

# The Lutheran AMBASSADOR

April 27, 1999

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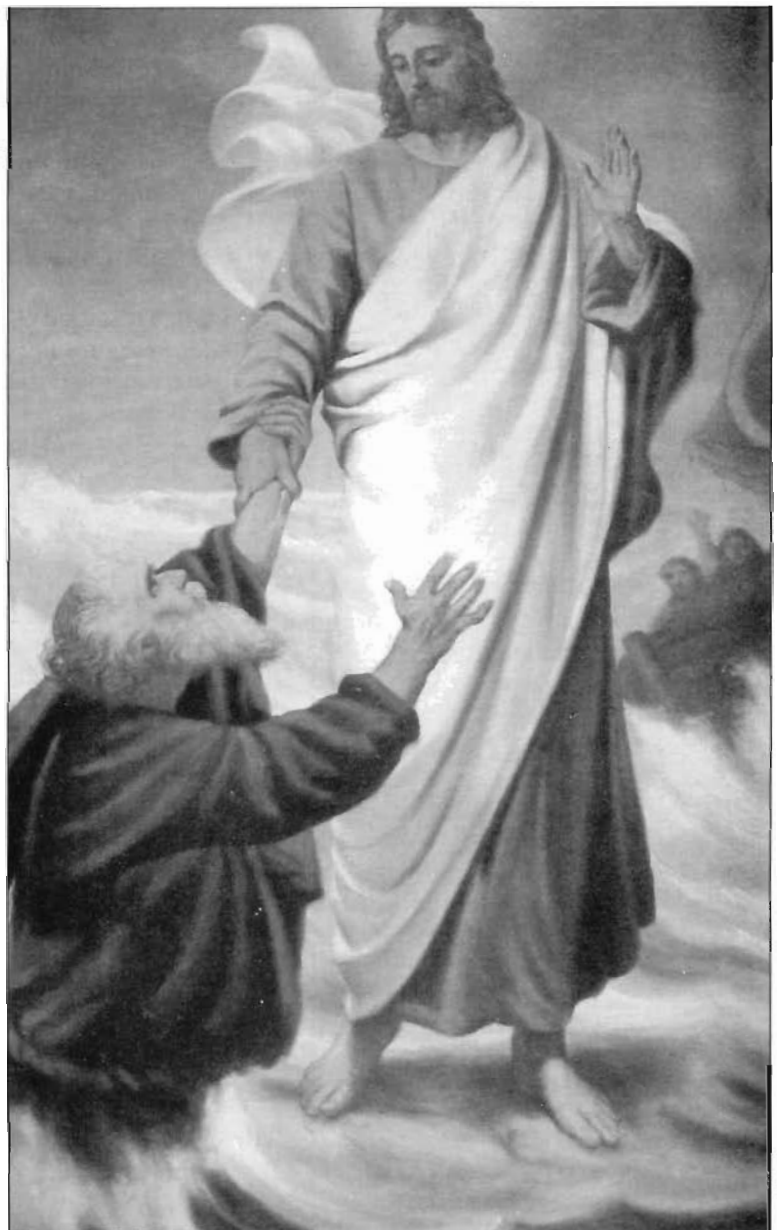
**Check your  
congregation's  
foundation!**

**Exclusiveness in  
a pluralistic world**

**Were dinosaurs  
on the ark?**

**1999 AFLC Annual  
Conference schedule**

*"No other foundation than Christ"*



## Standing on solid ground

# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 27, 1999  
Volume 37, Number 6



The magazine of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441. (612) 545-5631

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## AN ENCOURAGING WORD

# The best of friends

"A man of many friends comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24).

W

What is a friend? A friend is someone who loves you and will stay with you no matter what happens. A friend is a person who will always listen to you, no matter what your problem is. A friend loves you no matter what you have done. A friend is always concerned enough about you to have you on his prayer list. A friend cries with you, and laughs with you.

I remember talking to a young person some years ago. This person felt they didn't have any friends. I told them that if you had one good (earthly) friend while you were growing up — one who stuck with you through thick and thin — you've had more than most people. I said that during my growing up years I could only remember one person I would consider a real friend. I could be separated from this person by many miles, but I knew he would always be there for me if I needed help.

As we grow older, many of us find a spouse. My wife Jane is by far my best friend on earth. She will support me, love me and stick with me no matter what. I've seen the proof of this many times over the last 27 years of our lives. Yet as much as Jane loves me, and I love her, there is one Friend who sticks closer to me than she does. That friend is Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior.

Of course Jesus has an advantage over Jane. He is everywhere at once, so He can stick closer than

a brother regardless of circumstances. His desire and pleasure is to be with me (and with you) every second of every day. I confess my sins to Jesus, and He is still not ashamed of me. He asks me not to be ashamed of Him.

If we are truly someone's friend, we must be willing to share Jesus with them. Do you share Jesus with your earthly friends? Jesus is one hundred percent faithful to us. Are we willing to share that great Friend with a friend?

The hymn writer Joseph Scriven shares it is so beautifully in the second verse of "*What a Friend We Have In Jesus*" (no.173 in the *Ambassador Hymnal*):

"Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?

We should never be discouraged: Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share?

Jesus knows our every weakness, take it to the Lord in prayer."

Share this Friend, this Jesus, with a friend.

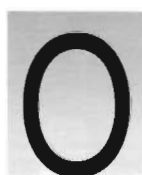


— **Pastor James Rasmussen**  
*Director of Evangelism*  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



## Dear members and friends of the AFLC,

— *Pastor Rodger D. Olson  
and members of  
Calvary Free Lutheran*



On behalf of Calvary Free Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, we are happy to invite you to the 37th Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, June 16-20, 1999.

Fergus Falls is a beautiful city of tree-lined streets and lakes located on Interstate 94, about three hours northwest of Minneapolis and one hour southeast of Fargo, North Dakota. Located in the heart of Lakes Country, with its wooded hills and clear lakes, the area is a veritable vacation land offering scenic resorts, fishing, water sports, and hunting, as well as some of the most beautiful golf courses in the country. We invite you to come a week early or stay a week after the conference to enjoy the family vacationing opportunities this area affords.

The headquarters for the conference will be the Fergus Falls Middle School, a spacious, modern facility located near downtown Fergus Falls. The general sessions and evening services will be held in an air-conditioned auditorium with comfortable theater seats. Meals will be served in a lunchroom/commons area adjacent to the auditorium.

Most of the motels and restaurants in Fergus Falls are located at the junction of Interstate 94 and Highway 210 west. Each motel has agreed to block off rooms for the AFLC conference attendees. These reserved rooms will be released to the general public about the middle of May so it is important that you make your reservation early. It is the personal responsibility of conference attendees to make their own reservations. When making your reservation, please identify that you are with the AFLC to receive the special convention rate. The motels are surrounded by a multitude of fast-food and conventional restaurants for your dining pleasure.

We encourage you to make every effort to pre-register for the conference by June 1. This will greatly assist the host committee, especially in the area of food services, and will save you registration time and money.

We want to make this a singing conference. Come 15 minutes early to each session to enjoy a time of worship and praise in song. A large conference choir is being assembled to sing at the opening service on Wednesday evening. If you would like to be a part of the choir please call the church office at 218-736-4282 between 9 a.m. to noon, Monday through Friday and leave your name and address so music can be sent to you.

Our conference committee is joyfully anticipating and preparing for your arrival. Join us at Fergus Falls in June as we build together on the foundation of Jesus Christ while taking care of business, enjoying fellowship with one another, and praising His wonderful Name together.



# Checking your congregation's foundation



— by *Pastor Brian Davidson*  
*AFLC secretary*  
*Weslaco, Texas*

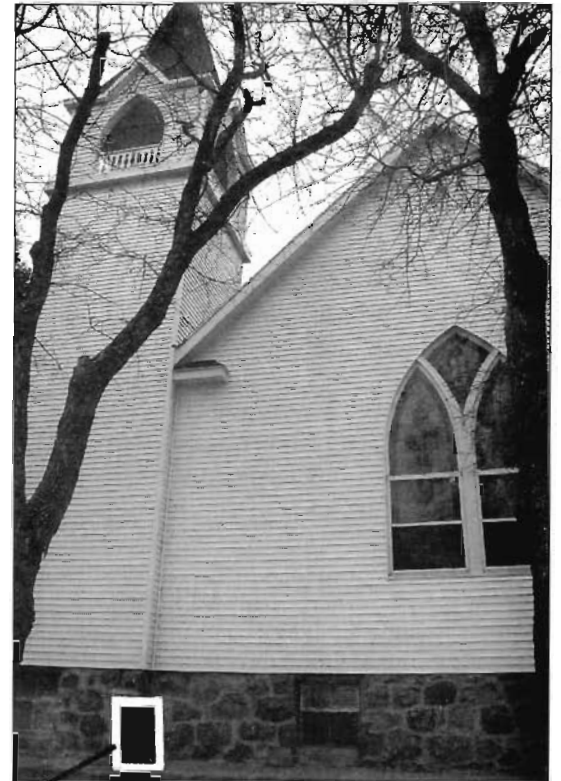
***“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ”***

I Corinthians 3:11, NIV



**W**

While I was living in an apartment in Wisconsin a few years ago, I inquired with my landlord as to the condition of the garage he provided. It seemed to me that a few repairs would be in order to make it last a while longer. His response was that the foundation, while appearing to be sound when given a brief inspection, was in fact completely unsound. He would not spend money on repairs for a building so poorly supported. Time proved him right and in one of my trips through the area, I saw that the garage had been torn down.



**A solid foundation is essential to the future of any building. It is also essential to the future of any free and living congregation.**

When the Apostle Paul refers to Christ as the foundation of the Christian life, he allows for no other. Any attempt to supplement or to replace Christ in the heart of a believer or the heart of a congregation will end in great spiritual harm. The “Christ-centered life” is the life of all who trust in Christ, for Jesus Christ is the beginning and the end of our spiritual existence.

Centering on Christ results in a high view of Scripture. We cannot build on the one foundation, Jesus, without the sure and faithful guidance of the Bible. Because the Bible bears the stamp of the character of its Author, we will be well served to meditate on it in order to become more like-minded with Christ.

In the life of a free and living congregation, there are many pitfalls and difficulties. None of these are fatal to congregational life as long as the congregation has been built on the foundation which is Christ. In fact, the struggles which enter into the life of a congregation demonstrate what kind of foundation the congregation has been building upon far more than victories might. One sign that your congregation has been building on

the foundation of Christ is your response to failure. When a program does not succeed, or when a budget is not met, what has been your response? I have observed several responses that indicate serious problems lie ahead for a congregation.

