

THE **LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR**

October 22, 1985



“Raise the song of harvest home.”

Henry Alford

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

at the MASTER'S FEET

“From the Depths to the Heights”

Psalm 130

On a September day in 1954 a ferry boat sank off the coast of Japan. A thousand people went to a watery grave. The couches of many bereaved people were watered with tears that night. One of those grieving mourners was a woman who went to the morgue and there identified a body as being that of her husband. She was in the depths of sorrow. However, on the following day an amazing thing happened. She received a phone call from her husband explaining that he had been prevented from boarding that ferry boat the previous day. Suddenly she was no longer in the depths of sorrow. Instead, she had risen to the heights of joy.

This illustrates to me the psalmist's experience in Psalm 130. The words of this Psalm have long been engraved in my memory, for I have heard it used as the opening prayer at funerals for over 50 years.

In this Psalm the writer first of all speaks of his being in the depths. His statement is, “Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord.” Spurgeon said, “Depths of earnestness are stirred by depths of tribulation.” Let us imagine a deep, abandoned well in a remote section of the country, with no means of escape. Into it has fallen a man who realizes that it is impossible for him to climb out. His only hope is to cry out for help. And so from the depths of that hole he cries out. This is the situation described by the psalmist.

The depths from which the psalmist is crying are the depths of sin. In verse 3, he shows that he was under a deep sense of sin. He states that if God should call him to account for every failure and wrongdoing in his life, then there would be no hope. The holiness of God convinced him that no mortal man can ever face a Judge so perfect. God, who knows a word altogether even before it is on our tongue surely has the right to condemn us. This awesome thought compels the psalmist to cry out of the depths for help.

In the second part of this great Psalm the psalmist has risen to the heights. One of these was the height of forgiveness. In verse 4, he confidently states, “But there is forgiveness with Thee that Thou mayest be feared.” To fear God is to love and reverence Him. Our gracious God so loves us and He so desires our poor love that He chose to pardon our sins. Even back in the days of the psalmist God had revealed to His people that He was going to provide a sacrifice for sin. Believing in God's sacrifice brings a person up to the height of the joy of forgiveness.

A certain man said, “The Lord visited me with sore affliction, whereby I was brought to the mouth of horror and darkness. But God graciously relieved my spirit by a powerful application of Psalm 130:4, from which I received special instruction, peace and comfort, in drawing near to God through Christ.” God brought him up to the height of forgiveness.

Another height to which the psalmist rose was that of hope. Verse 5 tells us that he bases his hope on God's Word. When I was a boy my father would occasionally promise to bring me a treat from town. In eagerness I waited for my father to bring that treat, for I based my hope on his word of promise. Only God can deliver us out of all our troubles, therefore He is the One to place our hope in. The psalmist rose to the height of hope.

This Psalm offers us much encouragement for it assures us that when we, in our depths of trouble cry to the Lord, He will lift us up to the heights of forgiveness and hope.



by Pastor
Einar Unseth

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The legacy of the Reformation

It was almost 470 years ago that Martin Luther nailed his Ninety-five Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, Germany. In the years that followed, the Christian Church was radically changed by what we know as the Reformation. This movement marked the beginning of our own Lutheran Church as well as most of present-day Protestantism. Even though today's Christian Church is far removed in time and structure from the Reformation era, the Scriptural truths and Biblical principles which became known in that age are as relevant now as they were then.

There are three tenets of the Reformation which constitute much of the legacy left to the Church by Luther and his contemporaries. I refer to: *Grace alone* (sola gratia), *Faith alone* (sola fide), and the *Word alone* (sola Scriptura). These three articles of faith are closely related to one another and encompass the basic teachings of true Christian doctrine. It is Grace alone which causes or brings about our salvation; it is Faith alone by which that grace is received and appropriated; and it is through the Word alone that people can learn of God's grace and come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Grace Alone. "Grace" is a common word among Christians. We hear it frequently and use it often in our conversations. But do we understand its meaning and significance? Grace can be defined as "God's unmerited favor" to men. Luther called it "God's love or favor, which He cherishes toward us *in Himself*." Used in this way some of its synonyms include mercy, love and kindness.



by Pastor
John Mundfrom,
Eben Jct. Mich.

They all describe how God deals with people; instead of acting to condemn us because of our sin, He offers us His salvation in Christ.

Notice the words "in Christ." It is important to realize that God's grace is not absolute in the sense that it excludes His justice by simply overlooking sin. Rather, Scripture tells us that God's grace toward us is "in Christ." God is merciful, or gracious, to us only because of Christ's sacrificial atonement which has removed the barrier of sin and satisfied His holy and righteous character so that He remains just in all His actions.

(Nevertheless, this grace is universal in that it is available for all men because Christ's death atoned for the sins of the whole world, as we are told in I Jn. 2:2.)

To say that we are saved "by grace" is to exclude our own merits or works. They do nothing to make us pleasing in God's sight. Even as Christians, we do not earn God's favor by living in obedience to His Word or by keeping His commandments. As believers, we are already fully acceptable and pleasing to Him because we are *in Christ*. These good works cannot make us any more pleasing to God than we are now because in the eyes of God all His saints are holy and blameless through the blood of Jesus (Eph. 5:26,27). It is precisely because we are acceptable and pleasing to God through Christ that we seek to put off the old nature in obedience to Him. Then the way in which we live before the world is consistent with what we are in Christ!

It is grace alone which brings about our salvation and grace alone which makes us acceptable to God.

Faith Alone. "Faith" is an even more familiar word to Christians. To have faith involves believing or trusting in some one or some thing. Even as we are saved *by* grace (Eph. 2:8-9), Paul tells us that this salvation is received or made available to us *through* faith. That is, faith is the

means whereby we take hold of God's grace. It is through faith that the perfect righteousness of Christ is appropriated to us.

