# ATHE LUTHERAN APRIL 25, 2000





## God's church coming together

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## THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 25, 2000 Volume 38, Number 6



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#### The Lutheran Ambassador

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#### AN ENCOURAGING WORD

## The message of hope

"Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here; see the place where they laid Him " (Mark 16:6).

ur previous column
examined the magnificent words of Jesus on
the cross before He
expired: "It is finished!"
His mission, His charge from the
Father was accomplished. Today we
see the equally triumphant words,
spoken by the angel: "He has risen!"
In these two brief statements is
comprehended or included the core
of Christian belief. Here is the
bedrock upon which faith rests.

Easter, the festival of the Resurrection, has come and gone once more. But, oh, Easter is not over. The church year counts seven weeks as the Easter season. But it is longer than that. It lasts for all the year, and all the years. The Russian word for Sunday means resurrection. What a reminder of hope that must have been for Christians in the Soviet Union during all those years of tyranny they endured.

In our western practice, we are prone to have quite a buildup to our festivals (Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving, Pentecost), and once the day is over to quickly forget it and look forward to the next special day. There is so little "afterglow." We can do better in holding on to the meaning of the Christian festival seasons and letting them bless our lives daily.

The early Christians saw the resurrection of Jesus as of one piece with His crucifixion. From the summaries of the apostolic sermons in Acts and from the Epistles of Paul we see the emphasis placed on the empty tomb. Jesus won the victory over the grave. By that He was shown to be God's Son and His

death the atonement for our sins.

How good it was to gather in our churches on Easter Sunday! We know the Easter Gospel so well and we've sung the hymns of Resurrection over many years perhaps, but it was a joy to do it once again. Coupled with springtime, Easter fairly shouts the message of hope — Jesus is risen and we, too, shall live as we rest and trust in Him.

"Easter is always, because we worship a living Lord!" So wrote Theodore E. Johnson, a one-time Lutheran college president in Nebraska. And the message of the Resurrection is good news, too good to keep to oneself. Therefore, Christians must find new resolve to do the Master's work in these days.

In the marvelous 15th chapter of I Corinthians, Paul contrasts the futility of life if there is no resurrection with the triumph there is because Jesus was raised. And he sees the mortal nature putting on immortality, bringing to fulfillment the prophecy, "Death is swallowed up in victory."

"Christ the Lord is ris'n again; Hallelujah!"



 Pastor Raynard Huglen Newfolden, Minnesota

The child of God must,

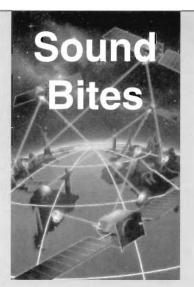
therefore, be most concerned that his congregation is what it ought to be. The child of God must conduct himself in a manner that helps his congregation, not harms it. All aspects of the church on earth must seek to serve the congregation.

- John Strand

The commonplace practice of selecting a church to get our needs

met reflects a consumer view, not a common life view. When we neglect the importance of common life, we fail to grow in virtue and the fruit of the Spirit that can only be worked out in context of the body of Christ.

- Jim Holland



A man does not live for himself alone in this earth; rather, he lives only for others and not for himself. To this end he brings his body into subjection that he may the more sincerely and freely serve others.

- Martin Luther

It is so easy to think that the Church has a lot of different objects - education, building, missions, holding services ... The church exists for no other purpose but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christ's. - C. S. Lewis

I love local church work. I love the people I do it with. I love the rigors of it, the challenges of it. I love the stakes of it. It's heaven and hell. It's relationships. It's families. It's

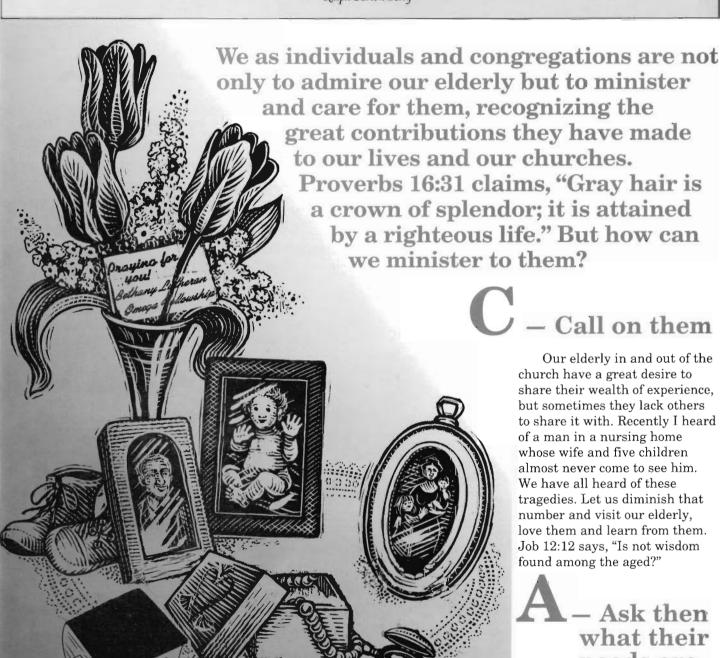
the highest-stakes game in town. -Bill Hybels



A good measuring stick for any family, business, or church is its capacity to laugh. Any church that cannot laugh is in trouble. And any church that is deadly serious all the time will eventually be dead.

- Judson Edwards

## Age should not have its face lifted, but rather it should teach the world to admire wrinkles as the etchings of experience and the firm line of character.



- Ask then what their needs are.

Sometimes we visit an older person and only talk about what is on our agenda, never asking

## Pastor Lynn Wilson Lake Region Parish Rosyln, South Dakota

# Caring for the elderly

them what their needs include. Recognize the primary need is to be prepared to meet Jesus. If salvation is needed, ask them if they are ready to pray in such a manner like this: "Jesus, forgive me of my sin. Come into my heart. I trust in Your death for me on the cross and Your resurrection — and not my good works — to save me. Amen." However, we must not forget to also inquire of them what their needs are and pray for that together with them.

## R - Read Scripture to them.

Proverbs 17:6 says, "Children's children are a crown to the aged and parents are the pride of their children." Isaiah 46:4 offers a wonderful promise: "even to your old age I will carry you, I have made, and I will bear; I will carry and I will save." But even more than passages about the aged, read passages about the cross, about God's love for us, about God's care for His own when they reach death's door. Share with them John 3:16, Psalm 23, Ephesians 2:8-9. Scripture is a balm for any age!

# I – Inquire of them how we as a congregation can help.

We come to the elderly to learn how we can be a help to them. Ask them what are some of their greatest concerns for the future, and perhaps bring these concerns to your deacons and elders. Pray over them and, by God's grace, try to meet those needs.

## N – Need Christ as Savior and strength.

Psalm 118:14 says, "The Lord is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation." The years have brought on many physical needs, but the spiritual needs outweigh any physical problem. Make sure their "anchor holds" when they breathe their last. That anchor is their personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

## G - Go and give.

Go to your congregation and urge them to look anew at their members and neighbors. After you have talked to your church leadership, bring these concerns to the entire congregation. Urge them in I Peter 2 and Martin Luther's words that all God's people are priests — pastors called to minister. Caring for the elderly in the congregation is not merely the task of your pastor. Matthew 25:35-40 reminds us: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me .... Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me."

Give hope to the elderly by telling them God can still use them as His witnesses and prayer warriors for others. Give of yourself. Give them the same hope that inspired Albert P. Stauderman to write:

"Count your garden by the flowers,
Never by the leaves that fall.
Count your days by golden hours,
Don't remember clouds at all!
Count your nights by stars, not shadows,
Count your life with smiles, not tears;
And with joy on every birthday,
Count your age by friends, not years."





– Pastor Gerald F. Mundfrom Osceola, Wisconsin

## Who is ministering to the depressed?

everal years ago a popular magazine estimated that there were 14 million people suffering from depression. I fear that the number is even greater now. Many of the people suffering with this crippling disease are Christians. We are in the midst of a depression epidemic, even though some Christian ministries report successes both numerically and financially.

Why are there so many depressed people in our time? There are numerous causes but often it is triggered by stress.

Formerly many more churches taught and preached the true Word of God. People with troubled hearts (now called depression) were able to find an answer to that which troubled them by going to church and listening to the Word of God Sunday after Sunday.

Many churches have switched to emotionalism or to liberal teachings (two extreme opposites) in place of the true Word of God with its healing power of the gospel. Such false teachings only lead to a dead end with no hope. They have no cure for the depression and then there is no "balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole." In spite of their church attendance, many people return home with the same troubling questions. Not only do they lack answers, but often are more confused than ever.

I think of these poor depressed people, many of them believers, having surrendered their lives to Jesus but starving spiritually. They are like wounded, hungry soldiers lying on the battlefields of spiritual warfare.

