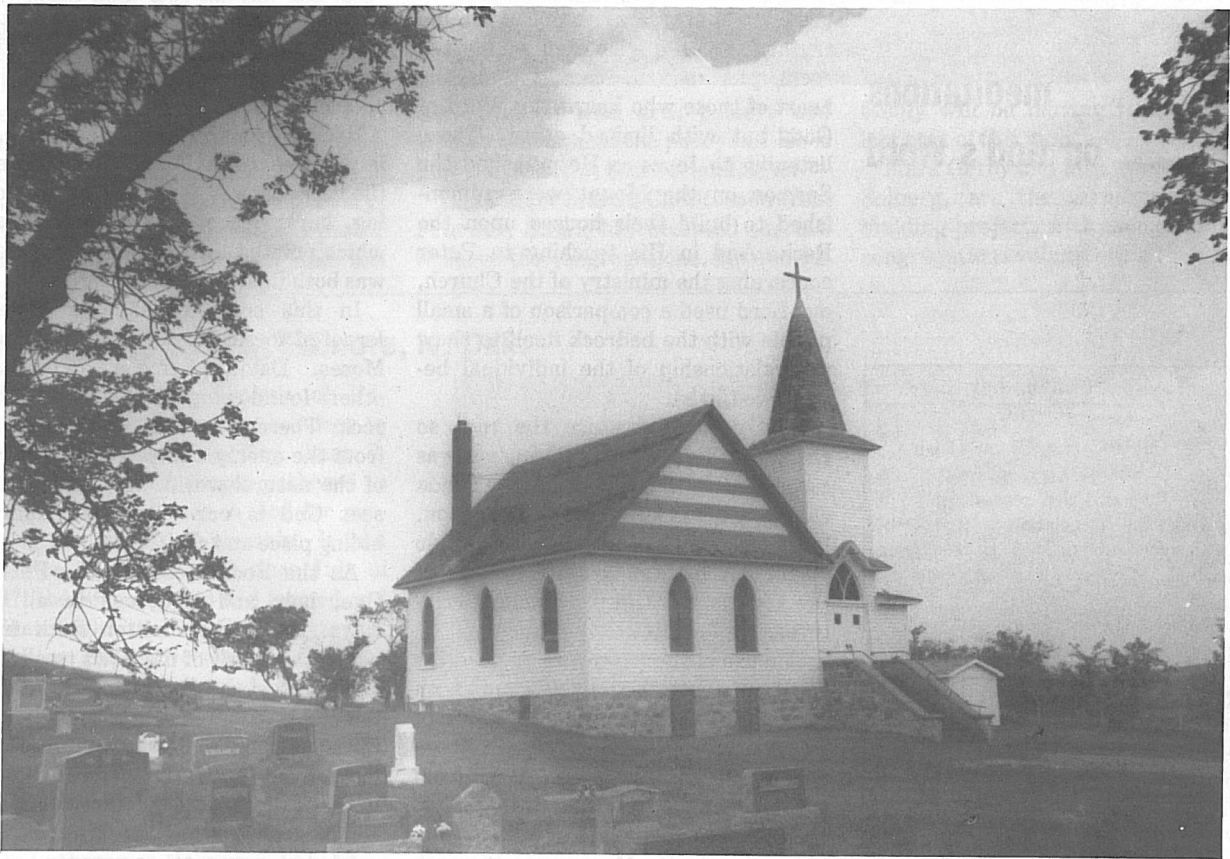


THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

September 6, 1988



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LIGHT on the WAY

meditations on God's Word

Volume 26 Number 16

THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

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The Rock, my hiding place

Deuteronomy 32:4, 15, 18, 30-31, 37, 39-40

*"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee."*

Can you remember the first time you heard the words of this well-beloved Gospel hymn? Probably not, as for most of us this hymn was simply a "given" of our childhood experience. But have you ever asked yourself why God has chosen to use the *rock* to reveal His unchangeable attributes to man?

In the New Testament the rock was used to illustrate many spiritual truths. The seed which fell among the rocks pictured the condition of the heart of those who heard the Word of God, but with limited effect. Those listening to Jesus as He preached the Sermon on the Mount were admonished to build their houses upon the Rock. And in His teaching to Peter concerning the ministry of the Church, our Lord used a comparison of a small pebble with the bedrock itself to show the relationship of the individual believer to Christ.

Why could Jesus use the rock so readily in His teaching? Because it was associated with so many common events of life. There is another reason, however. Many of the Jewish people would also be familiar with the use of the rock in the Old Testament Scriptures.

The use of the word rock to describe spiritual truth actually began with Moses. On the rocks of Sinai the Law of God was given. In the rock-cleft, Moses was hidden. Water gushed forth from the smitten rock. How fitting it is, then, that in this chapter written just before his death, Moses uses the rock (at least five times), to teach that God is the only true God and that there is no god besides Him.

Rocks were used to identify boundaries, landmarks, weights and special events. Such rocks were immovable and therefore totally reliable. Therefore, the rock speaks of God's perfection, justice and righteousness (v. 4).

Sacrifices were also offered on altars built of stone. Here prayers of confession were offered, sin was forgiven and communion with God was established.

So when Israel turned to idols, Moses could accurately say that the people had scorned the Rock of their salvation (v. 15).

Israel, as a holy people of God, came into existence when God established His covenant with them by writing the Law on tables of stone. God, the Rock, gave birth to a nation from which the Savior would come (v. 18). Remember that it was on another rock with the appearance of a skull that the sacrifice was made to assure the birth of a people of grace.

Rocks were also used in warfare, as in the case of David and Goliath. Here the rock, as was also the case in stoning, became a symbol of punishment which pointed to God whose judgment was both final and just.

In this song Moses also accuses Israel of forsaking the rock of refuge. Moses, David, Samson and many others found refuge in the caves of the rock. There one could find protection from the enemy and the hostile forces of the natural world. In this case one sees God is our Rock, our refuge, hiding place and shelter.

As the Rock, Jesus is the Perfect One, holy and righteous in all His ways. He is the Smitten Rock from whom the Spirit of life flows to all who drink. He is the Stumbling Stone and the Rock of Offense. To unbelievers, Christ is the Crushing Stone of Judgment. And to the believer He is the Rock of Refuge to protect from the enemies of the soul. In Him we can safely hide.



by Pastor
Ralph Tjelta

A SALVATION THAT WORKS

Philippians 2:12, 13

What the world needs now, much more than ever before in our recent history, is evidence of a salvation that works. Why? Because within a one-year period we have heard not of just one isolated case, but we have heard of quite a few TV evangelists and other Christian leaders who have fallen into sexual sin. And their followers, let alone the world, are asking, "If it does not work for them, how can we expect it to work for us?"

Salvation means deliverance, a deliverance from sin. Does this deliverance only mean a deliverance from the penalty of sin that was accomplished 1955 years ago when Jesus died in our place upon the cross, as great as that is? Or does it mean only that future deliverance, when some day we are delivered from this wicked world and into that holy heaven? Or does it also include a present daily deliverance from the power of sin in the life of a Christian? The seeker wants to know. The doubter needs to know. The believer must know, because it shows what he knows.

