

# The Lutheran AMBASSADOR

May 2, 1995

AFLC

A FELLOWSHIP  
of FREE and LIVING  
Lutheran Congregations

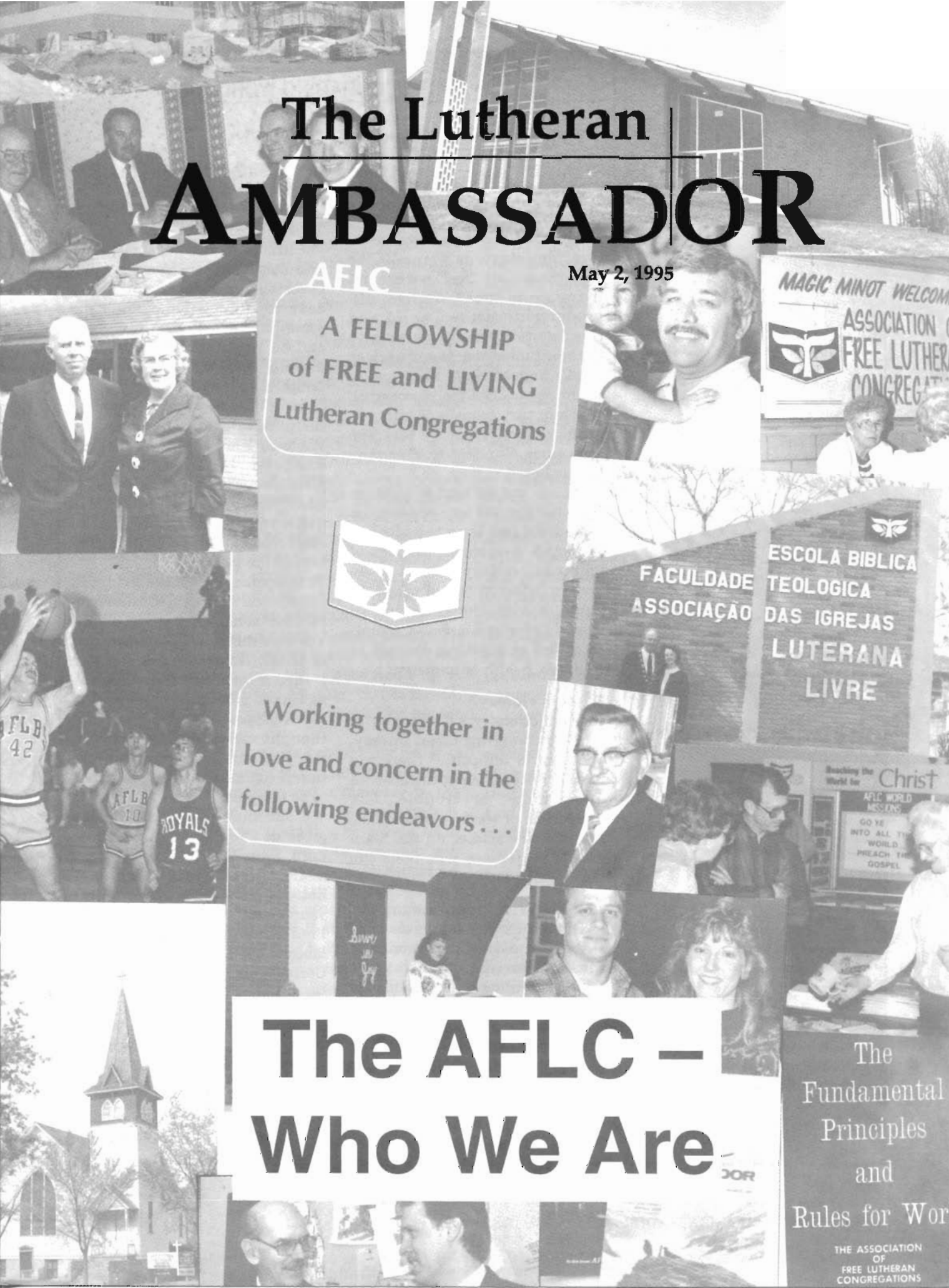


Working together in  
love and concern in the  
following endeavors...

## The AFLC – Who We Are

The  
Fundamental  
Principles  
and  
Rules for Work

THE ASSOCIATION  
OF  
FREE LUTHERAN  
CONGREGATIONS



# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

May 2, 1995  
Volume 33, Number 6



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

**Editor:** Rev. Craig Johnson  
**Assistant to the Editor:** Solveig Hjermstad  
**Editorial Board:** Rev. John Mundfrom, Dr. Craig Jennings, Oryen Benrud.

## CONTENTS

The purpose of the conference . . . . .	p. 3
Conference agenda . . . . .	p. 4
Conference issues highlighted . . . . .	p. 8
In every matter of business . . . . .	p. 15
Getting involved in the work of the AFLC . . . . .	p. 16

### The Lutheran Ambassador

(USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413)  
is published every three weeks except monthly in June and July (16 issues per year) by the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations.

**For editorial inquiries and information:**  
The Lutheran Ambassador, Box 423, Faith, SD 57626; (605) 967-2381; fax (605) 967-2382. E-Mail Craig JN @ aol. com.

**For subscription changes and information:** The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441. (612) 544-5631.

### Subscriptions rates:

- \$15.00 a year, Group Rate, U. S.
- \$16.00 a year, Individual, U. S.
- \$18.00 a year, International

Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, MN and additional mailing office.

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55441.

## AN ENCOURAGING WORD

### Living in victory?

*This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. I John 5:4b*

This promise can have negative connotations for us if for some reason we "feel" we are not living up to "par." We live in a production-oriented world and this mentality carries over into the spiritual arena. If our work or what's happening to us seems to be going well we feel successful; which in turn translates into personal victory. Then we feel like victorious Christians. But it is feeling based.

By instinct we tend to hide our true feelings lest we appear to be something less than the ideal or expected. A common concept of spiritual victory means to be always living on "cloud nine." As such, a victorious Christian should never be depressed, tempted or fail at anything; be that in business, health or ministry.

### What is victory?

My dictionary says victory is "the overcoming of an enemy, opponent or difficulty." There you have it! Victory is not the absence of enemies or trouble. The imagery is of warfare and of battle. It is the soldier on the main line of resistance who feels the heat of the battle.

### The historical record.

Church history is replete with the record of men and women of faith conquering through great trial. Sometimes there was visible deliverance immediately. For others victory was deferred for reasons known only to God. The difficulty comes when we demand the Lord must always work the same way. We see this marked difference in Hebrews chapter 11. We note that other groups are

"commended for their faith." They were *all* victorious.

### To live is to be tempted.

Christians often are surprised and discouraged when they discover they can be tempted. It's easy to think, "There must be something wrong with me that I can be tempted like this." We should remember Jesus was tempted and yet He *never* sinned. It is only when we yield to the temptation that it becomes sin. We must learn to "resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7b). Jesus did that and we read that the devil did flee: "He departed from him *for a season* (Luke 4:13). It is important to see that.

You too, may have resisted temptation and gained the victory over some area in your life. You had thought, "That's the end of that." But then one day you turned a corner and there it was again as powerful as ever. You were discouraged. You had thought victory was yours. Ah, but you had forgotten "temptation is common to man." To live is to be tempted.

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (I Corinthians 15:57,58).



— by Pastor  
Martin Christensen  
Elbow,  
Saskatchewan

# The purpose of the conference

God's Kingdom is truly wonderful. It is a Kingdom of Grace, which we all desperately need. It is an eternal Kingdom.

God's Kingdom appears on earth in the form of a congregation (*Fundamental Principle #1*). This makes every congregation special. Within it are the best people we know. How precious is our fellowship. Also within it are the two holiest things to be found on earth: the Word of God and the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper). Here is my food for spiritual life and growth. The most important experiences of life are connected with my church, my congregation.

There is more to God's Kingdom than my congregation. There are multitudes of other congregations. Many of them are much like mine, and we are united by what we believe and do. It is good for members of those congregations to get acquainted. They have much to learn from each other. They all have gifts to be shared. Conferences serve many purposes.

The annual conference is to be a worshipping conference. Our greatest unity is in our common faith. We are Lutherans who believe in the freedom and autonomy of the congregations. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). Our Triune God is the center of all that we do and say. We worship Him, praise Him, love Him. Our focus should be on Him and our need of His Grace.

Our Lord has commanded us to evangelize the world. Only as congregations work together can this be done. The annual conference is a means by which the members of the congregations meet together to make the decisions necessary to carry out the Great Commission. Through reports, leaders and boards give an account of their stewardship. Opportunities and challenges facing our AFLC are discussed. Often assessments are made as how best to "fight the fight of faith." Joys are shared over blessings and progress noted. Thanksgiving is given to Almighty God for His preserving and guiding hand. New workers for the Kingdom are welcomed. Financial receipts, disbursements, and needs are shared. Yes, the conference programs are varied and challenging.

Prayer and the spoken Word are always to be central.

Elections and decisions must be made. They will only be pleasing to God if our focus is on Him. Complete agreement on all issues would be wonderful, but does not always occur. (In the early church Paul and Barnabas disagreed concerning Mark. Paul felt that Mark had not been faithful; Barnabas wanted to keep him. As a result, Paul and Barnabas parted company, some say to the benefit of the mission enterprise.) Voluntary and spirit-prompted cooperation, as our principles state, is desired. Great is the joy of working with other believers in building the Kingdom. We believe that God would have it so.

Conferences may become authoritarian. However, our *Fundamental Principles* severely limit their power. Conferences cannot impose obligations or restrictions. They cannot exert compulsions. They cannot lay burdens on the congregations. They can only recommend and request actions of the congregations.

Unfortunately not all congregations have members at conferences. Few, if any, of the congregations instruct their members how to vote on the issues. Folks who may not be members of any AFLC congregation can, after following certain procedures, speak and vote at the conference. As a result the conference does not necessarily represent the congregations and their wishes. The decisions of the conference express the desires of those in attendance, nothing more. The congregations generally cooperate with the decisions, but are not required to do so. The congregations are free. The conferences are to reflect the congregations, not the congregations the conferences.

