

# **THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR**

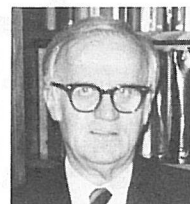
May 10, 1983

theme: Forward with confidence



**21st Annual Conference of the AFLC**  
**Association Retreat Center**  
**June 15-19**

# AT THE MASTER'S FEET



Pastor Emerson Anderson

## Worshippers are witnesses

Someone has said conviction is holding a truth you are willing to die for. We don't read far in the Book of Acts before we are convinced the early Christians had conviction. The Holy Spirit had come and filled them and their hearts were aglow. They became transmitters of the Good News of Jesus Christ. It seems every Christian's great desire was to let the world know. They went everywhere telling the Good News.

It isn't always that way. A friend gave David Ben Gurion, one-time Prime Minister of Israel, a New Testament. When asked what he thought

of it, he said, "That is wonderful, but where are the Christians?" What was it that made the early Christians zealous on a sustained basis? We believe it was their time in private with the Lord. When there came a need for men to "serve tables," the apostles directed them to choose men from among themselves and said, "We will give ourselves to the Word of God and prayer." They were really saying, "We dare not neglect our inner life. We must make our chief aim to be in communion with the Lord." We know these men were not looking for the life of a recluse. They boldly led the Church in her outward witness. They were simply saying the most important business of the Church is its witness and the source of power for that witness is private worship. Pastors, take note! Your greatest need, beyond question, is for true, private worship. Such worship is the source of power for your ministry. Through that, your ministry will be from the heart of God to the heart of your people. That is your calling.

Consider one man in the Book of Acts. He was the greatest witness of all. He suffered as a witness. He wept as a witness. He rejoiced as a witness. His sole purpose in ministry was to make Christ known as God's gracious and saving gift to the world. He was the converted Pharisee, named Paul. Consider what he says in Philippians 3. He was zealous for a specific thing. All else was trash by comparison. He said, "That I may win Christ, and be found in Him." Here was Paul's doctrine of "eternal security", that is, that he may be

found in Christ. What does he mean? He explains by saying, "That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings." To know Jesus, as Paul saw it, was no "easy-believism." It was a knowledge that could only be had through heart-to-heart communion with the Lord. Paul's faithfulness was the fruit of Paul's communion.

Paul, obviously, was a man of the closet. The greatest missionary of all, apart from Christ, was this man. He maintained witnessing zeal through real worship. He kept at it all his life. He said, "I count not myself to have apprehended . . . I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus." Paul was a worshipping Christian; therefore, he was a growing, witnessing Christian. He presses that way of life on the Philippian congregation, too. He says, "Let us, therefore, as many as be perfect (mature), be thus minded . . . let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing."

Brethren, our purpose in this world is one. It is to be about the witnessing to which Christ has set us. Everything else in our life must contribute to that witness. Let us not neglect the things most essential. Let us maintain hearts of worship. Let us, one and all, give ourselves to the Word and prayer. If our worship is genuine, it will thrust us from our closets as genuine witnesses our world cannot ignore. This is our calling. This is our glory. Pentecost came that it might be. Let us be faithful to our Lord and our own generation. *Let us worship and witness.*

### THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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# 21st Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

AFLC RETREAT CENTER  
OSCEOLA, WISCONSIN

June 15-19

THEME: *Forward with Confidence*

CONFERENCE TEXT: *Hebrews 10:19-25*

## THE PROGRAM

### Wednesday, June 15

- 9:00 a.m. The Conference Committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.
- 8:00 p.m. The opening service of the Conference, with the sermon on the Conference text by Pastor Elden Nelson, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Pastor Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis., will lead the service. The opening of the Conference and the appointment of necessary committees by Pastor Richard Snipstead.
- Offering to Home Missions.

### Thursday, June 16

- 9:00 a.m. Devotions.
- Report of the Credentials Committee.
- Adoption of the Conference agenda.
- Election of Committee on Nominations for the 1984 Conference.
- The President's Report.
- Report of the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, Pastor Wendell Johnson.
- Report of the Director of Development, Mr. Ernest Miedema.
- Report of the Director of the ARC, Mr. Robert Dietsche.
- Financial Report, Miss Linda Butterfield.
- Report of the Treasurer of Family Bible Camp, Osceola, Mr. Gary Modean.
- Report of the Treasurer of Family Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., Mrs. Don Balmer.
- Report of the Treasurer of the Wilderness Camp, Mr. George Hartman.
- Report of the Budget Analysis Committee.
- Report of the Nominating Committee, always in order.
- Election of nominees for the Missions Corporation and the Schools Corporation.
- Report of Committee No. 1.
- 11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour. The Prayer Hours will be led by Pastor Mauritz Lundeen, Bagley, Minn.
- 2:00 p.m. Devotions.
- Report of the Credentials Committee.
- Election of the Vice-president and Secretary of the AFLC.
- Election of nominees to the Mission Committees and the Board of Trustees.

- Continuing discussion of Committee No. 1.
- Election of nominees to the Coordinating Committee.
- Election of Committee No. 1 for the 1984 Conference.
- Report of the chairman of the Board of Trustees, Pastor Michael Brandt.
- Report of the Dean of the Theological Seminary, Pastor Francis Monseth.
- Report of the Dean of the Bible School, Pastor Kenneth Moland.
- Report of the AFLBS Alumni Association Director, Mrs. John Schlenk.
- Report of Committee No. 2.

5:30 p.m. The Schools Corporation will meet.

8:00 p.m. The Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation.

### Friday, June 17

- 7:00 a.m. The Mission Corporation meets.
- 9:00 a.m. Devotions.
- Report of the Credentials Committee.
- Continuing discussion of Committee No. 2.
- Election of Committee No. 2 for the 1984 Conference.
- Report concerning the Schools Corporation meeting.
- Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee, Pastor Amos Dyrud.
- Report of the Director of World Missions, Pastor Eugene Enderlein.
- Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Pastor David Molstre.
- Report of the Director of Home Missions Committee, Pastor Elden Nelson.
- Report of the Chairman of the Evangelism Commission, Lay Pastor Verle Dean.
- Report of the AFLC Evangelist, Pastor Kenneth Pentti.
- Report of Committee No. 3.
- 11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour.
- 2:00 p.m. Devotions.
- Report of the Credentials Committee.
- Continuing discussion of the report of Committee No. 3.
- Report concerning the Missions Corporation meeting.
- 8:00 p.m. Laymen's Service. Leader: Mr. James Peterson, Colfax, Wis. Speaker: Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.
- Offering: World Missions.

