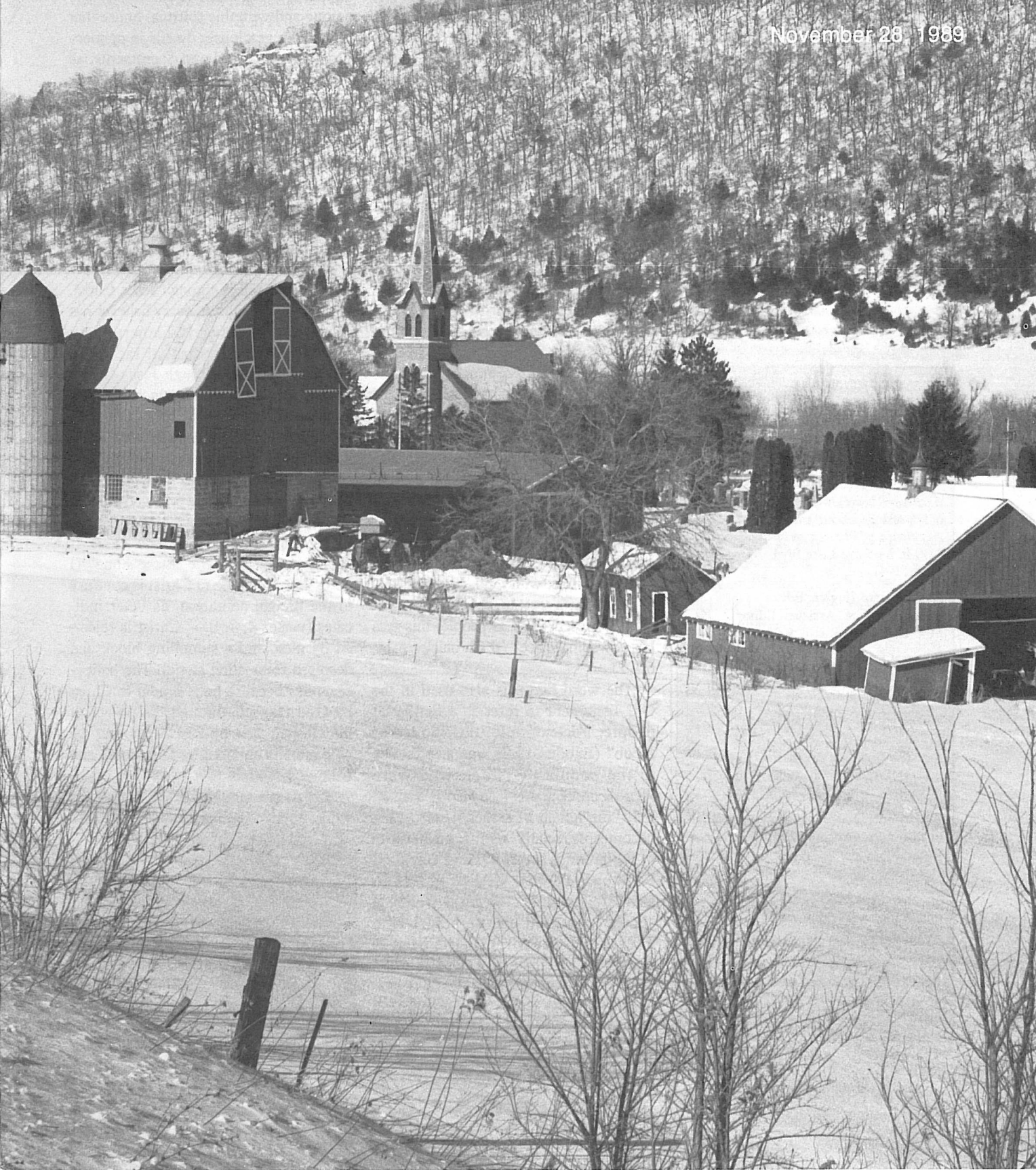


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

November 28, 1989



LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

COVER PHOTO

Winter in Coon Valley, Wisconsin
Roger C. Huebner, D. D. S.

Volume 27 Number 22

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

is published biweekly (except for the first issue of July and the second issue of August) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

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Subscriptions: \$10.00 per year.

Write to:

The Lutheran Ambassador
3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

All communications concerning contents of this magazine should be addressed to: Rev. Raynard Huglen, Editor, Newfolden, Minn. 56738.

Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn., and additional mailing office.

USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413

Postmaster: Send address changes to *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.

Studies in I Peter

In I Peter 2:1-3, the Holy Spirit through Peter describes believers as those who have put away all malice and guile and hypocrisy and slander. This description of the believer is a Gospel declaration of what God has done in the life of the Christian through the means of grace. Peter also says that the believer is one who has tasted that the Lord is good and who longs for the pure milk of the Word.

I Peter 2:4-8

The main thought of verses 4 and 5 is the statement, And you yourselves "are being brought up as a spiritual house." Peter is here continuing his description of God's gracious work on behalf of the believers. The believers are being built by the Spirit of God through the means of grace into a spiritual house.

Peter uses the word "spiritual" to emphasize that he is not talking about a physical house of brick and stone. The word "spiritual" also indicates that the builder of this house is the Holy Spirit of God. The significance of the spiritual "house" is seen in light of the Old Testament. The word "house" is used in the Old Testament to refer to the temple (Psalm 69:9; Isaiah 56:7; see also John 2:17 and Luke 19:46). The "house of prayer" or "Thy house" was the temple where the people could go and, through the priest, meet with God. It was in this Old Testament temple that God was graciously present for His people; this was His "dwelling place" (II Chronicles 5:14; 6:1, 2).

The word house is also used in the Old Testament to refer to a family of people. For example, the "house of Jacob" (Exodus 19:3) was a reference to the people of Israel, who were Jacob's descendants (see also II Samuel 6:5, "the house of Israel," etc.). This becomes especially significant because of the promise given to King David (II Samuel 7:11-16). God promises to David's seed (II Samuel 7:12) a "house" that will endure before Him forever (II Samuel 7:16). The Seed in Whom the promise to David is *ultimately* fulfilled is Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:16); the house that He builds is not a house of brick and stone, but a

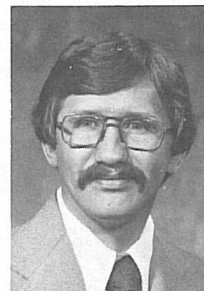
A spiritual house

spiritual house consisting of born-again people who are indeed the temple of God (Ephesians 2:19-22). It is the awesome privilege of the Christian Church (believers both Jewish and Gentile) to be this spiritual house (I Peter 2:5). It is among and with this spiritual house that God today graciously dwells in connection with His Word and Sacraments, as He by His Spirit abides in and among His people (I Corinthians 3:16; 6:19).