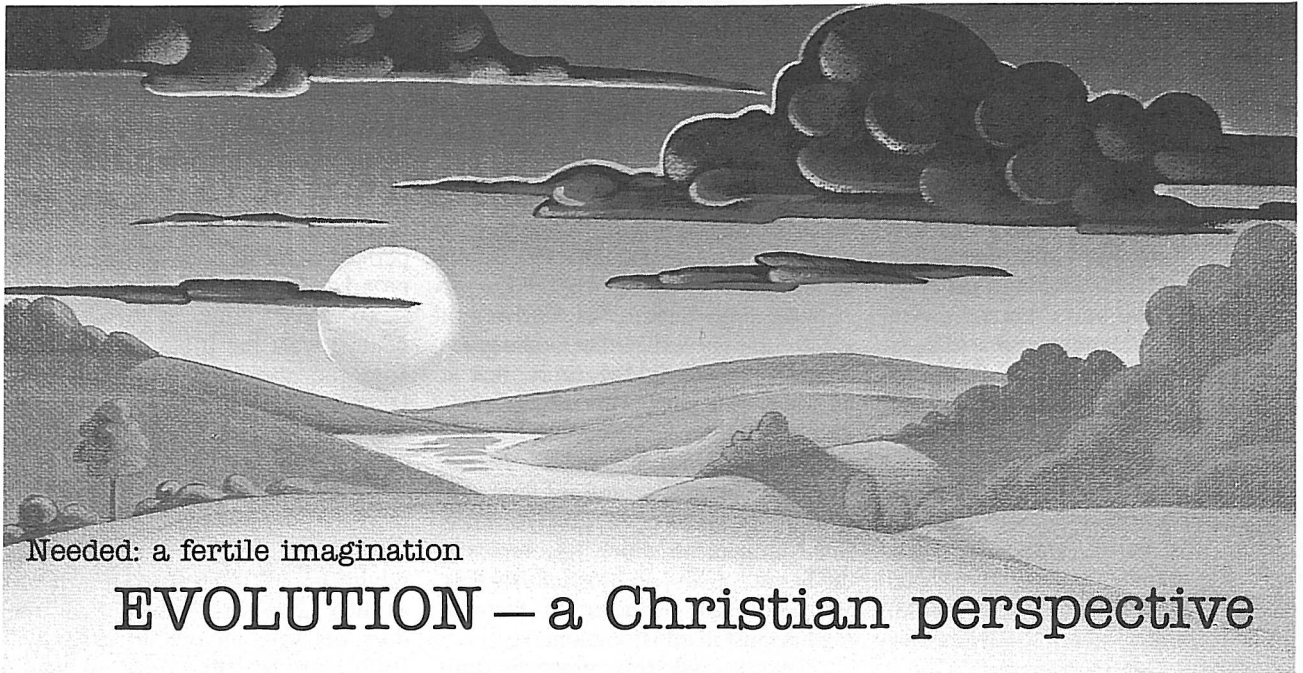
To have faith in Jesus is to believe what the Bible declares about Him and also to trust and rely upon His work of redemption for salvation. The object of this faith is Jesus Christ and His finished work on the cross. Both the intellect and the heart are involved. Many people profess "faith in God" without knowing Christ or relying upon His death and resurrection as their hope of salvation. Such faith does not save anyone. It never will. Faith must be "in Christ" if it is to effectively save anyone from God's wrath and judgment.

"It is through the Word alone that people can learn of God's grace and come to faith in Jesus Christ."

Faith is not a work of man. Faith is not something which we must stir up within ourselves or produce in our hearts. It is God's creation. Even in our relations with other people faith and confidence are produced in us by the things *they* say, the way *they* act, and who *they* are. We don't create it ourselves. We have confidence in a friend or trust a businessman because of what they say and do. It is what we know about them that determines whether or not we will trust them. In this way, they create faith by their conduct toward us. In the same way God creates faith in men by what *He* does, by who *He* is, and by what *He* says. We believe in Christ because of what He has done! And we know what He has done through His Word.

Word Alone. Lutherans refer to the Word of God as a Means of Grace. That is, the Word is the instrument or

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Needed: a fertile imagination

EVOLUTION — a Christian perspective

by Pastor Bill Moberg,
Astoria, Oregon

“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without

excuse: because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened” (Romans 1:19-21).

Evolution is a theory that became accepted among natural scientists following the publication of *The Origin of the Species* by Charles Darwin in 1859. Scientists had long noticed the effects of special breeding in dogs and

horses to bring out a special characteristic, such as speed or strength. Giraffes, it was argued, have long necks because they have to reach for leaves, and moles have no eyes, because they live underground.

Evolution theory holds that all of life developed from a chance union of chemicals in a “primordial soup” to form life on earth. This life, according to the theory, developed into more and more complex plants and animals until, finally, man developed into the highest order of animal, demonstrated by his ability to think critically.

In order for this kind of development to take place, according to this thinking, a very long period of time is required. To allow for this assumption, scientists have found ways of measuring time which fit in with the evolutionary theory. Geologists have found ways of measuring minute amounts of lead remaining in Uranium 238. Assuming that there was no lead present when the uranium was formed, and also assuming that there was nothing that could have affected the rate of radioactive deterioration (a great act of faith), the age of certain radioactive rocks can be determined. The oldest rocks found to date have been dated by this method at 4.8 billion years.

Scientists have noted some difficulties with this system of age

REFORMATION...

channel by which God's grace is taught to us and faith is created in us. Scripture is clear that the Word of God works faith in the hearts of men. It is the Word of God which, when received into the heart, is able to save the soul (Jas. 1:21); it is the living and abiding Word of God through which we have been born anew (I Pet. 1:23); and it is through the hearing of God's Word that faith is kindled (Rom. 10:17).

Many people believe that other means are necessary to bring people to Christ. They would rely on signs and wonders to persuade men to believe; they would rely on outward manifestations of power, like healings and ecstatic experiences, to gain the attention of men and persuade them.

But the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation. It is the Word of God that teaches and proclaims Jesus.

The Bible contains all we need to show men their need and to present Jesus as the answer to that need. People who look for signs and wonders do so because they are not willing to believe. Luke 16:31 states, “If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.” Men do not need extra-biblical revelations or experiences to make Christ more real to them. The Word alone is sufficient to create faith in Christ. It does not need to be accompanied by signs and wonders.

If it is Grace alone which brings about our salvation, and Faith alone which appropriates that grace to us personally, then it is the Word of God alone which produces faith in our hearts. This truth is the legacy of the Reformation.

"Evolution theory holds that all of life developed from a chance union of chemicals in a 'primordial soup' to form life on earth."

dating. One incident, for example, causes one to wonder about the real accuracy of the radioactive carbon dating method, as it is called. A turtle shell, thought to be prehistoric, was tested and found to be very old indeed. It was placed on exhibit along with other items and clearly marked as being older than 100,000 years. What the scientists had failed to observe, however, was the presence of the owner inside the shell who extended his head and legs and walked away from the exhibit.

Another method of dating the ages of rocks is by use of fossils imbedded in layers of rock. Again, there have been difficulties in fossil dating. Fossils in Texas show the footprints of a type of dinosaur walking down a river bank and stepping on the footprint of a man. The problem here is that, according to evolution, the dinosaur was supposed to have died out 200 million years before man appeared on earth. How then could the dinosaur have stepped on the footprint of a man? There is a possibility that an animal described by natives living in the regions of the upper Nile is a type of dinosaur still living today.

Scientists today are measuring the movements of the earth as the continents slide about on molten magma beneath the earth's crust. A statement in *National Geographic Magazine* about the latest discoveries in geology states that 20 years ago few scientists dreamed that continents ride like icebergs on hot molten lava in the center of the earth.

I remember, as a boy, almost 40 years ago, noting on a globe that the continents interlock like a jigsaw puzzle, and that obviously the continents had drifted apart.

Our Bible is a great source of scientific knowledge and though it was not written primarily to be a scientific book, it is still useful for scientific thought. Many discoveries were made by men who read the Bible and then investigated the facts mentioned in the Bible. The currents in the

oceans were discovered by a man who read the 8th Psalm and was curious about the paths in the seas described by the psalmist. The Bible tells us much about outer space and since the same Creator made inner space, we have a model for inner space in outer space.

