



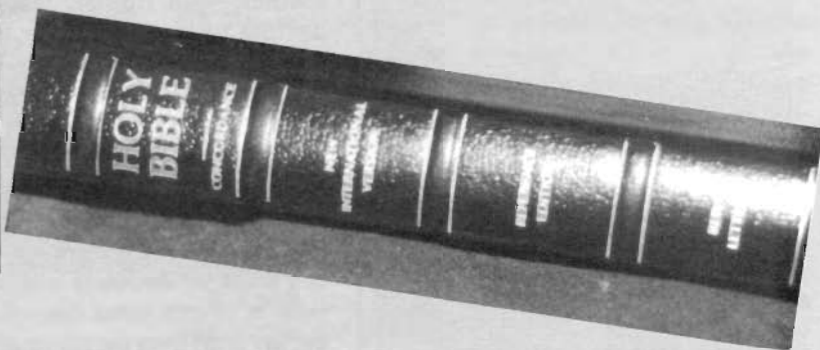
# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

October 12, 1993



AFLC Schools

## Preparation For Life



# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Send all communications concerning this magazine to: Solveig Hjermstad, Assistant to the Editor, Box 423, Faith, South Dakota 57626. Phone (605) 967-2381. Fax (605) 967-2382.

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Rev. Robert L. Lee, Editor  
Mrs. Wayne Hjermstad, Assistant to the Editor

Editorial Board:

Rev. Wendell Johnson, Chairman  
Dr. Francis Monseth, Secretary  
Mr. Robert Knutson

## Light on the Way

### Priorities

**T**he dictionary describes a priority as something that is most important in our lives. It is a thing or an event that is chosen over something else.

From the time we are small children up to our years as senior citizens we are repeatedly setting priorities. Most of those priorities will influence our lives and often leave their mark on the lives of others.

The kinds of everyday decisions we make say something about our priorities. The priorities we establish for ourselves could destroy us or they could give us untold joy and happiness. How we spend our money, how we use our time, the clothes we wear and the books we choose to read all describe our priorities.

In a sense, our lives are arranged around our priorities. When a youth chooses to buy that first car rather than to leave the money in a savings account, the car has taken priority over the savings account. When a mother, with limited resources, decides to buy new shoes for her daughter rather than a new dress for herself, she displays her priorities. When a father chooses to sit at the bar rather than to play ball with his son, the father has signaled what is more important in his life. On Sunday mornings we declare our priorities when we decide to worship the Lord in church rather than to spend the day apart from the House of God.

One of the most obvious places where we express our priorities is with our tithes and offerings in church. In dollars and cents we show our gratitude to the Lord for His blessings on us and return to Him that which is His.

God's Word clearly states His concern about our priorities. In the middle of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus admonishes: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where

thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19-21).

A few verses later (v. 33) in that same chapter, Jesus reminds us that our heavenly Father knows all of our needs but that we should get our priorities in order and "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness."

It is interesting to listen to the Apostle Paul as he wrestles with priorities in Philippians 1:21-24: "For me to live is Christ but to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two." Then two chapters later (3:13, 14) Paul says with courage and commitment: "Forgetting what is behind and striving toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

Before concluding his letter to the Philippians, Paul sets more standards for our priorities when he says: "Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — think about such things. And the God of peace will be with you" (4:8, 9).

But the greatest of all priorities is that which is mentioned in I Peter 3:15, where we read: "In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord."

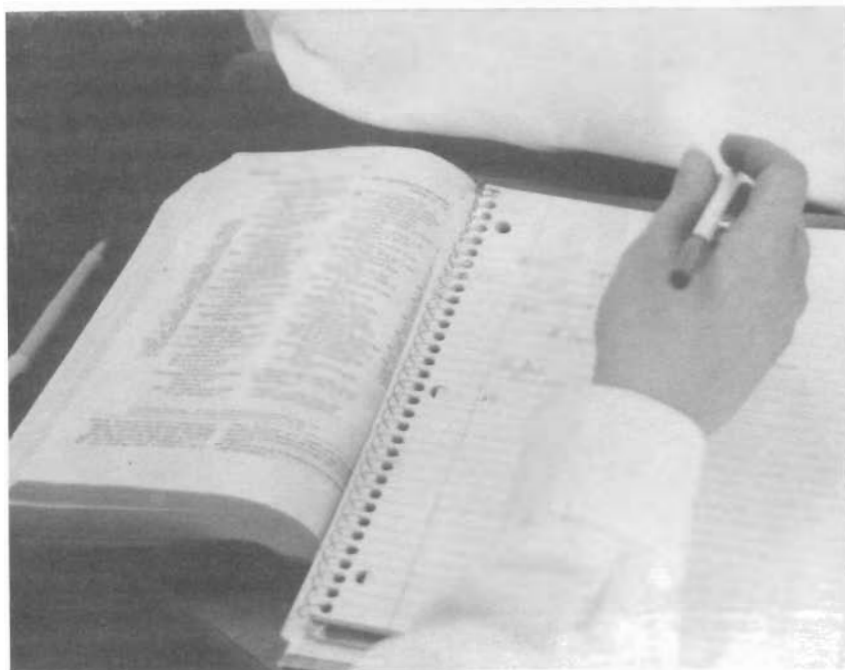


—by Rev.  
Walter Johnson

# B. C.

or

# P. C.



**W**e live in a day where there is a great deal of pressure to conform. We have come to the point as a society where we are being told to make sure our language does not offend any one particular minority group. We are told we must be politically correct in our language. Many of you remember a time when the influence was to be biblically correct — to please God. There are definitely two options for you to follow today.

In the midst of this battle stand the Body of Christ, the church. Two schools seek to serve and strengthen the church: AFLTS and AFLBS influences our AFLC to be biblically correct.

What is the role of our seminary in the AFLC? The seminary's main purpose remains to train and equip pastors to serve the church. I thank the Lord for a Lutheran seminary today that teaches that the Bible is inerrant, regardless of man's attitude toward it. In our day when stability and truth are "endangered species," how wonderful to have "called" men of God being trained by professors who humble themselves to the Word of God. The desire of our seminary is to equip men of God to be biblically correct in their understanding of their God as well as how God wants the Body of Christ to function in this world.

