



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

November 1, 1988

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Cover photo: *Young Entrepreneur*
Roger C. Heubner, D.D.S.

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THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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The good old days

Text: Isaiah 51:9-16

Awake, O arm of the Lord, as in the days of old, the generation of long ago" (v. 9a).

Most everyone has some kind of a yearning for the days of old. Memories of a slower life, with its accompanying joy, peace and serenity stir the longing to turn the clock back in time. In many cases, people desire to relive the great events of history when people and nations were strong, proud and just. Or perhaps the desire is to walk with some great personage during a certain memorable occasion when the tide of historical events was dramatically changed. Maybe the desire is simply to hear the comforting words or experience one more time the gentle presence of a loved one who has long since passed away. Whatever the case may be, you would probably agree that all too often the miseries of war, depression, poverty and illness which also accompanied "the good old days" are either glossed over or forgotten altogether.

In the Church, this same hunger to experience the days of past glories also exists. Oh that God would send the stirring revivals of past centuries upon His church once more. If only He would awaken and exercise His great arm of strength as in days of old on behalf of His people. Then all would be well. But here, too, it is necessary to remember that in the days when God did exercise His great power there were also great manifestations of darkness abounding. Unbelief was present then, too, with its painful death-grip upon the hearts of many.

Isaiah's day was not unlike our own. Political powers were changing. Nations were uneasy. Powers of evil were out of control. Never was the arm of the living God more desperately needed to bring the events of the world back under control. Isaiah cried out to the Lord. And so do we. God help us. And along with Isaiah we look back to great days of deliverance. We recall the deliverance of His people from bondage in Egypt. In our minds we march once again in victory through the Red Sea with the children of Israel. As these events are recalled our hearts

are humbled in the presence of this great God who acts so wondrously. Again, personal sinfulness becomes a painful reminder of our helplessness. Repentance is demanded and we are driven to our knees in contrition. And there faith and hope are strengthened and confidence in God is renewed.

Looking back produces another effect as well. Recalling God's strong arm of the past works in us a renewed commitment to do His will in the present. World history is broken down to the basic element of each doing God's will in the individual life. And so reviewing "the good old days" as found in God's Word has a twofold effect, growth in faith and trust and renewal of total commitment to Him. To look back for other reasons would be fruitless for the Christian.

In the good old days the streets in many American cities were lit, not with bright electric lights, but rather with gas lamps. As the twilight deepened the lamplighter would work his way back and forth down the street, lighting each lamp and bringing it to a steady, soft, golden glow.

The lamplighter gradually disappeared into the distant darkness but one could always know where he was by the avenue of light he left behind him. In a spiritual sense, the avenue of light left behind marks the life of many an "old-timer" in the faith, too. The light of their lives provides for us today the steady, firm beacon light to be used of God's Spirit to encourage faith and trust and to kindle commitment to Him in our hearts. Dear God, grant that our lives do the same for generations to come. Amen.

— *Pastor Ralph Tjelta*



*by Pastor
Ralph Tjelta*

I had been in the city about a month when Senhor Carlos asked me to meet him at his office. Carlos was the president of our Parish Council. I was grasping for a handle on all that had to be done in that enormous Lutheran Comunidade Evangelica do Brasil. Carlos got right down to business.

"Senhor Pastor Odini, did you know we also do social work here in Juiz de Fora? We get surplus wheat flour and other commodities from your country. The women of the Sociedade das Senhoras divide up the sacks and cases of staple goods. You will take the labeled packages to our poor families in Villa Borboleta and Sao Pedro."

When I met Carlos for morning coffee some weeks later he was all smiles and enthusiasm about the "social work" program. I was glad they were making use of these surplus food shipments to offer at least a minimum of life support to their impoverished families. But I had a problem with it and I knew I would have to step around it gently.

I said, "I know it's a matter of sheer survival for the folks who are getting the help, but as I see it, we are still not actually doing social work."

I might as well have thrown a firecracker into a haystack. Never a man to deal in subtlety, Carlos fairly exploded.

"What do you mean, we're not doing social work?"

I must have deflated an image of immense personal pride. Nothing I could say changed his perspective in the slightest. Carlos flung the waitress 40 centavos and stormed out of the cafe.

Still smoldering, Carlos raised the social work question at the next monthly meeting of the Council and asked me to explain my bizarre point of view.

I said, "Gentlemen, we all agree the food distribution is absolutely essential. No doubt about that. But what is it costing us? Isn't it true that it's demanding nothing? Nothing of our time and energy. Nothing of personal sacrifice. Until we can bring these poor families to a place where they no longer need these humiliating handouts, I don't think we can call it social work."

The men listened politely, but their faces mirrored only a quiet impatience. As if to say, "So what do we have here? Another odd notion in the head of the Yankee norteamericano?"

I was looking for a way to put wheels under what I had been trying to tell them, when I received a gift of 50 dollars from a seminary buddy in the states. He said, "Use it any way you want to."

I asked Carlos if he knew of a family in dire need of help. He said Oswaldo Kappel, one of the men on the 14-member Parish Council, was

SMALL CAN BE BEAUTIFUL



having an extremely tough time.

Senhor Oswaldo lost his job when a local stocking industry went out of business. He was the man who maintained the machines, knew every step in the production process. When the company closed, he had to take a menial position as a quality control inspector in a shoe factory. The job left him so destitute he could not even sandal his barefoot wife and children.

I began meeting with the Kappel family on Monday nights to get to know them. Oswaldo was a descendant of German engineers, responding to a "once-upon-a-time" call of the Emperor Dom Pedro Segundo to open up the vast interior of the country with roads and bridges.

His lady, Dona Carolina, was a pretty olive-skinned Bahiana. Bright and attractive, but illiterate. In her native Nordeste, children worked in the cotton fields. School was for the family of the *fazendeiro*, the landlord.

Their six children ranged up the ladder from an infant to a girl of 13. We all sat in a circle on the floor, read the Portuguese New Testament and lingered over the assuring promises of Jesus, offering life and light in darkness.

In a coffee-time with Oswaldo, I asked if he had any skills. "I have one," he said. "I know how to make stockings."

His eyes lit up as he confided a long, long dream. To have his own knitting machine. I wondered if there was any way it could happen.

He said the owner of the abandoned factory where he used to work would gladly sell his machine, at half-price or less. "But, of course, I don't have the money."

"How much would one of them cost?"

Oswaldo cited an approximate figure in cruzeiros. I calculated the current high rate of exchange the 50 dollar gift would bring at the "cambio" on the city plaza. It would multiply into 50 thousand cruzeiros. Enough to buy a machine!

I went to the next meeting of the Council and proposed the beginning of a parish credit union, to be managed by the officers of the Council. I

"But I had a problem with it and I knew I would have to step around it gently."

by Odin
Kenneth Stenberg
Seattle, Wash.

All-Boards meeting held

The annual All-Boards meeting of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations was held on Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis. It was a meeting for all members of all standing boards and committees in the Association. The sessions were unusually well attended this year.

Rev. Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, presided and greeted the assembly with the Scripture passage I Peter 2:1-12. A number of those present took part in the prayer opportunity which was given.

