



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

MARCH 25, 1986

Now that spring is here.
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

at the MASTER'S FEET

The newness of life

Living in the afterglow of the resurrection is a life-changing experience. These days and weeks following Easter are well-spent by discovering the ways we are personally affected by the resurrection of Christ.

Listen to the Apostle Paul as he contemplates the resurrection:

"Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

Walking in the "newness of life" is one of the greatest everyday gifts which comes to us because Christ was raised from the dead. In Sverdrup's explanation to the Catechism, he states, "The resurrection gives us power to arise from spiritual death, and to live a new and holy life." Think with me today about how your life, and mine, can be changed to reflect that newness of life.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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The same power which raised Christ from the dead is available to raise lost and condemned sinners from spiritual death. The great miracle continues on as those who are dead in trespasses and sins are made alive together with Christ. Here we rejoice in God's omnipotence, knowing that no human frailty can impede His miraculous power. Even spiritual death itself is immediately overcome by resurrection power when one trusts in the Name of the risen Christ.

Life Comes Before Walking

The illustration before us should also make us aware that one must be brought to life before any walking is considered. Far too much effort is expended in the church trying to make dead men walk! Pastors and teachers tell people how to live before they are raised from the dead, and it doesn't work. It is an imminent danger when there is too much sanctification-preaching and too little justification-preaching. All spiritual life begins with the power of the resurrection raising dead men to new life in Christ.

The Walk Does Come

God does not bring people to life spiritually so that they may live in a comatose state from then on. Rather, His intention is that there should be such a powerful infusion of life that it issues forth in vitality in all the members of the body. Eyes and ears, and fingers and toes are all brought to active life. God never creates a spiritual invalid; He brings about full and abundant life. Even those who are tempted to lose heart when faced with the trials of life are urged to "run the race," according to Hebrews 12:1-3. Yes, the walk does come.

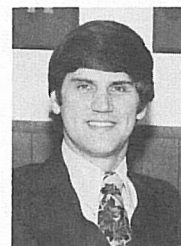
Distinctively New

When the power of the resurrection causes one to "walk in newness of life," what is distinctive about that life?

First, this man walks in the Gospel, not in the Law. His motivation and energy come from what Christ has done for him, not from what he purposes to do for God. For the most part, his life is governed from the inside out, rather than by external regulations. God deals with the heart first of all and then works out that transformation through the members of the body.

Secondly, walking in newness of life results in an enlightened view of sin. By God's grace, one is more sensitive to sin and its destructive effect. God works to develop a hatred for sin and a desire to be free from its bondage. Coupled with this, Paul teaches that those raised with Christ are no longer slaves to sin and urges us to disown its control in our lives.

Thirdly, this new walk is saturated with the joy which comes when one knows he is walking with Christ. As was true for the two men on the road to Emmaus, the presence of the risen Christ restores meaning to our conversation and vitality to our walk. It all comes to us when the power which raised Christ from the dead causes us to walk in the newness of life. Thanks be to God.



by Pastor
Kenneth Moland

WORLD HUNGER

“Is not this what I require of you as a fast: to loose the fetters of injustice, to untie the knots of the yoke, to break every yoke and set free those who have been oppressed? Is it not sharing your food with the hungry, taking the homeless poor into your house, clothing the naked when you meet them and never evading a duty to your kinsfolk? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn and soon you will grow healthy like a wound newly healed; your own righteousness shall be your vanguard and the glory of the Lord your rear-guard. Then, if you call, the Lord will answer; if you cry to Him, He will say, ‘Here I am.’ If you feed the hungry from your own plenty and satisfy the needs of the wretched, then your light will rise like dawn out of darkness and your dusk be like noonday” (Isaiah 58:6-10 NAS).

“Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, ‘Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was an hungred, and ye gave Me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave Me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took Me in: naked, and ye clothed Me: I was sick, and ye visited Me: I was in prison, and ye came unto Me.’ Then shall the righteous answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when saw we Thee an hungred, and fed Thee? or thirsty, and gave Thee drink? When saw we Thee a stranger, and took Thee in? or naked, and clothed Thee? Or when saw we Thee sick, or in prison, and came unto Thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, ‘Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me’” (Matthew 25:34-40 KJV).



By Rev.
Charles Knapp,
Karlstad, Minn.

Hungry for what?

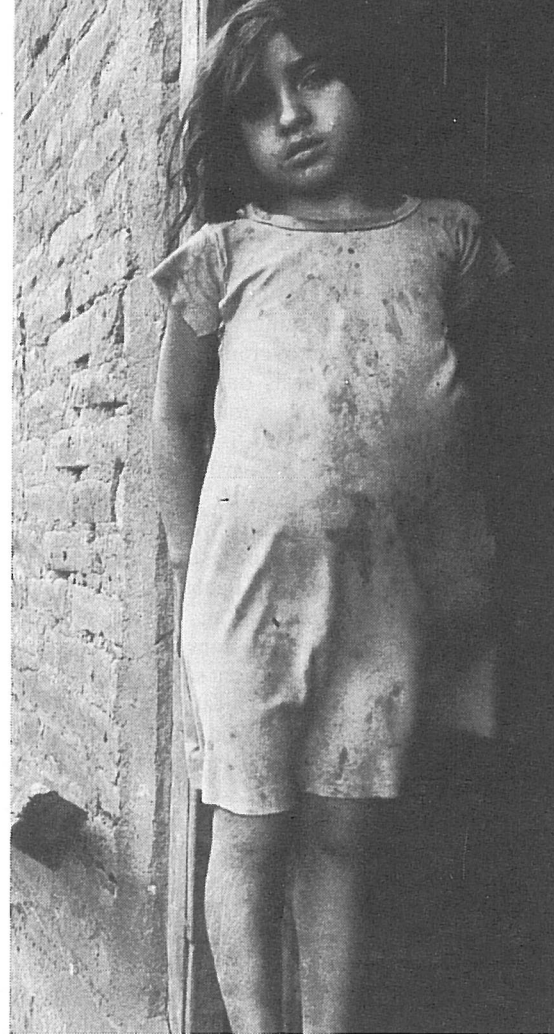
“For ye have the poor with you always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but Me ye have not always” (Mark 14:7 KJV).

“Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; that they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life” (I Timothy 6:17-19 KJV).

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be rich” (II Corinthians 8:9 KJV).

“Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged; condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven: give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:36-38 KJV).

What more can be said about world hunger and starvation than has been said and is experienced by so many millions? What about the undernourishment or malnutrition that some 180



“What do we do about all the...teeming millions who day after day do not have sufficient food?”

million experience (often by their own poor choices) in this country? What do we do about all the things we read, hear and see in the news about shriveled-up bodies, refugee camps and teeming millions who day after day do not have sufficient food? What about all the natural disasters happening more and more frequently?

