

Public education ...
**What the Church
can do**



**THE LUTHERAN
AMBASSADOR**

September 6, 1994



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Light on the Way

Training children in the way

Back to school! Will it be a dangerous or a happy experience for our children? Will they be entering a jungle or a haven? Will their faith and their values be undermined or strengthened? Will school help them along the way to heaven or will school prove to be for them the wide gates of hell?

We are concerned about our children and our grandchildren who are going back to school no matter what age they are. The Bible tells us to "train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" (Proverbs 22:6). We find in Deuteronomy chapters 6 and 11 as well as in the "Wisdom Books" of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes, a great deal about training and educating our children.

Education is to begin at home! Dads and moms are to teach their children how to choose the right kind of friends; how to avoid violence, sexual immorality, laziness, lies, pride, deceit, anger, envy, greed, gossip, vanity, drugs and alcohol. Positively, parents are to teach their children to be hard workers, faithful, helpful, peaceful, cheerful, honest, modest, courageous, generous, disciplined, pure, loving and yes, to fear, obey and love the Lord their God with all their hearts and with all their minds.

In addition to teaching faith and values, parents will help their children learn many basic skills while they are still at home. From their parents, children learn a lot about house-keeping, cooking, baking, mechanics, carpentry, gardening, farming, preaching, teaching and

nursing. Some of these skills are deliberately taught while others simply "rub off." Children, while still at home, should be read to and some will even learn to read for themselves before going to the schoolroom. Books can become their friends. Today, young children can become quite skillful with the computer.

After five or six years of training at home, then what? Obviously our children need further training. Where will they go to school to get the needed education to serve God and humanity. Where will they go, to not only learn how to make a living, but how to live? This begins immediately, not just at the university or tech school.

The man who wrote "A Mighty Fortress Is our God" also wrote: "I greatly fear that the universities are wide gates of hell, if they do not diligently teach the Holy Scriptures and impress them on the youth." Luther's fear is surely valid for us today! The genuine Christian is concerned about his children's and grandchildren's education. We know that no school, public or Christian, is an absolutely safe haven. The devil goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. We live in this fallen world and our sinful nature clings to us and needs daily drowning. So for ourselves and our children, we must monitor, fight, watch and pray as our children go back to school.

— by Odell Kittelson



Making an impact on your public school

Should Christian children be allowed to attend public schools? Many readily say "No." Christian schools are thriving and homeschooling escalating. I admire and respect parents who prayerfully consider and make the choice of a Christian education for their children. Truly there are times that parents have no choice.

But what about parents who by choice or necessity have children in public school? We have often been made to feel that we are making a mistake and if we indeed cared about our children's spiritual welfare, we would immediately remove them from public schools. But wait! Is it possible that the Lord can use us as parents or our children where they are?

Several years ago, my friends and I sent our oldest children to school concerned about the ungodly environment into which we sent them. Evolution was taught. They were exposed to language and behavior totally foreign to them. Sex education was early and explicit. What could we do? We decided to get involved, of course!

We fired off angry letters to the school board and the newspaper editor. We criticized and signed petitions. Surprisingly, nothing happened. They ignored us!

"Right-wing fundamentalists," they said.

Then one day two friends and I listened to Focus on the Family. Dr. Dobson's guest was Fern Nicholls, the founder of an organization called Moms in Touch. Their purpose is simply to encourage moms to get together to pray for their children and their public schools.

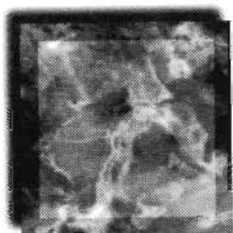
The broadcast hit all of us. Could it be that we were not called to fight alone? The Lord was calling us to pray! Our Moms in Touch group has been meeting for two years now. Our numbers are small, but

we claim His promise that the Lord is with us.

I cannot describe how much that prayer time has come to mean to us! We are finally realizing that we are not solely responsible for our children. As they have given their hearts to the Lord, they belong to **Him**. Surely He will hold them and protect them better than we ever could. In prayer, we place our precious children into His hands and ask that He strengthen and use them. We pray that He will bind Satan, placing a hedge of thorns around our district and that the Lord will fill the halls of the schools with His angels. We pray for the teachers. We pray that the Lord would strengthen the Christian students and encourage the Christian teachers.

This past year we wrote to two or three teachers a week, just to let them know that we appreciated their hard work and that we would be praying specifically for them during the coming week. We baked dozens of muffins and brought them to each school in our district, enclosing a letter thanking teachers for their dedication and offering support and prayers. We signed it simply: "Moms in Touch." We heard that as

"We are finally realizing that we are not solely responsible for our children ... they belong to Him."



