

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

September 5, 1989



Luther League
convention at
Vernon, B.C.

p.3-5



LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

COVER PHOTOS: Convention photos
by Rev. Brian Pearson and
Earl Korhonen

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The things of salvation

Studies in I Peter

I Peter 1:10-12

These three verses appear to be an "aside" from the main theme of chapter 1. Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, takes time to explain a little more about "salvation." In verse 9, Peter encourages the suffering believer, reminding the believer that the outcome of his or her faith will be the "salvation of your souls." Peter discusses this salvation in verses 10-12.

The word "salvation" is speaking of Christ. "Salvation" refers especially to Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. It also includes Christ's ascension and His anticipated second coming, but the focus of the word is upon the events concerning the cross.

Peter declares several things to us concerning this salvation: 1) He says the Old Testament prophets made careful search and inquiry concerning this salvation. They knew that salvation and deliverance was through the promised Messiah. David looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:31). Isaiah saw His glory and spoke of Him (John 12:41). The chief message and witness of the Old Testament prophets concerns Christ and the things of salvation (John 5:39). What the prophets did not know — and what they sought to know more about was the exact time and circumstances of the coming salvation.

According to Peter, the answer that the prophets received in their searching and inquiring was that they were not serving themselves but "you" — the people of the New Testament day to whom salvation had come. In other words, it was revealed to the prophets that the salvation was future. It was a hope and expectation for them, but it wouldn't happen in its full sense in their day. The prophets spoke of "the days after" or "the latter days" as the time of the coming Messiah.

2) Peter indicates that the salvation which has now been announced in Peter's day (v. 12) is the same salvation that was prophesied in the Old Testament.

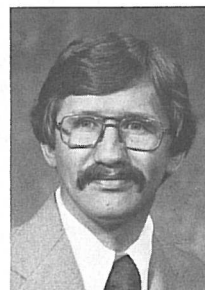
The prophets spoke of the grace that would come (v. 10). They knew and prophesied that the coming salvation would involve the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow (v. 11). The "glories to follow" most certainly include Christ's resurrection and His ascension, and the expression may also include His return in triumph.

3) Peter declares that the Old Testament prophets were inspired by the Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit of Christ that was revealing truth to them (v. 11). They did not prophesy as an act of human will, but "men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (II Peter 1:21). This spirit of Christ is the same Holy Spirit by which the apostles were proclaiming the Gospel in the New Testament day (v. 12).

4) The things of salvation are "things into which angels long to look." The words "long to look" are a translation of a word that means "to look carefully" or "to stoop down in order to examine." We don't know to what extent the angels understand the things of salvation. However, the point Peter is making concerns the glory of the Gospel message.

The Old and New Testaments stand as a unit, proclaiming the same salvation, inspired by the same Holy Spirit. The message of both is the glorious message of salvation by faith in Christ.

Ours is the privilege of living in the day of salvation. God's plan is that this salvation is ours only by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, the Savior. The Spirit of God invites and calls us through the Gospel to faith in Him.



— By Pastor
Philip Haugen

Miracle at Vernon, B. C.

It was a miracle."

That was the way Pastor James Johnson characterized the 1989 Luther League Federation Convention held July 17-21, at Silver Star Ski Resort near Vernon, B. C.

Pastor Johnson, LLF president, added, "The convention was way beyond what we expected. It was a miracle that we had so many kids show up, a miracle that we were able to fit them all in, a miracle that they adapted so well to some of the difficulties we had, and a miracle that they responded so well to the Word as it was preached.

The size of this miracle is apparent when one considers the numbers involved in what many characterized as the largest AFLC gathering ever.

Mr. Randy Erickson, camp registrar, explained the situation he and other camp staff members faced on Monday evening.

"We had 450 youth pre-registered, but 600 showed up!" he stated. "Entire youth groups came to British Columbia without our knowing they were coming. Our kitchen staff, made up of volunteers from the AFLC church in Vernon, planned for 450 and we had 700 up on the mountain when you include the 50 or so staff members and counselors."

The lack of pre-registration created some tense moments. Although the camp staff was able to squeeze all the teens into the facilities, many adults (estimated number of 50+) — pastors, youth advisors, drivers — who had counted on staying at the resort, were forced to find motels in Vernon, which was 14 miles and 76 curves down the mountain.

Those involved in the camp will be making a number of suggestions to the new Youth Board so another situation like this doesn't repeat itself. Some of them include:

- limiting the ages at the convention to grades 9-12;
- giving first priority to pre-registered youth, with all those who show up without pre-registration allowed to register later in the evening of the first day and allowed to stay on a space-available basis; and
- requiring pre-registration. If a youth group does not pre-register by a certain date, they will not be allowed to attend.

Despite the problems faced initially, the camp staff had everything running quite



A small group discussion led by Jeff Nikunen, Escanaba, Mich.



Volleyball outside Vance Creek Hotel

smoothly by Tuesday and the teens themselves seemed to enjoy camp, as is evident by these randomly selected interviews:

Kirby Stoll (age 16), Warroad, Minn.: "I learned some new ideas for our Luther League from one of the workshops. Lots of kids shared ideas. I think our youth group back home will be stronger as a result."

Christy Skogerboe (16), East Grand Forks, Minn.: "It's exciting that so many people showed up and made that step to be here. Even the kids who aren't Christians are receptive to the messages...I really like the workshop led by Pastor Terry World about 'Just Say No'...This experience will definitely make me stronger as I

It was with no small amount of fear and trembling that the Youth Festival Committee of Living Word Lutheran faced the onslaught of over seven hundred hungry youth and leaders at the AFLC Luther League Convention at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, July 17. We were concerned that the limited kitchen and seating space would not accommodate the 3-400 we initially expected. As the actual number registered grew and grew, so did our trepidation.

As is usually the case, we need not to have worried. The food service proceeded like a well-oiled machine. Many willing hands provided the fuel and God provided the lubrication that eliminated friction and breakdown.

We, Vernon Youth Festival Committee, would like to proclaim some loud and heartfelt thank-yous:

Thanks from

— To the ladies and seniors of Living Word Congregation, Vernon, and Emmanuel Lutheran, Salmon Arm. Thank you for the thousands of cookies you baked for our evening “mug-ups.”

— To the parents and chaperones, who willingly pitched in and helped wherever and whenever needed.

— To the pastors of the AFLC, who pitched in and displayed amazing culinary skills, helping our kitchen crew when we were dead on our feet. We hope that your home congregations are aware of these latent talents and are using them to the fullest.

MIRACLE

only have one Christian friend back home. It's encouraging to fellowship with so many from my own age group.”