Is it really our responsibility?

What specifically is our responsibility?

This matter of world hunger is a controversial issue and one which sends most on a guilt trip about their own prosperity (not all bad) and about how little they do for their neighbors near and far.

I do not believe I will be any less

Hungry . . .

controversial in my opinions, based on the Word of God, I pray.

In the Scriptures quoted in the opening, we see that we do have some responsibility as Christians to the poor, hungry and hurting. But placing an overemphasis or the primary emphasis on food and material needs for these millions, as so many organizations do, is wrong and accomplishes little of earthly and much less of eternal value.

In Isaiah 58:6, we see a spiritual emphasis to our fasting and caring, echoed again by Paul in I Corinthians 13. Physical caring alone, without spiritual sharing, does not accomplish much. Christ often said, "Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?" And He was referring to our immortal souls. There is a whole lot more to life than having food, raiment and shelter. In fact, a whole lot less of those things are needed than most of us in this country have and think to be necessary. Some who have gone to the poorer countries of the world can testify to the fact that they have seen people content with what little they have. But in this country I see a discontentment with all that we have and more so with what we have not! What a sad state of affairs. What can it profit a man to gain these worldly goods and lose his eternal soul's destiny to the fires of hell?

"There is a far greater hunger or famine...the spiritual famine."

Therefore, as Scripture points out, spiritual matters are always to be placed in primary importance over physical matters. But what we see in most of the famine areas of the world is an emphasis on food and raiment. And I say that much of the world hunger has been brought on by a lack of Gospel teaching, practice and acceptance. For one thing that is notable is that in many of these places, in Ethiopia and other African countries, there used to be a Gospel

witness and outreach, but because of recent changes in governments (most often socialistic), the Gospel has been rejected and its workers denied entry into these places. Furthermore, I just read that in war-torn El Salvador and Nicaragua crops are systematically destroyed every 21 days or so. How can such places survive much longer and human misery be ended without a Gospel witness? Well, they will not, nor will the world. Truly, we see that our world is coming apart at the seams and much of the suffering world-wide is simply due to man's rejection of God and the end of time, as prophesied in Matthew 24:6-9. And this is only the beginning of sorrows.

Certainly there are natural causes, but God is in control of nature and has in the past and present used it to punish man for his rebellion and to bring him to repentance, if he will. Then when man calls on God from a contrite and broken heart, God will heal his land.

There is a far greater hunger or famine in this world than the physical and that is the spiritual famine. This Gospel of Jesus Christ still needs to be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations (Matthew 24:14). Our primary emphasis to the

end needs to be the Gospel. Why are not more missionaries being sent out, even by our AFLC? Do not tell me it is the economic crunch in this country. I see a deep spiritual problem of undernourishment, non-exercise and sleepiness. Christians are not studying and living the Word as they ought, the church is asleep, and we have grown cold from overexposure and standing still in a cold and dying world! Let us get moving before it is too late!

Wherever the Gospel has been preached, accepted and practiced, life in all of its facets has improved. We saw that while on the mission field. We also saw that when it is rejected life is lived at the sub-level of merely existing!

Another fact that is true is that there is not a lack of production of food in this world, but a problem of distribution and greed. Even where there is famine, food is ripped off at the top and the truly needy receive little. Man without Christ is greedy and selfish, but man in Christ is willing to share all, even his own life. We can measure the vitality of our Christianity by how much we are giving of ourselves and our possessions to the spreading of the Gospel. How do we measure up? Let us not

"Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:19a).

The Christian Church is under the Great Commission. Our main task is to evangelize the world. Everything we do should contribute to the task of carrying out this commission.

There are many ways to do the work of evangelism in the church. One of the ways that has been very special to congregations in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is to have a week of special evangelistic meetings once or twice a year in the local congregation. To help carry out this task we have had two full-time evangelists - first, Rev. David Molstre, and more recently, Rev. Kenneth Pentti. After Pastor Pentti's passing last July the Commission on Evangelism, in coordination

the church under commission

with the Co-Ordinating Committee, have met together several times to discuss the calling of another full-time evangelist.

At a recent joint meeting the decision was made that, because of the financial short-fall at this time, no full-time evangelist would be called, at least for one year.

A further decision calls upon the Commission of Evangelism to call a corps of at least ten men in the Association to be a corps of evangelists

stretch things! Let us take an accurate measure by God's Word (Romans 12:1-2).

One Christmas my wife gave me a stretchable tape measure, a one-foot piece of elastic, with the inches marked on it! Now, if only I could stretch the boards when I cut them too short! No, God's Word has not changed nor has His message to lost man, starving and shackled in sin. It is still repent and believe or you will perish. Repent and believe and He brings life abundant (complete, full, satisfying) in more than one way.

Also, much more food can be produced in this world than now is. There are plants that, if cultivated on a large scale, can produce more substantial food per acre than crops currently used. There is land, even in our own country, that is underused (I say because of greed and sin). And do not ever tell me that the world is overpopulated. Talk to God about that. He told man to be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth, and He has not revoked that command. The earth is by no means full, though there is crowding in some places. The solution to world hunger is not birth control, as some preach, but sin control or, better put, Spirit-control through the preaching of the Gospel.

"What are you doing on earth for heaven's sake?"

God will finally show man how to run things in the thousand-year reign of Christ on this earth! There will be more people then than now!

So I take a simplistic view of the problem of world hunger! But then some things are a lot simpler than we make them out to be. We can complicate any issue we want to, especially when we do not want to face up to the primary reason and responsibility. So what do I offer as practical solutions?

First, each of us must get his life in order, spiritually and physically. Judgment must begin at the house of God. Read I Peter 4 and let the Spirit speak to you about how a Christian is to live in these last days. What are you doing on earth for heaven's sake?

Secondly, let us give of ourselves and our possessions more than ever to promote the outreach of the Gospel. Why do we need more of the earthly goods when Scripture tells us to be content with food and raiment? Some say that for the sake of saving in the

long run they buy all sorts of new equipment, that is the "in thing to do." Christian, you do not know about another day! Moreover, you are not to be conformed to this world, but to heaven where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Remember the rich man in Luke 12:16-21 whenever you consider laying up treasures on this earth. We need to be a whole lot more heavenly-minded to be of any earthly good in this materialistic, humanistic age.

Thirdly, *Action*; get out there and do what you can where you can. Matthew 28:18-20 is Christ's promise to give us power and to be with us as we go and teach the Gospel in all ways, to all nations until He comes again! May we be found faithful. All glory be to God.

Life has won the victory

That is life's victory and triumph, that in Christ life reigns and triumphs in opposition to death, and that death has no power to hold not only Christ but also those who are baptized in Christ and believe in Him.

