

Lutheran Tidings

Volume VII

December 5, 1940

Number 9

MORNING HYMN

The gates of the morning swing open again,
The night rolls away over mountain and plain,
A new day we face
With thanks for the night to the Father of days.

As night with sweet sleep has our bodies refreshed,
So day is a challenge to give it our best,
In great things and small
God, give us to serve for the welfare of all!

Thy blessing, our God! for our work we bespeak,
Help all that would serve and give strength to the weak!
Thy word in us live,
So humbly we pray and sincerely believe!

As sparrows fly twittering out from the nest,
And bask in the glittering sunshine refreshed,
All friends that we meet
With smiles and with cheerful Good-Mornings we greet.

"Alt Morgens Porte"
by Kr. Ostergaard

translated by
S. D. Rodholm

Personal Consecration for Spiritual Life and Service

(Romans 12:1-5)

Opening Address of a series on Romans 12, given at
the District Convention at Trufant, Michigan,
August 30, 1940.

The keynote of our meetings this year is "The Challenge of My Church to Christian Service." The response to such a challenge must of necessity begin with individual, personal consecration, first to God, then to His Church, through which He ministers to the needs of men, and finally to the welfare of human society.

"To consecrate" means to set something aside or apart, unreservedly, for the hallowed service to God. At these meetings we shall speak of it in the highest and finest sense: the consecration of our lives, with all that this connotes: body, mind, heart and will, making up the personality, as well as possessions: time, talents and means, in short all that is a part of our human life. I know of no finer chapter in the Bible striking this keynote than that which we have chosen as a basis for our convention, Romans 12.

In the epistle to the Romans, Paul, the great apostle, gives eleven chapters to explaining the great doctrines of God's grace and salvation. When Paul has made doctrinally clear how we are eternally saved from sin, and justified before a holy God, he changes from the doctrinal aspects of his teaching to the practical, for Paul was among other things intensely prac-

tical. What would be the value of any kind of knowledge, if it is not applicable to life? Hence Paul makes his mighty appeal for PERSONAL CONSECRATION FOR SPIRITUAL LIFE AND SERVICE. Such consecration, as I see it, is based upon: I. A Supreme Demand; II. A Divine Standard; III. A Holy Purpose; IV. An Exalted Motive.

I. A Supreme Demand

"Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Here, indeed, is a supreme demand, a claim for a supreme sacrifice, as well as a supreme privilege. What does that mean in actual life? It means a sacrifice, a consecration to God of: All that I am—My whole personality; All that I have—My full possessions; All that I hope to be—My entire plans for my life. All is to be laid upon God's altar and be wholly His, used only by Him and for Him.

Such consecration means a full surrender to God of all our physical powers. The body must be safeguarded against the instincts of the flesh, which are governed by self. Do not the Scriptures warn against four great sins of the body: gluttony, drunkenness, immorality and murder? Paul says: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." (1 Cor. 3:16-17.)

It means a consecration of the intellect, the mental life: our reading, our thinking, our meditation, our imaginings. Are we willing to let Christ regulate our thoughts and the things upon which they feed? "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Proverbs 23:7)

A full consecration of our emotions in the heart also is involved: our loves, hates and fears. God demands the heart's supreme affection, because it determines our highest good. Are we not very shortsighted in this? We are prone to love the world and the things of the world. The Christian, whose life is governed by Christ, will know hate, but only a hate for evil; will know fear, but fear only the evil one and his destructive powers.

Full consecration of the whole personality will also include the will, every choice, every decision, every desire to the loving, all-wise will of God. We have a free will, a great gift of God. A "yes" to God is a "no" to His adversary, and vice versa. "When the will yields, everything yields."

But such a living sacrifice includes also all that you and I have, our possessions. Do we not often fail to recognize Christ's claim to Lordship in this sphere? This includes the stewardship of our means, our time and our talents.

Again, the living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, includes all we hope to be: our plans and our ambitions. The natural self wants to determine and control the future; the world wants to influence it, so also does the devil. But only God can give us a future in which we can realize the fullest possibilities.

Is it not our reasonable service to yield ourselves to God's supreme demand of complete, personal consecration?

(Continued on page 70)

Co-operation With Other Lutherans

Address Given at Meeting of Church Board and District Presidents, Des Moines, Nov. 12-14.

Will closer co-operation with other Lutheran bodies retard or promote a living Danish church?

"Upon this rock will I build my church," Math. 16, 18. Let us in considering this question remember that it was Jesus, the Masterbuilder, who spoke these words, "I will build my church," and bear in mind that He speaks of it as "His" church.

For over 1900 years He has been building His church. He has been gathering rough stones out of the quarry of humanity, hewing them into the shape of His holy purpose, cementing them together by His own precious blood and by calling upon us as His apprentices and helpers, we who are called living stones in that structure, "His church."

In the face of all the tragic facts in the history of the visible church, do not forget that the Master had to build out of raw material at His disposal, out of plain and fallible men and women confessors and deniers, yea betrayers and disciples who "follow afar off." In the midst of wreckage of human wisdom and might, in the face of sinister foes, who proclaim totalitarianism.

