

Lutheran Tidings

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ISSUE



McGaw Hall, site of the plenary sessions of the Evanston Assembly, Northwestern University

A Prayer for the Assembly: God, our Father, Who has given to Thy church a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, make us worthy of our common calling to witness to that hope. Son of the Father, our Savior Jesus Christ, confirm in us the assurance that Thou art present with Thy people and that Thy victory will be fully manifested. Holy Spirit, the Comforter, by the power of Thy fellowship unite all the scattered children of God together in the joyful service of Thy Kingdom, and so guide the Assembly of the Churches that all may be done according to Thy will: and to Thee O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory now and for ever more.

(By the Presidents of the W. C. of C.)

Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches Aug. 15-31, Evanston, Illinois

I Believe in the Holy Spirit

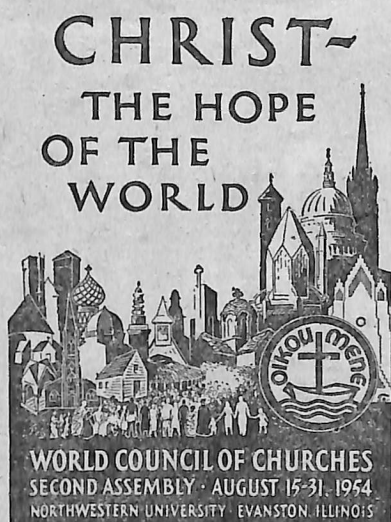
Pastor Peter D. Thomsen

(Read Acts 1:1-13 and 2:1-11)

Whenever we gather for worship in our churches we say that we believe in the Holy Spirit. Thereby we confess that faith in Him is as necessary to the Christian religion as is faith in God the Father, and Jesus Christ, His only Son.

In speaking of the Spirit I say "Him" deliberately, because the Holy Spirit is not what so many people think — a mere influence. Pentecost makes it plain that the Spirit is a Person. Yes, that He is God — God as we know Him through Jesus. But He is not God "out there" in some distant land, (nor is the Spirit a milky ghost floating around in space). He is God "right here" in my heart, mind and soul. That is to say, the Holy Spirit is God at work in me accomplishing His purpose as revealed in Christ.

Without faith in the Holy Spirit our religion would be form without content, words without life, life with-



out power. A friend of mine once put it this way: "Christianity without the Holy Spirit might be compared to a blueprint for a powerful dynamo given into the hands of a man who had no means for translating the blueprint into reality. It might be a fine plan but it would never get beyond the blueprint stage." Because this is so we cannot be without the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit gives to man the means of life. He gives understanding, (wisdom) ability, (power) strength, courage, comfort. He makes the influence of our lives count for good, though He Himself is not that influence. He is God.

When Jesus lived on earth He gave a plan to His disciples. He showed them God's Will. But more than this, in the fulfillment of His Pentecost promise, He gave them power to do God's Will by bearing witness for Him in faith, hope and love — always and everywhere. Read for yourself the story of that

**A meditation suitable for preparation
for Cedar Falls and Evanston, from
the parsonage in Greenville, Mich.**

witness in the Acts of the Apostle. No story is more inspiring, more courageous, more deeply moving. It is the story of what God meant you to be and of what you can be and do for Him when by His Spirit He gets inside you.

There will never be a Christian Pentecost quite like that first one. But if we truly mean what we say when we confess that we believe in the Holy Spirit, and if we are sincere in singing to the Spirit the petitions of prayer, as we do in so many of our great Spirit-Hymns, then we too shall experience, in mind and heart, God's power. Then Christianity for us shall not be words only, but words and life; spirit and life; Life and Power.

As we prepare now to meet in convention may God by His Spirit guide us and bestow Himself upon us. May He give us there a first-hand Pentecostal experience of mutual love and understanding, active good-will, peace and power.

Convention Topics for Discussion at Cedar Falls, Iowa

District VIII herewith submits the following proposition for discussion at the 1954 Synodical Convention at Cedar Falls, Iowa, "that the Synod Constitution be changed to specify that the East and West Coast be each represented with one member on the Synodical Board."

Anton Nielsen, Secretary, District VIII.

Luther Memorial Congregation of Des Moines, Iowa, submits the following topic for discussion at the 1954 Synodical Convention at Cedar Falls, Iowa: That the congregation proposes to purchase the Luther Memorial Church Property providing the synod is willing to sell it for \$25,000.00.

Arthur Marek, Committee Chairman.

Should the Synod Constitution Article IX, 2 be changed to read:

"All officers shall be elected by a two-thirds majority of the votes cast, the term of office to begin—the President and Vice-President-Secretary December 1 following election—all other members of the board October 1 following election"

Charles Lauritzen, Synod Treasurer.

Some people — never listen to what it being said, since they are interested only in what might be called the gentle inward massage that the sound of words gives them. Just as cats and dogs like to be stroked, so do some human beings like to be verbally stroked. Because listeners of this kind are numerous, intellectual shortcomings are rarely a barrier to a successful career in public life, on the stage or radio, on lecture platform, or in the ministry.

S. I. Hayakawa.

In Language in Thought and Action (Harcourt)

Before and Behind Evanston

Something of the background and the meaning of the most important religious event in America in this century.

IT may be unsound to begin this look at Evanston with a negative, but sooner or later it must be made clear that the World Council of Churches is not a "super church" nor does anyone intend that it should be such. The Council does not, for example, conduct nor sponsor Communion Services. Opening worship will be held in First Methodist Church in Evanston, and this church has invited delegates to attend Communion there later in the Assembly. In good conscience, some delegates, including many Lutherans, will stay away, and attend communion in their own fellowship. This may appear to be "intolerable" as Bishop Eivind Berggrav (himself a Lutheran) calls it, but it is an indication, too, of the kind of Assembly it will be. At Amsterdam, the first Assembly was invited to Communion by the Reformed Church of Holland, but no stigma fell on those staying away. Bishop Berggrav does not approve of stressing "our unity in Christ" and then going "each our own way when Christ invites us to take part in His perfect fellowship." However, proposals for holding union Communion Services have received little support, and illustrate how true it is that this is a council of **churches**, and the great union which many hope for and which many fear is still far ahead on the ecumenical road.

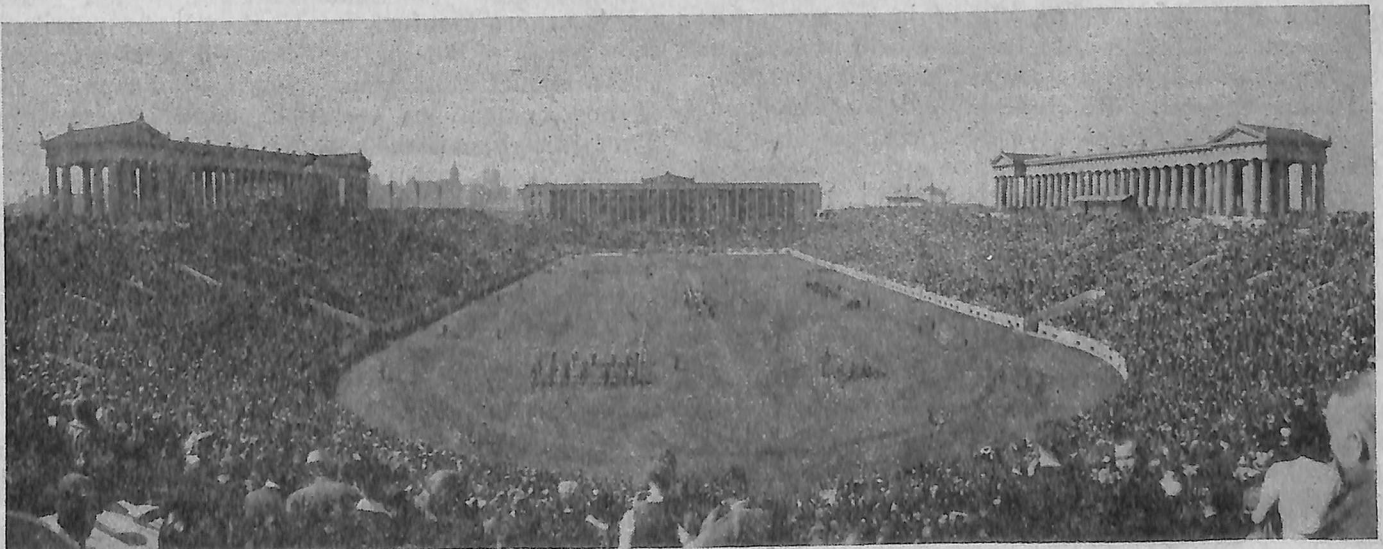
Despite this great chasm in the field of "faith and order" there are many other vantage points from which to view the Council and this Assembly which offer reason for optimism. After six years of hard work threatened and perforated by one international crisis (including Korea) after another the amazing fact confronts us: the churches have stayed together! The curtain between the East and West member churches has at times been ironic but it has not been iron. Misunderstandings have occurred that have been politically embarrassing. Likewise, racial rifts have revealed themselves. Yet the gratifying fact remains:

the churches have stayed together! On the Agenda at Evanston is the probable acceptance of two African Churches of different race groupings (and with different outlooks about Africa) into membership. The almost forgotten phrase "one world" is no more in evidence anywhere than in the work of the Council.