We all may suffer from time to time from what we might call mild

depression. For such there is a remedy going for a walk, going to work, getting involved in some project, and by reading our Bibles and taking it to the Lord in prayer. We find a way to get over our depression.

Acute depression is different. It clings like glue. Night and day it haunts the mind with no escape. Only sleep brings some relief from such a plaguing ailment. And that is hard to come by when extremely depressed. It is difficult to have any kind of a spirit of thankfulness because depression's sorrow and extreme unhappiness overshadows everything.

Depression carries a huge feeling of guilt. The acutely depressed often feels guilty even for that which he need not feel guilty about. The devil is quick to point an accusing finger at the one who feels most guilty of all about being depressed. Failure is perceived even when one is not a failure.

Decisions are difficult to make, even the small ones. Severe depression affects the ability to concentrate, thus communication and fellowship with others is strained. Even those who were once close can become like strangers.

It seems that no one understands how the depressed person feels. And the truth is that very few do. It is those who have experienced clinical depression who can understand the best. Often it seems easy to simply avoid the extremely depressed or to offer simplistic remedies. Even prayer seems to bring little relief, at least to begin with. Bible reading and Bible study becomes difficult and even

> impossible in the extreme cases because of the inability to concentrate.

The acutely depressed, though wounded soldiers in the Christian warfare, can be healed! They can be restored, and once restored they can become better soldiers than ever. They

need encouragement. They can, in time, go out with greater compassion than they had previous to their experience with depression. And oh, how this is needed in a world filled with hate, envy and jealousy!

May God give us all a greater burden for the extremely depressed. Pray that God will raise up more Christian soldiers who will reach out to them with the hope of the gospel.



## What really is stewardship?

lady in Chicago took it upon herself to give a teddy bear to every child who was admitted to one of the city's major hospitals. The hospital staff informed her of their child admissions.

Each day she visited the hospital with an arm full of teddy bears and delivered them personally to the children. While in each room, she chatted with the parents of the sick child to determine if this family was financially able to pay the hospital bill. She would then make arrangements to pay the bill.

This benefactor was not from a wealthy family nor did she have a successful businessman for a husband. She never married and her career was that of a \$15,000-a-year secretary for a hospital supply company. Living frugally, she invested the greater part of her income in her company's stock. The company was bought out by a larger supply company and her stock rose to great heights so that upon her retirement, she was worth many millions of dollars.

She generously paid the medical bills for numerous families until her death in 1997. The hospital and staff now were concerned what would happen to this wonderful aid for needy families. Upon the reading of her will, they learned that three million dollars remained to be used by the hospital for future needy families. This was certainly a form of stewardship.

The New Testament is filled with Jesus' examples of grace, compassion, love, faithfulness, humility, prayerfulness, patience, sacrifice and obedience to the will of God. The Bible tells us time and time again that we are to love as God loves and to forgive as God forgives, to sacrifice as God did when He gave His only Son as a ransom for us all. The way that we use our material possessions is an important part of living in the will of God. The sad facts are that the majority of Christians in the United States, many of whom have been blessed in exceptional material ways, are not

putting God first with their money.

We are told that charitable giving still hovers at about two percent. That statistic becomes even more startling when we consider that only 15 to 20 percent of Christians in our nation give 10 percent or more.

We need to set aside a percentage of our income regularly as we are paid in order to be able to give systematically to God's work. God wants us to give of our material possessions out of hearts of love, reflecting sincere appreciation for His gift of salvation. Organize and plan giving so that it might be done generously and not grudgingly. Let God give you a heart focused on godliness and contentment rather than on riches that may result in discontentment. In our affluent society, we need to guard against self-deception and rationalization. What a joy

results when discovering and living in "what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

Let's pray about our spending habits and set some limits on our lifestyle. Decide how much is needed for necessities and luxuries and once the "finish lines" are drawn, don't extend the markers. Instead, purpose to give away what is left and watch God's faithfulness unfold. "Test me in this, says the Lord Almighty, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it."

Generosity is an attitude that affects every area of life and can be measured by: how much we should give, how much we could give, and how much we would give.

- The AFLC Stewardship Board

## Letting our love show

wo years ago our pastor read a newspaper article telling how a church was providing "parents' night out" once a month for all the parents in their community. Since we live far from our church, my husband and I volunteered to offer "parents' night out" to a young couple with three children. They go to our church and live near us but have no family here.

Every other month they bring their children to our house. Sometimes the children have supper with us and we enjoy reading to them and playing with them. Our grandchildren's puzzles, play dough, blocks and other toys



receive another round of use.

In today's world, work opportunities often separate young families from relatives. Tight budgets may preclude spending money on babysitting. But we can do something positive about it. Allowing time for a little romance into the life of a young couple plus an evening of happy laughter in our home is a reward in itself, but it can have lasting affects on a young family.

Although we are doing this on an individual basis, it seems this could be a way to reach out into the community and offer the service to unchurched families as well. The children who came to the church for the parents' night out, would likely consider coming to vacation Bible school or Sunday school. The parents would also gain a positive impression of Christianity and its members. Only God knows how He would use this open door of witnessing in your community.

> - Elaine Kohl Calvary Free Lutheran Arlington, South Dakota

## Thirty-Eighth Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

June 14-18, 2000

#### **Association Retreat Center**

#### Osceola, Wisconsin

Conference theme: "The Message of the Cross for a New Millennium" — I Corinthians 1:18

Wednesday, June 14

9:00 a.m. The conference committees meet for

devotions, instructions and room

assignments.

6:30 p.m. Concert of Prayer

8 p.m. The opening service of the conference

with the sermon on the text by Rev. Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The service leader is Rev. David Keippela, Stacy, Minnesota. AFLC President Rev. Robert Lee will open the

conference and appoint necessary

committees.

Thursday, June 15

9:00 a.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee Adoption of the Conference Agenda

Election of the Nominating Committee

for the 2001 Conference The President's Report

Report of the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Washington Report of the AFLC Foundation

Secretary, Rev. Dan Klug, East Grand

Forks, Minnesota

Reports of Chaplaincy Ministries Rev. Kerwin Sletto, Ottawa, Illinois Rev. Tim Skramstad, Zumbrota, Minn.

Report of the Director of the ARC, Eric Westlake, Osceola, Wisconsin Financial Report, Marlene Unverzagt, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Bookkeeper Report of the Family Bible Camps Lake Bronson - Treasurer, Sonia

Balmer, Thief River Falls, Minnesota Wilderness - Treasurer, Don Olson,

Fargo, North Dakota

Report of the Budget Analysis Committee Brent Peterson, Brookings, S. Dak.

Report of the Nominating Committee

always in order

Election of nominees for the Missions Corporation, Schools Corporation, and

ARC Corporation

Report of Committee No. 1

(Administration)

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour

Leader: Rev. Edward Strom, Kenyon,

Minnesota

1:30 p.m. Devotions

Report of Credentials Committee

Election Procedures

Elections: Vice President - one-year term

Secretary - one-year term

Selection of nominees to the Home Missions Committee — one pastor; World Missions Committee — one lay man; Board of Trustees — one pastor, one layman; ARC Board — one pastor Continuing discussion of Committee No. 1 Election of nominee to the Coordinating

Committee — one layman

Election of Committee No. 1 for the 2001

Conference

Report of the Chairman of the

Stewardship Board

Rev. Mark Antal, Park River, North

Dakota

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Rodney Kjersten, Roseau,

Minnesota

Report of Committee No. 5 (Stewardship

and Pensions)

Election of member to the Stewardship

Board — one pastor

Election of member to the Board of Pensions — one pastor and one layman Election of Committee No. 5 for the 2001

Conference

Report of the Chairman of the Board of

Trustees.

David Borg, Cokato, Minnesota Report of the Dean of the Seminary, Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, Minnesota Report of the Dean of the Bible School, Rev. James L. Johnson, Plymouth,

Minnesota

Report of the AFLBS Alumni President, Mark Nelson, New Hope, Minnesota

5:30 p.m. Pastors' Banquet

7:30 p.m. Praise and Worship Time

8:00 p.m. Laymen's Service

Friday, June 16

The Missions Corporation Annual 7:00 a.m.

Meeting

9:00 a.m. Devotions

> Report of the Credentials Committee Report of Committee No. 2 (Schools) Election of Committee No. 2 for the 2001

Conference

Report of Schools Corporation Annual

Meeting

Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee, Vernon Russum,

Grafton, North Dakota

Report of the Director of World Missions, Rev. Eugene Enderlein Plymouth, Minn. Report of Partners in Mission Outreach Board, Al Brazier, Greenbush, Minnesota

11:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. Prayer Hour — Rev. Edward Strom The ARC Corporation Annual Meeting Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Rev. Allen Monson,

Lakeville, Minnesota

Report of the Director of Home Missions, Rev. Paul Nash, Brooklyn Park, Minn.