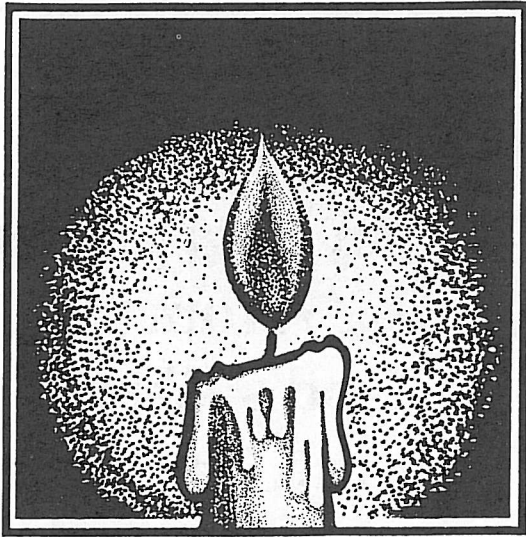
Peter continues, in I Peter 2:5, and says that believers are being built as a spiritual house "for a holy priesthood." This is a description of what is called "the universal priesthood of believers." This priesthood of all believers was prophesied by Isaiah (Isaiah 56:6, 7). The Word of God says that through Jesus Christ every believer is a priest; through Jesus Christ, who is our High Priest, every believer has access to the heavenly Father; every believer offers up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. These spiritual sacrifices which we offer as priests are not sacrifices of the flesh and blood of animals, as in the Old Testament, but are sacrifices of a broken and contrite heart (Psalm 51:17), of praise and thanksgiving, of good works and sharing (Hebrews 13:15, 16).

Peter also describes the believers as "coming to Christ, the living stone" (I Peter 2:4). To come to Christ is contrary to the human condition, as Peter indicates (verses 4, 7, 8 — Christ is rejected by men, and a stumbling block and despised foundation stone). The believer comes because he is drawn to Christ by God Himself through the power of the Gospel. It is by His mercy that we who are His children by faith come and believe.

Let us praise Him for His marvelous work.



by Pastor
Philip Haugen



On Advent and Light

a Child is born
a Son
is given

In his book *Worship is a Verb* (Word Books, 1985, p. 33), Robert Webber speaks of the Advent season as the beginning of "the cycle of light" in the church year. (This cycle is completed with Christmas and Epiphany. The seasons of Lent, Easter and Pentecost are referred to as "the cycle of life.") I find these descriptions helpful as I reflect on the significance of the church year. In my personal meditation time during the last several Advent seasons, the word "light" has emerged as dominant in my consciousness. Never has this been more true than since the birth of my son Luke.

Before Luke was born, my wife and I spent much time discussing possible names for our coming child. Being one who loves the Old Testament, a number of good Old Testament names came quickly to my mind. It was my wife who suggested Luke as an option and, even though the name doesn't occur before the New Testament, I came to fully agree with her that Luke would be the name of our child (provided, of course, the child was a boy!). Luke, which comes from the Greek language, means "light." Our son would be thus named in anticipation of the joyful light he would bring into our home; he has not failed to live up to his name!

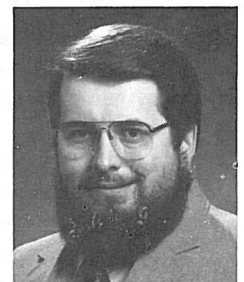
Allow me to share just two examples with you: 1. I trust I'll never forget the Advent season when Luke was two years old. We were driving to the store where we bought seed to feed birds. Christmas would be coming soon and, as we drove, I said to him, "Isn't Christmas fun?" In keeping with his age, his initial response was "No, Dad, it's not fun." Then, in his next breath, he said, "It's joy" — and a tired Daddy experienced bright light shining afresh! I also received living commentary on the

psalmist's words, "From the lips of children and infants You have ordained praise" (Psalm 8:2, NIV). 2. For the past two months, Luke's virtually exclusive play activity has been the re-enactment of Bible stories. His days are spent building (and tearing down) Joshua and the walls of Jericho, Noah and the ark, Daniel in the lion's den and, recently, the fiery furnace which Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego survived with God's help. Just yesterday I came home to see Jesus' miraculous feeding of the 5,000 relived, using wicker baskets, popcorn and an assortment of miniature people. To see the bright light in Luke's eyes each time he uncovers his blocks to find Daniel alive in the lion's den has given new vitality to these old, yet ever new, foundational stories of our shared faith.

Indeed, as I have been seeing the world anew through the eyes of first an infant, then a toddler, now a little boy, some of my cynicism has begun to melt away in the overwhelming light of Luke's simple wonder and enthusiasm. It is true — a little child named "light" has brought abundant light into our hearts and home!

Advent, the beginning of the season of light, is the time we prepare for the coming of an infinitely more wonderful child than any son or daughter any of us could ever conceive. During Advent, we prepare ourselves for the coming of a baby who brings *light* that beams with immeasurably more candlepower, who brings *joy* that will ultimately wipe away all tears, who brings *hope* that will not disappoint for all eternity! The prophet Isaiah spoke of this child's coming as accomplished fact, so confident was he of God's ability to keep His promise. About 700 years before this child's first advent, Isaiah wrote: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil...For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder, and His name will be called 'Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting

"...as I have been seeing the world anew through the eyes of first an infant, then a toddler, now a little boy..."



—by Rev.
Jerry M. Holmaas
Chassell, Mich.

(The third of four articles)

The Word of God is meant to be a warning to the unsaved and an encouragement and guide to the Christian.

There are at least three outstanding, breathtaking encouragements which every dedicated Christian does well to take to heart in order to be inspired to carry on in the Christian warfare.

One, as Christians we receive a new nature, a nature which does not sin and which is pleasing to God. *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit"* (Rom. 8:1).

And because of this God looks upon us as His children and loves us more than any parent would love his or her children. *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the Sons of God"* (I Jn. 3:1).

"It is to such that eternal life has been promised. *"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ"* (Rom. 8:17).

Three major encouragements from God's Word for the Christian

"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive; the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (Col. 3:24).

We hear and read little about the new nature of the Christian. It would be good to hear more. We do hear much more about the old nature. It

ADVENT

"Again this Advent season, we live 'between the times' of His comings."

Father, Prince of Peace.' Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over His kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this' (Isaiah 9:2-3, 6-7, RSV).

A *child* is born, a *son* is given — and great light bursts forth, bringing in its wake joy and rejoicing, peace, justice and righteousness "from this time forth for evermore." Clearly the child to come is far from ordinary; clearly the child is Immanuel, "God with us;" clearly, the child is the Lord Jesus Christ — come the first time in the soft light of Bethlehem's manger and coming again in dazzling brilliance as King of kings and Lord of lords!

Again this Advent season, we live "between the times" of His comings. We prepare to celebrate His first coming, but in our busyness we must not forget to prepare for His always imminent return. When he returns, may the Light not find His people consumed in darkness.

Dear Holy Christ-Child and coming King, create in me a consuming longing for You. Illuminate my darkness, O Jesus, for it is overwhelming. Dear Light of the world, shine *in* me; shine *through* me, that though dark I be in myself I may blaze forth with light *in You!* May others

thus see not me, but You, Lord of all light. Even so come, Lord Jesus.

Amen.

Biographical Sketch

Rev. Jerry M. Holmaas was born in 1952 in Thief River Falls, Minn., the son of Stanley and Ruby Holmaas. He was raised at Newfolden, Minn., and graduated from high school there. He is a graduate of Association Free Lutheran Bible School and Moorhead (Minn.) State University. He attended the Association Seminary for two years, interning at Chassell, Mich., where he now serves. He studied at Wheaton College Graduate School, Wheaton, Ill., eventually gaining a Master of Arts Degree in Old Testament Studies. He is a graduate of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren Theological Seminary, graduating in 1981. He taught New Testament Greek for one year following graduation.

Pastor Holmaas was united in marriage to Ruth Gunderson, Strandquist, Minn., on July 14, 1974. He was ordained in 1982, and has served congregations in Hendricks, Minn., Toronto, S. Dak., and Ottawa, Ill., before coming to Maranatha Lutheran, Chassell, this year. He is currently on the Fellowship Clergy Roster of the AFLC.

