

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

November 29, 1988

A time of preparation

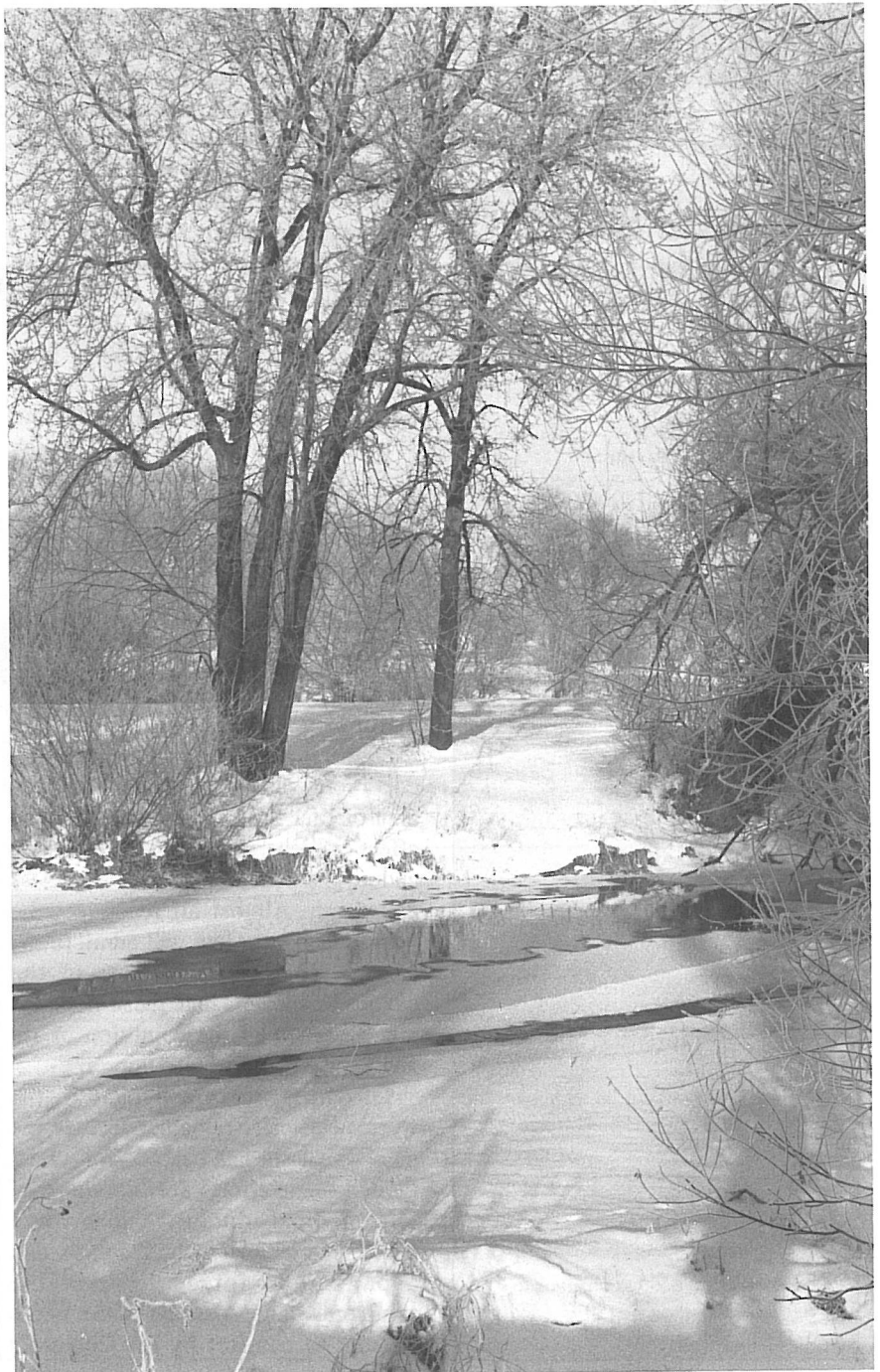
for Christmas p. 3

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Coming** p. 5

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dedicated** p. 14

**Watch for our special
Christmas issue
coming next time.**



LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

COVER PHOTO

"Christmas in Austin"

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

Vol. 26 No. 22

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Speak comfort to the heart

Text: Is. 40:1-10

"Comfort ye, comfort ye My people," saith your God. 'Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, . . . that her iniquity is pardoned'" (Is. 40:1,2 KJV).

One of the Church's lighter Gospel songs, "Yes, There Is Comfort," asks the following questions regarding the plight of the life of man.

"Is there no comfort for sorrow,
Nothing but heartache and tears,
Is there no sunshine tomorrow,
Nothing but darkness and fears?
Must we continually stumble?
Will nothing precious remain?
Is all we built meant to crumble?
Are all our efforts in vain?"

No doubt thoughts similar to these filled the hearts of the children of Israel as they listened to Isaiah the prophet continually preach about their future. Stern words of the Law revealed to them their sins, guilt and judgment. Time and time again Isaiah had driven the point home that they would suffer captivity in Babylon because of their hard-hearted rebellion against God. Would there never be an end to the misery and sorrow yet to be encountered? Would hopefulness and confusion always remain?

Some 2700 years have passed since the time of Isaiah. Yet even today we recognize the same hopeless conditions. Conflicts abound in every area of life. Suffering and persecution affect millions. And millions of others endure the sorrow and grief of illness and death. Almost all recognize the pain, but so very few will admit to the cause. Most will not hear of the suggestion, even, that these miseries are the result of the condition of sin and the judgment of God upon sin.

Of course, there are many in the world who offer remedies to ease the pain which sin has caused. Too often, though, their efforts are like those of the medical doctor, who, when confronted with an incurable disease in a patient, is forced to treat the symptoms rather than the cause. Some attempt to comfort by denying sin's

reality. Others comfort by refusing to accept its seriousness. Still others comfort by reducing man to the level of the beast and encouraging the acceptance of humanism's fatalistic annihilation.

Death, disease, destruction and doom are all caused by sin. And who can treat this cause? Who can bring comfort for this, the greatest malady of all? This Old Testament Advent lesson brings the answer. God alone can bring this comfort and that is to be found in two places, according to these verses. In the first place, comfort is found in the cross. There the payment for sin is made. There the atonement is accomplished. The redemption price is paid. The sacrifice is sufficient. Sin and its results are destroyed forever. Oh, what glory of the Lord is revealed in that transaction. And what wonderful comfort extends to all who believe, "Your iniquity is pardoned."

Declare this Advent message abroad. Comfort has arrived. Whoever catches the message of comfort is to spread the Good News. Speak the message over and over again till finally the unbelieving and doubting heart even begins to accept it. Lay the message tenderly close to the heart of all who will listen. Jesus comes. He comes to bring comfort. He has come and has removed iniquity with all its consequences.

