

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 11, 1993



The 31st Annual Conference  
of the AFLC

*Pre-conference issue*

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 11, 1993 • Vol. 31, No. 10

## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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

## CONTENTS

The 31st Annual Conference of the AFLC	p. 3
Committees	p. 4
Elections	p. 6
WMF Annual Convention	p. 9
Digging Old Wells	p. 10

Subscriptions: \$15.00 year, U. S.  
\$18.00 year, International

### Write to:

*The Lutheran Ambassador*  
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Send all communications concerning this magazine to: Solveig Hjermstad, Assistant to the Editor, Box 423, Faith, South Dakota 57626. Phone (605) 967-2381. Fax (605) 967-2382.

USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413

Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota, and additional mailing office.

Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441.

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Editor  
Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Assistant to the Editor

### Editorial Board:

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Chairman  
Dr. Francis Monseth, Secretary  
Mr. Robert Knutson

## His Mercy, Our Choice

When I see the chapters of Romans unfold, I am reminded of a trip through Bear Tooth Pass or traveling on the Sun Highway where every switchback unfolds miles of gorgeous scenery. On our spiritual journey we have seen ever more gorgeous views of God's marvelous salvation in every succeeding chapter!

Chapter 9 gives a little "break." We can look back and catch our breath. In the process, Paul attempts to give us the answer to the dilemma; briefly stated: "If we have no part in arranging for our salvation, and Christ died for the whole world, then why are there people going lost?" Verse 19 asks: "then why does God still blame us?"

"But who are you," Paul responds, "to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to Him who formed him, 'Why did you make me like this?'" Verse 21 continues: "Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay, some pottery for noble purposes, and some for common use?" These are chilling statements. The view is not very scenic!

We have been basking in the glow of His love, His unconditional forgiveness and mercy until we may begin to think: "hey, I'm Somebody! God created me and redeemed me. I, too, am valuable and God brought me back to Himself!"

But wait a minute! Verse 18 says: "God has mercy on who He wants to have mercy! He has every right to condemn His whole creation. We deserve it. If anyone is saved, it is only because of His mercy." My wife, Eleanor, was making rolled sugar cookies the other night. I noticed that if she did not get a clean cut star or hexagon, she would crush the imperfect dough and roll it again ... without guilt even. Paul wants us to understand that we are as helpless as cookie dough. We are the potter's clay. We are saved only because He chooses to do so. Society today is so bent on the dignity of man that many people can't imagine a loving God sending unbelievers to hell.

## Light on the Way

The truth of the matter is that God doesn't send people to hell. Hell was prepared for the devil and his angels. God has offered salvation to all who want it. It is free. It is available to all. He even warns us that to refuse that gift places us outside of His redeeming mercy. We, ourselves, choose to go to the alternative destiny. If we choose not God, then it is hell.

Paul is not saying that you have no choice in the matter. Some believe that only certain people are predestined to salvation and that all others to damnation. Many passages in Scripture agree with chapter 10:11: "No one who believes in Him will be put to shame," (RSV). Peter, in his second epistle concludes verse 9 of chapter 3 by saying: "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." Of course we can't forget the word "whosoever" in John 3:16. Jesus Himself said: "Whosoever cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out!"

Having said all this, it is abundantly clear that everyone of us has a choice of whether we shall be saved or not. Nevertheless, it is not as though God is some sort of "servant" whom we can summon at our beck and call. We, in our disrespectful society, find it strange to think that there is One who has absolute power and dominion over all that we say and do! He made us! He planned our progress as a people. Our very existence is at the mercy of God. Let us thank God for the vastness of His mercy.

His love is enough to save the whole world, but He has chosen to limit it to those who want it. Let us thank Him!



— by Rev.  
C. Lloyd Bjornlie

# 31st Annual Conference

of the

## Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

June 16-20, 1993

Northern Illinois University

DeKalb, Illinois

Conference theme: "Times of Refreshing"

Conference Text: Acts 3:19

### Wednesday, June 16

9:00 a.m. The conference committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.

6:30 p.m. Concert of Prayer.

8:00 p.m. The opening service of the conference with the sermon on the text by Rev. David Molstre, Palmdale, California. The service leader is Rev. Thomas Gilman, Milford, Illinois. AFLC President, Rev. Robert Lee will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

### Thursday, June 17

9:00 a.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Adoption of the Conference Agenda.

Election of the Nominating Committee for the 1994 Conference.

The President's Report.

Report of the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, Rev. David Molstre, Palmdale, California.

Report of the Business Administrator, Rev. Les Galland, Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Report of the Director of Development, Mr. Ernest Miedema, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Report of the Chairman of the ARC Board, Mr. Clifford Seldal, DeKalb, Illinois.

Report of the Director of the ARC, Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, Wisconsin.

Report of New Hymnal Committee, Rev. Tom Olson, Cumberland, Wisconsin.

Financial Report, Mr. Jon Enstad, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Report of the Family Bible Camps:

Osceola, Treasurer, Sandra Anderson, Amery, Wisconsin.

Lake Bronson, Treasurer, Mrs. Don Balmer, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Wilderness, Treasurer, Mr. Roland Peterson, Fargo, North Dakota.

Report of the Budget Analysis Committee.

Report of the Nominating Committee, always in order.

Election of nominees for the Missions

Corporation, Schools Corporation, and ARC Corporation.

Report of Committee of Seven

11:30 a.m. Report of Committee #1 (Administration).

Prayer Hour. Leader: Rev. Ray Klug, Fairbury, Nebraska.

1:30 p.m.

Devotions.

Report of Credentials Committee.

Election Procedures

Elections.

Vice-President—1-year term.

Secretary—1-year term.

Selection of nominees to the Home Missions Committee — 1 layman and 1 pastor; World Missions Committee — 1 layman and 1 pastor; Board of Trustees — 1 layman and 1 pastor.

Continuing discussion of Committee #1.

Election of nominees to the Co-ordinating Committee — 3 pastors.

Election of nominees to the ARC Board — 1 layman, 1 pastor (4 years).

Election of Committee #1 for the 1994 Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Cokato, Minnesota.

Report of the Dean of the Seminary, Dr. Francis Monsech, Rogers, Minnesota.

Report of the Dean of the Bible School, Rev. Donald Greven, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Report of the AFLBS Alumni Director, Kari Lane, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Report of Committee #2 (Schools).

5:30 p.m. The Schools Corporation Annual Meeting.

8:00 p.m. The Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation,  
Speaker: Pastor Allen Monson, Dickinson, North Dakota, Chairman, Home Missions Committee.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### Friday, June 18

- 7:00 a.m. The Missions Corporation Annual Meeting.
- 9:00 a.m. Devotions.  
Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Continuing discussion of Committee #2.  
Election of Committee #2 for the 1994 Conference.  
Report of the Schools' Corporation Annual Meeting.  
Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee, Mr. Ken Williams, Ishpeming, Michigan.  
Report of the Director of World Missions, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Rev. Allen Monson, Dickinson, North Dakota.  
Report of the Director of Home Missions, Rev. Elden Nelson, Minneapolis, Minnesota.  
Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism, Pastor Lyle Twite, Bagley, Minnesota.  
Report of Committee #3 (Missions and Evangelism).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Rev. Klug

- 1:30 p.m. Devotions.  
Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Continuing discussion of Committee #3.  
Report of Missions Corporation Annual Meeting.