### Saturday, June 18

- 9:00 a.m. Devotions.
- Report of the Credentials Committee.
- Continuing discussion of the report of Committee No. 3.
- Election of members to the Commission on Evangelism.
- Election of Committee No. 3 for the 1984 Conference.
- Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Pastor Ralph Rokke.
- Report of the Executive Secretary of Parish Education, Mrs. Phillip Regnier.
- Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Pastor Bruce Dalager.
- Report of the President of the Luther League Federation, Pastor Allen Monson.
- Report of Committee No. 4.

# an invitation to you

from our  
President—



*R. Snipstead*

"Forward with Confidence" is a fitting theme for the 21st Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

How good it is to extend an invitation to our people to attend the next Annual Conference, at our AFLC Retreat Center at Osceola, Wisconsin, June 15-19. It will be an exciting Conference for many who will visit the ARC for the first time. Thanks to our Director, Mr. Robert Dietsche, his good wife, and many other faithful workers, this fine facility has seen some tremendous changes in the short while the AFLC has owned it. Much work is being done in preparation for this conference.

The Retreat Center will be dedicated at the Sunday morning service at the Conference.

Other matters of special interest to come before the Conference this year include some special changes in the health insurance and retirement program for our pastors. A report will come to the Conference from the special committee researching the possibility of a new hymnal for our church. At the closing service on Sunday afternoon, the Conference will witness the ordination of several ministerial candidates.

The cost at the Conference will be very reasonable as we utilize one of our church facilities.

We trust that many of you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to have a share in the vital business of the church. Resolutions will be presented on all aspects of the work. There will also be opportunities for discussion.

This is a day when many people are assailed by fears. There is very little to offer security in the fleeting treasures of the world. It will be good to have our confidence and security redirected to God and His Word.

We pray that through the Conference text, Hebrews 10:19-25, and the times of fellowship and sharing we as individuals, and our entire Conference, may experience days of renewal before the Throne of Grace.

"My hope is built on nothing less

Than Jesus blood and righteousness."

Welcome to the ARC, June 15-19.

## PROGRAM . . .

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour.

2:00 p.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Report of the Colloquy Committee.

Election of members to the Board of Publications and Parish Education, and the Youth Board.

Election of Committee No. 4 for the 1984 Conference.

Election of the Colloquy Committee for the 1984 Annual Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board, Pastor Ernest Langness.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Mr. Walter Lien.

Report of Committee No. 5.

Elections of members to the Stewardship Board and the Board of Pensions.

Election of Committee No. 5 for the 1984 Conference.

Reports of special committees.

Election of the Budget Analysis Committee for 1984.

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

8:00 p.m. Youth Night at the Conference.

*Leader:* Pastor Allen Monson, Tioga, N. Dak.

*Speaker:* Pastor Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash.

Offering: Praise Program.

### Sunday, June 19

8:00 a.m. Communion Service.

*Liturgist:* Pastor Hubert DeBoer, Colfax, Wis.

*Message:* Pastor Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn.

10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

*Liturgist:* Pastor Donald Greven, Kenyon, Minn.

*Message:* Pastor Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn.

Dedication of the AFLC Retreat Center.

Offering: General Fund.

2:00 p.m. Ordination Service.

*Leader:* Pastor Richard Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.

*Message:* Pastor Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, Minn.

Offering: Schools.

*Conference Committee:*

Pastor Hubert DeBoer

Pastor Richard Snipstead



# Elections at the Annual Conference

## OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

### \*designates incumbent

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

\*Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn.

#### *Secretary* (1-year term)

\*Rev. Hubert DeBoer, Colfax, Wis.

Pastor DeBoer has served three consecutive terms. To be re-elected, he must be nominated and secure a three-fourths majority or more on the first ballot.

## ELECTIONS BY CORPORATIONS

### *Co-ordinating Committee* (5-year term)

\*Rev. Donald Greven, Kenyon, Minn.

(Pastor Greven was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Rev. Kenneth L. Anderson.)

### *Board of Trustees (Schools)* (5-year terms)

\*Rev. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis.

\*Dr. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, Minn.

### *World Missions Committee* (5-year term)

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

### *Home Missions Committee* (5-year term)

\*Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.

(Mr. Flaten has served two consecutive terms and is ineligible for re-election.)

## ELECTIONS BY THE CONFERENCE

### *Youth Board* (5-year term)

\*Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

### *Commission on Evangelism* (5-year term)

\*Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Sedan, Minn.

### *Board of Publications and Parish Education*

\*Mrs. Melvin Walla, Fergus Falls, Minn.

(Mrs. Walla has served two consecutive terms and is not eligible for re-election.)

### *Stewardship Board* (5-year term)

\*Rev. Ernest J. Langness, Faith, S. Dak.

### *Board of Pensions* (5-year term)

\*Mr. Norman Haugen, Murdock, Minn.

## MISSIONS CORPORATION

The Nominating Committee of the Annual Conference will present two (2) names for every vacancy on the Missions Corporation. Nominations may also be made from the floor. The Conference membership will then by secret ballot choose one person for each vacancy, sending those names to the Corporation for decision at its annual meeting on June 17. Members of the World and Home Missions Committees must come from the membership of the Corporation. Failure to be re-elected to the Corporation while serving on either committee will automatically remove one from membership on that committee.

The following persons are eligible to attend the annual meeting of the Corporation on June 17:

\*denotes World Missions Committee member.

\*\*denotes Home Missions Committee member.

### *Terms expire in 1983:*

Rev. Fred Carlson, Wadena, Minn.

Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Sedan, Minn.

Mrs. Oscar Folden, Minot, N. Dak.

Rev. Philip Haugen, Minneapolis, Minn.\*\*

Mr. Timothy Korhonen, Esko, Minn.

Mr. Leland Nelson, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Ishpeming, Mich.

Mr. Jerome Stulen, Spicer, Minn.

Mr. Edwin Swanson, Canton, S. Dak.

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

### *Terms expire in 1984:*

Mr. Bernhard Dalager, Wannaska, Minn.

Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.\*\*

Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore.

Rev. Julius Hermunslic, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Mr. John Arlen Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn.

Mr. Edwin Mathison, Bagley, Minn.

Rev. Wm. Moberg, Eugene, Ore.

Mr. Owen Myhre, Abercrombie, N. Dak.\*\*

Rev. Stephen Odegaard, Eugene, Ore.

Rev. Norman Tenneboe, Eben Jct., Mich.

