

JEN-977
Box 4
PACKET 11

JENSEN, JOHN MARTIN
1893 - 1984

186 John M. Jensen

Individual Questionnaire for

Biographical Record of Ministers

of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church (in America) and its parent synods: The United Danish Ev. Luth. Church, The Danish Ev. Luth. Church Association in America and The Danish Ev. Luth. Church in North America.

(Compiled for the Synodical Historical Archives)

Personal Data: (Please give all information you can)

Full name: John M. Jensen

Born when: March 24, 1893 where: Toledo, Ohio

Baptized when and where: At Toledo, Ohio in 1893

Confirmed when and where: Aslev, Denmark by whom: Pastor Klinker

If immigrant, date of arrival in America: located where:

Date of ordination: June 13, 1922 where: Racine, Wis. by whom: M. N. Andreasen

If not in above synods, when and where accepted as member pastor of our synod:

Retired from active ministry when: why:

Located where: occupation:

If dead, what date: where: cause:

Buried where: date:

Marriage: (1) to whom Raghild Gotsche date and place: July 18, 1923, Denmark

Wife's birthdate and place: March 10, 1895, Copenhagen, Denmark

Her parents: Capt. and Mrs. Rognald Gotsche location: Copenhagen, Denmark

If wife is dead, give date

(2) Second wife (if any; give same information about her)

Theological Schools: Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa

United Theological College, Montreal, Canada B.D. degree from there

Honorary Degrees received (give name of institution and date): D.D. from Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, June 2, 1954

Other specific training:

Additional comment on above:

Ministerial Service. Please give in chronological order the names of congregations or charges served, and period of each.

Salmonhurst, N.B., Canada, 1922-1926 St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Montreal, Que. Canada, 1926-1937 St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church

Spencer, Iowa, 1937-1954 Bethany Lutheran Church

Viborg, S.D. 1954-1961 Bethany

Visiting Pastor, Stephen's Church, Becker Rapids, Iowa

Apr. 1963 - June 64

Interim Pastor, St. Stephen's Church, Iowa City, Ia.

June 15, 1964 -

NOTE: Our previous biographical records were lost in the tragic fire that destroyed the office building of the Lutheran Publishing House, North York, in 1955. Where the synodical historian also had his office. Your account for members of their family for correct data. Be certain the cooperation in gathering this historically important data will be highly appreciated. Please fill in what you can perhaps with the assistance of others acquainted with subject. If you can refer us to any person, book or paper that can indicate us further, we shall be very much obliged to you. and we may either have it or borrow it please send it along. All our collection of data was also ruined in the fire. Return this report as soon as possible to

REV. P. S. FASER
STATISTICAL & HISTORICAL
UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH
CLARK, IOWA

Offices held in Synod and Districts, and when:

Member Home Mission Board of Synod

Editor, Little Lutheran, 1924-1926

1942-44

Ast. Editor, Luthersk Ugeblad, 1933-36

Editor The Ansgar Lutheran since 1936 - 60 to merger A & B

Editorial Staff of Augsburg Publ. House, Minneapolis
and "Luthersk Standard" Jan. 1961 - Mar. 1963

Visiting Pastor at St. Stephen Luth. Church, Becker, Rapid
Apr. 1963 -

Other activities and official services-at-large (teaching, chaplaincy, editorial, etc., and period of each):

Literary production (books and pamphlets): Give titles and when published.

~~Byzantine Rite~~

Four Sermons, by Kaj Munk

Translations

By The Rivers Of Babylon, By Kaj Munk

Daniel Speaks to the Church; ~~xxx xxx~~

Spiritus Creator

Additional information of interest:

Contribor to periddicals and cyclopedias

Date

June 28/1954

Signed

Johannes W. Jensen

NOTE: Our previous biographical records were lost in the tragic fire that destroyed the office building of the Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr., Febr. 15, 1953, where the synodical historian also had his office. This accounts for the detailed questionnaire now. In the case of deceased members of our clergy we are largely dependent upon living members of their family for correct data. Be assured all cooperation in gathering this historically important data will be highly appreciated. Please fill in what you can, perhaps with the assistance of others acquainted with subject. Furthermore, if you have clippings or other material about the person concerned, especially a photo or picture of him, and we may either have it or borrow it, please send it along. All our collection of cuts was also ruined in the fire. If you can refer us to any person, book or paper that can inform us further, we shall be very much obliged to you.

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186 John M. Jensen

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Biographical Record of Ministers

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(Compiled for the Synodical Historical Archives)

Personal Data: (Please give all information you can)

Full name: John Martin Jensen

Born when: March 24, 1893 where: Toledo, Ohio

Parents:

Baptized when and where: June 1893 by Lutheran Pastor at Toledo

Confirmed when and where: Adslev, Denmark, (Aarhus Amt) by whom: By Pastor Klings

If immigrant, date of arrival in America: located where:

Date of ordination: June 11, 1922 where: Racine, Wis. by whom: M.N. Andreasen

If not in above synods, when and where accepted as member pastor of our synod:

Retired from active ministry when: April 1st, 1963 why: Age 70

Located where: Cedar Rapids, Iowa occupation: Interim Pastor at Christ the King Luth. Church, Iowa City, Iowa

If dead, what date: where: cause:

Buried where date

Marriage: (1) to whom Ragnhild Gotsche date and place: June July 18, 1922

Wife's birthdate and place: March 10, 1895, Copenhagen, Denmark

Her parents: Captain Rognald Gotsche and Marie, nee Bisted location: Copenhagen

If wife is dead, give date Oct 25, 1968 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa

(2) Second wife (if any; give same information about her) Martha Rasmussen Jorgensen

(Widow of Rev. Marius J.) Sept 26, 1969 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa
born near St. 1900 at Amery, Wis. daughter of Chris & Christene Rasmussen
Her husband Rev. M. J. died Oct 15, 1967 at Blair, Ia. where they
retired in Jan. 1963. They had 3 children Audrey, wife of Rev. Albert
Rasmussen. Grace, wife of John Bohannon, Attorney of Law, Tappan, Iowa
& Thelma Marius, Pastor at Edmonston, Alta. for Union Luth Church since 1966

Children (give names and other information of interest, as occupation, spouse, and present address):

Ronald, Salesman, Married to Arlene Nelson, Children, Ann, Lois, ^{Kathlene}~~Kathleen~~
Minneapolis, Minn.

