 103:1).

Fellow husbands, fathers and grandfathers, let us be consistent and steadfast in conducting daily family devotions in our homes. Our God is a prayer-answering God and His Word bears eternal fruit!

O happy home, where Thou art loved the dearest,
Thou loving Friend and Savior of our race,
And where among the guests there never cometh
One who can hold such high and honored place!

(Concordia, #351)



by Pastor
Amos O. Dyrud

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In St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians, we have all the necessary instructions for establishing and maintaining a Christian home. God not only ordained marriage, but provided the family as the basic unit of society. Therefore, if we want to be part of happy and prosperous homes, we need to follow the directions which the Lord has provided for us in His Word.

To begin with, every organization has to have leadership to function effectively. This is true of the smallest grouping (which by definition would be only two people) to the very largest. Even with two people, one must have the final decision-making power. "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3). And if they are not in agreement with one another, someone must make the final decision. In business partnerships, corporations, legislative bodies, political parties, or governmental system, the participants can prescribe their own rules and decide how to select leaders who will enforce these rules and see that they are fairly applied.

But this is not true of the family. In this case the Lord has prescribed the rules and they are not optional. Where He has spoken, there is no valid second opinion.

At the head of the family is the father, even as Christ is the Head of the Church. The father has been given a great responsibility as well as the privilege of rule. The same could be said of the president of the United States. If he faithfully executes his office, the president seeks what is best for all of the citizens, whether they supported him in the election or not. As a leader, he encourages others to follow him and he retains their support and respect, even if they disagree with him. He exhibits wisdom, fairness and consideration and thereby keeps their respect. Even

those who oppose him will respect him if he is honest and straightforward in his dealings and he handles controversial issues fairly. It is not inappropriate to compare the leadership role of a president to a father.

The father portrayed by Christ in the parable of the Prodigal Son was a perfect or ideal father, since he represented God, the perfect Father. But earthly fathers are to strive to show that kind of compassion, forgiveness, wisdom and leadership. Earthly fathers must provide leadership for the family, they must demonstrate fairness, love, etc. When family conflicts arise and decisions are left in limbo, the father has the responsibility to take decisive action. As Harry Truman said of the presidency, "The buck stops here." It must stop somewhere in the family also. And God has decreed that the father is to be the head of the household.

The father, however, is not given license to be a tyrant and a dictator.

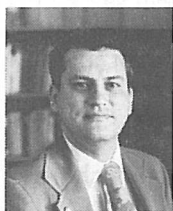
**"Even with two people,
one must have the final
decision-making power."**

Along with being given leadership are responsibilities. Fathers are exhorted not to provoke their children to wrath, but rather to nurture them. The responsibility of teaching and being the devotional leader of the family is an important one. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7). Also, fathers are to love their wives as Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it. Christ loved the Church in spite of her repeated unfaithfulness.

In short, the father's model is to love and forgive and educate his erring children as did the father of the prodigal son. Likewise, the father's

*God has
provided order*

THE CHRISTIAN HOME



by Pastor
Thomas L. Baker
Cumberland, Wis.

HOME . . .

model as a husband is to love and forgive and teach his spouse, even if he should have a wife as unfaithful as Gomer, the wife of the prophet Hosea, who typified unfaithful Israel.

Along with the father's is the important role played by the mother in the family. In his letter to Titus, St. Paul explained that the aged women were to behave in a manner that becomes holiness, teaching the young women to love their husbands and to love their children. They were also instructed to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed.

St. Peter similarly wrote that wives were to be in subjection to their own husbands; "that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives." He urged women to adorn themselves with that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."

It is unfortunate that the so-called feminists of today have succeeded in conveying to many the idea that submission is equivalent to inferiority. Submissive women are portrayed by them as weak and servile, lacking in mental ability. This is not the submission of which the Bible speaks.

In the political realm, any president has literally hundreds of highly capable, intelligent, successful men who voluntarily follow him and submit themselves to his leadership. Many give up highly successful careers in order to spend four or eight years in Washington, D.C. Have they ever been portrayed as a group of men who are weak and inferior because they submit themselves to the leadership of another?

Besides the privilege of being a wife and mother, as God intended, godly women enjoy the security of home and family. To be a mother and to raise children up to the Lord is a blessing and not something to be

"And God has decreed that the father is to be the head of the household."

despised as being inferior to the man and his role. Wives and mothers should be thankful for their unique role in the family, just as husbands and fathers should also thank God for theirs.

To complete the family, we need to include the responsibilities of the children, too. Obedience is the key virtue stressed in Scripture.

When a child is young, he may very well listen to his parents mainly because he has to. Discipline at the moment is never pleasant and the flesh strongly rebels against correction and instruction in godliness. But reproofs and reprimands are for our own good. The alternative to discipline is to grow up to become selfish and unhappy.

Just as men and women voluntarily submit themselves to the Lord, and follow His directions for happiness, so, too, do Christians submit themselves to authority. The majority of our citizens choose to obey the laws because they are contented citizens who want to see the country continue to prosper. This does not mean that they are weak or inferior to those who exercise societal leadership. Likewise, women submit themselves to their husbands, children obey their parents, and we all are responsible for our actions to the Lord. As children grow older they realize and appreciate what their parents have done for them and voluntarily submit themselves to their parents, even after they are married. This is done on the basis of love and a strong desire not to hurt those whom they love.

This is the kind of submission to authority that Scripture deals with. The man is responsible directly to God, but he is also under the authority of his parents, his government, his church body, etc. He is not a

freelance individual. In like manner, the family functions as the basic unit of society. Children obey their parents because God put them over them. As they grow in years and in wisdom, their obedience becomes voluntary instead of obligatory. The same is true of wives submitting to husbands. If two people must come to a decision, and there is not perfect agreement, then one has to have the authority to make decisions. But as the Bible clearly shows, the one who exercises the greater authority must bear the greater responsibility.

We are not perfect creatures and thus cannot become part of perfect families. What we need to do is to strive to fulfill our own obligation — in love — and not put the blame on other family members for any shortcomings or failures.