### *Terms expire in 1985*

Mrs. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.

Rev. Samuel Flores, Leon, Gto., Mexico

Rev. Gordon Grage, Brandon, Minn.

Rev. Ted Kennedy, Nogales, Ariz.

Mrs. Charles Kvanvig, Vancouver, Wash.

Rev. Robert Lewis, Abercrombie, N. Dak.

Rev. David Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak.\*\*

Rev. Larry V. Severson, Roseau, Minn.

Rev. Forrest Swenson, Tucson, Ariz.

Mr. Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich.\*

### *Terms expire in 1986:*

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash.\*\*

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.\*

# WHEN THE COMFORTER COMES

by Pastor  
Albert Hautamaki,  
Minneapolis, Minn.



## John 14:23-27

What happens when the Comforter comes to you? Or has the Comforter come to you? There is a day on our church calendar that is called Pentecost. What does that day mean to you? Somehow this day for which those early believers waited by divine command seems to have lost its ring of conviction. It does not seem to have the same effect on believers today. Yet, if we are believers in Christ we have grave responsibilities when it comes to the matter of spiritual and social issues.

When the Comforter came that first Pentecost, that early band of believers, only 120 of them, had spent only a few years at the feet of Jesus. But much of what the Lord had taught them, like some of the seed in the parable, fell on hard ground. They could not understand and much that He told them often sounded foolish and contradictory. Even after His resurrection Jesus had to say of them, "O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have

spoken." How could they be witnesses and ambassadors while misunderstanding and uncertainty beclouded their minds?

Then the Comforter came in response to the promise that Christ had made. "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." Suddenly these first followers saw the whole plan of salvation in all its glory. They saw all the various parts of God's divine plan. As we watch, the wavering, curious Peter, who did not want to go to Jerusalem, became "the rock", speaking with complete conviction, of a firm faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Comforter comes today there is no rushing, mighty wind, no cloven tongues of fires, nor sudden gift of speaking in foreign languages, but yet there is and ever will be the power of the Holy Spirit to open blind eyes to see and hearts to believe. We have nothing new. We have the same heaven-born truth which fell from His holy lips and through which He promised, "If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed." It is the same old story of man's sin: "all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." It is the same old story of

man's only Savior from sin: "The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin." It is the same Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who convinced men of sin, led them to repentance, and showed them their Redeemer. It is He who blesses that message of the Word today. It is He who comforts us with the assurance that our sins are forgiven through the blood of Christ.

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"How could they be witnesses and ambassadors while misunderstanding and uncertainty beclouded their minds?"

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When the Comforter is come, and His work in hearts is begun, He shows us what our relationship with God really must be. My dear reading friend, what is your relationship to Jesus? Is it living, vibrant, with a burning love for Him, so that you desire to place Him first in your heart and life? In our text Jesus put it this way in promising the Holy Spirit: "If a man love Me, he will keep My words; and My Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth Me not keepeth not My sayings." Then we need to pray

## ELECTIONS . . .

Mr. Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.  
Rev. Dale Mellgren, Kalispell, Mont.  
Rev. Allen Monson, Tioga, N. Dak.  
Mrs. Aini Myking, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Rev. John Rieth, Williston, N. Dak.  
Mr. Joel Rogenes, Ely, Minn.  
Mr. Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.  
Rev. Roy Warwick, Aberdeen, S. Dak.

### *Terms expire in 1987:*

Mr. Martin Bjornson, Valley City, N. Dak.  
Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.  
Rev. Henry Johansen, Virginia, Minn.  
Dr. Lyle Mattson, Milbank, S. Dak.  
Mr. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.\*  
Mr. Jerry Olson, Newfolden, Minn.  
Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.\*  
Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.

Mrs. Rodney Stueland, Roslyn, S. Dak.  
Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn.

## SCHOOLS CORPORATION

The Nominating Committee of the Annual Conference will present two (2) names for every vacancy on the Schools Corporation. Nominations may also be made from the floor. The Conference membership will then by secret ballot choose one person for each vacancy, sending the

## *"... He brings us blessed peace."*

A sermon  
for Pentecost

with the hymnist: "Holy Ghost, with power divine cleanse this guilty heart of mine; in Thy mercy pity me, from sin's bondage set me free."

So often we talk about desiring to show our love to God by keeping His commandments, but the words never quite seem to ring true. We show a kind of vagueness about it. Just the opposite should be true. How good we feel deep down inside when we can say like Paul, "I have fought the good fight . . . I have kept the faith." It should warm our hearts to know that we are walking in the paths of His righteousness and that it is the Holy Spirit who enables us to do so. How good it is to meditate on the words, "We will come unto him, and make our abode with him"! To have God the Father and God the Son dwell with us and in us through the Holy Spirit gives us solid security. "If God be for us, who can be against us." All the forces of hell cannot take the Triune God away from us or us away from His protecting arms.

When the Comforter is come He brings us blessed peace. This is so simply stated in our text: "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (v.27). These parting words of Christ on His

way to Gethsemane and Golgotha promise to every child of God the victor's spoils from Calvary, the basic blessing for all happiness and success. The Comforter will bring peace, not the kind of peace the world offers, but the peace of God. The peace the world offers is external, insecure and most often short-lived. Practically every day we hear about movements toward peace among nations but there can be no real peace without the Prince of Peace. Many individuals delude themselves with the idea that money in the bank and all the luxuries of life will bring peace, but we know that the wealthiest people in the world often have less peace than the servants who wait on them. It is claimed that health and success bring peace, but as important as these may be, they will not be enough.

We need, first of all, peace with God. The Comforter brings just that peace. He leads us out to Calvary, where that peace was won. It is at Calvary that the victory shout was given, "It is finished." As we claim that Calvary message for ourselves by faith we become God's children and in Him we are at peace with our heavenly Father.

The devil himself cannot destroy this peace nor separate us from our Father. With Paul we can rejoice and

say, "I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 8:38-39).

This peace changes men and women. It makes them new creatures because it purifies the source of evil, the human heart. What it did for crude, cursing fishermen, what it did for cheating, lying publicans, all born again by the Spirit, it does for you and me today so that we can have perfect peace. Let us look to the Comforter as He speaks to us and ask Him to come into our hearts to cleanse us from all sin and to give us a faith that claims Him as our Savior and Lord and gives us the peace that passes all our understanding. Yes, this peace is for time and eternity.

