

The Lutheran AMBASSADOR

April 28, 1998

God's WORD

and the
▲ *Congregation*

▲ *His Word,*
my comfort

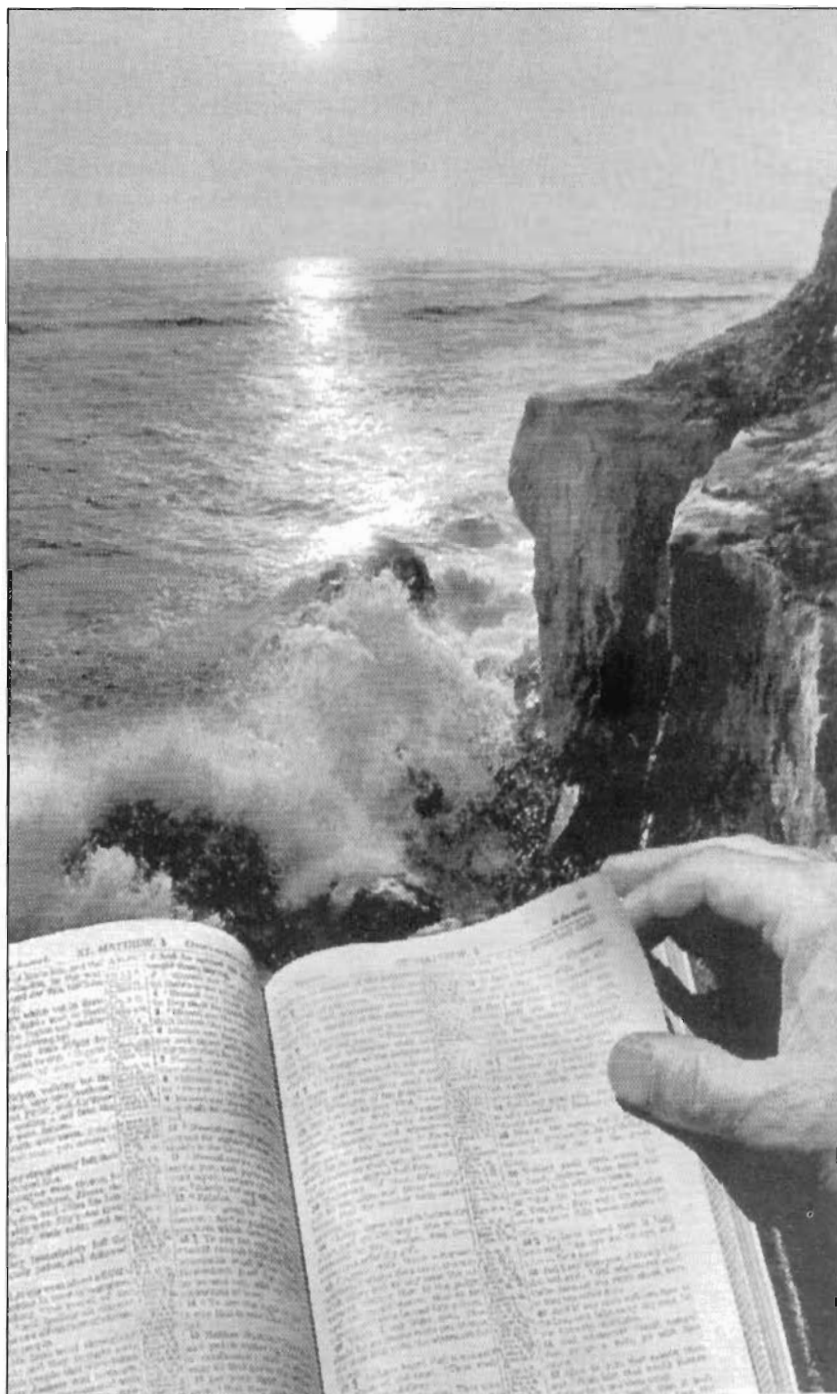
Though many,
one body △

The flood
one year
later △

36th Annual
Conference
of the AFLC

Schedule △

Elections △



THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 28, 1998
Volume 36, Number 6



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AN ENCOURAGING WORD

Experiencing God's nearness

Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

— James 4:8

In James 4, the writer considers what causes fights and quarreling among us? Why do we have unanswered prayer? James identifies where the root problems are and how to correct them. His list includes: prayerlessness; pleasure-seeking prayers; spiritual adultery; pride; double-mindedness; and indifference toward sin.

Thankfully I took the advice of a dear friend to work through the book called *Experiencing God*, by Henry Blackaby. To date, five groups have been led through this valuable study. Based upon seven realities that help to know and do the will of God, most participants have experienced God in real and personal ways. The second reality has been especially helpful which states, "God pursues us in a continuing love relationship that is real and personal."

Looking at this reality, we are asked to evaluate whether we're God-centered or self-centered. A God-centered life is focused on God, humble, seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and His perspective in every circumstance. In contrast, a self-centered life is focused on one's own pride and accomplishments, seeks the world's acceptance and looks at circumstances from a human perspective. As the comparisons are made, most people come to realize that they have been more self-centered than God-centered. James called this *double-mindedness*. By nature our desires lean to selfishness. Isaiah 53 reminds us that "all we like sheep have gone astray, each to his own way."

It is a humbling experience when we come to realize that we have spent more time and effort in

relationship with the world than in our relationship with God. James says, "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?" Do we realize how much He wants to have an intimate love relationship with His people?

To experience God in a real and personal way requires spending time with Him. Just as it takes time to develop a close relationship between a man and woman, we need to take time to talk and listen to God. When we deny that time together, it robs God of the love relationship He desires to enjoy with us. Daily time with Him in prayer and devotion helps us to begin to see God's perspective.

When we heed God's invitation to come near, He will come near to us. In a love relationship, by His grace, He deals with our self-centeredness. Our priorities change. We become eager to spend time with Him. We not only pray, but we center our prayers on what God desires. Our spiritual adultery with the world is changed into a faithful, committed love relationship with God.

Yearn to be near God. Be persistent in prayer. "Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up," James 4:10.



— Pastor Jerry Peterson
First Lutheran Church
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

sound bites

"If I wanted to be remembered — which I don't — but if I was, I would

1 say that I was a man that gave myself to the Word of God, to the exaltation of the Person of our Saviour. That's the only ambition I've got, the only ambition I've had."

— John G. Mitchell

"To believe that God has both revealed Himself in Christ and has given us a true portrait of Christ in the Gospels is, even on a

4 purely human level, no more contrary to reason than is skepticism. In fact, if such revelation is indeed true and God-given, it is infinitely more reasonable than skepticism. By studying it and believing it, we are able to think God's thoughts after Him."

— John W. Wenham

6

"We know that God does not lie. My neighbor and I — in short, all men — may err and deceive, but God's Word cannot err."

— Martin Luther

2

"I consider an intimate knowledge of the Bible an indispensable qualification of a well-educated man."

— Robert A. Millikan

"If there is any other explanation for the

3 **success of your ministry other than God is in it, then you must question whether God is in it."**

— Dan Spader

"Apply yourself to the whole text, and apply the whole text to yourself."

— Johannes Albrecht Bengel

5

*God's word is
our great heritage,
and shall be
ours forever;
To spread its light
from age to age
Shall be our chief
endeavor;*

*Through life
it guides our way,
in death
it is our stay;
Lord, grant, while
worlds endure,
we keep its
teachings pure,
throughout
all generations.*

— Nicolai E.S. Grundtvig
AMBASSADOR HYMNAL No. 258

God's WORD

One dictionary's definition of heritage is, "something handed down from one's ancestors or the past, as certain skills or rights, or a way of life." We in the AFLC take a great deal of pride in our heritage. When heritage is mentioned we think of the leadership and creativity of a Georg Sverdrup; the spiritual strength of a Hans Nielson Hauge; the bold reforms of a Martin Luther. However the familiar hymn by Nicolai Grundtvig reminds us that the greatest heritage we have is the Word of God. The Word not only gives us a way of life, it gives us Life itself. The heritage we claim as a church body is rooted in the Word, the written Word and the living Word.

Our heritage has blessed us with many mottoes or maxims that we repeat and acknowledge among ourselves with an understanding nod. "Free and living congregations ... The congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth ... The Bible is the only inerrant and completely adequate source and norm of Christian doctrine and life." Are these phrases meaningful to you and to your congregation or are they so familiar that they have become "only form"?

A large concern today is for the **body life** of a congregation. The mobility, diversity and busyness of people in our society make a high quality congregational life difficult to maintain. Members of a local body of believers need to work with each other effectively in order to fulfill the God-given task of the local church: the evangelization of the world. After all, can a congregation effectively promote the growth of the gospel in its Jerusalem, its Judea and the uttermost parts of the earth if it can't decide what color carpeting to put in the sanctuary without wounding a brother or sister?