"I will build my church," in toil and tears, in weakness and in want, in mortal men and women, in days of darkness and doubt across the centuries into eternities.—His church is being builded. This applies to the Lutheran Church, our Synod and others. Wonderful things have been accomplished and man may say today as centuries ago: "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together." Ps. 133, 1. In these bodies of His church made up of this material there always has been and always will be differences. The apostles differed as did their helpers and successors. The names Cephas, Apollos and Paul indicate this. Nevertheless these three and others co-operated, they shared with each other and profited. We have co-operated from earliest time with our mother, the church of Denmark, and it has been to our benefit. We have co-operated with our sister church, the United Danish Lutheran, and to a limited extent with other Lutherans. I believe the more we do this, the more we shall find that we have many things in common. And if we will approach each other mindful of the fact that none of us as yet have received or seen the whole truth, then I am sure we all may benefit by learning from each other. And my personal experience is that I have received much help by associating and by co-operating with others, and I do not think anyone among us will say they ever have been the losers by such co-operation.

The good Shepherd said: "I have other sheep not of this fold," and as many of us as will acknowledge the fact that these "other sheep" may be found in other "Lutheran bodies" and that they are "His sheep," they surely will profit by fellowship with them. If they are "His," they can do us good.

We have one large Lutheran body in U.S.A. which has not as yet to any extent co-operated with others. (Indications are that changes may soon come.) I do not believe a section of heaven will be reserved for that body, our body or any other body of the church. And those who surround themselves with a Chinese wall are not as I see it following the example of Jesus.

In His ministry He frequented the synagogues. That was his custom on the Sabbath day even though the religious leaders there did not agree with Him, and at last threw Him out. Jesus wanted to co-operate and did as much co-operating as the Jews would permit. It was valuable to both parties.

That is not saying that we should unite with one or more of these. (I hope that day will come some day.) However, even competition may be good. The Catholic church is nearest stagnation in those countries where there are no Protestants. But we have been afraid of others, afraid to receive pastors coming from others or having had others as their teachers. A change has taken place here. 25-30 years ago I came into contact with a Danish man who was a pastor in General Synod (now part of U.L.C.). We took a liking to each other and frequently visited each other. He was interested in our synod, we agreed that I should write the president of our synod. His answer was mostly "but and because" and we better not do anything about him. The matter was dropped.

Contrast this with what happened last summer in Cedar Falls; without opposition or objection we received a pastor from U. L. C., and we have received several who came to us from other seminaries; that is co-operation which we have had no cause to regret, and which I believe will help us to promote a living Danish church. Co-operation with others where there is life will bring life, seclusion will do the opposite.

In a small midwest city there was a church called "The Church of God." Its members lived secluded from all others. Soon there was a split, the seceders formed a second church and called themselves "The True Church of God." Later came another split in the second church and a third church was formed which adopted the name "The **only true** Church of God." Seclusion among these members retarded life and promoted strife.

I do not think the church of the future will do this. It will co-operate with others and things like that will not happen when God's Holy Spirit is the guide.

The church of today is more tolerant than the church of yesteryear and I believe the church of tomorrow (next century) will be more tolerant than today. What happened as told in stories about Salem Witchcraft could not happen today. About the year 1700 some harmless Quakers came to Stamford, Connecticut. They were literally driven away from town by the good people of the Christian church in Stamford. 50 years ago some preachers of different denominations would not sit on the same platform. That retarded life and promoted strife.

In co-operating with others we need not surrender a single conviction of our own, but can thereby show an attitude of brotherliness. This is not unity and yet unity among men will be attained as they learn to value and bring into common fellowship the differences and the varieties of human life and experience. The many represent a larger fund of experience than any one individual group, race or nation possesses.

Larger attitudes, larger adventures and explorations in life, larger quests of understanding is achieved by breaking down sectionalism and seeking to benefit from the experience of others.

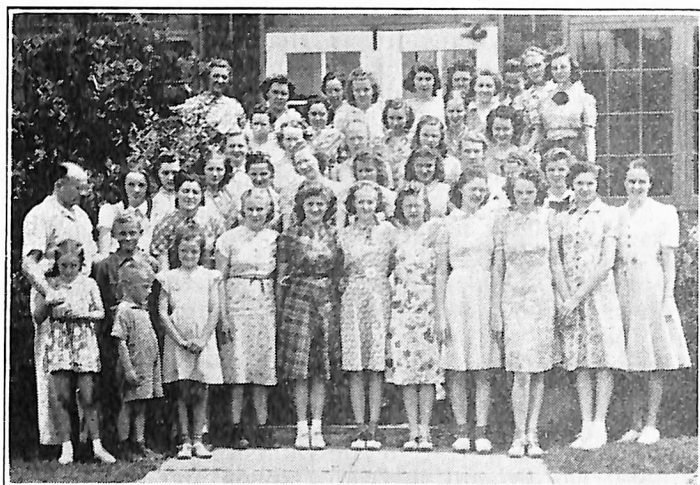
Even the sacrifice of laying down our own unimportant, yet perhaps cherished ideas or prejudices may at times be beneficial. The result may be that

(Continued on page 69)

Danebod Folk School

Melodies rang up and down the corridors of Danebod, in the classroom, and dining hall. It was familiar songs that first tied the bond between us. Singing helped keep us happy through the five busy weeks.

Now that the end is here, we are more busy than ever, getting the "Danebod Blotter", our weekly paper, off to be mimeographed, or finishing the craft work, writing autographs, getting final visiting done with our new friends. We talk about the five weeks which have gone by so quickly. The high spots are often repeated. Personalities, lectures, work, sewing,



DANEBOD STUDENTS OF 1940

and crafts are discussed, and, of course, the parties, folk dances, etc. It all goes together to make Danebod.

