

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 22, 1984

## 22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis

June 20-24



LOYALTY TO CHRIST

John 8:31, 32

# AT THE MASTER'S FEET



Pastor Wallace Jackson

## When Pentecost was fully come

"Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth . . ." (John 16:13). Enter the Day of Enlightenment. God will visit man at his level of need. Jerusalem will see as she has not seen before. On the day of His grand entrance into the city, Jesus had said: "If thou hadst known, even thou, in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! But now they are hid from thine eyes." Pentecost will usher in a new day when things will be more clearly seen. Peter's "trial sermon" produced, by the Holy Spirit's power, conviction and contrition in one phenomenal occurrence. The cry of perplexity was heard in the land, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" This was truly a day of great wonder. The day, however, did not dawn as a great and mighty wonder for Jerusalem alone. The rays of Gospel light were now to begin the slow, but steady process of illuminat-

ing Judea, Samaria and, eventually, "the uttermost parts of the world."

**MIGHTY SIGNS AND WONDERS.** The Apostle Paul uses the above expression to credit the Holy Spirit for the soul-winning work wrought among the Gentiles (Romans 15:19). He wisely gives credit where credit is due. We should be so wise! It is a sad commentary on our times that we over-credit man and give little glory to God. That man can deliver frequent strokes of genius is not being disputed. Witness the "wonders" of his accomplishments.

Within the sovereignty of Turkish soil, as it stood at the beginning of the European war of 1914, were found six of the original "Seven Wonders of the World." The one exception was the Colossus of Rhodes, which stood on Greek turf. These marvels of human ingenuity testify adequately to the sufficiency of mind and hand to erect monuments to itself. Had we been contemporaries of the ancients, we might have stood in awe as we drank in the beauty of those 250-foot high terraced gardens of Nebuchadnezzar; the magnificent Mausoleum of Mausolus, whose name to this day designates ornate burial places; the Temple of Diana with its 60-foot columns, eye-appealing but soul-degrading; the lighthouse at Alexandria, loftier than the 480-foot pyramid of Cheops, and dedicated to the salvation of storm-tossed sailors; or the Colossus, that bronze image of Apollo, approximating the height of our own Statue of Liberty, guarding the harbor of Rhodes, then devastated by earthquake and hauled away; the vocal Memnon, as it greeted each dawn with its wind-caused moan.

For all practical purposes, the world is down to one Wonder—the

pyramids. These, because of their construction, may stand for millenniums. The rest have succumbed to the ravages of time, the elements and natural calamity. One wonders if one Wonder is not a fair ratio of durability considering their origin as a product of man's inventiveness. One out of seven is not bad! To what end is all this? Simply to remind us that the works of men's hands, though marvelous to behold, are not timeless or enduring. "Dust and decay in all around I see" covers all the chapters of this dusty volume on man's ingenuity as it moulders on the shelf of time. Left to his own devices, man can raise himself to high planes of achievement. The "sky is the limit" has become literal. Scientifically, we are just stepping over the threshold. Vistas of accomplishment recede under the relentless pressure to succeed. There are now, in this "space age," many wonders which cause those of antiquity to sink into oblivion. When all is said and done, man and his work are both seen to be subjects of time.

**TO FIND WONDERS THAT ARE TIMELESS AND ETERNAL** we must look beyond man and to God. His work is done in time but is eternal in essence. All other wonders slip silently into the shadows of insignificance when the handiwork of the Holy Spirit comes into view. Who can rightly evaluate the impact of the Holy Spirit on the souls of lost men, or the value of that same Spirit to the Christian? The commodities He deals in are: sin and grace, Law and Gospel, faith and justification. He convicts of sin, righteousness and judgment. He points the lost and helpless to Christ. He comforts, assures and encourages. He prays for God's own with groanings which cannot uttered. *Remember Him!*

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Volume 22 Number 11

## 22nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

### THE PROGRAM

#### Wednesday, June 20

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

8:00 p.m. The opening service of the Conference, with the sermon on the text by Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Evangelist of the AFLC. Leader: Pastor Kenneth Moland, Dean, Association Free Lutheran Bible School. The opening of the Conference and the appointment of necessary committees by Pastor Richard Snipstead, President.  
Offering to Home Missions.

#### Thursday, June 21

9:00 a.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Adoption of the Conference agenda.

Election of the Committee on Nominations for the 1985 Conference.

The President's Report.

Report of the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, Pastor Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn.

Report of the Business Administrator, Mr. Ernest Miedema, Valley City, N. Dak.

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

Financial Report, Miss Linda Butterfield, Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of the Family Bible Camps  
Osceola: Treasurer, Mr. Gary Modean, St. Paul, Minn.

Lake Bronson: Treasurer, Mrs. Don Balmer, Thief River Falls, Minn.

Wilderness: Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn.

Report of the Budget Analysis Committee.

Report of the Nominating Committee, always in order.

Election of nominees for the Missions Corporation and the Schools Corporation.

Report of Committee No. 1 (Administration).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour. Leader: Pastor Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.

2:00 p.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Elections:

President — 3-year term.

Vice-President — 1-year term.

Secretary — 1-year term.

Nominees to the Mission Committees and Board of Trustees.

Continuing discussion of Committee No. 1.

Election of nominees to the Co-ordinating Committee.

Election of Committee No. 1 for the 1985 Conference.

Report of the Dean of the Seminary, Pastor Francis Monseth, Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of the Dean of the Bible School, Pastor Kenneth Moland, Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of the AFLBS Alumni Association, Mrs. John Schlenk, Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of the Facilities Committee.

Report of Committee No. 2 (Schools).

5:30 p.m. The School's Corporation will meet.

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

#### Friday, June 22

7:00 a.m. The Mission Corporation meets.

9:00 a.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Continuing discussion of Committee No. 2.

Election of Committee No. 2 for the 1985 Conference.

Report of the Schools' Corporation meeting.



## PROGRAM . . .

Report of the Director of World Missions, Pastor Eugene Enderlein, Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Pastor David Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak.

Report of the Director of Home Missions, Pastor Elden Nelson, Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of the Chairman of the Evangelism Commission, Dr. James Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich.

Report of the AFLC Evangelist, Pastor Kenneth Pentti, Ishpeming, Mich.

Report of Committee No. 3 (Missions and Evangelism).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Pastor Franz.

2:00 p.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Continuing Report of Committee No. 3.

Report of the Missions Corporation meeting.

5:30 p.m. Pastors' Banquet.

8:00 p.m. Laymen's Service. Leader: Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, Minn. Speaker: Mr. Glen Espe, Thief River Falls, Minn. Offering to World Missions.

### *Saturday, June 23*

9:00 a.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Continuing discussion of the report of Committee No. 3.

Election of members of the Commission on Evangelism.

Election of Committee No. 3 for the 1985 Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Pastor Ralph Tjelta, Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of the Executive Secretary of Parish Education, Mrs. Philip Regnier, Minneapolis, Minn.

