

# Lutheran Tidings

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## Giving Thanks

There is a difference in English and Danish in the matter of thanks. In the Danish we say thanks, in English we give thanks. Whether there is anything symbolic in this or not I do not know, but doubt it, since people I know are just as thankful, whether they be of Danish or American extraction. There is furthermore great merit in either way of expressing a thankful spirit. We should not necessarily say thanks without giving evidence that we are grateful, neither should we silently exercise the giving of some thankoffering. Whatever thanks we have in our hearts to God and our fellowman should find expression both in words and deeds.

The Apostle Paul uses this way of advising about giving of thanks: "In everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus." The real prayer is also giving of thanks, thereby acknowledging that God's goodness, love and care are always ready and active in our behalf and therefore we always have reason to give thanks even though we desire and ask God for further favors.

In one of our congregations an elderly couple had given of their means very generously toward all the activities of the congregation but lately especially toward a special project. The pastor of that congregation thinking that they would expect to have some recognition and appreciation on the part of the congregation went to them to say thanks for their gifts and generosity. To his great amazement they answered him that they did not expect or desire this, on the contrary they were the ones to be grateful, for they had great joy and satisfaction just to have the opportunity to give. To them the act of giving to God's cause among them was an act of giving thanks to God. And this was a great joy to them.

I wondered when I heard about this, if it was not possible that we all could gain such a perspective. It has grieved me much when I have heard the synod contribution called a tax. Instead we should be thankful for the opportunity to give to causes the synod is sponsoring. Indeed we should individually and collectively be ever lastingly thankful that we are found worthy of being used by God for the fulfillment of His purposes. There can be no greater gift or no greater goal for man than be used by God to serve His ends. There are those who would maintain that all people do serve God's ends whether they know it or not, whether willingly or unwillingly. Whether this be so or not, if we go to church, belong there, we should give thanks by serving and supporting His causes since this is the highest level on which human beings can live their lives.

My plea is that we who are members of our Danish Lutheran churches and dedicated to further the accepted purposes of these churches as part of God's working among us today at this thanksgiving season, express our joy in the concrete form of financial support and gifts so that we can keep on operating our college and seminary, our Old People's and Children's homes, pay pensions to the old and retired ministers, their wives or their widows, help rebuild or build anew home mission churches, cooperate with others in relieving the need and suffering throughout the world, strengthen the arm of the gospel among the Santal people and in various other ways undergird the work we are doing in our synod to serve the Kingdom.

In stressing that the giving of thanks be done in this concrete fashion I know that everyone who has tasted the joy and satisfaction of giving thanks to God in this way will agree with Paul that God's peace will attend the joyful giver far above his ability to understand and that Jesus Christ will abide in the hearts and thoughts of such happy thankgivers.

*Alfred Jensen*

# Sunday School Teachers' Institute, District I

Hartford, Conn., Oct. 15-16

The District I Sunday School Teachers' Institute opened Saturday, October 15, at 9:30 a. m. in Hartford, Conn., with a good representation of Sunday school teachers from our Eastern congregations. Revs. J. C. Aaberg, Einar Anderson, Verner Hansen, Kirkegaard Jensen and Willard Garred were also present. Rev. Garred opened the meeting by bidding our Institute leaders, Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Hansen of Muskegon, Mich., and the assembly welcome. Rev. Verner Hansen led in morning devotions.

At 10 o'clock sharp, Rev. Edwin Hansen opened the Institute with the topic: "So You Are a Teacher"—a challenging message with which to keynote our meetings. After Pastor Hansen's talk, we all enjoyed singing which was especially good with Rev. Einar Anderson leading us at the piano. At 11 a. m. the topic, "I Examine Myself as a Teacher," was presented with a carefully selected printed program admonishing the teacher to try earnestly to examine him or herself in an effort to attain a more conscious understanding of the precious work God uses us for as teachers.

At one o'clock Mrs. Edwin Hansen led in the topic, "Preparing and Teaching a Lesson," stressing the necessity of living with God in our daily life. Mrs. Hansen made live for us again the story of Ruth and Naomi. She used it to illustrate how these two, faithful in friendship towards one another, sought God's way in all things and thus became instrumental in the fulfillment of the prophecy: Out of the House of David, Christ, Our Savior was born. We were clearly helped to realize that even we, if we are faithful in our work for God's Kingdom on earth, can be sure that God in His own time will do great things.

After a short recess, Rev. Edwin Hansen led us in a discussion of practical problems: Should it always be the same person (usually the pastor) telling Bible stories to the Sunday school; How and when should films be used; Sunday school papers, etc. Many of the younger teachers expressed opinions and asked

questions in this fruitful discussion period.

After the afternoon coffee recess, Mrs. Edwin Hansen gave a sketch from "Life of a Great Teacher" (Alice Freeman Palmer). It was good to listen to Mrs. Hansen and appreciate her fine presentation and understanding of God's way in a soul that was full of love for God and humanity. This hour made a lasting impression on the listeners.

In the evening we assembled again, this time to listen to Rev. Aaberg speak on hymns and hymnwriters of long ago, giving us a clear picture of the writers' spiritual depth and fervent belief in God as the Creator and Sustainer of life. Because of Rev. Aaberg's own knowledge and understanding of hymns, it will be a lecture long remembered. We need to hear more about our great hymns lest we forget how valuable they are to us.

On Sunday morning Rev. Edwin Hansen spoke first to the Sunday school and afterwards at the regular church service, giving us a stirring sermon on evangelism. Rev. Garred served at the Communion table.

A two hour recess followed dinner so that the teachers could visit together and become better acquainted with each other and their mutual problems. In the afternoon Mrs. Edwin Hansen spoke on "The Congregation's Responsibility to the Sunday School." We were reminded of that fact that our Christian attitude in life and in our homes invariably will show also in the lives and attitudes of our children. The burden of Christian education is to bring our Sunday school back to its source. On this urgent note, our Institute closed.

The busy and faithful women of the Hartford congregation provided us with excellent and delicious meals throughout our stay. All in all, we can agree that it was a wonderful privilege to be allowed to attend this Institute.

**E. Vendelboe Nielsen,**  
Committee Member for the Institute.

## Notes On The District V Convention

The District V convention was held at Withee, Wis., October 14 to 16. The convention was well attended by both pastors and delegates.

A worship service on Friday evening opened the week-end meeting. Rev. F. O. Lund, the district president, was the liturgist and the undersigned preached the sermon.

Saturday's activities began with morning devotions led by Rev. Lund. The business meeting began following the devotion hour.

The business meeting of the convention proceeded much as usual. There was a great deal of activity consisting of the usual reports from the congregations, a report from the district president, the allocation

of the budget and a great deal of fruitless discussion. The main accomplishments at day's end were as follows: (1) the passing of a resolution calling upon the next synodical convention to make provision for the restudy and revision of the statistical rules of the synod, (2) the election of Rev. Ottar Jorgensen as the new district secretary, and (3) a decision to hold the next district convention at Dalum, Alberta, Canada, from July 13 to 16, 1950.

The business meeting could not be adjourned on Saturday due to the fact that there had been no time for a discussion of the ULC matter. As a result of this the meeting was not officially adjourned until after Rev. Alfred Jensen had spoken on this matter on Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nielsen were hosts to the pastors and their wives for dinner on Saturday eve-

ning. It was an enjoyable couple of hours we spent there between the meetings.

We returned to the church to hear Rev. Ove Nielsen who was the speaker of the evening. Following his talk the Women's Mission Society had a meeting.

On Sunday morning there were two church services and both were well attended. At the English service Rev. Ottar Jorgensen preached the sermon and the undersigned officiated at the Communion. Rev. Peter Rasmussen spoke at the Danish service and Rev. F. O. Lund served at the Communion table.

Many of the Withee people joined with the out-of-town guests for a fine fellowship dinner in the hall on Sunday noon.

In the afternoon Rev. Alfred Jensen spoke in the church on the matter of a possible merger with ULC. He tried to give us a clear picture of both the advantages and disadvantages that such a merger would hold for us. His talk, however, was largely confined to the practical aspects of the matter. Some discussion followed his presentation.

After a short recess, Rev. Peter Rasmussen spoke in Danish and at the evening meeting Rev. Lund spoke in English.

Looking back, one can readily say that the days in Withee were well spent. Our district meetings are not always very fruitful from the standpoint of accomplishments but the sermons, the lectures and the fellowship more than make up for this. Our thanks go to the people of Withee, who, though they are handicapped by the lack of a pastor, carried out very well the many duties that fell upon them as hosts to the convention. We were well cared for in every respect.

And so, we look back to Withee with appreciation and forward to Dalum with anticipation.

Thorvald Hansen.

## Control

"Ho, white-maned waves of the Western Sea,  
That ride and roll to the strand.  
Ho, strong-winged birds, never blown a-lee  
By the gales that sweep toward land!  
Ye are symbols both of a hope that saves,  
As ye swoop in your strength and grace,  
As ye roll to the land like the billowed graves  
Of a suicidal race.