Where would the AFLC be without our seminary? Some of you remember times when your congregation did not have a full-time pastor. Most of the time, that transition time is not a high point for a congregation. God has given shepherds to help guide the sheep and the

church functions best under the care of God's "called" men.

Then what is the role of our Bible school in the AFLC? It is to provide a biblical foundation for students for life, not just for making a living. AFLBS seeks to equip young people to apply the Scriptures to all areas of life. In many of our AFLC churches we are seeing the influence of our Bible school years later as these students with their families become wonderful servants in the church, each one using their gift to serve the Savior who died for them. They are better moms and dads, husbands and wives, as the Word of God continues to nourish their spiritual lives. As they work at their jobs, they seek to be witnesses in their workplace. They are salt and light in a dark, dying world. Where would the AFLC be without our Bible school? Where would the kingdom of God be? Certainly smaller and with less strength.

As time goes on, it may be a greater challenge to keep our seminary and Bible school going financially. The question each one of us will have to ask ourselves is: "Where would the church be without them?" Certainly Jesus is the Lord of the church and He will continue to build his church, but two tools He uses are our seminary and Bible school. May we pray and give to support these ministries, that we may continue to be a church body that is biblically correct.



— Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Chairman  
AFLC Schools Board of Trustees



The 1992-93 AFLTS faculty and student body.

From the very beginning of the AFLC, the seminary has been considered vital in its life and ministry. At the first annual conference, the decision was made to begin a seminary as soon as possible. In the fall of 1964, prayers were answered as the seminary opened its doors to the first students.

The AFLC has considered its seminary an investment in the future as men are trained as pastors and missionaries. This is why, for many years, no tuition was charged for those preparing to serve in the AFLC and why today tuition costs remain among the lowest in the nation. The Board of Trustees has prayerfully sought to remove as much financial burden as possible from the students so they are enabled to concentrate more on their studies.

How does the seminary and its programs receive financial support? Every spring the Board of Trustees and administration carefully prepare a budget for submission to the annual conference. The Budget Analysis Committee studies the proposed budget before making its recommendation for acceptance or change. At the conference, opportunity is given for discussion and again changes may be made. The final decision regarding the budget is made by the conference and then passed on to the local congregations for its consideration and anticipated participation. It is hoped that every congregation will see the seminary as an extension of its own ministry and regularly share in its support.

There are various ways that congregations share in the financial needs of the seminary.

# SEMINARY SUPPORT

Some determine a percentage of their monthly income to be given to the seminary. Others use an envelope which provides a section for general benevolence giving. A person may designate the seminary or another benevolence as the object of support. Still other congregations have an annual offering for the ministry of the seminary. How thankful we are to God for these tangible ways that love and interest is expressed by our congregations.

Other forms of financial support include the gifts of individuals. Sometimes these are people who are not members of an AFLC congregation but want to support a Lutheran seminary that continues to hold to the inerrancy of the Bible. Some individual and congregational support is designated for student financial help. A recent initiative by members of the schools' corporation seeks to raise funds in support of the "dean's chair." Each corporation member is being asked to prayerfully consider raising \$1,000 toward this project. It is of inspiration and challenge to us all to see the example of our corporation members in this regard.

Lutheran Brotherhood policy holders can give up to \$100 annually to the seminary and

How does  
it receive  
financial  
support?



have that gift matched by LB. Over the years, this has been of significant help. (LB IMPACT forms can be obtained by contacting the seminary or one's agent, LB also provides an annual amount for a faculty member who is granted sabbatical leave.

Aid Association for Lutherans directs help to special programs of the seminary. Currently that aid helps to underwrite expenses of pastors and lay pastors who attend the summer institute. Also included in support is the winter inter term. Additionally, an amount is available to help faculty members in continuing education opportunities.

Another means of support for the seminary are tuition costs. As mentioned, these costs are kept as low as possible. An AFLC student who is planning on ministry in the AFLC qualifies for a grant each semester through the Russell H. and Genevieve J. Mason Estate Fund. With this help, the "regular" student currently pays about \$700 annually for tuition.

We are grateful for the strong interest shown by the AFLC in giving direct support to our students. Besides the LB, AAL, and Mason Fund help, the following funds provide annual grants to our students:

1. The Women's Missionary Federation of the AFLC.
2. The Trygve and Anna Dahle Scholarship.
3. The St. Paul's Lutheran WMF of Stanhope, Iowa.
4. Dorris Ladies' Aid of Aitkin, Minnesota.
5. The H. Morris and Olga Borstad Memorial Scholarship Endowment Fund.
6. The Rev. and Mrs. Fritjof B. Monseth Memorial Scholarship Fund.
7. The Hanson Brothers Scholarship.

A financial aid committee reviews applications for financial help and distributes funds on the basis of need. Often, the home congregation of a student will send him gifts of support directly. We are thankful for all the ways our students are helped during their studies.

Despite the generous help of so many, the seminary, over a period of many years, had to borrow from the Bible school in order to meet its budget. Recently, the accumulated debt of



Dr. Francis Monseth, center, visits with Seminary student Doug Wagley (left) and 1993 graduate, Rev. James Molstre.

nearly \$125,000 was erased as the seminary repaid its standing loan. This was made possible through two legacies. Currently, the seminary is debt free. The Board of Trustees is determined that the seminary pays its own way. It reluctantly decided to raise tuition a second time within three years in an effort to keep current. Earnest effort is being made to operate the seminary efficiently and frugally.

Far more important than financial support, the seminary senses its greatest continuing need as prayer — prayer for preservation of the seminary's distinctive mission; prayer for protection from the destructive attacks of the devil in his efforts to thwart the good work God is doing through the seminary; prayer for provision of students and faculty as well as finances to support the seminary's programs; and prayer for progress as the seminary seeks to be an increasingly effective tool in preparing men for the Christian ministry.

Thank you for your partnership with the seminary in its great mission. It is a joy to serve our Lord together through our AFLC.