Pastor and Mrs. Holmaas have one son, Luke, age three.

seems that one of the keys to revival is to inspire the dedicated Christian with encouragement as he continues in his fight for righteousness. For the child of God to realize that he has a nature, a new nature which is pleasing to God, is certainly an encouragement to him.

However, even though as Christians we have a new nature, to our disappointment we still have an old nature which can never please God. This is a real problem to the Christian. We wish we didn't have this sinful nature which we have to constantly wrestle with and keep under control in order that it does not dominate and ruin our life.

The old nature with its will to sin can be compared to weed seeds in the garden or grain fields which tend to grow, crowd out and destroy the good plants. There are two ways to keep the weeds under control and there are two ways to deal with our old nature. One, we can make direct war on the weeds by digging them up or poisoning them. Likewise, we can make direct war on sin and our old Adam by exposing them to be enemies of our soul and in repenting and refraining from continuing in those sins. And, of course, this needs to be done.

But another way is to encourage the good seed to grow in our fields and crowd the weed seeds out by not giving them room to grow. Likewise, we can encourage the new life in Christ to grow and rule in our life and not allow the old Adam to influence and dominate our life. This second way is often the better, more sure way.

The second great encouragement that God gives us in His Word is that if we confess our sins He will forgive those sins. *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"* (I Jn. 1:9).

As Christians, we do have an old Adam which keeps aggravating and tormenting us all the days of our life here on earth. But God gives us a weapon, a means whereby we can subdue this enemy of our souls. He offers forgiveness of all sin to all who repent. We need not let our sins stop or hinder us in our fight for righteousness.

This does not excuse us from straightening

out that which we have made crooked and can make right. It doesn't excuse us from righting the wrongs we can correct. But there is so much wrong in our lives, even as Christians, because we are careless, weak or get carried away by the desires of the flesh, that we can never undo or make right again. To confess and admit such wrongs is all that God asks and He will blot such deeds from our record and they will never throughout all eternity be held against us.

But God not only forgives the wrongs we have confessed, but He also forgets them: *"For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more"* (Jer. 31:34b).

If God will forget our confessed sins, there is no reason that we should have to remember them. We, too, have every right to forget what has been confessed. However, the devil doesn't want us to forget and often accuses us of that which we as Christians have every right to forget, because he wants to discourage us. But, thank God, we do not need to listen to such accusations.

The third encouragement has already been mentioned in this series of articles, but it bears repeating. Jesus goes with us into the Christian warfare. He doesn't just put a burden on our hearts and turn us loose with a command to go forward, but He goes with us, giving guidance, direction and help every step of the way. *"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness"* (Isa. 41:10).

How good it is to know that we do not need to fight the Christian warfare alone or in our own strength. We may feel weak and most incapable at times, but even in our weakness Jesus promises to be our strength, ever giving what is needed to carry on. Nothing is expected of us in the way of service that our God doesn't provide so that we can do it. *"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong"* (II Cor. 12:10). *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (Phil. 4:13).

Next time — "Some Practical Suggestions in Maintaining Our Mental Health."

— By Rev.
Gerald F. Mundfrom
Osceola, Wis.

Behold, what manner of love the father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the Sons of God. I John 3:1

Brazilian Bible School begins a second-year course

The Escola Biblica Luterana Livre, after ten years of existence, expanded to include a second year of Bible school, beginning in 1989. Many first year students had shown the desire to continue on for a second year. The second year is called "Vocational Bible Course" and is directed toward more practical work, so the student is more equipped to work in the church or as a missionary. Each student chooses to develop an area of ministry throughout the year in one of the three local churches in Campo Mourao: Central, Lar Parana and Cohapar. Some of the ministries chosen this year were music, children's clubs, and individual and group Bible studies.

The young people are a very integral part of the churches here in Brazil and much of the church work is in their hands, so we hope that this second year of Bible school will equip them for the tasks before them.

The men who feel called into the ministry will first complete two years of Bible school before continuing on into the Seminary (Faculdade Teologica Luterana Livre).

On March 7, classes began with four eager second-year students. They each had studied the first year of Bible school at different times and each had come from a different church, but their purpose was the same — becoming better prepared to work alongside their pastors, and to continue developing abilities God has given them.

We would like for them to share some thoughts with you:

1. Please tell us a little about yourself, and what year you studied at Bible School:

Gilberto: My name is Gilberto Costa Cruz. I am 21 years old. I was born in Parana, but I live in Rondonia. In 1988 I studied the first year of Bible school and now I am back for the second year.

Sonia: My name is Sonia Martins. I am 21 years old and have been a Christian for five years. I play the electric

guitar at Central church where I am a member and I love this ministry of music that God has given to me. I try to do my best to honor my Lord. I studied the first year of Bible school in 1986.

Cleunice: My name is Cleunice Lima dos Santos and I am 26 years old. I have four sisters and five brothers; my family is not Christian. I accepted Christ into my life when I was 17 years old, during a daily vacation Bible school at the Lar Parana Lutheran Church, where I am a member. I studied the first year of Bible school in 1983.

Franca: My name is Rosildo Franca, but everyone calls me Franca. Generally, I am a calm person. I like to practice sports, especially volleyball, and when I have time I like to read, especially about other cultures and customs. I like to listen to music and sing. I like the work I am accomplishing here at the Bible school and my goal is to study in the Seminary. I started the first year of Bible school in 1985 and finished at the end of 1986. Between starting and finishing I spent a year in the army (an obligation here in Brazil).

2. What did you think of the time between your two years of Bible school?

Gilberto: There were only three months between my first and second year of Bible school. The studies last year helped me much in my spiritual growth.

Sonia: During the time between my Bible school training, I was able to perfect my guitar playing and do many things in church which I enjoy, such as hospital visitation. The first year of Bible school helped me to grow spiritually and to be better prepared for life. During the time between these two years of Bible school I continued with my secular studies also.

Cleunice: The five years between my years of Bible school were good ones. I was able to develop my talents

in church. I have been Sunday School secretary, teacher for juniors, secretary and treasurer of the youth group. The first year of Bible school helped me to grow spiritually, as I learned much from the Word of God. The struggles I had brought me closer to the Lord and with each victory I was strengthened. I think every young person should spend a year or more studying God's Word. In my secular studies God helped me also. I always prayed that God would give me understanding and wisdom and through His help I was able to finish 2° grau and I am looking forward to going to college.

Franca: The years between the first and second years of Bible were good ones. I was able to develop myself more in two areas of church ministry, as president of youth groups and as a Sunday School teacher for adults, both of which contributed to my spiritual growth. My first year of Bible school was very edifying because I was a new Christian and I learned so much about Jesus. Coming to Bible school was one of the best decisions of my life. I found work in the office of a brother in Christ and I also continued my studies and finished 2° grau. It was a struggle, working all day and studying at night, but God gave me strength and victory.

3. Why did you come back for the second year of Bible school? What are your goals while here?

Gilberto: I came back to school with the desire to perfect the talents the Lord has given me. I am learning to play the recorder and guitar. I also am working on my oratory, to use to take the Word of God to others.