In Phil. 2:12, 13, Paul talks about a salvation that works. In these two verses he uses the word "work" three times. But before we discuss that, and lest we be misled into some kind of works righteousness, let us consider the previous context where Paul reminds us of the salvation that has been wrought.

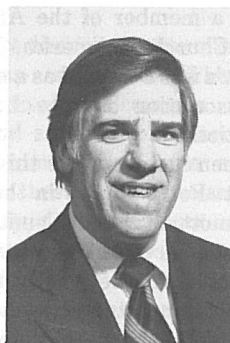
The Salvation Wrought

This is suggested by the words "so then" (NASB), as we begin verse 12. These words tie the text back to 1:27 where Paul says "conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ." But Paul, in the intervening verses, must talk about Christ and what He has wrought. (I like that Paul, don't you? He is always taking us back to Christ. He can't help himself. Can you help talking about Christ?)

In these verses, 2:5-11, Paul must remind us that our salvation was wrought by Christ Jesus, who was God incarnate, who humbled Himself by becoming a man, who was obedient even to death on a cross, but who is exalted above all, and who should be worshiped by all. In passing, let us note that we are called also to have a humble attitude like Christ, v. 5. We learn here that humbleness is not the opposite of pride, because Christ was not proud, for He was without sin, and pride tops the list of sin in Prov. 6:16. To be humble like Christ is to stoop down to save somebody less than yourself. To be humble is to give up your rights to help even the

**sin shall
not have
dominion**

**"The seeker
wants to
know. The
doubter
wants to
know. The
believer
must know..."**



by Pastor James C.
Gerdeen
Chassell, Mich.

undeserving. How strange this sounds in today's society where everyone is taught to demand his own rights.

A Savior That Loves

"So then, my *beloved*..." You are loved, you are loved! A lonely suicidal world needs to know that. Tell others John 3:16. Permit a play on words. Beloved, let yourself *be loved* by Christ. Also permit yourself to be loved with "agape love," the love of commitment, by other Christians. Paul says, literally, "beloved of me." Let us show Christian love. It hurts to hear of disputes between Christians and of church fights. Does this help our witness? May it be said of us as it was of those early disciples, "See how they love one another." It's a salvation that loves from a Savior who loves.

A Salvation That Works

Earlier, we asked if this salvation really works in our daily lives? Yes, it does. We call it the sanctified life. In the AFLC, we call it Christian piety, not a self-piety, not a pretend piety, but a Christian piety. Yes, it works, but how? In what ways does this salvation manifest itself and work that daily deliverance?

First of all, it shows in our obedience. Paul says, in vs. 12, "just as you have always obeyed . . . but now much more . . ." What had Jesus said? "If you love *Me*, keep my commandments." This obedience is evident not only when the boss is looking, not only when Mom and Dad are around, but also when they are absent, for as the text reads, "you have always obeyed, not as in my *presence only*, but now *much more* in my *absence* . . ." This obedience is not motivated by the presence of an earthly human authority, but is evidently *much more* motivated by a higher authority and a superior presence.

Children, is your hand in the cookie jar when Mother is not looking? Christians, how about our private lives? How many skeletons are in our closets? Pastors, is there fire in your eyes on Sunday, but lust in your eyes on Monday? Do we only repent when we are caught, but not live daily as those who are bought? "For you have been *bought*...therefore glorify God in your body" by "fleeing immorality" (I Cor. 6:20, 18). How can we carelessly sin and hurt the Savior who paid such a great price for us — who loves us so?

Second, it is also a salvation that works in the sense that we are called upon to "work out (our) salvation with fear and trembling..." This is not



WORKS

a works righteousness. We are to *work out* (sanctification) what God has *worked in* (salvation). "For it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure." We are saved by the free gift of grace and faith, Eph. 2:8, 9, but following that the next verse says "we are His workmanship created in Christ Jesus for good works . . ." As Luther has said, the only good works we do are the works Christ does through us. Our own self-righteousness is as "filthy rags."

If we are able to work out what God works in (v. 13, note the continual present sense), then it depends on our daily spiritual input. Output depends on input. It is true for computers ("garbage in, garbage out"), it is true for rivers, it is true for business, and it is true in our spiritual lives. God talks to us through His Word. That is our source of input.

Thirdly, not only does God work *in* us, but God creates in us the *will* to work for His good pleasure, v. 13. How do we know we are saved? How can we inwardly sense that assurance? It is in answer to this question, "Is there a will to work?" i.e. "Is there a desire to please God?"

It is a salvation that works for the pleasure of God.

In closing, let us address the comment I am sure we have all heard, especially if we are

"Do we only repent when we are caught, but not live daily as those who are bought?"

pastors or lay evangelists. "I tried it, and it didn't work for me." Have you heard that comment before? I have heard it from the young person who made a commitment to Christ, but after a little ridicule from worldly friends has backslid. I have heard it implied even by older Christians who have served Christ for many years, but then problems arise that lead them to doubt.

Let's examine that comment. "I tried *it*..." It is not "*it*." Have you tried *Him*? "It didn't work *for me*." That's the real problem. It is not "*for me*." It must be *for Him, for HIM, FOR HIM!* Have you yielded control to Him? Have you prayed that song you sing, "Mold me and make me after Thy will, while I am yielded, waiting and still?" The Bible says all things work out to the good "*to those who love God and are called according to His purpose*." Believe that.

Let us close with a comment by a black pastor, E. Hill, whose sermon was broadcast on Dr. James Dobson's radio program recently. Speaking at his own wife's funeral, who had died prematurely of cancer, he closed his sermon in a crescendo saying, "Trust Him! *Trust Him!! TRUST HIM!!! TRUST HIM!!!!*"

It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.

He is a Savior who works! Praise Jesus! Thank You, Lord!

Introducing new AFLC congregations

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is located in Argyle, Minnesota, and is now in its 90th year. The church was formally incorporated on December 11, 1898. Before the congregation was formally organized, itinerant Lutheran ministers held services at Argyle from time to time. There are no records of these meetings available, but some of the older residents of Argyle recall hearing that the Rev. E. L. Aas held a number of meetings in Argyle during the 1880s. The name chosen at the time of incorporation was Our Savior's Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. At first services were in the Norwegian language, but English was gradually incorporated and since about 1924 has been used exclusively.

The church was recognized as a member of the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America in 1923. Later it

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Argyle, Minn.

was a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and in January of 1961, it became a member of the American Lutheran Church of America. In 1987 Our Savior's was accepted as a member of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

It has been customary for this church and the St. Petri Church in the township of Sinnott, Marshall County, Minnesota, to be served by the same pastor as First Lutheran Church of Stephen, Minnesota. However, in January of 1971, connections with the Stephen parish were terminated and Our Savior's was then served by its own resident pastor. In 1988 parish



Our Savior's Lutheran

arrangements were made with Alma Lutheran Church of rural Argyle, and both churches are now served by Rev. Milo Gudim.