The alternatives to a biblically-oriented family are all around us: rebellious youth, drug addiction, drunkenness, broken homes, divorce, hatred of family members, with whom we should have the closest bond.

As with everything else that God has provided for us, He provided the family for our own happiness, because He loves us. May God grant that each one of us would strive to establish, maintain and improve his own Christian home.

To His Glory

What you are after, says Jowett (J. H.), is not that folk shall say at the end of it all, "What an excellent sermon!" That is a measured failure. You are there to have them say, when it is over, "What a great God!" It is something for men not to have been in your presence but in His.

Paul Scherer

"The alternative to discipline is to grow up to become selfish and unhappy."

a survey of the AMBASSADOR survey

"We need your opinion!" The 1985 survey of the readers of *The Lutheran Ambassador* headlined these words. And some of you responded.

Thank you for your opinion!

Perhaps the first conclusion to be reached is that our readers don't care for surveys. The responses represented 226 subscribers, which is not a strong proportion of the possible 4000 or more. However, we may also conclude that the opinions of those who cared enough to respond are more relevant than the ones of those who did not bother to do so.

What sort of person would be expected to respond to a readers' survey? Someone who was critical of the publication and ready for a chance to offer suggestions for improvement? This was certainly not true of our survey.

A strong majority of those who responded are very happy with *The Lutheran Ambassador* as it is. Many of the specific comments mentioned looking forward to every issue and reading them through "from cover to cover."

"I think it's the best . . . keep up the good work . . . a real blessing to us all . . . I love every page of it . . . I like it so much . . . good job!

The portion of the paper that received the strongest vote of confidence was "*At The Master's Feet*." The attractiveness of the layout also received consistently high praise, as did the Scrapbook Issue and the sermons and articles by AFLC pastors. Other features that scored well were the reprinted articles, the children's page, use of poetry, and the *Concordia* hymn studies.

The readers indicated that they considered the number of editorials in *The Lutheran Ambassador* to be

the right amount and the content to be satisfactory. A significant number, however, did feel that they need to deal with more controversial topics.

Were there any areas where the readers expressed dissatisfaction? The only item where the negative votes outnumbered the positive was for the question on the Youth Page: a majority wanted to see it published more often.

A strong negative vote was also evident on the questions about news from AFLC Churches ("not enough") and covers ("more AFLC"). In fact, this last question sparked some of the most lively comments in the survey, as many readers expanded their response along the margins.

A former feature, *Life on the Edge of Town*, drew a number of reader comments, mostly favoring its return.

The use of "travelogues" was mentioned, too, with the opinion evenly divided between positive and negative.

Many readers also indicated that they would like to see more news articles printed in the pages of the *Ambassador*. Let it be noted again that, except for the responses on the Youth Page and the News from the Churches, a strong majority — even an overwhelming one at times — favors the paper just as it is.

The Editorial Board is grateful to each one who took the time to complete the survey. Some left many questions unanswered; others filled the margins and additional sheets of paper with suggestions and personal comments. All will be considered by the editor and the board.

We needed your opinion and you gave it to us. Thanks again!

Pastor R.L. Lee,
Chairman, Editorial Board

Be comforted

" . . . then there is a glory awaiting you with which all the sufferings of this world can not be compared, of which one would not be worthy even though one suffered the pangs of all the martyrs and the agony of the condemned in hell; a glory which one could not merit by any suffering, not buy at any price, which God bestows upon His children only, who, with all their heart, believe on the Name of His Son, and who, by faith and love, become like unto His image. Comfort yourself with this if, as a child of God, you are persecuted and distressed, if the world hates you because you are not one of its children."

John Goszner's Treasury

True revival

We hear much about revival these days, but the heart of revival is the Lordship of Christ. A mere emotional upheaval, a spurt of religious excitement is not revival. When Christians become convicted of rebellion against the rule of Christ in their lives, confess their sins, renounce self, take the cross and let Jesus have the first and last word in everything, that is revival by whatever name you call it.

—Vance Havner

Some questions and answers

Maybe not only questions, but also comments to which I shall try to respond. And these questions and comments are from the reader survey on the *Ambassador* conducted some months ago.

Pastor Robert L. Lee, chairman of the Editorial Board, has written a summary on the findings in the survey and his report may be found elsewhere in this issue.

First, let me thank all of you who took time to participate in the survey. You have been of help to us. We could wish more had sent the surveys back to us, but we're grateful for the replies we did get.

Without going at this in any particular order, some of you called the subscription price of the *Ambassador* too high. I wish it could be lower, but we need that much, \$10, from each subscriber. If we didn't get that much per subscription, we'd need to get additional funds from some place else and you know who would have to pay that, members of AFLC congregations, through their benevolence giving.

Some of you find colored ink harder to read than black. Our Christmas and Easter issues are in green and purple respectively. Personally, I haven't cared as much for some of the inks used as for others. It seems to me that the purple ink in our March 26 issue was very attractive and readable. I hope we can do as well next year. It is nice to have some change twice a year in color. I trust that most of you agree.

As to the suggestion that color be utilized more in the *Ambassador*, covers in color, for instance, we just can't consider it, not if we want a magazine as low as \$10 per year.

Someone commented that the *Ambassador* has too many personal comments and therefore isn't as professional as it should be. We try to have our coverage of events done in the style of newspapers, without personal comment. We agree that's the way it should be. At times reports of meetings are sent to us and are used pretty much as written. They may contain some personal notes, but usually the writer's name is given or the

report is signed "Correspondent".

A reader thinks that perhaps there should be less news about Association Free Lutheran Bible School. We hope the comment is facetious because there hasn't been nearly the news from AFLBS that we'd like to have. We're hoping soon to have much more news coming in from both the Bible School and the Seminary.