"Yes, there is comfort for sorrow,
There's rest for the weariest heart,
And, praise God, there'll be
sunrise tomorrow;
He'll return, and He'll never
depart."



by Pastor
Ralph Tjelta

God did His part

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Galatians 4:4-5 NASB).

Preparing for Christmas

Are you ready for Christmas this year? As a young boy, it seemed to me that Christmas could not come fast enough. I was itching to get at those packages under the tree! But now it seems that Christmastime creeps up on me a bit too fast. It's a rush getting everything done.

One thing hasn't changed. My heart still needs to be gripped by the message of Christmas. Mom and Dad didn't leave it out in our home. They took time to sing the carols and share the Birthday Story. I needed that time to get ready. I still do.

How can I best prepare for Christmas this year? Let's take our eyes off of ourselves and consider Jesus' birth from God's perspective.

I. How did God prepare for Christmas?

The Bible clearly states that *God prepared the right time*. Paul calls it "the fullness of the time." It was God's appointed time for this greatest of all events. The Galatians were to understand that God is in complete control of the world scene. God's time is always the right time!

In the *religious* realm the time was right for the coming of the Messiah. The Word of the Old Testament had been completed and assembled. The Jews gathered regularly in synagogues which became the perfect setting for the presentation of the Gospel.

The time was right *culturally*. Greek had become a universal language. The Old Testament Hebrew Bible had been translated into a Greek edition called the Septuagint. This common language was to become a tremendous aid in spreading the good news about Jesus Christ.

Politically, the time was right as well. The Romans had built a wonderful system of roads which were used by scores of dispersed



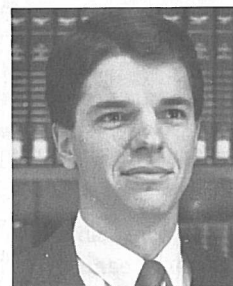
missionaries as they spread the Word. Even from our perspective we can see that this was God's timing!

Second, *God prepared the right place*. Paul announces, "God sent forth His Son," which suggests that our Savior's commission included a specific task in a specific location. That mission, of course, was to begin in little Bethlehem.

A verse which I memorized for a Sunday School Christmas program prophesies, "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting" (Micah 5:2 KJV). God had prepared the right place to send His Son.

Furthermore, *God prepared the right woman* to be the mother of baby Jesus. Mary is not specifically named here. But this woman could not be just anybody! She needed to be from the family line of King David. Not only that, she needed to be a virgin (Isaiah 7:14). Mary was the right woman.

God also prepared his perfect Law. Jesus was "born under the Law." You see, God had been preparing for Christmas for a long time. His perfect requirements for holiness had been revealed in detail through His commandments. Jesus Christ, the God-Man, was subjected to



by Rev. Jerry Moan
Minot, N. Dak.

the miracles

Outer miracles were intended for a special age and purpose — that is, to prove once for all to the needy world that Christ was He ‘that should come,’ as foretold by prophecy — but the inner miracle of regeneration is to abide forever, the convincing demonstration that Jesus Christ is ‘the power of God and the wisdom of God,’ and that all men may have life through believing on Him.

L. S. Keyser

CHRISTMAS

"And there were no decorations to be hung on that 'tree.' Only Jesus!"

these same requirements. It was all part of God's great Christmas Plan. But what was the reason for it all?

II. Why did God prepare for Christmas?

It was *because He had a Son to give*. Jesus Christ came to this earth as a precious Gift from our heavenly Father. "God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (I John 5:11).

As God "sent forth" the Savior, He commissioned Him with His own authority and power. Luther teaches that "God will or can be known no otherwise than by Christ." Here was a Gift with a personal touch. God was giving to us Himself.

God made these extensive preparations for Christmas *because He had a world to redeem*. Jesus came "in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law." Who would this include? Romans 3:19 places everyone under the bondage of the Law. All the evidence is in and we stand guilty with nothing to say. The entire world stands accountable before God. Myself included.

The word "redeem" means "to buy out of the marketplace." If God had not prepared for Christmas, each one of us would be hopelessly bound in the marketplace of sin. Yes, Jesus paid a tremendous price for us. "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us — for it is written, '*Cursed is every one who hangs on a tree*'" (Galatians 3:13).

No, it was not a Christmas tree which was on God's mind as He prepared for that first Christmas. It was a cross. And there were no decorations to be hung on that "tree." Only Jesus!

Why did He do it? *Because He had many sons to receive!* Jesus was given "that we might receive the adoption as sons." John 1:12 declares that "as

many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name."

Because of God's great Christmas Salvation Plan, those who are trusting in the Christ of Christmas are no longer slaves in God's eyes, but *sons*. Paul adds that we are heirs through God — joint heirs with Christ! God's Christmas tree is loaded with every good and perfect gift available to each one of His children (James 1:17).

III. How can I prepare for Christmas?

How can I be sure that I have been adopted and am an heir with Christ? How can my heart be stirred afresh this Christmas?

First of all, take time to *hear the glorious message of Christmas*. "God sent forth His Son." Christmas is a time filled with opportunities to hear this good news sounding from the Word of God. Don't let good things crowd out the best this Christmas. God gives faith to all those who open their hearts to truly hear His Word (Romans 10:17).

Second, *consider the tremendous price of Christmas*. Realize that "you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold . . . but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ" (I Peter 1:18-19). God's gift to you was indeed a costly one. Only He could possibly provide such a gift.

Finally, *receive the free gift of Christmas!* That's the best preparation you could ever make. "The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). What better gift could you give to God than to give Him your heart? Thank God for His salvation this Christmas. "*O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*" Get ready to worship the newborn King. That's what Christmas is all about.

Preparing for the second coming of Christ

I enjoy hearing stories about the old Lutheran Bible Institute on Portland Avenue in Minneapolis. Former students have told me about Dr. Samuel Miller's singing and the times of serious prayer among the students. It would have been fun to hear one of Pastor Granlund's challenging sermons at Calvary Lutheran or experience the great revival meetings in the tent outside of St. Paul's Lutheran.

What made those such powerful days? The teachers at LBI emphasized the second coming of Jesus Christ and missions. Great numbers of people from that school went into missions. As they thought about their lives in light of the return of Christ it was the most sensible thing to do. Can't you hear Dr. Miller saying something like, "The best way to prepare for the second coming of Christ is to bring lost souls into the kingdom of God?"

Living in a rural parsonage, I can look out my window and watch the farmers preparing for winter. This summer's drought has made every last bale of hay and cob of corn precious. Day after day they chop their loads and haul them to the hay barns and silos. The best way for these dairymen to insure that they can get through a long winter is to keep bringing in that feed until the great snows come. We don't know when that first blizzard might be so each day of productivity is precious in the fall.

The farmer prepares for winter by bringing the harvest into the granary. The church prepares for Christ's return by bringing lost souls into the fold. Jesus told us to be on the alert and prepare because his second coming will be a surprise. Only the Father knows the day. *"For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will"* (Matt. 24:44). Jesus is waiting for His banquet table to be filled with redeemed souls.