A student receives God's wisdom while surrounded by human wisdom

As I stood there in late August of 1990, my eyes fell upon the seal of the Regents of the University of Minnesota, with Latin crosshatched across the shield, "*Omnibus, Artibus, Vinculu, Commune.*" I had no idea what these words meant, but they sounded so regal and educated, so wise and knowledgeable. I could almost smell and feel academia in the air. I knew I would love this place! Here I stood registering for classes; far away from cows and Haugeans in northern Minnesota. It truly did not get any better than this! I could stop running. Here I would find a home. I did not know it then, but I would soon find these academic archetypes as vain and often empty. I

would come to realize, as the Apostle Paul stated of himself, that the Spirit of God was working within me mightily!

My first week of classes was far from fulfilling. In Cultural Pluralisms, I was told that I should feel guilt for being a white male oppressor, that the concept of sin was devised by the church as a means of control, and that if I wanted an "A," I would use terms such as "womyn, herstory, Humanity, inclusion, homophobia and zealot (with respect to religious believers)."

During my Philosophy of Logic class, I learned a most amazing *fact*. Nearly a hundred years earlier Nietzsche declared: "God is dead!" This seemed odd. If God

IMPACT

the teachers got their notes or muffins, some were moved to tears that someone would actually pray for them. One teacher showed her note to a student and said: "I can't believe this! In all the years that I've taught, **nobody** has thanked me!" Another said: "I was on a high for two weeks after I got that card. I know it influenced my teaching. I'll keep it forever!"

God has done mighty things in our district these last few years. We now have an abstinence curriculum offered as an option to regular sex education. Our school board is decidedly more conservative. This year's Christmas program was a musical about the wise men searching for and finding the true King. It even included an invitation at the end. How humbling to see how God has worked and used our faltering prayers to His glory!

Believing God uses prayers with feet, we continue to be involved in our schools. Nearly our entire PTA is made up of Christian moms. We have volunteered in the classroom and have become friends with many teachers. We work on committees.

Our work is not done. There are more challenges. Satan is alive and wants nothing more than to claim all of the young souls in our district for himself. Our chil-

dren know more than we wish they knew. They are exposed to tobacco, alcohol and profanity from their peers. But we see God's sustaining hand in their lives. Their faith is growing. They freely share Christ in class and on the playground. They are learning to stand for what they believe. They are salt and light.

Truly our public schools are a mission field white unto harvest. If Christian teachers left the public school, there would be no explanation to parallel abortion as a matter of social conscience in our time to that of the Holocaust. There would be no Christian pupils left, there would be no one to share his faith on the playground. The lights would be out!

Could it be that the public schools are in such a mess because the Christians have abandoned them? Could He be calling us to claim them back?

— by Nancy Langness
Hope Free Lutheran
Ishpeming, Michigan

(Nancy and her husband, Erl, both graduates of AFLBS, are the parents of four young sons. Erl teaches history and German at the public high school. Nancy volunteers at the school whenever possible and thoroughly enjoys it.)

"God has done mighty things in our district these last few years."

was dead, why had people been worshipping Him these hundred years? If God was dead, then why were new churches being built and missionaries being sent out to reap the harvest that wasn't necessary? If God was dead, why hadn't someone told me sooner? If He was indeed dead, why did my heart ache more with each passing moment?

I remember sitting in Sunday school when I was three or four years old and being told of the choice God gave King Solomon: "Ask what I shall give thee," (II Chronicles 1:7-12). The teacher explained that Solomon had chosen wisdom and knowledge, and rightly so, because when God saw that this was the desire of his heart, he also received riches, wealth, honor and kingship. I knew right then that if God ever appeared to me in the night, quick as a bunny, I would ask for wisdom and knowledge! As absurd and greedy as it might sound, I developed from that experience a real desire for knowledge. My parents and grandparents always valued books and education and passed that legacy on to their children. It was always clear that the most important book to them was the Bible and the legacy that accompanied God's wisdom and understanding.

I believed in God the Father Almighty and in His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ and that only through His blood could I be saved. I had chosen to follow Him when I was seven years old when the Holy Spirit convicted me of the sin within my heart. I knew and believed all of this, yet the wisdom and knowledge I desired was the world's and my heart ached. I was burdened mentally and physically. I was spiritually exhausted with what God showed me was sin within my own heart. It was time to do some asking and receiving. I dropped down to my knees in the moldy basement apartment in St. Paul that I shared with my sister, and prayed the words of James 1:5. I asked God for wisdom — His wisdom. I reminded God of His words in Colossians 2:2-3 and claimed them for my very own!

"That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge," (KJV).

I had what some might call an

epiphany, an experience much like the accounts of those who upon accepting Jesus, tell of bundles or weights falling from their backs like the character of Christian in Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*. Never before had I felt this instantaneous renewal. I had prayed to God for many reasons in the past, but always He has answered gradually, or so it seemed to me. I had never claimed God's Word before and the results were astounding!