And it has been work. Work has been the unifying force. This writer was privileged to represent our American Evangelical Synod at a preparatory meeting of the U. S. member churches some years ago at Buck Hills, Pa. The three-day meeting bulged with activity, and the enthusiasm and earnestness of the delegates made less strenuous the long hours of committee and plenary sessions. A glance at the sub-themes for the Second Assembly makes clear the wide areas of labor undertaken. Under the main theme, "Christ, the Hope of the World," are these separate headings which are closely related to each other, but which form widely differing fields for investigation, and discussion, and finally, decision:

- (1) Faith and Order: Our Unity in Christ and our Disunity as Churches
- (2) Evangelism: The Mission of the Church to Those Outside Her Life
- (3) Social Questions: The Responsible Society in a World Perspective
- (4) International Affairs: Christians in the Struggle for World Community
- (5) Inter-Group Relations: The Church and Racial and Ethnic Tensions
- (6) The Laity: The Christian and His Vocation

The main theme, "Christ, the Hope of the World" will, of course, permeate all other discussions in the various sections. It is the intention of the leaders of the Council that the "Hope" of the main theme shall not be thought of only terms of immediacy — the current world crises, the economic disunity and struggle, the jealousy and distrust of races. The eyes



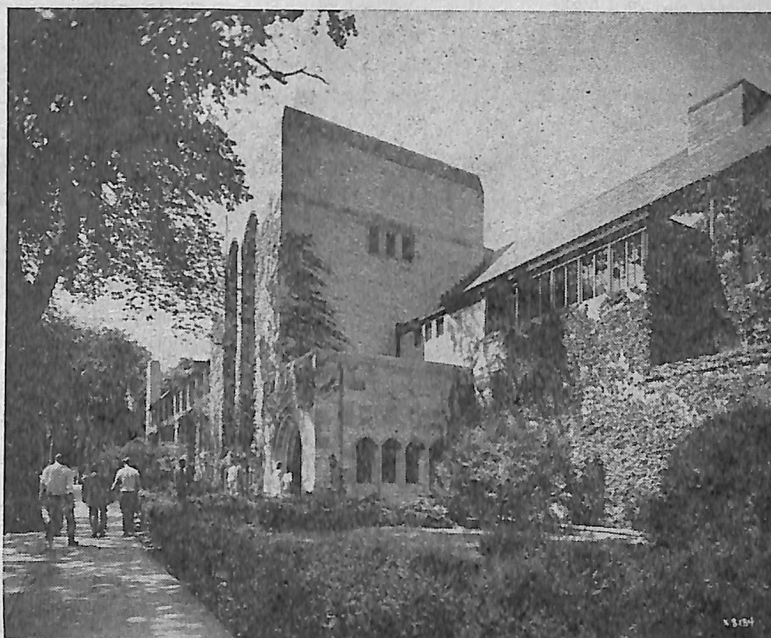
Impressive Soldier Field, Chicago, where a great "Festival of Faith" will be held on Sunday evening, August 15 — the opening night of the Second Assembly of the World Council. 100,000 persons will meet here.

of the delegates will be on the future, that unknown, dim, uncertainty which we now see only as "through a glass, darkly." This eschatological emphasis has become much in evidence in late months largely because of Evanston. (Our own Pastor's Institute had an address on the subject which LUTHERAN TIDINGS carried May 20 and June 5 this year.) A new book by T. A. Kantonen, of Hamma Divinity School, embodies the same stress in a chapter called "The End of All Things" in **The Christian Hope**. It is stimulating and spiritually healthy to look at age-old truths enveloped in a corona of new light under the perspective of Christ's triumphant return. The little harrassing, temporal difficulties of one generation are dwarfed when seen against the boundless panorama of eternity. On that panorama, Christ is indeed the Hope of the World.

When Soldier Field is filled it holds ten times ten thousand people, and it is expected that more than that number will gather for one of the most unusual experiences of worship in all history. The churches of the Chicago area are cooperating to present pageantry, music, speech choirs, and light in a dramatization of the Gospel story of creation, redemption and salvation, such as has never before been undertaken. Rhythmic, interpretive groupings on the field itself will demonstrate a seldom-used technique of worship. Other special events as the concert of special music of religious significance by the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and guest soloists will be given at outdoor Ravinia park. Chicago Art Institute will present an exceptional exhibit of religious art, including originals by Titian, El Greco, Rembrandt, and the incomparable **Angelus** by Millet. Vesper organ recitals by nationally known musicians will be a daily feature at beautiful First Methodist Church, where the writer once worshipped when its reknowned pastor, the late Ernest Fremont Tittle, still lived. In all these activities, the theme will remain, undergirding the entire meeting with hope.

In a world so filled with secular hopes offered up as panaceas for saving the world, the Christian Hope remains most "hopeful." Humanism, communism, science, super-nationalism — the world is filled with secular faiths that strain at the solution. Evanston will bring us back to the hope which has its ground in God and the assurance of His Kingdom, with the ultimate triumph in His hands.

How did the Council have its beginning? Probably



Many universities vied for the honor of being host to the Second Assembly. This beautiful, lake-front campus at Northwestern finally was chosen, after the University pledged \$25,000 toward travel costs which would be considerably higher than if an Eastern school had been selected.

the first important ecumenical gathering of modern times was the great missionary meeting of Edinburgh in 1910, only forty-four years ago. This meeting was a fore-runner to today's Council, which was assembled for its first convention in Amsterdam in 1948, officially constituted by 161 different churches from 48 countries. This month's Second Assembly comes to the United States at a time in our history when it has been more difficult to assemble delegates from so many parts of the world than it would have been at almost any other time. The ideal of the Council pre-supposes an atmosphere of

unconstrained fellowship. We are currently so pre-occupied with issues of internal security and loyalty, our press is so overburdened with stories of disunity and inquiry, that the ecumenical spirit operates under grave difficulty. The Christian fellowship has its instruction from the Apostle who acknowledged no difference between Jew or Greek, barbarian, Scythian, bond or free. On to this local scene of frustrating suspicion will come delegates from the far corners, many of them with minds filled with troubled misgivings. The lesser local scene will be overlaid, if great expectations are fulfilled, by a real spirit of "oikoumene" which it is hoped will supercede the mounting antagonism toward the United States felt in many parts of the world.

Conspicuous among the major churches who are not members of the Council are the Roman Catholics, the Southern Baptists (of U. S. A.), the members of the Church of Russia, the Evangelical Lutherans, and the Missouri Lutherans. Old Catholics and Eastern Orthodox members are represented. Recently Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, made news by issuing a pastoral letter in effect advising Roman Catholics in the Chicago area not to visit the Assembly, even as "observers." This new approach is at variance with an "Instruction" emanating from the Vatican itself in 1949 which permitted participation by Catholics in ecumenical gatherings under certain conditions. Under this Instruction, observers from European Catholic parishes did attend the Faith and Order Conference in Lund, in 1952.

Surprising is the fact that the World Council is highly solvent. Its premises in Geneva are debt-free, and there is a small reserve to draw upon. In view of the financial difficulties existing in many countries, the currency fluctuations, the depreciation of silver, the political exigencies which make dona-

tions illegal, it has been a small miracle that the Council is in so healthy a financial condition.

The drains have been numerous. One of the most significant is a little-known effort being carried on at the Chateau de Bossey (which the Council owns due to a considerable amount of Rockefeller money). Here the Council has something of an ecumenical laboratory, an Institute where are provided courses and conferences for men and women from unnumbered fields of work — ministers, students, lawyers, doctors, journalists. As the Rev. Leslie E. Cooke,

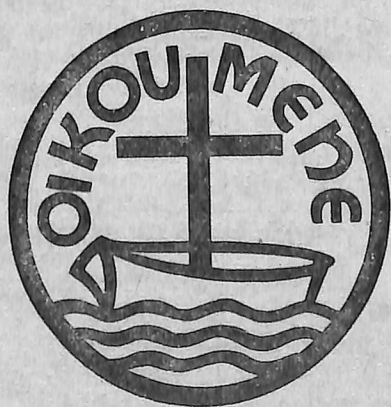


Reinhold Von Thadden

Chairman of the Committee on Structure and Function, puts it, "Bossey is a sort of microcosm of the ecumenical movement — a practical demonstration of the purpose of ecumenical study and committee work."