Marybeth Enderlein (16), Plymouth, Minn.: “The atmosphere at camp is special. There's a common bond with most everyone. It's fun to meet old friends and encourage each other. Pastor Steve Lombardo (evening speaker) is on our level and makes things apply to us.”

Ken Forbes (13) Lake Stevens, Wash.: “There's too many mosquitoes! I like the recreational time the most.”

Andy Gunderson (16) Lake Stevens: “The small group discussions are good. Earl Korhonen (group leader) is a great guy.”

Joe Williams (17) Lake Stevens: “Terry Wold held the audience's attention. I'll remember you have to say ‘yes’ to Jesus before you say ‘no’ to negative things.”

John Hite, assistant pastor, Lake Stevens: “At first the large numbers were overwhelming and people weren't mixing as well as they could, but this convention will be the start of our youth group heading back up.”

So despite the shaky start, the convention turned out to be a success and an experience which will never be forgotten by those attending.

Especially by the kitchen crew from Vernon, who probably have just recovered from serving an immense amount of food including 2,580 eggs, 60 gallons of spaghetti and 15,830 ounces of orange juice!

— By C. Phillip Johnson
Cloquet, Minn.
(Journalism Instructor,
Proctor High School)

“...you have to say ‘yes’
to Jesus, before you say
‘no’ to negative things.”



The new Luther League Federation officers. Left to right, back row, Earl Korhonen, treasurer; Bob Halvorson, devotional life secretary; Rev. Terry Wold, president; and Eric Westlake, second vice-president; and, front row, Mark Johnson, first vice-president; and Martina Johnson, secretary.

Living Word

— To the youth at the Convention for the willing and happy service you gave during your K.P. duty. "The Lord loves a cheerful giver," and these young folks gave us a real lift. We would like to remind the parents of these young people to thank God for their kids. Their attitude and deportment is an example for many people twice their age.

We would also like to thank the AFLC Luther League for choosing to bring your convention to Vernon this year. We are a fledgling congregation, new to the AFLC,

without a church building, physically separated from almost all other Association congregations and without a real sense of identity. By allowing us to work with you on this convention project, you have helped us to begin to feel "connected." We've met your youth, their leaders and pastors. We've been ministered to by the Ambassadors team. We've planned this convention together and have worked together over the hot grill and behind the food service counter. Friendships never flourish better than when people of like minds work together.

Finally, we need to thank our heavenly Father, without Whom such an undertaking would be both unnecessary and impossible. He has done great things! To God be the glory!!!

Vernon Youth Festival Committee

Missouri Synod Convention held

— By Raynard Huglen
Editor

The 57th regular convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was held on July 7-14 at the Convention Center in Wichita, Kans. It brought some 1100 delegates plus advisors, staff and others to the largest city in Kansas, where this year the centennial of the Kansas District of the church is being celebrated.

At the opening service on Friday evening, which was also a communion service, Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, president, preached the sermon on the convention theme "Tell Everyone What He Has Done" and used the text, Psalm 105:6. The next morning he would be up for re-election in a contest in which some gave him no better than a 50-50 chance.

Dr. Bohlmann spoke on the three parts of the theme. *Tell* — that is the task. We are to remember what we are here for — to tell others, to witness. *Everyone* — this means all people. Three-fourths of the world's people don't know what God has done. *What He Has Done* — we return to our places after the Lord's Supper thinking of what God has done. And He has done much for us, providing salvation in His Son.

Dr. Bohlmann, who had been president since 1981, was under

considerable attack from conservative elements of his church. Among 14 weaknesses seen in him, as printed in *Christian News*, an independent weekly of Lutheran orientation, were that he is supported by proponents of the ordination of women, that he doesn't discipline liberals in the church and that he is quick-tempered with those who disagree with him and is a poor listener.

On Saturday morning Dr. Bohlmann gave his report to the church. In it he conceded that he had many weaknesses and limitations, but thanked the church for the honor and privilege of serving as president. We cannot justify ourselves, he said. Jesus has done that for us.

Prior to the election, considerable time was spent acquainting the delegates with the operation of an electronic response system, the first time such was to be used in a Missouri Synod regular convention. A series of profile questions was asked giving information such as that 1060 of the delegates were male, 54 female. Thirty-three of them were under 30, 558 were between 30 and 49, 381 were between 50 and 64, and 149 were 65 and older. As to the size of the congregations from which they came, 324 were from churches below 200 confirmed members, 521 from 200-

499, and 186 from 500-999, and 90 from churches larger than that.

In the actual balloting, Dr. Bohlmann received 589 votes out of 1124 cast or a majority of 52%. There were five candidates, as is the Missouri rule. Closest to him was Dr. Robert Sauer, who had ranked on the opposite end of *Christian News'* 14 points.

Shortly afterward, Dr. Bohlmann met with the press corps of the convention. He was asked how the Missouri Synod can go forward in view of its obvious divisions. Dr. Bohlmann replied that he doesn't see any theological split among those who had been candidates. He said there is a problem relative to a part of the church and he had to reach out to those people. Some healing is needed.

Dr. Bohlmann said he is committed to working toward more involvement of women in the synod. Women need to be recognized for their gifts, he averred. At the same time, it is his conviction that women are not to be ordained, which is the position of the church. He admitted that he was never the favorite candidate of some to be president, but he wasn't interested in hurting people or pushing them out of the synod. He thought 90-95% of the church's membership wanted a more positive, less negative attitude in the

◇

LC-MS. Dr. Bohlmann said that he had a new determination to give a stronger dimension in leadership, to be a more visible leader.

In mid-afternoon Dr. Robert Sauer, who would later be elected third vice-president of the Synod, met with the reporters. He felt that the chief difference between him and Dr. Bohlmann was one of style, that the boards, etc., should have control of their areas, not the president. The big issues now, Dr. Sauer asserted, are women in pastoral areas and unionism. Women shouldn't read in church services and Synod pastors shouldn't take part in services where women pastors participate. As to unionism, where people who don't agree on doctrinal matters worship together, Dr. Sauer said Missouri pastors should not be involved in such and should be disciplined if they do.

Dr. Sauer declared that Dr. Bohlmann must begin the process of reconciliation in the Synod, otherwise a split could occur. The president must meet with his opponents. Dr. Sauer said that he didn't see any leader emerging among the "conservative" wing of the church (and that he wouldn't run again), but thought that more younger men coming out of the seminaries might align with that cause and their impact could be felt in as soon as three to six years. The next triennial convention will be held in Pittsburgh in 1992.

