



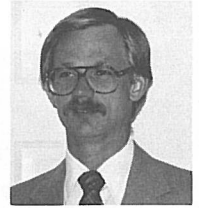
THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

September 13, 1983

BAVARIAN VILLAGE

Roger C. Huebner, D.D.S.

AT THE MASTER'S FEET



Pastor Philip Rokke

Seek wisdom

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him" (James 1:5).

Has this verse outlasted its usefulness? Surely there is no one left, at least not in America, who lacks wisdom. We've had free public education for generations. Our literacy rate is high. Overall, American technology is still the best in the world. We are free, prosperous people. Surely these and a hundred similar arguments that could be put forth are ample proof that we possess wisdom.

Why should we ask for what we already possess?

It is true, isn't it, that there is an element in the composition of wisdom that is not thus acquired? There is every bit as much evidence that we are a people sadly lacking in wisdom. We have not found that *key* element. We are unable to cope with so many serious problems. The number of chemically dependent persons (what did we used to call them, addicts?) grows annually, causing great pressure on our economy, to say nothing of our moral character. Organized crime operates, seemingly, as freely as any Chamber of Commerce. Churches are involved in politics. Politicians are setting standards for churches. And psychiatrists, as a professional group, have one of the higher suicide rates. There is much evidence that we do indeed lack wisdom. This invitation, extended to us in James' epistle, should be ignored no longer. We ought to respond to it gratefully, enthusiastically, and, of course, reverently.

How is God able to so generously bestow wisdom? He accomplishes it in the same way He accomplishes other spiritual blessings, through the power of His Word. The Holy Spirit is active in the hearts of men through the reading and hearing of Scripture. "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" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

When we ask God to give us wis-

dom, we are asking Him to give us His Word. We want to possess and understand it. We want it to guide our thinking and our consciences. "Thy Word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee" (Ps. 119:11).

If wisdom is truly our desire, we must give ourselves to the study of the Word. The prospect may seem unpleasant and the task tedious, but to those who have received of its riches it is pleasant indeed. I give further testimony of the psalmist:

O how I love Thy law!
It is my meditation all the day.
Thy commandments make me
wiser than my enemies,
For they are ever mine.
I have more insight than all my
teachers,
For Thy testimonies are my
meditation.
I understand more than the
aged,
Because I have observed Thy
precepts.
I have restrained my feet from
every evil way,
That I may keep Thy word.
I have not turned aside from
Thine ordinances,
For Thou Thyself hast taught
me.
How sweet are Thy words to
my
taste!
Yes, sweeter than honey to my
mouth!
From Thy precepts I get
understanding;
Therefore I hate every false
way. —Ps. 119:97-104

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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

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

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Send \$10.00 subscription to THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn.

Volume 21 Number 17

USPS 588-620

The Seventh Commandment

Exodus 20:15

This sermon was delivered in the Lutheran Ambassador radio series.

Stealing in America has become big business. We know that our record of crimes against people is appalling, but our record of crimes against property is even more appalling. Merchants across the country are plagued by shoplifters. Employers report heavy losses in thefts of tools and supplies by their own employees. At the highest levels of the business community, tales of bribery abound. Within the medical profession, the number of fraudulent Medicaid claims increases. We have no way of estimating white-collar crimes. Tax-evasion extends from the waiter who lies about his tips to the business executive who lies about his deductible expenses. Such cheating seems to be a way of life.

What has happened to our society and our morals? I remember growing up in a day when we never locked our doors nor carried in the garden hose or playthings at night because no one thought of going around taking that which didn't belong to him. Something has happened to our way of living. To some people, the Ten Commandments are just relics of by-gone days. However, the Ten Commandments of God have never been repealed. They are never out of date. They are for us today just as they were for Israel years ago.

The commandment before us today says that honesty in all things should be a fundamental rule of life. This Commandment says, "Thou shalt not steal." We are not to take from someone else that which is his right by possession. I am sure that there are many in our society who agree



by Pastor Herbert Franz
Cloquet, Minn.

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

that it is wrong to rob someone of his money or property, and that any society where thievery is rampant is sick and chaotic. But most church people feel that they are not robbers. They will say, "We have not broken into a house; we have not held up any bank; and we have not robbed any gas station." But, friend, there are many ways we can rob or steal. Many Bible passages deal with the sin of stealing. "Thou shalt not steal, neither deal falsely . . ." (Lev. 19:11). "Let him that stole, steal no more, but let him labor with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth" (Eph. 4:28). Owe no man anything. Thou shalt not steal. Let us walk honestly, as in the day (Romans 13).

The Bible speaks up for private ownership of property. This was implied in God's original plan—giving every man the right to possess what he had worked for. In reality, since God is the *creator* of all things, He is then *owner* of all things. We read in Psalm 24, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world and they that dwell therein." Therefore, all human ownership is really a stewardship in which a man is responsible to God for whatever he owns. This stewardship makes everyone recognize his responsibility to other men and to their possessions which they own. One day we must each give an account of our stewardship to God.

God puts no limit to wealth that is acquired by honest labor when one recognizes the great truth that all we have has come from God. We read in Deut. 8:18, "Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God, for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth." Who is behind all that we have? It is the Lord Himself. Everything we have has come from God.

What does this commandment forbid us to do? I believe that this commandment certainly goes beyond the cracking of safes, the picking of pockets, and any form of piracy. It also means that we are not to steal from *ourselves*. You may ask, "Who would do that?" The truth is that we all do. We steal from ourselves when we waste time which could be used in helping ourselves grow in the

" . . . the Ten Commandments of God have never been repealed."

grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. We can waste our time so that we find no time during the day for a disciplined devotional life. We steal from ourselves by neglecting to attend the House of God for worship and Bible study. We rob ourselves from growing spiritually, and this is stealing! We also steal from ourselves when we waste our money on foolish, non-essential things. How much money do you spend on those foolish things such as liquor, cigarettes, excessive pleasures, etc.? These do not add to your physical nor spiritual growth one bit. Foolish things only take money away from you which could be used for the essential things of life. We also steal when we live beyond our means or our income, when we make the payment of our obligations almost an impossible thing.

Then we are not to rob *others* of that which legitimately belongs to them. We rob others by taking property or goods which belong to them. We also can rob from others when we borrow from them and do not pay

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“Are you robbing God of a life which belongs to Him?”

them back or when we continue to make them wait for their payments. We can rob from our employers when we do not put in an honest day's work for our pay or when we “goof off” on the job. Employers rob from their employees when they don't pay their help a living wage for services rendered. Corporations can rob the public by false advertising. We find much of this today. How many products are purchased by the consumer each day with the thought that the product would accomplish specific purposes but we find that the product just does not bring the desired result. Corporations also rob the public when they sell inferior products at regular prices. Gambling is also a form of robbing the public, and so is graft and usury. Tax-dodging is robbery, as well as tricky contracts, forgery and embezzlement. Students also steal marks in school which do not belong to them by cheating in their studies.