Chairman of the Board of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, near Geneva, is Reinhold von Thadden, a member of the Central Committee, and a leading layman with an exciting background of Nazi-resistance and Russian capture. (His sister was beheaded by the Nazis, accused of aiding the escape of Jews.)

Four hundred representatives of the press will



cover the Assembly. This limited number, in number far below the requests which came from newspapers of all kinds, and which would have crowded dele-

gates out of the huge McGaw Memorial auditorium if all had been accredited, will bring the story of the Second Assembly to the peoples of the world. (LUTHERAN TIDINGS will be in attendance, as will at least one reporter from every major and minor official church publication.)

It is contrary to the nature of the Church to be divided. In future years, it will be tempting to let the cooperation and achievements of the Council substitute for any real unity in Christ, which ought to be the ultimate goal of Christians. God give us the strength and grace to recognize His Spirit and to obey His motivations. Then, as we draw closer to one another, we will be drawing closer to Christ, the Hope of the World.

Statement by A.E.L.C. Delegate

The Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches will meet in our land, a nation which has in its short history meant renewed hope to millions "yearning to breathe free." A people living in freedom, yet under God, made America as well as other nations great, and this freedom under God now assumes world proportions at the coming meeting at Evanston, Illinois.

But there are many obstacles along this way of life. Today the world is sick. The sins of lust for power, worshipping of false gods, fear, greed and hate run rampant. But in spite of all these frightful obstructions that separate men, a call has gone forth from Evanston to Christians throughout the world to assemble. And from East and West, from North and South they come to plan and to work for the Kingdom, and to pray and to worship Christ — the hope of the world.

I pray that Evanston may be used by God as a **light** in a world where there is much darkness.

I hope that Evanston may give strength to men of our day to say as did the apostle Paul, "Finally be strong in the Lord and the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6)

Rev. Holger O. Nielsen.

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Need More Fighting Churches Secretary Says

"There is need in the world for more fighting churches," Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, told a press conference at the United Nations.

The conference was set up by UNESCO to introduce Dr. Visser 't Hooft's book on **The Ecumenical Movement and the Racial Problem**, which has been published by UNESCO as one of a series on "The Race Question and Modern Thought." Also in the series are **The Catholic Church and the Race Question** by the Rev. Yves M. J. Congar, O. P., and **Jewish Thought as a Factor in Civilization** by Prof. Leon Roth (in preparation).

"The story of the churches in regard to race is not a success story," said Dr. Visser 't Hooft. "Yet, although the individual churches have not always practiced racial understanding, in many instances where racial discrimination has become an issue, history shows that it is the churches and sometimes only the churches which have made a strong witness against such injustice. Usually the lead in such matters, in the Church as elsewhere, comes through a creative minority, but in many notable instances thank God, those leaders have been able to get the whole Church behind them."

"It is far from right," Dr. Visser 't Hooft continued, "to talk as if all progress in this difficult area of racial understanding has been made in areas outside and independent of the Church."

He pointed out that perhaps the Church's great contribution toward the permanent satisfactory solution of the problem lay in the Church itself having become more world-minded. "Through missions" he explained, we have learned the basic lesson that the Church is not the exclusive property of any one race or nation, but that it belongs to the Lord of the Church.

"The ecumenical movement," he said, "has made a very real contribution in this field, by its insistence on the fact that each member church — specifically the churches of Asia and Africa — contribute to the enrichment of the life of the Church as a whole."

"In the ecumenical movement," Dr. Visser 't Hooft continued, "there is no racial problem, but we hope that we do not so far forget our differences that we are no longer aware of and grateful for, each one's contribution."

Referring to the discussions of race which will take place at the forthcoming Assembly of the World Council of Churches, Dr. Visser 't Hooft explained the many differing attitudes held by various member churches, and expressed the hope that the World Council would be able to keep the various members participating in one discussion, rather than having any individual member withdraw from such discussion, to go off to develop its own ideas in isolation.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft's own constructive suggestion as to the Church's part in helping solve the problems of racial tensions, appears in the final passage of his book:

"Obsessional fear of unknown, foreign, and therefore apparently dangerous forces represented by other races can only be cured by the discovery of that deep security which is the gift of faith in God's sovereign rule. On the other hand it is quite clear that this fundamental motivation will be ineffective unless conditions be fulfilled. These two conditions are clearly formulated by Dr. O. F. Nolde in the Message for Race Relations Sunday, (National Council of Churches). They are: "A manifest change of attitude on the part of enough people to affect public opinion" and "concerted planning and action by both parties." In a number

of countries the Churches are able to fulfill these conditions. They reach a very large section of the population. They have in their own life or through their relationships in the ecumenical movement unique possibilities for inter-racial cooperation.

"They have therefore the opportunity to manifest that the Christian faith gives men that humility, that sense of responsibility, that awareness of fundamental inter-racial kinship, which can destroy the barriers that today divide mankind."

During the press conference, Dr. Visser 't Hooft paid tribute to UNESCO, and to the motivation of building racial understanding, which the churches and UNESCO held in common.



Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft

THUMBNAIL SKETCH

William A. Visser 't Hooft, General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, has a long background of public, ecclesiastic and ecumenic service. Born in Haarlem, Holland, in 1900, he was educated at Leyden, and ordained into the Netherland Reformed Church. He served as Secretary of the World Committee of W. M. C. A., and Secretary of the World Student Christian Federation, and was Chairman of the World Christian Youth Conference at Amsterdam in 1939. When the Provisional Committee of the World Council of Churches was formed, Dr. Visser 't Hooft was entrusted as General Secretary in Geneva with the chief assignments of administrative responsibility in this complex task. He speaks English, German or French. It is striking that his family name means "chief fisherman."

EIGHT DEADLY SINS OF THE MODERN WORLD

Pleasure without conscience.
Cleverness without character.
Science without humanity.
Wealth without work.
Industry without morality.
Politics without principles.
Religion without reality.
Government without God. E. D. Jarvis.

Our Women's Work

Editor

Mrs. Ellen Knudsen, 1114 South Third Avenue, Maywood, Illinois

Dear Friends of WMS,

As the Annual Synodical Convention is about to meet in Cedar Falls (August 10-15) we, the members of the WMS board send greetings to the women of our church throughout the land.

We wish to thank you each and everyone for the splendid cooperation experienced, performing this service in the interest of our church work.

On our "Page" in LUTHERAN TIDINGS, July 20, you have read the Financial Statement for the year 1953-54, which now has closed. We thank you also for this financial support. It is indeed encouraging that our list of contributing Ladies' Aids and Women's Groups has increased. May they grow still more in the year ahead!

When reading this report was this not a delightful statement from our national treasurer: "This has been one of the most enjoyable positions I have ever held." Thank you, Mrs. Axel Kildegaard, for your diligent efforts.

In reading over the disbursements you find listed where our gifts have gone. You will remember that these are all voluntary contributions which makes this list even more precious.

If after reading this report you feel there are other causes we in the coming year should support, will you make this known to your WMS Board, to your District Representative or at the business meeting during convention.

Should you not be able to attend the annual WMS meeting, please ask one of your local women to bring it to our attention at the annual meeting.

As you know, the WMS Board acts through a Round Robin Letter and for these letters we are always happy to get help for this our part in furthering the work of the Master we are serving.

Very soon the World Council of Churches of Christ will meet in Evanston, Illinois. Let us pray that this may be a meeting for the Glory of God.

Women's Mission Society will have the privilege to sponsor at Evanston two of our Seminary students by giving them scholarships of \$25.00 each. Our synod is entitled to have two such students attend and we are happy that this participation has been made possible.

Kind greetings from the WMS Board.

Ida Egede, President.

N. B. The following was part of our last Round Robin Letter and we wish to share it with you. It is one of the responses to greetings which WMS through its secretary from time to time sends out on special occasions.

Dear Mrs. Sorensen and Mission Society Members,

Thank you for your Easter greeting. We are wondering what we can have done to deserve that you should remember us at Easter. It cannot be that we

are especially acquainted with any of you, so it must be the other, i. e., the fellowship of all believers. You have done well in that you have sought to strengthen that fellowship.