"Our women have entered the abstract fields,  
And avault with the child and home:  
While the rind of science a pleasure yields  
Shall they care for the lives to come?  
And they ape the manners of manly times  
In their sterile and worthless life,  
Till the man of the future augments his crimes  
With a raid for a Sabine wife."

John Boyle O'Reilly:  
"Bone and Sinew and Brain."

In the Museum of Natural History at Los Angeles there is an enormous wall-painting—inspired, I suppose, by the great finds in the tar-pits just outside the city. It represents, among other things, as far as I remember now, some big animal—is it a giant sloth? caught in the tar. This sloth will never be able to free himself; the tar has too good a hold on him. He must

sink deeper and deeper, until the tar closes over his head. He has lost control.

A saber-toothed tiger is watching the animal that is stuck in the tar. He is waiting for the moment when the larger animal shall have sunk deep enough, so that he may attack with impunity and slake his thirst for blood.

But what is the story of the tar-pits? The scientists tell us that as soon as the saber-toothed tiger shall have attacked, he too is lost. He too will be stuck in the tar and will have lost control.

As if they knew this, the wolves are waiting over there in the bushes to right and left, watching both the animal in the pit and the saber-toothed tiger, waiting **their** turn. They will get it. They too will eat their fill—and perish.

All wars of all time have been fought for control. The wild morning glory twines itself around the plant of corn and chokes the life out of it. The morning glory wants control of the moisture and fertility of the soil. The large trees choke the life out of the small ones; they have taken control of sun and rain. Wolves do sometimes hunt in packs; it looks like mutual help, cooperation. But if one of their number is wounded and the others are quite hungry, they fall upon their erstwhile companion and eat him. He was weak and had lost control; the strong have it—for the time being.

So everlasting does this war for control go on that man has made a maxim expressing the fact: "All's war against all with survival of the fittest."

### Do the fittest survive?

On a grand scale man has now two times tried this "All's war against all." Each nation wanted control. In 1914-'18 Germany said she wanted her place in the sun. What she meant was that she wanted control of colonies and markets—facilities for colonization, facilities for marketing. She lost control, but tried again. Did she get it? Did any nation get it? Where are the colonies, where the world's markets and facilities for marketing?

In the thirties we celebrated "A Century of Progress." There had been progress, said our leading men, and they were echoed by young men who spoke at young people's meetings: "In the field of medicine we find within the last hundred years Pasteur, Lister, Koch. It has been an age of scientific technique: Evolution and birth control. Over population has often been a cause of war: China, Japan! Birth control may help."

Indeed! Here is the remedy for war. The human race has at last arrived. We have found the funda-

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mental control. The race is to the strong; let the weak perish. And what could be more weak than the unborn child? What more weak than the beginnings of life, the possibilities for life? Let our nation—no, let the strongest in the nation—and that is they who have gone to college—let them here take control. Not only in their own marriages, which they have already done; but in all marriages, so that neither Jew nor negro produce more than one or two. Suppose we appoint a Secretary of Birth Control in the member of the cabinet. It "may help."

But suppose the Jews and the negroes keep on having many children?

Then the noble experiment must go farther. Even Holy Writ indicates the means: Throw out the male children. Drown them. No danger of a Moses being born or fished out of the water this late day.

Then we would have peace among nations, for is war not "often caused by over population"? Heretofore the stronger nation has had to come over and kill off the surplus males in the weaker. That was war, which we want to avoid. Now we shall avoid it, for we graciously take upon ourselves this control. The "Act of Birth Control" with a "Secretary for Birth Control" in the cabinet will help to solve the problem of avoiding war. We ourselves kill off our surpluses before we have them, and the warriors of other nations will not have to come over.

The work of the saber-toothed tiger becomes quite easy when the larger animal has got itself stuck in the tar. There is hardly any fight. And after that the wolves have it.

V. S. J.

## Mission Notes

At a recent meeting of the American Board of the Santal Mission, a number of important points of business were discussed and acted upon. If I may, I should like to limit myself to two of the items on our agenda.

As many of you will remember, Miss Muriel Nielsen of Ruthton, Minn., spoke briefly at the synodical convention at Greenville, telling of her desire to be accepted by the Santal Mission as one of our workers. Her application was received and acted favorably upon by the American Board, and Muriel is at present finishing her work at the University of Minnesota, from which school she hopes to receive her master's degree in a month or two. The American Board will probably recommend that she attend the Lutheran Bible Institute for a term. If all goes according to plan, Miss Nielsen should be ready to leave for India next fall. It is our sincere hope that others among our young people may feel the call to serve on our mission field. Nurses, doctors, educators and pastors are badly needed in some areas, with perhaps the greatest emphasis on the first two. If any of you young people are at all interested in this type of service, I should like to suggest that you contact either a member of the Danish board, or Rev. M. C. Dixen of the American Board, as soon as possible after you have reached your de-

cision, so that your school curriculum may be planned accordingly.

While the hospital fund is not as yet growing "by leaps and bounds" we are very happy to be able to report that at the time of the meeting, the fund had reached \$9,027.93. There is still much money needed, but the committee is hopeful that it will be forthcoming when our people hear of the great need for this hospital. In a letter received from Rev. M. Dixen and dated November 1, he states that groundbreaking ceremonies have already been held, and that the construction of the hospital should be completed in six to eight months time. The Mohulpahari Hospital will house a nurse's training school so that our own Santal girls may receive adequate instruction in nursing technique. They will then be able to work under the supervision of our mission nurses. It seems to the writer that one of the finest things any mission can do is to train natives to **help themselves and each other**. The splendid location of the new hospital site, centrally located as it is, and near to highways and other means of transportation, will prove a big "plus," and with added space and extra facilities now so badly needed in a "modern" hospital we will be able to do a good piece of work, medically speaking. With the healing of sick bodies comes also the spoken message of the love of Christ Jesus and His saving grace! May we each be encouraged to contribute our share toward the hospital fund and invite others to do likewise. The sum toward which we are striving is \$35,000. It is our sincere wish that the friends of the Santal Mission will want to have a part in this very worthwhile venture. May we ask that you send your contribution to Miss Dagmar Miller, 1517 Guthrie, Des Moines, Iowa, **NOW!** If your contribution is intended for the hospital fund, please so designate.

A. Frances Nielsen.

## Joint Meetings With The U.L.C.A.

At the Synodical board meeting of September 28 and 29, the secretary was instructed to make official request in behalf of Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to the United Lutheran Church in America, that representatives of various boards and committees meet with corresponding boards and committees of the U.L.C.A. In answer to this letter the synodical secretary received from F. Eppling Reinartz, secretary of the U.L.C.A., a reply from which I quote the following:

"I rejoice to report to you that the Executive Board of the United Lutheran Church in America meeting in New York on October 12-13, 1949, adopted unanimously the following recommendations of its Committee on Inter-Lutheran Interests of which our President Franklin Clark Fry is the chairman.

"1. That the Executive Board instruct the secretary of the church to reply that the United Lutheran Church welcomes the proposed conferences between corresponding boards and agencies of the Danish Church and our own Church.

"2. That this board invite representatives of the

Synodical Board of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America to confer with representatives of this board at any convenient date and place.

"3. That for the purpose of acquainting the Synodical Board of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America fully with the duties and activities of this Executive Board, a copy of the minutes of the 1949 meetings of this board be sent to the secretary of the Danish Church.

"4. That all boards and agencies of the United Lutheran Church which correspond to similar boards, committees or agencies in the Danish Church be requested and encouraged to arrange for the desired conferences."

"I am writing to each of the boards and agencies of the United Lutheran Church to request and encourage them to arrange conferences with similar boards, committees or agencies of your Churches. I am taking for granted that the board and agency secretaries will take the initiative in inviting the representatives of your boards, committees, or agencies to meetings for the detailed study of how our affiliation might affect your work within the various departments."

May I urge the secretaries or chairmen of the various boards and committees of the D.E.L.C. of America accept the invitation mentioned above to meet with similar committees of the U.L.C.A. and that notices of all meetings be sent to our synodical president, Rev. Alfred Jensen.

Holger O. Nielsen, Sec.

## Lutheran One-Day Seminars

Lutheran "Seminars" were held from the last part of September to the last part of October.

Seminar means here a rather informal session to which both pastors and laymen are invited in order to discuss two vital topics, introduced by selected speakers. This year was the sixth time such a series was arranged. During the years the number of Seminars held has increased each time as has also the attendance. At the last series, which was held in the fall of 1947, over 3,000 clergymen attended. This year the number will probably again be higher than before.

The topic this year was "That Men May Know Christ Today" with the sub-topics, "God Gives Christ and His Church" and "Members of a Living Lutheran Church Witness to Christ." The subjects were chosen to correlate with the Evangelism program of the National Lutheran Council church bodies.