People have done strange things to prepare

"The church prepares for Christ's return by bringing lost souls into the fold."



by Rev. Thomas Olson
Cumberland, Wis.

for the second coming of Christ. I heard about one man who lay upon his roof with his arms stretched out making the shape of the cross. The night was cold and he lost his fingers to frostbite. Recently, a book was sent to all pastors telling a number of reasons why the second coming of Christ would occur on September 12, 1988. I didn't bother reading the book because I knew such speculations were unscriptural. Many people, however, made all sorts of silly preparations based upon the book. Some even invested their money in special accounts for those left behind. (I can't quite figure out why the author sold the book for profit when he was so sure he was not going to be around much longer.) The lesson is that many people prepare for the second coming in the wrong ways.

Very few things last for eternity. We polish our cars, invest our money, build beautiful homes and dedicate magnificent cathedrals. What an amazing thing it is that we are so careful with temporal things and so careless with eternal souls. The sun and the rain slowly deteriorate the great architectural wonders of man. Even the elements that remain in the end will burn with intense heat. We are fortunate if our cars hold together until they are paid for. Yet we consume our time with accumulating and caring for these things while the eternal souls of men rush into eternity without so much as an opportunity to be redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus.

The best way to prepare for Christ's return is to be concerned about the things that last forever. The Triune God and His heavenly kingdom last forever, the Word of God lasts forever and the precious souls of men will last forever in either heaven or the fires of hell. These are the priorities for those who long for the appearing of Christ and such persons are those whom Christ is returning for.

The old Spiritual well states the attitude of the one prepared for the return of Christ. "This world is not my home I'm just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue. The angel beckons me from heaven's open door and I can't feel at home in this world any more." How opposite this is of the spirit of modern "evangelical" Christianity. Most of us could easily sing "I've made this world my home, my roots are firm and deep."



The Son of Man Cometh

The Son of man cometh. This much we know. But of the day and hour Knoweth no man — Not even the angels. God alone knows When the Christ Will appear again. The hour of His coming — So hidden in the bosom of God Because it is best for all That it should so be. In all the future Which lies before us, Let us not forget The two sure Coming events	Of tremendous importance: Our own coming death and The coming of Jesus Christ To judge the quick and the dead. If we have received Christ Jesus the Lord, Let us see to it That we walk in Him All the time and All the way, Rooted and built up in Him And 'stablished In the faith As we have been taught, Abounding therein With thanksgiving At the coming of our Lord.	To all His followers The Christ says: Be ye ready, Ready to die In the Lord, Ready to meet The Lord When He shall appear In His glory. Let us who are of the day Be sober, Putting on the breastplate Of faith and love, And for an helmet The hope of salvation. For God hath not	Appointed us to wrath, But to obtain Salvation By our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us that Whether we wake or sleep We should live Together with Him. Today the very air Is full of signs Of His coming. Let us earnestly Watch and pray, Amen.
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SECOND COMING

"No matter
what your age
or earthly
calling
there are ways
to be about
the Father's
business."

My IRA is ready for retirement to reap. The angel beckoned me from heaven's distant door but my boom box is too loud and I can't hear Him anymore."

The old LBI missionaries are now rapidly retiring from the World Mission Prayer League and the old Haugean missions. Sometimes you meet one at the Lutheran Colportage or at a prayer meeting. They often are quite poor. About all they can afford to do is spend their time in volunteer work, passing out tracts, visiting the poor and going to prayer meetings. One missionary I know could easily fit his worldly possessions into a few boxes. If they were sold at an auction they would barely amount to \$100. Undoubtedly many of their old LBI comrades who chose secular employment now are retired in nice suburban homes with fat pensions and motor homes to take them South for the winter. Who came out ahead?

At a financial seminar at the Association Seminary, the Christian financial counselor told us that "If we fail to plan for retirement, we plan to fail." I am sure that there is great wisdom in that statement, but I have to ask myself, "Who failed to plan?" The one who has no treasures in heaven is the one who failed to plan. Some economists recommend that we

invest in precious metals and stones to give us security and joy in retirement. The Christian will find great joy in his eternal retirement in fellowship with the precious souls he has prayed for and shared Christ with. A prosperous career and luxurious retirement will bring you only the appearance of joy. Souls in heaven are true eternal treasures.

We all can begin to prepare for the second coming of Christ right now. No matter what your age or earthly calling there are ways to be about the Father's business.

Become a soul-winner

Pastor A. W. Knock wrote a book entitled *Winsome Soul-winning*. It contains valuable Scripture verses and advice in the area of soul-winning. Such books should be the *Wall Street Journal* of those who are preparing for the return of Christ. Friends, neighbors and family members are a concern for the soul-winner. Many parents will sacrifice to see their children become successful but how many parents sacrifice time on their knees for their souls?

Become mission-minded

I have seen time and again that church people love to give if the money stays in the community. It usually does not take too much effort to get donations to pad the pews. If the

Prayer

Merciful God,
Heavenly Father,
Who desireth not
That any sinner
Shall forever perish,
But would that all
Should be saved,

We thank and praise Thee
For giving to us
A Savior,
Thy Son,
Jesus Christ,
Who can save
To the uttermost.

Draw us close to Him
That we may have
Peace with Thee
And true joy
In the Holy Spirit.
Prevent us from
Making the festival
Of Christmas
A time only for
Earthly concern and pleasure.

Grant us grace
to come in
True faith and love
To the manger
In Bethlehem —
And there to see
The beauty of Him
Whom thou hast sent
To save us.

May Thy Spirit
Work within us
Unto the refreshing
Of our souls
And the cheering
Of our hearts.
Bless every home
Where Jesus Christ

goal is to get as many souls into heaven as possible before the second coming of Christ then we ought to put our greatest amount of effort into the fruitful fields. Home and foreign missions are two sound financial investments. They are tax deductible and reap eternal benefits for the lost souls who will be saved.

Get an eternal perspective

Life should be lived in light of eternity. The real important questions should be: "What neighborhood most needs a Christian witness?" or "Which school system would provide the most ministry opportunities for my children?" Hopefully, you get the point. Start by determining the *eternal* value of what you are doing.

Avoid materialism and the pursuit of pleasure

Two great enemies of Christianity in America are materialism and the pursuit of pleasure. They are far greater threats to the work of the kingdom than the American Civil Liberties Union and Communism. Even youth work is becoming very difficult because of exceptional time commitments to more than part-time jobs to buy

those expensive shoes and jeans. High mortgage payments, multiple cars, VCRs, and costly vacations are tempting parents to work such long overtime hours that little quality time is left for parenting. At the second coming of Christ, home entertainment centers, wall to wall carpeting, luxury cars and acid washed jeans may not be so important. In fact, we probably will curse the day we fell in love with them. In that great last day, many will realize that the things of this world actually won their hearts' affection and became their god.