Land for the building of the present church was purchased on January 30, 1899, and a frame building was erected in 1901. A full basement, financed by

cont. on p. 7

Zion of Green Township celebrates centennial

Under the general theme of "Remembering," Zion Lutheran Church of Green Township, Valley City, N. Dak., observed the centennial of its founding in festivities July 9 and 10. Rev. Terry Olson is pastor of the congregation.

"Remembering God's Faithfulness" was the focus of attention at the first service on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Richard Hager extended the welcome on the part of Zion. The messages were brought by former pastors Donald Ronning, Fargo, N. Dak., and Robert Lee, Minneapolis, Minn. Special music was by Lynn Wilson, seminary intern during the previous year, and Tim and Becky Hager. The present intern, Jon Benson, closed with prayer.

That evening, under the theme "Remembering God in Song," the assembly heard Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, Minn., son of former pastor Fritjof Monseth, and Rev. John Rieth, Amery, Wis., son of the congregation, each speak and sing a solo. Other music was by Greg and Mary Svenningsen, Kenneth Welken, Jr., Agnes Hass, Vance Olson and Mrs. Curtis Emerson, wife of a former pastor of Zion.

Zion was honored by the presence of the president of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, Rev. Richard Snipstead, on Sunday morning and he brought the sermon under the topic "Remembering God in Worship." The special music was by the Sunday School children and Inez Olson. Three hundred people were in attendance.

At the closing service on Sunday at 2 o'clock, Rev. Robert Rieth, Seattle, Wash., a son of Zion, and Rev. Curtis Emerson, St. Cloud, Minn., former pastor, brought the messages. The special music numbers were by Leonard Wilken, Jan Kjelland and Tim Berntson. Pastor Olson closed the centennial with prayer and the benediction.

A 40 x 40 foot tent held the overflow for the services. Average attendance for the afternoon and evening services was 200. Good weather prevailed for the weekend.

Brief History

On July 20, 1888, some of the Norwegian and Swedish settlers west of Valley City, interested in organizing a Lutheran congregation, called a meeting to be held at the Wedin Schoolhouse in Hobart Township. It was the first step in the formation of what is now Zion Lutheran Church of Green Township.

After organizing and up to the year 1902 the congregation met for worship in the Ole Anderson schoolhouse, in the Widen schoolhouse and also in the schoolhouse by the Isak Jacobson farm in Green Township. Often services were held in the homes of the various members. The people were not satisfied with such meeting places and so in the year 1902 decided to build a church. In the year 1903 the church was built at a total cost of \$1,203.07. The church was incorporated under the name of "Zion's Lutherske Fri Kirke i town av Green." In the year of 1919 the church was moved to its present location and a basement was included.

In 1939 the 50th Anniversary was celebrated and participating in the festivities were: Rev. R. Larson, Rev. L. M. Halling and Rev. E. S. Solheim. It was at this time electric lights were installed in the church.

In 1956, Andrew Modahl was in charge of renovating the church building with the help of church members. In 1976 men of the congregation paneled the inside of the church and laid the carpeting in the church proper, hall and the basement steps. There have been further improvements over the last couple of years in preparation for the 100th Anniversary.

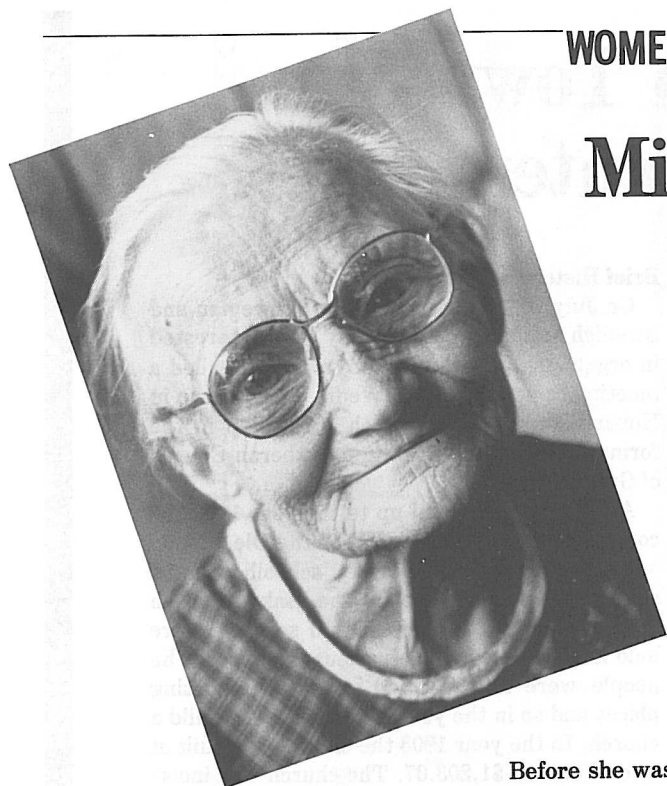
Former pastors of Zion Congregation are L. M. Halling, 1894-1911, E. S. Solheim, 1912-23, Clarence Framstad, 1923-44, Donald Ronning, 1944-53, Fritjof Monseth, 1954-68, Harry C. Molstre, 1969-72, Robert Lee, 1972-79, Curtis Emerson, 1980-86, and present pastor Terry Olson, since 1986. The church has also had three interns.

The location of the church is ten miles southwest of Valley City. Zion has been a member of the AFLC since the beginning of the latter.

(Next time: Rose Lutheran Church, Roseau, Minn.)

Remembering God's faithfulness

Miracles of protection



It was quiet, lush, rolling countryside near Tilsit, East Prussia, in 1902. These industrious German farmers and townspeople were relatively unaware of the turmoil brewing just east of them in Russia where Lenin was propagating Marxism. Germany's own Kaiser Wilhelm II had been ruling with increasing militarism since 1888. Dinner conversations in those German Lutheran homes were more apt to be about Spener, Francke, Zinzendorf and other church fathers, than the growing imperialistic rivalries, Marxist radicals and entangling alliances.

It was in these peaceful hills that a baby girl named Ruth was born. As did all the farming families, Ruth's mother took her children to the fields while she worked. Now over 80 years later, Ruth recalls, "My mother taught me the Word of God while she worked in the fields. She always said, 'Don't forget to pray for the Holy Spirit to teach you and help you.' What I learned as a child I will never forget." As a four-year-old girl, Ruth experienced something "I can never, never forget... I saw Him, the nail-pierced hands... like Jesus came to me to bless me. I knew then that God had a special plan for me and, oh, how He has protected me throughout my life."

Before she was 12 and World War I broke out, Ruth saw great revivals throughout the countryside. Thousands were saved, many of whom were to die in the war, including Ruth's two brothers. When the war was over spiritual life became lukewarm. She sadly recounted, "Seemed like nobody remembered to thank God. Maybe Hitler was used to chasten us..."

While Nazism and Communism were increasing on both sides of those East Prussian hills, a romance was also developing. Fred and Ruth Paulat were married on July 4, 1930. To this godly home, nine children were to be born, three of whom would die as young children. The young parents increased their Bible training at home as they saw their government-supported church rapidly decline. Fred's railroad

job provided him with fresh news of the world and their own disturbing dictator named Hitler.