What does the heritage of God's Word mean to the viability and vitality of the congregation? It is as much the source of

and the CONGREGATION

— Rick Rasmussen
Solid Rock Lutheran
Osseo, Minnesota

authority for the spiritual life and conduct of a congregation as it is for the spiritual life and conduct of an individual. The New Testament writers had much to say about the local church and how it was designed by God to operate. We often refer to the Bible as the “operator’s manual” for the individual. It is no less so for the congregation.

Paul writes very forcefully about the operation of the body of Christ in the first sixteen verses of Ephesians chapter four. I’d like to highlight three of the major commands presented in Scripture regarding your congregation, the local body of Christ of which you are a spiritual member.

Unity

The overriding theme of the body of Christ is unity. The Holy Spirit through Paul commands us to be, “diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Ephesians 4:3).

He goes on to use the word “one” seven times in the next three verses. He also clearly directs the congregation in Corinth regarding unity in I Corinthians 1:16: “I appeal, to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no division among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought.”

Unity was on Jesus’ mind, too, in His high priestly prayer (John 17) offered up in the garden of Gethsemane. He prayed, “... also for those who will believe in me through (the disciples) message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.” Since each believer has the Holy Spirit within and is a part or member of the body of Christ, unity in understanding the will of God should be a forgone conclusion. So why is it then that the vision of God’s will within a congregation is often times so cloudy? A good share of the answer lies in the lack of obedience to two of the other commands presented in Ephesians four.

Love

Paul mentions love three times in the first sixteen verses of Ephesians four and defines it very eloquently in the familiar words of I Corinthians 13. Keep in mind that Paul wrote the “love chapter” in the explicit context of the congregation. The apostle John also calls our attention to the significance of Christian love. In his gospel he quotes Jesus: “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (John 13:35). In his first epistle he put the Christians’ love for each other in the same breath as faith in Christ: “And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he commanded us” (I John 3:23). Would the world know that your congregation is Christian just by watching you love each other?

Spiritual Gifts

Every Christian has been given at least one spiritual gift to be used “for the common good” (I Corinthians 12:7). In addition, God has put each member in a specific congregation for His purposes. “God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired” (I Corinthians 12:18). Do you know what your spiritual gift is? Are you using it “to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up?” God’s Word commands that we each do so: “And since we have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let each exercise them accordingly” (Romans 12:6). The congregation suffers when even one person declines to exercise his/her spiritual gift.

Obedience to God’s Word is the key to free and living congregations. The unity that Jesus prayed for comes only from having the living Word in our hearts and the written Word in our hands.



His Word, *my comfort*

— Mary Friedrichs
Canadian National WMF President
Living Word Lutheran
Vernon, British Columbia



It is a joy to share the Word of God with you as I tell a little of "His Story" in my life.

I came to know Christ as my personal Savior in 1963, at a Bible study led by my pastor. When he asked the question, "What do you have to do to go to heaven?" I responded, "Be good!"

The pastor answered simply, but that day brought life to me.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." The light went on! It was for me He died. He paid the price so I could enter freely. It was "not by works lest any man should boast. For it is by grace you are saved."

I had come to that Bible study desperate, suicidal and burdened with guilt because our fourth child had died shortly after her birth. I hadn't wanted to be pregnant. Now I believed certainly God was punishing me! I had no way to deal with death. I had gone to a church since I was eight years old, but those years were in a cult where you were saved by positive thinking.

I came into the Christian Church at seventeen through my husband-to-be, and I heard the Word preached. But I was so steeped in the "be good" theology that I tried to be as perfect as Jesus was. I taught Sunday school, served in the women's organization and sang in the choir. I was doing it all thinking I was "being good." For twelve years I lived with the guilt until I had that life-changing encounter.

Every day I pleaded, "Just for today, Jesus, help me make it through." That encounter released me from the pain and guilt that had kept me in bondage those twelve years. God's Word says in Romans

8:1, "There is, therefore, no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." He became my living water.

I think back almost three years ago to April 8, 1995. My beloved husband of thirty-eight and a half years lay on the floor as my son gave him mouth-to-mouth and a neighbor nurse assisted him. My daughter-in-law called the ambulance, and I prayed as Jesus did in Gethsemane, "Abba, Father, not my will but thine be done" (Mark 14: 36).

I knew I had to release my Richard into God's care and keeping. His time had come to enter into paradise and though my heart sorrowed, my God was all sufficient for His strength is made perfect in my weakness (II Corinthians 12: 9). What a comfort His Word has been to me! His promises are tested and true. He is my constant companion. "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13: 5). In His Word God promises that we can know the peace that passes all understanding. He has broken down every wall of misunderstanding, grief, and pain. His Word will guide me through every brokenness when I cry out to Him.

Christ promised that He would not leave me comfortless; that He would send the Holy Spirit to comfort me, and to guide me into the truth (John 17: 17). The accuser of the brethren comes to harass me and bring condemnation for all my shortcomings, but Jesus has paid it all. God's Word again comes in power and might: "God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" (John 3:17).

Do you feel burdened and forsaken today? First Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your care on Him, for He cares for you." There is one, Jesus, who cares for you like no other.

God has blessed me with a network of caring family and friends and a church family with whom I meet with to sing praises to His Name, study His Word and pray together. *His Word is my great heritage: His bulwark never failing!*



Functioning as a healthy body

— Leila Gilman
Redeemer Free Lutheran
Canton, South Dakota

Our Divine Creator, in His infinite wisdom, has so designed our physical bodies that each individual microscopic cell functions like a minute factory; taking in nutrients and oxygen, keeping out disease producing organisms and eliminating waste, working day and night to provide health and energy for life.

Each organ in our bodies (made up of individual cells) is dependent on the other parts in order to fulfill its purpose, and when one part fails, the whole body suffers. If disease enters, the cell wall breaks down and harmful substances enter, damaging the normal processes of building and maintaining health. Other parts try to compensate and if they overcome the problem, all is well. If not, the malfunction progresses and eventually death occurs.

Paul compares our physical bodies to the body of Christ, "... there should be no division in the body, but its parts should have equal concern for each other. If one part suffers, every part suffers with it" (I Corinthians 12:25, 26a).

It's not unusual today to hear of strife and division within churches. Misunderstandings, disagreements, criticism of leadership, jealousies, harbored grudges, unforgiveness — all cause pain within the body. An attitude of resentment of just one person toward another is not hidden or unnoticed but is visible and felt by other members. Besides the pain within the body it also results in a negative witness to the world and damages the mission and command of Christ to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and strength and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself" (Luke 10:27).

Can there be genuine love for God in our hearts if we reject or "look down" on a neighbor? Is God honored by our reciting creeds, singing hymns and giving tithes when the heart is hard toward another member?

Healing in the body does not occur by ignoring the problem or by trying to hide the truth. It may take painful surgery or potent medicine to cure the problem, and usually must be followed by a change in behavior, habits, and former style of living. Healing of relationships does not happen by pretense or by attempting to forget or cover it over. But there is a remedy. God knows our frailties and He has

***The body is a unit,
though it is made up
of many parts; and
though all its parts
are many, they form
one body.***

(I Corinthians 12:12)

accomplished all that is necessary for our healing. He does not require anything of us that we cannot do in His strength. We have just gone through the season of Lent with our focus on the cross. Has the message of Good Friday and Easter become so familiar that we fail to see the need for continued self-application?

John writes, "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another,

and the blood of Jesus, His Son, purifies us from all sin" (I John 1:7) If we have truly experienced God's forgiveness and healing then we have the ability and responsibility to offer forgiveness and healing to others. We must guard our hearts and minds from enemy attacks, eliminate the "garbage" and be daily nourished from God's Word, allowing the searchlight of the Holy Spirit to expose the darkness in our own hearts. Only then can we be instruments of healing in the body of Christ.

In our physical bodies more than seventy-five trillion cells function together with accurate precision, completely dependent and meticulously following directives from the head. Without this order there would be no life. "God ... appointed Him (Christ) to be head over everything for the church, which is His body (Ephesians 1:22-23a). Jesus, the Head of the church said, "But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment. ... Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to your brother; then come and offer your gift" (Matthew 5:22-24).

God's Word gives clear direction on how to live in peace and harmony. He invites us and waits with open arms until we come for reconciliation with Him so that we in turn can be reconciled with others — both of which are necessary for loving relationships in the church. Bury hurts and grudges and truly experience entering His presence with joy! Nehemiah 8:10 says, "the joy of the Lord is your strength." We desperately need His strength and joy if we are to be witnesses as He has called us to be.

The early Christians were known for their love for one another. Unbelievers took notice and were drawn to Jesus. This is our mission. This is life and health in the body of Christ.



The Lord remembers so we have hope

The Lord hath been mindful of us and He will bless us.