Sonia: I returned for the second year because I felt that God had something for me here. He gave me a heart for music and I came here to be able to learn more and perfect myself in this area. This year I want to understand music well, for the area of praise in the church is very important and needs to be done well.

year students

Franca: It is an important question. When I finished 2° grau, I naturally looked toward taking the entrance exam and getting into college. It was an hour of decision, of what to do and what profession to seek. I had this in my mind all the time. But I need to say that since I finished the first year of Bible school, I also thought about working for the Lord full-time and felt that I should really seek this out, so that I would know what the Lord's will is for my life. So I decided to come back to Bible school and dedicate this year to the Lord and seek His direction as to whether I am suited for the ministry, or if I should go to college. I can say that, with each day that passes, I am feeling more and more the desire to serve God in the ministry. I am thankful to God for all that He has given to me and for the privilege of being a minister of the Word of God.

India visit completed

Rev. Eugene Enderlein and Rev. Einar Unseth returned safely on October 19th from their trip to India. The journey was in response to repeated requests from Gospel workers in the Guntur area who had previously been in fellowship with the AFLC, to investigate the possibility of renewed ties.

The two men presented their report to the World Missions Committee meeting in November and hoped to provide sufficient documentation so that a decision can be reached concerning the future.

Sincere thanks is expressed to *Ambassador* readers who have remembered the travelers in their prayers. Continued prayer is encouraged for the work in India and for the Committee as they look to the future of our involvement in this outreach.



Left to right, Franca, Cleunice, Gilberto and Sônia.

4. What are your goals for the future? How do you plan to use this course in the future?

Gilberto: I need to finish my 2° grau and then I am thinking about going to the University. I'm not sure what major to get yet, but wherever I am I want to be witnessing for Christ.

Sônia: When I leave the EBLL at the end of this year, I want to finish my secular studies. I plan on getting married and establishing a Christian home. I want to use what I've learned this second year to help more in church, in the praise ministry, and I want to gain souls for the Lord.

Cleunice: I am praying about it. I like to work with children and adolescents and in this vocational course I am learning so much about how to be a good teacher. I have the opportunity to put into practice what I am learning in the classroom, with girls' club on Saturdays and Sunday School in the morning and afternoon on Sundays. I would like to use this vocational Bible course to help others come to Christ, especially my family. I have an adolescent Sunday School class and I have been able to transmit much to them.

Franca: As I have said, I feel God calling me to the ministry and I know I can use what I have learned this year in the future to the honor and glory of God.

5. What do you think of today's youth?

Gilberto: I think that the youth of today have much that distracts them from the realities of life and even helps them run from their consciences.

Sônia: I think the youth of today, besides being far from God, are badly informed and badly oriented. They don't live in a well-grounded environment where they can have disciplined lives.

Cleunice: The world is full of bright lights that attract many young people and take them to their ruin. Young people today are trying to direct their own lives, and are becoming more and more lost because of their sins.

Franca: Unfortunately, the youth of today are like mannequins. They think they are smart, keeping up with fashions and saying that church is for the squares. They are slaves to material possessions; they work, study, struggle to gain a better job, have a better salary, so they can spend it on better clothes, travel places, have better possessions, to call attention to self. They become slaves trying to find happiness and many become enslaved by drugs and other depravities that wreck their lives. It is sad, when I think they could be Christians, even ministers of the Word of God, great men in the world. They don't know that to have happiness all they need to do is give their lives to Christ.

continued on p. 16

the Festival of Lights

—by Mrs. Kenneth (Ruth) Tweed
McHenry, N. Dak.

My calendar says the Jewish festival of Hanukkah (Chanukah) coincides with our Christmas. Hanukkah begins on December 23 and lasts eight days, so while we celebrate our Saviour's birth and light our Christmas trees Jewish families light candles in remembrance of a long battle and a victory 125 years earlier.

Growing up Lutheran in a rural community, I had never heard of Hanukkah as a child. We were amused when our oldest girl was small and played "Festival of Lights" with toy animals. We were visiting friends whose small son was in kindergarten in a city school. His mother said the most popular child in his class was Jewish, so all the children were interested in her holiday. Resemblance to the real holiday was probably not noticeable but the children had a "Hanukkah celebration" with all available playthings.

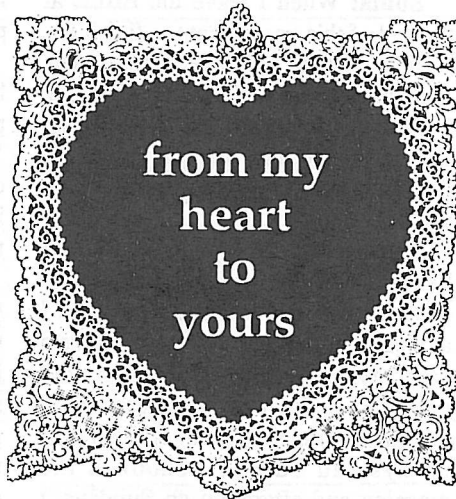
I'm sure that many readers know more about the season than I but I thought I would do some research and share it. Encyclopedias and a book entitled *To Be a Jew* by Rabbi Haydin Donin provided information.

Hanukkah is not an important or sanctified day among the Jewish holidays. It is celebrated as an event of special historical significance. It is listed in the book as a "post-Biblical holiday." It has nothing to do with our Christmas but perhaps its nearness to the Christmas holidays gives it cause for Jewish families to make more of it for the sake of their children. I've read stories about parents giving in to their children's wish for a Christmas tree. (One father would not have it so they decorated a Hanukkah Bush.") Gifts are exchanged. It is customary to give the children coins (gelt) and a special top called a "dreidel." A dreidel has four sides on which are printed the Hebrew letters for the words, "A great miracle happened here."

The Jewish calendar changes from year to year so the holiday, although observed on the 25th day of the winter month Kislov, is not necessarily at the

same time as Christmas but is always in December or January. It marks the victory of the Maccabeans after a three-year struggle against the Assyrian-Greek regime. The books of Maccabees are not pleasant reading. They contain gruesome details of gory battles and cruel tortures. This particular struggle ended in 125 B.C. The temple in Jerusalem was recaptured after being defiled by heathen idols and immoral practices. The word, "Hanukkah" means "Dedication." At that time the temple was restored, cleansed and rededicated. (A reference to the "Feast of Dedication" is found in John 10:22.)

Calling it the "Festival of Lights" comes from the ritual of lighting the Hanukkah menorah in the home every evening during the eight days of the celebration. The Hanukkah menorah is a candelabrum with eight branches. The lighting is done as soon after nightfall as possible. A new candle is lit each night and these blessings are repeated:



"Blessed art Thou; Lord our God, King of the universe, who has sanctified us with His commandments and commanded us to kindle the Hanukkah light," and "Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, King of the universe, who has performed miracles for our forefathers in those days at this time."

On the first night, a third benediction called the "Sheheheyanu" is recited: "Blessed art Thou, Lord our God, King of the universe who has kept us

in life and sustained us to reach this season."

According to the book there should be a pattern in lighting the candles. Each night one more candle is lit and it is always added to the left but the lighting is done from left to right. No reason is given for this. After each lighting the people sing and chant prayers and special songs. I found it interesting that the lights are *not* to be utilized, not even to light a new candle. A service candle known as the "Shamish" is kept for that purpose. The menorah should be kept by a window to testify publicly of the Hanukkah miracle.

Literature on the subject tells that while the temple was being re-established in 125 B. C., there was little oil for the lamps but each day there was enough and it lasted for the eight-day period. Rabbi Donin makes no mention of this in *To Be a Jew*, however.