Margaret, Married to B.B. Rasmussen. Children, John, Carl, Ronald, Marie.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Frederick V. Jensen, Married to Janice Nygaard. Children. Frederick, Marcia
Pastor at Montreal, Que. Canada. Lynn, Rhonda Lee.

Other information on family of historical interest, i.e., members in the ministry, missionary work, teaching and medical professions, etc.:

Educational Training: Give name of institution, location, and when attended.

Brookson Highschool, Kenmare, N. Dak. 1912-13

High Schools: Lutheran Bible School, Wahpeton, N. Dak 1913-17 Graduate.

Augsburg College, 1917-1920 Minneapolis, Minn. B.A.

Biblical Seminary, New York, 1920-1921

Lutheran Theol. Seminary, Philadelphia, Pa. Graduate of Theol.

United Theol. College, Montreal, Canada, 1933-34. B.D.

Colleges (Give also degrees attained):

Theological Schools:

Honorary Degrees received (give name of institution and date):

D.D. Wartburg Theol. Seminary, 1954

Other specific training:

Additional comment on above:

Ministerial Service. Please give in chronological order the names of congregations or charges served, and period of each.

Salmonhurst, N.B. Canada, St. Peters Luth. Church 1922-26

St. Absgar's Lutheran Church, 1926-37, Montreal, D Canada

Bethany Lutheran Church, Spencer, Iowa, 1937-1959

Bethany Lutheran Church, Viborg, S. Dak. 1959--60

Visitation Pastor, St. Stephen's Luth. Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 1963-64

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Iowa City, June 15, 1984---

NOTE: Our previous diocesan records were lost in the tragic fire that destroyed the office building of the Lutheran Publishing House, Minneapolis, in 1952. Where the synodical historian also had his office. This account for the years 1922-1952, which the synodical historian also had his office. This account for the years 1922-1952, which the synodical historian also had his office. This account for the years 1922-1952, which the synodical historian also had his office.

Offices held in Synod and Districts, and when:

Atlantic Dist. Luther League President

Member of Home Mission Board

Assistant editor of Luthersk Ugeblad, four years

Editor of The Little Lutheran two years.

Editor, The Ansgar Lutheran, 1937-1960

Other activities and official services-at-large (teaching, chaplaincy, editorial, etc., and period of each):

Member of the Editorial Staff at Augsburg Oubl House, 1961-1963

Literary production (books and pamphlets): Give titles and when published.

Translated, "Four Sermons" by Kaj Munk, 1944

Translated "By The Rivers of Babylon" by Kaj Munk, 1945

Translated Daniel Speak to the Church by Walther Luthe, 1947

Translated Healing Through Prayer by Peder Olson, 1962

Translated "Spiritus Creator" by Regin Prenter, 1954

Translated The Answer of Faith by Kaj Jensen 1961

Additional information of interest:

Contributor to ~~the~~ Lutheran World Cyclopedia and Concordia Cyclopedia.

Date

June 19

Signed

John W. Jensen

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Return this report as soon as possible to

REV. P. C. JENSEN
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UNITED EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH
BLAIR, NEBRASKA

REV. P. C. JENSEN

BLAIR, NEBRASKA



CEDAR RAPIDS, IA
PM
10 DEC
1970

1638-D-Ave. N.E.
Cedar Rapids, Ia
Rev. John M. Jensen

Rev. & Mrs. P. C. Jensen
115 So. 18th Street
Blair, Nebr. 68008

1970

May the joys
of the
Christmas Season
be with you
throughout the
coming year

Rev. John M. Jensen
AM. M. Miller
Jensen

1638-D-Ave. N.E.
Cedar Rapids, Ia

1969

Pasotr John M. Jensen,

der er hjælpepræst ved "First Lutheran Church" i Cedar Rapids, Iowa, blev
26 sept. i denne kirke viet til Martha Jørgensen, enke efter pastor Marius
Jørgensen, der som emeritus bojede i Blair, Nebr. Pastor og Mrs. Jørgensens
søn er præst i Edmonton, Alberta. Her bor ogsaa en datter, Audrey, der er
gift med pastor Albert Nassussen. Pastor J.M. Jensens to sønner Ronald og
Fred er præster for menigheder i Minnesota. Dr. J.M. Jensen havde i sommer
en særdeles interessant rejse sammen med to svigerinder, Mrs. Agnes Knutzen
og Miss Elise Gøtsche, Montreal, Kanada. De deltog i Rebildfesten og besøgte
slægt og venner. De boede hos biskop og Mrs. Jens Leer Andersen i Hellerup.
Derefter bragte han een dag i Sverige, een i Finland, tolv i Rusland, tre
i Polen, een i Østtyskland og een i Vesttyskland. Han tog mange billeder og
har, siden han kom tilbage til U.S.A. holdt mange illustrerede foredrag om
sin rejse .

To Mrs. Jensen from Jane Myhrum
letter my friend i Secord - Nov 23 1969

1868
CENTURY OF *Faith*† FIRST
1968 LUTHERAN
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA CHURCH

1000 Third Avenue, S.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52403
Phone 319/365-1494

May 27, 1968

The Rev. P. C. Jensen
Blair, Nebraska

Dear Pastor Jensen:

Thanks for your letter and your compliments
as to my devotions.

I am at present Associate Pastor at First
Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. It is an
LCA Church. I am busy from morning to night.

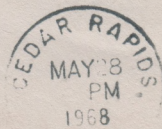
It was good to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Jensen
John M. Jensen

JMJ:hw

1868
CENTURY OF *Faith*
1968



From Rev. John M. Jensen

The Rev. P. C. Jensen
Blair, Nebraska

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1000 Third Avenue, S.E.
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52403

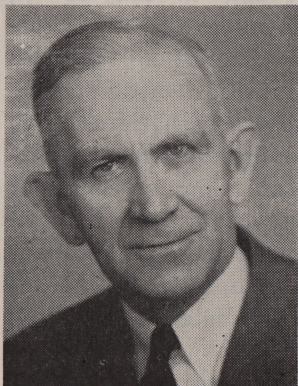
i "Dansk Mytæ" 1955

HØJT MOD NORD

Den første lutherske Præst i Nordamerika var en Dansker

Af John M. Jensen

Pastor J. M. Jensen, f. i Toledo, Ohio, 1893, tilbragte en Del af sine Ungdomsaar i Danmark, ordineret i Racine, Wis., 1922, Præst i Salmonhurst, N. B., Canada, 1922-26, Montreal 1926-37 og siden da i Spencer, Iowa. Har siden 1936 redigeret „The Ansgar Lutheran.“ Har oversat fire Bøger fra Dansk. Modtog i 1954 Doktorgraden fra Wartburg Seminary.



