

Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



National Lutheran Council Photo

Because of generous gifts to the All-Lutheran Food Appeal these children are receiving nourishment for their vitamin-starved bodies. See story on next page.

Effective Christianity

A GREAT Latvian Christian said to some of us a short time ago, "Twenty million Communists are taking the world away from six hundred million Christians." There are only twenty million dedicated Communists on the party rolls of the Communist party, and there are six hundred million enrolled Christians!

When we look at the corruption in public life — both state and national — when we look at the racial and national prejudice still rampant in the world, when we consider the very unpleasant fact that one out of every twelve people in the United States is either neurotic or emotionally or mentally confused, it doesn't make us feel very effective as Christians, does it? If we were more vital, if we were more dedicated, if we were really channels of God's holy power and energy, these conditions would not continue to exist, and Communism would have no appeal. Communism has no appeal to people who are well fed, both physically and spiritually; it appeals to the physically and spiritually starved. If the Christian Church were a pillar of fire leading the peoples of the world, instead of an ambulance corps, bringing up the rear as it so often seems to be, Communism probably would never have been born.

From THE SECRET OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER
by Helen Smith Shoemaker
(Fleming H. Revell Company)

"The Famine was Severe in the Land...."

By Karim E. Moubarak

For more than 5,000 years, Palestine has been known as "a land flowing with milk and honey" (Josh. 5:6). Today, this area is called Jordan, where, for the past seven years, the Lutheran World Federation has been conducting a relief operation to relieve hardship and suffering among many thousands of Palestinian refugees, as well as the inhabitants of Arab villages located adjacent to the demarcation line separating Jordan from Israel.

This year, the LWF's task in Jordan has been doubled — because of the effects of a serious drought which extends throughout the Middle East, particularly in Jordan. Today, instead of "milk and honey" flowing, the land has become stagnant with misery and poverty.

In view of the seriousness of the situation, Jordanian government officials sent emergency appeals for aid to the various foreign voluntary agencies operating in Palestine, including the Lutheran World Federation.

Because of the success of last year's All-Lutheran Food Appeal, through which Lutheran World Relief was enabled to send bountiful food supplies to the LWF office in Jerusalem, the LWF became the first voluntary organization to respond to Jordan's call for help.

Relief supplies of flour, beans, cheese, cottonseed oil and butter were rushed to the stricken areas by the LWF, and these were distributed to some 25,000 person during March and the first two weeks of April.

Flour gifts were milled locally from wheat given by U. S. Lutheran farmers to the All-Lutheran Food Appeal in 1954, transmitted to Jordan by Lutheran World Relief. Flour to make bread was the most appreciated gift received by the stricken beneficiaries in the border villages, who in many cases are more pathetically affected by the drought than the tent-camped refugees.

Cheese, butter and cottonseed oil, made available by the U. S. government and also distributed by LWF, were received with gratitude, too.

The effect of the LWF-ALFA flour distribution was especially conspicuous in the villages located just west of the desert of Judea,

In December, all thoughts center on Palestine. Mr. Moubarak is a staff member of the Lutheran World Federation's relief program in the Holy Land. He is an Arabian, and a Christian.

an area adjoining the Biblical fields of Boaz (Ruth 2:3), where Ruth once gleaned.

As the LWF trucks, groaning under the weight of the food supplies, ground to a halt in one village, the starved inhabitants thronged about the vehicles, their faces streaked with tears of joy. Over and over they cried, "The Lutherans have come to our relief!"

Fatmeh Ali Mahmoud, a Moslem widow whose husband was recently killed by border snipers, stood patiently in line to collect rations for herself and her six partly-orphaned children, the eldest being 12 years old. Tears of happiness overflowed her eyes as she clasped to her breast food for her undernourished family, thankfully breathing, "Now my children will have bread for a little while, at least!"

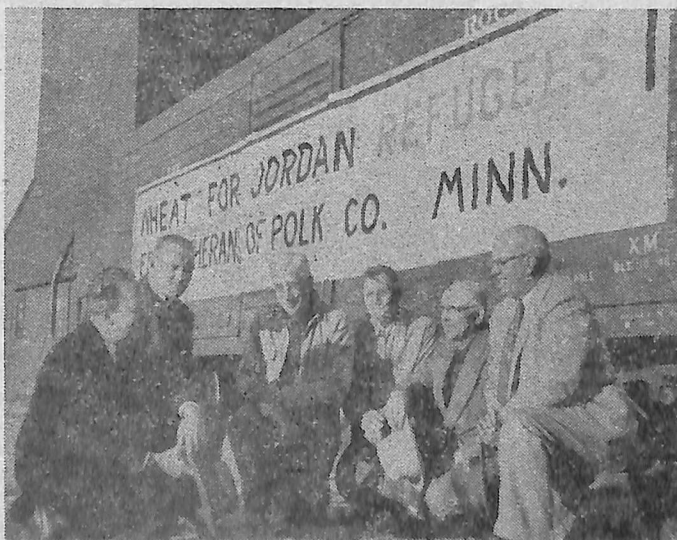
Those of us who labor here in Jordan for the Lutheran World Federation have often wished that you who support the All-Lutheran Food Appeal could once accompany us to see for yourselves what joy you have brought to the stricken Jordanian Arabs through your gifts of wheat.

In fact, when the news spread to nearby villages that the LWF was distributing emergency food rations, other requests came for aid in localities where the drought has also had serious effects.

During the past winter, this entire region had but one rain shower, that falling sparsely in December. You cannot find a single green spot throughout the parched area. Some villages have already been abandoned, because there is no water. And with no crop and no water, the inhabitants cling only to the hope for a miracle which may be wrought by Almighty God.

The timely arrival of LWF food supplies to this stricken region was described in just that way by one Jordanian government official: "A miracle!" And, some 37,000 hungry Arabs have already benefitted from the distribution of LWF-ALFA food in the area.

Here, then, is a report of the blessings which have resulted from your gifts to the All-Lutheran Food Appeal. By your continued efforts to gather wheat and other commodities, you help us to establish the blessed fact that, in a time when so many things seem impossible, "With God, all things are possible!"



Pictured above is a carload of wheat shipped from Minnesota during the 1955 All-Lutheran Food Appeal. The carload was contributed by Lutheran farmers of Polk county and was sent to Jordan where 400,000 Arab refugees live in miserable conditions. Lutheran farmers from 17 bread basket states have sent 183 carloads of wheat and shelled corn to refugees and other needy in Jordan, Austria, Germany, Korea, Formosa and Hongkong through the 1955 All-Lutheran Food Appeal. Additional carloads are expected. At the extreme left is the Rev. Clayton C. Engan of Fisher, who served as chairman for the appeal in Polk county.

In our synod, new Old People's Homes are
being planned in at least two communities.
And elsewhere it is being recognized that
it is high time that we placed

First on the Agenda — The Aged

Henrietta Lund

(Former Consultant, Division of Welfare, National Lutheran Council)



AM GLAD that my last assignment with the National Lutheran Council was a conference on the aging. It gave me the rare privilege of keeping in perspective both our past and our future in this human service. The newly formed Committee on Service to the Aging of the Division of Welfare spent two days studying present needs and problems of older people. Intense but inspiring, creative, even thrilling days they were, which made one know that Lutheran service to the aging had come of age.

Twelve years earlier I sat in at a board meeting of an old-age home which was beginning to question the soundness of building large institutions for life care of those "who are able to care for themselves," as the admission requirements designated. At that first conference of mine the agenda was crowded with operational matters pertaining to farm profits, budgeting, workable equipment, entrance fees. The directors heard very little about the people who were living within the walls of the institution, and nothing at all about the many dear folks who never did get off the waiting list. Not that the superintendent and directors were not dedicated to their work, but the possibilities in enriching life for those who were approaching its close were unfolding slowly.

Twelve years later first on the agenda of the Committee on Services to the Aging was consideration of a sound philosophy toward aging and the aged and goals for the well-being of people around which all planning should center. Those were built on the Christian concept of time and eternity.

Committee members of this day could and did profit by the wider scientific and social knowledge and skills available (the extent of which is witnessed by the bibliography of aging of over 18,000 references!) They knew that people who are infirm, sick or "just old" can be helped into productive not wasteful living. What old people think and what they want, how they can hold their place usefully and happily as individual persons of human and spiritual value is of first importance. All other matters — buildings, modern equipment, admission procedures — must revolve around people, not people revolve around regulations and facilities.

The Committee is a new venture of the Division of Welfare, envisioned by its leader, Dr. Henry J. Whiting. The participants are executives respectively of an agency which gives community service to the aged, an old-age home, and a Lutheran service society: Rev. Harold W. Reisch, Arthur S. Bragstad and Rev. Chester A. Holmquist.