On Sunday morning a mission service was held at Century II, the convention center. At one point in the service, Genesis 11:1-8 was read in eight languages, a verse in each (such as Korean, Vietnamese, Spanish, etc.). Four Bible studies were presented by Rev. Edward A. Westcott, Jr., executive director for Mission Services. They were entitled The Purpose, The Challenge, The Strategy and The Commission and Charge. He gave some statistics. There are 6,170 spoken languages among 5.1 billion people. Of those, 303 have the entire Bible in them and 911 have at least a portion of the Scriptures. Of the world's population, 1.7 billion *claim* to be Christian.

Hymnal Committee

Will there be a new AFLC hymnal? The answer to that is, "Yes, if the Lord wills."

The hymnal committee (Pastor Thomas Olson, Pastor Donald Greven, Pastor Norman Dornquast, Pastor Rodger Olson, Mrs. Marlin Benrud, Mrs. Gary Erickson, and Mrs. Kenneth Moland) is chipping away at the monumental project. Several AFLC people have also worked hard to send in excellent lists of potential hymns. All hymn suggestions will be seriously considered, so keep sending them in to the chairman (Pastor Olson, 2311 10th St., Cumberland, Wis. 54829).

At the present time potential hymns are being compiled for final consideration. Undoubtedly the majority of *The Concordia Hymnal* will be the core of the hymnal, deleting unused hymns and adding about 250 excellent chorale and Gospel hymns from other sources.

The seminary faculty is working on

the liturgical section of the hymnal. This section will include the second order of service from the *Concordia* along with other simple worship and communion services. It should also have a healthy selection of psalms, Scripture portions and responsive readings. There should be an ample amount of confessions, creeds and worship music to allow some variety for those who vary their services at times. Any more ideas for this section can be sent to Dr. Francis Monseth at Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary.

There is real reason to believe that God is helping us to complete this project in the "fullness of time." Computer technology in the past few years has opened and is opening up so many cost-effective doors to us. It is now possible for us to actually buy high quality computers, printers and software to complete the majority of the work of designing this hymnal with volunteer labor at a fraction of what

Dr. Westcott spoke of the centripetal strategy needed. People from other nations are coming here to study and find refuge. A Vietnamese pastor told how he came to the U.S. as a refugee and was converted to Christ. The other force is *centrifugal*. Missions start at home, but then expand in ever-widening circles.

An offering was taken at the service which came to \$394,370. This included money sent in from the congregations.

That afternoon, Sunday, a former president of the Missouri Synod, Dr. J. A. O. Preus, addressed the convention as he and a few other former officers were recognized. In remarks that seemed to take his audience by surprise, Dr. Preus deplored the evidences of disunity in the Synod. He laid much of the blame on an unofficial organization called Balance, Inc., which publishes a small paper called *Affirm* and champions a strict conservatism. Many candidates for offices in the Synod

endorsed by *Affirm* have won their positions, he said; shouldn't they also share in some of the blame for the current woes of the church?

Dr. Preus made three proposals: 1) the men involved in *Affirm* should retire, declaring its finances; 2) if they refuse they should be assisted to do so by the convention and the same applies to *Christian News*; and 3) he suggested that the president and others create a synod-sponsored publication which would provide the opportunity for open discussion under the 8th Commandment.

Dr. Preus concluded by saying, "We are a great church, but we limp along. Let's get going!"

Dr. Kurt Marquardt, a professor at Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Ind., called for an opportunity for someone to respond to Dr. Preus' charges. Dr. Marquardt and Dr. Bohlmann, and perhaps others, subsequently met. Another meeting that evening with more involved took place.

Update

it would have cost to hire out the typesetting several years ago. After this project is done the AFLC would still own the computer equipment for all sorts of publishing uses. Pastor Brian Davidson of Amery, Wis., is skilled with computers and has volunteered to head up this end of the project. He has already come up with some exciting possibilities.

There are so many areas where we will need volunteer help to make this project happen. Pray that God would

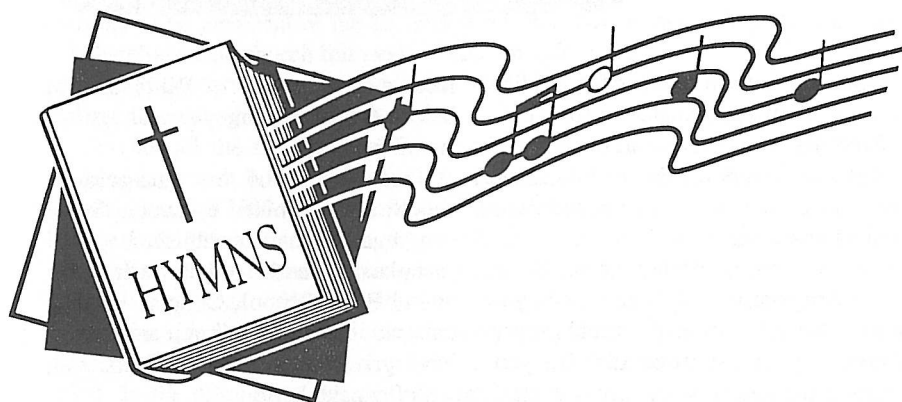
raise up people to volunteer to work with typing hymns into the computers, arranging music, studying the copyright laws, donating money to buy the copyright for a certain favorite hymn, study printing and binding options, work with promotion and distributions, etc. If you would like to help in a certain area, please contact Pastor Olson.

Pray about this hymnal; the need is great and we must seek God's help in this awesome task. A growing number of congregations are discontented with *The Concordia Hymnal* and are unfortunately choosing nondenominational hymnals because of the larger selection

of hymns they offer. This trend is leading to the demise of much of our fine heritage of hymns. The only foreseeable way to change this trend is to provide another option for these congregations. We must develop a new, excellent quality, completely singable, theologically sound, liturgically simple, book with at least 600 hymns. There is real potential for the Church of the Lutheran Brethren, American Association of Lutheran Churches, and even many Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregations to choose this as their hymnal. It may even be possible to eventually realize a financial profit from this project.

For the little AFLC to do this with basically volunteer labor and expect to complete it in two or three years is outwardly impossible. But with humble trust in God through prayer, it is certainly possible. So many prayers have already been answered. Is anything too hard for the Lord? (Genesis 18:14).

Rev. Thomas C. Olson
Committee Chairman



On Monday morning Dr. Bohlmann referred to Dr. Marquardt's request of the day before and told of the meetings held. He said that he shares the concern of Dr. Preus and doesn't feel that Balance, Inc., serves the church well. He pledged himself to work for unity in the Synod. "Let us listen to one another better," he said. He wanted someone to be allowed to speak for *Affirm* to the convention.