It is that the Apostle speaks of here (I Cor. 15:57). He means to say: death lies on the ground. It has lost its kingdom, might and victory. For over against the kingdom and victory of death, our Lord God, the Lord of Hosts, has brought about another victory, which is the resurrection of the dead in Christ. Here is pure life and no death. Death is conquered in Christ and is dead itself. Life has won the victory and retains it.

Martin Luther
(Day By Day We Magnify Thee)

who can give one, two or more weeks per year, away from their other work, to hold evangelistic meetings in local congregations. A list of names will be presented to the next meeting of the Co-Ordinating Committee for review. These names would then be available through the chairman of the Commission on Evangelism or Pastor Snipstead's office.

Now, of course, the local congregation is free to invite whomever they wish to be their evangelist. This corps of evangelists will only be to fill in the place of the full-time evangelist for any congregation that would like this help in finding a speaker.

In my years in LEM I saw more than one Lutheran congregation come alive spiritually by the one significant

special emphasis on evangelism by having a week of evangelistic meetings in their congregation. Out of this new-found spiritual life have come renewed homes, marriages and families. There have also been men for the ministry, candidates for the mission field and new homes that were founded with Jesus Christ as the cornerstone. This is our commission as a church, to "make disciples of all nations." May we never lose our vision of the need of the work of evangelism in the local congregation.

Rev. Laurel M. Udden
On behalf of the
Commission on Evangelism

Christians, who with sorrow

Christians, who with sorrow
On this Easter morrow
Watch the Savior's tomb,
Banish all your sadness,
On this day of gladness
Joy must conquer gloom.
Christ this hour
With mighty power
Crushed the foe who would detain
Him;
Nothing could restrain Him.

Rise, ye feeble hearted,
Who have pined and smarted,
Vexed by sin and dread,
He has broken the prison
And with might arisen,
Jesus who was dead.
And His bride
For whom He died
Now from sin and death He raises,
Hence, give Him your praises!

When thy sins aggrieve thee,
Jesus will receive thee,
All thy debt He paid.
We who were transgressors
Are now blest possessors
Of His grace and aid.
When in death
He gave His breath
To the cruel He yielded
That we should be shielded.

Earth, where are thy wonders!
Hell, where are thy thunders!
Death, where is thy sting!
Jesus rose victorious
Reigns forever glorious
As our Lord and King,
Him, the Lord,
Who did accord
Us so great a joy and favor,
We will praise forever.

H. A. Brorson

(Hymnal for Church and Home)

Having a common purpose and seeking one goal, we join together as free congregations for Christian fellowship, mutual edification, the salvation of souls and whatever work may be necessary that the Kingdom of God may come among us and our fellow men. No bonds of compulsion bind us save those which the Holy Spirit lays upon us.

No man fully understands the times and the situations in which he lives. At best we see through a glass darkly. Nevertheless, each Christian must decide in the light of God's Word and the evidence which he has what course of action he should take and to what causes his life should be given. It is the same for the Christian congregations. Imperfect as it is, it must decide in what fellowship of other congregations it can best live out its purpose for being. Out of considerable soul-searching and prayer we have come to choose to continue as Lutheran free churches.

As we stand at this particular moment of time we give thanks for the heritage of the past. We recognize and confess our indebtedness to many noble souls of the faith, both the relatively unknown who are faithful in their places and the ones on whom God placed the mantle of leadership. Even as it is true that before the Cross of Christ there are no self-made men, so it is true that we have shared in blessings from many and are debtors.

It seems good to us as we join together for common work and fellowship to state our beliefs in regard to the following matters.

I. Doctrine

1. We accept and believe in the Holy Bible as the complete written Word of God and preserved to us by the Holy Spirit for our salvation and instruction.
2. We endorse the statement on the Word as found in the United Testimony on Faith and Life and would quote here the following. "We bear witness that the Bible is our only authentic and infallible

DECLARATION

Last in a series of AFLC documents

source of God's revelation to us and all men, and that it is the only inerrant and completely adequate source and norm of Christian doctrine and life. We hold that the Bible, as a whole and in all its parts, is the Word of God under all circumstances regardless of man's attitude toward it."

3. We accept the ancient ecumenical symbols, namely, the Apostles', the Nicene, and the Athanasian Creeds; Luther's Small Catechism and the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as the true expression of the Christian faith and life.
4. We reject any affiliations or associations which do not accept the Bible alone as definitive for the life and practice of man and the church.
5. We submit all religious teaching to the test of II John 7-11.
6. We endorse no one version or revision of the Bible to the exclusion of others. We recommend all which are reverent and true translations.

II. Christian Unity

1. He who believes in and accepts the sufficient work of Jesus for his salvation and is baptized is a child of God.
2. The Christian is united by the strongest bonds to those who share this faith with him whether they come from his own denomination or another.
3. We believe that Jesus in His High Priestly Prayer prayed that those who believe in Him might find and accept each other.
4. In some situations and in some times it is possible that unions of groups of congregations may be desirable.
5. We recommend that our congregations cooperate wherever possible with like-minded Lutheran congregations and movements in programs of evangelism and witness.

OF FAITH

LUTHER ON "JUST WAR"

6. We envision opportunities for our congregations to cooperate with other Protestant churches in the areas of evangelism and witness to their communities. However, care must be taken not to compromise the Lutheran understanding of the Scriptures.

III. Church Polity

1. We believe that final human authority in the churches is vested in the local congregation, subject to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit.
2. Scripture does not command or forbid any particular organization for fellowship of congregations. In the absence of this we believe it is most safe to operate in a democratic way.
3. Conferences of the congregations of our fellowship do not enact law for the congregations, but simply recommend actions and practices to them.
4. In a free association of congregations such as this, neither its officers or conferences can negotiate the union of any or all of the congregations with another fellowship of congregations. This is an individual matter for the congregation.
5. We accept the Guiding Principles of the Lutheran Free Church as a true statement of our belief in regard to church polity.
6. The Holy Christian Church consists of those who in their hearts truly believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
7. A free congregation selects and calls its own pastor, conducts its own program of worship, fellowship and service, and owns and maintains its own property.

IV. Practical Life

1. The Christian seeks to refrain from those acts, thoughts and words which are against a stated law of God.

2. Where actions and practices are neither forbidden nor encouraged in Scripture by name, the earnest believer will search in the Scriptures for principles to guide his decisions and conduct.
3. He is aware that there is a separation which is necessary between the Christian and the world.
4. Ultimately every Christian makes his own decisions as to life and practice in the presence of His God. But he welcomes the sincere counsel of fellow believers.
5. Every Christian is responsible for his witness by life to others and will govern himself, with the Lord's help, accordingly.
6. The Christian will refrain from belonging to organizations which practice a religion without Christ as the only Saviour. Belonging to such a group places the believer in a hopelessly compromised position and destroys his witness for Christ.

