



**150th Anniversary
of Elling Eielsen's Ordination**



**THE LUTHERAN
AMBASSADOR**

September 14, 1993



Fox River Lutheran Church, Norway, Illinois

Story on page 14.

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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Light on the Way

Equipped

God does not expect something from us for which we are not equipped. On the other hand, God does expect everything from us for which we are equipped.

Maturing in Christ is a process of growing and developing spiritually. It means expanding spiritually. I remember somebody saying once that the Christian life is not a pyramid that dwindles toward its apex. Instead, it is like an inverted pyramid with its apex in the soil and its wide base blaring out toward heaven.

In II Corinthians 4:16, the Apostle Paul makes an interesting observation about life as each day goes by: "Outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day." God renews us not so we can sit around twiddling our thumbs and taking up space in His Kingdom but rather that we might be equipped for service.

Elton Trueblood has said that "the church is the greatest spectator sport in America." He could very well be right but that is not the way God intends it to be. He wants every single believer to be involved and to be a participant in His kingdom work.

Our Lord makes that clear in I Corinthians 12:27, where we read, "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is apart of it." If we are a part of the body of Christ, then we need to serve Him in the areas where He has equipped us.

At our church council planning retreat last winter all of our council members filled out a "gifts and equipping questionnaire" to help each member see how God had prepared them for service in His vineyard. It was interesting to see how our Lord had equipped the council members of one congregation to carry on His work.

Even though our Lord equips us initially for service we are still responsible for the proper use of His gifts. We must nurture and develop His gifts as we are uniquely and individually equipped.

He does not expect from us that which is humanly impossible to do but He does expect from us that which is spiritually possible to do. According to Ephesians 4:7, "To each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it." I would like to suggest that there is a rallying call to our AFLC in Romans 12:4-8. *"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."*

The closing prayer in Hebrews 13:20, 21 seems so apropos: *"May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."*



— by Rev.
Walter Johnson

A traveler to China visited a heathen temple on a great feast day and saw several people bowing before the idol. Many of the worshippers brought small pieces of paper on which they had written something. They wrapped these slips of paper in little balls of mud and threw them at the idol. When asked about this strange behavior, the people said that if the mud ball stuck to the idol then the prayer on the paper would be answered, but if the mud fell off, the prayer was rejected by the god.

We might smile at such a peculiar practice, but Christians are a "peculiar" people, too. We might "throw out a prayer" to God and hope He answers, but that is not how Jesus taught us to pray. When the disciples said, "Lord, teach us to pray," He answered, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Thy name ...'" (Luke 11:1, 2).

We do not honor God by throwing prayers at Him. Our Heavenly Father's name is honored in prayer because He hears our prayers for Jesus' sake. Because Jesus has taken away our sin and now represents us at His Father's right hand, we come boldly and reverently, knowing that all our requests are heard and answered with our best interests and in God's perfect will.

As you pray for the work of the AFLC and the church at large, please remember specifically the ministry of Parish Education, as you no doubt already do.

- Board members, being sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading in determining the ministry's direction and goals; for spiritual harmony in working together.

- Katha Tjelta, Director, managing the day by day work in the office, coordinating workers and projects and other activities related to Christian education. Also remember Laurel Jennings, part-time assistant in the office.

- Coordinating and encouraging the many volunteers involved in writing lessons, preparing art and activities for the Ambassador Sunday School series.

- Sunday School, confirmation and other educational materials that yet need to be produced.

- Finances to carry out the ministry.

Write out your prayer requests if that is helpful to you. Then bring them personally and reverently to your "Father in heaven," confident that none of them will "fall away" without receiving His full attention. "And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive," (Matthew 21:22).



Mrs. Katha Tjelta
Director, AFLC
Parish Education Department

NOW AVAILABLE

Updated Christian Education Calendar.
Scripture and Chorus Songs -
Music edition available at a reduced cost.
Word edition, limited supply.

COMING SOON

Four full-color posters illustrating "Luther's Small Catechism" — watch for upcoming announcements!

The conclusion of Grade 4 Teachers' Manuals.

Kindergarten and First Grade curriculum. When completed, Third Grade curriculum will be developed.

March of Faith — a revised church history curriculum for youth-adults is ready for reprinting.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Parish Ed office needs a new computer, more shelving, file cabinets, display furniture and chairs.



— by Rev. Wes Langaas
McVie, North Dakota
Chairman, Parish Education Board

Know Your Kids

To know is to reach. It may be that important that we who work as Sunday School teachers know our students! We need to pray for them individually and seek out ways to get to know them.

What types of learners do you have in your class? While most people can learn some under any teaching approach, most have special strengths given by God and can learn the most if they can learn in those ways. Learning styles could include verbal, logical, musical, visual, interpersonal, intrapersonal and kinesthetic. We need to teach our lessons in a variety of ways so that God's Word comes alive with meaningfulness for each child. We need to teach to their special strengths whenever possible. For example, a verbal learner likes to listen to and read stories while an interpersonal learner will understand the lesson better in a creative drama approach. A kinesthetic learner will benefit especially from handling objects related to the lesson. An intrapersonal learner will understand emotions and relate to a poem or journal writing.

Using eye contact, using names, truly listening to what a child says, respecting opinions, are valuable basic tools in knowing your students. Take time to talk to individuals from your class when they are around the church at other times



Reach Out

than Sunday School time. Show them you are interested in them. An occasional friendly, caring phone call can open doors to understanding. Perhaps arrangements could be made to have a snack together at a restaurant. It may give you opportunity to know a little about the family setting the child is from. A follow-up note after a visit could be meaningful for the student.

Think of workable ways to get to know your students better. Pray that God will open doors. Teachers, know your kids!

— Barbara Moland
Kirkland, Washington
Member, Board of Parish Education

A Vote For Sunday School Is A Vote For:

Salvation for the lost.