We not only rob ourselves and rob from others, but we are all guilty of robbing from God. We are God's property by a twofold right—(1) creation and (2) redemption. Didn't Paul say in I Cor. 6: “You are not your own, you have been bought with a price, so therefore glorify God in your body and spirit which are his”? When we fail to give ourselves to the living God through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are actually stealing His property. Isaiah 43:1-3 tells us, I have created you; I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; *you are Mine*, says the Lord. So if we are not living our lives to the glory of God, we are robbing Him of a life which belongs to Him.

Are you robbing God of a life which belongs to Him? How about your *talents*? Even these are a gift from God. If you use the talents which God has given you for selfish purposes, then you are sinning, for you are stealing. How many talents are wasted because people are more concerned about “doing their own thing” instead of using their talents for the glory of God? How many people are robbing money which be-

longs to God? We read in Prov. 3:9, “Honor the Lord with the first fruits of your increase.” “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall they give into your bosom. For with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38). “Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye rob me, even this whole nation” (Malachi 3:8). We rob God by withholding our tithes from the Lord. We must ask ourselves, “Will God allow robbers in heaven?” If we withhold our time, talents, energy and money from God, we are stealing from Him and that is sin.

One amazing thing about stealing is that it is not only a sin of poor people who are looking for a crust of bread to keep alive. No, it is a sin of all people. We think of statistics available from some businesses which report that around three hundred thousand dollars worth of merchandise is stolen each day across America by supermarket employees! These workers are not poor people or juvenile delinquents but moral people who feel that the company owes them more than what they take home because the company doesn't pay them enough. The shoplifters are not only from the criminal element of society, but many shoplifters are church people. They look nice, dress nicely, and worship outwardly, but yet many of them steal things which do not belong to them.

“Stealing has been on the increase in the time of prosperity even more than it was in the time of the Great Depression.”

Stealing has been on the increase in the time of prosperity even more than it was in the time of the Great Depression. Why is that so? *Stealing is found in the heart*. Man by nature

has been born a sinner with the seed of every sin already there. So we steal because we have been born as thieves. Do you know we are thieves if we steal only a pencil which doesn't belong to us as much as a person who robs a bank of \$10,000? It is not the size of the theft that counts, but the principle of it. The principle is the same: *Man is trying to get something for nothing*. God's plan for mankind after man's fall into sin was that man was to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow. We are to earn what we possess through work. This then makes our possessions more meaningful to us.

Stealing is much more than taking something which does not belong to us. It is a sign that we have contempt for what or who is behind the stolen object. Many people steal because they are jealous and have contempt for the person who may have more than they have. Many times the student cheats in his exam in school because he is angry at the teacher and the school system which makes him think and be tested. Friend, the person who steals is “sin sick.” Many who steal think that they are trapped in a loveless world where no one cares for them, so that they must fend for themselves in any way they can. Some steal to “get rich quick.” Others steal because they cannot help themselves. They are slaves to the sin of stealing just like an alcoholic is a slave to his booze.

Stealing involves much more than the taking of goods. Let me read what a pick-pocket of some 40 years had to say: “In soberly reviewing my life, I believe I am struck hardest by the realization that I stole more important things than wallets and money. Today, if I had a son, I would tell him that you can steal precious things from parents. By leaving home, brash and headstrong at 16, I selfishly robbed my parents of their right to give me love and guidance. I began to find other interpretations of this commandment. Is it moral to steal another person's time by being late for an appointment? Employees in an office can steal without being

Continued on p. 8



Will your child ever go to prison?

by Allen D. Hanson

A Christian ex-convict suggests seven ways parents can help prevent a future prison term for their child.

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6, KJV).

It is traditional for parents to be concerned about the future. They want the very best for their children and that doesn't include jail. However, America has more people in prison (on a per capita basis) than any other major nation in the world except the Soviet Union, so modern parents *must* consider incarceration as a real possibility along with all of the other hazards that children face while growing up in our country today. Drugs and juvenile delinquency make

it relatively easy to run afoul of the law. Often well-meaning parents bury the frustration they feel in age-old cliches and structured discipline without regard for the outcome or the end product. They are trying to do the "right thing" but they really don't know how to do it.

A quick evaluation of most prison files will reveal one overriding consideration. Almost all convicts have had some kind of legal discipline trouble as juveniles. When it happened very few parents expected it to go any further than it did and they have total disbelief when serious new trouble develops and results in a penitentiary term. Somewhere in the makeup or training of the youngster were the seeds for further discipline problems after the initial brush with the law as a child. The sad part about this entire situation is the truth that almost every social factor affecting children's behavior can be related to some extent to parental treatment or care.

Let's look at something you may have never considered. The *strong-willed child* or the young person who is prone to *excess* is the most likely candidate for a prison cell. It's not necessarily the kid from the wrong side of the tracks or the local goof-ball. He may be arrested, but he will probably complete a supervised probation. It is the young man prone to overdoing who will commit the crime serious enough so the judge must order a prison term. The following are seven things that you can do as a parent to avoid juvenile and adult prison problems:

FIRST: Radiate the love of Jesus Christ in your own life and your marriage and provide a secure and peaceful home where your child can grow up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

SECOND: Control printed material, television and associates until he is old enough to judge right from wrong under your guidance.

THIRD: Teach him respect for legal and lawful authority.

FOURTH: Give him what he needs and not what he wants. A conservative lifestyle and the use of economic common sense will do much to control the impulse to go to excess.

FIFTH: Deal with the strong-willed child as early in life as possible. Seek professional help at the age of two or three years if necessary. You may save your child a lifetime of trouble and a prison education.

SIXTH: Radiate a positive attitude toward life and teach your child the same virtue.

SEVENTH: Instill in your child a deep religious commitment through training and knowledge of our Lord and Savior. His personal relationship with Jesus Christ will virtually guarantee your success as a parent and eliminate much of the chance that your child will ever see the inside of a prison as an inmate.

Sometimes there is no logical reason why a person will commit a capital crime. Many prison terms have been started by mixing legal prescription drugs and alcohol. Others result from stormy marriages or ill-considered responses to significant problems such as marital infidelity or a triangle affair, but behind it all is probably a strong will and a weak religious faith. Parents do have a good deal of control over tomorrow's prison population and an awesome responsibility to train up a child in the way in which he should go.