By 1940, men were off to the army and Fred was forced to work at the railroad station continuously without any breaks to return to his family. World War II was raging and Ruth was to face it alone with her children.

The next years were filled with miracles of protection for the Paulat family. Fred was captured twice by the Russians and twice he escaped. One day he was walking down a street with a companion. A bomb dropped nearby. The friend was killed, but Fred was only shaken as he was thrown against a wall.

At home Ruth and her children experienced constant bombardment. Ruth explained, "I know it was only special protection from God. Streets and houses around us were burning daily and none of us even got a little finger burned nor was a shingle on our house singed. The Lord amazed us with ways in which He provided food." The stories can go on and on from this saintly lady.

Their faith and trust in God's ability to preserve them was tested to the last

Brooten and Paynesville to host rally, retreat

The Southwest Central Minnesota District WMF will have their Fall Rally October 4 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Brooten, Minn. The district will also have a Ladies Retreat, Oct. 28-29 at the Lake Koronis Assembly Grounds, Paynesville, Minn. An interesting program is being planned.

Women's Missionary Federation

In memoriam gifts

John Sundhagen, Tioga, N. Dak.
Albert Besserud, Roseau, Minn.
Carl Lalim, Tioga, N. Dak.
Stella Stenslie, McVie, N. Dak.
John Ramse, McIntosh, Minn.
Clida Moan, McIntosh, Minn.
Carrie Martin, Chamberlain, S. Dak.
Eleanor Harstad Lewis, Cummings, N. Dak.

*Blessed are
those who die
in the Lord*



moment of their flight to freedom in 1945. Fred had notified his family to be ready to jump on a cattle car at 3 o'clock one morning. The Russians were quickly moving in and Fred knew this was the last train to leave for the West. As that train crossed the Oder River, the train violently shook as the bridge was blown up immediately behind them. Ruth had no knowledge whether or not her husband also was safely across. "We stayed close to the main railroad because we had to have faith that Papa would eventually show up. And he did!" smiled Ruth.

It has been over 40 years ago, but her thoughts and prayers often turn to East Prussia. Ruth believes Luther's warning has come true in her lifetime. "He said the Germans 'must be careful to care for the Word. You won't have it forever.' And now today most teenagers on the street would not know who Jesus is. It's sad to see our country go down and down."



After a long pause, Ruth smiled and declared as she often does, "I love Him so much." And if you were to visit with her today, you would know that to be so very true, even if she never said it.

—Solweig Hjermstad

(Ed. note: Ruth Paulat now resides at the Concordia Arms in Maplewood, Minn., and attends Victory in Christ Lutheran Church in Maplewood.)

Mrs. Burton Rygh passed away

Funeral services for A. Gladys Rygh, 69, wife of retired lay pastor Burton Rygh, Roseau, Minn., were held on August 3 at the Evangelical Covenant Church, Roseau. The service was conducted by AFLC Pastors Larry Severson and Forrest Swenson. Burial was in the Mickinock Cemetery, Wannaska, Minn. Pallbearers were Duane Carlson, Allan Carlson, Kenneth Rygh, Tim Rygh, Mark Rygh and Jamie Gunderson.

Mrs. Rygh died on July 30 in United Hospital, Grand Forks, N. Dak.

She was born on Nov. 10, 1918, at Chandler, N. Dak., to Mary and Alex B. Olson. She moved with her parents to Malung, Minn., where she attended school. On March 27, 1943, she was united in marriage to Burton Rygh at Wannaska. They were dairy farmers for many years. He was also a lay preacher for many years and in 1977 became lay pastor of United Lutheran Church in Greenbush, Minn., until retiring in 1985, when they moved to Roseau.

Gladys Rygh is survived by her husband; two sons, Paul, Grand Rapids, Minn., and Marvin, Grand Forks; two daughters, Joanne, Mrs. Bruce Gunderson, Karlstad, Minn., and Naomi, Mrs. Bob Ruud, Roseau; ten grandchildren; two brothers, Melvin, Phoenix, Ariz., and Elmer, Sun City, Calif.; and three sisters, Millie, Mrs. Bob Carlson, Minneapolis, Minn., Alice Skoien, San Diego, Calif., and Myrtle Bjur, Minneapolis.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a sister, Amy, and a brother, Leslie.

—Based on the obituary in the Roseau *Times-Region*

(Ed. note: Mrs. Rygh had a winsome Christian personality and a pleasant smile for everyone. She was a blessing in home and congregation.)

ARGYLE

the Ladies Aid group, was added in 1924 or 1925. In 1949 there was an extensive remodeling of the basement. In 1960 the interior of the church was completely remodeled and the new entry was added in 1973.

The present parsonage building is located one block east of the church and was purchased in 1959. A large addition to the parsonage was completed in 1980.

The pastors who have served Our Savior's are: L. M. Skunes, 1895-00; Sigurd Olsen, 1901-08; T. A. Mason,

1908-11; P. F. Kjolraug 1911-15; G. Storaasli, 1915-17; C. E. Hanson, 1918-20; H. K. Narum, 1922-23; A. E. Hanson, 1924-27; John Skepstad, 1927-36; L. M. Larson, 1937-47; A. W. Sorenson, 1948-56; I. Murray Johnson, 1957-63; Intern John Rockne, 1958-59; James McCalmant, 1959-60; Intern Norris Hanson, 1960-61; Lane Doerring, 1961-66; James Adix, 1964-65; L. A. Stavness, 1965-76; Charles Knorr, 1967-70; James Sonnenberg, 1971-72; Gerald Bubolz, 1972-78; Douglas Reitsch, 1978-82; and Milo Gudim, 1983- .



The parsonage.

In memoriam

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

ILLINOIS

Joliet

Mrs. Harvey (Shirley) Hansen, 59, July 22, Bethlehem, Morris.

MINNESOTA

Roseau

Clara Halvorson, 76, July 23, Rose.

NORTH DAKOTA

Osnabrock

Mrs. Andrew (Emma) Aune, 97, April 20, Aadalen, Fairdale.

Serving the Lord

by Mrs. Dennis (Ceta) Rude
Lake Alma, Sask.

What now, Lord?

As I write this it is the fourth of August. Already the hot summer winds have dried the leaves on the trees so that they are sparse and yellowed. The grass is bleached white and harvest, such as it is, has come. However, I looked closely and found new tree buds waiting for winter's sleep and spring sun to stir them into life. The trees will try again.

The "greenhouse effect" takes over much of the conversation in this area. The record heat of spring and summer seems to confirm the reports. It wouldn't be strange to hear of outbreaks of anxiety attacks. One of the reasons people keep so busy, perhaps, is to hide from the reality of failing crops, gathering war clouds and warnings of encroaching deserts.