#### **Response one:**

The blame game. When a program or a plan fails, it is natural, but not necessarily of the Lord, to assess blame. "We put the wrong man in charge ... we should have used the plan that I suggested ... God was displeased with our congregation because we ... (fill in the sentence yourself)" are typical responses of a congregation seeking to fix blame.

#### **Response two:**

Renewed effort. You may respond to failure by redoubling your efforts, in the belief that another try will succeed where the previous failed.

#### **Response three:**

Discouragement. The failure brings about an attitude of defeat and other programs begin to be affected. The congregation becomes unwilling to try any plan that is similar to the failed one.

The problem with each of these responses is they are man-centered. We need to understand that God's perspective on failure is entirely different from ours. He uses failure to bring about glorious things. It's through our weakness that He shows Himself strong. Thus, if we are to demonstrate to others the strength and power of our God, we will often do so through our failures.

**To properly build on the foundation of Christ, I suggest that your congregation take time for the following steps whether you have seen failure or great success.**

#### **Prayer and praise**

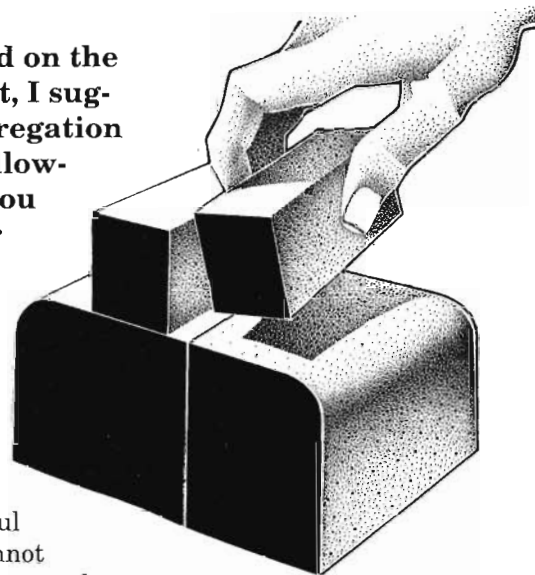
All situations call for prayer and praise. No situation is so dismal that you cannot praise God. Neither is any situation so wonderful and glorious that you cannot petition God for His wisdom and grace.

#### **Reflection**

Time should be taken to seek the Lord's wisdom by reflecting on what God is saying through the situation. Do not look only to your understanding of the events, but look to the Bible to bring light on the facts you are examining.

#### **Planning**

What will your next step be? Should you delay or even cancel your plans? Should you make a second attempt? Without getting in too much of a hurry, your congregation needs to plan its response. This gives you a focus and an opportunity to put into practice the lessons learned. It also keeps discouragement from setting your agenda for the months that lie ahead. But more than anything else, keep in mind that your congregation belongs to Christ. Since He is the Head of His Church, we have the assurance that even as we plan our steps, He is gently guiding us to fulfill His purposes.



**The average Christian is more concerned with daily life issues than with understanding God or His program. Like the secular world, Christianity is overstocked with self-help books and grossly understocked with God-centered books.**

— Ed Glasscock

**When you think about it, virtually every failure in our Christian lives can be traced back to failure here: We forget who God is; or we forget who we are.**

— Sinclair Ferguson



# Exclusiveness in a pluralistic world



— **Pastor  
Christian Andrews**  
*Shepherd of the  
Valley Free Lutheran  
Palmdale, California*

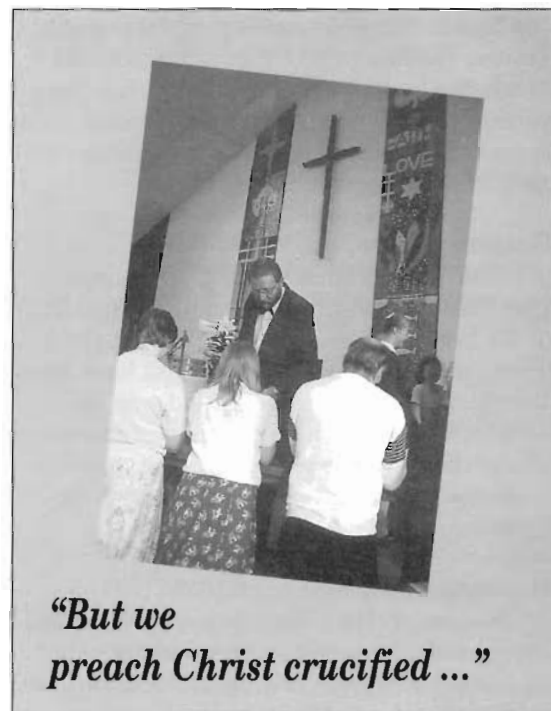
**A** There are five rabbis. There are four Roman Catholics — two priests, a brother, and a deacon. I am one of fourteen or so Protestants with various church backgrounds. We are the chaplains of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The supervisors of our program are a psychologist and a sergeant, neither of whom seems to exhibit any particular religious bent — though the sergeant relies on his "Higher Power" to see him through each day. Our purpose is to "provide for the spiritual, moral, ethical and personal needs of department employees and their families." We are supposed to do this on an interdenominational basis without recruiting to a new faith or proselytizing.

The world that we live in looks a lot like this group but with a much greater variety. My daily contacts also include Hindus, Muslims, new agers, Buddhists, agnostics, and atheists.

In the "Christian" community the variety is as great. Our doctrines and theologies

are different. Sometimes our emphasis differ with those with whom we have the same doctrines. Then there are those with the same emphasis but who hold dear doctrines much different from ours.

In many ways the Church does not look any different from the world. We engage in premarital and extramarital sexuality at about



***"But we  
preach Christ crucified ..."***

the same rate as the world. Our divorce rates are as high, and we remarry at the same rate as the world. An African Christian once called us "progressive polygamists."

We call it pluralism. It is a fact of modern America which we, the Church, must face.

The world of the Apostle Paul was probably more diverse than ours. We have seen a great decline in the influence of Christianity on American culture, but it remains true that American culture has at its roots the Judeo-Christian ethic. Paul's world had some Jewish influence (James tells us in Acts 15 that every town had a synagogue where Moses was read every Sabbath), but it was a world where people worshiped the pagan gods of Greece and Rome and the Emperor. New religions were welcome as long as they were not exclusive.

It is this very exclusivity that made the gospel so offensive in Paul's world. A study of Paul's ministry will show that he tailored the message for his audience — the packaging was different depending on whether the audience was Jew or Gentile. Paul never lost or diluted the message, though. He kept proclaiming an exclusive God who invited people to participate in an exclusive sacrifice. His God provided an exclusive Way through an exclusive Truth to an exclusive Life.

He had very likely been told Jesus' own words, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

**Postmoderns typically want a religion that includes everyone. ... They argue that anyone who is good should be able to find God. Thus, they exclude those who are bad .... Christianity argues the opposite: Neither the good or the bad can find God; only those who have put their trust in Christ — good and bad alike.**

— Timothy Keller

He probably heard one of Peter's first sermons when Peter said, "There is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

The Jews did not want to become obedient to Jesus. The Gentiles did not want to give up the worship of their many gods. Paul said it this way, "But we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to Gentiles" (I Corinthians 1:23).

The key, for Paul, was Christ crucified. As offensive as it might be, as rejected as he might be, as much as it may have gone against the pluralism of his world, Paul had to preach Christ. Here was Truth. Here was the Way. Here was Life.

The exclusivity of the message is the very reason it is offensive to our world today. We make a claim that the world does not want to hear. We say we are right, and they are not. We say we have truth while

they do not. We say we know the way to God while they are lost. No one likes to be told he is wrong or lost. So the world finds our message offensive.

Then, too often, we begin to back down. We become afraid of the rejection. (Yes, rejection hurts.) We feel the barbs of the only accusation the world seems to make as it rejects exclusivity and embraces pluralism. "Can't we all just get along?"

"But we preach Christ crucified: ... but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" (I Corinthians 1:24). We need to know how to live in a world that is more and more believing in pluralism. We must not, however, let go of the crucified Christ. The world, whether they believe it or not, is lost and dying. It does not have or know the truth. We have the truth. We know the way. We must share with them the life. We must be exclusive in a pluralistic world.



**We must not be surprised if some object to the message of Christ. If all agree, it may be because we have presented an insipid message very distant from the life-transforming gospel of the Lord Jesus.**

— Ajith Fernando

# Were dinosaurs on the ark?

**B**

Believers in Biblical Creationism often face ridicule from those in our society who have been taught from an

evolutionary perspective. Evo-

lutionists ask Christians: "How could the Genesis record be accurate if it ignores the presence of dinosaurs ... or, how could the ark hold two of every kind of dinosaur?"

Were dinosaurs on the ark?

In Genesis we read, "Of clean animals and animals that are not clean and birds and everything that creeps on the ground, there went into the ark to Noah by twos, male and female, as God had commanded Noah" (7:8-9).

Before answering the question regarding dinosaurs on the ark, consider what is known about these creatures.

From their bones we know that dinosaurs range in size from a chicken (Compsognathus) up to Apatosaurus — the large version of the model seen in the Midwest on some Sinclair Oil stations. Actually the average size of dinosaurs was about that of a pig. Dinosaurs appear to be reptile-like, laying eggs in nests and beginning as very small animals similar to giant turtles and crocodiles we see today. So how many of the large dinosaurs were there? There were probably only about 100 different kinds of dinosaurs whose adult size was larger than that of a large pig.

God's purpose in preserving animals on the ark was to re-populate the earth after the flood. Therefore He would have brought the young animals to Noah that would have been ready to begin their reproductive lives when they left the ark. It is likely that even the great dinosaurs could begin laying eggs by the time they were as large as a pig or a cow. Therefore, considering that the ark had a floor space almost as large as three football fields, the inclusion of about 200 pig or cow-size dinosaurs was no problem.

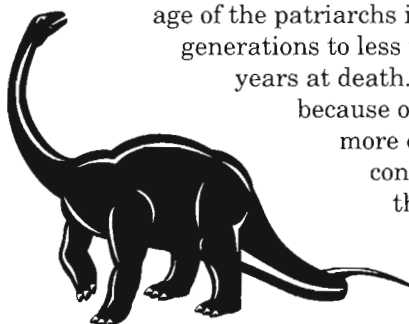
— Dr. Bob Kohl  
Calvary Free Lutheran  
Arlington, South Dakota

Even if it would have been easy to fit all the dinosaur kinds on the ark, were they actually on it? Genesis 6:18-20 tells of God's command to Noah to take two of *every kind* of land animal into the ark. Since dinosaurs were land animals, they had to be included for Noah to obey God's command. This was accomplished. "So they went into the ark to Noah, by twos of all flesh in which was the breath of life" (Genesis 7:15). Dinosaurs were on the ark. And there was plenty of room.