Report of the Chairman of the

Commission on Evangelism, Gene Quist,

Bloomington, Minnesota

Report of the Director of Evangelism, Rev. James Rasmussen, Maple Grove,

Minnesota

Report of Committee No. 3 (Missions

and Evangelism)

Report of Missions Corporation Annual

Meeting

Election of member to the Commission on

Evangelism — one pastor

Election of Committee No. 3 for the 2001

Conference

5:30 p.m.

The Schools Corporation annual meeting The Mission Festival Service conducted 7:45 p.m.

#### **Conference Notes**

Please pre-register for the conference by June 1, with Amery Free Lutheran Church 647 113th St.

Amery, WI 54001

Conference lodging, including rooms at The ARC, are to be reserved with the facility of your choice. The host congregation does not make room reservations.

Youth attending with their families will have an option to travel to Valley Fair in Minnesota (\$15) and possibly a Twins baseball game (\$5).

by the Women's Missionary Federation Speaker: Missionary Todd Schierkolk

Saturday, June 17

9:00 a.m. Devotions

> Report of the Credentials Committee Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Rev.

Martin Horn, Fosston, Minnesota Report of the Director of Parish Education, Marian Christopherson,

Crystal, Minnesota

Report of the Chairman of the Christian Academic Education Board, Rev. Brian Davidson, Minneapolis, Minnesota Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck, Minot,

North Dakota

Report of the President of the Free Lutheran Youth, Robert Halvorson,

Otsego, Minnesota

Report of Youth Ministries Director, Rev. Kevin Olson, Savage, Minnesota Report of Committee No. 4 (Publications,

Parish Education and Youth Work)

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Rev. Edward Strom

Devotions 1:30 p.m.

Report of Credentials Committee Election of member to the Board of Publications and Parish Education -

one pastor

Election of member to the Christian Academic Education Board - one pastor,

one layman

Election of member to the Youth Board -

one pastor

Election of Committee No. 4 for the 2001

Conference

Report of the Chairman of the Colloquy

Committee

Election of Colloquy Committee for the

2001 Conference

Report of special committees

Election of two members to the Budget Analysis Committee - three-year term Report of Committee No. 1 as the Committee on General Resolutions

Other Reports

Youth Night at the Conference 8:00 p.m.

Sunday, June 18

Communion Service 8:00 a.m.

Speaker: Rev. Tom Gilman, Canton,

South Dakota

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Speaker: Archbishop Janis Vanags,

Latvian Lutheran Church

- Conference Committee Rev. Robert Lee, President Rev. Brian Davidson, Secretary

## Elections at conference

#### Nominees as presented by the 2000 Nominating Committee

#### **Coordinating Committee**

(one layman - five-year term) Vince Larson, Buffalo, ND Duwayne Lindell, Ferndale, WA

#### **Board of Trustees**

(one pastor, five-year term; one layman, one-year term to fill unexpired term of Wayne Floan) Rev. Frank Cherney, Duluth, MN Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, ND

#### **World Missions Committee**

(one layman, five-year term) Carol Knapp, Willmar, MN

#### **Home Missions Committee**

(one pastor, five-year term) Rev. Orville Hiepler, Oceanside, CA Rev. Steve Mundfrom, Sebeka, MN Rev. Craig Wentzel, Edmore, ND

#### **Board of Publications and Parish Education**

(one pastor, five-year term) Rev. Phil Haugen, Crystal, MN

#### **Christian Academic Education Board** (one pastor and one layman, five-year terms)

Rev. Gerald Peterson, Oklahoma City, OK Rev. Jon Unverzagt, DeKalb, IL Bev Enderlein, Minneapolis, MN Karina Olson, Minneapolis, MN

(20 terms of five years each)

#### Commission on Evangelism

(one pastor, five-year term) Rev. Mike Brandt, Sioux Falls, SD Rev. Jan Horn, Fairbury, NE Pastor Donald Norr, Proctor, MN

#### Stewardship Board

(one pastor, five-year term) Rev. Mark Antal, Park River, ND Rev. Jason Holt, Fergus Falls, MN Rev. Tim Johnson, Fertile, MN

#### Youth Board

(one pastor, five-year term) Rev. Alan Arneson, Badger, MN Rev. Tim Carlson, Wheatland, IA

#### **Board of Pensions**

(one pastor, five-year term; one layman, two-year term to fill the unexpired term of Rodney Kjersten) Rev. Rodney Johnson, Stanley, ND Rev. Mike Klenner, Freeman, SD Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Deshler, NE Rev. Larry Severson, Roseau, MN

#### **ARC Board**

(one pastor, five-year term) Rev. Philip Featherstone, Osceola, WI Rev. Todd Klemme, Starbuck, MN Rev. Edward Strom, Kenyon, MN

#### To the Missions Corporation:

Dr. Peter Dyrud, Plymouth, MN Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, MN Phil Grothe, Thief River Falls, MN Arley Hartsoch, Ray, ND Rev. David Hinrichs, Ortonville, MN Rev. Tim Hurley, Opelika, AL Rev. Ted Kennedy, Nogales, AZ Oliver Landsverk, Fosston, MN Craig Maltby, Kalispell, MT Dr. Lyle Mattson, Greenbush, MN Rev. Steve Odegaard, Tioga, ND Ken Penn, Williston, ND Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, SD Randy Sommer, Sparland, IL Rev. Harris Van Someren, Mason, WI Eunice Will, Springfield, MO Rev. Vincent Will, Springfield, MO Ken Williams, Ishpeming, MI Rev. Lynn Wilson, Roslyn, SD Wilson Bamesberger, Sioux Falls, SD Wendell Berg, Mayville, ND Gary Buenteneier, Northome, MN

Rev. Fred Faughn, Lovi, PA Gene Finstrom, Buxton, ND Rev. Tom Gilman, Canton, SD Lavern Hagen, Badger, MN Warren Hatteberg, Morris, IL Clinton Hoff, Oceanside, CA Howard Johnson, Helmar, IL Dean Knutson, Beresford, SD Orville Lee, Mentor, MN Gary Lehman, Milford, IL Rev. Al Magnuson, Reva, SD Skip Milton, McLeod, ND Miles Mondt, Sioux Falls, SD Glen Nelson, Canton, SD Rev. Randy Nelson, El Campo, TX Norman Nelson, Bagley, MN Kevin Olson, Minneapolis, MN Rev. Oliver Olson, Oceanside, CA Jerry Richman, Valley City, ND Wayne Riebe, Sr., Ottawa, IL Daniel Rugroden, Fargo, ND Loren Tungseth, Fergus Falls, MN Kenneth Wold, Fosston, MN

BUDGET ANALYSIS COMMITTEE	Term Expires
Richard Rasmussen, Monticello, MN	2000
Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, MN	2000
Al Hatala, Bethel Park, PA	2001
Robert Knutson, McVille, ND	2001
Brent Peterson, Brookings, SD	2002



#### Nominees to the 2001 **Conference Committees**

**COMMITTEE No. 1 (Administration)** 

Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, ND Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, MN Willis Kettlehut, Deshler, NE Mark Sivertson, Sioux Falls, SD Sharon Tungseth, Fergus Falls, MN

COMMITTEE No. 2 (Schools)

Sylvia Armen, Bethel Park, PA Glenn Espe, Thief River Falls, MN Rev. Orville Heipler, Oceanside, CA Nathaniel Olson, Fargo, ND

COMMITTEE No. 3 (Missions & Evangelism)

Rev. William Goodman, Bemidji, MN Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, OR Rev. Tim Johnson, Fertile, MN Marcia Pavesi, Bethel Park, PA Irvin Schmitke, Thief River Falls, MN

#### COMMITTEE No. 4 (Publications/Parish Education/Youth)

Rev. Lyle Aadahl, Byron, MN Mary Christianson, Fergus Falls, MN Terry Fladland, Hatton, ND Gail Kruse, Mankato, MN Rev. James Molstre, Bethel Park, PA

COMMITTEE No. 5 (Stewardship/Pension)

Rev. Craig Benson, Radcliffe, IA Rodney Kjersten, Roseau, MN Clyde Lundgren, Bethel Park, PA Tony Onnen, Cokato, MN Roger Tollefson, Crookston, MN