God said: "Be still and know that I am God." My confusion, my tortured attempts at reconciling the two worlds of God's wisdom and knowledge and man's wisdom and knowledge, were through.

I found Christian friends in nearly every class. I found Christian professors, and even professors, who though not Christians themselves, realized the deception and hypocrisy of secular humanism, and insisted that Christianity must be weighed in the balance. No longer was it necessary for me to twist God's holy and inspired Word to fit into the mold of empty scholarship. He said: "Here, this is My Word, My looking glass — seek and find." Through a cir-

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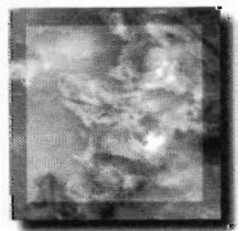
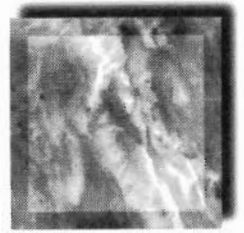
cuitous route of trials and tribulation, Christ brought me — *ignorant me* — into his truth and wisdom and knowledge.

My very first week at the University of Minnesota brought me Nietzsche's declaration that God is dead. In one of my last weeks at the U, through the troubled mind of an agnostic professor, God again showed me that He lives when he conceded: "If God is dead, then this is a universe of suffering and strife with no hope of redemption. God must live, otherwise there would never be truly ennobled minds."

God Lives. God Loves and God is all Wisdom! This has ennobled even me.

— by Nathan J. Dyrud
St. Paul, Minnesota

(Nathan is a 1994 graduate of the University of Minnesota, with degrees in English Literature and Philosophy. His home church is Our Saviour's Free Lutheran, Thief River Falls, Minnesota.)



The mission field has come to us

We all have heard many times and in many ways Jesus' instructions to His disciples to take His gospel to all the nations of the earth. Over the centuries since Jesus gave this command to the church and sent the Holy Spirit to empower us, the church has obeyed by sending missionaries to the ends of the earth. This is good and right. We ought to keep doing it until He returns. Yet, in these days a new and extraordinary thing is happening. People from almost every nation on earth are coming to spend part of their lives with or near to many of God's people here in North America.

Who are these people? They are often the brightest and best of their lands; people who will return home and be the shakers and movers in their societies; in industry, education, government, business and in the arts and sciences.

What will be their impressions of the Christian Church in North America? Much depends on how you and I respond to Jesus our Lord, and how we respond to these guests He has sent us. If we make a genuine attempt to share the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ, many will go home with a positive impression of the Lord Jesus and His Church. If we simply ignore them, many will go home with some very negative ideas.

Across the U.S.A. and Canada there are over 500,000 international students studying at nearly every college and university. You are probably nearer to the "ends of the

earth" than you realize. Possibly you are within an hour's drive or less.

In many places throughout the land, Christians are linking hands together to reach out to these special guests with the gospel. One such example is the ministry of the World Mission Prayer League (an independent Lutheran prayer and mission society) in Fargo, North Dakota. This is a community with over 700 international students attending one of three colleges. Three years ago my wife, Mary, and I were placed in this unique ministry. Our goal is two-fold: help people catch a vision for an international ministry and equip them to do so with the needed cross-cultural ministry skills.

How do we reach out to international students? We build bridges of love for the Lord's kingdom. Three basic building blocks make up these bridges: friendship, hospitality and exploration of the Scriptures.

Friendship is a basic human need. It is found in every culture. When an international student comes to America, he/she often has a great void of friends during their first months. We have an opportunity to be a real friend as we help them to adjust to life in this nation. Friendship is a bridge that can lead to an encounter with the Scripture.

Jesus' life is a model for us in ministry. He ate and drank with all kinds of people, but He developed closer relationships with only a few. We encourage Christians to



David Thoresen with two students from Nepal.



Mary Thoresen and the three Thoresen children with Chinese students.

pray for just one special international friend they can develop a deeper spiritual relationship with. We provide international students with opportunities to study the Bible with us, starting in Genesis. This provides a biblical view of God, humanity, sin and its consequences. Genesis provides plenty of scope for discussion and lays the foundation needed for the gospel to become relevant to those with little or no biblical knowledge.

On the day of Jesus' resurrection, He walked and talked with two disciples on the road to Emmaus. Their hearts burned within them, as the risen Lord opened the Scriptures to them, beginning with Moses and all the prophets. Yet it was while He was staying with them in the breaking of bread that their eyes were opened. Only then did they recognize Him.

In hospitality, the simple sharing of a meal, the real power of the gospel to transform lives is often felt. International students need the truths of the Scriptures



explained so they can comprehend them with the mind. When they spend time with us and see lives transformed by the gospel, the truths move from the head to the heart.

Please join us in prayer for international students. Pray that the eyes of their hearts would be enlightened and that they would see their need for the Savior, our Lord Jesus the Messiah.

