

Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Luoma Photo

Father's Day — June 16

"A happy family is but an earlier heaven."—Sir John Bowring

Full Circle

Katharine R. Fullerton

A small hand, placed with confidence
In yours, can hold a quiet joy
Unequaled through the days and years
That fill a life.....Until a boy

In his first manhood, takes your hand
Protectively across a street —
And magically, the interim is spanned
.....The circle is complete!

Lutheran World Conference on Social Responsibility

August 7-10, 1957

The Commission on Inner Missions of the Lutheran World Federation is sponsoring a Lutheran World Conference on Social Responsibility, which is to precede the Lutheran World Federation Assembly in August of 1957.

The Division of Welfare of the National Lutheran Council, U. S. A., was requested to submit plans for such a conference. Their proposals were presented to the Commission in July of last year, and accepted. The Division of Welfare has been authorized to proceed in preparing the Conference on the basis of the suggestions presented, which is to take place at WITTENBERG COLLEGE in SPRINGFIELD, Ohio, August 7-10, 1957.

The Conference will be under the guiding theme: "CHRIST FREES AND UNITES — FOR RESPONSIBLE SERVICE."

The main theme will be developed at the plenary sessions along the following lines:

1. The nature of man and his destiny according to the Christian faith, including a review of current non-Christian concepts of man.
2. The context within which the Church develops responsible service.
3. The methods and resources available to the Church in providing responsible service to people.

The purpose of this international Lutheran Conference is to discuss in plenary sessions and round-table discussion groups the main theme "RESPONSIBLE SERVICE" in the light of mutual problems and common basic social issues.

Two series of round-table discussion groups dealing with (A) "Interest Areas" and (B) "Basic Social Issues" will be arranged. Series A will cover these fields: Children and Parents; The Mentally and Physically Handicapped; Older People and the Aged; Emigrants and Immigrants; as well as other fields. Series B will be concerned with issues such as: Church-State Relationship in Health and Welfare Services; The Christian Individual and His Role in Groups; Pressures of Population Changes; The Struggle for Recognition and Status; Applying Social Welfare Principles to the World Tasks of the Church; and other issues as well.

OBJECTIVES

- A. To delineate the theological foundations which undergird Lutheran social welfare.
- B. To set forth basic social principles which should be operative in social welfare program and practice.
- C. To provide opportunity for a sharing of information of the particular social ministries which are being developed by the member churches to meet needs in their respective situations.
- D. To make possible person to person contacts and exchange of information among Lutherans throughout the world on principles and methods of Christian social welfare.
- E. To assist the Commission on Inner Missions of the Lutheran World Federation in its tasks by re-

porting to it areas of common agreement, differences still unresolved, and problems requiring further study.

- F. To strengthen the Christian fellowship and bond of unity which arise from dedication to a common task in behalf of the one Lord.

This World Conference On Social Responsibility, I believe, will be a significant conference worthy of attendance.

For the first time in the life of the Lutheran Church we will be able to gather together from all parts of the globe to discuss common problems of mutual concern on an international level. I also believe it is significant that the Lutheran Church is awake to its social responsibility.

I do hope that some of our synod's members interested in, or working with social welfare will be able to attend. It is unfortunate that this conference is held the same week as our Synod convention.

For further information and registration blanks write to me at: 1003 Grand View Ave., Des Moines 16, Iowa.

Holger P. Jorgensen.

Chairman, Board of Welfare and member of the Division of Welfare, NLC.

Religion has emerged into human experience mixed with the crudest fancies of barbaric imagination. Gradually, slowly, steadily, the vision recurs in history under nobler form and with clearer expression. It is the one element in human experience which persistently shows an upward trend. It fades and then recurs. But when it renews its force, it recurs with an added richness and purity of content. The fact of the religious vision and its history of persistent expansion is our one ground for optimism.

Alfred North Whitehead:

Science and the Modern World
(The Macmillan Company)

By love I do not mean any natural tenderness, which is more or less in people according to their constitutions; but I mean a larger principle of soul, founded in reason and piety, which makes us tender, kind and gentle to all our fellow creatures as creatures of God and for His sake.

William Law.

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Ground-breaking ceremonies at Gowen, Michigan, Pastor B. Knudsen officiating.

Ground Breaking Ceremonies Settlement Lutheran Church, GOWEN, MICHIGAN

At appropriate ceremonies following regular worship services in Settlement Lutheran Church, Sunday, May 12, 1957, the ground was broken for the relocation of the church and a new parish hall addition which is to be built this year.

The pastor of the church, Beryl M. Knudsen, conducted the ceremonies. He read the 100th Psalm and offered prayer.

The president of the parish board, Ernest Jensen, turned the earth at the approximate location of the new cornerstone. Construction will begin immediately. The church is to be relocated on the lot and new construction consists of a parish hall addition, with church school rooms, a council room, pastor's room, dining and kitchen facilities. The narthex of the church will be enlarged with a new entrance. Peter Jensen and Sons of Greenville are the builders, and masonry contractor is Lyman Powell of Howard City.

It is estimated that the project can be completed by the close of this year.

Other members of the parish board are Lee Hansen, Mrs. Morgan Johansen, Mrs. Thorvald Poulsen and Maurice Petersen. The construction committee consists of R. Wallace Petersen, Harold Winters, Jay Vanderlin, Robert Balslev, and Arden Christensen.

True Greatness

Greatness, after all, in spite of its name, appears to be not so much a certain size as a certain quality in human lives. It may be present in lives whose range is very small.

— Phillips Brooks.

LWR Shipments Exceed \$1 Million in April

New York — (NLC) — Lutheran World Relief sent 5,016 tons of food, clothing layettes, kiddies kits, hospital equipment and other supplies into ten countries of Europe and Asia during April, it was reported here by Bernard A. Confer, executive secretary of the material aid agency. Estimated value of the shipments, he said, was \$1,114,697.

Government-donated surplus commodities weighing 9,423,857 pounds and valued at \$653,723 went principally to Yugoslavia and Hong Kong, with Germany, Austria, Korea and Taiwan also sharing in the distribution. The surplus foods included flour, corn meal, rice, powdered milk and cheese.

Clothing shipments during the month totalled 471,832 pounds valued at \$446,568 and were sent to Germany, Yugoslavia, Syria and Egypt. In Egypt the clothing was destined for distribution among war sufferers who lost their homes in the Port Said and Sinai areas.

Hospital equipment costing \$2,774 was sent to Indonesia for the Balige Hospital in Sumatra. This purchase was made at the request of the Batak Protestant Christian Church and the Lutheran World Federation's Department of World Missions. The Batak Church is a member of the LWF.

By the end of April, carloads of clothing were rolling into LWR warehouses in response to the agency's annual Spring Clothing Appeal.

April's shipping activities brought total shipments by LWR during the first four months of 1957 to 33,291,317 pounds with a value of \$5,169,434.

Since February of 1946, the agency has shipped 254,524,987 pounds of food, clothing, medicines and other supplies to 28 countries and areas throughout the world. The goods had an estimated value of \$67,539,907.

Ambassador Visits Askov

Remarks by Ambassador Henrik Kauffmann
in Askov, Minn., May 20, 1957

Last year when you celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of Askov it was unfortunately not possible for me to visit you. I should have liked very much to have been here during the celebration.

When I visited Denmark a few weeks after I was invited to speak at Askov Folk High School, which as you know first of all has given name to your community, and secondly is closely related in spirit to the founders of this Danish-American settlement. It was a group of immigrants from that section of the Danish church which we in Denmark call "Grundtvigianerne" who settled here. The name "Grundtvigianer" is as you know derived from the name of Bishop N. F. S. Grundtvig, who was the founder of the Danish Folk High School movement.

In my speech at Askov Folk High School I mentioned your 50 years of existence and your relationship with the Danish Askov and asked to be allowed to take back special greetings from the people of Askov Folk High School. That is one of the reasons why I wanted to visit Askov; now I am here and I can bring you greetings from Askov in Denmark and at the same time from the Danish King and Queen and the Danish people.

We know of the importance of this settlement. We know of the Danish-American activities here and of the role that Danish-Americans from Askov have played in the political field.

For many years a Danish-American periodical was published here. It was called "Ungdom" and it was edited by your pastor at that time, Dr. Johannes Knudsen; that paper was an important link between the Danish-American youth society and gave many young Danish immigrants with literary abilities and ambitions an opportunity to have their poems, short stories and other writings published in the Danish language.

The largest Danish-American publication today is undoubtedly the Danish Brotherhood Magazine. This periodical is and has been for many years published here in Askov.

Whenever I visit a Danish-American church I cannot help thinking of the almost unbelievable achievements of the early Danish immigrants. I am reminded of the beginning of the Danish-American church, a beginning that took place in Wisconsin and in Iowa, about 100 years ago.

In Wisconsin, where lumber is plentiful the first church was built of wood; it was a tiny church, very primitive; there being no other shelter, the visiting minister sometimes slept in the church.

