

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

November 18, 1986



AADALEN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
100 years

# at the MASTER'S FEET

## Thanksgiving and praise

A study of the content of Christian prayer as supremely exemplified in the earthly life of our Lord must include thanksgiving and praise. The psalmist expresses the worthiness of such prayer in these words: "It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto Thy name, O Most High; to shew forth Thy lovingkindness in the morning, and Thy faithfulness every night" (Ps. 92:1-2).

### Thanksgiving

In our last devotional, we spoke of the prayer of supplication. After such "request" prayer, it is appropriate that we offer thanksgiving. How much our Lord values gratitude is indicated in the account of the ten lepers in Luke 17: 11-19. All were cleansed of leprosy by our Lord but only one turned back to give thanks. The question our Lord asked this man is very penetrating. "Where are the nine?" His expectation

was that there would be a return of thanksgiving. That is His expectation of us, too as those who have experienced a far greater "healing." "Where are the nine?"

Why is thanksgiving so utterly appropriate as we come before our Lord in worship and prayer? There are three general considerations that should motivate us to heartfelt gratitude: the wonders of God's creation, including the precious gift of life; the gift of eternal salvation through the atoning sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ; and God's providential care in preserving us in both body and soul. How good our God is! How utterly worthy of our constant thanksgiving!

### Praise

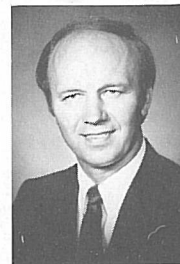
We also observe in the earthly life of our Lord praise to the Father. Praise and thanksgiving are much like each other. Both involve giving glory to God. But a common way of expressing the difference between them is that in thanksgiving we are giving God glory for what He has done for us. In praise, we are glorifying Him for what He is in Himself. If that is true, then praise is on a higher plane than thanksgiving because we are completely out of the picture. In praise we are focused simply on God; in thanksgiving we are in the picture to some extent as we think of our benefits.

From our Lord's lips we hear words of praise recorded on two occasions. In Matthew 11:25-26, He is glorifying the Father as Father, as Lord, and as sovereign. "I thank Thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because Thou hast hidden these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. Even so, Father: for it seemed good in Thy sight." In the "Lord's Prayer," He taught us to bring our prayers to an end with these words,

"For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen" (Matthew 6:13b).

Do we hear much genuine praise to God among us? I'm afraid there isn't very much either when we are together in worship services or in our prayer closets. It seems that we have to turn back to the old hymns to find much by way of real praise to God. Let us re-discover these powerful hymns of praise and make more use of them as we gather for worship at home and in the congregation.

One day we shall be able to praise the Lord in perfection and wholeness. There is a beautiful scene described in the Book of Revelation which gives us a glimpse of that future praise. In universal adoration of our Lord as King, the Church triumphant shall confess, "Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever" (5:13). But no one can utter that praise in heaven who has not begun to praise the Lord here. Only forgiven sinners can do that. The psalmist is representative of all who have been saved from the "miry clay" of sin. Listen to his testimony, "And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord" (Ps. 40:3).



by Dr.  
Francis W. Monseth

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a life lived in God's grace

# Thanksgiving: one of the basics

The words of this song help express a little of how we feel when we think of all God has given us. At this time of year, as we gather around the Thanksgiving table with family and friends, our hearts overflow with thankfulness. At special church services we are reminded in a powerful way of all that we really have to be thankful for, including our health, safety, houses, land, all our possessions, food, clothes, family, friends, freedom, and the list goes on and on (count your blessings in your mind).

But too often it seems that the element of thanksgiving is missing from our lives as Christians. The holiday season reminds us to be thankful, but the rest of the year, in our day to day lives, our hearts are worried or busy or concerned or preoccupied, everything but thankful.

Yet, according to these verses in Colossians, thanksgiving is one of the basic and lasting elements of the Christian life. Paul is laying out some principles for practical Christian living. In vs. 12-14, he had listed some Christian virtues. And in vs. 15-17, he continues with a second unit of instructions for Christians. Included in this second unit is the idea of thanksgiving in each of the three verses. It's as if Paul can't emphasize it enough.

In v. 15, as he speaks of the peace of Christ in our lives, he concludes with the instruction, "Be thankful." In v. 16, as he talks about the Word of Christ and its place especially in congregational life, he makes clear that thankfulness is to flow through it all. And then in v. 17, he sums up all these injunctions with a sweeping statement that includes giving thanks.

This underlines the fact for us that thanksgiving isn't to be limited to the worship service or times when we get together as Christians (as is the context in v. 16). And it shouldn't be limited to our once a year Thanksgiving holiday, whether in the church or with family

and friends. No, v. 17 is a purposefully broad statement about all of the Christian life. Look at the wording: "And whatever you do" - everything! - "in word or deed" - everything! - "do all" - everything! - "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ." Paul repeats the idea three times for emphasis. You just can't make the point any stronger. And in "everything!" we do we are to be "giving thanks through Him to God the Father." So it is clear that the regular offering of thanks to God is almost synonymous with being a Christian.

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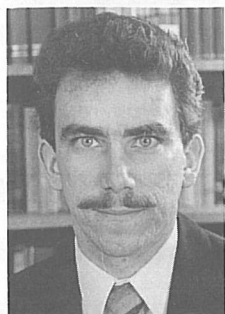
In contrast, not giving thanks is included in a basic description of pagan people in Romans 1. Verse 21 says, "For even though they knew God, they did not honor him as God, *or give thanks*; but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened." They have the raw materials of knowledge of God and so are bound to render thanks to Him as their creator. But they are without that thankfulness and are classified as pagans. The same idea is seen in Eph. 5:4, where a life based on thanksgiving is the converse of an evil life.

Knowing that thanksgiving is so basic to the Christian life, why do we so often act like the pagans in not giving thanks for all God has given us. Certainly this calls us to repent and to confess our lack

Colossians 3:15-17: "And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the Word of Christ richly dwell within you; with all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

"I have a thankful heart,  
that You have given me  
And it can only come from You.  
I have a thankful heart;  
words don't come easily  
But I am sure You can see  
my thankful heart."

—Bob Hartman and Dino Elefante



by Rev.  
James Johnson,  
Reva, S. Dak.

## BASICS . . .

of thankfulness. Then we can receive God's gracious forgiveness and His empowering to truly offer God thanks in our lives. But this is also a call to look at Scripture and let God's Word do its work of helping us to understand and then to live a life of thanksgiving.

What does Scripture have to say about thanksgiving? The words used to describe thanksgiving are very helpful in learning how and why we thank God. In the Old Testament quite a few different words are translated into some form of our word thank. But they are more often translated by other words, such as praise (Ps. 99:3) or confess (Ps. 32:5). There was no verb that meant only "to thank". This reflects our difficulty in separating "giving thanks" from "praising" God.

The main word used meant primarily to express one's declaration of God's attributes or His works. So this word is at the heart of the meaning of praise. But the expression of thanks is included in the idea of praise; it is one way of praising God. When one declares God's attributes and works, he cannot help but be thankful for these things. So thanksgiving can be equated with praising God *for* some act or thing. And that understanding is helpful in our knowing how to thank God.

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**"We give thanks  
because . . . we know  
we have a gracious God  
whom we can trust, and so  
we can be thankful."**

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But maybe even more important in helping us with our own thanksgiving is the New Testament word *eucharisteō*. Contained in this word, which is usually translated "to give thanks," is the root word *char*, which means "joy". Included in that concept is everything that produces well-being and then our experience and expression of that well-being. Certainly when we have in mind all that causes us joy we can easily be thankful.

But the meaning of the word doesn't end there. Another word from this root is *charis*, grace. This really helps to focus on how we can be thankful as

Christians. In the New Testament, thanksgiving wasn't rooted so much in the material or physical aspects of our lives, though these are included (cf. Matt. 15:36). Instead it focuses on thanking God for the *gracious* acts He has done. The book of Colossians is a good example: "Giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. For He delivered us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His well-beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." We certainly can be thankful for all of that!