Consultants are persons of experience in institutional and in non-resident care of the aged: Edmund O. Rausch and Rev. Walter R. Harrison. The job of the committee is to formulate principles and policies which will encourage and guide institutions, agencies, congregations and other interested groups to be alert and sensitive to human needs of older people and to new ways of effective help for those who need it. An agency of the Church, the committee felt, must set the pace for community, state, nation and world in all work for people.

The residents of the Skaalen Home at Stoughton, Wisconsin, manage their own Residents' Council, we heard, which gives returns in human values. "Is there a place on the agenda of the board meeting for their report?" someone queried. It was agreed that it is important for the beneficiaries themselves to have a part in planning with the planners. First on the agenda is the welfare of the people.

Superintendent Bragstad, whose institutional family lovingly call him "Dear Pa," went on to describe the Ladies' Aid of the resident women, including two wheel-chair members. Directing their own organization, some of them felt, had been "the richest experience of a lifetime." So much did they enjoy their independence and importance that they even voted down an invitation to join the District Women's Missionary Federation.

At the Salem Home for the Aged at Joliet, Illinois, the men joined the Ladies' Aid and made it into a lively "over 75" club. Ninety-year olds were not "too set in their ways," either, to register for a course of study at a nearby commercial college . . . Come rain or wind, no members of the Golden Age Clubs of the United Lutheran Social Mission Society of Illinois stay at home, for fear of missing the exhilaration of Christian fellowship and the chance to join in doing something worthwhile for others . . .

Non-resident care, as developed by the Germantown Lutheran Home for Aged at Philadelphia, suggests exciting possibilities ahead. Here social services make it possible for people to remain in their own homes in contentment and safety. If infirmity comes, they are given the security of the institution. What an onward step from the era when men and women often entered institutions in early old age because of fear of impoverishment possibly ten or fifteen years hence.

There is no place for "rocking chair" retirement in the present planning. All of us, we agreed, can and must widen our vision about the glory of a time

in life that is precious and expendable. No longer need there be dread of oncoming years, but enjoyment in imaginative, rich, spiritual and even healthful living to the last of life.

But this does not just happen of its own accord in our services. It means that the Church's work goes beyond a program of shelter care. The institution, valuable as it is, is only a small part of the whole plan. In fact, less than 6 per cent of Lutheran people live in old-age homes.

The first undertaking of the committee is to prepare a code of standards for institutions in the light of present-day interests and needs of the 6 per cent. Because the number of aged is so great, the committee believes that the few people who enter the old-age homes should be those who actually need protective or shelter care. They are likely to be the infirm, sick and handicapped of mind or body. The emphasis for them must be on prevention of ailments and on rehabilitation, so that they can be helped to live as satisfyingly as possible. To achieve this aim the institution must provide a full program of spiritual ministry, health care of a preventive nature, social services, and work and play therapies.

What about the 94 per cent? They must be reached through an extension of community services. These services may include opportunity for group activity in the way of clubs, classes and day centers, and counselling and informational services, friendly visiting to the homebound, foster home care, special housing and — glory hallelujah! — preparation for aging through educational projects.

Integration for the aged, not segregation, is the watchword of the committee. Book-of-the-Month on Aging, exchange of old-age workers of the world, five-year plan of training for superintendents, councils for Aged Anonymous, interpretation of human need through drama and film, a Bill of Rights for Senior Saints are provocative subjects to be explored by the committee. These are indications of a new age in social planning for the aged, or better said, planning with the aged.

We have been concerned about the trees in the forest that have loomed large to obstruct our view. The paths that have been hewn by strong and faithful pioneers have opened new vistas for us. Now we can see the woods. Now we have glimpsed even greater visions of human service.

First on the agenda is the fullness of living for all people.

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"Before and After"

David T. Riley

In 1946 I was stationed at the U. S. Naval Dispensary in Washington, D. C. In that same year Dr. Peter Marshall was inspiring thousands from his National Presbyterian pulpit. I had never heard of him. Dr. Walter Maier, twenty-year preacher of the famed "Lutheran Hour", was thrilling millions from his radio pulpit. Whenever I happened to dial him, I always turned to another station.

I attended church frequently with my aunt who was living in the Nation's Capital. She belonged to the First Trinity Lutheran Church (M) several blocks from the halls of congress. The minister at that time was aging Rev. H. Hennig in his mid-seventies. To this day I do not remember anything he ever said nor do I remember that I was ever very much impressed with his sermons in any way.

In late 1946 I was discharged from the Navy. In the following years I attended college and eventually decided to enter the ministry, attending Hamma Divinity School in Springfield, Ohio. Now I am serving the Zion Lutheran Church in Canwood, Saskatchewan, Canada, as intern pastor.

This summer I returned for a vacation to the home of my parents in Akron, Ohio. Since my brother, Ray, is stationed at Ft. Lee, Va., I made a visit to Washington, D. C., where he spent the week-ends. While there we stopped at my aunt's. She told me that Rev. Hennig was now retired when I asked about him. Sunday morning found us in the same church of nine years ago, but this time I was expecting Rev. Roepe who had replaced Rev. Hennig several years ago.

During the organ prelude, I picked up the printed bulletin of the day. My eye fell sharply on this item: "Due to Rev. Roepe being away on vacation, the sermon will be delivered this Sunday morning by Rev. Hennig, coming out of retirement!" Suppressing a strong chuckle, I picked up the hymn-book. When Rev. Hennig came up to the pulpit for the message, you can be sure I was straining for his words. As each sentence came out, I found dozens of applications for the thoughts he was expressing. I was being filled with the warmth of the Gospel as he preached. In fact, no sermon ever struck so hard for me before.

It had been nine years since I had heard Rev. Hennig preach. Had he made phenomenal homiletical strides from the age of 77 to 87? Why had his sermon been so ineffective in 1946 and so intensely thrilling in 1955? It can be explained best I think by what Paul wrote in his first letter to the church at Corinth. "The word of the cross is foolishness to those that are perishing, but to those who are being saved, it is the power of God!" 1 Cor. 1:18.

Editor's Note: The above testimony is from a young Ohio lawyer who is studying for the ministry. Many heard him speak at the Kimballton convention; he serves the church at Canwood.

"Faith and Life Advance"

"Faith and Life Advance" is the name that has been chosen for the coming drive which will give all of our people an opportunity to become participants in the evangelism work of our church through the Church Extension Fund and through Grand View College.

The "Faith and Life Advance" Committee was chosen by a joint meeting of the Synod Board and the Grand View College and Grand View Seminary Board to carry out the fund raising program authorized at the 1955 Synodical Convention in Kimballton, Iowa. The committee is made up as follows:

DR. ERLING N. JENSEN, Chairman
Chairman of Board of Directors, Grand View College and Grand View Seminary

MR. ERLING V. JENSEN, Treasurer
Board of Directors, American Evangelical Lutheran Church

DR. ALFRED JENSEN
President, American Evangelical Lutheran Church

DR. ERNEST D. NIELSEN
President, Grand View College

MR. JENS G. THUESEN
Board of Directors, Grand View College and Grand View Seminary

MR. OVE H. STRANDSKOV
President, Grand View College Alumni Association

The committee has appointed HARRY C. JENSEN as Executive Director, in charge of the general overall program. He is to be relieved of

many of his duties at the college in order to make it possible for him to concentrate his efforts towards the success of the "Faith and Life Advance."

THE GOAL: Our "Faith and Life Advance" drive has a total goal of \$150,000.00 — \$50,000.00 for the Church Extension Fund and \$100,000 to aid in building a new Science Hall and a new Gymnasium at Grand View College. This is the financial goal only. More important is the goal beyond: that of furthering the work of our church and at the same time deepening our own spiritual life through a renewal of our commitment to God.

The "Faith and Life Advance" will be an opportunity and a challenge to all of us. It will be a time of witnessing; and it will mean challenging the time, talents, and treasures of all who are a part of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church.

THE PLAN: The drive itself will be carried on from April 29, 1956 to May 19, 1956. This will be a period of commitment. First, however, will come the period of preparation, from January through April. The plan calls for all congregations to act **at one time** as members of one body, working together in a unified effort. "Faith and Life Advance" must be a part of our lives from this point on.

Soon the complete plan of action will be announced. In the meantime, keep in your mind and hearts the "Faith and Life Advance" to come April 29th to May 19th. Prepare your hearts for taking an active part in this "Faith and Life Advance."

Six-Point Program Endorsed for Home Mission Advance

Minneapolis—(NLC)—A six-point program to meet the home mission challenge of the next decade was endorsed here by the Lutheran Home Mission Conference.