Mr. Ed. Weise then spoke on behalf of *Affirm*. In his prepared remarks he asserted that *Affirm* stands for sound, orthodox faith. Mr. Weiss said that he had wept for the principle which was under attack by Dr. Preus, Christian freedom. My purpose, he said, has always been to inform, to coerce no one, to simply make views known.

After he had finished speaking at his microphone, Mr. Weise walked over to the podium, reached up and shook hands with Dr. Bohlmann. It was a strong handshake.

Dr. August Mennicke was re-elected first vice-president of the Synod. Dr. Robert King was elected second vice-president and Dr. Robert Sauer, third vice-president. Dr. Walter Maier, Jr., moved from fourth to fifth vice-president, his place being taken by Dr. Eugene W. Bunkowske.

The 150th anniversary of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., at which several of our AFLC faculty members have taken graduate studies, was noted on Tuesday morning of the convention.

On Wednesday evening the President's Reception was held at Ramada Inn in downtown Wichita.

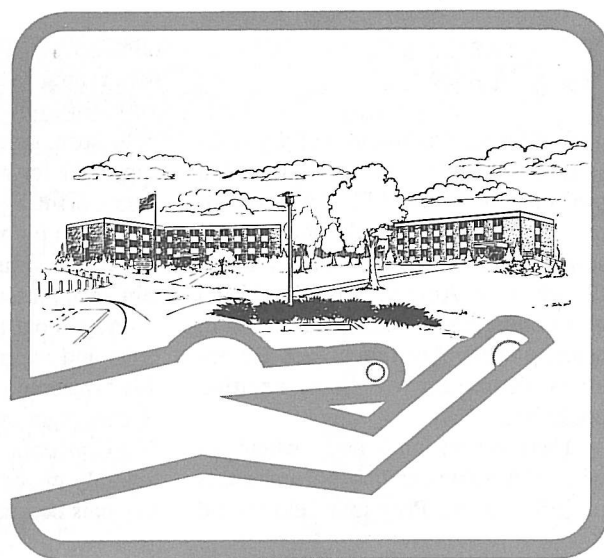
Life/Light Bible Studies were conducted each morning following devotions by the convention chaplain, Dr. Arnold Kuntz.

(The above report is in no way intended to be a full report on the convention which lasted for seven days. I was present for only three.)

**Man's warfare
with temptation is
not ended until he
obtains his crown.
Until then it is
not safe for him to
lay his armor down.**

Clarence E. Macartney

Building up the Bible School in your congregation



Association Free Lutheran Bible School (AFLBS) is an arm of the local congregation. Its reason for existence is to minister in a way that can best be done together, rather than by one congregation alone.

"Preparing Youth for the Abundant Life" is the motto of the Bible School. These words not only point to the personal spiritual growth that can occur through the concentrated study of the Word, but also to the preparation for service that is at the heart of Bible School instruction. The abundant life is a life of service and the focus of that service will be the local congregation, "the right form of the kingdom of God on earth" (*Fundamental Principle* No. 1).

AFLBS exists, therefore, to prepare youth *from* the congregation *for* the congregation.

What is your congregation doing to make our Bible School a more vital part of your life and ministry? The following suggestions may be helpful:

1. *Be a host.* Most of our congregations have a chance to welcome one of the choirs or Gospel teams from AFLBS at least once during the year. Some also schedule a "Bible School Weekend," when some students and a faculty member come for an extended time of ministry and fellowship. Open your hearts and homes to these visitors and create opportunities for them to get to know your youth. Don't expect polished perfection all the time, but perhaps there might even be some encouragement in the imperfections for certain youth to dare to believe that there might be a place at Bible School for them, too.

2. *Be a visitor.* Remember the "Campus Days" at AFLBS during the early spring of each year. This is a weekend when a growing number of youth groups have traveled to Min-

neapolis for a taste of Bible School life and a challenge to consider it for themselves. But remember, too, that if the dates do not work out for your community, you are welcome to schedule a visit at another time.

3. *Be a prayer partner.* Is our Bible School regularly remembered in prayer during the worship services and prayer times of your congregation? Do you include the students, faculty and staff in your own personal prayers? If AFLBS is a part of the life and ministry of the local congregation, then it should be a part of our prayer concerns, too, as much as our Sunday Schools, outreach programs or other activities.

It has been good over the years as a faculty member to be reminded often that others are praying for us and for the ministry here on campus. You are welcome to join in this fellowship also.

4. *Be an encourager.* What is your congregation doing to encourage youth to attend Bible School? There is no doubt that they will be encouraged in other directions, by friends, school counselors, or even family. Bible School is looked upon by many as unpractical, a waste of time and money.

These discouraging words need to be balanced by positive ones. We believe that preparation for life is more important than preparation for a vocation. It is hard to conceive of a young man or woman who could not benefit

from a year or two of Bible School before (or after) their years of professional training.

Our words of encouragement should also be joined by action. Some congregations have established special "scholarship funds" to help their youth attend Bible School. Couples without children, or whose children are grown, have privately assisted students, too, with financial help.

A missionary told of his decision to attend a Bible School several years ago, the first from his congregation and community to do so. Not only did the Lord direct him to a life of missionary service, but over 50 other young people from his community eventually followed him to the same school. Who knows which one of your youth might be the beginning of a similar moving of God's Spirit? Remember to encourage each one, in every way, to consider Bible School!

R. L. Lee.

Classes begin

On September 6, 1989, AFLBS expects to register 19 men, 6 of whom will begin their first year. On September 10, 4 p.m., AFLBS will begin its school year with an Opening Service followed by dinner and the Ambassador Home Concert at 6:30 p.m. Approximately 100 students are expected to enroll.

EDITORIALS

LC-MS CONVENTION

Occasionally over the years we have attended parts of the conventions of several church bodies. This has enabled us to get a feel of other groups, particularly Lutheran ones.

This year we visited the 57th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Because of time and money invested in that effort, a report of that convention is given in this issue. Our stay covered close to half of the convention in Wichita, Kans., the half which saw the re-election of the church's president, Dr. Ralph Bohlmann.

Our report indicates some of the tension which exists in the second largest Lutheran body in the U.S. Sometimes an outsider can wonder why anyone would want to be, or be willing to be president of the LC-MS given the roughly 50-50 division in the church fellowship between strict conservatives and conservatives-to-moderates. These are our terms; others may not agree with them at all.