The AFLC is an expression of ecclesiastical freedom and cooperation. Where there is true spiritual life it succeeds very well.



— by Rev. John Strand  
Remer, Minnesota  
President of the AFLC, 1962-78

**Most wondrous  
is of all on  
earth  
The kingdom  
Jesus founded.  
Its glory,  
peace and  
precious worth  
No tongue has  
fully sounded.  
Concordia No. 224**

**O Shepherd,  
abide with us,  
care for us till,  
And feed us and  
lead us  
and teach  
us Thy will;  
And when in  
Thy heavenly  
folds we  
shall be,  
Our thanks and  
our praises,  
we'll render  
to thee.  
Concordia No. 43,  
stanza 5**

# Thirty-third Annual Conference of the Association of Free Lutheran Congrega-

**JUNE 14-18, 1995**

**ASSOCIATION RETREAT CENTER  
OSCEOLA, WISCONSIN**

**Conference Theme:** *Standing in the Gospel —  
Sustained by Grace.*

Conference Text: I Corinthians 15:1-10

## **Wednesday, June 14**

9:00 a.m. — The conference committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.  
6:30 p.m. — Concert of Prayer. Leader: Rev. James L. Johnson, Fosston, MN.  
8:00 p.m. — The opening service of the conference with the sermon on the text by Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, MN. The service leader is Rev. James Molstre, Zumbrota, MN. AFLC President, Rev. Robert Lee will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

## **Thursday, June 15**

9:00 a.m. — Devotions.  
Report of the Credentials Committee.  
Adoption of the Conference Agenda.  
Election of the Nominating Committee for the 1996 Conference.  
The President's Report.  
Report of the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, Rev. Terry Olson, Dickinson, ND.  
Report of the Director of Development, Mr. Ernest Miedema, Crystal, MN.  
Report of the Director of Institutional Chaplaincy, Dr. Howard Franzen, Hastings, NE.  
Report of the Chairman of the ARC Board, Mr. Clifford Seldal, DeKalb, IL.  
Report of the Director of the ARC, Mr. Eric Westlake, Osceola, WI.  
Financial Report, Marlene Unverzagt, New Hope, MN.  
Report of the Family Bible Camps: Osceola — Treasurer, Sandra Anderson, Amery, WI.  
Lake Bronson — Treasurer, Mr. Don Balmer, Thief River Falls, MN. Wilderness — Treasurer, 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* — Leader: Rev. James Rasmussen, Park River, ND.

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 — 1 pastor; World Missions

Committee — 1 layman; Board of

Trustees — 1 pastor; ARC Board — 1 pastor.

Continuing discussion of Committee #1

Election of nominees to the Coordinating

Committee: 1 layman.

Election of Committee #1 for the 1996 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.  
Donald Greven, Plymouth, MN.

Report of the AFLBS Alumni Director, Terry  
Claus, Minneapolis, MN.

Report of Committee #2 (Schools).

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. Robert L. Lee, AFLC President.

## **Friday, June 16**

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

9:00 a.m. — Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Continuing discussion of Committee #2.

Election of Committee #2 for the 1996 Conference.

Report of the 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. Elden Nelson, Minneapolis, MN.

Report of the Commission on Evangelism, Rev. Laurel Udden, Minneapolis, MN.

Report of Committee #3 (Missions and Evangelism).

11:30 a.m. — *Prayer Hour* — Rev. James Rasmussen.

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

8:00 p.m. — Laymen's Service. Leader: Mr. Leroy Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, WI. Speaker: Mr. Don Davidson, Minooka, IL.

### **Saturday, June 17**

9:00 a.m. — Devotions.

Report of the Credentials Committee.

Continuing discussion of the report of Committee #3.

Election of member to Commission on Evangelism: 1 pastor.

Election of Committee #3 for the 1996 Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Rev. Wesley Langaas, Thief River Falls, MN.

Report of the Director of Parish Education, Mrs. Ralph Tjelta, Minneapolis, MN.

Report of the Chairman of the Christian Academic Education Board, Rev. Todd Olson, Pipestone, MN.

Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck, Northome, MN.

Report of the President of the Free Lutheran Youth, Rev. James L. Johnson, Fosston, MN.

Report of Youth Ministries Director, Rev. Dennis Gray, Greenbush, MN.

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

11:30 a.m. — *Prayer Hour* — Rev. James Rasmussen.

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 pastor and 1 layman.

Election of member to the Youth Board: 1 pastor.

Election of Committee #4 for the 1996 Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board, Rev. Rob Lewis, Newark, IL.

Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Rev. Gary Skramstad, Osakis, MN.

Report of Committee #5 (Stewardship and Pensions).

Election of member to the Stewardship Board: 1 pastor.

Election of member to the Board of Pensions: 1 pastor.

Election of Committee #5 for the 1996 Conference.

Report of the Chairman of the Colloquy Committee, Pastor Henry Mohagen, Towner, ND.

Election of Colloquy Committee for the 1996 Conference.

Report of special committees.

Election of 2 members to the Budget Analysis Committee — 3 year term.

Report of Committee #1 as the Committee on General Resolutions.

Other reports.

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

### **Sunday, June 18**

8:00 a.m. — Communion Service. Leader: Rev. Tonnes Pollestad, Blaine, MN. Speaker: Rev. Mel Meyer, Amery, WI.

10:30 a.m. — Worship Service. Leader: Rev. Larry Haagenon, Buxton, ND. Speaker: Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, WA.

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



# 1995 nominating committee

## Eastern North Dakota

Mr. Albin Haugen, McVille.

## Western ND/Eastern MT

Mr. Arley Hartsoch, Ray, ND.

## South Dakota

Rev. Wayne Hjermstad, Faith.

## Lake Superior

Mr. Emery Risdall, Cloquet, MN.

## Northwestern Minnesota

Mr. Farrell Erickson, Badger.

## North Central Minnesota

Mr. Darrel Johnson, Erskine.

## Southwest Central Minnesota

Mr. Norman Haugen, Murdock.

## Nebraska/Kansas

Mr. Ken Weichel, Fairbury, NE.

## Minneapolis

Rev. Robert Koepp, Colfax, WI.

## Central Tri-State

Mr. Paul Peterson, Kenyon, MN.

## Northern Michigan

Mr. John Knuuttila, Pelkie.

## South Central

Rev. Clyde Grier, El Campo, TX.

## Southwestern

Mr. Dean Crouthers, Nogales, AZ.

## West Coast

Mr. Lynn Walty, Lake Stevens, WA.

## Eastern

Mr. Robert Lawson, Massapequa Park, NY.

## Illinois

Mr. Howard Johnson, Yorkville.

*\*The Nominating Committee was unable to have a quorum at the scheduled pre-conference meeting, thus there will be no advance list of nominees who have been contacted and given permission to submit their names for possible election. The Nominating Committee will meet at the ARC on June 14.*

## Conference elections

### Officers

President — 3 year term.

Rev. Robert L. Lee has served 1 term.

Vice President — 1 year term.

Rev. Kenneth Moland has served 3 terms.

Secretary — 1 year term.

Rev. Bruce Dalager has served 2 terms.

### Elected by Corporation

Home Missions Committee — 1 pastor, 5 year term.

Rev. Alvin Grothe has served two consecutive terms. He is ineligible for re-election.

World Missions Committee — 1 layman, 5 year term.

Mr. Randy Sommer has served 1 term and is eligible for re-election.

Board of Trustees — 1 pastor, 5 year term.

Rev. Gary Jorgenson has served one term and is eligible for re-election.

ARC Board — 1 pastor, 5 year term.

Rev. Michael Brandt has served one term and is eligible for re-election.

### Elected by Conference

Coordinating Committee — 1 layman, 5 year term.

Mr. Michael McCarlson has served one term and is eligible for re-election.

Commission on Evangelism — 1 pastor, 5 year term.

Rev. Laurel Udden has served two consecutive terms and is ineligible for re-election.

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

Rev. Wes Langaas has served two consecutive terms and is ineligible for re-election.

Christian Academic Education Board — 1 pastor and 1 layman,

five year terms. Rev. Larry Haagenson and Mrs. Beverly Enderlein have each served part of a 5 year term and are eligible for re-election.

Youth Board — 1 pastor, 5 year term.

Rev. Joel Rolf has served two consecutive terms and is ineligible for re-election.

Stewardship Board — 1 pastor, 5 year term.

Rev. Mark Antal has served part of a 5 year term and is eligible for re-election.

Board of Pensions — 1 pastor, 5 year term.

Rev. Gary Skramstad has served 1 term and is eligible for re-election.

## Conference committees

### Committee #1 Administration

Rev. Brian Davidson, Milford, IL; Mr. Loiell Dyrud, Thief River Falls, MN; Mr. Rodney Kjersten, Roseau, MN; Mr. Roland Meyer, Paxton, IL.

### Committee #2 Schools

Rev. Roy Johnson, Ortonville, MN; Rev. Ted Berkas, Wallace, SD; Mr. Harold Erickson, New York Mills, MN; Mr. Arne Berge, Binford, ND; Mr. John Presteng, Grafton ND.

### Committee #3 Missions & Evangelism

Rev. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, MI; Rev. Alan Arneson, Badger, MN; Mr. Lester Mickleson, Tioga, ND; Mr. Ted Clarke, Kalispell, MT; Mr. Jerry Keenan, Astoria, OR.

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

Rev. Jon Benson, Ortle, SD; Mr. Martin Johnson, Badger, MN; Mr. John Kyrola, Forest Lake, MN; Mr. Bob West, Kalispell, MT.

### Committee #5 Stewardship and Pensions

Rev. Michael Klenner, Freeman, SD; Pastor Rodney Stueland, Kenyon, MN; Mr. Gerald Knudsvig, Buxton, ND; Mr. Wilmar Olson, Bothell, WA.