Recommended for adoption, as resources permit, to the Division of American Missions of the National Lutheran Council, the program consists of the following points:

1. Harness the missionary possibilities of established congregations to the fullest extent in bringing the witness of the Gospel to all people in the neighborhood of those churches.

2. Continue the emphasis on the responsibility of the church to reach all people with the Gospel, and press forward in the cooperative quest for understanding of the culturally unreached people in our midst, and for helpful answers to the question: "How can we reach them more effectively?"

3. Recognize the mobile aspect of our society in planning the strategy of mission advance.

4. Study with a view to developing a planned program of mission advance that will be strategic as well as opportunistic in its scope.

5. Review the geographical and cultural areas of America not yet effectively reached with the Gospel, and explore possible means of reaching them.

6. Re-appraise our manpower and financial resources in relation to the responsibilities and opportunities before us, and in the light of this appraisal confront the Church with the needs in both areas of men and money for the work of God in bringing His Glorious Gospel of Grace to all people in America.

RESPONSIBILITY

"Am I my Brother's keeper?"

Men even to this day

Keep asking Cain's old question

In his guilt conscious way.

No, Not your brother's keeper;

For Jesus blazed another

True path for men to follow:

You are your brother's brother.

New Grundtvig Book Published

Dr. Ernest Nielsen's Study Well-Received

N. F. S. Grundtvig: An American Study by Ernest D. Nielsen, 173 pages, Augustana Press, Rock Island, Illinois, \$2.75.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. — St. John.

The Communists like to tell the people of the world that given time they will be able to produce an earthly paradise with plenty for all. We who pretend to be spiritual preach the same gospel. All one has to do is to look at the advertisements in such slick paper magazines as LIFE and SATURDAY EVENING POST. Unless man changes radically he will never be able to produce a paradise anywhere. What good will all our earthly things do, if they who use them are fools?

I have just now finished reading Dr. Ernest Nielsen's new book. While I am not a Grundtvig scholar, and must read it and understand it as a layman, it was a rich experience. I am writing this to encourage others to buy it and read it.

A few minutes ago I listened to an excellent recording of Mozart's Concerto No. 5 in A Major for violin and orchestra. When I experience such beauty, I know that spirit is a reality. Grundtvig knew that long before I did. This knowledge he shouted to his Stone Age. In our New Stone Age we need to have that shouted from every pulpit in the land. If that is not done with sincerity and vigor we may perish. Grundtvig was haunted by the fear that his people would die from lack of spiritual food. In his agony he cried to God for help, and the Good Lord did not fail to hear him. As a result Grundtvig was heard in Denmark and far beyond. A Norwegian who was present at a joint meeting of Scandinavian students held in Copenhagen in 1862 wrote this:

Grundtvig stood there as a minister, and exercised by his word and pen a wide influence all over Denmark; yes, over the whole of Scandinavia, in political, in social, in scientific, in church and school questions. With open hand he scattered his seed, and the man who some years ago stood despairing and alone, mocked and ridiculed, saw now green and abundant fields. He got the badge of knighthood and the title of bishop; he was ten times elected a member of parliament . . . I was invited for dinner at Grundtvig's house, and I saw him for the first time. I shall never forget when he rose dignified, with his white apostolic beard flowing on his breast, and spoke: "I have been waiting for this blessed hour, when I see representatives from all the Scandinavian lands gathered round my table."

A man of our times has said that a people who have no knowledge of history are as a man who is suffering from amnesia. Grundtvig would agree with this statement. His knowledge of history was very great and very deep. I am convinced that this knowledge together with his keen spiritual insight helped to make him the great man that he was.

I am happy that President Ernest Nielsen has found the time and energy to write this book, and this is an age when most college presidents are not much more than glorified business managers. Most of them do not write books. They have nothing to write about. They are out making speeches — threadbare speeches — too often about nothing.

Let us encourage the men among us who have the faith and the ability to write good books. Let us encourage them by words and by the good work of

The Living Word

When "prevent" means "precede"

The word "prevent" is used fifteen times in the King James Version of the Old Testament and twice in the New Testament, but always in the now obsolete sense of go before, anticipate, or precede (a meaning immediately derived from the Latin *prae* before plus *venire* to come). When the Psalmist says (119.147), "I prevented the dawning of the morning," the present-day reader of the King James Version is mystified. He may then consult the Revised Version of 1901, where he will read, "I anticipated the dawning of the morning" — by which he will probably understand that the writer eagerly looked forward to the dawn. The Revised Standard Version expresses the meaning of the Hebrew clearly, "I rise before dawn." This is a part of the description of the devotional habits of a pious Hebrew who rises before the dawn to begin the day with meditation and prayer. In the following verse 148, "Mine eyes prevent the night watches" is now translated "My eyes are awake before the watches of the night."

When Peter came to Jesus to report that they were asked to pay the half-shekel tax, (Matthew 17.25), the King James Version says that Jesus "prevented him." That does not mean that he kept Peter from speaking; it means simply that Jesus spoke to him first. When Paul tells the Thessalonians, anxious to know what will happen on the last great day, that "we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep" (1 Thessalonians 4.15 KJ), he is not thinking of a possible attempt to keep the dead in their tombs; he is saying simply that those who are alive will not precede the dead to the triumphant meeting with the Lord.

In the other cases the Revised Standard Version replaces "prevent" with "meet" (Psalm 21.3; 59.10; Isaiah 21.14; Amos 9.10), "come to meet" (Job 30.27; Psalm 79.8), "come before" (Psalm 88.13), "come upon" (2 Samuel 22.6—Psalm 18.18), "confront" (2 Samuel 22.6—Psalm 18.5), "receive" (Job 3.12), "has given to" (Job 41.11). The Hebrew word thus translated is *qadam*, the basic idea of which is to come or be in front or beforehand. The appropriate English word therefore depends upon the context. The King James Version translated *qadam* in eleven other instances, by "meet," "come before," "go before," "disappoint," and "before." I will send a list of these instances, with chapter and verse numbers, to any one who requests it.

Luther A. Weigle.

buying their books. President Ernest Nielsen's book may be had at the Grand View College Bookstore, Grand View College, Des Moines 16, Iowa. Remember there are only 29 days left till Christmas.

Alfred C. Nielsen.

Extracts of a Farewell Sermon

Thirty-five years ago on Pentecost Sunday I preached my first sermon here in Dalum down yonder in the assembly hall on the west road.

I can't even today think of a better day to begin spiritual work in a new congregation than on the day of the fulfillment of all the different promises concerning the Holy Spirit. We have just read and heard one of these promises in the gospel for today. **"The comforter, even the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said unto you."**

There is especially one statement made by the Lord himself that we need to have in mind, if we are to succeed in church work. "But you shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be my witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem (that is the home community) and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the world."

We know from the Book of Acts how the apostles after being filled with the Holy Spirit were able to do wonderful things, how they could pray, how they could testify, how they could pass through trials and tribulations even singing and glorify God, how they could not help speaking of these things they had heard and seen, as one man has it: "The infusion of a new life which made heroes and stalworth confessors out of cowards." It was like a day of spring when nature is unfolding new life in all its glory. Out there on the prairie that Pentecost day we could have sung: Blossom as a rose shall here all the desert places. Christian life in homes and congregation. So I say again, Pentecost day is a good day to begin work in the congregation. But it is also a good day to retire after more than fifty years work in Christ's service, when we are assured of the fact that the work will continue with another man through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thirty-five years have passed and what have we accomplished? We leave that to the righteous judge, remembering these words: "Therefore judge nothing before the time until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts, and then shall every man have praise of God." All the many years I have had the privilege to be with you and shared Christian fellowship with you. Although there have been disappointments also, so we have good reason to pray God for forgiveness in our short-comings, yet we have shared many blessed moments in this church and even in the assembly hall before the church was built.

Sunday after Sunday we came together first with children and helpers in Sunday school and that hour was well spent. It has always been a great pleasure to hear the children sing so well.

In church we sang our old loved hymns, confessed our Christian faith, shared the blessing of praying to our heavenly Father; we were partakers of all the means of grace. Gospel, baptism, communion, con-

firmation and wedding, when bridegroom and bride were blessed from the house of the Lord. We are all pilgrims; and some day the body would wait at the chancel for the last time and then be carried to the last resting place, then the church bell would toll over the grave as a last greeting from the congregation.

On many an occasion after a blessed festival it was hard for me to leave the church. I felt so strongly: This is none other than the house of the Lord and I am at home here. Thank God for every blessed hour spent here.

And now, concerning the future, there are two things I can do. I will try my uttermost to assist the new minister; in every way be a helper and a blessing in his work; and I can pray for him and the congregation. I can't find a better word to express such a prayer than Paul's word to his friends in Ephesus: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory to be strengthened with might by his spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your heart by faith, that ye being rooted and grounded in love may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length, and depth and height and to know the love of Christ which passeth all knowledge that ye might be filled with all fulness of God."