In Iowa the first church was made of sod, dug out of the prairie. All of the houses of the Danish immigrants in that settlement were built in the same manner.

When this church, where we are gathered tonight, was built, already more than 250 Danish-American churches were in existence, and today there are more than 300 Danish-American churches.

In Denmark the name of Askov will forever live

The Mountain Revisited

(Sermon on the Mount as translated in RSV)

— 1 —



WHEN MURIEL LESTER went to live in the East End of London, she took a basement room in a settlement house. Outside, there was a flat and uninteresting piece of ground, which she proceeded to transform by building herself a hill. In one corner she piled all the debris she could find: old bricks, broken pottery, bits of guttering and concrete which a builder had left behind. This heap of rubbish she then proceeded to cover with a layer of earth. In this soil she planted flowers and finally it all stuck together.

Miss Lester felt that she had to have a hill because it is not right to live without a sense of up and down. As it was the Gospel which motivated her to go into the slums, so perhaps also it was the Gospel which inspired her with this feeling. The Gospels relate that Jesus frequently climbed the heights. Sometimes he "went up into the hills by himself to pray" (Matthew 14:23). It was after such an experience that he chose "twelve, whom he named apostles" (Luke 6:13). On the last night, he and his friends "went out to the Mount of Olives" (Mark 14:26).

Matthew has collected the sayings of Jesus and prefaces them by telling how "He went up on the mountain" (Matthew 5:1). Earlier translations relate that "he went up into a mountain," but the Revised Standard Version preserves our idiom. When referring to men exploring a whole range of lofty peaks, or families going there for vacation, we say they went "into the mountains." When the elevation is singular, however, we are accustomed to use "on." "He went up on the mountain."

At Sinai Moses went "to the top of the mountain" (Exodus 19:20), and came back down with the law. Matthew no doubt intends us to see Jesus as the Giver of a new and greater Law. Several times in the Sermon the laws which govern the kingdom of God are contrasted with those which prevailed in ancient Israel.

An 18th-century commentator observed that "a lofty part of the earth . . . is best suited for the most holy actions." This is why Jesus "went up on the mountain."

J. Carter Swaim.

Editor's Note: This article begins a new series of articles inspired by the new translation of the Bible, in line with the recently completed series entitled "The Living Word." The pieces in the current series are of a more devotional nature. They have been distributed by the NCCUSA, and all deal with the Sermon on the Mount.

in the history of the Danish Folk High School. In the United States the name of Askov will forever live in this place and call to mind the spiritual inheritance that Danish immigrants brought to this country.

Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity

Report of the JOINT COMMISSION ON LUTHERAN UNITY to the American Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Augustana Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Suomi Synod, and the United Lutheran Church in America.

Greetings in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Risen and Ever-Living Lord:

Two sessions of the Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity, made up of 46 commissioners from the four member bodies, have been held to date, the first on December 12, 13, 1956, in Chicago, Illinois, and the second also in Chicago on March 8, 9, 1957. A third three-day session is planned for September 18, 19, 20, 1957.

At the first session, much time was very profitably spent in a careful consideration of the present polity of the four participating bodies. Matters such as these were considered: the historic evolution of the polity of each church; the powers of central church structure; powers of constituent units (synods, conferences, districts); powers delegated to boards and committees; judicial arrangements, if any; the ministry, ordination, and discipline and how related to church structure; institutions, both educational and those of mercy, and their relation to the church structure; policy in regard to auxiliaries; relationship of congregations to the whole body.

In addition papers were presented on the Lutheran doctrine of the church, and possible patterns of organization of a merged church, as well as a collation of the present doctrinal bases of the four churches.

On the basis of these various presentations and the discussion which followed, the following statement was unanimously adopted: **"After hearing the reading and interpretation of the doctrinal statements of the four churches here represented, the Commission rejoices to note that we have among us sufficient ground of agreement in the common confession of our faith, as witnessed by the Lutheran confessions, to justify further procedure in seeking for a basis for the organic union of our churches, including the formulation of a proposed constitution for a united church having in it articles on doctrine and practical matters of organization."**

The Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity, now also designated by the letters JCLU, organized formally at this session with the following officers: Chairman, Dr. Malvin H. Lundeen (Aug.); Vice Chairman, Dr. Raymond W. Wargelin (Suomi); Secretary, Dr. Carl C. Rasmussen (ULCA); Assistant Secretary and Treasurer, Dr. Johannes Knudsen (AELC). A Steering Committee of eight members, including the Chairman and Secretary of the Commission, was elected. Serving on this committee are Dr. Alfred Jensen (AELC); Dr. Oscar A. Benson and Dr. C. W. Sorensen (Aug.); Dr. Raymond W. Wargelin (Suomi); and Dr. Franklin Clark Fry and Judge James F. Henninger (ULCA).

Two working committees were appointed, one on Doctrine and Living Tradition, and the other on Patterns of Organization, the latter working through two

sub-committees, the first, a Committee on Geographical Boundaries, and the second, a Committee on Powers and Functions.

The second session of the JCLU in March had before it the first reports of the aforementioned committees. In some instances the reports were referred back to committee with recommendations for further study. However, positive action was taken, indicating the present direction of thought of the Joint Commission on the two following matters that have been central in its planning to date:

A. HIGHER EDUCATION (SEMINARIES)

1. Ownership and primary responsibility for administration and control of theological seminaries shall be vested in the constituent units of the united church.
2. The general body shall have a major board, or division of a board, with the following powers:
 - a. Construct a master plan of location of theological seminaries.
 - b. Approve the establishment and relocation of seminaries within the united church.
 - c. Recommend curricular standards for theological education.
 - d. Provide supplementary financial support to seminaries in at least the amounts needed to assure the church and students of theological education of a high quality.
 - e. Administer a scholarship and fellowship fund for theological students.
 - f. Offer counsel to seminaries in the selection of teaching personnel.
 - g. Nominate an agreed number, always a minority, of the members of boards of theological seminaries.
 - h. Represent the united church in encouraging and making provision for graduate study in the theological seminaries of the constituent units, as and when determined by the united church, establish, own and maintain a graduate school of theology, a school of missions (in cooperation with the board of foreign missions) and other specialized schools.

B. THE MINISTRY

1. A basic premise of the proposed united church is that all ministers shall be, and shall be recognized as being, ministers of the church as a whole. The general body shall define the standards of admission into and continuation in the ministry; these standards are to be applied and administered by the constituent units of the church.
2. The constituent units of the church shall be charged by its constitution with primary responsibility in the matters of
 - a. recruiting, approval and supervision of candidates for the ministry, including any necessary beneficiary aid, and
 - b. ordination, reception and discipline of ministers,

and removal from the ministerial roll of men who have left the office and functions of the ministry.

Constituent units shall be recognized as acting for the general body in discharging these responsibilities.

Men under discipline in one constituent unit must be restored by it to good standing before becoming eligible to acceptance in another constituent unit.

3. All candidates for ordination and ordained ministers of other church bodies applying for membership in the united church must appear before, and be recommended by, an examining committee which shall consist, in the majority, of persons appointed or elected by a constituent unit. Other members of the examining committee shall be designated by proper authorities of the general body and shall be recognized as representing the interest and concern of the church as a whole in the approval of candidates for ordination and reception.

4. A similar plan shall apply to arrangements for discipline of ministers. Appeals in cases of discipline, when permissible for causes recognized in the constitution of the constituent unit, shall be heard and adjudicated by new trial committees constituted according to the same principle.

In the matter of education at the college level, the Joint Commission expressed the consensus by motion "that a plan should be devised whereby (a) colleges should be related to constituent synods, and (b) there be created a board of the united church to coordinate and assist in the program of collegiate education." Special attention will be given to the unique situation of colleges of the AELC and the Suomi Synod.

Action was also taken at the March session which will produce specific studies in such matters for a united church, as pensions, parish education, foreign and American missions, powers and functions of officers and an executive body, and a judiciary.

It can be reported that the work of the Commission and all of its committees has been marked by a fine spirit of willing cooperation, and a genuine Christian brotherliness. Discussions have been carried on with frank expression of opinion. Differences in points of view, where such have arisen, have been faced honestly and openly. Decisions made have been arrived at unanimously.

We would lay upon the hearts of all the members of our participating bodies the great need which is ours, for earnest intercession on behalf of the important task to which we have set ourselves. Daily let us ask the Lord of the Church, that He guide us; that the decisions we make be His, through us; and that each of us come to an increasing and enriching awareness of that unity which by His grace, is ours even now.