5:30 p.m. Pastors' Banquet — Leader: Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Washington; Speaker: Rev. Charles S. Mueller, Sr., Bloomington, Illinois.

8:00 p.m. Laymen's Service — Leader: Mr. Stan Dale, Ottawa, Illinois; Speaker: Mr. Randy Sommer, Sparland, Illinois.

### Saturday, June 19

- 9:00 a.m. Devotions.  
Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Continuing discussion of the report of the Committee #3.  
Election of a member to the Commission on Evangelism — 1 layman.  
Election of Committee #3 for the 1994 Conference.  
Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Rev. Wesley Langaas, McVile, North Dakota.  
Report of the Director of Parish Education, Mrs. Ralph Tjelta, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Report of Chairman of Christian Academic Education Board, Mr. Chuck McKeen, Lakeville, Minnesota.

Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Rev. Joel Rolf, Radcliffe, Iowa.

Report of the President of the Luther League Federation, Rev. Terry Wold, Murrieta, California.

Report of Youth Ministries Director, Rev. Dennis Gray, Greenbush, Minnesota.

Report of Committee #4 (Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Rev. Klug.

- 1:30 p.m. Devotions.  
Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Election of members to the Board of Publications and Parish Education — 1 layman and 1 pastor (3 years).  
Election of members to the Christian Academic Education Board — 1 pastor (5 years), 1 pastor (2 years).  
Election of members to the Youth Board — 1 pastor (5 years), 1 pastor (4 years).  
Election of Committee #4 for the 1994 Conference.

## Committees to the 1993 Annual Conference

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE — DISTRICT:

Mr. Clarence Quanbeck, McVile, ND — Eastern North Dakota

Mr. Jerome Rice, Tioga, ND — W. North Dakota-E. Montana

Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, SD — South Dakota-Nebraska

Mr. Roger Peterson, Thief River Falls, MN — Northwestern Minnesota

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

Rev. Todd Olson, Pipestone, MN — Southwest Central Minnesota

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, MN — Lake Superior

Rev. Brian Davidson, Rice Lake, WI — Minneapolis

Mr. Eldon Kinnunen, Hancock, MI — Northern Michigan

Rev. David Nelson, Tucson, AZ — Southwestern

Mr. Clark Berg, Kalispell, MT — West Coast

Rev. Roy Warwick, Massapequa, NY — East Coast

Mr. Howard Johnson, Yorkville, IL — Illinois

Report of the Secretary of the Stewardship Board, Mr. Ralph Johnson, Upsala, Minnesota.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Rev. Gary Skramstad, Osakis, Minnesota.

Report of Committee #5 (Stewardship and Pensions).

Election of members to the Stewardship Board - 1 pastor (5 year term), 1 pastor (2 years), 1 layman (1 year)

Election of members to the Board of Pensions - 1 layman (5 year term), 1 layman (4 years).

Election of Committee #5 for the 1994 Conference.

Report of Chairman of the Colloquy Committee.  
Election of the Colloquy Committee for the 1994 Conference.

Report of special committees.

Election of 2 members to the Budget Analysis Committee — 3 year term.

Report of Committee #1 as the Committee on General Resolutions.

Other Reports.

Invitation to the 1994 Conference.

8:00 p.m. Youth Night at the Conference  
Leader: Rev. Dennis Gray, Greenbush, Minnesota.  
Speaker: Rev. Gary Skramstad, Osakis, Minnesota

#### **Sunday, June 20**

8:00 a.m. Communion Service  
Leader: Rev. Craig Wentzel, Edmore, North Dakota.  
Speaker: Rev. Gerald Peterson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Ordination  
Leader: Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Ottawa, Illinois.  
Speaker: Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, Minnesota.

Conference Committee  
Rev. Robert Lee, President  
Rev. Ronald Knutson, Secretary

#### **COMMITTEE No. 1 (Administration:**

Rev. Jerome Nikunen — Chillicothe, Illinois  
Mr. Daniel Stenseng — Bagley, Minnesota  
Rev. Gerald Peterson — Oklahoma, Oklahoma  
Mr. Robert Knutson — McVille, North Dakota  
Mr. Don Berge — Fargo, North Dakota

#### **COMMITTEE No. 2 (Schools):**

Rev. John Mundfrom — Bismarck, North Dakota  
Mr. David Osland — DeKalb, Illinois  
Dr. Lyle Westrom — Crookston, Minnesota  
Mr. Glen Hodnfield — Radcliffe, Iowa  
Rev. Wayne Hjermstad — Faith, South Dakota

#### **COMMITTEE No. 3 (Missions):**

Rev. Vincent Will — Springfield, Missouri  
Mr. Lester Mickelson — Tioga, North Dakota  
Rev. Craig Johnson — Eugene, Oregon  
Mr. Ralph Johnson — Upsala, Minnesota  
Dr. Lyle Mattson — Greenbush, Minnesota

#### **COMMITTEE No. 4 (Publications, Parish Ed., Youth:**

Rev. Jay Eberth — Wyoming, Minnesota  
Rev. Richard Larson — Abercrombie, North Dakota  
Mr. Richard Niles — Oswego, Illinois  
Mr. Gerald Knudsvig — Buxton, North Dakota  
Mr. Jerald Hanson — Centerville, South Dakota

#### **COMMITTEE No. 5 (Stewardship and Pensions):**

Rev. Larry Severson — Roseau, Minnesota  
Rev. Roy Johnson — Ortonville, Minnesota  
Pastor Donald Norr — Proctor, Minnesota  
Mr. John Knuuttila — Pelkie, Michigan  
Mr. Oliver Landsverk — Fosston, Minnesota

#### **COLLOQUY COMMITTEE:**

Rev. Martin Horn — Astoria, Oregon  
Rev. Robert Lewis — Newark, Illinois  
Rev. Einar Unseth — Glenville, Minnesota  
Rev. James Ritter — Bloomington, Minnesota

#### **BUDGET ANALYSIS COMMITTEE:**

Mr. John Schlenk — Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Mr. Reuben Quanbeck — Grand Forks, North Dakota  
Mr. Richard Rasmussen — Monticello, Minnesota  
Mr. Lloyd Carlson — Richfield, Minnesota



## Conference Registration

Registration is \$15 individual or \$25 per couple to be paid at the time of arrival. Registration and conference meetings will be held at the Holmes Student Center on the campus of Northern Illinois University.

### Conference Meals:

- June 17, WMF Breakfast — \$5.50
- June 17, Builder's Fellowship Luncheon — \$8.25
- June 17, School's Corp. Dinner — \$8.25
- June 18, Mission's Corp. Breakfast — \$5
- June 18, ARC Supporters Luncheon — \$8.75
- June 18, Pastor's Banquet — \$13.75
- June 19, Luncheon Buffet — \$5 (open to all delegates)

These meals will be sold by tickets at time of registration.

**Note:** Because these meals were contracted with the NIU facility, all meeting rooms are being made available to the AFLC at no charge.

**Note to parents with children:** a VBS will be held from June 16-19, led by the AFLBS Ambassador Gospel Team.

### Attention Those Interested In Youth

Are you interested in celebrating 20 years of youth work in our AFLC? Would you and your family attend a special event spot lighting youth in past and present conventions? It would be a time of sharing and fellowship! Contact Rev. Gary Skramstad, Route 2, Box 130, Osakis, MN 56360 or call (612) 859-4244; or Rev. Dennis Gray, AFLC Youth Director, P.O. Box M, Greenbush, MN 56726 or call (218) 782-2246.

**CORRECTION:** The captions under the two photos on page 10 of the April 27 issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* were reversed on some issues.

## 1993 Conference ELECTIONS

### OFFICERS:

**Vice-President** — (one-year term)

Rev. Kenneth Moland has served one term.

**Secretary** — (one-year term)

Rev. Ronald Knutson has served one term.

### ELECTED BY CORPORATIONS:

**Home Missions Committee** — (1 pastor, 1 layman, five-year terms)

Rev. Allen Monson and Pastor Henry Mohagen have each served one term.

**World Missions Committee** — (1 pastor, 1 layman, five-year terms)

Rev. Einar Unseth has served two consecutive terms. He is ineligible for re-election. Mr. Vernon Russum has served one term.

**Board of Trustees** — (1 pastor, 1 laymen, five-year terms)

Rev. Lyndon Korhonen has served one term. Mr. Arne Berge has served two consecutive terms. He is ineligible for re-election.

**Co-ordinating Committee** — (1 pastor, five-year term, 1 pastor, one-year unexpired term, 1 pastor, three-year unexpired term.)

Rev. David Molstre has served one term. Rev. David Barnhart resigned from the committee and Rev. John Rieth was appointed to serve until conference election. Rev. Wendell Johnson has also resigned.

**ARC Board** — (1 layman, five-year term; 1 pastor, four-year unexpired term)

Mr. Cliff Seldal has served one term. Rev. John Rieth resigned from the board. Rev. Tonnes Pollestad was appointed to the board until conference election.

### OTHERS:

**Commission on Evangelism** — (1 layman, five-year term)

Mr. Wayne Floan has served one term.

**Board of Publications and Parish Education** — (1 layman, five-year term, 1 pastor, three-year unexpired term)

Mrs. Kenneth Moland has served two consecutive terms. She is ineligible for re-election. Rev. Richard Anderson resigned from the board.

**Christian Academic Education Board** — (1 pastor, five-year term and 1 pastor, two-year term)

Rev. Ralph Tjelta has served part of a five-year term. Rev. Michael Crowell has resigned from the board. Rev. Todd Schierkolk has been appointed to the board until conference election.

**Youth Board** — (1 pastor, five-year term; 1 pastor, four-year unexpired term)

Rev. Dale Mellgren has served one term. Rev. Keith Quanbeck has resigned from the board. Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck has been appointed until the conference election.

**Stewardship Board** — (1 pastor, five-year term; 1 pastor, two-year unexpired term; 1 layman, one-year unexpired term)

Rev. Robert Lewis has served one year. Rev. Marlyn Kruse and Mr. Bill Buck have resigned from the board.

**Board of Pensions** — (1 layman, five-year term; 1 layman, four-year unexpired term)

Mr. Norman Haugen has served two consecutive terms. He is ineligible for re-election. Mr. Eugene Nesland resigned from the board. Mr. Rodney Kjersten was appointed to the board until the conference election.

# MISSIONS CORPORATION

## \* Member of Home Missions Committee

### Term Expires 1993:

Rev. Mark Antal — Leeds, North Dakota  
 Rev. James Asp — Brooklyn Park, Minnesota  
 \*Mr. Bob Christian — Newark, Illinois  
 Rev. Lawrence Dynneson — Nogales, Arizona  
 Mr. Emory Flaten — Newfolden, Minnesota  
 Rev. Peter Franz — Cloquet, Minnesota  
 Rev. Philip Haugen — Culbertson, Montana  
 Rev. Rodney Johnson — Stanley, North Dakota  
 Rev. Steve Kneeland — Duluth, Minnesota  
 \*\*Rev. Einar Unseth — Glenville, Minnesota

### Term Expires 1994:

Mr. Paul Flaten — Newfolden, Minnesota  
 \*Rev. Alvin Grothe — Astoria, Oregon  
 Mr. Owen Myhre — Abercrombie, North Dakota  
 \*\*Rev. Ted Berkas — Wallace, South Dakota  
 Mr. Truman Rolf — McIntosh, Minnesota  
 Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig — Buxton, North Dakota  
 Mr. Don Hansen — Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Rev. Paul Larson — Detroit Lakes, Minnesota  
 Rev. Jeff Swanson — Newark, Illinois  
 \*Rev. John Skeie — Minneapolis, Minnesota

### Term Expires 1995:

Mr. Philip Grothe — Thief River Falls, Minnesota  
 Mr. Robert Halvorson — Otsego, Minnesota  
 \*\*Mr. Arley Hartsoch — Ray, North Dakota  
 Rev. Orville Hiepler — Valley Center, California  
 \*\*Rev. Ted Kennedy Jr. — Nogales, Arizona

## \*\* Member of World Missions Committee

Dr. Lyle Mattson — Greenbush, Minnesota  
 \*\*Mr. Randy Sommer — Sparland, Illinois  
 Mr. Eldor Sorkness — Sand Creek, Wisconsin  
 Rev. Thomas Tuura — DeKalb, Illinois  
 \*\*Mr. Kenneth Williams — Ishpeming, Michigan

### Term Expires 1996:

Rev. Richard Anderson — Lakeville, Minnesota  
 \*Mr. Robert Dietsche — Osceola, Wisconsin  
 Rev. Amos Dyrud — Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Mr. Harold Erickson — New York Mills, Minnesota  
 Mr. Halvor Knapp — Kandiyohi, Minnesota  
 Rev. Dale Mellgren — Spokane, Washington  
 \*Rev. Allen Monson — Dickinson, North Dakota  
 Rev. Steven Mundfrom — Sebeka, Minnesota  
 Mrs. Aini Myking — Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Mr. Joel Rogenes — Ely, Minnesota

### Term Expires 1997:

Rev. Richard Gunderson — Lake Stevens, Washington  
 \*Pastor Henry Mohagen — Towner, North Dakota  
 \*Rev. Tony Stockman — Brandon, Minnesota  
 Rev. Herbert Franz — Dollar Bay, Michigan  
 \*\*Mr. Vernon Russum — Grafton, North Dakota  
 Dr. Wayne Sletten — Faith, South Dakota  
 Miss Judith Wold — Thief River Falls, Minnesota  
 Mr. Kenneth Nash — Colfax, North Dakota  
 Mr. Mark Knutson — Newfolden, Minnesota  
 Mr. Timothy Rolf — McIntosh, Minnesota