And throughout the New Testament the great emphasis of thanksgiving falls upon the mighty work of God in Christ. For example: I Cor. 15:57, "But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ;" and II Cor. 9:15, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift." And as we place our emphasis on God's grace when we give thanks, then we can truly give thanks in everything (I Thess. 5:18). We don't necessarily give thanks because we are in wonderful circumstances or because problems, trials and difficulties really don't bother us. We give thanks because even though our circumstances may be hard we know we have a gracious God whom we can trust, and so we can be thankful.

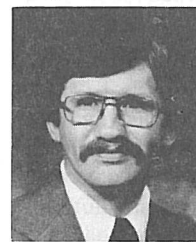
And thanksgiving in Scripture isn't just a feeling we have inside. That is indeed one aspect of giving thanks, the overflowing feeling, the thankful heart that could only come from God. But even more important is the expression of that feeling in *showing* gratitude to God. Thanksgiving is a life lived in God's grace.

And this ought to encourage us. Thanksgiving is more than a once a year experience. It isn't only confined to church, or singing, or praying. We can offer our "sacrifice of praise," our giving of "thanks to His name" by "doing good and sharing" (Heb. 13:15, 16). So let this Thanksgiving season be the beginning of a life lived in God's grace. And "whatever you do" (remember Col. 3:17), you can be giving thanks to God.

*God is with His people*

The unity between the Old and New Testaments is clearly demonstrated by John's use of the word "dwelt" in John 1:14. John boldly describes the Word in terms of continual existence as God and with God in John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." With startling contrast, in verse fourteen, John then declares that this divine Word "became flesh and *dwelt* among us."

The word "dwelt" means "to pitch a tent" or "to tabernacle." The incarnation (when the Word became flesh) was not the first time God had dwelt among His people. In the Old Testament, an "incarnation" of sorts had taken place when God came and dwelt among His people first in the tabernacle of the wilderness and then later in the temple which King Solomon built. In Exodus 25:8, God instructed the people whom He had redeemed out of Egypt to "construct a sanctuary (tabernacle or tent) for Me, that I may  *dwell* among them." God further instructed that this tabernacle was to contain the Ark of the Covenant, which Ark was to be covered with a lid called the mercy seat (Exodus 25:10-21). The Ark was to be kept in the Holy of Holies, which was the innermost room of the tabernacle and was separated from the rest of the tabernacle by a heavy veil (Exodus 26:31-34). There, above the mercy seat upon the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies, God met with Moses and spoke to him about all the commandments He had for the sons of Israel (Exodus 25:22). God was accomplishing His plan to dwell with His people.



*by Rev.  
Philip Haugen,  
Faculty,  
AFLC Schools*

**Bear up, bear on, the end shall tell  
The dear Lord ordereth all things well.**

*—John Greenleaf Whittier*



# "AND THE WORD... DWELT"

God's "incarnational" dwelling in the Old Testament, however, was very limited and restricted. He is a God of holiness; the people among whom He dwelt were sinners. Because of this, God established many laws which regulated how His people could approach Him. Under the threat of death, no one of the people was permitted to go behind the veil into the Holy of Holies except the High Priest. Once a year, under careful restrictions, the High Priest was permitted to enter the Holy of Holies to offer atonement for his own sins and for the sins of the people (Leviticus 16). At all other times the veil served to separate sinful man from the presence of the most holy God.

**"God's 'incarnational' dwelling in the Old Testament, however, was very limited and restricted."**

John's statement, in John 1:14, that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" continues the message of the Old Testament. In a new and fuller and most significant way God came to dwell among His people. This time, however, the dwelling place was not a tent or temple made of cloth and wood and precious stones. God dwelt among us in a temple made of flesh and blood, when the second person of the Triune God permanently assumed the human nature and became the God-man, Jesus Christ. Jesus describes His body as being the temple of God, in John 2:19-21. The name given to Christ was Immanuel (Matthew 1:23), which means "God with us." God came in the person of His Son Christ to dwell. This dwelling, however, is most significant because it is in His Son that God once for all deals with the issues of sin and death. Sin, which separates God and man and was symbolized in the veil of the Old Testament tabernacle, was atoned for by the sacrificial death of Christ (II Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 2:13, 14).

Thus we read in the Gospels (Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45) that at the death of Christ "the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom." By His blood, entrance was gained for us into the Holy of Holies (Hebrews 10:19, 20). In Christ, all people can now with confidence draw near unto God to worship and serve Him (Hebrews 9:11-14; 10:21, 22). The Old Testament restrictions regarding priests and sacrifices and the veil have been removed in Christ. Because the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, the Old Testament dwelling place was no longer needed and passed away. God had come to dwell with His people in a new and most significant way.

The message of God dwelling with His people continues in the New Testament Epistles. Immanuel ("God with us") ascended into heaven, as we read in Acts 1:1-11, from which the Christian Church eagerly anticipates His return. In connection with His ascension, however, Christ "received from the Father

the promise of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:33), which Holy Spirit He poured forth upon His Church. This event, which we call Pentecost, is described in Acts 2. All of a sudden, because of the work of Christ, the Christian Church, consisting of believers dispersed throughout the world, becomes the dwelling place of God. Paul explains, in Ephesians 2:19-22, "So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow-citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy *temple* in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a *dwelling* of God in the Spirit." The same point is made in I Corinthians 3:16, 17: "Do you not know that you are a *temple* of God, and that the Spirit of God *dwells* in you? If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy



## *Lord Of The Harvest, Once Again*

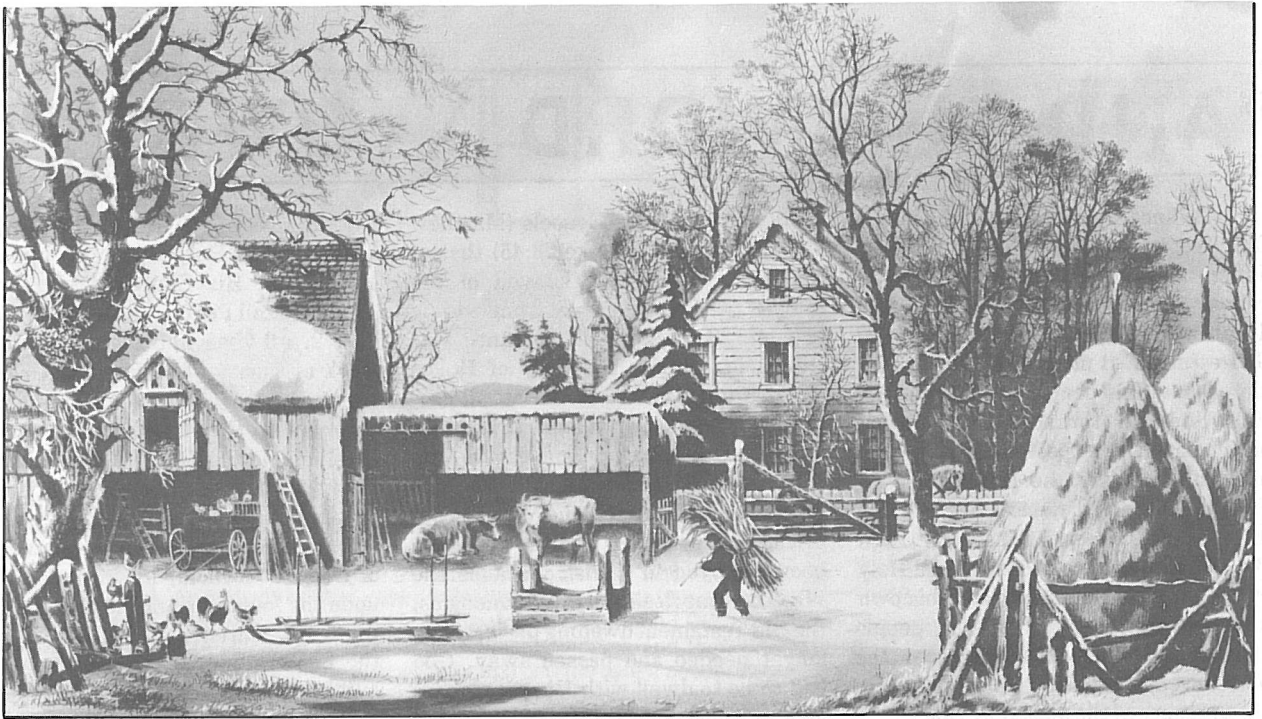


Lord of the harvest, once again  
We thank Thee for the ripened grain;  
For crops safe carried, sent to cheer  
Thy servants through another year:  
For all sweet holy thoughts, supplied  
By seed-time, and by harvest-tide.