So where are the dinosaurs today? Our non-believing friends may ask us this question to prove that the Bible is not accurate.

In Genesis 8:19 we read, "Every beast, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out by their families from the ark." Noah, his family and the animals emerged from the ark into a much harsher world than the one that existed before the Flood. As we read the genealogies of men in chapter 5 and 11 of Genesis, we note that before the Flood, most of the patriarchs died when they were over 900 years of age. After the Flood

there was a rapid decline in the age of the patriarchs in ten generations to less than 200 years at death. It was because of these more difficult conditions that God allowed man to become a meat



eater as we read in Genesis 9:2-3.

The dinosaurs were producing their young but probably not finding conditions as favorable as before the Flood. We have references in the Bible to "dragons." In fact this word is borrowed from the Greek *drakon* which is used thirteen times in Revelation in reference to Satan. The Old Testament has numerous references to dragons, although many have been changed to "jackals" in the New American Standard Version. Only where the context demanded a very large creature was the Hebrew translated to "monster" or "Leviathan."

The King James scholars were well educated in European history and would have been acquainted with such literary classics as "Beowulf," an historical record of accounts with dragons or dinosaurs. The word *dinosaur* was not coined until 1841, over 200 years after the King James Bible was written. Perhaps their use of dragon was more accurate than the current injection of jackals in many cases.

Legends and pictures of "dragons" are found on all the continents. There is the story of St. George, the dragon killer. Pictures of the 15th century can be associated with various dinosaurs known by their fossil remains. Gilgamesh, a hero of Babylon, is recorded to have killed a huge reptile-like animal. A second century A.D. Roman mosaic shows two long-necked dragons. An ancient pictograph in the Grand Canyon closely resembles an *Idmontosaurur*. An European science book, the "Historia Animalium," stated that "dragons" existed though were very rare in the 1500s. On May 13, 1572, an Italian farmer killed a small creature with his walking stick. The scientist who got the body carefully described it and had it mounted for the museum. Its description matches the skeletons of some ancient reptile-like creatures.

More recently, African natives killed a creature in 1959 that resembles a *Diplodocus* from the description. In 1972, Japanese fishermen took pictures of a decayed body brought up that look like a plesiosaur. Perhaps the Loch Ness monster is a plesiosaur and there are some alive today.

Job 41 describes an extremely large creature called Leviathan. No man could subdue this animal, even with spears and harpoons. The description closely resembles the *Kronosaurus*, so large that it could take a two-ton plesiosaur with one bite. Job 40 describes a different large animal that resembles a *Brachiosaurus* or *Apatosaurus* — the Sinclair Oil mascot. Bible footnotes often refer to a hippopotamus or elephant but neither has a large tail like a cedar tree. Job, who probably lived soon after Abraham, was familiar with the creatures God was describing to him.

Apparently, a combination of poorer climatic ecosystems, man's hunting, and perhaps competition with other animals greatly restricted the population development of dinosaurs after the Flood. However, we cannot say they are entirely extinct today. There could easily be creatures in the oceans and in remote areas of African or Asia that we have not discovered. Both biblical and secular accounts indicate that dinosaurs lived after the Flood.

Finding dinosaur bones today in no way contradicts the Bible. Dinosaurs were part of God's creation, are referred to in the Bible, and are creatures which were familiar to the people of the Bible.

We can trust our Bible in everything. Let us joyfully take God at His Word!







## OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

### The annual conference - walking in one accord

**T**he 37th Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations will meet in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, on June 16-20. Plan to come, and prepare your hearts in prayer, that God would help us to walk in one accord.

This remarkable word (one word in the original language) has a root meaning of breathing in unison. It is most significant that Luke uses it so frequently throughout the Book of Acts, which tells the story of the early Christian Church. In fact, it is hardly found anywhere in the rest of the New Testament.

To walk in one accord does not mean that we will always agree on everything. This is evident from the Acts account, that's for sure! It does mean, however, that there is one Lord, one heart, and one purpose. Jesus is Lord, and God's people are united in love for Him Who died and rose again to give us life. The unity that is in Christ transcends all differences.

To have one purpose means that knowing Christ is the most important thing in all the world, and our primary task as a church fellowship must be to bring others to Him. To know Him is life eternal; to know Him not is eternal death. Everyone has an undying soul that will be won or lost for all eternity.

To walk in one accord is to keep our priorities straight. Whether we are discussing the Bible school building project or planting new home mission congregations, publishing new Sunday school materials or training youth workers, our purpose is to win souls for the Savior and equip believers to serve Him. The foundation for this purpose is a firm one, for we walk forward committed wholeheartedly to the inerrant Word of God.

The annual conference is central to a spiritual movement like the AFLC. There we draw closer together in the fellowship and unity of the Holy Spirit, as well as get informed of our common endeavors and their vision for building free and living Lutheran congregations. Legislation is not central to our conferences, but inspiration and encouragement from God's Word. Also, we cannot assume that everyone who comes to the conference is in a right relationship with God, and so the call to salvation through faith in Christ must always be proclaimed.

Sin may stand in the way of a spirit of one accord. Pray that God would search our hearts as He prepares us to come, that it might be in humble faith and dependence on Him. Then we can look forward to what He will do, our God Who is more willing to give than we are to receive!

— *Pastor Robert L. Lee*

# 37th Annual Conference

## of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

June 16-20, 1999  
Fergus Falls Middle School  
Fergus Falls, Minnesota

"No Other Foundation Than Christ"  
— I Corinthians 3:11

### Schedule

#### Wednesday, June 16

- 9:00 a.m. The conference committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.
- 6:30 p.m. Concert of Prayer  
Leader: Rev. William Goodman,  
Bemidji, MN
- 8 p.m. The opening service of the conference with the sermon on the text by Rev. Mark Olson, Arlington, SD. The service leader is Rev. David Skordahl, Dalton, MN. AFLC President Rev. Robert Lee will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

#### Thursday, June 17

- 9:00 a.m. Devotions  
Report of the Credentials Committee  
Adoption of the Conference Agenda  
Election of the Nominating Committee for the 2000 Conference  
The President's Report  
Report of the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, WA  
Report of the AFLC Foundation Secretary, Rev. Dan Klug, East Grand Forks, MN  
Reports of Chaplaincy Ministries, Rev. Kerwin Sletto, Ottawa, IL, Rev. Tim Skramstad, Zumbrota, MN  
Report of the Director of the ARC, Mr. Eric Westlake, Osceola, WI  
Financial Report, Marlene Unverzagt, Minneapolis, MN, Bookkeeper  
Report of the Family Bible Camps  
Lake Bronson - Treasurer, Mrs. Don Balmer, Thief River Falls, MN

- Wilderness - Treasurer, Mr. Don Olson, Fargo, ND  
Report of the Budget Analysis Committee  
Report of the Nominating Committee — always in order  
Election of nominees for the Missions Corporation, Schools Corporation, and ARC Corporation  
Report of Committee #1 (Administration)  
11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Leader: Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, WA  
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 & one layman; World Missions Committee — one pastor & one layman; Board of Trustees — one layman; ARC Board — one layman  
Continuing discussion of Committee #1  
Election of nominee to the Coordinating Committee — one pastor  
Election of Committee #1 for the 2000 Conference  
Report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. David Borg, Cokato, MN  
Report of the Dean of the Seminary, Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, MN  
Report of the Dean of the Bible School, Rev. James L. Johnson, Plymouth, MN  
Report of the AFLBS Alumni President, Mr. Mark Nelson, New Hope, MN  
Report of Committee #2 (Schools)

- 5:30 p.m. The Schools Corporation Annual Meeting  
7:30 p.m. Praise and Worship Time  
8:00 p.m. The Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation — Speaker: Rev. David Nelson, Campo Mourão, Brazil

#### Friday, June 18

- 7:00 a.m. The Missions Corporation Annual Meeting  
9:00 a.m. Devotions  
Report of the Credentials Committee  
Continuing discussion of Committee #2  
Election of Committee #2 for the 2000 Conference

Report of Schools Corporation Annual Meeting  
 Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee, Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, ND  
 Report of the Director of World Missions, Rev. Eugene Enderlein Plymouth, MN  
 Report of Partners in Mission Outreach Board, Mr. Al Brazier, Greenbush, MN  
 Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Rev. Alien Monson, Lakeville, MN  
 Report of the Director of Home Missions, Rev. Paul Nash, Brooklyn Park, MN  
 Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism, Mr. Gene Quist, Bloomington, MN  
 Report of the Director of Evangelism, Rev. James Rasmussen, Maple Grove, MN  
 Report of Committee #3 (Missions and Evangelism)  
 11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour - Rev. Kenneth Moland  
 12 noon The ARC Corporation Annual Meeting  
 1:30 p.m. Devotions  
 Report of the Credentials Committee  
 Continuing discussion of Committee #3  
 Report of Missions Corporation Annual Meeting  
 Election of member to the Commission on Evangelism - one layman  
 Election of Committee #3 for the 2000 Conference  
 5:30 p.m. Pastors' Banquet  
 8:00 p.m. Laymen's Service  
 Leader: Mr. Brent Peterson, Brookings, SD  
 Speaker: Mr. Tim Berntson, Buffalo, ND

#### **Saturday, June 19**

9:00 a.m. Devotions  
 Report of the Credentials Committee  
 Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Rev. Philip Haugen, Culbertson, MT  
 Report of the Director of Parish Education, Mrs. Marian Christopherson, New Hope, MN  
 Report of the Chairman of the Christian Academic Education Board, Rev. Brian Davidson, Weslaco, TX  
 Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck, Minot, ND  
 Report of the President of the Free Lutheran Youth, Mr. Robert

Halvorson, Otsego, MN  
 Report of Youth Ministries Director, Rev. Kevin Olson, Savage, MN  
 Report of Committee #4 (Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work)