One of the recent space experiments on a space shuttle examined the sun with a bank of sophisticated telescopes. The scientists were amazed to see elements on the sun changing into other elements. They shouldn't have been surprised at all, because the Bible tells us that one day the elements of our own earth will melt with a fervent heat.

The book of Genesis seems to tell us that God used a certain kind of "evolution" in the creation of the world.

"Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind.... Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven."

But God created in a definite time frame. The Bible says that God breathed life into Adam and created Eve from Adam's rib. Thus the Bible states clearly that man did *not* evolve from a "primordial soup."

The problem with evolution as it is now taught is that it leaves God, the Creator, out of the picture. Fortunately, many scientists of the past and today recognize the handiwork of God and continue to work independently from the assumptions of evolutionary theory.

One of our greatest American scientists was a small man with a hunchback who emigrated from Germany, Charles P. Steinmetz. His work made possible the safe transmission of electricity over long distances. He was so valuable to the General Electric Company for whom he worked that he was allowed to write in the amount on his own pay checks. In the 1930s, my father was an engineer testing turbines

for the General Electric corporation in New York state. Charles P. Steinmetz spoke to an audience of engineers, of whom my father was one. This is part of what he said:

"Behind every blade of grass there is Divine Wisdom. One day there will come a generation of scientists who know the Creator. That generation will make more discoveries for mankind than all the generations before it."

It is interesting to note that when God used Moses to send many plagues upon old Pharaoh, how many animals were created in very short order. Moses threw down his staff and it became a snake. Then God created enough flies, frogs, lice and grasshoppers to cover the land. God showed Pharaoh his power to remove those same animals in very short order. God did not require millions of years to perform each plague, but man has great difficulty accepting the power of God to create.

In Job 38, God asked Job where he was when He laid the foundations of the earth. And He went on to ask, "Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it has been issued out of the womb?.... And said, 'Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed?'" (vs. 8, 11).

God then asks Job if he is able to control the orbits of the constellations as they move through the heavens. Man can only imagine the power required to move a galaxy containing millions of stars, each larger than our sun, around in its orbit.

The evolutionist says that animals "develop" their instincts and special designs as a means to survive. In Job, chapter 39, God tells Job how He has provided the feathers for the peacock and the legs for the ostrich that can outrun the horse and their rider trying to catch him. God has given the eagle its hunting instinct and wonderful eyesight. God has created the lion, the wild goat and the raven, each with special abilities for living in a particular environment. God has created the habitat also, beautifully able to support a multitude of creatures.

For the Christian, God's Word is clear. We must not follow after those "Who changed the truth of God into a

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"For in it (the Gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, 'He who through faith is righteous shall live'."

Romans 1:17

EVOLUTION . . .

lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever" (Romans 1:25).

Although evolution is still taught as fact in many of our schools throughout our country, more and more school districts are demanding textbooks that deal with both evolution and creation.

Scientists are still working under the false assumptions of evolution, but I believe the day spoken of by Steinmetz is not far away, when great advances will be made by those who recognize the work of the Creator.

As one studies the various theories of evolution, it becomes immediately very clear that much guesswork and imagination is required to fill in the many, many, missing links. There is no explanation, for example, how a cold-blooded fish, with fins and scales, became a warm-blooded mammal with lungs that breathe air instead of water, and has legs and hair. The missing links are still missing. The Christian believes they will always be missing, because the Bible tells us it is so. The Bible really gives us little choice.

Either God created each animal after its kind as God tells us, and the Bible is true, or evolution is correct and God's Word is a lie. I do not believe that there is a "middle ground" between evolution and the Word of God.

It is true that a thousand years are as one day to God, but we must remember also that God can deal with parts of a nanosecond as well. A nanosecond is one billionth of a second, which would divide a day into 86,400,000,000,000 parts. To think otherwise is to deny God's power and God's Word.

The basis for evangelism

Isaiah 6:1-13

Not long ago I was listening to a pastor on the radio who told about the time he first got eyeglasses. He went into the pulpit to preach and he was shocked to find out that he could actually see the faces of the people in the congregation! Then he said, "I never realized how bad my sight was until I got glasses."

I believe there are many people in our world today who have poor eyesight. Not *physical* eyesight, but *spiritual* eyesight. They have blurred spiritual vision. They can't see things clearly and they need to have their eyes opened to the things of God.

As we look at Isaiah's call to be God's prophet, we see how God gave to Isaiah a clear picture of three things: a clear picture of *the Lord*; a clear picture of *himself*; and a clear picture of *others*.

A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE LORD

The first clear picture God gave to Isaiah was of *the Lord*. *Isaiah 6:1* says, "In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the Lord."

What did Isaiah see in this vision? What kind of picture did God give to him?

There are two important characteristics or attributes of God which are clearly seen in Isaiah's vision of the Lord. The first has to do with God's *sovereignty*. Isaiah saw the Lord "sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple" (v.1). The picture given here of the Lord is that of a king who is ruling and reigning, a king who has the power to do as He pleases.

Do you see the Lord as a king? Do you see Him as the King of all creation? Many people don't see the Lord that way. They see Him as an



by Pastor
Peter Franz
Minot, N. Dak.

Getting a clear picture

impotent God Who is unable to rule His creation, and it is quite obvious as you look at their lives. To such people the economy scares them. To such people, the future scares them. All because their picture of God is a blurred one. Any time your vision of God is less than who He really is your problems will be big. Isaiah saw the Lord as He really is, the King of all creation.

If there is one attribute of God which people today do not see clearly, it is the holiness of God. What would our nation be like if we realized what God's holiness was all about? Would there be as much abortion in our nation? Would there be as much homosexuality, or crime, or drug abuse, or murder, or stealing, or rape? All of these sins would dramatically decrease if we realized as a nation that God is a holy God.

But what about you and me as individuals? How would we live if we understood what God's holiness was all about? Would we tolerate sin like we often do? Would we excuse ourselves for our disobedience to God? What we need today is a fresh vision of who God is. We need to see God as Isaiah did. He is the *Sovereign King* of all creation and the God of *perfect holiness*.

A CLEAR PICTURE OF OURSELVES

The second clear picture which God gave to Isaiah was a clear picture

of *Himself*. In verse 5, Isaiah cried, "Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."

There is a very clear connection between our vision of who *God* is, and our vision of who *we* are. If we see God as He really is, in all His holiness and power, there is only one conclusion we can come to about ourselves and that is the conclusion of Isaiah. When Isaiah saw God in His perfection, he saw himself in his imperfection. He said, "Woe is me. . . *for my eyes have seen the King!*"

Have you had the same clear picture of yourself like Isaiah did? Have you seen yourself as you really are? The cry of Isaiah is the cry of desperation which God is looking for from all of us as we see ourselves in our lost condition. Unless we see that we are lost, we will see no need to be found. Unless we see ourselves as sinners, we will see no need for a Savior.

Now when we see ourselves as we really are and confess our need to God, what does He do? God does for us just what He did for Isaiah! He cleanses us from all our sin! When Isaiah cried out to God in his sins an angel came to him with a burning coal from the altar and touched his mouth with it and said, "Your iniquity is taken away, and your sin is forgiven" (v.7).