The bare, dead grain, in autumn sown,  
Its vernal robe of green puts on;  
Glad from its wintry grave it springs,  
Fresh garnished by the King of kings:  
So, Lord, to those who sleep in Thee  
Shall new and glorious bodies be.

Daily, O Lord, our prayers be said,  
As Thou has taught, for daily bread;  
But not alone our bodies feed,—  
Supply our fainting spirits' need.  
O Bread of Life, from day to day  
Be Thou our comfort, food and stay!

Joseph Anstice  
(*The Church Hymnary*)



The Farmer's Home — Winter, Currier & Ives

RNS Photo

## WE THANK THEE

For flowers so beautiful and sweet,  
For friends and clothes and food to eat,  
For precious hours, for work and play,  
We thank Thee this Thanksgiving Day.

For father's care and mother's love,  
For the blue sky and clouds above,  
For springtime and autumn gay,  
We thank Thee this Thanksgiving Day.

For all Thy gifts so good and fair,  
Bestowed so freely everywhere,  
Give us grateful hearts we pray,  
To thank Thee this Thanksgiving Day.

*Mattie M. Renwick*

## DWELT . . .

him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are." The tabernacle of God is no longer a physical structure as in the Old Testament, nor is it the bodily presence of Christ as during the time of incarnation. Now the place where God graciously dwells is in and among His people, the Church. God's temple is "incarnate" today in the local congregation. Wherever God's people gather together with the Word and Sacraments, they do so with the joyful promise that God is present with them in that place. According to the Word of God, we who are believers are now the body of Christ in this world, we are the

temple of God, we are the dwelling place of God in the Spirit. What an amazing testimony of the matchless grace of God in Christ Jesus!

The final chapter in God's plan to dwell with His people is revealed in Revelation 21:3, 22. A description is given of the new heaven and new earth. A loud voice from the throne of God declares, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them . . . And I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God, the Almighty, and the Lamb, are its temple." This is the final, glorious culmination of God dwelling among His people. Finally, without restriction, needing no temple, with sin and death removed, God will dwell with His own. That which began in the Old Testament, that which was fulfilled and accomplished in Christ, that which is experienced in part by the Church, will have its great consummation in the new heavens and earth.

This is our joyous hope and expectation. Even so come, Lord Jesus.

"The tabernacle of God is no longer a physical structure as in the Old Testament, nor is it the bodily presence of Christ as during the time of the incarnation."

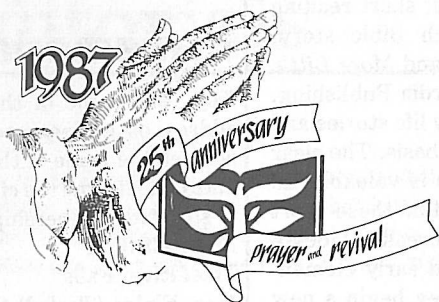
## The AALC

The place was a church in St. Paul instead of Thief River Falls. And the time was almost a quarter century later. Yet there was something very familiar about the October 20th sessions in the Calvary Lutheran Church for one who was present in 1962 when the AFLC was organized. Once again a group of pastors and laity, concerned about the latest Lutheran merger, met together to consider the creation of a new Lutheran church body, the Association of American Lutheran Churches.

The number of people present was also similar for the two events. 255 delegates registered at Thief River Falls, unofficially representing 76 congregations; there were 200 delegates at St. Paul, from 90 congregations. One could also sense at both meetings that the decision to organize was not one which was easily taken and there was a clear recognition of the enormity of the task and the need for God's wisdom and provision.

The observer was impressed to dis-

"If  
my  
people"



## God's Word in family devotions

a family testimony

God's Word is the source of truth for the family. Again we thank the AFLC anniversary committee for the invitation to share with others the pattern we use for family devotions. We have already looked at "Prayer in Family Devotions."

We have learned an "order of service" can be God-honoring and effective for family devotions. Dad closes our free prayer time by asking God to open His Word to us. We are seated for a time of Scripture reading, Bible story, or daily life lesson with Scripture basis. Being comfortable and cozy together, yet in a respectful position, works well for us.

Our desire is to have a Scripture-centered time. Sometimes we read directly from the Bible, going through a book, covering a few verses a day. Children like to read aloud themselves or follow in their own Bibles. Dad may summarize to help us understand, or bring a central idea to our attention. A question may be directed to each child at his level.

Luther's Small Catechism is so valuable for family altar. It summarizes the very key concepts of Scripture. How crucial that we study it and memorize it as a family. The questions and answers are most timely.

Using the sermon text for the coming Sunday on Saturday evening can be very helpful in preparation for Sunday worship. (Pastors may post it on a monthly church calendar so the congregation can prepare for worship in this way.) For special seasons of the church year, related Scripture reading helps us to focus on the wonderful significance of Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Ascension and Pentecost. An Advent wreath is very special for the children.

In past years we've used various sources to help us better understand God's Word and the principles it contains. As the children grow older, level

## a repeat of history?

cover that official representatives from the ALC were present at all of the sessions. There was even a brief stir as Bishop David Preus insisted on speaking to the group and he exhorted the delegates to remain in the new Lutheran church where there will be room for their conservative concerns. One could not help recalling in comparison the absence of any official LFC representatives in Thief River Falls and that the only communication from the national leadership was a threatening telegram.

Pastor James Minor, host to the rally and co-chairman of the Steering Committee, presented a message entitled, "Why We Are Here," outlining the concerns that brought the group together. The basic issue, he declared, is the doctrine of Scripture, and he pointed to departures from the faith such as "universalism" as a result of the erosion of this doctrine in the Lutheran Church. The controversy over the use of pornographic films by Lutheran Social Services and the statement on homosexuality by the Minnesota Council of

Churches were also cited as evidence of a continuing drift away from conservative Lutheranism. The second central issue is the rights of the local congregation, which Minor stated would be endangered in the new merged church.

Pastor Duane Lindberg, Waterloo, Iowa, the other co-chairman, listed ten issues as reasons for continuing as an "ALC" apart from the new church: authority of the Bible, evangelism and missions, congregational authority, control of property, quotas, social issues, World Council of Churches, ecumenism, moral issues, and pensions and finances.

A comparison to our AFLC statement *A Statement on the Historical Situation*, reveals a broad area of common concern in the reasons that underlie the formation of both groups. However, one notes the absence of points four and five in any of the AALC statements - the desire to emphasize simplicity in worship and "the pietism needed for our day." There is no reason to suppose that the founders of the proposed new asso-

ciation are opposed to the AFLC emphases in these areas, however, and perhaps they will be treated in forthcoming statements.

The similarities between the origin of the AFLC and the AALC were noted at the St. Paul rally, and our Association received favorable mention on several occasions, including a report that our seminary was a viable choice for the training of their pastors. Some of those present stated that AFLC affiliation is still a strong consideration, but that it might be easier for some congregations to vote to continue as an AALC than to join a different church body such as ours. Several AFLC members besides this writer were also present, including Rev. B. Rao Dasari, who presented the challenge of his work in India to the assembly.

It was announced during the closing service that further meetings would be held, but no dates were announced. No official organization of the AALC will take place until after the final merger



## DEVOTIONS . . .

of comprehension and scope of interest change. Sometimes the age spread between children is wide enough to necessitate different material for different children. We have alternated simple and more advanced helps, if time doesn't permit both in a family altar time. Older children may benefit from review and learn to teach younger children in a natural setting at home. Young children may be blessed in understanding more than we expect they can. Perhaps they receive more at their level in breakfast devotions or bedtime story. A healthy variety over the months helps us avoid getting into routine ruts. God's Word is a storehouse of living truth; we need to convey that to our children.