"Behold how good and how pleasant it is that brethren dwell together — there the Lord has commanded the blessing: Life forevermore." Psalm 133.

That means that whatever fellowship we gain with each other here, we gain as believers. Therefore that fellowship will last from time into eternity. And when we meet in Paradise, then we start where we left off here. The farther we have gone in intimate fellowship here, the more easily will we find each other in the same room over there. In the Father's house are many rooms, and when we get to the Father's house then it is the spiritual relationship that counts. Then we get together according to what Christian fellowship we had with each other here.

But what, then, about recognizing and knowing each other? Some of you may never have seen us, and we may never have seen you.

Do you remember what happened on the mount of transfiguration? There were Moses and Elijah. Peter saw them. And afterwards he speaks of them with never a doubt as to whether or not it was Moses and Elijah. But Moses had died 1,500 years before and Elijah 700 years before. Peter had never seen them in the flesh, but he knew them.

When we get together in the Father's house we need not be afraid of not recognizing each other, for there it will be the spiritual relationship that counts, and we will then be well on our way to conform to that image in which we have been created. The "family mark" will be quite recognizable.

Thank you very much! May you all have a good Pentecost by getting to know the Spirit of God more intimately!

Andrew

There is no record that Andrew ever gave \$500,000 (or the equivalent) to endow a college. He had no big money. He lived by the toil of his mind and body, fishing in Galilee.

There is no record that he ever preached a great sermon. We do not know that he ever preached any sermon.

In fact, he has been called "Andrew the Ordinary." But I like better another title he has acquired — "Andrew the Introducer." This, because, he was found two or three times introducing someone to Jesus.

It is most certain that there are many like Andrew still in the world — not able to give large money — not able to preach great sermons — or any sermons.

But are there still some who, like him, are found introducing Jesus?

Lord, teach us how to do it, and to do it.

—Free Methodist.

Paging Youth

ESPECIALLY OF OUR A. E. L. Y. F.

Editor: Thorvald Hansen, 22 South 13th Street,
Estherville, Iowa

Two Down and One to Go

This is the season when AELYF'ers are busy with many things and particularly with **camps** and **conventions**. We have information on three of these camp-convention packages this time; two have already been held and one is coming up soon. We'll tell you about the latter first.

Iowa District

Registration is already under way for the Iowa District camp and convention.

This year the camp is to be held at Ingham lake, near Wallingford, Iowa. The dates for the camp are August 22-27. A good program, including Bible study, discussion, worship, craft, recreation, swimming and campfire, awaits all who enroll. Pastor Richard Sorensen, camp director, assisted by a number of pastors from the district as well as Pastor Clayton Nielsen, National President of AELYF, will provide the camp leadership.

A well-rounded program has also been worked out for the convention for which the campers will move to Ringsted (about 15 miles) on Friday afternoon, the 27th. Here, with other delegates and guests, they will be housed in the homes of the members of the Ringsted congregation. The convention will close early in the evening on Sunday the 29th.

Registrations for the camp and/or the convention should be sent at once to Pastor George Mellby, Ringsted, Iowa. The rate for the camp is \$15 and for the convention, \$5.

Northern Lights District

Mona Sinding, of Tyler, Minnesota and **Arnold Skov**, of Alden, Minnesota, write concerning the camp at Wood lake:

"This is My Father's World' was the theme of our 1954 Northern Lights District camp. How well we learned to understand what was meant by this! Bible study, thought for the day, discussions and campfire were all brought together and seemed to have more meaning in the light of the theme.

"But our camp wasn't all seriousness by any means. There were athletics which were funny because of the teams we had. Bundgaard's Bombers, Skov's Silver Slippers, Horsted's Hounds and Petersen's Pirates, were prominent in the sports activities consisting of volleyball and softball. Vern Mikkelsen, well known Minneapolis Laker basketball player, gave us a picture of both sides of sports, the good and the bad, in an interesting talk on Sunday afternoon.

"Group singing was enjoyed by all. K. P. was really looked forward to because there wasn't much to do and the dishes were quickly finished.

"Swimming and boating were among the high-

lights of each day while the hilarious programs given by the campers each night were eagerly awaited by all but the performers — though they too undoubtedly enjoyed themselves.

"On Wednesday we were conducted on a tour through the area that the Wisconsin Conservation Department is trying to improve for waterfowl. It was very warm that day and the swimming period, when we arrived back at the camp, was deeply appreciated.

"The convention business session was held on Saturday morning. District officers elected at that time are: Arnold Skov, Alden, president; Glen Krog, Diamond Lake, vice-president; Carmen Pilegaard, Ruth-ton, secretary; Ardyce Henriksen, Askov, treasurer; Pastor Gordon Miller, Badger, S. D., advisor from church district six and Pastor Ottar Jorgensen, Minneapolis, advisor from church district five.

"Cabin life was a wonderful experience. The campfire each evening gave a perfect closing to a perfect day.

"We are sure that everyone enjoyed the camp and that they all hope to be able to return next year. We also hope that those who could not be with us this year will come next year and join us for a wonderful week.

"The experience gained by attending camp cannot be appreciated simply through hearing about it. You must go and find out for yourself what it is that makes others want to go back from year to year."

Lake Michigan District

Concerning the Lake Michigan District camp, **Betty Jones** and **Annette Hussner** of Marlette, Michigan, and **Dagmar Eve** of Chicago, Illinois have this to say:

"This year we were fortunate enough to be able to attend the district camp and convention which were held at Camp Vining, on Bostwick lake, near Greenville, Michigan. The camp and convention, held during the week of June 28—July 4, were well attended.

"Each day began with breakfast at 7:30 followed by discussion and Bible study. Outdoor games, such as softball, volleyball, badminton and horseshoes, served at outlets for our stored up energy.

"The dinner hour was always greeted with enthusiasm. Meals were usually followed by group singing — and K. P.

"After a short rest period there was another discussion period. Many of these discussions dealt with problems of teen-agers and their relationship to others.

"Next came a swimming period with almost everyone enjoying the water. A 'buddy system' was used for safety.

"A craft period followed during which there was opportunity for copper tooling, leathercraft and photography.

"In the evening, singing, folk-dancing, square-dancing and informative movies were enjoyed. Then, in the cool stillness of the evening, devotions were held with everyone sitting around the campfire. This was always a perfect ending for a busy day.

"Some of the highlights of the week were a nature hike, stunt night and a banquet with a guest speaker.

"On Sunday morning all of the young people at-

(Continued on Page 9)

Ecumenical Institute Opens

"Getting to fire questions at an outstanding world churchman in an informal atmosphere where he's on the spot to answer is quite different from hearing a formal public address in a large hall where it takes binoculars to see the speaker's facial expressions."

That is the reason one lay church worker gave for enrolling in the Chicago Ecumenical Institute to be held at six Chicago-area seminaries for two one-week periods (August 2-7 and August 9-14).

She went on to say that while she expected to attend several plenary sessions of the World Council of Churches' Second Assembly, she was also looking forward to the Ecumenical Institute as a chance to get personally acquainted with some of the great Christian leaders in the relaxed atmosphere of a college campus. "I hope that study with these great minds will help me to develop a mature Christian faith," the lay worker stated.

The same ecumenical "flavor" which will characterize the World Council Assembly will also pervade the Ecumenical Institute. The faculty will be composed of leading Christians from around the world, the "student body" will include members of most American denominations. **Dean A. C. Kildegaard, of Grand View Seminary, will attend.**

Some of the leaders are ministers; others are teachers, missionaries, editors or ecclesiastical statesmen. Some are laymen engaged in politics or business. All are "down-to-earth" Christians who have come to grips with the very real problems of our day, and they will seek to interpret the meaning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in practical terms.

Among latest additions to the teaching rosters are Lesslie Newbigin, Bishop of the Church of South India; Gerhard Brenneke, director of the Berlin Missionary Society in the East Zone of Berlin; Pierre Maury, former president of the Reformed Church of France; and W. G. Symons, inspector of factories under England's Ministry of Labor.

Ministers and laymen who wish to attend should apply to the Chicago Ecumenical Institute, 5757 University Avenue, Chicago 37, Illinois. Registration fee is \$7.50 and room and board \$20 per week. The faculty will be different at each seminary each week so registrants may profitably remain at the same center for two weeks.

The daily schedule on each campus calls for three lectures each morning, a panel discussion or question period each afternoon and a lecture and worship at night. On the final Friday night of each week all groups will join in a great service of worship at the Chicago Temple in the loop. Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, will speak the first Friday and Reinhold von Thadden, head of the German "Kirchentag" or large laymen's movement, will lead the worship the second Friday.