Mr. Dale Hertle, consultant for the Board of Pensions, discussed the medical program for AFLC pastors and staff, explaining why it was necessary to make the recent change in health plan carriers. The benefits offered by the new carrier, Ministers Life, are almost identical with those of the previous one. It is interesting that Ministers Life was the original carrier for the Association.

Mr. Hertle stated that the AFLC must have a goal of participation by at least 75 per cent of those eligible for the program. Currently, about

50 per cent are taking part. He said that we must get our participation up within 18 months.

Recently, the AFLC has started paying ten per cent of the premiums for members of the medical plan. Pastor Snipstead explained that that is being done with monies from the Help in Service Fund, a fund largely dependent on offerings taken by the congregations, usually in October.

The Board of Pensions will be communicating further with the church about the medical plan and the need for greater participation.

The rest of the morning was spent in hearing reports from the various agencies of the AFLC. Here are brief reports on what was said.

Co-ordinating Committee

Rev. Leslie Galland, new chairman, reported that there are presently about 20 vacant parishes, although all are getting temporary service. He said that prayer for more workers should be a priority. An administration building for the Association is needed. A presentation on meeting that need may be made at the next annual conference. He mentioned the concern expressed by some that reports at the annual conferences are too long; could some of them be

SMALL

"But hope had overtaken despair. They were looking forward to a better tomorrow."

would turn over the mission gift as the initial capital. We would ask the return at a low rate of interest. I recommended Senhor Oswaldo as the first to receive assistance.

The men talked it over, asked a few procedural questions, and gave their unanimous approval. Oswaldo sat at the far end of the table with his head in his hands, fighting off tears.

We ran into various problems. The tiny Kappel house had a dirt floor. No room for a half-ton stocking machine. And it had to be anchored in cement.

An obliging neighbor offered the use of a lean-to back room where we could pour a slab. A supplier whom Oswaldo had dealt with provided a case of nylon spindles on credit.

Now a seeming eternity of late night toil and struggle to repair and adjust the delicate machine to make it produce. Finally, early one morning, a proud and smiling Carolina had a package of new stockings to carry to the open air neighborhood "feira."

Every centavo went back into spindles of nylon, machine maintenance and a monthly payment to the credit union. A little over a year after the venture began, Oswaldo brought in his last installment. And he had set aside enough to buy a second machine. We at the Council had a rousing celebration.

Dona Petronilha, an elderly spinster in the

parish, heard what the Kappels had done and volunteered to double the balance in the credit union treasury. Now there would be help for other needy families. A fledgling enterprise was feathering out and starting to fly.

Oswaldo taught his wife and daughter Olginha how to tend the machines during the day while he was at the shoe factory. At night he ran the operation alone, on into the wee hours.

It was still a rocky road for the Kappels when the mission term ended and my family and I got ready to return to the States. But hope had overtaken despair. They were looking forward to a better tomorrow.

Close mission colleagues John and Valerie Westby were assigned to take our place. Years later, when our paths crossed again, I asked John about the Kappels.

He said, "Senhor Oswaldo is doing well now. Each of his children came through with a good education. All of them have jobs and professions. Oswaldo is profoundly grateful."

A "mustard seed" reflection on doing something small. Where does it take us, here in the U.S.A.? Is there a struggling Oswaldo and a Carolina in our church community? Or outside of it, in the neighborhood where we happen to live?

(Odin Stenberg is a member of Elim Lutheran Church, Lake Stevens, Wash.)

combined? The Winter Bible Conference will be at Fergus Falls, Minn., Dickinson, N. Dak., Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minn., and Fern-dale, Wash.

The Schools

Rev. Kenneth Moland, chairman of the Board of Trustees, spoke of a faculty which is maturing and expressed gratitude for the higher enrollment in the Bible School, calling for prayer that the trend may continue.

Dr. Francis Monseth, dean of the Seminary, reported that there are six juniors this year (one of them part-time), three middlers, six interns and five seniors, for a total enrollment of 21. Inquiries for next year number seven or eight thus far. He expressed appreciation for the new faculty member, Dr. Steve Lombardo, and other staff. Dr. Monseth told of the plans for the Inter-Term courses in January. He said that all faculty members will be attending the meetings of the Evangelical Theological Seminary in Wheaton, Ill., this fall.

For the Bible School, Rev. Donald Greven, dean, told of the fine spirit prevalent in the student body and that 99 are enrolled in all, 65 of them juniors. He told the stories of how a couple of new students had decided to come. The present students come from many places, such as Sudan, Brazil, Canada, the West Coast and New Jersey, with many from northern Minnesota. He, too, spoke of new staff members and expressed thanks for the prayer support and other encouragement given the school, some of it conveyed through the summer teams. A concern he mentioned was that AFLBS is lagging at or near the bottom in percentage of receipts received from the congregations this year.

Home Missions

Rev. Elden Nelson, executive director, spoke of the desire shown by our new congregations for the Word of God and that Home Mission churches have a common concern, to secure full-time pastors and ones who preach the Word in truth and purity. Twenty congregations have pastors and are receiving subsidies. Another five are served part-time. There are three new requests for help in the work and other calls of interest have come from California, Minnesota and Ohio. Pastor Snipstead mentioned a new congregation in Wisconsin and interest in Calgary, Alta.

Pastor Nelson reported that two struggling congregations had to close. Among existing new ones he mentioned Ottawa, Ill., and Arlington, S. Dak. And neither place needs financial assistance. Home Mission finances are in arrears, he disclosed.

World Missions

Rev. Eugene Enderlein, executive director, told of having spent a month in Brazil earlier this year. The Paul Abels will be home on furlough by Christmas, for six months. His parents, the John Abels, will come in 1989, for a year, and the two furloughs will overlap about two months. There are three men currently studying at the seminary in Campo Mourao. A memorial chapel at the schools is being finished this month or next. About \$2000 more is needed to reach the project goal of \$10,000. A new boys' dormitory is to be erected at the Bible School. An anonymous gift of \$10,000 has been given, with \$4000 more needed for the two-story structure.

The church in Brazil is growing spiritually and numerically. A second congregation has been started in the Vitoria area and another near Campo Mourao. One of our students in Brazil desires to serve in Paraguay. And so the mission church comes of age and may soon become a sending church, Pastor Enderlein declared.

As to Mexico, a congregation has been formed in Aguascalientes. There are severe restrictions for the churches in Mexico. There is religious freedom, yes, but there are well-defined limits.

A tour to Brazil in April, 1989, is being planned. It is hoped that 15-20 couples can be found to make the trip. It is the desire of the World Missions Committee to send two new workers to Brazil, even three, in the next few years. Pastor Enderlein expressed the desire that gifts to World Missions come in earlier in the fiscal year and regularly throughout the year. Because some wait too much until late in the year, it has been necessary to borrow from the Church Extension Fund.

There are some individuals, the director declared, who have suggested other types of ministry in AFLC missions. These can be considered, but church planting is the primary task and whatever is done must work toward that, Pastor Enderlein said.

"And so the mission church comes of age and may soon become a sending church."