Yet for all the tensions, the Missouri Synod remains a vigorous church body with much to commend it. It was inspiring to see 1500 or so members of the convention family break up into clusters of eight people each for morning Bible discussion and the morning we were there to find that the Bible passage under consideration was Matt. 9:35-38, about the spiritual harvest fields, the very same theme that we had before us in our Annual Conference in Minot in June. In the discussion groups the people were to consider three questions: What does the text say? What does it mean? What does it mean to be me?

An outdoor barbecue on Saturday evening brought the delegates and others out to the Old Cowtown museum on the edge of Wichita (Wichita was on the famed Chisholm Trail). After a bountiful meal we were free to wander around the several streets which brought us back into the U.S. of more than a hundred years ago.

The opening service with Holy Communion and the Sunday morning mission service were convention highlights. Although not all Missouri Synod pastors and congregations follow the practice of closed communion, we did not remain for the Communion service itself.

But we came away from Wichita thankful for our own church, the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. There are some advantages in being a small, cohesive group. We trust that we can all think about those strengths and be assured in our own hearts, while we at the same time throw ourselves more and more into the task of world-wide evangelization, rejoicing in what is being done in other groups as well.

PILGRIMAGE

It wasn't that for me, but it was for many people. On my way to Wichita I found myself with an almost five-hour layover in Memphis. That's a long time to sit in an airport and so I inquired as to whether there

were any city tours from the airport. There were none, but I was told that the closest point of interest was Graceland, fabled home of the late Elvis Presley.

And so, though I never expected in my life to see Graceland, I caught a cab for the several-mile drive. Across the street (Elvis Presley Blvd., what else?) from the mansion was the visitors center. Many people were standing in line to buy tickets for the tour of the mansion, to go into his private bus and jet, etc. I calculated that a family of five could spend about \$65 for the package deals to see everything.

There were people of all ages, children, young people, middle-aged, the elderly. Elvis' music was being played over the loudspeaker. I saw no one swooning or hysterical. Everyone looked very matter-of-fact on a humid Memphis summer day. But they were there to see where Elvis had been.

I didn't relish standing in line or putting out more than I would be in taxi fares and so I gave up getting to see Graceland inside. It was visible on the slope, among the trees, across the boulevard and I did walk along the estate imitation stone wall where people have printed their names and love notes to the entertainer. One lady told me she estimated it had taken her an hour from the time she arrived to get her ticket and now be on the verge of boarding a shuttle bus for the jaunt to Graceland.

And so they came, by the hundreds and, over the course of the summer, by the thousands to see where Elvis Presley lived and died. It's a very strange phenomenon. People who made a much greater contribution to life get scant attention after they are gone. Why do the entertainers get such a hold on people? I have to leave the answer to someone else.

Certain it is that no one person should hold an abnormal fascination or attachment for us. If he does, it becomes an idolatry. That seems to be the case with Elvis. And what an example he left. What a life he lived.

Christians follow the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Master. He is Lord. Christians, too, recognize greatness in their fellowmen, but it is the greatness of service and humility, and many times it is found in the most unexpected vessels.

And the Lord is everywhere. He is found in the solitary moments and He is present in our churches where the cross reminds us of His sacrifice for us and the candles tell us that He is the world's light. A Father's love and a Son's obedience provide the true "Grace-land."

Raynard Huglen

To be greatly angry we must have the power to greatly love.

J. H. Jowett

Introducing new AFLC congregations

Gausdal Lutheran Church, New London, Minnesota

Gausdal Lutheran Church was organized Feb. 14, 1891. A constitution previously prepared by a committee was adopted. The name of the congregation was to be Ringville Lutheran Church, because the area was called Ringville Prairie. Church officers were also elected.

One week later the first worship service was held at the Ringville Schoolhouse. They had secured a part-time pastor, Rev. A. N. Kleven, from the Nordland Lutheran Church, 15 miles away. A business meeting was called following the service and it was decided to change the name of the congregation to Gausdal Lutheran Church, because a large majority of the members were from the Gausdal Church Parish in Guldbrandalen, Norway.

On March 7 a resolution was adopted to build a church, the said building to be 40 ft. x 50 ft., with a chancel 16 ft. x 20 ft. A committee was appointed to get an estimated cost of the building. A neighbor, Henry Roe, donated two acres of land for the building site. The building was officially finished by Nov. 30, 1891, and the first meeting was held on that date.

When the building was first used, the congregation had not yet purchased pews, so each family brought their own chairs from home. Also another interesting note — in those days all the women sat on the left side and the men sat on the right side of the church (see picture).

In May, 1892, it was decided that the pastorate should include Gausdal Church, Nordland Church in Irving Twp., and the Norwegian Lutheran Church in New London, with the parsonage being located in New London. The three churches in this parish were members of the Lutheran Free Church until 1962, when they became affiliated with the American Lutheran Church.

On March 30, 1892, the Bethania Ladies Aid was organized. Later

names were Gausdal Ladies Aid, Gausdal A.L.C.W., and, presently the W.M.F.

The Luther League was organized Apr. 10, 1910. Since the Norwegian language was used at that time, the name chosen was Framtidens Haab Ungdoms Forening, which means Future Hope Young People's Society. The name was later changed to Gausdal Family Luther League.

In 1912 Pastor Carl Nordberg and a church member, Carl Graverson, organized the Gausdal Sunday School.

The pastors who have served Gausdal through the years are as follows: A. N. Kleven, 1891-1892; S. J. Sund, 1892-1893; M. M. Midthun, 1893-1907; Carl Nordberg, 1907-1911; E. M. Hanson, 1911-1928; Rev. George Knudson, 1928-1935; V. S. Dahle, 1935-1944; Gilbert Oppen, temporary, 1945; C. T. Olson, 1945-1954; Palmer Sevig, 1954-1959; B. R. Quanbeck came in 1959. In 1968, Nordland Church and Trinity Church (formerly Norwegian Lutheran) had become large enough and decided to each hire its own pastor, which left Gausdal on its own. We hired Rev. Gilbert Almquist, a retired pastor. In the course of that year Pastor Almquist became ill and passed away. Pastor Quanbeck came back and served as our pastor until 1987. We then had several



Gausdal Lutheran Church

student pastors from the AFLC Seminary serving our congregation.

In 1986 we became affiliated with the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations and in 1988 we joined with Scandia Lutheran Church of Sedan, making it a two-point parish. That same year we called Rev. Richard Bartholomew as our pastor.

Gausdal Church will celebrate its centennial in 1991.

We are very happy to be affiliated with the AFLC. Being from the old Lutheran Free Church originally, this is like coming home again.