It has been stated that there are three methods by which the filling may be hastened.

One: Give yourself to holy song, if not with the lip, then in the heart and with the music of a loving trustful spirit, and the rhythm of life attuned to the will of God.

Two: Give thanks always for all things. Some of God's best gifts come in the roughest cases. When you see your Father's handwriting in the directions, kneel down and thank Him for contents before you unpack them. All must be good that comes from Him.

Three: Give submission and subjection to one another except in matters that touch conscience and the demands of God.

Then as a closing word. We pray that as God has been with this congregation in days and years gone by and blessed us in so many different ways that His blessing and peace will abide with us also in the future and further the spiritual life in homes, congregation and community to His own glory and salvation of souls. Otherwise it is not easy to break up the relationship and friendship.

P. Rasmussen.

Editor's Note: Last summer, Pastor P. Rasmussen gave over the reins to the younger hands of Pastor Gordon Miller and retired from the active ministry. We reported on Pastor Miller's installation, but not on the farewell-fest held for the Rasmussens, the testimonial speeches, and the generous gift the congregation had for them. With our apology for this unnecessary oversight, we print here some notes from Pastor Rasmussen's farewell sermon.

Paging Youth

American Evangelical Lutheran Youth Fellowship

Editor: Ted Thuesen, Grand View Seminary
Des Moines 16, Iowa

Another Successful Convention

Ardythe Hansen, Secretary of AELYF, gives us a report on the recent National AELYF Convention and Workshop held in Tyler, Minnesota.

On November 4, many AELYFers began their trip to Tyler, Minnesota, where the annual AELYF convention was held this year. Upon arrival of all the board members early in the morning, they proceeded to plan "last minute details." The opening session began at 2:30 after devotions by Rev. Walter Brown. This session consisted of a "buzz" group discussion concerning pertinent factors about local groups vs. AELYF. Following this, we saw the film entitled "Martin Luther" which each one of us enjoyed thoroughly in spite of the mechanical interruptions caused by the newness of the film. In the evening, Mr. Harry Jensen from Grand View College spoke on "Fellowship," a speech which was most inspirational as well as entertaining. Games and fellowship followed, and soon we retired to our dormitory rooms.

Saturday proved to be very eventful. Naturally the business meeting was the main session of the day. After roll call, presentation of the agenda, a summarized reading of the secretary's minutes, and the treasurer's report, Lavern Larkowski and Ardythe Hansen were elected convention chairman and convention secretary respectively. The president then presented his annual report. He reported that most district and local groups seem to be quite active with camps as the main activity. Concerning the "larger fellowship," Mark Nussle represented AELYF at the UCYM Council this summer, and from all indications in his report, he felt it was a most worthwhile experience. Rev. Harry Andersen and Agneta Bollesen attended the All-Lutheran Youth Leader's Council in January. This aroused considerable interest in view of the fact that AELYF is to be host to the next annual All-Lutheran Youth Leader's Council in Des Moines this coming January.

It seems that each time a convention is held in Tyler, Operation India climaxes the topics for discussion. This year was no exception. Rev. Dixon, executive secretary of the Santal Mission, spoke to us concerning our past and future work with Indian students. He seemed to be quite pleased with our work with Anil Jha, and he gave us some information regarding the arrival of the second student, Gora Tudu, who we hope will arrive by February. He also asked us to consider taking an Indian girl since they have been so neglected. After a most exciting discussion regarding our financial responsibility and possibilities, it was decided to take a girl from India as well as Gora Tudu and to start making arrangements immediately. **This means, of course, that we LYFers**

must continue our excellent support of Operation India and increase it wherever possible. He encouraged us to look into all available material on India — slides, etc. — to familiarize ourselves with the field and our work in it. The committee gave four specific recommendations: (1) That if Gora Tudu cannot come by the second semester, he wait until a few weeks before September of 1956; (2) That the Operation India Committee be authorized to send an appropriate gift not to exceed \$25 to Anil Jha at Christmas on behalf of AELYF; (3) That the youth of AELYF be encouraged to send greetings to Anil from time to time to assure him of our continued interest (Address: Augsburg College, Minneapolis, Minnesota); and (4) That a thank you be expressed to all AELYFers for sending letters to Anil and also to the people of our congregations for opening their homes to Anil. These recommendations were accepted unanimously.

We were sorry to hear that Ruth Jacobsen is moving to New York and therefore wished to be relieved of her position as chairman of the Operation India Committee. A rising vote of thanks was given her for her untiring efforts and outstanding ability as chairman for the past three years. Rigmor Nussle was appointed chairman, and Dale Johnson was made treasurer. **All future contributions for Operation India should be sent to Dale Johnson at either Dike, Iowa, or Grand View College, Des Moines, Iowa.**

Once again it was emphasized that we increase the sale of YULE. It was also pointed out that the editor of PAGING YOUTH is always looking for interesting articles concerning local, district and national activities. It was reported that A WORLD OF SONG is still in the process of revision. Due to several reasons, its publication has been delayed, but it is now hoped that it will be completed sometime next spring. We encourage the purchase of this bound book as soon as it is available.

Films from our filmstrip library have been distributed to each district. We hope that the district presidents have set up an itinerary throughout the individual districts and that the local groups are using them to the best advantage. You should be reminded, however, to send it on immediately after using it so that, upon completing the district circuit, it may be returned to June Westergaard and another sent to you.

No definite action was taken concerning program materials. Evidently, a few people saw the sample copies of LUTHER LIFE and HIGH IDEALS which were sent out last fall, and thus, no opinion was expressed concerning the value of these. No definite desire was expressed regarding the purchase of the previous materials entitled YOUTH PROGRAMS. All LYFers should ask your pastor or secretary for these sample copies and give them serious consideration. The board is checking into another possibility at present.

Under miscellaneous items, we adopted the proposed budget. We of AELYF would like to express a word of appreciation to the synod for allotting us \$350. Rev. Harry Andersen, vice president, spoke of a "visitation program" to widen and deepen the work of our local fellowships. The board felt that far too many of our youth groups only had a small percentage of available youth participating in LYF. Rev. Harald Petersen will be asking for an evaluation of each local group's program from each pastor. Rev. Harry Ander-

Our Women's Work

Mrs. Ellen Knudsen, 1033 South Tenth Street, Maywood, Illinois
Editor

Address Reminders

The addresses of Muriel Nielsen and the Ribers appeared in the last issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS. They are reprinted here to remind all of us to include them in our list of Christmas greetings.

Miss Muriel S. Nielsen, Superintendent
Gaorang Girl's School
P. O. Haltugaon,
Goalpara District
Assam, India.

Rev. and Mrs. Harold Riber
Dumka, P. O.
Santal Praganas, India.

WMS Board Meeting Held in Des Moines

The WMS board met in Des Moines, Iowa, on November 12, 1955, at the home of Mrs. Richard Jessen. All board members were present except our honorary member, Mrs. Thomas Knudstrup. Mrs. Ellen Knudsen, editor of the Women's Page and the following District Representatives were present:

Mrs. Alfred Paulsen, Cordova, Nebraska, District VII
Mrs. Alfred Holgaard, Clinton, Iowa, District IV
Mrs. Virginia Nielsen, Withee, Wisconsin, District V
Mrs. Gerda Duus, Alden, Minnesota, Treasurer of District V.

The motion was made and seconded that voting rights be extended to all present. Mrs. Ellen Knudsen made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Arnold Sorensen that the minutes of this meeting be published in the December 5 issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS. Motion unanimously carried.

Mrs. Ela Nielsen read the treasurer's report up to November 1. She reported that she had sent another \$1,000 to the Seminary since November 1 and that there now remains only \$1,000 of the \$5,000 which was our goal. Motion was made by Mrs. Holgaard and seconded by Mrs. Ellen Knudsen to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried. It was decided to allow stationery and stamp expenses to the District Representatives.

Letters were read from Mrs. Ida Egede, Mrs. Knudstrup and Mrs. Melby. In a letter from Dean Axel Kildegaard, he expressed appreciation for the support given the Seminary Expansion Program by WMS. Miss Emilie Stockholm read the results of the questionnaires which she had sent to all women's organizations in our synod. It was found that there is some confusion concerning the membership in WMS. It was felt that more organization was needed. Many groups asked for program material.

Miss Stockholm presented a Six Point Program to strengthen the work of WMS. The points were discussed by those present. 1. Re-organization — It was felt that there was need for a revision of the present constitution and by-laws. Mrs. Gerda Duus made the motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Arnold Sorensen that Miss Stockholm appoint a committee for the revision of the constitution and by-laws, and that Miss Stockholm be a member of this committee. Motion carried. 2. Membership —

sen and Ardythe Hansen were re-elected, and the business meeting adjourned.