V. Church Life

1. We make no recommendation as to the use of liturgy and vestments except that we encourage simplicity in worship.
2. We believe the earliest Christians were extremely simple in their order of service. Whatever is added to the service carries the danger of becoming only form.
3. Even the simple parts of the service may become only form.
4. The preaching of the Word of God must be the central part of the service.
5. True Gospel preaching endeavors to meet the needs of all who hear: the believer who desires to grow in his life with God, the seeking and uncertain souls who want to see Him, the hypocrite who must be awakened from his self-righteousness, and the hardened sinner who must still be called to saving faith.
6. The Sacraments must always be met by the response of faith in the heart of the recipient to be efficacious.

When I look at war, how it punishes the wicked, slays wrongdoers and makes such desolation in the earth, it appears to be a very unchristian thing and altogether contrary to Christian love. But when I consider how it defends the godly and protects wife and child, house and home, earthly possessions and honor and keeps them in peace, it is seen to be a good and godly thing. For if the sword did not defend and maintain peace, everything in the world would go to rack and ruin. Therefore such a war is nothing but a short absence of peace to prevent everlasting and unbounded strife; a small misery preventing a great misery.

Martin Luther
Day by Day We Magnify Thee

7. Hymn books should be such as will give honor to the Word of God and the Sacraments.
8. Congregations will cherish opportunities for Bible study and prayer fellowship.
9. Congregations are encouraged to have fellowship with one another in various activities.
10. The Lord has given talents and gifts to Christian lay people as well as pastors, and opportunity should be given for the practice of these gifts in the life of the congregations, also in meetings of fellowship outside the congregation, and in service to a needy world.

Submitted to the Special Conference
of Lutheran Congregations at
Thief River Falls, Oct. 25-28, 1962

BRAZIL '86

Have you prayed for opportunities to serve the Lord?

Do you have an earnest desire to influence others for your Savior?

A summer term of mission service might be just the right step for YOU!

WHAT IS BRAZIL '86?

- * An opportunity to work with the AFLC national church in Brazil.
- * A varied kind of ministry will be carried on, including sharing Christ, working with children and youth, visitation, and manual labor, such as painting, building, etc.

WHO MAY GO?

- * Team members will be chosen by the World Missions Department.
- * Applicants must be active Christians of AFLC doctrinal conviction.
- * Applicants must have at least completed the Junior year of high school.
- * Applicants will be asked to state their purpose in applying for short term mission service, their present Christian involvement in their local church and other activities, and how they hope to use this experience after returning home to the USA.
- * Applicants need the recommendation of their local pastor plus two other Christian adults.
- * Applicants need to be in good health and demonstrate a cheerful spirit of cooperation, respect for authority, and a servant's heart.

HOW MUCH WILL THIS TRIP COST?

- * Each applicant will be responsible for raising his/her necessary funds. The two-month term of service in Brazil will cost \$1,800. This covers travel and food. Personal expenses are a matter for each applicant to decide for himself/herself.
- * Those who are selected for the mission team may share with Christian friends and congregations their God-motivated desire to serve the Lord in this ministry; God may move them to financially support this trip. **PRAYER IS THE KEY.**

WILL I BE TRAINED FOR THIS TRIP?

- * Yes, definitely! A week of training at AFLC Schools Campus in Minneapolis before the trip will provide Bible study, cultural and language training, along with character development and insights into witnessing, presenting programs, etc.

REQUEST APPLICATION FORM FROM THE WORLD MISSIONS DEPARTMENT, AFLC, 3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard, Minneapolis, Minn. 55441-3099.

*“If
my
people”*



II Chronicles 7:14 says, “If my people, who are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

This verse can be described as a “miniature manual” setting forth our Lord’s requirements in order that we might have revival. The principles involved are, first, God’s people, and secondly, God Himself.

Who are God’s people? This is a very simple question, but a most personal one. If revival is to come, *we* are the ones who must pray. *We* are the ones who must humble ourselves, and seek His face, and turn from our wicked ways. We as Christians talk about revival a great deal, but why doesn’t revival come? Obviously, as Christians, we do not pray as we ought. We are not willing to humble ourselves before God, nor our fellow men. We seek everything but the face of God. And, there ought to be much, much more turning away from our sinful ways.

“If”. It is such a big word! *If*

my people. Now we are faced with a choice—we either will, or we will not. Do we really desire revival? Are we willing to pay the price? Are we willing to agonize in prayer, to implore God’s Spirit of power, to search the Scriptures, to work and to testify, so that revival might come? Are we truly and honestly burdened for the spiritual welfare of our own souls and the souls of our neighbors?

If we will, then God will! Do you believe it? God is faithful. He will answer. He will forgive our sins. He will heal our land.

Will you join this year, in 1986, with hundreds of others in the AFLC, in disciplined, beseeching, believing prayer for revival? It has never been needed more. The voices of decency and goodness are growing more dim. Sin abounds. Families are being torn asunder. Souls are marching to an endless, Christ-less eternity, and no one seems able to stem the tide. *Will you pray?*

May God give us a burden of prayer!

Clifford E. Johnson, Coordinator
AFLC 25th Anniversary Committee

editorials

ROAD TO EMMAUS

At our Bible School, times of sharing following youth rallies are called "after-glow" meetings. If not already, we shall shortly be in the after-glow of Easter, a time when we feel a warmth from our celebration of the resurrection of our Lord.

The beloved post-resurrection story of the walk to Emmaus is one that never fails to stir us. The artists' pictures of it (we have seen two portrayals) hang in many of our homes and churches.

The road to Emmaus was one of *perplexity* at first. You see, the two men who set out for Emmaus (some think one was Luke) hadn't yet heard that Jesus was risen. They were still mulling over what seemed to them a tragedy.

Even so perplexities and doubts come in our lives. Things don't work out as we expect. A business venture fails. Sickness hampers life for oneself or loved ones. A loved one dies. Troubles erupt in the congregation. Lord, why do things work out this way?

Answers often don't come easily. Sin is a discernible part of the problem sometimes and the ultimate reason always. Yet some situations are just inexplicable. We find we have to lean harder on God.

Then *illumination* took place on the road to Emmaus. The two were joined by a third. They didn't realize that it was Jesus. Somehow their eyes were holden. After this newcomer heard their laments, He burst forth, "O slow of heart to believe!" and then patiently interpreted it all. Wouldn't we like to have all of that discourse recorded? But we do have what we need for belief. Our faith must be based on them—the prophecies, the Gospels, the Epistles, etc. "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:31).

The Emmaus Road story climaxes with *manifestation*. We like this part, don't we? The two men persuaded their mysterious companion to eat with them. And there, in the breaking of bread, they knew He was Jesus. He vanished from their sight and they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?"