Mankind seems incapable of halting the pollution of Earth's atmosphere, which in turn weakens the protective ozone layer allowing harmful sun rays to enter and be captured, causing the unusual heating effect. Just so, human beings seem incapable of stopping wars, terrorism and crime. It is almost as though we have thrown up our hands and cried, "What can I do but nothing?" So the slender cords of law and order disintegrate to the breaking point, while air and water slowly become unfit to use.

Governments around the world appear more concerned with staying in office than in facing the issues that are really going to affect our future safety. Undemocratic governments use their energy to gain control over more countries so that they can provide at least the bare essentials for their own. And the Word commands us to pray not only for wise and perfect governments, but for those in authority.

More than ever, we need to walk by faith. If God is still on His throne, our lives are still in His hands. Instead of running from the issues and throwing ourselves wholeheartedly into busy pursuits, we are to look up to the Father and say, "What now, Father? Where do we go from here?"

Perhaps the Father would say, "Trust in Me with all your might. Lean not upon your own understanding. Acknowledge Me in all your ways and I will direct your path" (Prov. 3:5, 6).

Perhaps He would remind us, "You are My servant. I have chosen you and not rejected you. Do not fear for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:9b-10 NAS).

More than ever the Christian needs to know not only that he is saved, but that he is yielded body and soul to the Master.

Luther says we must daily drown our old self in sorrow and repentance. One way to do this is to commit ourselves to the Father, saying, "Take my life, body, soul and spirit and do with me what You see fit today."

We need not be anxious, for if we have consciously placed ourselves in the Father's care and offered ourselves up to His wise will, we may lean upon Him for the strength and guidance to live in a weary world.

A woman once asked her husband as they watched hundreds of people on television come forward at a Billy Graham crusade, "We hear of all these conversions at all the crusades in America and all over the world. Where

is the evidence of all this Christianity?" The husband answered, "If these Christians were no longer here, you would soon be able to tell how much influence they had."

We are the salt of the earth, not by being constantly aware of it but by letting God be in control of our lives. If someone were to ask what is the center of Christianity, I would answer, "Jesus is the center and all that He demands of us as we obey His Word is that we learn to lean more fully upon His daily power and grace, upon His finished work."

I can become quite agitated dwelling on my failures as a Christian. People die and I have not pointed them to Christ. In our towns and cities are people lost and afraid and I have not found them to bring them the Good News. I am often wrapped in my own business with barely enough time left over to pray and meditate.

But when I sit down and ask God to take every desire, every hurt, every selfish thought and bring it under His control, I am filled with peace. For the day is not mine but His and all that He brings to it is from Him. I am learning to know the blessed promise of Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee: because he trusteth in Thee" (KJV).

Personalities

Rev. Kerwin Sletto, who has served the Buxton, N. Dak., parish (Ny Stavanger and Valley) since 1983, has resigned in order to accept the call to Calvary Lutheran Church in Bismarck, N. Dak. He will be taking up his work there shortly.

Miss Rachel Mundfrom of Lutheran Bible Translators and who is studying the French language in St. Martin d'Heres, France, reports that she will be continuing those studies until the end of the year before going to Africa, where she will begin her translation work.

New home address of **Rev. Elden Nelson**, executive director of Home Missions, is 8616 40th Ave. No., Minneapolis, Minn. 55427. Telephone number is 541-1873. His office continues to be at the Medicine Lake Blvd. address.

Also, please note this new address for **Rev. Stephen Odegaard**, who serves the rural Tioga, N. Dak., parish (Beaver Creek and Norman): 109 North Torning, Tioga, N. Dak. 58852.

Lay Pastor Gene Sundby, AFLC co-ordinator in Canada, suffered a heart attack in a hospital in Saskatoon, Sask., on June 20. He is gaining strength and continues his recuperation at his home in Outlook, Sask.

GOOD IDEA

An interesting resolution which was passed at the Annual Conference in June in DeKalb, Ill., has perhaps not received much attention. We haven't mentioned it, at any rate. It is No. 18 under the report of Committee No. 1:

"Whereas, through the years many resolutions have been made, Be it resolved, that a committee be formed to collate the resolutions that we are operating under since 1962 and that this be kept up to date."

The resolution isn't worded in the best way, but the meaning is clear. Since the beginning of the AFLC, literally hundreds of resolutions have been passed at annual conferences. Some are passed and very soon go into oblivion. It could be that some resolutions calling for specific action (besides expressing and urging thanks) have never been implemented. Or delegates to a conference pass a resolution on a certain matter not knowing or remembering that a resolution on the same matter had been passed a few years previously.

The 1988 resolution authorizes that a committee pull all the resolutions together (is collate the best word?), divide them into categories and come up with a picture of just what we have done over some over 25 years. Perhaps it will be found that there are some inconsistencies between or among conference actions. Maybe it will be discovered that some conference actions were never followed through by boards, other committees or agencies. The finished work of this committee will have to be made available in some way in at least limited quantity to the AFLC.

The resolution to gather all our resolutions together so we can see what we've been doing could be very helpful and we commend Committee No. 1 for bringing this need before the conference and church. The committee being appointed has a job ahead of it, it's really an office job, but we wish it well and it will be doing a real service to the Association.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

This year has seen a number of significant personal events take place. I would like to mention them briefly.

First, my aunt, Margit Gudim, became 100 years old in May. She is Mother's older sister and had lived in Seattle, Wash., for some years but came back to Newfolden, where it all began, en route to Nebraska, for a birthday party. Her life span reaches back to within about five years of the settling of this area. Mother is nearing 95; the other sister, Othelia, is 85; the only living brother, Adolph, is 91. Aunt Margit did not enjoy good health for much of her life, but has been granted long life, the later years being better. I should say that she is also an aunt, by marriage, of our Rev. Milo Gudim, Argyle, Minn.

Second, one of my two brothers-in-law, Dr. J. Elmo Agrimson, passed away on June 15, the day our Annual Conference began in DeKalb. My oldest sister thus became a widow. His was a battle with leukemia, a disease that has touched not a few families in the Association. But in this case it touched our family and so became very personal. The night before he died, and the evening before I left for DeKalb, his wife, another sister of ours and I prayed the benediction over him in a St. Paul hospital, "The Lord bless you and keep you..." He couldn't speak but we knew he understood and believed.

Third, on Sun., June 19, through the marvel of air travel, I was able to be in Medicine Lake, Mont., for the 50th anniversary of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church, one of four congregations I began serving fresh out of seminary 35 years ago in July. I read Scripture in the morning service and gave a greeting in the afternoon. It was a real joy to meet with all the friends again. Age had taken its toll on all of us, and some were gone, but for those few hours it felt like the clock had been turned back. Returning pastors besides me with Lutheran Free Church roots were Oliver Sidney, Bernhard Bretheim and lay pastor Martin Heide. When I stepped on the plane Monday afternoon in Williston, N. Dak., it was 104 degrees, all too typical of temperatures in that area this summer.