Unified plan of teaching Christian principles and life-style

Nurture and care for each individual

Disciplining the Body of Christ

Affirming of the priority and authority of God's Word

Yoking together of God's people through faith in His Word

Setting people free from the practice and penalties of sin

Challenging of the ungodly values and input of the world

Holiness which comes from submission to God's Word

Opportunities for ministry and service to others

Obliterating the devil's control and influence over people

Life — Spiritual and Abundant!

— Cathedral Press

Will You Light The Candles Today?

We can help our children be actively involved as we worship God each Sunday in Sunday School chapel time. One who has arrived early may assist by lighting altar candles as you remind him/her that the candles are a symbol of God's presence.

Give suggestions to ushers when you ask them to usher. Help them realize that we are honoring God with our gifts. Or welcome everyone to come to the altar with the gift as the offering song is sung.

Students who study music may be asked to offer a prelude song or to accompany singing. Post and announce a thank you to them. Older students may help pre-readers find the hymn-book page for hymn of the month and teach them by following the word line with a finger.

Children may hold word charts or use a pointer when the group is reciting Bible books or learning Bible land map basics. Sometimes a hands on object could be passed that helps children grasp the point of a lesson, such as a cross when teaching what Lent is.

Be creative and think of ways in which your students can be actively involved in Sunday School chapel time. They will feel a part and perhaps better grasp the topic at hand. Perhaps the worship time will become more meaningful to them.

— Barbara Moland

For Your Sunday School

A Mission Project Idea

AFLC World Missions recently received a gift of \$146.15 which represented 913 feet of pennies. The pennies were collected during the past Sunday School year on one Sunday a month, Mission Sunday, by the children of Bethel Free Lutheran Sunday School, Minot, North Dakota.

The gift has been credited toward furnishing one room in the new women's dormitory in Brazil. Would your Sunday School be willing to furnish the balance of \$103.85 needed to complete the outfitting of one room? Twelve rooms at \$250 per room still need to be furnished.

— E. Enderlein
World Missions Director

What Kids Say About Sunday School

One day two girls, Ann and Mary were busy playing. Ann asked Mary, "What is heaven like?" Mary replied, "Oh, I think it is a very nice place, but they don't eat food. They eat words." "They eat words?" "I think so," said Mary, "because I learned in Sunday School that Jesus says in the Bible that you can't just live on bread, but words that come from God." "Oh," exclaimed Ann, "I hope John 3:16 is chocolate because that is the only verse I know."

Children will share what they've learned with friends as Ann did with Mary. Oh, we must carefully and prayerfully share and explain Scripture!

We asked Sunday School kids from several AFLC congregations to tell us why they like Sunday School or what was their favorite Bible story.

"I like the puppets."

— Pre-schooler, North Dakota

"I know that Jesus loves me."

— Pre-schooler, Wanamingo, Minnesota

"The teachers listen to what I have to say and answer my questions."

— 5th grader, Coon Rapids, Minnesota

"I learned how to love."

— 10th grader, Kirkland, Washington

"My favorite Bible story is Noah and the Ark."

— 4th grader, Kenyon, Minnesota

"I like being with my friends and learning about Jesus."

— 7th grader, Coon Rapids, Minnesota

"My favorite Bible story is the Transfiguration."

— 8th grader, Kirkland, Washington

Sunday School teachers, parents, be encouraged. We don't often see the results of our teaching but God has called us to plant and water. He will give the increase in His season. He only asks us to be faithful.

— Barbara Stueland
Kenyon, Minnesota
Member, Board of Parish Education

RESCUE AT SEA

It was not just another tour for Cary Dietsche and the Dave and Barb Anderson Ministries Team. They had been praying and preparing for this trip into Siberia for months. Ministry supporters around the world were praying for this tour beginning on August 10, 1993. As the plane left Nome, Alaska, and headed west over the Bering Sea, little did its passengers realize how the powerful and protective hand of God would be shown in the days ahead.

Mission Aviation and Repair Center (MARC), based in Nome, had invited the Anderson team and singer/songwriter Don Wharton to join them on a tour to Lavrentiya, Siberia. MARC has established a ministry in the remote eastern region of Siberia but it was the first trip for team members into the desolate area seemingly forgotten by the Russian government. Four hundred pounds of medicine, 500 Russian language Bibles and a lot of food were loaded on the plane before leaving Nome.

They landed in Provedeniya, a town of about 5,000 to go through customs. Under communist control, that town hosted up to one million soldiers at one time to deter an invasion from Alaska. Today the town is suffering with extreme poverty. The tundra provides only mushrooms, fish and reindeer or caribou. There is nothing else.

After customs, the plane lifted off for the short trip to Lavrentiya where the team would minister for three days. Again the poverty was overwhelming. Cary gave a stick of gum to a boy. Three days later the boy still had half the treasured stick left.

Spiritually the people were very responsive to the Gospel. "They were like small children. We had to explain the Gospel message in extremely basic terms," Cary added, "We left Siberia with lots of film and video and enthusiasm to tell others of the incredible physical and spiritual needs of the region. One has to see it to believe it!"

Eight people boarded the twin engine Piper on that Friday afternoon on the cold, windy and rainy runway outside of Lavrentiya. Joining

Dietsche, the Andersons and Wharton for the return flight to Nome were Brian Brasher, Andersons' road manager; Pam Swedberg, a pilot's wife; pilot Dave Cochran and a Russian interpreter.

The first stop was at Provedeniya where circumstances beyond their control began to occur, but which would later prove to be marvelous blessings. Russian officials delayed the flight and eventually refused to allow the interpreter to continue on to Alaska.

Now with six passengers and their equipment and 20 empty, sealed gas cans on board, the pilot made his usual checks. As always, he thought he had enough fuel for one and a half hour extra flight time. MARC stockpiles American fuel in Siberia so returning the empty five-gallon cans to Nome was clumsy for the cramped passengers but again proved to be a miraculous provision.

