

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 14, 1991



Encouragement

of the

Scriptures

ROMANS 15:4

welcome
AFLC ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
JUNE 12-16

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 14, 1991 • Vol. 29, No. 10

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Be Ye Ready

The Bible beseeches us to be ready to meet our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Matthew 24:44 warns: "Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh." Matthew 25:10 adds: "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they **that were ready** went in with him to the marriage and the door was shut."

To be ready is to have Christ's Spirit in our hearts and in control of our lives. Only then are we ready to face Him without fear. If you are not ready, the time is **now**.

We are hearing more and more often, as events unfold, that His Coming could be very close. Indeed, those who love Him are **looking** for His soon return. We read in Hebrews 9:28: "So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and **unto them that look for Him** shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

It behooves all of us to be ready and watching. This does not mean that we drop everything we are doing and climb some mountain and wait for His appearing. No, it is very plain in Scripture that he who will not work should not eat either. We are to be busy with our jobs, take care of our responsibilities, and even enjoy our leisure time. But in all of this we also are to be ready for the coming of the Lord.

In I Peter 3:15 we have another call to readiness: "Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts; and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear." We should be ready to share our Christian faith with others whenever opportunity presents itself. But the life we live must also correspond with what we say. When others see that we respond to pressure, disappointment, sorrow, fault-finding, etc., with kindness,

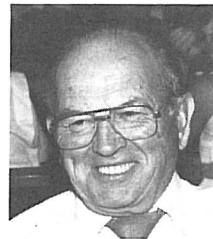
patience, happiness and contentment, our lives will speak clearly.

I am reminded of two farm couples, one Christian and the other not. Both struggled very hard to make ends meet. The unsaved couple watched the believers, and could not understand how they could be content and happy through such hard times. Because of this testimony of love for Jesus and peace in the midst of problems, the unsaved couple started to search the Scriptures and also came to peace with God.

Foremost in the life of a Christian is his walk. But walking alone will not do it. Others need to know why the Christian lives as he does and that comes from talking.

I feel that far too many Christians neglect to share with others what Jesus means to them. John 15:11 reads: "These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full." If Christians do not tell why they have joy and peace, how will others know? It is true, is it not, that if you can't enjoy something very much then you won't talk about it very much, either? How then, can we as Christians, be so slow in our witness for Jesus? Consider how great things He has done for us, including the joy that He has given!

Let us then be **ready** to witness wherever we are, and make good use of the opportunities He places before us, "looking for that blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ."



— by Rev.
Alvin Larson

29th Annual Conference

of the
Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

June 12-16, 1991

AFLC Retreat Center, Osceola, Wisconsin

Conference Theme: "Encouragement of the Scriptures"

Text: Romans 15:4

Registration \$15, or \$25 per couple, to be paid at the time of arrival.

Wednesday, June 12

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

The opening service of the conference with the sermon on the text by Rev. Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minnesota. The service leader is Rev. John Rieth, Amery, Wisconsin. AFLC President Richard Snipstead will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

Offering to the AFLC.

Thursday, June 13

9:00 a.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Adoption of the Conference Agenda.

Election of the Nominating Committee for the 1992 Conference.

The President's Report.

Report of the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, Rev. Leslie Galland, Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Report of the Business Administrator, Rev. Leslie Galland.

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

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 the Director for the Administration Building Campaign, Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minnesota.

Report of the Building Committee for the new Administration Building, Mr. Lloyd Carlson, Minneapolis.

Report on Progress on New Hymnal, Pastor Thomas Olson, Cumberland, Wisconsin.

Financial Report, Mr. Aldon Enstad, Public Accountant.

Report of the Family Bible Camps:

Osceola, Treasurer, Rev. John Rieth, Amery.

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 and the Schools Corporation.

Report of Committee #1 (Administration).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour. Leader: Rev. Vincent Will, Springfield, Missouri.

1:30 p.m. Devotions.

Report of Credentials Committee.

Elections.

Decision on Voting Procedures.

Vice-President — one-year term.

Secretary — one-year term.

Selection of Nominees to the Home Missions Committee — two pastors (one five-year term, one three-year term); World Missions Committee — one layman; Board of Trustees — one pastor and one layman.

Continuing discussion of Committee #1.

Election of nominees to the Co-ordinating Committee — one layman and one pastor.

Election of a member to the ARC Board — one layman.

Election of Committee #1 for the 1992 Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Washington.

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

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

Report of the AFLBS Alumni Association, Mr. Blair Johnson, President.

Report of Committee #2 (Schools).

SCHEDULE

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

The Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation, Speaker: Rev. Connely Dyrud, Brazil.

Friday, June 14

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 1992 Conference.

Report of the Schools' Corporation Annual Meeting.

Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee, Rev. Einar Unseth, Glenville, Minnesota.

Report of the Director of World Missions, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Minneapolis.

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.

Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism, Lay Pastor Lyle Twite, Bagley, Minnesota.

Report of Committee #3 (Missions and Evangelism).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Rev. Will

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

8:00 p.m. Laymen's Service. Speaker: Mr. Paul Anderson, Minneapolis.

Offering to the AFLC.

Saturday, June 15

9:00 a.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Continuing discussion of the report of the Committee #3.

Election of member to the Commission on Evangelism — one pastor.

Election of Committee #3 for the 1992 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.

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, East Grand Forks, Minnesota.

Come to Wisconsin

The 29th Annual Conference of the AFLC will soon be here. June 12-16 are the dates. We at the ARC are busy making preparations for your arrival and stay. We say **welcome** and look forward to serving you in anyway we can.

The theme for our 29th Annual Conference is, "Encouragement of the Scriptures" (Romans 15:4). In this day and age we are so in need of encouragement and encouragers. As we come to conference, let us encourage one another in prayer in our prayer sessions, in the Scriptures as the Word is expounded in the evening services, in the Lord's business through our daily sessions and in fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ in the AFLC.