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Rev. Kenneth Moland  
 1:30 p.m. Devotions  
 Report of Credentials Committee  
 Election of member to the Board of Publications and Parish Education - one layman  
 Election of member to the Christian Academic Education Board - one layman  
 Election of member to the Youth Board - one layman Election of Committee #4 for the 2000 Conference  
 Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board, Rev. Mark Antal, Leeds, ND  
 Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Mr. Tony Onnen, Cokato, MN  
 Report of Committee #5 (Stewardship/Pensions)  
 Election of member to the Stewardship Board — one layman  
 Election of member to the Board of Pensions — one layman  
 Election of Committee #5 for the 2000 Conference  
 Report of the Chairman of the Colloquy Committee Rev. Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, SD  
 Election of Colloquy Committee for the 2000 Conference  
 Report of special committees  
 Election of one member to the Budget Analysis Committee - three-year term  
 Report of Committee #1 as the Committee on General Resolutions  
 Other Reports  
 8:00 p.m. Youth Night at the Conference

#### **Sunday, June 20**

8:00 a.m. Communion Service — Leader: Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, MN  
 Speaker: Rev. Kevin Garner, Marseilles, IL  
 10:30 a.m. Worship Service with Ordination  
 Leader: Rev. Rodger Olson, Fergus Falls, MN, Speaker: Rev. Jerry Holmaas, Brooklyn Park, MN

— **Conference Committee**  
**Rev. Robert Lee, President**  
**Rev. Brian Davidson, Secretary**

## Nominating Committee for the 1999 conference

Mr. Gene Finstrom, Buxton, ND  
 Mr. Wayne Duebner, Brockton, MT  
 Mr. Mike McCarlson, Webster, SD  
 Mr. Farrell Erickson, Badger, MN  
 Rev. Tom Schierkolk, Northome, MN  
 Rev. George Knapp, Willmar, MN  
 Mr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, CO  
 Mr. Tim Korhonen, Esko, MN  
 Mr. Robert Rudebusch, Lakeville, MN  
 Mr. Paul Strand, Zumbrota, MN  
 Mr. Walter Peterson, Ishpeming, MI  
 Rev. Brian Davidson, Weslaco, TX  
 Mr. Dean Crouthers, Nogales, AZ  
 Rev. Martin Horn, Astoria, OR  
 Rev. James Molstre, Bethel Park, PA  
 Mr. Stan Dale, Ottawa, IL

### District

Eastern North Dakota  
 Western ND/Eastern Montana  
 South Dakota  
 Northwestern Minnesota  
 North Central Minnesota  
 Southwest Central Minnesota  
 Nebraska/Colorado  
 Lake Superior  
 Minneapolis  
 Central Tri-State  
 Northern Michigan  
 South Central  
 Southwestern  
 Pacific Northwest  
 Eastern  
 Illinois

## Nursery and Vacation Bible School available

A staffed nursery will be available for infants through age five. The nursery will be in room 205 in the Fergus Falls Middle School and the hours are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday. Nursery for the Pastors' Banquet will be at Calvary Free Lutheran Church starting at 5 p.m.

Vacation Bible school will be held at Calvary Church, Wednesday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., for ages K-6th grade. A freewill offering is being accepted to offset the costs for meals and materials. The AFLBS Majesty Team will lead the VBS. The noon meal and snacks will be provided. The Ambassador Gospel Team will help with the older youth, leading Bible studies and other activities.

## The 1999 conference committees

### COMMITTEE No. 1

#### (Administration)

Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, MN  
 Mr. Dale Jacobson, Dickinson, ND  
 Rev. Del Palmer, Shakopee, MN  
 Mr. Jim Taylor, Bethel Park, PA  
 Mr. Peter Ward, Brooklyn Park, MN

### COMMITTEE No. 2 (Schools)

Dr. C.O. Castledine, Windom, MN  
 Rev. Tim Johnson, Fertile, MN  
 Rev. Al Magnuson, Reva, SD  
 Mr. Clyde Lundgren, Bethel Park, PA  
 Mr. Loran Tungseth, Fergus Falls, MN

### COMMITTEE No. 3

#### (Missions & Evangelism)

Rev. Frank Cherney, Tuscon, AZ  
 Mr. Keith Croonquist, Loveland, CO  
 Mr. Wayne Duebner, Brockton, MT  
 Mr. Dean Peterson, St. James, MN  
 Rev. David Skordahl, Dalton, MN

### Committee No.4

#### (Publications/Perish Ed./Youth)

Mr. Glenn Espe, Thief River Falls, MN  
 Rev. Kevin Garner, Marseilles, IL  
 Rev. Ron Knutson, Kerkhoven, MN  
 Mr. Orville Lee, Mentor, MN  
 Mr. Joel Zeltinger, Bismarck, ND

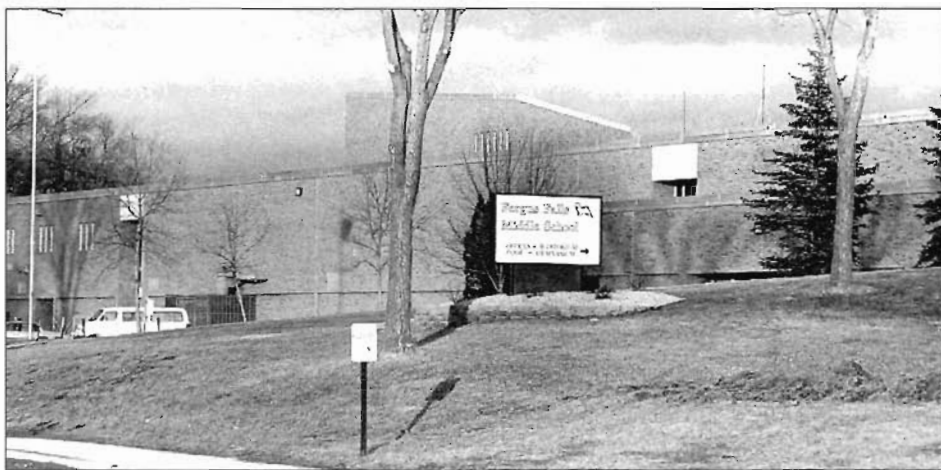
### COMMITTEE No. 5

#### (Stewardship/Pension)

Rev. Larry Severson, Roseau, MN  
 Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, ND  
 Mr. Art Wilson, Bethel Park, PA  
 Mr. Gary Retterath, Valley City, ND

### COLLOQUY COMMITTEE

Rev. Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, SD  
 Rev. Rodney Johnson, Stanley, ND  
 Rev. Leslie Johnson,  
 Minnewaukan, ND  
 Rev. Larry Severson, Roseau, MN  
 Rev. Wendell Johnson,  
 Cambridge, MN



Fergus Falls Middle School, location of conference sessions.

### BUDGET ANALYSIS COMMITTEE

Mr. Brent Peterson, Brookings, SD  
 Mr. Richard Rasmussen, Monticello, MN  
 Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, MN  
 Mr. Al Hatala, Bethel Park, PA  
 Mr. Joel Quanbeck, Fargo, ND

### Term Expires

1999  
 2000  
 2000  
 2001  
 2001

## Nominees for election by corporation

### Coordinating Committee

Rev. Del Palmer, Shakopee, MN  
Rev. Ron Knutson, Kerkoven, MN

### Board of Trustees

Mr. Dave Borg, Cokato, MN  
Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, CO

### World Missions Committee

#### Layman

Mr. Clyde Lundgren, Bethel  
Park, PA

Dr. Robert Kohl, Brookings, SD

#### Pastor

Rev. Tom Tuura, St. James, MN  
Rev. Tim Skramstad,  
Zumbrota, MN

### Home Missions Committee

#### Layman

Mr. Halvor Knapp, Kandiyohi, MN  
Mr. Jim Keller, Wallace, SD

#### Pastor

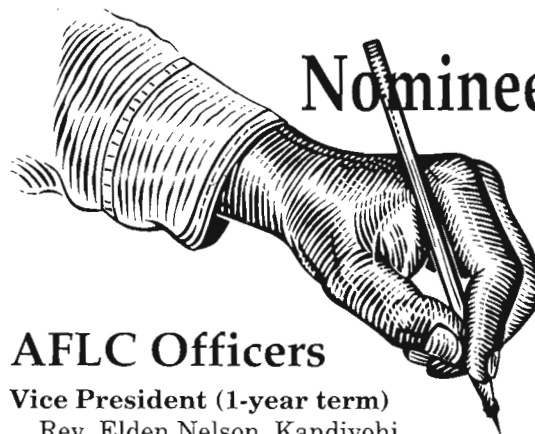
Rev. Tony Stockman, Brandon, MN  
Rev. Tom Schierkolk,  
Northome, MN

## Available from the

### Parish Education office

"The Doctrine of Faith unto Salvation" by Fredrik Gabriel Hedberg was recently translated into English from the Finnish language by Rev. Erick E. Erickson, Minneapolis, Minnesota. A great treasure of the Lutheran evangelical church, this book is a beautiful exposition of the first chapter of Ephesians in a devotional style, spiritually uplifting, guiding poor, weak sinners to fellowship with Christ. Pastor Hedberg (1811-1893) was one of Finland's most notable spiritual fathers, spurring the beginning of a great spiritual awakening and evangelism movement. Watch for a book review in an upcoming issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. Order your copy for \$12. Call (612) 545-5631.

AFLC Parish Education will have various materials available for purchase at the Fergus Falls Annual Conference site including devotional books for all ages, curriculum, guides for teaching Bible history and geography, mission stories, maps and charts, music, certificates, bulletin board kits, banner books, videos, and reference books.



# Nominees for elections

## by conference

### AFLC Officers

#### Vice President (1-year term)

Rev. Elden Nelson, Kandiyohi,  
MN, has served four terms

#### Secretary (1-year term)

Rev. Brian Davidson, Weslaco,  
TX, has served one term.

#### Stewardship Board

Mr. William Piel, Ponca City, OK  
Mr. LaVern Thompson, Fergus  
Falls, MN

#### Board of Publications and Parish Education

Mrs. Jan Strand, Kenyon, MN  
Mr. Phil Sparkman, Oceanside, CA

#### Christian Academic Education Board

(No nominees as of yet)

#### Youth Board

Miss Brenda Stilley, Bethel Park, PA  
Mr. Carmen Wall, Oceanside, CA

#### Board of Pensions

Mr. Glenn Espe, Thief River  
Falls, MN  
Mr. Earl Loken, Rugby, ND

#### Commission on Evangelism

Mr. Gene Quist, Bloomington, MN  
Mr. Dave Fugleberg, Lakeville, MN

#### ARC Board

Mr. Dan Nelson, Kandiyohi, MN  
Mr. Dennis Parsley, Pipestone, MN

#### 2000 Conference Committee #1

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

#### 2000 Conference Committee #2

Mr. Clyde Lundgren, Bethel Park, PA  
Mr. Ken Clark, Palmdale, CA  
Mr. Terry Hunter, Loveland, CO  
Pastor Ken Thoreson, Argyle, MN  
Rev. Earl Korhonen, Cumberland, WI

#### 2000 Conference Committee #3

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

#### 2000 Conference Committee #4

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

#### 2000 Conference Committee #5

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

## Register today

The 1999 conference is soon here. Remember, early registration will give you a reduced fee and faster registration lines as well as other advantages. The deadline for early registration is Saturday,

June 1. Note the registration form in this issue. More information may be obtained from Calvary Free Lutheran Church, 1602 County Road 111, Fergus Falls, MN 56537 or call (218) 736-4282.



