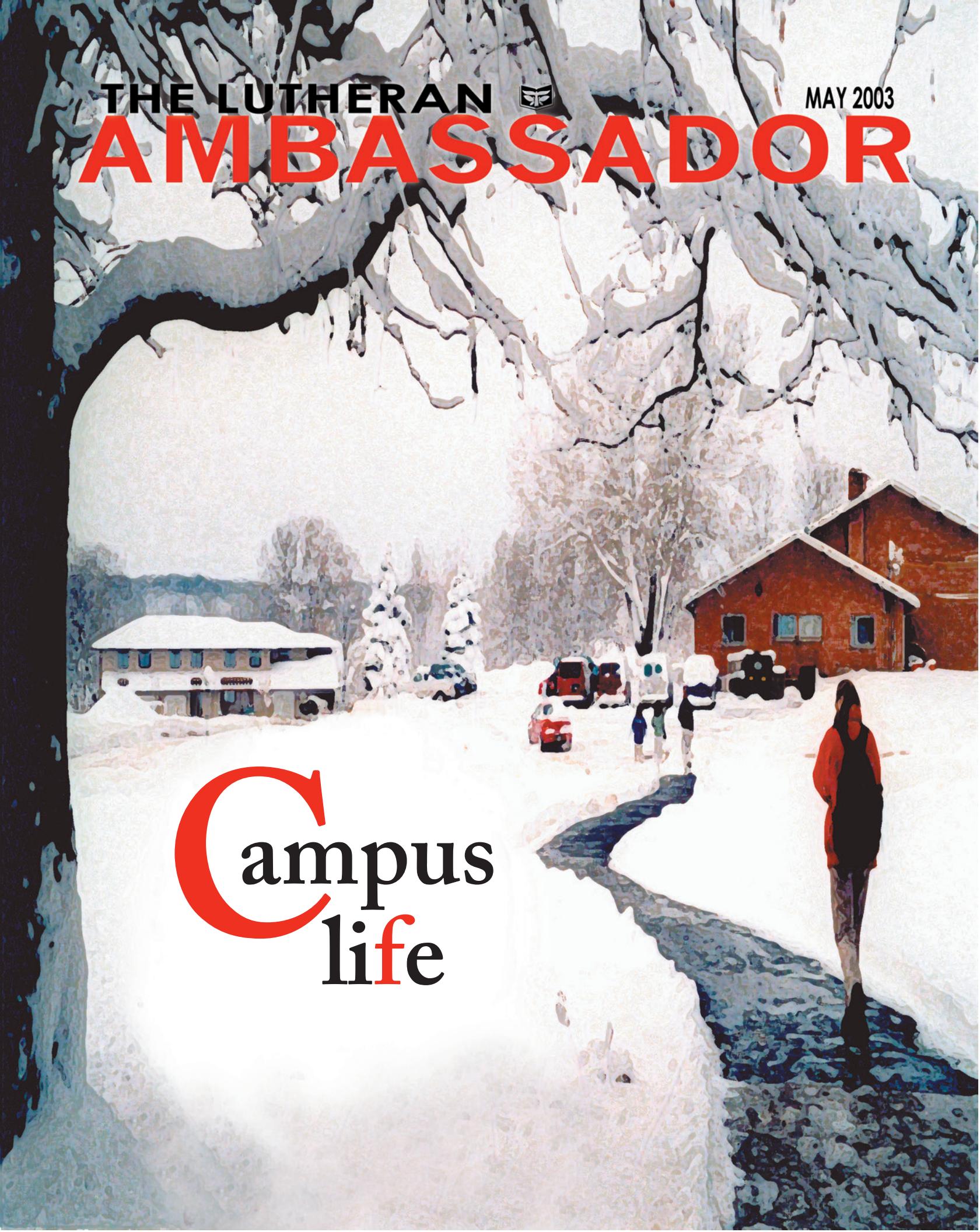


THE LUTHERAN  
**AMBASSADOR**

MAY 2003

Campus  
life



# THE LUTHERAN AMBASSADOR

January 2003  
Volume 41, Number 5



The magazine of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations, 3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441. 763-545-5631

**Editor:** Rev. Craig Johnson

**Assistant to the Editor:** Ruth Gunderson

**Editorial Board:** Rev. John Mundfrom, Oryen Benrud, Rev. Jerry Moan, Rev. James L. Johnson.

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### The Lutheran Ambassador

(USPS 588-620 ISSN 0746-3413)  
is published monthly by the Association of  
Free Lutheran Congregations.

### For editorial inquiries and information:

The Lutheran Ambassador, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441; 763-545-5631; fax 763-545-0079; e-mail craigj@teleport.com  
ruthg@aflc.org

**For subscription changes and information:** *The Lutheran Ambassador*, 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441. 763-545-5631 or e-mail at luthamb@aflc.org

### Subscriptions rates:

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

Periodicals 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

# ENCOURAGING Word

## Do you have questions?

**A** story is told of a woman who was hosting a celebration at her home. She was busy preparing the food when her guests arrived. One of the guests noticed that before the hostess put the ham into the oven she cut the end of it off. When the guest

asked why she did this, she said it was the way her mother had always done it. The guest went to the mother and asked the same question. She responded that it was the way her mother had always done it. The guest went to the grandmother and repeated the question. Grandma responded, "I cut the end off so it would fit in the pan."

How many times do we do things a certain way because that's the way we have always done it without knowing the reason why? Traditions are important and they provide a lot of security and comfort. But when it comes to spiritual matters, we need to know why we believe what we do.

Who do we go to with our questions?

First, and most importantly, we need to ask God our questions. We begin prayer by asking God to open our eyes and our understanding through the power of the Holy Spirit. John 16:13 tells us that the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth.

Second, we need to search for answers in the Bible. A good concordance will help here. The Bible is God's Word from Genesis through Revelation, and you can trust what God says. God gives us words of hope

and guidance that will not fail. It's important to not stop at reading just one verse. Read the verses prior to the selected verse and those following, which help to put the verse into context. By taking a verse out of context, it can mean almost anything. The Bible must speak for itself.

Third, we need to recognize that the Bible doesn't contradict itself. If one verse appears to say one thing and another verse appears to give a different answer, dig further into the Scripture to find out who the verses were written to — believers or unbelievers — and then find out the circumstances under which the verses were written. This is also an excellent opportunity to discuss your questions and thoughts with your pastor and other Christians.

Sometimes we are embarrassed by our questions. We feel that if we have questions about spiritual matters, we lack faith. Sometimes we feel like we should just trust and not ask. But I disagree. If my children have questions about the way I do things, I want them to feel free to come to me and ask why. That's part of how we grow as a family. As Christians, we are part of God's family and it's important that we feel free to come to Him with our questions as well as to each other. That's how we grow in our relationship with God and with each other. God will welcome you as you turn to Him.

Three generations cut the end of the ham off before they put it in the oven. Only one generation knew the reason behind that action. Do you know what you believe and why? God invites you to come and spend time with Him.

May God bless you.



**Kerwin Sletto**  
Ottawa, Ill.

# Our President Writes

## Constitutional questions

Q  
A

**T**his is a response that I offer many times when congregations ask me about joining the AFLC, a decision that usually involves withdrawing from their current affiliation. All congregations that submit resolutions of affiliation to our Coordinating Committee include copies of their church constitutions and bylaws, so that it is especially clear that there is doctrinal and structural harmony.

During the past months, however, it has been impressed upon me that this question must be asked of AFLC congregations, too.

Our "Fundamental Principles and Rules for Work," which define the structure and working procedures of the AFLC, state: "The AFLC consists of congregations which, in their constitutions, unreservedly subscribe to the ancient ecumenical symbols, Luther's Small Catechism, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, Fundamental Principles and Rules for Work of the AFLC, and report the same to the secretary of the Coordinating Committee" (Rules for Work No 4). Yet it was recently brought to my attention that some of our congregations' constitutions not only do not include a statement of affiliation and subscription to the "Fundamental Principles and Rules for Work," they do not even provide a process for affiliation.

There is also the matter of the pastor's affiliation. Most of our congrega-



**Robert Lee**  
President

tions include an article stating that the pastor must be in good standing on the clergy roster of the AFLC. We do not require this, of course, but it can be a helpful protection for the congregation in cases where church discipline should be applied. There are constitutions, however, stating only that the pastor must be on the AFLC clergy roster in order to be called to serve the congregation, which is no protection in cases where problems arise after the call has been accepted.

Last year I became aware of one congregation that was consistently violating their constitution in terms of the number of members required for a legal meeting. When challenged about this practice, the leaders responded that the quorum was too large for their current membership. The answer to this problem, of course, is not to violate the constitution but to amend it. Business transacted during illegal meetings is questionable, to put it mildly. A related concern is the matter of proxy ballots, which cannot be used in some states (Minnesota and North Dakota, for example) unless there is provision in the churches' bylaws.

The constitution and bylaws of a congregation are not obstacles to freedom but a protection of it. Every new member of a congregation, as well as every newly installed pastor, promises to abide by them, which surely emphasizes their importance.

Perhaps it's time to locate a copy of your congregation's constitution, dust off the cover, and get better acquainted with it. Perhaps it's time to be sure that we are faithfully following these important documents.

# A morning at BIBLE SCHOOL



**W**hat is a typical morning like at the Bible school? In a lot of ways, it's the same as when I attended in the early 1980s. We keep it simple. We study the Bible. We teach the truth. We pray, build relationships, equip believers, train leaders, and encourage workers.

Our students — most of them college-age — come to learn so they can leave to serve. But on a day-to-day basis, what does it look like? Let me offer three glimpses of the AFLBS on a cold February day.

## MINOR PROPHETS Seeing partial repentance in Israel

It's Tuesday morning, 8 a.m.