#### To the Schools Corporation

(10 terms of five years each) David Borg, Cokato, MN Loiell Dyrud, Thief River Falls, MN Rev. Dan Klug, East Grand Forks, MN Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Cokato, MN Stan Miller, Grand Forks, ND Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, WA Rev. Rodger Olson, Fergus Falls, MN Brent Peterson, Brookings, SD Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, MN Wendy Westlake, Osceola, WI Tim Berntson, Valley City, ND Rev. John Dennis, Bethel Park, PA Rev. Dick Fredrick, Little Rock, AR Carroll Hassler, Bruce, SD Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, MN Jeff Jacobi, Wheatland, IA Steve Jankord, Sioux Falls, SD Willis Kettelhut, Deshler, NE Carlton Leikvold, Wakonda, SD Mark Sivertson, Sioux Falls, SD Rev. Doug Wagley, Spokane, WA Terry Wall, Oceanside, CA C. Arthur Wilson, Bethel Park, PA

#### To The ARC Corporation

(10 terms of five years each) Oryen Beruud, Goodhue, MN Don Berge, Fargo, ND Rev. Tim Carlson, Wheatland, IA Rev. David Keippela, Stacy, MN Kevin Nessa, Garden City, IA Dennis Parsley, Pipestone, MN Rev. Tonnes Pollestad, Andover, MN Roger Quanbeck, McVille, ND Lee Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, WI Peter Ward, Brooklyn Park, MN Randy Antonsen, Crooks, SD Don Balmer, Thief River Falls, MN Nathan Dalager, Brookings, SD Mark Hylden, Park River, ND Rev. Scott Jans, Fairbank, IA Rev. Paul Jecklin, Fairhope, AL Rod Kjersten, Roseau, MN Greg Olson, Fergus Falls, MN Ken Schaller, Bruce, SD Robert Schwartz, Brookings, SD Jim Stover, Larimore, ND

## Welcome to the ARC

Greetings from the beautiful state of Wisconsin, home of the Rose Bowl champion Badgers, champion-sized muskies, and more cheeseheads than I would like to admit (especially from a diehard Vikings fan).

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I write this note to you. As I look out my office window and see all the fresh spring activity, I am overwhelmed by the goodness of God. Though, as I write this, we are immersed in this Lenten season of contemplation, confession, and consecration, I can't help but glance forward and peek into the empty tomb with all of its fresh new beginnings. Oh, like you, I marvel at both the horror and the mercy of the cross; the wonderful redemption and forgiveness purchased for us on those gruesome timbers. The miracle of Easter lies just around the corner. The ways and plans of God are truly marvelous.

But that is not the only event lying just around the corner. In a very few months, members of Amery Free Lutheran Church and the staff of the Association Retreat Center will be welcoming one and all to the annual conference of the AFLC. We are excited to have the opportunity to host this year's conference, the first of this millennium, on June 14 to 18. The wheels are already turning on our end, and preparations are moving ahead for what we hope will be one of the best attended, most exciting, conferences to date. We will try our best, by God's grace, to continue the fine tradition of those host congregations who have preceded us.

We have tried to make the registration process as simple and

streamlined as possible. To enhance this simplification the ARC will be handling their own lodging reservations just as any other motel/hotel on the lodging list. We are also doing our best to make this a "family-friendly" conference with trained child care for all general sessions and evening services (free-will offering), and complete VBS/Youth programs (also free-will offering) for the older children. We want all attending this conference to leave having been touched and blessed by the presence of God.

All AFLC family and friends consider yourselves invited to the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, Wisconsin. Make your reservations early to ensure the best possible accommodations and service during your stay.

 Rev. David Johnson and the congregation of Amery Free Lutheran Church, Amery, Wisconsin

#### 2000 Nominating Committee

Jon Dryburgh, Grand Forks, ND – Eastern North Dakota Wayne Duebner, Brockton, MT – Western North Dakota/Eastern Montana

Robert Kohl, Brookings, SD – South Dakota
Loiell Dyrud, Thief River Falls, MN – Northwestern Minnesota
Oliver Landsverk, Fosston, MN – North Central Minnesota
Darrell Weers, Fergus Falls, MN – Southwest Central Minnesota
Lavon Bohling, Hebron, NE – Nebraska/Colorado
John Keinanen, Cloquet, MN – Lake Superior
Marcus Erickson, Albertville, MN – Minneapolis
Paul Handsaker, Radcliffe, IA – Central Tri-State
Richard Schauland, Marquette, MI – Northern Michigan
Rev. Tim Hurley, Opelika, AL – South Central
Vinton Bruflat, Chandler, AZ – Southwestern
Jon Galland, Everett, WA – Pacific Northwest
James Taylor, Bethel Park, PA – Eastern
Stan Dale, Ottawa, IL – Illinois

#### Colloquy Committee for 2000

Rev. Jon Benson, Upsala, MN Rev. Michael Burke, Ishpeming, MI Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, ND Rev. James Fugleberg, Fargo, ND Rev. Joel Rolf, Valley City, ND

The WMF is providing a prayer room available for use by anyone throughout the convention and annual conference.

## Committees to the 2000 annual conference

2000 Conference Committee No. 1

Dienne Andrews, Palmdale, CA Oryen Benrud, Goodhue, MN George Hartman, Dalton, MN Rev. Les Johnson, Minnewauken, ND Rev. Rick Long, Arlington, WA

2000 Conference Committee No. 2

Ken Clark, Palmdale, CA Rev. Gary Haug, Brooklyn Park, MN Terry Hunter, Loveland, CO Pastor Ken Thoreson, Argyle, MN Clyde Lundgren, Bethel Park, PA

2000 Conference Committee No. 3

Larry Campbell, Tucson, AZ Rev. Frank Cherney, Duluth, MN Rev. Wendell Johnson, Cambridge, MN Rev. Edward Strom, Kenyon, MN Bonnie West, Kalispell, MT

2000 Conference Committee No. 4

Lois Grothe, Astoria, OR Rev. Ron Knutson, Kerkhoven, MN Pastor Don Norr, Proctor, MN Jim Palmer, Tucson, AZ James Rolf, Brandon, MN

2000 Conference Committee No. 5

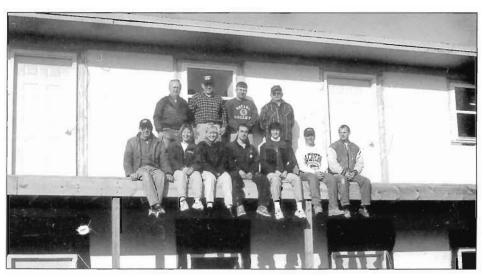
Rev. Harvey Jackson, Hatton, ND Helen Lothar, Zumbrota, MN Eric Throughdal, Champlin MN David Van Hoveln, Milford, IL Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, ND

#### The ARC staff is

excited to be a part of the 38th Annual Conference of the AFLC. God has been continuously blessing the ARC since the last conference was held here and we are thrilled to share these blessings with you. Our latest project has seen the renovation of one of our summer dorms into a lodge with motel-style accommodations. The construction has been moving along with few snags or injuries and we are anticipating it will be complete in plenty of time for the conference. Our most recent project, the gymnasium/auditorium has been a great addition. Now when the weather doesn't cooperate with our guests' schedules, we can offer alternative indoor activities. We've been able to reach out to our local community as well through after-school events and other special activities. The recent nationwide Lighthouse Movement has impressed on us the importance of local outreach and we thank God that we have this outlet to use for that purpose.

Welcome to the ARC, people of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations! We look forward to seeing each of you and we pray that God will use this time in a mighty way for the furtherance of His kingdom!

- Eric, Wendy, Bill, Tami, Jolene, Gene, the Three Marys, the Two Jerrys, Tammy, Dave, Gabe, Mandy, Bob, Phil, and all our summer staff.



Pictured is some of the ARC staff on the deck of Tabitha, the summer dorm being renovated into a lodge with motel-style rooms.