It is important to notice that when the angel touched the mouth of Isaiah with the burning coal, he took the coal from the altar. Doesn't this give us a clear picture as to the reason why we can be cleansed and forgiven? What was the altar used for in the Old Testament? Wasn't it used to sacrifice the animals that God prescribed for the

"Unless we see ourselves as sinners, we will see no need for a Saviour."

forgiveness of sins? This cleansing which came from the altar points to *Jesus!* He is the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world" (John 1:29). He shed His blood that we might be forgiven. And when we see ourselves as we really are and cry out to God for mercy, He applies the precious blood of Jesus to cleanse and forgive us of all our sins.

Have you seen yourself as you really are? Have you had a clear picture of your lost condition? God wants us to see ourselves as we really are and confess our need to Him so that He can cleanse and forgive.

A CLEAR PICTURE OF OTHERS

The third clear picture God gave to Isaiah was a picture of *others*. After Isaiah had seen the Lord clearly, and himself clearly, God wanted him to get a clear vision of others and their need for the Lord. So, in verse 8, God gave Isaiah the call to preach to others. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' Then I said, 'Here am I. Send me.'"

Why was Isaiah so willing to be sent by the Lord to share the Gospel with others when we are so often unwilling? I believe we've seen the answer to that question already. Isaiah was willing to go for the Lord because he had seen the Lord in all His glory. . . . He had seen himself in all his sin. . . . *and God had forgiven him!* That's what gave Isaiah a vision for the lost! He had experienced the grace of God in his own life and he wanted to share it!

Have you experienced the grace of God in your life? Have you come to know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If not, ask God to take away your spiritual blindness. Ask Him to open your spiritual eyes so you can see clearly.

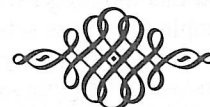
God wants you to see *Him* as He really is. He wants you to see *yourself* as you really are. And He wants you to see *others* in their need. Allow the Lord to give you clear spiritual vision today!

When The Storm is Over

When God wants to strengthen a man's faith He first weakens it by feigning to break faith with him. He thrusts him into many tribulations and makes him so weary that he is driven to despair, and then He gives him strength to be still and persevere. Such quietness is patience and patience produces experience, so that when God returns to him and lets His sun rise and shine again, and when the storm is over he opens his eyes in amazement and says: 'The Lord shall be praised, that I have been delivered from evil. God dwells here. I did not think that all would end so well'.

Martin Luther

"Any time your vision of God is less than who He really is your problems will be big."



(A retired accountant, Stella Olson is the treasurer of Minnesota Valley Lutheran Church, Lakeville, Minn.)

God is in control

"I have set the Lord always before me.
Because He is at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.
Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices;
My body will rest secure,
Because You will not abandon me to the grave,
Nor will You let Your holy One see decay.
You have made known to me the path of life;
You will fill me with joy in Your presence,
With eternal pleasures at Your right hand."

(Psalm 16:8-12, NIV)

One day I discovered a small breast tumor, set up an appointment with the doctor and was scheduled for surgery. I had hoped my discovery was wrong. I didn't have time to go to the hospital. I had this and this scheduled for next week, next month.

A few days passed and thoughts came to me, "Are you a follower of Jesus? Have you really committed your life to Him? Are you willing to go through the deep waters of the valley of the shadow of death if necessary? Are you willing to be set aside for a time?" I needed to *focus on Jesus*, not me.

My relatives, friends, my pastor, deacons and my church were very supportive. My nephew, a dear friend, and my pastor stayed at the hospital through my surgery.

"I have set the Lord always before me. Because He is my right hand I will not be shaken" (Psalm 16:8, NIV). This was a special verse I took with me and kept repeating.

The possibility of cancer and a mastectomy were in my mind, though I had planned to be home from the hospital the same day. Three times at the hospital that morning I was told by various people that I was scheduled to be admitted for further stay. I wondered if God was telling me something. Just before being wheeled into surgery, my doctor came and expressed, as he had before, that he did not think it was anything serious. I really felt like the

angelic host was around me in that operating room. So many people were praying - relatives, friends and our church prayer chain.

When I was waking up from the anesthetic I heard some one say, "I think she is awake enough to be moved upstairs." "Upstairs?" I thought, "What has happened?" "Did I have a mastectomy?" I asked in my still-garbled voice. The answer was, "Yes." Many thoughts flashed through my mind. . . "How extensive is it? Will I need chemotherapy or radiation? Lord, have You chosen for me to die from cancer?" Again the verse came to me, "Because He is at my right hand I will not be shaken." So, I accepted it as it was. "Lord, I'm in your hands." I had expected to go home that same day, but now I was told I would need to stay about five days. *God is in control.*

I told my nephew, "We have to take life the way it comes." With that I settled in for a five-day stay. Pastor and Mrs. (Richard) Anderson came at 9:45 that evening on their way home from a church function. Pastor read Psalm 16 and prayed. Again the next morning he came, concerned how I would accept this, and again the third day. Later that day I learned I did not need chemotherapy or radiation. How thankful I was!

Our faith has to be more than emotions and blessings. Unless we have caught a glimpse of the valley of the shadow of death, endured the pain of the surgical knife, spent time at the bedside of a loved one, gone through other disappointments and delusions life can bring, God cannot use us to minister to someone else. Spiritual growth is painful.

Physical pain is also a teacher. It may be constant and unrelenting. It may come in the middle of the night when we are trying desperately to

by Stella Olson
Minneapolis, Minn.

"Lord, have
You chosen me
to die of
cancer?"

store up energy for the next day. It may interrupt our pleasant visit with a friend. It may come just when we are receiving a good spiritual meal from our pastor's sermon. Along with pain come lessons in patience — waiting for morning so we can get up and move about without disturbing the household, waiting in doctors' offices, waiting for healing.

"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" (II Corinthians 4:8-9, NIV).

Joyce Landorf tells of a young soldier she visited in a hospital in Japan (*For These Fragile Times* by Joyce Landorf). The doctors were making a decision on whether to amputate both legs or not. The soldier had an 18-month-old son he had never seen and wanted to be a *whole* man when he saw his son, not to be only a partial man. She prayed for him and others without arms or legs, with partial faces, etc., and asked God that their hearts not be "fragmented" but be made whole by regeneration and becoming new men in Christ.

We may lose parts of our bodies by accident or surgery, but in Christ we are still "whole persons." Through it all we may be better able to minister to someone else.

A few months before my surgery the Lord had spoken to me in a very special way in my devotions one day.

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editorials

THE REFORMATION

When one has known certain truths all one's life, it is difficult to realize and appreciate that a day existed when those truths were shrouded in mystery and were clear to few.

All the more wonderful, then, that God was able to use a German monk, Martin Luther, to make the world see that man, the sinner, comes to peace with His Maker only through the merits of the Second Adam, God's only Son, Jesus. That discovery spread like wildfire through the civilized world and came, praise God, also to our forebears.

