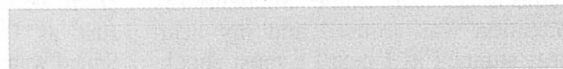
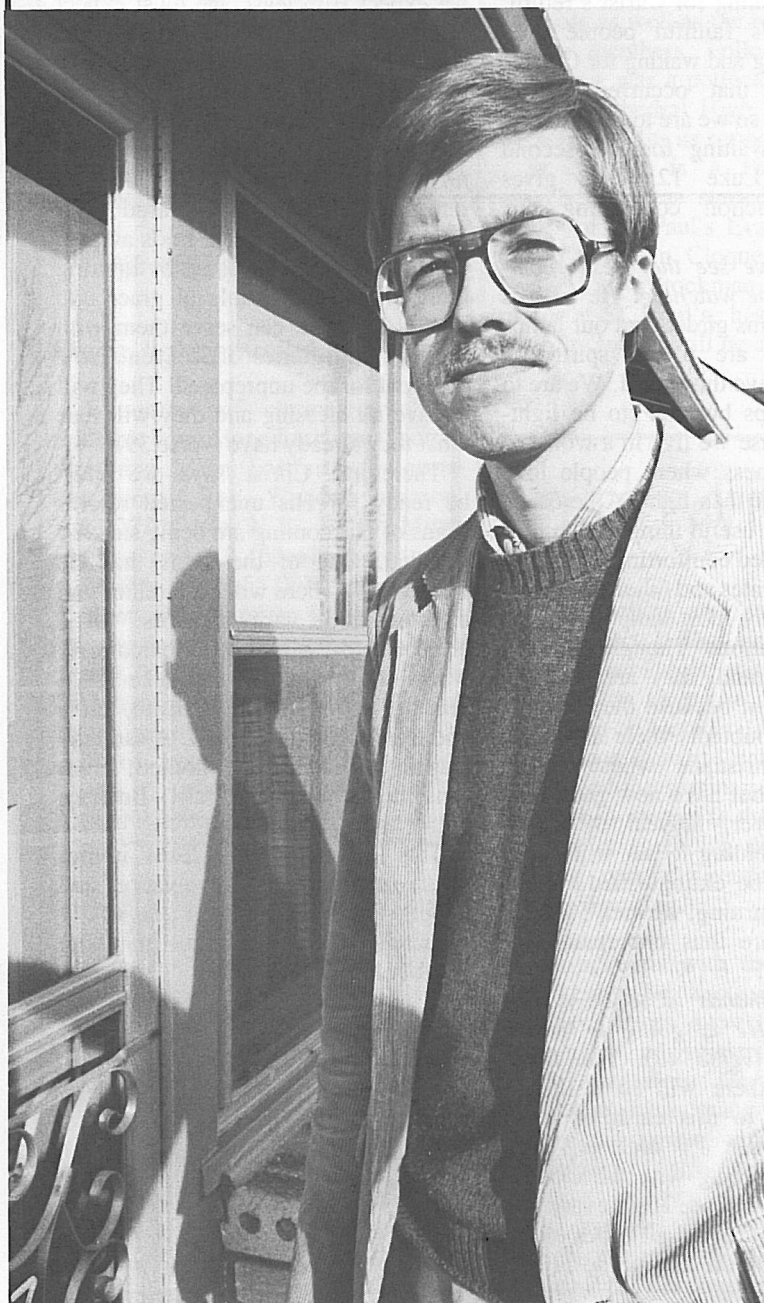


# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

November 19, 1985



a day with

an intern

pg. 7



# at the MASTER'S FEET

## Watchful waiting

Luke 12:35-40

On a Sunday afternoon in December of 1941 I was listening to the radio in our farm home. Suddenly my attention was aroused and my heart was stunned as I heard a most shocking announcement. That morning Pearl Harbor had suffered a surprise attack by more than a hundred Japanese planes! Our largest naval base in the Pacific had been devastated. Many warships had been sunk, several hundred planes had been destroyed, and almost 2,400 American servicemen had been killed. That Pearl Harbor incident was undoubtedly the most humiliating, hurtful experience that our nation has ever experienced. Why was the Japanese Air Force so successful that day? Because, according to a Congressional investigation, our nation failed to be alert.

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Volume 23 Number 22

*Our Lord Jesus Christ often spoke of the importance of watching.*

In this wonderful Advent season we are reminded anew of the fact that we are to be watching for Christ's return. Just as God's faithful people continued watching and waiting for Christ's first coming that occurred twenty centuries ago, so we are to be in a state of watchful waiting for His second coming. In Luke 12 Jesus gives serious instruction concerning this matter.

*First of all we see that Jesus commands us to be watching.* He tells us to have our loins girded and our lamps burning. We are to be spiritually prepared to leave this world. We are to keep our lamps burning (to be light-bearers) because we live in a world of spiritual darkness where people love darkness rather than light. A kerosene lamp is a very useful thing and in past years it provided comforting and needful light for homes and other buildings. However, today most lamps are mere antique decorations. Though they still have the potential, they are not providing any light because they are not burning. Undoubtedly there are many professing Christians whose lamps were once lit but have now gone out. Want of prayer, neglect of God's Word, and yielding to sin will cause our lamps to be extinguished. If our lamps aren't burning, we aren't watching and we are thus unprepared for Christ's return.

*Christ commands us to be watching because He is going to return unexpectedly (verse 40).* The Bible tells us that there will be a literal, visible return to this earth of Jesus Christ. Revelation 1:7 declares, "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, every one who pierced Him; and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of Him.

Even so. Amen." His coming is so, and it will be so very unexpected even for those who are watchfully waiting for Him. Someone has said, "When we expect Him least, we must expect Him most." Since He shall come unexpectedly to judge the living and the dead, therefore we are to be in a state of constant, watchful waiting.

*A blessing is promised for watchful waiting (verses 37-38).* At His return Christ will be pleased with those servants whom He finds awake. He will show His pleasure by inviting them to sit at His table of grace and love so that He can serve them with the joys and glories of Heaven. How different for the unprepared! They will receive no blessing and they will lose what they already have (verse 39).

Therefore, Christ says we must be ready for His unexpected return. Signs of His coming are being steadily fulfilled. One of the signs that He cited was, "There will be famines and earthquakes in various places." And one of those places is Mexico City where a disastrous earthquake filled that city with destruction, death, terror and tears on September 19. A sad lady tearfully said, "People shouted, 'Run, run, the building will fall!'. But, we didn't know where to run."

This Advent season Jesus invites us to run to Him for salvation and hope. Then he reminds us to be prepared by watchfully waiting with joy for His blessed return.



by Pastor  
Einar Unseth

## Waiting for the Lord's return

In this parable of Christ, we find that our lives can be likened to those servants who watch and wait for their master's return. The life of a believer is a life of waiting, since that which is of eternal value to him is hidden with Christ. As we examine this portion of Luke's Gospel, we should consider the weakness of our flesh that the Lord addresses when He calls us to "watch and wait." We also should consider how we are empowered by God's Spirit to remain alert in spite of our great weaknesses.

Anyone who has ever raised a child knows that it is not a part of our fallen nature to be patient, to wait for those things we want or need. We are born into this world as demanding, impatient, selfish and inconsiderate creatures. As we grow, we find that this behavior is unacceptable to our parents and our friends. We may also find out that there are other ways to achieve our own selfish desires without appearing selfish. So we conform our behavior to fit into our surroundings and to achieve our goal of self-satisfaction. Even the man who has committed his life to Christ struggles with this self-seeking nature on a daily basis. It is so much a part of our lives that we will never comprehend totally its effects on ourselves and on other people in our lives. Even in the midst of doing good for others, we may become angry or disappointed because people and events are not responding in the manner we expect.