In our home, Mother often works out the ideas and details and discusses them with Father. Together we periodically revamp and decide what will work best now, as we grow in God's Word.

In youngest years, looking at and discussing a picture in the child's first Bible has been a meaningful time. *Bible in Pictures for Little Eyes*, Moody

Press, was an early book that we found helpful. It has a picture, short reading and questions for each Bible story. *Little Visits With God* and *More Little Visits with God*, Concordia Publishing, contain a wealth of daily life stories and lessons with Scriptural basis. The clear sin and grace emphasis is valuable. In more recent years, we find these short lessons very good for breakfast devotions for pre-school and early elementary age children as they begin a new day, when older children are already off to school. *My Good Shepherd Bible Story Book*, Concordia, is tattered from years of use in our home. Eighty-six key Old and New Testament Bible stories with one illustration for each, are excellent for lower and middle elementary years. *Children's Bible History*, Northwestern, is a thorough, continuous Bible account that we like. *Nelson's Picture Bible*, Thomas Nelson, is continuous and a little more advanced. *The Holy Bible for Children*, Concordia, is a good source for receiving an overview of every book at a child's level. Sometimes we find *Family Walk*, a devotional periodical, helpful in addressing concerns of our day from a biblical perspective. *Character Sketches*, Institute on Basic Youth Conflicts, helps clarify Scriptural principles and build strong character.

Sunday or Monday family devotions may be a good time for Sunday School follow-up. We feel it's important that children know their parents are aware of what is going on in Sunday School. It's important to read the text on the take-home part and discuss it. It's a good time to begin memory verses for the following Sunday.

Memorizing portions of Scripture is important. We like to recite a portion of Scripture after closing table grace following the evening meal. We post it until most of us know it, then recite it individually with Mother and post a new one.

Using handouts from teen studies at Bible camp can be a good follow-up and effective for family devotions. This reviews and solidifies what has been taught and again shows support from parents.

*Ambassador* curriculum, AFLC Parish Education, when not used in Sunday School can be very valuable in family devotions. Another good source is old Augsburg Sunday School books; the

## 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 the church in which he or she held membership.

### MINNESOTA

Thief River Falls

**Mrs. Elaine (Tarkel) Ose**, 80, Oct. 21, Our Saviour's. (Mrs. Ose had two pastor sons, Rev. Roger Ose and Rev. Gaylen Ose.)

Fertile

**Harold Moland**, 77, Oct. 27, Maple Bay. (Mr. Moland was the father of Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Wash.)

truths of God's Word are unchanging.

Our Family Bible has a large section of classic art prints. We enjoyed a series of devotions studying the text that accompanied each painting. At times we have learned well from missionary stories along with a mission text.

In our family devotions, after Scripture study time, we enjoy each choosing a hymn or chorus, often pertaining to our lesson. Sometimes children choose to accompany on the piano, or direct the family from on top of the piano bench. Children memorize even difficult words so quickly and come to know their meaning over the years. Using one's personal hymnbook is special.

In our home, we do not choose to make having devotions a legalistic, compulsory routine. We are presently not having it on Wednesdays in order to be prepared and punctual for mid-week activities at church. Other situations and times arise when it is not possible. However, we find a cooperative effort by Mom and Dad to continually make it a high priority is very necessary. Sometimes we must go ahead with one child absent, or when Dad or Mom cannot be present. Scheduling around football practice, orchestra, lessons and the like requires careful planning.

We believe the home is designed by God to be the first place to train our children in God's Word. By His grace we desire to regularly study His Word in our family's "order of service." It is the source of truth for our family.

—Pastor and Mrs. Kenneth  
(Barbara) Moland

## AALC . . .

referendum is complete in March, 1987. Attempts will be made during the coming months to contact conservative ALC congregations across the country and inform them that there is an alternative to joining the new ELCA.

If the formation of the Association of American Lutheran Churches does become a reality, the AFLC can look forward to good fellowship with the new church body. The opportunities before both groups are vast enough so that we do not have to be competitors. Our common concerns and evangelical Lutheran commitment are greater than anything that might lead us to walk separately.

It would not be correct to call the proposed formation of the AALC a repeat of history. But the similarities are strong enough to cause the AFLC to rejoice at the firm stand on the Word of God that our friends have taken and to seek to encourage them in any way that we can.

Pastor R. L. Lee

# editorials

## THANKSGIVING DAY

"Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all" (I Chron. 29:11 RSV).

With these and similar Scripture passages before us we shall gather in our churches for Thanksgiving services in a few short days. No praise can be too lavish for our God as we remember His benefits to us. As Paul, in writing to the Ephesian church, spoke of God "lavishing" the riches of His grace upon us, so may our praise of the Lord be extravagant at this Thanksgiving time, and always.

Surely God has been good to us. Our daily needs have been supplied. In many cases, we have had more than enough. And when times are hard, as they are for some now, there is a way through. Yes, we do well to stop to count our blessings and enumerate them singly.

Of greatest import are the spiritual good things from God's hand. We think of the salvation rich and free through Jesus. We consider the purpose and hope Christ gives in the midst of a world where hopelessness holds sway for so many. Meaning is a priceless treasure and it is the present possession of the believer.

We are thankful for the Bible, this Book we may hold in our hands and read at leisure. And by leisure we don't mean if we feel like it, as though reading can be a take it or leave it thing. But we mean in the time we set aside for reading and reading without rush or hurry. The Bible is a gold mine of treasure. Though we may have mined it for many years there are new nuggets which attract our attention day by day.

Then, among spiritual blessings are also our churches. The building, yes, and it may hold countless memories of uplifting hours, of joys and sorrows. And more importantly, the congregation, the people. Lives that have touched our own in fellowship, in teaching, in service projects. We thank God for our churches.

Many things, many people for which to be thankful. The writer to the Hebrews said time would fail him to tell about *all* the heroes and heroines of the faith. And time would desert us also if we were to mention all that could be put down as reasons for gratitude to God.

God bless the Thanksgiving services. We could wish that there would be a turning back to the practice of having the service of thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Day. The day is set aside as a national holiday for that purpose. Our national religious life would be enriched if we used Thanksgiving Day to go to church to worship and praise God. It isn't right that our churches stand empty on that day. There will be time enough for a family meal, although it may have to be curtailed a little if church is attended. The stomach may not be as full, but the spirit will be more buoyant.

Let your heart be exuberant in praise to the Lord at this Thanksgiving time. Don't forget His benefits. "Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with" them (Ps. 68:19 KJV).

## WORLD RELIEF COMMISSION

We aren't doing very well in the Association in publicizing the World Relief Commission and the contributions our congregations are making to it. That's too bad because the work is worthy and the needs are great.

In the AFLC's Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the most recently completed fiscal year, we see that the AFLC gave \$8,279.75 to World Relief. This was a drop of about \$1500 from the previous year. Brothers and sisters, we are not doing what we should for world relief through our congregations.

Certainly individual contributions are made by individuals and congregations to world relief through organizations other than the WRC. But it is still evident that more should be done through the agency we officially recommend.

Our first obligation is to preach the Gospel, to be sure, but we must do more to assist those in material need, too. Eight thousand dollars is not enough. Let us ask our congregations to do more, for Christ's sake, whom we meet in the naked, the hungry and the sick (Matt. 25). A hungry dog is not interested in being petted; neither is a starving person much taken by the good news that God loves him in Christ.

Let us do more for the World Relief Commission.

*The eyes of all look to Thee,  
And Thou givest them their  
food in due season.*

*Thou openest Thy hand,  
Thou satisfiest the desire of  
every living thing.*

*The Lord is just in all His  
ways, and  
Kind in all His doings.*

*The Lord is near to all who  
call upon Him,  
To all who call upon Him  
in truth.*

PSALM 145:15-18

## Meet the students of IBSM

### Part I

We'd like you to meet the students from our Bible School here in Brazil. They started their studies at the beginning of March, 1986, and will graduate from our one year Bible course on November 29. Most will go back to their homes and work in their churches. Some have felt called to continue on in their studies here at the IBSM (Instituto Biblico e Seminario Mouraoense), Free Lutheran Bible School and Seminary in Campo Mourao, Parana, Brazil. We ask that you pray for these students as they seek God's will for their lives upon leaving here.