But because the truth is free today and free to us doesn't mean that all see it clearly or embrace it. Far from it. And so the task remains for us, too, to continue to lift the truth aloft and to work for the world's evangelization. Let works' righteousness be assailed on every hand and the truth of salvation by grace through faith (Eph. 2:8, 9) be proclaimed faithfully and triumphantly. Then we honor the Protestant Reformation.

THESE ARTICLES

The survey of *Ambassador* readers earlier this year produced some suggestions of topics for future articles in our publication. Whether mentioned by several readers or only one, each topic is evidence of a larger interest among our constituency. For every expression of opinion within a paper's reading family usually indicates a larger number of persons holding similar opinion.

These suggestions have been listed, with resembling ones being grouped as one. And now some of these have been given to persons in the Association as topics upon which it is hoped they will write for *Ambassador* readers. The remainder of the topics will be assigned before long.

It should be mentioned that in some cases the topics are ones upon which little has been written in these pages before or perhaps for some time. In still other cases considerable may have been written prior to this time, but we feel that since the subject has been brought up again, something further should be written now.

In this issue of the *Ambassador* the first of these articles appears. It is one on Evolution by Pastor Bill Moberg. We thank him for leading off in the project and we invite your careful attention to what he has written.

Several things should be said about this and subsequent articles on topics readers have suggested. First, they are not exhaustive. That is, they say something but not everything on the subject. Writers have been given a word limit. We don't plan continued articles in most cases and so a writer has to say what he can in the space allowed. Second, the articles are not official AFLC position papers on the topics, but they are written by Association pastors

and professors and as such represent general thinking in the church, but not unanimous consent on any or all issues. Third, articles will not necessarily appear in each issue of the *Ambassador* for the foreseeable future, nor will they be identified as being part of the series. We trust you will recognize them as being such.

Readers should remember that they are welcome to write Letters to the Editor in response to these articles, pro or con, as they are for anything pertaining to the *Ambassador* or relating to our life together.

YOU CAN HELP

Speaking of Letters to the Editor, may we remind you of other ways in which you may share in the content of our magazine. And remember that Letters to the Editor create a good deal of interest as reaction and interaction take place because of something that has appeared in the *Ambassador*. We got a number of favorable comments on the flurry of activity in the Letters column early in the year. Please feel free to write.

We have an almost unused Opinion Page available also. Readers can be given up to a page, about 800 words, to discuss a matter upon which they know there is difference of opinion. But they can have their say and then the door is open for others to react, either on the Opinion Page at a later date or by means of a Letter to the Editor.

The Fellowship Corner is available for any who would like to write down a testimony of personal experience with the Lord, share an insight they have gained or sound an encouragement to brothers and sisters in the faith. Recent annual conferences have found a lot of sharing taking place at the laymen's services. Why can't some of these things and more be set down for a wider fellowship to enjoy? Consider using the Fellowship Corner of our paper.

Some of you have the gift of poetry. We've heard from some of you. May we hear from you again and from others who have something to contribute, but modesty, or inertia, hinder you?

Finally, readers are invited to send in articles they write on any number of topics, something which would fit in our type of church periodical. We solicit some of our articles, others are volunteer. We see a place for both in our magazine, which is a people's paper. There is no question but what there is much untapped writing talent in the AFLC. We have reached out so poorly to those who have something to share for Christ's glory. Will you help us to rectify this failure?

God's blessings to you all. We look forward to hearing from many of you.

"They are justified by His grace
as a gift, through the redemption
which is in Christ Jesus."

Romans 3:24

world missions news

Meet Pastor dos Santos

Pastor Carlos Roberto Alves dos Santos was born on November 10, 1950, in Guararema, Sao Paulo, and spent his childhood years in that area. He has a younger sister, Sonia. Carlos says, "I didn't have the privilege of being born into an evangelical home, but through the testimony of an aunt and cousin who are Christians I got to know the Gospel and accepted Jesus as my personal Savior while in my late teens. My aunt and cousin encouraged me to study at a Bible school, to know God's Word better and because I felt this need in my life, I did study at a Bible school. In the same manner that I had the privilege of hearing the Gospel and accepting it, so I felt the need to take the Gospel to others. During my studies at the Bible school I was encouraged to win souls for Christ, and I continued my studies in seminary to work full-time for the Lord." Philippians 1:6 is special to me: "And I am sure that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

In 1976 Carlos started studying at an interdenominational Bible school Maranata, and spent two years there. During this time he met his wife, Karen Knapp, who was a teacher and nurse at the school. Karen had graduated from St. Luke's School of Nursing in 1972 and from AFLBS, Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1973. She had come to Brazil in 1974 to work at Maranata. She is the daughter of Missionaries George and Helen Knapp.

In January of 1978, Carlos started a year of internship, working in a church. The church was located in a deep valley and the people living in that region were very poor, having no electricity or running water. Carlos lived in a small room behind the church. Besides ministering to the people spiritually, he taught elementary school to children grades 1-4 in the church on weekdays. On September 16, 1978, Carlos and Karen were united in marriage, and spent the first three months of their life together working in the valley.

In January of 1979, they moved to Campo Mourao, Parana, and Carlos began his studies at the Instituto Biblico e Seminario Mouraoense (IBSM), the Free Lutheran Bible School and Seminary in Brazil. He studied for two years, during which time Karen taught music and Bible classes at the Bible School. Carlos and Karen also worked these two years in the church at Campina da Lagoa. Carlos recalls this time as one of rich blessings and growth for him and the church.

After Carlos' graduation from Seminary in 1980, he was ordained in March, 1981. Pastor dos Santos and Karen moved to Vilhena, Rondonia, and have been working there in the Free Lutheran Church. They have had many struggles; people have heard the Word, accepted Jesus into their lives, and then after a time have moved away. Many others show no interest in the Gospel, so the church has remained small. But those who are in the church now are faithful and growing in Christ.

Pastor dos Santos and Karen are the parents of two girls: Karla Helen, age three, was born on February 8, 1982, and Kaleen Agnetta, age one, was born on January 29, 1984. They are blessings from God to Carlos and Karen.

Please continue praying for this family in their work for His kingdom in the AFLC church in Vilhena.



Maria Elizabete Moura

A Presbyterian For Jesus

Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me" (RSV).

My name is Maria Elizabete Moura. I was born on a farm and spent most of my childhood there.

Then I lived in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, for five months. There a Christian lady tried to persuade us to stay and live. She tried to get us to become Christians, but my parents, who until today are very unbelieving, didn't accept.

We returned to the farm. When I was seven or eight years old, I was bit one day by a rabid dog. So then I returned to Belo Horizonte to be treated, receiving shots, vaccines, etc. I became well again and continued growing.

My family moved to Pecanha and we have continued living there until today. Near us lived a woman who always tried to evangelize me. Many times I listened quietly and would be a bit perturbed with what she said, especially when she spoke of Christ's return. Other times I argued with her.

When I was ten years old I started



Pastor and Mrs. dos Santos with Karla, left, and Kaleen.

going to school. I was so timid! I would hide in the corners, away from the other kids.