Nominations for nominee for Editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador*.

Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Pastor Paul Nash, Ishpeming, Mich.

Report of the President of the Luther League Federation, Pastor Curtis Emerson, Valley City, N. Dak.

Report of Committee No. 4 (Publications, Parish Education, Youth).

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Pastor Franz.

2:00 p.m. Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Report of the Colloquy Committee.

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

Election of Committee No. 4 for the 1985 Conference.

Election of the Colloquy Committee for the 1985 Annual Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board, Pastor Robert Lee, Minneapolis, Minn.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Mr. Walter Lien, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

Report of Committee No. 5 (Stewardship and Pensions).

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

Election of Committee No. 5 for the 1985 Conference.

Report of special committees.

Election of one member to the Budget Analysis Committee — 3-year term.

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

Invitations to the 1985 Conference.

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

Leader: Pastor Curtis Emerson, Valley City, N. Dak.

Speaker: Pastor Gary Jorgenson, Stanley, N. Dak.

Offering to Praise Program.

### *Sunday, June 24*

8:00 a.m. Communion Service

Leader: Pastor Jon Wellumson, Ortley, S. Dak.

Message: Pastor Gilbert Schroeder, Tioga, N. Dak.

10:30 a.m. Worship Service.

Leader: Pastor Laurel Udden, Minneapolis, Minn.

Message: Pastor Donald Greven, Kenyon, Minn.

Offering to General Fund.

2:30 p.m. Ordination Service. Message: Pastor Richard Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.

Offering to Schools.

Conference Committee:  
Pastor Bruce Dalager  
Pastor Richard Snipstead



## *an invitation to you*

*from our President*

We are pleased to extend an invitation to you to attend the 22nd annual convention of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations to be held at our church headquarters and schools' campus, June 20-24.

The setting for our convention will be a familiar one. It will be the seventh time that the AFLC has held its convention at 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

It seems that our people appreciate being able to visit their facilities, for some of our larger conventions have been held here. This year should be no different as we expect many new people from some of the congregations that have recently joined the AFLC. We will also welcome some who will be visiting our conference to learn more about the AFLC.

Our theme this year is "Loyalty to Christ," based on John 8:31-32. It will be good for us to evaluate our loyalties and our priorities as we move forward in our third decade.

The vital business of the church necessitates a good attendance and we trust that every congregation will be represented. All areas of the church work will be reviewed, and you will have the opportunity of expressing yourself about any area of the work.

The offices of President, Vice-President and Secretary are all up for election this year. The first for a three-year term, and the other two for one-year terms.

We are part of Christ's kingdom. May our hearts be open and our wills ready to be obedient to Him, that He may truly continue to build His Church in our AFLC.

The beautiful grounds here at headquarters will be at their best and all will be in readiness for a warm welcome to the Annual Conference in June.



Pastor Richard Snipstead  
President, AFLC

a sermon for Pentecost

## The Holy Spirit as teacher



by Rev. Gerald F.  
Mundfrom,  
Osceola, Wis.

What is the duty and function of the Holy Spirit? The Bible attributes a number of works to Him. But basically He is a teacher.

When Jesus was about to leave the disciples and go back to the Father in heaven, He told His disciples that He would send the Holy Spirit to take His place and this Holy Spirit would continue to teach them and lead them as He had done. "*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you*" (John 14:26).

When Jesus walked with His disciples on earth, teaching them spiritual truths, there were some things which they did not comprehend. At that time, for instance, they did not seem to understand that Jesus needed to die on the cross for the sins of the world.

The Holy Spirit would continue on in teaching where Jesus left off as these disciples now took upon themselves the responsibility of winning the world for Christ.

A good teacher is one who often repeats what has already been taught in order to make sure that the student really learns it and does not forget. As a teacher, the Holy Spirit would again teach what Jesus taught until these spiritual truths were deeply ingrained into the hearts and minds of Jesus' disciples.

But as teacher the Holy Spirit was not only to teach Jesus' disciples. He is also to be the teacher of every sincere Christian who is fully dedicated to Christ and who is truly interested in learning more about Jesus and what His will is for himself.

When Jesus was on this earth He was the Word of God made flesh

◇



Rev. Galland



Rev. Dalager

# ELECTIONS AT THE

## ELECTIONS BY THE CONFERENCE

*Board of Publications and Parish Education*  
(5-year term)

\*Mrs. James Foster, Fosston, Minn.

*Stewardship Board*  
(5-year term)

\*Lay Pastor Roger Krueger, Fergus Falls, Minn.

*Commission on Evangelism*  
(5-year term)

\*Lay Pastor Burton Rygh, Greenbush, Minn.

*Board of Pensions*  
(5-year term)

\*Mr. Walter Lien, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

*Youth Board*  
(5-year term)

\*Mr. David Russum, Arlington, Wash.

## OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED

\*designates incumbent

*President* (3-year term)

\*Rev. Richard Snipstead, Minneapolis, Minn.

*Vice-President* (1-year term)

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

*Secretary* (1-year term)

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

## ELECTIONS BY CORPORATIONS

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

\*Rev. Wendell Johnson, Stacy, Minn.

(Pastor Johnson has served two consecutive terms and is ineligible for re-election.)

*World Missions Committee*  
(5-year term)

\*Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.

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

*Home Missions Committee*  
(5-year term)

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

*Board of Trustees* (Schools)  
(5-year term)

\*Mr. Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.

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

## SCHOOLS CORPORATION

The Nominating Committee of the Annual Conference will present two (2) names for every vacancy on the Schools Corporation. Nominations may also be made from the floor. The Conference will then by secret ballot choose one person for each vacancy, sending the names of these persons on to the Corporation for decision at its annual meeting on June 21. Members of the Board of Trustees must come from the membership of the Corporation. Failure to be re-elected to the Corporation while serving on the Board will automatically exclude one from membership on the Board.

The following persons are eligible to attend the annual meeting of the Corporation on June 21:

## HOLY SPIRIT . . .

(John 1:14). As teacher He was what the Word of God (our Bible) is to you and me, if we are Christians. The Holy Spirit brought back to the memories of these disciples what Jesus taught them and rightly interpreted for them in an understanding way. Likewise, the Holy Spirit will help us to remember what we have read and studied (or heard preached) from our Bible and rightly interpret it for us so that we can truly comprehend it.

It may be that when we were still children that we learned certain Biblical truths from our parents or in Sunday School but did not really understand them. But then one day as we were older, the Holy Spirit

caused us to remember these truths. We began to think and meditate upon them. The Holy Spirit helped us to understand these truths and they became much more meaningful to us.

But let us notice that it was the same truths which Jesus had taught His disciples which the Holy Spirit later taught to Jesus' disciples. He taught them to understand these spiritual truths more fully, but He did not teach them anything new or different.