After an uneventful stop at St. Lawrence Islands for U.S. customs, the plane took off for the seemingly routine 45-minute flight to Nome. At about 7,000 feet, the plane broke out of the clouds into blue skies. About 20 minutes from Nome, the plane began to experience engine trouble. The first engine killed and the plane dropped to 3,500 feet. Cary and the others began praying the engine would refire. Then the second engine quit and the pilot gave his Mayday message. The group remained calm; agreeing to grab an empty gas can if they survived the crash. Wharton yanked at the emergency door. It blew off. Then the loudest thunder one can imagine exploded through the plane. The pilot had perfectly put the tail down first into the water then it spun around.

Cary was hit in his legs with some amplifiers but the group quickly realized it was over and no one was badly hurt. There was no breakup of the plane. Calmly each person grabbed a can and jumped. The pilot walked back, showing a huge bruise on his head. Someone gave him a can and he went out the door. Cary recalls standing on the wing momentarily then real-

ized the plane was going down. He jumped off and within 20 seconds the plane disappeared.

Once in the water, they tried to stay together. Cary managed to stay close to the Andersons' and Brasher.

Water temperature that Friday evening was 36° and the air temperature was 42°. Normally a person would suffer from hypothermia within 30-45 minutes as the body gradually and painlessly becomes numb and delirium sets in. Miraculously, that simply did not happen. Also the delay back in Provideniya permitted the weather conditions to be sunny and mild and favorable for a rescue attempt. An FAA official later said that if the winds had been from the southeast instead of from the northwest, the wave action would have prevented their rescue.

According to Cary, "We kept talking to each other. We shouted Bible verses over the four to eight-foot swells. We talked of getting home to our families. Not once did anyone panic and think we were going to die. Although I did begin to feel I couldn't hang on much longer."

Unaware that they were not supposed to even survive the cold water, they also did not realize how God was providing an amazing rescue. Another small plane had been flying toward Nome above and a little behind their plane. The pilot noticed a splash in the water. He mentally noted that it must have been a whale. A few minutes later he heard on the radio that there had been a Mayday message over the Bering Sea. He put that together with the so-called whale he thought he had seen and turned his plane around to go

back over the area looking for survivors.

A Christian Eskimo lady was one of his two passengers. She immediately began to pray while straining to look out the window for any signs. They flew over the seven survivors but did not see them.

The plane continued on for four miles then suddenly turned and came back. This time the Eskimo lady spotted the victims. That was about 20 minutes after their crash. Hope was high as the plane circled and radioed for help. The plane circled until it ran low on fuel and a second plane arrived.

Ten to 15 minutes later a helicopter appeared over the horizon. It was a survey helicopter manned by the Nome Volunteer Fire and Rescue Team. They had heard the Mayday message, jumped in and headed out to sea without a single rescue device on board.

"The helicopter pilots and rescuers later admitted they expected to come out to sea to pull out dead bodies."

The helicopter hovered as close to the water as it could while a crew member stood on a skid to help the victims out of the water. Cary was the first rescued. The wash from the blades made breathing and looking up impossible. Cary remembers turning his head and suddenly a strong arm reached out to grab him. It was then that he realized that numbness had already set in as he discovered that his legs and arms did not want to move. Cary and Dave Anderson were pulled from the water.

The pilot was next. "He looked real bad so the best we could do was to lash him to the skid," Cary said. "The helicopter then flew the three of us to nearby Sledge Island, about 300 feet up on a cliff and left us with a sleeping bag to wrap the injured pilot in while the helicopter returned to pick up the remaining survivor."

Meanwhile, a smaller helicopter, that was scheduled to fly to Fairbanks earlier that day, but did not for some reason, had arrived on the scene. Rescuing Barbara Anderson proved to be the most difficult. As the helicopter approached the wind and rolling water made several attempts to grab her unsuccessful. Nearly giving up, the pilot set down for a final try. The rescuer was standing on one of the skids, hanging out the door and holding on to a strap. This time when he could not quite reach Barbara's hand, he let go of the strap and grabbed for her with both hands. He pulled her up and put her head between his knees, then wrapped his legs around her chest. The pilot lifted out off the water and headed to the island. As he neared the island and began rising to the top, Barbara began to slip from the grasp of her rescuer. Thinking that they would lose her from 200-300 feet, the pilot quickly dropped toward the water as close to the rocky shore as possible.

Barbara then slipped and fell 10-15 feet into the water. She sank down and took in a lot of water in her lungs. She fought back to the surface and tried to swim the 25 feet to shore. She remembers thinking: "Oh God, as I drown, give me Your peace. My strength is gone. I can't fight to keep my head up. Every breath inhales more water. Let me pass into Your arms of comfort." She came to the water surface and coughed and spit out water. Her water-filled jacket seemed to help her float so she turned on her back. She recalls seeing the helicopter to her right and yelled to the crew to throw out a life preserver. She then rested, yelling, "Help, help!"

After what seemed like hours, Barbara heard something. She looked behind. A rescuer had jumped out of the helicopter and was standing, reaching out to her and yelling, "You can make it!" With great effort, she stood, walked forward and sank again. After struggling, he secured a grip on her hands and dragged her to a rock.

The helicopter then went out for Brasher, who by now had been in the water for one hour and ten minutes.

The helicopters flew them to the Nome airport where they were met by ambulances which transported them to the hospital. Barbara and Mr. Cochran stayed in overnight and were treated for extreme hypothermia and near drowning. Don, Brian, Cary, Pam and Dave were treated for second degree hypothermia, which resulted in uncontrolled shaking and were released the same day.

The helicopter pilots and rescuers later admitted they expected to come out to sea to pull out dead bodies. To their knowledge, no one has survived a light plane crash in the Bering Sea.