There is the complaint that "it takes forever to see them (articles and pictures) in print." We ask that material intended for a certain issue arrive at our desk three and one-half weeks before publication. Delivery of the finished magazines can vary a week or more, so things can get drawn out. If something arrives just after an issue is completed, then a week and a half more can be added to the time in which one can expect to see that in print. But there isn't much that can be done about it. One Lutheran publication we get requires that articles be submitted routinely five weeks before publication.

As to the editorials, they are all written by the editor, that is, by yours truly. Perhaps some confusion is generated by the fact that occasionally an editorial is signed, when usually they aren't. Ordinarily I use the "editorial we" in editorials, but if I am writing something of a very personal nature, a tribute to someone, for instance, and depart from the editorial we, then I sign my name to it. It should have been there in what I wrote about Don Rodvold (May 7), but somehow it got left out.

In that connection, while only the editor writes editorials as such, readers are free to express their thoughts through Letters to the Editor, the Opinion Page and Fellowship Corner. Earlier this year, more readers than usual made use of Letters to the Editor and that created a good deal of interest. I hope there will be more of this.

At times there is the complaint that announcements of meetings or events do not appear far enough ahead to do any good. Usually the reason is that

From the files of *Folkebladet*: In the Dec. 5, 1923, issue, there was the story of the death of a teenage brother of Pastor Hans Tollefson, Astoria, Ore.

* * * * *

Alfred Emil Tollefson was born in L'Anse, Mich., on Feb. 25, 1907, and died on Nov. 15, 1923. He reached the age of 16 years, eight months and 23 days.

It was a very heavy blow and a sorrowful message which struck us when we heard that Alfred had entered eternity without a moment's warning.

I had just been home on a quick trip and on the way back to L'Anse I met student Hans Tollefson, Alfred's brother, who is at Augsburg Seminary. He told me then that he had received a telegram with the sad news. It was hard to believe. That

"Blessed are
the dead who
die in the Lord"

was the last we would have thought of, that death should come so quickly to take one of our best boys, a Christian youth, from us.

A little later we followed an old, greatly beloved brother to his grave, but this time a young talented man, whom we had great hopes for, and whom we believed would be to great blessing both in his congregation and church body. But this also illustrates that "the Lord's ways are not our ways" and "mankind is as the grass which grows upon the fields." The

an announcement has reached us so late that this is the best we can do. But we hope that a late announcement is still news of a sort and that's why it is included.

Use more of the pastors as writers, someone says. We do try to do that, we are working on it. We attempt to get the new young pastors early in their careers, lest they get neglected. Sometimes our plans don't work out. Readers don't get to know about that. "At The Master's Feet," our devotional page, has used 42 different writers and the new writer for the last half of 1985 will be introduced next time. Except for three years of our history, two men have written each year.

It is our aim to have as much of the *Ambassador* written by the AFLC people as possible. Some material is solicited and space is left over for contributions. To some this may look unprofessional while others see it as less confining and restricted.

Space is available for a Youth Page. The Devotional Life Secretary of the Luther League Federation is an "editor" for this page. Over the

years, with several exceptions, those responsible for this page have found it hard to get contributions for it from the young people of the church. Just recently the Federation has arranged to have youth Bible studies in the *Ambassador*. One or two will have appeared when you read this.

A Women's Page is to be found about every other time, usually the second issue of a month. Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, our layout person, is responsible for this page. She welcomes contributions for it. Her address is 16980 Duck Lake Trail, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55344.

A Page for Children is offered some of the time. A source of good material is a problem. The cost of reprinting some good Lutheran material we know of is prohibitive.

A question and answer column was tried some years ago and died after a while due to lack of interest. However, we mustn't rule out the possibility of trying one again.

A reader writes, "Let's continue to keep party politics out of our *Ambassador*." The point is well taken and we have tried to do that. We must do

that. We have to get into moral issues, but that must be done without fear or favor as to political persuasions.

Some people like travelogues and some don't. For those who don't, there is this consolation. I'm not doing very much travelling these days.

And to those who noted that the *Ambassador* needs a new editor, let me say that I can sympathize with you. You are likely right. And here is some good news for you: I have passed the halfway mark in my service as editor.

Again, thank you for all who took part in the survey. And I wish to thank Pastor Robert Lee and others who tabulated the results and saved me having to do that. While we can't do all that you would like us to do or that we would like, we will try to be sensitive to all of your comments and act on as many of your suggestions as possible. And overall, as Pastor Lee indicates in his report, there was strong support for what we are doing in the *Ambassador* and we are grateful.

(Please see also the Editorials on pages 9 and 10.)

word is true: "there is but a step between us and death."

As a child Alfred was baptized into the fellowship of Jesus and in that fellowship he died. He was confirmed by Pastor A. (Anker) Dahle in 1921.

Alfred was after the cows in the evening and on his way home was run over (by an automobile no doubt — Ed.) and instantly killed.

Alfred had a good testimony among all people; he was a humble person and a praying young man. I shall never forget him, when he and his brothers and sisters still at home and his parents prayed to God. There was something heart-warming, childlike and earnest about him. It did my heart so much good when he prayed for me and many others,

especially because he named us by name.

He was much interested in what pertained to the church — and a very fine singer. Now he is singing at Home "where the song is as the sound of many waters."

He will be missed in Sunday School, in high school and in the community; but most of all he will be missed in his home by brothers and sisters and parents.

"But we shall not sorrow as those who have no hope."

There was displayed, particularly by friends and neighbors, love and sympathy toward the sorrowing loved ones left behind. It was a great thing to see.

In the day of need and the time of sorrow it is revealed how many

friends we have. May God reward the friends for their sympathy and help. Especially we pray that the Lord will continue to sustain and help the sorrowing — and most of all you, Mother, who no doubt feels the sorrow the most. Are you who read this ready to meet your God?

The undersigned conducted the devotional in the home, spoke in the church and officiated at the grave. Alfred was laid to rest in L'Anse cemetery, Sunday, Nov. 18. A large crowd was present. Blessed be Alfred's memory.