John M. Jensen

Et af de Steder i Nordamerika, som paa særlig Maade taler til hvert Menneske af dansk Rod og til alle, som beken- der sig til den lutherske Tro, er Church- ill, Manitoba, Canada. Det var her, den heltemodige danske Ekspedition, ledet af Jens Munk, havde Vinterlejr 1619-20. Det var ogsaa her, den første lutherske Præst i Nordamerika, Rasmus Jensen, holdt den første Juleprædiken i den nye Verden. Og her fandt han sin Grav den 20. Feb. 1620.

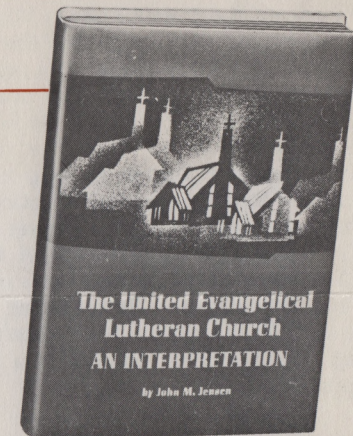
Lige siden jeg læste om disse Begivenheder, har jeg ønsket at se denne barske Kyst og det Mindesmærke, som Canadierne har sat for disse Mænd. Sidste Aar lykkedes det mig at komme derop, og her vil jeg da fortælle lidt om Begivenhederne for over 300 Aar siden og om disse tapre Mænds Indsats paa den øde Klippekyt.

I Begyndelsen af det 17. Aarhundrede forsøgte mange Opdagere at finde Søvejen til Indien ved at sejle mod Vest. Columbus sejlede fra Spanien og kom til nogle Øer, som blev kaldt Vestindien. Det var naturligt, at de nordiske Søfarere tænkte paa at finde Vejen nord om Amerika.

Den kendte danske Konge, Kristian den 4de, udnævnte Kap- tajn Jens Munk til at gøre et Forsøg. Den 9. Maj 1619 satte Jens Munk Kursen ud af Øresund med to Skibe, *Enhjørningen* og *Lamprenen*. Han havde en Besætning af henholdsvis 48 Mænd paa det første Skib og 16 paa det sidste. En af Mændene var Pa- stor Rasmus Jensen fra Aarhus som Ekspeditionens Kapellan. Før Jens Munk kom ud af de nordiske Farvande, var to Mænd døde. Munk antog tre ekstra Mand til at tage deres Pladser. De fleste var danske, men der var ogsaa en Del Nordmænd om Bord og to Englændere.

THE UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

An Interpretation
by John M. Jensen

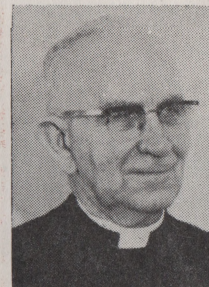


This book is a comprehensive history of the Dan- ish in North America with special emphasis on the Danish Lutherans, particularly the United Evan- gelical Lutheran Church.

The author's aim is to give readers the historic development of the UELC and its relationship to other Danish church movements in the United States and Canada. He accomplishes this by relating the story of Danish immigrants to America, sifting fact and figures to point up leading personalities who helped shape the UELC.

The United Evangelical Lutheran Church—An Interpretation (cloth, 304 pages, \$6.50) gives readers an objective history of the UELC concluding with the 1961 merger, which united it with the American Lutheran Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The appendix lists pastors of the UELC, and gives a chronological history of the church as well as biographical sketches of men who played a major role in the UELC's history.

The author, John M. Jensen, served the UELC for more than 40 years. He was editor of *The Ansgar Lutheran*, then staff writer at Augsburg Publishing House, and presently is serving as interim pastor in Iowa City, Iowa. Pastor Jensen has also translated several books published by Augsburg.



John M. Jensen

Published monthly, except July and August, when bi-monthly, by Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis, Minn. Randolph E. Haugan, general manager. Second-class postage paid at Minneapolis, Minn. Printed in the U.S.A. by Augsburg Publishing House, 426 S. Fifth St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55415. Vol. IV, No. 1

Handwritten initials or mark.

Tænkt og oplevet

ET LIGNINGSBILLEDE AF LUTHERSK KIRKESAMLING I NORDAMERIKA I DAG

Af en Indledningstale holdt af Pastor John M. Jensen, Redaktør af „The Ansgar Lutheran,“ (vort Samfunds engelske Blad), under de lutherske Redaktørers Aarskonference i Minneapolis, Minn., d. 24.-25. Sept. 1958. Vi beder vor Kollega undskylde, at vi har foretaget en ret fri Forkortelse af Talen, som dog i sin Helhed kan læses i TAL Nr. 3 (19. Januar). —Red.

LUTHERSK
UGEBLAD

11. Marts, 1959



Dr. J. M. Jensen

Det forekommer mig at et træffende Billede af luthersk Forening her i Landet er tegnet i Jesu Lignelse om Arbejderne i Vingaarden. Nogle blev kaldet tidlig om Morgen, andre ved 9 Tiden, nogle Kl. 12, atter andre Kl. 3, og saa de sidste Kl. 5.

Den Forenede Lutherske Kirkes Fædre (ULCA) fik begyndt tidligst. De var der Kl. 6 og 9, som ægte Tyskere og arbejdede haardt. Man maa si-

ge at de „bar Dagens Byrde og Hede“ og gjorde deres Pligt. Ganske alene kæmpede de grundlæggende Pionersamfund, der nu udgør det største Samfund af amerikanske Lutheranere, en heltmodig Kamp for at indføre og forplante luthersk Tro og Kirkeliv herovre i Kolonisationstiden og ind i det første Aarhundrede af de Forenede Staters Historie. I den Periode fik de den Ide, at de kendte alt om Vingaarden og var den amerikanske Lutherdoms berettigede Bevogtere. Og det skal vi ikke laste dem for.