Respectfully submitted,
Malvin H. Lundeen, Chairman.

on behalf of

Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity

American Evangelical Lutheran Church

Dr. Alfred Jensen, Des Moines, Iowa
The Rev. H. O. Nielsen, Cedar Falls, Iowa
The Rev. Willard Garred, Vesper, Kansas
Mr. M. C. Miller, Circle Pines, Minnesota

Dr. Ernest D. Nielsen, Des Moines, Iowa
The Rev. A. C. Kildegaard, Des Moines, Iowa
The Rev. Erik K. Moller, 2846 Cortez, Chicago, Illinois
Dr. Johannes Knudsen, Maywood, Illinois
Mr. T. S. Hermansen, Marquette, Nebraska
Mr. Dixon Sorensen, Dwight, Illinois
Mr. Martin Grobeck, Omaha, Nebraska

Augustana Lutheran Church

Dr. Oscar A. Benson, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Mr. Wallace Anderson, Cranston, Rhode Island
Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, Rock Island, Illinois
Dr. Lloyd L. Burke, Chicago, Illinois
Dr. Edgar M. Carlson, St. Peter, Minnesota
Dr. Thorsten A. Gustafson, East Orange, New Jersey
Dr. Robert Holmen, St. Paul, Minnesota
Dr. Malvin H. Lundeen, LaGrange, Illinois
Dr. Karl E. Mattson, Rock Island, Illinois
Dr. D. Verner Swanson, Geneva, Illinois
Dr. P. O. Bersell, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Mr. Lyman Brink, Hallock, Minnesota
Dr. C. W. Sorensen, Normal, Illinois

Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (Suomi Synod)

Dr. Raymond W. Wargelin, Hancock, Michigan
Dr. Bernhard Hillila, Brooklyn, New York
The Rev. Carl J. Tamminen, 106-10th St., Cloquet, Minn.
The Rev. Douglas Ollila, Lake Worth, Florida
Dr. Armas Holmio, Hancock, Michigan
Dr. Walter J. Kukkonen, DeKalb, Illinois
The Rev. Karlo Keljo, Calumet, Michigan
The Rev. Chester Heikkinen, Minneapolis, Minnesota
The Rev. Henry Kangas, Warren, Ohio

United Lutheran Church in America

Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, New York, New York
Dr. Henry H. Bagger, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dr. Carl C. Rasmussen, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
Dr. Oscar W. Carlson, Baltimore, Maryland
Judge James F. Henninger, Allentown, Pennsylvania
Dr. Paul H. Krauss, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Mr. Gilbert E. Olson, Phoenix, Arizona
Mr. Howard Peterson, Grand Island, Nebraska
Dr. Frederick R. Knubel, New York, New York
Dr. Charles M. Cooper, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Dr. Dwight Putman, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania
Dr. Frank P. Madsen, Detroit, Michigan
Dr. T. A. Kantonen, Springfield, Ohio

Board of Education Meets

The Board of Education for Grand View College and Grand View Seminary met on May 14 for its regular meeting. Consideration was given to the advancing enrollment, which in the college this year numbers 350 students. It is anticipated that this high enrollment will continue, and probably increase. Provision was made by the board for acquiring additional instructors. On completion of the new science building, probably by about October, it will be possible to take care of about 400 students, the majority of which will be day students, and will not be housed in dormitories. The architect presented preliminary drawings for the proposed new gymnasium-auditorium. The Board also gave consideration to plans for the Des Moines city ingathering, a fund-raising program designed to parallel that conducted within the Synod. The Faith and Life Advance, it was announced, has now reached the total of \$215,000. In addition to this sum, there is a building fund, (which, for example, purchased the faculty residence at 3202 E. 12th St.), and the Seminary Improvement Program, (which was used for seminary remodeling and the purchase of the seminary residence on Boyd St.)



Paging Youth

**American Evangelical Lutheran
Youth Fellowship**

EDITOR: EVERETT NIELSEN

2400 42nd No.
Edgewater Park,
Seattle, Washington

Our Guests From Germany!

A foreign youth visitors' program has been set up and in the process of being carried out by a commission of the Lutheran World Federation in connection with the LWF meeting to be held in Minneapolis, Minn., in August of this summer. There will be about seventy young people from all over the world including the countries of Germany, Australia, Austria, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Holland,



Hans Mayerl

England, Iceland, India, Italy, Norway and Sweden who will come to the United States in June and will be guests of the various youth organizations of the Lutheran synods in America. These young men and women will be guests in our Lutheran congregations, youth camps, conventions, caravans, etc., from June 19 until August 4. Our own national AELLYF will have as guests two young men from Germany, Hans Mayerl of Bad Aibling and Martin Junginger of Ludwigsburg, both 22 years of age. Martin and Hans will be visiting our

congregations and youth groups and camps. They will be traveling together while they are with us. They come into New York City June 19 where Ruth Jacobsen as a member of the reception committee will meet them at the airport to welcome the visitors to the United States and to start them on their journey westward.

Martin Junginger lists his occupation as "Export Correspondent" and his work with youth as "Older Boys Leader" of his Lutheran church in Wuertemberg.

Hans Mayerl lists his occupation as "Student of Medicine" and is also a leader of Lutheran youth at Bad Aibling.

These two young men will first be guests in our eastern district, traveling on westward to the Michigan district to take part in the youth camp there; after this camp they will proceed to the Northern Lights camp in Wisconsin July 8-15, after which they will be guests in our midwest congregations and will attend their last camp in our synod in the Great Plains camp to be held July 28-August 2. Next place for them will be a pre-Lutheran World Federation meeting at Onamia, Minn., where they will again meet with the other foreign youth visitors and youth delegates from the U. S. Your national president Laverne Larkowski and treasurer Sonja Knudsen will also participate in this conference. After the LWF Assembly meeting itself in August our guests will attend the Ashram to be held at St. Olaf college in Northfield, Minn., this being their last meeting before returning back to their homes in the various parts of the world again.

We are hoping that Martin and Hans will be able to spend some days in several of our congregations so that they may participate and see the daily family and congregational life and work of our people. We look forward with anticipation towards becoming acquainted with them.

We are sure that this venture of foreign youth visita-



Martin Junginger

tion will be a blessing to our American youth as well as the rest of us and expect that such projects will carry forward the cause of peace and understanding between peoples. Should this be accomplished it will then be in harmony with a good part of the cause that Jesus Christ has sought to bring to the world. It is also our hope that this is just the beginning of a program toward having youth visiting each others' home countries.

And further, if there is anyone who wishes to have more specific information regarding the visit of these our two guests from Germany, please address your inquiries to the undersigned.

Harald A. Petersen.

Route 3, Luck, Wisconsin.

Montana Note

On March 1, the Dagmar-Volmer Luther League sponsored a Fastelavns party, at which everyone was welcome. There were games played. "Hitting the Cat out of the Barrel" was most popular. The two persons that hit the cat out were king and queen for that evening. Jerry Thuesen and Carl Johansen were king and queen that night. Other games were played and lunch was served.

Karen Nelson, Sec.

Tudu Travels

Gora Tudu, Indian student at Grand View Seminary, has been kept very busy during the year, traveling from one place to another. This summer will find him spending the first three weeks of June on a farm near Newell, Iowa. From there, he will travel to Mt. Carmel, Minnesota, where he will attend the Lutheran Bible Institute Camp, June 22-29. Two district camps are on the agenda for the personable young man, Lake Michigan from July 1 to 6 and Northern Lights from July 8 to 15. The interim from July 13 to August 15 has not as yet been filled. From August 15 to 25, he will attend the Lutheran World Federation meeting at Minneapolis. Operations India treasurer, Dale Johnson reports that Mr. Tudu will be returning to India sometime this fall, perhaps in October.

Over The Typewriter

The editor goofed! As most of you probably realize, Carol Madsen is AELLYF Secretary, and Sonja Knudsen is AELLYF Treasurer, not the other way around as stated in the last issue. Also, Sonja's address is 1033 So. 10th Ave., not what appeared. Please make these changes.

I want to re-emphasize my plea that you keep on sending your newsletters and the like to me at my new address. I'll need your help to keep the page full!

Invitation

The LYF of Our Savior's Lutheran Church extends an invitation to all the young people of District I, officers and friends and ministers of our church to the:

AELLYF District I Convention at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Russ and Babcock Streets, Hartford 6, Conn., June 28-30, 1957.