(Pastor) A. B. Dyre
—Translated from the Norwegian



world missions

from an organization to an organism

"Pastor, me desculpar mas tua idea e loco" (Pastor, excuse me, but your idea is crazy), that's what I heard from one of the church council members last year when I told them I wanted to see *all* the councilmen at midweek services, and both Sunday morning and evening services. My reason for such a drastic move was that we can't expect more from our church members than from our church council. The councilmen told me it was a great idea in theory, but impossible in practice. "We are all working men; we have to get up early to go to our business." I agreed, but replied, "How many times haven't I caught you men just getting up in the morning as I stopped by to visit you as I took my children to school? We all have to get up early and to bed late, but we can always find time for the things we want to do most." Our church men belong to football clubs and fishing teams, but had been irregular in church attendance. When I confronted them with this "crazy idea," I didn't know what to expect. After some talk about it and prayer, they said, "We'll try to be more faithful."

The Lord really blessed because both the midweek services and Sunday services picked up! The men seemed to get more enthusiastic.

Then at the first council meeting of this year we studied I Corinthians 12:12-27 and emphasized the importance of working together as one body in Christ, remembering that He is the Head and that each member of the council and church is a vital living part of one body. We are not just an organization, we are a living organism.

Then, to my surprise, the same council member said, "Pastor, let's as a council go and visit at least two homes every Tuesday night (our midweek service is on Thursday night). Maybe we can even visit the hospital, but at least two homes of families starting to visit our church. Let's try to visit all church members' home within the year." I thought to myself that this same man told me last year he was too busy to go to church twice on Sunday and couldn't think of midweek service. My reply was, "Great, let's start this week." So all seven of us started our visits. One played the guitar and we all sang a few choruses; then a brief devotional would be shared, with all taking part in closing prayer. This went on for some weeks.

Now that same council member came to me just the other day and said, "Pastor, just to see the faces beam as we sing and share Jesus

Christ is the greatest blessing that I know! Why didn't we do this years ago?" Then I couldn't resist it any longer, as I began to laugh, "Don't you remember what you told me just a year ago, 'Pastor, me desculpar mas tua idea e loco'?" He started to laugh also and had to admit how much we miss in our lives because we put our desires ahead of the Lord's work.

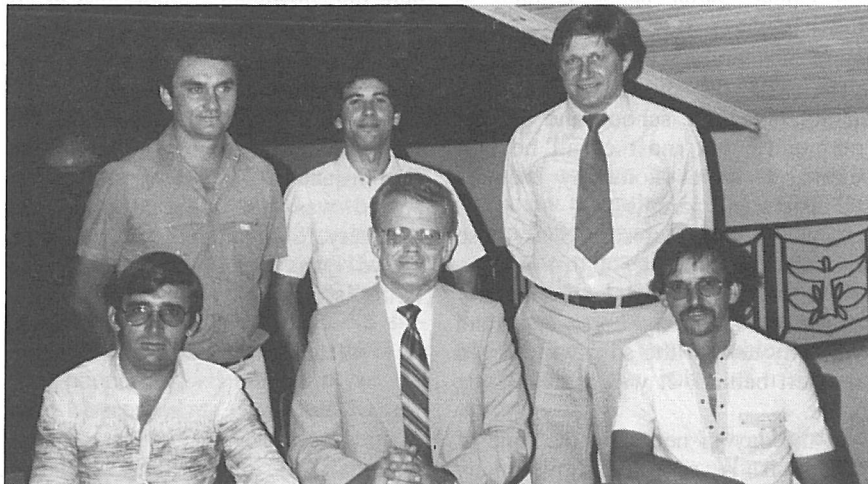
Each year we have a goal at our Central Church. This year our goal is to pass from an *organization* to a *living organism*!!

Connely J. Dyrud
Brazil

WORDS, many or few

Speak straight from the heart, whether your words be many or few. It is immaterial whether you often repeat a thought, because your heart is so full of it that you can not do otherwise; as was the case with David and Hannah; or you but breathe a few words, as did the publican. I have heard long prayers which were so earnest from beginning to end that they seemed not to contain a superfluous word; and I have heard short prayers which laid the whole case before God in a few words. But I have also heard long and idle prayers, from persons with a glib tongue, and from persons who made up for their lack of words by a constant repetition of God's name. The Lord does not prohibit the use of *many* words; but He prohibits "vain repetitions"; and He forbids us to think that God is moved by much speaking.

N. J. Laache
Book of Family Prayer



Standing, Left to right: Rue Edegton, Pedro Simao, and Martins Mormello; seated: Pascoal Rizenzi, Pastor Connely J. Dyrud and Juvenil Varga; Not Pictured: Carlos Edwardo.

editorials

BIBLE CAMPS

Bible camping season will soon be here. In your district final plans are being made for the one or two weeks of camping that will be held. Faculty members have long since been chosen. Deans will breathe easier if all staff positions are filled by now. In the Association the same is true concerning plans for the two Family Camps and the Wilderness Camp.

There is much excitement connected with Bible camping. Can anyone who has been involved in Bible Camp forget the anticipation as opening day arrives, whether one is a camper, a staff member or faculty member? At last the day is here. There are new and old friends to meet. If one is returning to a familiar place, memories flood in from other times. If one is coming to a new setting, there are discoveries to make and a place to come to love.

Above all, Bible Camp is a situation in which to be close to the Lord. We mean, the program is arranged so that each day there is teaching and preaching. And there is hearing and discussion and prayer and singing. Bible Camp is a time to come aside and concentrate on spiritual things. This is true whether the camp is a youth camp or a family camp. Numerous opportunities for each are open for Association people.

Let us pray for the Bible camping season of 1985. Some young people go to camp without a spiritual desire for blessing. They go because it is expected or they think there is the possibility for "a good time". But having come, there is the opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work through the Word taught and preached. May good things happen in those lives, as well as in those who come seeking gifts from God and who shall surely find.

GOOD SUGGESTIONS

One of the most helpful things in the recent survey about the *Ambassador* was to get suggestions of topics which readers felt should be dealt with in these pages. We are taking these under advisement and together with the Editorial Board seeking to find the way in which to handle them.