Fruit of a living faith

Helping the poor and distressed, giving them real food and drink and also spiritual comfort and help -- that is the fruit of a living faith in Jesus Christ; for He sacrificed Himself; He went about doing good; He lived unselfishly; and if we accept Him as our Saviour, He will breathe His Spirit into our hearts, and lead us to the same kind of works.

--L.S. Keyser



PEER PRESSURE

We often speak of "peer pressure." Sometimes peer pressure gets blamed for many and varied kinds of behavior among teenagers. But, really, what is this thing we call peer pressure?

Basically, it is the desire to be accepted. Sometimes it is subtle, other times it is not. Acceptance and belonging are very important to teenagers. There may be the fear of being different. This fear can cause the young person to act impulsively, thereby conforming to a group standard.

It would seem that the more insecure an individual is, the more that person will allow the pressure of age-mates to lead. Parents, Sunday School teachers and the like need to have an understanding of the positive and negative

BOARDS

Stewardship

Pastor Robert Lee, chairman, said that there has been a great turnover on the board and it has been quite inactive in the past year. He said that the board is open to suggestions as to how it can help the AFLC.

Youth Board

Chairman Joel Rolf said that the Youth Evangelism and Ministry Conference last July was good. He spoke of the Luther League Gospel Team which was out last summer and how there will be two next year. The Youth Resources Director position is half-time. He announced the dates for the Luther League Federation Convention next year as July 17-21 at Vernon, B.C.

Rev. Dennis Gray, Youth Resources director, told the meeting that old Augustana Luther League materials are going to be made available for AFLC leagues. He is also anxious to get any locally-produced Bible studies which have proven effective, for wider distribution. He said that the Youth Staffers program has worked where it has been tried. Pastor Gray suggested that the districts select youth work co-ordinators.

Parish Education

Next February Parish Ed will become a separate budget item in the Association, Pastor Wesley Langaas, chairman, reminded the group. The *Concordia Companion*, a study of *Concordia* hymns, should be ready for distribution to the congregations in a year, he reported. Ambassador Sunday School materials are being re-written. The board is thinking of reprinting old good books and welcomes suggestions of titles. Pastor Langaas also said that the board is

selling its Gestetner press, as it doesn't meet present needs in printing.

Executive director Katha Tjelta told about sales of Sunday School materials. Since August 1 and on, 4450 individual books had been sold. She said that she had conducted some S.S. workshops.

Pensions

Mr. Norman Haugen, chairman, made a few remarks, calling attention again to the Help in Service Fund and the offerings for it in October.

Evangelism

We haven't heard much in the way of results from our evangelism efforts, Lay Pastor Verle Dean, chairman of the Commission on Evangelism, confessed. There is a need for a Philip to run, to go (Acts 8). Pastor Dean spoke of the need for a full-time evangelist in the Association, a position not filled since the death of Rev. Kenneth Pentti. He shared two opportunities in personal evangelism he had while hospitalized for open-heart surgery earlier this year. (We hope that he will share these later with our *Ambassador* readers.).

Women's Missionary Federation

Mrs. Wendell Johnson, president, asserted that "being supportive" to the work of the AFLC was the goal of the women's auxiliary. She reported that the WMF has a budget of \$80,500. The offerings at the convention in DeKalb, Ill., in June were \$4500 and \$4600.

Pastor Snipstead closed the general session with some remarks and prayer. After the noon meal in the dining room the various boards and committees met to conduct their business.

aspects of peer pressure. We need to adopt ways we can help teens manage peer pressure. We need to help teens gain a more positive image of themselves.

We have mentioned already one important factor which causes teens to follow their peer group, the lack of self-esteem. We need to show teens that we accept them. We need to reassure them that we love them and think highly of them. We need to point them to Jesus, Who accepts them and loves them.

Peer groups can replace the family. This is especially true if the family is having problems or there is a lot of complaining and criticism in the family.

In some instances, youth join certain peer groups in order to be protected in

some way. There is strength in numbers. Some join groups because they do not feel secure at home. They join in order to be free from family troubles.

There are some real dangers in peer groups. One is when a youth models himself after the persons in his group. Dependent teens will quite often do this.

A youth's personal judgment gives way to the judgment of the group. The power of a group can control behavior. The group can take away responsibility for self and for the actions done within or in reference to that group.

Peer groups can rob youths of inner strength. They become dependent on the group and may seek to do anything which will keep them in "good graces" of the group.

Now in all of this we need to be careful. We must not stereotype every youth. The minority of youths are in those groups which cause damage. We need to learn to use the family, the youth group and other good organiza-

tions to produce loyalty. A loyalty first to Jesus, then a loyalty to the family. And then a loyalty to the congregation and the youth group in the congregation.

And when we say no, we should discuss the matter with the young person. We need to 1) give a reason for our saying no; 2) have alternative suggestions for things to do; 3) teach the young people how to say no to people without giving some long reason; 4) teach young people how to avoid the situation of being in threatening places; and 5) begin early in the person's life teaching him the value of having good friends, particularly Christian friends. Lastly, do things as a family. This certainly would mean attending Sunday School, church, Bible studies and Luther League events. But do start young.

Sometimes people wake up and are facing a teenager and they can't believe time went so fast. Make your family important. It isn't the amount of time you spend with your family, but the quality of that time.

*Pastor Dennis Gray
Youth Resource Director*

Christian Ed and Youth Work Seminar

Zion Lutheran, Wadena, Minn., Rev. Lynn Kinneberg, pastor, was the sponsor for a Christian Education and Youth Work Seminar. The Seminar took place on September 17. It was for the North Central Minnesota District.

The Seminar consisted of a number of workshops, centering around the needs of the Sunday School. Sessions were held for Sunday School superintendents, members of the Christian education committees, Sunday School teachers, Luther League advisors and any others interested in Christian education. A cost of \$3.50 was charged for the seminar with a free-will offering taken for coffee breaks.

This is an excellent idea and has been done in the North Central Minnesota District for a number of years. If you would like additional information on the details of this Christian Education and Youth Work Seminar, contact Rev. Lynn Kinneberg, 1441 S.E. 6th Street, Wadena, Minn. 56482.

The various pastors of the North Central Minnesota District helped in

the various sessions. Paul and Onni Anderson also led in a session titled, "Preparing for the Class."

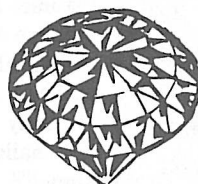
Sessions primarily dealing with youth were titled, "Youth: Contemporary Problems and Concerns," with Pastor Fred Carlson; "Youth Group Ad-

visors: How to Help Your Pastor," with Pastor Rob Lewis and "Youth and Music," with Pastor Rodger Olson.

— Pastor Dennis Gray

How can you tell a genuine gem?

A jeweler will tell you that an imitation diamond is not so brilliant as a genuine stone, but sometimes the inexperienced eye cannot



detect the difference. A simple test is place the stone under water. The imitation diamond can barely be seen, while the genuine diamond sparkles even under water.

Many of us have failed the "water test." God places us under the waters of trouble, and we no longer shine for Him. But if our faith is true, we shall shine even under the water.