First Carload of Wheat Given

Denmark, Kansas — (NLC) — The first carload of wheat to be gathered in this year's All Lutheran Food Appeal was dedicated in ceremonies here on July 21. It is destined for shipment to Austria to help feed refugees there.

Present at the event here were members of five local congregations in Lincoln county that worked together in the appeal to fill a carload of wheat. They represented the American Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and United Lutheran Church in America.

The Rev. W. G. Seeliger, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran church (Missouri Synod) in Lincoln, served as county chairman, with the Rev. W. R. Garred, pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Community church (AELC) in Denmark, as area chairman. He is secretary of the State Steering Committee for the ALFA, which is headed by the Rev. Fred Duever (Missouri Synod) of Topeka.

Located in the exact geographical center of the United States, Lincoln county is in the heart of the Kansas wheat region and farmers there grew an average yield of 20 bushels an acre this year.

The dedication ceremony was attended by the Rev. Ove R. Nielsen, director of the All Lutheran Food Appeal for Lutheran World Relief, and the Rev. Oscar C. Decker, field representative in ALFA for the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Speaking to those assembled for the dedication, Rev. Nielsen said:

"You have invited the refugees who are in Austria into your homes to eat at your table from the fruit of your fields.

"You were presented with an opportunity for special Christian service and you did not forfeit that opportunity. Your example here may well serve as an added stimulus for hundreds of other Lutheran congregations so that they may experience the joy of implementing their vision into Christian action so that an avalanche of food may move from the peaks of abundance to the valleys of want through our Lord and Savior."

Congratulatory messages were read from Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of Lutheran World Relief; Bernard A. Confer, executive secretary of Lutheran World Relief; and Dr. Werner Kuntz, executive secretary of the Board of World Relief of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

PAGING YOUTH

Two Down and One to Go

(Continued from Page 8)

tended the Little Denmark church, outside of Greenville. Following the service a potluck dinner was served at Trinity church in Greenville.

"All of these events plus able counselors and good cooks added up to a most enjoyable week. We are sure that all who were there are already looking forward to next year."

77th Annual Convention of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church

Convention Headquarters

Cedar Falls Junior High School
Twelfth and Main Street

Program for the Convention

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10

At The Bethlehem Lutheran Church

8:00 p. m.—Worship service, sermon, Bishop Dr. Theol. H. Fuglsang-Damgaard. Welcome, Rev. Holger O. Nielsen, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

7-8:30 a. m.—Breakfast, Legion hall, East 14th Street.
9-9:45 a. m.—Devotions. Theme, "Christ—The Hope of the World." Rev. Viggo Hansen, Bridgeport, Conn.

10:00 a. m.—Opening of convention business session.
12:00 Noon—Noon recess.

1:30 p. m.—Business session continued.

3:30 p. m.—Refreshment pause.

4:00 p. m.—Business session continued.

5:30 p. m.—Supper.

8:00 p. m.—Lutheran Rally, Iowa State Teachers' College Auditorium, Dr. Paul C. Empie, Executive Director of National Lutheran Council, guest speaker.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

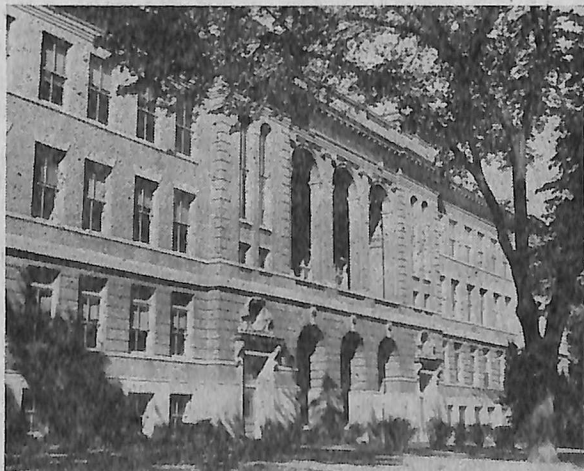
At The Junior High

7-8:30 a. m.—Breakfast, Legion hall.

9-9:45 a. m.—Devotions. "Our Oneness in Christ and Our Disunity as Churches," Rev. Vincent Ligouri, Portland, Maine.

10:00 a. m.—Business session resumed.

12:00 Noon—Noon recess.



The Auditorium Building, Iowa State Teachers' College, where a Lutheran Rally will be held Wednesday, August 11, with Dr. Paul C. Empie, Executive Director of the National Lutheran Council, as speaker.

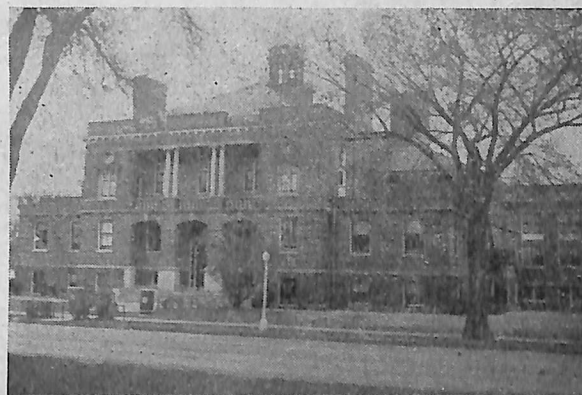
1:30 p. m.—Business session continued.

3:30 p. m.—Refreshment pause.

4:00 p. m.—Business session continued.

5:30 p. m.—Supper.

8:00 p. m.—Grand View College program. Dr. Ernest D. Nielsen, President, in charge.



Cedar Falls Junior High School, scene of most sessions of the 77th Annual Convention.

At The Bethlehem Lutheran Church

8:00 p. m.—Santal Mission meeting. Dr. William R. Scott, of the ELC, speaker. Mrs. A. Frances Nielsen, Des Moines, Iowa, in charge.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

At The Junior High

7-8:30 a. m.—Breakfast, Legion hall.

9-9:45 a. m.—Devotions. "Evangelism," Rev. George Mellby, Ringsted, Iowa.

10:00 a. m.—Business session resumed.

12:00 Noon—Noon recess.

1:30 p. m.—Business session continued.

3:30 p. m.—Refreshment time.

4:00 p. m.—Business session continued.

5:30 p. m.—Supper.

8:00 p. m.—Board of Parish Education. Rev. Howard Christensen, Chairman and speaker. Topic "Objectives of Christian Education."

At The Bethlehem Lutheran Church

8:00 p. m.—Danish service, sermon by Rev. Peter Brix Kronborg, Vancouver, B. C., assisted by Rev. C. A. Stub, of Fredsville, Iowa.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

At The Junior High

7-8:30 a. m.—Breakfast, Legion hall.

9-9:45 a. m.—Devotions. "The Christian in His Vocation." Rev. Walter Brown, Ruthton, Minn.

10:00 a. m.—Business session resumed.

12:00 Noon—Noon recess.

1:30 p. m.—Business session continued.

3:30 p. m.—Refreshment pause.

4:00 p. m.—Business session continued.

5:30 p. m.—Supper.

8:00 p. m.—American Evangelical Lutheran Youth Fellowship. Speaker: Dr. Harold E. Bernhard, Director of Religious Education, Iowa State Teachers' College. Rev. Clayton Nielsen, Withee, Wis., in charge.

At The Bethlehem Lutheran Church

6:30 p. m.—Women's Mission Society business meeting.

8:00 p. m.—Women's Mission Society meeting, open to all. Speaker, Rev. Peter Thomsen, Greenville, Mich.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

At The Bethlehem Lutheran Church

7-8:30 a. m.—Breakfast, Legion hall.

9:00 a. m.—Ordination service, in charge of Rev. V. S. Jensen, Ordainer. Candidate, Robert K. Fallgatter.

10:30 a. m.—Worship service in Danish with Communion, sermon, Dr. Alfred Jensen, President of the Synod. Communion service conducted by Rev. Ottar S. Jorgensen, Minneapolis, Minn.

At The Junior High

10:30 a. m.—Worship service in English with Communion. Sermon, Rev. A. E. Farstrup, Solvang, Calif. Communion service conducted by Rev. Harold Ibsen, Viborg, S. D.

3:00 p. m.—Speaker, Rev. Enok Mortensen, "A Job Bigger Than Ourselves."*

8:00 p. m.—Closing meeting. Brief talks by Beryl Knudsen, Greenville, Mich.; Ivan Nielsen, Marinette, Wis.; Owen K. Gramps, Watsonville, Calif.; and Robert K. Fallgatter, Wilbur, Wash. Closing remarks by Dr. Alfred Jensen, President of the Synod.