— Psalm 115:12a

Just a few days ago, I drove into a neighborhood in Grand Forks, North Dakota where many houses will be demolished this spring, a year after the Red River broke through the dikes and flood water covered this city and neighboring East Grand Forks. Our city will not have the same appearance as before. There are many decisions to be made and it is possible many beautiful homes that are part of our past history will have to go because of a new flood control plan, but the Lord is mindful of us. There is hope for the future.

As one of our ladies from Trinity Lutheran said: "Often in recent months I have asked myself, 'If a flood should occur in some other area would I be willing to go there to scrub someone else's basement?'" She went on to say, "I don't know what my answer would be, but I do know that when strangers, friends, and our pastor came to offer help and encouragement, a light somehow broke through our frustrations, and we knew that God's love was

still faithfully shining among us."

Another said, "Mucking out' the basement was a lot of work, with a few heartaches here and there, but the Lord provided helpers along the way and we'll have to admit it was a benefit to be relieved of a lot of stuff that we didn't really need and won't miss. We were vividly reminded that material possessions are not what is precious and essential."

One of our members who lost all his possessions after his home of twenty-five years was washed off its foundation, commented: "Some could hate God for this. I feel blessed." He paused and smiled, "I never knew how concerned I was each time the river rose during those twenty-five years. Now I don't have to fear."

There were several families who received direct aid from Trinity congregation from funds that came from our AFLC family and from friends and organizations from various parts of the country. We are thankful to God that our church building did not sustain damage to the sanctuary or fellowship hall, even though it is located just a few blocks from the river. The furnaces, hot water heater and electrical panel were destroyed

by the flood water in the lower level. These costly items were purchased and installed using the generous gift of money you the AFLC family sent to us.

Some of the schools of the city were taken by the flood and children had to be assigned to unfamiliar classrooms. Trinity Sunday school however, remains as it was before, a happy place where children renew their friendships and learn more of the love of Jesus. Thank you for your prayers for the children and the gift you have sent to our Sunday school. Three families have moved out of the area, other families are making repairs to their homes. Still others have relocated within the city.

It will take time; the emotional effect of the flood lingers as well as the uncertainty and the challenge of constant decisions to be made in the future. The beautiful city we have enjoyed for so many years now has a

Help needed

If our AFLC is going to grow, our congregations and Sunday schools must begin to grow our own pastors, missionaries and other leaders. Someone said, "Christianity is only one generation away from extinction at any time." So it is with the AFLC.

Many congregations have been surviving over the years with all of their spiritual, financial and physical needs being met and for that we praise God. But we need to be more than survivors — we need to be reproducers, who then reproduce reproducers. This is the challenge before us.

Where do reproducers come from? They are in our churches



A 1997 flood damaged home near the Red River.

— Betty Nelson
Trinity Lutheran
Grand Forks, North Dakota

look of barrenness in some neighborhoods and still more houses will be demolished to add to the stark emptiness.

In time, the hundreds of people in trailer villages will move into new homes. One of our ladies shared, "The flood could not touch our life in Christ and the Lord who holds us in His hand. Psalm 29:10-11 was a joy and comfort: 'The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; The Lord is enthroned as King forever. The Lord gives strength to his people; the Lord blesses his people with peace.'"

Whether we suffered extensive loss or none at all during the flood, it may be that Trinity Lutheran has become an even closer knit congregational family because comfort and help has been shared among us.

You, our extended AFLC family, have given your money, love, helping hands, clothing, and compassionate deeds for which our congregation will long remember with heartfelt gratitude to God for you.



— Pastor Everett Hind
Calvary Lutheran
Fosston, Minnesota

already, but often unaware of God's call on them to be "harvesters."

It is tempting to sit and wait for God to get busy and do all the work. Friends, we also have a responsibility in this process.

Many of us who are in the ministry today would not be except for a faithful pastor or Sunday school teacher or prayer warrior in our home congregation. God used them and the moving of His Spirit in our lives to lead us into His service.

The Swedish writer and influential man of God, Carl Rosenius was indebted to a lady who took him under her prayer wing. While going through some severe spiritual struggles, he received remarkable guid-

ance from a lady with "exceptional spiritual experience." He went on to become an ardent student of Scripture and a revival leader in Sweden.

Are we as congregations and individuals doing enough to enlighten and encourage young men and women to hear and obey God's call to become harvesters? Luke 10:2 says, "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest fields."

There is an urgency in this matter. We need pastors for both established and new congregations as well as the possibility of planting new churches. How many potential mission fields abroad could be supplied if we had men and women surrendering to God's will and going out? The world is in a crisis. Every person without Christ is in a crisis. Every church that is not seeing new

spiritual growth is in a crisis. We are being disobedient if we are not praying for harvesters.

As we continue to undertake a crusade of prayer across the church, let us do more than pray for harvesters. Let's pray that God will call people out of our congregations to help with the harvest. Perhaps some are feeling led to leave their present occupations and go into full-time Christian service. Parents, pray for your children that they will be open and obedient to the leading of God in their hearts to His work. Sunday school teachers, youth workers, Women's Missionary Federation ladies, watch and pray for those you know that they may see His call of ***going into all the world to preach the gospel!***



OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

Body building

Conference is a time for body building.

One of the privileges of membership in an AFLC congregation is the opportunity to participate in the annual conferences of our fellowship. In denominations that are synodically structured, this privilege is open to only a few delegates. One of the concerns of our founders was the possibility that some congregations might never be represented at a national church convention throughout their entire history.

Our conviction is that there is a biblical principle involved. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians (4:15-16): "Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." Simply put, we need one another for the body to be built up!

The congregation is the right form of the kingdom of God on earth. Any organization of congregations has only one reason for its existence — to do together what one congregation cannot do best alone, such as the training of pastors and lay workers, home and world missions, the publication of parish education materials, providing youth ministry and evangelism resources, etc. This is the reason why there is an AFLC. We need one another in order to accomplish the work that God has entrusted to us.

The 1998 Annual Conference will meet June 17-21 in Red Wing, Minnesota, hosted by Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Zumbrota. Will your congregation be represented there? When this privilege is neglected, the result is a weakened church fellowship. When it is exercised, the result is a body building itself up in love.

Come, for the sake of the kingdom, and welcome, in the name of the King!

— Pastor Robert L. Lee

Thirty-sixth Annual Conference

of the

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

June 17-21, 1998

Red Wing High School, Red Wing, Minnesota

Conference Theme: *God's Word is our Great Heritage*

Conference Text: Psalm 119:89

Wednesday, June 17

9:00 a.m. Conference committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.

6:30 p.m. Concert of Prayer

Leader: Rev. Jeff Swanson, Newark, IL

8:00 p.m. The opening service of the conference with the sermon on the text by Rev. James L. Johnson, Plymouth, MN. The service leader is Rev. Al Pinno, Eagan, MN. AFLC President, Rev. Robert Lee will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

Thursday, June 18

9:00 a.m. Devotions
Report of the Credentials Committee
Adoption of the Conference Agenda
Election of the Nominating Committee for the 1999 Conference
The President's Report
Report of the Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee, Rev. Terry Olson, Thief River Falls, MN
Report of the Director of Development, Ernest Miedema, Valley City, ND
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, Eric Westlake, Osceola, WI
Financial Report of the ARC
Financial Report, Marlene Unverzagt, Minneapolis, MN, Bookkeeper
Report of the Family Bible Camps
Lake Bronson - Treasurer, Don Balmer, Thief River Falls, MN
Wilderness - Treasurer, 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. Christian Oswood, Minneapolis, MN

1:30 p.m. Devotions

Report of Credentials Committee

Election Procedures

Elections: President - 3 year term
Vice President - 1 year term
Secretary - 1 year term

Selection of nominees to the Home Missions Committee (2 pastors and 1 layman); World Missions Committee (2 pastors and 1 layman); Board of Trustees (1 pastor and 1 layman); ARC Board (1 layman)

Continuing discussion of Committee #1

Election of nominee to the Coordinating Committee (1 pastor)

Election of Committee #1 for the 1999 Conference

Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee, Ken Williams, Ishpeming, MI

Report of the Director of World Missions, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, Plymouth, MN

Report of Partners in Mission Outreach Board, Al Brazier, Greenbush, MN

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

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

Report of the Commission on Evangelism, Rev. James Rasmussen, Park River, ND

5:30 p.m. The Schools Corporation Annual Meeting

8:00 p.m. The Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation
Speaker: Rev. Paul Nash, Brooklyn Park, MN

Friday, June 19

7:00 a.m. The Missions Corporation Annual Meeting

9:00 a.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of Committee #3 (Missions and Evangelism)

Report of Missions Corporation Annual Meeting

Election of members to the Commission on Evangelism (1 pastor and 1 layman)