How have you responded when the Comforter has come to you, pleading for you to turn your heart and life over to Jesus? I trust that you have responded with a resounding yes to His call and have turned your life over to His leading and guidance. May our prayer be in the words of Andrew Reed:

*"Holy Spirit, all divine,  
Dwell within this heart  
of mine;  
Cast down every idol  
throne,  
Reign supreme, and  
reign alone.*

*See, to Thee I yield my  
heart;  
Shed Thy life through  
every part,  
A pure temple I would  
be,  
Wholly dedicate to  
Thee."*

names of these persons on to the Corporation for decision at its annual meeting on June 16. Members of the Board of Trustees must come from the membership of the Corporation. Failure to be re-elected to the Corporation while serving on the Board will automatically exclude one from membership on the Board.

The following persons are eligible to attend the annual meeting of the Corporation on June 16:

*Terms expire in 1983:*

Mr. Arne Berge, Binford, N. Dak.

Rev. Trygve F. Dahle, Spicer, Minn.

Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Rev. Donald Greven, Kenyon, Minn.

Mr. Ted Hanson, Mason, Wis.

Mr. Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.\*

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.

Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Mr. Ralph Peterson, Portland, N. Dak.\*

\*denotes Board of Trustees member.

21st ANNUAL CONVENTION  
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION  
OF THE

## June 15

Prayer Service ..... 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

## Prelude

Singspiration . . . . . *Leader: Mrs. Kenneth Moland*  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Response . . . . . *Mrs. Grace Syverson, President*  
Tioqa, N. Dak.

Bible Study . . . . . *Mrs. Robert Dietsche*  
Osceola, Wis.

Business Meeting ..... Mrs. Syverson

Memorial Service Leader . . . . . *Mrs. Esther Larson*  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Offering . . . . . GENERAL FUND  
Announcements

## Closing Prayer

## Table Prayer

**1:30 p.m.**

## Prelude

Singspiration . . . . . *Leader: Mrs. Kenneth Moland*  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Devotions ..... *Mrs. Ivan Stuntz*  
Cumberland, Wis.

## Unfinished Business

Special Music . . . . . *The Dietsche Family*

Offering ..... GENERAL FUND

## Greetings

## Presentation of Honorary Membership Pins

## Comments

## Benediction

\*\*\*\*\*

For All Ladies

THURSDAY

Message: *Mrs. David Abel*

\*\*\*\*\*

8:00 p.m.

## Prelude

Singspiration . . . . . *Mrs. Kenneth Moland*  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Devotions . . . . . *Mrs. Reuben Emberson*  
Esko, Minn.

Installation of Officers . . *Pastor Richard Snipstead*  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Offering ..... CHURCH EXTENSION

Special Music . . . . . *"Amery Belles"*  
Amery, Wis.

Message . . . . . *Pastor David Abel*  
 Campo Mourao, Brazil

## Hymn

Benediction . . . . . *Pastor Richard Snipstead*

### *The Lutheran Ambassador*



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# editorials

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## THE CONFERENCE

The term "annual conference" is found in the *Fundamental Principles* of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, right? Wrong. If you failed that test question you are not alone. We thought it was there, too.

The word "conferences" appears twice in the document and Principle 10 implies the conference by stating: "Free congregations have no right to demand that other congregations shall submit to their opinion, will, judgment or decision; therefore, domination by a majority of congregations over a minority is to be rejected."

It is in the *Rules for Work*, that other half of the AFLC's simple "constitution," that the term "annual conference" shows up and there is some delineation of the organization and function of the conference.

While the words "annual conference" aren't used in the *Fundamental Principles* the wording of the *Principles* makes it clear that the conference's authority over the congregations is limited. In fact, all it can do is suggest and challenge.

Fortunately, over the years, the congregations have usually gone along with conference decisions. Where they have not, it may many times have been due to a failure to carry through rather than to a real disagreement with what has been determined at a conference.

But the congregations are free, and that's the way we want it to be.

Free congregations associate for fellowship and to do work in God's kingdom which is too large for them alone. The *Fundamental Principles* put it this way: "for the accomplishing of such tasks as exceed the ability of the individual congregation."

The annual conference is the chief symbol or representation of this "co-laboring" in the Lord's work. The ideal is that each of the local units, the congregations, will be represented at the conference. In the AFLC we fall far short of that ideal each year. (We believe that we have previously suggested that at our 25th conference in 1987 we strive for 100% representation. Will you work toward that?) At conference the delegates worship, work and pray together. They hear inspirational messages, mostly by pastors and laymen of the church. They consider and, at times, wrestle with the big issues, and smaller ones, which confront the fellowship. From the conference come the recommendations to the local congregations, where they face acceptance, rejection or benign neglect, but whatever, the Lord's work goes forward.

A few thoughts on the annual conference. The 1983 version, our 21st, will take place June 15-19, at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis. It would be good if you could be there. Pray for the conference that God's purposes will be worked through it.

## ASSOCIATION RETREAT CENTER

Delegates to the annual conference will meet at the Association Retreat Center near Osceola, Wis. (east of

East Farmington, to be exact). For some it will be their first visit; others have been there a number of times.

All will find an attractive place and location. There is no lake near by but the setting is semi-wooded Wisconsin. Those who haven't been to the ARC before will marvel at the size of it and the many buildings. Remember that it is a former U.S. Air Force radar base. We haven't been able to utilize all of the facilities yet, but Director Robert (Bob) Dietsche and his wife and others, are gradually putting more and more of the base into use. Personally, we still haven't had a tour of the ARC and will see some things for the first time in June ourselves, such as the auditorium where the sessions will be held.

The ARC will be dedicated at the Sunday morning service of the conference. Dedications are always happy occasions and this one will be, too.

But having said all of this about this fine retreat center which came into our possession through God's providence, we believe that it should eventually be turned over to the Minneapolis and Lake Superior Districts of our church, perhaps also to the Southwest Central Minnesota and Northern Michigan Districts, for administration, because they are the districts which will benefit from the ARC the most. Certain AFLC functions could still be held there with the rental going to the owning corporation.

Failing that, the AFLC should establish other regional retreat centers to serve other parts of the church, such as the Dakotas and the West Coast. But we have some trouble with that idea, too, because the Association was founded on the concept that the church body herself shouldn't own much property. So there are problems.

All that aside, the AFLC will set the ARC apart to God's glory on June 19, no matter who will ultimately hold ownership of it. It will be a special occasion. Try to be there.

## HOLY SPIRIT: CONVICTER

It had been our intention to have a second article on the Holy Spirit in this issue. Pastor Albert Hautamaki has shown us the Comforter side of the Spirit. The other article would have dealt with the *convicting* work of the Holy Spirit, but the pastor whom we had asked to write it wasn't able to oblige.