Men omkring ved Middagstid indfandt en anden større Skare Lutheranere sig i Vingaardshaven. De fik senere Navnet „Missourianerne,“ fordi de anlagde deres Hovedskole og Centrum i St. Louis, Missouri. Ogsaa de kom fra Lutheranismens Vugge, Tyskland, og var Slidere for „den rette Tro.“ De mente, at de andre herovre kunde have gjort det bedre. De lagde Vægt paa gammelluthersk Rettroenhed og faste Regler for Arbejdet, som de ansaa at være det eneste sande Udtryk for luthersk Menighedsliv. Derfor holdt de sig ret isoleret fra Unionstendenser.

Hen paa Eftermiddagen kom andre Grupper ind i Arbejdet som lutherske Samfund. Der var nogle mindre tyske Kirker, som dannede „American Lutheran Church“ (1930); nogle norske, der dannede „Evangelical Lutheran Church“ (1917), og de svenske, der samledes i „Augustana Lutheran Church“ (1860-70).

Lidt senere fremstod de danske Samfund (1874-96), den norske Frikirke (1896) og et Par finske Samfund.

Disse senere Kirker fra særlig de skandinaviske Lande havde flere Karaktertræk af forskellig Art end de tidligere, saasom Sprog og aandeligt Præg. De ældre Storkirker var tilbøjelige til at betragte dem som Grøn-skollinger; men de ønskede at sejle deres egne Smaa- baade indtil de indsaa, at de burde danne Flaade og samarbejde for at fremme deres egne Syn paa Sagerne,

Hen paa Eftermiddagen kom andre Grupper ind i Arbejdet som lutherske Samfund. Der var nogle mindre tyske Kirker, som dannede „American Lutheran Church“ (1930); nogle norske, der dannede „Evangelical Lutheran Church“ (1917), og de svenske, der samledes i „Augustana Lutheran Church“ (1860-70).

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Dermed var altsaa skabt tre større Kirkegrupper af Lutheranere i Amerika, og dette gav god Grund til ideelig Drøftelse om total Samling. ULCA havde gammel Erfaring og stor Agtelse blandt Folket i sin Helhed; Missourianerne havde Trosmod, haandfast Orden og offervillig Arbejdsenergi; og Nykommerne havde nye Idealer og en Begejstring for Samvirke, der vakte Respekt

hos de ældste og Betænkeligheder hos de „rettroende.“ Paa en Maade følte de yngste sig tiltrukket af ULCAs folkelige Aandsfrihed, og paa den anden Side af Missouri-Kirkens evangeliske Alvor. Kunde de nu blot opnaa at bygge Bro mellem disse Trosbrødre til begge Sider, saa Kristi ypperstepræstlige Bøn om at „de alle maatte blive eet“ opfyldtes, ogsaa som luthersk Kirkesamfund i Amerika, saa var deres Mission fuldbyrdet.

Derfor er det, at de seneste Foreningstanker og Bestræbelser er udgaaet især fra de yngre Arbejdere i Vingaarden og nu har fundet Udslag i de store Unionsplaner, der vil forene $\frac{2}{3}$ af Amerikas lutherske Kirkefolk i to nye Samfund om et Par Aar. I den Forstand kan ogsaa anvendes Herrens Ord om, at „de sidste skal blive de første.“ Det skyldes sikkert dem, at man nu er kommet over Snakkestadet og ind i Handlestrædet.



credit is due to the training of the Boy Scouts through the leadership of Scoutmaster A. T. Moos and Assistant Scoutmaster M. P. (Chuck) Fortier, and the following Executive Committee,

Rev. H. A. Svendsen, Advisor
Marvin Mikkelsen, Chairman
Neil Fleming, Institutional Representative

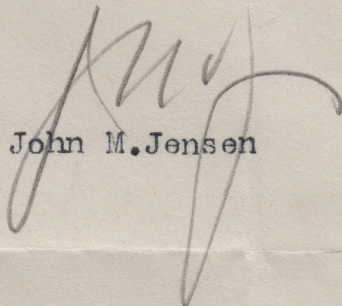
John (Norman) Briggs, Secretary, Treasurer, and Publicity Manager
Harold Andersen, Advancement Man
Kenneth Folkestad, Property Man
Raymond Iverson, Outdoor Man

On February 28th, the Boy Scouts of Emmaus Lutheran Church were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. W. F. (Casey) Haynes. Mr. Haynes has a hobby of electrical trains and this the boys sure enjoyed. Mrs. Haynes served them refreshments that delight

Kære Pastor Jensen,

Vil du veligst rette en Oplysning du have om min Kone for en Tid siden. Hun er, saavidt hun ved, ikke i Familie med ~~xxxxxx~~ Götzsche Slægten. Hendes Navn staves Göttsche.

Hun er Datter Datter af en Pastor Bisted, men ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ hun har altsaa ikke saa vidt vides nogen med den anden Slægt at gøre.


John M. Jensen

March 21/56

OFFICIAL WEEKLY OF THE
UNITED EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

OFFICE OF THE EDITOR

April 27, 1959

The Rev. P. C. Jensen
Blair, Nebraska.

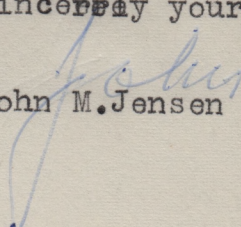
Dear Pastor Jensen,

You have made two three mistakes of late with respect to my and my wife's family. It was Rohald, now pastor at Eau Claire, Wis., who played the part in Ordet by Kaj Munk and not Frederick.

My wife's father was Capt. Ronald Gotsche and not Frederik Gotsche as you state.

As for Betteknægten going to Montreal I am not so sure that is a very appropriate expression from a Public Relations point of view.

Sincerely yours


John M. Jensen

April 18, 1955

THE ANSGAR LUTHERAN

7

News and Notes

A Youth Issue. Since the first part of the paper is devoted to your problems, we merely urge our readers not to overlook the things that pertain to our young people and the convention soon to be held at Blair.

The Next Issue will be a Forward With Christ issue totally prepared by the synodical Forward with Christ Committee.

Pastor Sigurd Petersen has now accepted a position as chaplain at the Parsons State Training School, Parsons, Kansas. He has just completed nine months of clinical training. His family will remain at Topeka, Kans., until school is out.

people at the institution, which cares for children and young people from 6-21.

