

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 1, 1990



A Mother

God sought to give
the sweetest thing
In His almighty power.
To earth, and deeply
pondering
What it should be,
one hour
In fondest joy and love
of heart
Outweighing every other,
He moved the gates
of heaven apart
And gave to earth a
mother.

—unknown

LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

Volume 28 Number 9

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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The mission of mothers

There have been many accusations against the Christian churches claiming that they discriminate against women. The accusers point out that there was a greater celebration in the Old Testament when a son was born than with the birth of a daughter. They also say that in the Bible there almost always was harsher treatment for a woman lawbreaker than for a man.

But you can also turn to the Bible and find the greatest praise reserved for a faithful woman. If you turn to Proverbs 31:10-31, you will find some very startling statements. As expected, the faithful mother is praised for her dedication to her family. It says "Her worth is far above jewels" and "The heart of her husband trusts in her." This portion of Scripture urges the mother to love and care for her family.

It says also that all her household are clothed with scarlet and that she makes coverings for herself and her clothing is fine linen and purple.

Added to this care for her family is her help of the poor. It says that she stretches out her hand to the needy. Here is a woman concerned for those less fortunate. She is responsive to the needs of the poor.

It also tells of her business dealings. It says, "She considers a field and buys it" (v. 16). Then it adds, in vs. 24, "She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies belts to the tradesmen." That sounds to me like a very successful businesswoman.

The role of the Christian mother today is much like it was when the book of Proverbs was written. She not

only cares for her family, but in many instances must also work outside the home. That being the case, we see that the sustaining of a Christian home depends on the cooperative effort of each family member. This is very well expressed in the words of a hymn by Carl J. P. Spitta called "O Happy Home":

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

*O happy home where each one serves
Thee lowly,
Whatever his appointed work may be,
Till ev'ry common task seems great
and holy,
When it is done, O Lord, as unto
Thee!*

*O happy home, where Thou art not
forgotten
When joy is overflowing, full and free,
O happy home, where ev'ry wounded
spirit
Is brought, Physician, Comforter, to
Thee.*



by Pastor
James Asp

“Her children arise and call her blessed”

John and Charles Wesley were blessed with a patient mother. At one time, her husband said, “I marvel at your patience! You have told that child the same thing 20 times.” Susanna Wesley looked fondly at that child and said, “Had I spoken the matter only 19 times, I should have lost all my labor.” From this conversation of the Wesleys we learn that Christian mothers practice the godly characteristic of long-suffering.

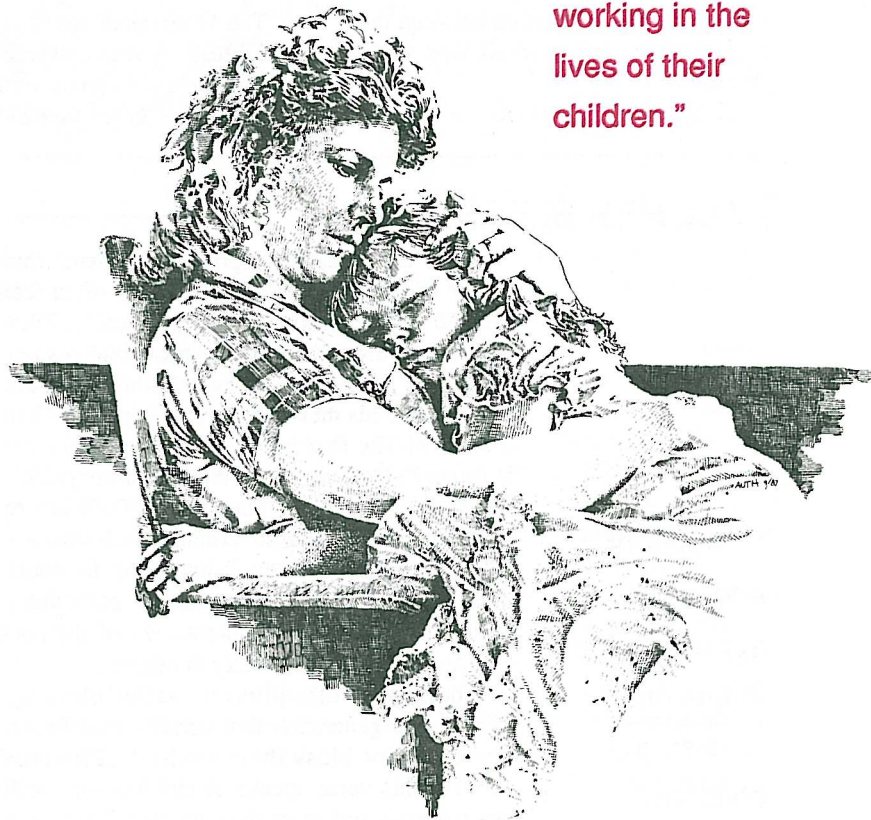
In Proverbs 31:28-30, King Lemuel shares a prophecy that his mother taught him. The prophecy says in part, “Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her...a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.” Here is encouragement for mothers to overcome the everyday testing of raising children, looking to that time in life when the children come by and say, “Mom, we love you for all you did for us.”

David writes, “Behold, I was shapen in iniquity and in sin did my mother conceive me” (Psalm 51:5). David is not “talking down” his mother. His own sinful nature is what he has in view. Had David been locked in pride and not crushed in heart, he may have blamed his own sinful life on his mother. But verse one tells us that David is pleading for mercy from God! Thus we see that David is painfully aware of original sin at work in his own life. Christian mothers face the fact of original sin working in the lives of their children. The behavior of the children may frustrate and grieve mothers, yet godly mothers own the limitless resource of intercessory prayer.

Christian mothers today can look at David’s mother as an example for all mothers. The life of David reflects the responsibility each mother faces with her children. Because he had a responsible mother, David sensed the filth and pollution of his sin. David’s mother carried out her responsibilities to her children (David was one of eight sons) and David learned many priceless truths about godly mothers. A review of these truths will be a comfort and blessing for mothers today.

Isaiah gives us the first, “As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem” (Isaiah 66:13). Here we see the biblical principle of comforting others. Mothers are equipped of God to feel sorrow and compassion along with a desire to help their sons and daughters. Mothers are a source of comfort.