The most discussed topic was Rev. Bahuth, an Arabian Lutheran minister from Palestine. He told us of many customs which were so strange to us that we could not help but ponder, "And these are Christians?" Marius Krog suggested that perhaps we had so Americanized our Christianity that we couldn't conceive of anything else as being truly Christian. At any rate, Palestine was brought a little closer to us.

Other visitors were Rev. Alfred Sorensen, Johannes Knudsen, Rev. Marius Krog, Rev. and Mrs. Jespersen, and Miss Dagmar Møller. Each brought a special contribution to us. God is our father; meet the world with kindness and love; live, for time hastens past. There were challenges to meet the future with our heads up and our eyes open.

Danebod isn't just a school building. It is the sum total of the personalities and activities within it. We will all remember Harald Knudsen's lively antics in the gym, as folk dance leader, lecturer, and keeper of the keys. He is an ideal leader of games and also of more serious activities such as discussions and lectures. He made "andagt" the peaceful conclusion of the day.

We will also remember Mrs. Knudsen, who is friendly and helpful and gay. Ingeborg Lund's spirit flavored our every activity—the spices, you might say. She was vigorous in work and play. Danish class was a picnic with a little special surprise package each day.

(Continued on page 69)

Correspondence from Manistee, Mich.

By Imogene Jorgensen

Our Saviour's Young People's Society enjoyed a summer of marshmallow roasts and beach parties. A grand climax to a successful summer was realized at our annual trip to Camp Interlochen. An afternoon of swimming and hiking was enjoyed before the delicious pot luck supper was served. A very charming member of the camp escorted our group around the grounds telling us many interesting facts and showing us the cottages and various practice rooms. This proved to be of interest to every member of our group. We attended the evening concert of orchestral music and choral numbers. We have had meetings this fall and are looking forward to another successful year of Christian Fellowship.

We have enjoyed two delightful evenings at our Dansk Sangatten which were held both the evenings of October 13 and November 10. Many familiar and well loved songs were sung. We had the pleasure of hearing Reverend Stockholm of Grayling speak at the former meeting. At the latter, Reverend Broe favored us with a talk. Refreshments were served and everyone enjoyed a chat around the coffee table.

On Wednesday evening, October 30, Reverend John Christiansen of Ludington delivered an interesting lecture entitled "The Lutheran Church in Europe." Those present enjoyed it very much. All the individuals joined in a friendly little chat around the coffee table afterwards.

At 8:00 o'clock on November 3, four Lutheran churches of Manistee congregated at the Ansgarius Lutheran Church (Augustana Synod) to worship together. The St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the Norwegian Lutheran Church, and Our Saviour's Lutheran Church were all well represented at the gathering. Reverend Broe delivered an inspired message on Lutheran World Action at this service. Everyone was impressed by the choral rendition of "Beautiful Saviour" which was sung by the combined choirs of the hostess church and our own.

On Wednesday evening, November 6, the choir held their annual Hallowe'en party after the regular monthly business meeting. The highlight of the evening occurred when songs and choir numbers were recorded and played. Games were enjoyed and refreshments were served.

On November 15 the 72nd birthday anniversary of our church was celebrated with a patriotic program. The schoolhouse was decorated beautifully with flags and candles. Members of the congregation and friends were very pleased with the delightful program.

Sunday, November 24, proved to be a busy day. The annual business meeting of the church was held in the afternoon. Many members brought their sandwiches and stayed for supper. In the evening Reverend Broe delivered a very interesting lecture on the life of Dr. Grenfell. Coffee was served in the evening.

On Wednesday night, November 27, Miss Dagmar Miller, missionary from India, delivered a very interesting talk. All persons present were very much interested in the trinkets and clothes which she displayed.

Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY
THE DANISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF AMERICA

Office of publication, Tyler, Minnesota

Rev. Holger Strandkov, Editor
Tyler, Minnesota

Rev. Holger P. Jorgensen, Business Manager
Lock Box 238, Tyler, Minn., and
25 Merrill Ave., Muskegon, Mich.

Published semi-monthly on the 5th and 20th of each month.
Entered as second class matter at the post office, Tyler, Minn.

Subscription price: 1 yr. \$1.00; 2 yrs. \$1.75; 3 yrs. \$2.50

All contributions to the contents of this paper should be sent to the editor.

All matters concerning subscriptions, payments of subscriptions, and requests for advertising rates should be sent to the business manager's Muskegon, Michigan, address. Notices of change of address should be sent to Lock Box 358, Tyler, Minn.

Volume VII

December 5, 1940

Number 9

EDITORIAL

It has been stated that Christianity comes alive in periods like that in which we now live.—This is not because God is not present in times of peace. God reveals Himself at all times. But as the brightness of the star brought out by the shadows of night and darkness, so it seems to be a law in the spiritual world, that Christian faith sees God most clearly when darkness covers the face of the earth.

Only a few years ago several articles appeared in "Højskolebladet" from Denmark on the topic: "Why are the churches of today nearly empty?" Various reasons for this deplorable situation was presented. But no diagnosis seemed to be satisfactory and complete.