A LETTER

Bismark, North Dakota

Dear Editor:

For some time now I have meant to write in to our fine publication with a word of appreciation and gratitude for your many years of faithful and outstanding service to our Church and Christian Faith.

As for me, I don't believe there is a publication, bar none which I look forward to more than receiving a copy of the Ansgar Lutheran. To you, Pastor-Editor Jensen here's a vote of grat-

is of such outstanding merit that we in our Synod shall find it rather difficult to evaluate.

I, for one, admire your rugged individualism and ability to be straightforward, ever unbending in your convictions. The Ansgar Lutheran can well be at the head of the list of Church periodicals and papers and might I add the thought provoking editorials you have and are writing have been of great benefit to myself and wherever my travels and fortunes have taken me.

So then, Friend John M. Jensen, here's a heartfelt "thank you" and may our Church continue to go forward with

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1000 Third Avenue S.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

December 7, 1970

Dear Friends and Relatives,

As Christmas draws near Martha and I send you our most hearty greetings wishing for you and yours the blessings of God now and in the new year!

The past year has been a good one for Martha and me. May 1st we sold my old house and we now live in a rented duplex on the first floor, which makes it so much more easy for us in every way. During the summer we travelled together to Edmonton, Canada, where we visited Martha's children, Pastor Philip J. and her daughter Mrs. Al Rasmussen. Her husband is also a pastor. It was good to get to know them and their children. We also made a trip to Calgary, where we visited my brother Erhardt and wife and children. And Martha met many of her old friends from Calgary and Standard.

Rev. Albert

On the way back we visited my son Ronald and family. He serves a parish near New London, Minnesota. Later we visited my son Fred who serves a parish at Evan, Minnesota. And we made a trip to Blair, Nebraska.

Then early this fall we visited my daughter Margaret and family at Elmhurst, Illinois, and Martha's sister Maren and family at Chicago. We have not yet visited Martha's youngest daughter Grace and family at Topeka, Kansas. But Grace spent a half day with us in October. It has been good for both of us to visit our children together.

The 30th of October I had to go to the hospital because of a gall bladder attack for six days for tests and antibiotic treatment to calm the gall bladder down for surgery the 17th of November. Now I am slowly starting to work again in First Lutheran Church where I have served four years. My first job is to minister to some 300 people 65 and over. I teach some classes for church membership, some Adult Sunday School classes, also a great deal of calling and some preaching.

Martha and I have found much happiness since we got married almost 15 months ago.

With love to all of you,

Martha and John *M. Jensen*

*1638-D. Ave. N.E.
Cedar Rapids Ia*

52409

(d) Bishop Tejvind Berggrav pp. 3

The ANSGAR LUTHERAN

Volume XXXII

Blair, Nebraska, February 2, 1959

Number 5

A Nightmare Experience

I FELL INTO THE PACIFIC

By Douglas Wardrop

I suppose we all have fears of the unknown, few of which ever come to pass. Yet on Sunday morning, June 9, 1957, one fear that had haunted me many times actually happened.

At the time I was scound mate on the **British Monarch**, a freighter, and we were in the Pacific en route to Japan with a cargo of soya beans. Our course was 278 degrees; we were hundreds of miles from land.

It was 0400 (4 a.m.). I went to the stern to inspect a faulty log clock. Unable to read the clock standing on the deck, I climbed on top of a solid bulwark. While leaning outboard, the ship lurched slightly and I lost my balance. A desperate grab at the bulwark missed and I fell into the ocean.

* * *

When I came gasping to the surface, the **Monarch's** stern lights were disappearing into the darkness. I shouted but no one heard me.

I had a feeling that I wanted to shake myself hard and wake up in my bunk. Certainly this was the bad dream I'd had so many times of falling overboard at night and finding myself all alone in the vast ocean. But this was no dream. This was my worst nightmare come true.

* * *

Slowly the awful truth of my situation struck home. My ship was now out of sight; it might be hours before they discovered my disappearance.

Panicky thoughts came. I had only a million-to-one-chance of survival. Should I end it quickly? Just let myself go under? Or struggle until complete exhaustion overpowered me?

Suddenly I desperately wanted to live. At 23, life seemed very sweet and desirable. I would fight to keep it with every ounce of strength.

The easiest way to stay afloat, I soon discovered, was to tread water, with my feet and arms describing an arc in front of my body. I tried floating on my back, but the waves kept washing over my face and filling my nose with water.

Should I get rid of my clothing? It was light tropical stuff and didn't weigh me down much. Then, too, it might give protection against fish. I decided to keep on all my clothes, including shoes. Shoes, particularly, might help if sharks came.

* * *

Right then I realized my thoughts could take two directions they could dwell on the potential horrors of the situation or they could fix on the possibilities of survival.

"Well, God, I'm in your hands," I thought. "In You I put my trust for better or worse. But if You don't mind my injecting an idea of my own, I just don't believe my time is up."

It was becoming lighter in the Eastern sky now. From the sunrise I was able to fix my bearing. Mentally, I figured it out. If I moved along at a couple of miles an hour, I might even swim to Japan—in a couple of weeks.

"Poor Captain Coutts," I thought out loud. "I'd hate to be in your shoes about now, debating what to do. Can you find a dot in the ocean, Captain?"

It took surprisingly little effort to keep afloat. Must be a lot of salt in the water—why, I can last

for hours! If only I weren't so alone.

And then it came to me: "I'm not alone. No one ever really is. For He is with me all the time, unseen, unheard, but very real." and the first pangs of panic subsided.

Surprisingly, I found myself able to see a bit of humour in some of the things that happened; like the two birds that arrived to inspect me. Suddenly one of them peeled off and dove right for my head. I raised my hand and the bird zoomed away.

The second bird peeled off and bore down on me. They were hungry, darn it, and hoped that I would be their breakfast. Just when my eyes and arms were beginning to feel a real sense of strain, the birds gave me up and flew off. I envied them. They had a lot better chance of finding breakfast than I.

* * *

Ouch! A sharp needle-like pain shot through my left leg. An electric eel moved away and began to circle around me. He was about a foot and half long with small, pale blue suckers. "Come on," I shouted, "sting me if you will, but don't sneak up from behind. Let's meet face to face."