Testimony from Brazil

My life was meaningless until . . .

My name is Julio Cezar Santos de Goes. Before I accepted Jesus Christ, my life had no real meaning. I lived in conformity with this world, lost and without hope. My life was full of problems and fights. Even though I was young, I didn't find meaning in life, I didn't have peace. But one day God wanted to change this life full of sin. I well remember when I asked Jesus to enter my life, and He did. He took away my unhappiness, anguish and preoccupations. It has been four years now that I am a happy person, because I have something that neither unhappiness or this world can take away: the certainty of the eternal life that Jesus has given me through His grace. The fact is that Jesus changed my life and now I am a person with hope.

God has worked a lot in my life. People have even asked me why I have changed so much. The answer is that God has transformed my life. There are two verses in the Bible that I like very much. They are I Corinthians 15:57-58: "But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." These verses have spoken

"Prayer will send forth the workers, and the right kind of workers, into the harvest. It will reach them with a heavenly call, train them in the school of God, send them to the right fields, and sustain them when they go."

—A. B. Simpson

much to my heart because through Jesus we can have victory over sin and over death. There is nothing else in the world that can give me the victory that I find in Jesus.

I am here at the Bible School, not just to pass a year, but waiting for God to show what He wants in my future. I am helping in the Central Free Lutheran Church during this year of Bible School. One of my "extracurricular" activities is learning how to play the accordion. It is something I have had the desire to learn for a long time, so I am making use of my time here to learn. My teacher says I am doing well!

I come from a non-Christian family. My older brother is also a Christian, has studied in the Bible School, and is now studying in the seminary. My home is in Vitoria, Espirito Santo, and I am a member of the Free Lutheran Church there.



Julio Cezar Santos de Goes

BOOK REVIEW

Two Minutes with God, Leslie F. Brandt, Augsburg, Minneapolis, Minn., 1988, 127 pages, paperback.

Does the title sound familiar? It may, because there was a daily devotional book by that name a couple of generations ago, written by Paul J. Hoh and published, I believe, by Muhlenberg Press.

Leslie Brandt's book has 60 chapters. The reading for each day is brief and there is an accompanying prayer. The book's explanatory sub-title says, "One Minute to Listen, One Minute to Pray."

Two Minutes with God is written for the adult Christian reader. The author tells us he has written in the hope that it "may comfort or encourage, provoke or challenge you along your faith journey."

Pastor Brandt, former Lutheran Free Church pastor and missionary, uses language effectively. His expressions aren't stilted. He is aware of modern terms and usages and uses them.

The prayers in the book may be appreciated more than the text by some readers. Their frankness is stim-

ulating. Here are two examples (excerpts from prayers):

"Forgive me, my God, for aspiring and reaching for those things never meant for me; for conscious or unconscious efforts to be top-gun or king-of-the-hill in my arena of service, for competing for a position at the head table rather than accepting my role as a servant to others. . . ."

And:

"Sometimes I think you expect too much of me. I simply cannot measure up to your high standards. Thus I am frightened by the evil forces that contend with me, depressed by my many defeats in trying to carry out your purposes, dismayed over the obstacles that impede my walk of faith. . . ."

There are a few places in *Two Minutes with God* where I wish something had been stated differently. For instance, one of his prayers begins: "I know, Lord, that I have always belonged to you." This speaks of the concept of the "fatherhood of God," something we must be careful about. We are all created by God, but we

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EDITORIALS

DISTRICT MEETINGS

Several weeks ago we sat in the meeting of our district, the Northwestern Minnesota District. It was the first one and was well attended. A fine spirit prevailed. The thought came, this is the first district meeting we have been in since the days of the Lutheran Free Church, over 25 years ago.

Something had been missing. Annually, in the old church body, we met once a year in district assembly. The emphasis was on stewardship, but the meetings brought a good representation of the congregations. It was good to be together. Going further back, we never shared in that, districts would have meetings of several days, with some business, but largely for the purposes of fellowship and inspiration. No one would attempt to have such now, although the West Coast comes closest to it with its Winter Bible Conferences.

Of course, there have been district-wide functions, such as Women's Missionary Federation and Luther League Federation rallies and conventions, and meetings to plan Bible camp programs, but not district meetings as such. We speak of Northwestern Minnesota.

Other districts have been organized earlier, some for a good many years. We are newcomers, but wondering why we hadn't acted earlier. Perhaps we can be an encouragement to other districts which may be lagging behind us, to organize also.

Two of the *Fundamental Principles* speak to the district organization concept even though they don't mention that by name. No. 7 says: "A free congregation gladly accepts the mutual assistance which congregations can give one another in the work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God."

And No. 8: "Such assistance consists partly in the mutual sharings of spiritual gifts among the congregations through conferences, exchange visits, lay activities, etc., whereby congregations are mutually edified, and partly in the voluntary and Spirit-prompted cooperation of congregations for the accomplishing of such tasks as exceed the ability of the individual congregation."

Congregations working together. And what better place to start than with those in one's geographical area. Admittedly, long distances can make cooperation and personal fellowship difficult, but a district meeting once a year is an attempt at building these and nurturing them.

Each district will form and operate with some distinctive features, but some features of organization and experience will be common to all, the support of AFLC work, opportunities in witness and sharing, and so forth.

LAI D TO REST

Over the years, yes, the centuries, there has been publicity from time to time about the so-called "Shroud of Turin." It was, supposedly, the burial cloth of Christ and some purported to see the features of the face of Jesus imposed upon the fabric.

Turin is a large city in northwestern Italy and Roman Catholic faithful have made pilgrimages there or wherever it

was displayed to see the phenomenon.

But, alas, recent laboratory tests have proved conclusively that the shroud dates back only to Medieval times, specifically, the 14th century. Three laboratories co-operated in the carbon-14 dating tests.

So that was a letdown for those who had their hearts set on the authenticity of so fascinating a relic.

Speaking of relics, the Lutheran Church hasn't put any stock in them, that is, things going back to Bible times. Not as objects of veneration, at any rate. And that is good. If we had objects Jesus had touched, for instance, a piece of board, a hammer He had used, a bowl from which He had eaten, cloth He had worn, there would be too much temptation to worship that instead of the Person.

It's good that we can't be too specific about exact spots in the Holy Land, much as we might like greater certainty. It is enough that we must locate things generally. We walk by faith in this world, not by sight. We have Moses, the Prophets, the Writings, the Gospels. We are to hear them and bow before these. The Christ is shown clearly through them. We have what we need.

The Shroud of Turin a rather recent phenomenon? That's no great cause for disappointment. How great that we have the testimony and witness of a living Lord.

Ambassador gets assistant editor

Pastor Robert Lee, an instructor at the Association Schools, has been named assistant editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador* by the Co-ordinating Committee of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. He began his work on Oct. 1. His work will be primarily to facilitate the flow of news from the Co-ordinating Committee and "headquarters" to the *Ambassador*.

We welcome Pastor Lee to this new position, a part-time one, as he continues his work at the Schools also.

Pastor Lee has been replaced on the Editorial Board by Pastor Ralph Tjelta, also a member of the Schools' faculty. The other members are Dr. Francis Monseth, dean of the Seminary, and Mr. Sheldon Mortrud, a member of the Co-ordinating Committee.