(Ed. note: The author, Allen D. Hanson of Ottertail, Minnesota, has written more than 40 articles during the past two years for national church publications. He regularly lectures and writes about the prison ministry and prison reform. In 1978 he served a nine-month sentence in Minnesota State Prison for an illegal business deal.)

"The *strong-willed child* or the young person who is prone to *excess* is the most likely candidate for a prison cell."

HOW DOES A TEACHER PREPARE?

In his great prayer of confession David makes the statement, "Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto Thee" (Ps. 51:13). The adverb "then" in this statement indicates that something needed to happen in David's life before he would be able to teach others the ways of God and lead them to a place where God could work conversion in their lives. God had to prepare the teacher before he, as God's servant, would be adequately prepared to instruct the learner in the ways of God. This is a preparation of the heart and soul. This is the necessary preparation in order that one might teach another in the Lord's ways. How, then, is one prepared to teach?

First, the teacher, is prepared *with* God. this preparation comes about as one spends time with the Savior in prayer and Bible reading and meditation. Teacher aids cannot substitute for these precious times with God where one learns firsthand by heart's experience of His ways and dealings with sinful man. David was prepared by God as he was led to a personal experience of repentance for sin and was given faith and a new and cleansed heart to believe the blessed promises of sins forgiven. So, too, today, the teacher must experience before he can teach. That which is known in the head reaches only the head of another, but that which is known in the heart reaches the heart.

Secondly, the teacher must be prepared *about* God. From his experience *with* God, David learned much *about* God. David's experience of forgiveness was based solidly upon the revelation of God according to

His Word. He had learned that God is a true and just God, totally accurate in His estimation of man and perfectly justified in His judgment of man. But he also learned of the loving-kindness, mercy, forgiveness and cleansing of the Heavenly Father. He was taught to recognize the inner, totally depraved condition of man as being the cause of sin, guilt and condemnation. In repentance he came to know the total cleansing of a saving God through the perfect sacrifice. David had been *with* God and there he learned *about* God. Now he was equipped to teach *for* God.

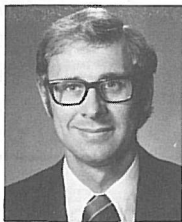
The teacher, lastly, is prepared *for* God. He is the willing, broken ser-

vant. Only when God prepares one through the broken spirit and the broken and contrite heart is he given the necessary qualifications to represent God to another. Then he can "open his lips and shew forth the praise" of our gracious Father in heaven. Now he dares to stand before sinners and teach through the Word the way of God, learn of Him and offer the sacrifice in which He delights and which He accepts.

The teacher has been *with* God, where he has learned *about* God. He has been *for* God before his class, and now he stands blessed *by* God, as the harvest of the Word is brought forth.

MY CHALLENGE

*Today is mine—oh, may I not abuse
The privileges of its worthy use.
Today is mine to seek Him in His Word,
That it might be for me a trusty Sword.
Oh, may I not for self the hours use;
To be a blessing, oh, may I then choose.
He gave His all that I might live—
May I to Him my praises give.
Today is mine to love a needy soul
And pray that he might be made whole.
Today is mine to be made aware
Of burdens that others may bear
And lift them to the One Who cares
And willingly our burden bears.
Today is mine to plead before His throne
For souls who now His name disown—
That even they may come to know
The Savior Who does love them so.
Today is mine to share a word of hope
With one who now may find it hard to cope
With the distresses of this world below
And trials that just seem to overflow.
Today is mine to store some treasures rare
Where moth and rust can never more impair.
Tomorrow opportunities may be
Forever gone and I may only see
The cold still form of one I could have blessed
Now entered into eternal rest.
Tomorrow I may stand before His throne—
May I then have my trust in Him alone.
Oh, may resentment not be found in me,
And may I from all bitterness be free.
The blood of Jesus then my only plea—
I'll praise His love through all eternity.*



by Pastor Ralph Tjelta
Rosemount, Minn.

Mrs. Alvin Holmstrom
Strandquist, Minn.

The most unique Christian Conference ever held

AMSTERDAM '83

*by Pastor Laurel M. Udden
former Executive Director,
Lutheran Evangelistic Movement*

This was not just any conference, not just a Christian conference, or a pastors' conference. This was a conference of 5000 delegates from 134 countries of the world, people who are committed to itinerant evangelism, going from place to place to preach or teach in a ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

This was "Amsterdam '83" held in Amsterdam, Holland, July 12-21, in the RAI Convention Center. This was a conference different from any held any time before and which may never be repeated again.

Pastor Sterling Johnson, LEM Evangelist, and I had the privilege of attending this unusual conference. There were well-known speakers such as Billy Graham, Leighton Ford, Bill Bright, Stephen Olford, Luis Palau, Chuck Colson, Festo Kvingere of Uganda, Paul Cho of Seoul, Korea, Pat Robertson, J. Edwin Orr and Cliff Barrows to name only some of them. Delegates and speakers were not only from many countries but of every evangelical denomination. Many independent and parachurch groups were represented. It was amazing to sit down at a meal or at a service next to someone from Africa, Asia, South or Central America or Europe and find they were actively engaged in the work of evangelism in their country.

There was a variety of beautiful music from choirs, orchestras and vocal ensembles as well as vocal soloists. All was beautiful and inspiring. The singing of hymns and choruses by the 5000 delegates led by Cliff Barrows often lifted one into the presence of God in His majesty. A choir from Norway, another from Hungary, the Continentals from the U.S. and many others were interspersed in the morning and evening sessions. Most evening sessions concluded with the singing of the chorus "Freely, Freely You Have Received"

and which continued with delegates singing this chorus on the trams as they went to their places of lodging. Residents of Amsterdam had many ways of knowing that this conference was being held in their city.

There were workshops on many phases of evangelism, from how to organize a crusade to family concerns. Some were on techniques and helps for witnessing and preaching. Some were translated into many languages as were the main sessions, which were translated into nine different languages. On Sunday afternoon the entire delegation got into 68 buses and went to all parts of Amsterdam and adjacent areas to witness one-to-one with whoever would listen. Pastor Johnson and I ended up at a large ocean beach area at The Hague.

Meals were served in two large halls by the catering service of KLM (Royal Dutch Airlines). The airline-type meals were served to the 5000 delegates each afternoon in about 30 minutes in a modern miracle of "feeding the 5000" each day.

We took a tour to see some of the remaining 1,000 windmills still in existence and working, of the 10,000 that once were found in this low lying land of Holland. Once used to pump water out of lands to be reclaimed, they now are used for grinding flour and other products. We climbed up into one windmill which had a thatched siding. We also visited a wooden shoe factory to see one wooden shoe made in about ten minutes with the use of machines. It would take about 3 hours to make one by hand. We also had a ride on the famous canals of Amsterdam to get a "water level view" of the city and the harbor.