— Erwin Kalevik



The church interior in olden days

2. Stood we alone in our own might,
Our striving would be losing;

For us the one true Man doth fight,
The Man of God's own choosing.
Who is this chosen One?

'Tis Jesus Christ, the Son,

The Lord of hosts, 'tis He

Who wins the victory

In ev'ry field of battle.

3. And were the world with devils filled,

All watching to devour us,

Our souls to fear we need not yield,

They cannot over-power us;

Their dreaded prince no more

Can harm us as of yore;

His rage we can endure;

For lo! his doom is sure,

A word shall overthrow him.

4. Still they must leave God's word its might,

For which no thanks they merit;

Still He is with us in the fight,

With His good gifts and Spirit.

And should they, in the strife,

Take kindred goods and life,

We freely let them go,

They profit not the foe;

With us remains the kingdom.

— Martin Luther

PSALMS IN THE NIGHT

WMF BIBLE STUDY

OCTOBER 1989

PSALM 46

Memory Verse: "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble...Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."

(Psalm 46:1 and 10)

Purpose of the Psalm: Faith is the answer.

Notice the three divisions of the psalm as shown by the word "Selah."

Notice the use of the present tense — is— it is for us today.

This psalm is the basis for the majestic Reformation hymn by Martin Luther.

Part I — Verses 1 - 3

1. Define the word "refuge." _____

2. Who is our refuge and strength? _____

3. When does He help us? _____

4. Should we be fearful? _____ Why or why not? _____

5. Are these present day causes for fear? _____ Apply Genesis 1:2. _____

What does Psalm 93:3-4 say? _____

6. Can we say "Therefore we will not fear"? _____

Part II — Verses 4 - 7

1. What river is referred to in verse 4? _____

2. What is the "city of God"? _____

3. What nations raged? _____

4. What kingdoms were moved? _____

5. What happened to the wicked, in verse 6? _____

6. What assurance is found in verse 7? _____

Read Psalm 9:9 _____

7. Apply Joel 2:11 and 3:16. _____

Part III — Verses 8 - 11

1. What works of Jehovah are we to behold? _____

2. What do Psalm 66:5 and Psalm 76:3 say to us? _____

3. Notice the command in verse 10. The understood subject of the verb is *you*. What are we told to do? _____

Are we still? _____

Are we fretting? _____

Are we anxious? _____

Who is the Ruler over all? (Isaiah 2:11) _____

4. What do we have to fear? _____

*It is normal to fear, be anxious, to fret
about circumstances, but, as Christians,
we have the greatest refuge.
The world has nothing to offer!*

— Mrs. Amos Stolee

Hymn #239

A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
Our help is He in all our need,
Our stay, what-e'er doth happen;
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe:
Strong mail of craft and power
He weareth in this hour,
On earth is not his equal.

Our experience at Stanley

When I think of the Builder's Fellowship program, it takes me back to the beginning of the church at Stanley. I can remember the spring of 1981 when 20 or more people met in the Golden Acres Manor for the first time. Pastor Allen Monson from Tioga was there and there was this shorter quiet man with him. I really wondered who he was and what kind of job he had. Well, when Elden Nelson started telling us about the AFLC, I *knew* why he was the Director of Home Missions. We knew that the AFLC was just what we wanted and needed in our community.

After a few weeks we were having regular Sunday morning worship services in the Seventh Day Adventist Church. Then we were incorporated and selected our name. Pastors from sister congregations came for Sunday services. Then we met Gary Jorgenson, a seminarian. He came up from Minneapolis every other Sunday to serve our congregation. He stayed in the homes of some of the members. He stayed with us a couple times. And you know, he *still* accepted the call to be our pastor.

A steering committee was formed to find a building site. We purchased a lot, then a building. Where would we get the money for that? Home Missions was the answer. I was treasurer at that time and whenever we got a bill for lumber, electrician, plumber, or whatever, I'd send a letter to Home Missions and we'd get a check to cover the amount. We borrowed \$60,000 for the building. Then the furnishings. One family wanted this, another family wanted the other. We had many arguments and hurt feelings. Elden would come up, say a few words of good old common sense and soothe our ruffled feathers. He got us through so many stormy times.

We had the ground breaking ceremonies on Mother's Day, 1982. The first Sunday in September that year we had worship services in the new building. There had been a wedding in the church the night before. All the furniture, carpeting and tile had been pur-

chased by individuals. We did our own insulating and painting so that we wouldn't need to borrow more money from Home Missions. Elden visited us a few times over the years, like for the dedication of the building in 1982, for special meetings, and then on May 7, 1989, he came up for the burning of the mortgage. That was a joyous occasion.

If it weren't for the Home Missions department of the AFLC, I'm not sure that we would have our own building yet. We have been so thankful to them and their willingness to help us.

Not quite two years ago, I started receiving Social Security. (Alven, my husband, receives it, too. We call it our "cream checks" as we both grew up on farms and used to sell cream. The check came in the mail.) Anyway, about that time we heard of "Builders Fellowship." God just let me know that He wanted me to tithe some of my check to that. Every month I am so happy to send that \$17 in as I know Home Missions can use it as God

From a presentation made at the Builder's Fellowship Luncheon in Minot at the Annual Conference of the AFLC.

directs them.

There is such a great need for Bible-teaching churches all across our country right now. I urge any of you with a little extra cash to consider Builder's Fellowship. Let that money help other congregations to get started. God can use everyone of us to get His word to all the people. *Let Him use you!*
—Evelyn Ege

(Builders Fellowship is a program to gain support for the Home Mission Fund and Church Extension Fund. The goal is to secure 1000 concerned friends who will make a faith commitment to give \$17 per month for five years. When that goal is reached one becomes a member of Builders Fellowship. For more information, please contact the Home Missions Department of the AFLC, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minn. 55441.)

EXCERPTS FROM THE CONFERENCE REPORTS

Board of Trustees

Along with regular gifts from churches and individuals, our schools have also received legacies and bequests from thoughtful stewards. These gifts enable our schools to do some extra things beyond planned budget expenditures. One notable example is the financial aid to seminarians which comes from interest on a large estate given several years ago.

Rev. Kenneth D. Moland

Dean of the Seminary

Now as the Seminary celebrates its twenty-fifth year of God's faithfulness, there is need for a revival of the apostolic mandate to "do the work of an evangelist." It is one thing to ponder and prize the great message of the Gospel; it may be quite another thing to be actually engaged in proclaiming that wonderful Word "in season and out of season." Our world is in tremendous need. Its greatest need is to hear

the saving message of Jesus Christ. Most people will not darken the doors of our churches. They are reached through the daily opportunities afforded to every Christian. The pastor is given by Christ to the congregation who equips the members "for the work of ministry" (Eph. 4:12) and who exemplifies in his life the work of "an evangelist." May God help us to be true not only to the meaning of the Gospel but also to its ministry in the world. The fields are indeed "white unto harvest."