#### Marcos Antonio Carvalho

First I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Marcos Antonio Carvalho. I am 23 years old and was born in Sertanopolis, in the state of Parana. Now my home is in Londrina, Parana.

I was of the Catholic faith and knew about Christ, but didn't know about salvation, nor why Jesus had died on the cross. I also didn't know that He had left His kingdom of glory to come to earth.

But I liked, and like, to hear people talk about Jesus, and hear stories about

His life and the miracles He had done. After I would hear about all He'd done, I would question how someone who did all these miracles could be killed by His own. I couldn't comprehend this. I was 20 years old and had never held a Bible in my hands. To me it was just a book and I never interested myself in reading it.

I have a brother who is an evangelical, from the Free Lutheran Church, and I was always wondering how he could be so patient and understanding of people and how he could accept difficult circumstances in his life. I used to think, "Boy, I have a wonderful brother." He would always invite me to go to church with him, but I always told him, "tomorrow, or next Sunday I'll go." I had an excuse every time. Sometimes the pastor of the church, Pastor Cleodo, would visit me and invite me to church and finally one time I went, so I wouldn't look too bad.

When I went to church the people there were very friendly and showed happiness in seeing me there. When Pastor Cleodo started speaking that day I thought he was trying to offend me because everything he said pointed out my errors, but all of a sudden I started understanding the message. I never could understand what the priest was saying, but now I was understanding the message very well and it was very clear to me. I felt like someone who had been in darkness and never could find the way out of it, but now I was starting to see the light.

From then on I always went to church when my brother invited me. I started to study the Book of John and started to learn what Jesus wanted for my life. But I wasn't very firm in my faith and I would fall here, slip there . . . but I would get up and remember that Jesus would forgive me.

I was invited to participate in the Bible Camp at Campo Mourao one year and it was at Campo that I gave myself to Jesus and said, "Jesus, I accept you as my Savior and ask that You live in my heart because the door is open." And then I knew I had received Jesus Christ

## WMF supplies Mexico kitchen

At the recent Annual Conference of the Central Mexican Lutheran Church, Rev. and Mrs. Samuel Flores posed happily with the dishes, pots and pans, flatware, utensils, and cabinets for the kitchen of St. Andrew the Apostle Lutheran Church of Leon, Gto., Mexico. Pastor Flores, his family and the congregation extend their loving, sincere appreciation to the Women's Missionary Federation of the AFLC. Many ladies responded to the need of the St. Andrew congregation during these past two years and sent monies to Mexico through both their local and the national WMF.

and the Holy Spirit in my life. From then on I have been a part of the body of Christ as one of His workers.

Today I thank God for my brother Wagner and friend Ione who were the lights of Christ that brought me to Him.

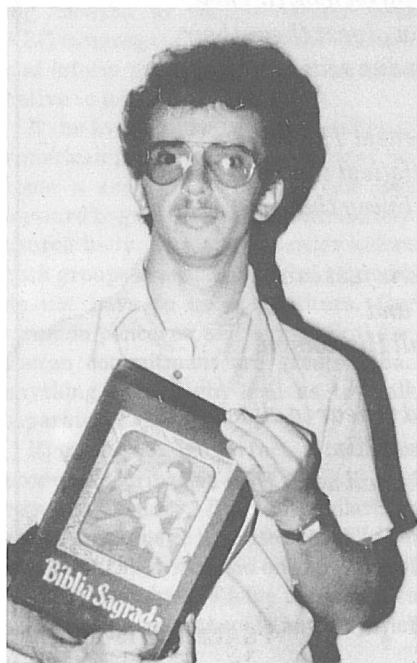
It has been almost three years since I became a Christian. Today I am a student at the IBSM. I feel privileged, and through my studies I hope to bring others to the Light, those who are yet in darkness. I am also praying about the desire I feel to continue on in my studies to become a pastor. I am praying that God will lead me in His will for my life and I ask for your prayers also.

A verse that was very important in my conversion is John 3:3, "Jesus answered him, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.'"

I enjoy sports, especially soccer and volleyball. I have done many things in my life. I've learned how to make shoes and hats, worked as a salesperson, and the last job I had was as a cook, which I enjoyed very much. What I like to do most in my spare time is write poems. I've written many and some day I would like to publish them. I feel it is a gift from God to be able to write like this.

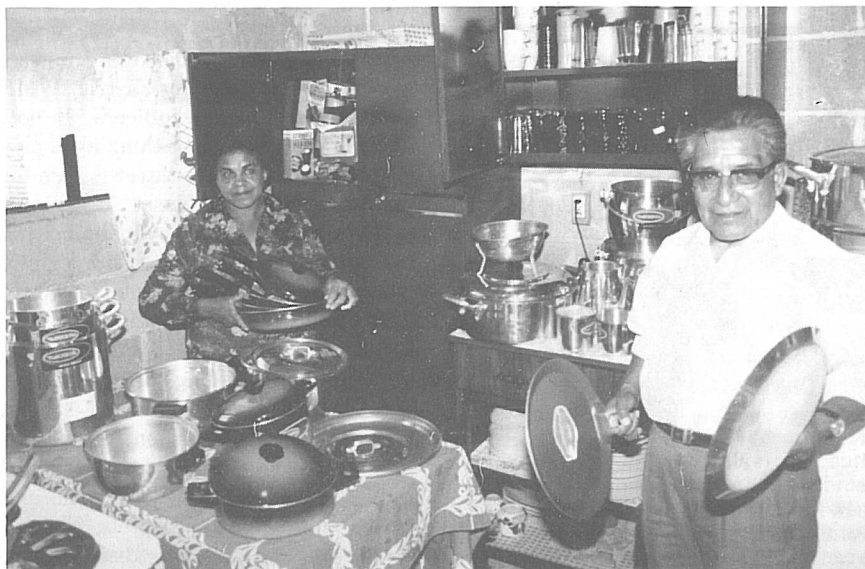
I am engaged to a wonderful girl, Celia (who is also studying at the Bible School here). I am very happy that God has given her to me. We plan to marry next year, after finishing our year of Bible School.

(Note: Marcos works in the Lar Parana Free Lutheran Church during his year at the IBSM.)



Marcos Antonio Carvalho





### Dalila Sanches Carvalho

My name is Dalila Sanches Carvalho and I am from Vitoria, Espirito Santo. I am 19 years old and graduated from Junior College with a degree in Elementary Education. I plan to continue perfecting myself in this area as I feel this is God's will for me.

I have been a Christian for about two years, and now I know that the best in life is walking in the paths of the Lord. Until I realized this, I had many difficult times.

I decided to come to the Bible School this year, really at the last moment, because I felt God had something for me here. And it is true! I have learned something new from God each day. I have learned and applied these teachings of God to my life.

I sense at each step of my life that



Dalila Sanches Carvalho

Jesus is leading me and He has given me victory after victory. Whenever I need help I have a faithful Friend and Protector at my side.

There is a verse that speaks profoundly in my life. Whenever I am going through a difficult time or have a problem that I think won't be resolved, this well-known verse comes to mind. Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." I know this is true, and each day I have confirmation of this verse in my life.

When I finish this year at the Bible School, I'm not sure what I will do, but I know that God will show me what I should do as far as work and studies and in all areas of my life because He really is my Shepherd and will guide me in my decisions.

(Note: While at Bible School this year Dalila is participating in the Lar Parana Free Lutheran Church. She is the teacher for the 10-12-year-olds in Sunday School.)