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"It is God's Word, and  
God's Word only . . . that He  
teaches."

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The same is true when we allow the Holy Spirit to be our teacher. It is God's Word, and God's Word only, as we find it in our Bible, that He teaches. He ever helps us to understand more of that Word and to understand it more fully, but He has no new Word for us. He does not teach us some strange doctrine which is not in the Bible. He never teaches us anything which would be contrary to Scripture. And if such should be our teaching, it is not the Holy Spirit who is doing the teaching. Any teaching contrary to the truth of God's Word does not come from the Holy Spirit but from the father of lies, namely Satan himself (John 8:44).

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE

## Conference speakers



Rev. Pentti



Rev. Franz



Rev. Jorgenson

### Terms expire in 1984:

(\*denotes member of the Board of Trustees.)

Mr. Donald Carter, Lake Stevens, Wash.  
Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak.  
Rev. Philip Featherstone, Pukwana, S. Dak.  
Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, Minn.  
Rev. James Fugleberg, Ontonagon, Mich.  
Mr. Raymond Jacobson, Wadena, Minn.  
Rev. David C. Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak.  
Rev. Rodger Olson, Grafton, N. Dak.\*  
Rev. Gary Skramstad, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.

### Terms expire in 1985:

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash.  
Mr. Arthur Arneson, Spicer, Minn.  
Rev. Michael Brandt, Amery, Wis.\*  
Dr. James Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich.  
Mr. Eldon Hermunslie, Wahpeton, N. Dak.  
Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.  
Rev. Philip Rokke, Lake Alma, Sask.  
Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, Minn.\*  
Rev. John P. Strand, Remer, Minn.\*

### Terms expire in 1986:

Mr. H. Morris Borstad, Tioga, N. Dak.  
Dr. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, Minn.  
Mr. Richard Hinderaker, Radcliffe, Ia.  
Mr. LeRoy Knutson, Newfolden, Minn.  
Rev. Muaritz Lundeen, Bagley, Minn.  
Mr. Sherman McCarlson, Webster, S. Dak.  
Rev. Terry Olson, Fargo, N. Dak.

Mr. Orville Qualley, Brockton, Mont.  
Mr. Mike Rudebusch, Summit, S. Dak.  
Mr. Lyle Twite, Cloquet, Minn.

### Terms expire in 1987:

Mr. Ole Borseth, Williston, N. Dak.  
Mr. Clifford Dyrud, St. Paul, Minn.  
Rev. J. G. Erickson, Fosston, Minn.  
Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn.  
Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.  
Lay Pastor Roger Krueger, Fergus Falls, Minn.  
Rev. Paul Nash, Ishpeming, Mich.  
Mr. John Mundfrom, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Mr. Kent Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.  
Mr. James Rolf, Brandon, Minn.

### Terms expire in 1988:

Mr. Arne Berge, Binford, N. Dak.\*  
Mr. Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, Minn.\*  
Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, Minn.  
Rev. Donald Greven, Kenyon, Minn.  
Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, Thief River Falls, Minn.  
Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Stanley, N. Dak.  
Mr. David Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.  
Mr. Ralph Peterson, Portland, N. Dak.\*  
Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn.  
Mr. Donald Jacobson, Binford, N. Dak.

## MISSIONS CORPORATION

The Nominating Committee of the Annual Conference will present two (2) names for every vacancy on the Missions Corporation. Nominations may also be made from

In view of what has been said, we may ask the question: How come there is such a variety of interpretations as to what the Bible is truly saying? How come there are so many different opinions as to what certain portions of the Bible really mean, and when oftentimes these interpretations stand in direct opposition to each other?

Let us notice that when Jesus promised the Holy Spirit as teacher to His disciples (John 14:26), that He said that He would bring *all* things (notice the little word *all*) that Jesus had taught to the memory of the disciples. In other words, the Holy Spirit would not teach any half-truths, neither would He be teaching

anything Jesus had not taught.

Far too many people today are only reading part of the Bible or half-truths out of the Bible. They do not give the Holy Spirit much to work with in bringing back to memory. They do not have very much of God's truth in their memories. We cannot remember what we have not been taught.

If we want the Holy Spirit to be our teacher the initiative must begin with us. It is not enough to just pray,

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"We cannot remember what we have not been taught."

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"O Holy Spirit, be my teacher!" We must also apply ourselves to the studying of God's Word, and *all* of God's Word. Far too many people try to read the whole of God's truth into one verse, a few verses, or a small portion of God's Word. Then they interpret this which they have read in a way contrary to what the rest of Scripture has to say about that truth. Oftentimes their own opinion and what they desire to be true rather than that which is true plays a part in their interpretation. Such is never a working of the Holy Spirit, although Satan could have a part in it.

So much of today's preaching and teaching of the Bible is such a hit or  
*continued on p. 11*



## ELECTIONS . . .

the floor. The Conference membership will then by secret ballot choose one person for each vacancy, sending those names to the Corporation for decision at its annual meeting on June 22. Members of the World and Home Missions Committees must come from the membership of the Corporation. Failure to be reelected to the Corporation while serving on either committee will automatically remove one from membership on that committee.

The following persons are eligible to attend the annual meeting of the Corporation on June 22:

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

### *Terms expire in 1984:*

Mr. Bernhard Dalager, Roseau, Minn.  
Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.  
Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore.  
Rev. Julius Hermunsle, Fergus Falls, Minn.  
Mr. John Arlen Johnson, Sacred Heart, Minn.  
Mr. Edwin Mathison, Bagley, Minn.  
Rev. Wm. Moberg, Astoria, Ore.  
Mr. Owen Myhre, Abercrombie, N. Dak.\*\*  
Rev. Stephen Odegaard, Eugene, Ore.  
Rev. Norman Tenneboe, Eben Jct., Mich.

### *Terms expire in 1985:*

Mrs. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Rev. Samuel Flores, Leon, Gto., Mexico  
Rev. Gordon Grage, Brandon, Minn.  
Rev. Ted Kennedy, Nogales, Ariz.  
Mrs. Charles Kvanvig, Ridgefield, Wash.  
Rev. Robert Lewis, Abercrombie, N. Dak.  
Rev. David Molstre, Dickinson, N. Dak.\*\*  
Rev. Larry V. Severson, Roseau, Minn.  
Rev. Forrest Swenson, Tucson, Ariz.  
Mr. Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, Mich.\*

### *Terms expire in 1986:*

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lake Stevens, Wash.\*\*  
Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.\*  
Mr. Ronald Gravgaard, Tioga, N. Dak.  
Rev. Dale Mellgren, Kalispell, Mont.  
Rev. Allen Monson, Tioga, N. Dak.  
Mrs. Aini Myking, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Rev. John Rieth, Williston, N. Dak.  
Mr. Joel Rogenes, Ely, Minn.\*\*  
Mr. Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, Wis.  
Rev. Roy Warwick, Aberdeen, S. Dak.