#### Schools Corporation

#### Term Expires 2000

\* David Borg, Cokato, MN Loiell Dyrud, Thief River Falls, MN Rev. Dan Klug, East Grand Forks, MN Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Cokato, MN Stan Miller, Grand Forks, ND Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, WA \*Rev. Rodger Olson, Fergus Falls, MN Brent Peterson, Brookings, SD Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, MN Wendy Westlake, Osceola, WI

#### Term Expires 2001

\* Larry Behne, Lowden, IA Tony Bundy, Marysville, WA Dr. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, MN Rev. Harvey Jackson, Hatton, ND Tim Jones, Wyndmere, ND Rev. Lynn Kinneberg, McVille, ND Rev. Terry Olson, Thief River Falls, MN Roger Peterson, Thief River Falls, MN Rev. James Ritter, Bloomington, MN Rev. Steve Snipstead, Kalispell, MT

#### Term Expires 2002

Anne Erickson, Badger, MN Rev. Dennis Gray, Newfolden, MN Rev. Martin Horn, Fosston, MN Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, CO \* Rev. Mark Olson, Arlington, SD John Presteng, Grafton, ND Kent Quanbeck, McVille, ND Mark Quanbeck, McVille, ND James Rolf, Brandon, MN Gerald Twedt, McHenry, ND

#### Term Expires 2003

Rev. Jon Benson, Upsala, MN Arne Berge, Binford, ND Rev. Frank Cherney, Duluth, MN Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, ND Rev. Craig Johnson, Astoria, OR \* Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Durant, OK Rev. James Molstre, Pittsburgh, PA Rev. John Mundfrom, Beulah, ND Rev. Brian Pearson, Montgomery, IL Ralph Peterson, Portland, ND

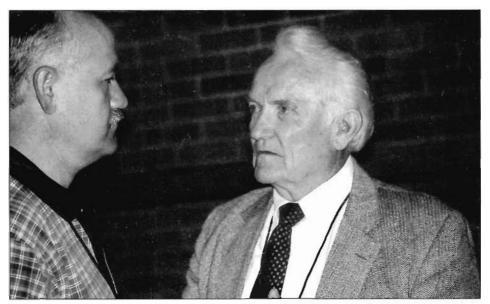
#### Term Expires 2004

Rev. Lyle Aadahl, Byron, MN David Anderson, Osceola, WI Joel Erickson, Grand Forks, ND \*Emory Flaten, Newfolden, MN \*Wayne Floan, Fertile, MN Rev. Les Galland, Everett, WA John Schlenk, Minneapolis, MN Paul Strand, Kenyon MN Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, ND Bruce Wolla, Minot, ND

\* Member of School Board



1999 Conference Committee #2 members: Rev. Al Magnuson, Reva, South Dakota; Clyde Lundgren, Bethel Park, Pennsylvania; Rev. Tim Johnson, Fertile, Minnesota; and Clifford Eastvold, Duluth, Minnesota. (Not pictured is Loren Tungseth, Fergus Falls, Minnesota.)



Pastors Jerry Peterson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Vince Will, Springfield, Missouri.

#### **Term Expires 2000**

Oryen Beruud, Goodhue, MN
Don Berge, Fargo, ND
Rev. Tim Carlson, Wheatland, IA
Rev. David Keippela, Stacy, MN
Kevin Nessa, Garden City, IA
Dennis Parsley, Pipestone, MN
\* Rev. Tonnes Pollestad, Andover, MN
Roger Quanbeck, McVille, ND
Lee Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, WI
Peter Ward, Brooklyn Park, MN

#### **Term Expires 2001**

Ivar Berge, Fargo, ND
Rev. Clyde Grier, Springfield, MO
Dennis Holmquist, Maple Grove, MN
Rev. James Johnson, Brooklyn Park, MN
Ralph Johnson, Upsala, MN
Rev. Mel Meyer, Milford, IL
Ernie Miedema, Valley City, ND
Kermit Nash, Roseville, MN
Jim Ray, Cloquet, MN
Rev. Jonathan Unverzagt, DeKalb, IL

#### **Term Expires 2000**

Dr. Peter Dyrud, Plymouth, MN Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, MN Phil Grothe, Thief River Falls, MN Arley Hartsoch, Ray, ND Rev. David Hinrichs, Ortonville, MN Rev. Tim Hurley, Opelika, AL Rev. Ted Kennedy, Nogales, AZ Oliver Landsverk, Fosston, MN Craig Maltby, Kalispell, MT Dr. Lyle Mattson, Greenbush, MN \*\*Rev. Steve Odegaard, Tioga, ND Ken Penn, Williston, ND Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, SD \*\*Randy Sommer, Sparland, IL Rev. Harris Van Someren, Mason, WI Eunice Will, Springfield, MO Rev. Vincent Will, Springfield, MO Ken Williams, Ishpeming, MI Rev. Lynn Wilson, Roslyn, SD

#### Term Expires 2001

Sylvia Armen, Bethel Park, PA
Rev. Alan Arneson, Badger, MN
Rev. Craig Benson, Radcliffe, IA
Robert Dietsche, Osceola, WI
Rev. Amos Dyrud, Crystal, MN
Rev. James Fugleberg, Fargo, ND
Marilyn Gray, Newfolden, MN
Rev. Wayne Hjermstad, Bruce, SD
\* Halvor Knapp, Kandiyohi, MN
Rev. Dale Mellgren, McIntosh, MN
\* Rev. Allen Monson, Lakeville, MN
\* Rev. Stephen Mundfrom, Sebeka, MN
Aini Myking, New Hope, MN
Pastor Stephen Papillon, Wadena, MN
Michael Stewart, Ponca City, OK

#### **Missions Corporation**

Tom Thorson, Newark, IL

\*\*Rev. Tom Tuura, St. James, MN

Darrell Weers, Fergus Falls, MN

John Welch, Grand Forks, ND

\* Eldwyn VanBruggen, Valley City, ND

#### **Term Expires 2002**

Richard Carr, Plymouth, MN

\* Rev. Michael Crowell, Lake Stevens, WA James Denney, Duluth, MN Steve Goodfellow, Bruce, SD Rev. Larry Haagenson, Loveland, CO Rev. Jan Horne, Fairbury, NE Joe Iverson, Williston, ND Jim Keller, Wallace, SD Harold Kilness, Faith, SD Rev. Ray Klug, Blackduck, MN Dr. Robert Kohl, Brookings, SD Rev. Steven Lombardo, Morris, IL Rev. Jerry Moan, Hamel, MN Pastor Henry Mohagen, Towner, ND Kenneth Nash, Colfax, ND Lee Quanbeck, McVille, ND Timothy Rolf, McIntosh, MN \*\*Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, ND Rev. David Skordahl, Dalton, MN \* Rev. Tony Stockman, Brandon, MN

#### Term Expires 2003

Rev. Mark Antal, Park River, ND
\* Robert Christian, Newark, IL
Ken Cleek, Palmdale, CA
Rev. Peter Franz, Cloquet, MN
Rev. Richard Gilmore, Onalaska, WI
Suzanne Hass, Zumbrota, MN
Rev. Philip Haugen, Crystal, MN
Rev. Jerry Holmaas, Brooklyn Park, MN

Dave Jameson, Sheridan, IL
Erna Jochum, Bridgeville, PA
Carol Knapp, Willmar, MN
Rev. George Knapp, Willmar, MN
\*Clyde Lundgren, Bethel Park, PA
Rev. Elden Nelson, Kandiyohi, MN
Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Deshler, NE
Rev. Tom Schierkolk, Northome, MN
Rev. Tim Skramstad, Zumbrota, MN
Grace Syverson, Tioga, ND
Darrel Tungseth, Fergus Falls, MN
Lowell Varness, Ottawa, IL

#### Term Expires 2004

Bud Anderson, Lake Preston, SD Rev. Richard Anderson, Elk River, MN \*\*Kermit Berge, Larimore, ND Rev. Ted Berkas, Wallace, SD Lavon Bohling, Hebron, NE Tom Caouette, Brooklyn Park, MN Wayne Deubner, Brockton, MT Pastor Dean Franz, Dollar Bay, MI Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, OR Pastor Wayne Hanson, Plymouth, MN George Hartman, Dalton, MN Rev. Orville Hiepler, Oceanside, CA Phil Jensen, Sioux Falls, SD Karen Knudsvig, Buxton, ND Rev. Rick Long, Arlington, WA Rev. Bruce Peterson, Buxton, ND Paul Slaamot, Stanley, ND \*\*Rev. Jeff Swanson, Newark, IL Jim Taylor, Pittsburgh, PA Rev. Craig Wentzel, Edmore, ND

- \* Home Missions Committee
- \*\* World Missions Committee

#### **ARC Corporation**

#### Term Expires 2002

Rev. Brian Davidson, Minneapolis, MN Reuben Emberson, Valley City, ND Rev. Philip Featherstone, Osceola, WI Clifford Holm, Menahga, MN Dennis Jacobsen, Burlington, ND Arden Jacobson, Champlin, MN Larry Johnson, Amery, WI \* Rev. Todd Klemme, Starbuck, MN Erling Langness, Ishpeming, MI Bob Rudebusch, Lakeville, MN

#### **Term Expires 2003**

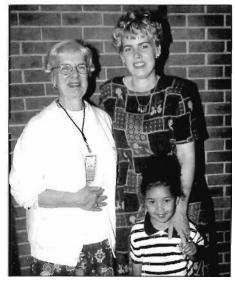
Arne Anderson, Dassel, MN \* Mr. Dale Bentley, Mounds View, MN Rev. Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, SD Ernie Hilbert, Wheatland, IA Rev. David Johnson, Amery, WI \* Dr. Steve Johnson, Upsala, MN

Dan Nelson, Kandiyohi, MN Rev. Joel Rolf, Valley City, ND Cliff Seldal, DeKalb, IL Pastor Ken Thoreson, Argyle, MN