**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
Zumbrota, Minnesota.**

Election of Committee #3 for the 1999 Conference
Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications
and Parish Education, Rev. Phil Haugen,
Culbertson, MT

Report of the Director of Parish Education,
Marian Christopherson, New Hope, MN

Report of the Chairman of the Christian Academic
Education Board, Rev. Brian Davidson,
Ponca City, OK

Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board,
Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck, Minot, ND

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

Report of Youth Ministries Director,
Rev. Kevin Olson, Shakopee, MN

11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour - Rev. Christian Oswood

12:00 p.m. The ARC Corporation Annual Meeting

1:30 p.m. Devotions

Report of Credentials Committee

Report of Committee #4 (Publications,
Parish Education and Youth Work)

Election of member to the Board of Publications
and Parish Education (1 layman)

Election of member to the Christian Academic
Education Board (1 pastor)

Election of members to the Youth Board (2 laymen)

Election of Committee #4 for the 1999 Conference

5:30 p.m. Pastors' Banquet

8:00 p.m. Laymen's Service

Speaker: Jon Dryburgh, Grand Forks, ND

Saturday, June 20

9:00 a.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board,
Rev. Mark Antal, Leeds, ND

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions,
Tony Onnen, Cokato, MN

Report of Committee #5 (Stewardship & Pensions)

Election of members to the Stewardship Board
(1 pastor and 1 layman)

Election of member to the Board of Pensions
(1 layman)

11:30 a.m. Election of Committee #5 for the 1999 Conference
Prayer Hour - Rev. Christian Oswood

1:30 p.m. Devotions

Report of the Credentials Committee

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees,
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,
Mark Nelson, New Hope, MN

Report of Committee #2 (Schools)

Election of Committee #2 for the 1999 Conference
Report of Schools Corporation Annual Meeting

Report of the Chairman of the Colloquy Committee,
Rev. Dale Mellgren, McIntosh, MN

Election of Colloquy Committee for the
1999 Conference

Report of special committees

Election of two members to the Budget Analysis
Committee (3 year terms)

Report of Committee #1 as the Committee on
General Resolutions

Other Reports

8:00 P.M. Youth Night at the Conference

Sunday, June 21

8:00 a.m. Communion Service

Leader: Pastor Tim Skramstad, Zumbrota, MN

Speaker: Rev. Lyle Aadahl, Byron, MN

10:30 a.m.

Worship Service

Speaker: Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, MN

— *Conference Committee*
Rev. Robert Lee, President
Rev. Bruce Dalager, Secretary

Conference elections

Officers

President (3-year term)
Rev. Robert Lee has served two terms.
Vice President (1-year term)
Rev. Elden Nelson has served three terms.
Secretary (1-year term)
Rev. Bruce Dalager has served five terms.

Elected by corporation (nominees as presented by the 1998 Nominating Committee)

Coordinating Committee

pastor, 5-year term
Rev. Ken Moland, Kirkland, WA
(Pastor Moland has served two years and is eligible for re-election.)

World Missions Committee

layman, 5-year term
Vernon Russum, Grafton, ND
Dr. Robert Kohl, Brookings, SD
pastor, 5-year term
Rev. Jeff Swanson, Newark, IL
pastor, 1-year term
Rev. Tom Tuura, St. James, MN
(Vernon Russum has served one 4-year term and one 5-year term and is eligible for re-election. Rev. Jeff Swanson has served one 5-year term and is eligible for re-election. Rev. Tom Tuura was appointed to serve until conference in Rev. Ted Kennedy's position and is eligible for election.)

ARC Board

layman, 5-year term
Steve Johnson, Upsala, MN
Erling Langness, Ishpeming, MI

Board of Trustees

layman, 5-year term
Emory Flaten, Newfolden, MN
Tim Jones, Wyndmere, ND
pastor, 5-year term
Rev. Mark Olson, Arlington, SD
Rev. Harvey Jackson, Hatton, ND
(Emory Flaten has served one 5-year term and is eligible for re-election. Rev. Lyndon Korhonen has served two 5-year terms and is not eligible for re-election.)

Home Missions Committee

layman, 5-year term
Jim Keller, Wallace, SD
pastor, 5-year term
Rev. Al Monson, Lakeville, MN
Rev. Michael Crowell, Lake Stevens, WA
pastor, 3-year term
Rev. Dale Mellgren, McIntosh, MN
Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, MN
(Pastor Henry Mohagen has served two 5-year terms and is not eligible for re-election. Rev. Allen Monson has served one 4-year and one 5-year term and is eligible for re-election. Rev. Harris Van Someren resigned with three years left on his term.)

Elected by conference

Stewardship Board

layman, 4-year term
Arnold Johnson, Larimore, ND
William Piel, Ponca City, OK
pastor, 5-year term
Rev. Jim Fugleberg, Fargo, ND
Rev. Richard Larson, Abercrombie, ND
(Rev. James Fugleberg has served two years and is eligible for re-election. Mr. Wallace Klein resigned with four years left on his term.)

Christian Academic Education Board

pastor, 5-year term
Rev. Leslie Johnson, Minnewaukan, ND

Board of Publications and Parish Education

layman, 5-year term
Charlotte Qualley, Brockton, MT
Tim Berntson, Valley City, ND
Jean Sheldon, Ray, ND
(Charlotte Qualley has served four years and is eligible for re-election.)

Youth Board

layman, 5-year term
Paul Kneeland, Kalispell, MT
Brent Peterson, Brookings, SD
layman, 1-year term
Ron Jorgenson, Beulah, ND
(Paul Kneeland has served one 5-year term and is eligible for re-election. Marshall Nessa resigned with one year left on his term.)

Committees to the 1998 AFLC Annual Conference

Nominating Committee

Kermit Berge, Larimore, ND
Eastern North Dakota
Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, ND
W. North Dakota-E. Montana
Bob Wold, Thief River Falls, MN
Northwestern Minnesota
Pastor Todd Peterson, Mentor, MN
North Central Minnesota
LaVern Thompson, Fergus Falls, MN
SW Central Minnesota
Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, CO
Nebraska/Colorado
John McAllister, Duluth, MN
Lake Superior
Arden Jacobson, Champlin, MN
Minneapolis
Rev. Lyle Aadahl, Byron, MN
Central Tri-State
Walter Peterson, Ishpeming, MI
Northern Michigan
Rev. Jerry Peterson, Oklahoma City, OK
South Central
Rev. Frank Cherney, Tucson, AZ
Southwestern
Paul Kneeland, Kalispell, MT
Pacific Northwest
Rev. James Molstre, Bethel Park, PA
Eastern
Stan Dale, Ottawa, IL
Illinois

Board of Pensions

layman, 5-year term
Bud Kiecker, McIntosh, MN

Commission on Evangelism

layman, 5-year term
Mike McCarlson, Webster, SD
pastor, 3-year term
Rev. Wayne Hjermstad, Faith, SD
Pastor Warren Swanson, Ottawa, IL
Rev. Craig Wentzel, Edmore, ND
(Michael McCarlson served two years and is eligible for re-election. Rev. Tom Olson resigned with three years left on his term. Rev. Wayne Hjermstad was appointed to serve until conference and is eligible for election.)

Budget Analysis Committee

	Term Expires
John Schlenk, Brooklyn Park, MN	1998
Joel Quanbeck, Fargo, ND	1998
Eldwyn Van Bruggen, Valley City, ND	1999
Richard Rasmussen, Monticello, MN	2000
Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, MN	2000

Committee No. 1 (Administration)

Rev. Walter Johnson, Shakopee, MN
Art Wilson, Pittsburgh, PA
Kurt Bjorgaard, Argyle, MN
Rev. Del Palmer, Shakopee, MN
Wayne Deubner, Brockton, MT

Committee No. 2 (Schools)

Wally Klein, McMurray, PA
Paul Slaamot, Stanley, ND
Jim Lehman, Kenyon, MN
Rev. Alvin Magnuson, Reva, SD
Rev. John Mundfrom, Beulah, ND

Committee No. 3

(Missions and Evangelism)

Roland Deschene, Argyle, MN
Rev. David Skordahl, Dalton, MN
Robert Bilden, Bagley, MN
Two Committee #3 members have resigned

Committee #4

(Publications, Parish Ed., Youth)

Brenda Stilley, Overbrook, PA
Carmen Gustafson, Thief River Falls, MN
Rev. Dan Klug, East Grand Forks, MN
Rev. Ron Knutson, Kerkhoven, MN
Marilyn Kettlehut, Deshler, NE

Committee No. #5

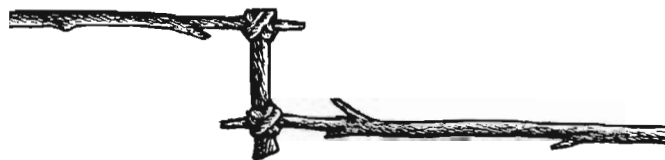
(Stewardship and Pension)