## Budget analysis committee

Mr. Reuben Quanbeck

Grand Forks, ND (1995)

Mr. John Schlenk

Brooklyn Park, MN (1995)

Mr. Eldwyn VanBruggen

Valley City, ND (1996)

Mr. Richard Rasmussen

Monticello, MN (1997)

Pastor Dale Finstrom

Glyndon, MN (1997)

# Missions Corporation

## *Term expires 1995*

Mr. Philip Grothe, Thief River Falls, MN  
 Mr. Robert Halvorson, Elk River, MN  
 \*\*Mr. Arley Hartsoch, Ray, ND  
 Rev. Orville Hiepler, Valley Center, CA  
 \*\*Rev. Ted Kennedy, Jr., Nogales, AZ  
 Dr. Lyle Mattson, Greenbush, MN  
 \*\*Mr. Randy Sommer, Chillicothe, IL  
 Mr. Eldor Sorkness, Sand Creek, WI  
 Rev. Thomas Tuura, DeKalb, IL  
 \*\*Mr. Kenneth Williams, Ishpeming, MI

## *Term expires 1996*

Rev. Richard Anderson, Lakeville, MN  
 \*Mr. Robert Dietsche, Osceola, WI  
 Rev. Amos Dyrud, Crystal, MN  
 Mr. Harold Erickson, New York Mills, MN  
 Mr. Halvor Knapp, Kandiyohi, MN  
 Rev. Dale Mellgren, McIntosh, MN  
 \*Rev. Allen Monson, Lakeville, MN  
 Rev. Steven Mundfrom, Sebeka, MN  
 Mrs. Aini Myking, New Hope, MN  
 Mr. Joel Rogenes, Ely, MN

## *Term expires 1997*

Rev. Herbert Franz, Dollar Bay, MI  
 Rev. Richard Gunderson, Puebla, Mexico  
 Mr. Mark Knutson, Newfolden, MN  
 \*Pastor Henry Mohagen, Towner, ND  
 Mr. Kenneth Nash, Colfax, ND  
 Mr. Timothy Rolf, McIntosh, MN

\*\*Mr. Vernon Russum, Grafton, ND  
 Dr. Wayne Sletten, Faith, SD  
 \*Rev. Tony Stockman, Brandon, MN  
 Miss Judith Wold, Thief River Falls, MN

## *Term expires 1998*

Rev. Mark Antal, Leeds, ND  
 Rev. James Asp, Brooklyn Park, MN  
 \*Mr. Robert Christian, Newark, IL  
 Rev. Peter Franz, Cloquet, MN  
 Rev. Philip Haugen, Culbertson, MT  
 Miss Carol Knapp, Willmar, MN  
 Mr. Clifford Nelson, Cannon Falls, MN  
 Mr. Tom Schierkolk, Plymouth, MN  
 Mrs. Grace Syverson, Tioga, ND  
 Rev. Einar Unseth, Glenville, MN

## *Term expires 1999*

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

*\*Member of Home Missions Committee*

*\*\*Member of World Missions Committee*

# Schools Corporaton

## *Term expires 1995*

Mr. James Bjorgan, Minneapolis, MN  
 \*Mr. David Borg, Cokato, MN  
 Mr. Loiell Dyrud, Thief River Falls, MN  
 Mr. Sheldon Een, Minooka, IL  
 Mr. Don Hansen, Erskine, MN  
 Mr. Eldon Hermunslie, Wahpeton, ND  
 \*Rev. Lyndon Korhonen, Cokato, MN  
 \*Rev. Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, WA  
 Mr. Kenneth Rolf, McIntosh, MN  
 Mr. Dale Smith, Lake Stevens, WA

## *Term expires 1996*

Dr. Philip Dyrud, Middle River, MN  
 Mr. Stanley Holmaas, Newfolden, MN  
 Rev. Harvey Jackson, Ishpeming, MI  
 \*Mr. Tim Jones, Wyndmere, ND  
 Rev. Terry Olson, Dickinson, ND  
 Mr. Roger Peterson, Thief River Falls, MN  
 Mr. Orville Qualley, Brockton, MT  
 Rev. James Ritter, Bloomington, MN  
 Pastor Lyle Twite, Bagley, MN  
 Rev. Terry Wold, Murrieta, CA

## *Term expires 1997*

Mr. Clifford Dyrud, Moorhead, MN  
 Mrs. Farrell Erickson, Badger, MN  
 Mr. Dean Franz, Cloquet, MN  
 Rev. Dennis Gray, Greenbush, MN  
 Rev. Martin Horn, Astoria, OR

Mr. Clifford Johnson, Esko, MN  
 Rev. Paul Nash, Maple Grove, MN  
 Mr. Kent Quanbeck, McVie, ND  
 Mr. James Rolf, Brandon, MN  
 Pastor Rodney Stueland, Kenyon, MN

## *Term expires 1998*

Rev. Jon Benson, Ortle, SD  
 Mr. Arne Berge, Binford, ND  
 Rev. Scott Gray, Fairbury, NE  
 Rev. Craig Johnson, Eugene, OR  
 Rev. James L. Johnson, Fosston, MN  
 \*Rev. Gary Jorgenson, Ottawa, IL  
 Rev. Jerry Moan, Minot, ND  
 Rev. James Molstre, Zumbrota, MN  
 Rev. Mark Molstre, Tioga, ND  
 Mr. Ralph Peterson, Portland, ND

## *Term expires 1999*

\*Mr. Emory Flaten, Newfolden, MN  
 \*Mr. Wayne Floan, Fertile, MN  
 Mr. David Fugleberg, Lakeville, MN  
 Rev. Les Galland, Eden Prairie, MN  
 Rev. Jerry Holmaas, Chassell, MI  
 Mr. Roger Johnson, Dickinson, ND  
 Mr. Randy Pederson, Tioga, ND  
 Mr. Paul Strand, Kenyon, MN  
 Mr. Bruce Wolla, Minot, ND

*\*Member of the Board of Trustees*

# ARC Corporation

## *Term expires 1995*

Mrs. Marlin Benrud, Goodhue, MN  
 Mr. Don Berge, Fargo, ND  
 Mr. Ralph Beyer, Osceola, WI  
 \*Rev. Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, SD  
 Mr. Halvor Knapp, Kandiyohi, MN  
 Rev. Richard Long, Arlington, WA  
 Mr. Gordie Newell, Cumberland, WI  
 Rev. Brian Pearson, Montgomery, IL  
 \*Rev. Tonnes Pollestad, Blaine, MN  
 Mr. Lee Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, WI

## *Term expires 1996*

Mr. Ivar Berge, Fargo, ND  
 Rev. Peter Bergstedt, Chisago City, MN  
 Mr. Allen Delzer, Shoreview, MN  
 Mr. Brad Folsland, Oldham, SD  
 Mr. Ralph Johnson, Upsala, MN  
 Mr. John Kyrola, Forest Lake, MN  
 Mr. John Nelson, Wanamingo, MN  
 \*Mr. Jim Ray, Cloquet, MN  
 Mr. Jerome Stulen, Spicer, MN  
 Rev. Tom Tuura, DeKalb, IL

## *Term expires 1997*

Rev. Brian Davidson, Milford, IL  
 Mr. Glen Hodnefield, Radcliffe, IA  
 Mr. Clifford Holm, Menahga, MN  
 Mr. Dennis Jacobsen, Burlington, ND  
 Mr. Arden Jacobson, Champlin, MN  
 Mr. Larry Johnson, Amery, WI  
 Rev. Todd Klemme, Wadena, MN  
 Mr. Dave Osland, DeKalb, IL  
 Mr. Victor Parsons, St Paul, MN

## *Term expires in 1998*

Mr. Arne Anderson, Dassel, MN  
 Mr. Dale Bentley, Mounds View, MN  
 Mr. Harlan Clark, Amery, WI  
 Rev. Curtis Emerson, Menifee, CA  
 Mr. Merle Jacobson, Deer Park, WI  
 Mr. Steve Johnson, Upsala, MN  
 \*Mr. Cliff Seldal, DeKalb, IL  
 Rev. Joel Rolf, Valley City, ND  
 Pastor Ken Thoreson, Janesville, WI  
 Dr. Tracy Wolf, Maple Grove, MN

## *Term expires 1999*

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

*\*Member of the ARC Board*

# *We seek your input*

## Conference issues highlighted

### **Publications and Parish Education**

Recent conference resolutions have reaffirmed the need for revised Sunday School material and encouraged our board to continue with that project. The *Ambassador Sunday School Series* remains a top priority project for the AFLC, and requires a major commitment of prayer and financial support. If that commitment and support are there, our goal is to have kindergarten through fourth grades in use by the year 2000.

There is also need for confirmation material, and youth and adult Sunday School quarterlies. Many classic devotional and out-of-print books need to be reprinted. Our challenge is to develop a strong print ministry that can be a valuable tool for building up the church and reaching the world in the coming years.

— Rev. Wes Langaas

### **Stewardship Board**

We encourage all people within our fellowship to have strong hearts and minds for God and His Church. This is the bottom line in stewardship. We teach that God has no repayment to make to us and that it is from Him that things come and to Him that all things belong (Romans 11:33-36).

We hope to enlist your support for an ongoing, thoughtful, stewardship process. While many AFLC members and congregations have responded to the call to become living sacrifices (Romans 12:1,2), there are those

who have yet to realize that a deliberate and all-out commitment to Christ and His Church is a blessing that God wants them to experience.

Tentative plans are being made to sponsor a Stewardship event at the next AFLC Pastor's Conference. *Renewal, growth and discipleship* is a "step forward in faith," to believe that God can move individuals and congregations from a maintenance mentality to a mission vision through biblical stewardship and discipling. Will you support us in this effort?

— Rev. Rob Lewis

### **Board of Trustees**

The future of our seminary and Bible school is secure in the Lord's hands. This year's conference will be one more step in the unfolding of God's plan for AFLTS and AFLBS. Let us think and pray about what our campus will look like in ten years. Will there be new buildings? Let us envision how this beautiful site can better serve the Kingdom's purpose.