Amsterdam is a very liberal and morally tolerant city. Drugs, prostitution and homosexuality are all legal and openly practiced. We saw evidences of this wide-open policy quite frequently as we walked the streets to our place of lodging.

Three things came as a result of this conference to those who attended.

First, it was inspirational. Message after message brought a clear presentation of the Gospel and of our task as evangelists. It inspired a person to a full commitment, not only to Christ, but also to an effective ministry of the Gospel.

Second, it was practical and challenging. There were challenges to a closer walk with Christ, to a more complete commitment to the ministry and a challenge to one's personal and family life. Many practical ideas, suggestions, helps and materials for the work of the ministry were given.

Third, it was encouraging. It was said many times that there were many attending this conference who were in trying situations and perhaps discouraged. This conference gave a challenge and encouragement to keep going.

Two observations as to what this Conference really was. First, it was Christian unity in the Spirit of God,

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Rev. Udden returns to AFLC Schools



Rev. Laurel Udden has accepted a call to teach in our Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary and Association Free Lutheran Bible School. His work with us began on August 15. He will be teaching courses in practical theology in the Seminary and Old Testament and some practical studies in the Bible School.

Rev. Udden taught in our schools from 1969-1974. Since that time he has served the Lutheran Evangelistic Movement as its director. We welcome his return to the school family.

STEAL . . .

aware of it, for they can be guilty of taking too long a time in chattering over coffee, or by accepting the weekly paycheck for a job poorly done. Further, we might well ask: How do people feel who have their reputations stolen by gossip? We can try to get something for nothing even if we have never pointed a gun or taken a candy bar or forged checks. Any time we have resented our situation or the persons around us and have refused to give what we could, we have, in fact, broken this commandment." This man realized that there are many ways beside stealing property which violate this commandment.

So let me repeat: *Stealing comes from a heart that is not right with God.* "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked; who can know it?" We need a new heart—a pure heart—which will enable us to keep God's commands. To experience this change of heart, we must be willing to confess our need for Jesus. Only He can give us this new heart. I ask you today, *Do you stand guilty of breaking this commandment?* Have you asked God to forgive you your sins? Have you

asked Jesus to come into your life and take control? When Christ comes into your heart, He will give you new desires as well as new power to live the way He wants you to live. He will help you to appreciate what you have as well as to protect the property of others.

"Employees in an office can steal without being aware of it, for they can be guilty of taking too long a time in chattering over coffee . . ."

During the revival in Canada several years ago, we are told that many stores set up an extra department to receive all of the stolen goods which were returned by people who got converted—who received new hearts from God. I think of a man in Minneapolis who came to the altar one night at an evangelistic crusade. He had stolen a big electric motor from his employer and it had bothered him for three years. Every time he opened his Bible or tried to teach his Sunday School class, this motor flashed into his mind. Finally, there at the altar, he confessed to me that the one thing standing between him

and being the kind of Christian which God wanted him to be was that motor that was stored in his garage. He had never had peace or victory until he confessed his sin. The next day, when he went to work to make restitution, he found that his employer was in the hospital for emergency surgery. This man stayed at the hospital all day until his employer became conscious. Then this Christian man confessed, "I've come to tell you that I'm a thief," and he told his employer about the motor and begged him to take it back. He even offered to pay the interest on it because it had never been used. This left such an impact on his boss, that as a result, this Christian man was able to lead his employer to the Lord.

This is what God will do when we are willing to turn from our sin. He will give us new hearts. The proof that Zacchaeus was saved was the fact that he restored fourfold to all those from whom he had stolen and then he gave half of the money which he had left over to the poor. *Maybe the reason why you don't have victory or joy in your life is because you need to make restitution to someone from whom you have stolen.* You will never be a happy Christian unless there is restitution.

I ask you today, how is your heart? Is it the heart of a thief, or is it a heart where Jesus Christ has come in and cleansed and given new desires? Then we cannot only live in peace with God, but in peace with our fellowmen, and experience the abundant life that Jesus came to give.

AMSTERDAM . . .

as it should be. People from many countries and many denominations united in the message and ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The conference closed with a communion service where we all took the wine simultaneously. It was as George Beverly Shea said his preacher father said after attending a Conference with delegates from many denominations, "The grain was so tall I couldn't see the fences."

Second, we were seeing the fruit of many years of world mission ministry. Those especially from Third World countries are not only those who have heard of and have received Christ as a result of world mission work, but now they themselves are evangelists to tell others about Christ. Delegates to the conference from Third World countries re-

ceived many materials such as Bibles and helpful materials. They also received large bundles of clothing to take home with them.

An experience of a lifetime. A conference that will be remembered as long as one lives. An inspiration, challenge and encouragement to carry on the great task of evangelization while there is still time.

I am grateful for the opportunity to attend this conference and I say thanks to all who helped make it possible. I will be happy to share these experiences any time or place it can be arranged.

As the chorus we sang at the convention and on the trams says so well, "Freely, freely you have received; Freely, freely give. Go in My name and, because you believe, others will know that I live."

No matter how showy a man's piety may be, no matter how closely he may counterfeit true religion, God knows the heart. There is at least One whom he cannot deceive.

L.S. Keyser

editorials

OUR SUNDAY MORNINGS

In a recent editorial in the magazine (*The Lutheran*) he edits, Edgar R. Trexler gives the statistic that on any given Sunday only 29.2 percent of the members of the average congregation in his church, the Lutheran Church in America, are attending a service. He bemoans the fact that the *New York Times Magazine* feels that Sunday morning is a good time to reach an "intelligent public" (with its magazine).

But this caused us to ask the question about the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations: What percentage of our membership is present on any given Sunday? Smaller congregations, and we have many of them, tend to have higher percentage of attendance. It is safe to say that our record runs ahead of that of the LCA, the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and perhaps others.

However, if the truth were known and we could come up with an exact percentage, we doubt any of us would feel like "crowing" about it. Would you feel justified in boasting about 50 percent or 60, if the figure were that high?

In every congregation there are the elderly and infirm who cannot come, and how some of them wish they could. Sometimes members are hospitalized or ill at home on Sunday. Mothers may be unable to take a small child out on a given Lord's Day. Some congregations have persons on duty in hospitals and rest homes, those works of necessity, on Sunday morning. Most of us are sometimes away on a Sunday for some reason, but that shouldn't keep us from going into some house of God to worship. In some situations members live too far away to attend. But what reasons keep others away?

Ideally, we suppose, there ought to be upwards of 90 percent of a congregation's membership in the pews at a Sunday morning worship service. Subtract the actuality from that to get a true picture of your church's situation. What to do about it? That is the question and one which we shan't try to answer now.