The meetings this fall were held at 46 centers in U. S. A. and in three cities in Canada. They were in themselves a **powerful demonstration of Lutheran unity** as they were arranged by a joint committee representing the three large branches of Lutheranism in America: The United Lutheran Church, the Missouri Synod and the American Lutheran Conference. Twenty-seven speakers were selected from these three branch-

es and the meetings were well attended by practically all Lutheran synods. But as far as my knowledge goes the lay people did not turn out in as great number as one would have liked to see. I was therefore particularly happy to receive a last minute request to address a special meeting of lay people at a time which was more convenient than the regularly planned meeting.

The nation-wide enterprise of the Seminars seems to have an increasing influence in the American Lutheran Church scene. Much credit is due to Pastor J. Simonsen, St. Paul, Minn., who again this year in a most efficient way directed this great undertaking.

The Seminars have doubtless contributed much to solidify and unite the Lutheran Church, particularly by demonstrating that we, in spite of all our differences, still have so much in common. It was my privilege to speak in Philadelphia and in Pittsburgh. It must be admitted that there is an easily noticeable difference between some of the general characteristics of "the wise men in the East" and us who belong to the midwest variety of American Lutheranism, but that in itself is only one more indication of the fact that it is well to come together and learn from one another. My co-partner on the platform was an amiable Missouri pastor from Loraine, Ohio, the Reverend F. W. Loose. To learn to know him was also to love him. It was a real joy to travel with him, and it gave renewed evidence of the fact that when we get together we often discover that we are much more alike than we realized. In this very fact lies, I believe, the greatest value of these Seminars.

Incidentally it was a joyful experience in Philadelphia to make a pilgrimage to the Gloria Dei Church, the oldest church in Pennsylvania, erected by Swedish Lutherans and to get an inside picture of the Lutheran Seminary, our hospitable host. After the meetings we discussed theological problems with the graduate students and Professor T. G. Tappert, the editor of **The Lutheran World Review**, until so late in the evening that Dr. Tappert had to drive us downtown, a distance of fifteen miles, in order that we speakers might catch our train leaving the city that rightly bears the name of "brotherly love."

In and to and from Pittsburgh I made several observations indicating the fact that many workers did not welcome the steel strike that began just then. The present gigantic industrial war is another reminder of how needed it is that "members of a living Lutheran Church witness to Christ." A late evening conversation with the two A.L.C. pastors in a Pittsburgh parsonage now appears in my recollection as the pronouncing of the benediction upon a future that in many ways seems dark and foreboding. "Have faith in God."

Who can estimate what blessings the Seminars will bring if pastors and lay people through them have been inspired to pray and labor with renewed faith, hope and love in order "that men may know Christ today"?

Paul Nyholm.

# IN THE WIDE, WIDE WORLD

By Alfred C. Nielsen

## WILL GERMANY GO CATHOLIC?

For I saw prevailing throughout the Christian world a license in making war of which even barbarious nations would have been ashamed; recourse being had to arms for slight reasons or no reason; and when arms were once taken up, all reverence for divine and human law was thrown away, just as if men were thenceforth authorized to commit all crimes without restraint.

—Hugo Grotius (1625).

November is the month of Reformation festivals. On November 10th of this year it was four hundred and sixty-six years since Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany. In this year it might be profitable for us to take a look into the past and present of Luther's fatherland.

It was of course Luther who started the Protestant revolution against the Roman Catholic Church. It began in Germany and spread rapidly to other countries. While it won the great majority of all the people in some nations that was not true in Germany. For various reasons Luther did not win all of his homeland. Generally northern Germany became Protestant and southern Germany remained Catholic. It was an age of deep religious intolerance and by 1830 Germany was divided into two armed camps. War broke out, but it was discovered that the Protestants were too strong to be crushed.

An uneasy religious peace prevailed in Germany between 1555 and 1618, when the Thirty Years War broke out. In this war Germany was divided roughly along religious lines; and two Protestant nations, first Denmark and then Sweden came to the aid of Lutheran Germany. Had it not been for the fact that Catholic France was more afraid of Austria than of the Protestants, and came to their aid, it seems likely that Protestant Germany would have been crushed. The war ended in 1648 with Germany as much a wreck as it was in 1945.

While England, Holland, Sweden, Norway and Denmark became predominantly Protestant, and France, Italy, Spain and Portugal remained largely Catholic, Germany was divided. That explains in part the tragedy of Germany.

Bismarck, between 1872-79, had his trouble with the Catholics, the Kulturkampf. In 1872 the Jesuits were expelled from Germany, and Bismarck tried to rid the schools of Catholic influence. He persecuted the Catholics, but found that they increased under the ordeal, so he made peace with them. Their political party, the Center, grew stronger.

The Center party was strong during the days of the Weimar Republic after World War I. Very often the Catholic party provided the Chancellor.

During the Nazi regime the Center party was again active. It is interesting that the chief leaders of the Nazis came from Catholic part of Germany and not, as is often said, from Protestant Germany. In fact Hitler came from Catholic Austria, Goering from

Bavaria, Goebbels from the Rhineland, Himmler from Munich and Rudolf Hess was born in Alexandria, Egypt where his father was an importer. This is not to imply that there were no goose-stepping Nazis in north Germany. There were indeed, but the leaders came from the Catholic south.

The Roman church could do business with Hitler. It was the present Pope (he was then Cardinal Pacelli) who made a concordat with the Hitler government. Excommunication is a favorite weapon of the Pope, but with all of the horrors perpetrated by Hitler and his followers there was no excommunication of them. Very strange indeed!

It should also be added here that in this concordat which Rome drew up with Hitler the privilege which the Catholic Church had enjoyed only in south Germany was now extended to the whole country. The Catholics say that agreement still stands.

In Germany of today the old balance between the Catholic south and the Protestant north is being upset. In Hamburg, for instance, where before the war there were hardly any Catholics a bishop has now been appointed.

The cause for this is Catholic refugees from the east. Millions of Catholics have fled from the east and have settled in Protestant Germany. The West German state, according to Helen M. Booth writing in a recent issue of *The Nation*, has about as many Catholics as Protestants. It would be interesting to know what is happening to the religious makeup of South Slesvig.

According to reports the Catholic party is very active in Germany today, and the Protestant party is paralyzed from fear of Communism. This is one of the mockeries of our times that the fear of Communism is throwing Protestant parties and nations into the grasping arms of the Vatican. It's the old story of jumping from the fire into the frying pan.

Should the Catholic party in west Germany become the dominant one as it already is in France, Belgium and Italy, the results might prove very ominous. Will these nations join the unhappy ranks of Spain, Portugal and Ireland?

## ONE-MINUTE PRAYER

"Save this moment, O Lord, from being merely a gesture to custom or convention, and make it a real experience for each of us in this place, as we call upon Thee for guidance and for help.

"Make us to feel Thy nearness in the business of the day—the Unseen Delegate, present and voting. Vote through these men, we pray Thee, that what they say and what they do may be in accordance with Thy will for this land that we love so much."

—The Rev. Dr. Peter Marshall.

(The above is an excerpt of the one-minute prayers offered at the opening of the sessions of the U. S. Senate by the Chaplain).

# Our Women's Work

Mrs. Johanne Lillehoj, Kimballton, Iowa  
Editor

## W.M.S. In The Ninth District

Have you ever been to Junction City, Oregon? You should go there some time. It is a lovely spot—not such a small spot either—filled with cooperative people. The congregation there owns a whole block, just two blocks from the main street of town, and there stands the church, meeting hall, and an exceedingly attractive new parsonage.

At the Ninth District convention in Junction City in September, the W.M.S. sponsored the meeting Saturday evening. After singing "Work for the Night is Coming," Mrs. Paul Mortensen gave a report from Mrs. Ida Egede and Mrs. Agneta Jensen's letters. Some discussion followed about sending packages to South Slesvig. The next item on the agenda was the election of a new representative for W.M.S. in our district, and Mrs. Victor D. Nielsen (Eva) of Corvallis, Ore., was given the majority vote.

Mrs. Mortensen started the program by telling about going to the station in Seattle the previous Thursday and seeing six young people from Seattle and Enumclaw leave for Grand View College. All who were there to bid them farewell would very much have liked to go with them—turn Father Time's hands back—and be a student again at G.V.C. Then Mrs. Eva Nielsen was introduced and she made us aware of G.V.C. being our responsibility, not only financially, but a school worthy of our enduring love, interest, prayer and suggestions. Eva encouraged us in her talk to be helpful rather than critical, and in a loyal and warm manner she told of G.V.C.'s many advantages, closing her remarks with "U.L.C.A. or not, we will always need G.V.C."

The chairman then suggested that congregations make more use of the students from G.V.C., not least in roles of leadership, upon their return home or to other communities.