— by Dr. Francis Monseth  
AFLTS Dean

**Far more important than financial support,  
the seminary senses its greatest continuing  
need as prayer —**

# What Seminary Means To Me

## An Emphasis On God's Word

It means a special opportunity to become more familiar with God's inerrant Word, and to be taught by Bible believing professors. These godly men are showing and helping me to become familiar with every part of the sword. Hebrews 4:15 calls the Word of God a (sword), "For the Word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

These Christ-loving teachers are also helping me to learn how to wield the sword — that is to say, how to use and apply it. Why? The answer is found in II Timothy 3:17, "that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." The answer is also found in II Timothy 4:2 where we see that if we are skilled with the sword, then with Christ's help, we will be able to "Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season, convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long suffering and teaching."

Seminary is a time of extreme concentration and intensity in God's Word. It is a time of learning and seeking God's wisdom and will for my life. My professors have told me that the learning process doesn't stop after seminary and that is so true. God's Word is a vast gold mine of wisdom and as Proverbs 1:7 says, "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge." The ultimate knowledge and wisdom is found in the person of Jesus Christ and His work on the cross of Calvary; where He died for you and me and took our sins upon Himself so that we might not die but rather live and live eternally!

Seminary has truly been and continues to be a growing and maturing experience in my walk with the Lord.

## An Emphasis On Living Faith

The Lord has richly blessed my wife, Cindy, and me at seminary. For many years I had been running from the Lord's call to be a minister. During this time I could not experience contentment or peace in my life. No matter how hard I tried to ignore God's call, He kept placing passages before me like I Corinthians 9:16, "...woe is me, if I preach not the gospel." Finally, by His grace, the Lord broke through my stubbornness and I surrendered to His call. Oh, the abundant peace that followed was indescribable and still is today!

The Lord has also provided for all our needs abundantly beyond what we could ever expect. He has provided encouragement through His many wonderful servants who pray for us. He has also provided jobs, finances, a place to live, transportation, friends, supportive family, and most important, His Son Jesus Christ. Every day He teaches Cindy and I that our sufficiency comes from Him and Him alone. "And such confidence we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God" (II Corinthians 3:4-5).

During one of the first days of

class we, as seminarians, were told that no amount of knowledge would make us qualified to shepherd a congregation apart from a living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. This living faith is emphasized and modeled by our instructors inside and outside of class. The instructors are not only our teachers but also our brothers in Christ. It is truly a privilege and an honor to study under their instruction. Also emphasized is the Word of God in all its truth. Paul tells Timothy that "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." As a result of this emphasis, much of my training at AFLTS has already proved useful in life and in ministry. I very much look forward to God's leading in the years ahead. To Him be the glory!



—Tim Johnson  
AFLTS Middler

It, on occasion, becomes a bit overwhelming to realize that in approximately nine months I will be let out of the nest; but I thank God that He has promised to be with me.

"But the Lord stood with me and strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me, and that all the Gentiles might hear. Also I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion. And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve

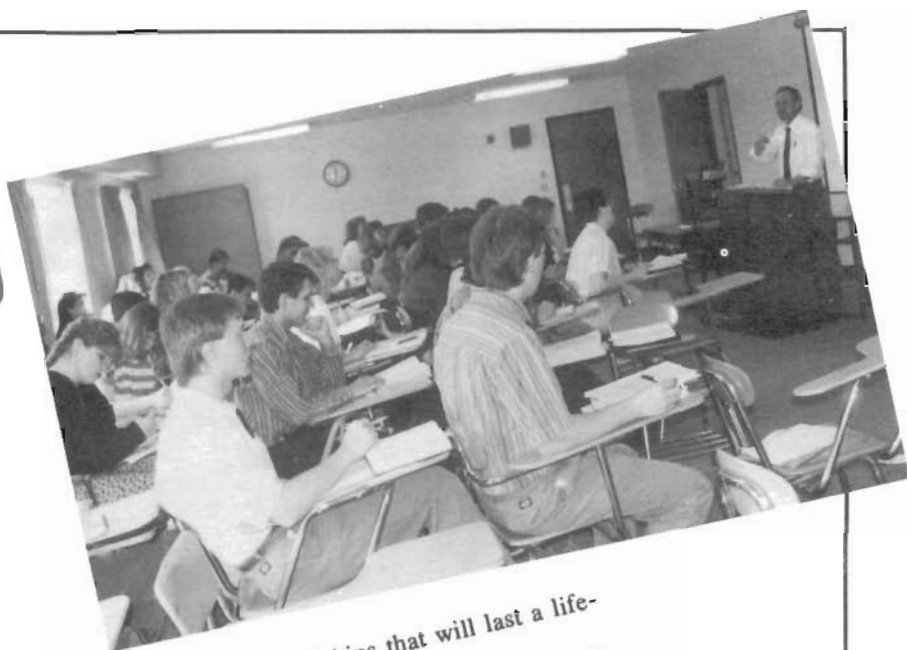
me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen!" (II Timothy 4:17-18).



—Victor Young  
AFLTS Senior

# AFLBS

## Preparing Youth For Life



**Y**ou have heard it many times: with all the drugs, violence, immorality, broken homes, rebellion and general breakdown of our society, is there any hope for our young people? The Word of God shouts back to us today a resounding "Yes!" The psalmist put it this way, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By keeping it according to Thy Word. Thy Word have I treasured in my heart, that I might not sin against Thee" (Psalm 119:9, 11). AFLBS was born out of the conviction that only a life grounded in a personal relationship with Christ, and the truth of God's Word, would be able to withstand the pressures and temptations so prevalent in our society.

This fall, 98 students came to AFLBS seeking that which only God and His infallible Word can give. Fifty-one young men and 48 young women are making an investment of time and money because they know that the following are just some of the benefits they will receive:

- A solid foundation is laid upon which to build one's future. Other schools may prepare a person to make a living, but AFLBS prepares one to live as God intended.
- Knowledge of God's Word and His unfulfilling promises becomes personalized.
- Principles for life and Christian living are learned, and positive patterns of life style are developed as one applies the principles of God's Word to daily life.

- Christian friendships that will last a lifetime are formed.

- Opportunities for sharing Christ through the ministries of choirs, Gospel teams, summer teams and inner city outreaches are available.

- Intramural volleyball, softball and basketball are played by both men and women in a Bible college league.

- Transfer credit is accepted by several colleges. While our goal is to build God's Word into the lives of our students, Christian colleges are now recognizing the value of Bible school. AFLBS graduates now transfer many credits into programs at Christian colleges, receiving a B.A. in about two more years. This benefit saves our students thousands of dollars in college costs.