That isn't to say that nothing has ever been said about these subjects. In nearly every case something has been said, but we are open to the idea that more can be said and can be said now. As examples, we mention the lodge question, millennialism and cults.

It will be our task to find writers who have the time and resources to grapple with these and other topics and, in some cases, to find articles from other places which can fairly present the matter.

On the other hand, it seems to us that a few of the suggestions in the survey have been covered quite well and from time to time. We think of evangelism, Christian

living, salvation, deeper life and the Christian family. But, of course, these are subjects that we must get to again and again. We depend on our Commission on Evangelism for some of our material on evangelism, but aren't confined to what they may want to present either.

Pray with us about how we can handle the topics of ecumenism, environment, sex education, nuclear war, TV evangelism and others. Or this one, also from the survey, why people leave the AFLC for inter-denominational churches? (or other denominations).

Certain it is that we have enough to keep busy about in coming months. Time will reveal how well we're doing in reacting to our reader suggestions.

OUR COVERS

Speaking of reacting, may we do that concerning our *Ambassador* covers? Pastor Robert Lee in his summary on the survey indicates that there was "a strong negative vote" on the question of our covers, that is, some readers wanted more AFLC-oriented ones. The negative vote was strong, but more than twice as many readers felt there was a proper mix between AFLC-oriented and so-called "inspirational" covers.

A hurried check of the two years previous to this finds that in 1984 we used 12 AFLC-oriented covers, including all those prepared by Solveig Hjermstad of the layout department. Add to that the Easter and Christmas issues which had traditional seasonal covers. In 1983 there were 10 AFLC-oriented covers plus the Easter and Christmas ones. What we mean to say is that we are using many more of our own covers now than in earlier years. The trend is that way, but we want to continue to use the inspirational photos, too.

As we have noted before, we have begun the practice of featuring centennial churches on our covers and each congregation reaching a milestone is urged to supply us with a good quality, attractive picture of its church building for such use, accompanying a write-up of the festivities held.

Most people appreciate some pictures on the inside pages of our paper. By five to one, according to the survey, readers are satisfied with the amount of pictures we carry. We thought there might be complaint about the size of some pictures as they appear, but by about the same margin readers have no complaints on that.

People who send in pictures must be reminded that pictures which are dark to begin with will reproduce poorly. Finally, some which are sent to us aren't usable. Some to which we've tried to give the benefit of the doubt haven't turned out happily. Any pictures, black or white or colored, must not be dark to begin with or there will be a problem. Keep this in mind when you send pictures to us.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS
3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

BUDGET RECEIPTS
February 1-April 30

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN MARCH	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% of TOTAL*
General Fund	\$ 213,910.00	\$ 14,608.44	\$ 40,775.45	19
Schools — AFLTS	108,041.00	6,221.15	15,281.78	14
AFLBS	179,198.00	8,385.57	19,978.93	11
Home Missions	271,233.00	12,593.02	28,202.83	10
World Missions	307,000.00	11,066.40	41,385.20	13
Praise Fund	30,000.00	810.55	2,903.87	10
TOTAL	\$1,109,382.00	\$ 53,685.13	\$148,528.06	13*
1984-85	\$1,003,095.00	\$ 40,072.16	\$130,626.99	13

*Goal 25%

Women's Missionary Federation
In memoriam gifts

April

Evelyn Anderson, Sand Creek, WI
Ida Gisselquist, Minneapolis, MN
LuAnna Briggs, Eagle Butte, SD
William Hass, Sr., Valley City, ND
Mabel Gravgaard, Tioga, ND
Ellsworth Baker, Ray, ND
Selmer Hjermstad, Wallace, SD
Vandella Lundell, Pukwana, SD

*Blessed
be their
memory*



In memoriam

Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death and the church in which she held membership.

MINNESOTA

Goodridge
Selmer E. Erickson, 92, Apr. 16, Reiner

Roseau
Irene Evelyn Corneliusen, 57, May 7, Norland, Salol

Final budget total changed

The final report on the 1984-85 Budget Receipts in the AFLC was incorrect. Headquarters advises that receipts from sources other than gifts and support from the congregations were included in the General Fund total. This should not have been done. Therefore, the General Fund received only 74% of its goal, not the 98% reported. This also reduced the total giving for the AFLC from 87% to 82.3% or a total of approximately \$825,547 was received out of a goal of \$1,003,095.

ARC DEBT FUNDS NEEDED

In a letter to pastors prior to the Annual Conference, Pastor Richard Snipstead, president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, stated the following: "As we prepare for Conference at the The ARC, we need to be giving thought and prayer to raising funds through loans and gifts to pay off the balance of the debt on The ARC. We need to raise both the interest payment and a payment on the principle this year. That alone is a big step toward raising funds to pay it off. The saving on interest would be substantial."

Personalities

The address of **Rev. Charles Knapp**, new pastor of Hegland and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches is Rt. 1, Box 34, Karlstad, Minn. 56732.

Teaching position

An elementary education teaching position, grades 1 and 2, is open at St. Paul's Academy in Cloquet, Minn. If interested, please contact Principal Doug Beise, 218-879-2536, or send your resume to St. Paul's Academy, 18th and Wilson Ave., Cloquet, Minn. 55720.



Letters to the editor

Preachers should practice

In your editorial in the April 9 *Ambassador* you invited comments with respect to Pastor Mundfrom's series on sermons and preaching. I was surprised that he favors reading a sermon. To me that makes a sermon mechanical and dull. It takes an exceptionally good reader to put life into his comments. President Reagan can do it most of the time, but he stumbled badly when the teleprompter

quit on him a couple of times in Germany recently.

I wonder how many pastors spend any time rehearsing their sermons in the pulpit a few days before Sunday morning arrives. It seems to me that should be of considerable help in overcoming the habit of reading a sermon.

John O. Pearson
Warren, Minn.