The banquet followed at which we enjoyed a delicious meal and heard an excellent address from Rev. Enok Mortensen. Dan Martensen was toastmaster.

Bible study, church and dinner composed the agenda for Sunday morning after which all bid fond farewells. Yes, it was another successful convention — thanks to the Tyler young people, congregation, Rev. and Mrs. Enok Mortensen, and to all of you who participated!

All women who are members of our synod are members of WMS. 3. Finance — Some districts have organized with a District Representative as chairman and a treasurer's office. This has proven helpful to the work of the district and it was suggested that all districts organize in this manner. Each district should work out their own running expenses and be responsible for same. It was felt that the responsibility of spending WMS funds should be shared by all members. It was recommended that a budget committee be appointed. This will be discussed more in detail at a later board meeting. 4. Publicity — Efforts should be made to acquaint women with aims and work of the WMS. All were urged to read the Women's Page in LUTHERAN TIDINGS. It was suggested that a "Key Woman" be appointed in each congregation. Her duties would be to stimulate interest in and give information about WMS to the women of her congregation. 5. Missionary Education — It was stressed that the aim of WMS is to support ALL mission work of our synod, foreign as well as home mission. 6. Program Planning — Many women's groups need program helps, (according to the replies of the questionnaire).

The chairman was given the right to appoint other committees as need arose. Motion was made by Mrs. Holgaard and seconded by Mrs. Virginia Nielsen that the board members expenses to the board meeting in Des Moines be paid by the treasurer, Mrs. Ela Nielsen. It was suggested that Miss Stockholm encourage the districts whose representatives were present, to take care of their expenses this year! Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Alma Jessen and seconded by Mrs. Gerda Duus.

Esther Utoft, Secretary.

Totals of the Questionnaires

Total number of questionnaires returned: 79.

These represent a total membership of 2,871 women of AELC.

58 groups contribute to General Fund and Special Projects of WMS.

18 groups have questions about disbursements of General Funds.

39 groups take part in activities of the United Church Women. 35 groups do not, some because UCW is not organized in their community.

43 were in favor of sending their WMS District Representative to a general planning meeting of the WMS board each year. 12 voted "No," in most instances because cost was high on account of distance.

To the question: Do you feel WMS is organized to give the women of our synod the help they need in carrying out their Christian women's work? 24 groups answered YES, 33 groups answered NO.

To the question: Or, is this not to be a concern of the WMS? 33 answered YES and 3 answered NO.

67 groups favor a WMS pamphlet, or handbook, which would contain the constitution, aim, purpose, history, and general description of WMS, plus leadership helps.

18 groups use prepared program materials, 58 groups do not.

22 groups plan programs in advance (1 year), 13 do not.

55 groups desire help with program planning.

44 groups desire a pamphlet with program helps and suggestions.

Questions 11 and 12 answered by comparatively few groups. However, requests were made for revision of our constitution and by-laws, more organization at the district level, with authority to act, more publicity and information of work and activities of WMS, a new name for the organization, and many others. These were all good, and will be given consideration in our planning. Our program of action is based on results of the questionnaires.

District VI Convention

September 23-24-25, 1955, Lake Norden, S. D.

The meeting was opened on Friday night by Rev. Walter Brown. Rev. Harald Ibsen conducted the devotional service Saturday morning. The business meeting was opened by the district president, Rev. Enok Mortensen, at 10 a. m.

The first order of business was to elect a convention secretary, as the regular secretary was unable to be present. Henry Jacobsen was elected. The president called a roll call of delegates and all congregations were represented, with 24 delegates, four pastors and Dr. Alfred Jensen, synodical president, as attending guest.

The minutes of the 1954 meeting at Ruthton were read and approved as read. The treasurer reported a cash balance of \$249.27 on hand.

In the president's report, Rev. Mortensen called attention to several important matters that have been, and are the missions of our district. The president discussed reporting of pledges for 1955, and reported to each delegate how much had been paid to the synod by each congregation in District VI. Delegates expressed all pledges would be met for the year.

Each congregation had delegates report on its activities in the past year. This proved to be very interesting and informative. The delegates present took notice on the wonderful work done by the Lake Norden congregation in remodeling of its church and grounds.

Rev. Walter Brown reported on the Home Mission Council of the AELC committee report. A committee meeting was held at Brookings, South Dakota, on February 11, 1955. The committee consisted of Mrs. Hans Meyer, Mr. George Dam and Rev. Walter Brown. After much discussion, it was decided each congregation had much need within its own congregation for Home Mission work and each respective congregation should decide what should be done within its own congregation. Dr. Jensen reported on the Home Mission work done in Des Moines and how they had formed 11 teams to call on members in the Des Moines congregation and that the results were inspiring.

Dr. Jensen also reported on the progress the Home Mission was having in Cedarloo and Circle Pines and felt that they were showing gratifying results in both Home Missions. The District Seminary Scholarship was discussed. It was moved and seconded and carried that the district give \$100 to a Seminary student or students, preferably, but not necessarily, from District VI. The distribution of this scholarship is left to the discretion of the Dean of the Seminary.

The president also called our attention to the All-Lutheran Food Appeal, the Lutheran Refugee Service. A discussion regarding these worthy causes was had and the president encouraged our wholehearted support for both causes. The new Old People's Home at Tyler was discussed. Dis-

cussion on the size of the home and how to raise money for the home was brought up and a suggestion that someone represent each congregation for fund raising for this new project. A motion was made and seconded that the convention offering on Sunday be contributed to the new Old People's Home Fund, at Tyler, Minnesota.

Rev. Brown reported on AELYF stating that all was well, and that they had had a very successful year, \$35 was given by the Young People toward a projection machine to go to India. He also reported on the picnic the young people had at Brookings, South Dakota last year and they had attended it in a large group.

The budget was presented and the quota for 1956 was decided upon at the convention as follows, per congregation: Tyler, \$3,770.02; White, \$160.00; Diamond Lake, \$561.05; Ruthton, \$571.16; Viborg, \$1,137.10; Gayville, \$510.15; Badger, \$429.62; Lake Norden, \$429.62.

An election for district officers was had, Rev. Harald Ibsen, president; Rev. Walter Brown, vice president; Mrs. Agneta Buhl, secretary; and Jorgen Krog, treasurer. A motion was made and seconded that the convention secretary send a greeting to former secretary, Mrs. Hans Miller. The convention for next year (1956) will be held, if available, at White, South Dakota, Tyler in 1957 and Badger in 1958.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Saturday night Harry Jensen gave a very interesting talk and showed pictures in regards to Grand View improvements and expansion. This was a very informative report and I am sure we all can give our congregations a good report on Grand View's future.

Sunday morning Rev. Enselmann was installed as pastor at Lake Norden and Badger congregations by Rev. Enok Mortensen. Sunday afternoon a talk was given by Dr. Alfred Jensen.

We want to thank the people of Lake Norden for the wonderful way we were received and we thank the congregation in Lake Norden and its pastor for the kindness and hospitality we found while we were there.

Henry M. Jacobsen,
Convention Secretary.



Members of the Ladies' Aid and Sunday school at Victory, Michigan, recently made, dressed and shipped to the Santal Mission field thirty dolls for Christmas presents. Next year they hope to make 100. Pastor is John Christensen, Ludington.

Open Letter to Christian Warthoe and Vendelboe Nielsen

I am against all human dictatorship or totalitarianism be it dressed up as a king, a pope, a corporation, a republican, a socialist — and even a democrat. There is even at times a type of despotism among lay people that may be as absolute as any. As far as man is concerned, it is true, and history will bear me out — “power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.”

Absolute sovereignty belongs with God. No mortal man can be trusted with it. Jesus knew. “For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.”

For me, who at this time happens to be the vice president of our little Synod, to give an unequivocal answer as to the merits and demerits of the structural nature of the ULCA is not an easy matter. The situation is not as simple as you make it out to be, Christian Warthoe and Vendelboe Nielsen.

Firstly, the president of the ULCA is almost exclusively an administrative office. Neither must he meddle with the internal affairs of the synods; and the synods are as jealous of their respective rights as we are. It may sound foolish but there are other people beside us in the United States who are as much concerned about freedom as we.

The second fact to keep in mind is that the ULCA is not tightly or rigidly organized. Several Lutheran churches in United States have more concentration of power than does the ULCA.

The policy of the ULCA is constructed on a secular model. Its prototype is the government of the United States with the relationship between the 32 synods and the ULCA comparable to that of the states and the federal government with its system of check and balance.