#### Term Expires 2004

Allen Anderson, Clear Lake, WI Paul Handsaker, Radcliffe, IA Pete Hill, Osceola, WI Rev. Rodney Johnson, Stanley, ND Rev. Walter Johnson, Shakopee, MN Penny Nash, Lidgerwood, ND Brian Rice, Balsam Lake WI Randy Sommer, Sparland, IL Rev. Edward Strom, Kenyon, MN Curt Twedt, Fargo, ND

\* ARC Board Members



Erna Jochum, Bridgeville, Pennsylvania, and Missionary Sarah Nelson and Rachel at the 1999 WMF convention in Fergus Falls, Minnesota

## Women's Missionary Federation Annual Convention

Wednesday, June 14, 2000 The Association Retreat Center Osceola, Wisconsin

#### Theme: God, and God alone

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken. — Psalm 62:1-2

8:00 - 8:45 a.m. - Registration

(No coffee available at this time.) Music led by Rosalie and Cary Dietsche Devotions and prayer time - Linda Papillon Morning Bible study teacher is Dee Berkas -Business meeting

12:15 — Lunch (see convention announcements) Two afternoon workshop sessions

> Presenters are: Michelle Duebner Avis Dyrud Phyllis Nikunen Wendy Westlake

5:30 — Banquet for women only – at The ARC's Manna Inn (This replaces the Missionary Prayer Breakfast.) Installation of officers Speaker: Barb Schierkolk Program: "Arrayed" - the Welsch sisters

Mission Festival Service is 7:30 p.m. on Friday, June 16. See schedule of the annual conference.

#### **Convention Announcements**

- Ladies, please register at the conference registration building before coming to the gym where the main sessions will be held.
- We will have a mid-morning coffee break rather than the coffee during registration, as was customary.
- The morning offering is the only one taken during the WMF day. That along with the Mission Festival Service offering on Friday evening will be divided between the WMF General Fund, AFLC Home and World Missions.
- Childcare will be provided!
- All donations for conference coffee breaks should be sent directly to AFLC headquarters and marked as

Laurel Johnson

• The WMF luncheon is extended for sharing time and the special "hat feature." Look in your attic, closet, antique store, or craft basket and wear a hat to lunch. Hats will be judged by these categories: most unique; smallest/largest; oldest; most elaborate; and feathers and plumage. Prizes will be awarded. Put your thinking hat on because

we're waiting for a peak at your hat! - Carol Dietsche and



#### 2000 Association of Free Lutheran Congregations 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Registration Form The Association Retreat Center Osceola, WI

Hosted by: Amery Free Lutheran Church 647 113th St, Amery, WI 54001

715-268-9218

email: ameryflc@win.bright.net

June 14-18th, 2000

Pastor David Johnson

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ARC Corp.			Friday Noon			X		\$5.00		
Missions Corp.		Friday, 7:00am		_	X		\$5.00			
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will be arriv	ing by airp	lane and requ	est transpo		No		Paym	ent must acc	company region Amery Free	

Please mail completed registration forms, with total payment, to host congregation, Attn: 2000 Annual Conference.

## 38<sup>th</sup> AFLC Annual Conference 2000

### **Lodging Accommodations**

Area Motels (Osceola, Amery, New Richmond, and Dresser)

All rooms listed below have been blocked for AFLC use, but must be reserved by May 23<sup>rd</sup> (3 weeks prior to June 13<sup>th</sup>). All rooms listed are blocked from June 13<sup>th</sup> – June17th.

Some motels may increase room rates for weekend nights. Friday and Saturday.

Motel	Rooms Available	Costs
Association Retreat Center	120 rooms (various	\$25 – 45 per room per night
Osceola, WI	capacities and luxury	\$5.00 Linen fee per set
800-294-2877	levels available)	\$5.00 Portable Air Conditioner per
		day (limited Availability)
Forrest Inn	15 Rooms Blocked	\$43 Single
1045 River Place Drive		\$46 Double
Amery, Wisconsin		\$49 Two Beds
715-268-4100		
Maple's River Front Inn	15 Rooms Blocked	\$55.14 All Rooms
814 N. Knowles Ave.		\$71.83 Friday and Saturday
New Richmond, WI		
715-246-4606		
River Valley Inn & Suites	15 Rooms Blocked	\$59 All Rooms
1030 N. Cascade Street, Hwy. 35 N.		\$74.70 Friday and Saturday
Osceola, WI		
888-791-0022		
Super 8 Motel	15 Rooms Blocked	\$45 All Rooms
1561 Dorset Lane, Hwy. 65 South		\$8 Per extra person
New Richmond, WI		\$66.49 Friday and Saturday
715-246-7829		
Valley Motel	15 Rooms Blocked	\$49 Single
211 State Road 35 North		\$59 Two Beds
Dresser, WI		
800-545-6107		
Holiday Inn	Scheduled to open	
St. Croix Falls, WI	June of 2000	
715-483-5775		The state of the s

#### Campgrounds and R.V. Parks

Association Retreat Center

Osceola, WI

800-294-2877

\$10 - \$15 Per unit per night (electric included)

\$10 Per tent per night (electric available)

Schillberg's Brookside Campground 1100 Oakridge Drive Osceola, WI 715-755-2280

Interstate State Park St. Croix Falls, WI 715-483-3742 (Campsite Reservations)

#### Missions

Missionaries Dan and Debbie Giles have moved to Zerez. Mexico where they are planting a new congregation while continuing to translate the Ambassador Sunday school curriculum into Spanish. They left their congregation in Aguascalientes which is now being served by Pastor Ricado and Adriana Varela. Pastor Giles will post their new address on their web site as soon as they are able. For updated information check members.truepath.com/aflcmexico.

Missionaries Todd and Barb Schierkolk moved to Minneapolis where Pastor Todd is serving as part-time director of the Ministry

Training Institute, scheduled to start next fall on the AFLBS campus. He shared about MTI at the school's chapel service on March 27 and met with over 20 students afterwards who requested prayer as they seek God's will for this next year. The first half of the MTI training is on campus and the second half will be on the foreign field. The Schierkolks will return to Mexico at the beginning of next year with some MTI students. Until their new address and phone number is established, they can be reached through the World Mission office at 763-545-5631 or the Bible school office at 763-544-9501.



Pastor Nilson Gomes DeMeio and retired missionary George Knapp.

Missionaries Jonathan and Tamba Abel, Campo Grande, Brazil thank God for the joy of now worshiping in their main sanctuary. They held a thanksgiving service with AFLC President Robert Lee and Pastor John and Ruby Abel during their visit the first of March. The service was highlighted by a baptism and profession of faith by some of the youth.

Forty people joined with the Abels in traveling to Campo Mourão for the annual conference and youth camp. Also during that time, the seven children of Pastor John and Ruby Abel and 17 of their 25 grandchildren celebrated John and Ruby's 50th wedding anniversary.



The Brazil Mission Field Council (with quests) at the Dyrud home on March 6. 2000. L. to R.: Pastors John Abel, Connely Joel Dyrud, George Knapp, Artur Villares, Jonathan Abel, Paul Abel, and Robert Lee.



Pastor John and Ruby Abel, following the program in the chapel at Campo Mourão in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary.



Pastor Clovis Xavier, Jr., former president of AFLC-Brazil and Paulo Oliveira, current national secretary.

#### Missionaries Paul and Becky

Abel, Curitiba, Brazil expect to begin their furlough in May. Highlights of their recent weeks include the dedication of the newly constructed church in Bateias. AFLC President Robert Lee joined over 200 people in that celebration on February 28. The Abels led the youth camp in Campo Mourão during the annual conference time. Many young people made decisions to accept Jesus and others to rededicate their lives to God's purposes.

The end of March brought the departure of Anna Mattson, Greenbush, Minnesota, after six months of helping out at the Abel home. Becky just completed a new songbook for their congregations and hopes to record a selection of hymn accompaniments on the keyboard before leaving on furlough.

The children from the Miriam Infant Home sang at one of the evening services at the conference, (right). With support down some for the orphanage, Missionary Connely Dyrud wrote, "Your faithful support and prayers are especially appreciated.



The 34th annual conference of the AFLC-Brazil was held at the Bible school campus in Campo Mourão March 4-7, 2000. The theme for the gathering was "Do Everything in Love," from I Corinthians 16:13-14.





Some of the teenagers who presented a Christmas program for family and friends. Pastor Connely Dyrud writes, "It is a joy to see what a difference the Lord is making in the lives of the teenagers now under our supervision. We now have over 100 teenagers out on the 'work farm' and they come in morning and afternoon shifts. Pray for these teens as many of them have hearts open to the gospel. Pray also for those who work with them that the love of the Lord will shine through in their lives."