Fourth, two weeks later I was back in Montana, this time for the diamond jubilee of the town of Westby. I lived in Westby when the silver jubilee took place and viewed that through the eyes of a boy. I returned for the golden jubilee and wanted to be present for the 75th. Westby is one of a thousand small prairie towns never destined to get very big and yet having too much vigor to die (although some have). It is a strange experience, as many of you know, to go back to the places of childhood and try to recapture the feelings of something long since gone. The scenes are familiar, but much has changed. Quite a thing to see some people after almost 50 years, too. Upon leaving Westby on a Sunday afternoon, I took in part of the diamond jubilee of the nearby town of Alkabo, N. Dak., at Writing Rock historical park, north of Grenora. Among others I saw there was Pastor Lynn Luthard, back for a church anniversary.

Fifth, in later July we were privileged to have three younger relatives from Norway visit in our home. Not so terribly unusual, but they were the first relatives on my father's side to come to see us. Father was the only one of his immediate family to come to the U.S. I had met the three, Reidun, Wenche and Hans Magne, in the old country, but now they came to see us. Reidun has been a missionary nurse in Ethiopia and may go back some day. It was good to have them here and to know that we shared the same faith in Jesus (*samme tro*) even though thousands of miles separate us in our everyday lives. The three are cousins of one another and children of three cousins of mine.

Significant experiences in this year, 1988. I know that you have had yours also.

—Raynard Huglen

God led me to Bible school

My name is Celia Fiuri. I am 16 years old and live in a small town called Laranjal in the state of Parana. I have one brother and two sisters.

I was born into a Christian family. Twenty years ago my parents accepted Jesus as the Savior of their lives. As a small child my parents always took me to church, encouraged me to go to Sunday School, read the Bible with me and prayed. When I was about eight years old, I asked Jesus into my heart.

My family went to the Free Lutheran Church in Campina da Lagoa. My father is a farmer and after a time he felt the desire to move to a new place. We prayed for God to show us if it was His will that we move and He an-

swered. We moved to Laranjal and have been there for about five years. We have worked for Christ and souls have been saved in this small town. We now have a good part of the material needed to build a church.

I have had the desire for a long time to come to study at the Bible School. My family always prayed about this, that God would guide me and show me His will. God answered us and I am here, with much faith in God. I know this year is going to be very good for me, and I thank God for being here.

A verse that I like very much is Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me." This verse is helping me here at Bible School and will help me all my life. I need not be discouraged because God is by my side to help me in all things.



Celia Fiuri

ASSOCIATION OF FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences Feb. 1 - July 31

FUND	TOTAL BUDGET	Rec'd in July	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL*
GENERAL FUND.....	\$ 178,997.00	\$ 10,576.99	\$ 82,876.53	46
SCHOOLS - (AFLTS)	99,367.00	5,409.05	37,441.71	38
(AFLBS)	156,150.00	7,492.87	53,230.16	34
HOME MISSIONS.....	317,850.00	13,839.53	100,691.44	32
WORLD MISSIONS	280,140.00	12,597.73	88,611.31	32
CAPITAL INVESTMENT..	25,000.00	684.77	10,022.51	40
TOTALS	\$1,057,504.00	\$ 50,600.94	\$372,873.66	35
1986-87 -	\$1,014,894.00	\$ 53,150.27	\$364,839.30	36

*Goal 50%

Letter to the editor

A blessing

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow." It is a year since I joined Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Virginia, Minn., and I must say I have never felt as secure in my Christian walk as I do today. My thanks go to Pastor and Mrs. (Eileen) Johnson and to all of the members, all of whom have lovingly accepted me into their church family.

What a joy it has been to attend worship services, weekly Bible studies, monthly Finnish Bible studies, cottage prayer groups and special meetings. We have all been challenged by the Peniel group and Jeff and Mary Ann Anderson to tell others about the love and blessings of our Lord.

My prayer is that I might always use my *time, talent and treasures* to the glory of God and to further the work of Good Shepherd and the AFLC.

Mrs. Elinor E. Zubert
Virginia, Minn.

Preaching Missions

Wheatland, Ia.

Christian Lutheran Church

Sept. 18-21

Rev. David Barnhart, Eagan, Minn.,
speaker

Canton, S. Dak.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Ronald Knutson, pastor

Sept. 18-22

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Dollar Bay,
Michigan, speaker.

DeKalb, Ill.

Grace Lutheran Church

Dennis Gray, pastor

Sept. 25-26

Rev. David Barnhart, speaker

Ottawa, Ill.

Faith Lutheran Church

Robert Lee, interim pastor

Sept. 27-28

Rev. David Barnhart, speaker.

PLEASE BE PATIENT

We continue to play catch-up here at the *Ambassador* offices. Material has piled up during the summer because of the two issues we omit then. We hope

that by next time we will have caught up. In the meantime, please be patient if you are waiting to see something in print.
The Editor

10. No one can say, "I'm not important. No one needs me." Why?
I Corinthians 12:14-21, 26

11. Read Romans 12:9-16 in more than one version. What are three practical ways (special challenges to you personally) that God wants *you* to love and encourage others?

(1)

(2)

(3)

*"It is more blessed
to give than to receive."*
—Acts 20:35

Personal Application:

(*not for discussion*)

1. Think back to a time of loneliness in your life. With the advantage of hindsight, write down some lessons you have learned about dealing with it *God's* way to prepare you for helping someone else.

2. What do you learn from the steps of action shown by the prodigal son, Anna and Lydia that can make a difference in your life?

3. Think of at least one person you know who probably is lonely. (Maybe it's someone who is sick, or who has suffered the loss of a loved one, has family or financial problems, or lives alone, or is new to town.) Write a note or take them some cookies, or invite them to your home, or bring them with you to an activity they'd enjoy. Discover the excitement of being an encourager!

THE HIGHER PERSPECTIVE

WMF BIBLE STUDY #10

OCTOBER, 1988

FROM LONELINESS TO LOVING

Everyone is lonely at one time or another. That is normal and to be expected. But how we *respond* to it is the most important part because it determines if we let it destroy us or if we learn to grow from it. We need God's perspective.

THE DANGER

*"Never coddle loneliness.
If you do, it will act as a spoiled child
demanding more attention and pampering."
(Inez Spence in For Women Only)*

1. The great danger of loneliness is that it's so easy to be concerned about only one thing: _____

Psalms 142:4

2. We must be careful not to blame _____ for loss of loved ones. Psalm 88:18. Why? (also vs. 6-8)

3. A. If we let loneliness overwhelm us, what will we soon think?
Psalm 88:14

B. What is the *only* situation that can cause that to happen?
Isaiah 59:2

C. If this is the case in our hearts, what step must be taken to remove that separation? Isaiah 55:6-7

D. After that has been done, what comforting truth must we never forget? Romans 8:37-39

Get Out of Yourself

Scripture is full of examples of people who found victory by taking action and reaching out. Let's look at three of them:

4. Luke 15:15-20. Who? _____

A. Here's a man who really knew the depths of isolation. Describe his situation and how he must have felt. vs. 15-16

B. What did he realize, in verse 17?

C. Did he just sit there and pity himself? v. 18

D. Was he rejected? v. 20

5. Luke 2:36-38. Who? _____

A. What reasons did she have (humanly speaking) for sitting at home and feeling sorry for herself? vs. 36-37(a)

B. What did she commit her life to doing? vs. 37-38

6. Acts 16:14-15, 40. Who? _____

A. What seems to have been a regular part of her life? v. 13

B. What kept her from boredom as well as living only for herself? v. 14

C. How did she share her love for Christ with others? vs. 15 and 40

7. What will happen when we focus on *giving* instead of getting?
Luke 6:38

Genuine Compassion

8. Where is the source of our own security and love?
Jeremiah 31:3

9. A. What is the friendship that must be developed above all others?
Philippians 3:8. How?

B. What then gives us the power to love others?
Philippians 2:1

C. What should that reality motivate us to do?
Philippians 2:2, 4-5

Let's learn to live and express what someone has called the "ABCs of love":

"I accept you as you are.