Darrell Johnson, McIntosh, MN
Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, MN
Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, ND
Robert Knutson, McVile, ND
Willis Kettlehut, Deshler, NE

Colloquy Committee

Rev. Todd Klemme, Metropolis, IL
Rev. Dale Mellgren, McIntosh, MN
Rev. John Allstaedt, Eben Junction, MI
Rev. Tim Skramstad, Zumbrota, MN
Rev. Lynn Kinneberg, McVile, ND

Missions Corporation



Term Expires 1998

Rev. Mark Antal, Lees, ND
 * Robert Christian, Newark, IL
 Rev. Peter Franz, Cloquet, MN
 Rev. Philip Haugen, Culbertson, MT
 Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, MN
 Carol Knapp, Willmar, MN
 Clifford Nelson, Cannon Falls, MN
 Rev. Tom Schierkolk, Northome, MN
 Grace Syverson, Tioga, ND
 Rev. Einar Unseth, Glenville, MN

Term Expires 1999

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

Term Expires 2000

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

Term Expires 2001

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

Term Expires 2002

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

*Home Missions Committee
 **World Missions Committee

1998 Nominees to the Missions Corporation

10 terms, 5 years each

Rev. Christian Andrews, Palmdale, CA
 Rev. Mark Antal, Leeds, ND
 Tom Cauoette, Brooklyn Park, MN
 Robert Christian, Newark, IL
 James Denney, Sr., Duluth, MN
 Rev. Peter Franz, Cloquet, MN
 Rev. Philip Haugen, Culbertson, MT
 Rev. Dave Hinrichs, Ortonville, MN
 Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden, MN
 Terry Hunter, Loveland, CO
 Dave Jameson, Ottawa, IL
 Rev. Tim Johnson, Fertile, MN
 Carol Knapp, Willmar, MN
 Dan Larson, Lakeville, MN
 Glen Lee, Duluth, MN
 Clyde Lundgren, Bethel Park, PA
 Clifford Nelson, Cannon Falls, MN
 Rev. Tom Schierkolk, Northome, MN
 Roy Sharon, Superior, WI
 Dale Smith, Lake Stevens, WA
 Dan Swanson, Swanville, MN
 Grace Syverson, Tioga, ND

Schools

Term Expires 1998

Rev. Jon Benson, Upsala, MN
 Ame Berge, Binford, ND
 Norman Chase, Lake Itasca, MN
 Rev. Scott Gray, Cedar Rapids, IA
 Rev. Craig Johnson, Beaverton, OR
 Scott Johnson, Coon Rapids, MN
 * Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Ottawa, IL
 Rev. James Molstre, Pittsburgh, PA
 Rev. John Mundfrom, Beulah, ND
 Ralph Peterson, Portland, ND

Term Expires 1999

Joel Erickson, Grand Forks, ND
 * Emery Flaten, Newfolden, MN
 * Wayne Floan, Fertile, MN
 David Fugleberg, Lakeville, MN
 Rev. Les Galland, Everett, WA
 Roger Johnson, Dickinson, ND
 Randy Pederson, Tioga, ND
 James Peterson, Colfax, WI
 Paul Strand, Kenyon, MN
 Bruce Wolla, Minot, ND

Term Expires 2000

Rev. Emerson Anderson, Maplewood, MN
 Robert Bilden, Bagley, MN
 * David Borg, Cokato, MN
 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
 Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, MN
 Rev. Reuben Unseth, Radcliffe, IA

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, McVile, ND
 Rev. Terry Olson, Thief River Falls, MN
 Roger Peterson, Thief River Falls, MN
 Rev. James Ritter, Bloomington, MN
 Rev. Steve Snipstead, Kalispell, MT

Nominees for the 1999 conference committees

Committee #1

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

Committee #2

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



Corporation

Term Expires 2002

Anne Erickson, Badger, MN
Rev. Dennis Gray, Greenbush, MN
Rev. Martin Horn, Astoria, OR
Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, CO
Rev. Mark Olson, Arlington, SD
John Presteng, Grafton, ND
Kent Quanbeck, McVile, ND
Mark Quanbeck, Mcville, ND
James Rolf, Brandon, MN
Gerald Twedt, McHenry, ND

* Member of School Board

1998 Nominees to the Schools Corporation

10 terms, 5 years each

Rev. Jon Benson, Upsala, MN
Arne Berge, Binford, ND
Norman Chase, Lake Itasca, MN
Rev. Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, ND
Paul Handsaker, Radcliffe, IA
Rev. Craig Johnson, Beaverton, OR
Scott Johnson, Coon Rapids, MN
Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Ottawa, IL
Orville Lee, Mentor, MN
Rev. Richard Long, Arlington, WA
Rev. James Molstre, Pittsburgh, PA
Rev. John Mundfrom, Beulah, ND
Rev. Brian Pearson, Montgomery, IL
Ralph Peterson, Portland, ND
Emory Risdahl, Cloquet, MN
David Rodahl, Thief River Falls, MN
Don Salhus, McIntosh, MN
Arlen Severson, Cloquet, MN
Paul Slaamot, Stanley, ND
Mark Rhorsen, Hayfield, MN
Art Wilson, Bethel Park, PA

Committee #3

Rev. Frank Cherney, Tucson, AZ
Keith Croonquist, Loveland, CO
Wayne Deubner, Culbertson, MT
Dean Peterson, St. James, MN
Rev. David Skordahl, Dalton, MN

The ARC Corporation

Term Expires 1998

Mr. Arne Anderson, Dassel, MN
* Dale Bentley, Mounds View, MN
Kurt Bjorgaard, Argyle, MN
Harlan Clark, Amery, WI
Merle Jacobson, Deer Park, WI
Howard Johnson, Yorkville, IL
Steve Johnson, Upsala, MN
Rev. Joel Rolf, Valley City, ND
* Cliff Seldal, DeKalb, IL
Pastor Ken Thoreson, Argyle, MN

Term Expires 1999

* Allen Anderson, Clear Lake, WI
David Jacobson, Binford, ND
Martin Johnson, Badger, MN
Rev. Rodney Johnson, Stanley, ND
Rev. Roy Johnson, Wichita Falls, TX
Rev. Robert Koepp, Colfax, WI
Ellis Olson, Eden Prairie, MN
Pastor Paul Pillman, Menomonie, WI
Rev. Alvin Pinno, Eagan, MN
Brian Rice, Balsam Lake, WI

Term Expires 2000

Oryen Benrud, Goodhue, MN
Don Berge, Fargo, ND
Rev. Tim Carlson, Wheatland, IA
Rev. David Keipella, Stacy, MN
Kevin Nessa, Garden City, IA
* Rev. Tonnes Pollestad, Andover, MN
Roger Quanbeck, McVile, ND
Lee Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, WI
Peter Ward, Brooklyn Park, MN

Term Expires 2001

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

Term Expires 2002

Rev. Brian Davidson, Ponca City, OK
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, Metropolis, IL
Erling Langness, Ishpeming, MI
Bob Rudebusch, Lakeville, MN
* ARC Board Members

1998 Nominees to the ARC Corporation

10 terms, 5 years each

Arne Anderson, Dassel, MN
George Bakalyar, Windom, MN
Dale Bentley, Mounds View, MN
Kurt Bjorgaard, Argyle, MN
Rev. Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, SD
Dale Brannon, Mantorville, MN
Harlan Clark, Amery, WI
Clifford Eastvold, Duluth, MN
Rev. Don Greven, Newark, IL
Ernie Hilbert, Wheatland, IA
Randy Holmquist, Kimball, SD
Merle Jacobson, Deer Park, WI
Rev. David Johnson, Ortle, SD
Howard Johnson, Yorkville, IL
Steve Johnson, Upsala, MN
Jim Minard, Ishpeming, MI
Dan Nelson, Kandiyohi, MN
Donald Norberg, South Haven, MN
Dave Peterson, Duluth, MN
Rev. Joel Rolf, Valley City, ND
Cliff Seldal, DeKalb, IL
Pastor Ken Thoreson, Argyle, MN

2-year term

Dennis Parsely, Pipestone, MN
Tim Gossweiler, Buffalo, MN

Committee #4

Glen Espe, Thief River Falls, MN
Rev. Kevin Garner, Fox River, IL
Rev. Ron Knutson, Kerkoven, MN
Orville Lee, Mentor, MN
Joel Zeltinger, Bismarck, ND

Committee #5

Ralph Johnson, Upsala, MN
Randy Peterson, Tioga, ND
Rev. Larry Severson, Roseau, MN
Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, ND
Art Wilson, Bethel Park, PA

1998 AFLC Annual Conference

Red Wing High School
2451 Eagle Ridge Drive
Red Wing, Minnesota
June 17-21

Information and Registration Form

Pre-register by June 2, 1998. Full refund for cancellations through June 5.

Send registration to:
AFLC Annual Conference
1549 East Avenue
Zumbrota, MN 55992
507-732-5449

Name _____

Spouse's Name (if registering) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Congregation _____

Check One

_____ Lay Person

_____ Lay Visitor

_____ Pastor

_____ Pastor Visitor

This registration form should be used to register for the conference and the special events listed below. Please indicate the number of persons to attend each event and the total cost.

Conference Registration (Single \$20, Couple \$30)
(WMF \$2)

\$ _____

Conference Events		Number of persons	Cost for one	Total Cost
WMF Luncheon	Wednesday noon	_____	\$5.50	\$ _____
WMF Breakfast	Thursday, 7 a.m.	_____	5.50	_____
ARC Corporation	Friday noon	_____	5.50	_____
Schools Corp.	Thursday, 5:30 p.m.	_____	6.75	_____
Missions Corp.	Friday, 7 a.m.	_____	5.30	_____
Pastors' Banquet	Friday, 5:30 p.m.	_____	12.50	_____

Conference Meals (Note: some above events are at the same times as meals below.)

Lunch	Thursday, June 18	_____	\$ 5.50	_____
Lunch	Friday, June 19	_____	5.50	_____
Lunch	Saturday, June 20	_____	5.50	_____

Total Conference Cost

\$ _____

(Make checks payable to Our Saviour's Lutheran.)

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

_____ I/We are driving out

_____ I/We are flying out but plan to rent a car.

_____ I/We are flying out and would like you to make arrangements for me/us for ground transportation.

No. flying in your party: _____

Date: _____

Airline: _____

Flight No.: _____

Time of Arrival: _____

Conference announcements

■ Christian Education Luncheon at Conference

The Christian Academic Education Board invites all who have an interest in education — parents, students, educators, school board members, and administrators — to join us at the annual conference for a brown-bag luncheon on Thursday, June 18, in a room to be announced at the conference. After a short program, members of the Christian Academic Education Board will answer questions and facilitate discussion. No pre-registration will be necessary. Please keep that noon hour free and join us.

— *Pastor Brian L. Davidson*
Chairman, CAEB

■ Directions

The AFLC Annual Conference will be held at the Red Wing High School which is located on the far southwest limits of the city. It is one block east from the intersection of Highway 58 and Pioneer Road. Those driving on Highway 58 through Zumbrota will turn right at the first four-way stop in Red Wing. Those coming into Red Wing on Highways 61/63 will turn on Highway 58 following it all the way out of town to the four-way stop and turn left on Pioneer Road.

■ Registration notes

You can help to eliminate the long lines at conference by pre-registering. Those who pre-register will pick up their conference packets, name tags and other information as they enter the building. The city of Red Wing has many good restaurants, but none near the high school. A noon meal will be catered at the school cafeteria and we believe you will find that to be a good choice because of the driving and parking situations in the downtown area. Those catering meals will need a final number ten days before the conference, so please register now.

— *Our Saviour's Lutheran*
Conference Committee

■ Meet on Tuesday night in Zumbrota

Partners in Mission Outreach will host a fellowship gathering and their annual meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran in Zumbrota. A representative from each AFLC congregation would be appreciated.

Concert of Prayer will be held at 8:00 p.m. at the Zumbrota church as well. Pastor Paul Nash is the leader.

Our Saviour's Lutheran is located near the intersection of Highways 58 and 52. From Red Wing take Highway 58 through Zumbrota until coming to the intersection of Main (58) and Jefferson. Turn left (east) on Jefferson. The church is on the corner of East Ave. and Jefferson. For those coming from Highway 52, take the Goodhue/Red Wing exit into Zumbrota which will be Main Street (58) and go one block then turn right on Jefferson.

■ Parish Education resources available at conference

The *Ambassador Sunday School Curriculum* will be available at the annual conference in June. There will also be a parish education display of supplementary teaching resources including maps, flannel-graphs, music, and mission stories, as well as devotional writings.



Please note that the Red Wing area motels have rooms blocked for the conference only until May 17. Make reservations early!

Welcome to the WMF Annual Convention

All AFLC women are invited to a gathering at the river (Mississippi) when the 36th Annual Convention assembles at Red Wing, Minnesota on June 17-18, 1998.

"Let Us Fix Our Eyes Upon Jesus," is the theme from Hebrews 12:1-2. We're looking forward to a day spent in Word and song, and prayer and praise together, enjoying God's blessings. Lynn Wellumson, our 1998 Bible Study author of "Joy for the Journey" will share the Wednesday morning message. In the afternoon we will hear from Pastor Tim Hinrichs, in the States on a brief furlough from his ministry in the Czech Republic with East European Missions Network. Offerings received at the convention will go to home missions and the general fund.

Join us for the special Thursday morning Women's Prayer Breakfast. Jane Rasmussen will share and sing. Please pre-register for both the luncheon and breakfast. Use the AFLC Conference form elsewhere in this issue.

The Thursday evening Mission Festival Service will feature Pastor Paul Nash, director of home missions. The offering will go to world missions.

Pray with us for the speakers, musicians and all those behind the scenes who are busy preparing for the 1998 convention. Just a reminder that the women's missionary federation is no longer responsible for the annual conference coffee breaks. Instead, you may send monetary gifts to the AFLC Bookkeeper at 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441 and designate your gift, "for conference coffee breaks." This year you may also donate food items such as cookies, bars, crackers, fruit, etc. to help defray costs.

— *Rosalie Paulson*
WMF Secretary
Fosston, Minnesota

Come, experience the blessings of conference

As a young child, the annual conference dates were always reserved on the family calendar early in the year. My mother made it a special time. We had a nice place to stay and I could order what I wanted at the restaurant. I was invited to sit during the meetings with Mom but if I saw one of my friends or met a new one, I was encouraged to be with them. My mother knew the value of friendships. When the meetings began I wasn't just told to sit down and be quiet, I was told what was going on in a language I could understand. Attending evening services wasn't an option. It was there that I heard the Word of God preached through leaders in our church and missionaries.

When I got married, I continued to go to conference. I was like a few of our young mothers who we see pushing a stroller and a toddler walking alongside. I was in and out of the sessions, but I was there and the Word of God was still implanted in my heart and the friendships were still there.

Conference is a spiritual time. The value of going to annual conference is first of all the closeness I know to God when I

am there. Another blessing is sharing with my old friends who I can be happy with and weep with as well as they for me. It's a great time to meet new friends. Now I enjoy the sessions, listening to the reports and prayer concerns of all the offices and committees. It helps me to understand what has happened in each department the past year. This is a real benefit, not only for myself but also to explain things to my home church.

I always look forward to WMF or "Ladies Day" as I used to call it as a little girl. It is such a spiritual day. The blessing of that day needs to be shared immediately with our men so they can catch the spark the Holy Spirit has given. I believe this spark goes into the first evening with our president opening the conference and then into the first day of meetings.

If you have never attended an annual conference or it has been many years since you have, consider it this year! Once again enjoy the blessings or come and experience it for the first time. In coming you will gain a better understanding of our AFLC and how it works. Learn the value of coming to conference for yourself.

— Mary Pollestad
WMF 2nd Vice President

Partners in Mission outreach

Agraristas, Mexico — Seventeen people from the Dakotas and Minnesota, spent the last two weeks of March working with Pastor Gabriel and Virginia Mercado and their Triumph Evangelical Lutheran Church. The short-term missionaries traveled with the Partners in Mission Outreach bus to work in this village near Obegron, seven hours south of Nogales, Arizona.

It had been two years since the last Partners in Mission Outreach group had ministered in Agraristas. They painted inside and outside of the church and parsonage, nearly completed the outdoor bathrooms and worked on other projects. They passed out tracts and visited a nearby village where the few believers enthusiastically welcomed the Americans. The mission group also showed a Bible story video and handed out tracts to the villagers. Hundreds of little villages dot the countryside and there is little or no gospel messengers to minister to the fellowship-starved believers and to evangelize. Pastor Gabriel said if he had at least six workers, he could keep them busy in the region in and around Obegron, a city of over 200,000.

This was the third trip into the area for Rosalie Paulson, Fosston, Minnesota. In the three years since

Pastor Tim Hurley, Bruce, South Dakota, has resigned as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in order to accept the call from Good Shepherd Lutheran in Ponca City, Oklahoma. He will conclude his ministry at Grace where he has served since 1994, and begin his new work at the end of June 1998.

Pastor Brian Davidson, Ponca City, Oklahoma, will conclude his interim pastorate at Good Shepherd Lutheran this June and shortly after, will begin serving Faith Lutheran of Weslaco, Texas as an interim pastor.