It is considered praiseworthy for each family member to have a menorah but it is not necessary. There seems to be no rule about who should light the candles but it is noted that a woman may light the menorah for the entire family.

In *The Hiding Place*, Corrie Ten Boom wrote about helping their Jewish guests celebrate Hanukkah in 1943. A menorah was found and lit while Eusie, who had been a cantor in the synagogue, read the story from Maccabees. Jews and Christians together sang the songs which she described as being "haunting, melancholy music." The reminder of past sufferings and victory must have been a source of comfort to the captive Jews.

This article is meant to be informative, not necessarily spiritual. We could dwell on trusting God and the testimony of the candle but that would be superficial. Yet, as I read this over, I see something in the celebration by the Gentiles that might illustrate the spirit of the season that we are entering now.

The children playing Hanukkah on the living room floor were imitators. It continued on p. 10

LIFE FOR MODERN MAN

One of the past themes for Bible Sunday, celebrated at this time of year, was "Life for Modern Man."

The Bible is an unusual book and is in a class by itself. If it were the work of man by himself the world would have produced another equal to it by this time, but that hasn't happened. The Bible is the work of God through human agents or instrumentalities. As the Catechism puts it, "The Spirit of God revealed to them (the writers) what to speak and write." We call this the *inspiration* of Scripture.

Go into any bookstore and you'll find a multiplicity of books. Most of them have limited sales. Some of them should never have been written. Nothing compares with the Bible. Most of us have not one, but several, perhaps many, copies of the Bible and New Testament in our homes.

This is called the "modern age." No doubt every age has called itself "modern," but we are more so than any past age.

This is a well-educated period of history. A couple of generations ago many didn't complete high school. Later, although graduates of high school, few went on to higher education. Today, perhaps the majority of high school graduates take some college work. Modern man is educated. There is much self-education, too. There is a great increase in knowledge, particularly in science. The majority of the scientists there have ever been are alive today. Computers have stored a tremendous fund of facts for instant recall and

use. Man has access to all of this information.

There is a good life expectancy in our time. Aside from the pre-Flood days, this one offers mankind the best longevity. In some eras life beyond the 40s was considered old age. Fifty years ago golden weddings were indeed a cause for celebration. Today we read of not so few who are honored on the 60th, 65th and even 70th anniversaries of their wedding vows. Life expectancies have gone beyond the 70-year mark. Furthermore, medications today have eliminated a good deal of pain which formerly had to be endured.

Man today has more things for a comfortable life. This writer remembers the time there wasn't a radio in his childhood home. Now television is readily available for those who want it and homes may have not only one but two or three sets. Some years ago the operation of an automobile in winter was difficult. Today the problems are minimal and we come and go much as we desire. Air travel has brought far away places within easy reach in a matter of a few hours. Home comforts are many. Many household operations can be done by electrical power. Our homes can be heated automatically. Frozen and pre-cooked foods make meal preparation easy. Microwave ovens make some preparations a matter of a minute or two.

Nevertheless, modern man is beset by real concerns. Cancer and heart disease remain difficult health problems. The disease AIDS has raised a fearful specter on the world's

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Our President Writes

STEWARDSHIP

I believe that this is an opportune time for me to share some thoughts on stewardship with our Lutheran Ambassador readers. I do so because there is a special need in our AFLC at this time and I believe that our people want to know of such a need.

We are all familiar with the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. We are told that after a long absence the master returned and settled the account with each servant. It was a sobering day, especially for the unfaithful servant.

This parable contains a truth of which we need to be mindful also in our day. There will be a day of settling accounts for each of us. Paul tells us in I Corinthians 3:12 that every man's work will be revealed because "the Day" will bring it to light. Our work, our stewardship, will be tested by fire. May we not be ashamed before Him at His coming.

It is good for each of us to remember what we have received. It is on that basis we can know what God is expecting of us. The Word tells us that "unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required."

When we compare ourselves to millions in other parts of the world, we will have to admit that we are most richly blessed. Thousands in our own land are homeless, with all

their personal belongings gone through the ravages of earthquake or hurricane. We have been spared. We have a stewardship for which God will hold us accountable.

I have strongly stressed personal stewardship and accountability. There is a purpose in my doing so.

We are rapidly approaching the end of the fiscal year for our AFLC. There are pressing financial needs in every area of the work. The total amount contributed for our benevolences so far this year is slightly ahead of last year's giving. However, our current budget is 24% higher than it was a year ago. Current receipts are running well behind the budget needs. Frankly, we are at times finding it difficult to meet payroll and to stay current on bills.

The month of November has been designated as the month for a "love-offering" for the AFLC. If each congregation would participate in that effort, current deficits could be eliminated. If there are congregations that have not participated in "love-offering" for the AFLC, it is still not too late. Individual "love-gifts" are also welcome.

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2). We have a tremendous stewardship committed to us in the AFLC. May we be faithful, for one day we will have to give account of that stewardship.

—Pastor Richard Snipstead

horizon. There are more labor-saving devices than ever before, the work week is shorter, but life seems busier and many Americans and Canadians find it hard to relax.

While there is relative peace in the world in 1989, the world has some very difficult "hot spots" where resolution seems impossible. In our own countries some very ugly incidents occasionally erupt.

We are confronted in our time by an unthinkable drug traffic with its attendant heartbreak of suffering, tragedy and death. Not to be left out is alcohol, which some may term the "gentle drug," but which also leaves great physical and emotional problems in its wake, sometimes death.

This is a day of changing moral codes. Men and women air and debate sexual perversion openly on TV as though God and His moral law didn't exist at all.

But now we think of *life* for modern man. He is different from those who have lived before. He has seen great changes. There are people living today whose lifetimes have spanned most of the really great changes in mankind's history. Think of it!

And yet man is still so much the same. The sins are the same — anger, hatred, profanity, jealousy, immorality, idolatry, stealing, unkind words, disregard for the Lord's Day. The fears are still the same, the fear of illness, of death, of financial failure, of not being liked or accepted, of not making it in one's job or occupation. The desires of people are

the same as they have always been, of finding purpose and meaning, of having hope of life to come.

The Bible brings the answers. Like Augustine of old, who got his answer through a child's voice saying, "Take and read!" and turned to Romans 13:11-14, countless people have turned to God's Word and read and had their lives changed. Listen to the testimonies the Gideons tell us about, how people's lives were changed as they read the Scriptures, or read the stories told by the Bible societies people.

The Bible has a message with a three-fold aspect. First, in exposure to God's law, a sinner is to recognize his sins and bring them to Christ. Where life has gone wrong, this must be admitted. Second, there is the invitation in the Gospel to believe in Jesus Christ and accept His work of atonement. John 3:16 says it so well. And, third, he must bear witness of the One who has been merciful to him (Romans 10:10). The new faith must be shared in order to be kept. All of these are possible only through the work of the Holy Spirit, who will come where He is no longer resisted.

There is *life* for modern man, including "mod" man, who seems so far out. The only real and lasting changes will come as modern man comes to grips with the timeless Scriptures and their unchanging Christ. We trust that *Ambassador* readers are enthusiastic supporters of the Bible societies and Gideons International and privately, too, give gifts of Bibles to family members and others.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

was fun for them and they were cute. Soon they would be imitating something else.

The Ten Boom family was also imitating. They didn't think about it, but they were imitating Christ. They became like the people they were befriending. As you remember, they were ready to give their lives for these people and some of them did. They not only shared the Festival of Lights — they shared the *Light* of the world.