I was always searching for happiness. Many times I thought that if I had a boy friend I would be happy. I wrote many compositions saying that happiness didn't exist, that what really existed were only moments of happiness. I was so unhappy and spent much time crying. Today, even though I still cry, I know that happiness exists.

I was saved through a group of young people. Some young people came to my house to evangelize. I liked to participate in groups of young people, searching for something that would tell me the meaning of life. These young people who came to my house were very enthusiastic and invited me to their church. I accepted their invitation and enjoyed the church very much. I went to Sunday School and the evening service. This was in May of 1983. I continued going and told the pastor one day that I was no longer a visitor, that I had asked Jesus into my life. After three months I was baptized. I have worked in the church as Sunday School superintendent and secretary, and in the young group.

Since I was converted, I have felt a great desire to preach the Gospel because I am very happy to be saved and would like others to be happy like I am. Every day I feel this desire to evangelize. I would like to be a missionary. If it is God's will, I will attain this goal. So I am here at the Bible school this year to help equip myself for working for God.

Maria Elizabete is a member of the Presbyterian of Brazil Church in Pecanha, Minas Gerais, and heard about our Bible school through a radio program pamphlet. She said it was a gift from God to hear about our school, since she had a desire to study at a Bible school. She traveled the farthest to come to school and had never left her state of Mina Gerais before. She comes from a family of two boys and four girls. She and her younger sister are Christians. This year Maria Elizabete is working in the Lar Parana Free Lutheran Church where Oseias Camara is pastor and on Sunday afternoons works with children at the Cohapar Sunday School.

All Board's meeting reviewed

The annual All Boards' meeting was held on Tues., Sept. 24, at the Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wis.

Rev. Richard Snipstead, President of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, opened the meeting with the reading of II Corinthians 5 and there was a season of prayer.

The Association's 25th year, 1987, is to be a year of renewal and evangelism. The first phase of this effort is to be in 1986 when prayer preparation is to be emphasized. There was discussion about prayer, about how to get people to attend prayer meetings. It was expressed that people must see the *need* of prayer. Many so-called prayer meetings could be compared to the prayers of the Pharisees whom Christ upbraided as using "much repetition." We should all be of one mind praying in unity along with the one who is praying and then when another prays not repeating the very things others have prayed for (much repetition).

We must ask God to teach us to pray. Our failures are prayer failures. We must be willing to humble ourselves as individuals. The chain or prayer will extend to the individual congregations and then to the Association as a whole.

As to the year of evangelism and revival, again it was emphasized, prayer must come first. The AFLC is without an evangelist at present due to the death of Rev. Kenneth Pentti, but

it was the consensus of the meeting that the office seeks the man, not a man the office.

There was discussion of changing the fiscal year and an explanation was given as to why this would be beneficial. It was stated that the year is one-third over by the time the results of the last fiscal year's budget ingathering and the new budget are presented to the people.

Costs of producing the *Ambassador* are going up. Possible sources of new revenue: subscription increase; increased board subsidies; advertising from Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood. The majority did not like the idea of accepting advertising as a source of revenue. The suggestion was made that the *Ambassador* become a monthly and a larger paper. There were no other suggestions.

Approximately half of the goal of 100 supporters of the ARC has been reached. The suggestion was made that the *Ambassador* run another announcement of the need of ARC supporters as an influx of mail was received after the first announcement.

As of Sept. 23, the following percentages of goal had been reached in the major funds of the AFLC: General Fund, 45; Seminary, 30; Bible School, 32; Home Missions, 30; World Missions, 45; and Praise Fund, 43. At the end of September two-thirds of the fiscal year was past.

Rev. Ernest Langness
Faith, S. Dak.

The Word and The Church

The Word is not the Word of God because the Church says it, but the fact that the Word of God is preached constitutes the Church. The Word is not created by the Church, but the Church is created by the Word. And a certain sign by which we may know where the Church be, is the Word of God.

Martin Luther

North Central District Rally

October 26, 9:30 registration.
Maple Bay Free Lutheran,
Fertile, Minn.
Speakers: Pastor Walter Beaman,
McIntosh;
Mrs. Barbara Johnson, Badger.

Cradle Roll

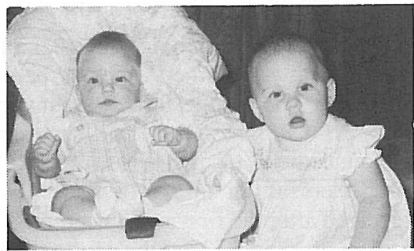
Binford, N. Dak.

Bethany Free Lutheran Cradle Roll celebrated the graduation of four children. They are: Gracia, daughter of Arne and Debbie Berge; Angela, daughter of Dave and Jan Ekern; Samuel, son of Steve and Kathy Leadens and Luke, son of Jim and Marianne Oien. Luke has become ill with leukemia. Pray for God's hand on Luke and his family.

Three new babies joined the Cradle Roll during the same program.

Ray, N. Dak.

Beaver Creek Lutheran Church enrolled Dawn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Ferguson and Jenice Rakell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gleave, Jr. into their Cradle Roll program.



RIGHT HAND...

"The righteous will flourish like a palm tree,
They will grow like a cedar of Lebanon;
planted in the house of the Lord,
They will flourish in the courts of our God.
They will still bear fruit in old age,
they will stay fresh and green,
proclaiming, "The Lord is upright;
He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him."

Psalm 92:12-15, NIV

In order to stay fresh and green there must be food and water — the Word and prayerful tears. I hope my recent experience will help me. My desire is that I may "stay fresh and green" and bear fruit even in old age.

Honorary Memberships Sedan, Minn.



Scandia Lutheran WMF honored Alice Ronning with the Honorary Membership Pin at a recent meeting.



Spicer Minn.

Green Lake Lutheran honored (L. to R.), Gladys Pladsens, Mrs. Stanley Block and Mrs. Art Jacobson. Pictured with them is Mrs. Earl Jones, WMF President.

Hunger at Home

Many of us have been moved with love and concern when seeing reports of world hunger. But home hunger is among our own neighborhoods.

I have spent volunteer time at our community's food pantry. It is hard to describe the feeling one gets when a family comes in and the adults have skipped meals so their children can eat. Others have lived on macaroni and cheese and powdered milk for a week or longer.

I would urge those of us who are blest to share with your local food pantry. This is a special urgent need at this time of the year in most communities. Your volunteer time, money and food are ways your food pantry needs your help.

Home hunger is here. It is an area you can help with. "If you've done it to the least of these, you've done it unto Me."

Mrs. John Kjos
Zimmerman, Minn.

on training children. . .

Children should be instructed in what pertains to God. They should be taught to know the Lord Jesus Christ, and constantly to remember how He has suffered for us, what He has done, and what He has promised. Thus were the children of Israel commanded to relate to their children and successors the miracles God had done for their fathers in Egypt. And when children have this knowledge, and yet do not learn to love and adore God, and to follow Jesus Christ, the punishment of God should be held up before them — His fearful judgment and anger at the wicked. If a person learns from youth up to recognize the benefits of God, and hence to love Him, and likewise the punishment and threatenings of God, and hence to fear Him, he will not forget it afterwards when he is old. For God will be honored in these two things, namely, that we love Him as a father for His blessings, and fear Him as a judge for His punishments.