For us, it is the Holy Spirit who illumines our hearts with the truth, if we are open to His work. God grant that we may be.

Then the two men, one was Cleopas, retraced their steps, those 12-15 miles, and came into the company of the disciples. With excitement they all shared the reality which was growing in their lives, "Jesus is alive!" Then, as you know, Jesus came into their very midst.

If we were to add one more word to those we have suggested—perplexity, illumination, manifestation—it would be *testimony*. They told what they had heard and

seen. That's what is needed today. If you know Jesus rose from the dead and is the living Lord, tell others.

STATE COLLEGES

The Central Area Bible Conference about two months ago made use of the facilities of Mayville State College (N. Dak.) for part of the conference. Some of us were housed in an early day dormitory, West Hall.

What an impressive trio of buildings the college has in its main building and East and West Halls. Built in the early part of the century, they are exceptional representatives of architecture and building in that era. We were fascinated by them. Long may they stand.

It was of interest, too, to this writer, to be on the campus since one of his father's greatly respected teachers at Augsburg Seminary, Dr. J. O. Evjen (who was born in Ishpeming, Mich., by the way), was later president of Mayville State College for several years (1919-23).

The Association has now made use of the facilities of a number of public colleges in North Dakota. Annual Conferences have been held at the State University, Fargo, 1977; State College, Valley City, 1980; and State College, Dickinson, 1982. In 1965 the Luther League Federation convention was held at the University in Grand Forks. Now this year a Bible conference made use of Mayville State College.

Perhaps in the future our church may also find occasion to hold church gatherings on the campuses of state schools in Williston, Minot, Wahpeton, Bismarck, Devils Lake and Bottineau. The state schools belong to the people and they do provide excellent accommodations for housing, food and meeting rooms.

Of course, other states have such facilities available for us also, but it is in North Dakota that we have made use of them up to now.

The AFLC has also rented space at two privately-owned educational institutions as well for Annual Conferences. They are Suomi College (LCA), Hancock, Mich. (1976), and Oak Grove Lutheran High School (ALC) Fargo, 1967.

JUBILATE!

After recounting our Redeemer's foretaste of triumph on Palm Sunday, and His apparent defeat on Good Friday, we may now celebrate His victory on Easter, when He broke the bands of death, led captivity captive, and came forth from the tomb in the plenitude of life. Well may the whole Christian Church today sing its Jubilate!

L. S. Keyser



Part of the tent and trailer area. There are 130 sites.



Swimming Pool

youth activities planned

The churches of western Washington would like to welcome you to the Pacific Northwest for this year's Annual Conference and inform you about some of the things happening here this year.

In past years there has not been much at the conference for youth. But this year we felt a need to make it a family affair because we are encouraging people to take their vacations at conference time. Therefore the AFLBS Ambassadors will be working with the youth in a Bible camp setting during the business sessions. There will be Bible study, crafts, missionary stories and recreation. We hope this will help many of you decide to bring your families to the conference.

This year the people at Warm

Beach have required that we give them an accurate count of how many will be attending the conference. This is so they can have the proper amount of staff and food on hand. Therefore, if you are planning to stay at the Warm Beach site, you must have reservations. We realize this has not been required in the past and hope it will not be too much of an inconvenience. For reservations, please call or write:

Sheri Larson
6323 83rd Ave. S.E.
Snohomish, Wash. 98290
206-568-8469

The prices quoted are for four person occupancy of each room. That means if the buildings do become full and you have fewer than four people in your room we may have

Conference update

We hope that a few sights of Warm Beach, Washington, will serve as a reminder that the 1986 Annual Conference is not far off. All preparations are going smoothly, but there needs to be a few words said to those who are planning to come. If you are coming by air, transportation can be provided from SeaTac Airport to Warm Beach. Please notify Sheri Larson of your arrival date, time, flight number and airline. If you are coming by train, transportation from the Everett Depot to Warm Beach is available. Again, contact Sheri Larson at 6323 83rd Ave. S.E., Snohomish, Wash. 98290, (206) 568-8469. This year there is need to pre-register for Annual Conference. Warm Beach Camp has given us a preliminary deadline of May 30 and a final deadline of June 9, to allow them to make the necessary food purchases. There is room for some leeway after these dates, but we would appreciate knowing before May 30. We also need to know if you are planning on taking meals at camp even if you are staying off the camp grounds. A final word to the wise: June evenings can be cool. Be prepared to dress accordingly.

to fill the room. We don't see that this will become a problem as we have rented the whole camp.

We are looking forward to your visit to the Northwest and praying that many will come to be spiritually refreshed while doing the business of our Church.

Pastor Del Palmer
Chairman, 1986 Conference
Committee

"Through Him you have confidence in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him to glory, so that your faith and hope are in God" (1 Peter 1:21).



The Program Center. Site of conference sessions.

Conference - goers: plan a Kalispell stop

Stillwater and Faith Lutheran Churches, Kalispell, Mont., will hold a special service at Stillwater (eight miles northwest of Kalispell), on Monday evening, June 9, at 7:30 p.m.

This will be a special time of fellowship and sharing with all who are travelling through our area on the way to the Annual Conference at Warm Beach, Wash.

We would also be glad to provide lodging or space for campers, etc., at our homes for those so desiring.

If you'll be able to be with us,

please send a card and indicate if you'll need lodging and what type.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Stillwater Lutheran Church
1401 Church Drive
Kalispell, Mont. 59901

Faith Lutheran Church
405 Liberty Street
Kalispell, Mont. 59901

(Approximate distance from Kalispell to Warm Beach, bypassing Seattle, is 535 miles.)

The sacrifice of Christ

The sacrifice of Christ, which was offered once, avails for ever, and we are blessed because we believe in it. If anyone sets up anything alongside this sacrifice, it is sacrilege.

... the alarmed conscience feels God's anger at sin. There is no help for us save in the sacrifice of Christ, who prays to the Father for us, saying, "My Father, the sinner is weak, and is gripped by great anxieties. Give him to Me, I have atoned for him. He trusts in my eternal sacrifice."

But whoever turns away from this sacrifice, looking elsewhere, can never find any help.

—Martin Luther

Day By Day We Magnify Thee

RALLY TO THE ROYAL CHALLENGE

Rally to the royal challenge,
Hearken to the battle cry!
Wake, arise from idle slumber,
To His call make prompt reply!
Christ is calling out His army,
That will follow without fear;
He will lead it on to vict'ry, -
Be a loyal volunteer!

Gideon of old responded
To the challenge of the Lord,
And in faith he faced the masses
In obedience to His Word,
And he conquered, not with thousands,
With a little fearless band,
Multitudes were then defeated,
For the Lord was in command.