I've written about a beautiful custom but it is time to center my attention on another custom, our Christmas celebration. In my preparation I may be like the children imitating a holiday; even the pageants, the creche by my Christmas tree and the carols on the stereo may be part of the make believe. But again, there is the reality, the sharing of the Gospel, the giving and the receiving — that makes the season special. There are lights everywhere. Let us pray that the glittering and

blinking lights don't outshine the *Light* — the *Light* that came at Christmas, the fulfillment of a Promise.

"The people who walked
in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt
in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined"

(Isaiah 9:2).

WHEN HE COMES AGAIN

Our blessed Redeemer came the first time in weakness...But when He comes again, He will come in all the fullness of His divine power, and the wicked nations shall flee from Him, and shall call on the hills to fall on them and hide them from His face.

L. S. Keyser

CORRECTION TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

The contributions of two congregations in the Dalton, Minn., parish were inadvertently omitted from the Annual Report for 1989. The information is given here.

Zion: Total—\$11,655.00, Gen. Fund—\$3,162.00, Schools—\$2,332.00, Home Missions—\$2,733.75, World Missions—\$2,587.75, Capital Investment—\$419.00, Non-Budget—\$298.92.

Sarpsborg: Total—\$19,908.00, Gen. Fund—\$11,658.00, Schools—\$1,362.00, Home Missions—\$537.50, World Missions—\$848.50, Capital Investment—\$352.00, Non-Budget—\$5,100, Church Extension—\$50.00.

The Office regrets these omissions from the Report.

Correction: The picture captions on the bottom of page 5, Nov. 14th *Ambassador* were reversed. Our apologies to Mr. Jacobson and Mr. Sorkness.

News, notes, etc.

The 1990 Luther League Leadership School will be sponsored by Pastor Donald Greven and the Association Free Lutheran Bible School in Minneapolis, Minn. Dates for the school will be July 16-20 and will be limited to about 200 teens.

The theme will be "Rightly Dividing The Word of Truth." At this time, the Youth Board is writing various persons to be on our teaching staff. Workshops will be held which will help you to be a better witness for Christ.

Brochures will be mailed out sometime in March. Costs this year will be only \$25.00, which will include lodging and meals at the Bible School.

Pre-registration is a must! There is no way we can guarantee you to be part of this leadership conference if you simply show up without registration. Since the number of people at the Luther League Convention was nearly 700, we are expecting the number of registrations for this event to be high, too!

Pastors, youth advisors, together with any other interested adults working with teens, are especially encouraged to attend. There will be sessions which will enable you to be more effective in the opportunities that are before you.

The Leadership School is geared to aiding mature, Christian young people to be more effective in their witness. *Christian teens are not the church of tomorrow nor the leaders of tomorrow. They have a vital and important place in the church of today.*

You teens will be going into situations at school, as an example, where only your witness will be heard. Therefore, this conference will help you in helping your peers and will give you and your advisors pointers on how to make your Luther League or youth group your very own.

Now is the time to place this event on your calendar and to begin to talk it up! Don't wait until later! Make this conference an important event,

from our youth worker

one that you, your Luther League officers or your pastor will want to attend!

We are urged to pray that the Lord will lead in the planning of this event and for the 1991 Luther League Convention.

At the Luther League Convention the following were elected to positions of leadership in the Luther League Federation. Pastor Terry Wold, P. O. Box 645, East Grand Forks, Minn. 56721 was elected to be the president, replacing Pastor James Johnson of Reva, S. Dak. Earl Korhonen, 38 Birch Drive, Esko, Minn. 55733 was elected to be the treasurer, replacing Randy Erickson of St. Louis Park, Minn. Other officers are Eric Westlake, vice-president, 7238 South Camino Del Arco Iris, Tucson, Ariz. 85746; Mark Johnson 6633 227th Avenue Northeast, Stacy, Minn., also a vice-president; Robert Halvorson, 8435 Second Avenue South, Bloomington, Minn. 55420, devotional life secretary, and Martina Johnson, 1825 9th Avenue S., Moorhead, Minn. 56560, secretary.

Youth Board Elections

The Youth Board elected officers at the Association Retreat Center on Tues., Oct. 3, when the All Boards' meeting took place. Pastor Joel Rolf, Radcliffe, Ia., was re-elected as chairman and Pastor Dale Mellgren, Tioga, N. Dak., as vice-chairman. The secretary is Pastor Keith Quanbeck, Camarillo, Calif. He replaces Mr. Dennis Christopherson, Amery, Wis., whose term will be up in June. Also on the Youth Board is Lay Pastor Mark Olson, Ottawa, Ill.

Showing Interest

A Friends of Youth Fund has been set up and will be announced very soon. This opportunity will allow people to donate at least \$5.00 toward the support of youth ministry since the persons who give will be in prayer for the young people in our church.

—Pastor Dennis Gray

continued on p. 15

letter to the editor

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS
Re: The editorial "Two Holidays," October 17.

Thanksgiving and Christmas are special days by law as national holidays. In the past many churches had services on these days. Gradually church doors were closed, which included some Lutheran. This gives the impression that the chosen birthday of Christ really wasn't that important. Christmas Day became like any other day in the week so far as the church services were concerned.

Flag burning is wrong but if one has another interpretation, then they have a right to follow their desires.

A football injury is part of the game. When an injured player is carried off the field, a substitute comes in and the game goes on. To us, this is

comparable to churches who do not observe Christmas Day as a church holiday regardless of the pain it causes others who do not agree with this practice.

If Christians do not feel that Christ's birthday should be recognized as sacred regardless of the law of the land, it just may be taken off the list as a national holiday. Sinister activists discredit much of what was sacred in times past. Those who were part of that era have a rich heritage. Lives who reject it are devoid of understanding.

Anyone forced to conform, note there is a gradual change everywhere in thinking what we call evolution to which the prophet pointed and of which the nations are not cognizant.

Mrs. Paul Schilla
Dickinson, N. Dak.

women's page

McIntosh, Minn., WMFs at Centennial



Trinity and Mt. Carmel WMF ladies sponsored an ice cream stand at the town's centennial. They gave away pencils with Isaiah 55:6 printed on them.

Fall Rally Review

The Southwest Central Minnesota District WMF held their Fall Rally on October 3, at Scandia Lutheran Church. Theme for the day was "Strength in God's Word" from Isaiah 40:8b. Missionary and Mrs. John Abel shared in song and word.

The South Dakota-Nebraska District WMF Fall Rally was hosted by the Slim Buttes WMF, Reva, on September 15. "God's Unchanging Word" was the theme based on Isaiah 40:8. Mrs. Lyndon Korhonen, Culbertson, Mont., was the guest speaker.

The Minneapolis District WMF Fall Rally was October 21, at Living Word Lutheran Church, Eagan. I Cor. 3:9 provided the theme, "Co-laborers with God". The morning session featured eight ladies sharing how God has opened opportunities to share Christ in their various work places. Missions Director, Pastor Eugene Enderlein and two members of the summer FLY team, Scott Schierkolk and Blair Johnson, presented the challenge to spread the Good News of salvation in Brazil, during the afternoon session.

On September 23, the Western N. Dak. Eastern Montana District WMF met for their Fall Rally at Bethel Free Lutheran, Culbertson, Mont. The theme, "Looking Back, but Pressing Forward" (Phil. 3:12-14), was selected to also honor the North Dakota Centennial. Many ladies dressed in their centennial dresses. The dinner was served family style on tables using china and old-fashioned table linens. Connie Kinnoin, district president,

Wadena, Minn.