Scripture tells us that such is not to be so. If we seek to please our Lord, we will be alert, doing that which pleases Him. There are many other areas in which the Lord exhorts us to "watch and wait," but I would like to point you to those which follow:



by Pastor  
**Brian L. Davidson**  
Amery, Wis.



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**"Even the man who has committed his life to Christ struggles with this self-seeking nature on a daily basis."**

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*We are to watch and wait in doing good (Galatians 6:9-10).* Although doing good, especially for others, can be enjoyable and rewarding, there are times when it becomes a real test of our patience. What will our response be when our benevolence receives no recognition? What would happen when our labor is taken for granted? Even our old nature does not mind serving if the reward is great enough.

*We are to watch and wait in assembling together (Hebrews 10:24-25).* Man has been created by God with a need for others. The Church is made up of many members, each dependent upon the other. Often we find it enjoyable to be with other Christians gathered in prayer, worship and study of the Word. But what would happen if Satan, the author of circumstances, were to take from your midst the wonderful "atmosphere" that you enjoy at these gatherings? What if your Christian friends find other friends and you feel that you've been left outside? Hebrews 10:25 says

# just a little longer

that it will be even more important to gather with other believers in the last days.

*We are to watch and wait in fighting temptation (James 1:2-4).* No battle is so fierce, no war exacts such a toll, as the war which rages within our bodies as we struggle with sin. I am sure that any Christian who has seriously struggled with sin has fought the additional temptation of "throwing in the towel."

*We are to watch and wait in loving one another (I Peter 4:7-8).* Wouldn't life be less of a struggle if people were easier to love? So often it seems our best efforts on behalf of others go unnoticed, sometimes they are even resented.

*We are to watch and wait in sound doctrine (II Timothy 4:3,4).* So often it appears that the time we spend in Bible study has no immediate effect on our lives. It becomes easier to say, "It's not what you know, but how you live it," when the real issue is lack of concern in understanding God's will. We can fall into a pattern of refurbishing our old thought patterns rather than digging into the inexhaustible riches of God.

Although this struggle can sometimes seem unfair, overly burdensome and beyond our limited capacities, we are, after all, His servants, and we deserve no more. Doesn't Jesus Christ, our Lord, deserve our very best efforts, regardless of how long we may wait for His return? Of course He does! Our best belongs to Him alone.

But as we look at our text, specifically at verse 37, we find that we are indeed His servants, but we are treated as more than servants. What

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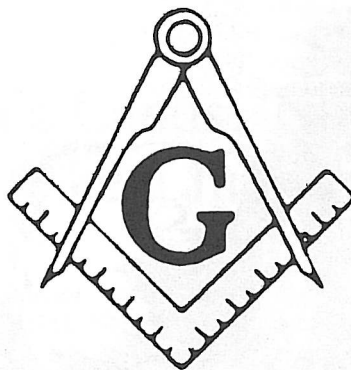


When one reads the literature about the Lodge, one comes to the conclusion that the Church must take a stand against all lodges because there is a certain conflict of interest between being a Christian and being a member of the Church and a member of the Lodge. We must study carefully all of the organizations we join in order to determine if there is a conflict of interest.

Many join lodges for social or business reasons and may not be aware of the implications of their joining! Some lodges have some very powerful means of drawing numbers. Often the larger lodges have some



**by Rev. Dennis Gray  
DeKalb, Illinois**



very worthy causes for which to raise support. Lodge members are involved in raising funds for crippled children, as well as people in the community with special concerns. Such may be when there is a fire which destroys someone's home or business or when someone is ill and needs special funds.

Some of the lodges are very capable of keeping their secrets. They keep their secrets from the nominal members until such a time when they believe they can trust them to not tell anybody about the secrets.

## the Lodge- a conflict of issues

Masonry, as an example, is a proclaimed religion. The Masons claim such in their own writings. Here is the major conflict of interest. I believe belonging to the lodge does mean that the Christian must compromise his stand for the Lord Jesus Christ.

They meet in temples, use the Bible, have an altar, and pray. They offer a "way of salvation" through good works rather than through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. You are not allowed to witness for your personal faith in Christ or to talk about anything from your particular religious faith. Their ceremonies are religious in nature and they admit to such in their writings.

The above are reasons why a Christian cannot belong to this lodge in particular. The Christian is to be a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ at all times. How can we belong to any organization which denies us this privilege? This is a true conflict of interest!

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### LORD'S RETURN . . .

master comes home late at night and serves those who wait for him? No earthly master does. What earthly master calls those who wait "blessed" for doing only what is expected of them? No earthly master does. Those who know Jesus only as a "harsh taskmaster" do not know the Jesus Christ of Scripture. Their giving becomes a burden, not a joy. Their good works become part of the daily grind, rather than an expression of gratitude and joy. They begin to look for immediate reward for their actions, becoming easily discouraged and ready to quit when that reward is delayed.

When Jesus ascended to His Father, He did not leave us alone to "guard the house." The Holy Spirit came to enable us to "watch and wait" until His return. And so we do not wait alone, having no certainty of

His coming. We have the witness of the Holy Spirit in our lives as He conforms us to the image of the Master we await. The Holy Spirit clothes us in the righteousness that we need in order to be "dressed in readiness." The Holy Spirit gives us the light we need as we await His coming during this dark time.

The whole world is awaiting His return, even to this day. The signs of His return are all around us. This Advent season is but one more reminder that this world is passing away. Let this season be the one in which you give Him complete access to your heart. Allow His Holy Spirit to dwell within you. Be dressed in readiness today, for there is no event more certain than His imminent return. I pray that each of us will one day know the blessing of being found alert and ready at His return.

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**"The Holy Spirit gives us the light we need as we await His coming during this dark time."**

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**"It is my opinion that the church should not allow her members to belong to the lodge."**

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Matthew urges us to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all of these things will be added unto us. When Jesus is placed first, our business and our social life will receive blessings from God. If we are looking for a cause to help humankind, Jesus has given us the Great Commission to go into this world and to win the lost for Him. If one cannot speak for Jesus, then one is in the wrong organization!



The lodges have what I would call "feeder" organizations for youth. These organizations are the Job's Daughters for the girls and the DeMolay for the boys. There are other organizations which are supportive of the lodge, such as the Eastern Star, an organization for women. I believe that all these are somehow linked together. At least, they are very similar in emphasis. Older people are attracted in this way.

They attract youths with these organizations. If youths continue in them, they will fall into a "trap of the devil" and could lose their eternal souls. They will advance up to the top of their organizations and be transformed into the main organization. These feeder organizations may very well be the main source of the lodges "best" members. Youths are impressionable and will stick to the things they have been taught from childhood. It is better to have our youths spend time in God's Holy Word than to be involved in that which robs them of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Moments spent with the Lord in the study of the Bible and Luther's Small Catechism will build lives which walk in God's will. This is true for us adults, too!

There is a conflict of interest when it comes to the way of salvation. The true Church teaches us that we are saved by grace. The lodges teach that we are going to get to heaven by our good works. There is a complete ignoring of what the Bible teaches about salvation.

In Masonry, as an example, the Christian, the Jew, the Mohammedan, Hindu and Buddhist join together in worshipping some kind of a deity, no one really knows who. This is what the church calls Unionism.

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Romans 16:17).

There may very well be some civic-minded organizations, which are not considered lodges, such as the Lions and Kiwanis, etc. These organizations are not religious in nature and are social, business and service organizations. Cannot one belong to these organizations, honor Christ and give a testimony for Christ without a conflict

of interest? Possibly so.

Some of these organizations seem to be able to gather men together and get them into service activities. I wonder what the Church is doing wrong when men will volunteer for these organizations and serve long hours in them when the church has many needs to be attended to. These groups, for the most part, are simply civic service organizations. Some begin with prayer and pose no real threat to the life of the Christian. Perhaps they are even a way to reach into the community with a witness for Christ.