Rev. Holger Nielsen was the guest speaker of the evening, and his topic was "The Synod's New Outlook on Home Missions." Going back into the history of our church, Rev. Nielsen pointed out the old outlook and the original need for home missions when the pioneers started settlements in various places in U. S. A. Reminding us of the help and strenuous work of the men sent out by Denmark to study our needs in U. S. A., Rev. Nielsen told of the first pastors sent to our country and how great a place they filled in the lives of our forefathers, grandparents and parents. Then taking a group of churches in the Nysted area as an example, Rev. Nielsen told how and why these churches were built, and now what their fate has been. Most of them are no more. He stressed that a hand in time can often save a church, can often give just the impetus needed to keep the leaders' spirit alive, and to change the situation entirely.

With that background Rev. Nielsen told us that now the Synod was working to increase its home mis-

sion fund so that it could help churches and congregations in need, or build new churches, and to help in untold ways to bring more life into our churches throughout the nation.

Since in our own Ninth District, two churches are being largely financed by the home mission fund of our synod, we will surely all feel stronger as a church group with five full time ministers instead of two, as there has been the past year.

Rev. C. Hasle closed the meeting with a prayer after telling some of his memories from the very same Nebraska churches our speaker had described, giving more insight into the hopes of the people and often the sad fate of their churches.

A collection was taken at the door and \$41.70 was given for W.M.S. work.

Gertrude H. Mortensen.

## W.M.S. Meeting At Oak Hill, Iowa

October 1, 1949

A festive spirit prevailed everywhere at Oak Hill when District IV met there for the annual convention. The church had been redecorated from top to bottom. A new organ, and a new altar with Thorvaldsen's statue of Christ, had recently been dedicated. This, together with Rev. and Mrs. Jens Andreassen's beautiful flower garden, made Oak Hill look like a second paradise.

The Saturday evening meeting of the convention was sponsored by the Women's Mission Society. A short business meeting was held at seven o'clock. Mrs. Esther Jacobsen, our district representative, bade us all welcome. The minutes of last year's meeting held at Hampton was read, likewise a letter from our national chairman, Mrs. Ida Egede. She was unable to be present.

The women of District IV are fortunate in having both our national chairman and treasurer in this group, also the editor of the Women's Page in "Lutheran Tidings." Mrs. C. B. Jensen gave a report of the national treasury. She also briefly compared some of the work of W.M.S. with the mission societies of other church bodies. She was happy to report that the G.V.C. Girls' Dormitory fund was now paid to within \$600. It was her hope, as well as all present, that this sum would soon be taken care of by donations from various groups. Mrs. Johanne Lillehoj thanked all who had contributed to "Our Women's Work," and

## W.M.S. Board Members

President: Mrs. Ida Egede, Hampton, Iowa.  
Vice-President: Mrs. Harald Petersen, Tyler, Minn.  
Secretary: Miss Reeta Petersen, Gowen, Mich.  
Vice Secretary: Mrs. Emil Hansen, Askov, Minn.  
Treasurer: Mrs. Agneta Jensen, 1604 Washington Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

hoped that contributions would continue coming in.

After a brief discussion it was decided that all donations sent by people of District IV to W.M.S. be sent to our district representative, who in turn would forward it to our national treasurer in the hope that this procedure would lessen the work of the latter.

"Child's Friend" was discussed. All seemed to be in favor of doing what could be done to make it as good a paper as possible and to help getting it a place in the Sunday Schools of our church.

It was decided that the collection taken at the evening meeting go to Mohulpahari Hospital in Santalistan.

The business meeting closed and the evening meeting followed immediately. An opening hymn was sung after which Miss Dagmar Miller led us in devotions. Mrs. Esther Jacobsen thanked District IV for permitting the women of W.M.S. to have Saturday evening for their meeting. Mrs. Sylvia Esbeck of Kimballton favored us with a solo: "The 91st Psalm."

The main speaker of the evening was Pastor Henrik Falk, who for 17 years was pastor of St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church in Frankfurt, Germany. His church and the parsonage were destroyed during World War II. After World War I Pastor Falk had attended Hartford Theological Seminary, receiving his Master's Degree there. He was assistant pastor at Baltimore for one year. His wife is American born. They have four children. Pastor Falk is on extended leave of absence under the auspices of Lutheran World Action. His topic for the evening was: "A Review of the Life of the Lutheran Church."

An offering of \$77.45 was gratefully received.

Rev. Ronald Jespersen closed the meeting with devotions, and all joined in singing, "Blest be the Tie That Binds."

If we cannot do great things in W.M.S., let us do small things in a great way.

Thyra Sorensen, Sec.

## District II Convention, Juhl, Mich.

### Convention Theme: "The Christ Of The World"

The convention opened Friday afternoon, Sept. 30. Rev. Svend Holm of Grayling, Mich., was in charge of the opening service, and he chose as his text the convention theme: "The Christ of the World."

The District president, Pastor C. A. Stub, and the local pastor, Richard Sorensen, each in turn brought greetings of welcome, and thus the meeting was officially opened.

The pastors of the District had already been in session the evening before as well as on Friday forenoon. All pastors in the District were present and also the synodical president, Rev. Alfred Jensen. And delegates were present from all the congregations with the exception of Grant.

After the convention had been organized, the District president, Rev. C. A. Stub, read his report to the

meeting. This was turned over to a committee of three, which later presented its findings.

Reports were given from the various congregations, and it was evident that a good and conscientious work is being done throughout the District. All these reports will be filed with the District secretary for future reference.

Rev. John Christensen gave a report on the work of the Religious Education Committee. During the discussion that followed the suggestion was made that a "Church Worker's Institute" be held during the coming year, thus enlarging the former "Sunday School Teacher's Institute" to include all church workers.

A report was given by Rev. Richard Sorensen from the Junior Camp Committee. No definite camp site has yet been found; but through an arrangement made with the Michigan ULCA Youth Camp at Gun Lake, near Kalamazoo, he had been able to take seventeen juniors to this camp, where they had enjoyed a very fine camp week.—After some discussion the suggestion was made that the various congregations make use of camps throughout the state, as such are found in various areas, in most cases not very far from any of our congregations.

Wm. Nielsen of the Camp Site committee, pointed out that we were handicapped financially in the planning of a camp site of our own, and he recommended that we seek closer cooperation with the ULC Youth Camp work in Michigan. Chris Lodding called attention to a small camp near Greenville which was available either on a rental basis, or possibly could be purchased for a reasonable price. The discussion was concluded without any definite results.

After a delicious supper had been served and people had enjoyed an hour or more visiting with old friends and meeting new friends, the evening service was held in the church which was filled to capacity. Rev. Svend Jorgensen of Detroit, spoke on the theme: "Our Christian Heritage From the Whole World." He pointed out for us our heritage handed down through centuries, and he urged us to use this heritage in meeting the challenge of Christian living in our present day and in the days to come.

Saturday morning at 9 o'clock we assembled again to listen to Rev. John Christensen of Ludington speaking on the theme: "Our Christian Responsibilities in Christ's World." As the speaker told us, this was a large topic for a 30 minute Bible Hour period, and it was difficult to do justice to such a far-reaching theme in such a brief period. Yet, we were given much food for thought and for inspiration.

The business session was resumed at 9:30 o'clock. Rev. Alfred Jensen, the synodical president, spoke to us at this time, pointing out our fields of service through the American Bible Society, Lutheran World Action, Lutheran World Relief, the Displaced Persons Resettlement Program, South Slesvig Relief, and not least our various Institutions and Mission fields within our own synod. With this privilege of service comes also a responsibility financially. He urged us to meet this faithfully. He pointed out to us, outlined and explained the 1949 and the 1950 synodical budgets as

these had been prepared and passed at the synodical convention due to the new arrangement of the synodical fiscal year corresponding with the calendar year. He emphasized, in closing his address to the convention, the blessing that can be ours through wholehearted and devoted, willing giving.

After President Jensen had concluded his address, Pastor C. A. Stub, our District president, thanked Rev. Jensen for his inspiring address, and the convention voted to adopt the budget as presented.

At this time the committee appointed to study the District president's report presented its findings:

1. The committee is pleased to observe that the work of all the congregations has been progressing favorably throughout the year. And, further, that all are becoming more actively concerned about the welfare of others not of our "Own Household of Faith."
2. We are happy to note that there seems to be evidence of more responsibility being given to the younger members of our churches in pertaining to the local church work. This should become even a more common practice.
3. In view of the fact that the synodical convention has been changed to a later date in the year, the committee moves that this convention fix the date for our District convention to conform with this change.
4. Since the possibility of our own District having its own Young People's Camp is quite remote at this time, the committee moves that we cooperate with the ULC Camp at Gunn Lake for another year on a similar basis as this summer, if such is possible.
5. The committee concurs with the District president in that our congregations should become alert to Home Mission possibilities within our own District.
6. The committee moves that we accept the president's report with thanks.

R. E. Hansen, E. A. Eriksen, Mrs. L. Mcleod,  
Committee.

Dinner was now served in the church dining room, and at this time more guests had arrived from the various Michigan congregations.

The afternoon meeting was opened at 1:30 o'clock. Our District president, Pastor C. A. Stub, at this time introduced Rev. Frank Madsen of Detroit, Mich., a pastor of the U.L.C.A. Michigan Synod.