Mrs. Helen Schueler was honored by the Zion Free Lutheran WMF. Her sister, Mrs. Gladys Tebben placed the pin on in behalf of the WMF.

Ray, N. Dak.

Beaver Creek WMF honored these ladies at a recent meeting: Ardith Sheldon, Janice Harney, Linda Odegaard and Vivian Ferguson. Also at the meeting, an "In Memoriam" service was held for Petra Andeaon Kamp.

gave a brief history of the district WMF. All past presidents of the district were honored along with Mrs. Grace Severson, a past national president. Mrs. Lyndon Korhonen, current president was also given a corsage and gift. Mrs. Karen Knudsvig, Buxton, N. Dak., executive secretary of the WMF, was the guest speaker for the day. Charlette Qually and Jeanne Sheldon were elected vice president and secretary.

The Eastern North Dakota District

Honorary Memberships Colfax, Wis.



Five ladies from Faith Lutheran Church of Runing Valley, rural Colfax, Wis., received Honorary Membership pins at the September WMF meeting. Those receiving pins were: Carol C. Gustum, Carol A. Gustum, Gert Sparby, Doris Rosenberg, and Doris Nelson.

Everett, Wash.



Calvary Lutheran WMF presented Mrs. Isaac Larsen with an Honorary Membership pin. Mrs. Alan Hansen (left) gave the pin to this dedicated lady who faithfully visited shut-ins for many years.

if it has been awhile



since you've been to an AFLBS Christmas Concert

Don't miss it this year!

December 10, 4 p.m.

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Mpls.



Jesus Came, The Heavens Adoring

Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring,
Came with peace from realms on high;
Jesus came for man's redemption,
Lowly came on earth to die;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Came in deep humility.

Jesus comes again in mercy,
When our hearts are bowed with care;
Jesus comes again in answer
To an earnest, heartfelt prayer;
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Comes to save us from despair.

Jesus comes in joy and sorrow,
Shares alike our hopes and fears;
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us,
Glads our hearts and dries our tears:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Cheering e'en our failing years.

Jesus comes on clouds triumphant,
When the heav'ns shall pass away;
Jesus comes again in glory;
Let us then our homage pay,
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Till the dawn of endless day.

Godfrey Thring
(from the *Junior Hymnal*)

Norway, Illinois church gets first full-time pastor in 150 years

Fox River Lutheran Church in Norway, Illinois, claims to be the oldest Norwegian congregation in America, founded in 1839 by Elling Eielsen. The building and names have changed several times. Although the present church was built in 1862, it's been extensively remodeled and well kept over the years.

Now Fox River has taken another historic step of faith. For the first time in 150 years, they bought a parsonage and called their own full-time pastor.

Attendance is about 95 at Sunday worship.

Rev. Melvin Meyer (see picture) was installed on Oct. 1 by President R. Snipstead. Numerous area pastors assisted, including Rev. Maynard Halvorson who faithfully served Fox River part-time the past eight years. Rev. and Mrs. Meyer come to us from



Left to right, standing: Pastors Richard Long, Mark Olson, John Skeie, Leslie Galland, Mr. Roy Hope, soloist, Odell Kettleson, and Dennis Gray; seated: Maynard Halvorson, President Richard Snipstead and Melvin Meyer.

the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod where they were in Beulah, N. Dak., and Waukegan, Ill. After serving an independent church, Rev. Meyer worked in construction and a lumber yard. The move from Waukegan was well-timed for the family since the

youngest of their four children just started college. Rev. Meyer says, "I appreciate Fox River and the AFLC for emphasizing personal salvation, holiness, informal worship and Bible study."
— *Corr.*

Personalities

The new address for Rev. Christian S. Oswood is 8052 Bloomington Avenue South, Bloomington, Minn. 55425. Pastor Oswood is temporarily serving as interim pastor of an independent congregation in Ironwood, Mich., while awaiting a call in the AFLC.

The address of Rev. Melvin Meyer, who serves Fox River Lutheran Church, Norway, Ill., is 3476 N. Rt. 71, Marseilles, Ill. 61341.

IN MEMORIAM

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

MINNESOTA

Thief River Falls

Mrs. Hazel Christenson, 85, Sept. 28, Our Saviour's.

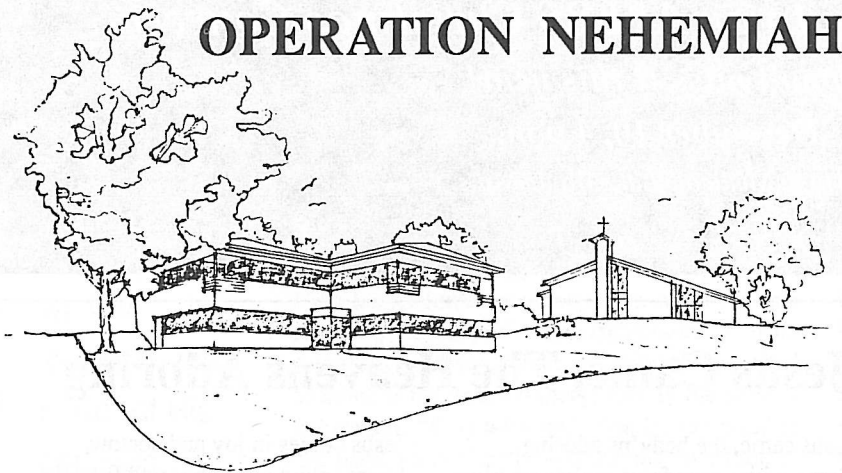
ILLINOIS

Earlville

Kenneth Charles (Chuck) Todd, 61, Oct. 24, St. Petrie.

Leland

Howard Hatland, 72, Oct. 24, St. Petrie, Earlville.



"Let Us Rise Up And Build"

The Co-ordinating Committee, in response to the directive of our last Annual Conference to build a new Headquarters Building, has appointed a committee to secure finances for this project. Committee members are Mr. Jim Bjorgan and Lloyd Carlson, co-chairmen, Pastor Donald Richman, Mr. Ernest Miedema, Pastor Richard Snipstead, Pastor Les Galland, and Pastor David Barnhart. The committee has appointed Clifford Johnson of St. Paul's Lutheran in Cloquet, Minn., to be Director.

The theme verse is Nehemiah 2:18: "Let us rise up and build," and the identifying name is Operation Nehemiah.

A major building program is quite often a time of testing for God's people. The committee covets your daily, continuing prayers, asking God to bless richly.

We will keep you informed of the progress of our mutual effort in each issue of the *Ambassador*.

Clifford Johnson, Director

from here and there

Badger, Minn. — Pastor and Mrs. Martin Christensen were in Frontier, Sask., for some days in connection with the wedding of their daughter Shannon to Kenneth Hundebly on Nov. 11. They formerly lived in Frontier.