Revel in the Gospel of Jesus Christ

There is no greater motivation for renouncing sin and becoming a soul-winner than Christ Himself. I don't think that it is any mistake that there are four Gospels in the Bible. God must be saying that we should keep Jesus before us at all times. A growing relationship with Him helps us to long for His coming.

Jesus told us in John 14 that he was going to heaven to prepare a place for us. Let us in turn prepare for His coming. What a shame it will be if our mansion is unoccupied for eternity because we are not ready when Christ returns.

A white Christmas

It was the year that I experienced the emptiness that comes when the children first leave home. Now Christmas was approaching and our boys were planning to be home for that most special holiday.

The winter had been cold, gray and bare, and I was glad for the business of school concerts and the Sunday School Christmas program. But the most important thing to me would be the arrival of our sons.

As I asked God to make this Christmas a special, blessed one, I prayed, "Father, if it's not too selfish to ask, would You please make this a white Christmas?" Perhaps I was remembering other Christmas holidays when the house was warm and friendly while the snow piling up outside made us glad to be safely inside, together. Or maybe the times I walked with them to the hills north of our farm to try out a new toboggan.

I baked Norwegian lefse and whipped shortbread cookies. I baked apple pies and I knew if there was no other sign of baking these three would more than satisfy.

The 23rd of December came and still no snow had fallen but we hardly noticed for we were too busy enjoying the arrival of our family. I had planned our big Christmas meal for the evening of the 24th so that Christmas Day could be spent relaxing and enjoying each other.

The turkey supper was eaten with enough enjoyment to satisfy any mother's heart. The boys' pleasure in being together again was gratifying. It was as if they had just discovered they were each other's best friends. God's blessings were evident everywhere and the smile on my husband's face showed that he felt it, too.

We read the Christmas Story and had a prayer of thanksgiving and when the gifts were opened I was pleased at

the thoughtfulness that had gone into each of the boys' gifts to each other.

Finally, when the family had wound down and found their pillows, I sat alone by the picture window to talk it over with God. And there I discovered that during the day, when I had been too busy to notice, a fog had rolled in and transformed every object in the yard with layers of shimmering, white frost. Every branch, twig and blade of grass was white. The spruce trees, filled to overflowing with the frozen breath of earth, dominated the yard, a vast Christmas scene.

Throughout Christmas day the sun shone its brightest, the day cold and calm. The grove was an intricate tangle of beauty, the sky a deep blue contrast. Our white Christmas stayed for three days, unusual on the windy prairie.

If we were to prepare for the return of Jesus as diligently as we prepare for the celebration of His birth, we would perhaps not be caught unaware when He comes. Many believe that His coming is very soon, that the countdown is already in progress. And that as time is measured through the ages, there are only minutes or seconds left.

Occupy until I come, He told us. This year as we prepare for friends and family, shop for decorations and gifts, and work on Christmas programs and festivities, we could ask the Father to make us a blessing to someone who is lonely, perhaps experiencing deep financial trouble or the loss of a loved one.

God gave us an unusual opportunity last year at Christmas to minister to others. My turn to take the service at Marion Home, a senior citizens' residence 30 miles from us, came on December 24th. We had been invited to the home of our son and his wife for the Christmas meal that evening so I was free to go to the Home. My

husband, who doesn't ordinarily take part in the service, agreed to accompany me that winter day.

He played the guitar and we sang the carols with the residents and sang duets. This was a special treat for them as many of the volunteer visitors are women and a man's company is most welcome. Some have been farmers and enjoy to talk to someone still in the business.

This Christmas many in our nations will be homeless, or jobless. Many will be shut up in hospitals or institutions. Many children will experience loveless, careless homes. Some may be sorrowing, overwhelmed by problems. This is the kind of world our Savior came to love and die for. I'm afraid we often shut ourselves away from those who need us by our lifestyles and our business. We can come to God with this and ask Him to lead us to the one He wants to bless through us.

A merry and blessed Christmas this year from our house to yours.

Come to Christ

... forget everything else as we repeat to you that without Christ you can never face God, but with Christ the portals of heaven itself will swing wide amid the hallelujahs of the angels, welcoming you when your hour comes. Don't delay! Don't postpone! Come now, in the Advent season!

Walter A. Maier, Sr.

WORLD RELIEF

For some years the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations has officially channeled its contributions to the aiding of the alleviation of material and physical needs in the world through the World Relief Commission, an agency of the National Association of Evangelicals. The WRC is a responsible organization which endeavors to put as much of every relief dollar contributed to work in combatting need as possible. That's as it should be.

It is gratifying to see that AFLC contributions have been climbing. In the last fiscal year, over \$13,000 was given in comparison to less than \$12,000 the year before.

But if one adds the \$13,086.23 to the total received for AFLC benevolences in the 1987-88 fiscal year (\$916,759.20) and does the necessary dividing, it will be found that contributions to the World Relief Commission amount to less than one and one-half per cent of that total. And that seems a painfully small contribution to helping ease the hurts of the world's people.

Donations to the WRC are not listed as a separate item in Congregational Receipts as reported in our AFLC Annual Reports. Therefore, further investigation would be needed to find out what congregations have contributed to the relief agency in the past year.

Suffice it to say that there are Association congregations which did not give anything to the WRC in the past fiscal year. Some of our newer churches likely are not even aware that the AFLC encourages giving to the WRC. But, as we said, that is the practice followed for some years.

Christmas is a time of giving. We are all quite generous in the gifts we give to our family members and close friends. As we share with those closest to us, let us not forget the world's suffering and deprived people. There are some tragic needs existing even now. As your congregation makes its contributions to other areas of our work, remember the WRC.

The World Relief Commission is at work in many places. When you hear of a sudden calamity somewhere in the world, the WRC is very likely there to help ease the suffering. And it is at work in areas where nagging chronic deprivation continues. You will be there through your gifts which, incidentally, are ministered unashamedly in the

name of Christ.

As we think of Christmas and the One Who gave Himself, let us give to the World Relief Commission. Congregational treasurers, simply earmark contributions to WRC and send them to the AFLC Business Office in Minneapolis, which will forward them on.

HE WILL RETURN

As the disciples or apostles watched in awe as the Lord Jesus was lifted up from Mount Olivet on that long ago day, they were told, "This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven." Paul, writing to the Thessalonians, says that "the Lord Himself will descend from heaven." So there is all the reason in the world to look outward and upward for the coming of Christ.

People set dates for His return. They always have and they always will. Pastor Thomas Olson makes reference to one such date-setting in his article in this issue. The date was in this very year of 1988. Every time this sort of thing is done there are some people who believe it and then have to go through withdrawal as the target dates comes and then recedes into history.

Let us not be taken in by date-setters. They may be sincere, but they may also be guilty of a great deal of pride, believing that *they* have an inside track on the ways and doings of God.

It is enough that we live in expectation and hope, realizing that this world isn't everlasting. It will some day be destroyed. The eternal dwelling is with God.

We trust that the Advent season is a blessed one for you and that one of its themes, the return of Christ, stirs up new fervor in your heart and gives you new courage.