We are grateful for every individual, parent and congregation who, by their prayers and gifts, continue to make this kind of Christ centered education possible. What better foundation can be laid for life than a year or two at AFLBS?



—Rev. Don Greven  
AFLBS Dean

### Urgent Prayer Request

Due to an oversight, the Bible school received no listing on the AFLC's monthly Promotional Calendar this year. As a result, receipts have been down. AFLBS needs \$138,020 by the end of the year to meet its budget. Will you pray with us for the Lord's supply, and give as the Lord leads you? God has blessed us with a wonderful student body of 98 students this fall! (Pray for them, too!)



AFLBS Men's Dorm.

## Bible School Testimonies

### The Most Important Time In My Life

**T**he time I have spent at AFLBS so far has been the most important time in my life. I am so thankful for the work God has done in my life. He has shown me in such a meaningful way his **grace** and his **faithful** to me. I am saved by His grace and His grace alone! And God is **faithful** to us! II Timothy 2:13 says: "If we are faithless, He will remain faithful, for He cannot disown Himself." Thank God for His grace and faithfulness to us!

— *Karina Greene*  
Second year student  
Grand Forks, North Dakota

### I Met Jesus Here

**I**'ve never given my personal testimony to anyone, let alone writing it down. My parents were long time missionaries to Bolivia, then to Mexico, and now serve a parish in beautiful Lake Stevens, Washington. They

raised me to be knowledgeable in the Scriptures, but with many influences around me I strayed off.

I always knew what was right and wrong, but over my high school years my morals seemed to decline. Our church in Lake Stevens was blessed with so many good youth leaders and seminary interns, but none could soften my rock hard heart.

My best friend and brother, Jon, came to AFLBS and praised the school to the highest extent. Then my twin sister, Ruthie, came and loved it! But I — good old Andy — stayed home and went to night school at a community college.

After Ruthie's first year at AFLBS she really wanted me to come! I said "yes" and she was extremely happy. Then I changed my mind, but didn't want to tell her. When I finally told her, she cried so hard that I gave in and came to the greatest place on earth! When I got here I found out that Ruthie had people praying for me during her first year.

# Baltic

**H**ow thankful we are for a safe arrival in Riga, Latvia just a few days ago! We feel it is a great privilege to be here as ambassadors for Christ and also as an extension of the AFLC into this part of the world.

Our experiences these first days confirm what we expected. There is a great need for the Gospel here and a tremendous freedom to share it. After 50 years under atheistic communism, which proved to be such a dismal failure in the eyes of the people, there is a new openness to Christianity. The government is open; the schools are open; the people are open. Indeed, this is an unprecedented moment in mission history.

Christianity was first introduced in Latvia in the early 13th Century. St. Peter's Church in downtown Riga was founded in 1209 and the Dome Cathedral in 1225. Both of these congregations as well as most other churches in Latvia were among the first to become Lutheran after the 16th Century Reformation. Early in the reformation period, Martin Luther wrote letters to the "brothers" in Latvia. Lutherans remain the largest church group today although the membership of all church groups declined greatly during the communist era.

There are two Lutheran church bodies in Latvia: the Latvian Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Russia. The Latvian Lutheran group is by far the largest while the

I love this school so much, not only because the Word of God is taught here, but also because I've made some of the best friends in the world here. And most importantly, I met Christ Jesus here, and He is the best friend any man could have! "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17).

— *Andy Gunderson*  
Second year student  
Lake Stevens, Washington



# Bulletin No. 1

Russian Lutherans have only a few churches in Latvia. The Russians have about 600 congregations located mainly in Russia, Kazakhstan, Siberia, and the Ukraine. It is from the bishop of the Russian Lutheran Church that we have been invited to come and help.

In our meetings with the Russian bishop, we have been encouraged by his warm, evangelical spirit. His deep concern is to prepare pastors who will truly be ready to minister to the spiritual needs of their congregations. There is a great shortage of pastors. About half of the Russian churches do not have pastors and most of those who are serving have not had the opportunity to study at a seminary. Seminaries are being planned to meet this need at St. Petersburg, Kiev, Riga, and some other places.

Our opportunity is to help in the organization and planning of seminary education in the Russian church. We will seek to assist in whatever way we can in setting up the school here in Riga and being available to teach some of the initial courses when the school opens. We will also be available for preaching assignments in the congregations as well as conducting leadership seminars and Bible conferences as opportunity permits.

We are also looking forward to continuing work with the Tartu Theological Academy in Estonia. As this report is being written, we are preparing to travel to Tartu next week (September 13-17) to teach a Bible doctrine course. It will be wonderful to renew acquaintance with the dear friends who direct that school as well as to meet again the students who are preparing to be Bible teachers in the public schools of Estonia. Lutheran Estonian American Friends (LEAF) has been of great help in assisting this academy to begin its special ministry.

Additional opportunities include teaching systematic theology courses of a new Lutheran Bible school (deaconal institute) which will begin October 1 in nearby Jurmela. The purpose of this school is to train full-time deacons and

## Missions Corner

A church for every people and the gospel for every person by AD 2000 has become the rallying call of the AD 2000 movement. Friends of AFLC missions, are you aware of the significance of this movement of prayer for revival that is sweeping across the U.S.A.?

The focus for October, 1993, is prayer for the "10/40 Window." This calls for a month of concerned prayer and is called, "Praying Through the Window."