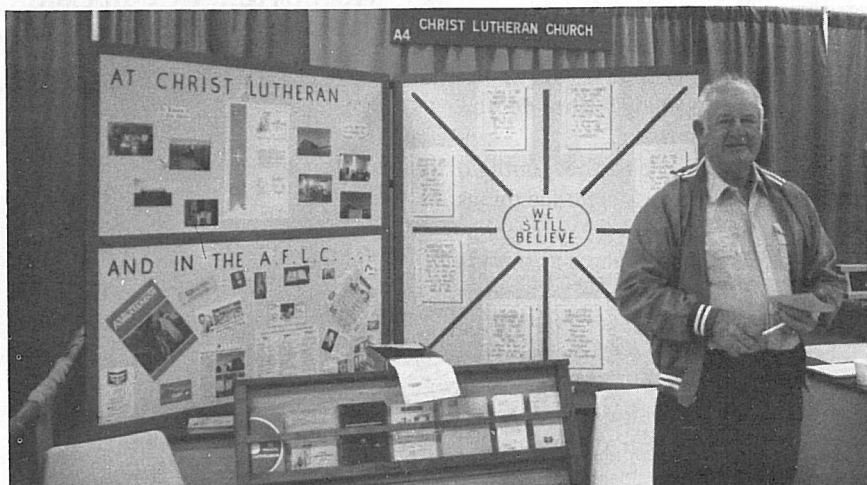
Greenbush, Minn. — There is a Kids' Club at United Lutheran which meets on certain Fridays after school.

Edinburg, N. Dak. — Rev. Stephen Odegard of Tioga, N. Dak., was guest speaker at special meetings in Grace Lutheran, Nov. 12-16.

Ortley, S. Dak. — Luther Leaguers from Ortley Lutheran are in a youth co-op with young people from Egeland Lutheran (ELC) and United Church of Christ, both of Waubay. In the election of officers, Aaron Moen was chosen president.

Reva, S. Dak. — Rev. Michael Brandt, Cloquet, Minn., had the privilege of speaking at Spiritual Renewal services in Ralph Lutheran Church (ELC), a congregation once served by his father, Rev. Erwin Brandt, on Sept. 27-28. Prior to that he spoke at similar services in Slim Buttes Lutheran, Sept. 24-26.

Binford, N. Dak. — Bethany Lutheran hosted special meetings Oct. 22-26. Bringing the messages each day was Rev. James Johnson, Reva, S. Dak.



Texas congregation had county fair booth

Christ Lutheran Church of Wichita Falls, Tex., recently had a new experience in outreach when they set up a booth at the Wichita County Fair. The members of the congregation who manned the booth over the several evenings of the fair distributed several hundred pamphlets which told of the congregation, the AFLC, and the way of salvation, as well as a thousand pencils bearing the church's name and address. Many contacts were made, several persons expressed interest in visiting Christ Lutheran and hundreds were made aware of the presence of the congregation.

Members of the congregation made

a backdrop outlining several major AFLC concerns, such as Biblical inerrancy, evangelism, etc., as presented in the AFLC brochure "Welcome to Biblical Lutheranism." In addition, the VCR tape "Seasons of the Association," the 25th anniversary tape of the AFLC, was played continuously throughout the fair.

EUROPEAN TOUR

Rev. and Mrs. Walter Johnson will host another tour of seven European countries next summer, July 9-23. The countries to be visited will be Holland, France, Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany and Belgium. The tour will also include the full-day Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany, which is presented every ten years with a cast of 1700 actors. The cost of the 15-day tour is \$2149. For more information contact the Johnsons at 937 Swift St., Shakopee, Minn. 55379. Tel. 612-445-9010.

WANTED: A late model 13- or 15-passenger van. Must be in good condition. Please call Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls, Minn. (218) 681-4643, in the mornings.

youth page

ILLINOIS DISTRICT YOUTH LEADERS TO MEET

A Youth Leadership Seminar for the Illinois District will be held Sat., Dec. 2, from 2-6 p.m., at Fox River Lutheran Church, Norway.

Pastor Tim Carlson, Wheatland, Ia., will lead a session on music and worship from the "Scripture and Chorus Songbook" that he helped to prepare.

Pastor Dennis Gray, DeKalb, Ill., AFLC Youth Resources Director, will be sharing a study from the book of Nehemiah, with an emphasis on building youth groups.

"How to Help Your Pastor with

Youth Ministry" will be the subject of a study by Pastor Rob Lewis, Newark, Ill.

Pastor Melvin Meyer, Marseilles, Ill., will give some creative ideas about "How to Involve Youth in Holiday Worship."

The cost for the entire seminar is \$3.00, which will be used to offset the cost of the coffee break and meal that will be provided.

After the seminar both the youth and adults are invited to go to the Harding Grade School gym to take part in the Son Summit youth ministry, at which Pastor Carlson will also speak.

SEND NEWS

All of our AFLC Districts are urged to send information on rallies, retreats and camps to the Youth Resources Director. Address them to Rev. Dennis Gray, 112 W. Milner, DeKalb, Ill. 60115.

MISSIONS

6. What do you expect from the Christian youth of today, both in the church and in society? How do you feel you can help them?

Gilberto: I look to the youth to show more willingness to do the things of the Lord and to show the same witness of life inside the church as outside of it. I would like to help through counseling.

Sonia: I expect the Christian youth to live under God's will and be a blessing in all places, being faithful witnesses and examples to be followed. I think that a way to help them is to be a faithful example, followed by incessant prayer.

Cleunice: Jesus said the the harvest is plentiful but the workers few. As Christian young people, we should have the desire to work for the Lord, ask Him to give us love for children, youth and adults who are without Christ, so that we will reach out to them. I can pray for these young people, that God may touch their hearts so they will feel the need to witness and help others.

Franca: In the church, the Christian youth should be faithful, cooperate in the work of the church and be good witnesses. But we know that not all of them are dedicated to the things of the Lord; some are bad examples and cause prejudice against Christ and Christianity. In society, the Christian young person should be helping others find true happiness through Christ. Through this vocational Bible course we are learning how to orient Christian young people and help them know how to witness and lead others to Christ. This should be my duty as a mature and prepared young person.

7. Have you thought about being a missionary, here in Brazil or in another country?

Gilberto: I have thought about being a missionary right here in Brazil. I am studying to prepare for this, if the Lord opens doors for me. I want to be a missionary to my own people. Romans 12:1, 2 are verses that really touch my heart and I leave it as an exhortation for all.

Sonia: I have the desire to be a missionary in Mexico. I would be able to

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.

Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

Second-class

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

speak their language without any problem, as I speak Spanish. I am preparing myself with much study and prayer, asking God to do His will in my life.

Cleunice: I have thought about becoming a missionary and I thank God for the people who have suffered for preaching God's Word. We know that our victory is in heaven, the "unfading crown of glory" (I Peter 5:4). I would like to be a missionary right here in Brazil, for there are so many souls here that haven't heard about Jesus and His sacrifice for us. I am praying that God will accomplish His will in my life. I am preparing myself here at Bible School and praying that I may be giving my very best to Him.

Franca: Yes, I have thought much about being a missionary, as it is an important joy to honor and glorify God. I am ready to work for the Lord wherever He puts it in my heart to go, either here or to another country. The important thing is to do the will of God. I am preparing myself. When I

read God's Word, I ask Him to do His will in my life and use me as an instrument in His hands. The best way to prepare is to study and practice the Word of God and this is exactly what I have done, for the glory of God.

Please continue to pray for these young people as they graduate, work for the Lord and are used as instruments in His hands.

Praise the Lord for these and other young people who are dedicating their lives to Him and are involved in the many ministries of the Free Lutheran churches here in Brazil.

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of the Bible School and Seminary, students, teachers and programs all are involved in. The School's verse is: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

— Interviews conducted
by Missionary Carol Knapp