PROGRAM

Friday Evening, June 28

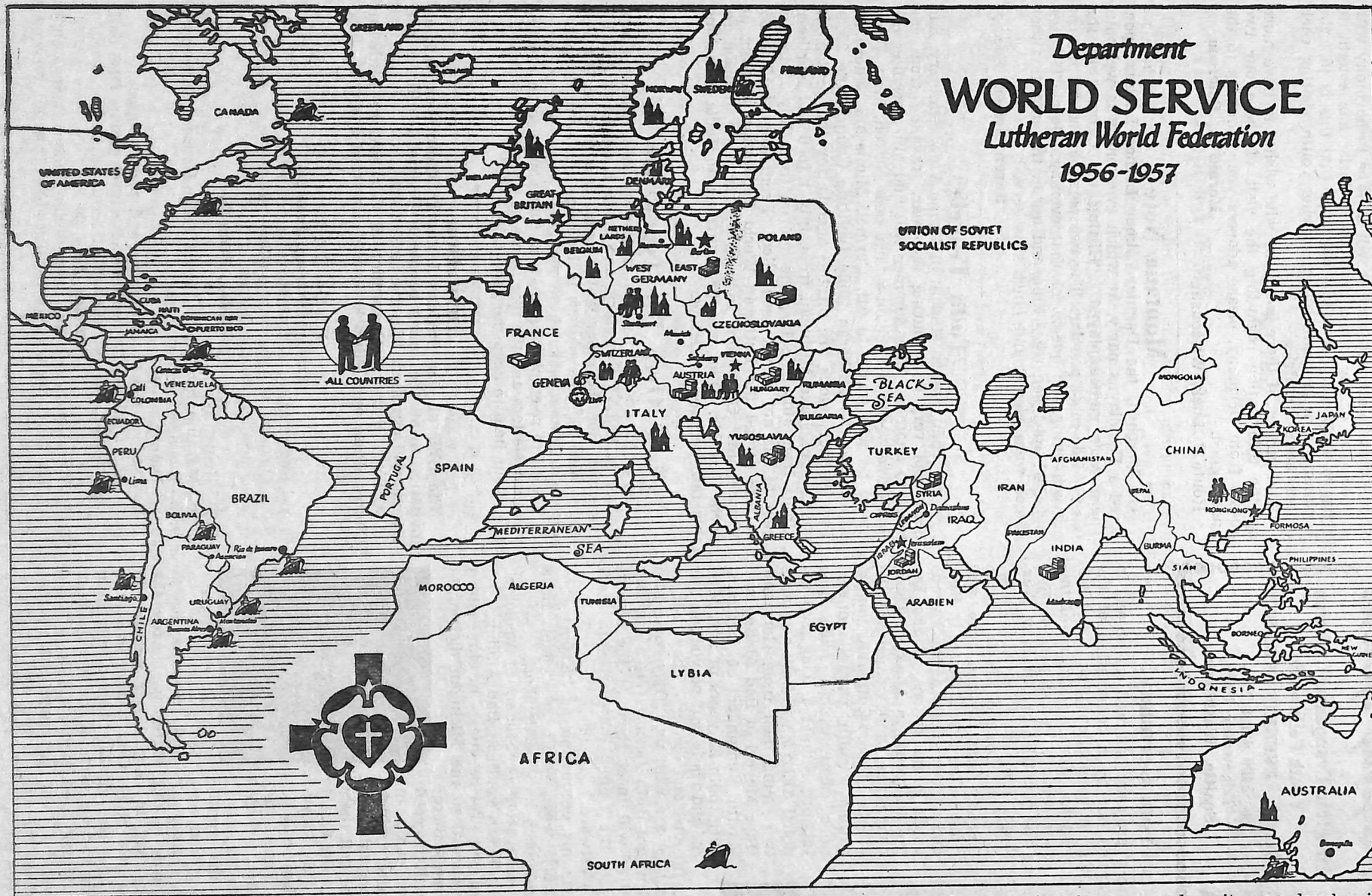
7:00—Registration, fellowship and refreshments.
9:00—Opening talk by Pastor Einar Anderson, Troy, N. Y.
9:30—Placement to the homes.

Saturday, June 29

8:30—Registration.
9:00—Morning devotion by Pastor Viggo Hansen, Bridgeport.
9:15—Business session.
12:00—Dinner.
1:30—Outing, sports, swimming and picnic supper.
8:00—Short skit performed by each church group, DBS hall.
9:00—Dancing and refreshments.

Sunday, June 30

10:45—Worship service, holy communion, Pastor George Mellby, Hartford. Sermon, Pastor Theodore Thuesen, Newark.
12:30—Dinner.
2:00—Message by Pastor Ove Nielsen, Fords, N. J.
2:45—Conclusion of business session.
3:30—Coffee and closing meeting.



What Does WORLD SERVICE Mean?

Whenever a concerned Christian hears stories about human beings living under conditions of extreme physical and spiritual hardship, one of his first reactions is to ask — "What can I do to help?" Because there is so much suffering in the world and because so many were asking what they could do about it, the Executive Committee of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) decided in 1947 "to provide the member churches with a common international Lutheran agency available to them as they seek to

meet in Christian love and compassion, human need as it may develop in the world." This became the LWF Department of World Service.

During each of the past two years, World Service has operated with a total budget approaching \$2 million. This is contributed by church and non-church agencies. The non-church funds, approximately one-half of the total, come from such organizations as the United Nations, the International Co-operation Administration and the Inter-Governmental Committee for European Migration. However, this money would not have been available if the first half had not come through church sources. The vast World Service aid program depends on those individuals who express their concern for their fellowmen by giving of what they have through their churches.

The Aid Program of World Service, LWF

On the opposite page is a map of the world showing the different countries in which the Department maintains an aid program. The symbols, described below, indicate what kind of aid is given.



INTER-CHURCH AID

Church Building

Construction and repair of church buildings particularly in areas where small congregations can not afford their own.

Youth

Scholarships, housing, youth directors, vocational training, books and summer camps for young people needing help.

Publications

Theological literature, church magazines and papers especially for churches in Eastern Europe where they are difficult to obtain.

Stewardship and Evangelism

Special consultants in churches requesting such help to advise congregations about building up a more active church life.

Social Services

Church-operated welfare institutions often need outside assistance...homes for the aged, orphanages, hospitals, etc.

Spiritual Ministry

General spiritual care of Lutheran diaspora groups and minority churches; grants-in-aid to church workers in need.

SERVICE TO REFUGEES



Local Settlement

Aid toward integration of refugees into economy of receiving country when they cannot emigrate overseas — job placement, vocational training, loans, housing, etc.

Aid to Exile Churches and Groups

Assisting five exile churches and groups in Germany toward maintaining a spiritual ministry for their fellow countrymen.

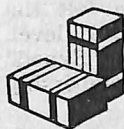


Emigration

Offices in Germany, Austria and Switzerland process thousands of refugee emigration cases sponsored by LWF/World Service.

Immigration

Offices and cooperating agencies (in Scandinavia, Australia, South and North America) receive LWF sponsored migrants and help them resettle in lands where they can begin life anew.



MATERIAL RELIEF

General

Food, clothing and medical help are given to needy persons throughout the world without regard to nationality, color or belief.

Medicines

Individual packages of prescribed medicines are sent to sick persons in Eastern Europe where the drugs are difficult to obtain.

EXCHANGE OF CHURCH WORKERS



All Countries

Begun early in 1956, this program was designed to provide opportunities for church workers, including younger pastors, laymen and laywomen, to receive practical training in churches of other countries so that they may be more effective in their own home churches after their return. The 57 member churches of LWF have been invited to participate in this Exchange.

● World Service offices

★ Senior Representative headquarters

Our Women's Work

MRS. ELLEN KNUDSEN, EDITOR

1033 South Tenth Street

Maywood, Illinois



The Proposed WMS Constitution

During this month women throughout our synod have been studying the proposed WMS Constitution. We have been asked to report our deliberations after discussions in local groups.

In the April 5 issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS, Our Women's Work, Mrs. Marietta Strandskov has brought to our attention points to consider carefully before we adopt the constitution. We should try to make it a good, workable set of rules with the least possible machinery.

Our women here met to discuss the proposed constitution and voted not to ratify, mainly for two reasons:

1. They felt the membership requirement would be a hindrance to WMS work rather than a help. All agreed that our church women's groups should naturally be considered members of WMS.

2. The \$2 membership fee would curtail the income to the general fund.

As the present trend in church women's work, locally, is to include all women of the congregation we felt the membership requirement is obsolete on the national level.

Art. 3, Sec. 1. I suggest we place a period after "Synod" and delete the rest which reads: Who desire membership ETC.

Art. 5. I would also suggest we delete Sec. 2 and Sec. 3, and continue to allow all the women who attend the business session the right to vote. That would automatically do away with Sec. 4 in Art. 1 of By-Laws.

It seems that our main business as women of the church is to keep our hearts and minds open and be ready to help to the best of our ability where help is needed, and that takes very few laws. We hope that hearts always may be warm for our Women's Mission Society work.

Ida Egede, Hampton, Iowa.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Board of Managers of the United Church Women was held at the Congress Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, April 29 and 30. There were about 165 women in attendance, and they came from virtually all the states. United Church Women, a general department of the National Council of Churches, represents an estimated ten million Protestant Church women. There are about two thousand state and local councils. Three of the board members were from our own synod: Miss Emilie Stockholm, Mrs. Hans Egede and the undersigned.