Six hours after the crash, Cary called his wife, Rosalie, in Amery, Wisconsin. Then he called his parents, Bob and Carol Dietsche at the Association Retreat Center. He arrived in Minneapolis at 11:15 Saturday night to a very grateful family.

He left a rescue crew, hospital and the whole community of Nome realizing they had seen the hand of God working.

The local Covenant pastor who had come to the hospital to see the team, has since reported numerous people seeking the Lord and coming to church.

Everyone involved in the crash and rescue is overwhelmed. Should they list the miracles? Where do they begin? At the time of their distress, Cary's children couldn't sleep so they and Cary's wife got down on their knees to pray for Cary and the group. Also at the time of the crash, Joanne Olson, wife of a Missionary Aviation Fellowship pilot in Laverentiya, Siberia, was praying for their safety. Another close friend of Dave and Barb's had them on her heart so much that he and his wife stopped and prayed several times that day for the group. Surely, He is an awesome God!

— Solveig Hjermstad

(Cary and his wife, Rosalie, are 1977 graduates of AFLBS. They are the parents of two children and reside in Amery, Wisconsin, where they are members of Amery Free Lutheran Church. Dave Anderson is the son of Rev. and Mrs. Clifford Anderson, Buffalo, Minnesota.)

It was a cool, rainy May 7, 1993. My wife, Mavis, and I were in Alma Ata, the capitol of Kazakhstan, the second largest republic of the former USSR, located above Pakistan and on the border of China. We were guests at the constituting convention of the Lutheran Church of Kazakhstan. The first delegate we met was Heinrich Zeitz. He was one of tens of thousands of ethnic German farmers exiled from the Ukraine to remote regions of Siberia and Kazakhstan over 50 years ago. In the first few minutes of our visit he began telling his story, remarkably similar to many others we would hear. He had been sentenced to several years in a labor camp — for the “crime” of being German. The penalty for reporting in sick was three years in a far worse prison in northern Siberia. When he was released he quietly joined thousands of others who started quietly and secretly coming together in home Bible studies to share God’s Word, pray together and find hope and strength for their very harsh life under the hammer and sickle.

The constituting convention was the fruit of the labors of a modern day hero of the faith, Pastor Heinrich Radtke. Sometime later he had left the position of bishop of the Lutheran Church of East Germany to return to a small parish. He sensed a strong call to minister to the German Lutherans in exile. As an East German he could more easily travel in the former USSR. He crisscrossed Kazakhstan finding the German settlements, loving the people in Jesus’ name, sharing the Word and encouraging them and networking them with fellow believers in other cities — all at great personal sacrifice and risk to himself. Since freedom came, he had been able to organize this constituting convention so the scattered congregations could become a national church built on the corner-

“There has to be a God, but we know nothing about Him. Will you please teach us about Him?”

Preaching Christ and Him Crucified In Eastern Europe and Russia

stone of Jesus Christ, the doctrine of the Apostles and the Scripture as “the inerrant norm for all the churches teaching and actions.” (Preamble of their constitution.)

This trip was part of our six-week study tour under the auspices of East European Missions Network. Wherever we went we saw the giant footprints of the Holy Spirit. We saw His work in our own lives. Just a year ago I was alone at a retreat center praying and seeking God’s direction. Should I resign from Emmaus Lutheran Church and launch a ministry to Eastern Europe? As I was standing, looking at a 40-foot concrete cross, the Lord confirmed in my heart that the people of Eastern Europe need the comfort of I Corinthians 1:23, “We preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.” Now, a year later in Alma Ata, we were reading a banner suspended in front with the theme verse of this historic, constituting convention in German, “We preach Jesus Christ and Him crucified.”

The footprints of the Holy Spirit were so very evident in the Czech Republic where a group of 13 of us had been hosted by the Silesian Lutheran Church. This church came out of the years of “persecution running.” Their youth are amazingly alive in the Lord. They love music. They use groups of every description, choirs, ensembles, brass bands, violin, guitars to praise the Lord. We were privileged to be invited to enter into ongoing partnership with them to help them fulfill their vision of at least one viable, gospel preaching church in every village and city of Eastern Europe by the year 2000. They have already rented an apartment for the American pastor-missionary. We and they are trusting the Lord to rise up to serve there. The team that went to the Czech Republic returned richly blessed and renewed after having seen first hand what God is doing there. They are very enthusiastic about continuing this partnership.

We saw the giant footprints of the

Holy Spirit in the city of Petrosavodsk, North of St. Petersburg. We spent a week there doing a feasibility study on behalf of a group from northern Minnesota. We were invited to start a Christian center there. The principle, still an atheist, had commented when visiting here in the United States in February that communism had stolen their soul and had failed them. He said we will try to do a good job of teaching math, history, Russian, etc. Now he has come to realize that this is not enough. They need to learn from the Bible about God. The people opened their homes to host us, their classrooms in which we could teach from the Bible and their hearts to love us. Over and over they told us: “We just know there is a God, we feel there is a God. There is a God. There has to be a God, but we know nothing about Him. Will you please teach us about Him?”

Now Eastern Europe is no longer just a mysterious place on the map, a vanquished “former enemy.” It is a place of real people like Heinrich, Nicholas, Eva, Natasha, Tanya, Vladimir, Alexander, Galina — people who were so kind to us, who trusted us because we are Americans and pleaded with us because we are Christian “please send someone to teach us the Bible.”

Communism stole their hearts and soul. They have stolen our hearts. Now as we plead with the Lord of the harvest: “please send someone to them.”

If you would like further information or would like to receive our newsletter, please write to Pastor Don Richman, East European Missions Network, 9330 11th Avenue South, Bloomington, MN 55420 or telephone 612-888-3510.



— by Rev.
Don Richman,
Bloomington,
Minnesota

Mission Fest 1993 October 3-6

Christ Lutheran Church
Wichita Falls, Texas

Speakers: World Missions Director Rev. Eugene Enderlein, and missionary candidates Rev. David Nelson and Rev. Todd Schierkolk.