The second truth about godly mothers is that they are teachers of their children. “The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him” (Proverbs 31:1). King Lemuel’s mother taught him about virtue, morality, compassion and the value of human life. Without doubt, David’s mother had taught him these same truths. David sinned, violating these truths, but he did repent of his sin. Mothers should not be surprised when children go astray from what they have been taught. Who can tell but what David’s conscience warned him of some godly truth he had been taught as a young child.



“Christian mothers face the fact of original sin working in the lives of their children.”

The third truth about godly mothers is that they are disciplinarians of their children. Zechariah sets forth this principle. “And it shall come to pass, that when any shall yet prophesy, when his father and his mother that begat him shall say unto him, Thou shalt not live; for thou speakest lies in the name of the Lord: and his father and his mother that begat him shall thrust him through when he prophesieth” (Zechariah 13:3). From the three above truths we see godly mothers providing comfort, teaching and discipline to their children. This is a responsible part of being a mother.



*by Rev.
James A. Peterson
Goldfield, Iowa*

February Bible Camp in Brazil

Bold black and yellow road signs portraying the theme *Overcoming Obstacles* greeted nearly 200 campers as they arrived for a week of Family Bible Camp in Campo Mourao. Studies, evening services and recreation gave lessons on how the Christian can rise above the things that attempt to block our paths of faith.

A "first" in Parana's Bible Camp history was the participation of members from our sister church in Vitoria, Espirito Santo. Their presence built stronger ties of fellowship between the churches as new friendships were formed.

Hebrews 11:6 was one of several

verses memorized by campers. Many claimed faith in the verse that "God is truly a rewarder of those who seek Him." Please remember these new converts as some returned to non-Christian families and others to anti-Christian environments.

We thank those of you who remembered this camp in your prayers and with your support. The family of God is now greater in number as several young people had the opportunity to attend camp because of your participation. The Word continues to go forth in Brazil, breaking hearts, overcoming sin and pointing toward an upward home.

— Sarah Jane Skramstad



The traditional "Galilean Sing" is enjoyed by all as campers divide into two groups and sing choruses on opposite sides of the Camp's lake shores.

CALL HER BLESSED

"...mothers
and God are
in partnership
in this matter
of raising
children."

Since David had a responsible mother, what did he owe his mother? Mothers may often feel drained both emotionally and physically. They may see themselves as always providing, always giving out and never getting anything in return. David owed his mother several disciplines. Here are a few. The first is obedience. This principle is found in Genesis: "And that Jacob obeyed his father and his mother" (Genesis 28:7). This was Esau's observation of his brother Jacob's behavior in a certain matter. What a joy to godly mothers (and fathers) when children obey them. Such action honors both the Lord and the parents and is a credit to society in general.

The second discipline is that of blessing. "There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother" (Proverbs 30:11). This verse speaks of children who will not listen to and obey their mother. There is a natural tendency for children to live as this verse suggests. However, faithful mothers will be rewarded. Mrs. Wesley told her child 20 times! David owed his mother blessing through giving heed to what she said and obeying.

The third discipline David owed his mother was honor. "Honor thy father and thy mother..." (Exodus 20:12). Mothers, God has given you children and in so doing has placed you over them. Your place is a place of honor, highly esteemed by the Lord. You are worthy of respect and honor from your children.

The fourth discipline David owed to his

mother is godly fear. "Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep My sabbaths: I am the Lord your God" (Leviticus 19:3). This verse instructs children to respect and follow the godly pattern of the life of their parents. What a reward and blessing for mothers when the children love the Lord and the ways of the Lord. Just to see children make those first choices to follow Jesus Christ and begin to hunger and thirst after spiritual truth makes years of effort worthwhile.

The Bible sets forth many guidelines for the relationship between parents and children. A consideration of three important ones will help to further encourage mothers in their one-time task of preparing a child for life. These are to show that mothers and God are in partnership in this matter of raising children. The first thing children must not do is strike their mother. "And he that smiteth his father, or his mother, shall be surely put to death" (Exodus 21:15). God took a judgmental view, under law, of such treatment of parents by children. He takes an equally dim view of such action under grace. Mothers, discipline your children. God is on your side. The almighty God is your partner.

The second thing children must not do is rob their mother. "Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer" (Proverbs 28:24). This verse tells us that a child that robs mother is in the same category as a killer in



Tourist attire was worn at the Bible Camp Banquet where the meal was served American-picnic-style, complete with sloppy joes, potato chips and brownies.

Studying to learn the Word

I am Agnaldo Siqueira Caldeira and am 18 years old. My home is in Campo Grande, Vitoria, Espirito Santo, Brazil.

Until I was 15 years old, I never belonged to a church. My main thought in life was to have a good time with my friends. But through God's mercy towards me, I came to know Jesus Christ. My parents and my sister were the ones who encouraged me to learn about Jesus. I started to think about what Jesus could do in my life. About three months after my parents first started sharing Christ with me, I started participating in the programs of the Free Lutheran Church of Vitoria.

continued on p. 16

God's point of view. Mothers need to confront the tendency in children to steal. Laughing off a stolen cookie at age five may lead to grief-stricken tears of bitterness when your son is being tried for murder at age 25!

The third thing children must not do is forsake mother's law. "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother" (Proverbs 1:8). "The law of thy mother" here means the teaching of mother. The sum total of all the teaching between mother and child must not be forsaken.

Mothers, you have walked the path of life ahead of your children. You know the highs and lows, the joys and pains, the rights, the wrongs, and the full and mature life and, certainly, the godly life. As you faithfully and responsibly pass these truths on to your children, may they not forsake them. The writer of Proverbs gives some encouragement to mothers. "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). This verse tells us in part that what the godly mother teaches by word and example to her child will stay with that child forever. He or she cannot erase the example of a godly mother from the conscience. Even though the child discovers that he was "shaped in iniquity," the example of a godly mother is a powerful deterrent against a life of open sin and often proves beneficial in converting the wayward son or daughter to Jesus Christ.

Biographical Sketch

Kasson, Minnesota, was "home" for James Peterson for most of his life until the Lord called him into full-time service.

On July 17, 1955, he married Julaine Trygstad of rural Byron, Minnesota. They have four married daughters.

For approximately 20 years, James worked at I.B.M. in Rochester, Minnesota. He accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior in 1968. He was instrumental in the formation and the maintenance of Mt. Sion Lutheran Church in Kasson, now affiliated with the AFLC.

It was during the pastorate of Rev. John DeBoer at Kasson that a profound change took place in James Peterson's life. The Word of God that was preached by Pastor De Boer in a particular worship service found lodging in his life. The Lord had called him into the vineyard for His personal service and He was not to put off His call.