In our desire to move forward in the ministry that God has called us to accomplish, we would ask the conference to reaffirm the middle ground of common emphasis in the AFLC. We as a board agree that the practice of our AFLC should be as it has always been, that is, the emphasis of a personal call to salvation by grace through faith and the pietistic concern for living in a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. May God give us His wisdom to act so that unity and trust might be restored within our schools' family and in our AFLC.

— Rev. Ken Moland

### **Board of World Missions**

We desire to see an over-subscription to the 1995 and 1996 budgets in order for us to keep our present missionaries happy and well supplied with the "tools" needed to carry on the growing

work in all three countries: Brazil, India and Mexico.

We especially see a need for capital investments in all three countries. An on-site American is needed in India.

We are challenged to consider new work in other countries as opportunities arise; for example, inquiries from China and Mozambique.

— Mr. Ken Williams

### **Christian Academic Education Board**

We expect to submit our new mission/purpose statement to the conference this year. Also, subject to conference approval, we will be securing space at the headquarters to store educational materials for use by AFLC congregations and members.

— Rev. Todd Olson

### **The ARC Board**

The time has come to begin thinking of a new addition at the Association Retreat Center!

As the AFLC continues to grow, our facilities at the ARC also must grow. Our biggest need is to consider a new tabernacle with more seating capacity so that we can accommodate our conferences as well as other events. There is an increasing interest from other church bodies for such a facility to rent. Our staff has been approached about this but because of space limitations have had to turn them away.

At conference time we will have on display proposed floor plans for remodeling of Shunem (into motel rooms) as another project which is being pursued.

We may be dreaming big, but we'll wait for the Lord's guidance and input from you, the AFLC.

— Mr. Cliff Seldal

### **Youth Board**

We ask for your prayers that the man of God's choosing would be called to serve as full-time Director of Youth Ministries. If you have questions or concerns



about the AFLC Youth Ministry, we invite you to talk with the members of the Board.

—Rev. Lloyd Quanbeck

### **Home Missions Committee**

As you continue to pray for and support Home Missions:

Pray for a vision of new congregations and more pastors.

Pray for existing congregations to mother new works.

Pray for our new Home Missions Director, Rev. Paul Nash.

Pray that our budgeted need for new work would not only be met, but surpassed.

—Rev. Allen Monson

### **Commission on Evangelism**

We encourage the continued prayer and efforts in the calling of a full-time AFLC evangelist.

We are committed to the vital emphasis of calling people to a living relationship in Jesus Christ by faith.

Our board is always ready to facilitate and supply needs and helps in the task of evangelism in all forms and methods.

—Rev. Laurel Udden

### **Pension Board**

Our insurance has been heavily used this year so we are unable at this time to seriously pursue dental and/or disability insurance.

We would like to provide greater assistance to pastors and congregations in following tax guidelines.

—Rev. Gary Skramstad

### **Coordinating Committee**

We are working toward calling an AFLC evangelist with hopes that it will soon be a reality.

To provide another vehicle for those who want to remember the AFLC in their will, we are looking at the establishment of a foundation.

Our committee is receiving further study on clergy sexual misconduct and the guidelines to respond to accusations. We are also studying an authorization and release form for pastors.

—Rev. Terry Olson

## **OUR PRESIDENT WRITES**

### **A Conference Welcome**

The AFLC looks forward every year to a unique opportunity that is at the heart of our association together as free congregations. It is the annual conference, which meets during the second full week in June, scheduled for 1995 at the Association Retreat Center (ARC) near Osceola, Wisconsin.

Attendance at the annual conference is both a delight and a duty. The first refers to the fact that the Word of God and prayer are central. Some of our new AFLC members are surprised to discover that the agenda includes daily devotional and prayer times, as well as evening worship services. One man commented that he needed to adjust his thinking to see this yearly gathering as a Bible conference instead of a political convention. Our forefathers were concerned that the business sessions would not overshadow the primary spiritual purpose of the conference, and this struggle must be faced in a new way as we increase in numbers as well as ministries. Our first session on Wednesday evening will be a concert of prayer, and all are encouraged to participate as we seek to establish a right emphasis of dependence on God's guidance from the beginning.

Another delightful facet of each conference is the warm family fellowship. We are a growing association, yet small enough for people to get well acquainted, and special bonds of Christian fellowship have been forged between people who usually only see one another once a year. This personal side of the annual conferences creates a climate of trust between the brethren, too, and makes a major difference when elections occur, since we often find ourselves voting for people who are known to us. New people to the AFLC will not have this advantage at first, of course, which is one reason why we are encouraged to attend annually.

Yes, it is also important to remind one another that conference attendance is a duty as well as a delight. The ministries of our seminary and Bible school, publications and parish education, home and world missions, evangelism and youth, pensions and stewardship, will all be studied carefully as reports and resolutions are presented, and the importance of your participation in the process cannot be overemphasized. Every free congregation has a duty to be represented, and every member of our congregations is welcome.

It will be good to be together at the ARC. Come prayerfully. Come expecting the Lord to do great things.

—Rev. Robert L. Lee

#### **More ARC information**

All money concerning Annual Conference registration, etc. should be sent directly to the ARC. Also any gifts designated for the ARC should be sent directly to them and not to the AFLC Bookkeeper at the AFLC office. **Please remit to: ARC, 2372 30th Ave & King's Way, Osceola, WI 54001.**

**Partners in Mission Outreach** will hold their annual meeting at the ARC at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, June 13, 1995.

**Additional conference housing information** was listed in the February 28, 1995 issue of *The Lutheran Ambassador*. Note the corrected nightly ARC housing cost is \$10 per person, per single bed.

# AFLC Annual Conference Registration

## Association Retreat Center

2372 30th Ave. & King's Way

Osceola, WI 54020

Phone (715) 755-3131 Fax (715) 294-2398

## Lodging at the ARC

Pre-register by June 1. \$5 per person or \$10 per family (not refundable). Includes lake, beach, game room, football, softball, horseshoe, frisbee golf.

### Rooms

### Nights

### Names

\$10 per person

Indicate nights

2-6 single beds

Tue.\_\_\_\_

per room. If

Wed.\_\_\_\_

possible use all

Thu.\_\_\_\_

beds in a room.

Fri.\_\_\_\_

Sat.\_\_\_\_

Please bring own

bedding and cribs

as the ARC has a

limited supply. However if you

need these, please indicate.

Crib\_\_\_\_\_ Bedding\_\_\_\_\_

(Bedding is \$2 per person.)

Please list all children attending with you including their ages.

Children 3 and under are free.

## RV Parking

\_\_\_\_\_ Indicate if you will be using this facility.

\$10 daily parking fee. Price includes electricity and showers.

\$2 additional daily fee for RVs using air conditioners.

## Meals at the ARC

Pre-register by June 1. Indicate the number of people registering for each meal.

Tue. Dinner\_\_\_\_ Sat. (B)\_\_\_\_

Wed. (B)\_\_\_\_ (L)\_\_\_\_

(L)\_\_\_\_ (D)\_\_\_\_

(D)\_\_\_\_ Sun. (B)\_\_\_\_

Thu. (B)\_\_\_\_ (D)\_\_\_\_

(L)\_\_\_\_ (D)\_\_\_\_

(D)\_\_\_\_

Fri. (B)\_\_\_\_

(L)\_\_\_\_

(D)\_\_\_\_

### Special Meals

\_\_\_\_ Wed. — WMF Luncheon \$5.50

\_\_\_\_ Thu. — Builders Fellowship Lunch 3.50

\_\_\_\_ Thu. — Schools Corp. Dinner 5.50

\_\_\_\_ Fri. — Missions Corp. Breakfast 3.00

\_\_\_\_ Fri. — ARC Supporters Lunch 5.50

\_\_\_\_ Fri. — Pastors' Banquet 11.45

\_\_\_\_ Sat. — Laymen's Breakfast 3.50

\*If you register for a Special Meal,

do not register for a regular meal at

that time.

### Cost of regular meals

Breakfast (7:30-8:30 a.m.) — \$3.00

Lunch (12-1 p.m.) — \$3.50

Dinner (5-6 p.m.) — \$4.00 (including Sun. noon)

### Nursery and children's program

A nursery will be provided each day except Sunday.

Hours: 8:45 a.m. - noon; 1:45 p.m.-5; and 8-9:30 p.m.

Cost: \$2 per session; \$1 for each additional child per family.

Special babysitting arrangements for Pastors' Banquet can be made.

There will be a separate program for grades 1-8. Hours: 9 a.m.-noon; 2-5 p.m.

There will not be a youth program on Sunday.

\* It is very important to pre-register your children and please indicate the ages.

# 3 Enjoy Being a Woman

Read Titus 2:4-5. The five adjectives listed give a picture of a Christian homemaker. It is a picture that may seem old-fashioned today. Modern women typically seem to be running from the home and are increasingly frustrated, bored and discontented. Media advertisements often decrease the worth of homemaking and at times it seems the very word "homemaker" creates a discouraging stereotype. Pray that God would erase any preconceived judgments toward homemaking and draw for us His own picture from the Word.

## 3 Enjoy Being a Homemaker

Who is a homemaker? One who manages a household. We think of a wife and a mother, but I have been a guest in the residences of many unmarried women, both young and old, that are warm and say "welcome."

### I. Setting the Atmosphere

It has been said that "men build houses, but a woman makes a home." Something about the thought rings clear. God plus a woman creates an atmosphere that utilizes feminine touches to make a home inviting and secure; such an atmosphere may draw others to Christ.



A woman sets the mood for the whole household because her temperament is contagious. If the husband is the head, then the woman is the heart that pulsates throughout the home.

1. Read the following verses and list the quality that makes a house a home.

John 14:23

Proverbs 17:22

Proverbs 15:17

I Corinthians 14:33

Psalms 57:1

Ephesians 4:32

Galatians 6:2

Hebrews 13:5

I Peter 4:9

2. Anger is particularly destructive to the home. What are some of the causes? What are practical ways to control anger?

Proverbs 14:17 & 29; 16:32; 17:14; 25:15 & 28; 29:11 & 22.