12:00 Dinner and 5:30 Supper at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

* Joint Choir (Waterloo, Fredsville and Cedar Falls) directed by Mrs. Richard Sell will sing at this meeting.

Notice to Delegates

Please bring your **Hymnal for Church and Home** along to the Annual Convention of the Synod at Cedar Falls, Iowa, August 10-15. (New edition). People wishing to attend Danish services should take their home book along.



The Rev. Alfred Jensen, D. D., Synod President, will officially open the Convention. He will preach at the Sunday (Danish) service at Bethlehem Church.

Seeds

What shall we be like when
We cast this earthly body and attain
To immortality?
What shall we be like then?
Ah, who shall say
What vast expansions shall be ours that day?
What transformations of this house of clay
To fit the heavenly mansions and the light of day?
Ah, who shall say?

But this we know
We drop a seed into the ground,
A tiny, shapeless thing, shrivelled and dry,
And, in the fullness of its time, is seen
A form of peerless beauty, robed and crowned
Beyond the pride of any earthly queen.
Instinct with loveliness, and sweet and rare
The perfect emblem of its Maker's care.

This from a shrivelled seed?
Then may man hope indeed!

For a man is but the seed of what he shall be,
When, in the fullness of his perfecting,
He drops the husk and cleaves the upward way,
Through earth's retardings and the clinging clay
Into the sunshine of God's perfect day.
No fetters then! No bonds of time or space!
That suffered man, and death, and yet, in tenderness,
Set wide the door and passed Himself before . . .
As He had promised to prepare a place.

Yea, we may hope!
For we are seeds,
Dropped into earth for heavenly blossoming.
Perchance, when comes the time of harvesting,
His loving care
May find some use for even a humble tare.

We know not what we shall be . . . only this
That we shall be like Him . . . as He is.

John Oxenham.

THE paths along which Christians down through the centuries have trudged in expanding the borders of God's Kingdom, are spattered with ink and sweat and blood. These three are symbols of what it takes to overcome the forces of evil and darkness, and to bring the light and truth of the Christian way of life to others. They mark the paths which the pioneers of our church also trod.

Wherever the witnesses for Christ have gone — to the seaports and into the dark forests of Europe — into tropical jungles and the icy wastes of the Arctic, or across the prairies of the new world — they have carried with them the written Word, the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. What would have happened to the Christian Church if the sayings and deeds of Christ had not been recorded? It is hard to see how she could have survived with only an oral tradition, and without the New Testament.

How much poorer life would be, and how much slower human progress would have been, without the written word. What an aching void there often would be in our hearts if we could never communicate in writing with loved ones far away. The personal letters of the Apostle Paul which have been preserved and included in our New Testament have added immeasurably to the treasure that is ours on its pages.

What the invention of the printing press in the 15th century has meant to the Christian Church in making it possible to reach countless millions with the printed Word, would require volumes

to record. Luther was swift to realize its value, and to use it. His dramatic gesture (if it be more than a legend) in flinging his ink bottle at the devil has become the symbol of the church press and its literary output. Now one can hardly conceive of pastors, teachers, parents or missionaries doing their work without the aid of printed materials. Since Luther's day Bible societies, Tract societies, publishing houses, religious periodicals and religious book clubs have spread the Gospel over all the world.

From our own little synodical ink bottle has issued a rich variety of articles, books, annuals, church and Sunday school papers, song books, etc. Danes are avid readers. Their American descendants have lost some of that avidness, and the radio and TV have left less time for reading. Our church papers have many competitors.

Through the twenty years of its existence LUTHERAN TIDINGS has been the main line of communication between the members of our synod.

Editor's Note: In response to our request for an article to commemorate the 20th Anniversary Edition of LUTHERAN TIDINGS, Pastor Lund, of Manistee, Michigan, sent us this stirring, evangelical message.

Through its pages many have gained new insights, made new friends, found wider horizons of interests, received spiritual food, taken part in discussions of vital issues — as well as in some that were less than vital. It has brought informative articles about our missions and institutions, and kept us in touch with latest developments. Our women's organizations, our Young People's Leagues, and our Sunday schools have received many ideas, and good suggestions through its pages. Its news columns have kept us informed, to some extent, on what other congregations throughout our synod have been doing. Our present young editor deserves a word of thanks for adding considerable editorial color and reader interest to the paper, and for keeping out of it, so far, any rancor and personal squabbles growing out of divergent views. From a technical point of view there is room for improvement in "make-up" — grade of paper — size and kind of type, etc., etc.

According to a recent survey our synod comes closer to "total coverage" with LUTHERAN TIDINGS than any of the other seven bodies in the National Lutheran Council, with a circulation of 8,300 and a confirmed membership of 15,000, or a ratio of **one copy to 1.8 confirmed members.** The average for all the NLC churches is 1 paper to 7.2 adult members. But we are also paying a large section of our synodical dollar for this high coverage. And it may be questioned if some other plan would not be just as effective and less costly. But these are matters for our Committee on Publi-

cations and the editor of LUTHERAN TIDINGS.

It seems that we have not been spectacularly successful in marketing the books put out by our committee, even at reduced prices. Would smaller booklets, dealing more with the present than with the past, get a wider reading? Some very attractive, informative and inexpensive booklets are produced by such divergent organizations as The Commission On Information About Judaism, The Knights of Columbus, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We put nearly all our "ink" money into LUTHERAN TIDINGS, subsidizing it to the tune of about \$6,000 a year. Convention Reports cost around \$1,000 a year. Pastors need other forms of printed matter to use in reaching new members.

And that brings us to the second of our symbols: SWEAT. We can use that ink bottle to reach some people, but in the work of the local church — in reaching out to the unchurched people of the community, it takes more than printer's ink. It calls for shoe leather, and sweat and blood. Jesus, our Lord, calls us to "Go — and make disciples of all nations." — you shall be my witnesses — to the end of the earth." That is every believer's high and holy mis-

Ink and Sweat and Blood

James N. Lund

sion. All too easily we lose sight of our calling, and center our attention on raising money, maintaining organizations, keeping up the church property, planning social activities, etc. Jesus said, "—you shall receive power." That implies that being witnesses for Him will be hard work. We will have to sweat over it. That is the symbol for zeal, effort, brooding, deep concern for the spiritual well-being of others, being like the "Good Samaritan," with hearts that throb with love for Christ and are eager for His cause. In other words: the moral and spiritual dynamics of the Christian life.

Our bodies require a constant supply of nourishment — food, oxygen, liquid, or the little reserve of strength is soon depleted, and our health suffers. That is so obvious, that it is trite to be reminded of it. And it should be just as obvious, for it is just as true, that the spiritual side of our nature requires constant nourishment through communion with God in prayer, in worship, in meditation on His Word, through the Sacraments, through Christian fellowship. "That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died," says the Apostle Paul (I Cor. 11:30) of those who have neglected, or misused the Means of Grace. This is at the root of our static situation on all fronts. It is not primarily that we do not have the men or the money or talent, but because we do not have the spiritual "dynamics," or vitality. That is our major problem in every congregation. There is no short cut to spiritual health and vigor. Our sporadic efforts at evangelism come to a dead stop because our faith and love are undernourished. "Never flag in zeal, be aglow with the Spirit, serve the Lord," says the Apostle Paul in Romans 12:11.

Ink and sweat and blood. Blood stands for sacrifice. "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" says Jesus. (Mark 8:34). He offers us no cheap grace, no soft and easy life. His Kingdom is the greatest venture and movement the world has ever known. He and His Kingdom is the world's only hope — Heaven's final bid for man's redemption. Since it is that, and since He has given Himself unto death upon the cross — we must give our "blood," sacrifice to win others for Him. This means putting ourselves at His disposal, making our little talent available for His use, giving Him access to our purse, our property, to invest in His Cause — right where we live — and "to the uttermost parts of the earth."

The Lord has used printer's ink to bring the story of His redeeming love to many a seeking soul. It is still a mighty instrument in His hands. But it can never take the place of sweat and blood. If we are to be useful for Him in this dark hour, to make His love real to others, we must demonstrate it in our lives, with genuine love that goes out to all mankind — love that is willing to pay in sacrificing ourselves for Him, as He gave Himself for us.

The measure of what you can do for the world is the measure of what you let God do with you yourself.

—Bishop E. A. Burroughs.