Dr. Francis W. Monseth

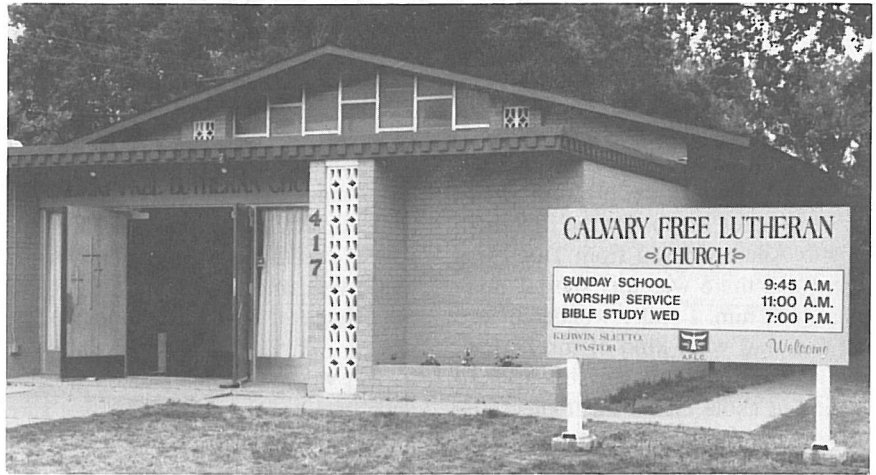
Dean of the Bible School

We thank God today for lives that are being molded by the Holy Spirit as the Word of God is taught, and learned, and applied to the personal life. The disciplining process is continuing as students come from all over the world to spend quality time in God's Word. The foundation that is being laid in

continued on p. 16

Bismarck, N. Dak.

Calvary Lutheran Church, Bismarck, N. Dak., Kerwin Sletto, pastor, held the dedication of their newly purchased, larger church building at 417 S. Anderson on July 9 at 4 o'clock. Pastor Allen Monson from Dickinson, N. Dak., led in Scripture and prayer while Pastor Robert Lee, vice-president of the AFLC, brought the dedication message from Matt. 16:18, reminding us that not only does our building need to be dedicated to the Lord, but also ourselves. The building is to be used as a tool to further the work of the Kingdom.



Calvary Free Lutheran Church

Sedan, Minn.

A patriotic service was held at Scandia Lutheran Church, rural Sedan, Minn., on July 23 at 10 a.m., along with Gausdal Lutheran of New London. Both churches are served by Rev. Richard Bartholomew. About 125 people were in attendance.

All the patriotic songs were sung and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A reading entitled "What is a Farmer" was read, giving tribute to all our past and present farmers. Scripture lessons were read. Pastor Bartholomew's sermon was based on "Blessed is the Nation Whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). America has been blessed as a nation, but do we need a turning back to God?

A potluck dinner was enjoyed by everyone, after which a softball game was played by young and old. At 1 o'clock a video entitled "America, You're Too Young to Die" was shown. A good day was had by all.

Mrs. Gary Gravely

COMING NEXT TIME

In the Sept. 19 *Ambassador* recognition will be given to the 25th anniversary of Association Free Lutheran Theological Seminary. There will be special articles for the occasion. Watch for that anniversary issue.

Fargo, N. Dak.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1603 N. Fifth St., Fargo, N. Dak., celebrated 25 years of work in God's kingdom on Sun., June 11. The church's pastor, David C. Molstre, led the morning service at which Rev. John P. Strand, a former pastor, preached the sermon. Former pastor Terry Olson and his wife sang a duet. A catered dinner was served at noon to a large congregation.

In the afternoon service, the first

Wallace, S. Dak.

Rev. Jasper Swenson, Fergus Falls, Minn., a former pastor, was the featured speaker at the 75th anniversary of Calvary Lutheran church in Wallace, S. Dak., Sun., June 25. Calvary is served by Rev. Ted Berkas.

Members 75 years and older were honored at the festivities. Mrs. Horace Kasin, who has been organist for 36 years, received a plaque.

Calvary was organized in 1914 with Rev. H. M. Hemmingson as the first pastor. The church was built that same year. Various additions and renovations have taken place through the years. Three sons of the congregation have become pastors: LeRoy Anenson, Ernest Kasin and James Tofte, the latter deceased.

Calvary, begun under the Lutheran Free Church, became affiliated with the AFLC in 1972, with Rev. Larry Severson as pastor.

pastor at St. Paul's, Rev. John Abel, led the program and he and his wife sang a duet. A fourth former pastor of the church, Rev. Philip Haugen, brought the message. Among the greetings were ones by Mr. Don Berge, president of the congregation and Rev. Raynard Huglen, who once gave eight months of interim service.

St. Paul's has hosted AFLC annual conferences in 1963, 1967 and 1977.

Roseau, Minn.



Rev. Reuben Unseth, right, who finished seminary this spring, was installed as pastor of Norland and Roseau Lutheran Churches, in Roseau, Minn., on June 11, by Rev. Richard Snipstead, president of the AFLC, also shown. A potluck dinner was served at Roseau Lutheran in the new pastor's honor. Mrs. Unseth was in the hospital where she had given birth to a lovely baby boy the day before. Congratulations.

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

Ishpeming, Mich.

The week of July 24th through 28th was the week of Vacation Bible School at Hope Lutheran Church, Ishpeming, Mich. The theme for the week was "Champions for Jesus." A team of four young adults from our Association Bible School shared the week. They were Sonja Dahl, Becky Nikunen, Jon Heideman and Glen Quanbeck. The Lord blessed the week through the witness of the team and the study and memorization of God's Word. Superintendent for the week was Elaine Eliason.

Chillicothe, Ill.

Forty-four children from three years through sixth grade participated in this year's VBS at the homes of Jack Dawson and Pastor Richard Long during the week of June 26. The themes for the programs were "Jesus Is" and "The Wordless Book." Special assistance was provided during the week by Cara and Susan from Child Evangelism Fellowship in Peoria and from Bob and Harriet See who are home on furlough from their work with the Language Institute for Evangelism (L.I.F.E.) in Japan. Other staff members included Deni Dawson, Elaine and Michael Sommer, Sharon Craig, Kim Oathout, Carol Berger, Carol and Jodi Turner, and Pastor and Mrs. (Barb) Long.