All we can do now is call the reader's attention to two things. One is the word of Jesus in John 16:8, "And when He (the Holy Spirit) comes, He will convince the world of sin and of righteousness and of judgment." Convince and convict are similar words. The second statement is to be found in our Catechism Explanation: "The Holy Spirit calls us by awakening in our hearts a deep sense of sin, and by inviting us to accept the grace of God in Christ." Awakening the deep sense of sin, that is the work of conviction. And before the balm of the Gospel can do any good, there must be the pain of an awakened conscience.

Do not turn aside the convicting work of the Holy Spirit. Let Him do the work necessary in your life so that your life may be lived in the fellowship of Jesus Christ.



## Letters to the editor

### AN OPEN LETTER TO JERRY FALWELL

Dear Sir:

Palm Sunday morning I switched on the TV before waking the children for Sunday school. It was toward the end of the Jerry Falwell program. There was a guest speaker appealing for funds. This is what I heard:

"What are you saving that money for? You're only going to die and your wife will marry another man and take all that money to Florida. When I die the man that marries my wife will get just that—a wife, and a used one at that."

I would like to reply to this gentleman.

Mr. Falwell is more than welcome to all the money he can get from men who consider their wives to be used merchandise that should be left penniless for fear she may spend money on another man.

But give the local church "The Widow's Mite."

"And He said unto them in His doctrine, Beware of the scribes, which love to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces, and the chief seats in the synagogues, and the uppermost rooms at feasts: which devour widow's houses, and for a pretence make long prayers; these shall receive greater damnation."

"And Jesus sat over against the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury; and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And He called unto Him His disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury: For all they did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living" (Mark 12:38-44).

Let us all praise and thank God for the widows in our churches—we would fail without them.

Deloris Melby  
Dalton, Minn.

### Monthly Ambassador

It was an overwhelming vote that receiving the *Ambassador* once a month would be enough. Many people did not get around to reading both of them (two issues a month) anyway. Having the *Ambassador* published once a month is our suggestion.

Kristi Maltby, Secretary  
WMF, Faith Lutheran Church  
Kalispell, Mont.

#### ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS 3110 EAST MEDICINE LAKE BOULEVARD MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55441

##### Budget Receipts February 1-March 31

	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% of TOTAL (Ideal 17%)
General Fund	\$187,180.00	\$15,460.00	08
Schools — AFLTS	97,246.00	4,954.44	05
AFLBS	164,839.00	9,807.94	06
Home Missions	219,796.00	14,489.68	07
World Missions	265,975.00	16,308.12	06
Praise Fund	28,880.00	3,294.18	11
TOTAL	\$963,916.00	\$64,325.36	07
1982-83	\$914,003.00	\$87,042.36	10

### ELECTIONS . . .

Mr. David Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.

*Terms expire in 1984:*

Mr. Donald Carter, Lake Stevens, Wash.

Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Rev. Philip Featherstone, Pukwana, S. Dak.

Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn.

Rev. James Fugleberg, Ontonagon, Mich.

Mr. Raymond Jacobson, Wadena, Minn.

Rev. David C. Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak.

Rev. Rodger Olson, Grafton, N. Dak.\*

Rev. Gary Skramstad, Escanaba, Mich.

Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.

*Terms expire in 1985:*

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash.

Mr. Arthur Arneson, Spicer, Minn.

Rev. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis.\*

Dr. James Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich.

Mr. Eldon Hermunsle, Wahpeton, N. Dak.

Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.

Rev. Philip Rokke, Reva, S. Dak.

Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.\*

Rev. John P. Strand, Remer, Minn.\*

*Terms expire in 1986:*

Mr. H. Morris Borstad, Tioga, N. Dak.

Dr. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, Minn.\*

Mr. Richard Hinderaker, Radcliffe, Ia.

Mr. LeRoy Knutson, Newfolden, Minn.

Rev. Mauritz Lundeen, Bagley, Minn.

Mr. Sherman McCarlson, Webster, S. Dak.

Rev. Terry Olson, Moorhead, Minn.

*Continued on p. 14*

- c. Joshua 2:1-3, 6:17-25 — Rahab to the spies.
- d. II Samuel 9:1-13 — David to Mephibosheth.
- e. II Kings 8:1 — Elisha to the Shunamite.
- f. II Kings 25:27-30 — Evil-merodach to Jehoiachin.
- g. II Chronicles 22:11 — Jehoshabeath to Joash.
- h. Esther 2:7 — Mordecai to Esther.
- i. Jeremiah 39:11-12 — Nebuchadnezzar to Jeremiah.
- j. Matthew 1:19 — Joseph to Mary.
- k. Luke 7:2-6 — A centurion to his servant.
- l. John 11:19, 33 — Jews to Mary and Martha.
- m. John 19:27 — John to Mary.
- n. Acts 24:23 — Felix to Paul.

As we read these examples of kindness in God's Word may we realize more fully the enormous priority that God puts on kindness in His Word. W. Phillip Keller states that our kindness should embrace all of life. He includes in this the pets in our care, the livestock on our farms, the shrubs, trees, grass, flowers in our gardens, the forests, lakes, wildlife and resources of the earth entrusted to our care. God in Christ by His Spirit is the Creator and Supreme Conservationist. We are made in His likeness, so we should do likewise.

15. a) Is there such a thing as counterfeit kindness? By counterfeit kindness we mean sentimental indulgence, tolerance of wrongs and evil in others.

b) Is it kindness for a parent to allow a child to disobey or do wrong deliberately? Genuine kindness requires courage, integrity and unselfishness.

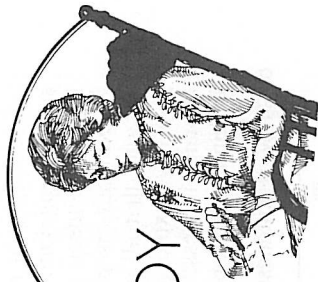
16. What does God's Word say about women and kindness in Proverbs 31:26? \_\_\_\_\_

17. Discuss some ways we as women can show kindness to others.

As we conclude this study on kindness, let us meditate on those verses that express our Heavenly Father's kindness; "How excellent is Thy lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings" (Psalm 37:7). "Because Thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee" (Psalm 63:3). "To shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night" (Psalm 92:2). Hymn suggestion: "Just a Little Lovingkindness."