3. A second area of destruction involves one of the “littlest members” of our body — our tongue. Our mouth can destroy a godly atmosphere.

The following proverbs contain a positive and negative teaching about our tongue.

Fill in the chart below.

Proverbs	Plus	Negative
10:19	_____	_____
10:32	_____	_____
12:18	_____	_____
15:1	_____	_____
15:4	_____	_____

4. There is more to speech than words. Did you know that love and friendliness are communicated 3% by the words we use, 39% by the tone of our voice, and 58% by our facial expressions and posture? Negative emotions are similarly communicated. What instruction is given regarding our speech?

Proverbs 17:27-28

Proverbs 31:26

Ephesians 4:29

Colossians 4:6 (compare speech with the qualities of salt)

Matthew 12:34b-37

Psalm 141:3



Women have opportunity to create and maintain a godly home atmosphere. Attitude is the difference in a “happy homemaker.”

## II. Accomplishing the Tasks

“A man toils from sun to sun, a woman’s work is never done.” This old adage is frequently quoted by a weary mother. The truth is that housekeeping is never finished. Even after working a whole day in the home there is always another task to be done. Focusing on the task leads to frustration. Remember housekeeping is but a part of homemaking.

5. The spirit in which we accomplish a task can make it drudgery or satisfying. How can a healthy attitude be encouraged?

Colossians 3:17,23

6. It is the task that seems most dull or undesirable that has the potential for producing the sweetest fruit in me; that of molding my character toward Christ’s. What can enrich a dull task?

II Corinthians 10:5b

Psalm 119:15

Judges 5:3

7. Achieving a balance in homemaking takes discipline: setting priorities, finding a motivation for those undesirable tasks and controlling our selfish desires. What is the first priority of homemaking?  
Proverbs 10:27 (LB)
8. Self-discipline is needful yet we must refrain from driving ourselves. What are the extremes in homemaking and the happy medium?  
Proverbs 6:10-11  
II Thessalonians 3:11  
Psalm 127:2  
Proverbs 14:30
9. Planning ahead, setting goals, making lists and scheduling wisely does save time! What insights does the Bible give ?  
I Corinthians 14:40  
Ephesians 5:16a (RSV)  
Proverbs 13:16 (LB) and 16:3
10. And yes, those interruptions and unfinished tasks; in spite of our organization, we need flexibility or we may miss God's plan for our day. What can we learn from Jesus' example in John 17:4?  
How can this be? John 4:34 and Isaiah 55:8-9
11. Because we are made in the image of the creator God, we have an aptitude for creativity that needs expression and development. What is an area of creativity in homemaking that you enjoy? I Thessalonians 4:11b
12. Homemaking has its own rewards. If others never appreciate effort or take pride in your accomplishments, what is your encouragement?  
Hebrews 6:10  
Matthew 6:4b  
Ephesians 6:8
13. What final inspiration for enjoying homemaking do you detect from Matthew 6:34 and Psalm 118:24?



God has an elevated position for the homemaker who reflects Christ in daily tasks while creating an atmosphere of love, security, relaxed pleasure and whose home is inviting to friends and strangers.

Next month: 3 Enjoy Being a Mother



**Women's Missionary Federation**  
**Annual Convention**  
**June 14 and 15, 1995**  
**Association Retreat Center, Osceola, Wisconsin**

*Graceful growth, youth through maturity* is the theme of the 33rd Annual Convention of the WMF with the chosen Bible verse from Proverbs 31:30: "but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised."

The day begins at 8 a.m. with registration and refreshments. We begin at 9:00 a.m. with singing, prayer time and a message from Mrs. Michael (Jeannie) Brandt of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Jeannie is our 1995 Bible Study writer. The afternoon program features a message from our new director of Home Missions, Rev. Paul Nash and an update on Brazil missions from Helen Knapp.

The Women's Prayer Breakfast will be Thursday morning, June 15. This is a time of sharing, intercessory prayer and praises to our Lord.

Our convention concludes with the Mission Festival Service on Thursday evening at 8 p.m. with AFLC President, Rev. Robert L. Lee speaking.

Planning for the WMF Convention began last September with prayer for the Lord's direction and continued through all the winter months with many contacts. As national officers we pray this year's convention will be especially inspirational and informative. We trust that you will make time in your busy schedule to attend this convention as there will be several proposed changes discussed at the business meeting.

---

**Fees**

\_\_\_ One day — registration and lunch — \$7.00.

\_\_\_ Two days — registration, lunch and Prayer Breakfast — \$11.00.

*Please pre-register by June 1 to:*

Association Retreat Center

2372 30th Ave. & Kings Way

Osceola, WI 54020

name\_\_\_\_\_

address\_\_\_\_\_

zip\_\_\_\_\_

congregation\_\_\_\_\_

*\*Pay fees at the registration table when you arrive.*

**Offerings** will be received at all sessions. Refreshment table donations will go to the National WMF General Fund.

**Child care** will be available for children up to age 4. Children age 5 through 6th grade will have VBS. There will be a nominal fee for each.

\*Local WMF's please note: New this year is a dinner meeting the evening of the 13th with two representatives from your District officers. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss some proposed changes in WMF. Perhaps your local WMF can send a gift to your District Spring Rally to help defray travel and lodging expenses for these two representatives. Thank you.

— Mrs. Cheryl Skordahl  
National WMF Secretary

In just a few short weeks members and friends of the AFLC will meet for the 33rd Annual Conference. This year we return to the ARC for this special time of inspiration, prayer, fellowship and business. The ARC staff is well-known for their hospitality as they provide meals, lodging, and the many extras during those five days. I look forward to the blessings our Lord will impart to us through His Word and the fellowship of Christian friends as well as the direction He will give through His people.

As the AFLC has grown, so also the amount of business to be transacted at annual conference has grown. Last year the business sessions included 32 reports, 66 resolutions and discussion on them, plus numerous nominations and elections, many of them by ballot.

As we approach the 33rd Annual Conference, the question is the same as it has been in previous years: what will be the big issue or issues this year? Many have expressed concern over issues that will be brought up and how they will be handled. I would like to suggest an approach that I believe is simple and practical; an approach to carrying out the business of our church that will help to avoid conflict and dissension over important and yet very delicate issues.

First of all, I trust that as a conference, we desire to be guided by the Word and Spirit of God. II Corinthians 3:17 says: "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." His work must be guided and controlled by His Spirit. We as an AFLC have adopted and submitted to the *Fundamental Principles and Rules for Work*. Also *Robert's Rules of Order* is consulted to answer questions on procedure. Being as involved as many of us are in city, county, state and national affairs, it is sometimes easy to believe that the church should operate in the same way as civil government. In many respects there are similarities. However, it is my firm conviction that the Church should not be political as is government. Lobbying or politicking for or against an issue or a cause should not be a part of our AFLC conferences!

There have been times in past years when I have feared that we have taken a step in that direction. May it not be so! May we be sensitive to the Spirit of God.

# In every matter of business

May He be the one to persuade and move each of us as individuals.

Every registered conference attendee has the right and privilege to express his opinion on matters brought to the conference floor. James 1:19-20 provides sound and practical advice in this regard: "Let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God." Also as we speak, let us remember to keep our remarks brief and to the point, and thus give others the same opportunity.

The second suggestion relates to the first. With 500 to 600 people in attendance, there is the potential for a lot of ideas. It would be wrong to try to stifle ideas, however, those having ideas or suggestions should try to channel them through the proper resolution committees. That way the resolution comes before the conference in writing and gives everyone opportunity to prayerfully review it before it comes to the floor. It will also check the possibility of anyone coming with a surprise package from their own agenda.

The last suggestion is vitally important. May every matter of business be a matter of prayer! It is always proper to pause in the midst of discussion and decision making for prayer. It is also important, before bringing ideas or suggestions to the floor, whether they be new resolutions, amendments, or simply speaking to a resolution already on the floor, that we first of all seek the Lord in prayer. Seek His direction. Ask of Him what should be said, and if He leads you to be the one to speak, ask Him to give you a gentle and loving spirit as you speak.

May our conference again this year be a time when we are encouraged in the work that our Lord has laid before us. May it be a time when we are united in a new and a fresh way because of His Spirit leading and guiding in every matter of business and time of fellowship shared at our annual conference.



—by Rev.  
Elden Nelson  
AFLC Home  
Missions Director

# Getting involved in the work of the AFLC

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom..*

II Corinthians 3:17

## ***Fundamental Principles***

1. According to the Word of God, the congregation is the right form of the Kingdom of God on earth.

5. The congregation directs its own affairs subject to the authority of the Word of God and acknowledges no ecclesiastical authority or government above itself.

7. A free congregation gladly accepts the mutual assistance which congregations can give one another in the work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God.

These statements clearly establish the local congregation to be of first importance in our AFLC. Number seven encourages the need to work together in the area of schools, missions or any work that would take a joint effort. (We must bear in mind that a congregation, to be accepted to the AFLC congregational roster, must be in full agreement with number four of the *Rules for Work*. This is to insure that the congregations are Lutheran in confession and practice.)

In the very beginning of the Free Church movement, Professor Georg Sverdrup, who has been called the "Father of the Lutheran Free Church," said the Christian congregation is a fellowship of believers in the Savior and the means of grace; a fellowship that is guided by the Word and the Holy Spirit.

When I was a young boy, I remember going with my parents to district meetings where many lay people would take part in testimonies telling of what God had done for them in their lives. We used to have more of it in the early days of the

AFLC. I'm sure it would be a blessing to us if we did more of it now.

I am concerned, in this period of rapid growth, that everyone realizes they are not joining a synodical group, but rather they are becoming part of a rather loosely knit fellowship of independent congregations with conservative Lutheran beliefs.

As we in the local congregation come to understand the makeup of the AFLC, we realize there are many ways we can be part of the larger fellowship of the AFLC. We can support the work of the missionaries. We cannot only support the schools financially, but we can urge our young people to attend the Bible School and Seminary, along with praying for the teachers and students that they might grow in their spiritual life. The congregations can also keep informed on the recommendations that the annual conferences make to the congregation.

From the very beginning of the "Free Church" movement, the annual conference has been more than just a time for business. It has been a time of spiritual renewal. The prayer time and the Scripture meditations have been a time to calm our emotions and comfort our hearts. The evenings are spent in worship and singing, along with the preaching of God's Word.

The AFLC has now been a blessing to many individuals and congregations for over thirty-two years. We have had our time of greatest growth in the last few years; something that has given us old-timers great joy. It shows that in the Lutheran church at large there are many who see the need for conservative, Bible-centered preaching and teaching, and who appreciate the freedom they have to conduct their own affairs.

How can you and your local congregations get involved in the work of the AFLC? First, get active in your own church. Take part in the Bible study, be faithful to attend worship services, read *The Lutheran Ambassador*, and attend annual conferences. Most importantly,

It would be good if every reader of this article would also read the *Fundamental Principles and the Rules for Work*. They can be found in the annual report published every year by the AFLC. Ask your pastor for a copy if needed.

# Welcome to the ARC

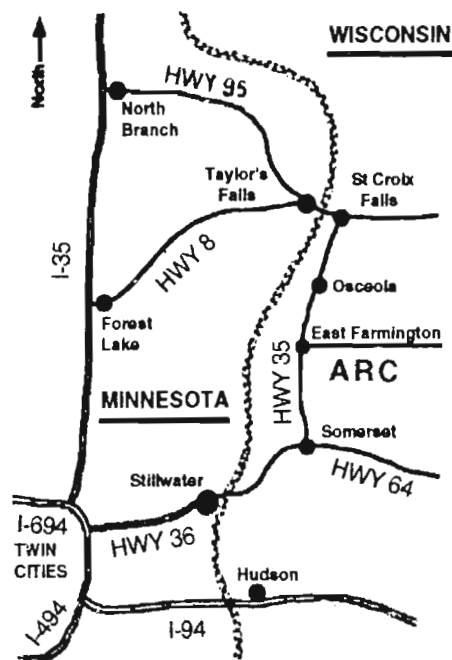
The staff of the Association Retreat Center extends a warm and hearty welcome to the 33rd Annual Conference of the AFLC. We are excited to be hosting this year's conference and want to make all who attend feel at home.

The ARC is located on 80 acres of partially wooded land in the beautiful St. Croix Valley of Wisconsin. Our facility is able to house and serve up to 500 conference-goers, with meeting rooms located throughout the retreat center. Alternative housing is also available in the surrounding communities, the furthest of which is located approximately 30 minutes from the ARC. We are less than an hour's drive from Minneapolis/St. Paul.

The theme of the 1995 Annual Conference, *Standing in the Gospel, Sustained by Grace*, is taken from I Corinthians 15:1-10. As we come together June 14-18, let us remember that we gather because Christ died and rose again for our sins. No matter how much we strive to serve Him, it is not us but "the grace of God with us."

As you come and attend meetings, business luncheons, etc., please remember that the ARC staff is willing and anxious to make your stay here a pleasant and even a relaxing one. We look forward to seeing you here at the ARC.

— Eric M. Westlake  
Director of The ARC



The ARC is located 2.5 miles east of HWY 35 at Farmington.

The enemy employs influential friends of Christ to wound one another, and to propagate distrust, alienation, and acrimony. ... The strength of the Church depends upon our concentrated action. ... Whatever, therefore, propagates suspicion and distrust among brethren who have long acted together, paralyzes their power. ... Of this, the great enemy of the Church is perfectly aware, and has never failed, when the concentration of forces against him had become too formidable for direct resistance, to ease himself of his adversaries by dividing them.

— Lyman Beecher  
from *The Glory of America*  
by Peter Marshall and David Manuel

remember your church in prayer. Pray for your local congregation, for your pastor, for the instructors at our schools, our missionaries and the boards and committees of the AFLC. Pray for the president. He carries a heavy burden and needs all our prayers.

Is there a future for the AFLC? Yes! I believe there is a future and also a need.

*And He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through Him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners but you are fellow citizens with the saints and member of the household of God built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus*

*himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:17-20

— by Clarence Quanbeck  
McVile, North Dakota

*The author was born at Bowbells, North Dakota in 1921. He was baptized at Immanuel Lutheran Free Church of rural Bowbells. In 1934 his family moved to the McVile, North Dakota area where he became a member of New Luther Valley Lutheran Church, a Lutheran Free Church. In October of 1962 that congregation along with about forty other congregations, met at Thief River Falls, Minnesota to consider the alternative to merger. At that meeting, the ground work for our AFLC was begun. From 1970-80, Mr. Quanbeck served on the Coordinating Committee of the AFLC.*

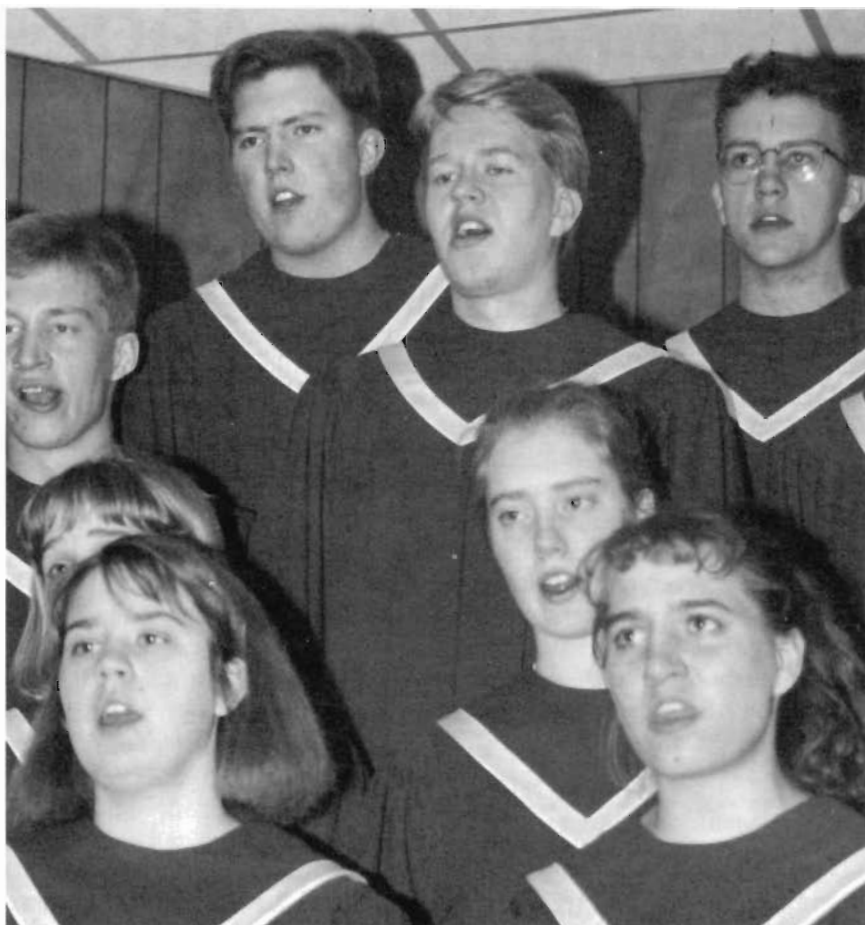
## Bible School choirs conclude annual spring tours

The 1995 AFLBS choir and choral club gave 15 concerts each in churches from Montana to New York during the first two weeks in April. Pictured is the choral club at its concert in Reva, South Dakota.

## AFLC Schools' graduation on May 20

Graduation services will be held on Saturday, May 20, 1995 for the graduates of the Association Free Lutheran Bible School and Seminary.

Applications are now being accepted for the Fall Quarter beginning on September 6 for the Seminary and September 11 for the Bible School.



## Record crowd expected at FLY convention

Youth gathering at Estes Park, Colorado, July 17-22 should break another attendance record for the 1995 national convention of the Free Lutheran Youth.

Registrations reached 800 by mid-March, and with the addition of convention staff and more than 50 additional counselors, the total topped 910 by April 1.

"The flood of applications answered a lot of questions for us," said FLY President James L. Johnson, who said the board was concerned about the response to going back to Estes Park for the third consecutive convention.

"Ever since we began planning in September of 1993," said Pastor Johnson, "we were worried that the youth were getting tired of Colorado. We dismissed those concerns."

The board chose to return to

Estes Park's YMCA Center because of its central location, large facilities, and "secluded and secure" setting, said Johnson. The center offers mountain hiking, 12 volleyball courts, two basketball courts, tennis courts, mini-golf, horseback riding and swimming pool. The center also offers a comfortable 1,000 seat auditorium — and an additional field house that can hold more than 2,000.

Two years ago, convention registrations totaled 935 — including 750 youth. In the mid-1980s, national conventions were considered "great attractions" with 350.

"My guess is that we'll top out at 1,000," said Johnson.

The FLY Board also wanted to inform people of other items:

\*For the first time in recent history, the FLY Convention will offer an interpreter for the hear-

ing impaired. Kari Lundeen, a northern Minnesota middle school teacher, will sign for the deaf youth nightly at services and will serve as a counselor for the youth as well.

\*The deadline for registrations is July 1. Refunds of deposits can be requested as late as July 10.

\*Although recruiting for counselors is better than ever, the executive board still needs additional counselors, preferably 21 or older. Some counselors, between 18 and 20, with experience and training are also being accepted as counseling aides. The half-price discount still applies.

For further information, please call Pastor Johnson at 218-435-6778, counseling supervisor Dennis Gray at 218-782-2246, or Bob Halvorson at the AFLC office on Thursdays at 612-545-5631.