— by David Thoresen
Moorhead, Minnesota

God still supplies all our needs!

We almost "lost" our ice cream. That would have been a tragedy to the nearly 100 participants of Vacation Bible School at Living Word Lutheran in Eagan, Minnesota. July is a warm month and the ice cream was going to be a special treat on the last day.

Vacation Bible School was going well. From the opening service throughout the morning the students enjoyed Bible stories, songs, crafts, recreation and snack time. God blessed our efforts and we all enjoyed our work and especially seeing the children learn more about Jesus.

Time went quickly. It was Thursday afternoon, and since I was in charge of buying the items for snacks, I decided to check on our ice cream order for Friday. After driving to the supermarket, I went in and asked the young man in frozen

foods about our order for 150 "dixie cups" for Friday. He knew nothing about it. He got the manager and when I told him about the 150 dixie cups he said: "Oh, no problem, they're over here in aisle #19." I followed him but soon began to sense that we had a problem because there was no ice cream in aisle #19.

By the time we arrived we had an audience; the store manager, two visiting dignitaries and a buyer for the frozen foods. Then I realized I was talking to people that were born in a different era than I was.

When I was young, a Dixie Cup was a little plastic or paper cup with ice cream in it! Now the frozen food manager said he thought I meant to buy 150 dixie cups and fill them with ice cream! Finally we understood each other and the buyer said she would call in our ice cream order immediate-

ly and it would be in the store by 8 a.m. on Friday. We all breathed a sigh of relief and went on our way. I'm so glad I listened to the "little voice" that prompted me to check on the ice cream. God cares about all those little things that we care about!

As a special blessing, He even proved His care about our finances for Vacation Bible School.

On Sunday morning, during the fellowship time, we put out a basket for donations to help with the costs of the coming week of Bible School. The congregation was encouraged to help and the amount received was \$85. Imagine our joy when we settled our bills for the snacks and it came to exactly \$84.98! What a great God we serve! He truly does supply all our needs.

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus,"
Philippians 4:19.

— Violette Walseth
Living Word Lutheran
Eagan, Minnesota



Homeschooling, a positive experience

When school bells ring this fall none of our seven grandchildren who are of school age will be in public school. With more public schools adapting Outcome Based Education (OBE) into their curriculum, more Christian parents are choosing to homeschool their children. All four of our children graduated from public high school in the 70s and early 80s. When OBE came to our school district three years ago, our grandson began to see a decline in his education. He had been in the ungraded program and had worked above his grade level. With OBE he was pushed backward two grades and worked in groups rather than individually. He soon became bored and got into trouble.

After a year of this, it was decided that we would try homeschooling. Homeschooling has worked

wonders for our grandson. There are wonderful, challenging Christian materials available. Learning is easy and time is not wasted. An additional benefit was to find our grandson a maturing young man and not a trouble maker.

The best part for me is the relationship I have with my grandson on that one day a week he spends with me. This past year Trever was a freshman in high school and I taught him English, health, and physical education. In the past I taught health and physical education. Since English is not my best subject, Trever and I learned together and at times I consulted an English teacher. My husband helped by teaching science laboratory on Saturday to Trever and seven other homeschool students.

This year we attended the South Dakota Homeschoolers' Convention and were encouraged

**You can't
"microwave"
children**

like the dinners that overworked parents cook for their over-stressed children.

**They require
time,
attention,
and heavy doses
of love.**

— Cal Thomas
The Things that Matter Most
(Harper Collins Publishers/
Zondervan, 1994)

by the other homeschoolers. There are many teaching helps available so that any parent can homeschool. It provides a whole new way of life. Your child can have a biblical education plus superior academic learning in about half to two-thirds of the time it would take in the public school. Most homeschooled children can pass the GED (high school graduation) by the time they are 16 years and many can pass at 13 or 14 years.

Some say our Christian kids should be "salt" in the public school but too often our Christian kids leave behind their Christian values and join the world. We don't send raw military recruits into battle. No, they must go through basic training before they go to battle. Provide that training at home and send them into battle when they are mature and grounded in their faith.

— by Elaine H. Kohl
Brookings, South Dakota

Homeschooled student wins merit scholarship

BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. (EP) — Winning a National Merit Scholarship for academic achievement is unusual in itself. Only a tiny percentage of each year's graduating seniors qualify for this prestigious award. But in Julie Connor's case it's even more unusual because she doesn't exactly go to school. She gets her education at home, from parents who chose homeschooling because of their desire to communicate biblical values to their children.

Connor's father, Michael, a former pastor with the Evangelical Free Church of America, now works nights and during the day helps his children with science and math. But he refuses to take the credit for his daughter's scholastic achievement. "I really

believe that it wasn't us, and it wasn't Julie, but that it truly was God's gift to Julie," he said.

The National merit scholarship program honors students who receive high scores on the SAT exam.