Irani, Miriam Infant Homes's house mother for the smaller children (holding one on her lap), and standing in the foreground are Pastor Joe and Lorna Orr, Canada, on loan to the AFLC-Brazil to translate Bible materials. The picture was taken at the annual Christmas party at the Connely Dyrud home.

## A tribute to Pastor Herbert Franz

I've often wondered how different my life might be had I never met Herbert Franz. To say he had a profound influence on my life is an understatement. Pastor Franz's radio program, "The Lutheran Ambassador Hour," led my family to St. Paul's Lutheran Church. I was 10 when my father became so disillusioned by the liberal church we belonged to that he no longer attended church.

One Sunday he remarked to my mother, "I bet I heard a better sermon than you did today." He had listened to Pastor Franz on the radio. Shortly after that we became members at St. Paul's. It was there that I heard about having a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

Herb Franz was a great evangelist. In less than two months my

father and I were Christians and my mother had rededicated her life to Christ. We saw many people give their hearts and lives to Christ during his ministry, including my brother Scott. It's just a shame that his "second sermon," as we used to call it, wasn't also broadcast. That's when he would come down out of the pulpit and speak just to the congregation. We were always invited to come to Jesus.

Pastor Franz was a great visitation pastor. Many hospital roommates heard and responded to the gospel during one of Pastor's visits to a church member.

He was a unique pastor. I remember writing a paper in sixth grade. It was to be on someone I admired. He jokingly referred to himself as being the "most unusual

character I had ever met," and I guess he was right! When I was an AFLBS student, he would come on campus for home mission board meetings. He would walk into the lunchroom yodeling my name. I acted embarrassed, but the truth is, it meant a lot to me. I knew I was one of his kids, I was special to him, and he was proud of me.

Pastor Franz went the extra mile. Almost 10 years ago, long after he had "retired" in Michigan, my father died from cancer. Our present pastor was out of town, and Pastor Franz offered to have Dad's coronation service. We were so grateful! My father is buried 200 miles away. and he accompanied my family to his burial. We intended on having a brief graveside service, but when 200 people attended, Pastor saw an opportunity to share the gospel. We had a wonderful second evangelistic service. It had been one of my father's last requests to have such a service in his home church. God worked it out through Pastor Franz, so that Dad got his request and we never had to plan a thing.

Pastor Franz was an ordinary man through whom God did extraordinary things because he was sold out for Christ. Blessed be his memory.

Barb Elmquist
 St. Paul's Lutheran
 Cloquet, Minnesota

#### Vision 2004 update

As we look ahead to the annual conference, I am reminded of those great moments in our AFLC history when: property was purchased for the headquarters; the seminary began; the Bible school began; the first dorm was built; an additional dorm was built; the administration building was built; Vision 2004 was approved. How very valuable these buildings have been, are, and will be as the AFLC faithfully continues:

- ➤ To bring students into a deeper knowledge and faith in Jesus Christ through biblical instruction and learning experiences
- ➤ To help students grow and develop into mature Christians who are rooted and grounded in truth.
- ➤ To equip and prepare students as Christian leaders in secular, lay, and traditional ministry roles.
- ➤ To encourage every congregation and individual to "Go and make disciples of all nations."

Thinking ahead, we can see how helpful it will be to have Vision 2004 completed. Until then, we will walk and work to follow God's will in completing the buildings at hand. How important to continue to

provide means for ministry!

Walking and holding tightly to God's hand, we have seen gifts received from His hand such as: city approvals; finances to support project operation; seminary housing unit; contacts with people having hearts to give generously.

We are working and praying for God's continued direction regarding getting finances to come in by prayer; referrals from pastors, interested friends; publicity; promotion within congregations; and individual visits

We are also planning the phases of Vision 2004 which include: student center with classrooms, offices, library, and retro-fitting current dorms with classrooms becoming living spaces. Also being planned are more seminary housing units and dormitories; a multi-purpose building; music center, gymnasium and maintenance building expansion.

Please continue to join me in prayer for this project, that God would accomplish His will in His time for the furtherance of His kingdom!

- Pastor Tonnes Pollestad



Pastor Herbert L. Franz, 82, Dollar Bay, Michigan died on March 11, 2000 at his home. He was born on March 16, 1917 in Dollar Bay, to Isaac and Christine

## My Elijah

It is a privilege to be able to say that my pastor had a significant part in my personal testimony. There are a half dozen or so pastors currently or retired on the AFLC clergy and lay roster that will testify to the same. That is because God used his ministry to call and send us into the parish ministry.

Pastor Herb Franz baptized me, confirmed me, married me, and ordained me. Thinking back to my boyhood days, I remember his unique way of hugging all the kids and saying "Oh so precious" in his high falsetto voice as they departed church every Sunday. There always was a big crowd in church but I would work my way through the crowd where he was standing so as not to miss the weekly ritual.

Then there were the nights of Bible camp and the way he would lead the singing holding the whole notes extra long at the end of verses. But most of all it was the sincere quickening preaching that God used in my life whether it was at camp, or Sunday's sermon.

There were seemingly endless stories and illustrations. The man had unique experiences. We heard all about his life and education, his previous employment and ministries. In his preaching, he even

(Backman) Franz. After graduation from high school, he worked for Horner Flooring in Dollar Bay for eight years. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. Shortly after returning from the service, Herb received Christ into his life on April 24, 1947, saying, "I took out citizenship papers for heaven."

He attended Suomi College and Seminary and was ordained in 1955 in Elv. Minnesota. For the next five years he served at Eben Junction, Michigan along with Skandia, Trenary and Munising. In 1960 he began his 27-year ministry at St. Paul's Lutheran Church and Academy in Cloquet, Minnesota. From 1987 to 1989, he traveled as an evangelist and Bible conference

Oceanside. California -Pictured are the

pastors and those who sense God's call into the ministry from Community Lutheran Church. Pastor Orville Hiepler, is the founder

and pastor of the Oceanside congregation. Retired AFLC Pastor Oliver Olson is a member of the congregation and Lay Pastor John Kent served at Community Lutheran for a short time before moving on to become the first pastor of Rancho San Diego Lutheran in El Cajon, California. The other

three men pictured are Clinton Hoff, Terry Wall and Phil Sparkman. The congregation is praying for many missionaries, pastors and full-time servants of the Lord as they take seriously God's command "to send forth workers into the harvest."

shared personal matters regarding his marriage and family. He shared much with us, perhaps knowing the risks of that transparency, but wanting to help the listener to identify and grasp the spiritual truth through the Word. In my opinion, the Lord gifted him in the area of preaching more than any other area.

He is also known for his visitation. Though having a relatively large church by AFLC standards, he made between 30 to 40 calls a week. He didn't have an associate pastor for most of his ministry. He was

speaker. From 1989 to his death, he served at Redeemer Free Lutheran in Ontonagon and Grace Free

On June 1, 1940, he married Sylvia E. Lahikainen. She preceded him in death on January 15, 2000.

Lutheran in Pelkie, Michigan.

Pastor Franz was a member of the American Legion in Cloquet, Minnesota where he served as chaplain.

Surviving are three sons and daughters-in-law: Pastor Dean (Leslie) Franz of Dollar Bay; Rick (Debra) Franz of Glendale, Arizona; Rev. Peter (Judy) Franz of Cloquet, Minnesota; 18 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; three sisters and one brother.

Funeral services were held on March 15 at Zion Lutheran in Hanfaithful in the hospital and nursing homes as well. We had our share of family crises, including the death of my father, and he was there. I hope I can do the same in the ministry.

I have a deep and enduring love for the man who pointed me to the Cross every Sunday. As is true with all of us, he wasn't perfect. And I never expected that from him and hopefully not from anyone else.

He always said, "I'm not looking for the undertaker, I'm looking for the uppertaker." The Lord touched many lives because of this servant through "The Lutheran Ambassador Hour" radio ministry and his evangelistic meetings in numerous communities. I was privileged to be touched by his cumulative ministry over his time as my pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran in Cloquet.



- Pastor Tom Tuura Hosanna Lutheran St. James, Minnesota

cock, Michigan, with AFLC President Robert Lee officiating. Military rites were conducted at the service by Post 186 American Legion of Hancock. Spring burial will be in the Pelkie Cemetery.



Arlington, South Dakota -Calvary Free Lutheran hosted their final "Saturday Nights Alive" for the season on March 11. Pictured is guest speaker, Dan Keinanen, the vouth worker from Good Shepherd Lutheran in Cokato, Minnesota.

Bloomington, Minnesota -Emmaus Lutheran hosted "One Incredible Night" on March 17. About 250 people attended the all-night lock-in. Numerous youth responded to the evangelistic messages presented throughout the program.

AFLC Youth Director Kevin Olson, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is teaching a course at the Bible school this spring on "Youth Ministry Strategies."