It is natural, then, to move into the Christmas season with all of its present joy in the knowledge that a Savior was born, redemption has come and salvation is possible for all who believe in Jesus.

May the Lord bless these days of Advent and Christmas for us all.

NOTE: My aunt, Margit Gudim, who was 100 years old in May and of whom I wrote (Sept. 6), passed away on Nov. 2. Her husband, the late A. O. Gudim, was a prominent layman in northwestern Minnesota. R. H.

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

Hundreds of Lutheran churches will again observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on Jan. 22, 1989. Each January churches commemorate the Jan. 22, 1973, U. S. Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade*, which legalized abortion-

on-demand throughout all nine months of pregnancy. The focus for the 1989 observance is euthanasia.

Lutherans for Life, a national, pan-Lutheran pro-life educational and service organization with hundreds of local chapters in North America, has developed new worship and educational materials for 1989 to be

used in local congregations on this special Sunday.

If you wish to order these materials or inquire about LFL'S extensive line of biblically-based worship, study and audio-visual resources for youth and adults, contact: Lutherans for Life, 275 N. Syndicate, St. Paul, Minn. 55104 or call 612-645-5444.

Luther League Convention update

We're getting excited about plans for our Luther League Federation Convention (July 17-21, 1989, at Silver Star Resort near Vernon, B.C., Canada). We hope to have brochures mailed out to all AFLC churches around the first of the year. They will also go out in a special mailing to local Luther League presidents or advisors, along with an important LLF letter — if we have your address. (I've got about 60 on the mailing list now, so if you need to get on the list or update your address, please let me know — Jim Johnson, P. O. Box 92, Reva, S. Dak. 56751.

There are two things we need to get moving on regarding the Convention. First, transportation needs to be organized. We'd like to have a bus going from each district. If your church is planning on taking a bus or would like to help organize one, please let me know so we can publicize the buses for other, smaller churches.

Second, we're planning a Bible quiz as part of the Luther League Olympics this year. Questions will come from the Book of Acts, so I encourage you to study that book (in youth Bible studies or Sunday School) some time before July. Two study guides you might use

are: *Acts* from the "Lifechange Series" published by NAV Press, and *To the Ends of the Earth*, a youth study of the book of Acts published by Concordia.

Also, remember the Luther League Federation, which is you, needs to raise \$5,000 this year to help support our Youth Resources Director. Money from local Leagues should be sent to our treasurer: Randy Erickson, Assistant Dean of Men; St. Paul Bible College, 6426 Cty. Rd. 30; St. Bonifacius, Minn. 55375.

— Pastor Johnson

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The AFLC Seminary Archives recently received a large selection of Swedish and Norwegian books from Lutheran Colportage, Inc. Most of the publications had been collected over the years by Mrs. Hannah Chalmers, former Colportage director.

AFLC congregations are encouraged to send copies of their constitutions and historical publications to be kept on file in the archives.

South Dakota District Youth Rally

On October 22nd, 49 youth gathered at Slim Buttes Lutheran Church, Reva, S. Dak. Luther Leaguers came from many parts of South Dakota, including Lake Region, Ortleigh, Eagle Butte, Canton, Bruce, Arlington, Webster and Dickinson, N. Dak. The theme for the rally was "Living Sacrifices" (Romans 12:1, 2). We had a short business meeting to elect a president and secretary due to the resignations of

Luther Stueland and Sonja Skaarhaug. The new president is Jennifer Shea and the new secretary is Carol Nelson. Following the meeting we had a time of sharing. The rest of the afternoon we had recreation, followed by a banquet with a message from Pastor Brian Pearson of Arlington.

On Sunday morning we attended the worship service at Slim Buttes Lutheran Church, followed by a potluck dinner. Those who attended the rally left for home soon after.

— Carol Nelson
secretary

letter to the editor

COMMENDATION

I like very much the way you personalize your writing. For example, you told about ministering to your brother-in-law, Dr. J. Elmo Agrimson, and how you affirmed him in his faith during his last days before going to his reward (Sept. 6).

You put your creed into deed. This balanced approach to your task as editor makes yours one of the few periodicals (and I get many) which I read practically cover to cover, the same day it comes. I sense, through your personalization of your faith, preaching, teaching, travels, minister-

ing, that you are a close personal friend, even though, from the practical standpoint, we seldom get to spend time together.

I realize a good dose of personalization goes into many of the other stories and articles your colleagues publish. And I wish to encourage them to keep on with this practice also. It is difficult to find an illustration from our lives which fits a point we make when we share the Lord, but I'm sure I speak from the standpoint of many readers when I seek to encourage this type of writing.

Dale M. Stone

COMING NEXT TIME

Our next issue will be our annual enlarged Christmas *Ambassador* containing many inspiring articles for the season, together with poetry, pictures and artwork. It will be printed in four colors and will make an attractive addition to your Christmas holiday.

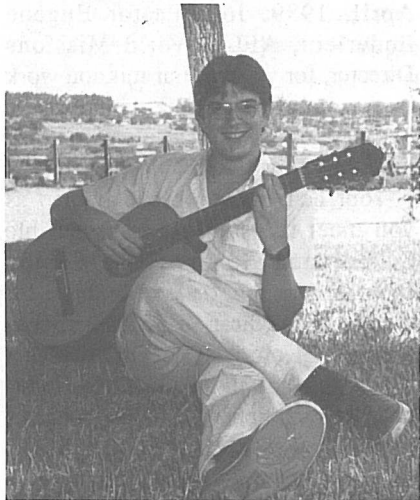
Watch for it after December 13. Order gift copies for your friends. See the order blank sent out with the Nov. 15 *Ambassador*.

The Editor

from the Brazil Bible school

God wants to work in my life

Hi! My name is Ruskin Klein and I am from Vitoria, Espirito Santo. I am 17 years old. Until 12 years of age, my family belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, but then they began attending the Lutheran Church. It was at this church that I felt God's hand on me, more and more, and at 15 years of age I made my decision to follow Christ. I recognized my situation as a



Ruskin Nunes Klein

sinner and the need for Christ in my life. Even as a Christian I went through a series of highs and lows in my spiritual life. But this year I made the decision to change this picture. It was after our camp, during the time of "Carnaval" in February, that I carried through on my decision and I came to Bible School to spend a year in God's Word and have closer fellowship with Him. I know that God is speaking to my heart and has much to show me this year at Bible School.

A verse that has spoken to me very much is Philippians 1:6, "And I am sure that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." I know that God wants to work in my life. I'm not sure what I will do in the future. I have studied and completed my training to be an electronic technician and working with electronics is something I enjoy. I feel that I can be a missionary for my Lord Jesus in my Jerusalem or if He sends me "unto the ends of the earth."