— The Editor

Letter to the editor

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE

Again it has been a long time since sending a letter your way. I have enjoyed so many of the articles and intended on making mention of them. Pastor Jerome Nikunen's articles which the Lord laid on his heart have been real meat and, like you mentioned in your editorial, really very interesting, also timely.

It has been good to hear also what is taking place on the mission fields in Brazil, also Mexico; to read the testimonies, and of those who have felt led to go into the ministry, and other places of service in the Lord's vineyard. We pray along with you that the needs for the church buildings and other facilities will be soon met. Also for more laborers sent to the fields. I feel the Lord is doing a quick ingathering when one reads of the hunger for the Word in many lands.

In our congregation here at Edmore, I have felt led to share that some men and also women carrying babies on their backs, will walk 40 or 50 miles to get to hear the Word of God, and we who have it so accessible to us find it difficult to get to church for mid-week Bible studies or to other related ministries that are being held.

I believe the one reason is there are so many distractions, many places one can be involved in; Matthew 6 is quite a good admonition of keeping our priorities straight. Romans 12:1-2 are also good verses to keep in mind. Are we taking our information from the world's standards or from the Word of God?

Regarding your question about the Third Commandment, I remember a speaker by the name of Cedarholm (I am not sure if I have spelled that right). He came on KFNW, the Christian broadcasting station from Fargo. He mentioned that he would not eat in a restaurant on Sunday; first he tried to make provision by not having to travel to a great distance. If he did, he took coffee and lunch along. Also he mentioned that his father would not allow them to read secular papers on Sunday, only the Bible and Christian literature.

Now we have so many activities

which at times involve Sundays, even from some of the schools. Play practice or some other activity. Of course, the other thought is that Sunday is the only day they can get together, be it for picnics, family reunions, boating, fishing, etc.

When one works all week, then Sunday is the only full day they have to sleep in, and then later do their own thing. This was true in my own life before I came to the Lord. What is thought important is what one will do. Maybe our churches could have three services: in the morning the regular service and in the afternoon a layman's program, and in the evening, young adults singspiration and a time of sharing. Maybe a film on missions at other times. Myself, I definitely enjoy a Sunday evening service. It completes the day. A good time to have fellowship together and share the things of the Lord. We certainly need to pray and ask the Lord for guidance as how to spend the day in His rest and Christian fellowship.

My, I did not intend to write all this but I feel that this is quite a strong issue. Where the Christians put the emphasis is what their families and neighbors see, so we have to watch our walk with the Lord, that it is the love of Christ that constrains us, and enjoy Christian fellowship.

Visiting rest homes and hospitals and shut-ins, and those who are by

1988 ANNUAL REPORTS

are now available
cost: \$4.00

write: AFLC Office
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

REVIEW

become His children only by faith. Pastor Brandt does bring that out in various places also, such as "It (following the Sermon on the Mount) will not win or earn you God's favor; that has already been bestowed upon all who open their lives to the crucified and resurrected Christ."

I could wish to make more comments but a review should not be long. I believe this book can be helpful to those who take it and read it. It was a blessing to my soul.

—Raynard Huglen

themselves is a blessed way to spend a Sunday afternoon. He blesses the giver along with the receiver and we know that it is time well spent. Also, I think as Christians we often neglect to visit with one another. This, too, is a real blessing (Mal. 3:16-17).

Mrs Reuben Ivesdal
Edmore, N. Dak.

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences Feb. 1 - Sept. 30

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN SEPT.	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL*
GENERAL FUND.....	\$ 178,997.00	\$ 8,193.73	\$105,354.51	59
SCHOOLS - (AFLTS)	99,367.00	4,848.08	49,408.60	50
(AFLBS)	156,150.00	7,212.27	68,078.92	44
HOME MISSIONS.....	317,850.00	14,051.07	128,829.88	41
WORLD MISSIONS	280,140.00	17,837.43	121,011.48	43
CAPITAL INVESTMENT.	25,000.00	2,749.67	15,053.34	60
TOTALS	\$1,057,504.00	\$ 54,892.25	\$487,736.73	46
1986-87 -	\$1,014,894.00	\$ 74,137.49	\$484,950.34	48

*GOAL 67%



President Richard Snipstead and Dr. Steven Lombardo along with the rest of the faculty hosted the traditional Friday night ice cream social.



Karen (Christopherson) Westlake and the Alumni Homecoming Committee served snacks to the afternoon football crowd which included Andrea and Gene Froehlich, Kenyon, Minn.

Homecoming '88

photos by Steve Carlson, S. Hjermstad



A perfect day for fun, football, and fellowship brought cheers from Deb Anderson, New Hope, Minn., and Carol (Twedt) Collins, Fargo, N. Dak.

Classes honored on the October 8th weekend were: '68, '73, '78 and '83. Rev. Jack Aamodt, Bloomington, Minn., was the special Saturday morning and evening speaker. Approximately 250 attended the annual festivities.



Micah Berger, Burnsville, Minn., enjoyed his share of the Saturday night "pizza banquet." He is the son of Dave and Karla (Kneeland).

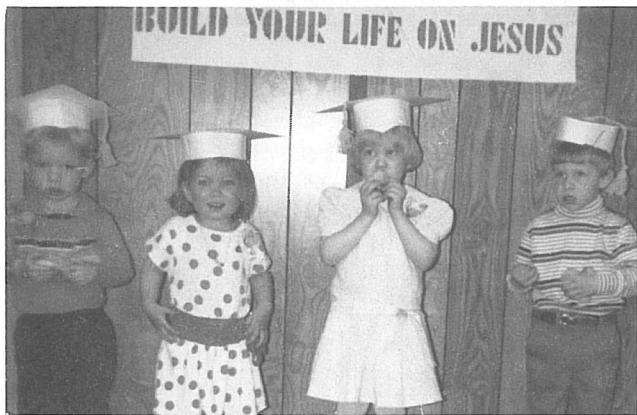


Our Saviors Free Lutheran Church Mason, Wis.



The ladies of the WMF of Mason, Wis., are displaying the finished products of "project baby" for Brazil. White flannel fabric was donated by Shirley Briley, WMF member, and gowns, diapers and receiving blankets were made. Josie Miller did the sewing and the ladies all gathered together to package the articles for Brazil. Also included were cards that the ladies prepared for use in the mission churches and Sunday School. Pictured are (front) Margaret Johnson, Josie Miller, Agnes Blaser, Martha Hanson; (back) Chris Hanson, Sylvia Van Someren, Bonnie Roberts and Hedvig Gillis. The ladies are all members of Our Saviors Free Lutheran Church, Mason, Wis.

Bethel Free Lutheran Minot, N. Dak.



The 1988 Cradle Roll Program these was Build Your Life on Jesus. ad Bethel Free Lutheran Church, Minot, N. Dak. Program highlights were: special music (Jesus Loves Me) by Lacey Windus, age 5; story presentation—The Two Builders; candlelighting for new babies in program and promotion certificates and gifts to the graduates. They were Emily Rodacker, Amber Windus, Luke Glasoe, Hannah Lofthus, Dustin Vise and Katie Rodacker.