Connor's parents believe homeschooling allows them to give their children something they could not get through public schools. "I think they are learning to be independent thinkers, and are seeking to make the Bible their primary resource for everything," said Mike Connor. "One of our goals was to see to it that our children know Christ on a personal level, and that is the greatest of our educational goals. The other things are secondary. We view education as God-cen-

tered. If you make it that, the value of education increases many-fold." The Connors began homeschooling nine years ago, and presently teach their seven children at home.

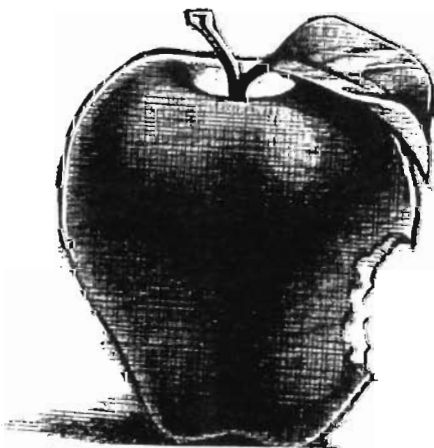
Julie, a 17-year-old with plans to pursue a career in missionary aviation or flight instruction, will be attending LeTourneau College in the fall to study aviation.

Julie's mother, Janice, said they wanted to pull their children from public schools and educate them at home because they were concerned about the spiritual growth of their children. "We were concerned that the pressures of public school and the lack of spiritual concerns would affect them in a bad way," she noted. "We wanted to promote a better education. It's a lot of work, but it's worth it."

It would be easy to throw up our hands, say we've lost, isolate ourselves, and pretend to live in a vacuum, but ... I've never felt more strongly that this is not the time to wave the white flag of surrender.

The vast majority of students in America still attend public schools. The vast majority have no other option. We have an inherent responsibility as a society to make public schools institutions of which we can be proud.

If we wish to have the schools improved, we must look to ourselves. Every decision that affects public schools is a political decision. Yet many of the Christians who complain have never attended a school board meeting or called a school board member. Many do not even know who their school board members are. School board elections generally receive the poorest voter turnout of any elections held, and yet these members are formulating policy and adopting curriculum which will influence our children and our society for hundreds of years to come ...



One day I walked into my discussion class and looked at the kids. They were mostly seniors who would soon be graduating. As I looked into their faces, I wondered how many of them had something to believe in.

As much as I believe there is a need for rigorous academic challenge. I also believe there is need for effective lessons. True learning must not only concern itself with the head, it must find a home in the heart.

— Guy Doud
Joy in the Journey
(Focus on the Family Publishing, 1992)

WOMEN

Eastern North Dakota WMF Fall Rally will be held on Saturday, October 1, at Trinity Free Lutheran in Grand Forks. Rev. Jim Fugleberg, Fargo, will be speaking on the theme from Zechariah 4:6b: "Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord almighty." Registration begins at 9:30 a.m.

Women's Missionary Federation

In memoriam gifts

Wayne Kotila, New Hope, MN
 Elgin Mortenson, Tioga, ND
 Loretta Fradenburgh, Shevlin, MN
 Chad Plooster, Pukwana, SD
 Willard Conradson, Salem, AL
 Lawrence Pederson, Tioga, ND
 Magnus Ronning, Valley City, ND
 Beverly Eikenberry, Kirkland, WA
 Mildred Stangland, Morris, IL
 Barton Thompson, Valley City, ND
 Paul Hannig, Oriska, ND
 Allyne Standlien, Bagley, MN
 Venita Stoll Dixon, Pukwana, SD
 Jim Cummings, Pukwana, SD
 Maynard Danielson, Howard Lake, MN
 Jennie Helland, McVile, ND
 Ed Boldenow, Ortonville, MN
 Vilda Rasmussen, Ottawa, IL

*Blessed are
 those who die
 in the Lord*



Lostwood, North Dakota — Pictured is Mildred Lindberg receiving an Honorary Membership pin from Susan Enns on behalf of First English WMF.

Have Mercy



O God,
 You know my longing — my silent cry:
 "Have mercy on my children."
 Be their covering, Holy Spirit,
 Minister your "keeping power."
 May they abhor all evil and cling to what is good;
 Give perseverance when their way is difficult
 and encouragement when their hearts are heavy.
 O God, have mercy.

Give them wisdom as to what is good
 and innocence in what is evil.
 Give them that peace the world cannot give.
 May their thirst be quenched with Your Living Water.
 Make them strong in the presence of temptation
 and faithful unto death.
 Show them the fullness of your joy;
 May nothing cause them stumbling.
 Pour upon them the anointing oil of your Holy Spirit
 that alleluias may fill their lips.
 O God, have mercy.
 Amen.

— Barb Skeie
 New Hope, Minnesota



Minot, North Dakota — Bethel Lutheran WMF recently graduated five children from their cradle roll program.