Some of the children in Agraristas, Mexico.

minister in Mexico

her last visit, Rosalie said: "The younger kids now want to learn English. Someone has taught them to say, 'I love you.' They enjoyed telling us that over and over again. The last Sunday that we were there, the village mayor attended the worship service. We were encouraged as we're praying with Pastor Gabriel that the Lord would bring more men into the congregation."

The trip was not without difficulties. The bus broke down after four days in Mexico. Parts had to be flown from Chicago to Nogales, where Dean Crouthers delivered them to the stranded group seven hours across the border. This happened twice before the bus was running again. The delay put the return trip home two and a half days late. Also the video projector, so important in evangelism work, was stolen from Pastor Gabriel's home.

Al Brazier, Greenbush, Minnesota again coordinated the trip. For more information on Partners in Mission Outreach opportunities, contact him at Rt. 2, Box 338, Greenbush, MN 56726 or call (218) 782-2456.

Campo Grande, Brazil — A tent was set up on top of the second floor of the yet to be completed building as evangelistic meetings were held March 13 to 22 in the AFLC congregation in Campo Grande, Brazil. Former missionary to Brazil, Pastor John Abel and Pastor Iran from the AFLC Brazil Bible School were the main preachers. Ruby Abel played the organ keyboard and missionary and pastor of the congregation, Jonathan Abel played the guitar. Seven students from the Bible School came and shared with children's programs, special music and testimonies.

Evangelistic movies were shown, altar calls were given and decisions for Christ were made, along with good attendance daily.

On the last day of the campaign, March 22, a dedication ceremony of the new church was held and six baptisms were also celebrated — preteens: Lara, Willy, Juliana, Jamil, Marcos & Thais. This was followed by a church potluck with Brazilian barbeque at the home of one of the church members.

The unfinished church building still leaks water until a new roof is put on, and there are no doors or windows in yet. But church attendance has increased, mostly with

children, over 20 new kids.

Some prayer requests of missionaries Jonathan and Tamba Abel include:

- For new souls to come to Christ and fellowship with us.
- For spiritual growth & victory in the lives of those attending our church.
- For funds to continue/complete the church construction
- For strength, health & wisdom to do all the ministries we feel God is calling us to do here in Campo Grande.

Karen Knudsvig, Buxton, North Dakota, has resigned as the national Women's Missionary Federation executive secretary. She has worked in that position for eleven years, succeeding the first WMF executive secretary, Judith Wold. Cheryl Aakre, Argyle, Minnesota, has accepted the call to be the new executive secretary beginning January 1, 1999.

Greenbush, Minnesota — Mike Kingery, retired professional baseball player, spoke at the Father/Son Banquet at United Free Lutheran Church of Greenbush, Minnesota.

He arrived in the morning to do a community baseball clinic and to speak at the 7:00 p.m. banquet on March 28. Kingery is a native of Atwater, Minnesota. His testimony can be found on the internet in Sports Spectrum magazine.

This was the second time Kingery conducted a baseball clinic in Greenbush. He did so last year and also spoke at the kick off for the district youth "hot times" events. Others who have shared at district "hot times" youth events include Pastor Kenneth White of Minneapolis and Brain Grabowska from Lancaster, Minnesota. Both will be back for a youth event this coming summer.

Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

AFLC Benevolences — January 1 - March 31, 1998

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN MARCH	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund	\$224,870.00	\$35,748.80	77,684.49	35
Seminary	112,558.00	5,508.76	20,311.07	18
Bible School	180,678.00	7,393.24	29,837.19	17
Home Missions	260,263.00	16,699.21	58,134.17	22
World Missions	420,686.00	24,372.49	86,221.71	20
Capital Investment	16,276.00	320.38	1,351.74	8
Parish Education	50,335.00	3,464.86	15,970.44	32
Church Extension	18,092.00	233.89	1,439.47	11
TOTALS	\$1,278,758.00	93,751.63	290,950.28	23
TOTALS 1997	1,223,901.00	68,458.70	252,793.17	21
Goal 25%				

Vision 2004 update

**"Unless the Lord builds the house,
they labor in vain who build it"**

— Psalm 127:1

It doesn't seem possible that annual conference is just around the corner. Much has happened since last year in regard to Vision 2004: a project director was called; an assistant was hired (Cindy Schlenk); a master plan has been decided on after five (now more) open house meetings with neighbors; meetings with the planning staff of the city of Plymouth; a traffic study was performed (very much in our favor); and the application for re-zoning and re-guiding has been submitted.

Many thanks for your prayers as well as financial gifts! The letter we sent to congregations asking for prayer in January and February led to peace and alertness as we visited with neighbors about our plans. Many neighbors are supportive of the project, yet there are some opposed. We have revised the master plan to accommodate many of their concerns. Since the property has to be re-zoned before any construction, it has been critical to focus on this first. The re-zoning process has been delayed due to our desire to respond to the concerns of the neighbors. Though we had a different calendar in mind, we trust God to be in control of the timetable.

The city of Plymouth has scheduled the planning and zoning commission to vote on our application for re-zoning this April 28. God willing, they have approved it by the time you read this, and will have sent it on to the city council. If we get approval at the May 20 council meeting, we can move forward to the next steps of the project. There will still be conditional use permits, variances, etc. to apply for, so please continue to pray that God's perfect will might be done. We love to meditate on the reality that He is in control!

As we come to annual conference, we are happy to be fulfilling the directives of last year's conference. The heart of Vision 2004 is that God's Word is taught in truth and purity to everyone on our campus. We are prepared to deliver this most important message by having the appropriate buildings, staff, etc. We will be bringing to you, the AFLC, a complete update as to the status of your project at the time of conference. God willing we also will be bringing some visuals and printed materials for you to take home.

Please continue in prayer for:

Defining the internal square footage of the buildings.

Submitting required applications to the city of Plymouth.

The outlook of the city of Plymouth as we ask them to change policy regarding zoning.

Foundations, companies, and corporations we will be approaching for grants.

Each of our congregations as to how they will support this project without taking away from their other giving.

Each of us as individuals as to how we will support this in prayer and financially.

Each of us to faithfully look to God, knowing His ways are higher than our ways.

We can't express enough the gratitude we have for your prayer support. It is so vital! It is evident that God is moving in the hearts of His people, with the answered prayers and financial gifts received even before we print brochures and visit congregations! We praise God that He delights in meeting our needs in supernatural, unexpected ways.

— Pastor Tonnes Pollestad
Project Director

1998 Summer Bible Camps

Eastern North Dakota

Bethany Bible Camp, Bemidji,
Minnesota

June 8-12

Northwestern Minnesota

Galilee Bible Camp,
Lake Bronson, Minnesota

Youth Camp, June 24-28

Teen Camp, June 28-July 3

Family Camp, July 5-10

Speakers, Pastors Dale
Finstrom

and Todd Peterson

North Central Minnesota

Bethany Bible Camp,
Bemidji, Minnesota

Junior Camp, June 24-28

Senior Camp, June 28-July 2

Wilderness Family Camp

Lake Park, Minnesota

July 14-19

Speakers, Pastors Terry

Olson and Jonathan Strand

Children's teacher,

Amy Greene

Association Retreat Center

Osceola, Wisconsin

Junior Camp (4th-7th grade)

June 28-July 3

Family Camp,

July 26-August 1

Speakers, Pastors Jeff

Swanson and Phil Haugen

Youth Leadership

Conference, July 20-25

South Dakota District

Pickeral Lake Bible Camp

July 27-August 2

Illinois District

Lake Geneva Bible Camp,

Geneva, Wisconsin

July 27-31

South Central U.S. Family Camp

Johnson Bible Camp, Anadarko,

Oklahoma

July 7-10

Pacific Northwest District

Family Camp

Camp Brotherhood,

Arlington, Washington

July 12-16

Speaker, Dr. Fran Monseth

Western North Dakota Family Camp

Camp Cherith, Williston,

North Dakota

June 23-27

Bible is now in 2,197 of the world's languages

As 1997 came to a close, the number of languages having at least a portion of the Bible reached 2,197, according to the United Bible Societies (UBS). Compared to the previous year, 30 more languages now have translations of either a New Testament or a portion (at least one book of the Bible) and eight more languages now have the entire Bible.

The number of languages with at least some of the Bible topped 2,000 for the first time in 1993, meaning that nearly 200 languages have been added in the last four years.

Such speed in translation work has been achieved with the help of computers, which allow manuscripts to be altered quickly, multiple changes to be made at the touch of a key, and programs written to make the translation of related languages easier.

The rapid progress can also be attributed to the number of translation teams working around the world to make the Bible available to people who can currently read it only in a second language.

As well as eight new Bibles, there were 31 new New Testaments, three of which were the first Scripture to appear in those languages. Also, 41 portions were recorded during 1997 for languages that do not yet have a New Testament or Bible, and 27 of these are in languages not previously recorded as having any translated Scriptures.