### *Terms expire in 1987:*

Mr. Martin Bjornson, Valley City, N. Dak.  
Rev. Herbert Franz, Cloquet, Minn.  
Rev. Henry Johansen, Virginia, Minn.  
Dr. Lyle Mattson, Milbank, S. Dak.  
Mr. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, N. Dak.\*  
Mr. Jerry Olson, Newfolden, Minn.  
Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, N. Dak.\*  
Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, S. Dak.  
Mrs. Rodney Stueland, Roslyn, S. Dak.  
Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, Minn.

### *Terms expire in 1988:*

Rev. Mark Antal, Bemidji, Minn.  
Rev. Fred Carlson, Wadena, Minn.  
Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Sedan, Minn.  
Mr. Emory Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.  
Mrs. Oscar Folden, Minot, N. Dak.  
Rev. Peter Franz, Minot, N. Dak.  
Rev. Philip Haugen, Minneapolis, Minn.\*\*  
Rev. Wesley Langaas, McVie, N. Dak.  
Rev. Kenneth Pentti, Ishpeming, Mich.  
Rev. Einar Unseth, Bismarck, N. Dak.\*

## THE 1984 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

### Eastern North Dakota —

Mr. Palmer Haugen, Portland, N. Dak.

### Western North Dakota-Eastern Montana —

Rev. Peter Franz, Minot, N. Dak.

### South Dakota —

Mr. Arlo Kneeland, Summit, S. Dak.

### Northwestern Minnesota —

Mr. Paul Flaten, Newfolden, Minn.

### North Central Minnesota —

Rev. J. G. Erickson, Fosston, Minn.

### Southwest Central Minnesota —

Mr. James Rolf, Brandon, Minn.

### Lake Superior —

Mr. Joel Rogenes, Ely, Minn.

Minneapolis — Rev. Ralph Rokke, Minneapolis, Minn.

Northern Michigan — Dr. James Gerdeen, Chassell, Mich.

Arizona — Rev. Forrest Swenson, Tucson, Ariz.

West Coast — Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, Ore.

Members of the Nominating Committee are open to suggestions, indeed, welcome suggestions of persons whom they can nominate as candidates for offices and committees in the Association. Let your district representative know soon about any individuals you'd like to recommend.

more Conference  
and WMF  
Convention speakers



Rev. Schroeder



Rev. Huglen



Rev. Abel

Two teaching positions for both upper elementary (grades 4-5) and junior high (grades 6-7-8) are available at Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy for the 1984-85 school year. Interested Christian teachers should send a resumé and a request for application to: Medicine Lake Lutheran Academy, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Mn. 55441, Attn: Mrs. Eugene Enderlein.

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# editorials

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## CONFERENCE STARTING DATE

On another page in this issue the reader will find a brief item called "Point of Information." It concerns Annual Conference representation from the West Coast District for three years under the old conference starting schedule and the three years under a new schedule.

Let us try to explain the situation. Up until 1980 the AFLC annual conferences began on the second Wednesday in June. That practice came from the statement in the *Rules for Work*, paragraph 5, which states, "The AFLC shall hold an Annual Conference which usually opens the evening of the second Wednesday in June and which shall elect the necessary committees and officers, and determine what church activities in particular it shall recommend to the congregations."

At the 1980 conference in Valley City, N. Dak., in response to a request from the West Coast "mini-conference" held that spring, the annual conference passed the following resolution: "Be it resolved that the suggested start of the Annual Conference of the AFLC be changed from the second Wednesday of June to the third Wednesday of June for 1981." The resolution was only a suggestion, but the Conference Committee did adopt the change in starting for 1981 and it has been used in the succeeding years. To our recollection the matter has been brought up at least one other conference since the custom was changed.

The chief reason given by the West Coast people (this includes churches in western Montana), in requesting the change was that public schools in that area run longer than in the Upper Midwest and there were problems in getting away at the earlier time.

The statistics given in "Point of Information" indicate that the later starting time has increased the representation at the conferences only slightly. The average for the three years of earlier starting conferences (1977, 1978, 1980) was 23.7 delegates. For the three years of later starting conferences it is 24.

While location of the conferences must have some effect for those who must travel long distances, there is no clear pattern. For instance, the same number of delegates attended from the West Coast District when the conference was at Fargo as at Dickinson, 300 miles further west, hence closer. Or, there were less at Valley City than at the Minneapolis or Osceola conferences.

Probably it is the Bible Camp people in the Midwest who are most affected by the later starting dates (third vs. second Wednesdays). This year the conference week is one that some of our camps might have used. Some other arrangement has had to be made for an earlier or later time. There can be problems with weather and availability of facilities. The later time is also more likely to produce situations where pastors must go directly from annual conference (and leave early) to one or two weeks of

Bible camping, necessitating much absence from other parish duties and home.

This doesn't affect this writer, but there are those who are affected. At any rate, we call this to your attention. The *Rules for Work* do not set the opening date of our conferences in concrete.

## NAMES, NAMES

We always enjoy this time of year when we type out the names of people whose terms expire. Not because their terms are expiring, but because some idea is given of who have been serving the church in places of leadership. And the names of all corporation members are listed so that conference delegates especially might know who is who.

Most of these people we know personally, some over many years of kingdom work. It is interesting to think of them, to thank God for them.

Study the names. Become familiar with them. Think of who would be a good person to move up to board or committee membership.

The Nominating Committee is a key conference committee. Remember that the one for 1985 will be chosen very early in the conference. Be ready to nominate people who know their district well, but you need not nominate as many as you did last year when a record was set.

Two things to keep in mind. Lay members are to be in the majority on this committee. The one serving this year has a majority of pastors. Tellers are to be on watch for that as they count the ballots. The other thing, no one is to serve more than two years consecutively on the Nominating Committee.

This is a year in which there will be a presidential election also in the Association. Pastor Richard Snipstad will have served two three-year terms at the end of September. Pastor Leslie Galland will have served two one-year terms as vice-president, Pastor Bruce Dalager one term as secretary. All may be re-elected by a simple majority of the votes cast. It is after three consecutive terms that the three-fourths majority rule goes into effect.

At least two candidates must be nominated for these three offices and the nominations must be from the floor.

Just a few observations as Annual Conference time approaches.

Our divine Lord invariably affirmed, "It is written"; modern rationalistic theologians contemptuously reject that formula and substitute for it their own subjective opinion, "I believe" and "I Think."

J. T. Mueller



by Pastor Elden Nelson, Director  
of Home Missions, AFLC

"... it is with  
confidence that  
we march forward;  
... 'As I was  
with Moses, so  
I will be with  
you. I will  
not fail you  
or forsake you'  
Joshua 1:5.  
That promise  
makes Christ's  
command to go  
and make  
disciples of all  
nations a joy  
to accept and  
to carry out."