The eel continued to circle, ugly and sinister in the murky water. "God, I've been told that everything You make in this world has some purpose to fulfill, but surely nothing as mean and vicious as this creature." After a while the eel disappeared.

It got hot. Hours passed. I began to ramble a bit to myself and a bit to God. He became a Companion with Whom I could talk. Without the assurance that He was there, I would have lost my mind.

Then a turtle appeared. He was enormous. "Hi there, Turty!" I

(Continued on page 15)

News and Notes

Change of address for Pastor Theo. M. Hansen to 603½ — 6th Avenue West, Spencer, Iowa effective immediately.

Oakland, Calif. Sidney Jorgensen, pastor. The annual report of this church indicates that the congregation has invested in a new site for \$25,000.00. It has also offered its church for sale at 85,000. Its stewardship program last November upped the budget from \$17,000 to \$23,000.

Whittier, Calif. Verner N. Carlsen, pastor. This young home mission congregation started three years ago reports a baptized membership of 826. It had a total income in 1958 of \$29,771.41. The annual report of this congregation is unique because it does not only list name, address and phone number of each member but also the occupation of each.

Neola, Iowa, St. Paul's Luth. Church. Charter member Nels Christiansen passed away Dec. 20 at his home in Avoca where he and his daughter, Agnes, have made their home the past eleven years. According to old church records his father, Mr. Christian Christiansen, was instrumental in getting Rev. H. Hansen to visit this community in 1877 to baptize his son, Nels. Our congregation was organized Jan. 16, 1881 when Nels was nine years old. In 1898 he married Mary Rasmussen, who passed away in 1917 leaving him with four young children. Three of these survive, Agnes of Avoca, Raymond of Shelby, and Clarence, who resides on the home place a few miles from our church. Nels always maintained a genuine interest in the local church and in District and Synodical affairs. Services were held at St. Paul's Dec. 23rd. Pastor Harry Sorensen officiated.

On Dec. 26th, William Smith, another one of our members died suddenly of a heart attack. He was 70 years old and had lived in this community all his life. He leaves to mourn his passing, his wife Julia, son Everett of Bellflower, Calif., and daughter June, Mrs. Clifford Hankins, of Auburn, Calif. Services were conducted at St. Paul's on Dec. 28 by Pastor Harry Sorensen.

Plainview, Nebr. Bethany Lutheran Church, Victor C. E. Andersen, Pastor,

gained 43 baptized members the past year. The congregation did extensive redecorating in the chancel. Extensive remodeling was made in the South wing of the church with a new entrance to the basement. A new entrance to the sanctuary was also made. The congregation is well organized with all the activities in full swing.

Pastor Andersen lives in the town of Plainview and serves the American Lutheran Church there. Thus the merger is already in effect in these congregations.

THE EDITOR LEAVES SPENCER, IOWA

By Glenn E. Neve

By the time this article is in the hands of the readers of *The Ansgar Lutheran*, Dr. John M. Jensen will have established his new residence in serving the parish at Viborg, South Dakota. Prior to his leaving Spencer, Iowa several of the organizations of the church honored the pastor and his wife at their meetings. As a climax and highlight to all of these meetings the Bethany congregation also paid tribute to Dr. and Mrs. Jensen on Sunday evening, January 18.

In November the Bethany Young Married Couples honored Dr. Jensen by presenting a "This Is Your Life" program, in which of course Dr. Jensen was the principal subject. On this occasion he was presented with an onyx desk pen holder and pen. Although Mrs. Jensen was unable to attend this program, she was also remembered by a gift of a gold pin.

At a Christmas dinner the evening circles of Bethany presented Dr. and Mrs. Jensen with a picture of the "Lord's Supper." Mrs. Jensen was honored at the January meeting of the Women of Bethany at which time a miscellaneous shower was held for her. At this gathering Mrs. T. C. Larsen read some appropriate poems and a duet "Bless This House" was sung by Mrs. Raymond Fitchett and Mrs. Glenn Neve.

Approximately 275 Bethany members gathered at the church on January 18 to say 'thank you' to their pastor and wife who had served this church for 21 years. Russel Heine announced the program which proceeded somewhat as follows: Two hymns were sung by the congregation after

which Rev. George Pallesen of Ringsted led the group in devotional meditation. A quartette composed of Bethany members, Mrs. Raymond Fitchett, Mrs. Russell Heine, Bob Sopeland, and Glen Neve sang "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind."

The feature portion of this program was again a "This Is Your Life" presentation of Dr. Jensen's life. This program was repeated because of numerous requests of parishioners who hadn't seen it presented earlier. Also Mrs. Jensen had been unable to attend this at its first presentation. Glenn Neve acted as master of ceremonies. Throughout the program an effort was made to point out the tireless effort Dr. Jensen had put forth to further God's Kingdom. Spices of humor were also injected into the program as several characters from the past in Dr. Jensen's life were portrayed in costume. The Ansgar Lutheran was the program sponsor and the honored guest was presented with a lifetime subscription to this church paper.

Wayne Simington spoke in behalf of the congregation to express the gratitude for his efforts in ministering to the people of Bethany. Simington said in effect, "Bethany Lutheran Church has grown to what it is today by the grace of God and through the preaching and teaching of the Word of God in its truth and purity." Harold Sorensen presented a cash gift of \$1,000 in behalf of the congregation. Members of Bethany who participated and organized the "This Is Your Life" program included Mr. and Mrs. Stan Andersen, Mr. and Mrs. Al Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Duin, Mr. and Mrs. Don Eaton, Mr. and Mrs. Ebbe Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wilberg, Oscar Jorth, and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Neve.

Neighboring UELC pastors and members of the Spencer Ministerial association each paid tribute to Dr. Jensen and Dr. Jensen spoke words of thanks to the congregation. Out of town guests included: Rev. and Mrs. Clifford Paulsen of Royal, Iowa; Rev. and Mrs. George Pallesen of Ringsted, Iowa; and Rev. and Mrs. H. Irving Petersen and family of Graettinger, Iowa. Lunch was served by the ladies of Bethany following the program.

Pictures from the program were shown over television station KTIV, Channel 4, Sioux City, Iowa at their regular newscasts the following day.