# SCHOOLS CORPORATION

## \* Member of the Board of Trustees

### Term Expires 1993:

\*Mr. Arne Berge — Binford, North Dakota  
 Rev. Leslie Galland — Eden Prairie, Minnesota  
 Rev. Raynard Huglen — Newfolden, Minnesota  
 Rev. Craig Johnson — Eugene, Oregon  
 \*Rev. Gary Jorgenson — Ottawa, Illinois  
 Rev. Jerry Moan — Minot, North Dakota  
 Mr. Sheldon Mortrud — Lake Park, Minnesota  
 Mr. Ralph Peterson — Portland, North Dakota  
 Rev. Mark Molstre — Larimore, North Dakota  
 Rev. Tony Stockman — Brandon, Minnesota

### Term Expires 1994:

Mr. Don Carter — Lake Stevens, Washington  
 Rev. Bruce Dalager — Grand Forks, North Dakota  
 Rev. Philip Featherstone — Pukwana, South Dakota  
 Rev. James Fugleberg — Fargo, North Dakota

\*Mr. Wayne Floan — Fertile, Minnesota  
 Rev. Rodger Olson — Fergus Falls, Minnesota  
 Mr. Marlow Nash — Colfax, North Dakota  
 Rev. Emerson Anderson — Cloquet, Minnesota  
 Mr. Emory Flaten — Newfolden, Minnesota  
 Rev. Ralph Rokke — Minneapolis, Minnesota

### Term Expires 1995:

Mr. Art Arneson — Spicer, Minnesota  
 Mr. James Bjorgan — Minneapolis, Minnesota  
 Mr. David Borg — Cokato, Minnesota  
 Mr. Loiell Dyrud — Thief River Falls, Minnesota  
 Mr. Sheldon Een — Newark, Illinois  
 Mr. Eldon Hermunsle — Wahpeton, North Dakota  
 \*Rev. Lyndon Korhonen — Cokato, Minnesota  
 \*Rev. Kenneth Moland — Kirkland, Washington  
 Mr. Kenneth Rolf — McIntosh, Minnesota  
 Mr. Dale Smith — Lake Stevens, Washington



## SCHOOLS CORPORATION

### Term Expires 1996:

Dr. Philip Dyrud — Middle River, Minnesota  
Mr. Stanley Holmaas — Newfolden, Minnesota  
Rev. Harvey Jackson — Ishpeming, Michigan  
\*Mr. Tim Jones — Wyndmere, North Dakota  
Rev. Terry Olson — Valley City, North Dakota  
Mr. Roger Peterson — Thief River Falls, Minnesota  
Mr. Orville Qualley — Brockton, Montana  
Rev. James Ritter — Bloomington, Minnesota  
Pastor Lyle Twite — Bagley, Minnesota  
Rev. Terry Wold — Murrieta, California

### Term Expires 1997:

Rev. Martin Horn — Astoria, Oregon  
Mr. Dean Franz — Cloquet, Minnesota  
Pastor Rodney Stueland — Kenyon, Minnesota  
Mr. Clifford Dyrud — Moorhead, Minnesota  
Rev. Dennis Gray — Greenbush, Minnesota  
Mr. Clifford Johnson — Esko, Minnesota  
Rev. Paul Nash — Wichita Falls, Texas  
\*Mr. Kent Quanbeck — McVile, North Dakota  
Mr. James Rolf — Brandon, Minnesota  
Mr. Farrell Erickson — Badger, Minnesota

## ARC CORPORATION

### \* Member of the ARC Board

#### Term Expires 1993:

Mr. Jim Boe — Ottawa, Illinois  
Mr. Harlan Clark — Amery, Wisconsin  
Mr. Steve Johnson — Upsala, Minnesota  
Mr. Bill Buck — Sinai, South Dakota  
Mr. Richard Schauland — Marquette, Michigan  
Mr. Merle Jacobson — Amery, Wisconsin  
\*Mr. Cliff Seldal — DeKalb, Illinois  
Rev. Joel Rolf — Radcliffe, Iowa  
Rev. Robert Lee — Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Pastor Ken Thoreson — Janesville, Wisconsin

#### Term Expires 1994:

Mr. Steve Walters — Yorkville, Illinois  
Mr. Rod Kjersten — Roseau, Minnesota  
Mr. Tim Kjeseth — Amery, Wisconsin  
Mr. Erling Langness — Ishpeming, Michigan  
Mr. John Presteng — Grafton, North Dakota  
Dr. Peter Dyrud — Plymouth, Minnesota  
Mr. Luis Valdez — Maple Grove, Minnesota  
\*Mr. Allen Anderson — Clear Lake, Wisconsin  
Rev. Keith Quanbeck — Wheatland, Iowa  
Rev. Rob Lewis — Newark, Illinois

#### Term Expires 1995:

Mr. Ralph Beyer — Osceola, Wisconsin  
Mr. Halvor Knapp — Kandiyohi, Minnesota  
Mr. Lee Schierkolk — Prairie Farm, Wisconsin  
Mr. Gordie Newell — Cumberland, Wisconsin  
Mr. Harry Johnson — Chatham, Michigan  
Mr. Don Berge — Fargo, North Dakota  
Rev. Richard Long — Arlington, Washington  
\*Rev. Tonnes Pollestad — Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Rev. Brian Pearson — Arlington, South Dakota  
\*Rev. Michael Brandt — Sioux Falls, South Dakota

#### Term Expires 1996:

Mr. Allen Delzer — Shoreview, Minnesota  
Mr. Roger VanSomeran — Amery, Wisconsin  
Mr. John Kyrola — Forest Lake, Minnesota  
Mr. Jerome Stulen — Spicer, Minnesota  
Mr. Ivar Berge — Fargo, North Dakota  
\*Mr. Jim Ray — Esko, Minnesota  
Mr. Ralph Johnson — Upsala, Minnesota  
Mr. Brad Folsland — Oldham, South Dakota  
Rev. Tom Tuura — DeKalb, Illinois  
Rev. Peter Bergstedt — Forest Lake, Minnesota

#### Term Expires 1997:

Mr. Dave Olsland — DeKalb, Illinois  
Mr. Glen Hodnefield — Radcliffe, Iowa  
Mr. Dennis Jacobsen — Burlington, North Dakota  
Mr. Arden Jacobson — Champlin, Minnesota  
Mr. Larry Johnson — Amery, Wisconsin  
Rev. Brian Davidson — Rice Lake, Wisconsin  
Rev. John Rieth — Amery, Wisconsin  
Mr. Victor Parsons — St. Paul, Minnesota  
Mr. Lloyd Carlson — Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Mr. Clifford Holm — Menahga, Minnesota

### Need a Ride?

Enjoy traveling with a group of conference attendees on the "Partners in Mission Outreach" bus which will depart from Greenbush, Minnesota, on Tuesday, June 15 with a route through Grand Forks, Fargo, and Highway 94 to Minneapolis and on to DeKalb. The bus is a Greyhound style bus and is complete with air conditioning and a bathroom. Cost is \$110 per person round trip. In order to meet expenses we need a minimum of 20 people on the bus. Call Al Brazier in Greenbush for reservations at (218) 782-2456.