## Nominees to the Schools Corporation

Mr. Joel Erickson, Grand Forks, ND  
 Mr. Emory Flaten, Newfolden, MN  
 Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, MN  
 Mr. David Fugleberg, Lakeville, MN  
 Rev. Les Galland, Everett, WA  
 Rev. Lyle Aadahl, Byron, MN  
 Mr. Paul Strand, Kenyon, MN  
 Mr. Bruce Wolla, Minot, ND  
 Mr. Tom Fugleberg, Roseau, MN  
 Mr. Todd Bjorgaard, Argyle, MN  
 Rev. Oliver Olson, Oceanside, CA  
 Rev. Dennis O'Neil, Posen, MI  
 Mr. Brad Nelson, Kandiyohi, MN  
 Mr. Brent Boen, Strandquist, MN  
 Mr. Tim Berntson, Valley City, ND  
 Mr. Mark Nelson, Crystal, MN  
 Mr. John Schlenk, Minneapolis, MN  
 Mr. Art Wilson, Bethel Park, MN  
 Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, ND  
 Mr. David Anderson, Osceola, WI

## Schools Corporation

### Term Expires 1999

Rev. Lyle Aadahl, Byron, MN  
 Mr. Joel Erickson, Grand Forks, ND  
 \* Mr. Emory Flaten, Newfolden, MN  
 \* Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, MN  
 Mr. David Fugleberg, Lakeville, MN  
 Rev. Les Galland, Everett, WA  
 Mr. Roger Johnson, Dickinson, ND  
 Mr. Randy Pederson, Tioga, ND  
 Mr. Paul Strand, Kenyon, MN  
 Mr. Bruce Wolla, Minot, ND

### Term Expires 2000

Rev. Emerson Anderson,  
 Maplewood, MN  
 Mr. Robert Bilden, Bagley, MN  
 \* Mr. David Borg, Cokato, MN  
 Mr. Loiell Dyrud, Thief River Falls, MN  
 Rev. Dan Klug, East Grand Forks, MN  
 Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Cokato, MN  
 Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, WA  
 \*Rev. Rodger Olson, Fergus Falls, MN  
 Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, MN  
 Rev. Reuben Unseth,  
 New Providence, IA

## AFLC Corporations

### Term Expires 2001

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

### Term Expires 2002

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

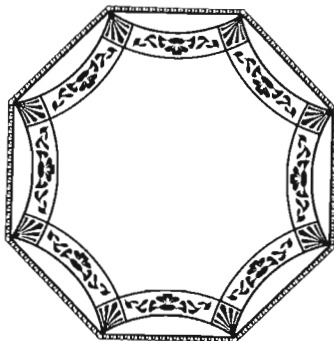
### Term Expires 2003

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

\* Member of School Board

### Corporation Officers

Chairman: Rev. John Mundfrom  
 Vice Chairman: Rev. Jon Benson  
 Secretary: Mr. Loiell Dyrud  
 Treasurer: Mr. Larry Behne



## Nominees to the Missions Corporation

Mr. Kermit Berge, Larimore, ND  
 Rev. Ted Berkas, Wallace, SD  
 Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, OR  
 Mr. Phil Jensen, Sioux Falls, SD  
 Mrs. Karen Knudsvig, Buxton, ND  
 Mr. Jerry Olson, Newfolden, MN  
 Rev. John Skeie, New Hope, MN  
 Rev. Jeff Swanson, Newark, IL  
 Rev. Leroy Flickinger,  
 Newfolden, MN  
 Mr. Ron Catlin, Oceanside, CA  
 Rev. Christian Andrews,  
 Palmdale, CA  
 Mr. George Hartman, Dalton, MN  
 Mr. Robert Kowalewsky, Posen, MI  
 Rev. John Dennis, Bethel Park, PA  
 Rev. Larry Severson, Roseau, MN  
 Mr. Dale Smith, Lake Stevens, WA  
 Rev. Del Palmer, Shakopee, MN  
 Rev. Joel Lohafer, Ferndale, WA  
 Rev. Craig Wentzel, Edmore, ND  
 Rev. Doug Wagley, Spokane, WA  
 Mr. Lars Larson, Oceanside, CA  
 Mr. Tom Caouette,  
 Brooklyn Park, MN  
 Rev. Rick Long, Arlington, WA

## Missions Corporation

### Term Expires 1999

\*\*Mr. Kermit Berge, Larimore, ND  
 Rev. Ted Berkas, Wallace, SD  
 Rev. Alvin Grothe, Astoria, OR  
 Mr. Lester Hinderaker, Story City, IA  
 Mr. Arden Jacobson, Champlin, MN  
 Mr. Phil Jensen, Sioux Falls, SD  
 Mrs. Karen Knudsvig, Buxton, ND  
 Mr. Jerry Olson, Newfolden, MN  
 Rev. John Skeie, New Hope, MN  
 \*\*Rev. Jeff Swanson, Newark, IL

### Term Expires 2000

Dr. Peter Dyrud, Plymouth, MN  
 Mr. Phil Grothe, Thief River Falls, MN  
 Mr. Arley Hartsoch, Ray, ND  
 Rev. Ted Kennedy, Nogales, AZ  
 Dr. Lyle Mattson, Greenbush, MN  
 \*\*Rev. Steve Odegard, Tioga, ND  
 \*\*Mr. Randy Sommer, Sparland, IL  
 Rev. Harris Van Someren, Mason, WI  
 Mrs. Eunice Will, Springfield, MO  
 \*\*Mr. Ken Williams, Ishpeming, MI

### Term Expires 2001

Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, WI  
Rev. Amos Dyrud, Crystal, MN  
Mrs. Marilyn Gray, Newfolden, MN  
\* Mr. Halvor Knapp, Kandiyohi, MN  
Rev. Dale Mellgren, McIntosh, MN  
\* Rev. Allen Monson, Lakeville, MN  
\* Rev. Stephen Mundfrom, Sebeka, MN  
Mrs. Aini Myking, New Hope, MN  
\*\*Rev. Tom Tuura, St. James, MN  
\* Mr. Eldwyn VanBruggen,  
Valley City, ND

### Term Expires 2002

\* Rev. Michael Crowell,  
Lake Stevens, WA  
Mr. Jim Keller, Wallace, SD  
Rev. Ray Klug, Blackduck, MN  
Dr. Robert Kohl, Brookings, SD  
Pastor Henry Mohagen, Towner, ND  
Mr. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, ND  
Mr. Lee Quanbeck, McVillage, ND  
Mr. Timothy Rolf, McIntosh, MN  
\*\*Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, ND  
\* Rev. Tony Stockman, Brandon, MN

### Term expires 2003

Rev. Mark Antal, Leeds, ND  
\* Mr. Robert Christian, Newark, IL  
Rev. Peter Franz, Cloquet, MN  
Rev. Philip Haugen, Culbertson, MT  
Mr. Dave Jameson, Sheridan, IL  
Miss Carol Knapp, Willmar, MN  
Mr. Clyde Lundgren, Bethel Park, PA  
Rev. Tom Schierkolk, Northome, MN  
Rev. Tim Skramstad, Zumbrota, MN  
Mrs. Grace Syverson, Tioga, ND

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

### Corporation Officers

Chairman: Rev. Allen Monson  
Vice Chairman: Mr. Vernon Russum  
Secretary: Rev. Stephen Mundfrom

The Partners in Mission outreach annual corporation meeting will be Thursday, June 17, at Mr. C's restaurant at 5 p.m. The restaurant is located at 604 Frontier Drive in Fergus Falls.

**CORRECTION:** the credit for the Easter issue author of "Be a bold soldier for Jesus," (March 16, 1999, p. 10) was omitted. Thanks to Tim Brocato of Atonement Free Lutheran in Arlington, Washington for that article.

## Nominees to the ARC Corporation

Mr. Allen Anderson,  
Clear Lake, WI  
Mr. David Jacobson, Binford, ND  
Rev. Rodney Johnson,  
Stanley, ND  
Rev. Roy Johnson, Ortley, SD  
Rev. Alvin Pinno, Eagan, MN  
Mr. Brian Rice, Balsam Lake, WI  
Mr. Kevin Lovedal,  
Lindstrom, MN  
Mr. Jim Minard, Ishpeming, MN  
Mr. Fred Raasch,  
Wanamingo, MN  
Mr. Les Landgren, Pipestone, MN  
Mr. Paul Handsaker, Radcliffe, IA  
Mr. Pete Hill, Osceola, WI  
Mr. Randy Sommer, Sparland, IL  
Mrs. Penny Nash,  
Lidgerwood, ND  
Mr. Randy Holmquist,  
Reliance, SD  
Mr. Curt Twedt, Fargo, ND  
Mr. Ed Tollefson, Ortonville, MN  
Mr. Gaylen Kallevig, Willmar, MN  
Rev. Edward Strom, Kenyon, MN  
Rev. Walter Johnson,  
Shakopee, MN

## ARC Corporation

### Term Expires 1999

\* Mr. Allen Anderson, Clear Lake, WI  
Mr. David Jacobson, Binford, ND  
Mr. Martin Johnson, Badger, MN  
Rev. Rodney Johnson, Stanley, ND  
Rev. Roy Johnson, Ortley, SD  
Mr. Ellis Olson, Eden Prairie, MN  
Pastor Paul Pillman, Menomonie, WI  
Rev. Alvin Pinno, Eagan, MN  
Mr. Brian Rice, Balsam Lake, WI  
Mr. Laverne Storley, Eden, SD

### Term Expires 2000

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

### Term Expires 2001

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

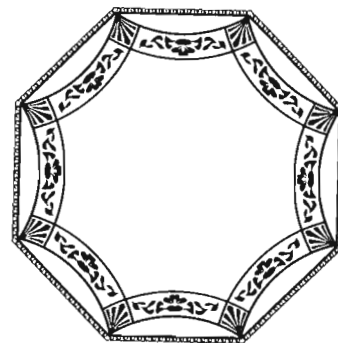
### Term Expires 2002

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

### Term Expires 2003

Mr. Arne Anderson, Dassel, MN  
\* Mr. Dale Bentley, Mounds View, MN  
Rev. Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, SD  
Mr. Ernie Hilbert, Wheatland, IA  
Rev. David Johnson, Amery, WI  
\* Dr. Steve Johnson, Upsala, MN  
Mr. Dan Nelson, Kandiyohi, MN  
Rev. Joel Rolf, Valley City, ND  
Mr. Cliff Seldal, DeKalb, IL  
Pastor Ken Thoreson, Argyle, MN

\* ARC Board Members





# WMF Annual Convention

June 16, 1999

*Born Again to a Living Hope*

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead"

— (I Peter 1:3).

the WMF National Officers at the close of the day on Wednesday so more of our ladies will be able to participate and get to know who their officers are.)