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"The lodges teach that we are going to get to heaven by our good works."

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Before joining even these groups, I believe you must be certain you are in the will of God in so doing. One can get so busy in civic organizations that one neglects the church. Then, too, these organizations may be involved in drinking, card playing and other things, which distort our witness. If, however, these organizations are there to help people and you can give a witness for Christ in them, you may want to belong to them.

Should we allow lodges to participate in funerals in our churches? It has always been my rule that such organizations cannot participate in funerals. They can have their "services" at the funeral home or at the cemetery after the pastor and others have left.

It is my opinion that the Church should not allow her members to belong to the lodge. People are important! The devil wants our souls. We must prepare ourselves to meet the Lord Jesus Christ. He is coming back again and He will be coming back soon. We must do all we can to prepare to meet Him. Nothing should stand in the way!

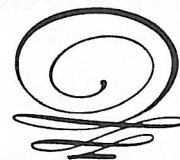
The eyes of all look  
to Thee,  
And thou givest them  
their food in due  
season.

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



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# Try thanksgiving

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I came across an article one day which told of an ancient legend. It tells how God one day sent two angels to earth, each with a basket in his hand. One was to gather the prayers of God's children; the other was to collect in his basket words of thanksgiving to God by His children here below. The angel of prayer returned early, with his basket filled to overflowing with petitions for God's good gifts. The angel of thanksgiving sadly reported that, after walking all day among men, he had been able to find only a few expressions of gratitude to God.

Although this is only a legend, there is much truth in it. Is it not true, that the prayers of God's children often consist mainly of supplicatory prayer, request prayer, which is the turning to God to receive something, and intercessory prayer, which is prayer for others and their needs?

Now, I'm not belittling these forms of prayer. In fact, it is the will of our heavenly Father that we should come to Him freely and confidently and make known our desires to Him,

just as we would have our children come freely and of their own accord and speak to us about the things they would like to have. The heavenly Father bids us to boldly come to the throne of grace and make our requests known unto Him.

Speaking out of conviction, I know that my prayer life often consists of supplication and intercession, but is often lacking much in the area of thanksgiving. Paul emphasized thanksgiving along with supplication when he said, "In everything by prayer and supplication *with thanksgiving* let your requests be made known unto God" (Phil. 4:6).

O. Hallesby, in his book *Prayer*, states that prayers of thanksgiving should follow naturally upon supplicatory prayer. "Having received something from God, it is self-evident that we ought to return thanks to Him for it." Thanksgiving is the glad and appreciative acknowledgment of the benefits and blessings God gives, either to ourselves or to others.

The Bible abounds with verses of admonition to give thanks to God.

First, in the Psalms:

Because of God's deliverance from enemies, the psalmist said, "Therefore I will give thanks to Thee among the nations, O Lord" (Psalm 18:49).

"Sing praise to the Lord, you His godly ones, and give thanks to His holy name" (Psalm 30:4).

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord" (Psalm 92:1).

"Oh give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for His lovingkindness is everlasting" (Psalm 107:1).

"At midnight I shall rise to give thanks to Thee, because of Thy righteous ordinances" (Psalm 119:62).

One of my favorite psalms is Psalm 103, in which I'm constantly reminded of the Lord's dealings with me and how merciful and gracious He has been to all His children. There we read "That He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities," but He has pardoned us on the basis of Christ's finished work and He has removed our transgressions as far as

"The Bible abounds with verses of admonition to give thanks to God."

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the east is from the west. If this does not move us to an attitude of thankfulness, there is something wrong.

Not only are we reminded in Psalm 103 of the spiritual blessings that God gives us, but also of the many temporal blessings that recur with such regularity. In fact, we are often unconscious of a great many of our blessings, and therefore they go unacknowledged. The psalmist was certainly aware of his frequent failure to give thanks for the blessings received and prayers answered. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget *none* of His benefits." When was the last time you reflected over the day that had ended and thanked the Lord for His many benefits?

Second, in the Gospels:

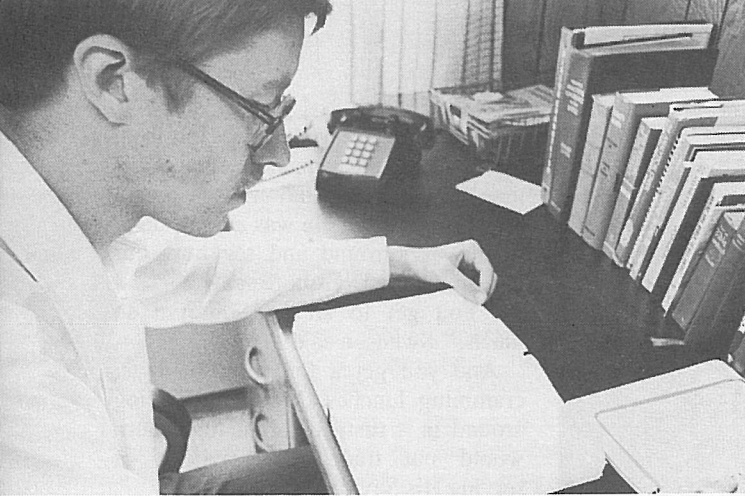
Even Jesus, who is our example to follow, gave thanks to the Father. At the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus "took the loaves and having given thanks..." (John 6:11). When the 70 returned with shouts of victory, Jesus prayed, Luke 10:21. When He instituted the Lord's Supper, He gave thanks for the bitter cup He was to drink, Luke 22:19-20. At the grave of Lazarus, Jesus said, "Father, I thank Thee that Thou heardest Me."

Giving thanks is not difficult when it comes from our recognition of the temporal and spiritual blessings that we consider desirable. But what about the sufferings and afflictions that God's people go through? Certainly God does not expect His children to thank Him for these, does He? On the contrary, He does! Paul wrote, "In everything give thanks" (Thessalonians 5:18). It's not always easy to do, but it is needed. There is an Arab proverb that says, "All sunshine makes a desert," and it is true that if life were all joy and prosperity, unmixed with sorrow and adversity, we would be weak spiritually. James tells us to "consider it all joy," when

*continued on page 12*



by Pastor  
Rodney Johnson,  
Spicer, Minn.



# A day in the life of an Intern

photos by J. Johnson

by James L. Johnson

What a day for Jeff Swanson!

Even more pointedly, what a way to spend an afternoon as a seminary intern making "pastoral" visits: scrambling away from a St. Paul, Minn., home mission church, cramming down a quick lunch, whizzing away in a rusting-out Ford Pinto.

"You could write a book about this," Swanson grinned from inside his tidy corner office at Victory in Christ Lutheran Church.

No one ever told Swanson, 27, that life as an intern would be like this. Indeed, he was hoping the pace would slow some. He thought the busy life of an AFLC seminary student was bad. But seminary was nothing, in view of this day's schedule. But then again, this day is different. "Every day's not like this," he said.

True. After all, this is a home mission church with a small membership (about 60 come on Sundays). And, after all, this day was just a little

. . . well, frantic. Still, Swanson said he didn't mind it. "In the first part of summer I was pulling out my hair trying to make myself busy."

But Swanson didn't have to pull out his blond-colored hair on this particular Wednesday. The day started innocently enough when Emily (three years old) and Josiah (five months) woke Jeff and his wife Jane at about 7 a.m. A quick shower, a quick bowl of cereal and Swanson was able to leave the apartment by a few minutes before 8.

**8 a.m.:** Swanson walks into his office and pushes away the letters and magazines that lie around in his six-foot-by-nine-foot room. "It's good stuff," Swanson explains, "but it can get in the way sometimes. You can waste hours just browsing. I try to discipline myself to pray and read the Word before I do anything." Today he reads a psalm and prays about a couple of visits he will make. There's also a man who has been sick for a

while. And there's the youth Bible study he will lead tonight . . . and the prison visit. The list goes on and on. "I try to pray through the whole congregation," Swanson says. "It's small enough. . ."