And now in recent months we have had reports from the same country to the effect that the churches are filled to capacity on Sunday mornings. Dr. Ralph H. Long, executive director of the National Lutheran Council in speaking recently on "The State of the Church in Europe" made this statement: "The people are turning to their religion, it is all that is left them." The editor of The Christian Century, Dr. Morrison, makes this comment on the present status of the Christian church: "The greatest shock which Christian faith has received in our day is its awakening to the fact of its own impotence. It is hard to admit that Christianity after nearly twenty centuries has made so little difference in the civilization of that part of the world where it has been the dominant and virtually the exclusive religion."

The Christian church today faces a task very much like that which confronted the early Christians. In those days civilization faced collapse because man imagined himself the master of his own fate, and worshiping Man, he forgot God. In this darkness the early Christians saw the vision of God and permitted Him to become a reality in their lives, and in their world.

Man again imagines himself the master of his fate. Darkness has again fallen upon our world.—Amidst this chaos comes the greeting of Advent: "Behold Thy King cometh."—He is the King of whom Isaiah said: "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

Will we permit Him to enter?

Holger Strandkov

The Car For The Canada Mission

To all the many people of our synod, who last spring gave over \$500.00 toward a car for our mission field in Canada, I feel that we owe to tell them the story of that car so far.

Early in April Mr. Axel Thomsen, the treasurer of our synod, who had been receiving donations for a much-needed car for Rev. Vilh. Larsen in Canada, turned the responsibility for getting that car over to the Danish Women's Mission Fund. We were told that the best plan would be to buy it here, as cars cost three to four hundred dollars more in Canada than in the U. S. A., and, if possible, to have it ready so that Rev. Larsen could take it along home when he came down for the Convention at Cedar Falls.

We sent out an extra appeal for donations, and they came in so generously that in early June the D. W. M. Board could begin asking prices of Chevrolet cars from our local dealers. The lowest price quoted was from Mr. Oscar Rasmussen, Greenville, Mich., who sold us a 1940 two door sedan for \$564.00. Since the car was bought by the mission society for church work, the State of Michigan did not collect any sales tax. We bought a half year Michigan license. When this and the drive to Cedar Falls were paid, the car had cost \$575.00. But we knew that there might be a duty of about \$150.000 to pay for getting the car into Canada; so the Board voted to let our convention offering go toward that and to pay what more was needed out of our treasury.

We were glad to do this, as the Canada Mission has always been dear to the Danish Women's Mission Fund. The delegation from Canada and Rev. Larsen were very thankful to the women of our church and on their departure for Canada with the car repeatedly told us to bring to you all their sincere thanks.

The car was not given to Rev. Larsen, however, but put at his disposal only so long as he shall serve our church in Canada. As the Danish Women's Mission Fund is not incorporated and a car has to have a responsible owner, it was turned over to the synod as their property. Everything was thought to be well done.

A few weeks later, however, we received letters from Rev. Larsen, telling us that during the week of the convention the duty on cars had been raised, so that instead of \$150.00 he had been asked to pay \$395.00. He did not think this was fair, so he left the car stored at Dagmar, Mont.

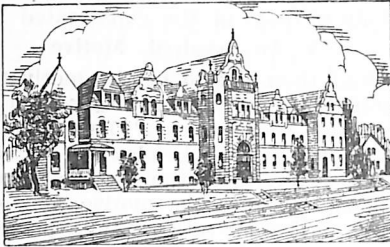
Appeals were then made through a member of the Canadian Parliament to the Prime Minister of Canada to have the duty reduced or canceled, in view of the fact that the car was to be used for church work. This was denied.

After some discussion and the suggestion by Rev. Larsen that in the hope that conditions would change he get along without a car until next summer, it was finally decided by the synodical Board that, since a car decreases in value, even if it is stored, they would try to sell it now. So a few weeks ago, when Rev. Alfred Jensen was a Dagmar, Mont., he sold the car for \$600.00. Of course, this money, as well as the \$150.00 voted by the D. W. M. Board for duty, will be in the bank for the purchase of another car.

Of donations for the car Mr. Axel Thomsen received \$321.88; \$61.00 of this was a personal gift by Rev. Larsen. The Danish Women's Mission Fund received about \$257.00, totalling ca. \$578.00.

Once more we thank you all for these gifts. I feel sure you will trust that they will be used wisely.

Grand View College



Grand View College Winter Session
January 6—March 14

It's snowing. From my window I can see the large flakes playing about the walks and tower of Luther Memorial Church. It's winter and that makes me think of the winter session.

There must be many young people in our congregation who are not planning to take a regular college course, but who want to spend some time in our college. There used to be. Twenty-five years ago Nysted, Danebod, Ashland, and Solvang were crowded with young people. They came for many reasons. One can not know just why. But it is true that many of these experienced something that made different people of them.

It is not possible to turn back to 1915 even if we would. But there must be young people today among us who are longing for good and beautiful things. To them, and to all young people, we send our invitation to come for our winter session. One can't accomplish everything in ten weeks, but you may experience something that you will never forget.

We are planning to offer special courses in such subjects as literature, social problems, religion, gymnastics, commerce, and business. These are non-credit courses.

Should you wish to take regular college work, the time for you to enroll is with the beginning of the second semester, Jan. 27. This closes May 30.

Alfred C. Nielsen

—:—

A minister once walked through a garden where a colored man was busy working with a hoe. Stopping to admire the splendid vegetables the minister said: "Uncle Abe, that's a mighty nice garden you have there."