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JOHN M. JENSEN, Editor
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Otto H. Stave, Business Manager. Subscription price: United States and Canada, \$3.00 per year in advance; foreign countries, \$4.00. All communications that concern the Editorial Department, news items and books to be reviewed should be sent to the editor at Spencer, Ia. Everything pertaining to the Youth Department should be sent to Rev. John W. Nielsen, 316 N. Plum St., Northfield, Minn. A special club rate of \$2.00 per year is offered Bible classes and organizations of the church when ten or more copies are sent to one address, and \$2.00 a year if the congregation has *The Ansgar Lutheran* in every home—**Church Paper in Every Home Plan.** Subscriptions, remittances, change of address, advertisements and all communications pertaining to the Business Department should be sent to the Lutheran Publishing House, Blair, Nebr. When CHANGE OF ADDRESS is desired give old as well as new address. Second Class Postage is paid at Blair, Nebraska.

This made me hot at heart.
R.S. Jensen

Let-Down by Church Members

Editor, THE ANSGAR LUTHERAN:

Sir:

I hope a good many of the laymen who read the Ansgar Lutheran will have the forbearance to read the following remarks.—

Most pastors today are smiling, pleasant people. Their demeanor is polite and gentle. Pastors must, and do, seem to radiate an inward happiness. This seems to be necessary in their work.

Ministers try like everything to hide their sorrows and depressed feelings from their people. This, too, seems to be necessary. Whether these feelings arise from fifteen years of being underpaid and in debt, or from the agony of having so many people let them down makes no difference. Pastors are expected to radiate happiness to their people, and they do, usually. Maybe they should not do this so much??? Be that as it may, I should like to write a few words about this **let-down** thing.

Without a doubt, here is the burden of the ministry. If anything except Christ's own cross can be called a cross to bear, the old **let-down** is a cross for the parish pastor. No pastor ever reaches a stage where there is no sorrow and disappointment over the way people are always letting him down. Yes, I **am** identifying "letting the pastor down" with letting down the Kingdom of God, for the pastor is God's servant, and it is in Kingdom business that people let him down; not as much in other matters.

This problem, the let-down, is such a constant occurrence that when (rarely) a church member actually carries to successful completion some simple assignment, I become elated almost to the point of embarrassment.

No, I am not being unfair, here. Ask any pastor. Anyhow I don't ask my people to climb to the top of Pike's Peak in search of new members for the church. I am not disappointed when people fail to do the impossible (only God can do the impossible). No. The disappointment arises when people fail so continually to do the **possible**.

I am talking about all the little nagging, erosive **let-downs**. They occur at least a dozen times a week. Just little, but necessary, stuff. I am reasonably certain that most pastors spend twenty to thirty hours every week taking care of small but necessary things that church members said they would do, but didn't do.

Another type of let-down is continually cropping up in such things as: People who turn down positions of responsibility in the church because they already have "too many commitments" and they feel they should spend more time with their families—most commendable if selfsame people would maybe (in their enormous desparation) first give up a club or lodge meeting or two, or a hunting expedition, or an evening of bowling or two, and not place the church **below** luxurious social and recreational activities, in their scale of values. But they let you down.— Or the people who didn't show up for the meeting—or the deacon who didn't contact that unchurched family that night because he had to go bowling and looks you in the eye just daring his pastor to breathe one little word of mild rebuke—or the young people who have so well learned from their elders the art of letting-the-pastor-down—or the people who carry gossip—or the respectable church members who have everything for home and play but have little to give for the Lord's work—or the congregation itself when it sometimes just doesn't show up, and a spiritually shallow church member adds insult to injury by trying to console you with the statement: "Don't feel too badly, Pastor, I'm sure it wasn't that our people weren't interested; it's just that our meeting came on the same night as the basketball game between . . ." Ah, well, his intentions were good.

Pastors are the most **let-down** people in the world. And so, people tell you: "Cheer up! Don't worry!" To such lame encouragements my answer shall henceforth be: "Oh yeah? **You** try it!"

And now my good layman, if you have read this far, let me ask you in closing: What excuse did **you** give your pastor when **you** let him down?

Rev. Ronald Jensen, Pastor in Ev. Luth. Church,
 Yours,
the Editor John W. Jensen's son 1950-62, 4139
 SCRIP SUNDRY

The Struggle for Anonymity

Editor, The Ansgar Lutheran

Sir:

To be anonymous is more difficult than to be recognized, for anonymity is contrary to human instinct. From the day a man-child is born he begins struggling to assert himself in the universe. He does this in whatever way presents itself. His first effort at self-assertion is crying. As he grows older he finds other ways, such as showing off or misbehaving so that he will get attention. As he matures into adulthood he continues to seek recognition by others. If he has been given a constructive outlook on life his efforts to assert himself can be of benefit to society. If not, he can only do harm. But in either case he will struggle to assert himself and be recognized in some manner.

What about the individual who has acquired recognition? Well, there are those who think that they have too much of it. There are the politicians who try to escape reporters to have privacy. There are the preachers in small towns who can't go out the back door without having the neighbors know it. Also, there are the leading citizens in communities and countries large and small who are recognized wherever they are. Never, in their first instinctive efforts to assert themselves and be recognized, did they surmise that recognition is a burden and a heavy one at that. One of the prices paid for being recognized is the lack of real privacy and anonymity.

Where could Eisenhower go without being recognized? You can bet your life he often wishes he could go somewhere completely alone and in privacy. On down the line we may go with the degree of burdensomeness for those who have acquired recognition. But recognition, depending on the greatness of the individual is equally burdensome to him. The greater the man, the greater must be his capacity for carrying the burden of recognition.

Let's take an ordinary pastor in a small community. Have pity on him. He has no reporters following him. Few of the citizens of his town wish to give him the recognition of being greater than they. But nonetheless no one is very willing to grant him the right of privacy. His clothes are scrutinized, his car, his furniture, his wife, his family. So is the way he walks, talks, and keeps quiet. He cannot go anywhere in his community without having someone wonder why he is there. He cannot play golf without having people know both his score and the frequency with which he plays. If he plays one game per summer some people will remark that they certainly aren't giving to the church so that he can spend his time and money playing golf. If he doesn't play anything at all, his people will think that he is no good with the young people in the congregation. If his wife gets a new hat, the ladies will make it known throughout the community. Pity this man.