I believe you are valuable.

I care when you hurt.

I desire only what is best for you.

I erase all offenses."

Authentic love is in the process of building bridges, spanning chasms, reaching, risking, demonstrating, expressing, showing interest."

(—Charles Swindoll in *Dropping Your Guard*)

Questions on Creation and evolution

by Craig Gray
DeKalb, Ill.

(This article, in several parts, was written as a class assignment in a class called Creationism at Association Free Lutheran Bible School in the recent winter quarter.)

Does Darwin's idea check out? Is it right? No. It is wrong "all over the place." First, the idea of natural selection. Mutations, on which the idea is based are almost always the worst. They produce inferior, not superior, organisms. Also, if mutants are left to themselves they do one of two things: die out or revert back to normal (original). Still further, how does one explain the dying out of the mighty, massive dinosaur? These should have survived.

The primordial ooze theory is equally absurd. It is based on *chance*. The chance of life occurring this way is *one in 100 billion*. It is really mathematically impossible for life to start with this type of accident.

Also, since they throw around millions and billions of years, time is irrelevant to the evolutionist. This creates a very loose and unguided process which is not too scientific.

What evidences do evolutionists give in support of their theory? Are they infallible? There are many so-called "evidences" that evolutionists try to use to support their theory. But, as is seemingly the norm, they can be quickly proved wrong. Several main areas of evidence are as follows:

1) From fossil remains — This sounds like it should supply enough evidence in itself, for there should be a fossil for everything that ever lived, one for every gradual evolutionary change. However, there are many "missing links." The fossil record is very incomplete. Someone has said it is not that links are missing, but that the entire chain is missing. The evolutionist should not be allowed to base any argument on this weak foundation.

2) From geographical distribution. Some land masses which are now sep-

MORE ON THE LUTHER LEAGUE GOSPEL TEAM

The Luther League Gospel Team mentioned in the *Ambassador* last time was called "Servants of Light." A member not listed last time was Jane Nelson of Minneapolis, Minn.

The team brought back the excitement of one youth who told them it was nice to have a team *especially for youth*. The team members were involved in Bible study, puppets, leading in singspirations and campfires and giving testimonies.

Servants of Light were involved in the training provided other Gospel teams from our Bible School. However, they represented the Luther League Federation as well as the Bible School.

Costs for the weeks of travelling and witness came from offerings taken by the various congregations visited. Plans are to send out a team next summer which will be involved in the same kind of ministry. The number of teams sent out will depend upon the interest of various districts or areas within the AFLC.

It must be noted that teams may or may not be musical and they will be trained to give Bible studies and work with youth in special ways. Training next time will involve more detailed work on what is actually to be done and will be done in connection with AFLBS. The main purpose would be to give local Luther Leagues a boost.

arated are thought to have once been continuous stretches. They were thought to have common types of plants and animals, but since separation different types have appeared. However, these differences actually indicate only a small amount of change and *not total* evolution. The evolutionist would have us think that this was "supposed to be the result of ancient common ancestry."

(To be continued)
(A bibliography will follow the final installment.)

YOUTH STAFFERS

At this time, there is a need for people to serve in a one-year capacity as Youth Staffers. Applications for Youth Staffers can be secured through AFLC YOUTH RESOURCES, 112 West Milner, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

A Youth Staffer will give a period of time to the ministry of a local congregation or district. He or she would be in charge of the Luther League program and would be involved in other ways the congregation or district asks.

A Youth Staffer can be paid a salary for the work done or take no salary and work full- or part-time for support. An offering may be taken to defray expenses. All of such is negotiable.

Churches, districts or groups of churches can "hire" a Youth Staffer to work for them. It is something new in our AFLC. However, AFLC Youth Resources needs to know if you are interested in being a Youth Staffer or if you would like someone to come to serve as such. Direct applications and questions to me.

Pastor Dennis Gray
Youth Resources Director

First things First

It is a great art; indeed, it is the highest Christian art, to be able to put first things first and second things second. That is the test of vital Christianity. Where does a man put the chief emphasis? Does he put it on "these things" — the things of the world — or the kingdom of God and His righteousness?

L.S. Keyser

firm foundation

1973 Ambassador Jon Hove, reminisces on first summer gospel team

It was late April, 1973. The eight of us, Anita Waddle, Julie Dahlgren, Mary Kvanvig, Sharon McCarlson, Joel Erickson, Jim Lindgren, Tom Fugleberg and I sat there waiting for the big moment. Choir Director Don Rodvold stood in front of us in the choir

room. He told us in his own serious, earnest way that the AFLC had decided that the time was right to begin a ministry outreach through a Gospel team from the AFLC Bible School.

Right away we were excited. The chance to travel and tell people about

Jesus and what He meant to us, plus telling kids about AFLBS, sounded like a lot of fun. We began to make preparations immediately. Some of us had to quit jobs. We decided on a name, "The Ambassadors," and many afternoons were informally spent around the piano in the original classroom/dorm building deciding on songs to sing. We had many prayer-filled quiet times as we looked to our Lord for guidance. May was a very busy month.

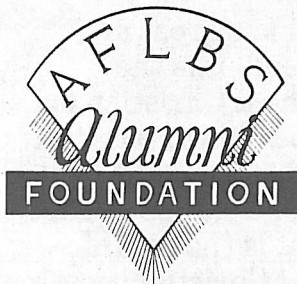
On June 5th we began travelling. Throughout the summer we criss-crossed the states from Michigan to Oregon and parts of Canada, sometimes singing up to four concerts a day, during thunderstorms, without piano accompaniment, to small church crowds, to large camp crowds, spreading the word of our Lord in song and speech. Eighty-eight days later, August 31st, exhausted, but still very glad to have had the opportunity to praise God, we drove up to the church on Medicine Lake, our mission complete, the seed planted, the work of God begun.

Jon Hove is currently the Assistant to the Director of Fine Arts at the University of Texas at Austin.

submitted by: Judy Mayland
Naomi Halvorson



The first AFLBS summer gospel team: (Seated) J. Hove, A Waddle, M. Kvanvig, J. Lindgren. (Standing) T. Fugleberg, S. McCarlson, J. Dahlgren, P. Syverson. (Joel Erickson replaced Paul Syverson for the summer tour).