"Yas, suh!" agreed the old man.

"You ought to thank the Almighty for it."

"Well, I dunno, boss," replied Uncle Abe. "Did you see this piece of ground when the Almighty had it all to Himself?"

ly. Through our church papers we shall tell the final chapter of this story, when we succeed in getting a car for our church work in Canada.

With greetings,

Anna J. Stub

Danebod Folk School

(Continued from page 67)

Mrs. Olson led the dramatics, read aloud while we sewed, and talked about the Philippines and the Orient. She was the stabilizer who never became flustered, but worked on with patience and ease.

Dagmar, Olsen never had trouble getting volunteers to help in the kitchen. She is fun as well as a good cook and manager.

We could go through the whole list of forty-one girls from the most lively to the most quiet. Each girl had her role to play. Each girl helped in the unity that was found here. Each personality added to the interest and fun. But instead, we will think of the benefits received from such a mingling of personalities. That is what counts.

Otherwise, there wouldn't be a Danebod; the people of Tyler wouldn't give their support; and Rev. and Mrs. Strandkov wouldn't have invited us and given all their energy and time.

Once, when we were coming home in a truck from an outing in Camden Park, we sang songs that we knew from memory. Some of the songs were silly, some were very spirited, some were blended into beautiful harmonies of music and thought. As we came nearer home, we became more and more tired and settled down. Someone started "Lær mig Nattens Stjerne", and perfect peace and reverence came over the group for just an instant. Perhaps some did not notice, perhaps we will all forget it, but there will always be some fragment of worth remaining from that little moment.

Then there may also be a joke, a smile, a fleeting instant of complete happiness that will remain with us.

Living with young folks who have similar backgrounds is a great part of the folk life. When Johannes Knudsen was here, he spoke of the significance of the name, Danebod. The preservation of our Danish heritage here, just as the Danish Queen worked to preserve that which was Denmark centuries ago. To preserve our heritage in the United States we must adapt it to its new setting. Our leaders have tried to do this ever since they first came to the New World. We must keep up the work. If our rich Danish heritage is to live, we must give it unceasingly and unselfishly to our fellow Americans. It may even mean that we must sacrifice it to such an extent that it will be like a huge pine tree which, after centuries of living and growing, dies to give nourishment to new plants.

This year Danebod again sends forty-one flaming torches out into the world. We must sing our way even in the humblest places.

Hilda Gade.

Co-operation With Other Lutherans

(Continued from page 66)

we are not so far apart, that our differences were more of words or forms than real. They were not so great after all. A living church among ourselves will be promoted if we practise fairness even when it would be more simple and easier to be unfair; when we try to understand one another even if it were easier not to bother. The ways of living may be different in two neighboring homes, but life in the two families will be better if good relations are cultivated between the two, than if they have nothing in common. This even if one sometimes must give way to mutual concessions. Strife and disunity have their anchorage in unyielding attitudes.

We preach love as admonished by St. Paul in 1 Cor., 13. We, I firmly believe, will promote a living church among ourselves if we take this with us in our relation to other church bodies: "Charity is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked... beareth all things, never faileth... Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I know even as also I am known."

Charity or love will always bear good fruit. Charity is a good tree also among church bodies.

We may have made remarkable progress in our own church, but we have not reached the point where we have seen it all, or where we know it all. Or where we have a right to the spirit of the Pharisee who praying believes himself superior to all others.

Any individual or organization that does not exemplify the spirit of humility and through its leaders instruct its representatives to rejoice in the good that is being done by others is ignoring the advice of St. Paul: "Be kindly affected one to another with brotherly love in honor preferring one another." Rom. 12, 10. No, the Lord has not granted any individual the privilege of monopolizing the conception and practice of religious duties. Neither has this type of authority been conceded to a single organization. It is unreasonable to expect that we all shall ever think alike, act alike, or work alike.

Our way of doing things may be of very high order, but we are never justified in conceit, even though we may be convinced that better judgment and understanding has prevailed in our lives. But this does not rule the case of others out of the court of divine sanction.

Do we believe that it is really pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity? Do we believe it? Jesus has said: "Blessed are the peacemakers." Despite all the obstacles to peace and unity, that are the heritages of the past, the one great barrier is man's lack

of faith and vision. We do not realize brotherhood enough and often show that we lack the Master's faith that the true blessedness of life is in peace-making.

Lastly, let us remember the words of Jesus: "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly," and in that connection the words already quoted: "I have other sheep, not of this fold."

A. C. Kildegaard

Personal Consecration

(Continued from front page)

II. A Divine Standard

"Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is good and acceptable and perfect will of God." In this verse the man of God, Paul, shows us the high spiritual level of the consecrated life. Two worlds are contrasted: God's world and our world. We are challenged to make a break with the one and to cleave to the other. Our lives should not be moulded or patterned by this materialistic world in which we live. It has a way of making its imprint upon man from which it is well to be free. We may be compelled to be in the world but we need not be of it. (See John 17:15). We can and must shun evil influences; the world's standards should not be ours, nor should we permit it to shape our opinions, ideals and choices, for it is a "relentless foe" of every aspirant of the consecrated life. Compromise with it is fatal.