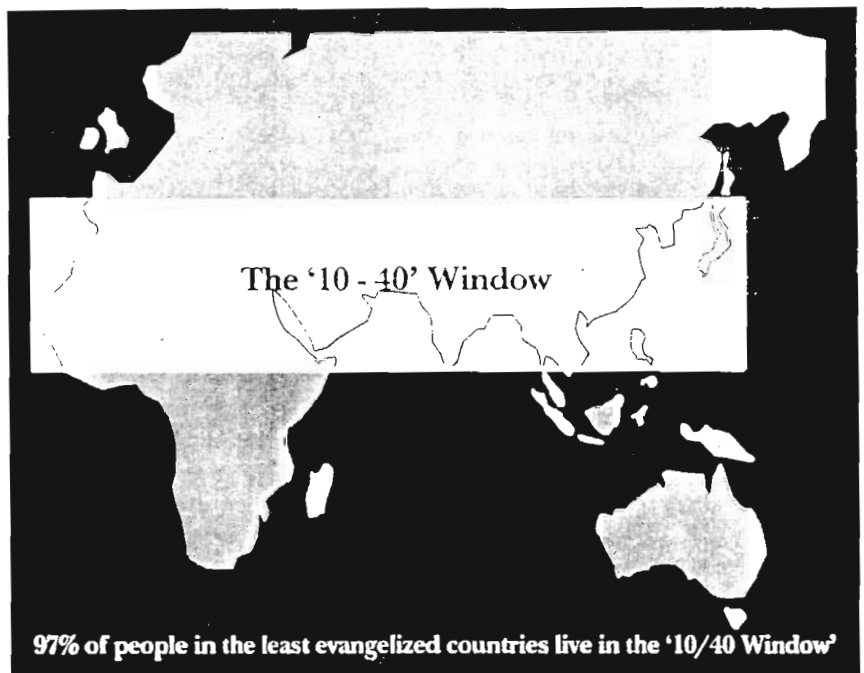
It is essential that we faithfully uphold our AFLC mission endeavors in prayer: Brazil, India and Mexico. Our missionaries and national workers cannot go forward with power unless we faithfully pray for them! In addition, let us unite in prayer for people living in the area located between 10 and 40 degrees north of the equator, from West Africa to East Asia.

Missionary statisticians tell us that the 10/40 Window contains 97% of the people in the least evangelized nations of the world. The three most powerful religious groups (Muslims, Hindus, and Buddhists) have the majority of their followers here and vigorously oppose the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The poorest of the world's population also live within this window.

***Prayer is the only power that can break down the resistance and open the door to the Gospel.***

I challenge our AFLC congregations and praying friends to adopt the 10/40 Window countries and to gather in prayer for them during this month of October. In many major cities across our nation Reformation Sunday will be a time of meeting for concerned prayer. Will you make this your priority?

— Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Director of World Missions



deaconesses for assistance in the ministry of Latvia Lutheran congregations. Its four and a half year program will include several internships working in congregations, hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, and prisons. There is a deep, underlying burden to minister to those whom society considers untouchable or unreachable. Out of 88

applicants, this new school was only able to admit 38 for the first term.

Lord willing, we will continue our report next month. Thanks for your prayers for us. We have really sensed strong prayer support in these opening days.

— by Dr. Francis Monseth



# For Your Youth Group

## A Mini Youth Manual

### Part One

**S**trategy for a Free Lutheran Youth group involves these areas: planning, worship, serving, recreation and, of course, food!

Every Free Lutheran Youth group must begin with planning! Planning a whole quarter or even a year of meetings is the best! Flexibility is another key since a youth group might have to work around school and community activities as well as other events in your AFLC district.

Planning for a quarter or even up to a year is much better than the trial and error method! In the trial and error method we do our events on the spur of the moment. This can work from time to time; but is not the best!

You might plan a pizza party on the spur of the moment and have a very successful meeting. Trial and error is not the same as spur of the moment planning. It is spur of the moment planning alright but there is not as much thought into it as there should be.

The 30-day plan is better. In the 30-day plan, your youth group can plan for the next meeting, leaving the details to the officers or assign specific things to various persons.

This is a good way to begin training your youth to plan their own meetings and to own their own ministry. They can learn the basics of planning and then press on toward using the year-long plan. Regular monthly planning sessions or business meetings are always needed since you will want to work out the details with the youth and remind them of their assignments.

After one is using the 30-day planning method, you can then move into the quarterly method of planning. Your youth will know the basics of planning. They will learn to take into consideration the details needed for the carrying out of each meeting.

One way to train your youth is to use the Team Method of giving out specific assignments. In each meeting there will be at least three areas to be concerned about. These are program, including worship; food and recreation or what we would call community building or fellowship building, if you do not like the word community.

There would be a captain or chair person for each team. Each team would have some responsibility for the meeting. They would be involved in carrying out that responsibility in preparing for the meeting and during the meeting itself.

Teams would alternate responsibility, so they would not do the same thing for every meeting.

You might add another team to your structure. This would be the publicity or evangelism team. This team would be responsible to make posters, put out mailings, put items in the church paper, or in the local newspaper. They also could call youth and remind them of the meeting. They should try to get a yes or no answer from the students.

Brainstorming or some form of a questionnaire would be valuable in finding out what kind of topics and studies your group will want. Unless you have a fairly open group, students will not vocally tell you what kind of

things they wish to get information about. Therefore, brainstorming plus a questionnaire will enable your group to plan their year to the best advantage possible.

Most of our youth programs are at the teaching level. We need to work with our young people so that they proceed to what is called the ministry level. This is the service level. This level is where the students are mature enough in their faith to be concerned about others and thereby begin to reach out to them with the Gospel of Christ.

— Rev. Dennis Gray  
AFLC Youth Director

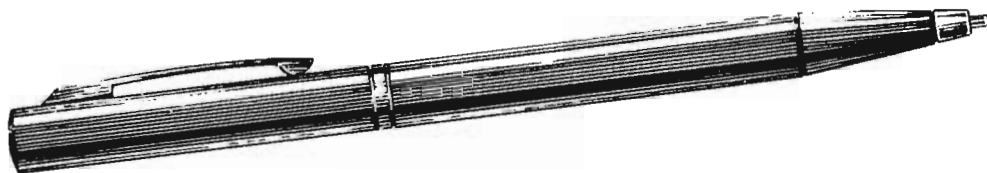
## News

A number of our AFLC youth groups participated in the "See You at the Pole" (SYATP) event on September 15 at 7 a.m. Students in our schools all across the nation met at their flag pole for prayer. It began last year with one group of five. Numerous high schoolers throughout the nation joined this year.

These SYATP meetings are student led. It is expected that many of these meetings will lead into Bible studies led by students in the local schools. If your group participated, write your Youth Director Dennis Gray. He wants to know.