Blend the above ingredients together and know it is guaranteed to quench your appetite. Be refreshed and strengthened.

It'll be a day at the Fergus Falls

Middle School you won't want to miss. Registration opens at 8 a.m. Notice that "you" are the one ingredient to make this recipe complete. If you don't come it will be like having tuna fish salad without the tuna fish.

The Thursday morning WMF breakfast at 7 a.m. at the VFW in Fergus Falls is just a short distance from the middle school. Transportation will be furnished to the school. Thursday's Mission Festival Service with Missionary David Nelson speaking, will begin one-half hour earlier to enjoy the praise and worship time with Helene and Rodger Olson.

— *Marilyn Thoreson*

*AFLC National WMF Secretary*

**W**

We all know what potlucks are like. We often try to prepare a dish that is either an excellent tasting standby or something

new and exciting that no one has previously tasted. Here's a recipe for you that is both an excellent tasting standby and yet something new and different that some have not experienced.

John 7:37 tells us that Jesus will satisfy our thirst. May He bless us with that living water through the vessel of the Women's Missionary Federation National Convention on Wednesday, June 16. You will taste and be satisfied because the Word feeds our soul.

## **Here's the recipe**

Take a little pinch of Helene and Rodger Olson, combine with one-third cup of piano and a couple tablespoons of voice and we have heavenly music offering praise and worship to our Lord.

Cream together one-half cup of Bible study led by Cheryl Skordahl, add two to three tablespoons of message from our missionary wife, Sarah Nelson. Set aside. We're only getting started. It'll jell while enjoying the condiments of the business meeting followed by lunch. Then add a whole cup of a new feature by Laurel Johnson with a message for our "classic" generation and for all who will be one some day. Gently fold in another cup of selections for our younger generation with Jeanne Brandt. (Pastor Lee will install

## **Why I enjoy attending the annual conventions**

Each June I look forward to annual convention and conference time. Those days are filled with spiritual renewal and meeting old friends and making new ones. I love to hear from our missionaries home on furlough. Learning of the home mission groups starting and how God is leading His people is encouraging. It is one miracle after another!

I am thankful for a church body and leaders who want Jesus to have first place in their lives. There is power in prayer and it's a privilege to gather often during the conference time to pray.

God's Word encourages me to take time to assemble together. He knows all about me, my weaknesses and spiritual needs. His desire is to give me victory. My God is greater than all my problems. Yes, Satan wants to keep me malnourished and weak. He will try every way possible to keep me away.

Join me in prayer now for one another and for the WMF convention and the annual conference. Hope to see you there.

— *Dorothy Russum*

*Bethel Lutheran*

*Grafton, North Dakota*

### **WMF In Memoriams**

Rev. Albert Hautamaki,  
Maple Grove, MN  
Charlotte Truland, Morris, IL  
Lena Gravley, Spicer, MN  
Raymond Sharping, Pukwana, SD  
Palmer Johnson, Wallace, SD  
Mildred Thorsen, Morris, IL  
Rueben Holter, Brookings, SD  
Alma Hegseth, Wyndmere, ND  
Ardyce Hagel, Eagle Butte, SD  
Alma Maas, Eagle Butte, SD  
Wallace Oppegaard,  
Valley City, ND  
Mary Salberg, Tower City, ND  
Leif Grotting, Cle Elum, WA  
William Bevers, Henry, SD  
Louise Larson, Argyle, MN  
Janette Ritterman, Leeds, ND  
Bernice Teller, Faith, SD  
Pauline Pickner, Pukwana, SD  
Evelyn Harpestad, Bruce, SD  
Helen Ellsworth, Edgerton, MN

**1999 Association of Free Lutheran Congregations  
37th Annual Conference – June 16 to 20, 1999**

Fergus Falls Middle School  
601 Randolph Avenue • Fergus Falls, Minnesota

*Hosted by Calvary Free Lutheran Church  
1602 County Road 111  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537  
Phone: 218-736-4282*

***No Other Foundation Than Christ I Corinthians 3:11***

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Check One

Childrens names and ages \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Lay person

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Lay visitor

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Pastor

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Visiting pastor

Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

**Benefits for pre-registering by June 1, 1999:**

- Reduced fee for early registration
- Collectible Name Tag/Book Marker
- Faster registration lines
- A tremendous help for the host church

Full refund for cancellations through June 8, 1999.

***Send registration to:***

**AFLC Annual Conference  
1602 County Rd. 111  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537**

	<i>Before June 1</i>	<i>After June 1</i>	
Conference Registration for couples	<i>Early Registration \$30.00</i>	Registration \$40.00	\$ _____
Conference Registration for singles	<i>Early Registration \$20.00</i>	Registration \$25.00	\$ _____
WMF Registration	<i>Early Registration \$ 3.00</i>	Registration \$ 5.00	\$ _____
Vacation Bible School Registration number of children K-6 _____		Free will offering	

**Conference Events**

	Number of persons	Per person	
WMF Luncheon	Wednesday noon _____	x \$ 6.00	_____ \$ _____
WMF Breakfast	Thursday, 7 a.m. _____	x \$ 5.00	_____ \$ _____
Schools Corporation	Thursday, 5:30 p.m. _____	x \$ 8.00	_____ \$ _____
ARC Corporation	Friday noon _____	x \$ 6.00	_____ \$ _____
Missions Corporation	Friday, 7 a.m. _____	x \$ 5.00	_____ \$ _____
Pastor's Banquet	Friday, 5:30 p.m. _____	x \$13.50	_____ \$ _____

**Conference Meals**

	Number of persons	Per person	
Noon Lunch Thursday, June 17	_____ x	\$ 5.50	_____ \$ _____
Noon Lunch Friday, June 18	_____ x	\$ 5.50	_____ \$ _____
Noon Lunch Saturday, June 19	_____ x	\$ 5.50	_____ \$ _____

**Total Conference Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

I/we have special needs (wheelchair, etc.) Yes\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

I/we will arrive by airplane to the Conference Yes\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

Make check payable to Calvary Free Lutheran Church. Check must accompany registration.

Nursery services will be available. Please inquire at the registration desk when you arrive.

Questions can be sent by email to Greg Olson at golson@otpc.com

# Vision 2004 update

We love telling about the great things God has done and is doing in Vision 2004! We have traveled to several congregations already, and eagerly anticipate coming to share with everyone. The enthusiasm we find as we travel presenting Vision 2004 is heartwarming and encouraging. Look for notices of our coming to your area and plan to attend. Please contact us to make arrangements for a visit to your church/district event.

Come to the annual conference and learn what new things God is doing in Vision 2004. We will have a display and information booth regarding the latest details.

## Finances

Our goals are being met one step at a time as well as by leaps and

bounds. Construction on a seminary married student housing unit will begin next month. When 75% of the money is in for the student center, we'll be able to begin that part of the project.

A wonderful way to increase your gifts is to participate in matching fund programs. Your employer may have such a plan, so please check on it. Also, fraternal organizations such as Lutheran Brotherhood (LB) and Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) offer matching funds. Your local representatives can provide you with information on event matching opportunities as well as individual matching.

For example, anyone owning an LB product (insurance, mutual fund, etc.) is eligible to have up to \$100

each year matched, which is fun when a family of five each has a product, is able to give \$500, and knows the total will be a \$1,000 gift! This can be done by giving to AFLBS or AFLTS — or some to each. (AFLBS qualifies as a Bible School, and AFLTS as a Seminary.)

A similar program is available through AAL, for those owning AAL products. There is also a new form of eligibility known as an Associate Membership. In this case, no products need to be purchased, but a \$10 fee allows gifts to be matched just as though you did own a product.

We are grateful for the increased funds gained from using these programs, and ask that you pursue making your gifts multiply.

## Prayer requests

That finances come in.

For the Plymouth City review process of final plans for housing units.

For direction and protection through building the first seminary married student housing unit(s).

For more people to be involved in prayer.



A sketch of the first seminary housing unit. Groundbreaking is scheduled for May.

## Motel listing for the annual conference

The motels are located near I-94 and Hwy 210.  
The prices do not include tax.

Americinn — 218-739-3900  
Pool, continental breakfast  
\$61.90-\$109.90 plus  
Comfort Inn — 218-736-5787  
Continental breakfast  
\$49-\$59  
Best Western — 218-739-2211  
Pool  
\$62.91-\$71.91  
Days Inn — 218-739-3311  
Pool, continental breakfast  
\$38.61-\$67.50  
Super 8 Motel — 218-739-3261  
Continental breakfast  
\$41.88-\$56.88  
Motel Seven — 218-736-2554  
\$38.61-\$44.01

Area campgrounds  
Elks Point — 218-736-4292  
Sunset Beach Resort and  
Campground — 888-583-2750  
Swan Lake Resort — 218-736-4626  
Otter Tail Lake Campground —  
218-864-5848  
Information available at  
[www.fergusfalls.com](http://www.fergusfalls.com)  
[www.ottercountry.com](http://www.ottercountry.com)  
For a list of the resorts and bed  
& breakfast locations in the area  
send a self-addressed, stamped  
envelope to:  
Calvary Free Lutheran Church  
1602 Co. Rd. 111  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

## Board of Trustees announces details of the Ministry Training Institute

AFLBS is slated to begin a third-year pilot program for missions, evangelism and youth work next September, 1999. The Ministry Training Institute (MTI) is for students with the equivalent of a two-year Bible school degree. Older students without that degree may be considered on a case-by-case basis. The board hopes for a minimum of seven students and a maximum of 15 for the experimental program.

Some of the details announced by the board are:



## Thanksgiving

We continue to thank Him for His work. As an AFLC, He has given great gifts to us, specifically the schools. As the Word is taught, it is effective not only in the lives of those students who are here, but also on other lives touched by students in their communities, vocations, congregations and families.