We may ask: "Does not a life of spiritual consecration and separation make for an isolated life?" The answer is "No." As someone has pointed out, the Christian life is not isolated but insulated. As an electric wire must be insulated from earth in order to carry electric current, so the Christian life must be insulated from the earthly forces which would ground and bring to nought divine messages commuted by the Spirit of God to us and through us to the world. Christians, like the Levites in the Old Testament church, are to be separated for a special service in the Christian church and the World.

Neither is the separated life for God a wasted life or a life of sadness; rather it is a life of gladness. The Israelites did not sing while they were in Egypt, but when they had crossed the Red Sea, they found their voices. Only Christians, who have been separated from the world's bondage, are really joyful.

"Be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind," says Paul. This is the second note of the spiritual standard of the consecrated life. If separation is negative in its demand, transformation is positive. It is not enough to renounce the world, we must be transformed, have a new sense of direction. To "put off the old man" and be dead to sin, is one thing; to "put on the

new man" and be alive to God, is quite another. The one must be supplemented by the other. In a book from which I have found very useful thoughts for this address, the following illustration is given to make this clear.

In a certain town, the rubbish heap of many years had become a public eye-sore. A new surveyor of the town said: "Why have it at all?" He set about making a plan, and put it into effect. No more refuse could be dumped there. The ground was levelled and filled in with good soil; grass is seeded, paths are laid out, shrubs and trees are planted, and in due time the town was proud of its beautiful park, which became the joy of young and old alike. It took time to bring about this transformation. It began in the mind of one man, later it was actualized.

The great "Surveyor", Christ, sees the possibilities and purposes to realize them by removing what ought not to be there and supplying what is lacking. Thus a Simon becomes a Peter, the "Rock", a Paul, the great Apostle and missionary. He sees in every sinner a possible saint of God. It is His purpose that every life may be conformed to the image of God, bearing the fruits of the spirit, may be transformed in to the likeness of Christ. It begins with the spiritual renewal of the mind, turned from the world to God; this is the work of God's Holy Spirit, not something we can do by ourselves.

III. A Holy Purpose

What is the object and purpose of this consecration and spiritual renewal to which the apostle has exhorted the Christians to attain? It is this, that the individual, consecrated Christian might cultivate the bond of fellowship and brotherhood which is proper and desirable, as members of the "body of Christ", the Christian Church, made up of individuals, who are mutually interdependent upon one another.

That such a spiritual fellowship might be possible, Paul warns the Christians against personal pride. "Let no man think more highly of himself than he ought to think." Pride is a besetting temptation of human nature familiar to us all. Spiritual pride is an infirmity of selfishness, and is of all sins most deadly.

Rather, "let him think soberly". Modesty and sobriety of judgment, as regards ourselves particularly, is greatly to be recommended. Each of us is gifted, according to our "measure of faith", and God is the Giver of every gift. Even the most richly blessed is but a sinner, saved by the Sovereign grace of God; we should be clad in the garb of humility, as was Paul. He claimed no personal merits, but spoke of his accomplishments as due to "grace given me", though he was "the least worthy of the apostles", even "less than the least of all the saints."

"Look every man upon the things of others." There is room for every Christian workman in Christ's service.

Let every Christian be content to be what God intended him to be and be willing to help in building up the spiritual fellowship of the saints. This is a holy purpose of the consecrated life.

IV. An Exalted Motive

What then should be the motivating power of consecration and service to God and the brethren? Paul says at the beginning of his plea: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God." Here is the motive, the only true one. Love, gratitude, and personal devotion ought to motivate our living sacrifice to Him, His church and our fellowmen, because His mercies toward us have been and still are very great.

Love begets love. It is a law of life and an exalted love of God, as well as the feeling of personal indebtedness to God, should call forth in your life and mine a willingness to respond and yield to His supreme demand of complete consecration; to conform cheerfully to His divine standard of life; and to fulfill His holy purpose, not only in our own lives but also in promoting the spiritual fellowship among the saints in the Christian church.

Such is the consecrated life. Will you have it? Will you make the sacrifice that you may gain it? It is up to you and me to make the decision. It is our reasonable service!

Edwin E. Hansen

Dist. 9 Convention

(Continued from Previous Issue)

Saturday afternoon: Business meeting.—1. A Sunday school Institute was deemed advisable that the District president should endeavor to effect a district organization of young people. 3. The budget submitted by the synodical board to the district was accepted. 4. Rev. Holger Nielsen was encouraged to attend the proposed District president's meeting at Des Moines, Iowa. 5. Present board of District: Rev. Holger Nielsen, President; Rev. Jørgen Nielsen, Sec'y.; Hans Eskesen, Treas.

Sunday was the climax of the convention. Confirmation and communion services were held Sunday morning, and two children received Holy Baptism.

The last meeting was held in the famous "Odins Hall," for many years the place where Wilbur pioneers gathered. We experienced a very impressive moment when Holger Jorgensen arose to express his appreciation of the days at the convention. He said "I have not previously been in favor of calling a pastor but I have changed my mind and now wish to register approval of such an act." The president of the congregation followed with a statement that a meeting would be called two weeks hence for the purpose of considering this step.

The closing devotion was led by Rev. Holger Nielsen, district president. He read the thirteenth chapter of I. Cor.

"Now abideth faith, hope and love, these three, but greatest of them is love."

Jorgen Nielsen,
Secretary of the Meeting.
(Condensed by Editor)

Our Church

The Kimballton, Iowa, Church had the privilege of two visiting speakers on Sunday, Nov. 17th: Rev. Clemens Sorensen, of Vancouver, B. C., and Rev. Enok Mortensen of Salinas, Calif.