## Youth Ministry Foundations Conference

October 30, 1993  
Emmaus Lutheran Church  
Bloomington, Minnesota  
For more information call  
(612) 884-4751



12. The glorious triumph of Jesus over death, the resurrection, brings us full circle in our teaching on prayer. Read Hebrews 7:25. Who is Christ's salvation effective for?

Christ had great authority on earth as the Son of God. Matthew 26:53 tells us He could have asked His Father for more than 12 legions of angels to be put at His disposal. Whether it was praying for the small children which were brought to Him for a blessing (Matthew 19:13) or reminding a disciple that He had prayed for His faith concerning the great trial which lay ahead (Luke 22:32), Jesus is our example in prayer.

The following outline is offered as a review of Christ's teaching on prayer.

Matthew 5:44	Pray for your enemies
Matthew 6:6	Pray to the Father
Matthew 6:10	Pray according to God's will
Matthew 6:13	Pray to be delivered from temptation and evil
Matthew 9:38	Pray workers into the harvest
Matthew 21:22	Pray with faith
Luke 11:3	Pray for your daily needs
Luke 11:4	Pray for forgiveness
Luke 18:1	Pray without ceasing
John 16:24	Ask in Jesus' Name

*"Go to dark Gethsemane, Ye that feel the tempter's pow'r;  
Your Redeemer's conflict see; Watch with Him one bitter hour;  
'Turn not from His griefs away; Learn of Jesus Christ to pray."*

— James Montgomery



## Lord, Teach Us To Pray

Prayer:

### Jesus and Prayer

Key Verses:

*"Not My will, but Thine be done'" (Luke 22:42).  
"Holy Father, keep them in Thy name" (John 17:11).*

We have saved the best until last. In this final lesson on prayer we turn our attention to the life of Jesus, who is known as our great High Priest, Mediator, Intercessor and Advocate. Christ lived a life of communion with God. In prayer He identified with human need and gave us an example of complete dependence on the Father.

What were some of the events which prompted Jesus' prayer?

1. Luke 3:21, 22 —
2. Luke 6:12, 13 —
3. Mark 8:6, 7 —
4. John 11:41-43 —

5. What do the following Scriptures tell us was Jesus' usual practice? Mark 1:35 and Luke 5:16.

6. The disciples observed Jesus' prayers as well. Read Luke 11:1-4.

a. What was the disciples' request of Jesus?

b. How did He answer them?

c. Notice the balance of this prayer. Thinking of our previous lessons, what elements are represented here?

In John 17 we find what has come to be known as Jesus' High Priestly prayer for the church. He was near the end of His earthly life. He prayed for Himself and commended His own to God.

7. Read John 17. What were some of His specific requests?

a. Verse 1 —

b. Verse 11 —

c. Verse 15 —

d. Verse 17 —

e. Verse 23 —

Not all of Jesus' prayers were prayed in quiet and peace and calm. In Hebrews 5:7, 8 it says, "In the days of His flesh, when He offered up both prayers and supplications with loud crying and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and who was heard because of His piety, although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered." Bible commentators believe this refers to His prayers in the Garden of Gethsemane.

8. Read Matthew 26:36-42.

a. For what did Jesus pray three times?

b. What did this prayer accomplish for us? (See also Isaiah 53:4-6, 10-12.)

c. What was Jesus admonition to His disciples? (verse 41)

Jesus prayed with His last earthly breaths. Three of His words from the cross were prayers. What were they?

9. Matthew 27:46 —

10. Luke 23:34 —

11. Luke 23:46 —



## Triple Anniversary at Cumberland, Wisconsin

## PEOPLE and PLACES



On Sunday, August 8, a triple anniversary was remembered: the 100th anniversary of the division in the United Lutheran Church in America over Augsburg Seminary; the 100th anniversary of the East Cumberland church building; and the 25th anniversary of the reorganized Section Ten Free Lutheran Church. Over 300 friends, members and former members attended the services and dinner. Former student pastor Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, North Dakota, brought the message where he encouraged us to focus on the things that count for eternity.

The cornerstone was opened earlier in the month and a display was made of the contents which included a Norwegian New Testament, catechism, United Church yearbook and "Folkebladet" along with two local papers from August 1893. Following the noon meal, a cornerstone rededication service was held with former Pastor John Kjos and family providing special music and member Arnold Hagen singing "Kun Et Skrit" in Norwegian and English, which he and his wife, Olga, made a new translation of for the new AFLC "Ambassador Hymnal."

The congregation was originally formed in 1876 as the Lakeland Norwegian Lutheran congregation and reorganized in 1882 as East Cumberland Church when it joined the Norwegian-Danish Evangelical Lutheran

Conference. The Ladies Aid was organized in 1886, the Young People's Society about 1900 and the Men's Society in 1906.

East Cumberland Church was one of the 13 congregations that stood behind Sverdrup and Oftedal to form the "Friends of Augsburg." It appears that these congregations were then removed from the United Norwegian Lutheran Church. The congregation was an active member of the Lutheran Free Church until it merged with the American Lutheran Church in 1963. A couple of years later the East Cumberland Church closed and members scattered to area churches.

Pastors that served at East Cumberland include: J.C. Helsem, 1876-78; H.Z. Hvid, 1878-81; N.B. Olson, 1882-91; A.J. Logeland, 1891-96; Hans Ostgulen, 1907-12; Carl Amundson, 1912-21; Ellef Christianson, 1921-30; Elmer F. Brandt, 1931-43; H.E. Nyhus, 1943-57; and Erling Carlson, 1958-65.

In 1968 a group of former members organized the Section Ten Free Lutheran Church and joined the AFLC. They met in the East Cumberland building which was later purchased from the cemetery association. The first pastor was a young college student named Bruce Dalager who served from 1968-72. Other pastors include: Norm Tenneboe, 1975-79; John Kjos, 1979-83;



Section Ten Lutheran Church.

Tom Baker, 1985-87; and Tom Olson 1988 to present. Numerous students from the seminary have served the congregation over the years.

The unique name "Section Ten" is a local nickname for the East Cumberland region whose school was located in section ten of the township on the plat book. Many people ask about the source of the name. The congregation is in a two-point parish along with the Timberland Ringebu Free Lutheran Church.

The Section Ten congregation seeks to reach out with the Gospel through services, Luther League, choir, two ladies groups, Sunday School, VBS and the ministries of the AFLC. Pray with us at Section Ten that we may be faithful to the calling that God has given us to spread the good news of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth.