## The President's Welcome

*Repent therefore and return, that your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord (Acts 3:19).*

The words of our theme verse provide a solemn welcome to the 1993 Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. They also present a serious warning that every church body, not the least our own, needs to hear and heed. The path to refreshment is repentance, and the place of refreshment is the presence of the Lord. May we meet Him together at conference this year!

The annual conference is the heart of our common life as a church fellowship. A free association is not bound together by legal ties but by cords of love, which are linked by a commitment to our common faith and common tasks. Conference is a time for these bonds to be stretched and strengthened, as new brethren are included and new challenges accepted. "Iron sharpens iron," (Proverbs 27:17) as difficult issues are debated in love and mutual respect, even when we agree to disagree. It is hard to imagine how a congregational church body like ours could survive apart from the yearly conventions.

It will be good to return to DeKalb, too, to enjoy the excellent university facilities for our annual conference in this northern Illinois city. Our host congregation, Grace Free Lutheran Church, was a lonely AFLC outpost in the state for many years, and today is one of several in a growing district that is looking forward to a more informed and active participation than was possible in 1988.

You will notice that the conference will officially begin this year with "a concert of prayer" on Wednesday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. This change came about due to a suggestion from the Minneapolis District pastors, and it is our expectation that these moments together before the Throne of Grace will raise up a prayer shield around our

## Women's Missionary Federation Annual Convention

June 16-17, 1993

Women from across the United States will converge in DeKalb, Illinois for the Annual WMF Convention of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations on Wednesday, June 16. This is your invitation to be one of the participants.

Registration begins at 9 a.m. at the Holmes Student Center on the campus of Northern Illinois University. Registration and the noon luncheon is \$11. The convention will begin with a prayer service at 9:30 a.m. We will be gathering under the banner of our chosen theme: "Serve in Joy," from John 15:11.

Highlights planned for the convention are as follows:

- Several women of different age and experience will share how our Lord has uniquely worked in their lives.
- World Mission information and inspiration from two of our missionary couples to Brazil — Pastor David and Janet Abel and Pastor Paul and Becky Abel. Their children will be included in their presentations.
- The Ladies Breakfast on Thursday at 7 a.m. is always a time of encouragement. The cost is \$5.50.
- Rev. Allen Monson will bring the message at the Thursday evening Mission Festival Service. He is a pastor in Dickinson, North Dakota and is Chairman of the Home Missions Board.
- Pastor's wives will have an additional time of fellowship at meeting designed to promote friendships and sharing.

This gathering will follow the afternoon service on Wednesday.

You will have the opportunity to give an offering at each of the meetings. Monies will be distributed as follows: Wednesday morning to Home Missions; afternoon to General Fund; and Thursday evening Mission Festival offering will be divided between World Missions and My Missionary for a Day.

Childcare will be available, so bring the whole family!

— Cheryl Skordahl  
National WMF Secretary

## Welcome to DeKalb!

Grace Free Lutheran Church, as host for the 31st Annual Conference, cordially extends a welcome to all who are a part of the AFLC.

The conference will be held at the Holmes Student Center on the Northern Illinois University campus. This is a complete facility with conference rooms, guest rooms, food service and the Carl Sandburg Auditorium.

sessions and services. Your prayers now and during the conference are needed.

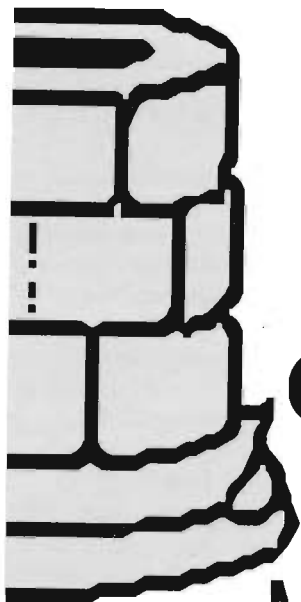
Come for a time of refreshing!

— Robert L. Lee

As we gather with the focus on the theme of "Times of Refreshing," many know from experience that June 16-20 will truly be a blessed time for each participant. We encourage everyone to exercise their privilege to attend the conference. We'll be waiting to greet each one of you!

For those driving to DeKalb, take Interstate 88 and the Annie Glidden Exit, if you are coming from the east or west. For those coming from the north or south, use Interstate 39 and exit at Rochelle, Illinois, to get on Interstate 88 East to DeKalb.

— Mervin Mathison  
Chairman, Grace Free  
Lutheran Church  
DeKalb, Illinois



# Digging Old Wells

Genesis 26:18

**M**any of you by now are planning your summer: for some, it includes the AFLC Annual Conference in DeKalb. As I think of our annual conferences I remember them as times of discovering new truths and promises from the Word. It also is a time for initiating new ideas and challenges for our churches as we gather together. But may I also add that our conferences are important for the truths we continue to preserve and rediscover from our understanding of God's Word.

Our text speaks of Isaac and what he did. He simply dug again the wells which his father Abraham had dug before him. He knew that he could not improve upon the locations or the quality of water in those old wells, but he dug them anyway.

Isaac had the misfortune of coming between two great men and personalities in the Bible — Abraham, who was his father, and Jacob, who was his son. Not much is said of Isaac that is thrilling or dynamic and yet he was very necessary and was a link in the chain of divine purpose and destiny of Israel.

Some men are great in what they initiate and discover: others are great in what they preserve or rediscover. **I think that most of us fall into the second group.**

**I. We have a great debt to those who have gone before us and dug those first wells.**

**A.** When Abraham dug those wells he dug them not only for himself, but for Isaac and his generation, and for many generations to come. What you and I enjoy today, the comforts we have, we are indebted to others who have gone before.

**B.** The same can be said spiritually. We owe a great debt to our Lord for being the "Way and the Truth and the Life" for us. We owe a great debt to Christian parents, Sunday School teachers, and pastors who dug into the Word and then shared and planted what they discovered. We also can be thankful for those who have met over the years at the annual conference and with much prayer and boldness, made decisions that have kept our AFLC on a Scripture-centered path.

**C.** To build for the future, we must continue to dig in the well of God's Word and then share it; for the tomorrow's are as important as the today's.

**II. As Isaac needed to dig again old wells, so do we.**

**A. There is the old well of worship and fellowship.** God knew what He was doing when He set aside a day for worship and rest. In the demanding, competitive world we live in we need to let our souls catch up with our bodies. Worship and fellowship have always been an important part of conference and that must never change.

**1.** The Lord's Day needs to be redug, it is a most necessary way to begin a new week.

**B. Then there is the old well of the Christian home.** The old Roman home was never complete and furnished until it had set up the household gods. There were two things Abraham did wherever he went, one was to dig a well that was necessary for physical life and the other was to build an altar, which was necessary for his spiritual life.