**8:30 a.m.:** And it's certainly not so small that Swanson can take time not to overlook a very special member himself. He takes an hour for this. "Not for class," he says. "Not for someone else." But for Swanson. He read Leviticus 7-10 and I Thessalonians 1. "How can you really take care of others if you don't take care of yourself?" he asks.

**9:30 a.m.:** He pulls out a two-inch-thick, cherry colored book and smiles. "Just a chore." He laughs. Indeed, *Luther's Commentary On The Epistle to the Romans* is not light reading. The book is heavy. For a seminary requirement while he serves the internship, he must read through the entire book this month. But Swanson said it is good for him. He does, he assures, have a lot to learn.

**10 a.m.:** And a lot to do if he's going to be ready for Bible study tonight. He's preparing a study for the youth on what it means to have a "testimony." He prays for those kids. He wants to get the message straight. And he wants to see that some day these kids gain testimonies. Meanwhile, there is also a sermon to prepare. Sunday he will travel to Green Lake Lutheran (Spicer, Minn.) to preach.

**11:30 a.m.:** And he's going to have to get rolling if he's going to make his 12:30 visit. This is where the





## INTERN . . .

fun begins. From now until 9, the action will not stop. He pushes away from his desk and drives home to gobble down lunch before racing to the house of a member who has really been struggling. He picks up a razor and soap to deliver. Later he will go to the prison.

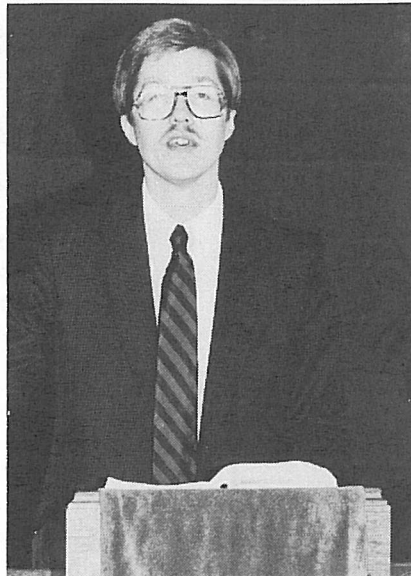
From that house he drives to meet and counsel a couple just recently engaged. They meet on Wednesdays at 1 p.m. "He's a new Christian and he's going to be baptized," Swanson explains. The man also has to give a testimony and "he was terrified," Swanson said. Together, they look at men in the Bible who also had to give testimonies. Specifically, Paul and the blind man.

Sometimes, Swanson can't help but stop and remember his own testimony. He gained it one day as a college freshman at Kansas State University when Jesus reached out and found him through the help of some Campus Crusade workers. "From that time on, there was never any doubt that I wouldn't be in some kind of full-time Christian ministry."

Still, he could hardly have known it would lead to this; now in a gas station in Osseo. The attendant gives good directions and in a few minutes, Swanson finally arrives at Anoka County Prison. A man needs help there. "Nicest guy you'd ever want to meet," Swanson says. "We talked about making good use of his time. He's going to be there for five months. I gave him a book and brought him a Bible, but he already had one."

**4 p.m.:** The visit runs late. He's home by 4:45 p.m. But he has to be at church at 5:30 to do a little neighborhood canvassing with another church member. The men are taking a community-wide survey. Men from 11 other churches in the neighborhood are doing likewise. They are trying to find people who don't have a church. Even people without a church like to visit. Before Swanson realizes it, it is 7 p.m.

**7 p.m.:** Oh, no. 7 p.m. Youth Bible study starts in half an hour. Swanson is moving with anxious eyes on his watch. We stopped and picked up a mentally retarded girl who always comes and we got back and he



crammed for about 15 minutes.

**7:30 p.m.:** Ten kids come. Swanson is calm. Easy. Relaxed. "I try to get along with the kids. I try to get the message across. I think God uses that. I know God uses that. And I don't think you have to have a riot every time. I think you can be serious for a while."

Jeff Swanson is going on his ninth hour without a break. And he does have to worry about Portuguese class tomorrow. (He will spend the last half of his internship with his family in Brazil, where the AFLC has a mission; they leave Dec. 9).

And, thankfully, the day finally ends about 10 p.m. But to be truthful, Swanson says, it wasn't all that bad. "I like to be busy," he says. And after all, this is the Lord's work.

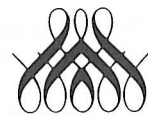
And then again, as AFLC Seminary Dean Francis Monseth likes to make clear to his seminary interns, it is part of the education. Pastor Monseth said he would like to see more of these kinds of things happen, not just for Swanson, but for several other interns he needs to find a place for next year. He said congregations need to look at it as an opportunity to serve the seminary. He said congregations need to see that they can help a student while at the same time receive a willing worker for their own ministry.

"It's been an immense help for us," said Pastor Harvey Carlson, who oversaw the work of Swanson during his internship. "I just praise the Lord for our time together. I hate to lose him."

"And he got to learn a lot from us," said Brian Densmore, the chairman of the congregation. "He got a lot of experience. He was able to stand in the background and see how our church runs," Densmore said.

"You get to sit and observe so much," Swanson said.

And you get a lot of those days, cramming lunches down and driving around in a rusty car, but this intern would not trade the privilege of serving His Savior for anything.



## Prayer Together

*"... Where all gather together for prayer and thanksgiving.*

*The advantage of this is that when Christians gather together, prayer is more powerful than at other times. We can and should most certainly pray at all places and hours, but prayer is nowhere so strong and powerful as when, in unity of spirit, the whole congregation is gathered together to pray.*

*Martin Luther*

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# editorial

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## THANKSGIVING, ADVENT AND THE BIBLE

Two themes, yes, three, capture our attention at this time of year. They are thanksgiving, the Advent season and Bible Sunday (Nov. 24).

Thanksgiving Day is as late as it can get this year, meaning a shorter period of time between it and Christmas than most years. But that should take nothing from our observance of this holiday meant to be a recognition of God's blessings to us in the past year. It is too bad that in the U.S. (Canada observes a different day) religious services in many cases have been moved from Thanksgiving Day itself in order that the day can be devoted to travel, visiting, feasting, and football. Thanksgiving should be very meaningful to us for spiritual reasons. Anything that can be done to make it so is all to the good. Let your Thanksgiving Day be a God-honoring one.

Advent, this year the days between December 1 and 23, is a time of preparation and expectation. It is time to get ready for Christmas. Unfortunately, western Christmases have become such busy times in preparation for the outward celebration that the spiritual aspect gets crowded and infringed upon. Therefore, extra care must be taken to keep one's mind and thoughts directed in the right way. Some local churches have Advent midweek services patterned after those of Lent. Music and message are appropriate to the season. What a wonderful idea. Those midweek services and good use of the four Sunday worship services in Advent can make the season very meaningful.

The other thrust of Advent is expectation. We expect, that is, *look out* for Christmas. We anticipate the celebration of Jesus' birth once more. Most of us have observed Christmas all our lives and we look forward to doing so again. We eagerly await the singing of the old familiar songs and the reading of the unforgettable texts of prophecy and fulfillment.

Then there is the side to expectation which has to do with the Second Advent. Jesus has promised to return. He came as humble Savior; He shall come as conquering King. Thus it is during Advent that we remember His birth in poverty and His obedience even unto death on a cross, and reaffirm our expectation that the Lord Jesus shall one day descend from the heavens with a shout and every eye shall see Him.