— Rev. Thomas Olson

**Oklahoma City, Oklahoma** — First Lutheran Church has begun a special Wednesday evening adult class entitled, "Living Discipleship." The two-hour class will meet through the third week in December. The curriculum features the basic doctrines of the Christian faith.

**Willmar, Minnesota** — Zion Free Lutheran Church held their fall meetings during September 26-29 with Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck, Northome, Minnesota, as the guest speaker.

## PEOPLE AND PLACES —

**Rev. John Rieth**, who ended his ministry at Amery, Wisconsin, in September, began a 15-month program of Clinical Pastoral Education in a chaplaincy residency at Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis.

The 500 plus bed hospital is the largest of only two "level one" trauma centers in Minnesota, with an average of 90,000 emergency admissions per year, providing trauma intensive care for neurological, coronary, surgery, respiratory, renal, pediatrics, burns, and general medical problems.

Pastor Rieth is assigned as primary chaplain in two units, renal and pediatrics, and also works with emergency and intensive care.

The program will consist of the equivalent of five college quarters, concluding in November 1994. His telephone number is 612-347-2263 or 2260.

**Floodwood, Minnesota** — The Coordinating Committee received notification at their last meeting that Grace Free Lutheran Church has dissolved, and removed it from the congregational roster accordingly.



*Pastor Orville and Florence Hiepler in front of the new church home for the Oceanside congregation.*

## In Memoriam

**Dr. Andrew S. Burgess**, beloved missionary educator, went home to the Lord on August 25, only a few weeks short of his 96th birthday.

After briefly serving in China, he became the field secretary for the Board of Foreign Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELC), a position which he filled from 1932 to 1947. He then accepted a call to be professor of missions at Luther Theological Seminary, where he continued for over 20 years.

After retirement, his schedule included short teaching assignments in New Guinea, South Africa, India, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, and China.

**Oceanside, California** — "Enter His gates with thanksgiving ..." These words from Psalm 100 were shared by President Jim McMillen on Sunday, September 12 as the ribbon was cut and 130 people entered the new church home of Community Bible Church — AFLC, Oceanside, California. Rev. Orville Hiepler, pastor of the mission congregation, preached his first message in the new church on the theme, "God's Path for Us in Beautiful Oceanside."

Located at 4507 Mission Avenue (Highway 76), the spacious acreage already contains several existing buildings, including rental property and a floral shop. Members and friends of the congregation have been busy during the previous weeks cleaning up the landscape and renovating the buildings, which previously housed a church and school. Almost hidden by overgrown shrubs and trees, the neglected property was called "a blessing in disguise" by an early visitor, just waiting for the congregation to discover it. The sanctuary, with a new altar and new chairs, seats approximately 160 people, and 11 Sunday School rooms are available in the church and parish house.

Visitors to southern California are invited to attend services at Oceanside, and readers of *The Lutheran Ambassador* are encouraged to refer the names of friends or relatives in the area to Pastor Hiepler.

Dr. Burgess was a son of West Lisbon Lutheran Church, rural Newark, Illinois, and returned to his home congregation for annual visits during these later years when his health permitted.

Blessed by his memory!

**Tioga, North Dakota** — Zion Lutheran Church has recently sponsored two benefits to help with medical expenses for Mrs. Chet (Darlene) Wolla, who has since had a liver transplant in Minneapolis. The first event was a Community Gospel Sing for which interim Pastor Wallace Jackson provided the sound equipment for those who performed, including himself. The WMF served refreshments to the large crowd. The second event was a Salad-Sandwich-Dessert Supper held at the church. Proceeds from both, plus \$600 from Lutheran Brotherhood, brought the total raised to nearly \$4,000.

**Clinton, Minnesota** — Elim Lutheran Church was released by the ELCA synod council on September 18 in order to join the AFLC, and permitted to retain their church property. This action was required due to the fact that the congregation was formerly affiliated with the LCA. Rev. Roy Johnson, Ortonville, held his first service at Clinton on September 19, and will be serving this newest AFLC congregation together with Abiding Faith Church during the transition.

**Sisseton, South Dakota** — Hope Lutheran Church of rural Sisseton, will hold their final service on October 24th. The congregation was organized in 1898 as a member of the Lutheran Free Church. The church was built in 1903. Hope was one of the original congregations to join the AFLC in 1963, and has been a part of the Lake Region Parish that includes rural congregations near Eden, Roslyn and Webster. The Lake Region Parish was the AFLC's only remaining four-point parish.

**Rev. Don Voorhees**, Pleasanton, Texas, has accepted a call from St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Nysted, Darnebrog, Nebraska. Pastor Voorhees, who has served Good Shepherd congregation in Pleasanton since 1988, plans to move to his new parish in October as soon as housing is available.

## CLOSE TO OUR HEARTS

The schools of a church body are close to the hearts of her people, and the AFLC is no exception. We reorganized as an association of free congregations in 1962, and two years later seminary classes began, based on the unshakable conviction that the training of pastors was necessary for our survival. I do not recall anyone asking, "Should we start a seminary?" Rather, the questions were, "When and where?"

Two years after the opening of Free Lutheran Seminary, the annual conference decided that it was time for a Bible school to begin. Now there were voices calling for careful study and delay, but the proponents of this issue prevailed, and 13 young men and women became the first class of AFLBS.

Almost three decades have passed. Two dormitories have been constructed and hundreds of students have passed through the doors of these institutions. Almost half of our congregations are pastored by graduates of the seminary, and former Bible School students may be found in places of service through our fellowship. It is no wonder that these schools are close to the heart of the AFLC.

Close to our hearts should mean high in prayer priorities. It is important not to take anything for granted in this world where spiritual warfare is raging, and God's people are called to be faithful in fervent prayer for both the Bible school and seminary, remembering faculty, students, and staff regularly before the throne of grace.

Close to our hearts should mean high in stewardship priorities. AFLC Schools are worthy of support, and yet recent financial reports continue to show them at the bottom as the percentage of budget receipts is calculated. Even though there is income received through tuition and fees, it is important to remember that student payments cover only a portion of their educational expenses, while the remainder is provided through gifts from individuals and congregations.