The Danish Lutheran Church of Juhl, Michigan, is being reconstructed including a basement under the church. We hope to be able to give more details later. It is interesting to note the great number of churches in our synod renovated during the last few years.

J. P. Ibsen, Viborg, S. Dak., died in a Sioux Falls hospital Nov. 22nd. While walking on the road a few evenings before he was struck by a passing automobile. Funeral services were held in Viborg on Monday, Nov. 25th. Mr. Ibsen was well known in the Danish Lutheran Church. For many years he has been a member of the board of "Dansk Folkesamfund".—Rev. Harald Ibsen of Diamond Lake, Minn., is a nephew and assisted at the funeral services.

The Report on New Subscribers to L. T. as reported in the last issue had the mistake of only 1 new subscriber from Newell, Iowa. This was a printer's mistake and should have been 9 from Newell.

The Young People's Society of Muskegon, Mich., are sponsoring a series of meetings to which they invite speakers from various Protestant denominations. The speakers are asked to present the background and the program of their denomination. Thus the young people hope to learn more of the work of their neighbours.

Rev. Swen Baden, President of District 1, will speak in Troy, N. Y., on Dec. 8th, giving an account of the Des Moines meeting which he attended.

The Hartford, Conn., Church has decided to eliminate all but one Danish service each month. All other services will be in English. The program the past year has been Danish and English services each Sunday. However, the Christmas service will be in Danish.

Rev. Clemens Sorensen, Vancouver, B. C., has now completed his tour, speaking in many of our churches in the synod. Reports are that his visit was enjoyed everywhere. Because of the Armistice snowstorm he did not speak as scheduled at Hampton, Iowa. After his return to the West coast he

was scheduled to speak also in Junction City, Ore., and Seattle, Wash.

Our Saviour's Church, Bridgeport, Conn., observed "All Saint's Sunday" Nov. 3rd with a memorial service. The service was "dedicated to departed members of The Danish Sisterhood, the Danish Brotherhood and Hand in Hand Society, as well as members of the church."

The Seamen's Mission of Brooklyn, N. Y., is in dire need of help according to an appeal by Rev. A. Th. Dorf in "Kirkeklokken". Formerly help has also been given directly from Denmark. This help, of course, now has ceased. Rev. Dorf is anxious to help these unemployed seamen as much as possible. He is especially interested in arranging a "Dansk Julefest" for them in his church. Gifts for same are welcome.

Mr. and Mrs. N. F. Christiansen of Whitee, Wisc., moved to the Old People's Home in Des Moines, Ia., this past week.—They were pioneers in Withee, having moved there from Chicago in 1893.

Rev. Enok Mortensen, Salinas, Calif., preached in the St. Peter's Church in Detroit, Mich., on Sunday, Nov. 10th. He was on his way to the District President's meeting in Des Moines, Ia. The "detour" to Detroit was caused by the need of a new automobile for the Salinas pastor.

Give Lutheran Tidings as a Christmas Gift! Many have a son or daughter away from home, possibly married and living away from any contact with the Danish Lutheran Church.—This greeting twice a month from their home church will be greatly appreciated.

The Oak Hill and St. John's churches near Brayton and Exira, Iowa, had a Mission meeting Nov. 15-17. Rev. Edwin Hansen, Rev. Clemens Sorensen, Rev. H. Plambeck and Rev. Alfred Jensen were the visiting speakers.

The Oak Hill congregation has recently had electric lights installed in the church and parsonage.

Mr. Helgasson from Iceland was a guest speaker at the St. Peter's church in Dwight, Ill., on Wednesday evening, Nov. 20th.—Mr. George Dupont Hansen, organist of Trinity church in Chicago, gave an organ recital following the lecture.

The Danebod Folk School article was written last August but due to lack of space through the last months, we have not been able to print same. Miss Hilda Gade of Brush, Colo., writer of the article, was student and teacher at the school. She is a graduate from University of Colorado. Miss Gade had

a class here at Danebod in "Appreciation of Art in Everyday life".

"The Danebod Blotter" was the name of the student paper here last summer. Girls, let us have an additional issue again about Jan. 1st. Each one send a greeting of 50-75 words, telling of your experiences since you left school. Your editors will have same mimeographed and mailed to all of you. Mail to Mrs. H. Strandskov, Tyler, Minn.

NEWS BRIEFS

A Danish Radio Christmas Program will be given again this year, arranged by Peder Back, Racine, Wisc. The program is scheduled for Dec. 25th, 4-6 A. M. Central Standard time from Radio station WTMJ, Milwaukee, Wisc., 620 Kiloc.

Dr. Ping Fu, President of the Lutheran Church in China, returned recently to China, having spent a year in U. S. A.

"God's Acre" originated in the Bethany Lutheran Church of Wenona, Ill., has created widespread interest in many church groups.—Said church was faced with the problem of renovating its church building with no funds available for the purpose. Then one of the members of the congregation, a farmer, suggested to the pastor, that volunteers be asked to donate the proceeds from one acre of land. The plan was adopted, and proved to be remarkably successful. Not only did the farmers respond to the appeal but seed salesmen donated special hybrid seeds, with the result that "God's Acre" brought forth an amazing yield. Since that time the plan has been adopted by congregations of many denominations.