Our work day started on Monday morning at 10:30 with the opening worship by Mrs. Mae Ward, chairman of Christian World Missions. Mrs. Ward is a down-to-earth speaker, and told us of some of her experiences working among Protestants in predominantly Catholic areas in Mexico and South America. One instinctively feels that Mrs. Ward lives her Christianity. After introductions, Mrs. Theodore Wedel brought her message. Our president pointed out (1) The UCW as an organization is growing in size, and (2) it is growing in program. There is a new concept in leadership training, and the many new phases of work are being explored and studied. (3) The organization is growing in ecumenical fellowship, as evidenced by the many churches which are becoming associated with the work, both at the local and state level. (4) We are growing in our concept of the ecumenical movement, when we discuss our problems and beliefs. This is especially true at the local

level where we must attack our problems together and work toward a Christian solution. (5) We are growing in world outreach. Although we are an American group, we have a direct channel through the World Council and through Christian missions to the peoples of the world. Mrs. Wedel pointed out that the fact that we are reaching out in this way also presents problems. We must take on great projects since growing in size only, is not our goal. Without being told, you will know that the next need in carrying out a big project, or a series of them, is financial aid. Work is being developed in military installations both at home and abroad. Quite often great problems of readjustment arise in the homes and families of the military, and the UCW is now at work organizing councils wherever possible in these situations. It is good for these families away from their loved ones to know that there is someone interested in them. It is important to bring a Christian emphasis to community problems whether at home or abroad wherever our people reside. This has been one of the aims of the UCW.

The treasurer's report and the budget for the next year showed that the organization is truly a big one. The budget for 1958 was upwards of \$800,000. More than half of this amount will be earmarked for relief and educational work at home and overseas.

Committee reports were given on The Church Woman, our publication, Public Relations, Leadership Education, Christian Social Relations, Christian World Missions, and Christian World Relations.

Monday evening, 22 of our board members who had traveled in foreign countries since our last meeting, gave short talks. This sounds like a dull sort of program, but actually it proved quite interesting to hear of the experiences encountered by the women in practically every corner of the world.

Perhaps the most important business transacted on Tuesday, had to do with resolutions. I do not deem it wise to try to bring the resolutions to you exactly as they were finally decided upon, since I would have to rely on my own corrections to the original copy. I shall, however, give the wording of the press report released by the UCW. It reads as follows: In annual sessions here, the UCW Board of Managers adopted resolutions urging the nation's church women to:

1. Press for reform of "unfair" congressional investigation committee practices.
2. Help speed new legislation to aid refugees.
3. Support the new Administration foreign economic aid program.
4. Press for U. S. participation in the United Nations atomic energy agency.

Next year's annual meeting of the Board of Managers will be held in Oklahoma City, Okla., from April 29-May 1, 1958. This meeting will be at the Biltmore Hotel. If you have a hankering to attend the assembly in 1958 you will be glad to know that October 27-30 is the time, and Denver, Colo., the place. If you need a little more time than that to save up the cash for your expenses you will be thrilled to know that the Assembly for 1961 is scheduled for the first week in October, and the place is Miami Beach, Fla.!!

Seriously, though, it is really a wonderful experience to be a part of an organization of this type. I think you will realize just how wonderful when I say that of the 165 who attended the meeting in Chicago, I would estimate that about 130 of us came entirely at our own expense.

The climax of the meeting was the International Affairs Dinner (Gold Room, Congress Hotel) when about 500 of us listened to speakers Paul G. Hoffman, delegate to the United

(Continued on Page 13)



OPINION AND COMMENT

TWO DAYS ago another mushroom cloud arose over the Nevada desert, described virtuously by the authorities as an atom explosion of decidedly limited and controlled power. Today, the British announced on the other side of the world a hydrogen-type explosion not nearly so modest in size — in fact, the destructive force could be equalled only by touching off five million tons of t.n.t. Witnesses described the blast in awesome language: "The reddish-white light out-shone the sun. The fireball hung suspended in the sky, a molten, turbulent mass of heat. The mighty force of wind across the waters was irresistible . . ." Various reporters used different expressions, but to the Bible student, there is something familiar about the whole sound. One immediately thinks of John's beast rising out of the sea (Revelations 13). But since this British bomb was obviously dropped from the sky, the parallel is still more striking when we compare it with the description of the Pentecost experience (Acts 2) when the disciples first were made aware of the Holy Spirit: "And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire . . ." One can quickly overdo such parallelisms, of course. But this week of Pentecost should remind us that the kingdom comes not by the wind and fire of the split atom but by the wind and fire of the Holy Spirit. Reliance on human brains and on the goodness of human nature will only end in disappointment and defeat. As Pentecost, this week, through the cycle of the calendar, arrives again upon the scene, let us examine ourselves searchingly, to see how much more receptive we can be now than we have ever been before . . . Pentecost deserves its rank as one of three great Christian festivals. Some of this writer's most memorable worship experiences took place on this day. One of our Chicago churches customarily had a sunrise service on the sandy western shore of Lake Michigan each Pentecost morning, and as the splendor of dawn spread over us, with the red sun rising out of the waters, somehow the vivid reality of the Holy Spirit, glorified here even by nature, was intensified in all of us. We were very young at the time, and particularly impressionable, but as we recall it now, there was nothing theatrical or overly symbolic about it — it was a simple and deep worship. Our fellowship quickly overcame the morning chill, and the glory out over the water brought us to easy wakefulness in that early dawn hour. Pentecost achieved an acme of meaningfulness those mornings, one that for us has not since been quite duplicated . . . This year as perhaps in no other year, we need to be at a peak of receptivity to the Spirit. The Spirit does not, of course, come once a year on a date determined by the seasons of the moon. But this year's anniversary, punctuated by the hydrogen bursts and humanity's cries of fear, seems a particularly appropriate time to listen

for direction from God. What we need is to be made radiant by the Pentecost fallout . . . O God, who art the source of wisdom, we thank thee for the guidance thou didn't give to the early church through thy Holy Spirit. Thy church cannot survive the tests of time without it. We cannot be worthy of thy kingdom without it. Make us to feel the tongues of fire and to hear the winds of thy voice. Amen.

OCCASIONALLY in these columns we have made reference to Billy Graham, not always sympathetically. The midpoint of the current "New York Crusade" seems an appropriate time for further comment. It is very difficult for a pastor to be critical of Billy. The average pastor, when he suggests the slightest skepticism about the lasting value of the Graham appeal, is usually met by frosty stares from his parishioners, as though they were to say, "Huh, who are you to be critical of him. Look at the size of his congregation!" There is no denying the size of the crowds. Between 15,000 and 20,000 jam Madison Square Garden every night. This is a fact. It is likewise a fact that crowds are no indication of anything in this high-pressure, high-speed age, where mass response can be predicted with phenomenal exactness, and where the resources and research of psychology and the proper application of techniques combine to make the success of such campaigns a certainty. It is, for example, a fact that a staff of 25 specialists, 4,200 volunteer counselors, 1,200 ushers, and a choir of 1,500 assist in carrying out the vast organizational work involved. A quarter of a million dollars has been spent on publicity—also a fact. It is tempting to draw conclusions from these figures (published in Time Magazine). Perhaps it is unfair to do so. But it would seem that every precaution against failure has been taken, so that the element of suspense which colors most revival campaigns is absent here. No one could conceive of this crusade failing. (It is backed by 1,500 churches in the New York area.) Dr. Graham is a "fundamentalist," which is a theologically technical term referring to the evangelist's undeviating dependence upon the Bible as the Word of God, and a most literal interpretation of its teachings. (The word thus has been lost to others who might very well relish also to be thought of as dealing with "fundamentals," — sincere thinkers such as the liberals and the neo-orthodox.) Here we face one of the peculiarities of the campaign, that many of the foremost liberals of our time have lent their weight to this crusade. This is something of a paradox; possibly only time will unravel it . . . Liberals in general have shunned the evangelistic approach. We know of no well-known liberal whose method has not been that of finding a receptive nuclear congregation somewhere, possibly very small at first, and then over a period of years of labor of love within that fellowship, built it up to admirable proportions. The "revival" approach, with itinerant evangelists making brief excursions into communities here and there, often achieves astounding results in terms of numbers. But in general, it would seem to us that the average evangelist is one who would have great difficulty feeling himself at home in one congregation for any length of time. His message usually is on so idealistic a level, and is so specialized, so dependent on direct quotation from the Bible (nothing wrong with that, of course) and usually so unrelated to the specific problems of the average member of a congregation, that his usefulness in such a group would have sure limitations . . . It would be interesting to know how many in Dr. Graham's crowds are already church members. It would be interesting to know how many out-of-towners are attending. Finally, it will be interesting to see if New York will seem any different after it is all over. Dr. Graham assures his followers that all those who nightly make their public "decisions for Christ" will never be the same again, and their families and companions will never find them the same. Will this same abruptly accomplished changeover be seen in the metropolis of New York as a whole? We may be a minority opinion, but somehow we doubt that it will.

God's way becomes plain when we start walking in it. — Selected.