The questions that the ULCA faced at Toronto, Canada, was this: “Is the ULCA a creature, and in one sense almost an agency, of its synods? Or do the synods look upon themselves as expressions of the total church? Or is a balance to be struck somewhere between these two poles? If so, where is that balance to be?”

The organizational structure of the ULCA is not an issue where there is unanimity of opinion. Dr. Frank Madsen said on the convention floor: “This proposal would make the church truly united. We are standing at a pivotal point and I believe the proposal points in the direction we should go.” Dr. Henry Bagger had another idea, “The Executive Board has already been criticized for wielding too much power. If other agencies of the church were subject to Executive Board domination, it would destroy their sense of real responsibility, kill initiative and undermine their leadership.” (Proposal to vest the Executive Board with all the powers of the convention and interim **defeated 291-257**).

The question that some would ask Dr. Bagger is whether or not the ULCA can control its agencies? Several Protestant churches have discovered too late that their agencies do about as they please.

It is right that the officers of the eight incorporated boards are elected by the Board members themselves, but they are responsible to the convention.

Personally, I prefer a more democratic procedure, but the question is how free can we be and yet function with some measure of efficiency, be it in state or be it in church?

Holger O. Nielsen.

1410 Main Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The Danebod Harp

By Sigurd Pedersen

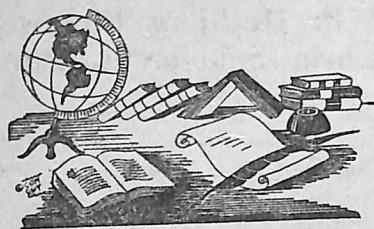
It has been some time since the last chapter on “The Danebod Harp” appeared in LUTHERAN TIDINGS. At the recent folk meeting, one old student from Danebod, asked if the harp had no more strings? My plan was really to give a summary of the musical talent through the many years, but that is quite a big job to tackle, and memory may fail to make a full report. However, there is one more string on the old Danebod Harp that must not be forgotten. The person that gave more years of service on the “Danebod Harp” than any other is Sigrid Ostergaard, who was present, but a little sad, as she was leaving right after the meeting to retire to the old folks home in Des Moines. She has contacted more Danebod students through the years than any other person. Many friends thanked her for her work at Danebod and in the community. It was hard for her to say goodbye to the numerous friends.

Sigrid joined the faculty in the fall of 1903, when the new Danebod was opened with Rev. Th. Knudsen in charge. It was a new era for the folk school. Danebod school was enlarged with new dining room, new auditorium, new gym; and how hopeful was Rev. Th. Knudsen! The American department was remodelled and was turned over to teachers born in U. S., to better meet the demands of the American born students. How hopeful was Knudsen, as he spoke, when the new building was dedicated. The enrollment, with a young people's class included, reached sixty, an all time record. In 1917 the first high school graduate enrolled. Was that a turning point? Maybe, but in 1918, at the close of the First World War, came another change. The soldiers had become “Americanized.”

A change affected the youths of the land. I will never forget Rev. Knudsen's sermon Christmas eve, 1917. He felt the change brought on by the war. He left for Denmark in 1920. Several leaders took over for a few years, but the “Danish Folk School,” could not survive. But Sigrid Ostergaard remained faithful through all the changes. She assisted in kitchen, parlor, sewing, singing, reading aloud, fancy-work, etc. She has shaken hands of welcome and farewell to hundreds of students in the many years. It was not easy for her to say farewell to so many friends at the last meeting. There was, as usual, a large number of former students at the meeting. Throughout the many years Sigrid was like Tennyson's — “The Brook” that “went on and on forever.”

(Continued on Page 15)

Rev. Holger O. Nielsen, Sec.
1402 Main Street
Cedar Falls, Iowa.



OPINION AND COMMENT

NOW THAT ANOTHER fine book on Grundtvig has been published, (see review in this issue), it seems worth while to call attention to the opinion held of him by some of the best-known men who have given a knowing opinion. It is, of course, dangerous to over-eulogize; N. F. S. G. was only human, and as fallible as all humans are. But we found it interesting to dig out what, for example, the very respected social psychologist Gordon Allport said of him: "Grundtvig was creative and complete as an educator, theologian, patriot and poet . . . Grundtvig contrasts sharply with his contemporary, Kierkegaard, for the former found in bad situations a challenge to action rather than a cause of anguish. Of the two, Grundtvig is the healthier human type." The Chicago Tribune called Grundtvig "the Andrew Jackson personality." and said further, "Now that the English speaking world is beginning to catch up with the virile intellectual life of Copenhagen a century ago, perhaps the blunt bishop is in for a world-wide vogue." In the New York Herald-Tribune, we find Henry Steele Commager writing about him: "What a man he was, this bard whom Bjornson called the greatest spirit the North had ever known! Imagine a Theodore Parker, a George Bancroft, a Longfellow, a John Quincy Adams, a Horace Mann all rolled into one and you have a faint impression of the man. For almost seventy years he pled, stormed, cajoled, thundered, sang, prayed, preached, and wrote at the Danish people, calling on them to discover their true national greatness — and supplying them with the material for that character and greatness. Confronted with the greatest disaster his people had ever known, he set himself resolutely to regenerate it spiritually, intellectually, politically, even economically." It would be hard to find higher phrases of praise about any man anywhere.

MOST MINISTERS are allowed a parsonage to live in as part of the congregation's obligation to its pastor. However, a few provide their own, and are usually compensated for this in their salary. This extra income often pushes a pastor into a higher bracket, tax-wise, and it has never seemed fair that he should be taxed on this amount when other pastors are not. The government recognizes this, and allows a special exemption. The latest question on this subject comes up when one inquires whether or not ministers who are provided a parsonage should not have an exemption on such things as fuel, utilities, telephone and other housing costs **not** provided by the congregation. The government recently has decided that they should. It is simple to arrange this exemption. A congregation should add an item to the budget to provide some kind of "parsonage expense" (without actually adding any money for it). If it appears in the budget, the government says, then it is an allowable deduction. We have noticed one or

two of our congregations who are doing just that: They are having a brief special congregation meeting in order to amend this year's budget to give their pastor the benefit of this ruling on this year's tax statement.

AS STATED elsewhere in this issue, the fund raising campaign on which we as a synod embarked by action at the Kimballton convention has now been given a name, and a director. The choice in both instances seem to us good. The "Faith and Life Advance" will soon be a familiar phrase to us all. Inherent in the phrase are such numerous thematic possibilities that it is not likely that the name will pall. It would be impossible to find a more comprehensive or meaningful "catchword" behind which to rally our resources in this great campaign. While the goal seems large, it is by no means so overwhelming that we have any excuse for discouragement. By comparison with like campaigns among churches of other denominations, the sum is not large at all. And in cases like this, the **need** should have the first consideration, not the cost. May God look upon this work with approval, and give His blessing!

WHEN THIS reaches your homes we will be half-way through the Advent season. It has always seemed to us that Advent is the most exhilarating and the most penetrating of the church seasons. This is true not only because we all are busily gathering up our recessed thoughts about old friends, renewing the memories of old years, and in general thinking perhaps more about others than about ourselves, though this is all true. It is the general "expectancy" of the season that is so impressionable. Is it an over-emphasis that we spend so much of the early winter, so much of our precious Sunday school time, so much of our social life, so much of the church year in looking forward to a birthday which was, after all, so short a portion of the Christ child's life? No, it is no over-emphasis. In any life, the birth is **the** important event. That ancient manger scene, now a dim part of antiquity, must never be recreated with the same sense of indifference and inhospitality that was accorded it on that first Christmas eve. The vigor and enthusiasm of the season, with its contagion of good-will, its merriness, its selflessness, starts the new church year with spirit; and every Christian, from the Arctic Eskimo to the Johannesburg Negro, feels now as Luther did:

My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep;

And we must give that spirit vent and expression. Advent is a beautiful and lively time of the year, and we can put its energy to God's use.

LAYMEN, for some reason, particularly enjoy stories told about preachers, and this is an enjoyment in which ministers themselves share enthusiastically. One good pastor, having preached over-long, and having had an unusually lengthy list of announcements, (another reason for having Sunday bulletins), finally looked at his watch and said, "We shall cut the next hymn and sing only the first and last stanzas." The hymn? — It was "Take time to be holy."

OUR CHURCH

Minneapolis, Minnesota. Pastor Ove Nielsen this summer underwent an eye operation in New York City. A cornea transplant, 6 millimeters in diameter, was performed on his left eye; the new eye had been flown from Virginia. Pastor Nielsen writes that, with glasses, he can see "splendidly" with the new eye, and hopes to have an operation on the other eye within a year or two. Pastor Nielsen has been partially blind for 12 years. He is national director of the All-Lutheran Food Appeal.