We thank God for the vision He has given to the school board over the years, to support the growth and focus of our schools. We thank the conference for the decision to embark on Vision 2004, planning and building facilities to keep up with the demand and opportunity to reach more students more effectively.

## Staying in touch

The plans are coming together nicely. We are glad to visit with you personally on the phone, in my office or in your community. Presentation arrangements can be made by calling Mary Pollestad at 612-754-2669 or 612-412-2129. We look forward to your call!

Comments/gifts can be directed to:  
Tonnes Pollestad, Project Director  
Association Free Lutheran  
Schools — Vision 2004  
3120 East Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Plymouth, MN 55441  
612-412-2004

# Bible school graduates to do mission translation work



**Lars (AFLBS '94) and Sarah Dyrud**

Last November we were accepted as linguist/translators with Wycliffe Bible Translators whose goal is to translate the Bible into the heart languages of all people. Of over 6,700 languages in the world, only about 2,200 have all or some Scripture in their own language. There are approximately 440 million people who speak a language with no Scripture.

We are now in the assignment process. Our hearts are burdened for areas that haven't been reached by the gospel, particularly in the 10-40

## Tim Jore (AFLBS '97)

A more recent Bible school graduate, Tim Jore has been accepted with Wycliffe Bible Translators as a Language Surveyor Specialist. He will complete his degree in linguistics in May at Crown College in Minnesota and plans to take one semester at the S.I.L. in Oregon. He hopes to be located overseas by the end of this year.

Tim's brother Nate graduates from AFLBS this May. They are the sons of Missionaries Dan and Cheryl Jore. Though they raised their family on the mission field in Brazil, the Jore's hometown in the States is McIntosh, Minnesota and Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church.

Window. This is an area between 10 and 40 degrees north latitude in the Eastern Hemisphere which contains a majority of the world's least reached people groups. We are praying for the Lord's leading to a specific people group. We had been pursuing an area in South Asia, but the doors are closed at this time to new translation teams. Wycliffe has advised us to finish our training as

**\* One semester of study on the AFLBS campus and one semester on the field.** Students will study on campus through January followed by a ministry internship for four months. Students may work in Brazil under AFLC missionaries, where Pastor Connely Dyrud will oversee the students. Others may work with missionaries in Alaska, Eastern Europe, Norway or in the U.S.

**\* Student costs of about \$3,000 for the semester, plus missions support.** These costs are similar to those of AFLBS students.

**\* Primary studies will be**

**practical learning in evangelism and missions.** The purpose of the year is not to pursue becoming a four-year Christian college. It is to train and equip lay workers for short-term missions, youth work, parish work, and other ministries.

**\* Courses include:** 45 hours of Bible study, 30 hours of "Experiencing God," classes in preaching, women's ministries, "Disciplines of a Spiritual Worker," and 60 hours of rigorous physical training. Students will also participate in weekly accountability groups and practical experience in an intercultural ministry and evangelism each Friday.

**\* A committee of seven is administering the program.** These include: AFLTS Dean Francis Monseth, AFLBS Dean James L. Johnson, Dean of Students Mark Johnson, World Missions Director Gene Enderlein, Home Missions Director Paul Nash, Director of Youth Ministries Kevin Olson and Evangelism Director Jim Rasmussen.

**\* Deadline for registration is July 5.** At least seven students need to be enrolled by then to ensure a September start. Call AFLBS at 612-544-9501 for more information.

# 1999 summer Bible camps

## Eastern North Dakota

Bethany Bible Camp  
Bemidji, Minnesota  
July 18-23  
Speaker: Missionary David Nelson

## Northwestern Minnesota

Galilee Bible Camp  
Lake Bronson, Minnesota

### Family Camp

July 11-16  
Speakers: Pastor David Skordahl, evening  
Pastor Peter Franz, Bible teacher  
Pastor Todd Peterson, youth  
Missionary David Nelson

### Youth Camp

July 28-August 1  
Speakers: Seminarian Todd Erickson, evening  
Missionary David Nelson

### Teen Camp

August 1-6  
Speakers: Mark Johnson, evening  
Missionary David Nelson  
Jeremy Erickson

## North Central Minnesota

Bethany Bible Camp  
Bemidji, Minnesota

### Senior Youth Camp

June 6-9

### Junior Youth Camp

June 9-13

Speaker at both camps is  
Mark Johnson

## Wilderness Family Camp

Lake Park, Minnesota  
July 13-18  
Speakers: Pastor Robert Lee, evening  
Pastor Jon Wellumson, Bible teacher

## Association Retreat Center

Osceola, Wisconsin

### Junior Camp (grades 4-7)

June 27-July 2  
Speakers: Pastor David Johnson  
Pastor Jon Benson

### Family Camp

August 1-7  
Speakers: Pastor Jim Rasmussen, evening  
Pastor James L. Johnson, Bible teacher  
Pastor Jerry Moan, youth

## South Dakota District

Pickeral Lake Bible Camp  
July 25-31

Speakers: Pastor Mike Brandt, evening, Pastor David Johnson, Bible teacher

## Illinois District

Lake Geneva Bible Camp  
Geneva, Wisconsin  
July 25-29

Speaker: Pastor Vern Baardson

## South Central Family Camp

Oakridge Bible Camp  
Anadarko, Oklahoma  
July 26-30

Speaker: Pastor James L. Johnson

## Pacific Northwest Family Camp

Camp Brotherhood,  
Arlington, Washington  
Speaker: Pastor Jim Rasmussen

## Western North Dakota Family Camp

Camp Cherith  
Williston, North Dakota  
July 19-23  
Speaker: Pastor Stephen Mundfrom

### Williston, North Dakota —

Emmanuel Lutheran Church used a video series on "Creation Evangelism" for their special meetings during April 11-14. The congregation is in the process of building a new 14' x 40' entry with an attached carport. The additional space will also provide an overflow facility.

## TRANSLATORS

we await an assignment. We have enough training to go to some areas, but to do translation, we will need at least two more semesters of training before the end of our first furlough.

As soon as we were accepted as members, we were encouraged to find partners for prayer and financial support. We're not able to leave until we have 100% of our support. We have been traveling around northwest Minnesota and my home congregation, Our Saviour's Lutheran in Thief River Falls. This spring, we visited Sarah's home area in southern Illinois and the Nashville, Tennessee region.

We have a newsletter and prayer update. You can reach us at (618) 242-7140 or

Lars-Sarah\_Dyrud@wycliffe.org  
— **Lars O. Dyrud**

## Just another FLY convention?

There is no such thing! The Free Lutheran Youth (FLY) Convention has been a highlight memory of many of the youth in the AFLC. Two present FLY Board members, Wade Mobley and Wes Patterson, both came to a personal faith in Jesus on Wednesday night of the 1993 Convention in Estes Park, Colorado. Their motivation for being a part of the planning for this next convention during June 28 to July 3, is directly because of the work Jesus did in their lives that night.

The FLY Board has been praying for two years and this year, Pam Stenzel will be back again to bring a straight-forward message to the women. She will be joined by Pastor Dan Klug, Dr. Steve Lombardo, Pastor James Lyle Johnson, Dr. Francis Monseth, and Pastor Michael Brandt. These men will bring us messages from God's Word and apply them to our hearts. A special bonus this year comes from Curt Cloninger as he adds a moving drama segment to the evening services.

A new recreation option this year is an inflatable climbing wall. This will be offered on Friday for those that want the excitement of rock climbing with the safety of a cushioned fall.

Join the FLY Board as we pray for this year's convention at Estes Park, the speakers, the youth, and the counselors. We are looking for specific prayer partners that are willing to be one of our links back to the local church.

— **Pastor Kevin Olson**

**AFLC Youth Ministries Director**  
612-545-5631

<http://www.aflc.org>  
[youthmin@aflc.org](mailto:youthmin@aflc.org)

### Grafton, North Dakota —

Bethel Free Lutheran announces its new web site. Pastor Dennis Gray, interim pastor at Bethel has many materials and links on youth resources at [www.rvv.net/bflc](http://www.rvv.net/bflc). The site is being managed by Christine Gieseke of River Blue Communications in Greenbush, Minnesota.



**Minneapolis, Minnesota** — Pictured are the recent new members of Faith Lutheran Church, located at 140 West 44th Street. Pastor Ivars Krafts is pictured on the far left.

**Starbuck, Minnesota** — Minnewaska Lutheran Church is being served by two part-time interim pastors. Pastor Mauritz Lundeen has been serving them in recent years in his retirement and he continues to do so with the help of Pastor Michael Peterson of nearby Alexandria. Pastor Peterson preaches twice a month and takes care of the visitation and office.

**Newark, Illinois** — Newark Lutheran, West Lisbon, and Helmar Lutheran congregations along with Bethlehem in Morris cooperated with others in the community to sponsor "Hope '99" — an area-wide evangelistic crusade in the Newark gym during March 14-19. Pastor

Vern Baardson was the guest speaker. According to Pastor Charles Sampson of Newark Lutheran, the average attendance was an encouraging 230 for the nightly meetings. A number of young people received Christ as their personal Savior during the meetings.

**Bethel Park, Pennsylvania** — Ruthfred Lutheran Church celebrated their 50th Anniversary of the church charter signing on April 11, 1999. One year after the congregation officially was formed, they called then seminarian, John H. Dennis to serve as their pastor. On July 23, 1950, Pastor Dennis was installed. He continues to serve the congregation with Pastor James D. Molstre.

Ruthfred youth are planning their first trip with Partners in Missions Outreach. They will travel to Aguascalientes, Mexico, July 15-30, and plan to work with Missionaries Giles and Schierkolk.

**Greenbush, Minnesota** — United Lutheran has been served by interim Pastor Kenneth Hart during recent months. As of April 1, 1999, he has served as their full-time pastor.

Mr. Hart is a native of South Dakota and a '98 graduate of the ALTS in St. Paul, Minnesota, (the seminary of the American Association of Lutheran Churches). He and his wife Karen have two children; Erik, 3, and Seth, 1. He will be ordained and installed at a future date. The Hart's address is Box M, Greenbush, MN 56726; phone 218-782-2246 (h) or 218-782-2249 (o).

**Seminarian Craig Benson** has accepted the call to Salem Lutheran of Radcliffe, Iowa. He expects to begin his ministry on June 1, 1999. He has served his internship at Salem since last August under the direction of Pastor Harlan Johnson of nearby Stanhope.