This Mission Fest will also include the usual ham radio emphasis on 10, 15, 20 and 40 meters.

Saturday, October 2nd.

9 a.m. thru 5 p.m. CDT
10 meter, 28.455 MHz
15 meter, 21.350 MNz
20 meter, 14.305 MHz
8:30 p.m. thru 10 p.m. CDT
40 meter, 7.288 MHz

Sunday, October 3rd.

3 p.m. thru 5:30 p.m. CDT
10 meter, 28.455 MHz
15 meter, 21.350 MHz
20 meter, 14.305 MHz

Mexican Church Has Annual Conference

The Central Mexican Lutheran Church (AFLC) held its 15th Annual Conference on July 22-25, hosted by the Gethsemane congregation in Celaya, Guanajuato. Highlights of the conference were the dedication of the new Celaya Chapel and the ordination of Rev. Raul Hernandez, first pastor to be ordained by the church body.

Special guests at the conference were missionary Daniel Giles, Aguascalientes, and AFLC President Robert Lee.

A Rose Bud Picked At The Miriam Infant Home

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Corinthians 15:55-57).

Eunice was a healthy good little baby. She was brought to our home at birth. Her unwed mother could not take care of her and gave her up tearfully to those who could and would give her a better bringing up.

Eunice spent a little over one month in the children's home like a little rose bud. But Jesus wanted this rose bud to be plucked and planted in His garden in heaven where the roses never fade nor die.

Her death was ruled as "crib death" as she was in good health and woke up normally at 3 a.m. for her feeding, but one morning, she did not awaken at her usual 6 a.m. It was difficult for all of us who work with the children, because they are all loved and become a part of the family.

We live in a world where death is inevitable and strikes someone every second. But not until it strikes someone close does it seem real again.

This was the first child we lost in our infant home in our three year exis-



tence. Many really broken, beaten and sick children have come to us for help. We have opened our arms and hearts to them to help restore them. They have been adopted by those who can't have children because of physical problems.

We want to thank all of you who are sharing so generously with your monetary gifts and boxes of clothing and toys for these children in the home. It is because of your generosity that we are able to continue.

We do ask for you to pray for us who work with the children. We also ask you to pray for a housemother to administrate the home, preferably one who has had nurse's training.

— Rev. Connely J. Dyrud

The three pastors of the Central Mexican Lutheran Church, from left to right: Rev. Milton Flores, Rev. Raul Hernandez, and Rev. Samuel Flores.



Interior of the Celaya Chapel, where the Gethsemane congregation currently meets.



WOMEN



Morris, Illinois — Bethlehem Lutheran Church women celebrated Syttende Mai with a potluck luncheon of Norwegian foods. This past spring the men were invited to join the ladies and Rev. Harold Masted spoke. Pictured are the ladies who attended the luncheon in their national attire.

Women's Missionary Federation

In memoriam gifts

Petra Lee, California
Genevieve Peterson, Kenyon, Minnesota
Bernie M. Olson, Valley City, North Dakota
Florence Nelson, Valley City, North Dakota
Ted Hexen Sr., Roseau, Minnesota
Opal Winget, Sand Creek, Wisconsin
Helen Berntson, Valley City, North Dakota
Maxine Miller, Tioga, North Dakota
Mary Waldo, Culbertson, Montana
Viola Nubgaard, Ferndale, Washington
James Langaas, McVie, North Dakota
Ruth Nelson, Morris, Illinois
Clinton Peterson, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Gilbert Sakariason, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Ragna Koolmo, Tioga, North Dakota
Lykke Peterson, Tioga, North Dakota
Caroline Jacobson, Springfield, Missouri
Melvin A. Lauen, Hopkins, Minnesota
Hall Lee, Faith, South Dakota
Louise Svendsen, Argyle, Minnesota

*Blessed are
those who die
in the Lord*



Ray, North Dakota — Pictured are the two graduates and one new enrollee in the Beaver Creek Cradle Roll department.



Kenyon, Minnesota — Emmanuel Lutheran Church Cradle Roll graduated Jacob Nelson during a program honoring the mothers and children in the Cradle Roll program.



Freeman, South Dakota — Salem Free Lutheran Church WMF honored Dorothy Jorgensen, Sioux Falls, for her many years of faithful service. She was presented with an Honorary Membership Certificate and her daughter, Carol Skillman, presented the WMF pin to her mother.

WMF Fall Rallies

West Coast - September 18, Elim Lutheran, Lake Stevens, Washington

South Dakota/Nebraska - September 18, Tabor Lutheran, Webster, South Dakota.

North Central Minnesota - October 2, Dove Free Lutheran, Winger, Minnesota.

Western North Dakota/Eastern Montana - October 2, Emmanuel Lutheran, Williston, North Dakota

Eastern North Dakota - September 25, Ny Stavanger Lutheran, Buxton, North Dakota, 30th Anniversary Fall Rally.

Illinois - October 2, West Lisbon Lutheran, Newark, Illinois.



Ferndale, Washington — Triumph Lutheran Church WMF held its Cradle Roll program. Eleven children attended the program during which three graduated and three new children were enrolled.



Kenyon, Minnesota — Pictured is the oldest living member of Hauge Lutheran Church. Mrs. Anna Anderson celebrated her 103rd birthday on June 29. She was born in Norway and at the age of 17 came by ship to America. Mrs. Anderson continues to be alert and enjoys visiting at dinner each day in the Kenyon Sunset Home where she is a resident.

c. II Thessalonians 3:1, 2

Considering Paul's example, write a prayer for your church.