Waterloo, Iowa. A dedication ceremony was held November 20 for the new church addition, with Dr. Harold Bernhardt, Iowa State Teacher's College, speaking, with open house in the afternoon. Pastor Richard Sorensen is minister.

Detroit, Michigan. In "Kirke og Folk" we read that Pastor Svend Jørgensen because of failing eyesight has felt it necessary to resign his pastorate. His congregation has requested that he remain at least another six months.

Tyler, Minnesota. Pastor Aage Moller spoke at an evening meeting here November 10. Plans are underway for the raising of funds for the building of a new Old People's Home here. It is to be a community project, but is being spearheaded by people of our synod.

Solvang, California. This congregation recently reacted favorably to the possibility of sponsoring a refugee family of five. Fourteen adults recently completed a six-week course of instruction for people unacquainted with Lutheran doctrine.

Seattle, Washington. New chancel paraments and sanctuary items were dedicated here December 4, together with a missal stand and other memorial gifts. Three adults will be baptized and four confirmed at services December 11.

Grayling, Michigan. Charles Garland, a member of the Grayling Evangelical Lutheran Church, recently received the "PRO DEO ET PATRI" (For God and Country) Lutheran Award for Boy Scouts. The presentation was made by Rev. John Enselmann at church services on Sunday, September 11th, when he preached his farewell sermon for this congregation.

This award consists of a citation and a medal and is granted thru the National Lutheran Committee on Scouting, for faithfulness in religious work of the church, under supervision of the pastor.

In earning his award, Charles has served 150 hours or more in the church, by receiving the offerings on Sundays, acting as usher, passing out church programs and picking up the hymnals. In addition to this, he wrote an essay on King David and also carved a miniature altar, complete with altar ring, picture, carpeting, etc., duplicating the altar of the Grayling church.

Charles, who is 17 years of age, and a Junior at Grayling High School, is a First Class Scout and a member of a Scout Troop in Roscommon, near where

the family lives. He has been very faithful in his duties, and when unable to be present at church services, always sent word to the pastor, so that other arrangements could be made. The congregation and his parents may well be proud of him, and it is our earnest hope that he will continue with his church duties as long as possible, and be an inspiration to the younger boys within the church.

October 13, 1955 marked the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Algot Johnson, well-known Grayling residents and long time members of the Grayling Evangelical Lutheran Church. To mark the occasion OPEN HOUSE was held for all members of the church and their many friends on Sunday afternoon, October 16, at Danebod Hall between the hours of two and five o'clock.

The auditorium was beautifully decorated with many plants and bouquets of yellow flowers, tokens of esteem in which this couple is held. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson received their many friends during the afternoon, — not only those from Grayling, but also from Roscommon, Kalkaska, Bay City and Saginaw.

Algot Johnson and Edith Hagmann came to Grayling direct from Sweden, and were the first couple to be joined in Holy Matrimony by the late Rev. A. C. Kildegard, new pastor of the Grayling church.

Their many friends join in wishing them many more years of happy wedded bliss, with good health and God's richest blessings.

Wayne, Alberta. On Sunday, October 30 the Bethlehem Congregation held its annual Harvest Festival. The Young People's Society had decorated the church with the fruits of the field and garden and a miniature farmstead laid out in the front of the church. Following the services a fellowship dinner was shared in the church parlors and a lecture by the pastor in the afternoon. The church was nearly filled to capacity for both the morning and afternoon meetings.

Because of weather conditions, Sunday School is held only during the summer months. November 13 was the last day of Sunday School for this year. It was marked by a service devoted to the work of the Sunday School and the field of Christian Education as a whole. The offering on that Sunday went to the work of the Sunday School for the coming year.

Carl P. Højbjerg Endowed Memorial Scholarship Fund

Christian and Alpha Warthoe, Chicago	\$ 5.00
Jens Sorensen, Oak Park, Ill.	10.00
Rev. and Mrs. Erick Moller, Chicago	10.00
Thora Strandskov, Chicago	25.00
Ragnhild Strandskov, Chicago ..	10.00
Celia Petersen, Chicago	1.00
Mrs. H. J. Hansen, Palatine, Ill.	5.00
Olga Jorgensen, Chicago	1.00
Albert Lykke, Chicago	5.00
Mrs. J. Bang, Chicago	1.00
Alfred C. Andreasen, Oak Park, Ill.	100.00
Thorvald Thomsen, Aurora, Neb.	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Bovbjerg, Tyler, Minn.	5.00
In memory of Mrs. Hans J. Grau, Newell, Iowa	5.00
Kathrine Jessen, Wheaton, Ill.	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Chris S. Jorgensen, Glen Ellyn, Ill.	5.00
Rev. Holger Strandskov, Kimballton, Iowa	10.00
Mrs. T. G. Muller, Kimballton, Iowa	5.00
Jens Hownmiller, Chicago, Ill.	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nussle, Chicago, Ill.	10.00
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Mr. and Mrs. Johannes Petersen, Alden, Minn.	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Kirkegaard, Minneapolis, Minn.	5.00
Claude H. Christensen, Downers Grove, Ill.	5.00
Chris. and Agnes Nielsen, Exeter, Nebraska	15.00
Anna R. Lothe, Lake Forest, Ill.	25.00

\$ 279.00

Previously acknowledged 1,181.00

Total \$1,460.00

Sincere thanks to all donors.

Erick Johansen, Treas.
Tyler, Minnesota

P. S. As treasurer for the Højbjerg Memorial Fund, I can hardly refrain from saying that we are very grateful for the splendid support coming from the Chicago and Oak Park, Illinois, area. Mr. Andreasen sent out a very fine circular letter and the response has been gratifying. If there were a few more who would "throw out a line" our goal of \$5,000 would not be an impossibility.

I believe that there are many more in our synod who feel a deep sense of gratitude for having had contact with C. P. Højbjerg, and how could a concrete expression of this feeling be made better than by giving a donation to a scholarship fund designed to help deserving students attend our own Grand View College.

E. J.

Yule

FOR GOOD CHRISTMAS READING

Support your young people's group.

Buy a YULE for yourself and also

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Lutheran News from Around the World

5,000 PRESENT AS ALL-AFRICA LUTHERAN CONFERENCE OPENS

Marangu, Tanganyika, East Africa — (NLC)—More than 5,000 people attended the opening day festival of the All-Africa Lutheran Conference here on Sunday, November 13.

The conference, which will last through November 22, is the first Africa-wide gathering of any kind in history. Officially representing the nearly one million Lutherans of the continent and the Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, German, Norwegian, Swedish and American missionaries serving the Africans are 150 delegates from nine African countries as well as Europe and America.

On the opening day prominent leaders of world-Lutheranism as well as indigenous African leaders of the young churches were heard at three great rallies.

Bishop Hanns Lilje of Hannover, Germany, president of the Lutheran World Federation, preached at the Sunday morning worship service, led by the Rev. Stefano Moshi of the Tanganyika Lutheran Church. The Rev. Matthias E. Makgato of the South African Lutheran Church conducted the dismissal.

The liturgy at this first All-Africa worship service was conducted in the native Chagga tongue of Mr. Moshi and the participating Marangu church and school choirs.

Throughout the conference, four languages will be used officially, namely English, Swahili, French and German, into all of which every speech will be translated simultaneously using equipment loaned by the International Business Machines, Inc. The translations are done by a staff of interpreters headed by the Rev. P. D. Fuefer, a Swiss from the Moravian Mission in Tanganyika.

The actual mother tongues of the delegates at this conference include Bacama, Afrikaans, Nama, Schambala, Sepedi,

Chagga, Oshiuambo, Zulu, Swazi, Galia, Sesuto, Sesotho, Cishona, Tikar, Gbande, Malagasy, Baya, Loma, Pare, Amharic, Wallamo, Kibena, as well as English, German, Danish, Norwegian, Finnish, Swedish, French and others.

At the first afternoon open-air session of the conference, His Excellency Sir Edward Twining, Governor of Tanganyika, greeted the participants of the continent-wide conference. Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotz, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and chairman of the Lutheran World Federation's Commission on World Missions, presided at this session.

Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, executive secretary of the Lutheran World Federation; Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church in America and chairman of the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches; and the Rev. Daniel Friberg, chairman of the Federation of Lutheran Churches in Tanganyika, were among those conveying greetings to the conference at the afternoon session.

Also a speaker at this session, was Thomas Marealle II, Paramount Chief of the Chagga tribe, whose tribal lands at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, near Marangu, represent one of the largest Lutheran mission areas in Africa.

On the evening of the opening day, Dr. Fridtjov Birkeli, director of the LWF Department of World Missions, under the auspices of which the conference has been called, delivered the first in a series of Bible study lectures.

