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# The Lutheran AMBASSADOR

April 30, 1996



*Join us in the  
Pacific  
Northwest*

*For the  
1996 Annual  
Conference*



# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

April 30, 1996  
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### The Lutheran Ambassador

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## AN ENCOURAGING WORD

### Jesus, the true vine

*I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in Him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.*

John 15:5

The above teaching of Jesus evidently took place after Jesus and His disciples had gone out from the upper room and were walking toward the Garden of Gethsemane (cf. John 14:31b and 18:1). Perhaps they passed by a fruitful vine which Jesus used as an "object lesson" to convey this vital truth to His followers. It is certainly a vital truth for every generation of Christ's followers in that it speaks of the necessary and unceasing union that must be maintained between the believer and His Savior.

It seems that it is a common struggle among Christians to maintain this "abiding union" or "communion" with the Savior. We may have days where our abiding in Christ seems so constant and uninterrupted and the fruit seems to flow from our lives. But then there are the apparently "dry seasons" when we may wonder what has happened and why there is such an evident fruitlessness in our lives. It is then that we begin to agonize and ask, "What must I do to get back on track?"

Perhaps we need to realize that the matter of abiding in the vine (as in the case of the physical vine and branch) is not a labor we are to perform as much as it is simply a living out of the natural relationship we have with Jesus. Jesus says "I am the vine — you are the branch." A branch is nothing more than the outgrowth of the

vine. The branch finds all that it needs in the vine and is not able to contribute anything to its position or its existence. The fact that a branch dries up when it is separated from the vine reminds us what we are in and of ourselves and that all our labors to be a good branch are futile!

Speaking of Jesus' words in John 15:5, Andrew Murray says: "study this holy mystery until you see Christ as the true Vine, bearing, strengthening, supplying, and inspiring all His branches. He will be and do in each branch all that it needs, and the abiding will come of itself ... He to whom God reveals the glory of the true Vine — he who sees what Jesus is and waits to do every moment — can do nothing but abide. The vision of Christ is an irresistible attraction. It draws and holds us like a magnet. Listen continually to the living Christ still speaking to you, and waiting to show you the meaning and power of His Word: I am the vine."

Perhaps the reason we so often struggle in this area is that we are too occupied with abiding and not occupied enough with Jesus Himself.

Father, help us to see these words of Jesus — not as words telling us what we must do or become — but as words guiding us into the very realization of who we are in Christ. Amen.

— Rev. Les Johnson  
Faith Lutheran  
Lake Alma, Saskatchewan

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

June 19-23, 1996

Warm Beach Conference Center  
Stanwood, Washington

Conference Theme: *Complete in Christ – Through His Word* — James 1:1-27

## Schedule

### Wednesday, June 19

- 9 a.m. The conference committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.
- 6:30 p.m. Concert of Prayer  
Rev. Martin Horn, Astoria, OR, leader
- 8 p.m. Opening Service  
Rev. Richard Long, Arlington, WA, leader  
Rev. Elden Nelson, Kandiyohi, MN, speaker  
AFLC President Robert Lee will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

### Thursday, June 20

- 9 a.m. Devotions  
Report of the Credentials Committee  
Adoption of the Conference Agenda  
Election of the Nominating Committee for the 1997 Conference  
The President's Report  
Report of the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee,  
Rev. Les Galland, Eden Prairie, MN  
Report of the Director of Development,  
Mr. Ernest Miedema, Minneapolis, MN  
Report of the Director of Institutional Chaplaincy,  
Rev. Kerwin Sletto, Ottawa, IL  
Report of the Director of the ARC,  
Mr. Eric Westlake, Osceola, WI  
Financial Report of the ARC  
Financial Report, Marlene Unverzagt,  
Minneapolis, MN, Bookkeeper  
Report of the Family Bible Camps  
Lake Bronson, MN, Mrs. Don  
Balmer, Thief River Falls, MN  
Wilderness, Mr. Roland Peterson,  
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  
Rev. Jerry Moan, Hamel, MN, leader  
12 noon The ARC Corporation Annual Meeting  
1:30 p.m. Devotions  
Report of Credentials Committee  
Election Procedures  
Elections  
Vice President — 1-year term  
Secretary — 1-year term  
Selection of nominees to the Home  
Missions Committee — pastor;  
World Missions Committee —  
1 layman; Board of Trustees —  
1 pastor and 1 layman; ARC Board — 1 layman  
Continuing discussion of Committee #1  
Election of nominees to the Coordinating Committee — 2 pastors and 2 laymen  
Election of Committee #1 for the 1997 Conference  
Report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees,  
Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Cokato, MN  
Report of the Dean of the Seminary,  
Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, MN  
Report of the Dean of the Bible School,  
Rev. Don Greven, Newark, IL  
Report of the AFLBS Alumni President,  
Mr. Greg Schmitke, Lakeville, MN  
Report of Committee #2 (Schools)  
(continued on page 4)

## SCHEDULE

- 5:30 p.m. The Schools Corporation Annual Meeting  
 8 p.m. The Mission Festival Service conducted  
 by the Women's Missionary  
 Federation  
 Rev. Paul Abel, speaker

### Friday, June 21

- 7 a.m. The Missions Corporation  
 Annual Meeting  
 9 a.m. Devotions  
 Report of the Credentials Committee  
 Continuing discussion of Committee #2  
 Election of Committee #2 for the  
 1997 Conference  
 Report of Schools Corporation  
 Annual Meeting  
 Report of the Chairman of the  
 World Missions Committee,  
 Mr. Ken Williams, Ishpeming, MI  
 Report of the Director of World Missions,  
 Rev. Eugene Enderlein,  
 Minneapolis, MN  
 Report of Partners in Mission  
 Outreach Board,  
 Mr. 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, Minneapolis, MN  
 Report of the Commission on  
 Evangelism,  
 Rev. Peter Franz, Cloquet, MN

Report of Committee #3  
 (Missions and Evangelism)

- 11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Rev. Jerry Moan  
 1:30 p.m. Devotions  
 Report of Credentials Committee  
 Continuing discussion of Committee #3  
 Report of Missions Corporation  
 Annual Meeting  
 5:30 p.m. Pastors' Banquet  
 8 p.m. Laymen's Service  
 Mr. Nelvin Botten, Stanwood, WA,  
 leader  
 Mr. Mark Stouder, Ferndale, WA,  
 speaker

### Saturday, June 22

- 9 a.m. Devotions  
 Report of the Credentials Committee  
 Continuing discussion of the  
 report of Committee #3  
 Election of members to the  
 Commission on Evangelism —  
 2 pastors and 1 layman  
 Election of Committee #3 for  
 the 1997 Conference  
 Report of the Chairman of the Board  
 of Publications and Parish  
 Education, Rev. James Molstre,  
 Pittsburgh, PA  
 Report of the Director of Parish  
 Education,  
 Mrs. Ralph Tjelta, Minneapolis, MN  
 Report of the Chairman of the  
 Christian Academic Education  
 Board, Rev. Brian Davidson, Posen, MI

### 1996 Nominating Committee

Eastern North Dakota, Robert Knutson, McVile  
 W. North Dakota/E. MT, Gary Qualley, Brockton, MT  
 South Dakota, Junell Remme, Pipestone, MN  
 NW Minnesota, Rev. Raynard Huglen, Newfolden  
 N. Central MN, Rev. James L. Johnson, Fosston  
 SW Central Minnesota, James Rolf, Brandon, MN  
 Nebraska/Kansas/Colorado, Rev. Scott Gray, Fairbury  
 Lake Superior, Tim Korhonen, Cloquet, MN  
 Minneapolis, Rev. Laurel Udden, New Hope, MN  
 Central Tri-State, Rev. James Molstre, Pittsburgh  
 South Central, Rev. Vince Will, Springfield, MO  
 Southwestern, Dean Crouthers, Nogales, AZ  
 West Coast, Rev. Earl Korhonen, Snohomish, WA  
 Eastern, Rev. John Dennis, Bethel Park, PA  
 Illinois, Howard Johnson, Yorkville, IL

## Conference Committees

### Committee No. 1 (Administration)

Albin Haugen, Fargo, ND  
 Greg Seba, Camarillo, CA  
 Bernie Anthonson, Oceanside, CA  
 Arvid Schoeneberg, El Campo, TX  
 Rev. Joel Lohafer, Ferndale, WA

### Committee No. 2 (Schools)

Rev. Michael Crowell, Lake Stevens, WA  
 Ron Catlin, Oceanside, CA  
 Ivar Berge, Fargo, ND  
 Ken Thompson, Nogales, AZ  
 Willie Braun, El Campo, TX

### Committee No. 3 (Missions and Evangelism)

Bud Haugen, Snohomish, WA  
 Ken Graham, Camarillo, CA  
 John Welch, Amery, WI  
 Lynn Walty, Lake Stevens, WA  
 Rev. Randy Nelson, El Campo, TX

Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board,  
Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck, Minot, ND  
Report of the President of the Free Lutheran Youth,  
Rev. James, L. Johnson, Fosston, MN  
Report of the Youth Ministries Director,  
Rev. Kevin Olson, Shakopee, MN  
Report of Committee #4 (Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work)  
11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Rev. Jerry Moan  
1:30 p.m. Devotions  
Report of the Credentials Committee  
Election of member to the Board of Publications and Parish Education — 1 pastor  
Election of members to the Christian Academic Education Board — 1 layman and 1 pastor  
Election of members to the Youth Board — 1 layman and 1 pastor  
Election of Committee #4 for the 1997 Conference  
Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board,  
Rev. Mark Antal, Leeds, ND  
Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions,  
Rev. Frank Cherney, Tucson, AZ  
Report of Committee #5 (Stewardship and Pensions)  
Election of members to the Stewardship Board— 1 layman and 1 pastor

Election of member to the Board of Pensions — 1 pastor  
Election of Committee #5 for the 1997 Conference  
Report of the Chairman of the Colloquy Committee,  
Rev. Craig Wentzel, Edmore, ND  
Election of Colloquy Committee for the 1997 Conference  
Report of special committees  
Election of 1 member to the Budget Analysis Committee —3-year term  
Report of Committee #1 as the Committee on General Resolutions  
Other Reports  
8 p.m. Youth Night at the Conference

## Sunday, June 23

8 a.m. Communion Service  
Rev. Joel Lohafer, Ferndale, WA, leader  
Rev. Stephen Mundfrom, Sebeka, MN, speaker  
10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, WA, leader  
Rev. John Dennis, Bethel Park, PA, speaker  
— Conference Committee  
Rev. Robert Lee, President  
Rev. Bruce Dalager, Secretary

### Committee #4 (Publications, Parish Education and Youth)

John Presteng, Grafton, ND  
Rev. Michael Peterson, Pleasanton, TX  
Kent Quanbeck, McVile, ND  
James McMillan, Oceanside, CA  
Rev. James Rasmussen, Park River, ND

### Committee #5 (Stewardship and Pension)

Ernest Schneider, Wichita Falls, TX  
Rev. Jerome Nikunen, Chillicothe, IL  
Todd Morey, Nogales, AZ  
Rev. Gary Skramstad, St. Cloud, MN  
Roland Meyer, Paxton, IL

### Colloquy Committee

Rev. Jon Benson, Upsala, MN  
Rev. Amos Dyrud, Minneapolis, MN  
Rev. Craig Wentzel, Edmore, ND  
Rev. Paul Larson, Detroit Lakes, MN  
Rev. Jon Wellumson, Williston, ND

### Budget Analysis Committee

	Term Expires
Eldwyn VanBruggen, Valley City, ND	1996
Richard Rasmussen, Monticello, MN	1997
Pastor Dale Finstrom, Glyndon, MN	1997
John Schlenk, Brooklyn Park, MN	1998
Joel Quanbeck, Fargo, ND	1998

### Conference coffee breaks

The WMF traditionally has sponsored the coffee breaks at the annual conferences, but this year the AFLC will be responsible for the coffee breaks. Donations of food can be brought to the conference or cash donations may be sent to the AFLC Bookkeeper at 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441. Designate it for conference coffee breaks. Please do not send donations to the national WMF treasurer.

# Conference elections

## Officers

Vice President — 1-year term

Rev. Elden Nelson has served one term.

Secretary — 1-year term

Rev. Bruce Dalager has served three terms.

## Elected by Corporation

**Coordinating Committee** — 1 pastor and 1 layman, 5-year terms; 1 pastor, 2-year term; 1 layman, 4-year term.

Rev. Terry Olson and Mr. Marlin Benrud have each served part of 5-year terms and are eligible for re-election. Rev. David Molstre resigned. Rev. Ron Knutson was appointed to serve until the conference election. Mr. Vincent Larson was appointed to serve in a layman's 5-year term until the conference election.

**Home Missions Committee** — 1 pastor, 5-year term.

Rev. John Skeie has served one term and does not wish to be considered for re-election.

**World Missions Committee** — 1 layman, 5-year term.

Mr. Arley Hartsoch has served two consecutive terms and is ineligible for re-election.

**Board of Trustees** — 1 pastor and 1 layman, 5-year terms.

Rev. Kenneth Moland has served two consecutive terms and is ineligible for re-election. Mr. Wayne Floan has served one term and is eligible for re-election.

**ARC Board** — 1 layman, 5-year term.

Mr. James Ray has served part of a 5-year term and is eligible for re-election.

## Elected by Conference

**Commission on Evangelism** — 1 pastor, 5-year term; 1 pastor, 4-year term; 1 layman, 2-year term.

Rev. Peter Franz has served two consecutive terms and is ineligible for re-election. Mr. Paul Anderson and Rev. Steven Lombardo resigned. Mr. Michael McCarlson and Rev. David Skordahl were appointed to serve until the conference election.

**Board of Publications and Parish Education** — 1 pastor, 5-year term.

Rev. James Molstre has served part of a 5-year term and does not wish to be considered for re-election.

**Christian Academic Education Board** — 1 layman, 5-year term; 1 pastor, 2-year term.

Mr. Chuck McKeen has served one term and is eligible for re-election. Rev. Todd Olson has resigned with two years remaining on his term.

**Youth Board** — 1 layman, 5-year term; 1 pastor, 4-year term.

Mr. Farrell Erickson has served one term and is eligible for re-election. Rev. James L. Johnson resigned to serve as FLY president. Rev. Allen Arneson was appointed to serve until conference election.

**Stewardship Board** — 1 layman, 5-year term; 1 pastor, 2-year term.

Mr. Victor Parsons served part of a 5-year term and is eligible for re-election. Rev. Rob Lewis resigned. Rev. Jim Fugleberg was appointed to serve until conference election.

**Board of Pensions** — 1 pastor, 5-year term.

Rev. Frank Cherney has served two consecutive terms and is ineligible for re-election.

## Conference concerns for prayer and praise

### Youth Board

We are excited about the new youth director. We ask for your prayers for Pastor Olson that God will provide His sustaining grace.

With the full-time director comes increased financial needs.

Pray for the Youth Leadership Conference in Minneapolis in July that many teens will be able to attend and prepare to share their faith in Jesus Christ.

### Board of Publications and Parish Education

We are grateful the first two quarters of the new kindergarten material are at the printers along with Tanner's Junior Confirmation book.

We continue to see a real need for finances to meet the printing and secretarial costs.

Pray with us that the Lord would show us His will as we seek a new director.

### Coordinating Committee

We desire God's will in the discussion regarding an AFLC evangelist in 1997.

### Stewardship Board

Pray with us as we encourage a greater focus on the personal discipleship of stewardship.

### World Missions Committee

We want the input of conference regarding our concern to broaden our AFLC outreach into Mozambique through our established Portuguese-speaking mission in Brazil.

We hope to see more trips with Partners in Mission Outreach into the Aguascalientes, Mexico area to work with future projects.

### Board of Trustees

Pray with us for the selection process of a new Bible school dean and the voting on that at conference.

Pray that God would call more men into the seminary.

We encourage discussion on ways to increase the financial support of our schools.



# Why keep on?

**T**he question has been asked, "Why keep on sharing the good news of salvation when so many hearts only seem to grow colder?" We look at the question and maybe have to stop and reflect on what the question is trying to bring out in our individual lives. We could answer it in many different ways, but we want to find the answer from our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

We have to realize the importance of what has been done to bring us the gift of salvation. This is brought out so clearly in Romans 5:8, "But God commended His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Seeing that love of God bestowed on us even when we did not deserve it should make each of us stop and consider why God would do such a thing.

John 3:16 reinforces Romans 5:8: "For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." If God is willing to do this for me, can I do anything less for Him? I must accept His free gift of salvation and go

forward, living my life to show His love for mankind so the people I come in contact with will see Jesus in me and glorify our Father in heaven.

When we look at Jesus' disciples, we see that because of their faith in Jesus they were willing to suffer in many different ways to be counted worthy for Jesus. There are many examples we can turn to in Scripture and see the sufferings they went through for their faith. Moses was threatened and he called for help from God as he led the Israelites to the Promise Land. David sought God's leading when the odds seemed against him. Daniel was put into the den of lions but his faith in God didn't waiver. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego confirmed their faith in God before being thrown into the fiery furnace. Jeremiah proclaimed God's Word for 40 years, even though no one was listening. Many more are mentioned in Hebrews chapter eleven. These encourage us and we know that even if we are to suffer for Jesus' sake we are not to be ashamed, but to give God the glory. God will

keep the souls of those committed to Him as stated in I Peter 4:14-19.

In looking at John 1:4-5,10-11, we read: "In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. ... He was in the world, and the world was made by Him, and the world knew Him not. He came unto His own, and His own received him not."