7. a. How did Jesus free us from that curse?

(1) Galatians 3:13 _____

(2) Hebrews 9:14 _____

b. Does this need to be repeated? Hebrews 9:12 (Why?) _____

8. a. Recall again many of the supernatural events of that "Day of Atonement" — when Jesus died — that confirmed the miracle that was accomplished there. Matthew 27:45, 51-54.

b. What was the significance of Christ's words on the cross: "It is finished" (John 19:38)?

c. What should be our response?

(1) John 1:12

(2) 1 Peter 2:9

"Dear Lord, thank You for atonement that:

Was so dearly paid for,

Was so completely paid for.

You provided so much for us. You gave us hope of eternal life, to be with You forever and ever!"

Making it personal:

This coming month, let's take the time to read the book of Hebrews which corresponds with the book of Leviticus in the Old Testament. It instills in our minds the picture of Christ, our Perfect Sacrifice.

THE DAY OF ATONEMENT

Because sinful mankind cannot approach a holy God, something had to be done to "bridge the gap." **Atonement** means "agreement, reconciliation, to make amends for an offense." God instructed the Israelites to set aside a day when the whole congregation would come before Him in repentance. It was called the **Day of Atonement**.

1. a. What were God's instructions regarding that day?

Leviticus 16:29,31

(1) _____

(2) _____

(3) _____

(4) _____

b. What was the purpose of this day? Leviticus 16:30

2. a. God gave Moses some very clear instructions to give to his brother, Aaron, on what to do. What was it? Leviticus 16:2a

b. What would be the result if he disobeyed?

Leviticus 16:2b _____

c. Why? Leviticus 16:2c _____

3. Aaron had to prepare himself for this special day by washing and putting

on the holy garments of linen, the tunic, trousers, sash and turban as God had commanded.

a. Can we come to God in the robes of our own good deeds? Isaiah 64:6

b. What robe can we wear then? Isaiah 61:10

c. What alone gives us the right to approach God or pray to Him?

Hebrews 10:19-23

d. How then should we come to God in prayer? Hebrews 10:19-23

(make a list):

4. Aaron had to take five animals: a bull and two goats for sin offerings and two rams for burnt offerings.

a. Who did these offerings make atonement for? Leviticus 16:17, 33

On the Day of Atonement, once a year, after the sin offerings were killed, Aaron took a censer of burning coals into the Holy of Holies. With his hands full of sweet incense, he put it on the burning coals in front of the mercy seat. A cloud of incense covered the mercy seat (where God dwelt among His people), so Aaron wouldn't die. He sprinkled some of the blood of the sin sacrifices on and in front of the mercy seat.

b. What sins were atoned for? Leviticus 16:16, 34

5. a. Discuss what happened to the two goats: Leviticus 16:7-10, 21-22.

(1)

(2)

After this was done, Aaron offered the Burnt Offering for himself and the people. The Sin Offerings were taken outside the camp and burned.

b. How often did the High Priest enter the Holy of Holies? Read Hebrews 9:1-8.

Our "Day of Atonement"
We look back to the day that Christ died on the cross as **our** "Day of Atonement."

6. a. Since we are all sinners, we are all under the curse of the law, the condemnation of sin. What is the punishment? Romans 6:23a

b. To appreciate afresh what Jesus did, ponder again the horrors of hell:

(1) Matthew 13:42

(2) Mark 9:48

(3) Luke 16:23-24, 26

Come, grow with us at AFLBS



*Blessed is the man who does not walk in the
counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of
sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.
But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and
on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree planted by streams of water,
which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither.
Whatever he does prospers.*

Psalm 1:1-3

Schools receive grant and gift money

Free Lutheran Theological Seminary, Minneapolis, has been awarded three grants totaling \$5,000 from Aid Association for Lutherans. The grants enable two faculty members to continue their education with advanced course work or graduate programs. It provides tuition assistance to several seminary students. Funds from the third grant helped pay for the Institute of Theology this summer and will assist with the three-week interim program in January.

Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS programs recently provided \$9,265 for the Free Lutheran Seminary. This payment covers 102 gifts of Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the second quarter of 1994. AFLBS received \$4,460 from 52 gifts during the same quarter. This Lutheran Brotherhood program matches members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran institutions of higher education nationwide.