On one of the coldest weeks of winter, the sun shines over AFLBS on a crisp Minnesota morning, the prevailing northwest winds whipping across Medicine Lake toward the two residence halls on the top of the hill. The windows of the residence halls frost over in the corners. In the basement of the men's dorm, the Concert Choir practices. Two sopranos wear gloves. Across the 23-acre campus, Pastor Peter Franz lectures to 40 students in the cafeteria. Six students retain their coats. Forty other seniors are working their way through I Thessalonians. But even on a cold morning in February, as the cafeteria heats up later that

morning, the teacher props open the door to the hallway for ventilation.

Many students are in place for morning devotions at 7:50 a.m., where a female student reads Acts 19 from the front of the classroom. Scripture reading and prayer run overtime, to 8:02 a.m., then Pastor Franz comes to the podium, flicks on the overhead projector and opens the class with an acappella praise song, "Glorify Thy Name."

*Father, we love thee, we praise thee, we adore thee, Glorify Thy name in all the earth ...*

It's Minor Prophets class. More than 40 AFLBS seniors sit at cafeteria tables — four students sneak in three minutes late during the worship song. By 8:04 a.m., most of their winter coats hang from the backs of their metal folding chairs, their NASB or NIV Bibles and a King James or two are open, and a line of three-ring binders and spiral notebooks are spread on the four-by-eight tables.

Pastor Franz opens to Hosea 6, where the prophet says, "Come, let us return to the Lord, For He has torn us, but He will heal us; He has wounded us, but He will bandage us." Pastor Franz, the pastor at Grace Free Lutheran in Maple Grove, teaches two sections of Minor Prophets, first and third hour



**Jim Johnson**  
**AFLBS dean**

today. Says Franz, "God is saying here, 'What can I do with you, O Ephraim ... What can I do with you, O Judah?'" Then he refers to verse 4, "Your loyalty (NIV says "love") is like the morning mist." He pauses, "Their repentance was only outward, here now and gone later."

He stops again. "Can we be guilty of the same?"

When Pastor Franz asks students to list how Christians give partial or temporary repentance, they list the following ways:

- Superficial religion ("My dad would call it religiosity," says Pastor Franz).
- Sunday morning Christians ("Going to church on Sunday, living like a pagan the rest of the week").
- Confessing sins but taking no measures to run from temptations.
- Taking communion without examining your heart.

The teacher moves students through chapter one and onto Hosea 7:2, "They do not consider that I remember all their deeds."

Students nod their heads.

"We're not talking about pagans here," says Pastor Franz, "we're talking about God's people. Remember that sin hardens and sin blinds. As you continue in sin, you begin to become like Israel, where sin is no big deal anymore ... God is gracious, God is merciful, yes. But everyone will deal with their own sin. We're not immune. The Israelites were blind. They didn't know that God would deal with them. But God says, 'I remember.'"

Students are wide-awake.

## CONCERT CHOIR Mr. Nelson gives them Jesus

The AFLBS Choir gathers for second hour in the basement of the men's residence hall, the choir's rehearsal quarters since 1975. The same plastic panels funnel the sound as they have since former director Don Rodvold placed them there the year the men's dorm opened.

You walk in and sit in the corner. Director Jerry Nelson stands before 44 students, juniors and seniors, every eye closed. A student has finished a short devotion, (it was pretty good, too) and now four or five others are praying sentence prayers, asking the Lord to prepare them for practice ... for the mini-tour to northern Michigan ... for the tour to the West Coast in April ... for the rest of the semester ... for spiritual life.

When a bass named Matt says the final "Amen," choir members stretch and Mr. Nelson strides to the piano at his left, leading the choir into verbal

calisthenics: "Ya-ow-miah, ya-ow-maih-ooooooo." Up and down scales, Bible students slide and climb and yawn and stretch before Nelson leads them into a quiet rehearsal of "O Day Full of Grace." It's a hymn written by Nicolai Grundtvig, a Dane, and Lutheran choirs have been singing it for decades. Written before 1872, the hymn still sounds fresh. You



worship. You're glad to hear them repeat it. You sing the first line 20 times, the rest of the day.

*O day full of grace, which we behold,  
Now gently to view ascending.*

After Grundtvig's hymn, the choir bounces through a black spiritual for the next 12 minutes, "He Is Worthy To Be Praised" by Byron J. Smith. You smile. You envision "Sister Act II." You start humming. Students smile and sway just an inch, a left-to-right motion that betrays AFLBS' predominantly Scandinavian heritage. But their true joy in Christ reveals itself, even to Free Lutherans in the Midwest. You hum more loudly.

Mr. Nelson closes the rehearsal with the acappella spiritual that has come to define AFLBS music, "Give Me Jesus." You can tell that for Nelson, the AFLBS director since 1991, rehearsing this song is no exercise. It's not just music. It's a life message for Nelson. It's a theme song for AFLBS.

*When I am alone,  
O when I am alone,  
When I am alone,  
Give me Jesus.*

**See AFLBS, page 8**



# AS THE SEMINARY GOES

**“A**s the seminary goes, so goes the church.” Is this oft-repeated sentiment correct? Does the statement assume a greater influence of a seminary upon congregations than is warranted? Does it underestimate the strength and resiliency of congregations to retain their doctrinal convictions regardless of differing teachings espoused by their seminary? On the other hand, does it suggest too great an expectation of the difference a seminary can make as a catalyst for spiritual life and growth in congregations?

The answer to these questions revolves around the biblical description of the role of pastors. And what is that role? The chief calling of every pastor is expressed in the thrice-repeated commission of our Lord, “Feed my sheep” (John 21:15-17) and echoed in turn by Peter (I Peter 5:2). This “feeding” is realized in the faithful preaching and teaching of the Word of God (II Timothy 4:2-5). It is this central calling that characterizes the essential role of true pastors. It is through the ministry of the Word that our Lord’s gift of pastor equips the congregation for mutual edification unto the goal of spiritual maturity in Him (Ephesians 4:11-16).

It is this primary function of faithful preaching and teaching of the Word of God that has the most direct relation to the training the pastor has received. If the pastor has studied at a seminary that holds to the full inspiration and absolute authority of Scripture; if he has been taught the vital importance of rightly dividing the law and the gospel; if he has



**Dr. Francis  
Monseth  
Dean, FLS**

been convinced by his mentors of the primacy of the gospel as a means of grace; if he has been brought to the realization of the Holy Spirit’s inseparable ministry through the Word of God; if he has accepted the reality that every person is in desperate need of the new birth because of his or her lost and sinful condition; if he has been shown that Spirit-wrought repentance and faith are indispensable requisites for salvation; if he has learned that there is salvation in Jesus Christ alone, it will all make a dramatic and powerful impact in his ministry.

What difference will such evangelical training make? It will mean that a pastor from such a seminary will be one who spends much time in prayerful preparation for preaching and teaching. The primacy of the Word will affect the priorities of his daily schedule as well as the content of all his ministrations in the congregation. He will be a pastor whose greatest concern will be the spiritual life of his congregation. He will be an inquirer as to the personal relationship of his parishioners to Christ. He will earnestly seek the conversion of each one as well as the spiritual growth and maturity of those who are saved. He will help to equip his congregation for effective evangelistic outreach into the community. He will emphasize the cause of missions, at home and abroad. He will be a servant of Christ as he selflessly serves the congregation, all this in prayerful dependence upon the ministry of the Holy Spirit through the Word.

If a seminary has the potential for such dynamic and far-reaching effects upon its ministerial students, it is obvious that a congregation should have a deep and abiding interest in its program and in its professors. Its future pastors will come from that



# SO GOES THE CHURCH

seminary. The questions must be asked continually and insistently: Is the seminary "holding fast the faithful Word" (Titus 1:9)? Are the instructors faithful in "rightly dividing the Word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15)? Are they godly examples to their students in word and deed (I Timothy 4:12-16)? Is the instruction effective in equipping men for faithful and fruitful ministry (II Timothy 2:2)? Are the students prayerfully and carefully examined as to their readiness for ministry as they complete their studies (I Timothy 5:22)? Is the seminary fulfilling its original charter (Jude 3)?

What can a congregation do to help ensure that its seminary will remain faithful to its original mission? First of all and most of all, it can pray much for its seminary. I am convinced that the main reason why our seminary has not succumbed to the ever-present and deadly effects of liberal theology is the prayers of God's people. The reality of spiritual warfare is readily apparent as a Bible-believing seminary seeks to accomplish its God-given mission. Students, staff and faculty are faced daily with struggles and trials that can only be attributed to the "old malignant foe." Prayer to Almighty God has made and continues to make a tremendous difference.

Another way a congregation can "watch over" its seminary is to keep in touch with what is happening. This could take the form of inquiry and conversation with its Board of Trustees, administration, staff and students. It could mean visiting the seminary occasionally to sit in on classes or even attending a summer institute of theology on the campus. It might also include inviting students and faculty to visit the congregation to preach or teach.

Certainly the Annual Conference gives a congre-

gation an effective voice in guiding the ongoing ministry of the seminary. Hearing the reports relating to the seminary as well as discussing, introducing and voting on resolutions relating to its work are some of the opportunities for positive influence. Taking part in the election of nominees to the seminary corporation also has a direct effect on the future of the seminary as its board is selected from the corporation. The congregation has a great opportunity at the Annual Conference for significant impact on the ministry of the seminary.

It does not take a perceptive analyst to note the spiritual decline of most of the mainline denominational seminaries in our time. Many of these institutions trace their origins to times of great spiritual awakening and revival. With their declension have come invariably the inroads of liberal theology into the sponsoring denominations. It is with great sadness that we observe that liberalism in its various forms has "won the day" in so many church bodies across our land and around the world. "As the seminary goes, so goes the church."