Rev. Madsen had been asked to give us a presentation of the ULC in pertaining to its structure, etc. It was the recommendation by our synodical convention that time be set aside at all the District meetings for a discussion of our relationship as it would be under a possible merger with the ULCA.

Rev. Madsen gave us a short but very comprehensive outline and insight into the workings of the ULCA. He then opened a question period, and many varied questions were offered through which we were given much comprehensive information in respect to benefits and responsibilities that would be ours should

we at some future date affiliate with the ULCA.—Rev. Madsen gave us a very fine, and yet unbiased presentation of his synod and its relationship to smaller synods joining same.

A Laymen's Discussion period was held after the afternoon coffee. We were divided into three groups discussing the following topics:

- 1) Our Work as Church Leaders.
- 2) Women's Mission Societies.
- 3) Our Sunday School Work.

The report was that each of these groups had very beneficial discussions. The aim was to strengthen the lay-people present in their respective responsibilities in our local church work.

The business session convened again at 5:15, where the committee's findings on the president's annual report were presented. The following points were adopted:

The convention voted to ask the District board to fix the date for the next District meeting, having in mind the change of the annual synodical meeting which will now be held in August.

Further, the convention voted to seek closer cooperation with the ULCA Michigan District Youth Camp program.

The following District officers were elected: C. A. Stub, president; B. P. Christensen, Marlette, secretary; Member of Finance Committee, T. Knudstrup, Manistee; Member of Religious Education Committee, Rev. Richard Sorensen.

The treasurer's report, which had been audited by the Finance committee, showed a balance of \$477.07, this including the earmarked sum of \$300 for Home Mission and \$50 for Camp Site Committee expense.

Rev. Edwin E. Hansen who represents our District on the Lutheran Council on Evangelism, and who recently had attended a larger meeting on this work at Toledo, Ohio, reported to our meeting at this time. He gave a very enlightening report and we all felt that this program may have a great deal in store for our work. It was voted to pay the expenses that Rev. Hansen had in connection with his attending the meeting at Toledo.

The Activities Committee reported and the following motion by the Committee was adopted: "That the District extends invitation to the Grand View College Choir to tour Michigan next year, details for same to be worked out between the College and the District Activities Committee."

The Activities Committee also proposed a "Pulpit Exchange Sunday," and this was adopted by the convention.

Rev. Richard Sorensen gave a report on the D.A.Y.P.L. activities in the District revealing considerable activity.

The Greenville congregation extended an invitation to be hosts to the 1950 convention. This invitation was accepted. And this ended the business sessions.

After the supper hour the Women's Mission Society held its meeting, which will be reported by others.

The evening meeting began with a Hymn Sing and

we were favored with vocal and violin solos by young people of the Marlette and Juhl community. Rev. Amstutz, pastor of the Marlette Presbyterian Church, gave a most inspiring lecture on "Symbolism in the Christian Church" and illustrated same with his own personal wood carvings.

Sunday morning began with the usual Sunday school hour. Then a Communion service was held in charge of the pastors, C. A. Stub and Richard Sorensen.

Worship services were then held in both churches. Rev. Edwin E. Hansen gave the sermon in the Juhl church, and Rev. Wikman in the Germania church, using the theme: "Winning the Whole World for Christ," both churches being filled to capacity.

Sunday afternoon at 1:45 Rev. Alfred Jensen, synodical president, spoke to the convention on the theme: "Our Place in Christ's World." This was in every respect a very forceful and inspiring message.

At 3 o'clock we all gathered at the coffee tables for the farewell meeting, and we parted with the words of our beloved Michigan poet, Edgar Guest, in mind:

"Lord, grant us courage so to live,  
That all our life time through,  
Thou can our every fault forgive  
And praise the good we do."

B. P. Christensen, Sec.

## Our Duty Toward Displaced Persons

Our foremost Christian job today is to resettle the Displaced Persons without further delay.

The smallest number to arrive in the United States thus far is Protestant. The reason for this distressing situation is simply that we Protestants are not caring for our own people as we should. If you are a Jewish Displaced Person you can expect to be resettled by the end of 1949. If you are a Catholic DP your chances of resettlement over your Protestant neighbor are about ten to one.

Thousands of Protestant and Orthodox DP families are still clinging desperately to the hope that some person or church in America will send in a set of Assurance forms that will mean new life and opportunities for them.

The time has gone by when we Protestants can look upon our obligation to the DPs as a matter of convenience or benevolent interest. It now is an all-out emergency and it demands priority on every Christian conscience. Furthermore, it demands immediate expression of our Christian concern in action **now**. We Protestants are actively agitating for liberalized legislation for DPs, but we are not agitating our churches and communities to offer resettlement opportunities. That is the real test. We haven't time to wait for more favorable conditions.

The present law allows 205,000 Displaced Persons to enter the United States within a two-year period. Almost half of that allotted time already has slipped by, and we are lagging tragically while more precious

moments go by. Should the present slow rate of Protestant resettlement continue, more than half of the Displaced Persons for whom we have special responsibility will be left behind, deserted and in despair. If this happens, we will submit that not only will the Displaced Persons lose; we too will lose. We will have missed our day of opportunity, and America will be the poorer because these men and women have the kind of spirit, skills, leadership America needs.

The answer is clear. We must now set aside our timidity and reservations and bring our Christian beliefs into immediate action. If the words of our Lord, "I was a stranger and ye took me in," ever applied to a tragic human condition where we have the power to relieve it, it applies now. Some churches have accepted their responsibility, and are adding this emphasis to their regular relief programs. But this "adding to" is not enough. While other faiths are putting large united budgets and field staffs to work on this problem, and are achieving results, the Protestant Churches are still largely working on a denominational basis through regular staffs already over-burdened. In the few cases where the denominations have put special workers into the fields where the resettlement opportunities are, results are gratifying.

Every church can find a room and a job for at least one family. Colleges and other groups can sponsor students. Individuals can find, or make a place for a DP. The Protestant DP emergency calls for united national statesmanship and action—**now**.

Send immediately for Assurance forms to your denominational headquarters, your city or state Council of Churches.

Roland Elliott.

From "Christianity and Crisis."

Lutheran congregations are urged to send their assurances to The National Lutheran Council Resettlement Service, 13-15 East 22 Street, New York 10, N. Y.

Editor.

## "God Be Thanked!"

By James Ryberg

Staff Writer, NLC News Bureau

If ships bringing displaced persons to the United States would arrive on some sort of a predictable schedule, Mr. Peter Elstad and his NLC Pier Reception staff in New York city could settle down to determining what kind of days and hours they might expect to work, and thus plan also their spare-time activities.

In a year's time which has seen the arrival of 102 Army transport vessels bearing DPs to America, the only pattern Elstad says he has been able to evolve is that DP vessels almost consistently have a habit of arriving on Sundays, holidays or days following week-ends.

Eight steamships loaded with U. S.-bound DPs had arrived in either New York or Boston during the first two weeks of October. Simple mathematics will show that this averages out to one vessel arriving every two

days. But statistics, Mr. Elstad maintains, sometimes are deceiving. Almost half of the 1,032 Lutheran-sponsored individuals who had arrived during the first half of October stepped onto American soil on either of two days, the 13th or 14th. During these two days, a total of 459 DPs—including 121 families arriving on three ships—received assistance from Elstad's crew of a dozen and a half regular and volunteer workers.

(The largest numbers of Lutheran-sponsored DPs on board any single vessels also arrived during the period; 184 DPs arrived on the General Howze Oct. 4, and 185—highest number to arrive in a group so far—came on board the U. S. S. General Stewart on the 13th. Both vessels docked in New York).

The NLC's Pier Reception staff repeated its complicated reception process nearly 1,000 times for the 1,032 individuals and 265 families who came to this country under Lutheran auspices during the two weeks' period. The procedure included helping the arrivees through customs inspection, loaning them money for railroad tickets and meals enroute to their new homes, taking them to railroad stations and placing them on trains, and sending telegrams to pastors, sponsors and resettlement workers who would meet the DPs both enroute to and at their destinations.

Elstad's office force and pier workers have an important link in the chain of resettlement procedure from the DP camps in Europe to placement here in America. For the newcomers, the friendly smile of a Lutheran pier worker becomes the first official welcome from the Lutheran Church which has brought them out of despair into realization of new chances for life, and a welcome from the country which will be their new home—the United States of America!

Even though pier workers (the staff includes several Latvian ex-DPs) and the new immigrants may not speak the same tongue, the handshake which passes between them means everything in life to the DPs. Often overcome with the intense climatic emotion of the moment, and with tears streaming down their faces, they look gratefully toward heaven to exclaim: "Gott sei dank!" (God be thanked!) and similar phrases in a variety of languages.