(This song could have been Paul's testimony, too)

*"Day by day and with each passing moment,
Strength I find to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my Father's wise bestowment,
I've no cause for worry or for fear ...*

*Help me then in every tribulation
So to trust Thy promises, O Lord,
that I lose not faith's sweet consolation
Offered me within Thy holy Word."*

—Carolina Sandell Berg

Lord, Teach Us To Pray

Prayer:

Paul and Prayer



Key Verses:

"I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day," (II Timothy 1:3).

"We have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding," (Colossians 1:9).

This month we turn our attention to the life of the great apostle, Paul. Several rich and beautiful examples of his personal prayers are included in his many letters for our instruction and encouragement.

1. What is the occasion of the first mention of Paul's prayer? Acts 9:1-12

Paul is a living example for us of our Lord's teaching that "men at all times ought to pray and not to lose heart." (Luke 18:1)

2. What was one of Paul's burdens in his ministry for which he prayed? (II Corinthians 11:28)

Paul's prayers for the believers were not for "health and wealth" but for spiritual riches. List the blessings Paul is desiring for the saints in the churches at Ephesus, Philippi, and Colossae.

3. Ephesians 1:16-18 and 3:14-19

4. Philipians 1:9-11

5. Colossians 1:9-12

Paul prayed with thanksgiving. At least 11 times in Scripture he said, "I thank my God ..." in response to the faith and love he heard about and saw was in evidence in the believers' lives.

On one of his missionary journeys Paul prayed for the healing of a man inflicted with fever and dysentery. This brought to him other sick people who had heard of the miracle. (Acts 28:8, 9)

6. Paul prayed for direction in his travels. To what did he submit his desire to visit fellow believers? Romans 1:10

7. Paul also taught the churches much about prayer. What area of concern for our communication with God is he speaking of in I Timothy 2:1, 2?

In our discussion of Paul we will also consider the subject of "unanswered" prayer. "There are three different kinds of unanswered prayers. In some cases the answer is delayed. At other times it is disguised, that is, God answers the prayer but in an entirely different way than we had expected. Sometimes the answer is denied; the door is shut, and the answer is no." pp. 11, 12 *Coming To Grips With Unanswered Prayer*, Erwin W. Lutzer

8. Read II Corinthians 12:7-10.

a. What was Paul's prayer?

b. How did he respond to God's answer?

c. Think of one lesson we can learn from Paul's experience.

Erwin W. Lutzer also has this to say in his booklet, *Coming To Grips With Unanswered Prayer*, "The better we know Him, the more likely it is that we will keep trusting Him, even when it appears that He is no longer on our side. We will not judge His love for us by circumstances but by His promises." p. 42

9. I Thessalonians 5:23

10. II Thessalonians 2:16, 17

11. II Thessalonians 3:16

Paul also requested that the churches would uphold him in prayer. Do you pray for pastors, missionaries and Christian education workers?

12. What were Paul's concerns in the ministry of the word for which he asked prayer support?

a. Colossians 4:3

Promise Keepers Meet In Colorado

We love Jesus, yes, we do! We love Jesus, how about you! This was just one of the chants raised over Boulder, Colorado the weekend of July 30-31, as over 50,000 men came from all 50 states as well as from all over the world to come "Face to Face" in Boulder as part of the 1993 Promise Keepers National Convention. Promise Keepers is an interdenominational organization, founded by the University of Colorado football Coach Bill McCartney for the purpose of "motivating men to reflect the character of Jesus Christ in a world of negotiable values, confused identities, and distorted priorities."

The theme for this year's convention was "Face to Face" based on Exodus 33:11. Just as, "The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend," Promise Keepers seeks to gather men — from all ethnic, denominational, and cultural backgrounds — face to face with God and one another and to support them in their covenant to be Promise Keepers with God, with their families and with their local churches.

The weekend ended with a challenging message by Bill McCartney to recognize that we are in a spiritual war, and that only through a commitment to Jesus Christ will we be able to stand and battle the enemy. He also challenged the participants to prayerfully count the cost of becoming a Promise Keeper. That cost is a covenant with God to:

1. Honor Jesus Christ through prayer, worship, and obedience to His Word.
2. Spiritual, moral, ethical and sexual purity.
3. Build strong marriages and families through love, protection, and biblical values.
4. Support the mission of my church, by honoring and praying for my pastor and by actively giving my time and resources.
5. Reach beyond any racial and denominational barriers to demonstrate



the power of biblical unity.

6. Influence my world, being obedient to the Great Commandment (Mark 12:30-31) and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

7. Pursue vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that I need my brothers to help me keep my promises.

If you would like further information about Promise Keepers men's ministries or how you can start a men's ministry in your church, you can contact Promise Keepers at P.O. Box 18376, Boulder, CO 80308.

— *Intern Randy Nelson
Deshler, Nebraska*

AFLC Family Camps End Busy Season

Nearly 800 people enjoyed AFLC Family Bible Camps throughout the nation this past summer. Each camp reported an exceptionally good spirit that prevailed, and in some cases, record breaking attendance.

Orcas Island Family Camp on the West coast registered 170 campers and will likely need larger facilities. Sixty campers participated in the Wilderness Camp near Lake Park, Minnesota. Camp Cherith near Williston, North Dakota hosted the Mon-Dak-Ada Family Camp and 82 people were "blessed with our best ever camp," according to one source. Lake Bronson's Family Camp leaders were encouraged by the 25 teens registered for the week. A total of 75 campers spent the week at that northern Minnesota camp.

The first Family Camp week at the Association Retreat Center hosted 100 people, including three family reunions and the first Parish Education Seminar to be held during Family Camp.

The second week of ARC Family Camp had nearly 250 registered. The AFLC's newest family camp was held in Texas. The first Southern District Family Camp found 75 people sweltering in the 112° sunshine. The air conditioned cabins were thoroughly appreciated!

Labor Day weekend concluded the camp season. The Wilderness Camp hosted a relaxing work and fellowship camp and the ARC again was the site for the annual Hauge Foreign Mission Labor Day Camp.