The people of the Netherlands Antilles, whose main language is Papiamentu, the Guaranm of Paraguay, the Aceh speakers of Indonesia, and the Swati people of Swaziland celebrated the arrival of their new Bibles in 1997, and can look forward to a deeper understanding of their Christian faith.

Other first Bibles appeared in these languages: Baatonum (Bjnin), Hmong Saw (Laos), Kom Rem (India) and Mashi (Democratic Republic of Congo).

The UBS is currently involved in 681 translation projects, from the Inuit (Eskimo) languages in Canada to trade languages in Africa (Hausa, Fulfulde) and produces Scriptures in Braille, on audio cassettes and in other formats.

Baroda, India — Nearly 200 members of India's World Hindu Federation attacked a Christian crusade in the city of Baroda March 4. The attack follows the electoral victory of the fundamentalist Hindu Bharatiya Janatha Party. A church spokesman reported that a mob went on a rampage, shouting anti-Christian slogans, breaking down the dais, and attacking the worship team. The crusade was organized by 65 area churches.

Xiaobu, China — Though it has long been known that Christians in rural areas of China face severe discrimination, new evidence has surfaced in the form of a document from Hua County in Guangdong Province in southern China. According to a Compass report, the document, dated last November 3 and signed and sealed by the Village Committee of Xiaobu Village near Huashan Township, reads: "Villager Wei, please after reading this notice will you not attend the Christian church. Otherwise you will not be allowed to join the local production brigade and be allocated work. Your electricity will be cut off and your children will not be permitted to attend school. Nor will you be allowed to build a new house." According to Compass, this blatant persecution is by no means unusual. The case in Hua County is unusual, however, in that there is documentary proof.

(The above articles used with permission of the EP News Service.)

Summer Vacation Bible School kits available

VBS materials have been selected for the AFLBS summer teams. The materials they will be using this year are published by Child Evangelism Fellowship. These VBS kits are available through the AFLC Parish Education Department at a discount to AFLC churches.

Counselors needed for youth leadership conference in July

Counselors are still needed for the 1998 Leadership Conference, July 20-25 at the ARC in Osceola, Wisconsin. If you can serve as a counselor, contact Pastor Tom Gilman, counseling coordinator, at 47994 5th St., Canton, SD 57013. Call (605) 987-2568 or e-mail at: tpgilman@iw.net

AFLC Women's Retreat

**The ARC, Osceola, WI
May 1-3, 1998**

Speaker: Linda Korhonen,
Cokato, MN

Worship Leader: Robin Johnson,
Cloquet, MN

Craft seminar: Ginny Knapp,
Willmar, MN

The phone number for the ARC is 1-800-294-2877. The phone number was listed wrong in the March 17 issue of the *Ambassador*.

The correct address for missionaries Dave and Sarah Nelson is:

Caixa Postal 44
Campo Mourao, PR
87300-970

Brazil

e-mail: davenelson@start.com.br

Let the Remodeler work

It would be rather foolish for someone to hire a decorator to come into their home, pay them big money, spend time listening to their advice, look at drawings they come up with as to how things can be improved, and then say, "Thanks, but we like how things are; we don't want to make any changes."

It wouldn't make sense to hire someone to redecorate and remodel and then not let them work. It makes even less sense to not let God work through His Word and "remodel" our lives.

God is the ultimate Remodeler. The Bible is the diagram of the changes He desires to make. But if the diagram is not looked at, if the advice given is ignored, changes will not happen. The Remodeler needs to be given freedom to work. His plans need to be followed.

The Lord told the prophet Jeremiah: "Go down to the potter's house, and there I will give you my message." So I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him. Then the word of the Lord came to me: 'O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter does? ... Like clay in the hand of the potter, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel'" (Jeremiah 18:2-6, NIV).

God has the right to mold us as He sees fit, for unlike a redecorating of a building, we do not own the house which is our life. God is the Creator and Lord. He formed us in the beginning and can continue to shape us according to His desires. We must not fight and resist the work He wants to do.

Sometimes a remodeler may come into a house and propose some massive changes. "Add on a room. Take out that wall. Paint it all a whole new color."

God wants to make some significant changes in our lives as well.

God made the house which is your life, and it was good, but you messed it up. I did the same to mine. That messing it up is called sin. It has ruined the place. The stain is everywhere. The inside needs to be all redone.

The outside may not appear all that bad. You maybe have kept it looking pretty good. Nobody has

a clue about how things look inside. You maybe don't even know it yourself. But the Remodeler does, and He wants to get to work.

Jesus speaks strongly against those who clean the outside and ignore the inside. "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. ... First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean. ... You are like white-washed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness" (Matthew 23:25-28, NIV).

The Remodeler wants to make things new, first

and foremost on the inside. "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (II Corinthians 5:17, NIV). The changes He says are necessary at times seem to go a little far. The things we are told to throw out mean a lot to us. But we must follow. We can pick and choose from the suggestions of a decorator, but we do not treat the Remodeler of our lives in a similar way. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5,6, NIV). Throw out all that He says

to throw out. Bring in all that He says to bring in. Go as far as and wherever He says to go.

It's important to be clear on who has the position of Remodeler of lives. It's not us. It's God. He does the work through His Word. We share His Word with others. We love them. We serve them. We share with them how God is molding us. But in it all we remember that the ability and the responsibility to truly shape a life into what it is meant to be belongs to God.

God is the great Remodeler. He has "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV). You may not think your life looks like much right now, but let Him work, let Him have control, and be ready to be stunned by the beauty He brings and the work He does.

— Pastor Craig Johnson

**Jesus speaks
strongly
against those
who clean
the outside
and ignore
the inside.**

FROM THE ARC

Learning and teaching CONTENTMENT

There are many things I'd like to teach my kids. Almost all of the things I'd really like them to learn are spiritual principles. After knowing Jesus Christ in a personal way, one of the most important things I want my kids to know is this: **true contentment**.

This is a tricky concept to learn and teach in today's world. Our society thrives on discontentment. Advertisers especially want us to be discontent about what we have, who we are or what we look like. "You need this" or "you deserve this" are common themes in advertising.

But Christians don't struggle with discontentment, do they? Well, here's an easy way to determine if you are content. Your neighbor drives a new car home or a co-worker receives a promotion. Have you ever said, "That's not fair" or "I deserved that"? Those are red flag statements. Signs of discontentment. I have said those phrases and I know that if my children are going to learn contentment, I'd better learn it and be able to demonstrate it for them.

If you talk to your children about contentment, here's an object lesson you might want to try. (This is not for everyone and probably not for very young children.) Use discretion when trying it but it can be a great tool for discussion. You will

need: 1. a Bible; 2. small and large Tootsie Rolls (the concept works best if the larger Tootsie Rolls are significantly larger), and 3. a firm resolve not to "give in."

Begin by reading Philippians 4:10-13 to your children. Talk about contentment. Do they know what it means? You may want to point out that Paul was in prison when he wrote this and yet he was content.

When your discussion is over, hand out the small Tootsie Rolls, being careful to conceal the larger ones. Ask you kids if they are content. Most children, with a mouthful of candy, will respond positively. (If your child says "no" then I'm sorry, I have no further advice for you. You've got to handle that on your own.) Now is the time for the firm resolve. You show them the large Tootsie Rolls and say something like, "I'm glad you're content because then you don't need this, right?" Don't give them the candy. At least not right away.

Your child will respond. This is a good time to resume your discussion. It's easy to become discontent very quickly. The concept we're after is true contentment, which doesn't fade so easily.

How do we get this true contentment? If we look back at Philippians 4:10-13, Paul says he "learned the secret of being content." What was the secret Paul was talking about? I believe the essence of that secret can be summed up with these two thoughts:

1. I know what I truly deserve.

2. I realize what God gave me instead.

So what do I deserve? Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned." Romans 6:23 says "The wages of sin is death." According to these verses, I can conclude that what I deserve is death. That is what is fair. That is what I've earned.

Praise God, He doesn't give me what I deserve. Romans 6:23 continues, "but the free gift of God is eternal life." Paul's secret to contentment came from recognizing these two truths: I deserve eternal death but God gives me eternal life.

The next time you hear yourself saying, "I deserve that new car," or your child saying, "Hey, my bowl of ice cream is smaller than hers. It's not fair!" Stop and ask, "What is really fair?" or "What do I really deserve?" Remind yourself and your child of what is really fair. It helps put circumstances into perspective pretty quickly.

Training your mind to respond this way doesn't happen overnight. After all, Paul said he learned the secret of being content. Learning usually takes practice, patience and time. But what a reward! True contentment is one of the Christian's greatest gifts from God. It's something I'm pursuing and it's something I want my children to learn. Then we can say as Paul did, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every circumstance."



— Eric Westlake
Director, The ARC