1983 Annual Report  
Home Mission Director

# AFLC HOME MISSIONS

As of May 1, the AFLC has Home Mission congregations in seventeen areas within the U.S. and one in Canada. A typical question often asked about Home Mission work is, "Where are these congregations located and how are they doing?" That question deserves more than a one sentence answer, so please join me in a quick trip to identify congregations and pastors.

To the southwest, in Tucson, Arizona, we have Living Faith Lutheran Church. That congregation has just recently moved in to their own building. Money for this purchase has been borrowed from the Church Extension Fund and the members of the congregation and winter visitors have done much work in making their facility ready for worship. This congregation is pastored by Forrest Swenson.

At Arlington, Washington, which is about 30 miles northeast of Seattle, is Atonement Lutheran. They are being served by Pastor Richard Anderson of Elim Lutheran at Lake Stevens. Mr. David Russum is assisting Pastor Anderson in this new work. The congregation is hoping to call a full-time pastor soon and are also looking for their own facility. Right now they meet in a school.

Pastor Dale Mellgren continues to serve Stillwater Lutheran near Kalispell, Montana. This congregation has the distinction of being the only Home Mission congregation located out in the country. It is indeed a beautiful location.

Faith Lutheran congregation at Lake Alma, Saskatchewan, is about one year old. This congregation is meeting in a town hall but is seriously considering building a church. Pastor and Mrs. Philip Rokke and children are the parsonage family. The congregation has purchased a large mobile home which serves as the parsonage.

Williston, North Dakota, is the home of Emmanuel Lutheran congregation. On Sunday, March 11th, they dedicated their church which they recently purchased.

Pastor John Rieth has served this congregation since they began in the fall of 1980.

In 1978 Pastor Einar Unseth began a new congregation in Bismarck, North Dakota. The name of the congregation is Calvary Lutheran, and they are located just northeast of the capitol building in a facility which is very visible and accessible.

Three years ago this summer the AFLC began holding services at Stanley, North Dakota. Since then Our Savior's Lutheran congregation has built a new church and called Gary Jorgenson as their pastor. (See the article in the Apr. 24 issue.)

Lebanon Lutheran is located at Leeds, North Dakota. Pastor LeRoy Flickinger serves that congregation together with North Prairie Lutheran, which is about seven miles north of Leeds.

At Devils Lake, North Dakota, we have one of our newer congregations, Christ Lutheran, and they are hoping to call a pastor soon. They have already purchased a church building. Pastor Jerome Nikunen has been serving them for their midweek services and two Sundays per month, with seminarians helping out on alternate Sundays.

Granite Lutheran at St. Cloud, Minnesota, presently has a call out for a full-time pastor. This congregation began in Royalton, Minnesota, about 20 miles north of St. Cloud, but moved into St. Cloud last December. Pastor Francis Monseth, dean of our seminary, serves them the first Sunday of each month. Seminarian Jeff Swanson serves them for midweek meetings and the remaining Sundays.

Pastor Roy Warwick continues to serve Grace Lutheran at Aberdeen, South Dakota. The congregation has been in their own building since January of 1981. Redeemer Lutheran at Canton, South Dakota, is now in its second year. The next couple months will be exciting for the members of the congregation as they move into a new church building and as Pastor Rodger Olson arrives as their first



# ACROSS THE U.S. AND CANADA

full-time shepherd.

On May 18th, Mr. Ted Berkas will graduate from Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and shortly thereafter will begin his ministry at Faith Lutheran in Granite Falls, Minnesota.

The congregation at Burnsville, Minnesota Valley Lutheran, is presently meeting in a school. It is their hope and desire to be in their own facility yet this year. Since the beginning of this work they have been served by Pastor Ralph Tjelta. Recently Pastor Tjelta accepted a call to teach at AFLTS, so the congregation is now making ready to send a call to another pastor.

Victory in Christ Lutheran Church is located in Maplewood, Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul. They, too, have their own church and are served by Pastor Harvey Carlson. Pastor Carlson has been assisted by senior seminarian Frank Cherney this past year.

Escanaba Lutheran Church at Escanaba, Michigan, is served by Pastor Richard Gunderson. This new congregation has both a church and parsonage. These facilities were purchased from another Lutheran group, Church Extension making the monies available.

Last June, Michael Klenner took up the responsibilities as a full-time pastor at Grace Lutheran in Pelkie, Michigan. The congregation is in a rural area, and they worship in their own facility.

In November of 1983, Word of Life Lutheran at Cleveland, Ohio, became a Home Mission congregation as the Home Mission Board cooperated with them in calling Emerson Anderson as their pastor. Pastor Anderson was ordained at Word of Life on November 20, 1983.

The second part of our original question, "how are they doing?" will be summarized with some basic statistics from the January, 1984, reports. Average attendance during January in each congregation was 51; average attendance at Sunday school

in each of these congregations was 31; average attendance for midweek meetings was 16. A month by month graphing of these reports shows a steady increase in numbers. More important than numbers is the positive response to the Word as it is shared in preaching, teaching and counseling. Truly our Lord has set before us an open door and He is honoring the promise where He says, "I will build my church."

Since the first of the year, two congregations, at their own request, have stopped receiving a subsidy. They are Bethel Lutheran at Minot, North Dakota, and Amery Lutheran at Amery, Wisconsin.

During this month of Home Mission promotion, may our hearts be encouraged to pray and to give so that the work of Home Missions may prosper under the direction and blessing of our God.

"Truly  
our Lord  
has set  
before us  
an open  
door . . ."

## HOLY SPIRIT . . .

miss type of teaching. Somebody takes a verse or small portion of Scripture from one area of the Bible and then another verse or small portion from some other area of the Bible and somehow attempts to blend these half-truths together to form some strange doctrine. Again, such is not of the Holy Spirit.

Now it is all right and often good to quote from other portions of the Bible to substantiate or further explain what our text or Bible portion for study has already proclaimed. But it should never be done in order to piece together some doctrine.

We do well to first study the Bible as a whole, or at least make a complete study of the book of the Bible from which we quote so as to know the general theme or main argument of that book, and to see if this parallels the interpretation we are giving to this portion of Scripture which we are considering. We need to ever listen to what a certain portion of Scripture is trying to say to us and not try to make that portion of Scripture say what we want it to say. Our interpretation of Scripture needs some guidelines, limitations or boundaries so that we do not trespass and say something God has not said when interpreting Scripture. An overall view, or better yet, a thorough knowledge of the whole Bible (or at least of the book of the Bible from which we are quoting) will give us such guidelines.