A complete change of lifestyle was necessary. James applied to the Independent Lutheran Seminary and Bible School in that area and was accepted.

James Peterson graduated from the Seminary and was ordained in 1978. He interned and then served two rural congregations in Wisconsin for the past 12 years. He is now serving Hauge Lutheran Church, an independent congregation in Goldfield, Iowa.

Pastor Peterson was accepted on the AFLC Fellowship Roster in the fall of 1989.

(Second Part)

Church, Ministry, Cont.

From Thee All Skill and Science Flow
Through the Night of Doubt and Sor-
row

Missions

O Zion, Haste, Thy Mission High Ful-
filling
I Love to Tell the Story
Hark, The Voice of Jesus Calling
We've a Story to Tell
Christ for the World We Sing
Hail to the Brightness
So Send I You
Spread, O Spread, Almighty Word
Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life
Eternal God, Whose Power Upholds
Lost in the Night
Thou, Whose Almighty Word
Judge Eternal, Throned in Splendor
O God of Mercy, God of Might
Saints of God, The Dawn is Brightening
The Morning Light is Breaking
From Greenland's Icy Mountains
Where Restless Crowds Are Thronging
Your Kingdom Come
The Vision of A Dying World
Look From Thy Sphere of Endless Day
O God of Earth and Altar
Remember All the People
When Jesus Comes in Glory

Home, Family

O Happy Home, Where Thou Art
Loved
A Christian Home
O Blest the House, Whate'er Befall
Our Father, By Whose Name

Children's Songs

Jesus Loves Me
God Loves Me Dearly
Praise Him, Praise Him, All Ye Little
Children
Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We
Two Little Eyes
Jesus, Tender Shepherd, Hear Me
How Shall the Young Secure Their
Hearts
All Things Bright and Beautiful
Do you Know Who Died for Me?
The B-I-B-L-E
Savior, While My Heart is Tender
Jesus Loves the Little Children
Little Children, Can You Tell?
Shepherd of Tender Youth
Psalm 8

Tentative list of hymns for the proposed AMBASSADOR HYMNAL

When He Cometh, When He Cometh
This Little Gospel Light of Mine
Dear Savior, Bless the Children
Around the Throne of God in Heaven
Jesus, Rule My Thoughts and Guide
Me

Easter Day, Glad Easter Day
Hosanna! Hosanna!
Day of My Baptism
There's a Friend for Little Children
In a Tiny Manger
The Best Book of All
Father, Bless the Gifts We Bring You
Father, I Adore You
We are Little Christian Children
Rejoice in the Lord Always
I am Jesus' Little Lamb
On This Blessed Easter Day
I Was Glad
Our Little Hearts are Glad Today
Let Me Learn of Jesus
In a Little Stable
It is the Holy Spirit's Day

Marriage

O Perfect Love
Hear Us Now, Our God and Father
Crown with Thy Benediction

Service Music

Praise God From Whom
We Give Thee But Thine Own
Create In Me A Clean Heart
Be Present At Our Table, Lord
For Health and Strength, and Daily
Food
The Lord Bless You and Keep You

Faith, Justification

My Faith Looks Up To Thee
I Lay My Sins on Jesus
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
I Look Not Back
How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
Redeemed, Restored, Forgiven
O Let Your Soul Now Be Filled With
Gladness
And Can It Be That I Should Gain
When Sinners See Their Lost Condition
Faith is a Living Power from Heaven
Jesus Paid it All
How Gladly I My Place Have Taken
By Grace I Am an Heir of Heaven
Salvation Unto Us Has Come

I Could Not Do Without Thee
Now I Have Found the Ground Where-
in

There is a Fountain Filled With Blood
Thou Art the Way: to Thee Alone
Lord Jesus Christ, I Flee to Thee
Who Will Now Indict Me

Call, Repentance

Just As I Am, Without One Plea
Come, Ye Disconsolate
Approach My Soul
Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy
I Hear Thy Welcome Voice
God Calling Yet! Shall I Not Hear
Come Unto Me, Ye Weary
How Helpless Guilty Nature Lies
My God, Accept My Heart This Day
O Jesus, Lord, To Thee I Cry
O Jesus, Thou Art Standing
Softly and Tenderly
Lord Jesus, I Long to be Perfectly
Whole
Take Up Thy Cross, the Savior Said
O Wonderful Words of the Gospel
Straight is the Gate to Heaven Above
Jesus is Calling
Lord Jesus, Think On Me
Come to the Savior, Make No Delay
O Seek the Lord Today
Almost Persuaded Now to Believe
How Blessed is the Little Flock
Before Thee, God, Who Knowest All
Blest Is He That Never Walketh
Give Me Thy Heart
Is Your All On the Altar?
One Resolve, One Resolve
Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

Following Christ

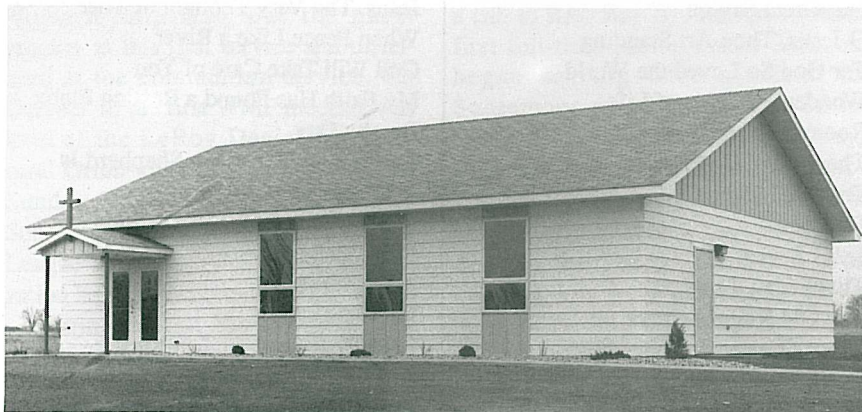
Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah
Spirit of God, Descend Upon My
Heart
O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee
I Need Thee Ev'ry Hour
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Lead on, O King Eternal
Take My Life and Let it Be
O Take My Hand, Dear Father
Thy Life was Given for Me
Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
 Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior
 Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak
 He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought
 More Love to Thee, O Christ
 Onward, Christian Soldiers
 O That the Lord Would Guide My
 Ways
 Savior, Thy Dying Love
 Rise Up, O Men of God
 Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart
 Once to Every Man and Nation
 Wide Open Are Your Hands
 O For a Closer Walk With God
 Nearer, Still Nearer, Close to Thy Heart
 All the Way My Savior Leads Me
 I Am Thine, O Lord
 Make Me a Captive, Lord
 Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My
 Tower
 Am I a Soldier of The Cross
 O God, Accept My Heart This Day
 Lead Me To Calvary
 Teach Me to Pray
 My Jesus, As Thou Wilt
 God Leads Us Along
 Cleanse Me
 Take Time to be Holy
 Jesus, I Come
 Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone
 I Have Heard Thy Voice, Lord Jesus
 I Gave My Life For Thee
 I Surrender All
 Yield Not To Temptation
 I Need Thee, Precious Jesus
 Jesus, Still Lead On
 Son of God, Eternal Savior
 Jesus, And Shall It Ever Be
 With God In Grace I'm Dwelling
 Jesus, Lord and Precious Savior
 I Come, O Lord
 I Must Tell Jesus
 Soldiers of Christ, Arise
 I'll Go Where You Want Me To Go
 I Have Decided to Follow Jesus
 Fight the Good Fight with All Thy
 Might
 Only One Life
 Jesus, Thou Art Mine Forever
 Higher Ground
 Even Me
 He Who Would Valiant Be
Witness, Testimony
 To God Be The Glory
 How Great Thou Art
 Lift High the Cross