Findings Committees Announced

The following Findings Committees have been appointed for the 77th Annual Convention of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church meeting in Cedar Falls, Iowa, August 10-15, 1954:

A. Findings Committee on Reports of Synod President and District Presidents.

Rev. Ronald Jespersen, El Campo, Texas, Chairman.
Rev. H. Strandkov, Kimballton, Iowa.
Rev. Carlo Petersen, Newark, New Jersey.
Mr. Aage Sorensen, Detroit, Michigan.
Mrs. Paul Christensen, Solvang, California.
Mrs. Bernice Farstrup, Omaha, Nebraska.
Mr. Carl Laursen, Dagmar, Montana.

B. Findings Committee on Reports from Grand View College and Seminary.

Rev. E. K. Moller, 2846 Cortez Street, Chicago, Illinois, Chairman.
Rev. A. E. Frost, Salinas, California.
Rev. W. C. Nielsen, Withee, Wisconsin.
Mr. Valdemar Dehn, Chicago, Illinois.
Mr. Earl Stebert, Seattle, Washington.
Mr. Kris Jensen, Hartford, Connecticut.
Mrs. Dagmar Kramme, Des Moines, Iowa.

C. Findings Committee on Matters of Finance.

Mr. Folkvar Knudsen, 550 Hillside Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois, Chairman.
Rev. Holger Jorgensen, Des Moines, Iowa.
Rev. Harry Andersen, Marlette, Michigan.
Rev. Vincent Ligouri, Portland, Maine.
Mr. George Johansen, Lake Benton, Minnesota.
Mr. Alfred Grau, Newell, Iowa.
Mr. Hermod Strandkov, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

D. Findings Committee on General Matters.

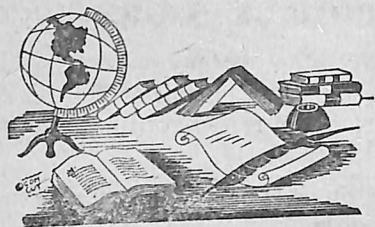
Rev. Ottar Jorgensen, 3149 — 35th Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Chairman.
Rev. Alfred Sorensen, Cedar Falls, Iowa.
Rev. Gordon Miller, Badger, South Dakota.
Mr. Aage Andersen, Kronborg, Nebraska.
Mr. Axel Sorensen, Tyler, Minnesota.
Mr. Hilmer Schmidt, Fredsville, Iowa.
Mrs. Axel Petersen, Granly, Mississippi.

Erling N. Jensen, Chairman.

Eilert C. Nielsen, Ass't Chairman.

Harmony at the World Council

Bishop Fjellbu of Norway — Permit me to quote further from conversation with this genial, interesting Christian leader. "The World Council of Churches is like an orchestra in which the several members play different instruments. They ask me if I don't think it's a good thing for the Lutheran Church to come into the World Council. I answer by asking if it is not a good thing for the World Council that the Lutherans come in. I believe that we have the finest instrument of them all. The orchestra is not complete without us. But we must play our instrument right. It's a peculiar thing, but it's true, that our opponents, even those who have no Christian faith, can hear right away when we are playing false."



OPINION AND COMMENT

A **DISTURBING** thought has come to us in reference to the coming Seminary decision. From letters and from conversations here and there, we have gotten the feeling that some people are against moving the Seminary for purely emotional reasons. However much we love our tradition and our institutions, the pressure of a sincere stewardship responsibility ought to make us seek other grounds. Neither the Dean nor the Board of Directors would want any votes influenced for reasons of nostalgia and sentiment. Emotion **can** be a moving force; it also can **blind** people to sound vision. The Synod and its School Board are entrusted with a profound responsibility in the use of funds ostensibly offered to "the church." It is a false use of such sums to expend them to keep alive a tradition, if that is the main thing we hope to accomplish by their use. A great many people who will be inclined against moving our school (as indicated at the open meeting of the Board last January) would do well to re-analyze their position on its highest level — the level of stewardship responsibility. A vote to keep our school where it is ought to be arrived at only by those who are convinced beyond doubt that Des Moines is the place where our ministers can best be trained to do their work in our Synod. In making such a self-analysis, people should not forget the other side of the issue. Unquestionably, there are exceedingly important advantages to be gained by a merger. It is unrealistic and reactionary not to recognize this fact. All the other facts must be brought under consideration, and not just those which favor an individual's original inclination. It will be an unfortunate vote, even an immature one, unless each congregation and each voter can see some advantages on either side, and is willing to give them an adequate and fair judgment. We would think, incidentally, that an important matter such as this would require more than a simple majority for final decision. (But this is perhaps asking too much when even the Board itself did not arrive at a two-thirds majority!) Whichever way it goes, the voters must prayerfully and thoughtfully consider the question on as lofty a plan as possible, and bring to bear on the issue not just feelings, but also facts. It would be well for us all to climb a tower, like Habakkuk, and take a really long view!

IN A **POPULAR** magazine this week a Catholic bishop says that clergymen are "morally obligated to speak out on controversial issues." Bishop Sheil made news some months ago in his sharply critical comments on Congressional investigations. He now writes in defense of that speech and says that though he believes pastors should not become involved in partisan politics, it would be wrong to silence them and to keep them from defining the moral issues at stake

in public controversies. This sounds particularly broadminded and wise, and somewhat surprising coming from a high-ranking bishop. A moral and scriptural evaluation of any controversy can be made without becoming involved in partisan politics, and often is needed. It is a sign of weakness to be afraid to speak out when one sees a wrong being committed. We all know and dislike the apathetic, unconvincing type of person who, for fear of being disliked, succeeds only in doing nothing. Dr. Parkes Cadman used to lecture on Sundays at the New York Y.M.C.A., and one time was asked, "Do the dead live?" His reply was, "They certainly do; if you don't believe it come down to my church and have a look at some of my elders."

EVANSTON will begin as our convention closes. It will be a monumental meeting, and due to the rotation system used by member churches, such an Assembly of the Council will not be held in the U. S. again in the life-time of any adult reading this. We will be well into the 21st century when our turn comes again. Listen for news announcements and proclamations from the Assembly, and encourage (by letter and phone calls) your local newspapers to print stories about the meeting. Newspapers print what they believe will interest readers. Religion in general is of wide interest, and stories about well-known clergymen are rushed into print. However, the World Council has been something of a controversial subject, and it may take the added incentive of reader request to assure wide publicity of the event.

ONE ITEM of religious interest that caught our eye the other day told of the mistaken delivery of a package of free Bibles by the Bible Society of Switzerland to top level Communists attending the Far Eastern conference in Geneva. Back came a note from the Reds thanking the Society in glowing terms for "a very interesting gift."

Thumbnail Sketch of Dr. Paul C. Empie

Paul C. Empie has been Executive Director of the National Lutheran Council, representing two-thirds of all American Lutherans, since 1948.

In that capacity he also heads the U. S. A. Committee for LWF and has been appointed chairman of Lutheran World Service for refugees. Since 1940 he has led Lutheran World Action, the annual fund appeal. He also is chairman of Lutheran Church Productions, Inc., created by the NLC and six Lutheran Synods to see to the production of the film **Martin Luther**.

Dr. Empie has traveled all over the world in his various capacities, and two years ago received his fourth honorary degree, Doctor of Theology, from German U. of Goettingen. He is a graduate of Muhlenberg and of Luther Seminary of Philadelphia. His background of pastoral work includes a Home Mission work and the superintendency of a Home for Aged.

He will address the Lutheran Rally at the Synod Convention in Cedar Falls.

Twenty Years of Tidings

BY

C. A. Stub

Just received No. 24, Vol. XX of LUTHERAN TIDINGS, which means it is twenty years since No. 1, Vol. I appeared. A great many things have changed in our synod during those twenty years. LUTHERAN TIDINGS has also changed, but not so much.

I am looking through some of the Annual Reports from about twenty years ago. The language was Danish throughout, except some of the financial accounts. Everything proceeded at a leisurely pace. At the convention held in Des Moines in 1932, during the discussion of our publications, someone mentioned that our synod needed an English church paper. It was moved that the chairman appoint two pastors to study the question and present plans to the next convention. Rev. L. C. Bundgaard and the undersigned were appointed. So the new enterprise was launched.

It was with much trepidation that many of our people thought about this new and daring venture. Bundgaard, who had great faith in questionnaires, prepared one such, and we sent it to all the pastors of our synod in order to get some idea of how the new venture would be accepted by our men of the cloth, and to ascertain how far the use of English had progressed in the work of our churches. The replies to this questionnaire showed that the use of Danish and English was about equal in the church services of the synod, but that the use of English was slightly predominant in confirmation class, Sunday school, summer vacation school, and in young people's meetings. Some replies were quite amusing, others irate. **One pastor wrote that he would not tolerate such a paper in his house as long as he lived.** I am sure he did, however.