June 1983

## W/MF BIBLE STUDY



### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

#### KINDNESS

Galatians 5:22-23

The next fruit that we will be studying is kindness. Those of you who use the King James Version perhaps wonder why we are listing kindness as the fifth fruit. All the modern translations employ kindness as the fifth fruit, and so to avoid confusion, we will also.

Dictionary definition of kindness: 1) the state or quality of being kind; kind disposition or nature; humanness; tenderness; 2) a kind act; a token of friendliness and good will; 3) a kind feeling; affection, love.

1. In Titus 3:4, we find kindness to be an attribute of \_\_\_\_\_

2. How is God's kindness described in Nehemiah 9:17, Joel 2:14 and Jonah 4:2? In Isaiah 54:8, 10? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does Romans 11:22 tell us about God's kindness (NIV)? \_\_\_\_\_

4. To whom is God kind? Hebrews 5:2, Luke 6:35 \_\_\_\_\_

If available, have someone read the passage.

The kindness of God is so beautifully described in *A Gardener Looks at the Fruits of the Spirit* by W. Philip Keller.

5. Read Ephesians 2:6-8. Through whom does God show His kindness? Discussion. As you read God's Word, discuss how much of Christ's life was spent doing kind things. Name specific incidents. Can you name some specific incidents where others showed kindness to Christ?

Kindness is perhaps the one fruit with which we are most familiar. I am sure that all of us have had this facet of love expressed to us and we also have expressed it to others. This virtue has been called "the milk of human kindness." Kindness and mercy are close associates. One cannot be kind without being merciful. Similarly, to be merciful is to be kind.

6. How is kindness described in Psalms 117:2 and 119:76? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What two other virtues must go hand in hand with kindness? II Corinthians 8:21a, Genesis 34:19b (American Standard Bible) \_\_\_\_\_

We must not let culture, creed, color or social status stand in the way of our regard and respect for others as individuals. It is because of a genuine interest that we try to be helpful and kind. Human beings are exceedingly sensitive in the area of personal relationships and will readily detect if we are not sincere in our actions. If we are being patronizing or acting in a condescending way, if our kindness is tainted with haughtiness, it will be detected. True kindness reaches out to help where it hurts. It is leveling with others in love. It is getting involved in their sufferings and sorrows. True kindness may cost us real pain and some serious inconvenience. It forgets its own personal preferences to offer help and healing to others. It quietly and without fanfare tries to bring help and pleasure to those in need. Whether the kindness be great or small the Lord knows the heart from which it came.

8. How is true love described in I Corinthians 13:4a? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What are believers exhorted to possess, in Colossians 3:12 and II Peter 1:7? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is sinful, and who receives the blessings in Proverbs 14:21 (NIV)? \_\_\_\_\_

11. To whom should God's people be kind? \_\_\_\_\_

- a. Deuteronomy 22:1, Zechariah 7:9, Ephesians 4:32 and I Peter 3:8 - \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Romans 15:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Leviticus 19:34 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. I Timothy 5:9-10, Zechariah 7:10a \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Zechariah 7:10b \_\_\_\_\_
- f. I John 3:17-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Acts 20:35, Romans 15:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Romans 12:15b \_\_\_\_\_
- i. Galatians 6:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- j. Galatians 6:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- k. Galatians 6:10a \_\_\_\_\_
- l. Luke 6:34-35 \_\_\_\_\_

To those of us who have accepted Christ as our personal Savior and Lord and experience His kindness daily it may seem strange that many people do not wish to either acknowledge or receive the kindness of God. Because of arrogance and supposed self-sufficiency they foolishly assume they are self-made individuals. They do not want God's interference in their lives—they want to keep Him at bay—or so they suppose. The result is that they impoverish both themselves and Him.

In his book *A Gardener Looks at the Fruits of the Spirit*, W. Phillip Keller brings out the fact that a new kind of kindness is generated in our lives if we allow the Lord to enter fully and freely into our experience. The Lord in His Sermon on the Mount points out the difference between these kindnesses.

12. Read Matthew 5:43-48. Discuss what these verses mean.

13. Will our kindnesses always be appreciated and understood?

Our kindness will not always be appreciated or understood. It may even be misconstrued. We may even receive disdainful treatment from those to whom we have shown kindness. We should not let this discourage us but if our kindness is inspired by our Heavenly Father, we should leave the results completely in His hands. This love and kindness may be reciprocated from totally unexpected sources. There is the principle of sowing and reaping involved here and God makes sure that this principle never falters. We harvest what we plant.

14. Let us look at some examples of kindness in the Bible. Indicate whether the act was motivated by God's Spirit or selfish gain.

- a. Genesis 45:16-20, 47:5-6 — Pharaoh to Jacob. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Exodus 2:6-10 — Pharaoh's daughter to Moses. \_\_\_\_\_



# THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

## What is the state of the dead?

Among young Christians, as well as among those living in the evening of life, there is often a very large interest in the things that lie beyond death.

The Lord has chosen not to reveal a very great deal about these matters, so it is the part of wisdom to be careful about our statements in this realm. From the glimpses into the beyond which we have been given in Scripture, however, certain things about the state of the dead seem clear.

It seems certain that the dead are in a conscious state.

Jesus' parable of "The Rich Man and Lazarus" is of great interest in this connection. "There was a certain rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, who was laid at his gate full of sores, and desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. And it came to pass that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom; the rich man also died, and was buried; and in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented. And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed; so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot;

neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence. Then he said, I pray thee therefore, Father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. And he said, Nay, Father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. And He said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead" (Luke 16:19-31).

While it is not safe to press every part of a parable to make it yield a doctrinal result, it would seem that according to any reasonable interpretation this parable teaches that the dead are conscious.

Other passages of Scripture indicate the same state. In comparing the relative advantages of life and death, Paul says: "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour; yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you" (Philippians 1:21-24). The expression "To be with Jesus" has no real meaning unless Paul anticipated a conscious relationship to the Lord Jesus. The word of Jesus to the repentant thief also suggests this idea: "Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with Me in Paradise" (Luke 23:43).

If the dead are conscious, it follows that the saved are in a condition of happiness and the unsaved are in a state of torment. This is clearly the

"Many people wonder whether or not the dead are aware of what is going on on the earth."

teaching of the parable of "The Rich Man and Lazarus," and so far as the saved are concerned also of the other passages cited. We may add this statement from the Book of Revelation: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them" (Revelation 14:13).