We see that even though God's own chosen people rejected Jesus as He walked among us in human form, He continued to proclaim the need of accepting God's gift for the forgiveness of sins.

Towards the end of my two years of confirmation classes, our pastor called us into his office one at a time and asked if we had any questions or wanted to talk about salvation. I told him I didn't know how you could believe and have peace. He talked to me and showed me several Bible verses, especially Ephesians 2:8-10, Romans 10:10-13, John 3:14-18 and John 14:6. Even though my walk in life didn't always include Jesus; through the prayers of loved ones I came back to the narrow road that leads to eternal life.

I can see how important Bible reading is along with much prayer. It is the only way we can have the peace that Jesus gives us, even through adversity. It is our responsibility as Christians to do the will of God — that is to bring the lost into a saving faith through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Yes, God has been merciful to us sinners and has provided a way to heaven through His Son Jesus. "For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5).

That is why we should keep on.



— Irvin M Schmitke  
Thief River Falls, Minnesota  
member AFLC Commission  
on Evangelism

## ***Dear AFLC family,***

Come and enjoy the beauty of the Pacific Northwest for our 1996 AFLC Annual Conference, June 19-23. We, the West Coast District congregations, consider it a great privilege to host this year's conference at the Warm Beach Camps and Conference Center in Stanwood, Washington. We are eagerly looking ahead to this time of fellowship.

It is our desire to serve in every possible way, both as you make arrangements now and in June when you are with us, so that your stay can be as enjoyable and comfortable as possible. We are praying for your safe travel and for a conference that is rich in blessing. If you have questions, don't hesitate to call 1-360-435-9191 or to write us at the address listed on the registration form.

*In Christian love,*  
Pastor Rick Long  
West Coast District Annual Conference Committee

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# The heritage we possess

**T**he church is to be concerned about those who are lost. It is to be evangelistic, preaching the Word of God so that it brings people into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This is done through the proper preaching of the Word of God and rightly administering the sacraments.

When Georg Sverdrup came to the United States, he wanted to begin such a church body. He wanted the congregation to become "free and living." That is, for individuals and congregations to be free under the blood of Christ. Lay people were also to become involved in the life of the church.

In 1897 the "Fundamental Principles" of the Lutheran Free Church were written. These principles were practiced in the new church Sverdrup and others organized in the United States.

When the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations began in 1963, these "Fundamental Principles" became the guiding principles of the church body and its member congregations. The AFLC is not a corporation nor is it a synod.

## How we work

In a synod, delegates attend the national conventions. They represent the congregations and they alone can vote. What is decided by these delegates becomes binding on the local congregation. A synod is a corporation under the laws of the state in which it resides.

In the AFLC, there are no delegates to the national conference. Any individual who is a member of an AFLC congregation may attend and vote. In fact, others who are regular supporters of the AFLC may also vote at the conferences. Under this system, it is possible for all the members of our congregations to attend and vote.

The church body does not hold property itself. The property is held by four corporations. These are 1) the Coordinating Committee which keeps track of the clergy roster and other matters of business; 2) the

Schools Corporation which administers the Bible school and seminary; 3) the Missions Corporations which administers both home and world mission outreach; and 4) the ARC Corporation which operates the Association Retreat Center in Osceola, Wisconsin. An AFLC Foundation is being established and its members are representatives from each of the four corporations.

The officers of the AFLC and the annual conference have really no power at all over the congregations and the various corporations and boards. **This decentralized form of government keeps people from gaining power in the organization.** Also, it should keep the members dependent upon the Spirit of God for direction. Rather than people turning to other powerful people, they turn to the Holy Spirit for their direction.

The four corporations operate separately from each other. No one corporation has power over the others. The annual conference can decide something but can only recommend such to the corporation. The annual conference can only do the same for the congregations. If the conference does so, it is acting like it should. It is acting like an association and not like a synod!

Usually, however, a corporation will take the suggestions of the annual conference. An association of free congregations is just that; an association. It is loosely knit together. What unites it is the Holy Spirit of God as it works through the preached Word and the sacraments.

The annual conference cannot manage all the details the corporations handle through their boards. Such detail is left to the boards! Sverdrup states, "The church body, is not a new authority above the congregation but a voluntary union of congregations for mutual help. ... A power strong enough to benefit the congregation can also harm it. If the church body is to be a blessing, God's Word and Spirit must guide and rule."

Congregations belong to the AFLC in order to accomplish goals which they may not be able to accomplish on their own —



training pastors, missions, the Bible school, Christian education, the Women's Missionary Federation and youth work. These things are the major reasons why congregations belong. In reality, we are all independent congregations, owning our own property, and are to be directed by the Word and Spirit of God.

The motto verse for the AFLC is found in I Corinthians 3:17, "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." As long as the congregations, the annual conference and the corporations rely on the Holy Spirit's leading, a free church operates at its best. If it does not, then a free church will operate at less than best.

## What we believe

When Lutheran congregations form a church body, "it is the Lutheran confession that binds them together." Georg Sverdrup further wrote one hundred years ago, "Lutheran churches add to this their agreement that in its testimony to the gospel the Lutheran church on earth always has to struggle against errors.

"When the Norwegian Synod goes beyond this and requires agreement also to thesis which go farther than the simple statements of the confession, and stray away from them, this is a serious error.

"They have no right to force upon the congregations, as a part of their confession, doctrines that a few pastors have agreed upon at annual meetings or pastoral conferences.

"What binds the congregations together is the old truth, well tested in the experience and spiritual possession of every Christian through his nurture in the faith.

"To bind anything else upon the congregations is to subject them to slavery and hypocrisy even though one paints on the links of the chain the assertion, 'This is pure doctrine.'

"The whole procedure is a total misunderstanding of the significance of the confession and of the nature of the congregation and the church body.

"Therefore, a Lutheran church body has no right to exclude any congregation which conscientiously maintains this confession even though the congregation be unwilling to acknowledge the authority of

interpretations and teachings regarded as scriptural by an individual or a majority of the church body.

"... (The church body) must offer full freedom to every Christian to interpret the Word of God according to the measure of his faith and the gift of the Spirit.

"One man's view on a point of doctrine or that of a chance majority becomes a straight jacket when the church body makes it binding to all.

"There must be open access to exchange of views."

What we need in the AFLC is to accept people's interpretations of Scripture and agree to disagree; otherwise, we do mischief to the AFLC and to local congregations.

## What we need to do

Evangelism is important. Not everyone is a believer in our congregations. Therefore, the Word of God, both law and gospel, must be preached! Our "Fundamental Principles" state, "Members of organized congregations are not, in every instance believers, and such members often derive false hope from their external connection with the congregation. It is therefore a sacred obligation of the congregation to purify itself by the quickening preaching of the Word of God, and by earnest admonition and exhortation, and by expelling the openly sinful and perverse."

I was always taught that when one is baptized, one is converted. Others seem to say something different. To me they use different terms which mean what I am saying. Unless my head is in the sand, I see no real basic doctrinal difference. I have always maintained that even those who are baptized must come to Jesus in conscious faith.

There may always be a struggle to keep the right emphasis. We wrestle not with flesh and blood but with the powers of darkness. Our weapons are the Word of God, the sacraments and prayer. May our church go forward to reach the unsaved, baptized or not. We must be evangelistic, working to win souls for Christ, baptized or not. We are called to do this! This we must do!



— Rev. Dennis Gray  
United Lutheran  
Greenbush, Minnesota

# AFLC DIRECTORY

## OFFICERS

**President Robert Lee**  
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd.,  
Minneapolis, MN 55441.  
(612) 545-5631

## Vice president

**Rev. Elden Nelson**  
Kandiyohi, Minnesota

## Secretary

**Rev. Bruce Dalager**  
Grand Forks, North Dakota

## DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

**Ernest Miedema**  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

## COORDINATING COMMITTEE

**Chairman Rev. Les Galland**

Eden Prairie, MN  
Rev. Terry Olson  
Dickinson, ND  
Ralph Peterson  
Portland, ND  
Marlin Benrud  
Goodhue, MN  
James Boe  
Ottawa, IL  
Vince Larson  
Buffalo, ND  
Rev. Ron Knutson  
Kerkhoven, MN

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Chairman Rev. Lyndon Korhonen**

Cokato, MN  
Rev. Kenneth Moland  
Kirkland, WA  
Wayne Floan  
Fertile, MN  
Emory Flaten  
Newfolden, MN  
Rev. Gary Jorgenson  
Ottawa, IL  
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Wyndmere, ND  
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*Congregations of the West Coast District invite you to the . . .*

## ***1996 AFLC Annual Conference, June 18-23***

at Warm Beach Camps & Conference Center in Stanwood, Washington

### **Information & Registration Form**

***Please complete all sections & mail this entire pull-out***

*We invite you to come and enjoy the rich fellowship and share in the important business of our church body in a setting of natural beauty. Our setting on the West Coast will offer the grandeur of the Cascade & Olympic Mountain Ranges, highlighted by Mount Rainier and Mount Baker and graced by the beauty of Puget Sound and the San Juan Islands.*