Be a brave and fearless soldier,
'Neath His banner take your stand,
For the undefeated Captain,
Jesus Christ is in command.
Though the foe may boast of numbers
And display an outward show,
They who follow Christ shall conquer
Over Every boastful foe!

C.K. Solberg
(from *The Quiet Moments*)

Kasson church honors Harriet Trygstad

On January 4, Mt. Zion Congregation had a surprise party for Harriet Trygstad. Originally, the plan was to have the party with our monthly fellowship dinner, but alas, Harriet broke her ankle on Christmas Day. So instead, after our dinner, we all traveled to her home for a time of fellowship.

Pastor Martin Horn led in devotions from Phil. 1:3-6, which was then followed by some poetry shared by Marlene Unverzagt that helped to express our feelings for Harriet. For the conclusion, Ruth Carstensen presented Harriet with an Honorary Membership pin in the WMF. Last, but not least, there was, of course, coffee and cake and just a lovely

relaxed time together.

Why did we try to honor and tell Harriet that we love her? Just to list a few of Harriet's contributions—organist, Sunday School teacher, WMF officer—are a few of the things that she is officially involved in at church. On a personal level she is a superb friend, listener, supporter in prayer and helper. She is usually the first one to volunteer for baking, cleaning or driving somewhere. With her willingness to share her many talents, she is a superb example to the rest of us.

She has touched many lives in the community through her many years of teaching in the Rochester area, leading and hosting a home Bible

study, piano lessons, plus involvement in numerous professional organizations. She was selected Teacher of the Year in 1965 and received a Freedom Foundation grant for study in Washington, D.C.

So we would invite the readers of the *Ambassador* to join us in a heartfelt thanks to our heavenly Father for having blessed us with Harriet all these years. May He grant us many more fruitful years together.

S.W. Central Minnesota District Rally

Tues. May 6

Calvary Lutheran,
Fergus Falls, Minn.

Pastor and Mrs.

Connely Dyrud,
speakers

Registration 9:30 a.m.

More on Missionary Inga Helland

The following information has been received about the death of Missionary Inga Helland, who passed away January 20 in Bryne, Norway. It comes from the former Lutheran Free Church missionary, Miriam Ahlness Iversen, Stavanger, Norway.

From her letter to the American Lutheran Church Division for World Mission and Inter-Church Cooperation:

I happened to see the notice of Inga Maria Helland's death in the evening newspaper and Helge and I attended her funeral the next day. Undheim Chapel was an hour's drive from Stavanger, located in the open farm land of Jaeren.

We were invited to attend the gathering following the funeral and I was asked to bring a greeting which I did on behalf of TALC DWMIC and of the former Lutheran Free Church. The family was appreciative of a greeting from America. The Norwegian Misjonsselskap had two

representatives and a floral bouquet. One of them said that Inga had gone on deputation for them after she retired in Norway. Inga with her sense of humor had said that being a pensionist she could travel for half-fare.

The wife of the senior pastor said that now she knew why Inga lived so long. Inga supported the work in Madagascar as long as she lived. This person was a nurse at the nursing home where Inga was the last few years of her life and said she often called out at night and perhaps one of the reasons they didn't understand her was that she was likely speaking Malagasy.

Inga was in our home in Mpls., and we were together on various occasions. Mother and I visited her in Norway when we were enroute to Mpls. from Hong Kong in 1966. Helge and I have visited her a number of times. The last time I saw her was in the summer of 1982 when

Helen Arnseth and I visited her in the Nursing Home. Then she didn't always follow along but she did walk with us to the door when we left.

And from the remarks of Pastor Bjorn Torne Pettersen, assistant pastor in Time Parish:

Inga Helland was not spared from suffering and the darkness of sickness and pain after she came home. It is not easy for someone to feel in their own eyes that they are inactive and useless after a long life of faithful work for the Lord.

Although she was not as clear as before, I have in these days heard several testimonies that He who began a good work in her used her through an active life as missionary—also fulfilled it (Phil. 1:6), and through her last year she set prints that she herself did not see. "How much less when you say that you do not see Him, that the case is before Him, and you are waiting for Him!" (Job 35:14).

The many in attendance here is a quiet but telling witness of thankfulness for what she in different ways meant for the individual. In thankfulness and respect we together with all who have met her now invoke God's peace over Inga Marie Helland's memory.

Never on Sunday

This is no doubt an irrelevant article, irrelevant in that it does not pertain to those who will be reading this magazine. We all know that Christian husbands and wives never have any moments of disagreements. Even more surely we know that pastors and their wives do not have such times of disharmony. However, just in case there is one person or couple that has such things come up in their daily walk this article may be helpful. It is to this end the article is written.

In I Peter 5:8, we read: "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." Do you believe that? If we really believed that we would be more vigilant and watchful.

Have you ever thought that Sunday is the target day for Satan and his work? If we realize that Sunday is the day of so much Christian ministry and activity it only follows that Sunday is Satan's special day for his work as well. Satan's work and plan is to thwart the work of the Lord and His Word in any way that he can. It also surely follows that not only is Sunday his target day but also that Christians and especially pastors, missionaries and other Christian workers are his main target. Was it not always on the Sabbath, when Jesus came into the Temple to pray and worship, that He found His greatest opposition when He did the work of His Father in teaching, and preaching and healing? It is an interesting study to see how many times that open opposition came to Jesus' ministry on the Sabbath, as you go through the Gospels. The Sabbath, the day of worship, prayer, teaching, fellowship, ministry and all the good things that come from the ministry of the Word, this is the chief day of Satan's arrows.

Have you ever noticed that it is often on Sunday that Satan works to disrupt the ministry of the Word in any way that he can? How often it is on Sunday that the family problem that has been "building up" is suddenly brought up and out in the open.

It is on Sunday that something goes wrong with the car, the pump on the farm freezes, the blizzard comes, the long standing, unreconciled feud erupts. The list could go on and on and each one of you could add many things to the list from your own experience if you would just think about this.

If, then, it is true that Christians, and especially when they are engaged in a specific ministry, are the devil's prime targets and that Sunday is his target day, what can we do about it?

First, let's realize that whenever a pastor is up to preach a sermon, a Sunday School teacher is teaching a lesson, the choir is singing, someone is giving a testimony, that at that moment they are the special target of Satan's work. First of all, we should be in prayer as these minister. Our prayers should be with them during the week as well. These same people are under attack as they prepare

for this ministry and Satan will do anything to keep them from preparing properly.

Second, as we realize this truth, let us consciously try to keep away from those things that can disrupt the ministry, and say to ourselves, "Never on Sunday." That problem, that issue, can wait until Monday or Tuesday, but let's leave Sunday for the unobstructed ministry of the Word of God. Now, of course, some things we have no control over, such as weather or other "natural" acts. We can, however, avoid such encounters if we will only realize we could be the "tool in Satan's hand" to hinder the ministry much like Peter when he told Jesus that He should never go to the cross.