# I've a plan for you

A year ago the Spirit of the Lord spoke to me through the Word in Jeremiah. Each time I hear God's Word I know there is something to learn, something to be reminded of, to be encouraged in, something to respond to from my heart. But I always look forward to the times when the Word becomes my special "rhema" — the special revelation of God speaking to my spirit. Sometimes it comes when I've asked for specific direction. But this time it came unexpectedly, sitting in Sunday worship, listening to the message for the day. The pastor, my husband, spoke on Jeremiah 1:4-10, "A God-Ordained Life." God, as author of my life, has an order for my life, as well as a plan to carry out this order.

For some time, Dick had been thinking and praying about our return to foreign mission work, but each time he mentioned it my response would be, "not yet." But now God's Spirit confirmed to me, this was part of His order for my life — a working out of His plan for me, for us.

The closing hymn that day was, "I'll go where you want me to go, dear Lord; I'll be what you want me to be." From where I sat I could tell that Dick was having a hard time singing, being filled with the emotion of God's call. I too, sang this very intimate hymn as my response to the Word. And so there remained the sharing of my experience with my husband. It was a joy!

The sharing of this renewed call into mission work with our family and congregation was, in itself, a confirmation of God's leading. Our children, now grown into adulthood, gave us their blessings and shared our excitement. Our congregation echoed

## WORLD MISSIONS

these blessings, followed by both prayer and financial support. Yes indeed, we were confirmed by the fellowship of believers!

The working out of the how's, the when, the where, was also a testimony of this being God's plan for us. Our home sold quickly; World Mission Prayer League accepted our application; the call came from the World Mission Committee of the AFLC; and the acceptance by the Mexico Field Conference of the WMPL and the Mexican national church with which we would be affiliated, all affirmed our decision.

And so we left Lake Stevens, Washington for Nogales, Arizona under what we now label "Plan A." Seeing our children on the West Coast along the way, our grandchildren begged us not to go. We saw so little of each other as it was. Our son reminded us of our first leaving for Bolivia when he was six and how his grandparents were pained at our taking their grandchildren away. One can only sustain such separation with God's help!

Because the national church wanted us to live in Puebla where Dick could train leaders and teach extension seminary classes, we planned to take a quick trip there, scout the city for housing, etc., returning to Nogales for our

belongings. But God had a different plan for us, and so we remained in Nogales relating to the churches there and in Sonora, Mexico, as well as readying, by patching and painting, the mission home for what we hoped would be a quick sale.

During these six months we saw Plans B, C, D, E and F come and go. In Plan F we actually got our pickup and trailer packed and were seventy miles on our way when the trailer broke down and we had to send an SOS to our fellow workers in Nogales to come and help us back. On the way back I said to Dick, "Well the next plan is Plan G. Could G stand for God's Plan?"

Yes, it was! After more details than you want to read, we set out again. It was January 27. We entered Mexico through Laredo, Texas and on February 1, upon arriving in the city of Puebla we secured a hotel room and together stood at our fifth story window overlooking the large metropolitan area, claiming it for the Lord. Our plan had been to secure housing first and God provided a lovely, clean apartment for us the first day here.

Now, as we've begun meeting with the brethren, visiting the churches, we look forward to God's revealing of His Plan of how we will minister here in Puebla.

— by Clara Gunderson



## Off to Brazil, finally

After numerous delays and postponements, including a fast trip to the consulate in Chicago to satisfy a last minute new requirement the day before departure, the David Nelson family left Minneapolis for Brazil on March 24. Pray for Pastor David, Sarah, Josiah and Samuel as they begin this period of transition and adaptation to Brazil.



St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Zion Lutheran Church

## Two congregations vote to join the AFLC

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Whitestown, Indiana, voted unanimously on Sunday, March 12 to withdraw from the ELCA and seek affiliation with the AFLC.

Whitestown is a small town north of Indianapolis, located in a growing outer ring of "bedroom" communities that surround the metropolitan area. St. Mark's will join an urban St. Mark's as our second congregation in the vicinity, and as the third AFLC

church in the state.

The second congregation is Zion Lutheran Church, Silverhill, Alabama. They voted on March 19, 1995 to withdraw from the ELCA and to affiliate with the AFLC. Organized after the turn of the century by Swedish settlers, the small congregation is located between the city of Mobile and the Gulf Coast area in one of the fastest growing counties in the U. S.

### ROBERT M. BURSHEIM

Robert M. (Bob) Bursheim, one of the early leaders in the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, passed away March 20 at the age of 83 years. He had suffered a heart attack this past winter, but was home again in Winger, Minnesota. He was born on March 2, 1912 near Brookings, South Dakota to Christian and Hannah Bursheim.

At the funeral service on March 24, at Dovre Lutheran, his pastor, Harris Van Someren, and his immediate preceding pastor, Lloyd Bjornlie, spoke of Bob Bursheim as a man who trusted in the Lord and who was eager to be of assistance when a helping hand was needed. One of them spoke of his ready smile.

Bob and his wife Meredith moved to Minneapolis in 1964 to become caretakers of the

newly acquired church building at Medicine Lake, which would become the heart of AFLC work. They lived in the apartment in the east end of the building. Their living room became the site of not a few meetings and social gatherings. Later the apartment was converted into the offices of the AFLC and now is the Bible School Dean's office.

The Bursheims were at Medicine Lake in the early days of the AFLC Seminary (1964) and Bible School (1966) and the organization of Medicine Lake Lutheran Church. They were involved wherever work was needed. Bob served as AFLC treasurer for four years.

In 1970 Bob and Meredith returned to Winger, where Bob was active in various areas, including holding the position of town constable for many years and chief of the fire department. He was custodian and head usher at his church.

The ranks of those lay people who were stalwarts in the organization of the AFLC are thinning. It is unfortunate that many of the younger and newer people of our church fellowship do not know who these people were or are.

I count it an honor to have attended Bob Bursheim's funeral on March 24. Among others I saw at the service were another one of his former pastors, Bruce Dalager, and H. Donald Hansen, Bob's co-worker at Medicine Lake in the years mentioned.

Bob is survived by his wife, the former Meredith Raaen, whom he married in 1940, and two sons, Neil of McIntosh, Minnesota, and Dean of Tucson, Arizona. There are also grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Blessed be Bob's memory.

— by Rev. Raynard Huglen  
Newfolden, Minnesota

## PEOPLE AND PLACES

**Mr. Eddie Britz**, St. Paul, Minnesota has accepted the call to be the youth worker at Christian Free Lutheran Church in Wheatland, Iowa. A recent AFLBS graduate, he is currently a student at Northwestern College. He will begin his new ministry the middle of May.

**Murrieta, California** — Shepherd's Church of the Valley has voted to close effective in April 1995. The congregation organized in 1989 and had been a Home Mission congregation. The congregation's pastor, Rev. Curtis Emerson is open for a call.

**Rev. Clyde Grier**, El Campo, Texas has resigned as pastor of Faith Lutheran in order to accept the call from St. John's Lutheran in Milford, Illinois. Pastor Grier has served Faith Lutheran since 1987.

**Rev. Joel Rolf**, Valley City, North Dakota was installed as pastor of Grace Free Lutheran and Zion Free Lutheran of Valley City on April 2, 1995 by AFLC President Robert L. Lee.

**St. James, Minnesota** — Hosanna Free Lutheran has voted to call their own pastor. The nine-year-old congregation has been a part of a parish with Word of Life Lutheran in Mankato, Minnesota.



**Spokane, Washington** — New Vision Free Lutheran's Wednesday night children's program, Odyssey, prepared a children's musical called, "We Like Sheep." They performed the play on a Saturday and a Sunday night along with

an evangelistic message by the pastor. Combined attendance at the programs was about 250, providing a great opportunity to reach into the community for Christ. Pictured are the children during the performance.

## North Dakota man to be featured on *Unshackled*

Dwight Kiefert, now a member of the church council at Grace Free Lutheran in Valley City, North Dakota, will have his story told on *Unshackled*, an international radio program originating from the Pacific Garden Mission in Chicago. *Unshackled* dramatizes the real life stories of men and women whose lives have been set free from the bondage of sin through the cleansing blood of Christ.

Mr. Kiefert's life was radically changed when his nine-year-old son, Matthew, was killed in a bus accident. Previously disinterested in church and the things of the Lord, he and his wife Robin now allowed Pastor Terry Olson, then serving Grace Free Lutheran, to visit in their home twice a week. Through those visits, Dwight came to know the Lord Jesus as his personal Savior. Pastor Olson is the "Pastor Terry" mentioned in the *Unshackled* story.

Dwight Kiefert's story will be aired the week of May 7-13 around the world on Christian and some secular radio stations that carry *Unshackled*. Check your local stations for day and time.

### Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

#### AFLC Benevolences — January 1 - March 31, 1995

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN MARCH	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund . . . . .	\$268,591.00	\$21,184.42	\$58,727.63	22
Seminary . . . . .	163,200.00	5,498.68	38,354.38	24
Bible School . . . . .	244,800.00	9,020.53	43,555.05	18
Home Missions. . . . .	335,040.00	22,675.52	81,383.52	24
World Missions. . . . .	359,927.00	24,569.33	75,709.47	21
Capital Investment . . . . .	35,425.00	666.74	2,313.78	7
Parish Education . . . . .	67,868.00	5,399.12	12,276.10	18
Church Extension . . . . .	10,000.00	466.49	1,418.93	14
<b>TOTALS . . . . .</b>	<b>\$1,484,851.00</b>	<b>\$89,480.83</b>	<b>\$313,739.86</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>TOTALS 1994 . . . . .</b>	<b>1,422,890.00</b>	<b>87,282.60</b>	<b>246,474.38</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Goal 25%</b>				

**Varansi, India** — Through radio and film, India is seeing thousands of people come to faith in Christ. Recently, 34 listeners to a Hindi broadcast of Chuck Swindoll's "Insight for Living" broadcast were baptized in the Ganges River, near the city of Varansi. "Insight for Living" has been broadcast in the Hindi language since 1987. Last year, the "Jesus" film was shown to more than 4.5 million people in India; more than half a million indicated decisions for Christ. During 1995, leaders of the inter-agency effort known as the India Project plan to launch 30 new Indian teams every three months until 750 teams have been sent out. One Bangalore pastor reported that after the showing of the film, three new churches and 35 house fellowships were begun. "I think there is a tremendous movement of the Spirit of God in India right now," said Paul Eshleman, director of the Jesus Film Project. "Indian churches and mission organizations are mobilizing in a united way for maybe the first time in decades, trying to reach every part of the country."