To help relieve the tedium of the long customs inspection procedure—opening, examining and re-packing baggage—the NLC pier staff keeps on hand specially-prepared lunches which consist of sandwiches, milk and coffee. Though a ship may dock before mid-morning, the last families to disembark from transport vessels often do not complete customs inspection until late afternoon, depending on the number of passengers arriving in port in any one day. And, because no other meal facilities are either available or practicable on the piers, the NLC lunches are well-received by the DP passengers.

Among Elstad's staff to welcome "New Neighbors" to America and send them quickly on to their new homes are a group of consecrated Lutheran women volunteers from churches in the New York city area. Headed by a 65-year old grandmother, Mrs. Anne Premier, the women work in shifts meeting each ship, offering warm-hearted welcomes and help to the im-

migrants. The women help with children of the newcomers, such as taking them to restrooms on the pier. They also assist with aged parents, answer dozens of questions about America and provide dozens of other special services which are gratefully received by the DPs.

The women also distribute small toys—rubber balls, dolls, games—among the children of the "modern pioneers" when available. In addition, they provide without charge and at their own expense postal cards, stationery and stamps for DP adults who desire to send safe-arrival messages to friends and relatives left behind in Europe. Things like this are among the many small extras the volunteer women provide—things which mean so much to the newcomers.

Church groups such as ladies' aid societies, Luther Leagues and others who may wish to help Mrs. Premier's women along these lines are asked to send **small toys and games**—such as will amuse and occupy children during long train trips—to the U. S. Lutheran Resettlement Service, 13 East 22nd St., New York 10, N. Y.

## Talking It Over

Two neighbors meet in a rural community and the conversation goes something like this:

"Howdy, Bill."

"Hi, Jake."

"Kind of a sharp breeze this morning."

"A cold wind from the south always cuts right through to the skin."

"How are the children and the wife? The last we heard your wife was down in bed."

"She is up and around again. One of the children still has a bad cough."

After information has been exchanged as to the welfare of the family, the conversation shifts to income tax reports and similar subjects.

The point I want to make is this: The family is central in the thinking of rural people. When those two men took inventory of their assets and income preparatory to filing their income tax report, it is doubtful that they listed or even considered the rural environment in which they are privileged to rear a family to the glory of God as an asset. You say that environment is not particularly significant? I beg to disagree with you.

A St. Olaf student is at her study table. Her assignment is a short essay. Although living on a beautiful campus, something very remote from the college environment is put on paper. Here it is:

### THE OLD BROWN BRIDGE

The old brown bridge. It still stands there just like it used to. A couple boards loose in the middle, a big hole over at the end, and the railing on one side completely gone. It still rattles and shakes when a truck lumbers over; it still has to be held down when the spring waters come rushing down the "crick." Yes—the old brown bridge is much the same now as

it was then—only a little more rotten and a little more rusty with a few more memories hanging onto it.

I will never forget that old brown bridge. A small "crick" winds its way from farm to farm through a sheep pasture, past a wheat field, under the bridge and then on through the next field. In the muddy brown water schools of minnows play and chase each other. A small green frog leaps from one lily pad to another. Big blue dragon flies skim over the surface of the muggy water. A mud-covered turtle lazily climbs up the banks and suns itself in the sun, then slips back into the water and swims to the other side.

On some days, two pair of dirty suntanned legs dangle and swing from the bridge. Two dreamy faces with chins resting on folded arms gaze at the widening ripple made by a pebble thrown into the water. They just sit—chewing on soft wheat stems. They stretch, wriggle their toes, then slouch down again with their chins on their arms. These two are friends—very good friends. They live on farms about a mile and a half apart. This bridge is their meeting place. Many times they have met here to think, to dream, and to chatter as all teen-age girls do. They will never forget these few moments. They will never forget this old brown bridge. The two get up, stand talking to each other for a while, skip a few more pebbles, then finally part each to go in his own separate direction—one to the south and the other to the north.

After they have gone the old brown bridge stands alone—then a gray truck rattles over. The box is full of newly-threshed wheat being taken to town. This wheat means money and life to the dust-bitten farmers and their families. The truck can be seen for miles away, then it disappears behind a hill.

Six white-faced heifers come plodding along. One cow stops, looks around, chews her cud and then moves on. A light brown Collie dog runs alongside Buster, the neighbor boy. Buster saunters along behind waving a stick and now and then yelling—"Get goin' you fat ole lummo." They cross the bridge and it sounds like women's high-heeled shoes clomping along. Then gradually getting softer can be heard the cow bell tinkling at each step taken.

A little later the truck speeds back—this time raising a cloud of dust stretching for at least a mile behind. There are more loads of wheat waiting to be taken to town before the Co-op elevators close for the night.

Then again the bridge is alone. Now there is no one to disturb its peace and solitude. In the west the sun is setting and the red and golden hues of the sunset mellow the rust and brown of the bridge. The frogs burp and splash in the water, a lonesome dog barks at a lazy cow, a cow bell tinkles in its softest melody. And still the old brown bridge stands—listening and waiting with its many memories.

To me a rural environment such as lived in the memories of the student who wrote the above article furnishes a social climate that is ideal for the rearing of Christian personalities.

In the scene described above there were three young



## Across the Editor's Desk

### "THE BOOK TO LIVE BY"

#### Sixth Annual Worldwide Bible Reading

"The Book to Live By" is the theme of the sixth annual Worldwide Bible Reading program, which is sponsored each year by the American Bible Society. The program, starting on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, will end on Christmas Day.

The high point of the program is Universal Bible Sunday which occurs this year on December 11. Dr. John Sutherland Bonnell, pastor of the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York city, and well-known writer and lecturer, has written the brochure, which is prepared especially for this service. Packets containing the brochure, an attractive poster featuring the theme, "The Book to Live By" and other appropriate material will be mailed to over 120,000 pastors early in the fall.

For the 32-day reading program, the Bible Society has prepared a list of daily Bible readings in the form of a bookmark, which fits conveniently in the Bible. Last year more than twelve million of the bookmarks were distributed. This year, in response to requests from industrial organizations, a bookmark in a special size, has also been prepared. These will be enclosed in salary envelopes, statements, etc.

"We feel that many people form the habit of daily Bible reading through the use of these bookmarks," declares Dr. James V. Claypool of the Bible Society who is in charge of the Worldwide Bible reading. "I base this statement on the fact there has been a substantial increase in the calls for lists of daily Bible readings which the Society prepares for the entire year. An advance at the rate of 25 per cent each year since 1946 has been noted."

The Worldwide Bible Reading program is also observed in those areas covered by the Bible Society's twelve foreign agencies. The bookmarks are printed in the languages spoken in those countries, which include Chinese, Arabic, Portuguese and Spanish.

people. One remains in the community. The other two have gone elsewhere. They, no doubt, had their reasons for going. I believe that if we want more of our young people to stay in rural communities, we need to be concerned about making them so challenging that the young people will want to stay so that their children and children's children will have the privilege of fellowshiping in the peaceful environment of the country side.

## Grand View College And Our Youth

### Grand View College Choir

Recently the Grand View College Choir sang at the city-wide, all-Lutheran Reformation Service which was held in the University Christian Church on Sunday evening, October 30. It was the first time one choir had done all the singing. The choir sang three numbers: "Clap Your Hands," "Salvation" and "O Day Full of Grace." Following the service some of the young people met for an informal talk with the speaker, Doctor Morris Wee.

At the present time we are working on the Christmas program. It will consist of the "Hallelujah Chorus" from *The Messiah* by George F. Handel, and a Christmas Cantata, "The Worlds True Light," by R. M. Stultz. The cantata will include solo numbers by various members in the choir.

The other day at choir practice one of the boys had a wire recorder there and he took recordings of some of the songs we have been practicing. As we listened to the recordings we could hear where our mistakes were and what were our main faults.

Although it is not yet Thanksgiving the choir has already begun work on the music to be sung on tour in the spring. As the plans stand now we will go to Michigan and will leave before

Easter. Going at this time will make it much easier for the students to make up their work when they return.

Belonging to the choir means work but what we receive in return more than compensates for our efforts. It gives pleasure and fellowship and also good training. We enjoy singing under the leadership of our director, Olaf (Chris) Lund. Many times when we first go to work on a number we wonder how we will ever learn to sing it properly, but before too long it begins to sound like it should. The choir is an important part in life at Grand View.

Linnea Mortenson,  
Seattle, Wash.

### Announcements

The Grand View College choir has been invited to visit the congregations in Michigan next spring. The invitation has been extended by the board of District II of the Synod and this marks the first time that such an invitation has come. It has, of course, been gladly accepted, and the general time for the tour has been set for March 26-April 2, 1950. Details will be planned later.

The Grand View Seminary can announce the dates and the main speakers for the 1950 Pastors' Institute. The time will be April 11, 12 and 13. The speakers are Prof. A. T. Kantonen of Hamma Divinity school, the author of "The Resurgence of the Gospel," and Dr. J. C. Trever, the American scholar who processed the recently discovered manuscript of Isaiah. We also hope that Mr. Arne Sorensen of Denmark will be with us.