### PASTOR ENDERLEIN AT KING OF GLORY

Rev. Eugene Enderlein has accepted a half-time Home Missions call to be pastor of King of Glory Lutheran Church of Eden Prairie, Minnesota, as of October first. Pastor Enderlein has served as AFLC World Missions Director since 1980. Because of financial considerations within the world missions program he has reduced his World Missions responsibilities to half-time. He is assisted at King of Glory by seminarian Michael Crowell.

## AFLC Wilderness Family Bible Camp

Lake Park, Minn. Aug. 13-17

Theme: "Seek the Lord while He may be found" (Isaiah 55:6).

We had a real good time at the Bible Camp, gathering around God's Word and visiting with each other.

Rev. Bruce Dalager had the morning Bible study, which he based on Isaiah 51-55. I think that we all learned how God finds us and lets us seek Him until we find Him and follow His teachings.

Rev. Connely Dyrud had the evening services and the Sunday morning service. We looked at the Book of Ephesians. Pastor Dyrud had a lot of illustrations for us about the people of Brazil. It was really interesting listening to him and learning from him and Pastor Dalager.

The young people's teacher was Mrs. Dalager and from what I heard they had a real good time learning and singing about Jesus.

On Wednesday the Bible study group from Fargo, N. Dak., came so we had about 75 people for the evening service. The rest of the time we had around 53 people at the services.

Wednesday evening we had lightning strike a tree and it did some damage to some of the campers but nobody was hurt so we thank God for that.

I would like to thank all the people that took part in the services and I'd like to say a special thanks to Mickie Peterson and his sister, Sonja Trudy, and her daughter for singing and playing for us Saturday evening before the service.

I sit and wonder why there weren't more people at the camp and wonder if I could write something that would make a difference for next year but then I think of what Jesus said: "Where two or three are gathered in My name, there am I in the midst of them."

I would like to take this time to thank those who helped George Hartman and myself take down the building that was purchased for the camp. I realize that there was a lot of controversy about the building and I felt at the time that it was bought and we had to get it down and as Christians I feel that we should forget what it was and the differences that we have about it and use it for what we

cont. on p. 14

# THE WOMEN'S PAGE



New life is what Bethany Lutheran Church of Bluegrass is all about. Four members of this living and growing country church north of Verndale, Minn. have given the congregation and the community four illustrations of what new life in Christ is like. The Bible says that when one accepts Christ he is born again. All things become new when one puts his whole trust in Jesus. As Bethany of Bluegrass can testify, these four children born within six months of each other, with their mothers (left to right, Matthew and Debbie Fischer, Nathan and Joyce Wierimaa, Joseph and Patsy Dallmann, Andrea and Pam Cherney) show us the sweetness, joy and love that new life brings and the care it needs. With four new lives, it's four times as good. God has blessed Bethany at Bluegrass with these little ones and their families.

## Is God calling you?

Perhaps your local or District WMF recently elected new officers. If not, many of you will soon be thinking of new officers. Certainly the latter is true for our National WMF offices.

If you are contacted by a nominating committee we urge you to prayerfully consider serving. Our committees pray over selectees before they make contacts and we ask you to consider that the Lord may be calling you to serve.

A Christian lady once shared, "When I was asked to be president, I thought, 'Oh, no I can't speak. I get too nervous!' But I prayed, others encouraged me and with God's help, I accepted. Though there were times of discouraging feelings of inadequacy, I conscientiously tackled each detail pleading for the Lord's strength step by step. Now as I reflect on that life-changing year, I realize I gained great confidence in the Lord and knew He wanted to use me in His service."

John 15:16(NIV) says, "You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."

—S. Hjermstad

## Fall Rally Review

### Northwest Minnesota

The District Fall Rally was held October 14 at Oiland Church, Greenbush. The theme was "Follow Me," from Mark 1:17. Mrs. Philip Rokke led the morning Bible study. Missionaries Connely and Carolyn Dyrud shared both in the morning and afternoon sessions.

Singspiration was led by Marge Olson and Deb Boen. Annette Kirkeid and Wanda Hedlund led in devotions. There were 101 ladies registered.

—Mrs. Kieth Nash

### North Central Minnesota

Dovre Lutheran Church, Winger, hosted the District Rally on October 18. Mrs. Robert Broden presided. The sessions centered on the theme, "Am I a Soldier of the Cross?"

Mildred Mathison, Bagley, led the singspiration. Mrs. Julian Helgaas welcomed 106 ladies. Alvida Salte followed with devotions. Trinity, McIntosh, and Maple Bay, Fertile, provided special music. Mrs. Karen Knudsvig, Buxton, N. Dak. was the guest speaker for the day.

Mildred Mathison was elected vice president and Clara Quam was re-elected treasurer. Mrs. Wayne Floan led the prayer time. Judith Wold brought greetings from the National WMF.

—Mrs. Fern Aamodt

### Minneapolis, Minn.

The Minneapolis District Fall Rally was held on October 18, at the Amery Free Lutheran Church, Amery, Wisconsin. "Looking to Jesus" was the theme based on Heb. 12:2a. Ruth Peterson of Living Word Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, was the speaker for the day. The title of the morning Bible study was "When We See Jesus," and in the afternoon it was "Developing 20/20 Vision." Prior to the afternoon session small groups were formed for meditation on the morning message.

Music was furnished by the Choral Choir and Handbell Choir from the Amery Mustard Seed Academy and by Retha Nelson, Amery. One hundred forty-eight ladies were registered.

—Mrs. Harry Lindgren

### Western N. Dak., Eastern Montana, Canada

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Dickinson, hosted the District Rally on October 18. Mrs. Lyndon Korhonen, Culbertson, and Rev. Dale Melgren, Tioga, spoke on the theme "Freedom in Jesus."

Mrs. Einar Unseth, Bismark was elected president and the treasurer's position will again be filled by Mrs. Arley Hartsoch, Tioga. Beaver Creek Lutheran, Ray, N. Dak. has offered to host the Spring Rally.

—Mrs. Harlan Peterson

### Northern Michigan

The Northern Michigan District WMF held their Fall Rally at Hope Free Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, Michigan, on Saturday, September 20, 1986. Morning Bible study leader was Carrie Byykkonen of Hope Free in Ishpeming. She shared on the theme, "Women Devoted to Prayer", based on Philipians 4:6.

Our afternoon speakers were Bill and Becky Erickson of Iron Mountain, Michigan. They are missionaries with United World Mission to the Peoples Republic of the Congo. They shared on their calling and ministry with the people of the Congo.

The business session of the day included the re-election of Mrs. Jack Tyner as president and Mrs. Fred Woimanen as treasurer. Both ladies are from Eben Junction.

We received an invitation from Escanaba Free Lutheran Church, for our Spring Rally. We encourage all ladies of the district to attend the rally.

There were 43 women present for the day.

—Mrs. John Mundfrom

## our hymn study

*Concordia*, No. 243

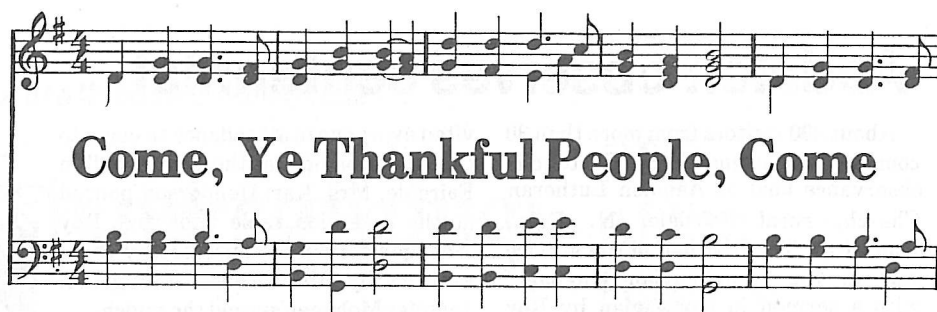
Henry Alford, 1845

Charles Wesley, 1739

Tune: Mendelssohn

Felix Bartholdy Mendelssohn, 1840

Arr. William H. Cummings, 1855



England, the author's motherland, has an autumn celebration similar to Thanksgiving in America. It's called Harvest Home Festival. "Harvest home" is defined by Webster as 1) the ingathering; and 2) a song sung by the reapers at the close of harvest. So this is a Harvest Home hymn celebrating that event.