The signs of spring are indicating the Lord's handiwork all around us in northwestern Wisconsin. You will enjoy your drive along the scenic St. Croix River from any direction. You can come by way of Stillwater and north from Somerset on Wisconsin 35 or you can come from St. Croix Falls to Osceola and south on Wisconsin 35. You can also come by way of Interstate 35. Exit at Forest Lake, go east on Minnesota 97, then north on 95 and cross the river at Osceola. If you need further help with directions, please contact us.

The gangplank is down, the door is open, the **welcome** mat is out. Please come aboard and spend this time with your fellow AFLC shipmates at the ARC for the 29th Annual Conference.

— Bob and Carol Dietsche

Report of Youth Resources Director, Rev. Dennis Gray, Greenbush, Minnesota.
 Report of Committee #4 (Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Rev. Will.

1:30 p.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credential Committee.
 Election of member to the Board of Publications and Parish Education — one pastor.
 Election of member to the Youth Board — one layman.

Election of Committee #4 for the 1992 Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board, Rev. Roy Johnson, Ortonville, Minnesota.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Mr. Eugene Nesland, Thief River Falls.

Report of Committee #5 (Stewardship and Pensions).

Election of members to the Stewardship Board - two laymen.

Election of a member to the Board of Pensions - one pastor.

Election of Committee #5 for the 1992 Conference.

Election of the Colloquy Committee for the 1992 Conference.

Report of special committees.

Election of two members to the Budget Analysis Committee — three year term.

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

Other Reports.

Invitation to the 1992 Conference.

8:00 p.m. Youth Night at the Conference
 Leader: Mr. Bob Halvorson, Bloomington, Minnesota.
 Speaker: Rev. James Ritter, Bloomington.

Offering to the AFLC.

Sunday, June 16

8:00 a.m. Communion Service
 Leader: Rev. Tom Olson, Cumberland, Wisconsin.
 Speaker: Rev. Dale Mellgren, Tioga, North Dakota.

10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Ordination
 Leader: Dr. Francis Monseth, Minneapolis.
 Speaker: Rev. John Abel, Brazil.

Offering to the AFLC.

Conference Committee

Rev. Richard Snipstead, President
 Rev. Ronald Knutson, Secretary

Welcome to the 1991 Annual Conference

In just a few weeks the annual conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will convene at our Retreat Center near Osceola, Wisconsin. I am pleased to have this opportunity to extend an invitation to our people to avail themselves of this opportunity to be a part of the conference.

As you will also note elsewhere in this issue, the conference will begin on Wednesday, June 12, and conclude on Sunday, June 16. The business agenda for the conference is also contained in this issue, and we would encourage you to study it.

One of our major goals for the conference is to have every congregation represented. We would be delighted if this would be a reality at our next annual conference. There are many of our people who have never attended an AFLC annual conference. We would urge many of you in that position to come to the conference to learn how our church works.

In addition to that, many of you have never had the opportunity to be at the ARC. Come and experience the joy of being at this exceedingly fine facility that God has enabled the AFLC to own.

There have been many requests for prayer for special needs within our AFLC in recent days. We would add to your prayer list one of the most important gatherings of our AFLC, the 29th Annual Conference. Preparations are being made for you, so come and share the joys of conference.

*Rev. Richard Snipstead,
president, AFLC*

ELECTIONS

OFFICERS

Vice President — (1 year-term)
Rev. Robert Lee has served six terms.

Secretary — (1 year-term) Rev.
Ronald Knutson has served five terms.

1991 Nominating Committee

Mr. Ralph Peterson, Portland — Eastern North Dakota.

Mr. Dwight Jacobson, Minot — W. North Dakota-E. Montana.

Rev. Ted Berkas, Wallace — South Dakota-Nebraska.

Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden — Northwestern Minnesota.

Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh — North Central Minnesota.

Rev. George Knapp, Willmar — Southwest Central Minnesota.

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko — Lake Superior.

Rev. James Ritter, Bloomington — Minneapolis.

Mr. David Blake, Ontonagon — Northern Michigan.

Rev. Keith Quanbeck, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota — Arizona — So. California — Texas.

Mr. Alfred Tollefson, Astoria — West Coast.

Mr. David Murray, Massapequa — East Coast.

Mr. Merv Mathison, DeKalb — Illinois.

Members of the Nominating Committee welcome suggestions as to candidates for the various boards, committees and corporations of the AFLC to be chosen this year. They also need names for the five resolutions committees to be selected for the 1992 Annual Conference. The suggestions may come from any AFLC member, not only those who will be attending the conference in June.

CORPORATIONS

Election by Corporations:

Co-ordinating Committee — (two five-year terms) Mr. Clifford Johnson has served a partial term. Rev. Les Galland has served one term.

Board of Trustees — two five-year terms) Mr. Ralph Peterson has served two consecutive terms. He is ineligible for re-election. Rev. Kenneth Moland has served one term.

World Missions Committee — (one five-year term) Mr. Arley Hartsoch has served one term.

Home Missions — (one five-year term and 1 three-year term) Rev. Philip Haugen has served two consecutive terms. He is ineligible for re-election. Resignation of Rev. Herbert Franz.

Attention Youth Workers

The Youth Board will meet during Conference Friday noon, June 14. Others involved with youth work are urged to attend. Lunch will be a la carte. Those attending should pick up their food at the Manna Inn and bring it to the lounge on first floor at Good News Lodge.

OTHER

Stewardship Board — (one five-year term and 1 one-year term) Mr. Matt Myre has served a partial term. Mr. Lynn Tharaldson has served a partial term.

Commission on Evangelism — (one five-year term) Rev. Peter Franz has served one full term and one partial term — is eligible for re-election.

Board of Publications and Parish Education — (one five-year term) Rev. Richard Anderson has served one term.

Youth Board — (one five-year term) Mr. Dennis Christopherson has served one full term and one partial term — is eligible for re-election.