Responding as citizens

As another election nears, our hearts fill with gratefulness that we in America can exercise our right to vote. You and I can make a difference in order "That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence" (I Tim. 2:2).

As vital as voting is, it is not enough. Duty also demands prayer and action as we alertly respond to the concerns around us.

● ABC Television is launching a new series this fall entitled "Heartbeat," which features a lesbian nurse named Marilyn McGrath. In responding to a letter of protest to the airing of this series, ABC wrote: "Although we share your concern over the content and standards of television, we must recognize that programs reflecting today's society, if presented in context which meets fundamental standards of taste and appropriateness, constitute proper television fare. We believe that the depiction of Marilyn McGrath as a lesbian who functions as a normal working person is representative of the 20 million gay men and women in this country, and is consistent with this policy."

A new moral barrier has been crossed by the introduction of a lesbian character into a prime-time series. Can we allow corruption to spread without protesting?

● The Act for Better Child Care, HR 3660 and S 1885, better known as the ABC bill, has passed through committees and is before the Congress. According to Robert P. Dugan, Jr. in the NAE WASHINGTON INSIGHT: "One third of all child care is church based, but substitute language allowing federal funds to pay for care provided by religious groups remains troublesome. Under the new language, federal funds could not be used for worship, teaching or any other 'sectarian purpose or activity.' Such broad language would prohibit prayers before meals or any public recognition of God. Congress may vote on the ABC bill before it adjourns. Our recommendation? Urge your Senators and Representative to support the alternative Child Care Tax Credit Reform Bill, HR 3944 and S 2187, which avoids religious bias and supports benefits for women who do not work outside the home."

(ED. NOTE: On Oct. 21, one Senator's office indicated the ABC bill seems to have died, but it will be back with revisions. Watch for it.)

● In Holland, it is estimated that one out of every six deaths is now doctor-assisted. The pro-life movement legally assists patients who fear that their doctors will try to kill them. Also in that nation, food and water have recently been defined as "medical treatment." Is the word "holocaust" an accurate description here?

● "With three U. S. Supreme Court Justices in their 80s, the next U. S. President could well alter the ideological balance of the U. S. Supreme Court. Political observers predict that if the high court's oldest and most liberal members — Justices William Brennan, Thurgood Marshall and Henry Blackmun — are replaced by more conservative judges, the court would practice greater judicial restraint well into the next century." (*The Wallstreet Journal* 9/3/88) From the IFA Newsletter, Oct. '88.

The list can go on, including local and state issues of lottery, so-called human rights, etc. God has called each Christian to be a salt and a light. Evil must be restrained if we are to live the godly, peaceable lives described in I Timothy 2:2. May God give each of us wisdom to know how to pray, work and vote.

1988 Family Camp attendance report

LAKE BRONSON, MINNESOTA NORTH DAKOTA (102)

Bismarck — 6, Buxton — 16, Carrington — 5, Devils Lake — 4, Edinburg — 2, Edmore — 2, Fargo — 10, Finley — 1, Forest River — 1, Grafton — 29, Grand Forks — 6, Leeds — 12, McVile — 4, Minnewaukan — 2, Tolna — 1, Towner — 2.

MINNESOTA (96)

Argyle — 4, Badger — 2, Bagley — 1, Bemidji — 1, Felton — 2, Fertile — 4, Fosston — 1, Goodridge — 3, Greenbush — 14, Karlstad — 2, McIntosh — 2, Minneapolis — 2, Newfolden — 15, Roseau — 5, Thief River Falls — 30, Willmar — 3.

SOUTH DAKOTA (2)

Summit — 2.

BRAZIL (2)

Vila Velha — 2.

Grand Total: 203 (1987 — 211; 1986 — 181).

Children and Youth: (Included in camp grand total)

Teens — 17 (1987 — 17)

Children — 61 (1987 — 67).

cont. on p. 16

Northwestern Minn. District holds meeting

The Northwestern Minnesota District of the AFLC held its first annual meeting on Sun., Oct. 9, at United Lutheran Church in Greenbush. About 100 persons were in attendance.

Host pastor, Philip Rokke, led the two services. At the first one, at 3 o'clock, Pastor Milo Gudim of Argyle preached the sermon on the theme "More Than Conquerors" (Rom. 8:37-39).

Following a coffee break, the business session was held at 4:30. Rev. Larry Severson, Roseau, chairman of the pastors' fellowship, presided. There was considerable discussion about goals and purposes. Rather than organize at that time, it was decided to elect a 12-member committee to make some specific proposals for a meeting in the fall of 1989. The members are Mrs. Farrell Erickson, Dr. Lyle Mattson, Martin Johnson, Tom Fugleberg, Reuben Gunderson, Emory Flaten, Milford Lange, Wm. Waterworth and Marwood Hunstad, and Pastors Rokke, convener, Gudim and Raynard Huglen. Huglen.

A delicious scalloped potato and ham supper was served by the women of United.

Rev. Philip Haugen, faculty member of the Association Schools, represented the AFLC and spoke at the evening service, reporting on the work of Schools and Missions. He greeted the assembly with Is. 26:3, 4.

Three new pastors in the district attended their first district function: LeRoy Flickinger, Newfolden, Terry Wold, East Grand Forks, and Martin Christiansen, Badger.

Official notices

The following pastors were accepted on the regular clergy roster of the AFLC at the September meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee: Robert Giles, Phoenix, Arizona; Robert Koepp, Fosston, Minnesota; Norman Dornquast, Weslaco, Texas; John Skeie, Morris, Illinois.

(The last three pastors on the list have been on the Fellowship Roster for the past year.)

Mr. Mark Olson, DeKalb, Illinois, has been included on the Lay Pastors' Roster by action of the Co-ordinating Committee.

New Congregation accepted: Calvary Lutheran Church, Arlington, South Dakota.

ROSENIUS BOOK AVAILABLE

It has been called to our attention that the classic devotional book by Carl Olof Rosenius, *Daily Meditations*, is available at Lutheran Colportage Book

Store, 2101 Chicago Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. 55404. The price is only \$2.50 for a hard cover book or in lots of five or more, only \$1.00.

Wisconsin churches install pastor

Pastor Thomas Olson was installed at two services on Sun., Sept. 18, one at Section Ten Lutheran, Cumberland, and the other at Timberland-Ringebu Lutheran, by Rev. Richard Snipstead, AFLC president.

Pastor Snipstead brought the morning message, reminding us that as Christians we are all to be ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Special music was sung by the choir and a duet by Randy and Karen Moe.

Dinner was served at Section Ten by ladies of both churches.

We praise and thank the Lord for this very special day and are reminded again of His promise in Ephesians 3:20.

— Mrs. Orrin Nyhus



Pictured are these officers with the pastors: back row, left to right, Earl Merry, Pastor Snipstead and Orrin Nyhus; and front, Forrest Benson, Marvin Ness, Pastor Olson, Arnold Hagen and Dick Heinecke. Not pictured is Dean Benson.

from here and there

Minneapolis, Minn. — The Wednesday night Bible studies at Faith Lutheran are now centering on the Book of Philippians. A course on the Augsburg Confession has recently been completed.