Sunday is a glorious day when God does His work through faithful servants in many ways. Let's plan to keep the Sabbath as a day of rest and worship, not a day of strife or conflict. The Lord will bless us for it.

Pastor Laurel M. Udden
Minneapolis, Minn.

"Have you ever thought that Sunday is the target day for Satan and his work?"

AFLBS CHORAL CLUB ITINERARY

	April 6-	Christ the King Lutheran Church Pipestone, Minn. 9:00 a.m. Redeemer Lutheran Church Canton, S. Dak. 7:30 p.m.
March 31-	Zion Lutheran Church Willmar, Minn. 7:30 p.m.	
April 1-	Grace Lutheran Church Valley City, N. Dak. 7:30 p.m.	
April 2-	Tabor Lutheran Church Webster, S. Dak. 8:00 p.m.	April 7-
April 3-	Calvary Lutheran Church Wallace, S. Dak.	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Stanhope, Ia. 7:30 p.m.
April 4-	Pukwana Lutheran Church Pukwana, S. Dak. 7:30 p.m.	April 8-
April 5-	Open	Open
		April 9-
		Emmanuel Lutheran Church Kenyon, Minn. 8:00 p.m.

The Choral Club is directed by
Mr. Tom Olson.

AFLBS Choir Itinerary

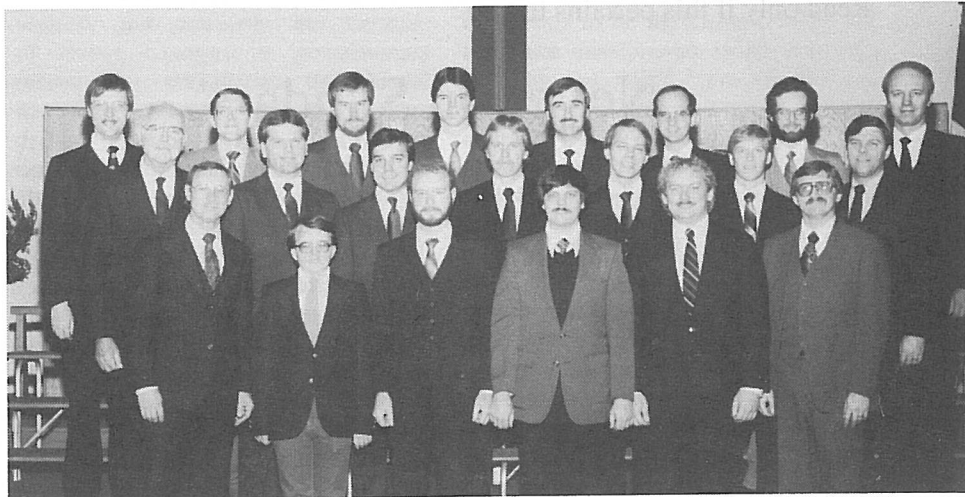
- March 31— Zion Lutheran Church
Dalton, Minn.
8:00 p.m.
- April 1— Calvary Lutheran Church
Bismarck, N. Dak.
7:30 p.m.
- April 2— Our Savior's Lutheran
Church
Dickinson, N. Dak.
7:30 p.m.
- April 3— Zion Lutheran Church
Tioga, N. Dak.
7:30 p.m.
- April 4— Bethel Lutheran Church
Minot, N. Dak.
7:30 p.m.
- April 5— Bethel Lutheran Church
Grafton, N. Dak.
9:30 a.m.
- April 6— Our Saviour's Lutheran
Church
Thief River Falls, Minn.
9:30 a.m.
Reiner Lutheran Church
Goodridge, Minn.
11:00 a.m.
Elim Chapel
546 Portage Ave.
Winnipeg, Man.
7:00 p.m.
- April 7— School Auditorium
Badger, Minn.
7:30 p.m.
- April 8— Good Shepherd Lutheran
Church
Virginia, Minn.
7:30 p.m.
- April 9— St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Cloquet, Minn.
6:30 p.m.

The choir is under the direction
of Mr. Dan Oie.

Teaching Position

Elementary teacher (primary grades)
St. Paul's Academy. Send letter of
application, resume and college tran-
script to: Bill Gerard, chairman, St.
Paul's Academy, 18th and Wilson,
Cloquet, Minn. 55720.

(You may call the Academy at
218-879-2536 for more information).



AFLTS Faculty and Student Body

Front row, left to right, Rev. Ralph
Tjelta, faculty, Lynn Wilson, York,
Neb., Steven Olinger, Ferndale,
Wash., Michael Crowell, Sierra Vista,
Ariz., Keith Quanbeck, McVile, N.
Dak., and Rev. Philip Haugen, fac-
ulty; middle row, Rev. Amos Dyrud,
faculty, Brian Pearson, Cloquet,
Minn., James Ritter, Stevens Point,
Wis., Lloyd Quanbeck, McVile,
Craig Johnson, Astoria, Ore., Mark

Molstre, Fargo, N. Dak., and Rev.
Donald Greven, faculty; and top row,
Rev. Robert L. Lee, faculty, Mark
Bateson, Minneapolis, Minn., Tim-
othy Carlson, West Salem, Wis.,
Jerry Moan, McIntosh, Minn., James
Rasmussen, McHenry, N. Dak.,
Thomas Olson, Coon Valley, Wis.,
Reuben Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak.,
and Rev. Francis Monseth, dean.

"Friends"

An AFLC family is pursuing a
ministry in Christian Music. They
are called "Friends" and have been
performing on a part-time basis for
over a year. Their program is designed
for use in any church function or
youth gathering, as their music ap-
peals to both young and old.

The group consists of Gayle,
Yvonne (AFLBS Class of '84), and
Darrell (AFLBS Class of '81) Haugen.
They are natives of Binford, N.
Dak., and members of New Luther
Valley Lutheran Church, McVile,
N. Dak. Jerry Blake (AFLBS Class
of '79) of Ontonagon, Mich., and
Redeemer Lutheran Church is also
part of this group, controlling the
sound board. Gayle is an elementary
teacher; Jerry, Darrell and Yvonne
have attended Moorhead State Uni-
versity. Their program includes both
song (primarily original compositions)
and personal testimony.



"Friends" would like to share
their ministry in your church or Chris-
tian gathering. For more information,
contact them at (701) 282-7097 or
503 1st Avenue N.W., West Fargo,
N. Dak. 58078.

"He foresaw and spoke of the
resurrection of the Christ, that He
was not abandoned to Hades, nor
did His flesh see corruption. This
Jesus God raised up, and of that
we all are witnesses" (Acts 2:31,
32).