— Ruskin Nunes Klein

New construction in Brazil

Exciting events are happening at our Bible School and Seminary Campus at Campo Mourao, Parana, Brazil! If you were able to visit the Campus for the holidays you would not only find our missionaries earnestly teaching and leading students, a wonderful group of young people attending both Bible School and Seminary classes and working on the grounds, along with flowers and crops flourishing in the Brazil's summer sunshine, but you would also

◊

Women's Missionary Federation

In memoriam gifts

Alma Nelson, Chamberlain, S. Dak.
Ella Monson, Valley City, N. Dak.
Mrs. Burton Rygh, Roseau, Minn.
Mrs. Eddie Jackson, Cannon Falls, Minn.
Selma Fossan, Battle Lake, Minn.
Carl Jensen, Roseau, Minn.
Lenora Erickson, Roseau, Minn.
Toby Johnson, Fargo, N. Dak.
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kamp, Ray, N. Dak.
Karen Swanson, McIntosh, Minn.
Mrs. Lawrence Rasmussen, Morris, Ill.
Mrs. Milo Peterson, Morris, Ill.
Mrs. Roy Gerecke, Morris, Ill.
Carl Johnson, Tioga, N. Dak.

*Blessed are
those who die
in the Lord*



WMF Fall Rally reports

Minneapolis District

The Minneapolis District WMF Fall Rally was hosted by Emmaus Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, on Saturday, October 15, 1988. The theme was "God's Mouthpieces," based on Colossians 4:6 "Let your speech be always seasoned with salt that ye may know how ye ought to answer every

man." The morning speaker was Mrs. Gerald Knudsvig, Buxton, N. Dak., National WMF Executive Secretary. Mr. Terry Hemsworth, Director of New Hope Center for Alcoholics, Minneapolis. Total registration for the day, including pastors and visitors, was 209 people.

SW Central Minnesota District

The Fall Rally of the Central Minnesota District WMF was held October 4 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Brooten, Minn., Carl Hort, pastor. 136 ladies and 10 pastors attended.

The theme for the day was "Come unto me - I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28, and the theme hymn was "I Heard The Voice Of Jesus Say."

Pastor Rob Lewis from Abercrombie, N. Dak., spoke on the theme verse focusing on the word "rest." Jesus says, Come and rest, then accept the yoke and go to work. During the afternoon session Pastor

and Mrs. Lewis told about their visit to the Pakistan mission field. Mrs. Lewis' mother is a missionary there.

The forenoon offering was given to My Missionary for a Day and the afternoon one to the Parish Education Department.

see the beautiful sight of laborers working on two new buildings. A new men's dormitory and Memorial Chapel are under construction! These long-dreamed-of buildings are the visible fruit of many prayers and sacrificial gifts provided by AFLC friends of World Missions for these special projects.

Memorial Chapel

The Memorial Chapel will be the main building on our Brazil Campus. It will be the prominent building, standing out near the front of the campus to welcome all to worship our Lord Jesus Christ. It will be connected to the classroom/office building by a short covered walkway.

Under Pastor Connely Dyrud's astute leadership and direction, the construction has progressed smoothly. Pastor Dyrud has purchased materials as money came in, contracted laborers, and has also directed the participation of local church members.

Many people in the United States had expressed the desire to provide for a special need in missions that would honor their departed loved ones. Early in 1988 the World Missions Committee approved the construction of the Memorial Chapel, and trusted the Lord to bring in \$10,000 for its construction. Since the early fall of 1988, \$8,260 has come in for the Chapel. A balance of \$1,840 is still needed for construction, with an additional amount of approximately \$2,500 to provide pews and furnishings.

New Men's Dormitory

A friend of AFLC World Missions

recently shared the earnest desire of honoring the memory of loved ones with a special gift to the campus at Campo Mourao. God had strongly laid a burden upon this dear friend's heart. Since funds were coming in to provide for memorial Chapel already in progress, it was a great joy for the World Missions Committee to approve the construction of a Men's Dormitory.

The present Men's Dormitory is the oldest building on campus at Campo Mourao. When it was constructed approximately 22 years ago, Campo Mourao was a forested area, with the lumber business being the biggest industry; of course, the dormitory was constructed completely of wood. Over the years, the building has deteriorated because of the heavy frequent rains and warm climate. A new Men's Dormitory is a wonderful provision for our mission work!

This anonymous donor has given \$10,000 toward the cost of this new brick building, which was to have been a single-floored building, with a partial second floor to be finished at a future date. However, good advice from contractors has provided the information that it would be far less expensive to build both floors at the same time, rather than raise the roof later. This decision has raised our costs by approximately \$4,000. The World Missions Committee is hopeful that many friends will contribute gifts to meet this added cost. In fact, at the time of this publication, we have just received news that another friend of the AFLC World Missions will match

gifts up to \$1,000 toward the completion of this two-story dormitory building. Perhaps you too will be led of the Lord to share in these exciting happenings on our Brazil Campus!

The dedication service for both the

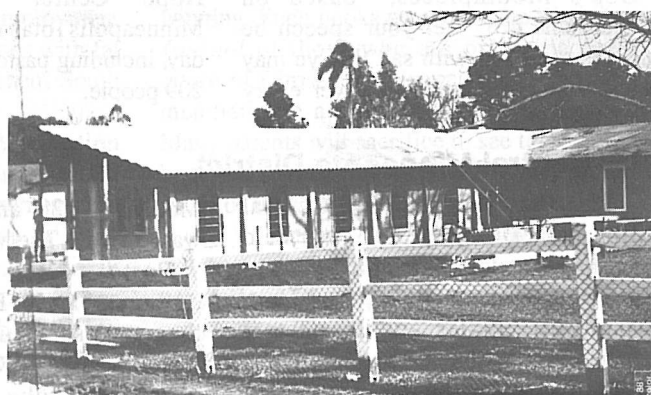
Tour Brazil

You can experience the beautiful sights and experiences of Brazil next April, 1989. Join Pastor Eugene Enderlein, AFLC World Missions Director, for visits to our mission work in the states of Parana and Espirito Santo, and excursions to Rio, Iguacu Falls, and Brasilia, Brazil's capital city.

Your hearts will be encouraged as you meet the students in our Bible School and Seminary at Campo Mourao, Parana. You'll be on hand for the historic dedication Sunday of both the new Memorial Chapel and Men's Dormitory buildings. You'll see first-hand our missionary families, national pastors and meet their congregations. You'll enjoy the mild, pleasant April weather as we visit Rio and experience its many beautiful sights, such as the huge statue of Christ atop Corcovado, and Sugar Loaf Mountain; you'll visit the breathtakingly beautiful Iguacu falls; you'll tour Brasilia, Brazil's new, futuristic capital city that has been carved out of the jungle. Brazil's



The men's dorm under construction.



Chapel building under construction.

Memorial Chapel and Men's Dormitory will be in April, 1989. Many friends of the AFLC will be on hand at Campo Mourao for this joyful occasion! Would you like to be included in the Brazil Tour Group for

in April

famous handcrafts of leather, wood and textiles make shopping an enjoyable experience also.