At the next convention, held at West Denmark, in 1933, the committee presented the proposal that the synod publish at 16 page paper in the format of "Ungdom," that a committee of five be elected by the convention to select an editor and to implement the proposal, and that the committee be given the authority to cooperate with D. S. U. on a possible consolidation with "Ungdom."

This proposal caused quite a lively and heated discussion on Friday afternoon. The meeting had to be adjourned, but after supper the discussion was resumed unofficially under the trees of the parsonage garden. Some were sure that such a step was to depart definitely from the traditions of our church. What possible use could there be for an English church paper in our synod? Others considered it a break with the principles of our church and disloyalty to our spiritual heritage.

However, next day the convention decided that the chairman should appoint a committee of three to work out plans for the publication of an English paper and present such plans to the synodical board, which was authorized to make a decision in the matter.

Rev. Enok Mortensen, Rev. Ernest D. Nielsen and

The first editor of LUTHERAN TIDINGS reminisces about the beginnings in an amusing and fond birthday greeting from the Fredsville, Iowa, parsonage.

the undersigned were appointed to this committee. We met at the home of Enok Mortensen in Chicago to draw up rules for the new paper. Then there was the question of a name for the paper, which involved quite a bit of discussion. I had a different name which I thought was a lot better — it was a more romantic sounding name. However, the name LUTHERAN TIDINGS prevailed. It has turned out to have lasting qualities.

At the convention in Des Moines, 1934, the rules as drawn up by the committee were approved. Rev. Ernest D. Nielsen was appointed business manager and I was appointed editor. The convention voted \$100.00 to start LUTHERAN TIDINGS out. This was in June. Now it was up to us to get started. We decided the paper should appear once a month the first year, beginning August 5. So August 5, 1934, became the birthday of LUTHERAN TIDINGS.

The paper was sent out on trial to lists of names we received from pastors and others. All those who were willing to continue receiving the paper were to pay \$1.00 per year for it.

As to content, the paper was to contain a sermon on the front page, then contributed articles, an editorial page, news items from our synod, from other Lutheran synods, and from the church at large, correspondences, announcements, etc. After consideration we decided against fixed sections assigned to special causes or groups.

Naturally we had our anxieties to begin with. Our first worry was subscribers. But our people accepted the paper well. Some congregations sent in large blocks of subscribers. In some places, interested persons constituted themselves as promoters of LUTHERAN TIDINGS. I would like to mention one person from whom I got more encouragement then from anyone else, the late Mrs. Alfred Grau, Newell, Iowa. She sent in over 50 subscribers, she wrote encouraging letters, and otherwise did what she could for the paper. And there were many others who encouraged us in this new venture. At the convention the following June Rev. Nielsen reported about 780 subscribers.

The week to week work of editing a paper can, like most other kinds of work, become somewhat monotonous. However, I look back on my six years with LUTHERAN TIDINGS with a great deal of fondness. This work, I believe, I have enjoyed more than any other task entrusted to me by the synod. I always look back to it with pleasure.

Now, however, that is behind us. We live in the present and look forward to the future. LUTHERAN TIDINGS, I am sure, has been an active factor in the change that has come to our synod during the past twenty years. I am sure the paper will continue to be a factor in the growth and progress of our church. And I congratulate the editor on the opportunity that is his to promote the cause of our church.

Post-Evanston Meeting AT GRAND VIEW COLLEGE September 7 and 8

The plans for a Post-Evanston Meeting in Des Moines are well under way. From all indications we expect a large attendance at both meetings. The two speakers who have been invited are Bishop Skatt Hoffmeyer of Aarhus, Denmark, and Professor N. H. Soe of the theological faculty of the University of Copenhagen.

There will be a public meeting Tuesday evening at 8 p. m. This meeting will be held in Luther Memorial Church. A very large attendance of lay people from all of the Protestant churches of the city and county is expected. The Des Moines Area Council of Churches and the Lutheran Ministerial Association are cooperating in endeavoring to make this meeting known to all of the churches of the National Council of Churches of Christ and all Lutheran churches. At the public meeting, Tuesday evening, the address by the Bishop will be preceded by a fifteen minute presentation of color slides from the Evanston meeting, prepared by Dr. John Clinton, the Executive Secretary of the Des Moines Area Council of Churches. In a very concrete way the pictures will help to bring the work and some of the men of the Assembly of the World Council of Churches close to the local scene.

The Wednesday meeting is primarily designed for pastors. However, anyone is invited to attend. The meeting will start with a luncheon at the college at 12 o'clock noon. The charge for the luncheon is \$1.00, and reservations must be made not later than Saturday, September 4. Following the luncheon Professor N. H. Soe and Bishop Skatt Hoffmeyer will ad-

dress the pastors and other guests.

I know that both Bishop Skatt Hoffmeyer and Professor Soe are looking forward to their visit to Des Moines. The interest which is being shown by the leaders of the other church bodies in the city augurs well, I believe, for a successful meeting.

Greetings,

Ernest D. Nielsen,
President.

OUR CHURCH

Des Moines, Iowa. The Women's Mission Society has given two \$25 scholarships to the Grand View Seminary, in order that two young men will be able to attend the Inter-Seminary meeting to be held in conjunction with the World Council of Churches meeting at Evanston. These scholarships have been awarded to **Ted Thuesen** and **Paul Nussle**.

Solvang, California. **Mr. B. P. Christensen**, manager of the Solvang Lutheran Home informs us that he has secured the services of **Miss Thora Strandkov**, at present of Brush, Colorado, to take charge of the kitchen and dining room of the Solvang Home. Miss Strandkov will start October 1. We have also learned that **Bruce Christensen**, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Christensen, who recently graduated from the University of Minnesota, has accepted the teaching position in voice and music at the Tyler, Minnesota, schools, commencing with the fall term. He and his wife, the former Jean Gantriis, of Minneapolis, expect to move there sometime in August.

Danevang, Texas. Sixty-two children took part in a three-week summer school here. Recently installed **Pastor Ronald Jespersen** and his family were given a welcome party on their first Sunday in their new parish. The parsonage had been decorated in anticipation of their arrival.

Omaha, Nebraska. The church sanc-

A Monument for C. P. Højbjerg

Now that the ashes of Carl P. Højbjerg have been deposited in the Nysted, Nebraska, church yard, it has been suggested that his friends raise a monument in memory of a great teacher and preacher. To this end a committee consisting of John Johansen, Tyler, Minnesota, T. S. Hermansen, Marquette, Nebraska, and myself has been organized. Any member of the committee will accept contributions for the monument. These contributions need not be large. If you want to mail your contribution, please send it to:

Mr. T. S. Hermansen,
Marquette, Nebraska.

Alfred C. Nielsen.

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,
5101 Park Ave.,
Minneapolis 17, Minn.
TRUSTEE: Erling V. Jensen,
1104 Boyd Street
Des Moines 16, Iowa.
TRUSTEE: August Sorensen,
Ringsted, Iowa.
TRUSTEE: Holger Rasmussen,
Marlette, Mich.

tuary here has been redecorated. **Pastor Marius Krog** will be gone two Sundays in August, to attend the Synod Convention, and the World Council of Churches Assembly in Evanston, and services will be conducted by Pastor William Wilson.

Waterloo, Iowa. During the month of August audio-visuals will be used during the Sunday school hour, with the showing of religious films to which adults as well as children are invited.

Greetings and Comments From Our Readers

Chicago, Illinois
July 17, 1954

Moving or giving up our Seminary will mean giving up our **mission** as a people and a church.

I still believe that we, as a people, have a spiritual, God-given mission to carry out. Yes, in fact we don't dare say "no" to it. Build Grand View big, invite all people to come — but we are to give it to them through our Danish soul. That was what F. L. Grundtvig really meant, only he said, "Sprog, Kirke og Folk" for each (nation). He really meant Soul. He could not see 50 years forward and see the language question solve itself by that time, **but still leave the Soul intact**. The vote that we are not a Danish Church anymore has not eliminated that we still have Danish souls inside. If we kill them, then we are also dead as Americans; we have no choice. Our church has been so concerned about eliminating its own Danish name so that it might please the Americans of not Danish background. The result is that today, those with Danish souls have been forced into a hypocritical position by denying their forefathers, also their parents; and through this the 5th Commandment — I sometimes think that our youth problems are nothing but (the result of) the break between children and foreign-born parents. This break prevented the young people from getting the stable ground to stand on.

Sincerely,
Christian Warthoe.

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.

I am a member of _____ the congregation at _____

Name _____

City _____ State _____

New Address _____

August 5, 1954

JENSEN, JENS M.
TYLER, MINN.
RTE. 2,
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