80th Annual Convention of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church

RINGSTED, IOWA, AUGUST 6-11, 1957

The 80th annual convention of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held in the Ringsted Public High School building, Ringsted, Iowa, August 6-11, 1957, upon invitation of St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ringsted, Iowa. All the main business sessions and meetings will be held in the High School auditorium and meals will be served to the convention pastors and delegates in the dining room of the High School. The opening service will take place at the High School auditorium Tuesday, August 6 at 8 p. m. The business sessions of the convention will commence Wednesday, August 7, at 9 a. m. Sunday morning services will be at the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ringsted and the St. John's Lutheran Church one mile east of town.

All delegates representing the congregations of the synod and chosen according to the by-laws of the synod must submit their names in writing to the credentials committee of the convention in time to be in the hands of this committee by July 15. The names of the delegates must be certified by the secretaries of the respective congregations. (Name and address of the chairman of the credentials committee will appear in the invitation from St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church printed below.) All ministers of the synod and others who have voting rights at the convention and intending to attend same should also have their names in the hands of the credentials committee by July 15.

The convention will deal with all the business submitted to it according to the rules laid down in the synod by-laws and those governing the institution, missions activities and auxiliaries of the synod.

All reports to come before the convention must be in the hands of the president of the synod by May 20 in order that they may be printed and distributed to the congregations and ministers for their study and consideration in due time before the convention.

Special attention is called to the following provisions in the synod constitution:

"Every member shall be privileged to submit topics for discussion to the convention. These topics shall be sent to the president of the synod, who shall publish them at least six weeks prior to the convention."

Such topics must be at the address of the president by July 1st in order to be published in the July 5th issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS.

The meetings and services of the convention will be open to all members and friends of the synod. Announcement concerning available facilities with respect to lodging and meals will be announced by the host congregation.

Subjects of great significance to the life and work of the synod and its congregations as well as its ministers will come before the convention. Conscientious attention by all members of the synod, especially ministers and delegates, to the content of the Annual Report of the synod and the forthcoming issues of LUTHERAN TIDINGS dealing with convention matters, is recommended.

Let us pray for the will of God to be done through the deliberations and decisions of the synod convention and may His Spirit guide us to serve the purposes of God through Christ ever more willingly and faithfully.

Alfred Jensen.

April 27, 1957
1232 Pennsylvania Avenue,
Des Moines 16, Iowa.

CONVENTION INVITATION

The St. John's Evangelical Lutheran congregation, Ringsted, Iowa, is pleased to extend a hearty invitation to pastors, delegates and members of our synod to attend the annual synodical convention which will be held here August 6-11, 1957. Our people are preparing for your coming with happy anticipation and will do their best to make your stay enjoyable.

All pastors and delegates must send their registrations and credentials to the chairman of our committee in charge of these, Mr. August Sorensen, Ringsted, Iowa, by July 15.

Other convention participants are also urged to register with the registration and credentials committee by July 15. We will provide housing accommodations for all the convention personnel, pastors and delegates but may not be able to provide housing for all convention guests. We shall try to accommodate as many as may come.

In order that we may make adequate preparations we urge that you:

1. Note carefully the registration date and register in time;
2. Notify us as early as possible, if for some reason you must cancel your registration that we do not hold open housing for you which may be made available to others;
3. Notify us if you want motel or hotel accommodations reserved for you.

Registration cards will be sent to the pastors in due time. We suggest that all convention guests use these. Details about travel information will be supplied later.

Dr. LeRoy Henriksen, President.
Carlo Petersen, Pastor.

Books



THE ORGANIZATION MAN. By W. H. Whyte, Jr. Simon & Shuster. \$5.00.

This book has already won wide acclaim, and it comes from that citadel of business success, one of the Luce Publications. Mr. Whyte is Assistant Managing Editor of FORTUNE. It is an interesting book, and, I think, an important one.

Unless all signs fail, the world of tomorrow will have larger organizations. It seems that more and more people will be working for large corporations. We are moving toward a corporate society again. More people will be bureaucrats in big business or big government.

In this book the author is writing about men who hold important positions in the Organization. They are mostly college graduates. Usually the corporations are benevolent to work for. The pay is good and most organization men are satisfied, too satisfied perhaps.

This country grew up in the atmosphere of the Protestant Ethic, which preaches the good of individualism, pioneering, hard work, thrift and competition. The organization man is supposed to believe this gospel. But there is a conflict between this belief and the life he lives. A new precept is being formulated in this climate of collectivism. Mr. Whyte defines this "social ethic" as "the body of thought which makes morally legitimate the pressures of society for conformity."

In the Organization there is much talk about team-work, and, as in the Middle Ages, men work in groups. How does the exceptional man, the non-conformist, the genius fit into these groups? I have never heard of a committee creating a HAMLET, a PARADISE LOST or a BOOK OF JOB.

He points out that the outstanding scientists usually do not work for industry. They are hemmed in by too narrow restrictions. They work in the universities where there is more room and freedom.

A very interesting part of the book deals with personality tests which are used so much by the Organization in selecting men. Mr. Whyte tells how to beat the tests. He says they are unfair, unethical and favor mediocrity. They reflect perfectly the new social ethic. He follows the organization man to the new suburbia where he lives in packaged villages. We see his home, his school, his church and his social life.

It is clear that the author is of the opinion that the organization man is in danger. He concludes his book with these words: "He must fight the Organization. Not stupidly or selfishly, for the defects of individual self-regard are no more to be venerated than the defects of co-operation. But

California Convention

The annual convention of District VIII was held at Los Angeles, May 17, 18 and 19 with Emanuel Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation as host.

Friday evening devotions with communion service was held, Rev. A. E. Farstrup of Solvang delivering the sermon. Fellowship hour followed in the parish hall.

Saturday morning devotion hour at 9:30 a. m., with Rev. Verner Hansen of Los Angeles delivering the message.

Business session followed. All congregations of the district were represented. Rev. A. E. Farstrup, District President, presented his proposed agenda for the meeting, which was approved. Among the matters considered were: The annual meeting of the Solvang Lutheran Home Corporation will hereafter be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the district. The annual district dues per contributing member raised to 75c per member. By-laws amended by adding section to provide that no person shall hold the same office longer than four consecutive years. Other matters of importance were discussed but would take more space than is allotted for this report. Election of officers for the district resulted as follows:

President, A. E. Farstrup; vice president, Rev. Owen Gramps, Watsonville; secretary, Anton Nielsen; treasurer, Axel Pedersen. A panel discussion with three laymen and one pastor participating brought forth interesting comments. The hour being late the discussion was brought to a close. Hope that more time can be allotted to such a discussion at our next convention.

Rev. Farstrup is to be commended, as president, for the expedient manner in which the business of this meeting was handled.

Saturday evening a program was presented by local talent, with Rev. Verner Hansen as narrator, and using a bit of imagination, he took us to the famous theaters on Broadway in New York where we saw a clever pantomime "The Duchess Bounces In" and a one act play "Little Darling" with the teenagers of the local church participating. From there we were taken to the Metropolitan Opera House to listen to opera and light opera music presented by the girls choir and the charming voices of Ann Olsen and Crist Mikkelsen. Accompanying the choir with a violin obligato was Rev. Verner Hansen. Singing by the audience added to the program between acts. It was a most delightful program and represented hours of work for both the performers and the planners. Light refreshments followed the program.

Sunday morning Danish service was held at 10 a. m., with Pastor Niels Nielsen of Easton preaching

the sermon. At 11 a. m., English service with Pastor Owen Gramps of Watsonville delivering the sermon. The combined choirs from Watsonville, Solvang and Pasadena presented a special number at services under the direction of Crist Mikkelsen.

Dinner was served at the Eleda restaurant. Happy birthday was sung for Pastor Farstrup, Mrs. Walter Christensen and L. P. Holgerson of Watsonville. Mr. Holgerson celebrated his 92nd birthday May 21.

Sunday afternoon the closing meeting was held. Dr. Luther Olman of the Augustana Synod, in charge of work among Lutheran students at the University in Los Angeles was the guest speaker. Attention was called to the meeting scheduled for September 13 at Asilomar, in Monterey county, where pastors and laymen from the three synods, Augustana, Suomi (Finnish) and American Evangelical Lutheran Church will convene to discuss the question of merger. Music by the combined choirs was again enjoyed.

We then adjourned to the parish hall, where we were again served by the ladies of the church and closing farewell remarks were made.

The 1958 district meeting will be held in Easton.

Pauline Holm, Salinas,
St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church.

This Is Christianity

True Christianity is the very opposite of cowardly irresponsibility. It is also the very opposite of self-centeredness. It is responsibility to God and to His will for mankind.

Some years ago four men knocked at the door of a parsonage in Denmark. Pastor Kaj Munk was talking with a friend over the phone. He said, "The Germans have come for me," and hung up. The four men put him in a car and drove off. The next day his bullet-ridden body was found in a road ditch. Kaj Munk was murdered by his enemies. This man was Denmark's foremost poet and dramatist. He was a fearless Christian preacher. He had been warned. Why didn't he keep still and remain safe? He gave his answer when he was ordered to stop praying for the persecuted people of Norway: "I feel bound to my Norwegian brothers because they are...brothers in the faith. They fight for ideals that I, too, have sworn to fight for. If, for fear of men, I should sit as a passive onlooker, I should be a traitor to my Christian faith....."