The tour group to Brazil is scheduled to leave Minneapolis for Rio tentatively on April 8, and return to Minneapolis on April 25, 1989. The length of stay may be adjusted according to the consensus of the group. The estimated cost is \$1,750 per person. This includes \$1,150 for all travel and an estimated \$450 for hotels and meals while in major cities.

For details about the itinerary, costs, booking, etc., write to the AFLC World Missions Office:

Brazil Tour

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, MN 55441-3099

or call (612) 545-5631. All travelers must have a valid U. S. Passport and a Visa to enter Brazil. A deposit of \$300 will ensure you a place in the Brazil tour group. Final payments of the remaining travel costs are due on March 1, 1989.

April '89? Contact the World Missions office at AFLC Headquarters for details. (See related article in this issue.)

—*Pastor Eugene Enderlien*
World Missions Director

Personalities

Rev. Roy Johnson, Mentor, Minn., has accepted the call to serve Abiding Faith Lutheran Church, Ortonville, Minn., as previously announced, and is, in fact, already giving them service about once a month. But he continues as pastor of the Winger, Minn., parish until the last of April and will begin full-time service in the new parish on May 1.

Rev. J. G. Erickson, Minneapolis, Minn., who has retired from parish ministry, has accepted a call to become a part-time evangelist and field representative for the Hauge Lutheran Inner-mission Federation. He was an evangelist before becoming a parish pastor, first under the Lutheran Free Church in 1956, and later the AFLC. The Hauge Federation is an inter-Lutheran fellowship and work.

Rev. Edmundo Hassenteufel, AFLC pastor on loan to the World Mission Prayer League, is working together with his wife Heidi in the Hispanic program of the California Lutheran Bible School during their year of furlough from Bolivia. Their current address is: 642 S. Western Avenue, Anaheim, Calif. 92804.

Winter Bible Conferences

Theme — "That I May Know Him"
Theme Text — Philippians 3:7-14
Theme Song — "Tell Me the Old, Old Story"

Dates and Locations:

January 27-29 — Calvary Lutheran, Fergus Falls, Minn. Bible leader — Dr. Steve Lombardo, AFLC Schools; Evangelist — Pastor Gary Jorgenson, Stanley, N. Dak.

February 3-5 — Our Savior's Lutheran, Dickinson, N. Dak. Bible leader — Pastor Ralph Tjelta, AFLC Schools; Evangelist — Pastor Lyndon Korhonen, Culbertson, Mont.

Feb. 10-12 — Medicine Lake Lutheran, Plymouth, Minn. Bible leader — Dr. Steve Lombardo; evangelist — Pastor Tom Olson, Cumberland, Wis.

Bible Study Schedule:

Saturday a.m. — "That I May Know Him," "The Power of His Resurrection"

Saturday p.m. — "The Fellowship of His Sufferings"

Sunday a.m. — "Being Conformed to His Death."

Illinois District

The Illinois District of the AFLC will hold an area Winter Bible Conference in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Morris, Feb. 17-19, 1989

The guest speaker will be Rev. Everald Strom, former president of the Church of the Lutheran Brethren and who now conducts a counselling ministry.

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 she held membership.

MINNESOTA

Thief River Falls

Arthur (Art) Bredeson, 82, Oct. 10, Our Saviour's.

Mrs. Marie Anderson, 89, Nov. 6, Our Saviour's.

WISCONSIN

Boscobel

Mrs. Marguerite Wetter, 79, Oct. 16, Trinity.

1989 Annual Conference

June 14-18

Minot, N. Dak.

Theme: "Fields White Unto Harvest"—John 4:35

Note: If you received a damaged 1988 Annual Report, please notify headquarters' office for a free corrected replacement.

HOME MISSION NEWS

Wheatland, Iowa

Christian Lutheran Church, Wheatland, Iowa, dedicated their house of worship on Sunday, October 9th, with Rev. Richard Snipstead and Rev. Elden Nelson officiating. The congregation, which held its first service last January, purchased a former lodge hall and remodeled it into an attractive and functional church home. Special mention was made during the dedication of the gift of an organ from Mrs. Esther Larson, Minneapolis, Minn. Senior Seminarian Tim Carlson presently serves the congregation on weekends, assisted by other students.



Upsala, Minn.

Independent Lutheran Fellowship, Upsala, Minn., a group meeting for worship since last summer, has decided to organize as an AFLC congregation. The Home Missions office has assisted the new fellowship by scheduling speakers for the Sunday services since its beginning, and Seminararians Steve Olinger and Michael Crowell presently serve on alternate weekends. The name Word of Life Lutheran Church was adopted on Sun., Oct. 30.

Larimore, N. Dak.

Sunday, Aug. 28, marked a new milestone for Living Faith Lutheran Church in Larimore, N. Dak., as the new congregation's church was

Pictured with the two Pastors Molstre, front, are church council members, left to right, Jim Stover, Ron Petsinger, Arnold Johnson, Leroy Sletten and Kermit Berge.



Park River, N. Dak.

Victory Lutheran Church, Park River, N. Dak., accepted 28 new members at its service on Oct. 23. Shown here are, front row, left to right, JoAnna Dryburgh, Thomas, Loren and Louise Dryburgh, Luan and Verda Setness, Helen Haas, Freda Axvig, Mary Ann Erickson, Paul, Marlys, Johanna (being held) and Billie Jo Kjelland, Allison, Mark and Alina Lindgren, and Doris Einarson; and, back row, Dennis and Jon Dryburgh, Willard Setness, Arnold Haas, Allyn Axvig, Art Erickson, Jim and Luke (being held) Kjelland and Harold Einarson. Not pictured are Jeff Lindgren and Olive Ward. James Rasmussen is the pastor of the congregation.

Following the service there was a "pot blessing" dinner welcoming the new members.

for prayer

Rev. Elden Nelson, Home Missions Director, conducted informational meetings during October in Floodwood, Minn., and Rugby, N.

Dak., where interest has been expressed in the possibility of AFLC congregations. Please remember these concerned friends in prayer as they seek God's will.

dedicated and its first full-time pastor installed.

The installation service for Pastor Mark Molstre was held at 10:30 a.m., with his father, Pastor David Molstre, Fargo, N. Dak., officiating. Dinner was served at noon and an open house was from 2 to 5.

Pastor David Molstre also conducted the service of dedication at 2:30. The church is of frame construction with about 6000 feet of space. It is designed to accommodate the handicapped and is superinsulated, with off-peak heating.

Living Faith Lutheran Church



CAMPUS NEWS

Students who served

The 1988 Fall Quarter concluded on November 23. That day marked the end of responsibilities for some AFLBS student officers.

Student body officers have been: Mark Fagerstrom, Warren, Minn., president; Jason Brateng, Roseau, Minn., vice-president; Melissa Kruse, Eagan, Minn., secretary; Denise Sahlin, Brooklyn Park, Minn., treasurer and Charles Bergstedt, Golden Valley, Minn., chaplain.

Overseers of the girls' dorm who worked with Mrs. Beulah Sunde, resident head, were: Mary Modean, Scandia, Minn.; Carla Osland, DeKalb, Ill.; Kirstin Huhn, Randolph, N. J. and Michelle Demskey, Minneapolis, Minn. Along with these proctors were two deaconesses, Sarah Tjelta, Blaine, Minn. and Denise Sahlin, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

The men proctors who served with Seminarian James Johnson, resident head, were: Tom Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, Wis.; Brad Keena, Bagley, Minn., Wayne Peterson, Thief River Falls, Minn. and Mark Fagerstrom, Warren, Minn. The deacons who oversaw and encouraged spiritual life

in the men's dorm were Steve Carlson, Amery, Wis. and Larry Houston, Jacksonville, Ill.

Teams in service

Michigan's upper peninsula, Grafton, N. Dak. and Pipestone, Minn. have all hosted an AFLBS Gospel Team. The choir sang at Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church during an evangelistic service. These are some of the places AFLBS students have served this fall. The schedule promises to be getting busier in the weeks ahead.

Basketball begins

On November 18, approximately fifteen AFLBS men began a 14-game schedule against regional Bible colleges. Coach Wayne Peterson began their Tuesday and Thursday evening practices earlier in the month.

Seven girls are practicing for their 10-game schedule which begins December 10. Wanda Jacobson, Pastor Greven's secretary, is the women's coach. Area church gyms are usually rented for both men and women's practice sessions.

Annual Christmas Concert

December 11, 1988, 4 p.m. - AFLC Schools Campus



The annual Basket Social was sponsored by the Missions Club on Nov. 10. Going with the cowboy theme were three harmonica players: Aaron Quanbeck, McVile, N. Dak.; Charlie Bergstedt, Minneapolis, and Mark Fagerstrom, Warren, Minn. Tom Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, Wisc., is president of this year's Missions Club.

—photo by Lynn Erickson

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences - February 1 - October 31

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN OCTOBER	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	%* TOTAL
General Fund	\$ 178,997.00	\$11,737.95	\$117,092.46	65
Schools - (AFLTS) . .	99,367.00	4,798.09	54,206.69	55
(AFLBS) . .	156,150.00	8,307.48	76,386.40	49
Home Missions.	317,850.00	21,552.23	150,382.11	47
World Missions.	280,140.00	18,571.99	139,583.47	50
Capital Investment . .	25,000.00	1,353.08	16,406.42	66
TOTALS	\$1,057,504.00	\$66,320.82	\$554,057.55	52
1987 - 1988	\$1,014,894.00	\$68,404.68	\$553,355.02	55
*Goal 75%				

The building contains a sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen, Sunday School rooms and pastor's study. Much of the construction work was done by volunteer labor under the direction of Leroy Sletten. Specialized services were performed by area businesses.

Living Faith began its existence in the autumn of 1985, after holding services in the elementary school gym and in downtown locations, and moved into its new building at 4th and Franklin in January of this year.

Pastor Mark Molstre, a graduate of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary in 1988, is married to the former Lori Finstrom of Buxton, N. Dak. The couple has two children, Jessica and Joshua.

The word "Immanuel" is one of the most colorful names of our Savior. Signifying "God is with us," it brings to us the stimulating thought of the nearness of God. It connotes also God's great interest in the human race and His concern for its welfare. He would not leave us alone, but came to us in visible form to assure us of His saving love. —*Martin Hegland*

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

Second-class

News of the churches

Minneapolis, Minn. — "Favorite Psalms" is the subject of the adult Bible studies at Medicine Lake Lutheran on Wednesday nights at the present time. There are classes for all ages at these Family Church Night sessions beginning at 7:15.

Greenbush, Minn. — The installation service for Released Time teachers, Women's Missionary Federation and Church Council officers was held on Sun., Nov. 20, at United Lutheran.

Roseau, Minn. — The Father and Son Banquet for Rose Lutheran was held on Nov. 18 at the church.

Eben Jct., Mich. — Mrs. Darrel Peterson of Escanaba, Mich., was featured in a musical program at Calvary Lutheran as the annual Appreciation Banquet was held on Nov. 5. Honored were the women of Calvary.

Minneapolis, Minn. — Rev. Ralph Rokke of Faith Lutheran attended the 25th anniversary of Mt. Carmel Lutheran, McIntosh, Minn., on Sun., Oct. 23. He formerly served as pastor there.

Mason, Wis. — Two events during the evangelistic service series in the parish earlier this month with Dr. Francis Monseth were a personal evangelism workshop on the morning of Nov. 12 and a Luther League dinner at 5:30 with Dr. Monseth.

Minnewaukan, N. Dak. — The Senior Choir of Trinity Lutheran is scheduled to sing at the service each third Sunday of the month.

Tioga, N. Dak. — A pizza party was held at Zion Lutheran during the week of special meetings early in the month. Pastor David Molstre, the guest speaker, led the Bible study for the young people.

Canton, S. Dak. — Six Luther Leaguers and three chaperones made the trip to the district LL convention at Reva, S. Dak., this fall.

Faith, S. Dak. — Rev. Ronald Knutson, Canton, S. Dak., spoke at special meetings at Bethel Lutheran, Nov. 1-6.

Cokato, Minn. — At a Mission Night service at Good Shepherd Lutheran on Nov. 27, Rev. Yeddo Gottel, Minneapolis, Minn., and a director of International Student Fellowship Ministries were the speakers.

St. Paul, Minn. — Sarmita Peterson, the "Candle Lady," spoke at the Family Night service at Victory In Christ Lutheran on Oct. 9. She told of her life as a child in Latvia, of being in World War II refugee camps and coming to America. She lit a candle for every significant blessing of God in her life. At last the church chancel glowed with the light of many candles.

Thief River Falls, Minn. — At the annual Harvest Festival at Our Saviour's Lutheran on Nov. 2, a former member of the congregation was the speaker, Rev. Terry Wold of East Grand Forks, Minn.

New AFLC congregations given neighborly welcome

Psalm 119:63 says: "I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep my precepts."

Sunday afternoon, October 23, members of the Bagley, Minn., parish (Grace, Rice and Alida congregations) traveled to Northome for a time of fellowship and to get acquainted with members of the Hope and Bethesda congregations. We wanted to personally welcome them into the AFLC and to our North Central District.

Our afternoon began with a singalong led by Pastor Russell Tessman. Robert Bilden from Rice and Mark Fredrickson from Alida each entertained us with singing and accompanied themselves on their guitars. There were several testimonies from the Bagley parish and a welcome from each visiting congregation. All took their turn to stand and introduce themselves and tell a few things about themselves.

Our day closed with a delicious potluck meal and with a lot of good visiting among the five congregations. Pastor Tessman and his congregations are a warm, friendly group of people whom we enjoyed very much.

Thank you so much for the good time that we enjoyed with you, Northome people!

— *Pastor Lyle Twite*