It is when the full truth is proclaimed in a way that the listener can fully understand that the Holy Spirit will accompany that truth and manifest His power in such a way that untruth will be revealed as untruth. Herein we see the power of the Holy Spirit at work. Truth ever stands taller than untruth when both face each other. It is when truth is not proclaimed that untruth spreads, grows and takes over like weeds take over a field in which no good seed is planted. And we should not be praying for the power of the Holy Spirit when we preach, teach or testify of Jesus. But we should rather pray that the Holy Spirit would help us to understand and proclaim the truth as

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*This article is being reprinted at the request of a pastor in the church—for our consideration.*

# Why I don't set goals

Jack W. Hayford

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## HOLY SPIRIT . . .

truth in an understandable way. If this is done, we can be assured that the power of the Holy Spirit will also be present.

The Holy Spirit is to be our teacher. He is a good teacher and He teaches only the truth—using our Bible as a textbook. He has no other textbook. However, the devil is ever on hand and very active. He often disguises himself as the Holy Spirit, teaching lies and false doctrine, and thus hindering the work of the Holy Spirit in His teaching.

The Holy Spirit also has other functions. But these functions relate to His major function as teacher of truth. I will not attempt to explain these other works of the Holy Spirit but only comment briefly. For example, He will work faith and assurance of salvation in our life. He will give us peace. But all of these come as the result of becoming grounded in God's Word and in ever more letting the Holy Spirit lead us into the truth.

The Holy Spirit is referred to as

"What are your primary goals for the immediate and long-range future?" The question came from the audience at one of our annual Pastors' Seminars.

"I have none," I replied.

Dubious stares and blank looks everywhere. I continued, "We never set goals—that is, in the sense of numerical targets, fund-raising drives, or enlargement campaigns. Our one goal is to build big people. Every effort goes into developing each believer in the threefold ministry of worship, fellowship, and stewardship of the Gospel."

And I was telling the truth. From the time I came to the Van Nuys church fifteen years ago, I virtually abandoned the church methodology I had used the previous thirteen years. I knew the quotes ("Aim at nothing, and you'll hit it," "No vision, no victories," "Plan your work, then work your plan") and I knew the ropes (zeal, promotion, enlistment, persuasion, training, projecting, enthusing, inspiring, recruiting, educating, etc., etc.). The quotes held an obvious

our Comforter. But again this relates to knowing and taking to heart the Word of God or all that Jesus taught. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). We are to be made free from what? The fear of hell, as faith and assurance of salvation become a part of us as the result of the Holy Spirit teaching us truth. In this way He becomes our Comforter.

Now one last thought regarding the Holy Spirit. In John 16:13 (speaking of the Holy Spirit), Jesus says, "*For He shall not speak of Himself.*" A good teacher does not draw attention to herself or himself but to that which she or he teaches. The Holy Spirit is not interested in drawing our attention to what He can do for us but of what Christ has done and is doing for us. He has come to teach

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"The Holy Spirit is not interested in drawing our attention to what He can do for us but of what Christ has done and is doing for us."

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element of wisdom, and the plain work of developing goals and generating means and personnel to fulfill them is a very practical way to get jobs done . . . *naturally* speaking.

But it was at that juncture—the *natural*—that something inside me began to creak under the weight of the years.

## A Growing Conviction

While pastoring in Indiana and then working for several years at my denomination's headquarters and also at its largest college, I had seen spiritually oriented human enterprise at its finest. I had also seen it bear a certain amount of fruit.

However, God brought me to this church with the conviction that there was a better, simpler way to do things. I didn't know what that way was, however. So the congregation of eighteen members and I began fumbling, trying to apply New Testament priorities in ministry without surrendering either to mysticism or fanaticism.

A primary principle evolved: I

us about Jesus and in so doing to draw recognition to Christ, and to glorify Him.

Therefore, when I say, "I have invited Jesus to come into my heart," I am really saying that I am inviting the Holy Spirit to come into my heart. But it is not wrong and is even better to say, "I have invited Jesus to come into my heart," because such brings glory to Jesus, which is as it should be and as all three persons in the Godhead (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) wish it to be.

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one God. And, therefore, if we credit Jesus with the work that the Holy Spirit does in our life, we say no untruth nor do we sin. There is no jealousy for recognition within the Godhead. And it is pleasing to God (all three Persons) that we glorify Jesus. He is the one who suffered and died on the cross for our sins. The Holy Spirit's one purpose in coming and in all that He teaches is to glorify Christ. Therefore, we need to talk more about Jesus, and less about the Holy Spirit.

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## The pastor of a growing church explains his unorthodox approach.

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would stay away from the pressure to *perform* (something I was well acquainted with from the past). I began to discover the joy of (1) finding direction through prayer and (2) watching the fruit of obedience as people grew—and the church did, too. Individual health became apparent in the larger group, and we began to see more progress this way than I had ever achieved through promotional precision and evangelistic programs.

We did not set out to prove a point or challenge a system. We only decided that the New Testament church seemed simpler and far more fruitful than most of what I had been able to produce. When we investigated why, we found that the Holy Spirit was the director of its life and program.

### *Learning about "Goals"*

I was in prayer one day about the church's finances at a time when the monthly offerings totaled around \$1,000. I felt no complaint, but I knew there was reason to request more cash flow, if for nothing else than refurbishing the building; it certainly needed it. I started to ask God for "more money," when suddenly it came to my mind that I didn't know how much to ask for.

I stopped short, meditating. *Hmmm. If I don't know how much to request, how can I pray specifically?*

On the other hand, God obviously knew at that juncture exactly what our church ought to be doing. So I decided to ask Him to teach me. Then it would be easy to ask in faith, since the amount was His idea.

"Lord, how much should I be asking you for the general budget each month?" I'd never phrased it that way before, and I knew it would sound clumsy to many, but the risk was small.

(An aside: I know many sincere leaders do not accept the proposition that God speaks to people today. And I heartily agree that there are quite enough weird and wild things done in the name of "God told me to . . ." But still, the ignorance (or stupidity) of the fanatic does not

overrule the proper place of mature, Biblically ordered waiting upon God for direction. The precedent runs from the Lord speaking to Samuel "in his ear" (1 Sam. 9:15) to what the Holy Spirit said to the leaders of the Antioch church about Barnabas and Saul (Acts 13:2). God does teach and direct people who aren't afraid to trust Him . . . even when they doubt themselves.)

"Two thousand dollars a month."

That was the answer—and I won't be offended if anyone accuses me of imagining the number. "Sure," someone may say, "you just thought up the figure, or your subconscious suggested it." I'll only say that I have been surprised often enough by such promptings to know, at this point in my life, that they don't spring from within. The numbers have often been far different from what I would have ventured.

So I began praying, "Lord, I ask for your blessing and increase of church income toward the \$2,000 per month I felt you called me to expect." It was my version of "Give us this month our monthly income," and I prayed it two or three times a week.

After four months, without any special appeals, the monthly income stood at \$1,700. I began to sense a strong need to ask for the *next* figure before the present "goal" had been reached. One day I stopped in the middle of my praying. My usual request for \$2,000 didn't seem right. No voice spoke, but I sensed an inquiry inside: "Why haven't you asked the Father lately for a new amount?"