The centrality of the office of preaching in a congregation's midst as well as the sobering lessons from history should call a congregation to renewed vigilance over its seminary. It must not take for granted that all is necessarily well at the seminary. The seminary is an "arm" of the congregation. It is a ministry of the congregation and is dependent upon it for its existence, its direction and its sustenance. A congregation must not ignore its responsibilities toward the seminary nor the opportunities and blessings this relationship offers and provides. "As the seminary goes, so goes the church."



*Give me Jesus,  
Give me Jesus,  
You can have all the rest,  
Give me Jesus.*

## PASTORAL LETTERS

### Seeing souls as your 'joy and crown'

Meanwhile, during fourth hour in the cafeteria, 47 more students have made the trek from the residence halls to **Pastoral Letters** class. A third of the students wipe the frost off their glasses. Their faces are pink. More than 10 students carry a fresh spot of coffee or a splash of hot chocolate in stainless steel or plastic commuter cups.

They study **I Thessalonians 2:8**, "Having such a fond affection for you, we were well pleased to impart to you not only the gospel of God, but also our own lives, because you had become very dear to us."

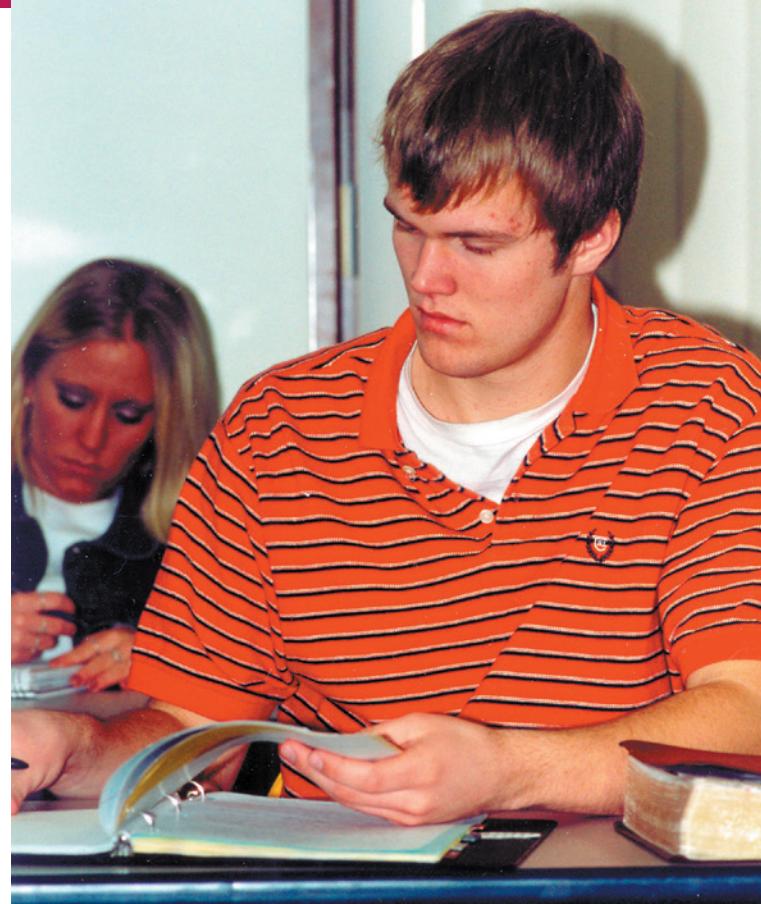
The class studies **about a chapter a day**, taking a few minutes today to review the Greek alphabet. For the rest of the hour students explore Paul's letter to believers in Thessalonica, written approximately 51 A.D. Students spend several minutes alone, diagramming the text on a blue worksheet. They place triangles around the word "God," squares around each "you" and circles around each "I" and "we." They also draw a horn around the word "gospel" in verses 7-13.

After 10 minutes, the teacher walks them through "five qualities of soul care" that appear in the chapter. Paul obviously loved his people — God's people. Students write down an outline that looks like this:

#### Five Qualities for Soul Care (I Thessalonians 2:7-13)

- I **Laid back** ("We proved to be gentle among you," says Paul in verse 7)
- II **Loving** ("Having so fond an affection for you," writes Paul in verse 8)
- III **Life-giving** ("We were well-pleased to impart to you not only the gospel ... but also our own lives," says Paul in verse 8).
- IV **Laying it on the line.** ("Exhorting, encouraging, imploring," says verse 11, "as a father would his ... children.")
- V **Logos-oriented.** It's a ministry based on the "word" (Greek: *Logos*) Verse 13 states that the Thessalonians received Paul's message, "not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God."

After analyzing, diagramming and considering



the text, students take several moments to jot down what the passage is saying to them. Among their reflections:

- God has been calling me to really lead a godly life and share the gospel with people, writes one student. Paul shared his life with people.
- Sometimes, writes another, when we proclaim the gospel we forget about also loving and cherishing our own brothers and sisters in Christ.
- Paul was willing to associate with the people on an intimate level of friendship and sharing, writes one student.
- We have the Holy Spirit to give us a gentle heart.

"As I share the gospel with those I meet," writes another, "I just pray that they don't see it as something fake, a sales pitch, or anything for my glory. The glory should go to the Lord. It's like it says in Isaiah 55, where His Word will not return void. It will accomplish the purpose that the Lord has for it."

At the end of the week, the **Pastoral Letters** students will need to hand in a worksheet covering most of **I Thessalonians**. The next week they will have a paper due. With another cold snap expected during the rest of the week, mostly below-zero temperatures and strong winds, there will be few distractions.



# Vision 2004 Funding

## Ingathering goal reached

**N**ow to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20).

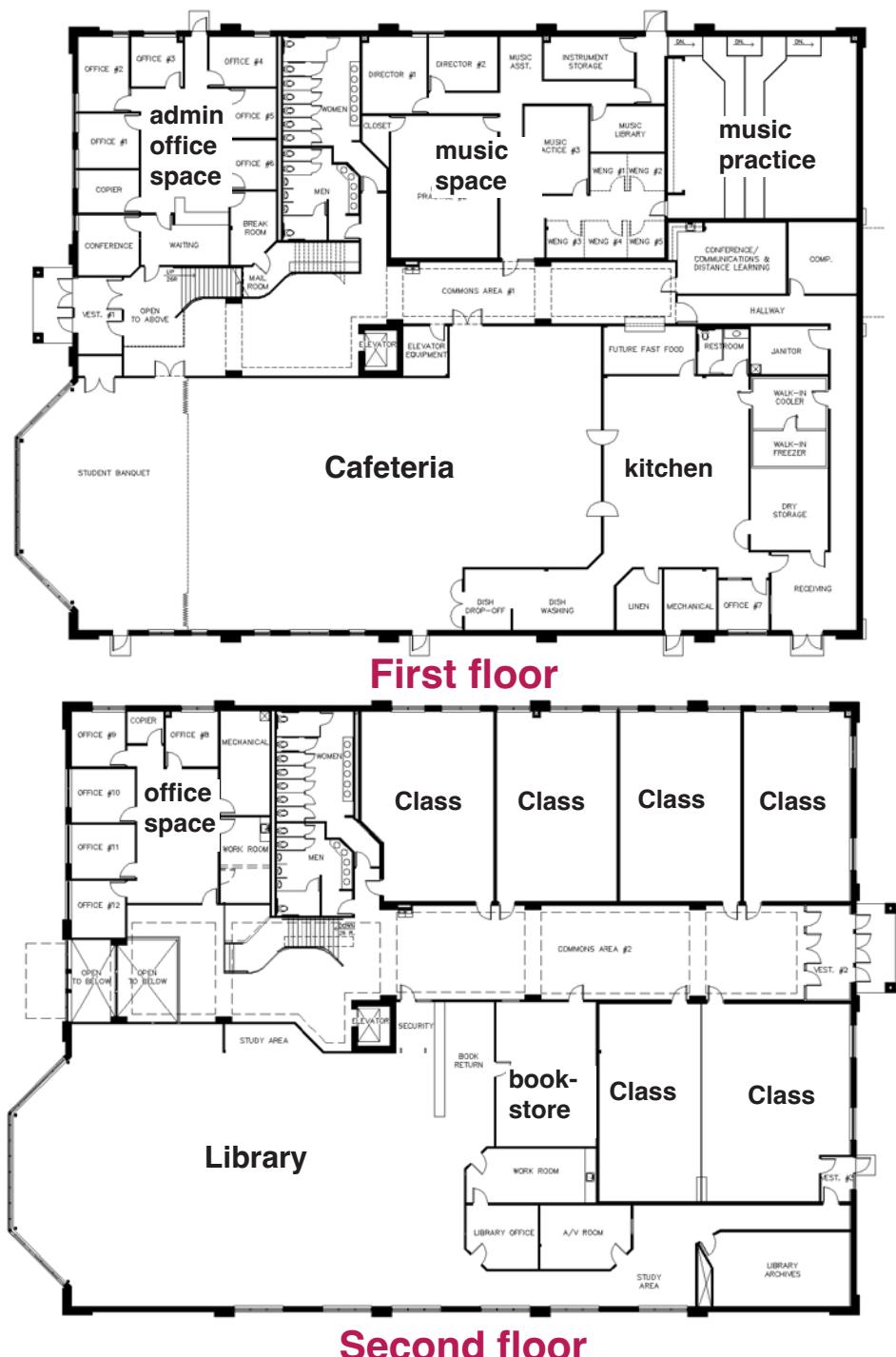
The AFLC Schools Vision 2004 project reports that as of April 1 more than \$2.6 million in cash and pledges have been raised. Praise the Lord! More gifts and pledges are anticipated as a result of the March ingathering, which have not yet been received. The funding meets the necessary level needed before a loan can be obtained to begin construction on the student center.

The Schools Corporation must vote to move ahead with the project. Also, city permits must be obtained.