As of June 1, 1988, the Alumni Association has a new promotion vehicle called: AFLBS ALUMNI FOUNDATION. This foundation is established to simplify the giving of money to the Bible School and to consolidate the fund raising efforts of the Stewardship Committee and the Executive Committee.

Alumni are encouraged to support the Bible School through the Foundation. There are three areas in which

you can give support to the Bible School:

1) Student Ministries: The money you give to Student Ministries goes to the general operating expense of the Bible School.

2) Grants and Scholarships: The Alumni Association will designate a certain amount of money to grants (\$1,200 budgeted 1987-88). The remaining money coming in would be designated as Scholarship and would be distributed by the same means as present. The Alumni would place three persons on the present Bible School scholarship selection committee to decide distribution of Foundation money.

3) Promotion: The money you give to promotion would be used to a) Promote b) Recruit c) Generate revenue. This money would be administered by the Executive Committee.

Is it about time you return to AFLBS?

Join us
at HOMECOMING '88
Oct. 7, 8, 9

Honored classes: '68, '73
'78, '83

Over 100 students are registered to begin Fall Quarter at AFLBS on September 12. Pray for them!

NEWS OF THE CHURCHES

Ground breaking at Badger, Minn.

Members of Badger Creek and Oiland Lutheran Churches joined in a "Super Sunday" worship service with a groundbreaking and dedication ceremony on Sun., May 1, at the Badger, Minn., school gym.

Student pastor Tom Olson conducted the service and other festivities. The Sunday Schools of both congregations sang several songs and several members of each congregation participated in the service.

The groundbreaking, on recently purchased lots, was for the new parsonage now under construction. It is 28 x 44 feet, with three bedrooms and a full walk-out basement. Work is progressing well.

Badger Creek and Oiland were served by Lay Pastor Gustav Nordvall until his untimely death in January, 1987. Mr. Olson was the interim pastor during the summer of 1987 and has

served along with area pastors and laymen throughout the past year. He is now the pastor at Cumberland, Wis.

Lay Pastor Martin Christensen from Frontier, Sask., has accepted the call to serve the congregations. He and his

family will be moving to Badger the last part of this month.

Mark Geroy and his assistant, Blaine Solberg, are the carpenters on the building project, with members of the congregations volunteering their labor.



Church dedicated at Edmore, N. Dak.

Living Word congregation of Edmore, North Dakota, held services to dedicate their new building, June 5. Approximately 260 people gathered to give praise and honor to God for providing this house of worship. It had been less than one year since July of 1987, the congregation had formed and affiliated with the AFLC.

Pastor Elden Nelson brought the message for the laying of the cornerstone service in the morning. Pastor Richard Snipstead, AFLC president, officiated at the dedication service in the afternoon. Area pastors assisted.

Pastor Christian Oswood serves Zoar Lutheran at Hampden, as well as Living Word.



New members at Winger, Minn.

Sixty men, women and children have joined the fellowship of Dovre Lutheran Church, Winger, Minn., over the past months. This picture shows only some of them. Pastor and Mrs. Roy Johnson are on the left.



Conclusion of Annual Conference reports

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

Second-class

HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Let us never forget that Home Missions is a joint venture of faith. Please read Luke 5:1-11 and you will find a story full of rich teaching on the nature of Christian service in God's kingdom. When Jesus said to Peter, "From henceforth thou shalt catch men" (v. 10), He gave us the key for effective service in God's kingdom. You and I can never win men to Christ on a large scale without spiritual encouragement and financial help from many Christians. When we work together we become *partners in missions or partners in service.*

Rev. Herbert L. Franz, Chairman

HOME MISSIONS DIRECTOR

The AFLC is in a time of growth. We trust that the spiritual growth keeps pace with the numerical growth and will only do so as we are faithful to the Word of God. It is to God that I give thanks for the opportunities of this past year, for the privilege of experiencing His grace and mercy in abundant measure. To all who have had a part in AFLC Home Missions through prayer, work and contributions, I say thank you. May God continue to lead and bless in the days ahead.

Rev. Elden Nelson

COMMISSION ON EVANGELISM

Evangelism is the heart of everything we do in the church. The church is here to preach the Word of God in its truth and purity, to provide fellowship for the Body of Christ and to equip, train and send out people to be witnesses wherever they may be. Evangelism is the very heart of everything we do in the church.

*Rev. Laurel Udden on behalf of
Lay Pastor Verle Dean, chairman*

BOARD OF PUBLICATIONS AND PARISH EDUCATION

These verses (II Tim. 3:14-17) express so clearly the basic objectives and goals of Christian education in the congregation. It is a challenging and difficult task, but essential and rewarding. The Ambassador Sunday School Series and other AFLC material is prepared with this understanding of Scripture in mind. Our goal in revising and writing is to prepare material that is biblical in content, distinctively Lu-

theran, rightly dividing Law and Gospel, evangelistic and practical.

Rev. Wesley D. Langaas, Chairman

PARISH EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Unless the Lord had been our help and strength this year, the work of Parish Education would not have prospered. It is with great thankfulness to God, to each member of the Parish Education Board (who have given liberally and sacrificially to the work), and to those of you who have given special gifts, prayer and encouragements to the work that I can look forward to the task that is before us in Parish Education.

Katha M. Tjelta

YOUTH BOARD

We praise God for the work He is doing among youth in our AFLC. Let us continue to pray for our youth. May we also continually seek God's wisdom and grace to use the opportunities He gives us to encourage others to "remember their Creator in the days of their youth." *Rev. Joel Rolf, Chairman*

YOUTH RESOURCES DIRECTOR

Pastors are one of the important keys to going through the open doors of opportunity in youth work. Interested lay persons who are actively involved in encouraging youth in their local congregations are important for a strong Luther League work. There is a growing network of persons who will serve as "adult guarantors" for our youth. The Christian youth themselves are desiring to do more to continue and to increase the work done. Where parents and young adults are involved, there will be a response from the youth.

Rev. Dennis Gray

LUTHER LEAGUE FEDERATION

It is true, "There are many adversaries" (ICor. 16:9) in the world. And we face difficulties and challenges in getting the work going. The Federation voted to have as a goal raising \$5,000 each year to help support the Youth Resources Director. And we need to meet that goal if the budget established for this next year is to be a reality. This is no small task considering that the LLF received less than \$4,000 in the last four years designated for that fund. But, having the support of the Conference to move forward this day, we will pursue that goal, by God's grace. *Rev. James Johnson, President*

STEWARDSHIP BOARD

There are several reasons in this report to "bless the Lord." The first is the large number of new congregations who participated (in the 25th Anniversary Offering). What a surprise to discover that the largest single offering came from a new Home Mission congregation that has been meeting for less than a year! What an encouragement to catch a glimpse of how much some of our most recent members appreciate their new church home!

Rev. Robert L. Lee, Chairman

BOARD OF PENSIONS

We also maintain a fund to help needy pastors and widows who at some time or other may find themselves in need of assistance. This fund is called "Help in Service." Each October an offering is taken which is designated for this fund.

Norman Haugen, Chairman