Board of Pensions — (one five-year term) Rev. Frank Cherney has served one term.

ARC Board — (one five-year term) Mr. James Ray has served one term.

The ARC Board is in the process of incorporating the ARC, and will be requesting the conference to elect an ARC Corporation.

CONFERENCE ELECTION PROCEDURES

Ecclesiastical Ballot: for the election of AFLC officers.

1. The first ballot is the nominating ballot. Each voting member of the conference may place in nomination the person of their choosing.

2. Only persons whose names appear on the first ballot are eligible for consideration on further ballots.

3. Any person receiving 75 percent or more of total votes cast on the first ballot is automatically elected. On subsequent ballots, only a simple majority of the total votes cast is required for election.

4. Incumbents who have served three or more consecutive terms must receive 75 percent of total votes cast to be re-elected.

5. All persons receiving ten percent or less of total votes cast on the second ballot shall be dropped from consideration on the next ballot. The person receiving the least number of ballots on the third and subsequent ballots will be dropped from further consideration.

For all other elections:

Nominations will be presented by the Nominations Committee and may also be offered from the floor. A simple majority of votes cast is required for election.

On the second and subsequent ballots, the person receiving the least number of votes will be dropped from further consideration.

AFLC CORPORATIONS

MISSIONS

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 and send those names to the corporation for decision at its annual meeting on June 14. 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 are eligible to attend the annual meeting of the corporation on June 14:

(*Denotes World Missions Committee member; **denotes Home Missions Committee member.)

Term Expires 1991:

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, Minnesota.

Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, Wisconsin.**

Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Mr. Harold Erickson, New York Mills, Minnesota.

Rev. Dale Mellgren, Tioga, North Dakota.

Rev. Allen Monson, Dickinson, North Dakota.**

Mrs. Aini Myking, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Rev. John Rieth, Amery, Wisconsin.

Mr. Joel Rogenes, Ely, Minnesota.

Mr. Doyle Watson, Kirkland, Washington.

Term Expires 1992:

Rev. Richard Gunderson, Lake Stevens, Washington.

Mr. Henry Mohagen, Towner, North Dakota.**

Rev. Tony Stockman, Brandon, Minnesota.

Mr. Martin Bjornson, Valley City, North Dakota.

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. Ellis Olson, Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Term Expires 1993:

Rev. Mark Antal, Brussels, Belgium.

Rev. James Asp, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

Mr. Bob Christian, Newark, Illinois.

Rev. Lawrence Dynneson, Nogales, Arizona.

Mr. Emory Flaten, Newfolden, Minnesota.

Rev. Peter Franz, Mankato, Minnesota.

Rev. Philip Haugen, Minneapolis, Minnesota.**

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, Kalispell, Montana.

Rev. John Skeie, Morris, Illinois.

Term Expires 1995:

Mr. Philip Grothe, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.

Mr. Robert Halvorson, Bloomington, Minnesota.

Mr. Arley Hartsoch, Ray, North Dakota.*

Rev. Orville Hiepler, Valley Center, California.

Rev. Ted Kennedy, Jr., Nogales, Arizona.*

Dr. Lyle Mattson, Greenbush, Minnesota.

Mr. Randy Sommer, Chillicothe, Illinois.*

Mr. Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wisconsin.

Rev. Thomas Tuura, McIntosh, Minnesota.

Mr. Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Michigan.*

SCHOOLS

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 names of these persons to the corporation for decision at its annual meeting on June 13. 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 remove one from membership on the board.

The following are eligible to attend the annual meeting of the corporation on June 13:

(*Denotes member of the Board of Trustees.)

Term Expires 1991:

Dr. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, Minnesota.

Mr. Charles Hanson, Amery, Wisconsin.

Rev. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, Michigan.

Rev. Mauritz Lundeen, Brandon, Minnesota.

Rev. Terry Olson, Valley City, North Dakota.

◇

AFLC May Promotion - General Fund

The AFLC offices and the general on-going expenses of our church are covered by this fund.

Attention LBI Alumni

People who attended the Lutheran Bible Institute are invited to meet during the annual conference on Wednesday, June 12, after the opening service, in the Blue Room of the Chapel.

Please go through the coffee line and bring your food to the Blue Room.

SCHOOLS CORPORATION

Mr. Orville Qualley, Brockton, Montana.

Rev. Philip Rokke, Minnewaukan, North Dakota.

Mr. Alfred Tollefson, Astoria, Oregon.

Pastor Lyle Twite, Bagley, Minnesota.

Mr. Ronald Willand, Ferndale, Washington.

Term Expires 1992:

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. John Mundfrom, Eben Junction, Michigan.

Rev. Paul Nash, Warroad, Minnesota.

Mr. Kent Quanbeck, McVie, North Dakota.*

Mr. James Rolf, Brandon, Minnesota.

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. Lozell 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.

CORRECTION: The Pastor's Banquet cost is \$9.95 each, not \$10.75 as listed on the registration form.

WMF ANNUAL CONVENTION

The ARC — June 12, 1991

Osceola, Wisconsin

Theme: "Hold Fast — God is Faithful" (Hebrews 10:23)

9 a.m. Registration and coffee

9:30 a.m. Prayer Service

10 a.m. Bible Study — Leader: Mrs. John Strand, Remer, Minnesota

Memorial Service

Business Meeting

Noon Noon Luncheon

1:30 p.m. Speakers: Rev. and Mrs. Dan Giles, Mexico

Morning and afternoon offerings for Home Missions and WMF General Fund

Thursday, June 13

7 a.m. Ladies' Breakfast

8 p.m. Mission Festival Service

Speakers: Rev. and Mrs. Connely Dyrud, Brazil

Offering — World Missions

Special music and group singing at all sessions.

Come for a day of fellowship and worship.

GOD'S FIELD

Drought Stricken or Well Watered

I Corinthians 3:5-9

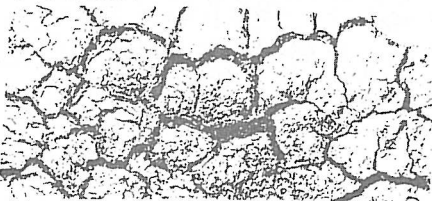
Beginning later this summer, it will be harvest time. It's an exciting time for the farmer. All the work, effort and concern of the entire year culminates in the harvest. I can remember from spending my early years on a farm that there is a concern at this time of year due to severe wind and hail storms that can swoop down upon the land at a moments notice and destroy the entire crop. The excitement of the farmer is restrained at this point until the crop is in the granry, and safe from harm.

This depicts only part of the story of the farmer. There are the good years, when all goes well and a great harvest is gathered. But there are also the bad years when hail or drought can rob the farmer of a crop. The excitement of the harvest is exchanged for disappointment and despair.

Jesus used the analogy of the sower and the seed many times to teach spiritual truths. He teaches us of the uncertainty of life, that there are no guarantees in life outside of God and His Kingdom. So it is with the farmer, when he plants the seed realizing that there are no guarantees that a harvest will be gathered and that he must rely totally upon the mercy of God to reap a harvest. God's involvement in the lives of mankind is even greater than his involvement in the farmer's harvest.

The church that Paul was writing this letter to was located in Corinth, a capital city of Achaia. It was a very

"How do you view yourself, a drought stricken field, dried up and dead?"



large metropolitan area — a center of commerce and travel in the Roman Empire. The city was very wicked and immoral.

Many of the problems related to the Church of Corinth concerned the immorality and pagan practices filtering into the church. The problem that Paul was addressing in the third chapter of I Corinthians was that of spiritual immaturity. The church, by this time was approximately five years old. But many of the members were not growing in their faith. Paul addresses them as "men of flesh," and "babes in Christ." His use of the term in this case means "spiritual childishness." These men were not living up to their spiritual calling to be "new creatures in Christ Jesus." Paul wrote in his second letter: "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (II Corinthians 5:17).

Because of a lack of desire to grow and serve the Lord in all areas of their lives, they began to have discussions about insignificant things, such as: what minister was serving the church when they began to serve the Lord. It is as if to say, the preacher, rather than the Lord, was responsible for their salvation. They began to "worship" the pastor. They had several pastors who had served them through the years, so there were several factions of loyalty which was splitting the church. I suspect that they spent much time and energy arguing about who was the better pastor. This may sound silly to us. However, many problems in our churches today are just as silly. Satan is always trying to take the churches' focus off Christ and on to something else. We allow Him to do that when we focus on people and circumstances rather than on Jesus Christ. Christ is the head of the Church!

This passage reminds us that there are three roles in the kingdom work.

I. The minister's role in the kingdom work:

Paul and Apollos were servants of God. They were doing the work that they had been called to do. They were merely channels for proclaiming the message of God's saving grace to a sinful people. They had no desire to establish a following of personal disciples.

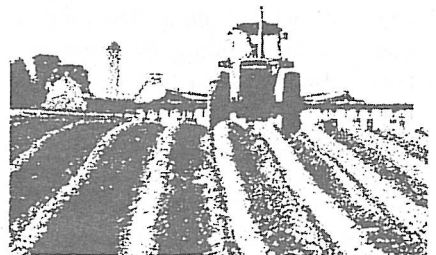
Paul and Apollos had different gifts, as do most ministers. Paul was gifted in starting churches, while Apollos was gifted in strengthening the faith of wavering churches. They had no desire to be pitted against each other, as was happening.

Spiritual immaturity was the reason that the Corinthian church was fighting among themselves. Why had they failed to grow spiritually? I suspect the same problems existed then as we have today. Too many distractions kept them from regular church attendance. No time for midweek Bible study. It was not appropriate to put Wednesday night Bible study on the calendar and schedule other events around it. Love for God and His Word was not a priority in their lives.

Paul says, "Neither he who plants, nor he who waters is anything, but it's God who causes the growth."

The minister's role in the kingdom work is insignificant when measured against God's part. Insignificant, but certainly not unimportant. ◇

"Or are you a well watered field, alive and growing?"



FIELD

II. God's role in the kingdom work.

A farmer stands looking out over a field of wheat, golden brown, ready for harvest, realizing that his part in this whole process was actually very small compared to what God has done to bring the crop to harvest. God provided the soil. He provided the seed that has a store house of life within and He provided the proper growing conditions. Without any one of these, there would be no harvest.

God provides all of these things for us spiritually as well, for the harvest of precious souls. Paul said "I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth." How does God actually cause spiritual growth in our lives? There are many ways. However, I would like to list five ways that God causes growth in our lives.

1. He places a hunger in our hearts. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6).

2. He gives understanding to us as we read and study His Word. "Having the eyes of your heart enlightened," Paul wrote to the Ephesians.

3. He increases and improves our prayer life. "Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things which you do not know" (Jeremiah 33:3).

4. He places obstacles in our path. "Count it all joy, my bretheran, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness" (James 1:2).

5. He reveals His will to us. "I delight to do thy will, O my God; thy law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:8).

III. The congregation's role in the kingdom work. (Verse 9b, "You are God's field, God's building.")

Paul is addressing the congregation, saying "you" are God's field; the place where the work is done. The preparation work, the planting, the watering is done here. The field contains various types of soil, Jesus has told us, some stony and hard, some full of weeds and thistles and some good fertile soil. The field is where the harvest takes place.

God lays claim to the field. He

claims ownership. He takes responsibility for the work ultimately. God then has a right to expect a harvest.

The precious souls that are gathered together, that respond to God's call to repentance, become God's buildings. They are permanent structures in the kingdom of God, or temples where the Holy Spirit dwells. Once we were a mission field, but now missionaries.

The Scriptures tell us in John 4:35 that "the fields are already white unto harvest." God has planned His field so that there is always a harvest waiting to be reaped. This over-ripe fruit is just waiting for someone from the congregation to bring a word from the Lord, so that the harvest can be brought into the store house.

Paul said the minister and the members of the congregation are fellow workers, meaning we are all working side-by-side. Each of us has a task to do, according to our gifts and abilities. Each of us has a role in the kingdom work.

The congregation in Corinth was God's field. You and I are God's field, too. How do you view yourself, a drought stricken field, dried up and

dead? Or are you a well watered field, alive and growing?



— by Pastor
Donald Norr,
Virginia,
Minnesota

(Donald C. Norr was born and raised on a farm in central Minnesota near Pierz. Leaving the farm for military service shortly after the Korean War, he entered the retail building material business following his discharge. This led to employment with a wholesale company in Proctor, Minnesota, for twenty years.

A new commitment to Christ followed by twelve years of involvement with the Gideons, including several terms on the state cabinet, prepared him for lay ministry, and he presently serves the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Virginia, Minnesota, as a licensed AFLC lay pastor.

He and his wife, Jan, have four sons, ages 19 to 29, and one grand-

Parish Education

How thankful we are for the faithful prayer and gift support of God's people to the various ministries of the AFLC. Through the generous financial support of our people, the Parish Education department again has had the privilege of providing teaching and devotional materials for our congregations. This past year has been a blessing and we thank God that we have been able to make available the classic devotional book, "A Faithful Guide to Peace With God," print a new confirmation tract and Sunday School catechism booklet, to establish a printing fund for new materials, to maintain all of our other printing, and to meet most of our office needs.

The Board of Parish Education continues to operate according to their policy of printing and adding new materials only as funds are available. As God leads people to pray for our ministries

we know He will also provide the answers to those prayers which His Spirit initiates in our hearts and He will give that which is needed for the work set before us. Some current Parish Education prayer requests are:

1. Revision of existing Sunday School materials.
2. Addition of pre-school, kindergarten, junior high and adult Sunday School materials.
3. Development of teaching aids.
4. Printing of devotional/resource books.
5. Office filing cabinets and shelving for books.
6. Permanent part-time mailroom/accounts receivable help.

Total AFLC Subsidy for Parish Education, \$62,670; received in March, \$1,265.82; total received to date, \$3,684.14. Percent of total, 6; goal, 17.

— The AFLC Board of
Parish Education

21. What do we learn about the attitude of this particular guest?

Why do you think he was speechless?

We can come just as we are, but we cannot enter just as we are. All must wear the wedding garment.

22. What truths have you learned about God, the Father, from this parable?

23. Why do you think Jesus compared the Christian life to a wedding banquet?

"A man can come as he is, even as an utterly poor, utterly sinful, and utterly unlovable person who cannot understand what God can see in him. The fact is that God cannot see anything in him, but He makes something of him; He makes him His beloved son."

—Helmut Thielicke

"But what do we mean by coming? We mean trusting: Trust your soul with Jesus Christ, and He will save it. Trust Him, and you will know that He died in your stead, so that, believing in Him, you will not perish, but have eternal life. May the Holy Spirit lead you to believe in Jesus, that is, trust Him"

—C.H. Spurgeon

Next month we will study "The Chief Seats"

HYMN SUGGESTION: "MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS"
(Concordia #283)

The Wedding Banquet

June is the traditional wedding month. Many of us will attend one or more before the month is over. Weddings were familiar topics in Jesus' day, also. We remember that Jesus' first public miracle was performed at a wedding. Our parable study for this month is found recorded in Matthew 22:1-14. Read also a similar parable found in Luke 14:16-24.

Although this parable indicted the Jewish leaders for their rejection of Christ (John 1: 11), the invitation then being extended to the Gentiles, we will study this parable on a more personal level. The application is not difficult.

THE KING PREPARES A BANQUET: EVERYTHING IS READY

1. Who does the king represent?

Who does the son represent?

2. What was the king's purpose in preparing a banquet?

God's purpose? (1 Timothy 2:3-4; 1 John 1: 3, 7)

To whom does God desire that honor and glory be given?
(John 5:22-23)

3. What words in the story indicate that this was a costly project for the host?

What did God's salvation plan cost Him? (John 3:16)

4. What characteristics of our Heavenly Father motivated Him to initiate such a costly endeavor? (Psalm 145:8-9)

THE INVITED GUESTS DO NOT ATTEND

5. We would think it an honor to attend a royal wedding banquet. What was the surprising response in the parable?
6. Is there any indication that these individuals could not (were unable) to attend?
7. We bring gifts, often chosen with great care, when we attend a wedding. What were these prospective guests required to bring?
- To apply, note Isaiah 55:1.
8. What words describe the attitude of those who declined the invitation? What excuses were given?
9. God has also prepared a royal feast to which all are invited. Compare attitudes and responses given in our day with those in the parable.

Also note Jesus' Words in John 5:40.

10. The king's message that was conveyed by the servants was a real invitation. It was not a notice to report for duty, not a "thou shalt", or a law. It was not an imperative. How does this compare with the Gospel invitation today?

NEVERTHELESS, THE BANQUET IS FILLED WITH GUESTS

11. Where are the servants now instructed to go with the invitation?

How selective was the guest list?

12. What words describe the character of those invited?

Scripture makes it plain that "all have sinned." (Romans 3:23) What is meant by the distinction made in Matthew 22:10?

13. Is anyone too "good" or too "bad" to be invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb?

Explain your answer.

14. How do the "good" and the "bad" in God's Kingdom differ from the "good" and the "bad" in the lost world?

15. Those who refused the invitation had their eyes upon themselves, their activities, their possessions. What was foremost in the eyes of those who accepted?

Apply this thought to God's invitation.

16. All Christians as servants of God are to invite the lost into God's Kingdom. But what power alone will draw a person and enable him or her to respond to God's invitation? (1 Corinthians 12:3b)

A TRAGEDY AMIDST CELEBRATION

17. We generally dress ourselves in our very best when we attend a wedding reception. Since these guests had been brought in directly from the streets and alleys, who must have supplied the wedding garments?

18. What is the wedding garment, without which we cannot be a part of God's Kingdom? (Isaiah 61:10; Romans 13:14a; Romans 3:21, 22)

19. When the king entered, what was immediately apparent to him?

Have we any indication that the other guests had noticed this discrepancy?

20. Why is it that God can detect this lack in a person's life, while often we cannot? (1 Samuel 16:7b)

Are You a Friend of Youth?

Many of you know from experience that if you want to write in concrete, you must do it while the cement is soft. All too quickly, the cement becomes hard, and a person is very limited in the impression one can leave. The same is so true as one works with youth. It's so important that our youth come to a personal relationship with Christ while they are young, before one's heart becomes hardened against God. The writer of Ecclesiastes says it so clearly. "Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you will say, 'I have no delight in them,'" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). The verses that follow this also emphasize the fact that we need to commit our lives to the Lord early in life. Statistics reveal that 85-90% of those who have come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ have done so by the age of eighteen. Therefore, you can see the probability of a person getting saved later on in life is comparatively small, and especially when one has not been taught the Word of God as a child.

All this points out to us the tremendous importance of youth work. The need is all the more pronounced as we see the pressures put on teens by their peers to follow the world and the ways of the world. Our youth need all the prayers and support we can give them in Christ, that they might know, grow, and stand firm in Christ.

The Youth Board and Youth Resource Director are committed to this task of helping congregations, pastors, and youth leaders in our AFLC to become more aware of the needs of youth, and in ministering Christ and His Word to youth. This is being accomplished through quarterly mailings, Youth Bible studies, resource books, video tapes, and other helpful information to pastors and youth leaders. District and regional leadership conferences are being held and encouraged. The National Leadership Conference is held biennially for this purpose, especially designed for leaders.

The Luther League gospel teams have also had a positive ministry to youth in the places they have been. We are grateful to God for Pastor Dennis Gray's faithful service as a one-fourth time youth Resource Director for the past four years. We praise the Lord for all that has been accomplished. There is also much yet to be done. The annual conference the past two years approved a half-time Youth Resource Director position. The Youth Board agreed it was advantageous to call another quarter time person in addition to Pastor Gray. Mr. Bob Halvorson of Bloomington, Minnesota, has accepted the one-fourth time call as Associate Youth Resource Director, and will begin September 1, 1991. Bob will be sharing the load of speaking opportunities at camps, retreats, rallies, leadership seminars, and other youth functions. In addition, he will be working with the selection and training of Luther League gospel teams, FLY teams, developing and recommending weekly Bible study materials, and various other responsibilities.

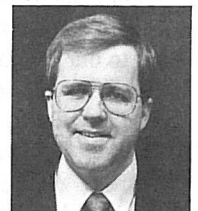
The current youth work budget is \$26,500 annually, which includes the two one-fourth time positions, team ministries, quarterly mailings, printing of resource materials, and travel expenses, to name the major categories. The National Luther League Federation is committed to raise \$5,000

through the local Luther Leagues. The Youth Board is committed to raise \$5,000 annually through the "Friends of Youth" in which individuals or congregations pledge \$5 to \$10 monthly for AFLC Youth Ministry. The remaining \$16,500 is a subsidy from the General Fund budget.

As a Youth Board, we are committed to use good stewardship of the funds for Youth Ministry, and to live within the means that God provides. Considering the many needs of our youth, and the open doors God has set before us, we feel this is a very modest budget.

May God help us to see how important every person is to Him. Pray for the youth in your community, and use the opportunities God gives you to encourage them. It's so important that our youth come to a personal faith in Christ while they are young, "before the evil days come and the years draw near when they will say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" May the Lord make each one of us true "Friends of Youth."

— by Rev.
Joel Rolf,
Chairman,
Youth Board



No Dirty Cars at Conference This Year

On Wednesday, June 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Youth Board members, Pastor Dennis Gray, our Youth Resources Director, Bob Halvorson, the new Associate Youth Resources Director and various District Youth Board Representatives, will be washing cars.

This will be a complimentary car wash and we will do as many as we can during these hours.

It will be held at the ARC.

The purpose of the car wash is to draw the attention of our people to the Friends of Youth Program, which involves a \$5 per month, \$60 per year contribution to youth work in the AFLC. Your offering may be sent to headquarters and simply marked "Friends of Youth."

The car wash will be an exterior wash and dry only. There is not a professional in the bunch, but we'll do our best. We ask you to support our youth in the same spirit.

Seminarians Get Help from Mason Fund

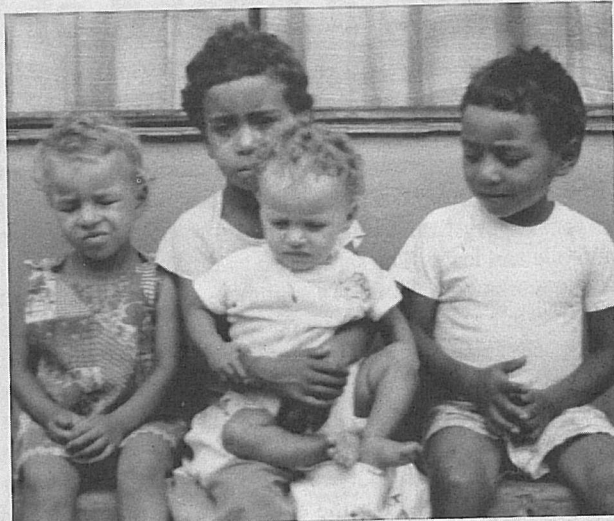
In 1985, word was received by the Board of Trustees of AFLC schools that Mrs. Genevieve J. Mason of Seattle, Washington, had named the AFLC seminary as a beneficiary. The will directed the Board of Trustees to establish an education fund, which would encourage seminary students. By 1987, the full amount of \$331,568 had been received by the school for this purpose. Meanwhile, the Board established the Russell H. and Genevieve J. Mason Fund at the seminary. Currently, interest monies from this fund are being used to benefit those seminarians who are planning on ministry in the AFLC. Each semester, a generous grant is given to the students for help with their tuition. The fund is meeting a real need in reducing the tuition costs markedly for our future pastors. The Board of Trustees is thankful to God for the concern of Mrs. Mason for seminary education in our AFLC.

Mrs. Mason had early ties with Bethany Free Lutheran Church of Abercrombie, North Dakota. The congregation has recently supplied the following information about this generous donor to our seminary.

Genevieve Juliet Korsvik was born April 12, 1906 in Abercrombie, North Dakota to George and Jane (Botten) Korsvik. She was baptized June 17, 1906, at Bethany Free Lutheran Church of rural Abercrombie. In 1910 tragedy struck the Korsvik family when Mrs. Korsvik died of tuberculosis. Mrs. Botten, Genevieve's grandmother, was living in Abercrombie, so she, with the help of two aunts, helped care for the family until a housekeeper was found. Being Genevieve was the youngest, she became more or less a permanent member of the Botten family. When they moved to Grano, North Dakota, she went along. Genevieve attended schools in Grano, Abercrombie, and Minot and later taught school in North Dakota for several years before moving to Seattle, Washington, in 1936. She was employed at Best's and in 1941 she was married to Russell Mason. They owned and operated

From Brazil The Miriam Infant Home

**Hi!
Our Names
are Ana,
Irene, Luiz
and Joanna**



We are all from the same family and will introduce ourselves: Ana Lucia is eight months, Irene Mendes is three, Luiz Carlos is four, and Joanna Mendes is eight.

Though our ages may be older than the other children who come to the Miriam Home, we have not gone to school like other boys and girls our age. And we've gone through some very bad times. Mommy and Daddy brought us to the State of Parana because there was no food in the Northeast. We have been starving for years up there like the others who have no place to go. Some people have told us that many years ago there was a beautiful jungle where we lived. But "money hungry" men chopped down all the trees and then the rains stopped falling and all the good land has now turned into desert.

Mommy and Daddy don't know how to read and write either. They drink a lot and fight with each other. They hit all of us very hard, many times on our heads, so that we don't remember what happened for long periods of time. They get up early in the morning before the sun shines and while we are still sleeping. Mommy makes rice and beans and leaves a little in the pots for us. They leave us all day long while they are hoeing in the fields. At sundown they come back to the village to drink until all hours of the night. If it rains they stay home, but there is so much fighting.

Our neighbors told the police about our home life. One day the police came and took us away from Mommy and Daddy. We are put in the Miriam Home. We are so happy to hear about Jesus and see His love in the faces of all the nice people who take care of us. They are so good to us! At first we even ate too much and got tummy aches.

We pray that the AFLC would send more missionaries to tell our people about Jesus, so more mommies and daddies would stop beating their children and raise them in Christian homes.

*—Happily in the Miriam Infant Home,
Ana, Irene, Luiz and Joanna*

apartments until Mr. Mason's death in 1976. Genevieve continued to operate the apartment building at 201 West Olympic Place, until her death.

Mrs. Mason passed away January 25, 1985. Funeral services were held at Faith Lutheran Church, Seattle. She is buried in Evergreen Washelli Cemetery. Mrs. Mason is survived by a brother, a half-brother, four half-sis-

ters, several nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends.

Genevieve's parents, grandparents, and two brothers are buried at Bethany Free Lutheran Cemetery, rural Abercrombie.

Genevieve Mason was a loving, caring, and generous person who never forgot her North Dakota heritage.

Blessed be her memory.

THE DIFFICULTY OF DELEGATES

A delegate mentality is difficult to overcome. The AFLC is a unique spiritual democracy, and a startling revelation for our new members is that each voting member of each congregation has the right to vote at the annual conferences. Thus, when we speak of delegates, it is important to explain that every voting member of an AFLC congregation has the privilege of coming to the conference as a delegate, not only the one or two who may be selected. The delegates are all who attend the conference.

A delegate mentality is the product of previous membership in a synodical-type church body. A congregation may never be represented at the annual conventions under some embodiments of this structure, and the average church member never even considers attending. The decisions of the national church body can become quite distant from the life of the local congregation, as many have discovered to their sorrow.

Perhaps it is necessary for some of our newer congregations (and a number of the older ones, too) to convert their concept of delegates to one that is appropriate to a free association. The practice of electing delegates to the conference does not have to be abolished, providing it is clear that these delegates are the ones who have special responsibility to report back to the congregation. Also, a congregation may choose to financially assist these official delegates with conference expenses, to insure that there will at least be some representation. However, if the word itself is a hindrance to greater participation, then please provide it with a proper burial.

Delegates to the AFLC annual conference are not an elite chosen few empowered to make decisions for the common folk. They are pastors and members of local congregations who care enough to make a sacrifice of time and treasure to share in the special democratic process that is at the heart of our fellowship as a church family.

Our church polity depends on church-wide participation. It will fail when decisions are left in the hands of a few.

Will you be a delegate this year? See you at the ARC!

FURTHER NOMINATIONS?

The Nominating Committee plays a central role in the operation of annual conference. The fact is that, in spite of frequent calls for further nominations, most of the names to be considered for election will be the result of this committee's efforts.

Each district of the AFLC is represented by one person on the committee. But no one person can be aware of all the potential candidates in each congregation. Many have already received letters from their district representative asking for assistance. The Nominating Committee members need our suggestions for nominations right now!

Let us encourage our Nominating Committee members,

too, to be sensitive to the need for presenting some new names for consideration. The AFLC has welcomed over sixty new congregations in recent years, and it is important that they are included as much as possible. The pioneers are well represented on our corporations, committees and boards, and the need for a balance between the old and the new becomes quite obvious as we look over the list of last year's elections. There has been progress, but we still need to press on!