The cost of constructing the new student center, now established by sworn bids from the contractor, is \$3.5 million, with the master plan for the campus estimated at \$11 million.

Pray for Schools Corporation members who will be making decisions over the next weeks for the building project of the AFLC Schools. Questions may be directed to the Vision 2004 office at 763-412-2004.

Thrivent gift matching is available to individual policyholders of AAL and LB. Eligible participants (members aged 16 or older who own a Thrivent Financial product) may give two gifts per year to different qualified institutions. The member gift giving range is \$50-\$400.



Thrivent Financial will contribute 50 cents for every dollar that a member donates, in accordance with program guidelines. (Thrivent Financial has committed \$20 million in support of this program but if this program exceeds the commit-

ted amount, individual's gifts may not be supported.)

To give to Vision 2004, make your check (and Thrivent form) out to one of the AFLC schools, either AFLTS or AFLBS with Vision 2004 in the check memo line.

# FORTY ONE



**AFLC Annual Conference      Brookings, S.D.      June 11-15**

## *"An Open Door"*

### **Wednesday, June 11**

9:00 a.m. The conference committees meet for devotions, instructions and room assignments.  
8:00 p.m. The opening service of the conference with the sermon on the text by Dr. Paul Cedar, Palm Desert, Calif. The service leader is Pastor Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, S.D. AFLC President Pastor Robert Lee will open the conference and appoint necessary committees.

### **Thursday, June 12**

7:30 a.m. Vision 2004 Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. Devotions: Pastor Jim Christenson, Abercrombie, N.D.  
Report of the Credentials Committee  
Adoption of the Conference Agenda  
Election of the Nominating Committee for the 2004 conference  
The President's Report  
Report of the Chairman of the Coordinating Committee, Pastor Kenneth Moland, Kirkland, Wash.  
Report of the Director of Development and AFLC Foundation, Jon Galland, Minneapolis  
Reports of Chaplaincy Ministries  
Pastor Kerwin Sletto, Ottawa, Ill.  
Pastor Tim Skramstad, Zumbrota, Minn.  
Report of the Director of the ARC  
Eric Westlake, Osceola, Wis.  
Financial Report, AFLC Bookkeeper  
Andrew Anderson, New Hope, Minn.  
Report of the Family Bible Camps  
Lake Bronson — Treasurer, Sonja Balmer, Thief River Falls, Minn.  
Wilderness — Treasurer, Jon Dryburgh, Grafton, N.D.  
Report of the Budget Analysis Committee  
Tim Berntson, Buffalo, N.D.  
Report of the Nominating Committee, always in order

Election of nominees for the Missions, Schools and ARC Corporations

Report of Committee No.1 (Administration)  
11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour Leader: Pastor Ted Berkas, Wallace, S.D.

Noon Builders Fellowship Luncheon  
Chaplains Luncheon  
(Institutional, military, police & fire)  
Partners in Mission Outreach annual meeting

1:30 p.m. Devotions: Pastor Lynn Qualm, Laurel, Neb.  
Report of Credentials Committee  
Election Procedures

Elections  
Vice President — one-year term  
Secretary — one-year term

Selection of nominees to the Home Missions Committee: 1 pastor, 1 layman;  
World Missions Committee: 1 pastor, 1 layman;  
Board of Trustees: 1 pastor, 1 layman;  
ARC Board: 1 layman

Continuing discussion of Committee No.1  
Election of nominees to the Coordinating Committee — 1 pastor

Election of Committee No.1 for the 2004 Conference

5:30 p.m. Schools Corporation Annual Meeting  
8:00 p.m. Mission Festival Service conducted by the Women's Missionary Federation  
Speaker: Pastor Paul Abel, missionary to Curitiba, Brazil

### **Friday, June 13**

7:00 a.m. Missions Corporation Annual Meeting  
9:00 a.m. Devotions: Pastor Kent Sperry, DeKalb, Ill.  
Report of the Credentials Committee  
Report of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Dan Mundfrom, Greeley, Colo.  
Report of the Dean of the Seminary, Dr. Francis Monseth, Rogers, Minn.

	Report of the Dean of the Bible School, Pastor James L. Johnson, Plymouth, Minn.	Youth, Pastor Jason Holt, Fergus Falls, Minn.
	Report of Vision 2004	Report of Youth Ministries Director, Pastor Kevin Olson, Savage, Minn.
	Report of Committee No.2 (Schools)	Report of Committee No.4 (Publications, Parish Education and Youth Work)
	Election of Committee No.2 for the 2004 Conference	Election of member to the Board of Publications and Parish Education — 1 layman
	Report of Schools Corporation Annual Meeting	Election of members to the Youth Board — 1 layman
11:30 a.m.	Prayer Hour — Pastor Ted Berkas	Election of Committee No.4 for the 2004 Conference
Noon	The ARC Corporation Annual Meeting	11:30 a.m. Prayer Hour — Pastor Ted Berkas
1:30 p.m.	Devotions: Pastor Dan Brue, Windom, Minn.	Noon AFLC Foundation Lunch
	Report of the Credentials Committee	1:30 p.m. Devotions: Pastor Wade Mobley, Laguna Woods, Calif.
	Report of the Chairman of the World Missions Committee, Pastor Jeff Swanson, Newark, Ill.	Report of Credentials Committee
	Report of the Director of World Missions, Pastor Del Palmer, Shakopee, Minn.	Report of the Chairman of the Stewardship Board, Pastor Mark Antal, Leeds, N.D.
	Report of Partners in Mission Outreach Board, President, Kenneth Sletten, Duluth, Minn.	Report of the Chairman of the Board of Pensions, Glenn Espe, Thief River Falls
	Report of the Chairman of the Home Missions Committee, Pastor Stephen Mundfrom, Arlington, S.D.	Report of Committee No.5 (Stewardship & Pensions)
	Report of the Director of Home Missions, Pastor Paul Nash, Brooklyn Park, Minn.	Election of member to the Stewardship Board — 1 pastor
	Report of FLAPS Executive Director, Lavon Bohling, Golden Valley, Minn.	Election of member to the Board of Pensions — 1 layman
	Report of the Chairman of the Commission on Evangelism, Gene Quist, Bloomington, Minn.	Election of Committee #5 for the 2004 Conference
	Report of the Director of Evangelism, Pastor James Rasmussen, Maple Grove, Minn.	Report of the Secretary of the Colloquy Committee, Pastor Peter Franz
	Report of Committee No.3 (Missions and Evangelism)	Election of Colloquy Committee for the 2004 Conference
	Report of Missions Corporation Annual Meeting	Report of special committees
	Election of member to the Commission on Evangelism — 1 layman	Election of 2 members to the Budget Analysis Committee — three-year term
	Election of Committee No.3 for the 2004 Conference	Report of Committee No.1 as the Committee on General Resolutions
5:30 p.m.	Pastors' Banquet	Other Reports
	Speaker: Dallas Anderson, Mission America	5:30 p.m. Youth Banquet
8:00 p.m.	Laymen's Service	8:00 p.m. Youth Night at the Conference Speaker: Cory Buck, Plymouth, Minn.
	Leader: Paul Kneeland, Kalispell, Mont.	
	Speaker: Steve Jankord, Sioux Falls, S.D.	
<b>Saturday, June 15</b>		
9:00 a.m.	Devotions: Pastor Al Sather, Pukwana, S.D.	
	Report of the Credentials Committee	
	Report of the Chairman of the Board of Publications and Parish Education, Pastor Martin Horn, Fosston, Minn.	
	Report of the Director of Parish Education, Marian Christopherson, Crystal, Minn.	
	Report of the Chairman of the Youth Board, Pastor Lloyd Quanbeck, Minot, N.D.	
	Report of the President of the Free Lutheran	
		<b>Sunday, June 16</b>
		8:00 a.m. Communion Service
		Leader: Pastor Wayne Hjermstad, Bruce, S.D.
		Speaker: Pastor Joel Rolf, Valley City, N.D.
		10:30 a.m. Worship Service
		Leader: Pastor Steve Mundfrom, Arlington, S.D.
		Speaker: Pastor Robert Lee
		<b>Conference Committee</b>
		Rev. Robert Lee, President
		Rev. Brian Davidson, Secretary

# nominations

## Names presented to the 2003 Conference by the Nominating Committee

\* Incumbents

### Nominating Committee

Frank Cherney, Duluth, Minn. — Lake Superior  
Wayne Deubner, Brockton, Mont. — Western North Dakota/Eastern Montana  
Gene Finstrom, Buxton, N.D. — Eastern North Dakota  
Ken Graham, Camarillo, Calif. — Southwestern  
Solveig Hjermstad, Bruce, S.D. — South Dakota  
Willis Kettelhut, Deshler, Neb. — Nebraska/Colorado  
Pastor Terry Olson, Thief River Falls, Minn. — Northwestern Minnesota  
Pastor Gerald Peterson, Oklahoma City, Okla. — South Central  
Pastor Tom Schierkolk, Eben Junction, Mich. — Northern Michigan  
Paul Strand, Kenyon, Minn. — Central Tri-State  
Raymond Stromstad, Beltrami, Minn. — North Central Minnesota  
Eric Westlake, Osceola, Wis. — Minneapolis  
Art Wilson, Pittsburgh, Pa. — Eastern

### Coordinating Committee

(One pastor, five-year term)  
Pastor Gary Jorgenson, Durant, Okla.  
\*Pastor Ken Moland, Kirkland, Wash.

### AFLC Schools Board of Trustees

(One layman, one pastor — five-year term)  
Pastor Stephen Snipstead, Kalispell, Mont.  
\*Pastor Mark Olson, Tioga, N.D.  
\*Brent Peterson, Brookings, S.D.  
John Presteng, Grafton, N.D.

### World Missions Committee

(One layman, one pastor — five-year terms)  
Ken Graham, Camarillo, Calif.  
Kevin Olson, Shakopee, Minn.  
Pastor Gerald Peterson, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
Pastor Craig Wentzel, Edmore, N.D.