*In these pages you'll find, first, a brief description of some of what awaits you and your family at Warm Beach. This is followed by what may seem a very complex registration form. The various housing options and meal packages necessitate this type of a format. We trust that it will make sense as you work your way through step by step. If you have questions, you are welcome to call (360) 435-9191. We pray and trust that the upcoming conference will be a special event for all who can take part. Let us know how we can serve you. - The conference committee*

#### **There is something for the whole family!!**

We are planning a full morning and afternoon schedule for all children and youth, so we encourage attendance by whole families. Because Warm Beach is a Christian campground facility, it offers a wide variety of activities for the young while adults are in sessions -- like

- In the mornings, beginning Wednesday, group study & fellowship times for youth and VBS for the children
- Supervised activities in the afternoon, including a pool open to all those staying in Warm Beach facilities
- Putt-putt golf and horseback riding for additional charge
- Nursery care during all business sessions, as well as the W.M.F. Day and the Pastors & Wives' Banquet

#### **Description of Lodging Options at Warm Beach**

- Olympic View Lodge: Motel style rooms; 1 queen size bed and two day beds per room; linens included
- Cascadian Lodge: Lodge style rooms; 1 double bed and two day beds per room; vanity in each room; central bath in each wing; linens available at additional cost (6\$/person) or you may provide your own
- Mt. Baker Cabins: Family/dorm style rooms; 1 double bed and four single bunk-style beds per room; two rooms share bath; four rooms per cabin; linens available at additional cost (6\$/person) or you may provide your own
- Glacier & Whistler Lodges: Dormitory style cabins; 3 sleeping rooms per lodge with central lobbies and baths; 10 single bunk-style beds per sleeping room; 3 sleeping rooms per lodge; linens available at additional cost (6\$/person) or you may provide your own
- Mountain Cabins: Dormitory style cabin; twelve single bunk-style beds per cabin; separate central, modern bath; linens available at additional cost (6\$/person) or you may provide your own
- Recreational vehicle & camping area: electricity, water, and sewer available

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

#### **SECTION A - YOUTH / CHILDREN PROGRAMS**

*We would be greatly aided in planning our work with the youth & children's programs for the week by knowing the approximate number that would plan to be involved during the week. List only the numbers of children that would plan to be part of our programming.*

Youth, 7th grade and up, who would like to be involved in the program of youth activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Children, ages 4 through 6th grade, who would be involved in the VBS and children's activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Children, under age 4, who would be under the care of the nursery or VBS staff, as appropriate: \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION B - TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS** Flying? Check United Airlines for reduced rates by telling them you are with conference #568MB.

For those traveling by air to Sea-Tac Airport (between Seattle and Tacoma), you will have the option of renting a car to come to the conference site or taking the *Bellingham Airporter* (transport van) to Marysville where we will shuttle you the remainder of the way to Warm Beach. Please check which you plan to do.

☐

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 with the *Airporter* service to Marysville.

No. flying in your party: \_\_\_\_\_ Airline: \_\_\_\_\_ Flt. No. \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

Make *Airporter* arrangements for \_\_\_\_\_ X \$29\* (roundtrip) = \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable directly to the 'Airporter' at boarding)

(\* This is a maximum price: Seniors, \$25; 15 & under, \$15; and we may be able to arrange less expensive charters once we know arrivals & departures.)

**SECTION C - LODGING** (including lodging & meal plan combinations) See description of lodging on page 1

If you plan to --

.... camp in the Warm Beach Recreational Vehicle Area, complete Parts 1, 2 or 5, and 6

.... lodge in a Warm Beach facility with either the 4 or 5 day lodging & meal plan, complete Parts 3 & 6

.... lodge in a Warm Beach facility less than 4 nights and/or eat only selected meals at Warm Beach, complete Parts 3, 5, & 6

.... arrange your own off-site lodging, complete Parts 4, 5, & 6.

**Part 1: Camping in Warm Beach Recreational Vehicle Area** - RV area plans do not include meals. See Part 2 or 5 for meals

	5 nights, includes site, facility use, and insurance	4 nights, includes site, facility use, and insurance	Part Time Camp Site Rates, includ- site fee, facility use, and insurance
	# People Total	# People Total	Per night X # nights X # People = Total
13 and up	\$ 44 X _____ = _____	\$ 35 X _____ = _____	\$ 9 X _____ X _____ = _____
5-12 yrs	\$ 37 X _____ = _____	\$ 29 X _____ = _____	\$ 8 X _____ X _____ = _____
0-4 yrs	\$ 20 X _____ = _____	\$ 16 X _____ = _____	\$ 4 X _____ X _____ = _____
Part 1 Total:	_____ (\$250 maximum per family)	_____ (\$200 maximum per family)	_____ (\$50 maximum per night)

**Part 2: Meal Packages for those staying in Camp Sites**

	15 Meal Package for those staying in camp sites (Tues. dinner - Sun. noon)	12 Meal Package for those staying in camp sites (Wedn. dinner - Sun. noon)
	# People Total	# People Total
13 and up	\$ 71 X _____ = _____	\$ 57 X _____ = _____
5-12 yrs	\$ 57 X _____ = _____	\$ 46 X _____ = _____
0-4 yrs	N/C _____ = _____	N/C X _____ = _____
Part 2 Total:	_____	_____

**Part 3: Lodging in Warm Beach housing** - Please note that the first two columns include your meals.

		<u>5 night / 15 meal plan</u> (Tues. dinner - Sun. noon)		<u>4 night / 12 meal plan</u> (Wedn. dinner - Sun. noon)		<u>Lodging only</u> (Select meals under Part 5)		
		# People	Total	# People	Total	Per night X # nights X # People = Total		
Olympic	Single Occ	\$305 X _____	= _____	\$258 X _____	= _____	\$52 X _____	X _____ = _____	
	13 yrs and up	\$221 X _____	= _____	\$187 X _____	= _____	\$38 X _____	X _____ = _____	
	5-12 yrs	\$124 X _____	= _____	\$105 X _____	= _____	\$29 X _____	X _____ = _____	
	0-4 yrs	\$ 20 X _____	= _____	\$ 16 X _____	= _____	\$ 4 X _____	X _____ = _____	
Cascadian	Single Occ	\$270 X _____	= _____	\$228 X _____	= _____	\$44 X _____	X _____ = _____	
	13 yrs and up	\$191 X _____	= _____	\$161 X _____	= _____	\$29 X _____	X _____ = _____	
	5-12 yrs	\$124 X _____	= _____	\$105 X _____	= _____	\$22 X _____	X _____ = _____	
	0-4 yrs	\$ 20 X _____	= _____	\$ 16 X _____	= _____	\$ 4 X _____	X _____ = _____	
Mt. Baker	13 yrs and up	\$162 X _____	= _____	\$137 X _____	= _____	\$22 X _____	X _____ = _____	
	Cabins	5-12 yrs	\$124 X _____	= _____	\$105 X _____	= _____	\$16 X _____	X _____ = _____
		0-4 yrs	\$ 20 X _____	= _____	\$ 16 X _____	= _____	\$ 4 X _____	X _____ = _____
Glacier / Whistler	13 yrs and up	\$162 X _____	= _____	\$137 X _____	= _____	\$22 X _____	X _____ = _____	
	5-12 yrs	\$124 X _____	= _____	\$105 X _____	= _____	\$16 X _____	X _____ = _____	
	Lodges	0-4 yrs	\$ 20 X _____	= _____	\$ 16 X _____	= _____	\$ 4 X _____	X _____ = _____
Moutain	13 yrs and up	\$129 X _____	= _____	\$109 X _____	= _____	\$16 X _____	X _____ = _____	
	Cabins	5-12 yrs	\$ 98 X _____	= _____	\$ 83 X _____	= _____	\$12 X _____	X _____ = _____
		0-4 yrs	\$ 20 X _____	= _____	\$ 16 X _____	= _____	\$ 4 X _____	X _____ = _____

**LINENS** - Extra for all lodging except for Olympic View Lodge, if you wish to have it provided rather than bring your own. Write in number of people wishing linens in your party and the total.

\$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_      \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_      \$6 X \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Part 3: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 4: Arranging Lodging Off-Site** - You will need to make your own reservations if you plan to stay off site, but here are some leads. Tell the motel your group name (AFLC); some have special rates for us until mid-May.

- ☐ Yes, we plan to or already have made our own reservations. (For aiding us in making contacts for emergencies, please mark the motel at which you will be staying, if you know it at this time.)

Approx. distances fr. Warm Beach: Everett, 25 mi.; Mt. Vernon, 20 mi.; Marysville, 20 mi.; Arlington, & Smokey Pt., 12 mi.