Dates to remember

September 9 – Seminary classes start
September 12 – Bible School classes start
October 7-9 – Homecoming
October 23-26 – Life in Christ Crusade

October 30 – Reformation Rally
November 24-27 – Thanksgiving
December 10 – Parents' Day
December 11 – Annual Schools' Christmas Concert
December 16-January 2 – Christmas recess

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences – January 1 - July 31, 1994

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN JULY	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund	\$256,591.00	\$23,304.72	\$127,740.33	50
Seminary	148,000.00	31,717.98	74,607.92	50
Bible School	232,562.00	23,262.90	94,682.02	41
Home Missions.	319,086.00	21,489.31	133,051.08	42
World Missions.	342,788.00	23,456.28	177,964.55	52
Capital Investment	37,395.00	2,945.16	16,080.27	43
Parish Education	67,868.00	5,070.20	23,500.29	35
ARC	8,600.00	1,500.22	4,819.32	56
Church Extension	10,000.00	1,464.39	7,436.56	74
TOTALS	\$1,422,890.00	\$134,211.16	\$659,882.34	45
1993 Goal 58%	\$1,347,747.00	\$58,793.82	\$601,299.24	46
1994 Goal 58%				

For Sale

Fergus Falls, Minnesota — Calvary Free Lutheran has 20 church pews for sale. They are 12 feet long with frontal screen in a semi-tradition design with book racks. These medium-colored oak pews are in excellent condition. For more information, contact Dennis Torkelson, Route 2 Box 22, Foxhome, MN 56543 or call 218-736-4607.

Minneapolis, Minnesota — Morgan Avenue Lutheran has 25 adult choir robes for sale. They are navy blue with a white stole, \$10 each or best offer. Call the church office at 612-374-2945.

PEOPLE and PLACES

Pastor Mark Olson, Ottawa, Illinois, has resigned from Freedom and St. Petrie Lutheran Parish in order to accept a call from Calvary Lutheran at Arlington, South Dakota, beginning in September. He has served the Illinois parish since 1988.

Dr. Johan Koren is now an associate director of a regional library in northern Norway. Dr. Koren is a 1983 AFLTS graduate and served Our Savior's Lutheran in Bessemer, Michigan, before going on staff at Wayne State University, Detroit. His new address is Sondre Nordland Fylkesbibliotek, P.O. Box 53, N-8601 Mo i Rana, Norway.

Milford, Illinois — St. John's Lutheran, as a part of New Hope Lutherans for Life, Watseka Chapter, participated in placing 4,000 white crosses next to the sign which reads: "These 4,000 crosses represent children killed by abortion in our country every day." When the work was completed, all joined in a worship and dedication service followed by a dinner. Sandy Lehmann was appointed by St. John's to be their representative and contact person for the LFL Chapter.

Rev. Lyle Aadahl recently moved to Byron, Minnesota, where he has begun serving the AFLC congregations in nearby Kasson and Dexter. His new address is Box 126, Byron, MN 55920.

Rev. Joseph E. Schultz is now serving Abiding Word Lutheran in Deshler, Nebraska. His new address is P. O. Box 218, Deshler, NE 68340.

Lloyd Lee, Escanaba, Michigan, underwent heart surgery in Minneapolis on August 1. He is recuperating at the home of his son, AFLC President Robert Lee.



McIntosh, Minnesota — Pictured is Rev. Dale Mellgren of the Trinity and Mt. Carmel Lutheran Parish, with AFLC President Robert Lee at Pastor Mellgren's Installation Service on June 12.



Wheatland, Iowa — Christian Free Lutheran held their groundbreaking ceremony for a new addition on June 5. Also pictured is the confirmation class that was confirmed earlier in



the day. The congregation's pastor, Tim Carlson is on the second row, far left.

It's the kids!

During the 1992 presidential campaign the Clinton staff was reminded of what they felt was the most important issue on the minds of voters by a sign on their office walls that simply said: "It's the economy, stupid!" According to one observer the message that should be on the walls of campaign headquarters this election year is: "It's the kids, stupid!"

The participants in recent voter forums in our community have consistently said public schools, children and families are the most important issues they want politicians to address in the upcoming election. The most well-attended pastors' meeting I have seen in our area was one on proposed changes in the school system. Many private schools are seeing rapid and record growth. And this all in one of the most unchurched areas in the country. People are concerned.

The concern in our communities is an opportunity for the church. People are talking about values. They are looking for help in raising and educating their children. They are often asking the right questions, and we who know Jesus have the right answers. We need to be involved.

Many have chosen to get out of the public school system and educate their children either in a private, Christian school or in a home school. This is a matter of personal choice. What is right for one family is not right for all. God may lead some to be involved in a private school or in home schooling. He may want others to remain in a public school. Each one should be respected and encouraged to follow God's leading in their life. Each one, also, no matter the path they may choose, should have a concern about what goes on in the public schools.

While the alternatives have been growing, the vast majority of young people are a part of the public school system. Even if we do not have children who are a part of the system we need to have an interest in what is going on. To a large extent, the future of our nation is being shaped in our local school buildings. As God's ambassadors to a fallen world we must do more than dismiss the whole system as corrupt, retreat to our own secure little world and try to be sure the public schools don't touch us and we don't touch them.