I did—and immediately felt an inner sense of freedom to pray for \$3,000 a month. Later I realized that the key to my liberty was my choosing to become as a child. I was not setting goals; I was simply asking questions of my Father. I refused to intellectualize the promptings, nor did I try to psychoanalyze myself. I simply believed.

I seek to walk in the same simplicity today, even though the monthly amount is now comprised of six figures, and the church's annual total runs into the millions of dollars. I rest knowing that we have not come to be a congregation of more than

forty-five hundred through human kingdom building or financial goal setting but rather by responding to the Holy Spirit's step-by-step direction.

This does not mean we escape the practical duties of responsible management. All monies are carefully accounted for and reported to the penny. We leaders project an annual budget each fiscal year and adhere to it. But we do not proclaim that budget to the congregation or flaunt it to others as an attainment. Neither do we burden one another with it as a challenge to fulfill. We simply plot it on the basis of the track record and then wait in prayer for God to fulfill or adjust it.

Whenever He prompts us to expect greater income, we pray accordingly. Whenever we sense a need to cut back, we do so without feeling guilty. Since the "goal" is not something we set, we don't have to defend it. It is rather a case of God's purpose being clarified as time goes by.

I have given an economic example, not because I feel it is more important than any other area, but because it is probably as good an indicator as any of general spiritual health. I am not surrendering to "prosperity-ism" in that statement; I am simply pointing out a fact that can be demonstrated in the Third World as well as the First. Life in the church manifests itself in giving, and giving begets new life.

### *Thinking Through a Principle*

The general advantage of goal setting, as I understand it, is that it enables both the pursuit of ideals and the measurement of progress. I would not criticize either ideals or progress, for the Word of God endorses both.

The problem arises, however, when we take this philosophy into church life. Without realizing it, our goals become numerical: so many workers trained, classes conducted, decisions registered, dollars given, missions begun, results tabulated. That is the way goals are verified.

It is hard to write about this, because in no way would I devalue any of the above ministries. But given enough time, something sinister often

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## GOALS . . .

invades, and the goals begin to haunt their makers. If we reach the goal, we conclude that "God is blessing." The next assumption is "God is in this program," and before long we are serving the program instead of the Lord himself. People and institutions begin to corrode when fleshly zeal is tied to spiritual goals. We pastors have a propensity for launching our crusades with righteous intent and then fueling them with carnal energy.

For example, religious organizations frequently arrive at deep financial difficulty by doing nothing worse than concluding that "blessing" is *carte blanche* to pursuing bigger and better projects. Again let me say that I'm not against growth or large finance in the kingdom of God. But the mindset that employs goal setting as the key to growth is in real jeopardy of setting time bombs for itself.

What if a goal isn't reached? We could discard it as fruitless—but we seldom do, because built into the definition of our goal is that it is "for God's glory." So the goal must be pursued by all means, even promotional means frighteningly parallel to Madison Avenue. Why? Because "they work."

### *What All This Means*

I do not mean to be an obscurantist who denies the worth of contemporary technology or media. I am fully aware I risk sounding like a childish iconoclast.

Nor do I propose leadership by whim of a pastor who claims the Lord spoke to him. In fact, I am quite in favor of strategizing. I *do*, for example, appreciate the modern computer analyses of world missionary efforts and the consequent focus on pockets of hidden peoples yet unevangelized. I *do* think that analyzing a congregation's growth (or non-growth) rate may effectively disturb the status quo and explode people out of the rut of passivity. I *do* believe dreams and visions are worth formulating into strategies for action.

But goal setting must be approached in the light of some primary questions:

1. Is this goal a direct result of a God-given directive, not just a desire to "be like the other nations"? Has the Holy Spirit spoken to the leadership, and has this sense of direction been submitted to elders and deacons? Have they confirmed it? Is the congregation generally positive toward the vision?

2. Does this goal sacrifice any principles or people on the altar of exigency? In God's order, there is never a situation so desperate that it must grind people to powder or press a financial appeal at the cost of integrity, exploitative tactics, or world-styled salesmanship.

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In God's order, there is never a situation so desperate that it must grind people to powder or press a financial appeal at the cost of integrity.

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### *Birthing a Plan*

In the past four years, The Church on the Way has completed and paid for a major building program and now has another \$5 million development underway. We are not approaching the task with reckless abandon. But our desire is to "birth a plan" rather than "plan a birth." The conception of visions, gestation of plans, and carrying to delivery are all pursued in an unabashed spirit of prayer and absolute dependence upon the Holy Spirit to *lead*—to correct, to time, to inspire faith, to release resources, to stir response.

Surely many readers of this article who set goals think much the same way as I have described. But I am suspicious of the practice of erecting targets, however noble the intent. Much of my early ministry was the fruit of setting goals and then pursuing them with all my promotional zeal. Naturally, I prayed, but things tended to stay on the natural level.

My intention is not really to debunk goal-setting but to confront the tendency to dissolve into naturalism—to pursue holy goals by merely human means. "No goals," in my mind, does not mean the absence of direction, strategy, or planning. It does mean:

## *Letter from the Olsons*

Rev. and Mrs. Orville T. Olson report that they have had a good winter in Arizona, but from now on, for some time, will be spending some time in the Midwest and hope to find opportunities for pastoral service. They plan to take in the Annual Conference in Minneapolis.

The Olsons tell of a gathering of friends at their home in Mesa in February. Those who attended the potluck dinner were Pastor and Mrs. John Strand and his sister, Della Strand, Mr. and Mrs. Corliss Swenson, Mr. and Mrs. Arley Brandvold, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Amb, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson.

Their greeting is Colossians 1:12-13.

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- We will not undertake anything without a clear sense of the Holy Spirit's direction, confirmed by eldership.

- We will not utilize any means of promotion or fund raising that depends on human genius or style to be effective.

- We will not pursue anything that overlooks the priorities of *worship, relationship, and ministry*.

At the same time:

- We *will* pray much, often, and always.

- We *will* think—trusting God's Spirit to give clarity, coherence, and conviction to us all.

- We *will* believe, knowing that "without faith it is impossible to please him" (Heb. 11:6). As we do so, He will grow His purpose in us.

The following translation of Philipians 3:13-14 (my own) expresses and summarizes my perspective: "Brethren, I do not count myself as having attained any goal, but I do this one thing: leaving what is past, I reach ardently for what is ahead—in quest of that goal which is God's high calling to Christlikeness."

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Jack W. Hayford is pastor of The Church on the Way (First Foursquare Church), Van Nuys, California.

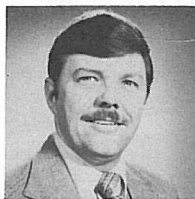
## AFLBS names acting dean, instructor chosen

Rev. Donald Greven, 39, Kenyon, Minn., has been nominated by the Board of Trustees of the Association schools and the faculty to become the new acting dean of Association Free Lutheran Bible School, succeeding Rev. Kenneth D. Moland, who is leaving that post at the end of July.