Attending church doesn't save anyone. But we do say that it places one in the presence of the Word of God and thus the church becomes a place of spiritual possibility. The Holy Spirit is present where the Word is, remember? And the Christian will delight himself in the atmosphere of edification and fellowship which the service in his church offers him. Always we turn to those familiar words of Hebrews 10:25: "Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

And the Day of the Lord is getting nearer. Let us make the most of the time.

BACK TO SCHOOL

The very air is different. The children have gone back to school and life changes for all of us. It does for the children and young people who must now live by a very rigid schedule five days each week. It changes for the parents, who also must adjust to the school schedule and find themselves going more places at night if their young folks are involved in the extra-curricular activities of the school. And it changes for all of us, well, just because we know school is in session again.

The pace steps up in our churches, too. Sunday School, released time classes, confirmation instruction, they all begin new seasons. Pastors, Christian education committees, superintendents, teachers, they've all been making preparations for the fall of '83.

Now the time has come to begin. May the Lord bless the work that will be done in our congregations this year. It is a teaching of God's Word. That Word is our great treasure and heritage. As N.F.S. Grudtvig put it so well a century and a half ago, "To spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor." This is our age, our generation. We are not responsible for the distant past, but we are for this particular time. We must pass the Word on to those who will come after us.

May we sow well and give of our best to the Master. Slipshod work will produce similar results. Teachers, superintendents, pastors, give yourselves to the work. Remember your work is an offering to the Lord. Feel free to contact our Department of Parish Education if you would like to consult about any problem or program. We invite your participation in the Ambassador Sunday School curriculum, produced by AFLC people for AFLC needs.

Finally, keep Dr. Grudtvig's prayer in mind: "Lord, grant while worlds endure, we keep its (the Word's) teachings pure, throughout all generations."

The true Church

Yet it is not found within every group that calls itself a church. It is not found in one which denies Christ as the Son of God and as the Saviour from sin. It is not found in one which denies the Bible as God's Word. It is not found in the Unitarian Church, for it rejects the Scriptural Christ. It cannot long continue in many modernist churches which call themselves evangelical but which have rejected the Scriptural Way of Salvation through Jesus only.

John P. Milton

True praise: What is it?

Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom
Osceola, Wis.

There is a strange belief floating around in the air, that if you really want something or have prayed to God for something, you should start thanking Him for it, even though you still do not have it.

They say that this will put power in your prayer and that when God sees that you are already thanking Him for what you haven't got, He will hurry and give it to you. There are those who testify claiming that this works with God and that such praising and thanking spurs God on to action.

But I see nowhere in Scripture that God has ever promised to answer prayer on such a basis. And if prayer requests are realized by such action, one wonders if it was God or the devil who granted the request.

The true Christian realizes that God knows best and sometimes denies or adjusts our request. And he knows that God does not always give for our own good and for the good of His kingdom on earth. Sometimes we do ask for things which are not in agreement with God's total plan.

Are we to assume that we know better than God as to what is good for us and good for His kingdom on earth? Are we to take for granted that we are going to get everything we

ask for? Are we to assume that we never pray amiss?

My thanking God for what I have not yet received would be to assume that I am going to get it. It might even imply that God owes it to me.

Or does it mean that I lack faith, if I admit to myself, even as I pray, that God may say "no," or in some way change my request?

No, never! But in this realization I recognize that I am a poor sinner with much to learn, and that when I pray I am merely talking over with God what my needs are, as I see them. However, at the same time, I know that God sees and knows my needs much better than I do, and therefore I leave it to God to fulfill my prayer requests according to His wisdom and not according to my whims.

But then after He has worked it all out for good, in His good time, and in the best way possible, even beyond my imagination, it is then that I praise Him for all He has done.

If I attempted to praise Him before He blessed me, it would be a faint praise at best, coming from an empty heart. I would have no idea how God is going to work it all out. I would be unable to truly praise Him or thank Him because I had not yet realized the blessing.

And then suppose for some good

"To praise God for something He has not done is confusing the issue and is bewildering to the world."

reason God denies my request. This would make a fool of me, and I would have made a fool of God.

God wants us to praise Him for what He is and what He has done. To praise God for something He has not done is confusing the issue and is bewildering to the world. From such praise others cannot tell if God is real or not. They cannot tell what He has done and what He has not done.

Suppose I asked God for bread, but as yet my table was bare. He has not yet answered my request for bread. But, nevertheless, because I was told it would be good to do so, I start thanking God for the bread I have not yet received. And my neighbor comes in and sees me praising God for bread on the table. But there is no bread on the table.

How will this appear to my neighbor? Will he believe that my God will give bread when there is no evidence of bread? And what will he think of me? Will he be moved by my witness when I give the impression that I have lost touch with reality by talking about bread that isn't there?

But now suppose that after praying for bread, God has given me bread and it is on the table, and I thank and praise Him, and I say to my neighbor, "See what my God has blessed me with!"

Would this not be much more of a witness to my neighbor?

Let us be careful that we do not get carried away by some strange quirk of doctrine. Such are everywhere. Check all things out with the Word of God.

The Bible's Appeal

What is the answer to the mystery of the continual appeal of this Book? There is only one satisfactory answer. The Bible is not in the same category as other books. Its author is God, and not man. The words of the Bible are living and powerful. It is not subject to the laws of decline and decay. It has behind it the promise of God that it shall never, never pass away.

J. Edwin Orr

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION...

a pastor's thoughts

One of the greatest blessings and challenges of my ministry has been that of pastoring the Christian academy of our congregation. A Christian school has provided the opportunity to offer quality education and at the same time build Christian standards and character within each pupil. It is not an arm of our church, it is our church in action.

Students at Christian academies are taught to see that God is at the center of all learning. With this in mind, humanism, secularism, situational ethics and the new morality are refuted. God's absolute, unchanging standards are established. These standards shape Christian values and character in the lives of the students. Instead of being shielded from the world, as some criticize, they are being equipped to face the spiritual battles of life in the armor of Christ right now. Christian education is not an escape or a retreat from the real world. Rather, it is an effective means of training young men and

women to do all to stand for Christ (Eph. 6:13). Through the establishing of godly standards and the building of godly character, Christian education is providing Christian leaders presently and for the future in our congregations and communities.

Together with character-building, education should offer sound academics. Christian schools do provide quality education. To have quality, the basic fundamentals must be learned. Christian schools have excelled in these areas and because of this have been able to go beyond the fundamentals. Recent national surveys comparing test scores of students using Christian curriculum with those educated in a secular setting have revealed the great success Christian schools are experiencing in the area of academic quality. The key to this success, I believe, is the philosophy behind the curriculum and the convictions of the staff: God is the author of all wisdom and through Him comes all understanding (Prov.

