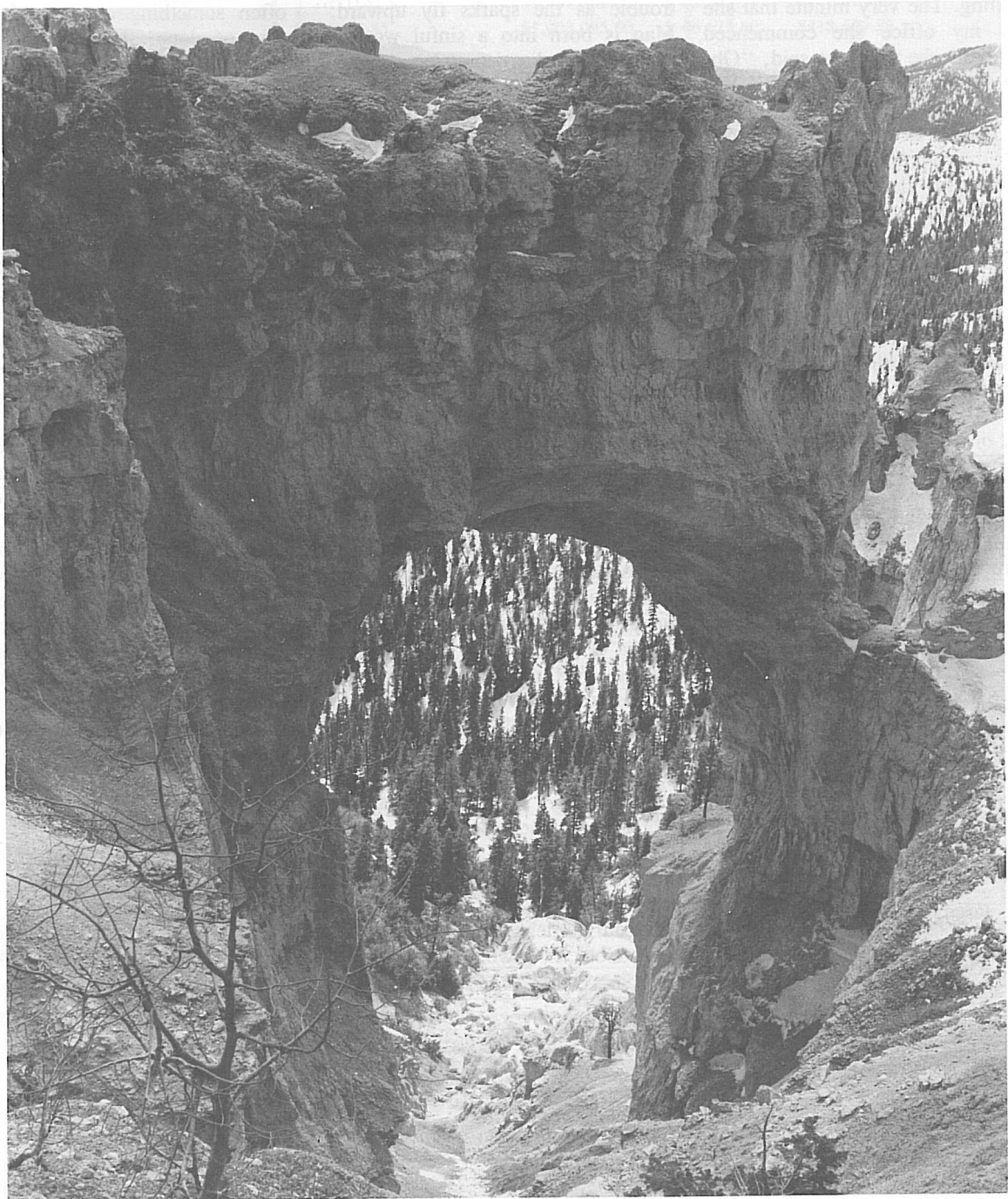


# **THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR**

November 5, 1985



Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah  
Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

# at the MASTER'S FEET

## "Why are you cast down?"

### Psalm 42

A young wife came to me for counselling. The very minute that she entered my office she commenced weeping. As she wept she said, "Oh, I'm so depressed; I'm so tired." She was depressed because she had permitted herself to become very much distressed with the much stress that she was facing in her life. That lady could identify very well with the psalmist and his statement in verse 5 of Psalm 42, "Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me?" The psalmist, too, was experiencing a time of depression. This psalm suggests several significant thoughts concerning depression.

*First of all it suggests the common occurrence of depression.* One person said, "Depression has always been the lot of mankind. Christians are not immune from depression; however, they are better equipped to handle it than the unsaved are." It is interesting

to note the frequency with which this theme is dealt in the Scriptures. Job 5:7 states, "But man is born to trouble as the sparks fly upward." Man is born into a sinful world of trouble that makes depression a common occurrence.

This matter of depression is so common that even the psalmist was not immune to it. In this psalm he gives us a picture of a depressed soul. As we read the psalm we can almost see the man looking cast down and dejected. We can almost see it in his face, which undoubtedly had a troubled and anxious look. Inward trouble eventually manifests itself in weeping, for he says, in verse 3, "My tears have been my food day and night." Since depression is such a common problem of man, it is well that we consider other aspects of this problem.

*A second thought suggested by this psalm is the cause of depression.* The psalmist sought to learn the cause of his depressed state by addressing himself with the question, "Why are you cast down, O my soul?"

*One of the causes of depression can be other people.* The enemies of the psalmist had caused this deep melancholy to fall upon him. Today, too, people are often guilty of producing depression. Instead of encouraging us by giving us emotional support they discourage us by making unrealistic demands and by not showing interest in our needs. Instead of bearing one another's burdens, they make our burdens heavier, causing our souls to be cast down.

*However, one of the major causes of depression is not the failings of other people, but our own sins.* It is often something a person has once said or done, that haunts him and comes back to him and makes him depressed, miserable and wretched. I recall a fine Christian man over 90 years of age who was still troubled about the one time he had gotten drunk as a youth. Breaking God's commandments is a leading cause of depression.

*A final thought suggested by this psalm is the cure for depression.* The cure that the psalmist finds is that of *hoping in God*. In verses 5 and 11, he says, "Hope thou in God." Since our God is unchangeable, His grace is the ground for hope. This hope gives peace to our depressed spirits so that the depression is lifted by the Lord. The hope that Christ gives leads us to depend upon Him instead of upon tranquilizers as the cure for our depression. In order to have this uplifting hope we must be in the right relationship to God by trusting in Jesus as our Savior and Lord. If we are depressed, let us ask ourselves, "Why are we cast down?" Then let us place our hope in Jesus who invites us to cast all our burdens on Him, for He cares about us.



by Pastor  
Einar Unseth

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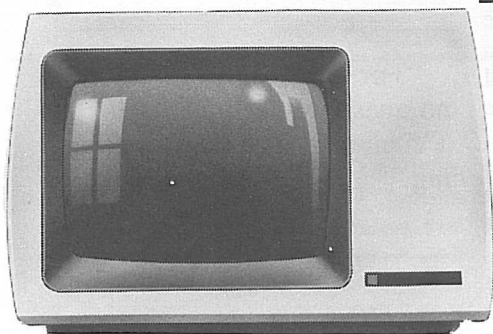
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# TV EVANGELISM and the LOCAL CONGREGATION

Fundamental Principle number one of the AFLC states, "According to the Word of God, the congregation is the right form of the kingdom of God on earth." That means that we believe that the biblical pattern for Christian organization, life and ministry is the local congregation.

We believe that local congregations today are like the local congregations mentioned in the New Testament. We see them as existing, by the will of God, to provide the Word and Sacraments to God's people, to provide a Gospel witness to the unsaved within our communities. We believe that God means for local congregations to be the basic form of Christian organization until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. Other forms of ministry may come and go, but the congregation is to remain.

Now keeping these thoughts in mind, let us evaluate a relatively recent phenomenon in church history, radio and TV evangelism. Radio evangelism goes back about 60 years and TV evangelism about 35 years. In terms of church history, that is not very long. Yet they have become extremely influential in the church today. Let's take note of some of their problems and potentials.

First let's note the problems:

1. The main problem, of course, is that some of the radio and TV religious programs are not preaching the truth of God's Word. Some of

them are preaching a "Gospel" of salvation by good works rather than the cross of Christ. Others are simply providing their audiences with a little music and a soothing message. Their hearers are never confronted with the Word of the Living Christ who says, "Take up the cross and follow me."

Many local churches are failing in the same way. This problem is not unique to the media ministries, but the sad effects are multiplied thousands of times over by the power of radio and TV.

It often takes real spiritual discernment and a good knowledge of the Bible to be able to tell whether a program is faithful to God's Word or not. Satan is able to appear as an angel of light. He delights in mixing truth and error together. Whenever we have determined that a radio or TV preacher is a false prophet, it is best never to listen to his programs.

2. A second problem of radio and TV evangelism is that it can generate vast amounts of money which can entice charlatans to pose as preachers. Some programs receive millions and millions of dollars each year in contributions. Such amounts of money are bound to attract false shepherds and sometimes when these false shepherds are caught in scandals, great harm is done to the cause of Christ.

Even some preachers who begin in faithfulness to Christ and to God's Word are corrupted by the powerful temptations that come with the vast amounts of money that they receive. Some succumb to temptations to gimmickry or dishonesty in order to keep



"Other forms of ministry may come and go, but the congregation is to remain."

contributions coming. Some use their contributions for foolish and self-serving projects. We need to be very, very careful about where we give our tithes and offerings. The greatest part of them should go to our own home congregations.

A closely-related problem is that radio and TV increase the distance between a preacher and his hearers. A contributor to a media ministry cannot know very precisely how his gift is being used. Nor can he observe the preacher firsthand to see whether he practices what he preaches. A TV viewer usually has no other contact



By Rev. Ralph M. Rokke  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



## TV and CHURCH . . .

with a speaker than by seeing what has been carefully prepared for broadcast.

In a local church, on the other hand, every parishioner can and should know his pastor personally. Day by day he can watch him strive to serve his Lord. If the pastor is faithful, then the parishioner has the advantage of a good example to follow. If the pastor fails in personal stewardship to Christ, then the parishioner can see that and can pray for the pastor. Perhaps he can correct him, and certainly he can judge his preaching accordingly. In the personal contact of a local congregation, what you are speaks as loudly as what you say.

Focusing too much attention on money ruins the witness of many radio and TV preachers. Worse yet, it makes some people cynical about the real motives of all preachers. Every servant of God needs to be very careful in this area.

3. Thirdly, another problem of TV evangelism is that it often makes local congregational life seem drab and unexciting. Most TV programs feature very attractive people. The singers and speakers are always immaculately groomed and dressed. Their sets and backgrounds are gorgeous gardens or magnificent cathedrals. Their image is as glamorous as vast amounts of money and modern technology can devise.

Real churches, by contrast, consist of real people. There are young families with children who are noisy sometimes. There are older members who are no longer beautiful or stylish but who are every bit as precious to God as those who are. There are members who come to worship showing on their faces the effects of the burdens which they bear. Real life is not as glamorous as TV.

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“. . . another problem of TV evangelism is that it often makes local congregational life seem drab and unexciting.”

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But indeed that is why God has created the Church! It exists because people are not perfect. People need a merciful God and a loving Savior. All of us, to some extent, share in the effects of sin upon this fallen world, and God, in his grace, has given us the church as a place where our burdens can be lifted and our needs met through the Word and Sacraments.

The Gospel is for all people. We are all equally precious to God. In the local congregation God gives us our best opportunity to learn to love one another as He loves us all.

Now let's note some of the blessings and advantages of radio and TV evangelism:

1. The greatest advantage of media ministries is their effectiveness in evangelism. They can reach people in homes, cars and businesses who would not otherwise be reached with the Good News. One network TV program can reach a far greater audience of unsaved people in one hour than most churches could do in 10 years!

As a result, souls are saved and added to the kingdom. At least one of our AFLC pastors came to know Christ through a Billy Graham TV program. Now that pastor has a fruitful ministry of his own for the Lord. Thank God for such fruit for the kingdom! Radio and TV ministries can do a great work in the area of evangelism.

2. A second great value of media ministries is as a "substitute church" for invalids. Some ill and aged people cannot come to God's house for worship. For them, the Sunday morning programs can be a very worthwhile substitute for the real thing.

Long distance phone calls are sometimes advertised as "the next best thing to being there." That is what the electronic church can be. For invalids it is not quite as good as going to church, but it is the next best thing to being there.

3. A third value of media ministries is as a supplemental ministry of the Word to all Christians. Some people are able to listen to Christian radio programs as they go about their daily work. What a blessing that can be! The programs direct our thoughts to God. They teach us God's Word, and they lift our spirits.

But again, discernment is needed

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"For most of us. . .there is no question that some radio and TV ministries are a great blessing."

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to recognize what is biblically-correct teaching and what is not. Even godly and sincere preachers will not always be right on every point. Try the spirits. Compare everything to God's Word. Then accept what is right and reject what is wrong. I have personally found that continual review of Luther's Small Catechism helps in this regard. It sharpens my spiritual senses to discern the important basics of our faith.

Radio and TV preaching can be of great blessing to God's people. I remember one occasion when my oldest daughter was about two years old. I was watching a Billy Graham program on TV, unaware that she was paying any attention. At one point in his sermon Mr. Graham said, "God wants Christian doctors. God wants Christian lawyers. God wants Christian teachers." Completely on her own, my young daughter responded, "I'll be one!" Believe me, that touched a father's heart! It showed, too, that the message was getting through, even to very young listeners.

For most of us, then, there is no question that some radio and TV ministries are a great blessing. They are tools being used to preach Christ. We thank God for them.

Nevertheless, we in the AFLC believe and proclaim that the congregation is still the right form of the kingdom of God on earth. A local assembly of believers - united around the Word and the Sacraments - that is still the true Church. That is where God calls us to find our fellowship and to grow in his Word. It is where He calls us to use our gifts to serve Him, and it is where He calls us to concentrate our giving and our work for the kingdom. Let us listen to good radio and TV religious programs, but let us give our first love and allegiance to our own home congregations.



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# The Most Valuable Person

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Would you open your Bibles with me to one of the familiar parables of Jesus, Luke 14: 16 - 24. I am not going to take space in writing out this parable, but encourage you to follow along in your own Bibles as we search out and find what is the most "valuable person." So let's examine each one, what they are saying, and the part they are playing in this lesson taught us by Christ.

*The most important person*, we all agree, is the one who planned the Great Supper. "A certain man made a great supper" (v 16). The certain man we all know to be Jesus, who not only prepared but gave the invitation for all to come to Him.

Before we go any further, let's look at the most important statement. "Come; for all things are now ready." The invitation to an event like this in the Far East went out at two different times. The first invitation was informing the invited of the coming event. The second is announcing it. "Come; everything is ready now."

*The most noticed* are those that had received the first and now the second invitations. They stand out because of the vain excuses they made, in verses 18, 19 and 20. I call them *foolish* excuses. Not for what they said, but that any excuses not to receive the grace of God at the cross and to repent and come to Christ are foolish and empty. There are no valid excuses. This speaks to us today, living in our time. We have received the first invitation many times, the knowledge that there is a new life in Christ, a way of life necessary before one can enter God's heavenly kingdom. We have heard the second invitation, "Come; everything is ready now." A new life is ready if you will

come and receive and, praise God, it is free.

*The most fortunate* and, I say, the blessed (vs. 21 and 23). Let's call these the ones that have never heard, or heard so little about, the grace of God, salvation, the forgiveness of sin, resurrection and heaven, the things that we have grown up with. And when they hear, they believe and they come to Christ; they are saved. And they just thank and praise God for His mercy.

*And now the most valuable*, the ones whom we seldom notice. But, as Jesus instructed in this parable of salvation, they play a valuable role. They are the "servants." The way I see it is, we do not need more preachers, more schools, more programs. We need these, yes, but the greatest need we have in Christianity today is the need for servants. How would the last group ever know that there is such a thing as salvation, that a person can repent and receive Jesus Christ and make Him Lord of his life if the servants did not go out and invite, testify and live Christ before a needy world every day so that people will come and hear the Word taught and preached?

Peter is well-known throughout the book of Acts especially for his preaching. Different times that he preached thousands were saved. People were healed of illness because of the faith of this man and we know that in heaven some day he will receive a big crown for all he has done. In Peter's case (and in many others) I believe that there will be an even greater crown given, not to him but to another. Look with me at the first to follow Christ. The first thing that he did was to go to find his brother Peter and tell him the good news (v. 41).

"We have found the Messiah", or, "Peter, my brother, I have found Jesus and, Peter, I want you to know my Jesus." Andrew will be awarded his special crown because he was a good servant and brought Peter to Christ. And, friends in Christ, we are all called to be servants, and this is great news. In my own life there were preachers and teachers who influenced me to come to Christ. But what really set the wheels in motion and changed the interest in Christ to a desire to know Christ personally were two men that came to my home. They shared what Jesus meant to them. If there would have been an English major there, or a teacher of communicating and speech, both of my visitors would have failed the test. They stuttered, mispronounced words, hesitated in prayer. But I thank God that they accomplished what they came for, to tell me what Jesus Christ meant to them, and that it was also meant for me.

What is a servant? Who can qualify for this great place in the kingdom's work? First of all, according to the parable, a servant is a person who is in the family of God. Servants are saved; they are not someone hired for this one occasion but are a part of the household of God. He or she is someone whom the Lord can trust and count on. Being a part of the household of God, he or she has the heart of God, the mind of Christ, and listens carefully to the Holy Spirit. All of this is possible because in the eighth chapter of Romans we read that we are adopted into the family of God. Verse 17: "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ." The kind of servant that we are referring to is not one who is under the whip, or even under orders, but a

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by Lay Pastor Lyle Twite,  
Finlayson, Minn.  
(member of the AFLC Commission on  
Evangelism)

"...any excuses not to receive the grace of  
God at the cross and to repent and come to Christ  
are foolish and empty."

## PERSON . . .

person who is so close to Christ that the work of Christ on earth is a part of him. This is where the "joy of the Lord" and the "peace of God" are found. Peace that comes to us at salvation can grow cold or old, but to a servant it is renewed each time we serve.

Think with me to the "Great Commission" (Matt. 28:19), just the first words, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations." This, my friends, to a servant, as a part of God's family, is not an order to be carried out but it is a privilege, a blessing, an opportunity to bring others to my Jesus and enrich our Christian living.

Back to our parable, verse 17. He sent the servants out with the message: "Come; everything is ready." I know that they were turned down, they were given a bunch of empty excuses. I am sure that they were disappointed, sad, but did this stop them? Did they agree and say, "We will never do that again," "That's not for me." No, see verse 21: "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city and bring them in. Again they returned and said that there was still room for more, and the Lord said, in verse 23, "Go" again. And the more they went the more they brought; the more they brought, the more they were blessed. There is an invitation that goes with this--yes, it is for the lost, the unsaved, to come to Christ and be saved. Put away those vain excuses; the Lord means business.

But the Lord wants to invite all Christians of all ages, all walks of life, to get so close to Him that His burdens are yours. You can have the heart of God, the mind of Christ and be directed by the Holy Spirit. You are invited to be a servant, a most valuable person to God and to man. Remember, only a servant of Christ has the great message to a sin-sick, dying world--"Come; everything is ready!" Everything is ready; nothing is stopping them from coming to Christ.

# thoughts on stewardship

by Alfred Tollefson,

Member of Bethany Church, Astoria, Ore.)

When we pray for our daily bread and our heavenly Father provides the loaf, we must remember that it is not ours alone. It must be divided, because there are those who do not know how to ask; and those who ask and whom God intends to answer through us. Some will receive their life resources only through our stewardship. Our daily bread then becomes the means to do what God wants us to do in this world. Paul reminds us in II Cor. 9:8 that God can give us everything that we need so that we may always have enough both for ourselves and for giving away to others.

We can start with the giving of a tithe, which is far more than a gesture of support for one's church. We tithe to remind ourselves that all we are and have belongs to God; and that we are only stewards of His gifts and resources.

A tithe should be a floor beneath which we will not go. Then whatever we give beyond the tithe becomes our offering to God.

David realized something which most of us fail to understand. All our gifts to God come from him in the first place; God is our source.

We must never forget that God is the rightful owner of everything and we are personally accountable for what we do with His money.

Many Christians do not know how to start tithing because they are so pressed to pay bills that they have nothing left. Their response to God's instructions on giving is like mine when my wife, Trinna, said we should tithe: "How can we tithe when we are spending more than we are making?" The answer now as then is, "God will supply our every need."

We should support financially those who minister the Word of God to

us, as Paul pointed out to us in I Cor. 9:14. The Lord directed those who proclaim the Gospel to get their living from the Gospel. We are instructed by Scripture to share our wealth with those who teach us God's Word (Gal. 6:6). This is the principle behind the practice of paying pastors and other full-time Christian workers.

Some serious thinking should give you the answer to a question implied in Jesus' teaching on riches: would you rather be wealthy for a few years on earth or wealthy for eternity in heaven? A wise person makes his plans accordingly.

"How can we tithe when we are spending more than we are making?"

The following principles summarize some of the main points in the Bible's teaching on giving.

God owns everything. We do not have any absolute rights in ownership of anything, but we hold possessions in trust for God (Ps. 24:1).

After giving God His rightful part, a tithe from the first fruits, we are to give in proportion to how God has blessed us, no matter what our income is. This refers to spiritual as well as material blessings.

God's giving is tied to His love. God is love and the greatest example of giving known to man is His giving His Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for our sins. Because love gives, we who are members of God's family must give.

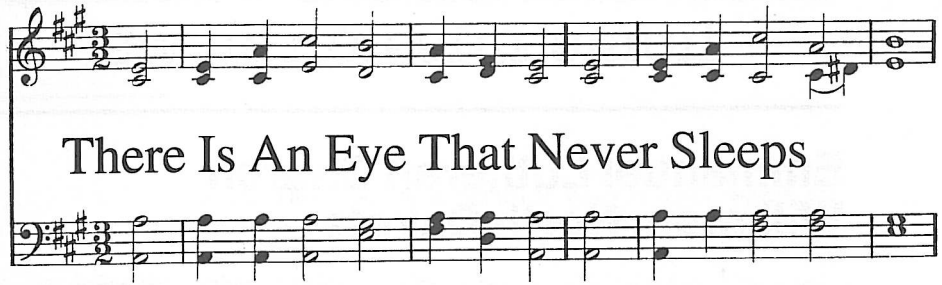
The basic principle of all giving is that God is our source. He has in store for us all that we will ever need of everything. He has promised to "supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (Phil. 4:19).

We must yield or present our

## What I have learned

I have been a pastor long enough to cease being overly impressed by wealth and position, because too often they cover the life of quiet desperation. I have learned also to withhold my pity from the humble and the poor until I see whether or not they are rich in treasure which the world can neither give nor take away.

Gerald Kennedy



## Our hymn study

**Concordia, No. 25**  
**James C. Wallace, 1793-1841**

Tune: Evan  
William Havergal, 1846

James Wallace was an English Unitarian minister and a prolific hymn-writer whose hymns often belie his professed theology. There is little or no effort to conceal the Trinity in his hymns which address the Godhead; still in all, his are basically hymns of God in nature, God in everything, Divine Carer of all, Divine Helper in need.

Those that have some merit for Christian use deal with the efficacy of prayer, the power of prayer, as does this one.

Reverend William Henry Havergal, composer of "Evan" must not be confused with his more eminent children, Frances R. Havergal, youngest daughter, Rev. Henry E. Havergal, eldest son, and Rev. Francis T. Havergal, youngest son, all more famous but not necessarily more successful. His work totaled about 100 hymns and 50 musical works. His primary objective was to raise the standards of church music which at that time had sunk to a low level in England.

Another of his tunes is "Consecration" (C 406 — "Take My Life and Let It Be") which is among the finest and greatest in the Church.

"Evan" is pathetically over-worked in the C; it is used six times (also 28, 92, 257, 277 and 320).

Don Rodvold

bodies to Christ as a living sacrifice (Rom. 12:1). This is a total commitment on our part. We give everything back to God, Who created us and gave us these gifts in the first place. This giving of ourselves to God furnished us with the power and the desire to give His money for His work.

We are to grow in grace continually in everything. Our faith, witnessing, knowledge of God, love and giving should grow stronger as we continually experience God's grace. The believer in Jesus Christ is never in a status quo situation. He is either advancing or sliding back.

We give generously to those in need. This giving will be a testimony to others, who will glorify God.

From the early days in the Old Testament, God's people have come to worship, bringing gifts; so giving is a form of worship. Do not come to church empty-handed, but bring your gifts to God.

*There is an eye that never sleeps  
Beneath the wing of night;  
There is an ear than never shuts  
When sink the beams of light.*

*There is an arm that never tires,  
When human strength gives way;  
There is a love that never fails,  
When earthly loves decay.*

*But there's a pow'r which man can wield  
When mortal aid is vain,  
That eye, that arm, that love to reach,  
That list'ning ear to gain.*

*That pow'r is pray'r, which soars on high,  
Thru Jesus, to the throne;  
And moves the hand which moves the world,  
To bring salvation down!*



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# home mission news

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## Emmanuel Lutheran Church Williston, North Dakota

Greetings to all from the congregation at Emmanuel Lutheran. As you read our article in the *Ambassador*, it is our prayer that God bless and keep you.

This article will inform you about where we are geographically, something more about us and, hopefully, give you some insight on just how to pray for us and the Lord's work here.

The city of Williston is located in the northwest corner of North Dakota. It is about 20 miles east of the Montana line and 60 or so miles south of Canada, assuming the crow flies straight. We have the distinction as a city of having the longest hours of daylight of any city in the contiguous 48 states. That's good for picnics but terrible for getting kids to bed.

Williston, since the early 1950s, has been known as oil country. While the base of the economy is agriculture, small grains and livestock, the mineral exploration and its production has a marked effect on our population. During the "boom" four or five years ago, construction was at a maddening pace, cost of living high and new faces arrived each day as the myriad jobs were filled. It was also a time when you saw both the best and worst in people. Some who had never allowed money to be a controlling factor in their lives suddenly were faced with the opportunity to obtain wealth. It changed a few and a few didn't let it change them. One thing it did was to point out how the sinful nature of man can demonstrate itself when given the opportunity.

But, even in the midst of this time, in 1980, God called us as a small group of people to begin a congregation. Williston was a good city to live in then and with the slowing down of the hectic pace of the "boom," it has improved.

The population of Williston is around 15,000. It has varied for obvious reasons. We have six public

elementary schools, two parochial schools and our Junior High and Williston High School. The city also contains the University of North Dakota-Williston, a two-year college and a branch of the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks.

We are also located at the headwaters, as it were, of Lake Sakakawea. Here it is simply referred to as the "river." A lot of conversation and recreation centers around the "Missouri."

Why do we share all this with you? Because we want you to know that Williston and the congregation at Emmanuel are real people living in a real place. We want you all to know that we are a city with needs, people who need a Savior. We want you to know that we are happy to live here and see our presence as God's representatives reach out into the community for His glory.

We know you won't know how to pray or what to pray for if we don't tell you about ourselves a little bit. Presently we have 107 baptized members on our rolls. With the oil slowdown, some of our people have been forced to relocate, but others have and are coming so the attendance remains about the same. We are located almost in the center of town, just a block from the high school.

Each week at Emmanuel we begin with Sunday School for nursery through adult and our worship service. Once a month we have a family night on Sunday night: supper with a service

or film following. Several of our men and Pastor Rieth meet each Wednesday morning for "Men's Breakfast Fellowship," an informal hour of Bible study and fellowship and, of course, breakfast. Confirmation is after school on Wednesday; Bible study and choir from 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Several ladies get together on Thursday mornings for a time of sharing and prayer.

Our WMF meets monthly. The Luther League meets monthly as well and often more than that as the youth and advisors get together for Bible study.

Now you know a little more about where we are and who we are. Why is this important? Because had it not been for your willingness as a church body and as individuals to support Home Missions, there wouldn't be any work here in Williston. Because unless you had responded to God's call to begin a work here, many in our congregation who have received Christ as Savior would still be in darkness. Because without you all and your faithful support financially and in prayer, the harvest field that is Williston would not be gleaned.

We look forward in the not-too-distant future to removing ourselves completely from financial aid from Home Missions. While we are already contributing monthly to AFLC benevolences, we look forward to that time when we can do more, being then grateful that the funds we are now receiving can be used to reach out to someone else, somewhere else.

If you're traveling through the "Williston Basin," please stop and visit. We'd love to introduce you personally to both ourselves and our city.

Pastor John Rieth

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## Upon The Whole Bible

All heresies come from a narrow and partial use of the Scriptures; the orthodox doctrines rest upon the whole harmonized teaching of the Bible.

L. S. Keyser

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# editorial

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## THE IRRITATING ADS

Earlier this fall there was a disturbance in the generally smooth ecumenical waters in the area of St. Cloud, Minnesota. A Pentecostal church in neighboring Sauk Rapids had run some ads in the St. Cloud *Times* which were taken to be anti-Catholic.

The president of the ministerial association in St. Cloud, a Methodist, spoke in opposition to the ads and called for their discontinuance. The last we heard, the *Times* intended to keep on running them because they expressed an opinion. This took courage because St. Cloud is heavily Roman Catholic.

It is questionable how much is accomplished in using newspaper and magazine ads to expose the teachings of other religious groups. Few of us use that method to get our own points across to the general public. Somehow it gets rather "messy."

And yet the Pentecostal church in Sauk Rapids brought up some valuable points in those ads. They are worth a look. Reports are that the ads questioned such beliefs as the virginity of Mary, her immaculate conception, the Catholic charismatic movement and prayers to saints.

Leaving to one side the charismatic movement among Catholics, let us look at the other three objections. First of all, the Pentecostals could hardly have been faulting the Roman Catholics for believing in the virginity of Mary (that she was a virgin when Jesus was born), as the newspaper report suggested; both groups would believe that. But it must be the Catholic belief in the *perpetual* virginity of Mary to which the Pentecostals object. And so do we, for the New Testament is clear that Mary later had other children by natural means (Matthew 12:46; 13:55-56; Mark 6:3; John 2:12) and only her firstborn, Jesus, was by supernatural intervention.

As to the immaculate conception of Mary, mother of Jesus, this is an old Catholic dogma or teaching. The belief that Mary, since she was to be the mother of God's Son, the sinless One, must also be free from original sin and therefore "immaculately conceived" really has no foundation in Scripture. And so it flies in the face of the conviction that all our doctrine must be Bible-based. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and was miraculously kept from inheriting a sinful nature on His mother's side. Beyond that we cannot go.

At the same time, we deplore with Roman Catholics, the blasphemous and sacrilegious French film "Hail Mary," which reportedly portrays Mary as a nude starlet. It sets Mary and Joseph in a 20th century milieu. Mary is shown as a gas station attendant who loves basketball; Joseph is a frustrated cabdriver. Whatever the motives of the film's producer, holy things should be left as they are.

The other belief which the Pentecostal ads questioned in the St. Cloud *Times* was prayers to saints, such as St.

Jude. This, too, is a doctrinal practice with which we disagree and which doesn't accord with the Scriptures. We are neither commanded nor invited to pray to Mary or any other "saints." Our prayers are directed God-ward. Surely some Christians seem to rise above others in holiness, devotion and service, but they are still men and woman of "like passions" with us. We thank God for their examples, but we don't pray to them.

Other doctrinal points in the Roman Catholic Church are troublesome as well as these mentioned here. They, too, deserve discussion, but it is a touchy thing to do in the public press as the Pentecostals in Sauk Rapids are finding out. Somewhere, somehow, though, they must be addressed and debated.

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## Christians save the world

For in the sight of God he (the Christian) is esteemed higher than the whole world, so that for his sake God sustains the world and gives it all it has. Hence if there were no Christians on earth, no town or land would have peace, yes, in one single day the devil would ruin everything there is on earth. The fact that there is still growing in the fields, that men recover from their illnesses, that they have food, peace and security, all this they owe to Christians.

Martin Luther in  
*Day By Day We Magnify Thee*

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# world missions news

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## Meet Pastor Cleodo Fruhauf

Cleodo comes from a family of German descent, which spoke both Portuguese and German at home. He is the second child and only son in a family of five children. Cleodo was born on September 18, 1957, in Catanduvas, Parana. His family is not Christian, except for a younger sister.

Cleodo was converted at a Bible camp held out at the Fazenda Retiro in Campo Mourao, Parana. He was recommended for study at the Free Lutheran Bible School (IBSM) in Campo Mourao; by a former student. Being a new Christian he felt the need to study and learn more about how to live the Christian life and be a servant of God. While studying the two-year Missionary course he worked with missionaries in the church of Campina da Lagoa and at the end of 1977 he was graduated. Sensing the call from God to enter into His ministry full-time, he entered the Seminary in 1978. During his first year of seminary training Cleodo continued working as pastor of the Campina da Lagoa Lutheran Church. For his year of internship in 1979, he was sent to the church in Ariquemes, Rondonia, a

long way from home and friends. Some families from the Campina da Lagoa church had moved up to this northwest part of Brazil and a group of people were gathering together for services. Cleodo helped in the construction of the church, built from the lumber of *one tree!!* This was a rural church and Cleodo lived with one of the families on a farm. He did his visiting from farm to farm on foot. He enjoyed his year of internship very much and would like to return and work in Rondonia, the Lord willing, even though while there he contracted malaria.

Cleodo finished seminary in 1980. During this last year of studies he was assistant pastor in the Lar Parana Lutheran Church, devoting much of his time to working with the young people. After ordination Cleodo was sent to the Free Lutheran Church in Londrina (a new congregation) as its pastor. It is an active church. There are 276 adult members and 12 children. The adults are evangelizing their neighbors and friends, using the Kennedy Evangelism III course. The church is now undergoing construction.

Cleodo was married on September 19, 1983, to Ivone Alves Ferreira. She is a 1983 graduate of Free Lutheran Bible School and actively works in the Free Lutheran Church. Cleodo first met her when he was studying in seminary and Ivone was an active member of the Lar Parana Lutheran Church. They renewed acquaintance when Cleodo started working in the Londrina Lutheran Church, a church that had been founded with the help of Ivone and her family. Cleodo says he was attracted to her because of her Christian conduct and willingness to work for the Lord. They are the proud parents of Lucas Ferreira, born November 2, 1984.

A Scriptural passage that means much to Cleodo is I Timothy 1:12-19, especially verse 12, "I thank Him who has given me strength for this, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He



Carlos Eduardo, during this last year of Seminary studies, works in Poema Church. He drives out on Saturday afternoons and returns Sunday evenings. Usually one or more young people go with him to help with singing and leading worship. Next year he will be serving a year of internship.

## My decision was confirmed

My name is Carlos Eduardo Figueira. I was born in the city of Rio de Janeiro in 1959. I was born into a non-Christian family and during many years of my life I didn't know what Jesus Christ had really done for me. When I was 19 years old, before starting studies at the University, I went to a Bible camp, and had a personal encounter with Jesus. Soon afterwards, I started going to the Episcopal Church of Brazil and continued there until I finished my university studies with a degree in Physical Education.

After these years, with the knowledge and spiritual growth I acquired, I felt the great desire to study at a Bible school. I also felt very unsatisfied with the Episcopal Church in regards to a sanctified Christian life that I wasn't

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judged me faithful by appointing me to His service."

Please pray for Cleodo, his family and ministry, and the spiritual and numerical growth of the Londrina, Parana, Lutheran Church.





Missionary Dyrud receives scholarship

Appleton, Wis. — The Rev. Connely Dyrud, a missionary to Brazil, has been awarded a continuing education scholarship amounting to \$2,500 from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL).  
Dyrud, a missionary with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, will study Interaction Across Cultural Lines during a furlough, in the United States via the scholarship.  
AAL's Missionary Scholarship Program is designed to help Lutheran missionaries continue their training and education through workshops and classes. The sessions may involve foreign language study, leadership

development, or further study of the ministry. This year, AAL will distribute \$60,000 in scholarships to missionaries in the Lutheran church bodies.

The Floreses spared in Mexico earthquake

AFLC Pastor and Mrs. Samuel Flores and a Bible school student, Raul, were in downtown Mexico City when many buildings were destroyed by the earthquake in September. Buildings very near them were damaged or destroyed. Thanks is given to God for their safety.  
The address of Pastor and Mrs. Daniel Giles, Ingrid and Daniel, Jr., is Apartado Postal 756, Leon, Gto., Mexico.

The name "Christian"

The word 'Christian' has become one of the misused terms in the English language. Give a preacher a building with stained-glass windows, an organ, and perhaps an altar; let him, garbed in clerical robes, step into a pulpit, and no matter what he says or does, he can pass as a Christian. He may deny every fundamental truth and even hold Scriptural promises up to public ridicule, but in the minds of the masses he is a Christian.  
Dr. Walter A. Maier, Sr.  
(Ed. note: Another misused term in our day is 'born-again Christian.')

finding there. After a year at the Free Lutheran Bible School in Campo Mourao, Parana, with much prayer and the desire to find God's will for my life, I felt the call from God to enter the ministry. So I decided to enter the Free Lutheran Seminary (IBSM). As soon as I had made this decision, I received a letter with an invitation for an excellent position as a teacher in the State Public Schools in Rio de Janeiro. I thought it kind of strange, for just when I decided to give all my time and life to the Lord in His work, this job was offered to me with a greater salary. But this only served to confirm my decision; now I knew the plan that God had for my life was better. So I confidently entered the Seminary. Even though being an only child, I left my home, my relatives, my friends, and dedicated myself to the Lord. This was the best and biggest decision of my life, for I feel in my heart the full happiness and the greatest satisfaction and fulfillment in life.  
God has supplied my necessities in everything and I can only thank Him for this.  
I hope to continue with this conviction of serving God for, "...I am sure that He who began a good work in (me) will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" Philippians 1:6).

the ARC Supporter Club

Whereas, Bible Camps are mightily being used of the Lord to bring young people as well as adults to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ, and to establish them in the faith; and whereas our Bible Camp, the Association Retreat Center, has been accruing a financial deficit, year by year, be it resolved that we who have been helped ourselves by Bible Camps and who want to see others helped in the same way join the ARC Supporters Club. We seek a total of 100 people to join with us to pledge \$100 per year for a total of \$10,000 per year. We expect this example to motivate many others to give other amounts so that the total budget of the ARC can be met yearly.  
May many souls be saved through these gifts of love.  
II Cor. 8:1-5: "Now . . . the churches of Macedonia . . . beyond their ability they gave of their own accord, . . . but they first gave themselves to the Lord . . ."

.....  
I (we), \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

prayerfully pledge \$100 for year \_\_\_\_ as a member of the ARC Supporters Club.  
  
Enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_ Balance \$\_\_\_\_\_  
  
(Checks to be made out to AFLC - General Fund and designated "ARC". Send them to 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.)

## CAMPUS NEWS

Ralph and Irene Beyer are adjusting well to their new home in the men's dorm at AFLBS. We are grateful to God for Ralph's positive response to the call from the Board of Trustees to serve as Dean of Men. His love and concern for the young men in the dorm is evident to all. His desire is to serve the Lord and be a help and encouragement to each one of our students. Ralph and Irene have six grown children of their own. Following is Ralph's own testimony of God's work in his life:

"My family and I joined Sunnyside Lutheran Church (Stacy, Minn.) in 1968 because it was close to our home. Our thinking was that we had had our children all confirmed at a mainline church, so now we could relax after doing our duty. How wrong that was!

First off, the Word was preached simply, forcefully and convincingly, so much so that we knew that we had to have the Savior in our hearts and

lives. Pastor (Leslie) Galland started us off and Pastor (Alvin) Grothe's loving concern settled it for us. Our lives have never been the same. We went from a life of not participating in anything to the full life of worship and service in our church.

"The joy of fellowship with Christian people is just part of the rewards. After many years of working in construction, the longing to be in Christian service had to be satisfied. There followed two and one-half years with LEM, then two and one-half years at the ARC, when the call came to be Dean of Men at AFLBS.

It is a humbling experience to be in this place with these bright, turned-on Christian young people. I pray the Lord will lead and guide me in all my ways here.

Is it possible that the Lord is trying to lead you into a life of service for Him? If He is working in your life, don't delay. You might miss the blessing He has for you."

### *fellowship corner*

#### Talents

I have been thinking of all the wonderful gifts the Lord has given His children, the Body of Christ.

There are some people who have beautiful voices; some can play the piano, organ and other instruments so beautifully, but how many of these gifts are being used to glorify God in His places of worship? And I believe that every gift, ever so small, that is turned over to God and used for His glory will be a blessing to someone.

I'd like to illustrate this by telling of a beautiful memory I have of when I was still a teenager, years ago now, and so some facts are uncertain. I can remember being in a young people's meeting in California, where a man who was crippled with something, probably MS, got up to witness to his love of the Lord and he sang (he didn't carry a tune) some hymn. I believe it

was "All to Jesus I Surrender." No matter, he talked more than he sang. But we were all so richly blessed and I believe all of us young people were in tears. I know I was and it made me as a young person want to serve the Lord anyway He could use me.

And as I was thinking of this as I mowed the grass, I wondered if some talent could be buried in our churches, WMF groups, Luther League groups or in our Sunday Schools because someone was not called on. Back in our Old Testament writings it tells us to bring our first fruits to God. Isn't a gift or talent a first fruit offering? I pray we will think of this and pray God will lead.

Mrs. Arnold Jodock  
Hatton, N. Dak.

## The Lord's Day

What would have been the fate of Christianity had not the early Christians, perhaps the apostles themselves, set aside the Lord's Day, the first day of the week, for the preaching of the Gospel, the worship of God, spiritual culture, and rest from the strenuous work of the week-days? It is easy to see that, in the leading of God's Spirit and providence, one day in seven for sacred purposes was necessary. Therefore the day should not be profaned. Luther pointed out its special value by saying that we should rest on that day, and especially should not neglect or despise the preaching of the gospel. This makes it a glad holy day, not a day of legalistic constraint, not a roistering holiday.

L. S. Keyser

## On going to church

I'm reminded of the man who said, "I don't see any use of continually going to church, because I have been going for 30 years and I can't remember a single sermon." He wrote this in a Christian publication and received many answers to this thought. Then one day a person wrote this and it ended the controversy: "I have been married for 30 years; my wife has made three meals a day all these years. I can't really remember in detail what any of them consisted of, but I know my body would not and could not have survived if I had not eaten them." It is the same with our souls; we need nourishment all the time to keep our spiritual life strong and healthy. Maybe you have heard or read this story before, but I just wanted to reiterate this important thought as far as church attendance (goes).

Lay Pastor Merle Fagerberg  
Parish Paper, Dalton, Minn.

*Indeed, it would seem that the more any one advances Spiritually, the harder are the temptations one has to meet.*

M. V. Hughes

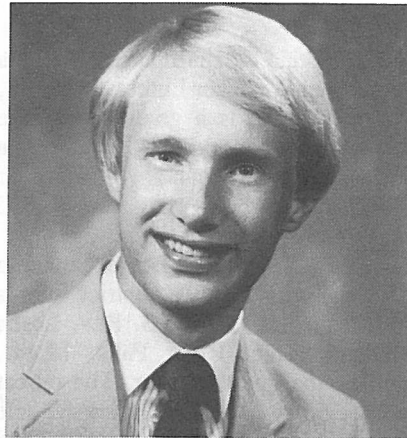
## Introducing myself

I was born into a Christian home, baptized, and was raised by parents who feared God. I have known that Christ is in my heart as far back as I can remember and I have always loved Him. I have let Him down many times but He is there, always ready to forgive me when I come to Him humbly, confessing to Him my sins, asking for forgiveness and the strength to live the way that He wants me to. God has promised to give me this strength. I Peter 4:11 says, "whoever speaks, let him speak, as it were, the utterances of God; whoever serves let him do so as by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ." I have this strength of God in whatever I do, whether it be at work with people who don't love Jesus or even when preparing for a Bible study. As this school year continues at AFLBS, I am waiting on the Lord, knowing that His plans for me are the best.

Joel Erickson

No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave.

Coolidge



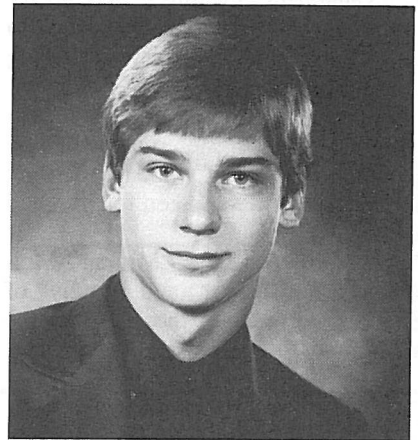
As the devotional life secretary of the Luther League Federation, I would like to encourage Luther Leaguers to send in their own personal testimonies of what Christ has done for them or tell of a special way that God has worked in their lives. It is encouraging to fellow believers to hear how God is working in other people's lives. Also, any articles and pictures of what your youth group is doing would be greatly appreciated. Please make the testimonies and articles brief and to the point, showing clearly what you want to get across. My address is:

Joel Erickson  
AFLBS

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55441

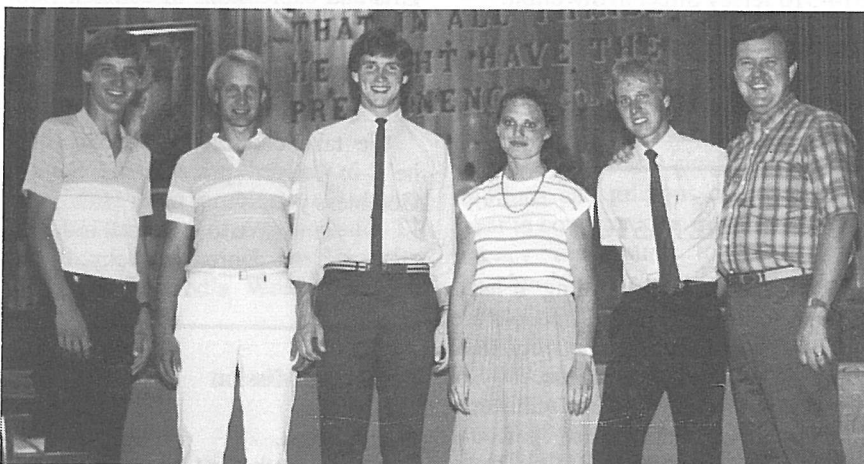
I would like to thank all the youth groups and individuals who have been very supportive in their giving toward a youth worker. As a Federation, we would like to hire a youth worker by the end of the year and have ample money to do so. Praise God! At the Luther League Convention, we were very blessed to receive a total of \$811.20 in offerings. Of this, \$458.97 went to the India orphanage and the rest went toward a youth worker. God is so good in supplying all our needs. May each one of you be in His Word every day and seek to do His will.

Please note: The youth Bible studies will no longer be printed in the *Ambassador*, but will be mailed out to local pastors for use in the Luther League. Answer sheets will accompany them, by popular demand.



## I decided to follow Jesus

I was raised in a Christian environment, but I made my first real commitment to Christ in sixth or seventh grade on my way home from school. I was reading a paper my sister wrote and she wrote of when she became a Christian. This spoke to me and I decided it was my turn. I reaffirmed my commitment through confirmation and in high school I was just enough of a Christian so that people would know, but they'd accept me anyway.



The officers of the Luther League Federation, left to right: Alan West, second vice-president; Joel Erickson, devotional life secretary; Randy

Erickson, treasurer; Jean Swanson, secretary; Lloyd Quanbeck, first vice-president; and Pastor Curtis Emerson, president.



**Webster, S. Dak.** — Rev. Paul Nash, Tioga, N. Dak., was guest speaker at special services in Tabor Lutheran Church, Oct. 13-17.

**Tioga, N. Dak.** — Norman Lutheran Church held a preaching mission Oct. 20-22 with Rev. Paul Nash, Tioga, as speaker.

**Drummond, Wis.** — At evangelistic meetings in Faith, Moland and Drummond Lutheran Churches, Oct. 13-18, the messages were brought by Lay Pastor Lyle Twite, Finlayson, Minn.

**Badger, Minn.** — Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom, Osceola, Wis., is leading Bible studies services in Badger Creek and Oiland Lutheran Churches, this week, Nov. 3-6.

**Dalton, Minn.** — Mrs. Carl Ulrich, wife of a Lutheran pastor in Ashby, Minn., spoke at a parish WMF meeting held at Sarpsborg Lutheran Church on Oct. 15.

**Eben Jct., Mich.** — Rev. James Fugleberg, Ontonagon, Mich., preached at evangelistic meetings in Calvary Lutheran Church, Oct. 5-9. He also provided a ministry of music during the services.

Calvary Lutheran is in the process of securing a stereo cassette tape recorder for taping Sunday morning services and a new screen for film and slide showings.

**Newfolden, Minn.** — Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schaffhauser and family of Switzerland were in the U.S. for the wedding of Orpha's sister, Mary Ellen,

to Christian Schaffhauser, Jake's brother, at Westaker Lutheran Church, Aug. 17. Jake is a graduate of Free Lutheran Seminary and Orpha is a former secretary to both the dean of the Bible School and the AFLC president, at different times.

**Grafton, N. Dak.** — Bethel Lutheran Church will host a district men's retreat on Sat., Nov. 23. Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn., will be the guest speaker. The retreat will begin at 10 a.m. An alternate date for it is Dec. 7, in the event of bad weather.

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### Church placed on National Historic Register

Rev. A. L. Hokonson sends word that the former Calvary Lutheran Church in Silverton, Ore., where he lives, has been placed on the National Historic Register.

Built in 1891-92, it became a Lutheran Free church in 1906. It was last used for Lutheran services in 1974. It is being converted into a facility for promoting arts and crafts in the Willamette Valley. A tea room is being added in the church basement.

The church may be seen at 314-310 Jersey Street in Silverton.

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### Personalities

Rev. Paul Nash completed his work as interim pastor in Zion Lutheran Church, Tioga, N. Dak., at the end of October and is moving to the Warroad, Minn., area where he will be involved in beginning a new AFLC congregation under the Home Missions department. It will be a "tent-making" venture, that is, he will also be secularly employed.

Rev. Wallace Jackson, formerly of Wallace, S. Dak., is now living at Rt. 3, Box 297, Perham, Minn. 56537.

Please change the address for Mr. and Mrs. Knute Jore, retired lay pastor, to McManor, McIntosh, Minn. 56556.

Rev. Ronald Hoehne, Missouri Synod pastor in Rosebud and Drake, Mo., has written a wedding guide entitled "And They Shall Become One," which was reprinted in *Christian News*, July 22, 1985. Pastor Hoehne was at one time pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minn.

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### Thank you from Penttis

We express our heartfelt love and appreciation for all of the prayers, gifts and expressions of concern from the people of the AFLC during the months of dealing with the illness and passing of our dear husband and father, Pastor Kenneth Pentti.

We take comfort in knowing that he's in heaven praising his Savior! God bless you.

We love you all in Jesus,  
Dorothy, Becky, Brian,  
Danny and David

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### Preaching Mission

**Stacy, Minn.**

Sunnyside Lutheran Church  
Wendell Johnson, pastor  
Nov. 10-13

Rev. Michael Brandt,  
Amery, Wis., speaker

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### FOLLOW JESUS . . .

During my junior year this began to change as I became more active in church activities and was challenged to step out and take a stand for Him. Since then I've grown closer to God each day as I give up my will for His. My first big decision and sacrificing of my will was done through my decision to attend AFLBS, and God has already abundantly blessed me and all the other people here, and I thank Him daily for giving me the opportunity to serve Him.

Alan West  
Kalispell, Mont.

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### THE PASTOR

"What a wonderful thing it is," he says to himself, "that if people are in some real need, instinctively they think of me and turn to me." . . . The deepest satisfaction in a minister's life is this constant, quiet, personal and spiritual ministration to all kinds and conditions of men in every conceivable form of human need.

Raymond Calkins

**ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS**  
**3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard**  
**Minneapolis, Minn. 55441**

*CHURCH SUBSIDY*  
February 1-September 30



**Mr. Ernest Miedema**  
**AFLC Business Administrator.**  
Available to talk to individuals or groups, counseling in wills, estates, etc.

**Contact:**

**3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.**  
**Plymouth, Minn. 55441**  
**(612) 545-5631**  
**Home: (701) 845-1418**

**STOP!**  
**LOOK!**  
**LISTEN!**

Transfer from the railway crossings to the small and large highways of life these three significant words. We must wait for reflection, instead of pushing ahead impulsively, as we are so prone to do. We must lift our inward eyes to the source of help, looking unto Him by whom alone we live. We must have an ear quickly attentive to His least commands, hushing all other noises that we may hear Him.

*Doran's Ministers Manual*

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	REC'D IN SEPT.	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% of TOTAL
General Fund	\$ 213,910.00	\$ 5,018.02	\$ 95,815.17	45
Schools — AFLTS	108,041.00	2,453.61	32,339.83	30
AFLBS	179,198.00	3,595.70	58,059.61	32
Home Missions	271,233.00	7,838.90	81,890.03	30
World Missions	307,000.00	12,397.26	139,301.22	45
Praise Fund	30,000.00	761.74	12,806.30	43
TOTALS	\$1,109,382.00	\$ 32,065.23	\$420,212.16	38*
1984-85	\$1,003,095.00	\$ 46,673.60	\$418,629.88	42

\*Goal 67%

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Treasurer — Mr. Arlo Kneeland		Route 1, Box 81, Summit, SD 57266
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## Come Let us to the Lord Our God

Come, let us to the Lord our God  
With contrite hearts return;  
Our God is gracious, nor will leave  
The desolate to mourn.

His voice commands the tempest forth,  
And stills the stormy wave;  
And though His arm be strong to smite,  
'Tis also strong to save.

Long hath the night of sorrow reigned,  
The dawn shall bring us light:  
God shall appear, and we shall rise  
With gladness in His sight.

Our hearts, if God we seek to know,  
Shall know Him, and rejoice;  
His coming like the morn shall be,  
Like morning songs His voice.

As dew upon the tender herb,  
Diffusing fragrance round;  
As showers that use her in the spring,  
And cheer the thirsty ground:

So shall His presence bless our souls,  
And shed a joyful light;  
That hallowed morn shall chase away  
The sorrows of the night.

John Morison  
(*The Church Hymnary*)