### Home Missions Committee

(One layman, one pastor — five-year terms)  
Paul Slaamot, Tioga, N.D.

\*Eldwyn Van Bruggen, Valley City, N.D.

Note: Because of an imbalance of pastors and laymen on this committee, the pastor's term may be replaced with a layman.

### Stewardship Board

(One pastor, five-year term)  
Pastor Donald Norr, Virginia, Minn.  
Pastor Dennis Gray, Newfolden, Minn.

### Board of Publications and Parish Education

(One layman, five-year term)  
Evonne Skramstad, Eagan, Minn.  
\*Loiell Dyrud, Thief River Falls, Minn.

### Youth Board

(One layman, five-year term)  
Erik Christianson, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Luke Long, Arlington, Wash.

### Board of Pensions

(One layman, five-year term)  
David Bjornson, Valley City, N.D.  
\*LeRoy Sletten, Larimore, N.D.

### Commission on Evangelism

(One layman, five-year term; one pastor, three-year term)  
Dean Hobelmann, Republic, Kansas  
Doug Niesen, Cloquet, Minn.  
Pastor Jim Johnson, Fertile, Minn.  
Pastor Mike Burke, Ishpeming, Mich.

### ARC Board

(One layman, five-year term)  
\*Dr. Steven Johnson, Upsala, Minn.  
Roger Timm, Wilson, Wis.

### Missions Corporation

(20 terms of five years each)  
\*Pastor Mark Antal, Park River, N.D.  
Wilson Bamesberger, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Joe Bottem, Woodinville, Wash.  
Pastor John Chandler, Amarillo, Texas  
\*Robert Christian, Newark, Ill.  
\*Ken Cleek, Palmdale, Calif.  
\*Pastor Eugene Enderlein, Plymouth, Minn.

\*Pastor Peter Franz, Maple Grove, Minn.  
Pastor James Gerdeen, Springfield, Mo.  
Pastor Gerald Gettis, Mesa, Ariz.  
\*Pastor Richard Gilmore, Onalaska, Wis.  
Larry Gustafson, Thief River Falls, Minn.  
\*Suzanne Hass, Zumbrota, Minn.  
\*Pastor Philip Haugen, Crystal, Minn.  
Randy Hinderaker, Radcliffe, Iowa  
\*Pastor Jerry Holmaas, Brooklyn Park, Minn.  
\*David Jameson, Earlville, Ill.  
\*Erma Jochum, Bridgeville, Pa.  
Willis Kettelhut, Deshler, Neb.  
Dwight Kiefert, Valley City, N.D.  
\*Carol Knapp, Willmar, Minn.  
\*Pastor George Knapp, Willmar, Minn.  
Paul Kyllo, Kasson, Minn.  
\*Clyde Lundgren, Bethel Park, Pa.  
Lester Mickelson, Tioga, N.D.  
\*Pastor Elden Nelson, Kandiyohi, Minn.  
\*Pastor Jerome Nikunen, Bertand, Neb.  
Todd Rasmussen, Hawley, Minn.  
LeRoy Schierkolk, Prairie Farm, Wis.  
\*Pastor Tom Schierkolk, Eben Junction, Mich.  
Eugene Schmit, Salinas, Calif.  
Robert Schwartz, Brookings, S.D.  
Pastor Larry Severson, Roseau, Minn.  
\*Pastor Tim Skramstad, Eagan, Minn.  
Pastor Warren Swanson, Tucson, Ariz.  
\*Grace Syverson, Tioga, N.D.  
LaVern Thompson, Fergus Falls, Minn.  
\*Darrell Tungseth, Fergus Falls, Minn.  
Tim Urbaniak, Argyle, Minn.  
Lowell Varness, Ottawa, Ill.

#### **ARC Corporation**

(10 terms of five years each)  
\*Arne Anderson, Dassel, Minn.  
\*Dale Bentley, Mounds View, Minn.  
David Blake, Ontonagon, Mich.  
\*Pastor Michael Brandt, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Kathy Carlson, Amery, Wis.  
\*Ernie Hilbert, Wheatland, Iowa  
Eric Knuutila, South Range, Mich.  
Clifford Johnson, Esko, Minn.  
\*Pastor David Johnson, Amery, Wis.  
Larry Johnson, Amery, Wis.  
\*Dr. Steve Johnson, Upsala, Minn.  
Dan Larson, Savage, Minn.  
Ken Lehmann, Milford, Ill.  
Jesse Long, Arlington, Wash.  
Brad Nelson, Kandiyohi, Minn.  
\*Dan Nelson, Kandiyohi, Minn.

#### **Schools Corporation**

(10 terms of five years each)  
\*Pastor Jon Benson, Upsala, Minn.  
\*Arne Berge, Binford, N.D.

Gary Buentemeier, Northhome, Minn.  
J.R. Cornish, Lake Stevens, Wash.  
\*Pastor Bruce Dalager, Grand Forks, N.D.  
Nathan Dalager, Aryle, Minn.  
Selvin (Buddy) Erickson, Roseau, Minn.  
Michael Feil, Zumbrota, Minn.  
Steve Jankord, Sioux Falls, S.D.  
\*Pastor Craig Johnson, Astoria, Ore.  
\*Pastor Gary Jorgenson, Durant, Okla.  
\*Pastor James Molstre, Pittsburgh, Pa.  
\*Pastor John Mundfrom, Eugene, Ore.  
Nathaniel Olson, Fargo, N.D.  
\*Pastor Brian Pearson, Montgomery, Ill.  
\*Ralph Peterson, Portland, N.D.  
Dale Posey, Snohomish, Wash.  
John Rognlie, Fargo, N.D.  
Greg Schmitke, Glyndon, Minn.

## **Committees**

### **Nominations to the 2004 conference**

#### **Committee No.1 (Administrative)**

Pastor Ken Hart, Greenbush, Minn.  
Pastor Wayne Hjermstad, Bruce, S.D.  
Willis Kettelhut, Deshler, Neb.  
David Jameson, Earlville, Ill.  
Jason Norlien, Amery, Wis.

#### **Committee No.2 (Schools)**

Jon Dryburgh, Grafton, N.D.  
Pastor Tim Johnson, Fertile, Minn.  
Nathaniel Olson, Fargo, N.D.  
Marlin Benrud, Goodhue, Minn.  
Paul Handsaker, Radcliffe, Iowa

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

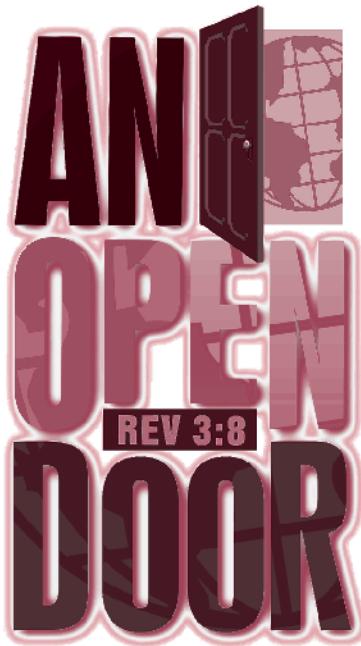
Pastor Allen Arneson, Ottawa, Ill.  
Pastor Larry Haagenson, Loveland, Colo.  
Harvey Matheson, Amery, Wis.  
Roger Timm, Wilson, Wis.  
Vernon Russum, Grafton, N.D.

#### **Committee No.4 (Publications & Parish Education)**

Pastor Earl Korhonen, Cumberland, Wis.  
Dee Berkas, Wallace, S.D.  
Pastor Mark Antal, Park River, N.D.  
Julie McCarlson, Webster, S.D.  
Helene Olson, Camarillo, Calif.

#### **Committee No. 5 (Pensions and Stewardship)**

Al Twedt, Portland, N.D.  
Marcia Pavesi, Bethel Park, Pa.  
James Rolf, Brandon, Minn.  
Pastor Ray Ballman, Kopperl, Texas  
Pastor Craig Benson, Radcliffe, Iowa



# 2003 Annual Conference

June 11-15 Brookings Area Multiplex, Brookings, S.D.

## HOSTED BY:

Grace Lutheran, Bruce, S.D.  
(605) 627-5445  
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Sioux Falls, S.D.  
Christ the King Free Lutheran,  
Pipestone, Minn.

### REGISTRATION FEES

With one copy of Annual Report  
**\$30 Single or \$40 couple**  
**Plus cost of meals**  
Make checks payable to AFLC  
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Registrations received after June 1 must  
add a \$5 late fee.

Complete form below

Circle one

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ pastor/visiting pastor/lay delegate/lay visitor  
Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_ pastor/visiting pastor/lay delegate/lay visitor  
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Phone (D): \_\_\_\_\_ (E): \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

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Brookings Inn: (605) 692-9471

Comfort Inn: (605) 692-9666

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Oakwood Lakes State Park  
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Lake Poinsett Recreation Area  
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Visit [www.aflc.org](http://www.aflc.org) for more information

MEAL	COST	#	TOTAL
THURSDAY	Schools breakfast	\$4.50	
	Conference lunch	\$5.50	
	Chaplains lunch	\$5.50	
	Builders fellowship lunch	\$6.50	
	Schools Corp. dinner	\$8.50	
FRIDAY	Missions Corp. breakfast	\$4.50	
	Conference lunch	\$5.50	
	ARC Corp. lunch	\$7.85	
	Pastors banquet	\$12.25	
SAT	Foundation lunch	\$5.50	
	Youth banquet	\$5.00	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			
<b>Registration fee</b>			
<b>TOTAL</b>			

# WMF Constitutional Committee

**A**s we gather for our WMF Convention on June 11 in Brookings, S.D., we pray again for God's leading and blessing in all we do. Among the preparations for that day, we on the Constitution Committee have completed our work in reviewing the WMF Constitution. One can't study it without a great sense of gratitude for the faithfulness of those who wrote it. And our commission remains



Members of the Constitutional Standing Committee include (from left) Cheryl Skordahl, Phyllis Peterson, Dee Berkas and Dawn Johnson.

the same today, as God still calls us to "go into all the world ..." (Matthew 28:19).