That is Christianity. It is an expression of our readiness to accept the ideals which are God's will and to seek the strength and courage to live by them. Why are we religious? Because we can never be satisfied until we have faced the highest demands life makes upon us, until we have acknowledged our responsibility to God.

— Selected.

Annual Meeting

(Continued from Page 10)

Nations, and Mrs. Lorena Hahn, delegate to the United Nations Status of Women Commission. I didn't take any notes on either of these talks. It was my first period of relaxation for the two-day session. The talks weren't light and entertaining, but they were informative as I'm sure they were intended to be.

A. Francis Nielsen.

fight he must, for the demands for his surrender are constant and powerful, and the more he comes to like the life of the organization the more difficult does he find it to resist these demands, or even to recognize them. It is wretched, dispiriting advice to hold before him the dream that ideally there need be no conflict between him and society. There always is; there always must be. Ideology cannot wash it away; the peace of mind offered by organization remains a surrender, and no less so for being offered in benevolence. That is the problem."

Notes From My Journey

CANADA TO COPENHAGEN

P. Rasmussen

I spent a pleasant afternoon in Montreal with Rev. and Mrs. Bech. Especially taken up with the meeting of their son, Johannes, who has grown big in more than one way from the time I saw him in boyhood in Standard. He is a well-known doctor and even more than that, a happy father of a newborn child.

But I had too short a time to spend in Montreal, undoubtedly the most interesting city in Canada, or should that be Quebec?

In New York among others things to do I had the privilege to speak one evening at the new Danish Seamen's Church, where the Pastors Brink Jensen and Jorgensen are busy with the work among the seamen. At that meeting among many other guests were also a party from Hartford. They had come that long way to meet me and say goodbye, wishing me the very best journey.

Pastor Jorgensen met me at an early hour at Grand Central Station and assisted me every way till I was aboard the luxury steamer "Kungsholm." So many people have in one way or another helped the old pastor so that he could have a pleasant trip. Thanks to them all. Even as I entered my cabin my suit cases were there, and one last letter with greetings. One of the staff said "You are the most lucky man here." I was only disappointed with the weather man. The weather was so foggy that it was impossible to see anything, not even the nearest objects. In fact the ship stopped once, as we were surrounded by other ships all around.

On board there are so many different things going on during day and evening, but it is no use mentioning them all. We have had service today, Good Friday, and I have promised to help with the service on Easter day. I generally take in the concerts and such entertainments. The meals are excellent; at our table we have a Danish waiter. One afternoon they showed us a beautiful film, a trip through Sweden to the midnight sun. I am not able now to recall every picture and give a description as a whole, but there are two pictures that impressed me very much, a waterfall with a rainbow across and then of course the midnight sun.

It would be of great interest to take such a trip, and it is natural that we saw it on a Swedish ship. I learned today that the leader of the orchestra is a Dane, Knud Moller, and can he

play! I never saw a person that could handle a violin as he can; the passengers are so enthusiastic when we have concert. And now it is Easter morning, not only in the Atlantic Ocean, but throughout the world where Christians meet. Of all the great events that have taken place according to world history, there are none compared to what happened that early morning in the garden of Joseph.

Here I sit on the deck and look out on the big and broad ocean, the sun shining, and the ship passing through the rolling waves at a high speed; I think of the many Easter mornings among Christian friends, and I still have Easter in my heart, because we are two: Christ and I. In a few hours we will have two services; I ask God in his mercy to hear them both. . .

And now I have attended both. The first was typical revival; they sang well, but never have instruments at the services. The other one was entirely different, not because I took part in it, but it was positively sacramental as we closed with communion. I was thankful for that fellowship and especially for the music and a solo song by a young girl going to Sweden. She sang it in English, but ended up with the last verse in Swedish. Beautiful voice.

One afternoon we went on inspection of the engine room, and although it was interesting to go there, it was too complicated for me. I know it is power and power again, just think of it, 17,000 horse power in an engine room. I noticed it was marked full speed.

What a difference to come from there into the main lounge to a piano concert by a Miss Sylvi Lindstrom. Another world even on the same boat. To show the appreciation of the music she was presented with a beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers.

This is the fifth day out, rain and a very strong wind, the ocean is white-capped as far as I can see. We just passed another boat, but were not able to see the name, not near enough. The ship is rolling, and at the breakfast table we were only two to begin with, a little later two more showed up, but we are generally eight. As long as the propellers are in the water we are able to make headway, but one man told me that waves could be so high that they even could wash the upper deck. I don't know for sure if I would like to see that (just one hour) so I have had that experience

also. I had better not ask for it. Later on in the day we read the following notice to passengers: "On account requested medical attendance from freighter for severely injured seaman, the Kungsholm has changed its course in order to assist. John Nordlander. Commander."

And then again some time later came the good news that the sick man had been picked up by an Italian boat, but it delayed us some time, and the ocean is still rough.

On Wednesday afternoon on April 24 we were invited to inspect the navigation bridge. The captain and several higher officers were there to show us the different steering apparatus. I looked at the radar, but saw no ships, they were too far away. Way up in the mast in what could be called the basket was a man on lookout to report what he could observe and report to the officer on the bridge. These men are changed every hour, as it is cold and lonely up there. Later on the same afternoon I saw a travelogue to Northern Horizon and all the Scandinavian countries. I enjoyed that very much.

We have now passed the Rochall, the mountain in the ocean where many years ago the Danish steamship NORGE sank, and if I remember right more than 500 people drowned.

Thursday, April 25. A bright sunny morning, many passengers on deck, all smiling and greeting each other. We see land to the right, even a light-house. It's the Island of Hebrides, and next it will be Scotland, the land of Robert Burns. And now we will listen to the farewell concert before lunch.

Still sunny and land on both sides, to the right Scotland, to the left Orkney Islands. Many passengers out.

We came into the North Sea; the ship began to roll again. In spite of this we had our farewell dinner, and that is more than I can fully describe. It was a jolly affair. We were all more or less decorated for the occasion. The service was excellent, and while we were enjoying our turkey, the orchestra came through the dining hall playing and singing with great delight. Then the lights were turned out, in came the waiters with illuminated dessert plates in different shapes. I was asked to say a few words and mentioned the words hospitality, courtesy and fellowship as we had met it all the way. And now we have one day more before we dock, but we Danes will not leave for Copenhagen before Saturday morning.

At 4 p. m., Friday, the pilot came on board and now has the responsibility, and he must know the way, because we are sailing between rocky islands on both sides, it is very interesting to see all the different things that are surrounding us. At last we have two small boats to pull and push and swing the big ship around in the harbour.

P. Rasmussen.

The New Altar Book

Commented on by

VALDEMAR S. JENSEN

II

Permit me to repeat that it seems to me our committee on liturgy has done a good job in what it has given us. I know the first impulse toward anything new in our service is what Jesus indicated when he said, "No one after drinking old wine desires new; for he says, 'The old is good'."

And maybe our old liturgy was better in its day when we so often had to be content to hold our services in schoolhouses on the prairie; but even as church architecture aims at beautiful forms, — so I believe the form of worship should strive toward beauty and fullness. The new liturgy is much more full than the old. The congregation **does** take a more active part under the new than under the old. And is not that a gain?

Not that the new liturgy is perfect. Nothing under the sun is perfect, except what Jesus Himself has done here. He alone was able to end a work on earth by saying, "It is finished," i. e., perfected. ("Det er fuldbragt.")

But, since his work of salvation was finished and perfect, I would suppose that our work in worshipping him should come as near as possible to conforming to his great work in making it possible for human beings to become sons* of God.

Here I am thinking of the form for confirmation in our new altar book. I wonder whether confirmation is here seen under the right viewpoint.

Is it not so that confirmation refers back to the new birth in baptism? And if regeneration in baptism really is a new birth — if in the birth of water and the Spirit we receive eternal life out of God as literally as we have received physical life out of our physical father and mother, then we are children: God's children.

But are there any grown children in the kingdom of God on this side of the great divide? Jesus' saying that unless we turn and become like children we never will enter into the kingdom of heaven, seems to indicate that that is as far as we ever get here on earth.

But as to children, what do they need? Do they need to strengthen their relationship to the Father, or

do they need to be strengthened in this relationship?

Confirmation means strengthening. To confirm a man's right to a property means to strengthen him in his right to that property. Children have the child's right to their father's table. And often it is imprinted in children that confirmation gives them right and access to the Lord's Table. Is our God a fickle God? Does he give us sonship with him by giving us life out of his own life in the new birth, only to demand that before we can come to his table we must make certain affirmation which man has thought up? Is it we that must confirm our sonship? or are we all in need of being confirmed in our childhood right and access? You who at the communion rail have had the experience of fear and trembling at the words "This is the body of Jesus Christ," "This is the blood of Jesus Christ," you know the answer. You who at the minister's words to the effect that we must believe have cried out in your innermost soul, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief!" you know the answer. Not we need to confirm, we need to be confirmed.