Pastor and Mrs. Laurel Udden of Medicine Lake Lutheran hosted a tour of Israel, Sept. 18-29.

At evangelistic meetings at Morgan Avenue Lutheran, Oct. 9-12, Rev. Herbert Franz, Dollar Bay, Mich., spoke on the theme "In Times Like These."

Wyoming, Minn. — Rev. Jay Eberth was installed as pastor of Hope Lutheran on Sun., Oct. 23. He is the first full-time pastor at Hope.

Tioga, N. Dak. — Special services at Zion Lutheran, with Rev. David Molstre, Fargo, N. Dak., as speaker, conclude tomorrow (Nov. 2). They began on Sun., Oct. 30.

Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, N. Dak., preached at special meetings in Beaver Creek and Norman Lutheran Churches, Oct. 2-5.

Newark, Ill. — In the adult Bible studies at West Lisbon Lutheran, there was a film series shown Sept. 28 to Oct. 19, entitled "Who Switched the Price Tags?" The films challenged Christians to rethink society's value system.

Eben Jet., Mich. — Rev. James Johnson, son of Calvary Lutheran, came back from Reva, S. Dak., where he serves, to speak at four evening services, Oct. 9-12. The messages were based on the Book of Titus.

Cokato, Minn. — "The Wait of the World" was the theme of the mission festival at Good Shepherd Lutheran,

Oct. 28-30. Among the speakers were Pastor and Mrs. Eugene Enderlein of Minneapolis. The AFLC FLY Team also took part.

Mason, Wis. — The annual Children's Reformation Festival was held at Our Savior's on Oct. 31. It was "a fun-filled evening in a Christian environment."

Badger, Minn. — About 100 people visited the new parsonage in Badger on Sun., Sept. 25. Coffee and cookies were served. The house, now occupied by Lay Pastor and Mrs. Martin Christensen, was built by Badger Creek and Oiland Lutheran Churches.

Amery, Wis. — The Home Builders' Fellowship met at the church on Oct. 22. Tacos and ice cream were the menu. The theme of the program was "God's Order for Parents."

Bismarck, N. Dak. — The installation service for Pastor Kerwin Sletto was held on Sun., Oct. 2, with Pastor Eugene Enderlein, Minneapolis, officiating, at Calvary Lutheran. A fellowship dinner was served after the service and the afternoon was spent viewing slides of our AFLC missions, shown by Pastor Enderlein.

Newfolden, Minn. — Westaker Lutheran has chosen the New King James Version Bible as its pew Bible. Various persons are placing them as memorial gifts.

Preaching missions

Edinburg, N. Dak.

Grace Lutheran Church
James Rasmussen, pastor
Nov. 6-9

Rev. Dale Mellgren, Tioga, N. Dak.
speaker

Ferndale, Wash.

Triumph Lutheran Church
James Fugleberg, pastor
Nov. 6-10

Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis,
Minn., speaker.

Drummond-Mason, Wis.

Drummond and Our Savior's Lutheran
Churches
Harris van Someren, pastor
Nov. 10-13

Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, Minn.,
speaker

Willmar, Minn. — Rev. John Rieth, Amery, Wis., spoke at special meetings in Zion Lutheran, Oct. 30-Nov. 2.

Dalton, Minn. — A Luther League Youth team from AFLBS visited the parish youth at Tordenskjold Lutheran on Sun., Oct. 23. The team was led by Mark Johnson, a graduate of the Bible School. A youth meeting was held in the afternoon and the team put on a service at the church at night.

Kasson, Minn. — Mt. Sion Lutheran had a farewell fellowship dinner on Aug. 28 in honor of Marlene Unverzagt who moved to Minneapolis on Sept. 1, where she had accepted the job of bookkeeper for the AFLC. Marlene and her family were charter members of Mt. Sion in 1971 and will be missed very much. She had held these offices in our congregation: Sunday School superintendent and teacher, Women's Missionary Society positions and hostess for the young adults, opening her home for their meetings once a month. She was presented with a gift.

—*Harriet Trygstad*

Minnewaukan, N. Dak. — New members were initiated into the Teens Club at Trinity Lutheran on Sept. 25 in a meeting at the Kevin Thompson home.

Services in Phoenix

Rev. Robert Giles, now on the Fellowship Clergy Roster of the AFLC, is conducting services each Sunday in Phoenix, Arizona, for Triumphant Life Lutheran Congregation, 3817 No. 15th Ave. Inquire locally for the time of the services. Pastor Giles' address is Box 128, 4735 W. Olney Ave., Laveen, Arizona 85339. His phone number is 602-237-3916.

If you are in the Phoenix area, you are encouraged to attend these services.

ARC FAMILY CAMP DATES SCHEDULED

The Association Retreat Center Board announces these dates for the 1989 Family Camps there: July 2-8 and August 6-12.

Both weeks begin Sunday evening and close on Saturday noon.

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

Dalton

Mrs. Selma Fossan, 88, Sept. 25,
Zion.

Roseau

Carl Melvin Jensen, 68, Sept. 28,
Spruce.

Thief River Falls, Minn. — Lay Pastor J.A. Grimstad of Our Saviour's Lutheran showed slides of a 1981 trip to Norway at the Family Night service on Oct. 2.

Ferndale, Wash. — The exterior of the parsonage was painted this past summer. Two unfinished rooms in the basement were also finished and the whole basement floor is to be carpeted.

Janesville, Wis. — The new congregation started here has chosen the name Trinity Lutheran. It is being served by Lay Pastor Kenneth Thoreson.

Personalities

Rev. Roy Johnson, Mentor, Minn., has accepted the call to serve as pastor of Abiding Faith Lutheran Church, Ortonville, Minn., an AFLC Home Mission congregation. Pastor Johnson presently serves the Winger, Minn., parish (Dovre, Union Lake and Maple Bay) and the date for the conclusion of his ministry there has not yet been determined.

Robert Halvorson, a 1986-87 student at Association Free Lutheran Bible School, has accepted a staff position with Emmaus Lutheran Church, Bloomington, Minn., as high school youth director. Bob and his wife, the former Naomi Monseth, recently became the parents of twin boys, Luke and Joshua, and are making their home in Bloomington.

Rev. Ted Berkas, who formerly served Faith Lutheran, Granite Falls, Minn., is now serving Calvary Lutheran in Wallace, S. Dak., and began his ministry there on Aug. 1. He is commuting back and forth from Granite Falls, where his wife and son will be living until school is out next spring.

The address for **Pastor and Mrs. Leslie Galland** is 6745 Hallmark Drive, Eden Prairie, Minn. 55346. Their phone number is 612-934-1731.

Rev. Wallace Jackson, Perham, Minn., is interim pastor at Emmanuel and Hauge Lutheran Churches, Kenyon, Minn. He began his work in September.

Argyle, Minn. — Rev. Milo Gudim was installed as pastor of Alma Lutheran, rural Argyle, on Sun., Oct. 2, by Rev. R. Snipstead, AFLC president. A congregational dinner followed the service. Pastor Snipstead also preached at the morning worship at Our Savior's Lutheran in town, the other congregation in the parish, which Pastor Gudim has served for several years.