2:6). Quality education is further provided by teachers who both recognize God's Lordship and the personal worth of each individual student. Teachers with godly character, curriculum which is both basic and advanced, and a godly atmosphere provide the framework through which quality education can be achieved.

Education is life. Christian education enables our children to see life from God's point of view. With Christ and His Word at the center of all learning, students can be taught more than how to make a living; they can be taught how they ought to live. This makes Christian education a unique opportunity for the church, an opportunity which can enrich and challenge any community.

Rev. Michael W. Brandt
Pastor and Principal
of Mustard Seed Faith
Academy, Amery, Wisconsin

a parent's response

"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).

These are words of instruction to us from our Lord. There is also a promise here: in the second part of the verse we are told that he *will not depart* from it. To me, as a parent, these are words of encouragement, words of comfort in a troubled world.

Our children spend a good share of their days in the classroom. I am thankful that we have a Christian school that our daughter can attend. School-age children are at an impressionable age and it seems that this is the time of their lives that knowledge and training can easily be absorbed.

What better time, then, to be grounded in the Word, to memorize Bible verses, to be taught Christian character and virtue, to grow up with Christian friends, and to have the influence of Christian teachers in their lives?

As a parent I also appreciate the fact that I don't have to be concerned about school activities; I know that they are wholesome activities with good Christian fellowship among the students. I don't need to be concerned that my child may be taught evolution or any other principle or teaching that is contrary to God's Word. I can wholeheartedly support my child's school, with no reservations. I appreciate the fact that par-

ents can lend their special talents to help teach skills, for instance, on the reading machine (a program designed to increase the child's reading speed and comprehension), and that there is a special rapport between the teacher, the parents and the students.

To train means to set a pattern, to teach in a proper order and sequence, to make oneself fit for service. I am convinced that the Christian school is an excellent training ground to help us as parents to equip our children to serve the Lord in their lives.

Mrs. Charles Hansen
(Mrs. Hansen is the mother
of Kelly, a junior at Mustard
Seed Faith Academy,
Amery, Wisconsin.)

"We know the law of human nature: acts produce habit, habits breed dispositions, dispositions form the will, and the rightly formed will is character."

Andrew Murray

LET THE WORD SPEAK

Here are some exciting ideas for sharing the Scriptures:

For Evangelism and Outreach

- distribute Bibles and New Testaments to support local evangelism campaigns.
- start a community outreach program to share a Bible or New Testament with every person in your community who is not yet a church member.
- give a New Testament during neighborhood home visitations.
- provide Bibles for sharing in church-planting programs.

In Religious Education Classes

- assign a special Bible study project and provide a Bible or New Testament for all students to read and mark for themselves.
- give a Bible as a special remembrance at graduation or advancement to new grade levels.
- award a Bible for excellence in Bible memory assignments.
- give a Bible or New Testament as an incentive for good class attendance.

For Bible Study and Bible Reading

- volunteer to lead a Bible study group in your community or neighborhood and furnish Bibles.
- start a Bible reading group at a camp or park and furnish Scriptures.
- start a Bible study group with members of a club or organization to which you belong.

Say "Hello" and "God Bless You" with a Bible

- to newly married couples.
- on the occasion of the birth of a new baby.
- to new families in your church or neighborhood.

Show your appreciation with a gift of Scripture

- to people in public service—fireman, policemen, elected officials or legislators.
- to a teacher, friend or co-worker who is retiring or moving away.
- to a business person or repairman who gives consistent, reliable service.

Include a Bible or New Testament

- in cheer baskets for shut-ins, persons who are ill, and students who are away from home.
- in food relief baskets for the needy and for people who are temporarily homeless due to fire, flood or other misfortunes.

At your place of business

- give a New Testament with new accounts or new policies.
- give a Bible at Thanksgiving and Christmas to new and regular customers.

- give a Bible or New Testament to customers on a special sale day, particularly around holidays such as Easter, Christmas, Mother's Day, Father's Day, or at graduation time.
- distribute Bibles or New Testaments during merchant days or sidewalk sale days.

Let your imagination soar in search of new ideas for sharing God's Word during the Year of the Bible.

—American Bible Society

Arise, O God, and shine,
In all Thy saving might,
And prosper each design
To spread Thy glorious light:
Let healing streams of mercy flow,
That all the earth Thy truth may know.



Bring distant nations near,
To sing Thy glowing praise;
Let every people hear
And learn Thy holy ways!
Reign, mighty God, assert
Thy cause,
And govern by Thy righteous laws!

Put forth Thy glorious power,
That Gentiles all may see,
And earth present her store
In converts born to Thee:
God, our own God, His church will bless,
And fill the world with righteousness.

To God the only wise,
The one immortal King,
Let hallelujahs rise
From every living thing:
Let all that breathe, on every coast,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

L. Mason

(The Church and Sunday School Hymnal)

THE WOMEN'S PAGE

A Song for the Shadows

When you're walking in the shadows,
Just remember He is there.
In the triumph or the tempest,
God will answer every prayer.
If you're saddened or you're lonely,
If you've struggled, but you've failed,
He's been with you though you've faltered,
On His Mercy-winds you've sailed.
Soon the shadows will be fleeing,
Soon His Sunlight will flood in,
And then others you'll be telling,
What a Friend the Saviour's been;
How He led you in the shadows,
How the burdens He did share,
It's our joy in deepest sorrows—
Jesus leads us *everywhere!*

—Paul Durham

Submitted by Mrs. Chester Galland

"The woman who takes into her heart her own children may be a very ordinary woman, but the woman who takes into her heart the children of others — she is one of God's mothers."

—George MacDonald

Cradle Roll at Hatton, N. Dak.

Cradle Roll graduates at Zoar Lutheran Church are left to right: Matthew, son of Greg and Naomi Johnson; Natasha Ann, daughter of Brad and Renee Amundson; Jason, son of Jeff and Wanita Kamphaugh; LaRae Marie, daughter of David and Suzanne Thomsen; Brad, son of Jim and Mary Welp; Daniel Dean, son of Dean and DeAnn Hedland; Amy Lynn (not present), daughter of Willis and Penny Johnson; and Mrs. Marlowe Martinson, Cradle Roll Secretary.

Mrs. Martinson opened the program by reading Deuteronomy 6:6-8, and Proverbs 22:6, followed by prayer. Karen Knudsvig, WMF Eastern North Dakota District President presented the story of 5 loaves and 2 fishes. Karen had made five tiny loaves, and each child present was allowed to sample. Kris Finstrom, WMF Eastern North Dakota District Cradle Roll Secretary gave a greeting.