Many people wonder whether or not the dead are aware of what is going on on the earth. It does not seem likely that they are. We have no Scriptural ground for believing that the dead are omniscient. And certainly knowledge of earthly things would in many cases disturb and mar the happiness of the blessed dead, particularly in cases where the loved ones left behind are living lives of sin and shame.

Do the saved dead pray for the living? We have no revelation on this point, but it does not seem unlikely that the saints follow the example of Jesus in interceding for the living. Of this high priestly activity of Christ we read: "Wherefore He is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:25). Even the rich man in torment prayed for his brothers. It would therefore not seem unbiblical to think of departed believers praying for their loved ones on earth.

Will the dead recognize one another? This seems probable in the light of Jesus' words in connection with the Father's house. "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:2-3). The rich man's recognition of Lazarus would seem to point in the same direction.

To be sure there is a difficulty in this connection in understanding the happiness of the blessed dead in case some of their loved ones should be missing in heaven. Perhaps, how-

◇

# CAMPUS NEWS

## Choral Club tours West Coast

Wednesday afternoon, March 23, 34 Bible school students, Don Rodvold, director and Pastor and Mrs. Amos Dyrud boarded a bus at Medicine Lake to go to the airport for the 1983 Spring Tour of the Choral Club. Anticipation of the trip was great. For some it was the first plane ride, for many it was the first trip to the West Coast, for some it meant seeing home and family, for all it was anticipation of visiting every AFLC congregation on the Coast, and for AFLBS it was the first Choral Club tour ever to the West Coast.

We want to express gratitude to many for making this trip financially feasible. The students assumed responsibility for much of the air fare. Friends at Ferndale, Washington, arranged for a bus with which to travel to the churches. Three of our own fellows were licensed bus drivers. A needed tire was given by generous friends in Astoria, Oregon.

Now "come with us" as we leave Seattle Thursday morning and make

our tour to the churches. Our bus was a 1954 Kenworth! On the outside of the faded green bus was painted GOOD NEWS. Inside the bus was a tilted floor making it possible for those at the rear to see well down toward the front. Some seats were used for baggage. It wasn't "like new" but it rode well! We went merrily on our way. Our drivers, Don Jones, Paul Johnson and Gordon Hilmo expressed that the bus was a challenge and fun to drive. The sun was shining, flowers were blooming and the scenery gorgeous as we drove toward Astoria. After a while, a growing bulge on one tire gave quite some concern, but with prayer the tire lasted till we reached our evening destination.

The port town of Astoria was interesting and unique. Pastor and Mrs. Alvin Grothe and the folks at church gave us a warm welcome and we enjoyed a most delicious supper in the church with the congregation and townfolk. James Berge was the first West Coaster to see his parents

and sister, as they came from Grass Valley, Oregon, to the concert. Seeing former Bible School students and their children was a thrill. We all enjoyed the hospitality and fellowship of the families that took us in for the night. I wish it were possible here to give the names of all hosts, with comments and special thanks, because all were so special to us on the entire trip. However, as the reporter, maybe I could take the liberty of giving the names of those who hosted us as a couple each night. We stayed with Rev. and Mrs. Hans Tollefson and we also visited in the Grothe home, and how we enjoyed the fellowship.

The next day, Friday, didn't allow for much sightseeing, but after we got our tire and all taken care of, the Birdenos of Astoria guided us to the Lewis and Clark Expedition Park and Museum and to one ocean beach stop on our way out of town. We then headed for Eugene, Oregon, where we were scheduled for a concert that evening. As we were crossing the mountains with renewed confidence in the old bus with its new tire, we suddenly realized a new problem: the radiator was heating. With several stops collecting water from the mountain streams, we were able to get to a service station. Diagnosis: we needed a new water pump. Knowing how and where to get parts for the dated bus became a challenge. The hours slipped by and made it impossible to reach Eugene by any method. With great disappointment to all of us, the concert at Spencer Creek Lutheran Church had to be cancelled.

## LIFE . . .

ever, the saints with God so clearly see the righteousness and justice of God as well as His love and grace that even this difficulty is resolved. Certainly it is a source of great comfort to bereaved loved ones to look forward to reunions in heaven with those who have gone before.

There are many other questions about the state of the dead which the Bible does not answer and concerning which we do not greatly profit by speculating. But this we do well to note that Jesus is supremely concerned about our so believing in Him and so living with Him that we shall live forever with Him when we pass from this life.

Then, too, we shall receive new light on many problems about which we have speculated here, and our many questions shall be answered.

And no doubt the glory of that life with God will be so wonderful and so far beyond what we ever thought that all our questions and speculations will seem childish and absurd. "As it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him" (I Corinthians 2:9).

Let us therefore earnestly strive in the faith that we may enter into life when our sojourn on earth is ended and then on the great day of resurrection with our souls reunited with our glorified bodies enter in to the eternal blessedness of the people of God.

—From *Problems of Young Christians*

by Martin Hegland,  
Augsburg Publishing House.

End of a series



Pastor Amos Dyrud, left, Don Rodvold, Mrs. Loretta Birdeno and son outside the bus used by the Choral Club.

To Pastor and Mrs. Stephen Odegaard and all the folks at Eugene, we are truly sorry. We do appreciate the preparations you all made and thank you for your efforts even though we didn't get there.

The Lord did provide us with a chartered school bus that brought us to Beaverton (near Portland) where we spent the night in a motel. The kind men at that mountain station made unusual effort in locating parts and repaired the bus and delivered it to our motel by early afternoon on Saturday.

With gratitude to God we reached Kirkland in time for another delicious supper in their beautiful large church Saturday evening. We received a warm and hearty welcome from Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, meeting old and new friends.

Sunday forenoon at 11 o'clock, we were with the new congregation at Arlington, Washington, Atonement Lutheran Church. They are meeting in a community Pioneer Hall and they filled the building with their two-month-old congregation and their neighboring friends, especially from their "mother church" of Lake Stevens. An enthusiastic, grateful group of new AFLC-ers they are. Like a new convert revitalizes a congregation, so does a new congregation revitalize a church body.

Sunday evening at the 5 o'clock concert we were in Calvary Lutheran Church in Everett. This was followed by another delicious meal. Many familiar faces there, from the Bible School, Seminary, annual conferences, and also of some relatives, brightened our evening. It was the home church to one of our group, Monica Gruber.

Monday was the free day in Seattle, so all could choose what they wished to see and do. We consider it a great blessing to have such fine young people in our schools so a free day like this can be part of a tour.