The ARC's AFLC schedule is as follows:

September 28 — All-Boards meeting.

October 22-24 — Couple's Retreat — Speaker: Todd Mulliken, President and Clinical Director of the Harley Family Counseling Center, Roseville, Minnesota. He will address issues concerning marriages.

February 4-6 — Snow Daze (7th-12th grade).

February 18-20 — Men's Retreat.

March 18-20 — Junior Snow Daze (4th-7th grade).

April 29-May 1 — Women's Retreat.

PEOPLE and PLACES

Rev. J. Christian Andrews, Lancaster, California, has accepted a call from Living Faith Lutheran Church, Larimore, North Dakota, and began his service there in early September. Pastor Andrews has been included on the Fellowship Roster through colloquy with the Co-ordinating Committee coming from The AALC.

Fox River Lutheran Church, Norway, Illinois, is celebrating the Sesquicentennial Anniversary this month of the calling of Elling Eielsen to be their pastor. The congregation voted on September 13, 1843, to call Mr. Eielsen. He accepted and was ordained on October 3, 1843. Eielsen is considered to be the chief transplant of the Hauge movement from Norway to America. He also traveled extensively throughout northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin.

Fox River Lutheran Church, which claims to be the oldest Lutheran congregation in America, emerged from the small groups of Norwegian Lutherans worshipping in homes with lay pastors. By 1836, it is estimated there were 200 such people.

In 1839, Evangelist Eielsen arrived from Norway and turned confusion into an orderly church. The second floor of his log house was the place of worship until it was destroyed by fire in 1847.

Two years later, a new Norway



Elling Eielsen, 1804-1883



Fox River Lutheran Church entered this float in the Newark 4th of July parade.

Hauge Lutheran Church was dedicated and served to the glory of God.

Meanwhile, outside of town, Fox River Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized on January 6, 1859. They met at Elias Nelson's home under the leadership of Rev. P.A. Rasmussen who lived in nearby Lisbon. Rasmussen became a leader as he believed in the inspired Word, the Lutheran Confessions and personal salvation. He was influenced by the Haugeans, the LCMS and tried to unify all the Norwegian Lutherans in our country.

The present Fox River Church (pictured on the front cover) was built in 1862 during the Civil War. The large Lisbon parish divided in 1879 and Fox River with Stavanger shared a pastor and parsonage for 38 years.

In 1917, Stavanger called their own pastor. It was at this time that Eielsen's original congregation in town merged with the rural Fox River church forming the Norway Evangelical Lutheran Church. Both buildings were used from 1918-1977. The smaller town church with running water was used for Bible studies, prayer meetings, Ladies Aid and mission meetings. Personal salvation, prayer, holiness, tent revivals and lay involvement were vital contributions from the Hauge tradition.

When the country church building was completely remodeled and modernized in 1977, the Sons of Norway

Cleng Peerson Lodge bought the Hauge Church in town. It is now the Norsk Museum and is open to the public today. The museum has a collection of early Norwegian Lutheran Church records and memorabilia, including that from Elling Eielsen.

From 1918-1978, the Fox River congregation shared a pastor and parsonage with nearby Newark Lutheran congregation. Then retired Pastor Maynard Halvorson ably served Fox River for 11 years in the ALC.

In 1987, the congregation began taking more steps of faith by rejecting the big merger, joining other nearby L.E.M. influenced churches and came into the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The next steps were buying their own lovely parsonage and calling their first full-time resident pastor in 150 years.

Since the congregations were organized by Elling Eielsen and P.A. Rasmussen, they have been a place for Sunday worship to the glory of God and the salvation of many for Jesus Christ and His kingdom. A \$500 gift from AAL Insurance is helping to celebrate the September 17-19 anniversary festivities. We thank God for being a free and living congregation in Christ.

— Erna Fruland and
Rev. Mel Meyer

All-Boards Workshop To Be Held

The annual AFLC all-boards workshop will be held at the Association Retreat Center (ARC) on Tuesday, September 28, beginning at 9 a.m.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND EVANGELIZATION

One of the distinctive goals of AFLC Parish Education is to prepare Lutheran Sunday School materials that balance Christian nurture with the need for evangelization.

This may be more unique than we realize. It was only recently that several pastors stated to me that in their church backgrounds the possibility that someone might not be a Christian did not even seem to be considered and was certainly never mentioned. Lutheran Sunday School curriculums seem to build on two basic assumptions: (1) all children are baptized, and (2) all baptized people remain in the faith of their baptism. In other words, everyone in our classes is a Christian to some degree.

Both assumptions can be foolish at best and fatal at worst. The first reality is that a congregation involved in outreach to the unchurched should not be surprised to see many unbaptized children enrolled in Vacation Bible School and Sunday School classes. The second reality is that our congregations should not be surprised to see more of our baptized children departing from this covenant as a secular and materialistic spirit becomes more dominant in our culture.

The balance is distinctive and difficult. Some interdenominational materials are strong on evangelization, yet can cast doubt on the efficacy of the means of grace. Mainline Lutheran sources are often unacceptable due to their unqualified sacramentalism, in spite of a fine emphasis on Christian nurture. Capable and concerned teachers undoubtedly can supplement weak materials, minimizing the dangers, but there should be no doubt that our AFLC emphasis on both the education of Christians and the evangelization of the lost is definitely needed.

May the Lord continue to bless the efforts of our Parish Education Board and the director Katha Tjelta, as well as the many volunteers who have committed themselves to the task of providing our fellowship with a balanced Sunday School curriculum. May each congregation that is not presently using this material consider carefully the balance and emphasis that you purpose to uphold ... and write for some samples today!

LET'S FINISH IT!

This will be your editor's final comments on the new hymnal project, as well as a final challenge to our fellowship that we might all put our shoulders to the wheel and our pens to the checkbook so that it might be finished before the next conference.