J. Knudsen.

# Yule

### For Good Christmas Reading

Forty-eight pages of Christmas meditations, stories, poetry and articles of interest for family reading during the Christmas season. Well illustrated. Beautiful cover design.

Partial table of contents includes: Short meditations by Pastors Leif Kirkegaard and Clayton Nielsen; "David's Star of Bethlehem," story by Christine Whiting Parmenter; "The Beauty of the Lord," story by Dagmar Potholm Petersen; "The Telegram," story by Anne Marie Krogh; "The Holy Night," by Selma Lagerlof (translation); "Meet Mr. Tudu," by Missionary Harold Riber; "The Grand Canyon," with excellent pictures by Ernest Christensen, a tourist guide; and "A DP Family," by Harald Ibsen.

Yule is edited by Harris Jespersen and published by the young people of the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church. It will be off the press about mid-November. Price 65 cents a copy. Ten per cent discount on orders of ten or more copies.

Order today from your local agent or book store, or directly from Rev. Harold Petersen, Askov, Minn.

**Send Yule as a Christmas Gift**

### Winter Folk School

November 28, 1949 — March 17, 1950

In the tradition of the Folk School, Grand View College invites young people to attend a winter short course in general education. The course will include classes in subjects such as history, Bible, social studies, literature, Danish, science, bookkeeping, etc. A schedule will be prearranged and with reasonable exemptions the students will be expected to follow it. Attendance at a weekly assembly and three weekly gym classes will be required. The students are given an opportunity to participate in all general students activities. If necessary, special English classes will be arranged for immigrants. Junior College credit will not be given.

The cost will be:

Tuition .....	125.00
Incidental fee .....	10.00
Board .....	110.00
Room .....	35.00

Write to:

**WINTER SCHOOL**  
Grand View College  
Des Moines, Iowa

### District VII Workshop

Nysted, Nebraska

Thursday, November 24, 8 p. m. to

Saturday, November 26, 12 noon

The various phases of our Youth work will be discussed and shared. There should be many helpful ideas to take home for the local societies to use. Not of least value will be the fellowship of living together for a couple of days in worship, singing, working and playing together. Our young people are invited to participate.

The cost will be five dollars. Bring blankets, sheets and a pillow slip.

District Board.

### Tyler Old People's Home

The synod's Children and Old People's Home at Tyler, Minn., wishes to send a greeting to friends everywhere. Our home is not large but I am convinced that it has a mission to perform. At the present time there are only two children and seven old people at the home. We have room right now for one aged person. Applications should be sent to me.

I should like to remind individuals as well as Ladies' Aids and other groups that we are in need of financial support, especially this year of high prices. Gifts may be sent to the treasurer of the home, Mr. Johannes P. Johansen, Tyler, or to me.

I know that there are many demands to meet. We are called on to support many worthy causes, but don't forget our children and our old people.

Enok Mortensen.

Danebod parsonage,  
Tyler, Minn.

## Ellen Carstensen Reenberg



Ellen Carstensen Reenberg, a dramatic actress from Copenhagen, Denmark, is at present visiting in this country. She comes recommended by the Ministry of Education of Denmark, and has already given several programs in the Eastern states.

Her program consists of Danish readings from Kaj Munk, H. C. Andersen, "Adam Homo," etc., as well as a selection of songs.

The reports from the programs already given in Hartford, Conn., and in Newark, N. J., are very enthusiastic, and in Hartford a return engagement has been arranged.

She is scheduled to give her program in Chicago, Racine, Wis., Cedar Falls, Des Moines and Kimballton, Iowa, and in Wayne, Alberta, Canada, and other communities may be scheduled by now.

Rev. A. Th. Dorf of Peekskill, N. Y., and Mr. August Bang, editor of "Dannevirke," Cedar Falls, Iowa, are arranging her schedule. Anyone interested should write to one of these two men, depending on the area where she is wanted. It is our impression that this program will offer something of the very best from Danish literature and music, a treat not afforded very often in this country. Let us take advantage of the truly good programs from Denmark that are offered now and then.

Editor.

## POSITIONS OPEN

Eben-Ezer Mercy Institute, Brush, Colorado, has openings for a registered dietician, and for a business manager. People interested in these positions are invited to write to the superintendent, stating qualifications and salary expected, also anything else that might be of mutual interest.

REV. INGVAR M. ANDERSEN,  
Superintendent

Eben-Ezer Mercy Institute  
Brush, Colorado

## OUR CHURCH

The Danish Radio Service over WCAL, Minneapolis, will be given on Sunday, November 27, 9:30 a. m. by Rev. Paul Wikmann of Manistee, Mich.—Pastor Wikmann will also preach the sermon on that Sunday in the St. Peder's Lutheran church in Minneapolis.

The 1950 District VI Meeting will be held in Dalum, Alberta, Canada, July 13, 14, 15 and 16.—As this year's District meeting in Danevang, Texas, marked the first venture into Texas for a District meeting (the annual synodical meeting was held in Danevang in 1935), so this will be the first time that District VI will travel to Dalum, Canada, for its District meeting. It is a good sign of further cooperation and fellowship.

The Grand View College Choir under the direction of Prof. Olaf Lund, has been invited by District II to visit the congregations of the Michigan District during the spring of 1950.—We understand that the choir has accepted the invitation and plans are in the making for the tour.

Hay Springs, Nebr.—The Peter's Lutheran Community Church of Mirage Flats has this year tried out the "Lord's Acre Plan." On Sunday, November 13, the pledges were to be turned in, thus making the service on this Sunday a special Harvest Festival.

Sunday, Dec. 4, has been set aside in the Mirage Flats Community church as Visitation Sunday. Members of the congregation will on this Sunday call on their neighbors to acquaint them with the work of the church in their

community and extend an invitation to them to come into the fellowship of the church.

Mr. A. H. Jurgens of Menominee, Mich., passed away at his home on Nov. 7. He was one of the pioneers in his community and church, and he was well known throughout our synod. He was through a number of years president and an able leader of "Dansk Folkesamfund." His wife is at present confined in a hospital with a fractured hip, and it was while visiting her in the hospital that he was stricken. Funeral services were held from the Menominee church of which we was a member.

Portland, Maine—A Reformation Festival was held in the Portland church on Sunday, October 31. Pastor Rollin G. Shaffer, Promotional Director from the Lutheran World Action office was the guest speaker, taking as his theme: "Lutherans in Action." The local choir, organist and a soloist added the musical part to the festive service.

Rev. Alfred Jensen, synodical president, is at present on a speaking tour in the Nebraska District, beginning the tour by speaking in the Davey, Nebr., church on Tuesday evening, Nov. 15.

Miss Muriel Nielsen of Ruthton, Minn., who at the Santal Mission meeting at our annual synodical convention in Greenville, Mich., last June, expressed her desire to go out to the Mission field in Santalistan, has now been accepted by the official American Board of The Santal Mission at its recent meeting held in Minneapolis. Miss Nielsen is at present attending the University of Minnesota, and will, according to present plans, prepare to leave for India next fall.

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## WORLD-WIDE

*Bible Reading*THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS  
1949**How to Find Help  
From Bible Reading**

- 1—Read carefully and unhurriedly. "Time exposures" not snapshots should be the rule.
- 2—Read thoughtfully and prayerfully. Try to imagine the scenes.
- 3—Read expectantly and reflectively. Look for the personal message for YOU in each day's passage.
- 4—Read till a verse strikes fire. Your inner response to God's message is vital. When he condemns, bow penitently. When He offers help, place your hope on that assurance. When He commands, obey. When He guides, follow.
- 5—Copy out a key verse daily. Carry it with you, refer to it, and repeat it again and again throughout the day.
- 6—Set aside and keep a regular daily time for reading.
- 7—Make it a habit. Enter the New Year as a daily reader of the Bible.