The public schools are a mission field. They are full of people who need to hear the good news of Jesus. Many who are there have never heard, and they have few around them who know Christ. God can use a wide variety of people in His work. Not all are called to go. Some are to be involved in a support ministry of prayer and encouragement. All are called to care and ask what God would have them

to do. Each of us is to have confidence that the God of the cross and the resurrection can certainly make a difference, even in the public schools, even by using us.

There is some good news

In the midst of the headlines describing the most recent round of murder and mayhem was some good news. "Thousands flock to D.C. for teen celibacy event" declared the article taken from *The Washington Post*. Pledge cards signed by 211,163 teens from across the country who have promised to wait until marriage to have sex adorned the National Mall as part of a celebration of the international "True Love Waits" campaign. It began 16 months ago when 59 teens signed pledges at a Baptist church in Tennessee. It has now, according to the article, "evolved into a virtual counter-culture in which being a virgin is in."

Sometimes we may wonder if 200,000 teenage virgins can actually be found. The good news is they can be, and they want to stay that way until marriage. News like that is something our society desperately needs to hear. Many are being told everyone is doing it and they are strange if they don't join in. The evil one has spread the lie that sex is simply a physical act with no emotional or spiritual consequences. "If our body wants it we ought to just go ahead" is a line he tries to lure us with. The temptations surround us. Many have felt it is impossible to resist. They have been enticed onto a path full of misery.

The temptations are undeniably great. The good news is our Savior is greater still. In Jesus "we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:15, 16). We must humbly admit the struggle is too much for us. But have confidence, it is not too much for God. "So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall! No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:12, 13).

It is good news that many have made promises that are in accord with God's commands. It is encouraging to know as well they can be faithful and you can be faithful too, because God will be faithful to you.

Over one million expected for 'See You at the Pole'

SAN DIEGO, Calif. (EP) — "Across the Nation, Around the World" is the 1994 theme for "See You at the Pole," a national student prayer event scheduled for September 21. Over a million students in junior high school and college are expected to gather at their school flagpoles at 7 a.m. to pray about local and national concerns.

Researcher George Barna, who studied last year's gathering, commented, "Having more than one million people — and primarily people under the age of 18 — participate in such an event is a major statement about the heart of America. The fact that more than a million young people show up to pray for their communities, their leaders and the nation at large, suggests that there is a significant proportion who are serious about their faith in Christ and who believe that God is the key to our future."

See You at the Pole started in Texas in 1990, with over 46,000 participating on 1,200 campuses. It became a nationwide event the following year, and grew quickly.

In anticipation of questions from school officials about the legality of the event, several public-interest law firms mailed educational material to school officials nationwide in 1993, explaining that the voluntary prayer rallies are a constitutionally protected form of speech.

Nevertheless, some meetings drew opposition. In August of 1993, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in Michigan tried to block student participation at public schools. The group demanded that state school Superintendent Robert Schiller "take appropriate steps immediately to ensure that school districts not permit any religious activities on school grounds during the school day." But Schiller told the ACLU he could not oppose the event.

Similar legal challenges in other locations were handled by public-interest legal groups, including the Rutherford Institute and the American Center for Law and Justice, and the ACLU made an apparent turnabout when spokesman Robert Peck said his organization would defend students who were told they could not pray.

A number of organizations are supporting See You at the Pole, including Focus on the Family, Campus Crusade for Christ, the Southern Baptist Convention, the National Network of Youth Ministries, Youth for Christ, Assemblies of God, the National Prayer Committee, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

A 24-hour hotline has been established which gives basic information about the event; the number is 619-592-9200. Resources for promoting the event locally are available by calling 817 HIS-PLAN during business hours.

Student religious group wins right to meet

LADUE, Mo. (EP) — The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals reversed a lower court decision July 12, ruling that the student-led Good News/Good Sports Club in Ladue, Missouri, has a constitutional right to meet on the grounds of the Ladue Junior High School. The ruling was a result of a September 1993 appeal by the Rutherford Institute.

According to Timothy Belz, the attorney handling the case on behalf of the Rutherford Institute, this ruling set an important precedent for the rights of religious groups to meet at the middle school level. "The court has extended the rights of student religious clubs from the college and high school level to the junior high level," said Belz.

The ruling stated that Ladue School officials had previously granted access to other groups, such as the Boy Scouts, but refused access to the Good News/Good Sports Club. This denial of access violated the Free Speech Clause of the First Amendment, which requires schools to be viewpoint neutral in access policies for all students.

"The court made a clear-cut determination that the school district had engaged in an unconstitutional viewpoint discrimination by allowing the Scouts to meet but forbidding the Bible Club to meet," said Belz.

"The First Amendment simply does not tolerate a school policy that discriminates against religious speech on public property," agreed Steven T. McFarland, director of Christian Legal Society's Center for Law and Religious Freedom, which supported the parents and students of the Bible club with a "friend-of-the-court" brief.

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