The site of the conference is the Marangu Teacher Training Center, a Lutheran school located at an altitude of 4,500 feet on the slopes of Kilimanjaro.

The delegates and guests from Ethiopia, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia, Madagascar, French Cameroon, Nigeria, Kenya, Tanganyika, Southwest Africa, Liberia, Switzerland, Sweden, Great Britain, Germany and the United States, will be housed in dormitories of the Teacher

Training Center and the Lutheran Girl's School in nearby Ashira. A small room is available near the conference site for private meditation.

Cooking for the conference is done in huge cast-iron kettles supported by rocks over open fires and on some small one-burner kerosene pressure stoves.

FINNISH WOMAN STIRS UPROAR OVER ORDINATION TO MINISTRY

Helsinki, Finland—(NLC)—Press and public in Lutheran Finland were stirred by the unsuccessful attempt of a woman teacher to force her application for ordination to the ministry of the Church of Finland.

According to "Kirkon Tiedoituspalvelu," the Church's news bulletin, the daily newspapers of Finland gave "sensational attention" to the request for ordination by Miss Liisa Paivikki Riippa, a theological graduate of the University of Helsinki, who teaches gymnastics and art as well as religion at Paltamo High School in Eastern Finland.

Miss Riippa asked the Church's Chapter of Kuopio to be ordained into the ministry, but was told that "there is no ministry by women in the Church of Finland."

Thereupon, Miss Riippa displayed what "Kirkon Tiedoituspalvelu" termed "an odd behavior" in that she tried to "disturb the meeting of the Chapter and gave offensive statements to the press."

In an official statement, the chapter refused Miss Riippa's request on the grounds that a change in the rules concerning a female ministry would have to be considered by the General Assembly of the Church since no separate chapter could deal with such a "complicated theological and administrative problem."

However, it added that "a female ministry is in contradiction to the practice of the Church and the New Testament," so the chapter "has no other course than

The Danebod Harp

(Continued from Page 11)

Now at the Old People's Home, Des Moines, Iowa, numerous Danebod students and Danebod citizens will surely wish her a happy sunset of life. A setting sun in harvest surrounded by clouds, can be a beautiful picture painted by nature. So, too, can memories of kind friends brighten the sunset of life in hours of meditation, when the thoughts review the past. In the many echoes from the years at Danebod there will vibrate the sentiment: "Thou Good and Faithful Servant."

So in the hearts of the many Danebod friends, who have been attuned to "The Danebod Harp," may there be words of appreciation whispering to you in your hours of meditation: -----

As Your future years roll by,
May life's sunset glow with gold
Of Friendships kind and true—
Whenever you grow old.

"Christmas Time"

Dear Christ, how lonely Thou must be at Christmastime,
Watching the shoppers on the crowded street;
So few there are who can one moment find,
In which to lay some treasure at Thy feet!

And yet I think that, like some selfless mother,
Finding her pleasure in her children's glee,
Thou dost smile down upon our childish doings,
Still yearning that our hearts might turn to Thee.

O patient Christ, Thy love shall yet enthrone us
Up from the lower things of sense and time;
Dear patient Christ, Thy leading yet shall woo us
Unto Thyself and to the life sublime!

(Author Unknown)

to leave Miss Riippa's application without further treatment."

After the Kuopio Chapter had published its ruling, Bishop Eino Sormunen of Kuopio paid tribute, in a radio address, to the contributions women have made to church work but repeated that Church law in Finland does not permit the ordination of women.

"Unfortunately," he said, the application made to the Chapter of Kuopio by a woman theologian can hardly promote a fair and dispassionate settlement of this large problem."

"Kirkon Tiedoituspalvelu" pointed out that women have studied theology and received degrees in theology from the University of Helsinki since 1920, and that currently about one-third of all theological students at the university are women.

CONGREGATION TO KEEP PASTOR WRIGLEY, FOUND GUILTY OF HERESY

Brookfield, Wis.—(NLC)—Gethsemane Lutheran Church wants to keep the Rev. Victor K. Wrigley as its pastor despite his conviction on charges of doctrinal deviation and recommendation that he be suspended from the ministry in the Northwest Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America.

The congregation voted 197 to 18 to disregard the November 10 findings of a Synod trial board and to ask Mr. Wrigley to continue as pastor.

The trial board found the 33-year-old clergyman guilty on five of six counts of heresy, including repudiation of the true exposition of Scripture, denial of the authority of the Bible and the historical

facts of Christ's Virgin birth and physical resurrection, as well as repudiation of Christ's true presence in Holy Communion.

Afterwards, Dr. Paul E. Bishop, president of the Northwest Synod, said he would follow the board's recommendation to suspend Mr. Wrigley from the ministry.

On the advice of his church council, Mr. Wrigley refused to attend the trial and indicated that even if he was read out of the synod he could not be forced out as pastor of Gethsemane church.

After its vote to "reject" the trial board's findings, the congregation also voted to petition the Northwest Synod to submit the entire investigation and trial of Mr. Wrigley to the executive board of the ULCA, and to withhold all further action of its own until the ULCA executive board made some recommendation.

The vote on this action was reported 203 to 2, according to local press reports.

The congregation also unanimously authorized its officers to negotiate a loan of \$48,000 to pay off outstanding indebtedness of the church, as "a precautionary measure in case the ULCA's Board of American Missions should call its loan" to the seven-year-old mission church.

800 LUTHERAN REFUGEES EXPECTED BEFORE END OF YEAR

New York—(NLC)—A stepped-up issuance of visas under the United States Refugee Relief Act will result in an increasing flow of newcomers to this country during the last two months of the year, it was announced here by the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration.

The committee, which is responsible for the chartering of planes and boats for the refugee immigrants, said it has chartered nineteen instead of the usual twelve airflights for the month of November, and that the USNS General William Langfitt, under charter to ICEM, will make eight instead of the previously scheduled seven runs between Bremen and New York before the year's end.

On the airflights, the ICEM expects to bring more than 1,200 migrants to the United States during November. The USNS Langfitt carries about 1,200 immigrants on each trip.

According to Dr. Cordelia Cox, director of Lutheran Refugee Service, Lutheran-sponsored immigrants are expected on nine of the nineteen airflights planned for November, and a number of Lutheran-sponsored immigrants will be brought in every time the USNS Langfitt arrives in New York.

Although passenger lists of the coming flights and boat-trips are not made up yet, Dr. Cox estimated that at least some 800 Lutheran-sponsored immigrants will

reach the United States before the end of this year.

So far Lutheran Refugee Service has received a total of 2,914 new neighbors during 1955, including 2,491 immigrants under the United States Refugee Relief Act and 460 who came under other immigration schemes, Dr. Cox stated.

CONGREGATION REFUSES RESIGNATION OF GERBERDING IN HERESY TRIALS

Milwaukee, Wis. — (NLC) — A noted Protestant theologian's support of three young Lutheran clergymen accused of heresy was cited as the congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran church at Menomonee Falls, Wis., rejected the resignation of its pastor, the Rev. John Gerberding.

The action came on a secret ballot, by a vote of 55 to 40, after Dr. Reinhold Niebuhr of Union Theological Seminary in New York was quoted as saying that Mr. Gerberding and two other Milwaukee area pastors charged with deviating from Lutheran doctrine are "not heretical at all but in conformity with the main body of Christian conviction in the Church."

Mr. Gerberding, 33, was acquitted recently on charges of heresy by an investigating committee of the Northwest Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Dr. Niebuhr's views were reported by Mrs. Stuart E. Hoyt, a member of the congregation, who said she had written the theologian asking him to come to the aid of the accused pastors.

Mrs. Hoyt said she received the following reply from Dr. Niebuhr:

"I will consult with some of my colleagues because I think that Christian leaders should definitely support these young men, whose teachings are not heretical at all but in conformity with the main body of Christian conviction in the Church. It would be a shame to have people excommunicated who hold beliefs very similar to some of the leading figures in Christendom."

The new edition of the Danish language annual DANSK NYTAAR 1956 is now available. Dr. Paul Nyholm, Editor, has arranged that it be sold through the Grand View College Bookstore, Des Moines, Iowa. The issue contains articles of unusual interest by men known among us: Fartstrup, Mortensen, Knudsen, Bay, Bang, etc., plus interviews with Lis Hartel and Victor Borge and a birthday calendar for pastors of our synod. Mostly in Danish there are also contributions in English. Order soon, since it is unlikely that reprints will be made.

One Dollar, postpaid.

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, Minnesota.

I am a member of _____ the congregation at _____

December 5, 1955

Name _____

City _____ State _____

New Address _____

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TYLER, MINN.

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