In stanza one, God is praised and thanked. The rest of the hymn is eschatological (final things; e.g. the second coming of Christ; the resurrection of the dead; the Last Judgment) and has little to do with the festival of Thanksgiving. The author's parallel is intended to introduce a far more important matter than the season. He solemnly reminds us that the world is Jesus' field and its inhabitants are either wheat or weeds and that the Day of Judgment is at hand. But Christians need not fear His final coming, as the author intimates. Indeed, we eagerly look forward to His Harvest Home, as the glorious day of resurrection.

This hymn is based on Matt. 13, particularly verses 37-43: "The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man, and the field is the world; and as for the good seed, these are the sons of the kingdom; and the tares are the sons of the evil one; and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is the end of the age . . . The Son of Man will send forth his angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling-blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, and will cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the Righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (see also Rev. 22:16, 17, 20).

Teachers should provide their classes, regardless of their age, with this tremendous object lesson. How infinitely superior it is to "Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam."

Henry Alford was the son of a Church of England clergyman. He graduated

with honors from Trinity College, Cambridge, and became one of the English Church's great leaders. His final office was that of Dean of Canterbury Cathedral, a position he served with distinction. He authored a number of excellent literary endeavors. The most notable were his hymns, hymnological studies, and a four-volume commentary on the Greek New Testament, a work which took 20 years to complete and which was considered the Church's foremost supplementary source for New Testament study for 50 years. He was a man of deep personal devotion, a member of the Evangelical Alliance, and always in friendly association with the Non-conformists of England.

Charles Wesley was not a contributor to or source for this hymn.

For Felix Mendelssohn, William Cummings and Mendelssohn, see #136.

—Don Rodvold



You now can order the following promotional items for Christmas gifts.

Polo Shirts (Cotton/Polyester) in Grey  
25th Anniversary logo imprint

State size

Youth: S, M, L - \$7.00 each

Adult: S, M, L, XL - \$10.00 each

Mugs - 12 oz. Ironstone Classic  
with logo - \$4.00 each

Kwik Klik Big Shot Pens  
with logo - \$1.25 each

Postage included in price.

## 25th Anniversary 1987 Annual Conference

June 17-21 - Thief River Falls, Minn.

Order now! Send order to:

Miss Judith Wold

324 Arnold Avenue North

Thief River Falls, Minn. 56701

## Your help requested

The Archives of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations is desirous of receiving various materials from the congregations which can be filed and stored for historical purposes.

## Personalities

Rev. Harvey Carlson has resigned as pastor of Victory in Christ Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn., and is now retired from active ministry. He and his wife Hazel continue to live at 169 McKnight Road, No. 201, St. Paul 55119.

These would include anniversary booklets, copies of constitutions and unusual mementos from a congregation's past. Please send such to The Archives, AFLC, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

If you are unsure whether such items as anniversary booklets have been sent in before, send again now, if you have such available. Your co-operation is needed and welcome. Thank-you.



# Aadalen observes centennial

About 200 visitors from more than 30 communities attended the Centennial observance held at Aadalen Lutheran Church, rural Fairdale, N. Dak., August 31. The first half of the service was in the Scandinavian language, with a sermon in Norwegian by Roy Mohagen, lay pastor of the congregation, and vocal solos in Swedish and Norwegian by Mrs. Melvin Vetrus of East Grand Forks, Minn., and by Edna Ohnstad, respectively. Violinist Ella Hanson of Park River, N. Dak., played two selections, accompanied by Mrs. Leonard Christopherson of Edinburg, N. Dak., pianist for the occasion. Pastor and Mrs. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak., sang "The Church's One Foundation is Jesus Christ Her Lord" and Helny Ohnstad gave a resume of greetings received by the congregation for this special occasion. Five Free Lutheran area pastors presented brief but inspiring greetings: Pastors Bruce Dalager, Lyle Aadahl of Grafton, N. Dak., Norman Tenneboe of Park River, Christian Oswood of Hampden, N. Dak., and Joel Rolf of Devils Lake, N. Dak. Commenting on the perseverance of Aadalen Congregation, which has only about 15 members, Pastor Dalager pointed out that in this age when "being big" seems so all-important, we must remember that the power of God can make small efforts great, and that God has said, "Fear not, little flock" . . . (Luke 12:32).

At the conclusion of the service, Mrs. Tilford Rundhaug, WMF president, in-

vited everyone in attendance to come to the reception held at the Legion hall in Fairdale. Mrs. Karl Henderson poured at the reception table and Mrs. Roy Mohagen served the anniversary cake, assisted by Mrs. Edwin Thrugstad. Jennifer Mohagen served the punch.

A unique feature of Aadalen's Centennial was that its anniversary was also observed in Aadalen, Norway, the area from which so many of the settlers had come a century ago. On June 22, the people of Aadalen and Ringerike, Norway, held a special observance at Vikar Church to honor the memory of their emigrants and to send a gift of money to Aadalen Congregation on the North Dakota prairie as a "handclasp across the ocean." Their observance, which was arranged by Wilhelm and Ingeborg Elsrud of Oslo, consisted of a concert by Guri Underdal and Mona Julsrud, two young professional musicians, who had attended services in Aadalen when they visited North Dakota in 1985.

Aadalen congregation was founded by a group of settlers in 1886, with P. A. Nykreim as their first pastor. Before that time, religious services had been conducted in the sod houses whenever it was possible for Pastor I. J. Lonne of Grafton to come to the settlement. Fingal Rundhaug was named parish clerk and Moses Flugekvam was assigned the duty of securing the elements for the sacraments. At the suggestion of Henrik Ohnstad, the congregation chose "Aadalen Luterske Menighed" as its official name. The committee to formulate the constitution included Simon Myra, Rognald Flugekvam and Lars Westberg. Marie Flugekvam was the first child to be baptized in the new congregation and the first confirmands were Thorvald Rundhaug, Elling Ohnstad, Karoline Ohnstad, Edvart Tessem and Ellen Flom. Johan Mathiason and Mathea Thompson were the first couple to be married. Hardships and financial problems plagued the pioneers and in 1890 it became necessary to reduce the pastor's salary from \$100 a year to \$50 a year because the frozen wheat yielded little income.

Services were held in various homes until the present sanctuary was constructed in 1903 on a two-acre plot



## 115th Anniversary for Brodhead

Bethany Lutheran Church, rural Brodhead, Wis., Kenneth K. Thoreson, lay pastor, observed its 115th anniversary on Nov. 1 and 2.

A potluck dinner in the new fellowship hall began the anniversary on Saturday at 5 o'clock. Rev. Duane Bottjen, Oregon, Wis., spoke at a 7 o'clock service and at 8:30 Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Childress were present to sing and share. Mr. Childress is a TV weatherman. Between the two programs there was a drawing for an anniversary quilt. Cake and coffee were served.

On Sunday morning there was a worship service with Holy Communion. Memories by long-time friends and present and former members of Bethany were shared, too, before refreshments were served in the fellowship hall.

donated by Theodore Haug. Pastors who have served the congregation are P. A. Nykreim, G. J. Omland, Martin Iverson, J. O. Arevik, Ludvig Pedersen, G. Nordberg, P. O. Laurhammer (31 years), George Larson, Arthur Bervig, Leland Underbakke, Thomas Steenberg, Gerald Mundfrom and Roy Mohagen (who has served so well and faithfully for 20 years).

In the 1960s when the merger threatened to affect basic doctrine and promote liberalism in the church, the current members of Aadalen chose to remain outside the merger despite the

cont. on p. 16

## CAMP . . .

need and just keep going from here to do the Lord's work.

I would like to thank the churches that have had fund raisers for the camp and also the Lutheran Brotherhood for their matching funds. I would also like to say thanks to those who have given special gifts.

I would also like to thank the ones that helped me during clean-up week and a special thanks to Pastor Gordy Grage. I couldn't have got it ready without you.

*Lyle R. Narveson,  
Dalton, Minn.*

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# news of the churches

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## Minneapolis, Minn.