**1.** Our AFLC has benefited richly from godly men and women who taught their children to fear and love God. We will never be able to calculate the blessing and power of a Christian, godly home where prayers are offered and God's Word is read and honored. It is the only kind of home that can deal with the times we live in as well as eternity. It is this kind of home that makes our church strong.

**C. There is also the well of the Word.** This is something we can not take for granted. As hungry and needy people, we must always insist on the truths of God's Word as we gather in His Name. No other foundation will hold us or our church.

**1.** As we make our decisions at conference, we must constantly be aware of what the Word says. Times of refreshing and blessing come only to those who allow the Word to do its work.

(continued on page 13)



—Rev. David Molstre  
Palmdale, California

(Pastor Molstre is the Chairman of the AFLC Co-ordinating Committee.)

13. Every believer can be comforted with the fact that there is intercession being made on his behalf. What does Hebrews 7:25 tell us?

14. What further help is available? Romans 8:26, 27

You may be interested to read the outcome of the prayer meeting in Acts 12 (Key Verse) when the church had prayed for Peter in prison. Who do you think was the most surprised? Peter? the guards? Rhoda? the church? God?

If any of these Scriptures have inspired you to increase your prayer ministry in intercession, here is a practical suggestion: "One of the things that the Spirit must teach us about prayer as work is this: to learn to take time to pray. All work takes time ... we must arrange our daily program in such a way that there is time also for this work, just as we set aside time for other necessary things, such as eating and dressing ... No one else therefore, will be able to do it except those who are willing to sacrifice the time to do it." p. 81, "Prayer," Hallesby.

Compose your own prayer of intercession from Scripture used in this lesson.

"I have a Savior, He's pleading in glory,  
A dear loving Savior, though earth-friends be few;  
And now He is watching in tenderness o're me,  
But oh, that my Savior were your Savior too!  
For you I am praying, For you I am praying,  
For you I am praying, I'm praying for you."

— S.O'Malley Clough



## Lord, Teach Us To Pray

Prayer:

### Interceding

#### Key Verses:

"And I searched for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the gap before Me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one," (Ezekiel 22:30).

"So Peter was kept in prison, but prayer for him was being made fervently by the church to God," (Acts 12:5).

"Prayer is the most important work in the kingdom of God." — Hallesby

This statement is particularly true of the subjects in our next two lessons on prayer — Interceding and Spiritual Warfare. Listen to what O. Hallesby also says in his chapter, "Prayer As Work."

"This work is the most important of all because ... The work of praying is prerequisite to all other work in the kingdom of God, for the simple reason that it is by prayer that we couple the powers of heaven to our helplessness, the powers which can turn water into wine and remove mountains in our own life and in the lives of others, the powers which can awaken those who sleep in sin and raise up the dead, the powers which can capture strongholds and make the impossible possible." pp. 80-81, "Prayer," O. Hallesby

Intercession is prayer offered in behalf of others.

1. Look up Isaiah 59:15,16. Why was the LORD displeased and astonished?

Brother Andrew, a missionary and intercessor of our day, who has smuggled Bibles to the suffering church since the 1930s, says the following in his June 1989 *News Brief*. "When we see as God sees, the divine nature which has become our inheritance through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ should also arouse in us the same feelings that God has. Is that still the case with us — or has that divine tenderness been crushed by the flood of insensitivity, violence, disaster and sin that washes over us every day through the media? ... there have to be prayer partners, intercessors, messengers and workers who will stand between the holy, righteous God and this lost world."

There were other times in Old Testament history (besides the two references already referred to in Ezekiel and Isaiah) where God did raise up an intercessor with the moral quality needed for right leadership. Several well-known Old Testament figures stood "in the gap" for God's people at crucial times.

Complete the following chart to learn who some of these leaders were and what situations they were interceding for.

Reference	Intercessor	Request
2. Job 42:7-10	Job	He prayed for his friends to be restored to God's favor.
3. Genesis 18:22-33		
4. Exodus 32:7-14		
5. Numbers 6:22-27		
6. I Samuel 7:5-10		
7. I Chronicles 29:10, 17-19		

8. Read I Samuel 12:23. How seriously did Samuel regard his ministry of prayer?

God wants us to follow the example of these intercessors. Listen again to our teacher, O. Hallesby, "It is our Lord's will that we who have received access to these powers through prayer should go through this world transmitting heavenly power to every corner of a world which needs it sorely. Our lives should be, according to our Lord's plans, quiet but steadily flowing streams of blessing, which through our prayers and intercessions should reach our whole environment. ... Wherever we go, we meet people who are in need of something. If the Spirit could give us that open eye of love which sees both visible and invisible needs, everything we saw would give rise to prayer." pp. 64, 65, "Prayer," Hallesby

9. What Stephen saw in Acts 7:60 was a group of angry people who were ready to put him to death. Whose example did he follow in his final prayer?

10. We are thankful also for the example of the apostle Paul in his intercessions. Who and what does he pray for in Romans 10:1? How does this encourage us in our prayers for unsaved loved ones?

11. The New Testament further encourages our prayers of intercession in James 5:14. What is the area of concern presented here?

12. Jesus Himself in Matthew 9:38 also commands our intercession on behalf of His Kingdom. What is His instruction?

## Report of the Tenth Annual Conference of the AFLC-Canada

### *To the praise of His glory .*

Ephesians 1:14b

This was the theme of the Tenth Annual Conference of the AFLC in Canada, April 2-4 in Camrose, Alberta.

Solid Rock Lutheran congregation in Camrose held services at the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute which graciously offered their facilities for the conference.

Pastor Gene Sundby, re-elected as president for the third consecutive term, prayed that all had come together with one clear purpose in mind, that to God is the glory.

"No man or woman can take credit for what God has accomplished in the AFLC in Canada these ten years," declared President Sundby in his report.

A booklet entitled, "The AFLC in Canada," written as a celebration of the tenth anniversary, presented a history of the work in Canada beginning with the formation of the Lutheran Free Church in the United States, and following through the first AFLC congregation at Lake Alma, Saskatchewan, to seven present congregations in the three most western Canadian provinces.

While committee meetings were

held Friday afternoon, the WMF held their annual meeting with Mrs. Les (Dawn) Johnson leading as president. Guest speaker Mrs. Martin (Arlene) Christensen spoke on prayer. The WMF elected Ceta Rude, Lake Alma, as president; Magna Norheim, Frontier, Saskatchewan, as second vice-president; and Arlene Gilbertsen, Frontier, treasurer.

The conference began Friday evening with a service led by Pastor Jim Winter of Calgary and speaker was Rev. Robert Lee, AFLC President. Pastor Steve Olinger of Camrose assisted with the communion and following the service, Gene Sundby officially opened the conference.

Pastor Martin Christensen of Badger, Minnesota, who has been called to serve the newest congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church, Elbow, Sask., led the morning Bible study in the book of Ephesians on Saturday and Sunday.

"All Christians have the Holy Spirit," Pastor Christensen reminded us, "It is not that we need something more, but that we need our spiritual eyes opened to see what we already have in Christ."