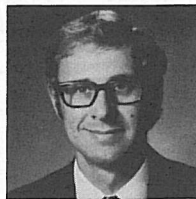
Pastor Greven, a native of Minneapolis, Minn., has a Bachelor of Science degree in Music Education from the University of Minnesota and is a graduate of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1975. He has served parishes at Sedan, Minn., Radcliffe, Ia., and Kenyon. He is married to the former Mary Ellen Larson. The couple has three children.

Pastor Moland has been at AFLBS since 1975 and the dean since 1976. He will become pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kirkland, Wash., in later summer. He, too, has been a pastor at Kenyon.

Rev. Ralph Tjelta, 38, Rosemount, Minn., has accepted the call to become an instructor in the Bible



Rev. Greven



Rev. Tjelta

School and Seminary this fall. He will replace Rev. Laurel Udden, who resigned to become pastor of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church on the campus of the Schools.

Pastor Tjelta has been serving as pastor of a Home Mission congregation, Minnesota Valley, in Burnsville, Minn.. He has previously served in Chicago, Ill., and at Grace Lutheran, DeKalb, Ill.. Born at Garden City, Ia., he has a Bachelor of Science degree from River Falls State University in Wisconsin, a Bachelor of Theology degree from the Lutheran Brethren Seminary in Fergus Falls, Minn., and a Master of Theology degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Ill.. He and his wife Kathy have two children.

## Graduate dies in Mexico

For the second time the Association Free Lutheran Bible School family has been saddened by the sudden death of one of its alumni.

Mark Rodne, 27, a 1977 graduate of the school, was stabbed to death while vacationing at Acapulco, Mexico. He had spent the winter there and was to have returned to his parental home at Manfred, N. Dak., for Easter. His body was found on April 19. He had also been robbed. Mark's funeral was held on May 5.

Mark was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Berger Rodne. An older brother, Otto, also graduated from AFLBS. The brothers had worked in Minneapolis, Minn., since their graduations.

Last summer Bradley Haugen of West Fargo and Binford, N. Dak., another AFLBS graduate, was drowned in Lake Superior while swimming.

(Ed. note: Mark was one of our students while I was dean of men at AFLBS. My heart, and our hearts, go out to the Rodne family in this tragedy. May God comfort and sustain.)

### POINT OF INFORMATION The West Coast District and the Date on Which Annual Conferences Begin.

Here is a report on the number of delegates attending six previous Annual Conferences of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations from the West Coast District. The conferences in 1977, 1978 and 1980 began on the second Wednesday in June. Those of 1981, 1982 and 1983 started on the third Wednesday in June.

Year	Location	Lay Delegates	Pastors	Total
1977	Fargo, N. Dak.	26	7	33
1978	Minneapolis	23	6	29
1980	Valley City, N. Dak.	6	3	9
(The following conferences began on the third Wednesday in June.)				
1981	Minneapolis	7	6	13
1982	Dickinson, N. Dak.	26	8	34
1983	Osceola, Wis.	18	7	25

The Conference of 1979 is not included in these statistics as it was held in Whitefish, Mont., and drew a much larger representation from the West Coast District, thus influencing the report unfairly.

(See the editorial "Conference Starting Date" on page 9.)

## NORTHWESTERN MINNESOTA BIBLE CAMPS

The Northwestern Minnesota District will again operate two camp weeks this summer at Galilee Lutheran Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn.. The Pre-Teen camp will be June 5-10. Lay Pastor Verle Dean, Sedan, Minn., will be the evening speaker for the week and Mrs. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, Minn., will be the Bible teacher. Pastor Larry V. Severson, Roseau, Minn., will serve as the dean of the camp.

The Teen camp will be in session June 10-15, with Pastor Larry Haagenson, Newfolden, Minn., as dean. Faculty members will be Lay Pastor Roger Krueger, Fergus Falls, Minn., as evening speaker, and Rev. Dennis Gray, Spicer, Minn., as Bible study leader.

For further information, please contact a district pastor.

**With our evangelist-  
youth worker,**

**Pastor Kenneth Pentti**

*Eugene, Ore.*

Spencer Creek Lutheran Church

May 30-June 3

Stephen E. Odegaard, pastor

*Astoria, Ore.*

Bethany Lutheran Church

June 6-10

Alvin J. Grothe, pastor

*Osceola, Wis.*

Association Retreat Center

Minneapolis District Youth Camp

June 24-29

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**THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR**

**3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.**

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**TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION  
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS**

June 20, 1984

*Theme: "Give of thy sons . . . thy wealth"  
Matthew 9:37, 38*

Registration . . . . . 9:00-9:30

Prayer Service . . . . . 9:30-10:00  
Leader: Mrs. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn.

Prelude

Singspiration . . . . . Leader: Mrs. Wendell Johnson  
Stacy, Minn.

Devotions . . . . . Mrs. Philip Haugen  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Welcome . . . . . Mrs. Laurel Udden  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Response . . . . . Mrs. Grace Syverson  
Tioga, N. Dak.

Ladies Trio . . . . . Mrs. Kenneth Moland  
Mrs. Philip Haugen, Mrs. Elden Nelson  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Bible Study . . . . . Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig  
Buxton, N. Dak.

Hymn Sing

Business Meeting

Memorial Service Leader: . Mrs. John Arlen Johnson  
Sacred Heart, Minn.

Offering PRAISE PROGRAM

Announcements

Closing Prayer

Table Prayer

**AFTERNOON SERVICE**

1:30 p.m.

June 20

Prelude

Singspiration . . . . . Leader: Mrs. Wendell Johnson  
Stacy, Minn.

Devotions . . . . . Mrs. David Osthus  
Savage, Minn.

Unfinished Business

Special Music . . . . . AFLC Bible School

Message . . . . . Pastor Raynard Huglen  
Newfolden, Minn.

Hymn Sing

Offering PRAISE PROGRAM

Greetings

Presentation of Honorary Membership Pins

Comments

Benediction

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**PRAYER BREAKFAST**

For ALL Ladies

**THURSDAY**

7 o'clock

Message: Mrs. John Abel

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**FESTIVAL SERVICE**

*Thursday Evening*

*June 21*

Prelude

Singspiration . . . . . Leader: Mrs. Wendell Johnson  
Stacy, Minn.

Devotions . . . . . Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Special Music . . . . . AFLC Bible School

Offering AFLC SCHOOLS

Special Music . . . . . Men's Chorus  
AFLC Seminary

Message . . . . . Pastor John Abel  
Curitiba, Brazil

Hymn

Benediction . . . . . Pastor Richard Snipstead  
Minneapolis, Minn.