Pastor David Barnhart was the guest evangelist for the annual Life in Christ Crusade at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minn., Oct. 5-9. The theme was "Revive Thy Church," in keeping with the 25th Anniversary Theme on Prayer and Revival in the AFLC.

There was good attendance each evening and there were those who responded to the message each night. Special music each evening included the choirs of the congregation, Hosanna, Jubilate and Alleluia, and the Bible School Choral Club and Choir. A special

musical prelude before the service each evening included such instruments, besides the organ and piano, as trumpets, flutes, harp, violin and cello.

\*\*\*\*\*

The official closing on the new property of the Medicine Lake Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, Minn., took place on Friday, Oct. 3rd. The new property is located at the corner of Zachary Lane and County Road 9, about one mile straight north of the present location at the church headquarters at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

This piece of land includes 4.3 acres which are strategically located on a

busy thoroughfare (County Road 9, which is scheduled to be upgraded to a four-lane highway soon).

The agreement was that the congregation pay \$14,500 at closing. So far there has been about \$30,000 received so a \$25,000 down-payment was made which will help cut down on interest cost on the balance.

No plans have been made at this time regarding building on the property. The plan is to build adequate space to house the Medicine Lake Academy as well as the space needed by the congregation for worship, education and administration. The Medicine Lake Academy has an enrollment this year of over 100 students in the grades of kindergarten through 6th grade. The Academy is now housed in the Central Center, 6300 Walker Street in St. Louis Park.

—Corr.

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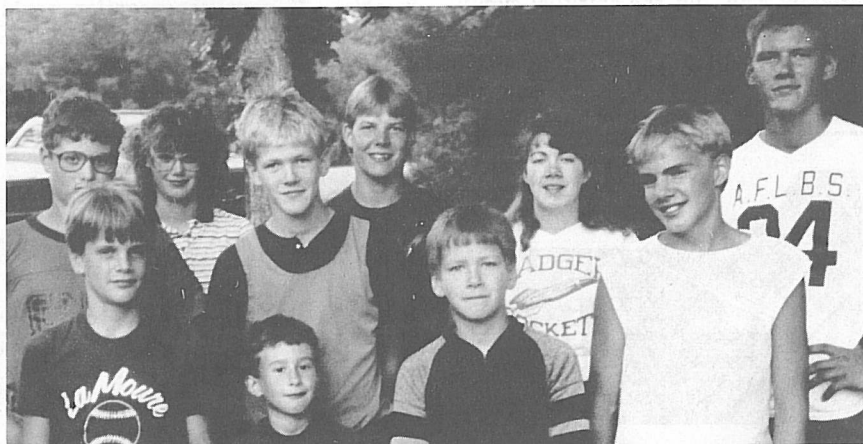
## THANK YOU

Pastor and Mrs. (Sylvia) Franz (Cloquet, Minn.) would like to express their appreciation and thanks to all who sent cards and prayed for her during her illness. She is doing well and believes your prayers were instrumental in the healing that has taken place.

Truly God's grace is sufficient for every trial! May He bless you richly.

Sincerely in Christ,  
*The Franz Family*

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## Roslyn S. Dak.

Young people at the Sunday School picnic of Saron Lutheran Church, Roslyn, S. Dak., last summer by Pickerel Lake, Grenville, were, front row, left to right, Leif Long, visitor, Lance Storley and Nathan Stueland; middle, Burton Storley, Luther Stueland and David Hovland; and, back, Judy Hovland, Allen Storley, Joyce Hovland, and Paul Stueland.



## Virginia, Minn.

On June 21, Sunday School children and adults from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Virginia, Minn., got together and made a float for the "Land of the Loon" parade in Virginia. The AFLC emblem was displayed on the back. The theme of the float was "Thank God for America" and the American and Christian flags were displayed on the front of the float. Signs on the side of the float read from I John 4:19, "We love Him Because He first Loved Us." Balloons saying "Jesus is Love" were handed out to children. The children and adults rode on the float and sang songs from VBS with the use of microphones and speakers. It was a most uplifting and blessed experience, not only for those who worked on the float and rode in the parade, but for those who watched, as was evident when people clapped as the float went by.

## CENTENNIAL . . .

fact that on Nov. 9, 1964, half of the congregation withdrew its membership. Ten days later the remaining members met to plan for the future of Aadalen.

A sentiment expressed in the Diamond Jubilee history in 1961 is as meaningful today as it was 25 years ago: "As we look back on our history, we are grateful that our forefathers established this congregation and built this church. We are thankful for those who were willing to sacrifice and work, that we might have God's Word; we pay homage to those who have preached the truth and have taught us The Way. Today as we review the history of the past, let us remember that only the physical aspects of the church are measured by man, but the spiritual significance of these 100 years will ever be recorded in the Master's Book of Life."

—*Corr.*

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THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR  
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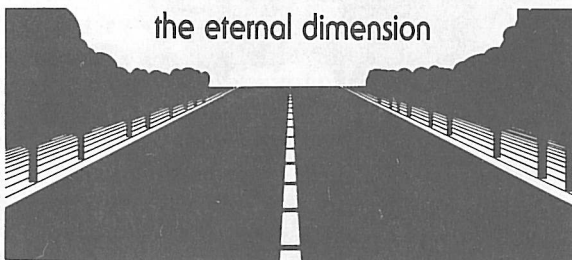
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### ADDRESSOGRAPH AVAILABLE

The Association Free Lutheran Bible School is disposing of its addressograph machine. If your congregation could benefit from it, contact Pastor Donald Greven at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. The details

of the machine and the supplies are as follows: Elliot Addressograph and Cover, Instruction Book, 37 Trays, 37 Holding Clips for Trays, Approx. 150 New Stencil Cards, 2 Stencil Typing Clamps, 1 Selector Punch.



### the dangers of material blessings

We, whom God has favored to live in these United States, have much to be thankful for. When we think of people in other parts of the world who have so little, it is clear that we are very fortunate. Even those who have what we call "little" in our land, have much when compared with many people presently living in other parts of the world. Surely God has lavished us with much and we ought to be thankful. We ought to note that we have been highly favored.

But when people are blessed with much, there is the tendency to forget how blessed they are. In fact, there is the danger of being put completely to sleep spiritually with "many things" and becoming obsessed with getting more. The rich farmer in the parable Jesus told, in Luke 12:13-21, is such a person. Jesus told this parable because a man tried to involve Him in helping him get a portion of the family inherit-

ance he felt he had been cheated out of. Jesus refused to involve Himself with the man and his desires.

The farmer Jesus spoke of had just been overwhelmingly blessed by God. His blessing was so big that he didn't have enough space to receive it. The size of the blessing created a problem for him, but not for long. His problem was a good problem and he solved it by tearing down his barns and building bigger barns. It dawned on him that with such a plan he could retire with peace of mind, ease of soul, merriment of heart and with the best of food and drink. But God saw that it was time that this man be called into account. So the death angel visited this man's home the very day he hatched his plan and put it into words. And the death angel chose him as the one to die. That for which the man should have been thankful was a snare to him and a prize left for his

relatives to quarrel over. God called this man a fool, and so he was.

How are you handling the material blessings God is showering on you these days? Do you resemble the truly thankful man more than the rich farmer? It would seem that God would teach us there are two things we should do when He so blesses us. The first thing we should do is to be touched in our hearts by His kindness to us and give thanks. The second thing is that after we have what we need, not what we want, we should remember the excess is given for helping others not so greatly blessed. We have a stewardship. It seems to me that being greatly blessed with material things by God brings with it the risk of making us less thankful and more selfish. This Thanksgiving season, let's take a long, sober, honest look at God's blessings given to us and then let's do what God has taught us to do. Revival in Christ's Church will include a revival of sensitivity to our material blessings and to our responsibility to use them in a ministry which will extend the kingdom of God to our neighbors everywhere. If we are to have a true heavenly revival in the Church in 1986, then we must also have an honest thanksgiving.

—*Pastor Emerson Anderson,*  
*Cleveland, O.*