IN MEMORIAM

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

SOUTH DAKOTA

Waubay

Jeffrey Berger, 18, June 14, Ortle Lutheran.

WASHINGTON

Everett

Harold C. Mickelson, 82, July 22, Calvary.

Personalities

Rev. Walter E. Beaman has resigned his pastorate at Bethany Lutheran Church, rural Sebeka, Minn., where he has served since 1987, and will assume duties at Living Word Lutheran, Edmore, N. Dak., and Zoar Lutheran, Hampden, N. Dak., on Oct. 1. Pastor and Mrs. Beaman will make their home in Edmore.

Dr. Walter Martin, Irvine, Calif., a leading authority on comparative religion and president of the Christian Research Institute, died on June 26. Dr. Martin, author of *Kingdom of the Cults*, was a guest lecturer at the AFLTS summer institute in 1984.

Rev. Lynn Kinneberg, pastor at Zion Lutheran, Wadena, Minn., since 1987, has accepted a call to serve Maple Bay Lutheran, Mentor, Minn., and will take up his work there on Oct. 1. Pastor Kinneberg also served Zion for a time as a student.

Rev. Philip Rokke has resigned as pastor of United Lutheran, Greenbush, Minn., to accept a call to serve Trinity Lutheran, Minnewaukan, N. Dak., and Antiochia, Lutheran, Churchs Ferry, N. Dak., and will begin his ministry there around Nov. 1. Pastor Rokke has been pastor in Greenbush since 1986.

DISTRICT PASTORS MET IN SIOUX FALLS

The South Dakota-Nebraska District pastors met in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., on Fri., July 7, for a time of fellowship and prayer. The pastors also discussed upcoming services and events in the various congregations and agreed to print a district calendar of events to be used for prayer reminders and information. In addition, possible projects and events that would encourage greater interest among the congregations were discussed.

A second meeting of the pastors was held on Aug. 9 in Bruce, S. Dak.

Corr.

PASTOR LEE RESIGNS AS ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rev. Robert L. Lee resigned as assistant editor of *The Lutheran Ambassador* effective Sept. 1. He had served in that capacity since Oct. 1, 1988.

He will continue to supply the *Ambassador* with some news items about AFLC congregations and pastors to the end of this year. The next *Ambassador* will carry a story he wrote this summer about Abiding Word Ministries, David R. Barnhart, Director.

In a later development, unrelated to the first, Pastor Lee has resigned as a teacher in the AFLC Schools effective at the end of the calendar year, and has accepted a call to become pastor of Helmar Lutheran Church, Newark, Ill., at that time.

Pastor Lee has been at the Schools since 1979. Before that he served parishes at Tioga and Valley City, N. Dak. He and his wife Gloria have a son, Adam, and a daughter, Amy.

Pastor Lee is vice-president of the AFLC.

We thank him for the service he has given the *Ambassador* during the past year and for that which we know he will give in the future even though not a staff member.

The Editor



Rev. and Mrs. Laurel Udden celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary with family and friends at a brunch following the worship service at Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minn., on Sunday, June 25th.

A visit to Fort Jackson

Fort Jackson borders the city of Columbia, which is the capital of South Carolina, and is about in the middle of the state. There are approximately 15,000 soldiers in basic and advanced training, plus a training staff of 1,000 personnel. There are 11 chapels and 21 chaplains on the post.

Chaplain Mark Antal has his office at the Anderson Street Chapel. Two other chaplains also have offices there. These Chaplains are responsible for the spiritual ministry of the 187th Ordinance Battalion, approximately 5,000 soldiers. Chaplain Antal spends much of his time counselling soldiers as they come to his office. He leads a Bible study group at 11 on Sunday mornings.

One of the chapels, Memorial Chapel, has a Lutheran worship service every Sunday morning at 8:30. Mark has the additional duty of conducting this service each week. With his duties at both the Anderson Street Chapel and Memorial Chapel, Sunday morning proves to be a very busy time for him.

It was my privilege to bring the message at the Lutheran service on Sunday, July 9, while Mark led the service. It so happens that this time of the year is the peak time for army enlistments. A large number of newly enlisted soldiers had recently come to Fort Jackson. This increased the attendance on this particular Sunday to more than average. There were 149 soldiers present. Needless to say, I was thrilled at the opportunity to share God's Word with such a large group. My sermon text was Mark 8:34-38, where Jesus says, "Whosoever will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." In my message I compared the life of a soldier to that of a Christian engaged in a warfare against sin and evil.

On the morning of July 11, Mark and I attended a graduation ceremony of a class of about 30 soldiers of his battalion who had been in special training for a number of weeks. Some of the parents of the graduates drove a long distance in order to be there. It was an impressive ceremony. Chaplain Antal gave the invocation prayer and

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

Second-class

CONFERENCE

their lives is preparing them to be active in the world-wide harvest of souls.

Rev. Donald Greven
AFLBS Alumni Association Director

On behalf of the Alumni Association, I would like to take this time to express our heartfelt thanks for the vision and wisdom you as an Association of Free Lutheran Congregations had in starting a Bible School. The number of students who have attended the school now numbers over 1,000. We thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement in seeing God's Word planted in hearts and lives.

Lynelle Hartman
World Missions Director

On one occasion, I was told that the reason a particular gift was being designated to another mission was because it was a faith mission, whereas our missionaries are supported out of the church's budget. Our AFLC, in all

of its work and all of its various areas of ministry, not only World Missions, is just as much a faith mission as those that are identified as such. We are totally dependent upon God's people, the members of the congregations of the AFLC, to provide by faith those funds that we would use to carry on the mutual work of our Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

Rev. Eugene Enderlein
Commission on Evangelism

The main thrust of evangelism still lies in the local congregation. Evangelism is not completed within any local congregation after a few days of special meetings. The congregations are the laborers that Jesus Christ is pleading for in this verse (Luke 10:2) of Scripture. The harvest is plentiful and much will be lost without the endeavor of the local congregation in evangelism.

Pastor Lyle Twite
Chairman

the benediction. The Battalion Commander, a colonel, in his greeting gave reference to something which Mark said in his prayer. After the ceremony Mark introduced me to the colonel. I felt honored to be at this graduation exercise and for my son-in-law's part in it. One of Chaplain Antal's duties is to take part in these ceremonies which are held frequently as different classes become ready for graduation.

— *By Rev. Gerald F. Mundfrom*
Osceola, Wis.



Memorial Chapel