- ☐ EVERETT: **Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel** - 1-800-446-4656; \$62-\$72; indoor pool, sauna, whirlpool.
- ☐ EVERETT: **Best Western Cascadia Inn** - 1-800-448-5544; \$85, double occ; free cont. brkft; outdoor pool.
- ☐ EVERETT: **Days Inn** - 1-206-252-8000; \$40-\$85; some kitchenettes; jacuzzi suites.
- ☐ EVERETT: **Travelodge** - 1-206-259-6141; \$42-\$65.
- ☐ EVERETT: **East Everett Tea Rose Bed & Breakfast** - 1-206-334-3428; owned by Helen & Arden Hilmo.
- ☐ MARYSVILLE: **Holiday Inn Express** - 1-800-864-7500; \$49 (Use rate code, LUT); free brkft.
- ☐ MT. VERNON: **Tulip Value Inn** - 1-800-599-5969; \$43-\$58; addl discounts for AARP and AAA.
- ☐ ARLINGTON: **Arlington Motor Inn** - 1-360-652-9595; \$42-\$53; indoor spa.
- ☐ SMOKEY POINT: **Smokey Point Motor Inn** - 1-360-659-8561; \$44-\$55; outdoor pool.
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 5: Part Time Meal Options (for those not already in either a lodging/meal plan or in a camp site meal package)**

(1) Write in the number of people for each meal; (2) total meals at right; (3) write in totals in price chart.

	Tues	Wed..	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun	TOTALS
Breakfast	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lunch	X	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Dinner	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	X	_____

Those staying in camp sites

Rates for all others than campers  
(Includes facility use & insurance)

		# Meals	Total		# Meals	Total
Breakfast	13 and up	\$3.25 X _____	= _____		\$5.25 X _____	= _____
	5-12 yrs	\$2.50 X _____	= _____		\$4.50 X _____	= _____
	0-4 yrs	N/C _____	= _____		N/C X _____	= _____
Lunch	13 and up	\$4.50 X _____	= _____		\$6.75 X _____	= _____
	5-12 yrs	\$3.50 X _____	= _____		\$5.75 X _____	= _____
	0-4 yrs	N/C _____	= _____		N/C X _____	= _____
Dinner	13 and up	\$6.00 X _____	= _____		\$8.00 X _____	= _____
	5-12 yrs	\$5.00 X _____	= _____		\$7.00 X _____	= _____
	0-4 yrs	N/C _____	= _____		N/C X _____	= _____

Part 5 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 6: Special Luncheons & Banquets**

*The W.M.F. luncheon, the W.M.F. breakfast, and the Pastors & Wives' Banquet will cost extra. All other special meeting meals will not be any additional cost, but we will still take the reservations for these meals so that the dining areas can be set up with appropriate numbers of seats. Please indicate number of participants for each of the following :*

Builders' Fellowship Lunch (Thurs.) \_\_\_\_\_ Schools Corp. Dinner (Thurs.) \_\_\_\_\_ Missions Corp. Breakfast (Fri.) \_\_\_\_\_  
ARC Corp. & Supporters Lunch (Fri.) \_\_\_\_\_ Missionary & Laymen's Breakfast (Sat.) \_\_\_\_\_

***Extra charges for W.M.F. Luncheon, W.M.F. Breakfast, and Pastors & Wives Banquet***

	<u>Those in 4 or 5 day meal plan</u>		<u>Those NOT in 4 or 5 day meal plan</u>	
	# People	Total	# People	Total
W.M.F. Luncheon (Wedn)	\$ 1.50 X _____	= _____	\$ 8.25 X _____	= _____
W.M.F. Breakfast (Thurs.)	\$ 1.00 X _____	= _____	\$ 6.25 X _____	= _____
Pastors/Wives Banquet (Fri.)	\$ 4.00 X _____	= _____	\$12.00 X _____	= _____

Part 6 Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Section 1 (Camping in Warm Beach campground) \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Section 2 (Campers meals) \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Section 3 (Lodging in Warm Beach housing & meal packages) \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Section 5 (Part-time meals) \_\_\_\_\_

Total for Section 6 (Special meals: WMF/Pastors Banquet) \_\_\_\_\_

Late fee for housing/meal-plan registrations received after May 1 (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit sent with this registration - (Not less than \$50) \_\_\_\_\_

Your balance due at conference time \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: This total does not include the conference fee for administrative expenses to be collected on site.)

**MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO: Atonement Free Lutheran Church, 6905 172nd St. NE, Arlington WA 98223**



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\*\* World Missions Committee

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Robert Dietsche  
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Rev. Amos Dyrud  
Crystal, MN  
Harold Erickson  
New York Mills, MN  
\*Halvor Knapp  
Kandiyohi, MN  
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Joel Rogenes  
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**Term expires 1997**  
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Mark Knutson  
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Colfax, ND  
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**Term expires 1999**

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**Term expires 1997**

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Dave Osland  
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Victor Parsons  
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**Term expires 1998**

Arne Anderson  
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Argyle, MN  
Harlan Clark  
Amery, WI  
Merle Jacobson  
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**Term expires 2000**

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Cloquet, MN  
Bob Bilden  
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\*David Borg  
Cokato, MN  
Loiell Dyrud  
Thief River Falls, MN  
Rev. Dan Klug  
East Grand Forks, MN

Howard Johnson  
Yorkville, IL  
Steve Johnson  
Upsala, MN  
Rev. Joel Rolf  
Valley City, ND  
\*Cliff Seldal  
DeKalb, IL  
Pastor Ken Thoreson  
Janesville, WI  
**Term expires 1999**  
\*Allen Anderson  
Clear Lake, WI  
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Stanley, ND  
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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**

Mrs. Marlin Benrud  
Goodhue, MN  
Don Berge  
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# Thirty-fourth Annual Convention of the Women's Missionary Federation

June 18-19, 1996

Warm Beach  
Christian Camp  
Stanwood, Washington

**G**o west, women, go west to be blessed at the 1996 Convention which will meet under the theme, *Let Freedom Ring* from Galatians 5:1a: "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."

Mrs. Mary Christenson, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, writer of this year's WMF Bible study, *Freedom's Holy Light*, will be the morning speaker. After the luncheon, Missionary Becky Abel will share, highlighting the afternoon session. Special musical numbers and spirited singing will be part of each session.

Decisions to be made at the WMF business meeting will include a vote on changes in the WMF Constitution that were proposed at last year's convention. Those changes include:

A. Ten "Projects" would be changed to four "Missions" — Christian Education, World Missions, Home Missions and General Fund. Personal involvement as well as financial contributions will be encouraged.

B. WMF pins may be used to honor a member for long and faithful service or they may be purchased by members for their own use.

C. The job description for the WMF Executive Secretary would be moved from the WMF Constitution to the first part of the Leader's Handbook.

Plan to attend the Women's Breakfast on Thursday morning for an informal time of sharing and encouraging one another. Pre-registration for the WMF luncheon and breakfast is requested. Pre-register on the same form as the AFLC Conference.

Offerings received at the WMF Convention will go to General Fund and Home Missions.

Rev. Paul Abel, missionary to Brazil, will be the guest speaker at the Mission Festival on Thursday evening. He will bring us an update on happenings in Brazil. AFLC President Robert Lee will install two newly-elected WMF national officers. Offerings at this service will go to World Missions.

Please note the change in sponsorship of the annual conference coffee breaks. The WMF no longer is responsible for the conference coffee breaks. Instead, send monetary gifts to the AFLC Bookkeeper at 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441 and designate your gift *For Conference Coffee Breaks*. This year you may also donate food items such as cheese, fruit, crackers, cookies or bars to defray costs.

— Cheryl Skordahl  
National WMF Secretary



# God is restoring His church

— Dr. Francis Monseth  
AFLTS Dean

God continues His gracious work of rebuilding and restoring His Church in Latvia and Estonia. My wife and I again had the privilege of ministering in those countries this last January for three weeks. As we think back to our first trip to these countries in early 1993, we see much spiritual and numerical growth.

Our first stop this winter was at the Lutheran Deaconal Institute in Jurmala, near Riga, Latvia. We rejoiced with Guntis and Rebecca Dislers, the directors of this school, in the development since the fall of 1993 when the school opened with about 35 students in a large home. Today, the institute is housed in a large brick building given to them by the city with the condition that they would restore it. Without much money, but with trust that God will provide, the project continues. Payment for the laborers has been largely used clothing sent from America.

Now there are about 150 students enrolled. What a joy to look into the faces of eager, happy students, hungry to study God's Word! Recently, another large building was given to the institute and will be used as a library.

It was a great encouragement to be a part of a three-day seminar for lay-evangelists held at the headquarters of the Latvian Lutheran Church in downtown Riga. Janis Vanags, the young archbishop of the church, opened the seminar with a devotional message based on Revelation 3:20. He said the sessions would be filled with teachings on Bible truth. In order for the truths of the Bible to benefit, however, he said that each one must let Jesus come into their

hearts and lives if they had not previously done so. Most of the students have become believers in recent years and represent many walks of life — students, farmers, nurses, doctors, a university psychology professor and a retired sea captain, etc. Many of them had never had an opportunity to study the Bible in a classroom setting before. These seminars have been conducted monthly from January through May for the last two years. As I taught during the many hours of this weekend, I thought of the tremendous potential for spreading the gospel that these students represent.