In regards to the Constitution, we have prepared what we believe is a better writing of virtually the same document with the following exceptions:

## Revitalizing our WMF — A report

**D**uring the past two years, the WMF has been blessed to have a grant from Aid Association for Lutherans to address revitalization of our WMF.

What is revitalization, you may ask? I have been privileged to share with many groups. Many times, revitalization has become a topic of discussion. The question comes, "Is there something we can do to revitalize our WMF?"

It is evident that there is a hunger among them for a deeper relationship with the Lord. Only sharing with the women I meet about their woman's group or its organization does not bring about this hunger for Him.

I believe that what happens in our WMF is directly related to what is happening in one's per-

We are recommending the formation of an Advisory Committee, consisting of those currently serving as district presidents. Committee members would work with the National Board to review convention decisions, with the exception of the election of officers, to make sure that the decisions are workable and in line with the Constitution. The National Board may also seek committee members for advice throughout the year.

We are recommending lengthening the terms of office to three years. With the growth in our WMF comes a growth in officers' responsibilities. This change would make their service more effective as they become comfortably acquainted with their positions.

When you register at the convention, you will receive copies of the present and proposed Constitutions side-by-side, with explanations in a third column. Our business meeting begins at 8 a.m. According to our Constitution, we will present this proposal to you, but it will only go into effect if it is approved by a two-thirds vote at the convention in 2004.

Previous to the convention, you can expect to receive this side-by-side printout through the May/June "Helping Hands" publication, which is mailed out to each church's WMF President. Please feel free to copy and distribute them. Again, we encourage you to contact us if you have questions so that we can address them at the convention. We look forward to seeing many of you there!

— **Phyllis Peterson**  
*Constitution Committee*

sonal relationship with the Lord. If so, could revitalization in our WMF be a direct result of revival in our own personal lives?

The attendance counts that I receive show that participation in local WMFs, for the most part, has not declined. But it also has not increased. Have any new WMFs started or been re-established? There are WMFs that have taken definite steps to look at what is happening and to seek ways to improve it.

Financially, how has the Lord worked? Income comparisons show that in 2000 the total WMF income was \$121,058.80; in 2001, \$157,551.04; and in 2002, \$147,801.84.

— **Faith Nelson**  
*Women's Outreach Coordinator*

# Seeing Jesus in Brazil

**T**his past January I had the opportunity to travel to Brazil. While there I had contact with people at both ends of the age spectrum. I spent some time with the children of the Miriam Infant Home in Campo Mourão. The home is run by the AFLC-Brazil and takes in children who are without a home or have been removed from their homes for one reason or another.

I also visited in the home of a man named Nicodemus, an 82-year-old gentleman who lives

outside of Campo Mourão in the small town of Poema. For a number of years he has been a member of the AFLC congregation there.

The home where Nicodemus lives is simple and basic, like the town of Poema. The town, like many small towns in the United States, remembers

better days. Now the young people grow up and move to the big cities where the opportunities abound.

Nicodemus stays in Poema. It is home. It is certainly not a large and lavish place, but it is truly warm and friendly. You're greeted with a smile and a

handshake. You're welcomed as a special guest. You're introduced to his family and friends. You're invited to have some cake and coffee. You get caught up in his contagious laughter.

When I was told we were going to be visiting Nicodemus I wondered if we were going to have to wait till nightfall. In John 3 it tells of a man named Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night. He was curious about Jesus and wanted to learn more, but he was nervous about doing it in broad daylight.

That Nicodemus was a member of the Jewish ruling council, a man of power and influence. That's not the case with Nicodemus in Brazil, but Jesus doesn't care. He visits him just the same. Nicodemus of the ruling council and Nicodemus of Poema are equally loved by God and of equal importance to Him. And the Nicodemus of Poema is quite willing to be identified as a follower of Jesus.

As I was in Poema I was reminded that Jesus was there. The Lord says, "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit" (Isaiah 57:15). He was far above the Nicodemus of the ruling council, and is far greater than each of us. His grandeur overshadows any earthly palace. And yet He is willing to spend time with simple, ordinary people like you and me and Nicodemus of Brazil.

The high and holy One also spends time with abandoned children. At least Nicodemus has a home in Poema. Many children in Brazil are without a home. They have run away from abusive situations, possibly been abandoned by negligent parents, or sometimes authorities have taken them out of a dangerous environment. Some of these children then find a place at the Miriam Infant Home.

The children are small but their problems are big. Some were born to women who were prostitutes. Some are battling serious health problems. Some



**ABOVE:** A boy at the Miriam Infant Home opens a gift bag he received from members of Abiding Word Lutheran in Deshler, Neb.

**TOP RIGHT:** Nicodemus, who lives in Poema, is a longtime member of the congregation there. The church is near Campo Mourão, where Connely and Carolyn Dyrud work as missionaries.



**ABOVE:** A worker at the Miriam Infant Home in Campo Mourão watches over a pair of twin boys who recently came to live in the home.

have been unwanted and abused.

The kids of the home and one of the young ladies who cares for them were out in the yard playing one afternoon while I was in Brazil. I went over to take some pictures and shoot some video. As anybody who has attempted it knows, trying to take pictures of kids can be a challenge. It was no different with the kids that afternoon. They were running around, laughing, jumping around, and jumping on me. Pictures don't come out in the best of focus when you have a little kid hanging on your arm. Being in a picture sounded fun to them but I needed to take it quick. They didn't want to spend their precious playtime posing.

The playtime can go quickly, just like childhood can go by so fast. Sadly, for some of these kids childhood has already been rushing by too quickly. They've had to face very grownup challenges at a far too early age. They've lost out on some of those childhood opportunities of being cared for and protected, free from adult responsibilities, free to play.

Fortunately the Miriam Infant Home provides some children with those opportunities. Their time there can often be brief. Sometimes the home situation improves and the children are taken back. Sometimes the children are adopted out and placed

in a new home. Because the time might be short, the people at the home want to take advantage of every opportunity to let these children know by words and actions the love of Jesus.

It is tempting to consider what some of the children have gone through and then wonder how they can laugh and play. And yet, by the grace of God they can.

In a similar way, we who are part of such a materialistic society may look at Nicodemus' living situation and wonder how he can have such a smile on his face. By the grace of God it happens. The One from the high and holy place lives with the lowly in spirit. The Almighty is pleased to befriend and care for the weak.

Nicodemus and the children may face some challenges, but they're facing them with Jesus, and for that reason they are better off than someone with a large house and a big bank account but no relationship with the Lord.

Nicodemus and the children are ones we serve as God enables us. They are also ones we learn from as we see the difference Jesus makes, the joy God gives and the ways the Lord cares for His children.

— **Pastor Craig Johnson**  
**Editor**

# Missions Mexico

## Todd and Barb Schierkolk

Current MTI student Amy Hecker and graduate Amber Nelson spent three months in Jerez, Mexico, working with the AFLC missionaries Pastor Dan and Debby Giles and Pastor Todd and Barb Schierkolk. Both of them have been staying with a Mexican family here in Jerez and helping out with the ministry here in town.

Their main task has been helping with kid's club and English classes. They have also been tutoring several Mexican ladies here in town who are advanced English speakers. One of the highlights of their ministry was the English VBS they helped put on during Easter vacation. The week was designed for students in the English classes. Jerez has a large number of people who have family living in the United States, either under the green card system or as U.S. citizens. The main concentrations of people originally from Jerez are in Chicago, Denver and Los Angeles.

— *Pastor Todd Schierkolk*

## Darwin and Mary Ann Jackson

**I**t is time to say *adios* to our family and friends as our year of furlough comes to an end and we head south to Mexico to begin our second term.

The Mexican Lutheran Apostolic Alliance Church, which we work under, has asked us to start our second term on the border in Nogales, Sonora, to work with their two congregations there. We will spend about six months training the leaders in Evangelism Explosion (EE). For the remainder of our four-year term we will probably move to Mazatlan, Sinaloa, to work with the six congregations there, again training in EE.

Another focus of our ministry will be reaching the thousands of Indian migrant workers who come up from the south of Mexico every year to work in the fields. We visited the camps a few times during our first term, but we were working in another state 800 miles away so we only caught a glimpse of the ministry our other World Mission Prayer League missionaries were doing. The Indians live in camps and each family is given a 10-by-10' room to live in for their nine-month stay. It is too hot indoors, so they are usually outside seeking some relief from the heat. They have nowhere to go as fields surround them and they don't have any transportation. We learned that permission is needed from the guards to enter the camps. Thankfully, it is usually granted.

To reach them with the gospel we plan to offer a cassette tape of the Bible in their own Indian language. There are 150 languages. These cassettes were made by Gospel Recordings and are a



**Darwin and Mary Ann Jackson and their daughter Grace returned to missionary work under WMPL in April after a short furlough.**

summary of the whole Bible with a gospel presentation. We just purchased a video projector in answer to prayer so that we can show videos like the "JESUS Film" as another way to present the gospel. Previously, we used a television on the hood of our truck. Many more will be able to watch the

## On Furlough

Paul and Becky Abel are home on furlough through July 16.

Jonathan and Tamba Abel will be on furlough the fall of 2003 through the summer of 2004.

film. There is an estimated 250,000 migrant workers every year, most of whom have never heard the good news. Many have no Christian church or witness in the villages and towns they come from. We see these camps as a gold mine of opportunity to reach the yet unreached.