Honorary Memberships . . .

Astoria, Oregon,



Bethany Lutheran WMF used I Corinthians 12:26, 27 as a focus during the program honoring Winnie Hendrickson, Ruth Tollefson and Alice Johnson.

Wadena, Minn.



Zion Free Lutheran WMF recently honored Mrs. Herman Jordahl and Mrs. Chester Galland. Mrs. Alicia Thomas (far left) and Mrs. Harold Erickson (far right) pinned the honored ladies.



The SW Central Minn. District WMF Fall Rally will be on Tuesday, October 4, at Zion Free Lutheran Church in Willmar. Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Rev. Eugene Enderlien and Rev. Eldon Nelson will be the speakers.

The LLF Business Meeting

The Luther League Federation business meeting was held July 14 at the United Methodist Bible Camp near Rollins, Mont.

It was called to order by the president, Pastor Allen Monson, Tioga, N. Dak., in Jesus' name. He read Ephesians 5:8-21 and the song, "His Name Is Wonderful," was sung. The secretary's report was read by Robbin Thompson and the treasurer's report by Alan Arneson. Both were accepted.

Pastor Monson shared with us about different projects which the LLF has.

1) The Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) team. Pastor David Abel explained how FLY teams have gone to Brazil, the purpose being to get young people involved in missionary work. He encouraged those who have made such trips to suggest ideas for future groups in Brazil. Janet Prinzing and Lavonne Torkelson, former FLY members, told about their experiences over there. For one thing, they had enjoyed the Bible camps.

2) Youth Page in the *Ambassador*. Randy Moe, devotional life secretary, told how we need more articles in the *Ambassador*. He encouraged local and district Luther Leagues to share in this. ("Amen."—Ed.)

3) Leadership Seminar. Last year it was held at our AFLBS campus in Minneapolis, Minn.. We had a good turnout, so hopefully we will have another one next year. They are held the same summers that a FLY team is travelling.

4) FLY Leaf. With the help of a youth worker we would be able to get this moving.

The *old business* was as follows:

Last year it was brought up that we as a Luther League Federation need a youth worker. But that's all that was done. What does a youth worker do?

1) Be a mediator for the local and district Luther Leagues; 2) Train advisors; and 3) Help promote the FLY Leaf.

We all realized that we need a youth worker, so we as Luther League Federation officers made up this resolution:

"Whereas the continuing need exists in the AFLC for a youth worker, Be it Resolved, that the Luther League Federation shall strongly encourage the calling of a part-time youth worker and pledge to assist this person by means of prayer and financial support in the amount of 50% of the salary. We encourage our local and district Luther Leagues to initiate financial support of the Luther League Federation projects on a regular basis."

We then discussed the resolution. We as a Federation couldn't hire someone, but with our action maybe we can get some action started. Randy Moe suggested that we change the amount from 50% to \$5,000. This was discussed and we amended the resolution to read that way. It was passed. It was also discussed that we change the word "pledge" to "set a goal." This was carried. Then the whole resolution was passed.

In the election of officers, the following were elected:

President—Pastor Curtis Emerson,
Valley City, N. Dak.

1st Vice-president—

Lloyd Quanbeck

2nd Vice-president—

Bradley Sorenson

Secretary—Jean Swanson

Treasurer—Alan Arneson

Devotional Life Secretary—

Randy Moe

The position of special advisor to the executive committee was dropped.

We then elected a nominating committee for 1985, which is as follows: Pastor Gary Jorgenson, Stanley, N. Dak.; Steve Broten, Roseau, Minn.; and Ed Hoseth, Stanley.

Robbin Thompson, Secretary

In Memoriam

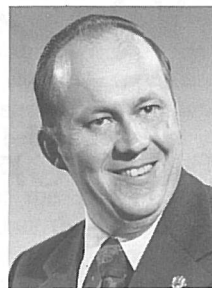
Key: The name of the town is the address of the deceased. Following that is listed the name of the deceased, age, date of death, and the church in which he or she held membership.

MINNESOTA

Greenbush

Mrs. Hilda Svegdahl, 69, Aug. 9,
Bethlehem

With our evangelist-youth worker



"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap according to kindness; break up your fallow ground; for it is time to seek Jehovah, till He come and rain righteousness upon you" (Hosea 10:12 Am. St.). It is time to seek the Lord. Pray for the work of our evangelist, Pastor Kenneth Pentti. Do not let him go alone to the work. Here are some of his coming appointments.

Leeds, N. Dak.

Lebanon Lutheran Church

Oct. 5-9

LeRoy Flickinger, pastor

Minneapolis, Minn.

Morgan Avenue Lutheran Church

Oct. 14-16

Yeddo A. Gottel, pastor

Bagley, Minn.

Grace Lutheran Church

Oct. 23-27

Mauritz Lundeen, pastor

Dalton, Minn.

Oct. 30-Nov. 3

Merle Fagerberg, lay pastor

Battle Lake, Minn.

Faith Haven Bible Camp

Nov. 4-5

Youth Retreat

Personalities

Please note these new addresses:

Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Erickson

616 4th St. N.E.

Fosston, Minn. 56542

Rev. Martin Horn

815 West Ave.

Zumbrota, Minn. 55992

Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Moberg

Rt. 1, Box 152A

Astoria, Ore. 97103

news of the churches

from here and there . . .

Thief River Falls, Minn. — Women from Our Saviour's Lutheran attended the WMF Retreat at Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minn., Aug. 5 and 6. Guest speaker was Mrs. Vernon (Betty) Nelson, Leeds, N. Dak., former treasurer of the WMF. She spoke on the topics: "How to quiet my life in stormy times," "What I can do in anxious times," and "Times will get better for me."

Minneapolis, Minn. — Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Holte celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 12, and also Mr. Holte's 90th birthday. They are members of Faith Lutheran Church.

Drummond, Wis. — The three congregations of the parish participated in the Family Bible Camp sponsored by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Cloquet, Minn., at Mahtowa, Minn., Aug. 13-17.

Stacy, Minn. — Sunnyside and Hope Lutheran Churches took part in Tri-County evangelistic meetings held at Lindstrom Junior High School, Aug. 7-14. Dr. Akbar Abdul-Haqq, Associate evangelist with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, was the speaker.

Hatton, N. Dak. — Vacation Bible School at Zoar Lutheran Church of Hatton, N. Dak. was held during the last week of May, with the theme "Fruits of the Spirit." Sherrie Melvie, an AFLBS student from Viking, Minn. together with 7 teachers and helpers from Zoar made it a very enjoyable and profitable week. There were 34 students enrolled.