(b) Matt. 22:15-22; Rom. 13:6,7 _____

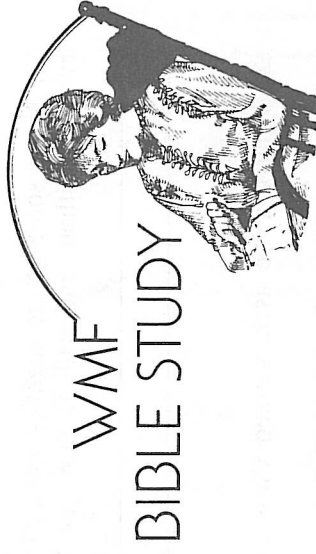
(c) I Tim. 2:2b; Rom. 12:18; Titus 2:2 _____

5. What nation is blessed? Ps. 33:12a _____

“BLESSED IS THE NATION WHOSE GOD IS THE LORD” (Ps. 22:12a).

Let us ask God to help us to be good citizens both of our Heavenly Kingdom and of our native country. May we be more in prayer for our leaders and all in authority and be submissive to government, taking a strong stand against evil. Let us help to bring about changes that will turn our country back to God. May we live peaceable, godly lives, leading souls to the Lord and praying for revival.

Suggested Song: “America” (My Country ’Tis of Thee)



A CLOSER WALK WITH JESUS

LESSON SEVEN—WALK AS A GOOD CITIZEN

Christians are citizens of two countries. We are born physically into our native country and born spiritually into the heavenly kingdom. As Christians we should be good citizens of both countries (Eph. 2:19, Heb. 11:16; 13:14). I believe that as we are the people of God wants us to be in His kingdom (Phil. 3:20, I Pet. 2:9), we will be good citizens of our beloved country. I am glad I was born in America! I love my country! I am thankful that as a Christian I am a citizen of heaven and I look forward to living there someday. I will forever be with my Savior and dear Heavenly Father and the saints (the redeemed ones) of all ages.

We have experienced so many of God's blessings upon our land. It was founded on Christian principles. Today many enemies and evils threaten our country from without and within. America needs to turn back to God if it is to continue to experience His blessings. The Lord wants us to be concerned for our country. In our study this month we are going to see what God's Word says about a good citizen and how God wants to use us as His channels to help bring our nation back to Him.

1. What are some of the blessings from God that we experience in our country? (Let's not take them for granted, but be thankful to God for them.) Ps. 115:13, Ps. 144:15 _____

2. Name some of the enemies and evils that are threats to our country from without and within. Prov. 14:34 _____

3. What can we as concerned Christians do? _____

A. PRAY. For whom does God ask us to pray?

(1.) I Tim. 2:1,2a, Lk. 19:41 _____

(2.) II Chron. 7:14 (In your personal study, read all of II Chron. 6 and 7.) _____

(3.) Jas. 5:16-20. What avails much? v. 16 _____

Who is an example to us as a fervant pray-er, in vs. 17,18? _____

Also read I Kings 17:1; 18:18,21,36-40,42,45. _____

(Read all of I Kings 17 and 18 in your personal study.)
What does the Lord tell us in Jas. 5:19,20? _____

(4.) What four things did Nehemiah do when he heard of the conditions in Jerusalem? Neh. 1:2-4
_____, _____, _____, _____

(Read his prayer in vs. 5-11 in your personal study.)

CHRISTIANS, WE MUST BE IN PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY!

B. God calls us to action. We as Christian citizens need to let our influence for God and for righteousness be felt in this country. What can we do?

(1.) Eccles. 9:10 _____

(2.) Phil. 2:15,16; Eph. 6:10-19 _____

4. In the following verses, what are we instructed to do as Christian citizens?

(a) I Pet. 2:12-18; Rom. 13:1-6; Titus 3:1,2 _____

Choir tour 1985

It was a beautiful day and you could sense the excitement and anticipation of a group of 34 (31 choir members, director Don Rodvold and Pastor and Mrs. Greven) as they boarded the chartered bus on Saturday, April 6, for the AFLBS 1985 Choir Tour. It was good to be able to entrust ourselves to God for protection, for strength and for enabling us to give a good witness through song and the spoken word.

Our first concert of the 16-day tour was that evening at Hauge Lutheran, Kenyon, Minn. It was here we began to enjoy and appreciate the generous and loving work of the ladies in the various churches. Their preparation of excellent and abundant meals for us throughout this tour was greatly appreciated. There were times that sack lunches and boxes of goodies were sent along to share on the bus. Thank you again, dear ladies!

On Sunday, April 7, we gave a concert at the Easter worship service at Our Saviour's Lutheran, Zumbrota, Minn. A group also shared in special music at Mt. Zion Lutheran, Kasson. Sunday evening we were at Salem Lutheran, Radcliffe, Ia. So far it seemed liked going back home as both congregations, Kenyon and Radcliffe, were parishes we had served. It was so good to see and fellowship with many friends again. A special highlight of the day was the Easter baskets made by Julie Melby and Diane Quanbeck and passed out to all on the bus.

Monday evening, April 8, we gave a concert at Grace Lutheran, De Kalb, Ill. It was good to see two of our Bible School students here — Craig Gray and Mindy Saldenais, and former students Mark and Dawn Olson.

Tuesday, April 9, was a long day of riding the bus. We had our next concert at St. Mark's Lutheran, Delaware, O. It was a very interesting old stone church. Lisa Walty's parents from Columbus came up to hear the concert.

Wednesday, April 10, the bus left Delaware at 7:00. We rode through beautiful scenic countryside most of

the day. It reminded us of what a creative and loving God we have! We arrived at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Perkasio, Pa., at 6:30 that evening for our concert. The next day we spent sight-seeing in Philadelphia and Valley Forge and then returned to the same homes in Perkasio to stay another night. It is here where Elizabeth Schlenker lives. She is the lady who sponsored Floyd Campbell from Guyana, who attended AFLBS. In the evening, after our day in Philadelphia, Mrs. Schlenker shared her slides with us from her mission work in Guyana. It was very interesting and informative time and we appreciated her time and efforts. It was also here a number of us were treated to special Pennsylvania Dutch food — shoo fly pie, funny cake and scrapple!