May the heart of each reader be stirred as you read the school related articles and testimonies in this issue. Perhaps many of us need to be renewed with a fresh vision of what the Lord is doing in many hearts and lives through the AFLC Bible School and Seminary.

## TWO KINGDOMS

What is the AFLC's position on the war in Bosnia? Where do we stand on NAFTA? Why has the church been silent on President Clinton's new medical plan?

It is difficult to draw the line in this day of Christian political activism. Most of our readers would be very critical of church leaders who seem to be constantly making political and social pronouncements, and yet there are also those who feel disappointed when we face the great issue of our time in silence.

A new look at Luther's teaching on the two kingdoms may help the Christian citizen find a proper place to stand.

God's plan for His people involves citizenship in two kingdoms, church and nation. As members of His body, He

calls us to prayer and the preaching of the Word. The impact of these powerful weapons must never be minimized, for they will accomplish more than all the protests, pickets and petitions could ever do.

The Lord has also called us to citizenship in an earthly country. This relationship involves the use of other weapons, including free speech and the right to vote, and the Christian citizen needs to be aware of a responsibility before God to accomplish as much as possible in the midst of a wicked world.

The most troublesome issues for those who claim citizenship in both kingdoms are those where the government is clearly in defiance of God's Word or where the church denies the law of the land. Then one realm is compelled to rebuke the other, and the distinction can become blurred. It has seemed to our association that abortion is such an issue, and so the annual conference has spoken.

A recent opinion article in a conservative Lutheran magazine stated: "God placed two servants into the world with the duty of opposing evil on his behalf. One is the government, which opposes evil with force. The other is the church, which uses the tool God has given to carry out our duty: changing sinful, hateful hearts with the power of the word. That is more than enough of an assignment to occupy us full-time until Christ returns." Amen.

## A DIFFERENT PAGE

This issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador* is the last one for which I will serve as editor. It has not always been easy to wear two hats during the past months since my election as president, since these have perhaps been the busiest months of my life and editorial duties struggled to find a place in a full schedule. One might also wonder if the role of editor as independent observer was not seriously compromised by filling it with a "bureaucrat" who is unavoidably associated with the church "establishment."

It is with great pleasure that I turn over this ministry to a past student and present friend. His writing has frequently been included in our publication during recent months, and it is clear that he brings a real gift to the work. His roots in the AFLC are strong as well, and we can look forward to reflections of a personal commitment to free and living Lutheran congregations. A new and different page in the history of our church paper begins.

My pleasure is mixed with sadness, of course, since this means that a very satisfying chapter in my ministry has ended. Yet the sorrow is soothed by the knowledge that I will only be moving to a different page ... literally ... as a feature called "The President Writes" resumes.

Thank you to Solveig and Ellis, my able co-workers, for your fellowship in the work. Thank you to our wonderful family of readers for your encouragement and support.

Thank you, Lord!

**Tehran, Iran (EP)** — Several Iranian Christian churches have refused to obey government orders to limit evangelism, reports News Network International. The government recently told all churches to sign a statement promising not to evangelize Muslims, but Assemblies of God and Brethren churches refused, despite threats of "consequences." Authorities also wanted them to stop heavily attended Friday services and require Sunday worshippers to show identity cards, exposing Muslim converts to persecution. "You can arrest us, put us in prison, execute us, but we won't close our churches," leaders responded, reminding officials that the Islamic government had stated that Christians could preach and teach inside their churches. The government demands apparently are part of a crackdown on churches attended by Muslim converts.

**Moscow, Russia (EP)** — For the second time in two months, the Russian Parliament has voted to impose restrictions on Russian churches and foreign missionary groups.

Observers said that the August 27 move by Parliament increases pressure on President Boris Yeltsin to favor the Russian Orthodox Church by signing the measure. Patriarch Alexei, head of the Russian Orthodox Church, has said that if Yeltsin fails to sign the bill, the 60-80 million members of the Orthodox Church will oppose his presidency.

The revised version of the bill "appears even more restrictive of foreign religious groups than the version originally presented to Parliament," said Peter Deyneka of Russian Ministries.

"The law attempts to confine foreigners primarily to worship activities in churches established by foreigners, specifically for the use of foreigners," Deyneka told News Network International. "There is provision for linkage of foreigners with Russian Christians, but only in restricted areas of activities after approval of the Russian government."

**Pasadena, California (EP)** — The Worldwide Church of God, long regarded as a cult by evangelical Christian groups, may be ready to move into the doctrinal mainstream. According to Watchman Fellowship, a Christian anti-cult ministry, the Worldwide Church of God is poised to accept the traditional Christian view of the Trinity.

Since the death of church founder Herbert W. Armstrong in 1986, many of the church's doctrinal positions have come under new scrutiny, and many of Armstrong's teachings have been modified or even rejected.

According to Watchman Fellowship, the Worldwide Church of God is also abandoning its distinctive belief that the United States, Britain and the nations of Europe are descendants of Israel.

This doctrine, known as British Israelism, is in disfavor among the church's leaders, according to leaked documents obtained by the Watchman Fellowship.

**New York, New York (EP)** — Simon and Schuster has announced plans to publish a "Lite" version of the Bible — Old and New Testaments trimmed down to provide easy, fast-moving reading. The new book, "designed to be read as living litera-

ture," will have no genealogies and, according to New York's Jewish weekly *The Forward*, the Book of Leviticus has been reduced to two-and-a-half pages because ... "the Levite and legal codes ... are not only impenetrable but unimportant to today's reader."

**Chicago, Illinois (EP)** — The Rev. Herbert Chilstrom, first national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), told delegates to the denomination's third biennial convention that he will not run for reelection when his term expires in 1995. Chilstrom named the church and played a leadership role in the merger that created the 5.2 million member denomination.

**Crookston, Minnesota (EP)** — A Catholic bishop has urged his parishioners to refuse to pay federal taxes if President Clinton's national health care plan includes coverage of elective abortion. "It's a matter of conscience," explained Bishop Victor Balke of the Catholic Diocese of Crookston. "It's the taking of a human life, and I'm not going to pay the government any money to pay for the taking of a human life." Balke, who withheld federal taxes for several years to protest the Vietnam War, said he is just being "consistent in defending life."