The third theme to be noted at this time of year is Bible Sunday next Sunday, Nov. 24. Not as much attention is paid to this special day as was done some years ago. It may pass unnoticed in some of our congregations, but it is a cause worthy of observance. Many other things have a day, why not the Bible? Bible Sunday is a day on which to think about how this Book above all books came to us, what its message is and how its timelessness makes it just what we need in 1985. Again, appropriate music, Bible readings and pastor's message on that day can make the worship service memorable. One good idea for the service is to have a Bible portion, John 3:16, for instance, read in

as many languages as possible by various members and the pastor.

The American Bible Society-sponsored Bible Sunday falls on the Sunday before Thanksgiving each year.

## WHAT IS HELL?

A recent article in the Minneapolis *Star and Tribune*, October 6, brought memories of the controversy which raged in Norway about 35 years ago on the subject of hell and its reality. The above-mentioned article stated, among other statistics, that about half the Americans believe there is a hell.

It has been said and we can all agree that there are no new heresies and controversies in the world relating to the Bible. The ones there are only reappear every now and then, if they really ever completely leave the scene.

And one of those issues is that of hell, a place of eternal torment. One can be very popular by asserting there is no such place or at most that it is something a person makes himself here, and only here, on earth. However, if one is committed to the Bible for his religious teachings and truth, it is necessary to believe in a place of eternal suffering as the result of spurning God's grace and mercy offered freely through Jesus Christ.

Any honest study of the New Testament will reveal that Jesus Himself had much to say about judgment for sin and condemnation to eternal hell for the disobedient and unbelieving. It is the teaching of Scripture that He came to save people from such a destiny (see John 3:16-18 and related passages).

That 50 per cent of Americans do not believe there is a hell says no more about its reality or unreality than does the fact that 75 percent believe there is a heaven makes that a real or unreal place. What makes these places real is the fact that God's Word declares them to be so.

We can agree with a seminary professor quoted in the *Star and Tribune* article when he says that the wrath of God spoken of by Paul is a "loving wrath." That is, God loves the world. He desires all people to be saved (I Timothy 2:4). But that in no way takes away from the terribleness of God's wrath and the Bible teaching that the rejection of God's love results in fearful consequences. Jesus took upon Himself the world's sins. The sinner can go free, but only as he accepts the proffered gifts of forgiveness and life.

Christian doctrine is not decided by majority opinion. It was not for Jesus or Paul or Luther, nor must it be for us. We must bow before the revealed Word of God and that Word presents eternal destinies for mankind, a heaven and a hell. As someone has said, there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun.

## USE THEM ALL

The Association lost her evangelist last summer when Pastor Kenneth Pentti was called to his eternal reward. He is sorely missed in our church fellowship.

The Co-ordinating Committee, Home Missions Committee and Commission on Evangelism have begun the

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## Editorials . . .

search for a new evangelist. The search could take a long time. It is good to take care before issuing a call. In the meantime, there are a number of pastors who are filling the needs in evangelistic series in congregations. Thanks and appreciation are expressed to those who are helping out.

There is more demand for speakers for special meetings throughout the AFLC than any full-time evangelist can meet. Many congregations have a series every year, some of them have two series a year. The majority of these series are handled by a handful of the church's pastors.

Here is a thought that has come to us from time to time: it would be good if every pastor, teacher and administrator could be involved in one preaching mission in a parish other than his own once a year. There are two chief reasons for this. One, it would give him a change of scenery for a few days, enable him to meet new people and study their church program and challenge him to study, prepare and pray for a series of Gospel presentations. The meetings could be in the form of Bible studies or straight preaching services, whatever had been agreed upon in advance.

Two, each pastor has something to offer to a new group of people. Admittedly, no one could offer exactly what a Kenneth Pentti could, but the Lord uses a wide variety of personalities and spirits. He does ask for consecration and availability and our pastors have that.

We know such an arrangement would be a hard thing to set up in our free church, but the idea is good. Every pastor out for a series every year would add new life to our work together. It is more comfortable for pastors to stay at home, but they would benefit from getting out and they would bless others in their coming.

### INTERNSHIPS

Our readers should read and enjoy James L. Johnson's article on a day in the life of a seminary intern found in this issue.

It wasn't a typical day, we are told. "Every day's not like this," seminarian Jeff Swanson said. No, some of them likely aren't as busy (we hope not); a few may be busier. And in every one of them the student pastor is learning and preparing for the day when he starts out on his own.

Memories come back of our own internship, two summers, one at the four-point Morris, Minn., parish, and one at Estherville Lutheran Church, Estherville, Ia. The pastors we worked with were Rev. Alfred Sevig and Leonard Hinderaker, respectively. The latter was a brother of our Amos Hinderaker. What fine, godly, caring men these were to work with. And all the other friendly people, gracious, helpful, encouraging.

Seven weeks of Daily Vacation Bible School in the two summers, four of them for all day. At one school being alone the first day with almost 50 children. The education committee mercifully secured a second teacher for the rest of the days.

Opportunities for preaching. Much work and effort

## My God, I Thank Thee

My God, I thank Thee, who hast made  
The earth so bright;  
So full of splendor and of joy,  
Beauty and light;  
So many glorious things are here,  
Noble and right.

I thank Thee, too, that Thou has made  
Joy to abound;  
So many gentle thoughts and deeds  
Circling us around.  
That in the darkest spot of earth  
Some love is found.

I thank Thee, Lord, that Thou has kept  
The best in store;  
We have enough, yet not too much  
To long for more:  
A yearning for a deeper peace,  
Not known before.

I thank Thee, Lord, that here our souls,  
Though amply blest,  
Can never find, although they seek,  
A perfect rest;  
Nor ever shall, until they lean  
On Jesus' breast.

Adelaide A. Procter  
(from *The Junior Hymnal*)

and prayer going into those early sermons of one's career. Calls on parishioners and prospects, some of the calls on the latter encouraging, others limited to formalities by the reception given. Standing at hospital bedsides wishing for more wisdom, insight and experience. But those come with time, not only during internship but even more over the passage of the years. Sometimes a pastor wonders if he ever will know how to meet some situation in the right way. Yet God provides and works, too, through imperfect human instruments.

Let us pray for the interns in their assignments. Should you be fortunate to have one in your congregation, encourage him, give him good advice.

Where you see that he needs additional guidance do not correct him in public, but counsel him in private as a Christian father, brother, mother, or sister. He will thank you for it. The interns of today will be the pastors of our church tomorrow. They are special people. God bless them.



## The heart of a missionary

"As the heart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God" (Psalm 42:1).

Dona Constantina and Senior Bertolino were living on their farm in Paraguay. They are Brazilians, but like many, had "gone over" to take advantage of the cheap land prices which were offered to help open up the Paraguayan forest and get it into production. They were without Christian fellowship and hungered for it. When they lived elsewhere they were active in the Presbyterian church.

One day they heard that American missionaries were making occasional visits at a neighboring farm. They left a message for these people to come over to their home when possible. A few weeks later Charles and Joyce Knapp did make that visit, which turned out to be a wonderful fellowship with far reaching results. Matthew 24:14: "And this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations. . ."

The "cultos em casa" became a monthly gathering. It was a long hard trip to Bertolino's farm from Hernandarias. Constantina greatly enjoyed receiving them into her humble abode and waiting on them! She served tasty meals and entertained the "grandchildren." She also longed for more fellowship. Sometimes the missionary could come twice a month.

Other neighbors and workers were attracted to hear God's Word, too. Eventually one family moved to Foz do Iguaco. Soon a group was showing interest there. A large building was purchased and converted into a church, Sunday School rooms, and living quarters at the back. Regular services were started.

Who would live on the grounds to take care of the property? Sr. Bertolino and Dona Constantina offered to move and do double duty, be caretakers and lay workers. This was a wonderful answer to prayer, both ours and theirs. Sr. Bertolino preaches a fine lesson from the Word; he plays the harp and leads the singing. Constantina has had

## world missions news

### My search for peace ended

My name is Rosildo Franca. People call me Franca. I am the oldest in a family of five children and have three brothers and one sister. My family lives here in Campo Mourao, Parana.