Roseau, Minn. — The parish fall festival for Rose and Spruce Churches was held on Sun., Oct. 16, with a service at 10 o'clock.

TRUE BASIS FOR GOOD WORKS

Much comfort and inspiration also arise from the consciousness that, being justified by faith, true believers have a true basis for good works. Their motives have been purified by divine grace, so that now they work for Christ, not *to be* saved, but because they *are* saved; not to earn salvation, but out of love and gratitude to Christ, their Redeemer. He only is the happy and contented Christian who can say:

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.
Nothing in my hands I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling."

L. S. Keyser

Christian ed seminar in Ishpeming

The Christian Education Committee of Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ishpeming, Michigan, recently sponsored a two-day Christian Education Seminar with Pastor and Mrs. Ralph Tjelta as guests. Mrs. Tjelta, Director of Christian Education of our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations led the sessions on Saturday, October 1st, sharing the ministry of Christian Education in the congregation. Her presentations were very encouraging to the teachers and others who attended. She shared concerning the practicalities of teaching and the necessity of basing that teaching on the Word of God. Pastor Tjelta shared in the ministry of confirmation instruction and Bible study.

On Sunday, Mrs. Tjelta shared with the younger ages, while Pastor Tjelta was with the older grades and adults in Bible study. Pastor Tjelta also assisted in the ministry of Holy Communion and brought the message for the morning!

Members of Calvary Lutheran Church of Eben Junction were also in attendance.

— Corr.



The first time this picture of new members at New Luther Valley Lutheran in McVile, N. Dak., was printed (Sept. 20), the names of four of those pictured were omitted. Today we want to include them all. They are, front row, left to right, Raymond Thara and Angela Rudd; middle, Alan Twedt, Mrs. Gelaine (Donna) Tweed, Mrs. Bert (Genevieve) Jensen, Michael Thara, Karla Ruud, Robert Ruud, Mrs. Roger (Ruth) Quanbeck, and Mrs. Mark (Jane) Quanbeck; and, back, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon (Ardis) Twedt, Gelaine Tweed, Bert Jensen, Mrs. James (Donna) Thara, Mr. and Mrs. Elden (Peggy) Ruud and Pastor Wesley Langaas. Not pictured are Carol Maisel and Duane Twedt.

Concert of prayer

"*Standing in the Gap*" has been a life-changing challenge for earnest Christians throughout the centuries. God's Word tells us, "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isaiah 59:2). Later in that same chapter God looks for an intercessor to stand *in this gap* and was astonished that there was "no one to intercede" (v. 16).

In recent years, David Bryant's book *In The Gap* has stirred lay people in churches and students in schools across our nation to be *World Christians*. Our hearts are challenged as we face the facts: There *is* a very real gap! The human condition of sin separates us from God. *Jesus*, of course, has Himself stood in the gap by dying in our place and paying for our sins. But each one must hear this Good News, personally repent of sin and trust in Him as Savior and Lord. Simply stated, the sin problem has been bridged, but each person must respond in personal faith.

Jesus sends you and me forth to stand and serve *in the gap*. Today, over three billion people stand apart from the Savior, blocked from an effective witness of the Gospel by geographical or cultural or theological or other human conditions. It is for them that Christ still calls and empowers Christians to stand *in the gap*.

One of the most effective ways you and I can stand in this *gap* is to *pray*. Pray alone and pray in a *concerted effort* with others... but *pray!* On November 18th a grand Concert of Prayer is planned at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Thousands of Christians from scores of churches and schools will gather to *pray* for lost people.

Just think of it! The Hubert Humphrey Metrodome, which rocked with thunderous roars of cheers last fall when the Minnesota Twins won the World Championship of the baseball realm, will now respond with the beautiful sound of thousands of Christians quietly, earnestly, fervently praying for lost people at home and abroad to be brought to faith in Jesus Christ.

Join us at the Metrodome for this great Concert of Prayer on Friday Night, November 18.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class

CAMP

OSCEOLA, WISCONSIN

(The numbers in the parentheses indicate those who attended the first week of camp, July 3-9. The second week of camp was Aug. 8-14.)

IOWA (28)

Ames — 5, Jewell — (2), Radcliffe — (2) 7, Roland — 10, Story City — (2).

ILLINOIS (4)

Earlville — 1, Sycamore — 3.

MICHIGAN (2)

Ishpeming — 2.

MINNESOTA (257)

Anoka — 1, Bethel — 1, Blaine — 2, Brooklyn Park — 6, Butterfield — (3), Circle Pines — 4, Cloquet — (10), Co-kato — (11) 12, Comfrey — (2), Crystal — (7) 6, Duluth — (1), Eagan — 5, Edina — (1) 1, Esko — (2), Fergus Falls — (5), Fertile — 5, Forest Lake — (4) 7, Glenville — (2), Golden Valley — 4, Granite Falls — (3) 1, Kandiyohi — 11, Kenyon — 2, Lindstrom — 4, Litchfield — 4, Mankato — (1), Maple Grove — 1, McIntosh — (1), Minneapolis — (4) 11, Monticello — 5, Moorhead — 5, New Hope — (3) 11, Nicollet — 6, Northfield — 9, Ogema — 2, Plymouth — 5, Roseau — 11, Sacred Heart — 7, St. Cloud — 2, St. Hilaire — (1), St. James — (2), St. Louis Park — (2) 6,

St. Paul — 4, Spicer — 13, Stacy — (6), Thief River Falls — (1) 1, Upsala — 2, Wanamingo — 5, Warren — 1, Wyoming — 2, Zumbrota — 1.

NORTH DAKOTA (37)

Abercrombie — (6), Adams — (6), Fargo — (3), Grafton — 5, Grand Forks — 1, McVile — 1, Portland — 6, Wahpeton — (2), Williston — 5, Wyndmere — (2).

OHIO (7)

No. Olmstead — (1) 6.

SOUTH DAKOTA (22)

Lake Norden — (3), Nunda — (2), Oldham — (9), Ortleigh — 2, Sinai — 4, Volga — 2.

WISCONSIN (81)

Amery — (27) 10, Barronett — 1, Bloomer — 2, Clear Lake — (3), Colfax — 2, Cumberland — (2) 1, Deer Park — (10) 4, Eau Claire — 1, Grantsburg — 2, LaCrosse — 2, Milwaukee — (1), Osceola — (2) 6, Prairie Farm — (4) 1.

TOTAL: First Week — 161; Second Week — 277. **GRAND TOTAL:** 438 (1987 — 507; 1986 — 472).

Statistics on Children and youth:

Pre-School — 49 (70); Elementary — 87 (112); Junior High — 41 (56); Senior High and College — 28 (36, Sr. High only).

If traveling distance prohibits you from attending, I urge you to gather in small groups in your homes and churches on November 18 to join your hearts and voices in this great CONCERT OF PRAYER.

Pastor Eugene Enderlein
AFLC World Missions Director

Prayerless pews make for powerless pulpits