Will you partner with us these next four years by praying as we serve in the states of Sonora and Sinaloa? Pray for open doors for the gospel to go through and for open hearts to receive it. Sign up for our E-mail Prayer Partners list at [darwinwj@yahoo.com](mailto:darwinwj@yahoo.com).

Our mailing address will remain: Darwin and Mary Ann Jackson, 232 Clifton Ave. Mpls., MN 55403. We would love to get emails at [darwinwj@yahoo.co](mailto:darwinwj@yahoo.co).

# Foundation How to get involved

In my ministry as the AFLC director of Development, I have enjoyed traveling from congregation to congregation, visiting with individuals within these congregations as well as in their homes. I have the privilege of sharing information regarding all of the AFLC ministries. It really is wonderful to see what the Lord is doing in the common endeavors He has given to us.



**Jon Galland**  
Director,  
Development

As I meet with members I discuss how individuals may want to become more involved with any of the AFLC ministries. Praying for each of these ministries is most important. It is wonderful to know that we are able to bring our requests before the Lord and He will always answer us. We will not always receive the answer that we desire. However, the Lord works everything out for those who love

Him (Romans 8:28).

As we serve the Lord, we know He will supply our needs. We trust the Lord will continue to provide financially for each of the congregations as well as for our common endeavors. There are various means individuals may use to contribute to the financial needs in both the local congregation and other AFLC ministries.

One of these means is using a charitable gift annuity. Using a gift annuity enables individuals to give a financial gift to any AFLC ministry while receiving a lifetime income. Once a gift has been given, the donor (annuitant) would receive a specific dollar amount in return — monthly, quarterly or annually as selected by the annuitant over his or her lifetime. Once the annuitant dies, the amount of the annuity provides a perpetual income source for the designated AFLC ministry.

There are some additional benefits in using a charitable gift annuity. First, an annuitant will receive a charitable tax deduction for the gift. Second, since the annuitant may use securities or real estate to fund the gift, the capital gains tax will be avoided. Third, the annuity payment consists of the return of principal as well as the interest that has been earned by the annuity. The return of principal is approximately 50 percent of the annuity payment. The principal portion of the payment is tax-free. The AFLC Foundation office may be contacted to address specific questions or create a proposal to illustrate the benefits of using a charitable gift annuity. We are also available for questions anyone may have in regards to charitable giving.

I am reminded of the words in Philippians 1:20 which say, "I will always be bold for Christ ... whether I live or die." Let us continue to share Jesus with others. That should always be our common goal for ministry. These ministries are His. He will provide. Let us serve Him.

## Wilderness Camp hosts Family Camp July 15-20

### Theme will be 'Anchored to the Rock'

Family camp at Wilderness Camp will be July 15-20. The theme for the camp week will be "Anchored to the Rock" based on Psalm 18:2: "The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge." Pastor Gary Jorgenson will lead the morning Bible study and Pastor Jon Wellumson will be the evening speaker. Separate classes will be held in the morning for children.

Wilderness Camp is located 10 miles south of Lake Park, Minn., and isn't nearly as wilderness as it used to be. There are modern facilities, indoor food preparation areas and dining areas. A large new chapel/dormitory building has been a welcome addition. Anyone wanting a sleeping room should contact Pastor Terry Olson, (218) 681-4643, to reserve a room. RVs, tents, and campers are always welcome.



Received into membership on March 30 at Christ the King Lutheran, Wilson, Wis., were: Bob and Dolores Johnson, Sherry Johnson, Matt and Sandy Lewon and family, Mike and Edith Stabenow and family, and Marrietta, Mike, Jill and Laura Schug.

# AFLTS GRADUATE

## Michal Klus Doln Domaslavice, Czech Republic

**I** was born on Oct. 7, 1975, to Emerich and Alena Klus. While growing up in the Czech Republic, my parents led me to trust God. Nevertheless, my trust was wavering between Him and me, and it was at 14 years of age when I put all my trust into Him and received assurance of salvation. God used a Finnish preacher to open my eyes. (So I am kind of Scandinavian too!) God granted me grace, which leads to salvation provided by Jesus Christ.

Since that time God has changed many areas of my life. I was blessed by the fellowship in our youth group where I grew spiritually. Since age 16 I was involved in the leadership of youth groups in my home Tranovice congregation, which is a part of the Silesian Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession. I was also involved in several other evangelistic ministries where I served in various positions. At the same time I was attending Brno University of Technology — Faculty of Civil Engineering where I received my degree in June 1999.

God put into my heart a desire to work full-time in His ministry. God was faithful. Not only did He give me this desire, but He also gave me somebody to share this desire with. I met Sarka Hlavenkova, who had very similar desires, and we were married. I had never considered studying at a seminary because I was unaware of any conservative Lutheran seminaries. But God knew of one possibility, and so He introduced me to pastors Jim Johnson and Don Richman, who invited us to study at AFLBS. God provided everything necessary. Three weeks after we got married we started our studies at the Bible school (1999). Here I was facing the opportunity of studying at the seminary, which would prepare me for God's ministry. I decided to take this opportunity. It was not very easy, but by God's grace and with a huge support of the AFLC family, we are now approaching our last weeks at the seminary. God blessed our time here, and we are so thankful for the schools, which teach so faithfully the Word of God. Even though I still do not feel ready for the ministry, God has taught me a lot. By the grace of God I have received a completely new understanding of what it means to preach the Word. God blessed me with a new passion to bring the good news to those who need it — even to me.

God blessed us also with two children, Ben (2) and Miriam (11 months), who were born here in Minnesota. Early in June we plan to move back to the Czech Republic where I am going to serve as a vicar in the Trinec congregation. Please join us by praying for our future ministry.



## WMF awards two FLS students scholarships

Members of the national WMF have granted mission scholarships to seminarians Nathan Jore and Tom Lumppio. Totaling \$1,230, the scholarships are designated for seminarians who plan to go into world missions. Nathan Jore began classes at FLS last fall after graduating from Northwestern College in the spring of 2002. He is a 1999 graduate of AFLBS. Tom Lumppio is a 1995 graduate of AFLBS and a 2001 graduate of MTI. He is a part-time student at FLS.



**Nathan Jore**



**Tom Lumppio**

## Fortieth anniversary tapes now available

The AFLC now has the 40th anniversary service available on DVD or VHS. Three sessions — "Piety," "Polity," and "Theology" — were offered at the Oct. 26, 2002, celebration in Thief River Falls, Minn. Each session is available on a separate DVD or VHS tape and costs \$5 each. The tapes can be mailed for an additional cost of \$5 for shipping and handling each. Contact Pastor Brian Davidson at headquarters for a copy or for more information. Phone: (763) 545-5631. Mail: 3110 E. Medicine Lake Blvd., Plymouth, MN 55441. Email: [braind@aflc.org](mailto:braind@aflc.org).

## Free pews to give away

Twenty-seven light oak pews, 14-feet long, are available to give away. Anyone interested is asked to call Bill Piel from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Ponca City, Okla., at (580) 765-4116.

## Olson resigns from Evangelism Commission

Pastor Tom Olson, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cloquet, Minn., has resigned from the Commission on Evangelism. Olson, whose term expires in 2006, cited an expanding lay pastors training ministry and growth in the Alaska Mission's aviation ministry as reasons for his resignation.

The Commission on Evangelism will seek a replacement for Olson at the Annual Conference June 12-15 at Brookings, S.D. The Commission will also vote for a lay position on the board to replace Mike McCarlson who is not eligible for reelection.

## Emmerson donates book collection to AFLC Seminary

Rev. Arthur C. Emmerson, a retired Presbyterian minister from Annandale, Minn., has donated his personal library of 3,600 books to the AFLTS library. The books represent a collection of 50 years, according to Emmerson, who housed the books in his own home. Emmerson said he is happy the books will be put to use.

AFLTS was one of 11 schools, churches and individuals inquiring about the books from an ad Emmerson placed offering to donate the collection. For now, the books are in storage awaiting construction of a new library as a part of the student center on the campus of AFLBS and AFLTS.

## Music festival held

Members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Eagle Butte, S.D., hosted their third annual Music Through Ministry dinner and Christian music concert on March 8. The event began when the congregation saw a need for Christian family entertainment in their small community. The event has drawn people from many faiths together for an evening of praise and worship.

# Back to school, again

**A**t 87 years old, Gola Dynneson decided to finish her Bible school degree. AFLBS was happy to have her. In January, Dynneson joined her granddaughter, Kayla Ramse, and grandson, David Kennedy (MTI), on the AFLBS campus for missions week.

Dynneson got her Bible college start at LBI back in the 1940s. But with the graduation of her husband, Pastor Lawrence Dynneson, who recently passed away, Gola gave up her studies to take on ministry work. When David graduated from AFLBS last spring, her daughters encouraged her to return to school to finish her degree.

"I said, well, Lord, if you want me to do it, open doors," said Gola. "It seems like doors kept opening up. ... I knew that getting into the Word would be a help and a blessing to me in these years that have been so hard."



**Gola Dynneson, Nogales, Ariz., takes notes during Pastor Tim Hinrich's class during missions week at AFLBS. Gola will graduate this spring from AFLBS with her granddaughter Kayla Ramse (right) and her grandson David Kennedy, who is enrolled at MTI.**

Kayla and David enjoyed the time they spent with their grandmother on campus.

"I think it's really cool to have all three of us together," said Kayla, who lived in the dorms with Gola. "It's like I'm getting to know her in a new way."

After finishing up a course during missions week, Gola is taking a course this spring through correspondence. She will graduate this month with her degree, along with both Kayla and David.