Martin Luther

Women's Missionary Federation *In memoriam gifts*

Ruth Block, Sebeka, Minn.
Thorand Christianson, Everett, Wash.
Mrs. Raymond Jensen, Tioga, N. Dak.

*Blessed are
those who die
in the Lord*





Continuing Education Grant

Pictured above is Mr. Kurt Baldry (right) general agent for Aid Association for Lutherans, presenting a check for \$4,000 to Pastor Francis Monseth, dean of Free Lutheran Theological Seminary. The annual grant given by AAL is designed to encourage the development of the seminary's program of continuing education for pastors as well as to aid faculty as they pursue further theological study.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God — not because of works, lest any man should boast."

Ephesians 2:8,9

Left to right, Jan Benrud, Joel Erickson, Wendy Snipstead, Michael Rice and Donna Berdal.



CAMPUS NEWS

The Summer Ambassadors

The Beauty of Numbers

Traveling as a chaperon for the 1985 Summer Ambassadors from Association Free Lutheran Bible School taught me more than just the importance of leadership. What it really taught me was the beauty of numbers.

Like six: the number of us we could fit in a van, along with our clothes bags and Bibles and suitcases and still enjoy it. But still, that figure doesn't quite explain it all. Try a number that's just a bit higher than that.

Like 12: the number of weeks that we traveled in that van. Still not impressed?

Try 53, which was the number of churches the Ambassadors sang in last summer—sometimes three on a Sunday. Not to mention three Bible camps, and counseling every night. Yet, somehow even that doesn't quite tell the story. Maybe an even bigger number will suffice.

Like 318: the number of Luther Leaguers who came to the convention at Rapid City, S.Dak., last summer—at a Bible camp that was built to hold only 300. What's more than that, almost one-third of them asked for counseling that week. About 60 of

them sought to respond to the Savior's call.

Still, perhaps a three-digit figure won't be enough.

How about four digits: 3,900, the number of dishes the Ambassadors helped wash at the AFLC Annual Conference in June.

Or maybe it demands a number written like this: 11,522, the number of miles the Ambassadors covered in the van last summer—from Western Wisconsin to Washington and Oregon. Or perhaps a more striking figure will assert itself more boldly.

Ten million. The number of calories the Ambassadors consumed while traveling through North and South Dakota alone. You see, the message is clear. I could go on and on.

But what did such tallies mean to the Ambassadors themselves? What did God teach them through their ministry?

Wendy Snipstead, a 19-year-old soprano from Minneapolis, Minn., said she learned how to be a 24-hour witness. "I realized that people were watching you," she said. "I needed to expect to be watched and that the things I do affect people more than I think."

Jan Benrud, of Goodhue, Minn., said she learned to see people in a new light. "I learned to see people as souls—either in heaven or in hell," said the 19-year-old pianist for the group. "And I learned that I need to make a special effort to get to know people."

"I became a lot more bold for the Lord," said Michael Rice, 19, from Tioga, N.Dak. "I found that there were a lot of people out there who are seriously not liking the life they live and they didn't have anyone to help them," he said.

Alto Donna Berdal, 21, of Bismarck, N. Dak., said the summer experience likewise taught her how many people were searching for a



From here and there . . .

Arlington Wash. — Rev. Anders Mathre, retired ALC pastor, served as interim pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church until Mr. Steven Snipstead arrived last summer to serve his seminary internship. Atonement Lutheran holds its worship services in Arlington Middle School.

Minnewaukan, N. Dak. — Don Bingaman participated in a wheel-athon in Grand Forks, N. Dak., on Sept. 14, to raise money for wheel-chair sports and recreation in North Dakota.

Tioga, N. Dak. — The third annual Newcomers' Banquet was held in Zion Lutheran Church for all Lutheran Leaguers, grades 7 to 12, on Sept. 8.

Ortley, S. Dak. — Rev. John Rieth, Williston, N. Dak., former pastor in Ortley, spoke at evangelistic meetings in Ortley Lutheran Church, Oct. 13-15.

Hampden, N. Dak. — Zoar Lutheran Church has been served by Rev. Joel Rolf of Devils Lake, N. Dak., since Pastor Ragene Hodnefield concluded his ministry at Zoar in early August. The congregation is seeking a permanent pastor.

Minneapolis, Minn. — The film "Martin Luther, Heretic" was shown at Faith Lutheran Church on Sunday evening, Oct. 6.

AMBASSADORS . . .

purpose, and how she could be used to help them find it. "The thing that amazed me over and over," Miss Berdal said, "was that God could use us. When I looked at myself, I mean, I wouldn't classify myself as being that great talent-wise. I didn't have that much. But yet, God could use me. I was so thankful I could be used."

In turn, Joel Erickson was encouraged to become even more useful. "I recognized a need to know more than I did," said Mr. Erickson, 19, of New York Mills, Minn. "I was challenged to memorize more. I wanted to learn how to share more effectively. It seemed like it was almost not enough just to have devotions."

That's because there were people at stake. Numbers of them. And they needed to find something they could count on. Like Jesus.

news of the churches

Stacy, Minn. — The youth of Sunnyside and Hope (Wyoming) put on a program at Salem Lutheran Church, Dalbo, Minn., on Sept. 29. In August the group was at Section Ten Lutheran Church, Cumberland, Wis.

Roseau, Minn. — The parish fall festival was held at Spruce Lutheran Church on Sunday, Sept. 8.

Ferndale, Wash. — Rev. Wallace Jackson, formerly of Wallace, S. Dak., will present a program of word and music at Triumph Lutheran Church Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Thief River Falls, Minn. — Our Saviour's Lutheran Church hosted the Evangelical Northern Bible Conference Association meetings, Oct. 3-5.

Minneapolis, Minn. — Medicine Lake Lutheran Church has three choirs active this fall. Mary Jo Dyrud directs the Hosanna Choir (age 4 through grade 6); Jan Benrud directs the Jubilate Choir (grades 7 through 12); and Cindy Schlenk is in charge of the Alleluia Senior Choir.

Grafton, N. Dak. — Home Missions Executive Director Elden Nelson presented the work of Home Missions at Bethel Lutheran Church on Sunday, Oct. 6.

Grand Forks, N. Dak. — Hans Tore Leithe, missionary from Norway, spoke at Trinity Lutheran Church on Sept. 4. He represents the Hauge Foreign Mission while in the U.S.

Personalities

Rev. Terry Olson, who had served St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Fargo, N. Dak., since early summer, 1982, has accepted the call to serve Elim Lutheran Church, Lake Stevens, Wash. He is beginning his work there at about this time.

Rev. Rodger Olson is also beginning work in a new parish, Calvary Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minn., about November 1. For the past year he has been pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Canton, S. Dak.