After those days in Latvia, we boarded a train for Estonia where we spent the remainder of our time teaching at the theological academy in Tartu, an old university city. This school opened in February 1993 with 30 students. We were privileged to be along for those first classes. Now 90 students are enrolled and the program has expanded.

## OUR PRESIDENT WRITES

### Welcome to Warm Beach

A welcome awaits our AFLC family at the Warm Beach Conference Center, Stanwood, Washington, on June 19-23. It has been ten years since an annual conference met in the State of Washington, and the West Coast district pastors and congregations are working hard to make our visit a memorable one.

A welcome awaits us in God's Word as well. The theme for the 34th Annual Conference is *Complete in Christ — Through His Word*, James 1:1-27, and we look forward to rich times of fellowship together in the Word and prayer. Our conferences are primarily inspirational, not legislative, which is one of the special blessings of a free association.

A welcome awaits every voting member of an AFLC congregation. This is also another unique feature of our fellowship, and should be used rather than abused. It is good when local congregations subsidize the travel expenses of delegates to represent them, but not to be forgotten is the fact that all are welcome to be delegates, whether officially or not.

Come with an open heart and mind to the Spirit's direction. Come prayerfully, with open arms to welcome one another as Christ welcomed us to the glory of God (Romans 15:7).

— Rev. Robert L. Lee

There is a need for a permanent facility for this school. They have continued to rent space in various buildings on the university campus. It was good to see Pastor Eenok Haamer, the rector of the academy, once again and to talk and pray with him.

We talked to many people in Latvia and Estonia who are quite sure there will be a change in the government of their neighbor, Russia, in the very near future. That is why they believe it is so important to train leaders who can continue in the rebuilding of the Church even when perhaps Christians from other countries will not be able to help them as they are now doing. There is a real sense of urgency in light of the possible political changes. Let us pray that God will continue to rebuild His Church in these lands according to His encouraging promise:

*I will build My church; and the gates of Hell shall not overcome it.*

Matthew 16:18



# Home at last

**G**reice (Grace) wanted to be adopted into a Christian home ever since she found Jesus at the Miriam Infant Home four years ago. She was six years old at that time.

Greice does not remember her biological father. Her mother was an alcoholic who was totally unaware of the fact that little Greice was being sexually abused and beaten during the night by street people. Her family slept on park benches and lived under overpasses. But the Lord who loves the little children heard her cry of despair. As she and her mother were passing through Campo Mourão, her mother

passed out after heavy drinking and Greice was brought by the police to the Miriam Infant Home.

When news came to Greice later that her mother had passed away, she quietly wept. She had been abandoned — now she was an orphan.

The local social workers found a good home for her in Campo Mourão: she would have her own bedroom, many dolls, good food, nice clothes, a good school, and she would be treated well. She had 30 days to live with the couple after which they could decide if the adoption would be made.

The first week passed and the social worker visited the home



and found Greice crying. She had everything she had ever wanted but lacked the most important ingredient that makes a house a home. They never went to church, never thanked Jesus for their

## World Missions update

**Sonja Dahl**, AFLC missionary candidate, is making final preparations and deputation work before departing to Campo Mourão, Brazil. As of the first of April, one-half of Sonja's needed annual support has been received. World Missions Director, Rev. Eugene Enderlein, is encouraged that her designated unit support is this far along and said, "It is our prayer that we continue to see new people join Sonja in her prayer and financial support while not taking away support from other missionaries or projects." Sonja plans to work in the Miriam Infant Home as a nurse, serve as the dean of women at the Bible school and assist in the medical clinic on the campus.

**Missionaries Todd and Barb Schierkolk**, Aguascalientes, Mexico, will soon travel to the border to renew their three-month visa. Pray that

efforts for a permanent visa will be successful for both the Dan Giles and Schierkolk families. The new phone number for the Schierkolk's is 011 52 49 114723.

**Missionaries David and Sarah Nelson**, Santa Felicidade, Brazil, are working to finalize adoption papers for one-year-old Rachel Amanda. Rachel was a resident at the Miriam Infant Home. Rachel will join two brothers, Josiah and Samuel. Pray for the Nelsons in their first mission assignment out of language school. They are serving at the ARCA (retreat center) and area congregations for the Paul Abel family who are in the U.S.A. on furlough.

**Missionaries Paul and Becky Abel**, are in the States for a year of furlough. They are currently at the home of Becky's parents in Northfield, Minnesota, and can be reached at 507-645-

5978. They are beginning deputation work in the Upper Midwest.

**Missionaries Tim and Renata Hinrichs**, Cesky Tesin, Czech Republic, are both teaching English while continuing their studies in the Czech language. Most recently he has also been teaching a Bible class at Ostrava University. His students are a part of the catechetical school which qualifies students to teach religion in public schools. His class is the only one that actually teaches the Bible, the rest of the curriculum includes methodology and philosophy. The Hinrichs also work in a Lutheran congregation in nearby Trinec. Pastor Hinrichs is now able to give short Bible messages in Czech. The Hinrichs serve with the Eastern European Missions Network based in Bloomington, Minnesota.

food and never had bedtime Bible stories and prayer with her. The social worker told Greice that after another week or two she would get used to that lifestyle and all would be okay. But she could not get used to a home without Jesus. After 30 days she happily returned to the Miriam Infant Home, but she never gave up hope that Jesus had a Christian home for her somewhere in this world.

In the meantime, there happened (with the Lord, things just don't happen) to be a home in California that had a son 13 years old who wanted a sister. But Mom could not have more children. They went to church, loved the Lord and prayed to Him about their situation. God already had a little ten-year-old girl in Campe Mourão, Brazil who had been praying about a Christian home for months.

There "happens" to be an international review pamphlet about adoptable children with photos and thumbnail sketches of these children's lives. How our Greice got into this pamphlet, I do not know, but it can only be the Lord's working.

You know what followed. This family in California saw Greice's

picture and immediately knew that the Lord had picked this girl for them. They went through the paper work and arrived in Campo Mourão on Thanksgiving Day, 1995; just in time to have Thanksgiving dinner with us on the Bible school campus.

Thirty days later the juvenile judge returned from Christmas vacation to finish the paper work. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that Greice would go to the home she had been praying about for such a long time.

On December 31, 1995, that little family of four left Brazil and arrived home in California on the first day of the new year. Greice was home at last!

It is because of your prayers and support for our AFLC missions that the Lord works in these marvelous ways. The Lord is still on the throne. He still performs miracles. He never changes.

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

Romans 8:28

— Missionaries Connely  
and Carolyn Dyrud  
Campo Mourão, Brazil

## WMF proposed constitutional changes

During last year's Women's Missionary Federation (WMF) convention at the ARC, several WMF constitutional changes were proposed by the National WMF Board. These were adjusted and then accepted by the convention and now are to be voted on at the 1996 Convention in Warm Beach, Washington. Following is a clarification of these changes and how they would affect WMF.

### **If these changes were to take place, would we still support the same projects?**

We will support the same work of the AFLC with one exception: Capital Investment well no longer be included. That fund is being phased out by the AFLC as well.

### **What then is different?**

The 10 projects we now support would be re-grouped under four "missions" — World Missions, Home Missions, Christian Education and the General Fund.

World Missions would include what has been known as My Missionary for a Day, Junior Missions, and support for short-term (continued on next page)

## God's call confirmed at school's missions week

Missions week this past winter was a good experience for me, but it was also challenging. It was good because of the feeling of worshipping our Lord with our whole being. This week also reminded me of the similar meetings we have at home in Norway.

We heard the message of missions in various ways. We were once again reminded that the Great Commission commands us to "Go!" God calls us to go out and be fishers of men. He wants us to go out with the invitation to God's kingdom. We are not to wait in our nice, warm chairs until people

start knocking at our door. We need to be among them, show them God's love in our life, and welcome them as Jesus would, and still will, into the family of God.

For a while I have been struggling with a call of going into missions. During this week, I was reassured that I still have this call. I do not know if this will bring me to unknown nations or to my home country, but I know that God will be with me wherever He leads.

My eyes have become more open to missions this year. It also seems that both our classes and

AFLBS Choir and Choral  
Club home concert  
May 17, 8 p.m.

AFLC Schools Graduation  
May 18, 2 p.m.

the songs we sing in choir are more focused on missions. This is maybe one of the many ways God is showing me where He wants me to be. I am praying that when God asks whom He can send, that I can say as Isaiah did: "Here am I. Send me!"

— Solveig Buer  
AFLBS senior  
Orje, Norway

## WMF CONSTITUTION

assistants and national workers.