**"THE BOOK TO LIVE BY"**

These readings feature Bible selections which bring out helpful truths concerning the theme:

Thanksgiving, Nov. 24	-----	Psalms 23
Friday	-----	Psalms 27
Saturday	-----	Psalms 103
Sunday, Nov. 27	-----	Isaiah 35
Monday	-----	Romans 12
Tuesday	-----	Isaiah 55
Wednesday	-----	I Corinthians 13
Thursday, Dec. 1	-----	John 14
Friday	-----	Psalms 8
Saturday	-----	Revelation 21:1-7
Sunday, Dec. 4	-----	II Timothy 2
Monday	-----	Micah 6:1-8
Tuesday	-----	Acts 17:16-34
Wednesday	-----	Revelation 22:1-7
Thursday	-----	John 3:1-17
Friday	-----	I Thessalonians 5:12-28
Saturday	-----	Mark 4:1-20
Universal Bible		
Sunday, Dec. 11	-----	II Chronicle 7:11-18
Monday	-----	John 4:1-14
Tuesday	-----	Luke 10:25-37
Wednesday	-----	Matthew 25:31-46
Thursday	-----	Exodus 20:1-17
Friday	-----	Matthew 6:5-15
Saturday	-----	Psalms 119:33-40
Sunday, Dec. 18	-----	John 1:1-14
Monday	-----	Matthew 5:1-12
Tuesday	-----	Isaiah 9:2-7
Wednesday	-----	Romans 8:12-39
Thursday	-----	I Corinthians 15:35-58
Friday	-----	Isaiah 40
Saturday	-----	Isaiah 53
Christmas, Dec. 25	-----	Luke 2

If you wish to make Bible reading a daily habit, speak to your minister, write your denominational headquarters, or request a list of "Daily Bible Read-

## Danish Gym Team



The Flensted-Jensen Gym Team, a group of thirty-two young men and women under the direction of Mr. Erik Flensted-Jensen, who are touring the United States, especially giving exhibitions at larger Colleges and Universities, will also give some exhibitions in some of our larger Danish communities. The schedule for the month of November includes: University of Chicago, Nov. 5; Nov. 8, Lane Technical High School, 2501 W. Madison St., Chicago; Nov. 10, Danish Brotherhood Hall, Racine, Wis.; Nov. 12, Wheaton College, Wheaton, Ill.; Nov. 15, University of Illinois, Urbana, Ill.; Nov. 16, Marshall High School, Davenport, Ill.; Nov. 17, Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa; Nov. 18, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa; Nov. 23 and 25, Memorial Hall, Audubon, Iowa; Nov. 24, Town Hall, Kimballton, Iowa; Nov. 25-30, Dana College, Blair, Nebr.

Mr. Jay B. Nash, chairman of the Department of Physical Education of The School of Education, Washington Square, New York, writes to Mr. Erik Flensted-Jensen: "It was indeed a real pleasure for the members of the University and their associates to meet you and the members of your Danish Gymnastic Group. We were all impressed with the very fine quality of young people in your group."

"The enthusiastic reception by the professional associates and the audience indicated the very high calibre of the training of the individuals and the team work performed."

"We can recommend this exhibition in highest terms to all organizations throughout the nation."

Everyone who saw the 1947 exhibitions will remember the many fine programs given in our various Danish communities by the Erik Flensted gym team, and many who will have the opportunity of seeing them on this tour, will wish to see this group, an entirely new team.

ings—1950" (U-139) from American Bible Society, Dept. U, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.

**NEWS BRIEFS****DANISH PRIMATE PAYS TRIBUTE TO CHURCHES IN AMERICA**

New York—"My visit to America has left me with a deep and lasting impression of the strength and life of the Lutheran Churches."

That was the observation made here by Bishop Hans Fuglsang-Damgaard of Copenhagen, Primate of the Church of Denmark, as he sailed on the Jutlandia on October 28 after an eight-week trip through the United States and Canada, under the joint auspices of the Danish Lutheran Church and the United Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The Danish churchman and his wife traveled some 10,000 miles during their stay in America and made nearly 100 public appearances. Both made numerous addresses, and Mrs. Fuglsang-Damgaard also entertained the audiences with Danish songs.

Bishop Fuglsang-Damgaard expressed the conviction that the Lutheran Churches of America "carry a great responsibility for world Lutheranism," and that the churches "are shouldering this responsibility."

"I would like to voice my heartfelt thanks," he said, "for all the material and spiritual assistance afforded the suffering churches all over the world by their American brethren. It has been a source of great pleasure to me to see that the American Lutheran Churches have a deep understanding not only of the essence of Lutherdom

but also of the importance of ecumenical-mindedness.

"I ask God's blessing on the Lutheran Churches in America, that they may progress further and further on the road to fulfillment of that mission they are called upon to perform in the interest of world Lutheranism."

#### POND NAMED FIELD WORKER FOR DIVISION OF WELFARE

New York—S. Ross Pond has been named field worker in the Division of Welfare of the National Lutheran Council, it was announced here by Dr. C. E. Krumbholz, executive secretary of the division. Mr. Pond, who assumed his new duties Sept. 1, will work out of the New York office for about two months and thereafter will make his headquarters in Chicago. He has been working as assistant to the executive secretary of the Board for Christian Social Action of the American Lutheran Church in Waverly, Iowa, and previously was executive director of the Lutheran Welfare Society of Texas with headquarters in San Antonio. He is a member of the American Lutheran Church.

#### MONTANA LUTHERANS ORGANIZE STATE WELFARE ASSOCIATION

Great Falls, Mont.—The Montana Lutheran Welfare Association, first major intersynodical Lutheran enterprise in the state, was organized here September 23 at a meeting attended by representatives of the participating bodies of the National Lutheran Council which have work in the state.

Major steps taken at the meeting were the adoption of a constitution for the association and election of a board of directors. The board is to meet in November to elect officers of the asso-

ciation. Legal headquarters will be in Helena, the state capital.

Members of the board of directors are the Rev. Webster Clement of Livingston and the Rev. A. C. Baumgartner of Great Falls, United Lutheran Church in America; the Rev. Ralph Lindquist of Great Falls and the Rev. Nels Norbeck of Helena, Augustana Lutheran Church; the Rev. H. G. Schuler of Fallon, American Lutheran Church; and the Rev. A. B. Holland of Fairfield, the Rev. R. A. Normann of Wolf Point, the Rev. I. C. Gronneberg of Malta, the Rev. Selmer Heen of Havre and Dr. L. N. Field of Great Falls, Evangelical Lutheran Church. Members of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod also were present at the organization meeting and promised full cooperation in external matters although they could not formally join the association.

The work of the new welfare group will be to receive, care for, supervise and accept legal guardianship of handicapped, illegitimate, orphaned, delinquent and neglected children; to provide homes for the same by adoption or otherwise; to maintain and conduct boarding homes and other institutions and services such as institutional chaplaincies, personal and family counseling, and care for the invalid and aged; to co-ordinate in said homes and institutions all activities and enterprises of a religious, missionary or charitable nature.

The organization of the Montana Lutheran Welfare Association is the culmination of five years' study which included a survey of social resources and needs in Montana made in 1947 by Miss Henriette Lund, field consultant with the National Lutheran Council's Division of Welfare. Dr. Field was head of the temporary committee which drew up the constitution.

Statewide Lutheran welfare associations are operating in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, Colorado, South Carolina, Washington, New Jersey and Illinois. Regional welfare agencies have been set up in California, Ohio and Pennsylvania, where the regional plan seems preferable to a state setup, and Maryland is in the process of organizing a state association, according to Dr. C. E. Krumbholz, executive secretary of the NLC Division of Welfare.

#### PASTOR AURANEN OF FINLAND ENDS 2-MONTH VISIT TO U. S.

New York—The Rev. Ahti Auranen of Finland sailed for home Nov. 4 on the Gripsholm after a two-month visit here under the auspices of the U. S. A. Committee for the Lutheran World Federation.

Pastor Auranen serves as liaison between the U. S. A. Committee and the Ecclesiastical Board of the Church of Finland, in which task he supervises the distribution of the million dollars of Lutheran World Action funds allo-

#### SYNOD OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** Rev. Alfred Jensen, 1232 Pennsylvania Ave., Des Moines 16, Iowa.  
**SECRETARY:** Rev. Holger O. Nielsen, 1410 Main St., Cedar Falls, Iowa.  
**TREASURER:** Charles Lauritzen, 222 Pollard Ave., Dwight, Ill.  
**TRUSTEE:** Olaf R. Juhl, 5557 Blaisdell Ave., Minneapolis 19, Minn.  
**TRUSTEE:** Erling V. Jensen, 1901 Easton Blvd., Des Moines 16, Iowa.  
**TRUSTEE:** August Sorensen, Ringsted, Iowa.  
**TRUSTEE:** Viggo Nielsen, 190 Jewett Ave., Bridgeport 6, Conn.

cated for church relief and reconstruction in Finland.

Through individual exchange transactions, in cooperation with the government, these funds from America realized 700 million Finnish marks, which are being used to meet physical needs of distressed people and to restore the spiritual program of the Church.

Pastor Auranen traveled in both the United States and Canada, speaking in behalf of Lutheran World Action. He also spent one week at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn., to study American parish methods and programs, and also visited headquarters of the Finnish Suomi Synod in Hancock, Mich.

#### N.L.C. SPONSORS DP BOOTH AT N. Y. WOMEN'S EXPOSITION

New York—Jointly sponsoring a booth on displaced persons along with five other voluntary agencies working in the resettlement program, the National Lutheran Council will participate in the 26th Annual Women's International Exposition of Arts and Industries, opening November 7 in New York city. The Exposition will be held in the 71st Regiment Armory, 34th Street and Park Avenue, and will be open from noon to 11 p. m. daily, closing Sunday, Nov. 13.



NEW ADDRESS—If you move, then write your name and new address in the space provided. Be sure to state what congregation you belong to. Clip this out so that the old address is included and mail to LUTHERAN TIDINGS, Askov, Minn.

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