Blessed Assurance
 Not What My Hands Have Done
 Oh, How I Love Jesus
 Our Great Savior
 O Jesus, Thou Art Standing
 For God So Loved the World
 Wonderful Words of Life
 Room at the Cross for You
 There Shall Be Showers of Blessing
 Trust and Obey
 Redeemed
 Jesus Saves
 Thank You, Lord
 The Old Rugged Cross
 Grace Greater than Our Sin
 Low in the Grave He Lay
 I will Sing of My Redeemer
 I Know Whom I Have Believed
 I Serve A Risen Savior
 O How I Love Jesus
 Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus
 Wounded For Me
 Glory To His Name
 Have You Any Room for Jesus?
 Tell Me the Story of Jesus
 That Beautiful Name
 Jesus Loves Even Me
 I'd Rather Have Jesus
 I Will Sing the Wondrous Story
 Jesus Is All the World to Me
 Blessed Redeemer
 My Savior's Love
 Praise Him! Praise Him!
 At Calvary
 What Will You Do With Jesus?
 There is Power in the Blood
 Victory in Jesus
 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
 Because He Lives
 The Light of the World Is Jesus
 Now I Belong to Jesus
 Wonderful Grace of Jesus
 When We See Christ
 Jesus, Wonderful Lord!
 Standing on the Promises
 He Could Have Called Ten Thousand
 Angels
 Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled
 My Soul
 In the Garden
 In Times Like These
 Nothing But the Blood
 When the Roll is Called Up Yonder
 My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
Trust, Confidence
 Children of the Heavenly Father

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
 I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
 O Safe to the Rock that is Higher than I
 Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee
 When Peace Like a River
 God Will Take Care of You
 My Faith Has Found a Resting Place
 Day by Day
 The King of Love My Shepherd Is
 Jesus, Lover of My Soul
 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go
 O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus
 Amazing Grace
 He Hideth My Soul
 I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus
 Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound
 The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
 Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me
 I Have a Friend So Patient, Kind, For-
 bearing
 If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee
 Like a River Glorious
 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus
 God Moves In a Mysterious Way
 Near to the Heart of God
 Lord of All Hopefulness
 Though Troubles Assail Us and Dan-
 gers Affright
 Count Your Blessings
 Eternal Father, Strong to Save
 Thine Is the Power
 Under His Wings
 From Every Stormy Wind that Blows
 Unto the Hills
 As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams
 God is the Refuge of His Saints
 To the Hills I Lift Mine Eyes
 Commit Thou All that Grieves Thee
 Care For Me, O God of Grace
 Peace, To Soothe Our Bitter Woes
 Through the Love of God Our Father
 Does Jesus Care?
 I Think, When I Read That Sweet
 Story of Old
 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
Aspiration, Hope
 Abide With Me, Fast Falls the Eventide
 Be Thou My Vision
 Nearer, My God, to Thee
 Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord
 More About Jesus
 I'm But a Stranger Here
 What Joy to Reach the Harbor
 I Know of a Sleep in Jesus' Name
 Still, Still With Thee
 Nothing Between

Abiding Faith Lutheran Church, Ortonville, Minn.



In the spring and summer of 1987 a group of Lutheran Christians from the Ortonville, Minn., area became concerned that the churches they were attending were not reflecting the standards and teachings of the Scriptures and the Lutheran churches of the past. These Lutheran Christians felt that the mergers in the Lutheran Church over

the past 25 years had led to compromises in doctrines and practices which were not in harmony with God's Word and traditional Lutheranism. Desirous of a Lutheran church that was more in harmony with what they believed, several of these Christians visited Ortley Lutheran Church of Ortley, S. Dak., and were favorably impressed with the solid preaching based upon God's Word and the less complicated style of liturgy. Pastor Jon Wellumson from Ortley was asked to hold services in Ortonville and on Aug. 31, 1987, the first service was held in the basement of Wilbert and Marlys Sherod's home at 431 Crestview Avenue.

Two services were held in the Sherod's basement and then on Sept. 13, the services were moved to the continued on p. 10

Living Faith Lutheran Church, Tucson, Ariz.

Sunday afternoon the 18th of February was a big day at Living Faith Lutheran Church in Tucson, Arizona. For that Sunday afternoon we organized a "Musical", with the offering to go toward the erection of a covered patio at the entrance of our church building. Everyone in the congregation who had any kind of musical talents to share was invited and encouraged to participate in the afternoon's program. Members of our sister congregation, Triumph Lutheran of Nogales, Arizona, were invited to be our special guests. The afternoon was declared by everyone to be a big success. Besides vocal music by individuals, groups and even a small choir, there were piano, organ, guitar, violin and accordion presentations. Members from the Nogales congregation also participated, as did a number of our "snowbirds" who winter with us. An offering of more than \$600.00 was received which brought us "over the top" on the amount needed to complete our patio project. The afternoon's musical celebration closed with a potluck supper and with both participants and others saying, "That was most enjoyable. This is something we should do more often." Robert D. Giles is pastor of Living Faith.

— *Corr.*

HYMNAL

One Sweetly Solemn Thought

Death, Burial

Asleep in Jesus! Blessed Sleep

My Life Is Hid in Jesus

O What Their Joy and Their Glory
Must Be

Come, Lord, Thyself With Thine
Abounding Grace

Tender Shepherd, Thou Hast Stilled
That Day of Wrath, that Dreadful Day
Praise God, This Hour of Sorrow

Eternal Destiny

In Heaven Above, In Heaven Above
Behold the Host Arrayed in White
Face to Face

He the Pearly Gates will Open
Saved by Grace
There Many Shall Come

National Songs

God of Our Fathers

O Say, Can You See, By the Dawn's
Early Light

O Beautiful, For Spacious Skies
My Country! 'Tis of Thee

Battle Hymn of the Republic

O God, Beneath Thy Guiding Hand
God Save Our Gracious King



The new look at Living Faith Lutheran Church, 6000 S. Cardinal Avenue, Tucson, Arizona.

ARTICLE VII

A free congregation gladly accepts the mutual assistance which congregations can give one another in the work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God" (*The Fundamental Principles*).

Each local congregation or church is autonomous, a point emphasized most strongly in *The Fundamental Principles* of the Association. But with the Seventh Article the focus of the *Principles* shifts from the one local, organized congregation to the fact that there are other churches and how they may and must work together for individual blessing and the accomplishing of God's purposes in the world. One congregation is not to dominate another nor permit another to place it in subjection to it. More on that when we come to No. 10.

We don't presume to know all of Georg Sverdrup's thinking on this subject, but it is noteworthy that in his discussion of *Principles* in 7-9 as found in Vol. III of his collected works that he is so moved by the disagreeable experiences he has undergone vis-à-vis the congregations of the United (*Forenede*) Church, formed in 1890, that what he writes is more a castigation of church politics and machinery than a positive exposition of how churches can work together. The union he had helped to bring about in practice had quickly dashed the hopes he had for it.

For instance, Sverdrup states that some like to refer to themselves as a *Samfund* or society or fellowship, but in his opinion are far from that. Instead he sees church politics, parties (divisions) and church machinery. The need is for spiritual work to be done under the guidance of God's Spirit and he felt that that was being hindered as conditions existed.

The Seventh Article states that the local church welcomes fellowship with sister churches. Sverdrup and those who worked with him in writing the *Principles* undoubtedly were thinking only of Lutheran congregations when they wrote; likely Scandinavian churches; even only Norwegian ones. We won't get into the subject of Lutheran-Reformed relationships on the local level; those present special problems, some more, some less. The relationship of the AFLC congregation to that of some other Lutheran body has to be dealt with case by case also. In one situation the feeling and relationship is warm and edifying. In another place there is no fellowship at all but rather the intervening walls that Sverdrup writes about, even though the churches share the same teachings and confession.

To be more precise and practical, the congregations in the same larger body or fellowship, such as the AFLC, should work together and live together for mutual benefit and blessing. How that can be done will be discussed next time under Article VIII. Suffice it to say now that our congregations haven't always followed this Principle well. Sometimes in multiple parishes (two, three or four congregations served by one pastor) the individual churches have little to do with one another. In other cases two Association congregations may be near each other but have only nodding acquaintance and are content to leave it that way.

How may they help one another? How can they associate in such a way that outsiders will be impressed and see Christian love and fellowship demonstrated? Article VIII has some suggestions.

◇

OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

PASTORS' SALARY SURVEY

The pastor's salary becomes a serious matter of discussion when a congregation is facing the calling of a pastor. All of our congregations are faced with that situation from time to time. We trust that each of our congregations gives their pastor's salary consideration each year as the budget is adopted for the coming year.

In order to provide assistance for our congregations, we have been doing a survey of pastor's salaries every two years. We have taken advantage of so many of our pastors being at our Pastors' Conference to do the survey there. This is the year for a new survey. Unfortunately, we waited until the last day of the Pastors' Conference to take the survey and too many pastors had gone. We have had to resort to the mail to complete the survey. So far 65 pastors have responded. Our report is only a preliminary one and we should have a final report by conference time.

We have divided the pastors into two categories. The first

category is made up of pastors who have a parsonage provided. The second is made up of those men who received a housing allowance to purchase or rent a home.

The average cash salary for pastors living in a parsonage is \$20,640. For pastors receiving a housing allowance it is \$26,432. The average cash salary when these two groups are combined is \$23,265. As would naturally be expected, each of these figures is up over the figure in the 1988 survey.

Twenty-seven of the pastors reporting receive a utility allowance. The average allowance was \$2,408. Most of the pastors receiving a utility allowance were living in a parsonage.

Forty-two of the men reported receiving some type of travel allowance. Nine men are paid mileage, averaging 20.4 cents a mile. For thirty-three pastors receiving a cash allowance, the average was \$2,612.

An area that we are all very much interested in these days

◇

ORTONVILLE

Ortonville Social Center. At this time a Sunday School was started. President Richard Snipstead was the guest speaker at this first service and officiated at the communion service. On October 13 the first WMF meeting was held at the LeRoy Danielson farm, rural Ortonville, and on Dec. 20, the Sunday School held its first Sunday School program. Since then a Luther League and Men's Fellowship organization have been started as well.

During the fall and winter months of 1987-88, the church continued to grow and develop. A constitution was adopted, incorporation papers drawn up and the church was accepted into membership in the AFLC. In the spring of 1988 the congregation sponsored its first evangelistic services with

Rev. Herbert Franz as their speaker. These meetings were well attended by many from the surrounding area.

In June, 1988, the congregation sent a call to Rev. Roy B. Johnson to be its first full-time pastor. Pastor Johnson began serving once a month in September of 1988 and moved to Ortonville on a full-time basis in May, 1989. On June 11, 1989, ground-breaking ceremonies were held for a new church on Crestview Avenue, next door to the Sherod residence. Six building lots were purchased in this area, providing adequate room for parking and future expansion.

On October 8, the first service was held in the new church. The building is a multi-purpose first unit, serving as a fellowship hall as well as a sanctuary. The congregation expects to build a sanctuary by 1993, the Lord willing.

From its beginning, Abiding Faith Lutheran Church has been grateful to the AFLC and its Home Mission department for the tremendous help it has provided in so many ways. There have been nearly 20 pastors, teachers and seminarians who have held services for the congregation since its inception. The direction and guidance offered by our AFLC leadership has been invaluable. Indeed, without this help and guidance, Abiding Faith would not exist today. As we look to the future, we covet your prayers that God will continue to bless our work as we seek to minister to the needs of people in the Ortonville area, as well as become a valuable partner with our sister churches in the AFLC in our work throughout the world.

— Pastor Roy B. Johnson

EDITORIALS

LIST OF HYMNS

In this issue we conclude the printing of the preliminary or tentative list of hymns to be included in the proposed *Ambassador Hymnal* of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

After reading the first installment of hymn titles last time,

PRESIDENT

is the participation in the medical coverage. We are trying to reach the goal of having 75% of our pastors in our medical plan. Only 32 of the pastors responding are on the AFLC Medical Plan. In the cases of these 32 men, 29 of the congregations pay all or part of the premium. Nine of the men indicated that their congregation pays all of the medical premium. That number is up from two years ago. It is something for other congregations to be thinking about. It is a good way to give your pastor an additional benefit without adding to his taxable income.

A higher percentage of our pastors are participating in the Pension Plan. Forty-five of the men indicated that they are participating and several more indicated that they soon expected to be on the plan.

Four weeks is the most common amount of vacation time for the pastors. Thirty-four indicated that that is true for them and fifteen others reported that they have three weeks vacation.

For the greater number of the men, time at Bible camps and conferences is not considered part of their vacation time.

We trust that the information we have shared will be helpful to many of you.

— Pastor Richard Snipstead

no doubt many of us were waiting with bated breath for the second part. And having read that now we can feel more at ease. To be sure, there had been the question, "Will 'The Old Rugged Cross' be included?", that all-time favorite, and it will be. No doubt each of us has hoped for other favorites also.

There will be about 650 hymns in the book. That's an ample selection, more choice than many of us have been used to having. That means it would take about four years to go through the hymnal in Sunday morning services, unless churches confine themselves to one hundred favorites year after year. We hope this will be a hymnbook our congregations will want to explore and learn to use.

Isn't that a tremendous selection of Christmas carols and hymns? And for Lent and Easter? It looks as if the Committee will have to do some adjusting as to the categories in which hymns are placed. The whole list isn't yet guaranteed, but there likely won't be much shifting done. However, remember Pastor T. Olson's invitation to communicate with him about hymns you'd like to still see included that haven't been or ones you feel should be left out.

It is impossible to please everyone; we all know that. The only perfect list of hymns would be the one you or I would draw up. Since someone must make decisions, a committee has been selected to make final choices. We've got to abide by what they ultimately decide. Make your feelings known to the Committee or through a Letter to the Editor. But when all is said and done, support the project and stay on the team.

Producing our own hymnal is a momentous and monumental task. We need this hymnbook of our own. It should have been produced 15 years ago, but it wasn't. The target date now is 1992 and we hope that goal can be met. That will be none too soon.

The formula for spiritual victory is *trusting* in the promises of the Word and then obeying. As the song says,

*"Trust and obey, for there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey."*

Mothers: Maybe you will want to write little notes as positive reminders for your family. Tuck them in drawers, tape them to the bathroom mirror or the refrigerator, etc.

What suggestions do you have for applying and teaching these truths?

Did you store I Cor. 15:57 in your heart?

—Lois Oscarson

WMF ANNUAL CONVENTION

June 13, 1990

Days Inn
8401 Cedar Ave. S.
Bloomington, Minn.

"Building together in the Lord."
Romans 12:4-5

L I V I N G for J E S U S

VICTORY

*"For Thou in Thy Atonement
didst give Thyself for me."*

WMF BIBLE STUDY
JUNE, 1990

I Cor. 15:57: "But thanks be to God which
giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus
Christ." (This would be a good verse to
memorize.)

Jesus' death on the cross, the shedding of His
blood, paid the price for my sin and for the sin of all
mankind. He rose *victorious* over the grave. He rose
victorious over the sin of all generations. If we want
to experience *victory*, we need to know Jesus: we
need to know the Word, for They are one and the
same.

*For devotional reading, study Jn. 1:1-14; Rom.
8:35-39; 1 Jn. 1:1-4; 4:4b*

1. If victory over sin is to be ours, if victory in any
spiritual battle is to be ours, we need to daily
spend time in the Word. Please take note of the
command and the promise in Ps. 46:10-11.

Command: "Be still, and know that I am God."
This is in addition to reading His Word. We are
actually to be quiet before Him and allow Him to
speak to us. John 14:26 says, "...the Holy
Spirit...will teach you all things, and bring to your
remembrance all that I said to you."

Promise: "I will be exalted among the nations...and in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us, He is our fortress (refuge, rescuer)."

If you are to be in a battle, there must be preparation. Your weapons must be ready for use. What example is found in Ps. 119:11? _____

2. In the sixth petition of the Lord's prayer, we pray, "And lead us not into temptation." There are three definite sources of temptation: the devil, the world and our own flesh, which is our sin-nature.

Scripture passages will be given which are packed with dos and don'ts for helping us gain the victory. As you study these passages, pray that you would be convicted of specific sins. Take time to confess them and ask the Lord Jesus to help you overcome them. Many positive commands are given, which, when practiced, will give the victory. Thank Him in advance for giving the victory!

- A. The devil is the first source of temptation to study. See Matt. 13:39. What are some of the works of the devil?

Gen. 3:4-5 _____
Matt. 4:1 _____
Lk. 4:6 _____
Jn. 8:44 _____
II Cor. 4:3-4 _____
II Cor. 11:14 _____
I Thess. 2:18 _____
Rev. 12:9-10 _____

How may we gain the victory over Satan?
Reference God's Strategy for You
Eph. 6:10-18 _____
Jas. 4:7-8 _____

- B. A second source of temptation is the world. See I Jn. 2:16.

Reference God's Strategy for You
Eph. 5:8-20 _____
Col. 3:2 _____
Titus 2:12 _____
I Jn. 2:15 _____

- C. The third source of temptation is the flesh, which our old sin-nature. See Rom. 8:7
Reference God's Strategy for You

Eph. 4:17-32 _____
Col. 3:1-17 _____
II Pet. 1:3-8 _____

As you look back over the verses in the lesson, did you notice there were many more "Dos" than "Don'ts"? If the Lord says, "Don't," it is usually followed with a positive thing to do. For example: Eph. 4:25, "Stop lying, tell the truth." God is positive with us. How easy it is to become negative. Children and adults respond more positively to "Please do" than "Don't do that." To help your family, give them positive guidelines. Parents and teachers, if a "Don't" is given, follow it with a constructive action.

youth-based ministry

How do you have a real youth-based ministry in your congregation, parish or district? Youth-based ministry is when you teens are in charge of the Luther League program, something I feel every youth group should strive to have. Such is a ministry owned and operated, so to speak, by young people and not by adults.

Such a ministry must have as its foundation the existing programs of the church. In this way it will have unity and gain the cooperation of others.

Whether it be a Luther League program for high school youth or for junior high, an after school drop-in program, a program for recreation, or even Sunday School, a youth-based program must not be in competition with other programs in the congregation, etc.

Youth ministry is therefore a team venture. The work is to be shared by teens and adults alike. The pastor is the co-ordinator of such a ministry. He or the youth worker will work closely with all interested teens. The outcome will be a ministry which will glorify the Lord. Let us hasten to add, all must be backed up by the Word of God and prayer.

A youth ministry which is owned by the youth must be one which makes plans, sets priorities and knows where it is going! It cannot be a trial and error type of ministry. Such leads us to major in minors and to have meetings which do not minister to the needs of the attenders. In fact, the teens may not come because their needs may not be met.

Evaluation is a necessary part of youth-owned ministry. We must determine the value of our past meetings through careful and deliberate study. This will enable us to improve our coming meetings. More than that, it will enable the leaders to give recognition to participating leaguers.

The circle of friendship must be open. A caring and loving group is essential. We must not have meetings which simply keep kids off the street. The group must have as one of its goals to lead people to Christ and then to teaching life skills which will enhance or edify their walk with Christ. The Luther League meeting must be warm and accepting and not judgmental or dictatorial. There must be a sensitivity to the needs of the teens and adults as well, a sensitivity to all members in the congregation.

Adults and youth leaders need to be willing to become personally involved with the young people. Youth leaders are also those youth themselves who are saved. The church should not have a youth ministry! The teens should have their own ministry with adults taking part!

We must minister to the entire family. Youth cannot be ministered to away from their families. There will be those times when the entire family plays a part. Churches which have problems ministering to the family will not reach the children and teens in the family.

There must be committed workers in the youth ministry program of your congregation. This means there must be both adults and teen leaders who are willing to go the extra mile with the organization of a youth-based ministry program. Commitment is to show love for Christ and youth.

Because of these things, you who are leaders must train young people. Teens are a great and untapped resource. You have tremendous potential. You will go into the school and on to the sports arena, etc. Especially is your input in the classroom something of great importance. Some of us, however, have not seen the necessity of training committed youth for ministry.

Always be flexible in your ministry. Again, youth will be drawn to programs which meet their needs. The effects of youth-owned ministry are endless. The things we learn as youth will remain with us all our lives.

Let us always remember that Jesus Christ is the foundation for youth-owned ministry. We know that with Christ all things are possible. Jesus is the foundation, the rock, for all that takes place in our congregations. Foolish indeed it would be to base our programs on anyone or anything else than the Lord Jesus Christ!

Some try to do it by entertainment. They might use various forms of music which they *think* teens are listening to and maybe *are* listening to! and the foundation for youth-based ministry is forgotten. The teens come for a while and then quit. Or, they stray in other directions which do not edify.

With the Lord Jesus Christ as the foundation and center of your program, young people, you will see results. There will be fruit seen. Jesus is the only One who can turn impossible situations into possible ones.

— Pastor Dennis Gray

Illinois youth invited to Iowa

The Illinois District youth were invited by Christian Lutheran of Wheatland, Iowa, to a rally on Sunday, April 29. The event began with a gym time at the Wheatland High School at 3 p.m.

Mr. Mike Palkie of Newfolden, Minnesota, was the speaker. Mr. Palkie is a graduate of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis.

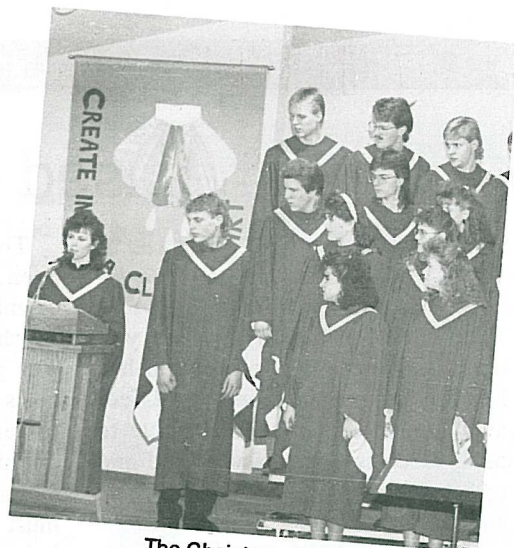
Cost for the event was \$2.00 plus a liter of pop or a bag of munchies.

The Illinois District recently had a team from AFLBS at the Son Life meetings held in connection with the Freedom and St. Petrie congregations of rural Ottawa, Ill., Mark Olson, lay pastor.

— Corr.



The Choral Club spent their time in the Lake Superior region.



The Choir in concert.



The first two weeks of April, the AFLBS Choral Club and Choir took their annual tour. Mrs. Marian Christopherson and Rev. Don Greven are the directors.

Photos by: Blair Johnson, Clark Landguth, Dan Christianson, and Craig Anderson

The anatomy of Spring Tours



Nathan Monseth, Rogers, Minn., and Julie Skordahl, Murrieta, Calif.



Robin Folsland, Oldham, S. Dak., and Kelly Pletcher, Bloomington, Minn.



The Choir traveled to the Dakotas.



Alison Mellgren, Tioga, N. Dak.



Patti Anderson, Greenbush, Minn., and Janel Jorgenson, Leeds, N. Dak.

Personalities

The new address for **Rev. Gary M. Skramstad** is R. R. 2, Box 30, Osakis, Minn. 56360. He is presently serving as pastor of Elim Lutheran Church, an independent congregation previously served by pastors from the Church of the Lutheran Brethren.



Pastor Rodney Johnson, left, was installed as pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran in Stanley, N. Dak., and First English Lutheran, Lostwood, in a service at Our Savior's on Feb. 4, by Rev. Elden Nelson, director of AFLC Home Missions.

News notes

Received as new members at Maranatha Lutheran in **Glyndon, Minn.**, on Sun., Mar. 18, were Mr. and Mrs. Jack (Julie) Johnson, Jessica, Heidi, Brittany and Kaitlin Elaine, the latter through infant baptism; Jim Galland; Mr. and Mrs. Larry (Cindy) Leach, Sr., Larry, Jr., and Lana; Mr. and Mrs. Larry (Shirley) Swenson, Ryan, Amy and Stephanie; and Charlotte Marie Rasmussen (by infant baptism), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kyle (Renee) Rasmussen. Rev. Hubert DeBoer is interim pastor of the congregation.

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Dollar Bay, Mich., was the evangelist at the Life in Christ Crusade in Trinity Lutheran Church, **Boscobel, Wis.**, Apr. 1-5. Rev. Merle Knutson is the pastor of Trinity.

Faculty named for Galilee Family Camp

Rev. Craig Wentzel, Leeds, N. Dak., will be the adult Bible teacher at the annual AFLC Family Camp at Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., July 8-14. The evening speaker will be Rev. James Asp, Fargo, N. Dak., and present writer of the devotional series

in the *Ambassador*, "Light on the Way." Rev. Reuben Unseth, Roseau, Minn., is to be the youth Bible teacher.

Rev. Le Roy Flickinger, Newfolden, Minn., announces that the camp will begin at 3 p.m. on Sunday this year and conclude on Saturday noon, the 14th.

In memoriam

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

WASHINGTON

Everett

Johnnie Johnson, 89, Mar. 22, Calvary.

Clarence Nelson, 92, Mar. 22, Calvary.

MINNESOTA

Bygland

Mrs. Aurora Thompson, 95, Apr. 6, Bygland Lutheran, Fisher, Minn. (Mrs. Thompson was the mother of Mrs. Donald ("Mim") Rodvold. Mr. Rodvold was formerly the music director at AFLBS).

Church anniversaries

AFLC congregations celebrating centennials this year are encouraged to submit a good photo of the church building together with a write-up of the festivities after they have taken place. A brief history of the church should be included which lists the names of the pastors who have served the congregation. The picture of the church will be placed on the cover of one of the *Ambassadors* this year. This is also true for churches with increments of 25 years after centennials. May we hear from you.

Of course, we welcome announcements and news stories of other church anniversaries as well.

The Editor

Medicine Lake to note 25th

Medicine Lake Lutheran Church will celebrate the 25th Anniversary of its organization as a congregation on Sunday, May 20.

Services were begun at AFLC headquarters by Pastor George Soberg in September, 1964. The congregation was officially organized on April 25, 1965. Full-time pastors who have served the congregation are Pastor George Soberg, Sept., 1964, to Dec., 1968; Pastor Arvid Hokonson, Jan., 1970, to Feb., 1972; Pastor Jay G. Erickson, Dec., 1974, to July, 1983; and Pastor Laurel M. Udden, May, 1984, to the present time. Interim pastors who have served the congregation are Richard Snipstead, John Strand, Francis Monseth and Amos Dyrud.

The church has rented the facility at the church headquarters all during its existence.

The congregation has been making plans to build its own facility on a piece of property on the corner of Old county Road 9 and Zachary Lane, which is about one mile from the present location. This building program is to let the congregation have its own identity and to provide facilities for Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy, which now numbers some 200 pupils from K-4 through 8th grade. Mrs. Beverly (Eugene) Enderlein is the Administrator of the Academy.

All former members and friends of Medicine Lake Lutheran church, together with any others, are invited to the 25th Anniversary Celebration, Sunday, May 20. The morning service will be followed by a potluck dinner at noon and an Anniversary Celebration Service in the afternoon.

—Rev. Laurel Udden



Let everyone share

The responses to our presentations in the congregations have begun to come in, and we are most grateful. May God reward your generosity! As of this printing, almost \$60,000 in cash and commitments have been received. Keep on praying, that many, many will continue to respond generously.

Many questions have been asked regarding the building itself. Without repeating the questions, here are some of the answers:

The building will be as energy efficient as we can make it. The ceilings will have an R factor of 40, the walls 19. It will be of brick veneer construction, with 6" stud walls.

The large windows will not be detrimental insofar as energy loss is concerned. The panes will be double layered, and one-inch thick, the cavity filled with argon gas. The glass will be formulated in such a manner as to reflect heat in summer, and absorb heat in the winter, depending on the angle of the sun.

It is anticipated that the building will fill the space needs of our administration for many years to come.

Attention is being paid to esthetic beauty as much as possible, without necessarily increasing the cost.

Our plea, made without apology, is for everyone to join in both prayer and financial support. We have prayed much that at least 2,000 loyal AFLC members will contribute! If we can accomplish this goal, then the "burden" will not be heavy on anyone. *Let us rise up and build!!!*

— Clifford E. Johnson
Director

AFLTS and AFLBS Graduation

May 19, 1 p.m.

Campus Chapel

Speaker: Rev. Robert Lee

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class

STUDYING TO LEARN

Today I have the knowledge of what Christ Jesus did for me on the cross and how we are so small when compared with Him. My life has been transformed and Christ helps me in my decisions, because "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me."



I am here at the Bible School to obtain greater knowledge of the Word of God and to be useful in the ministry, because God calls us to be worthy workers, that we may be approved by Him, "rightly handling the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15 RSV).

My goals in life are: To give the maximum of myself to God; finish my schooling; work in my church and evangelize my friends; and have a family that will be a blessing to God.

Since coming to Bible School I have been confronted with missions and feel that God may be calling me to be a missionary.

These are goals that need much prayer because these decisions belong to God. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Agnaldo would enjoy to have pen pals. His address: Rue Especial, 52; Cruzeiro do Sul; 29154 Campo Grande, Cariacica, ES, Brazil.

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences – Feb. 1 - March 31

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN MARCH	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	%* TOTAL
General Fund	\$ 223,110.00	\$ 11,185.07	\$ 20,873.11	9
Schools - (AFLTS)..	136,822.00	4,218.85	6,775.90	5
(AFLBS) . .	186,850.00	9,673.09	15,071.94	8
Home Missions.	433,616.00	50,233.50	65,467.97	15
World Missions.	366,197.00	14,061.26	25,573.01	7
Capital Investments . .	30,000.00	3,575.38	3,980.35	13
Parish Education	64,970.00	5,189.34	8,366.74	13
TOTALS	\$ 1,442,565.00	\$ 98,136.49	\$ 146,109.02	10
1989-1990.	\$ 1,308,281.00	\$ 73,008.54	\$ 109,078.29	8
*Goal 17%				