## I was changed

Hi, my name is Jennifer Opferman and I am 15 years old. I go to Ruthfred Lutheran Church in Bethel Park, Pennsylvania. Two years ago, when I was in 8th grade, I decided to go to the Colorado FLY convention with my youth group.

When August came I was so excited to go on our trip. One of the main reasons was because I knew that I needed to get my act together with the Lord. I knew He wanted me to go for a reason, but I wasn't sure exactly what that reason was. I was excited about meeting lots of other kids and learning more about God. I didn't have any idea how much better it would be than I had anticipated!

We did lots of things during the week from climbing mountains to horseback riding to hearing great speakers. We had a chance to choose from 42 different elective topics. But my favorite part was the afterglow. It was awesome to hear other kids' testimonies! Being surrounded by so many Christian kids is great and it made me realize I was missing something in my relationship with God.

When I went to Colorado, I was an "off and on" Christian. I went to

church but did not know the meaning of really having a personal relationship with Christ. Throughout the week, I felt closer and closer to God. On August 8, 1997 I cried out to the Lord. I needed Him in my life! I wanted to put a stop to the "off and on" Christian life which resulted in emptiness. So at one of the large group sessions, I became a true Christian. Then God motivated me to have quiet times every day, and get more involved in youth group, and now I have a sincere desire to go to church. I am even on the leadership team at my church.

So if you are thinking of going to Colorado — give it a shot! It is one of the best things I ever did in my entire life! Come out and enjoy the fun with me and about 1500 other teens — and the most important thing of all, God will be there!

**Beulah, North Dakota** — Prince of Peace Lutheran hosted the spring youth lock-in on March 26-27 for the Western North Dakota/Eastern Montana District. Youth Ministries Director Kevin Olson spoke to the approximately 55 youth representing every church in the district.

**Anker B. Harbo**, 89, Minneapolis, Minnesota, passed away on March 19, 1999. He was born the eighth of nine children to Martha and Elias Peter Harbo in Minneapolis on December 4, 1909. His earliest years were spent living on the Augsburg College campus, where his father, a Lutheran pastor, was a professor of theology and later became the first president of the Lutheran Free Church.

He graduated from Augsburg College in 1931 and earned a M.A.

in Education from the University of Minnesota. He taught in Minnesota and North Dakota and was married in 1942.

He and his wife, Margaret, relocated to Washington, D.C., where Anker served with the FBI for 16 years, followed by 10 years in Detroit as a special agent. After his retirement in 1969, he and Margaret moved to Minneapolis. He attended AFLTS and served as an interim lay pastor in Hatton, North Dakota. For several years he taught

church history at AFLBS while serving as the school's registrar.

He is survived by his wife Margaret, and children: James, Carol and Ruth and seven grandchildren.

Blessed be his memory.

## Partners in Mission outreach buys bus

It's been some time now that we at Partners in Mission Outreach have been praying for God's will in the purchase of a much needed newer bus to use in our travels to Mexico. We had intended on having the money in hand before attempting this size of purchase. Sometimes our timing is not as great as we think.

I had been talking with Hausman Bus Sales in Chicago. Each communication with the salesman was clearly for inquiry only. Last March 9, the salesman called and asked if we were still thinking about buying a bus. Of course, I told him we were, but still did not have the funding to do so.

I was convinced to travel to Chicago nine days later for their three-day clearance sale on used buses. The PIMO Board had a conference call and approved checking out the buses. Board member Ken Williams from Ishpeming, Michigan would meet me in Chicago along with another board member, Pastor Jeff Swanson from nearby Newark, Illinois.

There were about 200 buses to (continued on page 24)



**Arlington, Washington** — March 12 to 14 was a big weekend for Atonement Free Lutheran. First, they hosted the Pacific Northwest District Bible Conference. Then the conference culminated with the dedication of the new addition to their church building. Added to the building is another 5,100 square feet of space which includes a new sanctuary upstairs and classrooms, restrooms and a larger nursery downstairs. The groundbreaking for the addition took place following the 1996 AFLC Annual Conference held at the nearby Warm Beach Conference Center.

The March 14 dedication service was preceded by an organ recital on the church's new organ. The organ had been in service at a naval station chapel and was saved from a

trip to the dump by one of the congregation's members when the station closed a few years ago. The organ's builder was located and provided help in restoring the instrument.

After the dedication events, the church hosted a public reading of the entire Bible during the week of March 14-20. Beginning at 5 p.m. March 14, readers read successive portions of the Bible from the church lectern in 15-minute segments. The reading continued from 5 to 10 p.m. Sunday, and then began each day, Monday through Friday, at 6 a.m. It concluded at 8:10 p.m. on Friday with a prayer of rededication and the singing of "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage."

Atonement Free Lutheran is served by Pastor Rick Long.



The newly purchased PIMO bus. There is still room on the July 15-30 trip to Mexico. Join us! Call Al Brazier at 218-782-2456.

## The best kind of growth

W

When you are 10 years old you are pleased when people call you, "a growing boy." It's a little different story after you reach your 30s. Our bodies can still get bigger, but that kind of growth is often not wanted.

Some types of growth are better than others.

A similar principle exists in the life of a congregation and an association of congregations. Various types of growth exist — some more desirable than others.

The type of growth we often focus on is growth in numbers. It is what we keep track of. It is what we talk about. It impacts our emotions.

When the number of bodies in the pews is up, we're feeling good. We're praising the Lord. We think our church is doing well. Those of us in leadership in the congregation often get tempted at those times to start feeling pretty good about ourselves. But when the number is down, we're down. We wonder what is wrong with our church; what do we need to change?

In a similar way it is tempting as an association of congregations for us to pay a great deal of attention to the numbers — how many congregations do we have? how many members do we have? We can do some math and figure out the percentage we have grown in recent years, and have that be the cause of some excitement.

We should take note of the numbers, but we should also take the next step and ask some questions about those numbers: How many of the people who are new to our congregation and to our association are new members of the family of God? Are the numbers in the kingdom of God growing, or is it merely an increase in the numbers in our small part of the kingdom?

Some people come to our congregations because their former congregation is no longer teaching the Word of God; no longer respecting the Bible as the authoritative Word of God without error. Or their former congregation may have strayed from the Word of God in some other way. People are then left in need of a church home where they will be encouraged in their relationship with Jesus and equipped to serve Him. We should love them and care for them.

Other people may come to our congregations because they are running from problems. Things weren't going well in their previous congregation. It wasn't really doing things contrary to the Word of God, but it was facing some challenges. It wasn't

always "fun," so they thought they would go somewhere else.

At times those people should be gently encouraged to go back to where they came from. Their congregation may need them now more than ever. Far too much "church hopping" occurs in America. People go to whatever congregation has the most dynamic program this month that seems to meet their needs. We should be on guard that we are not subtly encouraging this kind of behavior. Instead people should be challenged to consider what congregation most needs them.

The Apostle Paul said, "It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation" (Romans 15:20, NIV). Paul wanted to see the number of people in congregations and the number of congregations grow. But he wanted those new, growing congregations to be full of people who were new believers in Jesus. He wasn't interested in

trying to get the people who had been listening to Apollos preach Christ, come over and listen to him instead. He wanted to go to those people who had never heard the gospel. Those people exist in our country and our world. Is our ambition to go to them?

Jesus said, "There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10, NIV). We rejoice if a congregation is growing in numbers, and often that is good, but what causes a celebration in heaven is lost sinners coming to salva-

tion. That is the kind of growth that is worth getting excited about.

I want our new, little congregation here in this highly unchurched state called Oregon to grow. But I was struck in my prayer time recently to ask, "why?" Is it that we need to get more people to help pay the bills? Is it so that we could get enough people to field a good softball team or have a choir that could cover all the parts? Is it so I can impress others and feel like I'm a good pastor? My motive for wanting to see the congregation grow should simply be that I want to see Jesus glorified and lost people saved.

Jesus wants the kingdom to grow because He loves people. Because I love Jesus, I ought to love people, and also have a desire to see the kingdom grow — the best kind of growth — growth in the number of people who know Jesus and are growing in Him.

— *Pastor Craig Johnson*

**"The type of growth we often focus on is growth in numbers."**



## PIMO BUS

look at. We scattered, each looking on his own and after a time we ended up together at the same bus. We went into the bus and prayed for God's leading. To my surprise, I think I was the most hesitant. But we agreed to take this bus for a ride and during the ride I was assured this was the one — a 1984 MCI. The original price was \$45,200 and the sale price was \$21,000. We bought the bus on March 18.

We borrowed \$15,000 to buy the bus. Four days later, the AFLC Coordinating Committee met and agreed to match \$2 for every dollar up to \$10,000 on money raised before annual conference. A week later I received a call from a gentleman from Hosanna Lutheran Church in St. James, Minnesota telling me how sorry he was in taking so long to have a fund-raising dinner and program for the new PIMO bus. They were sending \$800 they had raised plus \$800 from a matching AAL grant. While he explained this I realized how wonderful God controls the timing of things. Now their gift of \$1,600 would be matched again because they were "late" in doing their fund-raiser.

We still need to raise a little over \$3,000 before conference time, but I believe with prayer and God's people, this too will be here in time.

— **Al Brazier**

**Partners in Mission Outreach  
Coordinator  
Rt. 2, Box 338  
Greenbush, MN 56726**

## ARC PAGE



### Gymnasium ready for the 1999 summer

It's thanks to these three men that you will be able to use running water and modern facilities when using the gymnasium at The ARC. Pictured are: ARC Director of Maintenance, Gene Vukonich (kneeling); current board chairman, Alan Anderson (right); and former board chairman and professional plumber, Cliff Seldal. Cliff periodically takes time away from his busy DeKalb, Illinois plumbing business to come and donate his expertise. With favorable weather, the construction of the new gymnasium will be ready for use by June 27 — the first day of Junior Bible Camp!

Thanks to all who have helped us through volunteer time, financial support and prayer.

### Junior Bible camp

"Get Personal with God" is the theme for the 1999 Junior Bible Camp being held at the ARC, June 27-July 2. Camp is a great opportunity for kids entering 4th grade through 7th grade to meet others and develop life-long relationships. Besides making new friends with other campers, kids and staff alike learn how to nurture and develop the most important relationship of their lives — with their friend and Savior, Jesus Christ. Staff includes Pastor David Johnson, Amery, Wisconsin and Pastor Jon and Jeanette Benson, Upsala, Minnesota. The cost is \$120 per child and includes the camp shirt and craft supplies. For more information or a brochure, please call The ARC at 1-800-294-2877.