Home Missions would include what is now Home Missions and Church Extension.

Christian Education would include Cradle Roll, Parish Education, Mission Scholarship and AFLC Schools.

General Fund would continue to cover administrative costs of printing and mailing the newsletter and WMF literature, supplies, postage, telephone, travel expenses for board members, and salaries of the National WMF treasurer and the executive secretary.

**Would there be a special area of support each month as there is now?**

Yes. Each WMF Mission would be supported for three months. Each month a particular aspect of that mission would be emphasized.

**Why is General Fund one of the four missions?**

This is the fund that covers administrative costs. The National Board proposed an increase in the percentage of the budget because the job of executive secretary has grown to a full-time position. As the number of WMFs has increased, so has the number and size of mailings and correspondence and other tasks.

**Why make these alterations to the WMF Constitution?**

First, the work of WMF is listed now in 10 projects. What WMF supports can be described by simply re-grouping the projects — under four missions. The purpose for WMF, as stated in the constitution will not change.

Secondly, it is sometimes confusing as to where moneys go. For example, as it is now, money given to Cradle Roll actually goes to Parish Education.

Thirdly, more personal involvement would be encouraged. WMF has been very involved in World Missions through offerings, sending cards and packing boxes. *There are ways WMF could be*

involved in other mission areas, too, such as adopting a Home Mission church.

**Why now?**

The WMF Constitution is published in the WMF Handbook. This book is particularly helpful for incoming WMFs and newly elected officers. Our supply, printed five years ago, is depleted and a new book must be reprinted. Costs are significantly lower when a large number are printed at one time. If any alterations are to be made, this is a time when it makes "cents."

**What about Honorary Membership/In Memoriam Project?**

Memorials will always be encouraged. The money given goes to World Missions unless otherwise designated. Each WMF will continue to remember deceased members.

**What about the Honorary Membership pin?**

A lengthy discussion focused on this at the last convention. The possibility of selling pins to individual members was proposed because of recent requests. Some objected to this. The possibility of having two pins, one to honor members and another for regular members, was discussed. In the past, pins have been presented in a special way to honor long-time members and this was the original intent. There are several WMFs that have asked to buy pins for their members. The pin then symbolizes that they are members of WMF and that, too, honors our organization. How best to use the pins may still be decided upon by each WMF.

The Leader's Handbook says this about the pin: "Might the wearing of this pin be a reminder of our need to deny self and our desire to be a real witness for our loving Lord and Savior."

— Dee Berkas  
National WMF President

## Parish Education director resigns

**Mrs. Katha Tjelta**, Blaine, Minnesota, has resigned as the AFLC Director of Publications and Parish Education, effective August, 1996. She began her work in this capacity on August 1, 1986. Her ten years of service is second only to the twelve-year tenure of Judith Wold who served from 1969-81.

**Newark, Illinois** — Helmar Lutheran is involved with the Tentmaker Youth Ministry program. Matt and Julie Davidson lead a high school Bible study on Wednesday night with 35-50 youth at the John Talley home. Rich and Rhoda Niles and Dave Christian lead the junior high youth (JAM — Jesus and Me) and have 15-20 students each Wednesday evening.

**Rev. Ralph Rokke**, Minneapolis, Minnesota, has resigned as pastor of Faith Lutheran, an AFLC congregation in South Minneapolis. He began serving the Faith and Rosedale parish in 1979 until they merged to become Faith Lutheran in 1985. His future plans are unknown.

**Rev. Mike Klenner**, Freeman, South Dakota, has returned the call to Hope Lutheran in Ishpeming, Michigan, and will continue to serve the Immanuel and Salem Parish where he has been since 1989. Rev. Merle Knutson is the interim pastor at Hope Lutheran in Ishpeming.

**Chaplain Tim Skramstad**, San Antonio, Texas, has accepted a call to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Zumbrota, Minnesota, and will begin his ministry there on July 1. His new address will be 819 W. Second St., Zumbrota, MN 55992; office phone (507) 732-7557.



## PEOPLE AND PLACES

**Rev. Ted Berkas**, Wallace, South Dakota, has resigned as pastor of Calvary Lutheran where he has served since 1988. His wife, Dee, is the national WMF president. They have purchased a retirement home in Wallace and expect to move this summer after which they will be available for interim work.

**Rev. James Winter**, Campo Mourão, Brazil, has accepted the call to serve Faith Lutheran in Lake Alma, Saskatchewan. The Winters are short-term missionaries in Brazil and expect to begin their ministry in August, 1996.

**Kalispell, Montana** — Stillwater and Faith Lutheran congregations are working together to hire a full-time youth pastor. The neighboring churches combine their youth groups and minister to nearly 40 teens. If you are interested in this position, contact Rev. Steve Snipstead at 406-752-2481.

**Rev. James Peterson**, Goldfield, Iowa, has been removed from the AFLC Clergy Roster by his own request. He continues to serve Hauge Lutheran in Goldfield where he has been since 1989.



**Minot, North Dakota** — Pictured are AFLC President Robert Lee with Rev. and Mrs. Lloyd Quanbeck and sons at the installation service of Pastor Quanbeck on March 10, 1996 at Bethel Lutheran in Minot.

### MEMORIAL GIFTS – March, 1996

Name	Given by	Department
Elmer Johnson	Good Shepherd, Cokato, Minnesota	Parish Education
Earl Nelson	Ernest/Darlene Miedema	AFLTS
	Robert/Carol Dietsche	Home Missions
	Rev. Amos/Ovidie Dyrud	Home Missions
Orville Johnson	Vernon/Dorothy Russum	World Missions
Erling Hoseth	Sheila Knudsvig	AFLBS
Rev. Ray Larson	Esther Larson	AFLTS
Arlene Zeigler	Oliver Ambahl	Home Missions
Borghild Boe	Henry Boe	AFLTS
Marion Mathison	Albin/Carol Haugen	Schools
Bob Bursheim	Meredith Bursheim	General Fund
Alice Johnson	Friends	World Missions
	Esther Larson	World Missions
Lewis Flaten	Morris/Audrey Moan	AFLBS

### Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### AFLC Benevolences – January 1-March 31, 1996

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN MARCH	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund . . . . .	\$241,472.00	\$13,741.41	\$50,427.09	15
Seminary . . . . .	122,626.00	5,574.60	18,256.66	10
Bible School . . . . .	184,696.00	5,134.20	24,467.46	10
Home Missions. . . . .	253,270.00	15,653.53	47,898.66	13
World Missions. . . . .	341,257.00	22,839.04	103,348.15	24
Capital Investment . . . . .	24,639.00	2,512.90	3,920.37	6
Parish Education . . . . .	49,289.00	4,218.08	14,304.66	20
Church Extension . . . . .	15,018.00	1,935.68	2,881.20	6
<b>TOTALS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,232,267.00</b>	<b>\$71,609.44</b>	<b>\$265,504.25</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>TOTALS 1995 . . . . .</b>	<b>1,484,851.00</b>	<b>89,480.83</b>	<b>313,739.86</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Goal 25%</b>				

**Nogales, Arizona** — Triumph Lutheran again hosted 24 workers in the Partners in Mission Outreach bus trip to Mexico at the end of January. This year the group stayed two nights in Nogales where they worked on Triumph's property doing painting, plastering and landscaping. Karla Kennedy, wife of Pastor Ted Kennedy, said, "It is always fun to host these groups going to and from Mexico. We enjoy seeing old friends as well as meeting new people. They come back so excited."

**Rev. Hubert DeBoer**, Moorhead, Minnesota, is the interim pastor at the Alma and Our Savior's Lutheran Parish in Argyle, Minnesota. Rev. Raynard Huglen of Newfolden, Minnesota, is assisting with the confirmation classes.

**Melissa Nash**, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, has been accepted with Royal Servants International, a summer missions outreach for students. She will be working with the Asia Express team ministering in China and the Philippines. Melissa is a member of Solid Rock Lutheran and the daughter of Rev. Paul and Laurie Nash.

## NEWS OF INTEREST

**Protestant ethic changes Brazil's self-image** — Brazilians are adopting a new self-image — changing from seeing themselves as lazy, pessimistic people to optimistic hard workers — and the spread of Protestant Christianity is largely responsible for the change, according to a national survey.

The research organization Vox Populi interviewed 2,000 people throughout Brazil to explore how Brazilians see themselves and their country. Findings were published in the magazine *Veja*.

Previous surveys found that most Brazilians were ashamed of their country and found that laziness was a widely accepted behavior. Researcher Ricardo Brinmaum said the change is due to Protestants and "self-help gurus," some of whom are very popular in Brazil.

"They (the Protestants and self-help gurus) talk about how work enriches people. Beyond this, they affirm that to be rich is good. It is not surprising that Protestant churches are full of faithful, while the Catholic priests who praise poverty have lost followers," noted Brinmaum.