Samples from the publishing company promise that the *Ambassador Hymnal* will be a first-rate production, and they have agreed to a payment schedule well suited to our situation. A survey conducted by the Illinois District pastors indicated that interest is high among our congregations, and informal contacts with other Lutheran groups suggest a broad market for future sales. Plans will soon be finalized for a pre-sale program, offering special rates to those who order in advance.

The strongest supporters of the hymnal project are those who love the old *Concordia*, yet are realistic enough to see

that this precious heritage is endangered and can best be preserved through a revision. The *Ambassador Hymnal* may well fill the special place in the worship life of American Lutheranism that the *Concordia* once occupied, and could be the AFLC's major gift to the church at large.

Follow the project in prayer. Encourage your congregation or WMF to send a gift if this has not already been done. Look forward to the day when the new hymnals will enrich the worship in your life and church. As God leads and provides through His people, let's finish it!

THE END OF AN ERA

A significant decision was made at the national youth convention in June, marking the end of an era for many of our readers. The delegates passed a resolution without discussion that changes the name of the Lutheran League Federation to **Free Lutheran Youth (FLY)**.

The fact is that most of our youth groups are not called "Luther Leagues" any longer, and so the change simply reflects reality. Perhaps, too, there is a certain fitness to adopting a new name on the eve of a 30th anniversary celebration that is in the planning stages for later this fall.

Yet it would be sad if a few words of tribute were not written in honor of the movement that holds such a special place in so many hearts.

Those of us who grew up in the Lutheran Free Church still remember Merton Strommen and Cal Storley, and the vibrant network of local, district and national youth involvement that they helped to create; the name of Wilton Bergstrand has the same special associations for our Augustana and Suomi Synod people. My first National Luther League Convention was held on the campus of St. Olaf College, and the impact of those days together with hundreds of teens is still with me. Perhaps it was Medicine Lake or Green Lake, Wisconsin, for you, but the memories are probably the same.

The concept of "discipling" was not in vogue at the time, yet the passage of several decades has made me increasingly grateful for the leadership training that was offered, an aspect of youth ministry that could be strengthened in current programs. The "federation council" meetings at Lyman Lodge, the youth leadership caravans, etc., all served to prepare youth not only to be league officers but also for future responsibilities in the life of the church.

The end of an era always marks the beginning of a new one. Times do change, whether we like it or not, and a new name may be a good way of reminding us of this fact. The world that faces the youth of the 90s is not the same as the one that many of us faced in the 50s and 60s. Yet the need for our young people to know Christ and to grow in Him does not change, nor does the life-giving message of salvation.

Whether it is called LLF or FLY, may the AFLC youth fellowship continue to provide strong leadership and solid programs to meet the needs of this generation!

World Watch

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

Second-Class

Virginia Beach, Virginia (EP) —

An overwhelming majority of Americans believes television contributes to violence in the nation — especially among children under 18. They also say that TV plays up negative values and does a poor job of representing their own personal values. And 85% of Americans, both male and female, don't like the way women are portrayed on the tube. As a result of these factors and others, 54% say that they watch TV either "somewhat less" or "much less" than they did a year ago.

These findings are reported in the latest Family Channel/Gallup Survey of Television Viewing Habits released in July. The report comes at a time when concern about violence on television is reaching new heights, as far up as the halls of Congress.

Overall, 57% of those surveyed believe the quality of television programming has gotten either "somewhat" or "a lot worse" compared to a year ago, and 54% report they either are "somewhat more" or "much more" offended by what they see on the screen this year than last, indicating a strong belief that the quality of TV shows is slipping. Their chief concerns: excessive emphasis on sex, violent behavior, and foul language.

With the current concentration on television violence in the media, in Congress and elsewhere, the poll found 79% of Americans are convinced that TV shows either "strongly contribute" or "somewhat contribute" to violence. And they're even more convinced that today's TV programming lends itself to promoting violence among children under 18; 86% say that it "strongly contributes" or "somewhat contributes."

Surprising to pollsters was the finding that males and females are almost neck and neck in their belief that women too often are portrayed in a degrading manner on television shows. Some 88% of women and 82% of men share the opinion that women fare badly in TV roles.

Mexico City, Mexico (EP) —

About 30 Mexican Christians were forced to flee their homes after an attack by an angry mob, but have returned to San Nicolas de Guadalupe under military escort.

The group had taken refuge in a church in a nearby town for more than a month, as their homes were ransacked and most of their personal possessions stolen.

They were among a group of 130 Baptists attacked in late June after worship services in the city, which is located in a Mazahua Indian area about

two hours northwest of Mexico City.

A mob of about 200 Roman Catholics stoned and clubbed the worshippers while they were eating outdoors, witnesses reported, and about 15 people sustained injuries, mostly lacerations. The attackers also destroyed 11 cars with stones, clubs and fire.

The throng included the local priest, some town leaders and soccer players, several of whom appeared intoxicated, reported witnesses, who stated that "the attack was apparently a protest against the presence of evangelicals."

India Lawsuit Dismissed

A federal judge recently dismissed the last of the legal charges remaining against the AFLC in the lawsuits resulting from our mission work in India.

Ruling in response to a request filed by the attorney for the faction off the Bible Faith Lutheran Church of India directed by Rev. Bhushana Rao Dasari, the U.S. Court of Appeals (Eighth Circuit) dismissed their earlier appeal, officially bringing the four years of litigation to an end.

Representatives of the AFLC World Missions Committee and the Bible Faith Lutheran Ministries (Rev. Dasari's U.S. committee) have been meeting for several months to encourage reconciliation, and will continue to work together to promote a resolution of the conflicts that remain in India.

Thank you to AFLC friends who prayerfully stood by our World Missions director and committee during these trying times. Please remember to join us in praising God for answered prayer, as well as continuing to ask Him that the divisions in India between family and church factions might be resolved to His greater glory.