John 1:11,12: "He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who

a lot of experience with the ladies and youth. She has many good ideas and is actively employing them.

We need your help with this work. We need your prayers. As an example let me tell you of an incident that happened recently.

Constantina was walking along the gravel street toward home. As she passed the spiritist center, the man from there came out and threw down an armful of trash just outside his fence. There was a big *Bruumm* as smoke from the trash enveloped her. The man said something. She kept on walking and sang, "There is pow'r, pow'r, wonder-working pow'r, in the precious blood of the Lamb."

The next morning there was a candle burning out in the street in front of our church, indicating that a spiritist curse had been placed on someone. Evil forces don't want the Word preached.

Sr. Bertolino and Constantina some day would like to return to Paraguay where they prefer to work and live. But for now their heart is in the work in Brazil where they are needed and where they can satisfy their hunger for Christian fellowship. Are they the ones God has in mind to open up our AFLC work in Paraguay? Only God knows.

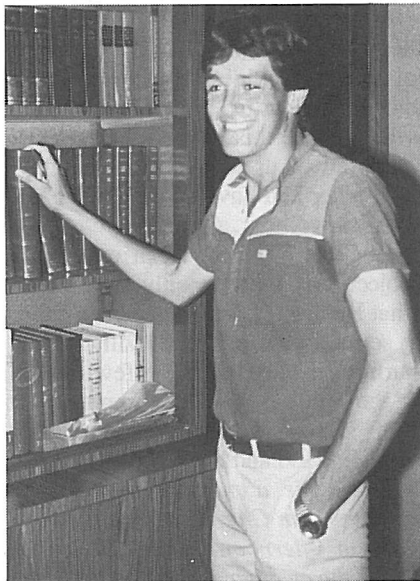
"All nations whom Thou hast made shall come and worship before Thee, O Lord; and shall glorify Thy name" (Psalm 86:9).

For those reading this article, please take time to pray about the many things presented here.

Helen Knapp

received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God" (RSV).

Accepting Christ last year was the best thing that I have done in my life. With Christ I can feel what *life* is. To live in peace was what I always wanted, but I didn't know how. I would go to a party just to feel happy for a few hours, but when it ended I would leave wondering, "How can I live in peace always?" I didn't find a solution. I knew God existed, that He made us, but I didn't feel Him near me. One day at school I was talking with a friend, Irene (who is studying at the IBSM this year also), and she invited me to come to her church. At the time I was a bit suspicious, but I accepted her invitation, and the next Saturday, I went to their youth meeting. When I entered the church, I felt different; something was happening to me. I liked the people and the hymns and choruses. When it was over I went home thinking of going back the next day. So I did go back on Sunday morning and again that evening and each time I went I felt peace. So every weekend I would go to church and each time I felt Jesus working in my life. Finally I decided for Christ. My



## THANKSGIVING . . .

encountering trials, "knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing" (James 1:2-4). We need to thankfully accept His dealings with us as His very best for us.

It is hard for us to learn to pray, but it is still harder to learn to give thanks. This can be seen in children. They do not need to be taught to ask for things they desire. But, how difficult it is to teach them to say, "Thank you"!

Some think that because God is so great, it makes little difference to Him whether we give thanks or not. But God has the most sensitive heart of all. There is nothing so minute that it does not touch the heart of God. Jesus says that He will not forget even a cup of cold water, if it is given in

grateful love for Him.

The story of the healing of the lepers shows that Jesus appreciates gratitude. Of the ten, one returned to thank Jesus, and notice Jesus' response, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine where are they? Were none found who turned back to give glory to God, except this foreigner?" God loves the praise and thanks of His people, and He is worthy of it.

A missionary was greatly discouraged. He knew that his work was not progressing as it should. One day, while visiting another missionary, he noticed a motto card on the wall, *Try Thanksgiving!* It was like an arrow to his soul. He suddenly realized that this element had largely been missing from his prayers. There had been plenty of asking God for things he desired and needed, but he had forgotten to thank Him for what he received. He began to count his blessings and to pour out his heart in thanksgiving. Once again the mission work began to prosper.

His lack of thanksgiving had been quenching the working of the Holy Spirit.

Have we been guilty of the same sin?

Thanksgiving Day should stir our hearts unto thanks and praise to God for His bountiful goodness and mercy to us. The world should be able to see that the Christian is a thankful person. Let us not just wait until Thanksgiving Day to express our thanks to God, but let it be every day of the year, "Forget none of His benefits."

If the ancient legend of our introduction were true and God were to send two angels to your prayer chamber, one to gather supplicatory prayers and the other to gather prayers of thanksgiving, would the angel of thanksgiving have to sadly report about you that there were but few expressions of gratitude to God? Let's begin today to give thanks always for all things, for this is God's will for us in Christ Jesus.

## SEARCH . . .

life changed completely with Jesus. I found spiritual peace and great happiness. I saw that peace and happiness are things that only Jesus Christ can give.

Today I look at my past and feel unhappy for having lost so much time searching for happiness in partying, girls and other things. I am also unhappy for my friends who are lost in the world, searching as I was for happiness. I ask Jesus to give me wisdom so that one day I can go to them and witness so they also can know that happiness is in Jesus Christ and not in parties, etc. I know Jesus will give me this wisdom because He wants all of us to love him and love each other and have eternal life in and with Jesus Christ. Amen.

About my future, I can only make projections, because only God knows what He has for me. I have been called to serve a year in the Brazilian Army starting in May, so these few months in the Bible School are important to help me grow and be established firmly in God and his Word.

*Franca is a member of the Central Lutheran Church and works there with an afternoon Sunday School at one of the member's homes.*

## PERSONALITIES

**Rev. Orville T. Olson** is now serving Zion Lutheran Church, Tioga, N. Dak., as vacancy pastor. His address is 309 North Benson, Tioga, N. Dak. 59952.

### Pastor Greven had surgery

Pastor Donald Greven, dean of Association Free Lutheran Bible School, had emergency surgery for removal of his gall bladder on Oct. 25. He has had several weeks of recuperation before resuming his duties at the school.

## PASTOR STRAND DOING WELL AFTER HEART ATTACK

Pastor John Strand, former president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, is doing well after suffering a heart attack during a week of meetings he was conducting in Zoar Lutheran Church, Hampden, N. Dak.

He was brought to a hospital in Devils Lake on Oct. 15 by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Ivesdal, Edmore, at whose home he was staying. After four days he was transferred to St. Luke's Hospital, Fargo. There he underwent the angio-plasty procedure to remove blockage in a main artery. He was able to return to his home near Remer, Minn., on Oct. 24th.

The AFLC rejoices in his good recovery and that there was little or no heart damage. May the Lord's blessings continue to be with Pastor and Mrs. Strand.

## The Only True Service

*All that we can give to God is praise and thanksgiving.  
This is the only true service, as He Himself says.*

*Martin Luther*

# THE WOMEN'S PAGE

## Fall Rally review

### LAKE SUPERIOR DISTRICT

Moland Lutheran Church of Mason, Wis. hosted the Fall Rally on Sept. 28. "Wait on the Lord" was the theme. Josephine Miller presided. Bonnie Roberts welcomed the ladies and Doreen Kroll led in devotions.

Mrs. Harris Van Someren led the morning Bible study on "Praising the Lord." Pastor Van Someren spoke during the afternoon session on the reasons why Christians experience adversity.

New officers elected are: Gertie Iwasko, President; Rosamund Lee, Treasurer; and Rachael Turra, Cradle Roll Secretary.