Tuesday found us driving up to Ferndale. We enjoyed historical sights, the ocean and scenery, and the Olve Willand home. Then again came a warm welcome by Pastor and Mrs. Ronald Knutson and the congregation of Triumph Lutheran Church with a big good supper in their large, beautiful and functional

church. This was home for Kenya Knutson and Cathy Peterson.

Wednesday morning we were on our way to Lake Stevens and our last concert. We enjoyed the tulip fields and other beauty along the way. As we drove into the church yard at Elim Lutheran Church, one of our young men remarked, "The more churches we come to the fancier they get!" True, it was impressive to see each church and to learn of the congregation's part in even actually building the building, which was so especially true of the ones at Kirkland and Lake Stevens. Though cold and rainy outside that evening, the welcome inside by Pastor and Mrs. Richard Anderson and the congregation was warm. Thanks to the ones responsible for the fresh salmon supper prepared in the church. Also we enjoyed the Bud Haugen home. This was home to Dawna Walty and Dwayne and Gordon Hilmo.

We were so blessed in so many ways on this trip and are grateful to God for His blessings upon each one of us and upon each concert. Our prayer is that many hearts were touched by the witness at each place. We are thankful to all of you folks on the West Coast for making this such a rich experience. We know it took much time and effort and sacrifice for many of you. Thank you, and God bless you, every one!

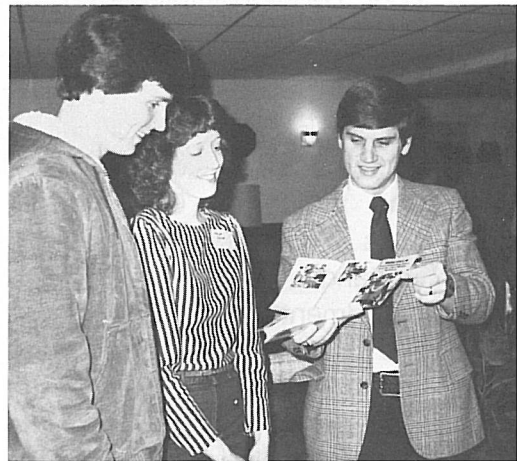
And to Mr. Rodvold, too, thank you. Many expressed gratitude that we have you as director of our schools' music department, not only for your directing and musical talent but also they express appreciation for the type of music you choose. As someone said publicly at one concert: "The choice of music is real meat and potato food—the kind that Grandma makes—not this cotton candy stuff. Music, too, must have substance or we will be malnourished." The program you present truly glorifies God and helps us become established and strengthened in the faith.

Personally, I was blessed at each concert. The music and the meditation by Pastor Dyrud was a real worship experience. The beautiful refrains still go through my heart and mind as I relive hearing songs such as:

"How firm a foundation,  
O Church of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His  
excellent Word . . ."

and the words of "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less," "My Faith Looks Up to Thee" and "If My People which are called by My Name will humble themselves and pray . . . I will heal their land" and all of them—how they bless. These powerful songs, sung so forcefully and beautifully by youth who are sincere in their witness and want to sing to bring glory to God and to win souls for Christ, stir my soul. And the finale of the concert, as someone stated, sent a shiver up one's spine! The choir sang "Rise up, O Church of God . . . Give heart and soul and mind and strength . . . Lift high the Cross of Christ" . . . and spoken over the music, Pastor Dyrud narrated: "Nineteen centuries ago the price of admission to the Church all too often was torture, and suffering and death, and this grim knowledge weeded out the weak and discouraged, the hesitant. Now little or no sacrifice is required, and sometimes we tend to regard that which costs little as having little or no value . . . *Christians of today, take hold. You are the Church.* Be strong as men of old. Worldwide church revival must come. Move with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Live positively: MARCH ON: RISE UP."

—Mrs. Amos Dyrud



Randy Erickson and Hope Dyrud discuss Bible school life with Dean Kenneth Moland during the recent Campus Days at AFLBS. One hundred and fifty high schoolers were guests during the weekend.



## ELECTIONS . . .

Mr. Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont.

Mr. Mike Rudebusch, Summit, S. Dak.

Mr. Lyle Twite, Cloquet, Minn.

### *Terms expire in 1987:*

Mr. Clifford Dyrud, St. Paul, Minn.

Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn.

Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.

Mr. Robert Knutson, McVile, N. Dak.

Lay Pastor Roger Krueger, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Rev. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. John Mundfrom, Minneapolis, Minn.

Mr. Kent Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.

Mr. James Rolf, Brandon, Minn.

## THE 1983 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. Kent Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.—Eastern North Dakota

Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Stanley, N. Dak.—Western North Dakota and

Eastern Montana

Rev. Philip Rokke, Reva, S. Dak.—South Dakota

Mr. Harvey Dyrud, Newfolden, Minn.—Northwestern Minnesota

Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn.—North Central Minnesota

Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn.—Southwest Central

Minnesota

Love is life in all its fulness. By it the law of God is fulfilled, and through it God Himself lives in us. Of so sublime importance is the great commandment in the law. Of all the great things known to an omniscient God, love is the greatest. This is true because God Himself is *love*. He, the only, invisible, perfect, and eternal God.

F. Hammarsten

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*The greatest irreverence we can offer to God is to shut Him out of our thoughts. We can never think of Him too often, nor is there any department of our life or work that we can label "not religious."*

—M.V. Hughes

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Rev. Forrest Swenson, Tucson, Ariz.—Arizona

Rev. Stephen Odegaard, Eugene, Ore.—West Coast

Members of the Committee welcome suggestions for the various nominations they must make. Please notify them soon of persons you believe would serve well in the positions open and for committee assignments for the 1984 Annual Conference.

## With our evangelist-youth worker

Please note these two appointments for our Evangelist-Youth Worker, Rev. Kenneth Pentti, in the next weeks. Sustain this ministry in your prayers.

### Greenbush, Minn.

Oiland Lutheran Church

May 22-26

Gustav Nordvall, lay pastor

### McIntosh, Minn.

Trinity Lutheran Church

June 5-8

Walter E. Beaman, lay pastor

## Personalities

**Rev. Marlyn Kruse**, who has served Calvary Lutheran Church in Everett, Wash., since 1981, has resigned. His future plans are unknown at this time.

New address of **Rev. and Mrs. Orville Olson** in Mesa, Ariz. 85206, is 4444 E. Escondido.

If you wish to hear the voice of the Spirit—open your Bible and read. If you would know what truth is, then ask, What is written?

—I BELIEVE IN THE  
HOLY SPIRIT  
Fredrik Wisløff