Rev. Gerald Gettis, Vernon, B.C. was elected as vice-president; and John Atwood, Vernon, as secretary. Mr. Olaf Friggstad, Frontier, Saskatchewan, was re-elected for a five-year term on the Co-ordinating Committee.

Mr. Nelson Kung of World Relief-

Canada spoke after the banquet Saturday evening about the work of World Relief in "third world" countries. He gave a testimony of his childhood spent in poverty in Hong Kong and his conversion to Christ.

In his message Saturday evening Rev. Lee reminded the delegates, "There are no easy steps to unity, but keep focused on God. God can give us a spirit of one accord when we submit self-first to God, then to one another."

Doug MacKay, president of Solid Rock Church in Camrose, led the service Sunday morning and Pastor Steve Olinger conducted a time of sharing and prayer. Rev. Elden Nelson, AFLC Home Missions Director, in his sermon spoke on preparing for the coming of Jesus. Using the examples of Mary who prepared by sitting at the feet of Jesus and hearing Him, and of Judas whose lack of preparation led to deceit and betrayal, he concluded that only a relationship with Jesus makes us ready for His coming.

The congregations of the AFLC in Canada extended their sympathy for the Gettis family of Vernon, B.C., as after arriving in Camrose for the conference, Shirley Gettis received word that her father had passed away suddenly. Rev. Gettis drove her to Edmonton, where she caught a plane for Kelowna, B.C.

— by Ceta Rude  
Lake Alma, Saskatchewan

### WELLS

**D. There is one more well I would like to mention that needs attention and that is my own personal life.** the Philistines are still around us today only in different form, and they will do all they can to choke and fill up the wells of our spiritual life. If we come to conference unprepared and unfed and with no vision or purpose, we can expect an unfruitful time with few blessings.

1. We live in a complex world with many changes going on around us. The world

changes, but improvements over prayer, God's Word, worship, and Christian fellowship are impossible. If we prepare ourselves before conference with the gifts God has given us then we can expect a blessed time together in the building of His Kingdom's work.

As we come to annual conference, there is always the challenge to discover and initiate. But many times the greatest need and challenge is to simply preserve and do some rediscovering of what God has already given us.

See you at conference.



# Directory of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

## OFFICERS

**Rev. Robert Lee, President**  
3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441  
**Rev. Kenneth Moland, Vice-President**  
11611 NE 140th Street  
Kirkland, Washington 98034  
**Rev. Ronald Knutson, Secretary**  
RR 2, Box 2251  
Brandon, South Dakota 57005  
**Mr. Ernest Miedema,**  
**Director of Development**  
Crystal, Minnesota  
**Rev. Les Galland,**  
**Business Administrator**  
Eden Prairie, Minnesota  
**Marlene Unverzagt, Bookkeeper**  
New Hope, Minnesota

## CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

**Rev. David Molstre, Chairman**  
Palmdale, California  
**Mr. Ralph Peterson, Secretary**  
Portland, North Dakota

## ASSOCIATION SCHOOLS

**Chairman, Board of Trustees**  
**Rev. Lyndon Korhonen**  
Cokato, Minnesota  
**Secretary, Board of Trustees**  
**Rev. Gary Jorgenson**  
Ottawa, Illinois  
**Dean, Free Lutheran Seminary**  
**Dr. Francis Monseth**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
**Dean, Bible School**  
**Rev. Donald Greven**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

## HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

**Rev. Allen Monson, Chairman**  
Dickinson, North Dakota  
**Secretary Committee**  
**Pastor Henry Mohagen**  
Towner, North Dakota  
**Executive Director**  
**Rev. Elden Nelson**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

## WORLD MISSIONS

**Chairman, Committee**  
**Mr. Kenneth Williams**  
Ishpeming, Michigan  
**Secretary, Committee**  
**Mr. Randy Sommer**  
Sparland, Illinois  
**Executive Director**  
**Rev. Eugene Enderlein**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

## BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

**Rev. Wesley Langaas, Chairman**  
McVie, North Dakota  
**Mrs. Barbara Stueland, Secretary**  
Kenyon, Minnesota  
**Mrs. Katha Tjelta, Director**  
Blaine, Minnesota

## YOUTH BOARD

**Rev. Joel Rolf, Chairman**  
Radcliffe, Iowa  
**Secretary-Treasurer**  
**Pastor Mark Olson**  
Ottawa, Illinois  
**Youth Resources Director**  
**Rev. Dennis Gray**  
Greenbush, Minnesota  
**Associate Director**  
**Mr. Bob Halvorson**  
Otsego, Minnesota

## STEWARDSHIP BOARD

**Mr. Ralph Johnson, Secretary**  
Upsala, Minnesota

## PENSION BOARD

**Rev. Gary Skramstad, Chairman**  
Osakis, Minnesota  
**Mr. LaVern Thompson, Secretary**  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

## COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM

**Pastor Lyle Twite, Chairman**  
Bagley, Minnesota  
**Rev. Peter Franz, Secretary**  
Cloquet, Minnesota

## ARC BOARD

**Mr. Cliff Seldal, Chairman**  
DeKalb, Illinois  
**Secretary-Treasurer**  
**Mr. Allen Anderson**  
Clear Lake, Wisconsin  
**Mr. Robert Dietsche, Director**  
Osceola, Wisconsin

## CHRISTIAN ACADEMIC BOARD

**Mr. Chuck McKeen**  
Lakeville, Minnesota  
**Mrs. Karen Haugen, Secretary**  
Cokato, Minnesota

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

**Mrs. Linda Korhonen, President**  
Cokato, Minnesota  
**Mrs. Karen Knudsvig,**  
**Executive Secretary**  
Buxton, North Dakota

## LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION

**Rev. Terry Wold, President**  
Murietta, California

## Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Proverbs 3:27 says: "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it." I received the *Ambassador* this morning; the cover which pictured crocus looked so real. I used to pick them on a hill that is now part of the Wilderness camp.

I look forward to getting the magazine; it feeds my soul. Enclosed is a

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

**Rev. Ernest and Hazel Langness,**  
Ishpeming, Michigan, will be honored by family and friends at a celebration

check to help with the *Ambassador* shortage.

**Mrs. Sylvia Dahlgren**  
Lake Park, Minnesota

*Mrs. Dahlgren and her late husband Lawrence were the donors of the land where the AFLC Wilderness Camp is located.*

of their 50th wedding anniversary on May 30 at Hope Free Evangelical Lutheran Church. Greetings may be sent to them at 858 North Pine Street, Ishpeming, MI 49849.

**Rev. Wendell Johnson, Spicer,** Minnesota, submitted his resignation to the Co-ordinating Committee for reasons of health. His replacement will be determined by the annual conference. Pastor Johnson, who was elected to a new term on the committee in 1991, previously served two full terms and a partial one, with a total of almost 13 years.

## A CALL FOR CONFERENCE INVITATIONS ... AND A CLARIFICATION

Where will the 1994 AFLC Annual Conference meet? This decision will probably be made on Saturday afternoon at the conclusion of our business sessions in DeKalb. It appears that at least one invitation will be presented to the conference at that time, and then the delegates will be asked to vote on its acceptance.