Short prayers are long enough. Not length but strength desirable. A sense of need is a mighty teacher of brevity.
C. H. Spurgeon

*Scandia Lutheran
Sunberg, Minn.*

In March and April of this year the women and men of the congregation put on the monthly programs for the Luther League. The ladies did so in March, using projected pictures from a photo album. The first one showed the audience what a pastor of 1884 looked like. Some of his duties were listed and many of the hardships he endured.

75th Anniversary observed at Norman Lutheran

"Let us hold fast — for He who promised is faithful," taken from Hebrews 10:23, was the theme selected for the 75th anniversary observance of Norman Lutheran Church, rural Tioga, N. Dak., on Sunday, July 31.

The morning service began with an organ prelude by Brenda Gohrick. Pastor Gilbert Schroeder led the service. The theme hymn, "Standing on the Promises," and "To God Be the Glory" were sung. Special music was provided by a trio: Mrs. Bruce Edwards, Mrs. Lyle Fox and Mrs. Vernon Zurich, who sang "My Faith Still Holds" and a solo by Brian Rice who sang "My Tribute."

Rev. John Strand, who served the congregation as pastor from 1952-1964, brought the message based on Hebrews 10:19-25.

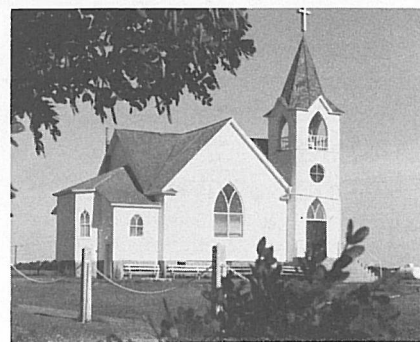
A dinner was served following the service. More than 220 people, young and old, were in attendance at the morning service and dinner.

The festival service began at 2:00 p.m., with the singing of the theme hymn. Pastor Schroeder shared Scripture and prayer and read greetings from former pastors who could not attend. Rev. Allen Monson, Zion Lutheran, Tioga, and Rev. John Reith, Emmanuel Lutheran, Williston, brought greetings from their congregations, and Arley Hartsoch, a former lay pastor, brought personal greetings and greetings from Beaver Creek Lutheran, a sister congrega-

This whole presentation was given in all seriousness to reflect on what it really means to be a Christian and how important our heritage is. There were also songs and readings in addition to what has been mentioned.

In April the program put on by the men began with devotions and had several musical numbers, readings and a message to the youth.

We felt it was a good experience for our youth to have programs put on by the adults of the church. It served to pull us all together for the day when we go to our heavenly home.
Mrs. Harlan Berg



tion. Brenda Gohrick, accompanied by Mrs. Bruce Edwards, sang "The Saviour Is Waiting" and Ila and Bruce Lovdahl sang "How Great Thou Art." Mrs. Jerome Rice read a brief history of the congregation. "Blessed Assurance" was sung before the festival message given by Rev. Leslie Galland, Thief River Falls, Minn., who served the congregation as a student pastor in 1966 and 1967. He used Matthew 28:16-20 as his text.

The day concluded with a festival tea, featuring a beautifully-decorated anniversary cake, which was served by the Norman Ladies Aid.

Norman Church was organized in February, 1908, with ten charter families. Seven of those families were represented by descendants in attendance and greetings by mail were received from relatives of two more of those charter families. There is one living charter member, Mrs. Karl Karlgaard, who lives in Fergus Falls, Minn., but she was not able to attend.

Norman is one of two congregations in the Tioga rural parish and is currently served by Rev. Gilbert Schroeder.

ATTENTION AFLBS ALUMNI

Homecoming '83 begins Oct. 7 and reservations must be received by Sept. 30. This year's honored classes are '68, '73 and '78. Our theme is "God: our help in the past, our hope for the future." Come and join us in this time of praise and fellowship.

The annual meeting of the AFLBS Alumni Association will be held on Oct. 8 at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church. All alumni are encouraged to come and to participate in the work of the Alumni Association.

Detroit to host Lutherans for Life National Convention

Hundreds of Lutherans For Life members and pro-life supporters from all over the United States will be gathering in Detroit on November 11, 12, and 13 for the Lutherans For Life national convention.

The location is the Sheraton Hotel in Southfield and plans are underway for what promises to be a very special event, highlighted by keynote addresses, workshops, and educational seminars. This is an event you won't want to miss! It will be a time to reaffirm a strong pro-life stand and become better informed on the total life issue.

Mark your calendars early and be watching for further information. Advanced registration can be handled by contacting the Lutherans For Life National Headquarters, Box 988 - 275 North Syndicate, St. Paul, Minnesota 55104 or calling them at (612) 642-8271.

NORTHERN MINNESOTA LAYMEN TO MEET

The Northern Minnesota Lutheran Laymen's Society will meet on Sunday, Sept. 25, at Westaker Lutheran Church, Newfolden, at 2:30 p.m. The text for consideration will be Romans 11. All are welcome.

Art Joppru, Chairman
Joe Jacobson, Secretary

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

Second-class postage
paid at Minneapolis, Minn.



Martin Luther

Martin Luther:
500 years

about Wittenberg . . .

"Wittenberg: It received its name from the white sand hill upon which it stood. . . . It had within its walls (at the time of Luther) some 3000 inhabitants."

"Wittenberg University was the first European institution to teach the three ancient languages: Hebrew, Greek and Latin. The first professor

of Greek was Melancthon, who arrived in Wittenberg in 1518."

"Frederick (the Elector) was a wise, judicious, and capable ruler and a pious and God-fearing prince. He thought very highly of Luther, and showed him many marks of favor, but, near as was his palace to the monastery, he never met Luther."

W. Koepchen

Seminary benefits from IMPACT program

MINNEAPOLIS — Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, has recently received \$740 from Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT program. This latest payment covers 18 gifts made by Lutheran Brotherhood members (contract holders) during the second quarter of 1983.

The IMPACT program matches, at 75 cents per dollar, Lutheran Brotherhood members' gifts of \$10 to \$100 per year to Lutheran colleges and Bible schools. Gifts to Lutheran seminaries are matched dollar for dollar.

Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary has received a total of \$15,870 in IMPACT funds since the program began in 1979. During that same period, Lutheran

Brotherhood has allocated more than \$6.4 million to 72 Lutheran schools, in response to more than 100,000 gifts.

Lutheran Brotherhood is a fraternal benefit society offering life and health insurance, annuities and mutual funds to Lutherans nationwide. In 1982, the society's fraternal activities program contributed more than \$14 million in support of its members, the Lutheran Church and community projects.

He who is not
godly every day
is not godly any day.