Friday saw us on our way to New York City. It was an interesting day and one to reflect on our many blessings, as we saw some of the living conditions in the inner city. Once, on Long Island, we stopped at Jones Beach where we all enjoyed a stretch along the seashore. That evening we sang for the Unity Lutheran congregation at Massapequa, N.Y. This is one of our newest AFLC congregations. We were warmly welcomed here and enjoyed our stay.

Saturday we traveled to Washington, D.C., and did some sight-seeing there. We spent all day Monday there also.

Sunday, April 14, we sang for the morning worship service at Lutheran Church of the Reformation just two blocks from the Capitol. After eating lunch provided at the church, we boarded the bus for Pasadena, Md. On the way we stopped to tour the quaint historic town of Annapolis. We had our concert that night at Galilee Lutheran Church and then went back to our hotel in Washington, DC.

Tuesday we were on our way to Pittsburgh, Pa. When we left the motel at Hagerstown, Md., we were grateful for the good testimonial we received from the management telling us they had never had a more well-behaved group stay with them. How important a good witness is! Our concert that evening at North Zion Lutheran Church was the first special event for their 185th Anniversary. It is the oldest Lutheran church in western Pennsylvania.

Wednesday, April 17, we had our concert at Emmanuel Lutheran Church at Columbus, O. This is the home church of one of the choir members, Lisa Walty.

Thursday, April 18, we traveled all the way to Lisbon, Ill., where we gave an evening concert at West Lisbon Ev. Lutheran Church. The next day our concert was only 20 miles away at Harding United Methodist, at Earlsville, Ill., where the two Lutheran churches and the two Methodist churches co-sponsored the concert. We spent Friday sight-seeing in Chicago.

We were at Trinity Lutheran Church, Boscobel, Wis., one of our

◇



AFLTS Spring Retreat

On Friday, April 12, the AFLTS faculty and students, along with their wives, held their annual Spring Retreat. The Seminarians gathered together and studied God's Word around the theme, "God, Family, Ministry: Keeping These in the Right Order." The retreat setting was at the beautiful facilities of the King of Glory Lutheran Church located in Eden Prairie, Minn.

Our day began with breakfast at 8:00 at a Minneapolis restaurant.

TOUR . . .

AFLC churches, on Saturday evening. Here two of our Bible School students, Eric Westlake and Linda Haugen, came to hear the concert.

Our last day, Sunday, April 21, we sang during the two morning worship services at Westby-Coon Prairie Lutheran Church, Westby, Wis. Here two of our choir members, Jan Benrud and Mark Knutson, were pleasantly surprised to see their parents in the audience.

The final concert of the tour was given at Amery Lutheran, Amery, Wis. There the Choral Club joined the Choir.

One of the highlights of the tour was staying in homes and meeting a variety of interesting and gracious people who served as our hosts. Many of our hosts took their guests on special sight-seeing trips. Many, many thanks to all of you.

Many Choir members would ask, "Aren't you getting tired of sitting and listening to us over and over again?" We could honestly say no. There was such an excellent variety of music in the program that it was always a blessing to listen to it. Their last selection was usually the "Battle Hymn of the Republic." One could not help but be filled with excitement, praise and thankfulness that here was a group of young people who were having a part in seeing that "God's truth is marching on!" What a privilege to be part of this group in particular, and our AFLC as a whole, in proclaiming God's truth! Pray that that will always be our goal!

From there, the students assembled at King of Glory for a morning worship and devotional service. Later in the morning, Pastor Ralph Tjelta, a faculty member, led the men in a Bible study and discussion time on "Priorities in Your Life, Family and Ministry." Pastor Tjelta, who gave helpful insight from the Bible and from his own pastoral experiences, said, "Priority is easy to order, but application is not as easy to follow through on. At some time or other, you will prioritize wrongly and God will forgive you. It's important to remember that it's not the start that counts; it's the finish." He went on to lead the men in a study of various portions of the Bible, such as Judges 6-8. He spoke to the men on sacrifices they will need to make related to finances and time, but encouraged them to remember the words of Christ in Matthew 6:33: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

After a leisurely lunch, the seminarians took to the outside and played a few games of softball on the grounds of the church. Beautiful weather stayed on throughout the day until early evening, and it was enough time to enjoy three hours of recreation and fun.

Later in the afternoon the seminarians assembled again to hear Pastor

David Barnhart of Trinity Lutheran Church of Minnehaha Falls, Minneapolis, who was the featured speaker of the retreat. Pastor Barnhart's first session was entitled "The Pastor's Schedule." The men benefited much from Barnhart's talk which was in large part a summary of the many valuable lessons he has learned and used in scheduling as a pastor.

The families of the seminarians joined in the retreat for a cookout supper of hamburgers, hotdogs and an array of salads and other dishes. Following supper, the seminarians and faculty, with their wives, assembled for an evening singspiration followed by Pastor Barnhart's second talk of the day entitled, "Creative Ways to Spend Quality Time with Your Family." Following the talk, questions that the seminary students and their wives had on issues that surrounded our theme were answered by panel guests which included Pastor and Mrs. Francis Monseth, Pastor and Mrs. Robert Lee, along with Pastor Barnhart.

The retreat concluded with an old-fashioned ice cream social in the church basement.

The seminary extends its appreciation to Pastor Barnhart as the speaker, Pastor Tjelta, as the Bible study leader, and to Pastor Wayne Hjermstad and King of Glory for the use of their facilities for a very enjoyable retreat.

—Jim Ritter, Junior



Pastor Barnhart at the retreat



"Candy Man" moves to Norway

This picture shows some of the boys and girls and youth of Grace Lutheran Church in Dekalb, Ill. Amid this group is Mr. Karl Boe, who has just moved to Norway. Karl loves children and might be known as the "candy man" at Grace. Every youngster got a piece of gum from him each Sunday morning and at other activities of the church. Karl was a regular attendee and came to church on his bicycle. A painter by trade, he came to the U.S. as a young man. He intends to live in Norway from now on. We will all miss Karl.

news of the churches

from here and there

Minneapolis, Minn.—Medicine Lake Lutheran is another congregation which has tapes available of its Sunday Morning worship services for home use.

The offering at the Family Appreciation Brunch on May 19 went to the purchase of new *Concordia* Hymnals. Lutheran Brotherhood is to match these funds up to \$250.

Tioga Falls, N. Dak.—Daily Vacation Bible School is being held at Zion Lutheran this week, June 3-7.

Dalton, Minn.—The senior honor banquet for the parish was held on May 15 at Zion Lutheran in Dalton.

Sedan, Minn.—Pastor Don Greven, Acting Dean of the Bible School held a series of evangelistic meetings at Scandia Lutheran Church, March 31-April 3.

Minneapolis, Minn.—Mrs. Bernard Nelson, Atlantic Mine, Mich., spoke at the Mother-Daughter banquet at Faith Lutheran on May 14. She gave a devotional talk on apple dolls which she has made. Mrs. Nelson is the mother of Mrs. Jonathan (Ruth) Strand.

Roseau, Minn.—A second season of outdoor Christian films will be held this summer with showings at dusk beginning next Sunday, June 9. The films are shown at the Malung Hall parking area southeast of Roseau. The final showing will be Aug. 30. The Roseau AFLC Parish sponsors the films. Watch for local announcements.

Newfolden, Minn.—The two churches of the parish have begun their summer schedule. Bethania worships at 9 and Westaker at 10:30.

Thief River Falls, Minn.—Youth from Our Savior's Lutheran attended a retreat at Faith Haven Lodge, Battle Lake, Minn., May 3-5.

Stacy, Minn.—At a parish Family Night at Sunnyside Lutheran last Sunday Mr. Roy Hope presented a concert of Gospel songs.

Grafton, N. Dak.—Mr. David Haugen of McVile, N. Dak., will be working in Bethel Lutheran this summer as a youth worker.

Badger, Minn.—The Luther League Youth Group went to Thief River Falls on April 14 for a swimming party. Lunch was by Dutch treat.

Ferndale, Wash.—A Mother-Daughter Tea was held at Triumph Lutheran on April 21. It was permissible to bring more than one daughter.

2nd Annual Canadian Conference held

The second Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations of Canada was held at Lake Alma, Sask, April 19-21.

The Conference opened Friday with an evening service led by Rev. Philip Rokke, local pastor. Rev. Richard Snipstead of Minneapolis, Minn., president of the AFLC, brought the message and Rev. John Rieth of Williston, N.Dak., provided the special music.

Saturday opened with a Bible study led by Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, dean of the Association Seminary. Rev. Snipstead gave a report on the history and the work of the AFLC, followed by a question period. After coffee break came the Conference business. An evening service followed supper. Pastor Elden Nelson, Minneapolis, executive director of Home Missions, gave the message.

Sunday morning Bible study was led by Rev. Monseth and Lay Pastor Gene Sundby, Outlook Sask., brought the message at the closing service.

Along with the Lake Alma Faith Lutheran Congregation, who hosted the Conference, the sessions were attended by representatives from interested congregations in Saskatchewan. A display was set up by the Bible Book Store from Outlook, presided over by Arlie Hunter. Thank yous are in order to the President, the Dean of Seminary and the Home Mission Director of the AFLC of the United States for encouraging us with their presence and their messages.

It may be noted that they received souvenirs of Lake Alma in appreciation for their help and encouragement these past years. A picture is not available at this time.

—Corr.

Churchs Ferry, N. Dak.

Antiochia Lutheran Church, rural Churchs Ferry, N. Dak., is observing its centennial this weekend, June 9, with services at 10:30 and 2. Rev. Jerome Nikunen is pastor of the congregation. There will be a report on the anniversary later.

ON THE PSALMS

And do not most of the Psalms consist of such earnest prayer in the midst of storms? And where are lovelier words of joy to be found than in the Psalms of praise and thanksgiving? There you see into the hearts of the saints, like looking into gay and beautiful gardens, or even heaven. What sweet and fine and lovely flowers bloom there from all kinds of lovely, happy thoughts about God and His benefits! And again, where are sadder and more plaintive words of sorrow to be found than in the penitential Psalms? There we can look into the hearts of the saints as into death, or even hell. How dark and black it is there because of the sense of the wrath of God! Thus, when they speak of fear and hope they use such vivid words that no painter could make the pictures clear, and no Cicero or any orator could so depict.

Martin Luther

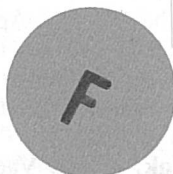
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AFLC BIBLE CAMPS

Lake Bronson — July 9-15
Family Camp

Wilderness Family Camp — July 18-22

ARC Family Camp — August 6-12

AFLBS graduates 22 on May 17

NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA DISTRICT BIBLE CAMPS SET

The district Junior camp will be held at Galilee Lutheran Bible Camp, June 18-22, with Rev. Larry Severson as dean. Rev. Martin Horn, Zumbrota, Minn., will be the evening speaker. Mrs. Emory Flaten, Newfolden, Minn., will be Bible teacher. District people will be in charge of the topical hours.

At the Senior or teenage camp, Rev. Larry Haagenon will be dean. Lay Pastor Lyle Twite, Cloquet, Minn., will speak in the evenings and Rev. Jay Erickson, Fosston, Minn., will be Bible teacher. Rev. Philip Rokke, Lake Alma, Sask., will speak in the topical hours each morning.

The district Bible Camp Sunday will be June 23.

Mrs. Harvey (Becky) Melby, Badger, Minn., is the registrar for both weeks.



Miriam Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak. receives congratulations from Pastor Richard Snipstead, President, AFLC. AFLTS graduated Mr. Jonathan Strand at the ceremony. Rev. John Strand gave the address at the 8 p.m. service.