June Kakowski

### SOUTHWEST CENTRAL MN.

"Zealous for God" was the theme of the Fall Rally held October 1, in Granite Falls at Faith Lutheran. Approximately 140 participants from various churches in the district centered their thoughts that day on the verse from Galatians 4:18. Pastor Wendell Johnson led a Bible study on Nehemiah 1:4-11. He challenged the group to be zealous in prayer.

A report was given by Mrs. Wendell Johnson, National WMF President. She also talked in the afternoon pointing listeners to the eagerness and enthusiasm that the word zealous implies.

The District choir, directed by Mrs. Walter Baldwin of Dalton, sang "Channels Only." Prayer Fellowship was led by Mrs.



Mrs. Marvin Sundvold, Sacred Heart, at the rally.

David Skordahl of Pipestone. Ladies from Cokato were welcomed to their first District WMF Rally. Offerings were taken for Church Extension and the General Fund.

Mrs. Ted Berkas

### EASTERN N. DAK.

"Work while It Is Day" was the focus for 126 ladies at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Fargo on October 5. Pastor and Mrs. Charles Knapp led the morning Bible study and the afternoon session on missions in Brazil and Paraguay. They also treated the ladies to their harp playing.

Karen Knudsvig presided. She is joined by the new officers elected for the district. They are: Mrs. Joel Rolf, Vice-President; Mrs. Don Schroeder, Secretary; and Mrs. Vince Larson was re-elected as Cradle Roll Secretary. Music was provided by the Grafton ladies, Pastor and Mrs. Joel Rolf and Darline Bjornson. Shirley Schroeder was the song leader. Scripture and prayer was given by Chris Finstrom and Mrs. Olive Ivesdal.

### WEST COAST

Bethany Lutheran Church of Astoria, Oregon, hosted the rally on September 24. Mrs. Del Palmer led the morning Bible study on the theme, "Jesus, Priceless Treasure." The afternoon session was lead by Mrs. Alvin Gokong along with several other ladies who used an antique trunk to illustrate the greatest treasure, Jesus.

Rev. Eugene Enderlien, World Mission Director, gave a greeting. Lois Grothe and Vivian Forsberg led in devotions. Linda Odegaard directed the singspiration. Ladies from Astoria and Everett provided special music during the day. Marilyn Pederson, President, announced the Spring Rally would be held at Kirkland along with the Mid-winter Bible Conference. Forty-eight ladies registered for the day.

Viola Johnson

### MINNEAPOLIS

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Kenyon, Minnesota welcomed 138 ladies to the rally on October 19. The theme "Devoted to Prayer" provided the topic for Rev. Amos Dyrud's morning message. Mrs. Karen Scott, Loretto, challenged the ladies in the afternoon to a greater awareness of the

needs of missionary children.

Mrs. Burton Boyum presided. Ladies from Faith Lutheran, Shakopee, and Living Word Lutheran, Minneapolis were welcomed into the district. The Handbell Choir from Amery Free Lutheran played during both the morning and afternoon sessions. A duet was sung by Mrs. John Spreiter and Mrs. Becky Pederson of Kenyon. Mrs. Marlene Unverzagt, Kasson, led in devotions. Hauge WMF of Kenyon and Our Savior's WMF of Zumbrota provided for the coffee fellowships.

**Special note:** all cradle roll secretaries of the Mpls. District please send your cradle roll information to Mrs. Brad Nelson, Amery, Wis. 54001. Mrs. Betty Christopherson, also of Amery, was the previous District Cradle Roll Secretary.

Mrs. Harry Lindgren

### NORTHERN MICHIGAN

Redeemer Free Lutheran Church of Ontonagon, hosted the rally on September 21. The 15th anniversary of the district WMF was celebrated. Janet Tyner presided and Jill Rady welcomed the 52 ladies.

Mrs. Gerald Mundfrom, National WMF Treasurer, gave the morning Bible study. At the afternoon session, Rev. John Mundfrom spoke on the theme, "Jesus-the Pearl of Great Price." Mary Basney and Helen Sullivan shared the devotions. Special music was provided by Marie Peterson Barnett and Mrs. John Mundfrom.

To celebrate the anniversary, corsages were given to past district presidents, special testimonies were shared, anniversary booklets were given to all ladies and the Redeemer ladies served a lovely cake for the occasion.

Mrs. John Mundfrom

### WESTERN N. DAK. EASTERN MONTANA

Members of the Women's Missionary Federation at Bethel Free Lutheran Church, Minot welcomed 87 women for the rally.

The Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, former pastor of Bethel church, lead the Bible study. He and Mrs. Dalager also provided music. The Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Stanley, conducted communion service to close the rally, with a meditation by Dalager.

Members of the Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church WMF at Burlington assisted in hosting the rally. New officers elected were: Verna Iverson, Vice President and Verna Peterson, Secretary.

Connie Kinnoin



Ulrik Vilhelm Koren, 1826-1910  
Tr. Harriet R. Spaeth, 1898

Tune: Erik Hoff, 1832-1894

## Ye Lands, To The Lord Make a Jubilant Noise

The first Lutherans who crossed the Atlantic to start a new life in the New World continued to worship God in the old familiar way in their respective mother tongues. They brought with them their Bibles, devotional books, hymnals and liturgies, and wherever they settled, they established ethnic communities and set up their own "synod." Each Lutheran body was chiefly concerned with the preservation of its own former practices in scant American dress. Even new hymns were written in the mother tongue.

A typical example is this paraphrase of Psalm 100 which was written in America in Norwegian:

*Ye lands, to the Lord make a jubilant noise;  
Glory be to God!  
O serve Him with joy, in His presence now rejoice;  
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!*

*Not we, but the Lord is our Maker, our God;  
Glory be to God!  
His people we are, and the sheep led by His rod;  
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!*

*O enter His gates with thanksgiving and praise;  
Glory be to God!  
To bless Him and thank Him, our voices we will raise;  
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!*

*For good is the Lord, and His mercy is sure;  
Glory be to God!  
To all generations His truth shall still endure;  
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!*

Author Ulrik Vilhelm Koren was the first Norwegian pastor to settle west of the Mississippi River; he founded a pioneer congregation at Little Iowa, which later became Washington Prairie, Iowa. Koren was born in Bergen, studied at the University of Christiania, was ordained in 1853 and set out for Iowa with his wife, Else Elizabeth Hysing.

He served first as secretary, then vice-president of the Norwegian Synod, from 1855-1874. He was president of the Iowa district from 1874 until 1894 when he became president of the Norwegian Lutheran Synod of America, a position he held until his death in 1910. All the while, he ministered to

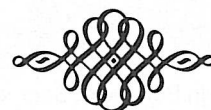
his parish at Washington Prairie near Decorah, preaching his fiftieth Christmas sermon there in 1903. He was keenly interested in church music and contributed greatly in the publication of two hymnbooks: *The Norwegian Synod Hymn Book* and the *Rythmisk Koralbog*.

His hymn was rendered into English by Mrs. Harriet Krauth Spaeth of Philadelphia, who devoted many years to the task of translating German and Scandinavian hymns.

"Hoff," also known as "Guds Menighed, Syng," was composed in 1860 by Erik Christian Hoff, also from Bergen.

The son of a smith, he entered Stord seminary at a very early age and graduated in record time at the top of his class. At the seminary he also received a good introduction to music. While teaching in Bergen, he became a lead singer in the choir at Korskirken. He studied organ and music theory at Vogel school of music and graduated with distinction. After teaching two years in Halmestrand, he accepted a teaching position in Oslo and became conductor of several choirs there as well as organist at Garrison Kirke. These were very productive years for Hoff despite his many responsibilities. He was highly regarded as an organist. His improvisations and preludes contributed to the large attendance at worship and King Oscar frequently visited Garrison Kirke to hear him play. (From *Hymnal Companion to the Lutheran Book of Worship*.)