Pastor Richard Fredrick,

Windom, Minnesota has resigned as pastor of Living Word Lutheran where he has served since 1995. He will join the staff of The Family Church, an independent congregation in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Marlene Unverzagt, Minneapolis, Minnesota, the AFLC bookkeeper since 1988, has resigned effective April 27. She has purchased a home in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

#### WMF In Memoriams

February-March, 2000 Alma Peterson, Bruce, SD Edel Gast, Warren, MN In Honor Of -Carol Nelson, Webster, SD Alice Olson, Webster, SD LeRoy Sandell, Webster, SD

## **AFLC** summer Bible camps

#### North Central Minnesota District

Bethany Bible Camp, Bemidji, Minnesota June 21-25 — Junior Camp June 25-29 — Senior High Camp Contact Pastor Martin Horn at 218-435-1590

#### **NW Minnesota District**

Galilee Bible Camp, Lake Bronson, Minnesota June 25-30 Contact Pastor Ken Hart at 218-782-2246

#### Junior Camp at the ARC

Osceola, Wisconsin June 25-30 Contact Jolene Dietsche at 1-800-294-2877

#### Western North Dakota/Eastern **Montana District**

Camp Cherith, Williston, North Dakota June 26-30 Contact Pastor Jon Wellumson at 701-572-0853

#### **Pacific Northwest District Family Camp**

Camp Brotherhood, Arlington, Washington July 9-13 Contact Pastor Les Galland at 425-252-6775

#### **Wilderness Family Camp**

Lake Park, Minnesota

July 10-15

Contact Pastor Bruce Dalager at 701-772-1218

#### **Leadership Training Conference**

The Association Retreat Center Osceola, Wisconsin July 17-22 Contact Pastor Kevin Olson at 763-545-5631

#### Eastern North Dakota District

Larimore, North Dakota July 23-26 Contact Pastor Glenn Larsen at 701-343-6386

#### Illinois District Camp

Lake Geneva Bible Camp July 23-27 Contact Pastor Jeff Swanson at 815-695-5489

#### South Dakota District

Pickerel Lake Bible Camp July 23-29 Contact Pastor Wayne Hiermstad at 605-627-5445

#### South Central District Camp

Anadarko, Oklahoma July 31-August 4 Contact Pastor Randy Nelson at 409-294-2877

#### Family Camp at the ARC

Osceola, Wisconsin July 30-August 5 Contact Jolene Dietsche at 1-800-294-2877

#### **Association of Free Lutheran Congregations**

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### AFLC Benevolences (3 months) - January 1 - March 31, 2000

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN MARCH	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund	\$252,865.00	\$23,321.50	70,619.64	28
Seminary	118,291.00	6,359.51	25,173.49	21
Bible School	164,270.00	11,263.90	41,347.03	25
Home Missions	262,125.00	16,611.01	69,424.47	26
World Missions	239,968.00	10,888.61	34,863.53	15
Capital Investment	15,226.00	739.57	2,641.61	17
Parish Education	69,480.00	6,743.90	39,735.02	57
Church Extension	25,285.00	7,911.21	10,678.13	42
TOTALS	\$1,147,510.00	83,839.31	295,482.92	26
TOTALS 1999	1,013,386.00	69,443.48	241,298.04	24
Goal 25%		•	•	
Evangelism Departmen	nt received \$6,781	.07 in March		

## Be careful about what gets in

cut myself recently, in one of the worst spots it can happen, toward the tip of my middle finger. It was a little cut. A bandage took care of it. But because of the location the bandage kept getting in the way, so I took it off as soon as I could. It was then that I was reminded of God's great gift of skin.

On the rest of my body where the skin is in good shape, I could rub and bump against things with hardly a notice. But little things going against that open wound were quite noticeable. Eating potato chips borders on being a painful exercise if you don't think carefully about what you're doing and which hand you're using.

Skin is a wonderful protective covering God has given us. It keeps out of our body many things we

brush up against each day. In a similar way we need to pray for some spiritual skin to keep out potentially destructive things that can get in and cause pain and infect our soul.

One thing we often let in that has the potential of being quite destructive and painful is the opinions of others. Somebody doesn't like how we did this or that. Somebody doesn't like us. We let it in and it becomes like salt on an open wound. It causes pain and worry. Often it has far more impact on what we say or do than it should.

The opinions of others should not be ignored and dismissed without thought. None of us has all the answers. God created us to have relationships with others. We need one another. "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together ..." (Hebrews 10:24, 25, NIV). It is often the one who initially annoys us and gets on our nerves from whom we learn the most.

On the other hand, the thoughts of others are not to be given a greater importance than is appropriate. They should be considered and evaluated but not taken in too deeply, unless it is clear they coincide with God's Word and strengthen our relationship with the Lord. The Apostle Paul said: "I care very little if I am judged by you or by any human court; indeed, I do not even judge myself. My conscience is clear, but that does not make me innocent. It is the Lord who judges me" (I Corinthians 4:3, 4, NIV).

So often we worry excessively about what people think. We get more concerned with what people want than what God wants. "Did they like what I did? Do they think I'm a good Christian and a spiritual person? Do they like me?" We are not to be like the people who failed to confess their faith in Christ because "they loved praise from men more than praise from God" (John 12:43, NIV).

The court of human opinion is not the place where the determination is made as to who we are and what will happen to us. It is God who makes that decision, and He makes it on the basis of what we have done with Jesus. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (I Corinthians 5:17, NIV). Christ "condemned sin in sinful man, in order that the righteous

> requirements of the law might be fully met in us" (Romans 8:4, NIV). Our position is secure in Jesus. It does not go up and down with the fluctuations of public opinion.

What we seek is not the approval of others, but the opportunity to serve them. Jesus' command is not to work hard at getting your neighbor to love you, but to love your neighbor (Matthew 22:39). The crucial issue is not so much what do they think about us, but what do they think about Jesus. Do they know Him? Do they know what He did for them in dying on the cross

and rising again? Do they love Him? That's what matters.

The question is: what are we letting in, and what are we sending out? We are to let in Christ and His Word; what He has said about who He is, who we are in Him and what we are to do. We are to send out love for Him and love for others. We pray for a protective covering from what can be hurtful opinions of others and also for help in dealing with praise which can so easily lead to pride. We let in the hurts and needs of others. We "rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15, NIV). With compassion and care we send out Christ's healing love. Their opinion of us doesn't matter nearly as much as where they stand with Jesus. And so whether they like us or not, we love them in Jesus, and we long most of all for them to love Him.

- Pastor Craig Johnson

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd. Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### THE ARC

## Ladies, it's not too late to join us

April 28-30 Women's Retreat \$55

This is a favorite weekend and we encourage you to come if you can! Our keynote speaker is Vicki Johnson who serves Amery Free Lutheran with her husband, David. Vicki is a busy mom and vibrant personality who will bring God's Word to life in her unique and delightful way. Workshops will include "Making a Prayer Journal" and "Women's Health Issues from a Christian Perspective." If you'd like to come, please call or e-mail Jolene at The ARC. We'd love to see you here!

#### See you this summer!

Junior Camp June 25-30 Youth entering 4th to 8th gr. Cost: \$120 (includes T-shirt)

Focusing again on a personal relationship with God, we're going to learn to be courageous, both with Him and for Him. Our staff will include Bob Halvorson, a favorite youth leader from Elk River, Minnesota; a dynamic ministry team from AFLBS; and of course, Eric Westlake, Camp Guy. Bring a friend, come and experience a week at The ARC with other kids from all over the Midwest and learn to **Be Bold!** 



The ARC plumbers, Dick and Cliff, as they test the plumbing in Tabitha.

#### Family Camp July 30-August 5 \$100-\$135 per adult

Family Camp is a MUST if you are looking for a relaxing, exciting, safe, inspiring, worshipful, hilarious place to bring your family, all at a GREAT value. It doesn't matter if your family consists simply of you or of you and your 20 children! You are welcome at The ARC! Our speakers include: Pastor Bob Lee, AFLC president; Pastor Mike Brandt, Sioux Falls, SD; Pastor James L Johnson and Mark Johnson, AFLBS faculty; and Cary Dietsche, well-known local worship leader. We've added some seminars to our morning program including seminars on music and worship led by Cary and Christian parenting led by Dr. Fran and Ellen Monseth. This camp is an annual summer tradition for many AFLC families. Why don't you make it yours?

#### When coming to the ARC

bring bedding, towels, personal items, Bible, notebook and spending money for souvenirs. We have a limited supply of bedding/towels available to rent for \$5.

Registration forms are available at your local AFLC church or from

The ARC 2372 30th Ave.
Osceola, WI 54020 1-800-294-2877 e-mail: thearc@cornernet.com website: www.arc-aflc.org