**Mexico City, Mexico** — Even a locked door didn't stop evangelists from sharing the gospel in Mexico City recently. More than 200 people made decisions for Christ during the Mexico City '95 outreach last month, including a woman whose husband had locked the door from the outside and left with the key. Workers spoke loudly through the door of the woman's apartment, and listened through the crack in the door as the woman repented of her sins. "We told her that if we never saw her on earth, we would see her in heaven," said Bob Swank, one of the evangelists. Swank and his Mexican co-worker, Armenia Carcano Vazquez, slid a flattened New Testament underneath the door for the woman.

## Global Mission's second stage

— by Timothy C. Morgan  
Associate Editor

*Christianity Today* magazine

**San Juan, Puerto Rico** — Evangelist Billy Graham's Global Mission moves into its second stage with television broadcasts in 117 countries of the evangelist's meetings in San Juan, where 175,000 people attended services from March 14-18.

At the March 17 service, 55,000 people jammed into San Juan's Bithorn Stadium. Thousands more were turned away after the entrances were closed by local authorities. On March 18, another 45,000 crowded the stadium to hear Graham preach his final sermon for Global Mission, the Graham organization's most ambitious attempt to bring the message of Christianity to a worldwide audience.

Larry Ross, spokesperson for Global Mission, said Graham became the first Christian evangelist to issue a "global invitation" for unbelievers to become Christians by being "born again." Graham said on Tuesday, "No matter what language you speak, no matter what culture you are from, no matter what situation you find yourself in — all around the world, come and give your heart to Christ." When Global Mission is complete, Graham's sermons in Puerto Rico will have been heard in 185 countries and in 116 languages.

**Hong Kong** — At a house church meeting in southern China March 18, Australian missionary John Short and co-worker Fung Sun Wah, along with two Chinese evangelists and the wife

of the homeowner, were arrested and held by Chinese police.

The meeting, held at Bei Xing, a town about 50 kilometers from Guangzhou, was underway when six or seven uniformed police officers burst in, charging that the meeting was illegal. They said that the meeting was unregistered, as was the home.

When Short, an Australian missionary based in Hong Kong, was seen by the Chinese police, the police retreated, only to return with a larger group of Public Security Bureau minutes later. The officers took the two Chinese evangelists outside, where they were flung against a wall and beaten.

One of the evangelists, Li De-Xian, was beaten by police in February, as well, and had not yet fully recovered.

Short took photographs of the abuse, and was attacked by PSB officers, who attempted to take his camera. All four of the men, along with the wife of the homeowner, were thrown into a waiting police van. They were taken to the police station, where the Australian was separated from the others. The police wrenched his camera open and exposed the incriminating film.

Short said that through all of this experience they managed to preach Christ at every opportunity, stating also that none of them were involved with any political issue. They just wanted to be free to preach the gospel. They were mocked, he said, "But we can all look back with joy at the enabling grace of God."

By that evening, all four men were released, Chen Qun Yi, wife of the homeowner, has been detained until she signs an agreement that she will no longer hold meetings in her home. She has refused to sign such a document.

*(The above stories, except where noted, are used by permission from the Evangelical Press News Service.)*

### Before ...

The conventions are over a year away, and yet the preparations have already begun. Candidates are raising money, putting together campaign teams, plotting strategy and seeking votes. That is how things are done in the political arena. It is not to be the way God's people prepare for business meetings.

It was a crucial decision which would have major, long-range implications. Jesus was going to choose twelve of His followers to be apostles and the future leaders of the New Testament Church. He could have spent that preparation time reviewing resumes and doing interviews. Instead, we are told He "spent the night praying to God" (Luke 6:12, NIV). In doing that He gives us an example of how to prepare when facing major decisions.

He "spent the night praying to God." This is serious prayer. This is prayer as work and wrestling in prayer as spoken of by O. Hallesby in his classic book entitled *Prayer*. It is not a mere "let's ask God's blessing on what goes on and then we'll get to work." Prayer is the cornerstone of His work of preparation. It should be the same for us.

Most certainly some things need to be done before a congregation or an association of congregations has its business meeting. Nominations must be considered, resolutions need to be given thought, programs and schedules need to be planned. Much of the time, however, that is considered essential for preparation would be better spent in prayer.

Prayer is how God's people prepare. By doing so we acknowledge that our trust is in God and not in ourselves. It is a tragedy and a disgrace to the Name of Christ when people plot political strategy, spread misinformation against a perceived to be opposing side, lobby people to vote a certain way and rally support for a certain view or candidate, all under the pretense of preparing to do the Lord's business. We need not and must not engage in crafty maneuvering to insure that the votes go the right way. We trust in God. It is His Church. He is in control. We need not fear. We need to pray.

### During

Cheering and booing are things we expect to hear at a baseball game — but not at a church business meeting. Some behavior is acceptable to engage in while watching a ball game — but not while conducting the Lord's business. Disagreement can be expressed, encouragement can be given, correction can be offered without engaging

in a public spectacle that can result in embarrassing some, inappropriately influencing others and bringing dishonor to the Name of Christ.

The Christian is to be one who shows respect to God and to His children. Each individual that we encounter, no matter what their standing with the Lord may be, is someone who has been created by God, someone who Jesus died for and someone who is greatly loved by Christ. They are to be treated in an appropriate manner. They are not enemies to be defeated. They are individuals of great value to God. They are to be loved and honored and built up in Christ.

The business meeting of a congregation or an association of congregations is not a time for one side to seek to defeat the other. It is a time for God's people to come together to encourage one another and collectively seek the will of the Lord. It is a time of being reminded that we are much stronger when we are together than when we are apart.

The Bible tells us to "be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry" (James 1:19, NIV). We certainly should contribute in a humble and gentle manner when we have something that will benefit others. We also need to respectfully listen, even to those with whom we may disagree. The time when others have the floor is not a time for us to "plot strategy" and prepare for our next presentation. It is a time for us to listen and be surprised at what we might learn.

How we conduct ourselves at the meetings is as of much importance to God as what is accomplished. Moses is rebuked by God in Numbers 20 because, even though he had a good result in getting water from the rock, he did not use the means God had desired. Let us approach meetings not simply concerned with seeing good results. Let us place just as much value on engaging in appropriate, God-honoring conduct during the meetings.

### ... After

No matter what happens at the meetings, we know some things will remain true. God will still be on the throne. Jesus will still be alive and active in the world. The blood of Jesus shed on the cross will still pay the penalty in full for all of our sins. The Church and the work will still belong to God. Jesus will still love us and care about us and desire to live in us and use us in the work of His Kingdom. No matter what foolish things we may do in our meetings, those facts will remain true. We do not have the ability to change them. We need not fear. We can rest secure in Christ.



## Where's my passion?

"Sixth floor, room 652." Marion was recovering from open heart surgery as I entered her hospital room. She didn't recognize me right away. That was OK. Her son sat by her side as we conversed. I selected a familiar passage from the Gospel of John, then asked about her relationship with the Lord. Marion openly expressed her need for the assurance of salvation. What a joy it was to lead her in a simple prayer of confession and faith! The angels rejoiced right along with the rest of us.

Later that evening, my wife and I were reviewing the happy event. It always amazes me to think that God could use a brief hospital visit to make a difference in someone's eternity!

"Where's my passion?" I asked Rebecca. If I truly believe that those who die apart from Christ are eternally lost and bound for hell: if I have grasped that God has entrusted me with the only message that can save lost souls and impart the gift of eternal life, then doesn't it behoove me to spend more time visiting with those in the nursing home? Wouldn't it make *eternal* sense to devote a few extra minutes to patients in the hospital? Or to make an honest effort to reach my next door neighbor?

It is inspiring for me to read about the lives of individuals God used such as D.L. Moody. Here

## SOMETHING TO SHARE

was a man who had a consuming passion for the lost! R. A. Torrey recalls: "Mr. Moody made the resolution, shortly after he ... was saved, that he would never let 24 hours pass over his head without speaking to at least one person about his soul. His was a very busy life, and sometimes he would forget his resolution until the last hour, and talk to someone about his soul in order that he might not let one day pass without having definitely told at least one of his fellow mortals about his need and the Saviour who could meet it" (*Why God Used D.L. Moody*, p. 39).

Moody, it seems, could not stand to see an opportunity slip away. One day while he and Torrey were paying their respects to one of Chicago's mayors, whose body was lying in state, Moody was struck by the large crowds waiting to say a final good-bye. Moody turned to Torrey and said: "This will never do, to let these crowds get away from us without preaching to them, we must talk to them. You go and hire Hooley's Opera House (which was just opposite City Hall) for the whole day" (Torrey, p.44).

Torrey did just that. The meetings, it was said, began at 9 a.m. and went straight through until 6 p.m. that evening.

On another occasion, Moody

walked up to a perfect stranger on a Chicago street and asked, "Sir, are you a Christian?"

"You mind your own business," was the response.

Moody answered, "This is my business."

"Well," the man said, "then you must be Moody!"

Moody did not believe that evangelism was just for evangelists. He said many times, "Every Christian is a soul winner." If heaven and hell **are realities**, and if those without Christ are **truly lost**, then it is the responsibility of Christians everywhere to take their theology seriously and proclaim the good news to everyone with that same consuming passion.

That means you, too! No, you probably won't rent an auditorium to do it. You need not adopt Moody's personal goals for evangelism. But maybe it's time to pray about some **goals of your own**. Proverbs 11:30 urges us on: "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise."

**Lord, give me a passion for lost souls!**



— Rev. Jerry  
Moan  
Minot, North  
Dakota