Eastern Bible Conference report



Pastor Brian Davidson is pictured in the foreground, left, and Mr. Walter Peterson, right.



Pastor Francis Monseth, Bible teacher



Pastor Laurel Udden, Evangelist

February 7-9 marked the weekend of the Eastern Bible Conference, this year held at Grace Lutheran Church, 1121 South 1st St., DeKalb, Ill. Rev. Dennis Gray is the pastor of this congregation.

Rev. Laurel Udden and Rev. Francis Monseth, both of Minneapolis, Minn., were the evangelist and Bible teacher, respectively. Many people attended from congregations in Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan.

Many worthwhile facts from Halesby's book, *Prayer*, were discussed. Lack of prayer is a characteristic of a backslidden church. One percent of families pray together. The average lay person prays for four minutes a day, the average pastor, seven minutes. Prayer is a sacred and God-given responsibility. Lord, teach us how to pray!

continued on p.16

Spicer, Minn.

On January 26 a Choral Club Gospel team from Association Free Lutheran Bible School shared in song and testimony at Green Lake Lutheran, Spicer, Minn. Pastor Ralph Tjelta of the faculty spoke from Matthew 20 on being laborers for Christ.

The Green Lake Mixed Quartet, consisting of Candice Johnson, Pam Jones, Larry Stulen and Alan Arneson, accompanied by Carol Stulen at the piano, ministered in song at a special

service at Chippewa Lutheran Church, Brandon, Minn., recently. Pastor Rodney Johnson gave a meditation.

Badger, Minn.

February 2nd was designated Mission emphasis Sunday at Badger Creek Lutheran Church. The special program consisted of songs sung by the Sunday School, a song by a group of ladies and a skit by Pastor and Mrs. Nordvall and Bonnie, and their puppets "Mike and Mandy." After the worship ser-



St. John's in Duluth to call first pastor

St. John's Lutheran in Duluth, Minn., has selected a call committee to nominate pastoral candidates for its home mission congregation.

Members of the call committee, from left to right, are Mark Quiram, Evelyn Nappe, and John McAllister.

St. John's was started as a home mission church in October of 1984 by St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran of Cloquet, Minn. Presently, St. John's is being served by Pastor Tony Stockman, the assistant pastor at St. Paul's.

In memoriam

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

MINNESOTA

Fergus Falls

Mrs. Lorimer (Irene) Torgerson, 76, Dec. 13, 1985, Calvary (Mrs. Torgerson was the mother of Mrs. John Mundfrom, Eben Jct., Mich.) Thief River Falls

Mrs. Art (Helena) Moe, 68, Mar. 3, Our Saviour's

(Mrs. Moe was the mother of Mrs. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak.)

MICHIGAN

Ishpeming

Mr. Orvall W. Sutton, 74, Dec. 30, 1985, Hope

Evelyn E. Bartanen, 61, Feb. 8, Hope Eden Jct.

Mr. Oswald Hautamaki, 66, Feb. 14, Calvary.

(Mr. Hautamaki was a brother of Pastor Albert Hautamaki, Minneapolis, Minn.)

conference . . .

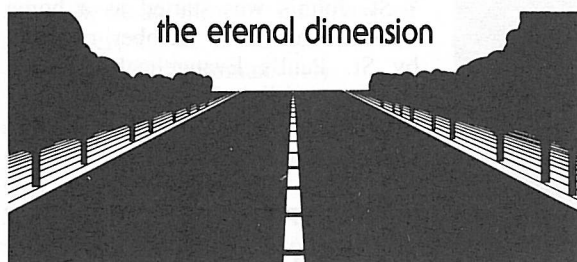
Prayer is the most important work in the kingdom of God. But people do not value prayer as a very effective way of working for God. Jesus' prayer life was discussed as an example for our own. Let us make our churches *houses of prayer!*

Prayer is a matter of discipline. We all need to have definite times for prayer, with agreement with others, organizing the brethren to pray.

Harboring grudges will close off access to God and place people in a backslidden condition. How can people withhold God's forgiveness after they have been forgiven by Him?

Let us pray as Jesus prayed!

—Corr.



the good
thing
about
Jesus'
cross

You are well aware that the Cross was an instrument of death for criminals in Jesus' day. Being an instrument of death for the lawbreaker, it was also an instrument where personal shame was made public. Those who died on crosses died before the gaze of the public. The question in mind of one coming upon the place where such a person was dying surely would be, "What did that person do to deserve this?" He would ask, "For what shameful crime is this one hanging on that cross?"

The strange thing about the way Jesus Christ died was that it was on such a Cross, as a criminal. And that there was shame connected with His dying (Hebrews 12:2), was stranger still. Jesus was One who had never done wrong. He had never broken any law. God testified to His perfection when He said He was well pleased with Him (Matthew 3:17). The Roman governor, Pilate, when Jesus was on trial, said he found no guilt in Him (Luke 23:4). Earlier in His ministry, Jesus had challenged

his antagonists to make known any fault they may have found in Him (John 8:46). No one could do it. The Gospel writers tell us Jesus' trial was not an honest trial. They could find nothing worthy of death in Jesus, therefore they brought false witnesses to testify against Him. In the light of these facts we must say that an absolutely just person (I Peter 3:18) died as a criminal on a Roman cross outside of Jerusalem many years ago. Wasn't that a tragedy?

Though to human eye the death of Christ appears to be a tragedy, to the eye of God it appears to be a most wonderful event. According to the Bible, God had His part in that event also. Though Christ was crucified by hateful hands and wicked hearts, God was delivering Him up according to a predetermined and foreknown plan which was made in heaven. Why did God do this? His Word (II Corinthians 5:19) says, "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them." That squares

well with the Old Testament prophecy recorded by Isaiah over 700 years before Christ was crucified. In Isaiah 53:5-6, we read "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, and the chastisement of our peace fell on Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, each one has turned to his own way, but the Lord has laid upon Him the iniquity of us all." Isn't it true that these words are the most important words which could ever be spoken to the human family?

This is the time of year when the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is remembered in a special way around the world. Out of His cross has come forgiveness (Colossians 1:13-14) and peace with God (Colossians 1:19-20) for us. It has been made available to the whole human race. Have you received these important gifts yet? Have you received the Savior Who alone bestows these gifts? He, and His salvation for you, are your greatest needs. Nothing could be more important for your well-being. Put off no longer the reception of the Savior and His saving blessings. Come to Him now and confess your sins. Give Him an open door to your life that He may come in and save you and rule in your heart as your Lord. That is the way God saves the sinner. There is no other way and surely there need be no other way. This is God's way and it is sufficient! Everyone of us needs that. You need that. Receive it today!

That's what the cross of the innocent Jesus Christ is all about.
Pastor Emerson Anderson

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
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