This committee should also be encouraged to be sensitive to another need for balance ... between the pastors and lay people. The School's Board of Trustees noted this problem in their report to the 1989 conference, and specifically asked that the conference and corporation would consider it in future elections. A glance at the membership of both the School and Missions Corporations indicated a growing imbalance between laity and clergy, with the latter increasing.

The imbalance stemmed from the fact that three years ago an overwhelming majority of clergy was elected to both corporations for the terms expiring in 1993. This can create a potential problem for the Nominating Committee and the corporations as they seek to maintain a required majority of lay people on their respective boards.

Positive steps were taken at last year's conference to correct the problem. The election of a strong majority of lay people to both corporations this year should be a priority for both the Nominating Committee and the 1991 Annual Conference.

ROSES ARE FOR REMEMBERING

I planted a rose bush this spring. Over thirty years ago Pastor John DeBoer offered the original bush to my family if we would come and dig it up from the back yard of the parsonage in Escanaba, Michigan. It survived the transplanting, and continues to thrive in my parent's front yard after moves to three different houses. They gave me an offshoot of the original bush on my last trip home, and the introduction to Illinois soil seems quite successful so far.

Our family calls it the DeBoer rose bush, and it is a fitting memorial to a faithful and beloved pastor. It was no secret that he could be sort of prickly at times, but the roses also help us recall the fragrance of Christ in his life and ministry (II Corinthians 2:15). Like the rose bush, his ministry, too, has been multiplied through the lives of the people God touched through him.

Soon we will celebrate another Memorial Day. This year let us take time to remember, too, those who spoke the Word of God to us.

I will remember one of them as I watch my rose bush grow.

Dr. Wayne Juntunen, Crystal, Minnesota, has accepted a call to serve Bethel Free Lutheran Church, Grafton, North Dakota, beginning June 1. Rev. Juntunen, current dean of the Inter-Lutheran Theological Seminary, Plymouth, comes through colloquy from the Apostolic Lutheran Church of America, and has been placed on the Fellowship Roster by the Co-ordinating Committee. **Rev. Harold Mastad**, who has served as interim pastor in Grafton since December, 1989, will be moving to Morris, Illinois, where he and his wife, Virginia, maintain their retirement home.

Rev. Laurel Udden, New Hope, Minnesota, has announced his resignation as pastor of the Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Plymouth, effective July 1. Pastor Udden, who has served the congregation since 1984, is retiring from active ministry.

Rev. Frank Cherney, Arlington, Washington, has resigned as pastor of Atonement Free Lutheran Church in order to accept a call from Zoar Free Lutheran Church, Hatton, North Dakota. Pastor Cherney, who has served the Home Mission congregation in Arlington since February, 1987, will begin his new ministry in July.

Mr. Toby Knutson, a member of Bethel Free Lutheran Church, Minot, North Dakota, is the new lay pastor of the Indian mission chapels at Elbow Lake and White Earth, Minnesota.

Grand Forks, North Dakota — The Deaconess Board of Trinity Free Lutheran Church has established a "food cupboard" for members who are in need of assistance.

Minneapolis, Minnesota — The fourth annual Minneapolis District Men's Fellowship Breakfast was held on Saturday, March 16, in the Bible School dining room on the Plymouth campus. Dr. Steve Lombardo, AFLC Schools' professor, challenged the men on the theme, "Men of Grit and Grace," and Seminary Dean Dr. Francis Monseth led the singing.

Mr. Lloyd Carlson from Living Word Church, Eagan, gave a short presentation on the new Administration

Building project, and **Mr. Roger Hoikkala**, Minnesota Valley Church, Lakeville, spoke on men's work in the district and throughout the AFLC.

There were eighty men in attendance from the various parishes of the district. **Cliff Holm** and **John Rieschl** from Medicine Lake Church served as chefs for the breakfast, which was coordinated by their pastor, **Rev. Laurel Udden**.

Ishpeming, Michigan — Hope Free Lutheran Church hosted David and Yvonne Blake, Ontonagon, for a Sunday evening service on April 7. They shared a witness for Christ in word and song, including several numbers composed by Mrs. Blake herself.

Roseau, Minnesota — Special meetings were held April 6-7 in Rose Free Lutheran Church with Rev. and Mrs. **Wendell Johnson**, Cambridge, Minnesota.

Lake Bronson, Minnesota — The Galilee Bible Camp is scheduling several major maintenance projects for five Saturdays this spring. Final work days will be held on May 4 and 18.

Bloomington, Minnesota — Listeners to Christian radio were surprised to hear an AFLC congregation featured a couple of months ago on "Chapel of the Air," a national broadcast, for its prayer ministry during the recent war.

Every third Sunday of the month, Emmaus Lutheran Church opens its

doors at 6:30 p.m. for a Concert of Prayer, which continues for about two and a half hours. The service is divided into three sections: the first, a time of prayer and thanksgiving; the second focusing on our nation; and the third, a time of prayer for revival in the local congregation. Each portion also includes singing and a brief meditation.

These special Sunday evening services are led by the lay people of Emmaus, and those who attend are divided into smaller prayer clusters with a selected leader, in order to allow as many as possible to participate. **Rev. Don Richman**, senior pastor of the church, has been especially encouraged by the number of youth involved, as well as seeing the growth of his people through sharing prayer burdens with one another and witnessing answers to their prayers.

The Concerts of Prayer at Emmaus Church began on January 13, 1991, sparked by the concern of **Bob and Delci Frohland**, members of the congregation who had a son serving in the military as a part of Operation Desert Storm. Their concern touched the hearts of others, and the response was great.

The Persian Gulf War has ended, but the Concerts of Prayer continue. Emmaus Church praises God for what He is continuing to do, too, through this monthly prayer time.