A change in procedure developed over the past few years, transferring the final decision on conference invitations to the Co-ordinating Committee, but our Rules for Work are clear that this choice rests with the conference itself (or, in the event that it is not done, with the president and secretary). The one obvious result of this change was the scheduling of conference for three consecutive years in the Twin Cities area, and the suggestion that this was an official policy, not subject to conference discussion and approval (see the editorial in the July 9, 1991, issue).

The fact that a procedure contrary to our rules for Work could be accepted without protest from anyone ought to be a concern for us all. One of the ways in which we prepare for conference this year might be a new study of our Fundamental Principles and rules for Work. It is not easy to build a free church, and vigilance is a price that must be paid.

## THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN

The 1992 Annual Conference responded to a series of concerns as well as a recommendation from the Co-ordinating Committee by authorizing the appointment of a special seven-member study commission "to study and evaluate the ministries, structure and finances of the AFLC." This was to be accomplished by interviewing and listening to concerns expressed by individuals, congregations, staff, boards and committees, plus the advice of two outside consultants, and a final report and recommendations were to be presented to the next annual conference.

The report is now complete and ready to be mailed to pastors and congregations. All who plan to attend conference will hopefully have an opportunity to study the document in advance and be prepared to discuss it. The committee also determined that the last conference empowered it to authorize a financial audit in advance of the upcoming conference's approval, and the results should be available for consideration in DeKalb, too.

The committee carefully attempted to balance autonomy with accountability, and their recommendation that conference decisions be binding on all staff, boards, committees and commissions may be one that will inspire considerable response. Two major new staff positions are recommended, which may seem at variance with the mandate to bring spending into balance with income, unless one assumes that they will either save money through greater efficacy or generate more income in the long run. For the present, however, fiscal responsibility requires that one inquire where the funds for these new positions will be found. The recommendations regarding World Missions may be the most painful, and the committee must be prepared to define and defend their conclusions when individuals are targeted by them.

The AFLC owes a debt of gratitude to the "Committee of Seven" for their efforts, whether we finally endorse all of their conclusions or not. It is good for a church fellowship like ours to take a fresh look at our policies and practices after 30 years, lest we fall into the trap of institutionalism. What may have been effective for association of 50 congregations might not serve a church body of over 200 as efficiently.

"We've never done it that way before" are still the seven last words of the church. Perhaps the Lord is giving the AFLC a special opportunity this year to look beyond tradition and be renewed in our calling to building a free church in a free land with the unique balance of autonomy and accountability that is at the heart of our mission.

**Rev. Edwin I. Iverson**, Ferndale, Washington, has accepted a call to serve Trinity Lutheran Church, Boscobel, Wisconsin, beginning in late May. Pastor Iverson, formerly on the clergy roster of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, was approved by the Co-ordinating Committee after colloquy, and will be included on the Fellowship Roster. Trinity Church has been served during the interim by various students, and most recently by **Rev. Harold Reitz**, who will return to his home in Norcross, Georgia.

**Rev. Alvin E. Magnuson**, Aberdeen, South Dakota, was ordained into the AFLC ministry on April 18 at Grace Free Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, where he has served since 1990. The Rite of Ordination was conducted by Rev. Elden K. Nelson, AFLC Home Missions Director, with district pastors and family participating. Pastor Magnuson, who graduated in 1960 from the Lutheran Brethren Seminary, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, was employed as an educator by the Bureau of Indian Affairs for many years in Arizona and South Dakota.

## In Memoriam

**Bernard W. Nelson**, 75, Chassell, Michigan, president of Maranatha Free Lutheran Church for 15 years, died on February 12, 1993. Among the survivors are his wife, and daughters Ruth (Mrs. Jon Strand) and Jane, both AFLBS graduates.

**Peter Jeffrey Nikunen**, the stillborn son of Jeff and Brenda (Kjos) Nikunen, Eden Prairie, Minnesota, died on April 16, 1993. His grandparents are Rev. Jerome and Phyllis Nikunen, Chilli-cothe, Illinois, and Rev. Edwin and Yvonne Kjos, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.

## The Honest Answer

When the current session of Congress began 20 of the newly elected representatives were asked, "Do you approve of what we're doing to stop what's going on in Freedonia?" They all attempted to give serious, well thought out replies. "I think all of those situations are very, very sad and I just think we need to take action to assist the people," said one. Another Congressman commented, "It's coming to the point now that a blind eye to it for the next ten years is not the answer." It most certainly isn't.

Possibly the most accurate observation made was, "It's a different situation than the Middle East." It is that for sure. Freedonia is a fictitious nation that existed only in a Marx Brothers' movie of some decades ago. Obviously, it was impossible for any of these members of Congress to be familiar with what is going on in this imaginary nation. Yet, not one of them gave what would have been the only truthful response: "I have never heard of such a country and I know nothing about it." They wanted to appear knowledgeable. They all avoided honestly admitting their ignorance.

Members of Congress often are tempting targets for ridicule. We need to remember, though, they are our representatives. People tend to get the type of government they deserve and one that reflects what they are like. Instead of arrogantly laughing at the answers given regarding Freedonia, let us consider how we engage in the same type of behavior.

Politicians want to appear to be on top of the issues and we want to appear to be on top of life. When asked how they are doing, people usually say, "fine," even if their life is falling apart. They don't want others to think they are unable to handle the trial they are going through, especially if they are a "good church member." They put forward a facade of strength and knowledge. The fear exists that "if people know how weak

and ignorant I am, they'll reject me and God might do the same."

God is not fooled by those who act as if they are strong and wise and in control. He knows our true nature. He knows that we really have no clue as to how to answer the big questions of life. He is aware as He says in Isaiah 40:30 that: "Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall."

God invites the tired and the weary, the fallen and the weak, to come to Him. "He gives us strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak," (Isaiah 40:29). He is looking for people who will admit they can't answer all the questions and solve all their problems. He desires to lift up those who confess they are too weak to help themselves.

True strength does not come from maintaining an impressive appearance. Trying to fool others is not the path to wisdom. The Apostle Paul said, "When I am weak, then I am strong," (II Corinthians 12:10). Isaiah said, "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength," (Isaiah 40:31). God urges us to stop trying to appear strong and powerful, but to instead admit we are weak and sinful.

"Pastor, where in the Bible does it

say ...? Pastor, what does this verse mean?" Often I don't know the answer when I'm asked questions like that. At times, I've given in to the temptation to bluff my way through instead of admitting my ignorance. I've maybe fooled the one asking the question, but I haven't fooled God. We don't want others to see our weaknesses and shortcomings, but God knows the truth all along.

Acting can be exhausting. The author of Psalm 32 says his strength was sapped when he kept silent about his transgressions. Then, he acknowledged his sin to God and did not cover up his iniquity. God forgave the guilt of his sin.

When God asks, "How are you doing?" reply, "I'm a weak and needy sinner." That's the answer He wants to hear. Forgiveness and eternal life is the blessing He wants to confer.



— by Rev.  
Craig Johnson