Rev. Wallace Jackson has retired from active parish ministry and will be devoting time to presenting the Gospel in programs of word and music. He served Calvary Lutheran Church in Wallace, S. Dak., for seven years.

Preaching Missions

Grand Forks, N. Dak.

Trinity Lutheran Church

Bruce Dalager, pastor

Nov. 3-6

Rev. Wesley Langaas, McVile, N. Dak., speaker

Roseau, Minn.

Roseau Parish

Larry V. Severson, pastor

Oct. 27-30

Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N. Dak., speaker

New Hymnals at AFLBS

The Board of Trustees approved the use of the Hymnal *Great Hymns of the Faith* in devotional sessions of the Bible School, with the condition that there be unanimity of agreement from the faculty. The books were purchased for one dollar each. From the minutes of the Board for Aug. 17, the following is taken (spoken by Rev. Donald Greven, dean):

"(1) This is not an attempt to create new policy. The LEM Deeper Life Hymnal has been in the classroom since the early days of AFLBS. It is a collection of Gospel hymns, and has

served us well, but it is now worn out. We have only a handful of usable copies left. What we have sought to do is simply replace them.

(2) This is not an attempt to replace the *Concordia*. The *Concordia* has been and will continue to be our primary hymnal, our hymnal for all worship services, chapel programs and festive occasions. Just as the LEM hymnal did not replace the *Concordia*, neither will the other one. The vast majority of our churches have had from the beginning of the AFLC, and long before that, a Gospel hymnal

Member of Stewardship Board, Wife celebrate Golden Wedding

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Dyrud, Newfolden, Minn., celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with family and friends on Sunday, August 11, in festivities in the town's Community Center.

Their 11 children were present and the grandchildren. The oldest son, Harlan, Grand Forks, N. Dak., was the master of ceremonies for the program. Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, Minn., a brother, and Mrs. Clayton Berg, also of Minneapolis, sang at the anniversary as they had at the wedding in rural McHenry, N. Dak., soon 50 years ago.

Congratulations and God's blessings to the honored couple.

Mr. Dyrud is a member of the Stewardship Board of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

In Memoriam

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

Washington

Everett

Mrs. Minnie C. Lande, 85, Sept. 19, Calvary

which reflects our pietistic emphasis on salvation experienced in the personal life. God forbid that we should forsake that vital part of our Lutheran heritage!

(3) This is not an attempt to bring in so-called Christian rock or other contemporary songs into the classroom. GHF contains none of that element, but rather over 130 hymns of the *Concordia*, and many traditional Gospel songs. I stand with you completely in our rejection of much of what is called contemporary Christian music, and we seek to emphasize the depth and value of all our tradition as pietistic Lutherans."

Welcome to Warm Beach, 1986

The publicity Committee from the West Coast District cordially invites you to the Annual Conference of the AFLC at the Warm Beach Conference Center near Everett, Wash., on June 11-15, 1986. The theme will be "The Church in Fervent Prayer" and it is our prayer that you will be there to join us in prayer to God.

If God is urging you to attend we want you to know that while the adults will be attending meetings there will be Bible camp activities for the youth and babysitting facilities for the young children in the morning and supervised recreation in the afternoon. The evening service will be a family service and afterwards, if the weather permits, a campfire in the outdoor amphitheater and, if it is raining, a sing-along time in the prayer chapel.

Some of the free activities are: swimming in either the regular or wading pools, tennis and beachcombing. Some of the activities that cost money are: canoes - \$3.50 a day (when the tide is right); trail rides on horseback; miniature golf, and just a few miles away there is a regular golf course at Kayak Point.

A Christian bookstore is also on the grounds. There are rooms to be rented and there is a large area for campers, motorhomes and also tenting space. The view from the dining room windows is of the saltmarsh with many

different kinds of birds, etc. Outside there are mountains to see and, of course, the beautiful evergreens. There is also another big plus in coming to Washington — none to very few mosquitoes!

Our prayer is that we see you in 1986 at Warm Beach.

Jesus Saves

The teaching here is that Christ alone can free men from their sins. Nothing else can do this — no amount of penance, no pilgrimages, no payment of money for indulgences or for release from purgatory, no lacerations of the flesh, no bodily fasting, no works of any kind. The sinner must go to Christ alone to be made free from the awful chains of sin, and he must go to Him in sincere and humble faith, as the Bible so often enjoins.

L. S. Keyser

Former LFC Pastor Dies

Rev. Benjamin Gjenvick, 64, former Lutheran Free Church pastor and president of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan since 1953, died August 13 of cancer.

A native of Minneapolis, Minn., and a graduate of Augsburg College and Seminary, Minneapolis, Mr. Gjenvick headed the Lutheran Welfare Society of South Dakota from 1949-53.

He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, a son, Timothy, and a daughter, Susan.

Blessed be his memory.

CORRECTION

Due to computer error the name of Andrew Kari was omitted in the list of pallbearers for Pastor Kenneth Pentti at his funeral service on July 27. We are sorry for the omission.

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tell what Jesus has done for you

by Harald Midtslan

Luke 14:18, 22-24: "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.' . . . And the servant said, 'Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the servant, 'Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that My house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.'"

In today's Gospel text we hear about the invitation to come into God's kingdom. And whenever it is sounded it is always an invitation to something great.

But the God of this world has blinded the eyes of the unbelieving so that they don't see the glory, greatness and riches of God's kingdom. And out of that condition come other things: the works of darkness, slavery, etc.

In today's text there is the invitation to the great supper. In other places God's kingdom has other names: "the wedding of the King's Son," "the kingdom of heaven is likened to a treasure," "the pearl of greatest price," etc.

The Call to Service

The call of invitation to service isn't only a call to people who shall take up special positions in the strategy of God's kingdom. Yes, we pray that the Lord will send out some as missionaries, workers at home, etc. And we thank the Lord for the many who offer themselves for service. A great joy for us in the Misjonssambandet (mission organization) is that there are more coming to mission school in the fall than hardly any time before.

But the call to service in the kingdom is an invitation which is for all who belong to it. It is universal

military service, a standing order for mobilization. Where people stationed can vary, but the place where you are also fits in with God's plan.

Whatever work you have, whatever training, whatever age you are: you are invited by the Lord to great service.

The Message

In our service we have received a definite message: Come: for everything is ready now! An older messenger said it this way: Proclaim Christ and faith will come!

Tell your children, neighbors and the people you work with about Jesus. Tell what He has done for you, what He is doing for you, what He means to you! Today's text opens the door into God's kingdom, open for all and each one: Go in haste out on the streets and into the lanes and gather in the poor, crippled, blind and lame. Yes, urge them to come so that My house can be full. Everything is ready!

How have you responded to this invitation? Our Bible portion tells about the many who were so taken up with the things of this world that they didn't become saved. Is that your situation? Let this article . . . be a new call to you: Come for salvation is ready!

The Great Issue

The Scripture word speaks in conclusion in great earnestness: If you say no to the invitation you will one day be standing outside. "For I tell you none of these men who were invited shall taste My banquet."

Inside or outside, where will you stand one day?

From **Utsyn**, June 16, 1985.

Translated from Norwegian