**Grace Free Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, Minn., hosted a Service of Dedication and Celebration on April 27 for their new church building and school. The church, which used to reside on the campus of AFLC Schools, moved to its new building beginning last December when offices were opened. Wednesday night services began in February and church services began on March 16. The church meets in the school's gymnasium. Future building phases include more classroom space for Heritage Christian Academy, a sanctuary, cafeteria and more office space.**

# Pray for the Ministry of Parish Education

## Financial needs grow

**P**arish Education serves our congregations by providing biblical, Lutheran Sunday school curriculum and other educational and devotional resources. Like other departments of the AFLC, Parish Education is a ministry of our congregations and is not self-supporting. The profit from sales is not enough to cover much of the expenses involved in running the department, and teaching materials and other resources are priced below retail as a service to our congregations. Therefore, we depend on a subsidy of gifts from congregations and individuals. We are grateful for the faithful support of many who uphold this ministry through prayers and gifts.

Over the last several years, Parish Ed has faced significantly increased expenses that have limited its ability to pay for printing and reprinting materials. Printing costs and office expenses have increased. A significant increase has been in the costs assessed to the board for its part of expenses shared among the various departments of the AFLC. These expenses include the cost for use of the administration building, subsidy to "The Lutheran Ambassador," and most significantly, our cost of staff shared by all the departments such as receptionist, computer support, and bookkeeping. These costs have increased over five years from a total of \$16,000 to \$31,000, an almost 100 percent increase.

In part because of these expenses, the department is now even more dependent on special gifts outside of the budget to print and reprint material. In addition to new curriculum and other books, many of the books in the Ambassador Sunday School Series currently in use will need to be reprinted in 2003, including seven different Sunday school student books or teacher manuals. The funds to reprint these materials will need to be above and beyond the regular budget subsidy.

Please keep the needs of Parish Education in mind and pray that God would provide for this ministry and service to our congregations according to His will.

St. John's Free Lutheran, Duluth, Minn., burned their mortgage after nine years on March 2. Pictured are (from left) Steve Richetta, Glenn Lee, Pastor Frank Cherney, Cliff Eastvold, Steve Elden and Dick Musolf.



## AFLC memorials — March 2003

### Department given to

*... in memory of*

### AFLBS

Herman Greven, Orville Nelson, Viola Grove, Ambrose Lundgren, Elmer Dokken, Erwin Cudmore

### AFLTS

Walt & Siri Lindell, Olve & Frances Willand, Dan Hager, Judy Rustan, Elsie Skaar, Leslie Jensen

### Home Missions

Eldor Sorkness, Mrs. Joe Milton Sr., Hazel Score, Francis Erbes, Orlin Quanbeck, Lela Moe, Erling Emerson, Alfred Hagenbeck

### World Missions

Burnette Rogenes, Eldor Sorkness

kness, Erwin Cudmore, Orlin Quanbeck, Alver Christopher, Jerry Lysford, Lela Moe, Alfred Hagenbeck

### Vision 2004

Burnette Rogenes, Orlin Quanbeck, Robert Omodt, Bob Rudebusch, Richard Reinke

### Evangelism

Erwin Cudmore, Clarissa Moe, Lela Moe

### General Fund

Orlin Quanbeck, Orville Quallay

### *... in honor of*

### Home Missions

Laurie Nash

## Association of Free Lutheran Congregations

3110 East Medicine Lake Boulevard  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55441

### AFLC Benevolences (3 month) — January 1 - March 31, 2003

FUND	TOTAL Subsidy	REC'D IN MARCH	TOTAL REC'D TO DATE	% TOTAL
General Fund .....	\$305,568.00	\$18,060.85	\$68,904.20	23
Youth Ministries ...	48,154.00	2,742.92	12,893.39	27
Parish Education ...	90,907.00	13,316.22	21,247.63	23
Seminary .....	150,070.00	10,738.07	29,438.94	19
Bible School .....	263,356.00	13,147.80	41,210.53	16
Home Missions.....	305,087.00	14,819.49	61,786.74	20
Church Extension ...	28,945.00	822.68	3,017.48	10
World Missions.....	247,082.00	12,577.97	45,592.33	18
Personal Support ...	301,156.00	28,123.67	94,420.79	31
<b>TOTALS .....</b>	<b>\$1,740,325.00</b>	<b>\$114,349.67</b>	<b>\$378,512.03</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>TOTALS 2002 .....</b>	<b>\$1,521,284.00</b>	<b>\$116,735.38</b>	<b>\$404,856.15</b>	<b>27</b>

### Goal 25%

The Evangelism Department received \$6,924.80 in March.

# Editorial A training station

**N**earby our town we have a military training station. Some people work there year-round, but the majority come to the camp for a limited period of time for training. The camp isn't designed to be a fortress to which people retreat for safety. Its purpose is to prepare people to go out and serve.

The Association Free Lutheran Bible School, Seminary and Ministry Training Institute serve that same



**Craig Johnson**  
*Editor*

purpose for our church body. The campus is not a fortress but a training station. We just have a few people — the faculty and staff — who stay there. The majority of people are there for a limited period of time. The goal is to get training so they can be better equipped to serve.

The conditions at the military camp are good. It

is certainly better than life on the battlefield. The

training can be strenuous and tiring, but it isn't nearly as exhausting or dangerous as life on the frontline. Soldiers at the camp undoubtedly get yelled at but they probably prefer that to being shot at. It could be tempting to just want to stay at the camp.

In a similar way it can be tempting to just want to stay at

the schools. A person can get like Peter did when he was up on the mountain with Jesus and saw the Lord in His glory talking with Moses and Elijah. He said, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters ..." (Matthew 17:4, NIV). Staying up there on the mountain sounded like a good idea. Down below were people sick and demon-possessed; they faced confusing questions and a lot of opposition. "Let's just stay up on this mountain," he must have thought.

It can get messy on the battlefield. The challenges can be big and the attacks fierce. But God calls on us to come down from the mountaintop and get involved in His service.

We want students to have a great experience at the Bible school and seminary, but if they want to stay there something is wrong. They haven't grasped the full meaning of the training. Our hope is that the students, when they come to the end of their time of training, will be eager to leave, not because they are

tired of studying, but because they are ready and wanting to serve.

A true soldier doesn't want to stay at a training camp when a war is going on. He or she wants to be out serving. They want to be making a contribution in defense of their country.

At our schools we are training soldiers for the cause of Christ. That means we want them to have an eagerness to be on the frontline. The frontline is the local congregation. That is where the good news of Jesus is being proclaimed and lived out. That is where the lost are being reached, lives are being changed and people are being built up in the Lord. That is where the greatest opportunities are for serving the Lord. The schools are a good place to be, but the local congregation is the sight of the real action.

We want our students to love the schools, but we want them to love the local congregation even more.

In Norway I visited a fortress.

It was no longer in use, but you could get a sense of why it was built. It was up on a hill surrounded by high stone walls. Cannons were perched on the walls and made clear the purpose of the place was to keep people out.

We must take care that our schools, and congregations as well, don't resemble the fortress more than the training station. The Bible does say, "God ... is our fortress" (Psalm 46:7). We run to Him

for protection and thus, when we are in Him we are safe, no matter where it might be He leads us. So we need not try to turn our schools and congregations into fortresses where we hunker down, hope the world doesn't get in and hang on 'til Jesus returns. We are to keep out of our lives the world's values and practices, but at the same time we are called to be on the offensive, going to the world with the good news of Jesus. We do not fall back in fear. We go forward with confidence. We train people in order to send them out, not keep them in. Jesus prayed: "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. ... I have sent them into the world" (John 17:15, 18).

We are glad when students can spend a period of time at the training station — the schools — but then we want them to go to the congregations and through the congregations to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

**We want our students  
to love the schools  
but we want them  
to love the local  
congregation  
even more.**

## BUILDING THE BASE

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# Our lavish redemption

**W**hat do you think of when something is described to you as a lavish affair? I think of something lavish as being extravagant to the point of wastefulness. I looked the word “lavish” up in Webster’s Dictionary. As an adjective, the word is defined as “profuse or extravagant.” As a verb the word lavish means “to expend with profusion; to squander; or to waste.”

Do you think of your redemption as something lavish? You should. The Word of God does. In Ephesians 1:7-8, Paul writes; “In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.”

Jesus described the prodigal son as “squandering” the wealth given to him by his father (Luke 15). In other words, as long as he could afford it, he lived lavishly. It is obvious from the context of Jesus’ remarks that He considered the young man to be incredibly foolish in his actions. Yet, in Ephesians, Paul not only says that

God lavished redemption on us, but that He exercised “all wisdom and understanding” in doing so. That seems a contradiction in terms. How can such a thing be?

Paul declares that this redemption brings us the “forgiveness of our sins,” and that our redemption was made possible only through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. The Son of God had to die to earn it for us! Talk about a costly redemption! But is lavish the right word for Paul to use? How could God be all-wise and all-understanding in lavishing this redemption on us? The answer is that God, in His infinite wisdom, knew that our redemption could not be provided at any less cost. It had to be a lavish affair.

Jesus was born of a virgin, thus not inheriting a sinful nature like the rest of us. He was also the only sinless person who ever lived. Thus He was the only person who could offer himself as the atoning sacrifice to make our redemption possible. “God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God” (II Corinthians 5:21). There was no

other way. But God, because He loved us so much, was willing to spare no expense in order to redeem us. Only a God who is all-wise and all-knowing could devise and execute such a plan as that, by which we have been redeemed!

Paul further says that God provided our redemption in accordance with (or proportionate with) the riches of His grace. It took no less than God’s divine grace to make our redemption possible. Our redemption truly is a lavish affair.

As you ponder your lavish redemption, rejoice that your Heavenly Father understood exactly what you needed and was willing to pay the enormous price He did to redeem you, to forgive your sins, and to make you His own. Furthermore, show your gratitude by living your life “to the praise of His glory” (Ephesians 1:14).

— *Pastor Gary Jorgenson*  
*Faith Lutheran*  
*Durant, Okla.*