Is it any wonder that he feels vacationing at home is impossible? Is it any wonder that he must for the sake of his health and his mental stability travel away from home on vacations he cannot afford? "Oh, to be some place where no one knows I am a pastor and where people will not even wonder, 'Who is that man?'"

And yet, personalities differ. I have known preachers who could not bear to be without recognition even on vacation, and so wear their clerical collars even to a summer carnival. Such strength deserves the office of bishop or arch-bishop or perhaps even of pope. I am a lesser mortal. I crave a bit on anonymity now and then. I don't mind having people know who the man in the chancel is, nor the members of my congregation recognize me when I ring the doorbell. But beyond that, I would just as soon be looked upon as being another man. Yes, I do wish for God's grace that I may be looked upon as a Christian man wherever I go, but I have no particular desire to have my office flaunted everywhere. I am just not big enough for that. I would rather write an anonymous letter to the Ansgar Lutheran once a week.

Yours,

Scrip Sundry

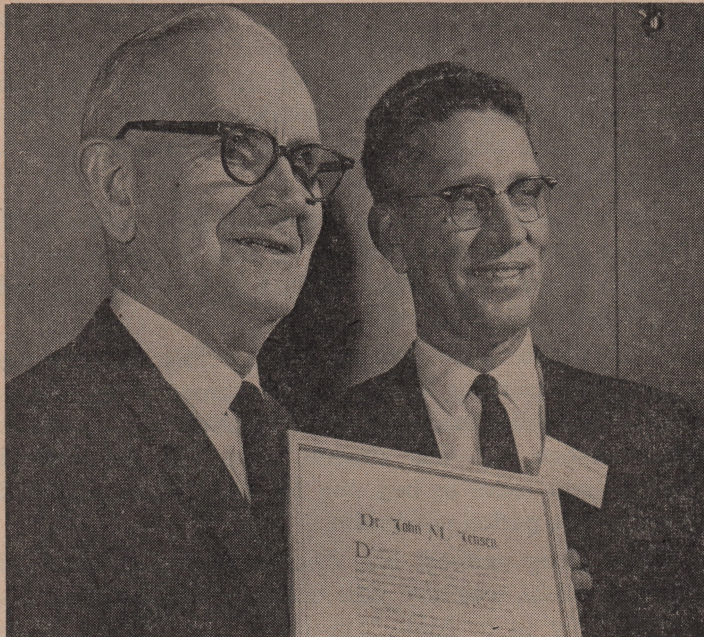
Rev. Ronald Jensen

Son of Editor J.M.J.

 **THE WEEK AT DANA**
your midcontinent college

May 16, 1960

UELCC President Larsen presents citation to Dr. Jensen



**ANSGAR LUTHERAN EDITOR CITED AT
CLOSING CONVENTION**

By Phil Pagel

Dr. John M. Jensen, editor of **The Ansgar Lutheran**, was honored at a special dinner held in connection with the Closing Convention of the UELC at Bethel Lutheran Church, Minneapolis. Dr. Jensen was commended for his 25 years of service as editor of **The Ansgar Lutheran**, official publication of the UELC.

Dr. William Larsen, synodical president, presented a citation to Dr. Jensen which read in part, "Since 1936, Dr. Jensen has served as editor of **The Ansgar Lutheran**. Through his stimulating editorials he has provoked his readers to think creatively while at the same time providing edifying reading for the members of the congregations. On behalf of the UELC we hereby express our gratitude to Dr. Jensen for his devoted pastoral ministry and his outstanding contribution in serving 25 years as editor of **The Ansgar Lutheran**." In presenting the citation, Dr. Larsen further stated, "Dr. Jensen has exerted more influence in the constituency of the UELC than any other living person."

In addition to the tribute paid by the members of our church, Dr. O. G. Malmin, editor of **The Lutheran Herald** and Dr. E. W. Schramm, editor of **The Lutheran Standard**, expressed their gratitude to Dr. Jensen for his contributions and leadership in the field of Lutheran journalism.

The administration, faculty and student body of Dana College would also like to add their congratulations to Dr. Jensen for this enviable record. His writings have challenged many of us to think of higher things.

ITEM INVENTORY LIST

JEN-977-4 Jensen, P.C. (1977)

Item#: 1 Sub-item# : k
 Biographical Record of Ministers-Jensen, John M. Includes lists of churches served and dates of ordination for the pastors listed.

Letter ID#	To	From	Postdate	Origin	Destination	Language	C/L/E
	friends	Jensen, John M.	12/07/1970	Cedar Rapids, Iowa		eng	1
	Jensen, P.C.	Jensen, John M.	12/10/0070	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Blair, Nebraska	eng	c/e
	Jensen, P.C.	Jensen, John M.	04/27/1959	Viborg, South Dakota	Blair, Nebraska	eng	1
	Jensen, P.C.	Jensen, John M.	05/28/1968	Cedar Rapids, Iowa	Blair, Nebraska	eng	1/e
	Jensen, P.C.	Jensen, John M.	03/21/0056			dan	1

Author	Title	Publisher	Cutter Num.	Volume/Copy	Publication Date(s)
Neve, Glen R.	Ansgar Lutheran	LPH, Blair, Nebraska			02/02/1959
	CONTENTS: The editor leaves Spencer, Iowa Jensen, John M.)				
Vaaler, Martin (Duke)	Ansgar Lutheran	LPH, Blair, Nebraska			04/18/1955
	CONTENTS: A letter (Thank you to Jensen, John M. for work as editor)				
Pagel, Phil	Ansgar Lutheran	LPH, Blair, Nebraska			05/16/1960
	CONTENTS: Ansgar Lutheran editor cited at closing convention Jensen				
Jensen, Ronald (Scrip Sundry)	Ansgar Lutheran	LPH, Blair, Nebraska			04/18/1960
	CONTENTS: The struggle for anonymity				
Jensen, John M.	Dansk Nytaar	LPH, Blair, Nebraska		1955	
	CONTENTS: Højt mod nord: den første lutherske præst i Nordamerika var				
Jensen, Ronald (Scrip Sundry)	Ansgar Lutheran	LPH, Blair, Nebraska			01/06/1958
	CONTENTS: Let-down by church members				
Jensen, John M.	Luthersk Ugeblad	LPH, Blair, Nebraska			03/11/1959
	CONTENTS: Et ligningsbillede af luthersk kirkesamling i nordamerika...				