Don Rodvold



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## news of the churches

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### from here and there

**Minnewaukan, N. Dak.** Pastor Ted Kjelstrom, Rugby, N. Dak., presented a "song sermon" at the Family Night at Trinity Lutheran on Oct. 27.

**Minneapolis, Minn.** Rev. Laurel Udden of Medicine Lake Lutheran conducts a service at the Ambassador Nursing Home, New Hope, each Wednesday at 3:30. The congregation also conducts a service every Sunday morning at Crystal Care Center on Hwy. 100.

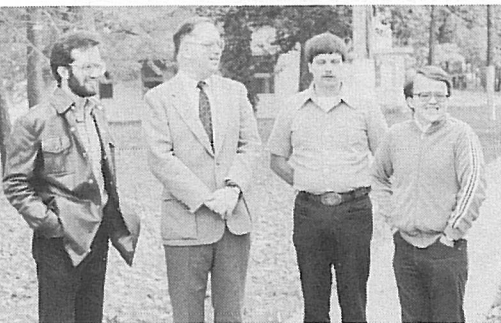
**Grafton, N. Dak.** Bethel Lutheran held its Fall Festival on Oct. 27. A potluck dinner was followed by a program of music. Proceeds are to be used for the purchase of a copier machine.

**Minneapolis, Minn.** Faith Lutheran is working on a project of getting ceiling fans for its sanctuary. Two offerings were received last month for this.

### Pews, lights available

A number of church pews are available from Hope Lutheran Church, Wyoming, Minn. For further information contact Rev. Wendell Johnson, 6633 227th Ave. N.E., Stacy, Minn. 55079 or call 612-462-4163.

At Binford, N. Dak., two chain pendant light fixtures, white frosted, octagonal with black cross in glass design. These fixtures are suitable for light replacements or additional lighting. Like new. Asking price is \$25 each or best offer. Please contact Daniel L. Oien, Sr. Call 701-676-2811 at Binford.



Left to right, Reuben Unseth, Dr. Palms, Michael Crowell and Lynn Wilson.

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## Duluth church celebrates first anniversary

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St. John's Free Lutheran Church of Duluth, Minnesota, celebrated its first anniversary as a Home Mission church on Sunday, October 20. Rev. Robert Lee, vice-president of the AFLC, preached the sermon on the meaning of the word "free" in the church's name.

During the service there was the dedication of the newly purchased hymnals as well as the reception of 21 charter members. Following the service there was a potluck dinner in the Duluth Cathedral High School where St. John's holds its services.

St. John's is a Home Mission church that was started through the efforts of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cloquet, Minnesota. Pastor Tony Stockman, the assistant pastor at St. Paul's, has been serving until St. John's will be able to arrange

for a full-time pastor through the Home Missions Committee.

Recently, Pastor Stockman has started a Free Lutheran Fellowship among the students on the University of Minnesota - Duluth Campus. The Fellowship meets each Thursday afternoon for Bible study on the Campus. AFLC members who have students attending UMD are encouraged to have their students take part in this Fellowship of Free Lutherans.

St. John's holds its services at 11:00 a.m. each Sunday morning at Cathedral High School, 1215 Rice Lake Road. Sunday School is held at 10:00, along with Bible study. Tourists coming through the Duluth area are invited to worship with us at the top of the hill!

Corr.

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## AFLTS Fall Retreat held at the ARC

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"Start writing and let God broaden your ministry." That was the message of Dr. Roger Palms, editor of *Decision* magazine as he spoke at the AFLTS fall retreat on October 14 and 15 at the Association Retreat Center. Dr. Palms challenged the seminary's faculty and students to recognize the great opportunities for spreading the Gospel and meeting people's needs through the means of writing.

In his sessions with the seminarians and faculty, he discussed the opportunities pastors have to write for community newspapers as well as secular magazines. Christian publications also have many needs. They present the pastor with a means of multiplying his gift of teaching.

Other insights that Dr. Palms shared included suggestions on effectively communicating. He stressed the importance of recognizing the needs

of people and then applying the Biblical answer to those needs. He urged the group to be observant, listening and learning where people "are at" and communicating to them the wonderful message of Jesus Christ.

The seminary retreat also included an evening of activities on Monday, October 14. A time of singing and devotions took place after the evening meal at the ARC. Students and faculty then participated in a rousing game of basketball. After the game the battered but not beleaguered players sang and shared about what God has done for them and also had a time of prayer.

The retreat participants returned home on Tuesday afternoon thankful to God for what they had learned about effectively communicating His Word. They were thankful, too, for the time of fellowship together and growing closer to one another as they serve our Lord and Savior.

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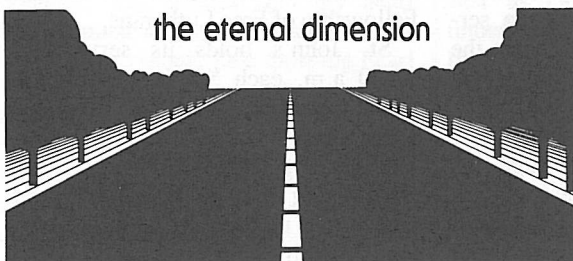
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## the importance of thanksgiving

The Apostle Paul lived in a world where much was obviously wrong. In chapter one of his Roman letter, he speaks of the sins of sexual deviation and of the people's many false gods. He makes the claim that those things had come about because people had chosen to concentrate their thoughts on those areas. Since they insisted on that, God gave them up to that kind of thinking.

That brings up the question of what should they have been concentrating their thoughts on? In verses 20-21, Paul gives the answer. They should have been concentrating their thoughts on God their Creator and on honoring and thanking Him. Honoring and thanking God should have been the controlling factor in their lifestyle.

Every year we have a national Thanksgiving Day. Are we really thankful? It seems to us that thanksgiving must begin with the realization that we are totally dependent on God for our continued being and for everything that makes it possible. It is easy to begin to see life as a series of happenings unrelated to any specific source. It is also easy to fall into the error of thinking we are doing well because we have made it happen that way. Let us not forget that there are

many people who would be doing as well as we are doing if illness or some other difficulty had not prevented them. Also, let us remember that the biblical principle has always been that God holds those who have much responsible to help those who, through illness or other misfortune, have not been able to do as well.

Do you have enough to eat these days? If you are like many Americans, you have more than enough. Do you have good health? Many do not. Do you have shelter from the elements? In this area where the winters are severe, will you enjoy the warmth of God-provided shelter in the next few months? Do you have family and friends who make life more enjoyable? God intends for it to be that way and when people live with a thankful spirit, those kinds of relationships can exist and grow. Do you have divine forgiveness and eternal salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ? Then you have very much.

We are told that the first Thanksgiving in our country was not celebrated because the year had been a good year, as we count "good." There had been no bumper harvest and sickness and death had visited that little group of Pilgrims. But there was a recogni-

tion that the Lord had not forgotten them. They could see His hand caring for them in their harsh surroundings. And there was faith to believe He would continue to care for them. So they set aside some time to do nothing but give thanks and to honor God. How about you? Even though you may have had great difficulty in the past year, can you give thanks? Could it be that a nation of thankful people would go a long way toward solving a lot of personal, family and national problems? We think so. Therefore, we urge you to spend some time reflecting on God's care for you during the past year. As the hymn says, "It may surprise you what the Lord has done" for you. We think you will also be surprised at how it will make life much more pleasant for you, even though difficult times remain with you. *How often do you say "Thanks"?*

Pastor Emerson Anderson  
Cleveland, O.

### The Apostolic Church

Today we possess mediums of publicity, property assets, educational institutions, community prestige, denied to the Apostolic Church. What a surprise, then, to discover that its activity was so broad in scope, progressive in method, charged with power, and significant in success that no modern church-work can compare with it.

Richard R. Cammerer