The *Veja* magazine article said, "A key component in the new Brazilian spirit is the growth of Protestant churches. In these churches people receive sermons about organization, savings and the importance of personal efforts to improve life."

The study found that 58 percent of those surveyed believe Brazil is changing from a lazy country to a serious, hard-working nation, while 31 percent had not noticed a difference.

Reginaldo Prandi, a sociologist at the University of São Paulo, told Ecumenical News International that one of the reasons for the high number of people joining Protestant churches was

the "clean image" of the churches. Protestant Christians were seen, he said, as "special people, well dressed. They have an image of being polite and well disciplined which helps them, and that also applies when they are looking for work."

**Christian groups urge President Clinton to confront worldwide religious persecution** — A coalition of Christian groups is urging President Clinton to take action against growing persecution of Christians throughout the world.

"Evangelical Protestants and Catholics have become special targets of reigns of terror initiated by authorities who feel threatened by Christian faith and worship," said a statement released by the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), which represents 47 denominations and 10 million U.S. Christians.

The NAE statement listed many countries — such as China, Cuba, Laos and North Korea — where persecution of "powerless Christian scapegoats often serves to vent, foment and popularize hatred of the West and the United States."

Islamic nations are also

involved in persecuting Christians, said the statement. In nations such as Iran, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, "the demonization of Christians also serves to intimidate Muslims seeking freedom from repressive regimes," NAE reported.

For example, three leaders of Iran's 80,000-member Christian community were killed last year.

Worldwide incidents of persecution in recent years have included torture, execution, mob violence, and church burning.

The report acknowledged that the U.S. cannot "end all evil" throughout the world, but added, "it can nonetheless adopt policies that would limit religious persecution."

**Rock Falls, WI** — An Amish man from Wisconsin rejected an insurance company's \$212,000 settlement offer for a traffic accident that killed his wife, expressing concern that such wealth would tempt his family to abandon their values. "It is more harm than good," said Mahlon Lambright, a carpenter. His wife Mary, 38, was killed last year when a semitrailer struck their horse-drawn buggy.

*(The above stories are used by permission of the EP News Service.)*

### AFLC Family Camps

#### Association Retreat Center Family Camp,

Osceola, Wisconsin

July 28-August 3, 1996

Evening speaker

— Dr. Francis Monseth

Bible teacher

— Rev. Robert Lee

Youth teacher

— Rev. Steve Snipstead

For more information call 715-294-2877

#### Galilee Bible Camp,

Lake Bronson, Minnesota

July 7-12, 1996

Evening speaker

— Rev. David Skordahl

Adult teacher

— Rev. Peter Franz

Youth teacher

— Pastor Dale Finstrom

Mission hour

— Paul Abel family

Children's teacher

— to be announced

For more information call 218-782-2310

## Who is teaching whom?

**A** classroom functions best if it is established early on who is the teacher and who is the student. As we consider how the church conducts its affairs we need to be sure we are clear on who is to be teaching whom. Too often it appears God's people are learning methods and tactics from the world of politics. That is not to be our source for instruction on how to handle the business of the church. We learn from the Word of God and then go forth and teach how it can and should be done.

The world of politics teaches people to campaign for positions, enlist supporters and put out lists of who to vote for. It is a sad day when God's people copy that kind of behavior.

The One we are to learn from washed His disciples' feet and told us to do likewise (John 13:14). He calls us to humble ourselves and willingly take the lowest place (Luke 14:10,11). He said whoever wants to become great must first be a servant and a slave of all (Mark 10:43,44).

The world of politics says to seek positions. Jesus says to seek Him and His kingdom (Matthew 6:33). The title of child of God which is ours by grace through faith in Jesus Christ is the only title that really matters. What can any organization offer that can compare to that?

In politics lessons are learned in how to strategize, plan and prepare in order to be sure things go your way. God's people are not to operate like that. We are not to have strategy sessions but prayer meetings. We do not try to figure out how to

get things to go our way. We pray for God to reveal His way and will to us. We trust that if we are seeking the Lord, His plan will prevail and His plan will be for the best.

We do not fear, for the work is God's work. Our trust is not in our plans or preparation but in God. So often things do not go according to our plans, and for that reason we rejoice. Our plans are faulty, developed with our limited wisdom. We do not desire our way, but God's way.

Frequently politicians attack their opponent in an effort to win the campaign. That example is not one the children of God are to follow. The Bible says, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen" (Ephesians 4:29, NIV).

It is sad that in a political year the words in the air and on pages are so often ones that do nothing more than attack and tear someone down. It is even more pitiful when similar type of behavior is engaged in by people who claim to follow the One who said, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34).

As we seek to learn how we are to go about doing the work of the church, we do not look to the political campaigns or the legislative chambers and ask, "how do they do it?" We instead are to set an example for them.

We rejoice that a perfect example is found in our Lord Jesus Christ and forgiveness, strength and guidance is promised as well.

## What we talk about

**A** chorus I remember from my days as a child in Sunday school said, "Most people talk about the weather whenever they can get together." It didn't make a whole lot of sense to me at the time because my friends and I didn't talk much about the weather. We talked about sports.

What do we talk about when we get together, particularly when we are with other members of the family of God? Unfortunately, often the topic of conversation may not be what it should be.

The misdeeds and misfortunes of others can be a prime item of discussion. The spiritual covering of "something to pray about" may be given, but the core may still be simple, and sinful, gossip. Let us not become the kind of people described in I Timothy 5:13 who become "gossips and busybodies, saying things they ought not to."

Instead of talking about what everyone else has done wrong, James 5:16 calls on us to "confess your sins to each other." That is not a topic of conversa-

tion we quickly and easily engage in, but it is one that leads to healing more than hurting.

The main part of that Sunday school chorus did make sense. It said, "Let's talk more about Jesus."

When Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch after their missionary travels they could have spent much time talking about all the problems they encountered and the persecutions they faced. They could have gone on for days recounting how tough the struggle was and how wicked so many of the people were. Instead of all that, Acts 14:27 tells us that "On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." What a great topic of conversation!

God is still at work, doing great things. We have much to talk about. Let us spend our time together focusing on what God has done, is doing and will do. That will be time well spent and a topic that will never be exhausted.

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**THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR**

3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

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**Second-Class**

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**Join  
with  
us.**



**Come and see  
us and let  
God bless you**

**Thanks  
for  
helping  
us grow.**

Yay!!

We just can't help it. We like winter; we really do! But when the birds start singing and the rivers start running in the ditches, we can't help but kick up our heels. We *really* love spring.

**Join with us.**

**Thanks for helping us grow.**

— The ARC staff  
Osceola, Wisconsin  
715-294-2877

One of our favorite spring things is the Women's Retreat. The theme this year is "His Bride" and will feature a bridal show. Come out and hear Laurie Nash share what the Lord has put on her heart. May 3-5 is coming quickly, but it isn't too late to register!

Memorial Day weekend is our annual Summer Prep Fest. We are praying for sunny weather because we plan to spend most of the time outside. New this year is our first annual Summer Prep Fest Talent Extravaganza. If you don't have talent, don't worry; neither do we. Come for all or part of the weekend.

Youth Camp is new and improved! June 23-29 is for both Junior Camp and our new Senior High Camp. It's a day longer because last year we had so much fun we couldn't fit it all in. The cost for camp is \$105 and includes the camp T-shirt. Invite your friends and be sure to register early. It'll be a fantastic week of fun, sun, and growing.

July 28-August 3 is the date for the final blowout of the summer. Family Camp is the highlight of our summer. Come and spend your family vacation here. You don't have to cook, clean up, entertain the kids, or answer the phone. Not only that, but you'll spend the week with other Christians learning about our Savior. Family Camp always has a few surprises and this year won't be any different. Look for some excitement at the end of the week and be sure to stick around for the fun. Register early and reserve your family's vacation spot.

Tadmor is finally finished, thanks to much hard work and volunteer help. Our staff is talented, but adding expert help like Pastor Clyde Grier and the guys from St. John's in Milford, Illinois, and Dr. Steve Johnson from Upsala, Minnesota, really makes a difference.

Other new sights are the two shelters recently built. One is located near Lake Elim and will be appreciated by those who enjoy watching the swimmers but don't want to roast in the sun. The other is on the south end of Tadmor and will be great for afternoon barbecues, evening canteen, or just meeting with friends.

In April, Our Saviour's in Zumbrota, Minnesota, brought a group to The ARC for a weekend and constructed a playground. Located behind Good News Lodge under the trees, it is ideal for kids of all ages.

As the ministry of The ARC continues to grow, our vision increases. The building at the entrance of the camp is our next renovation project. Look for a new dorm that will be used by families, youth groups, or retreat speakers. Our dreams can never be realized without those extraordinary people we call angels but who are commonly known as ARC Supporters. We thank all of you who have supported the ministry of The ARC through your prayers, gifts, and/or financial support. You are part of our ministry team and without you, the AFLC would not have The ARC to enjoy.