How then can we ask 14-year-old children to confirm the relationship to God in which they are in need of being confirmed—a relationship which not they, but he, has instituted?

Our new form for confirmation seems in this respect to be no improvement on the old. The very first question to the child is:

"N.N., do you this day by the help of God and before this congregation confirm the Holy Covenant which was made for you with the Triune God in baptism?"

This has the sound of requiring an oath, and it has the effect of taking an oath. Are we doing right in requiring this of the children? Are they able to bear it?

At the meeting of the apostles in Jerusalem there were they who insisted that before a person could receive the covenant of grace in baptism, he must enter in under the covenant of the Law by circumcision. But then Peter rose and said, "Why do you make trial of God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which

neither our fathers, nor we, have been able to bear?"

We in confirmation add what amounts to requiring an oath that the child will confirm God's covenant with him. Are we not thereby making trial of God? As if he were not able to save our children through his own covenant with them, unless they in most solemn manner confirm the covenant? Why require any other affirmation of the child than what was made at baptism?

There are instances where this man-made requirement has become a yoke which the child was unable to bear. On the afternoon of the day that my father was confirmed some members of the class were gathered and were playing outside. As one of the confirmands happened to be alone with my father, he said, "You have made a false oath today." You said, "Yes," — that you would continue steadfast in the covenant even unto the end, but you can't.

How different if only the questions asked at baptism had been asked at confirmation without any addition of man-made requirements! Jesus' yoke is good, his burden light; not ours.

Neither our fathers, nor we have been able to bear this man-made yoke. We cannot confirm, we cannot strengthen God's act with us. All we can do is to acquiesce, say "Yes" to the covenant. God does not ask us "Do you confirm what I have done with you in giving you forgiveness of sins, the powers of resurrection and life eternal?" He asks, "Do you accept these gifts by believing?"

And there is a world of difference between the two. In the first case, we enter a new law of obligation; in the second we accept an offer from the only One who has the means to give.

After the act we say, "The child has been confirmed." How can we say this when we have just asked the child, "Do you confirm?"

If on the other hand, we, at confirmation, logically asked the child only those questions that were asked at his baptism, then he would hear the covenant word familiar to him from the confession of the congregation at every service in the church. To these questions he could say "Yes" in his heart and with his mouth, as he has known the congregation of believers to say "Yes" by confessing the Word. Then he would be strengthened by that Spirit who is the Yes and Amen in the congregation's confession. He would really be confirmed.

My apologies to the committee on liturgics. The above is not of my own thinking, though I shall not deny that it touches upon my Christian life experience. Through a long, protracted discussion in Denmark our spiritual fathers there came to the indicated conclusion. From them I have learned what I have written.

* A generic term meaning all mankind, women as well as men.

Grand View College

We've Had It . . .

If I can only succeed in keeping to myself for about ten minutes, I'll have it made! This is my only opportunity to get a short report of the "last day" at GVC ready for LT. This is really the last day. We have just come from the graduation exercises (?), so all is fresh in my mind.

Graduation was held in the Grand View Lutheran church, which is much larger than Luther Memorial church but if these large classes persist it may not be large enough in a couple of years' time. The date, May 29, the time 8 p. m.

The choir enters first to take its place in front of the church. We are directed to our position by Prof. W. Williamson, who acts as marshal. Then come the graduates in their caps and gowns. There are, I believe, about 78 of them, 20 of whom are later awarded the degree Associate in Arts. Fifty-eight receive the diploma, and a number of "future teachers" are also given their teachers' certificate. The faculty proceeds next in the center aisle. They look very impressive in their colorful hoods. The last to enter are our speaker, Dr. J. E. Stonecipher, Director of Secondary Education, Des Moines Public Schools, and Dr. Nielsen.

Rev. Howard Christensen gives the invocation and scripture reading, we are welcomed by our president, and the choir, directed by Mr. Speed presents two numbers. Professor Hurley

introduces the speaker, whose address is entitled "Greatness in American Education." Miss Carol Larsen, voice instructor, favors us with a lovely solo.

The scholarships are awarded by our business manager, Mr. Harry Jensen, and Mrs. Knehr presents the Teachers' Certificates. Our dean, Mr. Peter Jorgensen presents the candidates for diplomas and degrees, and they are awarded by Dr. Ernest Nielsen. After this has been done, Dr. Nielsen asks Mr. Gora Tudu, our student from India, to come to the front of the church, and after making a very fine little speech about Mr. Tudu's scholarship, citizenship in the college community, and his splendid contribution to Christian life on the campus, presents Mr. Tudu with a gift, personally. This is a very solemn moment, and there isn't one of us in the college community who does not feel that the tribute has been earned. Gora Tudu is a humble man, and has given more to us than we have given to him.

As we sing our hearts out to the words and music of the college anthem, Rev. R. Spong, pastor of the Grand View Lutheran church, comes forth and at the close of the anthem pronounces the benediction. The recessional is as orderly and beautiful as the processional. And so we end our school year with commencement.

Au revoir, auf Wiedersehen, paa Gensyn until September 1957, but NOT goodbye!!!

Hi Fi.

OUR CHURCH

Enumclaw, Washington. The new church building will be dedicated June 23.

Circle Pines, Minnesota. Pastor and Mrs. Harris Jespersen will have been married twenty-five years on June 22. The Jespersens have served pastorates during this quarter-century in Viborg, and Gayville, South Dakota; Clinton, Iowa; Marquette, Nebraska; and at present are in our home mission field, St. Mark's congregation of Circle Pines. Pastor Jespersen has served as editor of the past publication "Ungdom" and is now editor of the Christmas annual, "Yule." Congratulations to this devoted and talented pair on their silver anniversary!

Withee, Wisconsin. Pastor W. Clayton Nielsen will be attending the Interdenominational School for Rural Leaders at Garrett Biblical Institute at N.W. University in Evanston, Ill., during June and July, on a scholarship granted by the Division of American Missions of the Rural Life Department, NLC. He plans to return each week end to continue his Sunday services in his congregation. On June 16th the congregation opens its "financial drive" in behalf of the church building program.

Hay Springs, Nebraska. The congregation here recently dedicated a new

Hammond electric organ (Easter Sunday), made possible by substantial memorial gifts from Mr. and Mrs. Lee Alcorn in memory of their son, Donald, and by others in the congregation in memory of Donald, and of Victor Hermansen and George Hurst. During the summer months, seminary student, Laverne Larkowski will serve as supply pastor. The Calvin Rossmans will be moving to their new parish (Ruth-ton-Diamond Lake, Minn.) on June 11. Miss Muriel Nielsen's visit here was canceled by a late-season blizzard on April 4. About 90 pupils are expected to keep 15 teachers busy for the Bible school currently being conducted May 27 to June 7.

Danewang, Texas. A guest organist, Miss Anita Windecker, of Texas Lutheran College, presented a fine organ concert in our church here last month. Herluf and Alfred Jensen, sons of H. O. Jensen, recently presented a \$500 gift to the congregation in memory of their parents, killed in an auto accident last year. (H. O. Jensen was a former pastor.) The money will be used to lay new rubber tile in the entire new Sunday School building. Construction of the building was H. O. Jensen's last completed work before his tragic passing.

Ringsted, Iowa. The congregation here has sent official invitations to all congregations, including registration cards. There are rooms available for 300 guests, at last report, with a strong possibility of increasing the number. Delegates, pastors and guests are requested to register as soon as possible. A number of motel and hotel rooms are available to early registrants.

Junction City, Oregon. Miss Emilie Stockholm, national president of the Women's Missionary Society, was a guest speaker here May 22, sponsored by the Danish Ladies' Aid.

Greenville, Michigan. Seminary Students Donald Holm and Laverne Larkowski led worship here the morning of May 12. Muriel Nielsen was scheduled to speak here May 27.

Denmark (Vesper), Kansas. During the last part of May a Lutheran Evangelism Mission was conducted in this community, with guest "missioners" Elvin Hansen and Robert Hamilton. The five-day program was scheduled in both Denmark and Excelsior parishes served by Pastor Willard Garred. The local choir here presented an Easter Cantata for a full church under the direction of Mrs. Bula Staub.

Perth Amboy, New Jersey. The church property here has been sold (as of July 1) to the Second Baptist Church for a reported sum of sixty thousand dollars.

Fredsville, Iowa. In the Fredsville Bulletin for May we read that, with the help of a professional fund-raising association, \$116,000 has been raised for the proposed Cedar Falls Lutheran Home, with gifts solicited throughout the Cedar Falls area.

I am a member of
the congregation at _____
Name _____
City _____ State _____
New Address _____

June 5, 1957

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, Astor, Minnesota.

REV. CLAYTON NIELSEN 5-1
WITHEE, WIS.