The Detroit Lutherans maintain the only Protestant school for the Deaf in this country. The \$60,000 chapel of the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf was a gift of Mr. and Mrs. William S. Knudsen, who also contributed generously in erecting the complete \$250,000 plant. This institution, established in 1873, cares for children from all parts of the U. S.

A Record Attendance of 350 guests gathered recently at Dana College, Blair, Nebr., for the Homecoming Banquet.

J. Chr. Bay, well known librarian in Chicago recently delivered a lecture at the Northwestern University on "The Life of Dr. Christian Fenger". Dr. Fenger, who was of Danish descent, won himself a place of recognition in the medical field of America.

Every Man in His Own Tongue is the title of a new stereoptican lecture of 48 slides available from the American Bible Society and its district offices throughout the country.

Acknowledgment of Receipts From Synod Treasurer

General Budget

Previously acknowledged	\$398.25
Withee, Wis. Congregation	1.50
Ludington, Mich., Congr.	75.00
Seattle, Wash., Congr.	22.76
Racine, Wis., Congr.	47.51
Menominee, Mich., Congr.	20.00
St. Stephens, Chicago, Congr.	62.40
Perth Amboy, N. J., Congr.	5.00
Omaha, Nebr., Congr.	20.00
Muskegon, Mich., Congr.	26.55
Des Moines, Iowa, Congr.	75.00
Big Rapids, Mich., Congr.	5.00
Clinton, Iowa, Congr.	100.00

Total, \$858.97

Grand View College Student Loan Fund

Previously acknowledged	\$ 50.00
Paul Steenberg, St. Paul, Minn.	250.00
Des Moines Ry Co., Des. M.	50.00
Ia. Power & Light Co., Des M.	40.00
Alfred Dahlstrom, Des M.	20.00
Ia.-Des Moines Nat. Bank	50.00
Mr. A. H. Blank, Des M.	50.00

Total, \$510.00

To Missionwork

Previously acknowledged	\$332.37
Danevang, Texas, 21 Annuals	5.25
Wilbur, Wash., 5 Annuals	1.25
Brush, Col., 5 Annuals	1.25
Grayling, Mich. 6 Annuals	1.50

Perth Amboy, N. J., 20 Annuals	5.00	School, World Action	2.50
Hartford, Conn., 12 Annuals	3.00	Danevang, Texas, World Ac-	
Racine, Wis., 15 Annuals	3.75	tion	65.00
Pasadena, Calif., 4 Annuals	1.00	Juhl, Mich., To Home Mission	20.00
Askov, Minn., 13 Annuals	3.25	Alden, Minn., 6 Annuals	1.50
Des Moines, Ia., 21 Annuals	5.25	Total,	\$555.27
Brush, Col., To Luth. World Ac-		To Payment of Current Debt	
tion	12.80	Previously acknowledged	\$ 86.00
Juhl, Mich., World Action,	20.00	Wilbur, Wash., Congregation	10.00
Danske Kvinders Mission,		Total,	\$ 96.00
World Action	50.00	Thanks to all Contributors!	
Bone Lake, Wis., World Action	6.75	Menominee, Mich., November 8, 1940.	
West Denmark, Wis., World		Axel Thomsen, Treasurer.	
Action	13.35		
West Denmark, Wis., Sunday			

A Significant Publication You Cannot Afford to Miss

THE NATURE AND THE FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH

by Prof J. P. Bang

translated by Ernest D. Nielsen

A lasting Christmas gift to anyone interested in our spiritual heritage

50 cents, per copy, postpaid

Order today from

Danish Book Concern, Cedar Falls, Iowa

Grand View College

DES MOINES, IOWA

Established 1895

Fully Accredited

School year begins Sep-
tember 9th and closes
May 30th, 1941

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY—

Two-year preparatory course,
and three years in seminary.

JUNIOR COLLEGE—Liberal

Arts. Pre-Professional courses—
Commerce, Engineering, Law
Librarian, Medicine, Nursing
and Teaching.

SPECIAL COURSES—Gymnas-

tics, Commerce and Business.
Danish Teachers' Course.

NON-ACADEMIC WINTER

SESSION—Jan. 6 to March 14.

Cost for board, room and tuition
for the entire school year is
\$290.00. Write for
catalogue.

ALFRED C. NIELSEN,
President.

Who would be MISSED more than MOTHER?



What would happen to your family if mother were gone? The misfortune endured when a young family loses mother is not a situation we like to consider. But isn't it better to face that possibility rather than turn aside from it and do nothing to help those who will be left behind?

Few families can afford an additional expense of \$1000 or more. Every mother can help her husband and her children meet the greatest loss they could suffer. Money, 'anno' compensate for the loss of a dear one, but it can remove the financial worry.

Every mother should consider what her death would mean to her family and to find a way of making that difficult time as easy as possible financially. A life insurance policy will provide the way.

And for herself if she lives, mother will have a cash value on her policy which will prove useful in later years.

Write Today To

LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD

LEGAL RESERVE LIFE INSURANCE FOR LUTHERANS

MINNEAPOLIS

HERMAN L. EKERN, President

MINNESOTA

LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD, Legal Reserve Life Insurance

Minneapolis, Minnesota

I am interested in Life Insurance Protection for myself. Please send information.

NAME: AGE:

ADDRESS:

CITY: STATE: