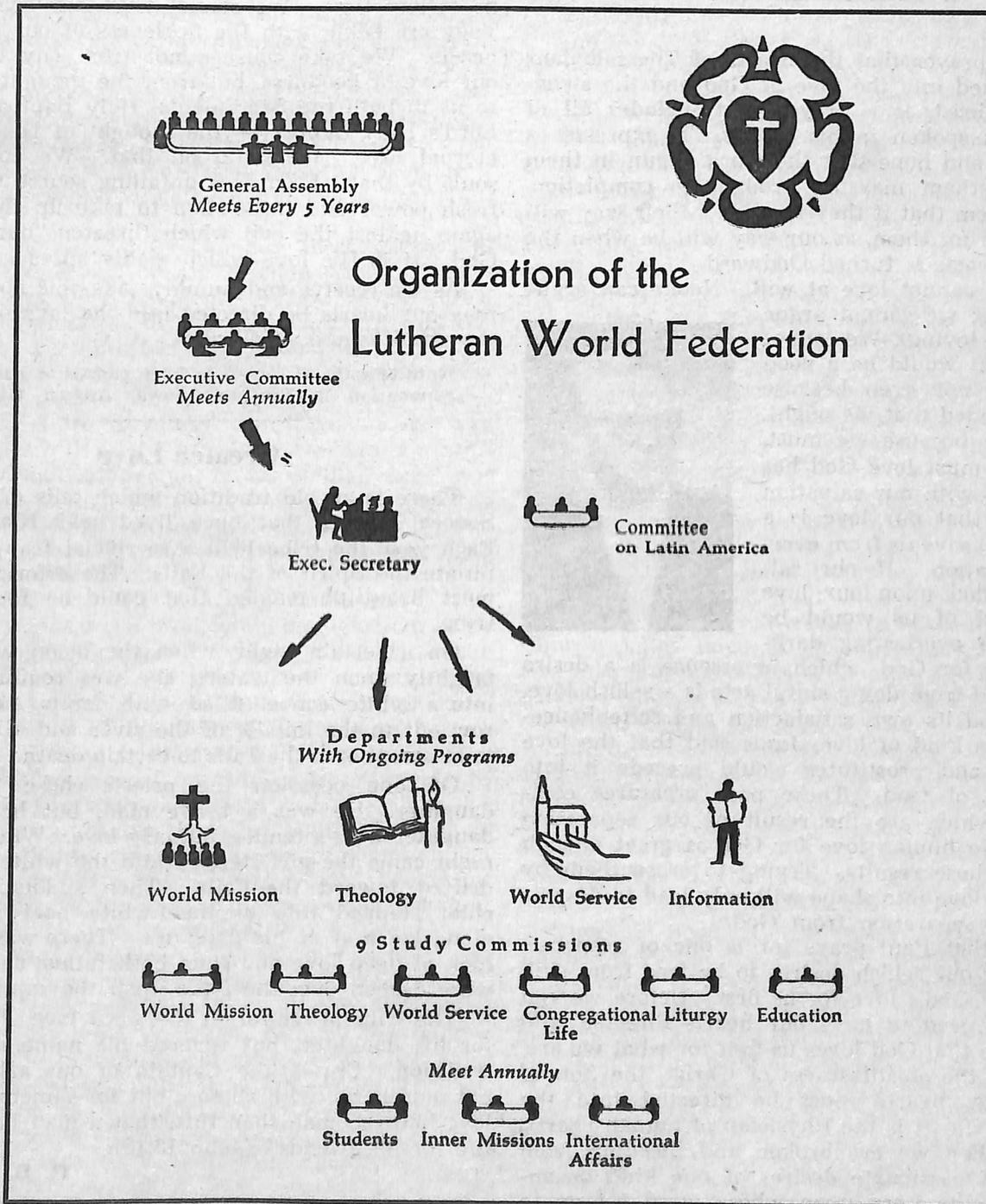


# Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Attend the Great Lutheran Federation Meeting  
Minneapolis, August 15-25

# God's Love

Carlo Petersen, Pastor

## II Thessalonians 3:1-5

St. Paul's prayer that the hearts of Thessalonians may be directed into the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ, is a prayer that includes all of which he has spoken in his letters. It expresses a strong desire and hope that the work begun in them and through them may be brought to completion. He assures them that if they love God, their way will be made plain for them, as our way will be when the love of our hearts is turned Godward.

But — we cannot love at will. No one can argue us into loving; we cannot argue ourselves into loving. We cannot love because it would be a good thing for us, nor even because we are persuaded that we ought. We love only because we must. This that we must love God has nothing to do with our salvation in the sense that our love is a prerequisite to save us from everlasting damnation. If our salvation depended upon our love for God most of us would be condemned to everlasting darkness. A love for God, which in essence is a desire to be delivered from doing sinful acts is a selfish love, seeking in God its own satisfaction and selfenhancement. Of this kind of love, Jesus said that the love of publicans and prostitutes would precede it into the Kingdom of God. These poor creatures committed sins which are the result of our separation from God. No human love for God is great enough to wipe out those results. Trying to erase them by whipping our love into shape will only lead to despair and complete separation from God.

The love that Paul prays for is one of response, caused not by our selfish desires to be free from evil, but caused by God's love for us first. Before we can love God we need to have our hearts directed into the assurances that God loves us first for what we are. It is through the steadfastness of Christ, the Son of God, that our hearts must be directed into the love of God. Christ is the Physician of human hearts, healing us when we are broken and bleeding from the assault of passionate desires of one kind or another. He is the Lord upon whose word we go to battle the hordes of evil fighting for place in our hearts.

Christ directs us into loving God because He is the certitude that God loves us. He is our surety. The promise of the Father's eternal love, the pledge of it. Immanuel, God with us, God for us and so we for God even when Satan has possession of us. Even then we are God's and He is our Redeemer.

In the Holy Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, Christ is directing us into the love of God. It is not our

love which gives us the right to be there. It is our faith in His love. True, here at the Lord's table our hearts are touched with something of the passion of love. It burns within us with desire and longing. But our warrant for Holy Communion is not in ourselves but in Him who is the Host. It is on this we stay. Our own love is feeble and marked by impulsive and unstable actions, no sure stand for us at any time. We cannot trust our own feelings. They are fickle with the fickleness of our own weak hearts. We take courage not from any thought of our love or goodness, but from the thought presented to us in both the Sacraments: Holy Baptism and the Lord's Holy Supper — the thought of His boundless eternal love. We build on that. We comfort our souls by that. From this unfailing source we receive fresh power and inspiration to take up the struggle again against the evil which threatens our life with God. It is His love which gladly spreads the table.

As we receive and humbly take this nourishment, may our hearts be directed into the love of God and the steadfastness of Christ.

**Note:** Pastor Petersen is host pastor to the AELC convention in Ringsted, Iowa, August 6-11.



## Greater Love

There is an old tradition which tells of a tribe of Seneca Indians that once lived near Niagara Falls. Each year the tribe held a sacrificial festival to propitiate the Spirit of the Falls. The offering was the most beautiful maiden that could be found in the tribe.

On a certain night, when the moon was shining brightly upon the waters, she was required to step into a white canoe, filled with fruits and flowers, row out to the middle of the river and allow herself to be swept over the Falls to certain death.

On one occasion the priests chose the chief's daughter. He was a brave man, but he loved his daughter with a tender, fatherly love. When the fatal night came the girl stepped into the white canoe and drifted toward the Falls. Then suddenly the old chief stepped into another white boat and rowed alongside that of his daughter. There was one swift look of deep love and then both father and daughter were dashed over the Falls upon the rapids beneath.

The tribe never forgot the great love of their chief for his daughter, but revered his name as a sacred tradition. Christ, the Captain of our salvation, did not merely die with sinners but for sinners. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

G. B. Hallock.

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# Ecumenical Aspects of World Lutheranism

BISHOP HANNS LILJE

President, Lutheran World Federation

**I**T IS A spectacular fact that the largest and most representative meeting of Lutherans of all parts of the world will meet this summer in the United States. This is the first time that a world conclave of Lutherans will be held on American soil. The largest single body of world Protestantism will be represented by 257 delegates and 425 official visitors, and thousands of American visitors will make it the most representative gathering of world Lutheranism held so far.

It may be well to remember those large and significant gatherings of the Ancient Church which we call "Ecumenical Councils." They gave expression to the common faith and thought of early Christianity. The lasting effect and far-reaching influence of those ancient meetings of Christian representatives were largely due to the fact that they united, in a concentrated effort, to rethink the Christian message for their days. It was only after hard struggle with the spiritual and intellectual forces of their time that they reached their results. But since they did not shrink from being checked and challenged by the doubts and criticisms of their contemporaries, their answers proved to be "fire proof."

The modern council of world Lutheranism will require the same sort of intellectual and spiritual courage in dealing with the tremendous problems of our generation. Scepticism, as the result of modern scientific methods, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, fear as the result of that universal threat to human existence, will make it imperative that the Churches face the real troubles of our time and are ready to rethink their Christian message.

It goes without saying that Christianity throughout the world is fully aware of these problems. The Churches repeatedly raised their voice concerning these issues, especially by that instrument which they forged since the last war, the World Council of Churches. They have done so after careful study and prayer. The large world gatherings at Amsterdam, Holland, in 1948, and Evanston, Ill., in 1954, have attempted to say what Christians can say in common in view of the present world situation. They have met with widespread public attention and they succeeded in influencing Christian thought to a large extent.

Now this presents us with a specific problem! What are the relationships between these large ecumenical movements and the Third Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation? Does not the very fact that Lutherans meet separately make for weakening Christian world unity instead of strengthening it? Is it not entirely out of place to think in terms of a separate denomination while the world situation of today seems to call for the most determined will for unity?

There is a definite and clear answer to these questions.

In the first place Lutherans are aware of the need for world wide unity of the Christian Churches throughout the world. They are not only in sympathy with this idea but they have cooperated in the work of the World Council of Churches in unrestricted loyalty. One of the key-positions of the World Council of Churches, the chairmanship of the Central Committee, its governing body, is occupied by one of the leading Lutherans of our day, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry. This very fact symbolizes in itself the Lutheran loyalty towards the ecumenical movement.

Moreover, the desire for unity is one of the essential elements of the Lutheran faith. Lutherans try to follow as loyally as possible the prayer of our Lord: "that they all may be one."

No denomination could claim to be Christian if it would disregard this clearly expressed desire of our Lord. The fact that our Lord prayed thus in His last prayer has more meaning for the Church than any consideration of expediency or efficiency.

But there is one particular element in Lutheran teaching which makes this aspect even more conspicuous. The classical Lutheran Confessions, especially the Augsburg Confession of 1530, emphasizes the fact that all ceremonials, rituals and questions of Church policy have to be subordinated to the only real distinguished mark of genuine Christian Church, namely, whether Christ is present in the preaching of the Word and in the Sacraments.

The presence of Christ is the only essential characteristic of a Christian Church. Where this is to be found there is the Church. Nothing more is needed, in order to have a real Church. No other point of orientation is valid if we seek real unity. Since this is the essence of the Lutheran faith, its genuine ecumenity cannot be questioned.

There is, however, one reason why the Lutheran Church does not try to efface itself in order to be ecumenical. This can be best demonstrated referring to the three stages through which the ecumenical movement has passed during last decades.

First all the Churches which joined in the World Conference of Stockholm, Sweden, 1925, were united by an immediate joy of coming together which was not based upon reflection but upon a simple impulse of the faith.

In the later development, however, the Churches discovered that their encounter demanded a careful and thorough study of their actual differences if they wanted to achieve a higher degree of unity. So paradoxically, the ecumenical movement itself brought a fresh stimulus to the theological studies of the respective denominations. The different conceptions of The Church and Nature of Unity,



The L.W.F. Journals

(Continued on Page 16)



Mrs. Armgard von  
Alvensleben

## Lutheran Church Leader to Speak

Social Welfare Specialist to Address Ringsted Convention

Featured as the WMS Convention speaker on August 10th will be Mrs. Armgard von Alvensleben of Hannover, Germany, a prominent leader of the Lutheran church women of Germany and also an outstanding worker in the field of social welfare within the church. She will speak on Saturday evening, 8 p. m. at the High School Auditorium at Ringsted, Iowa.

Our overseas guest represents the Evangelisch-Landeskirche at Hannover. Presently she is manager of the Evangelical Relief Society and a member of the Committee for Evangelical Women's Affairs. Mrs. von Alvensleben directs the work of the Bahnhofsmision, which corresponds to our Traveler's Aid Society.

When addressing our convention at the Saturday evening meeting, Mrs. von Alvensleben will speak about the services offered by the Bahnhofsmision, illustrating her lecture with slides. She will include information on their work in the Eastern Zone and also of help extended by the Lutheran World Relief.

Previous to 1945 when she assumed her position with the Traveler's Aid Society, Mrs. von Alvensleben had secured a wealth of experience in other posts. From 1923 to 1934 she served as a nurse in Salem hospital; 1936 to 1938 as matron of a hospital; 1938-1945 as Abbess of the Evangelical Convent and Superintendent of the attached school for girls. She has traveled extensively in Italy, France, Switzerland, Sweden, Egypt and Palestine.

While visiting the United States Mrs. von Alvensleben is especially interested in studying social welfare agencies within a religious organization and comparing them with public and private institutions.

Mrs. von Alvensleben is one of 11 women from various parts of the world who have been invited by the Lutheran women of America to attend the Lutheran World Federation Assembly at Minneapolis. Following the Assembly these guests will appear as speakers at Post Assembly meetings, which will be held in twelve different areas of the United States.

The Lutheran Women's Coordinating Committee, representing the women's societies of the National Lutheran Council has served to assist in bringing to the Lutheran World Federation Assembly women who would otherwise not have been able to attend. Through contributions of the societies and the anticipated offering from the Post Assembly meetings, the cost of transportation to U. S. A. and return, travel and incidental expenses during the days spent in our country, as well as an honorarium, will be underwritten.

The women who have been invited are recognized leaders in the church of their homeland and are successful in their chosen professions as doctors, nurses, educators, social workers or theologians.

Previous to the Assembly at Minneapolis they will attend the Lutheran World Conference on Social Responsibility at Springfield, Ohio, on August 7 to 10. They will be honored at a Reception Tea at 3:30 p. m. on August 14 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Traveling in teams of two or three speakers, they will leave Minneapolis on August 27th to appear at the Post Assembly meetings which have been planned by local committees under the direction of the Lutheran Women's Coordinating Committee.

Planning for the hospitality of our guest teams is governed by a desire to enrich their experiences during their visit to America. To accomplish this end they will be given home living experiences; observe parish operations and various aspects of parish activities that give women service responsibilities; see the Church-at-large functioning in institutional work — colleges, homes for aged, homes for children, hospitals, etc.; experience group fellowship in the Post Assembly meetings.

### The Testing

When in the dim beginning of the years  
God mixed in man the raptures and the tears  
And scattered through his brain the starry stuff,  
He said, "Behold! yet this is not enough,  
For I must test his spirit to make sure  
That he can dare the Vision and endure.

"I will withdraw my Face,  
Veil Me in shadow for a certain space,  
Leaving behind Me only a broken clue —  
A crevice where the glory glimmers through,  
Some whisper from the sky,  
Some footprint in the road to track Me by.

"I will leave man to make the fateful guess,  
Will leave him torn between the No and Yes,  
Leave him unresting till he rests in Me,  
Drawn upward by the choice that makes him free—  
Leave him in tragic loneliness to choose,  
With all in life to win or all to lose."

—Edwin Markham.

## Perimeter Unity

Certainly our church rejoices at the progress made in recent Lutheran Unity conversations. While we know that unity within the church often, if not always, supercedes organic union, we recognize that the characteristics of language and culture that have kept us apart as Lutherans in the United States are rapidly dwindling and the day when our labors shall be spent jointly is ever coming closer.

A recent estimation on a consummation date for the establishment of a new church incorporating the United Lutheran Church in America, the Augustana Lutheran Church, Suomi and the American Evangelical Lutheran Church has removed that date from three to four years from the original estimate. The revised estimate was made because problems of organization with respect to the new church had been overlooked or were not thought to be as difficult as they are. It is not a simple task to fuse churches with regional authority with those of a more centralized jurisdiction. And while it is recognized that this is not an impossible task, this fusion will take time and much thought, yes, and prayer for patience.

Our own committee has agreed that the AELC would work toward a structure somewhat like the present United Lutheran Church in America, with modifications, but in which we could keep our synodical identity, (Annual Report, p. 64). It must be recognized that all of our constituency does not concur with this agreement on the part of the committee, for this kind of an arrangement in the new church would not be equally advantageous nor desirable for every element in our church. Three congregations of our Eastern District have indicated by their dissolution or withdrawal from our synod that our synod does not provide for the fellowship and working relationship that is necessary for their survival and growth. While none of the congregations of the Pacific districts has withdrawn in recent years, there is some of the same feeling that permeates the thinking and worship life of those congregations. The kind of arrangement which these congregations need is one that brings them into a closer relationship with neighboring congregations of the same church. This closer relationship involves the whole life of a congregation — in its worship, in its work, in its service and its auxiliary groups.

The congregation which I serve, is I believe, a case in point, and I do not expect that every member of this congregation will agree with my observations. We are 300 miles from the closest district neighbor. Our communication with them is a limited one to say the least. The fact that they are urban and we a semi-rural doesn't help much. Both the distance and the economic and social differences create tremendous barriers to the interstimulation that is needed for a good healthy growth. Certainly a merger under our own committee's agreement would help in providing the stimulation that is needed, but in practice we would still be under different jurisdictions and

interests. The Augustana and ULCA churches would be laboring under a regional program and we would be laboring with different programs. The program of each would be foreign to the other and would tend to stymie the working relationship which is also a part of the interstimulation between congregations.

To allow these congregations an option to withdraw from our jurisdiction would hamper the work which we now identify as AELC. To disallow this option will be to starve them or cause them to force their hand. Certainly either of the latter two will be undesirable. Merger is merger and we must expect that it will mean a mutation in our identity. The growth that we seek is spiritual. We are not interested in a "super" church, but this new and larger church besides being the largest Lutheran Church in the U. S. will also provide avenues of spiritual development which are not present with equal degree to all the congregations of the AELC currently. Let us rethink our stand so far and let our committee members visit our congregations, particularly those that are not near the center of our work, that they may have the whole of AELC in mind when they meet with the Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity.

**Harold E. Olsen, Pastor.**  
Faith Lutheran Church  
Junction City, Oregon.

### Permits Not Granted to East German Choir for United States Concert Tour

Minneapolis—(NLC)—Lutheran World Federation officials have been forced to cancel plans for the famous 66-voice St. Thomas Boys' Choir from East Germany to sing at the Third Assembly in Minneapolis this summer because of failure on the part of the East Zone government to grant exit permits for the boys to visit America.

Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, LWF executive secretary, said it was clear to the Communist authorities that the permits would have to be granted by July 15 or it would be too late to make final arrangements for the choir's 12-city tour as well as their Minneapolis appearance. When no word was received and a telephone call to LWF offices in Berlin indicated that none was expected the plans were reluctantly cancelled.

"All American Protestants regret keenly that this famous choir will be unable to perform in the United States," Dr. Lund-Quist said. "We shall continue to hope that they can come at a later date."

The choir from Leipzig, internationally renowned for its performances of Bach cantatas, was invited to sing at the Assembly early in 1956. There have been many meetings between LWF representatives and East Zone officials concerning the tour and no definite indication had been given that the permits would be refused, although in recent weeks the Communists had grown "cooler" toward the idea, Dr. Lund-Quist said. The choir members and their director, Professor Kurt Thomas, were very anxious to appear in America for the first time.

## *Thus Losing Life - - - Our Life We Save*

Ove R. Nielsen

Long-established congregations often find it necessary to dispose of their churches, no matter how imposing in structure and laden with memories, in order to build new ones at sites several miles removed from the accustomed place of worship. Sister congregations which had found themselves in similar circumstances and had not moved to new sites, were compelled to merge with other congregations or to become extinct. There are examples of each in recent years.

When a congregation must decide whether to move to another site and build a new church, or to remain in its present situation and merge or become extinct, there are those within its membership who accept the need for relocation with a building program, and become its first advocates. Usually the younger in greater number, who by reason of having been born into more recent generations, are more flexible in the face of needed change, and therefore evaluate circumstances as they prevail. If that were not true, youth would be unfaithful to itself. It would have forfeited the quality of being young.

When the realization reaches those less flexible by reason of years or other relevant factors, that they will be out-voted when the decision is made, it cannot but produce a profound feeling of regret and frustration. Discussion of the realization largely displaces all the ordinary topics of interest and concern. The course which will be taken is quite unknown to them because they have not let it into their hearts. It becomes ground for much anxiety at a time when prompt action and the cordial support of the whole congregation is needed. At such a time the success of the new venture can be greatly ensured if a few members of mature years will be persuaded, won over, and make declarations in favor of the change.

The friendly personal relations which have long existed between them and their peers in the congregation, justifies an effort on their part in that direction, where the whole program can be fully discussed. But will they do it? Their first impulse will likely be decidedly against it. It will be asking a lot if we beseech such people to go to their friends and make declarations of intentions to sustain the relocation and building program in the measure which its urgency requires. They may need to go to people whose emotions have fiercely flamed out at business sessions of the congregation. They may need to remind their friends that the advocations of the younger in years are no more extreme than some they themselves made when they were younger, and which were adopted and have proved to be a blessing for the congregation.

Such action by the persuaded, the won over, in rendering such a service to the congregation, would not only give them title to its lasting gratitude, but

would at the same time show that in the hour of their congregation's need, they could trample all unjustified recalcitrance under foot.

It is entirely possible that in visiting their friends of many year's standing, they would soon find earnest and grateful listeners. We do not know what they would say or how they would say it. But it is almost certain that when they would part with friends after such visits, they would be parting with a cordial feeling of understanding, a friendly and common purpose.

If you are one of those who was out-voted when the decision was made, and you think the advocates of a new site and a building program were unrealistic and unreasonable, let me share with you a thought once expressed by George Bernard Shaw. Reasonable people want things to remain as they are, he said, and unreasonable people want to change them. Yet, human progress comes about only through change and, therefore, it is reasonable that human progress can be made only through the efforts of unreasonable people.

Let yourself be persuaded and won over. Make an effort to talk to your friends after you yourself understand that division in a congregation in such a matter is destructive. Remember, more people were for the new site and the new church than were against it, and that one of the joys in the Protestant congregation is the democratic process.

How splendid if you could approach the president of the congregation in a few days or a few weeks and say, "I called on some friends who had voted as I did. The substance of the conversation was that while I thought those who voted for relocation and a building program were tackling too big a job, I was prepared to sustain the congregation in its decision to perpetuate itself. I told them that a firm forwardness in thinking was essential and positive action necessary. Our congregation was in danger of passing out of existence unless the change is made and that I will support the program with my purse and person."

All honor to the men and women who thus throw prejudices to the wind and give themselves wholly and unreservedly for the welfare of the congregation.

### Stewardship Gems

#### The Blessings of Irritations — "Missionary Lutheran"

Life on earth would not be worth much if every source of irritation were removed. Yet most of us rebel against things that irritate us, and count as heavy loss what ought to be rich gain.

We are told that the oyster is wiser; that when an irritating object, like a bit of sand, gets under the "mantle" of his shell, he simply covers it with the most precious part of his being and makes of it a pearl. The irritation that it was causing is stopped by encrusting it with the pearly formation. A true pearl is therefore simply a victory over irritation.

Every irritation that gets into our lives today is an opportunity for pearl culture. The more irritations the devil flings at us, the more pearls we have. We need only to welcome them and to cover them completely with love, the most precious part of us, and the irritation will be smothered out as the pearl comes into being. What a store of pearls we may have if we will!

## Special Program Arranged For Assembly Visitors

### Interesting Sessions Planned For Unofficial Laymen Who Will Attend The LWF Meeting. Thousands Expected.

Minneapolis, Minn.—(NLC)—“Is there any evidence to show that the influence of the Christian church is growing?”

“Is the church an effective force in molding the political and economic life of the United States or any other nation?”

“How can the message of the Gospel be effectively communicated in this age without the use of outdated ‘religious language’ and cliches?”

As a step towards answering these and similar questions basic to the work of the Christian churches in the modern era, top Lutheran leaders from all over the world will participate in a series of four panel discussions for the thousands of visitors expected to attend the Third Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation here, August 15-25.

Designed especially as a means of giving lay people an insight into the philosophy behind statements and actions of the Assembly's 250 delegates, the “visitors program” will cover a wide range of basic issues under discussion in formal plenary sessions.

**Dr. E. Clifford Nelson, Assembly director, said the sessions will stress “no holds barred” discussions unhindered by the customary restraint of more formal deliberations.**

“They will be purposefully question-provoking and even controversial,” he added. “It is felt that the issues present in the subjects themselves ought to be made clear to the listeners and that difficult or embarrassing elements ought not to be avoided.

“The fundamental concern is that Christians may be guided and helped in the midst of today's tremendously complex situations.”

The Assembly official noted that in addition to delegates and 425 official visitors thousands of non-official visitors are expected to attend the international gathering, which will be the most widely representative Lutheran church meeting ever held in the United States.

Dr. Nelson said that like the public events the four “visitors programs” are free and open to the general public. Sessions will be held from three to five p. m., on August 17, 19, 20 and 21.

(Discussion groups to be held concurrently are restricted to delegates and official visitors. Plenary sessions are open to the public but tickets must be purchased in advance.)

Topics and speakers for the visitors program are:

#### August 17—Church and State

Moderator: Dr. Joseph L. Knutson, president of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn.

Bishop Otto Dibelius, chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church of Germany and Bishop of Berlin-Brandenburg.

Mr. Kristian Hansson, director general of the Ministry of the Church and Education of the Church of Norway.

Dr. G. Elson Ruff, Philadelphia, Pa., editor of “The Lutheran,” weekly news magazine of the United Lutheran Church in America.

#### August 19—Confronting Modern Man With the Gospel

Moderator: Mr. Sam Edwins, Minneapolis, director of the Department of Stewardship Education of the Augustana Lutheran Church.

The Rev. Franz Sianipar, Indonesia, a student at Luther Seminary, St. Paul. “The Stewardship of the Gospel in the Batak Church.”

Dr. Eberhard Mueller, director of the Evangelical Academy at Bad Boll, Germany, and chairman of the Association of Evangelical Academy Leaders.

Dr. Clarence C. Stoughton, president of Wittenberg College, Springfield, Ohio. “Stewardship and Congregational Life in the American Situation.”

Dr. Joseph Sittler, professor on Federated Theological Faculty of University of Chicago. “The Gospel in the Language of Modern Man.”

Bishop Jozsef Szabo of Hungary. “The Revival Movement in Hungary.”

#### August 20—Nationalism and the Indigenous Church

Moderator: Dr. Earl S. Erb, New York, executive secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Lutheran Church in America.

Mr. M. Anantham Nayudupet, India, secretary and chairman of the finance committee of the South Andhra Lutheran Church, India. “The Younger Churches and Government.”

Dr. Rolf Syrdal, Minneapolis, executive secretary of Board of Foreign Missions of Evangelical Lutheran Church. “The Younger Churches in Relation to the Sending Churches.”

The Rev. Gerhard Brennecke, Berlin, Germany, missions director of the Berlin Missionary Society. “The Church and Society.”

The Rev. Andrianarijaona, Madagascar. “The Development of the Younger Churches.”

#### August 21—Inter-Church Relationships

Moderator: Dr. Bernhard Holm, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa.

Dr. Max Lohe, president of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Australia. “Has Lutheranism a Unitive Mission?”

Bishop Gudmund Schioler of the Church of Denmark. “A Folk Church and the Question of Inter-Communion.”

The Rev. Douglas Makhathini, South Africa, a student at Luther Seminary, St. Paul. “The Younger Church and Its Confession of Faith.”

Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan, professor of the Federated Theological Faculty of University of Chicago. “Catholic vs. Sectarian Confessionalism.”

Dr. V. A. Visser 't Hooft, Geneva, Switzerland, general secretary of the World Council of Churches. “The Role of the World Council of Churches as a Medium for the Lutheran Church to Confess its Catholic Character.”



## Paging Youth

American Evangelical Lutheran  
Youth Fellowship

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### AELYF Doin's

**Ringsted, Iowa.** On July 14, the young people there enjoyed a picnic at Sylvania park in Fairmont, Minnesota, thirty miles north of Ringsted. A campfire and watermelon feed completed the day back at the church grounds. On July 22, they were privileged to hear Pastor Warren speak on the topic: "Teen-Age Marriage."

**Kimballton, Iowa:** Sandra Mortensen was recently selected as PAGING YOUTH reporter for the LYF there. On Sunday, July 7, a Pizza party was held with the Oak Hill group as guests. Shuffleboard and other games were played followed by the feast. They also plan a picnic soon, with Oak Hill and possibly Des Moines as co-picnickers. Many of the LYF plan to attend the camp at Boone, August 18 to 23. They recall many happy times from former camps and are looking forward to renewing old acquaintanceships.

### Corrections and Comments

In the last issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS, a report of the Iowa District convention was included on this page. Your editor inadvertently omitted the name of Pastor Carlo Petersen as one of the guest speakers. He was the main speaker on Sunday afternoon and the audience of both young and older people was large and well enlightened. Pastor Petersen is a very interesting man and deserves recognition.....This error was brought to my attention by a man who is very busy, Pastor Holger Strandskov of Kimballton. He, too, I am sure, took an active part in the convention. If one so busy as he can take time to drop a line, perhaps some of you young people can find time to send camp and convention reports so that other groups in our synod may know of what you are doing. The editor's desk is swamped with mail from the National Lutheran Church Council, United Christian Youth Movement and other large organizations. I pass news of interest along, but I feel that the activities of our own people are of more interest. Any new ideas or revisions of old ones are welcome, even needed. I will do my best to get them into print.....May I remind you that if you want news of coming events in PAGING YOUTH, it must be in my hands by the 10th and 25th of each month. For instance, an event happening on the 20th of the month must be in my possession by the 10th in order to meet the deadlines....No definite news on Youth Night at the synodical convention, August 6-11, but plan to attend if at all possible. It is the duty of you young people to learn the procedures of such meetings and take an active part in them. You are

the delegates of tomorrow....Ringsted is an active member of AELYF and those of you who can, should meet with those young people to discuss mutual interests at this great meeting . . . Many of you are making plans for college in the fall....Do not forget Grand View Junior College in Des Moines when you consider where to go...many have decided to attend at the last minute and are the richer for it, both spiritually and socially, not to mention academically. I hope to have an article soon concerning Grand View....The summer is passing rapidly...too rapidly, for some of us...but do not forget to send news and items of interest to **your** section of this national magazine.

### Mass Choir Meets in Minneapolis

Minneapolis—(NLC)—Voices are needed for the massed choirs being organized to sing at two outdoor festivals during the Lutheran World Federation's Third Assembly here, August 15-25, according to the Rev. M. A. Egge, chairman of the Music committee for the Assembly.

The Youth Chorus will sing at the youth rally on Saturday evening, August 24, under the direction of Dr. Oscar Overby, director of the Choral Union of the Evangelical Lutheran Church from Northfield, Minnesota. The concluding festival chorus will sing Sunday afternoon, August 25, on the steps of the state capitol building in St. Paul under the direction of Dr. Henry Veld, professor of music at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Both choruses will be accompanied by the Luther College band. The music committee hopes to have 5,000 voices for each chorus.

There is no pre-registration for individuals or church choirs wishing to sing at the Assembly, Mr. Egge said. Those interested should simply obtain the proper music and rehearse until Assembly time. One rehearsal will be held just before each festival for the entire group — before the youth rally, it will be at the Parade Stadium in Minneapolis at 5:30 p. m., on August 24. The concluding festival rehearsal will be on the steps of the State Capitol at 1:45 p. m., Sunday afternoon, August 25. (End of official NLC bulletin.)

Wilton Bergstrand, youth director of the Augustana Luther League in Minneapolis sent a letter to Pastor Harald Petersen, national AELYF youth advisor, concerning the above choirs, etc. It is hoped that some of you attended the regional rehearsal on July 28, although it was too late to publicize that meeting in this issue. However, if you did not attend that rehearsal, plan to attend the 5:30 one on August 24. Eat your supper first, dress in white shirts and dark trousers, fellows, and white blouses and dark skirts, girls, and go to the Parade Stadium.

### Over the Typewriter

This should set a new record for brevity in this column. Take your questions and your searching minds to your camps and conventions and when you return **do** something with the suggestions you have received. And, please, send me some reports!

# Our Women's Work

MRS. ELLEN KNUDSEN, EDITOR

1033 South Tenth Street

Maywood, Illinois



## WMS President's Report, 1957

Since my two-year term as president expires at this convention, it seems that it would be in order to review briefly the progress of our Women's Mission Society under the Six Point Program, which was adopted early in this term.

In October 1955, the WMS board sent a questionnaire to all the organized women's groups of the AELC. The responses were carefully tabulated and analyzed. At a board meeting in Des Moines in November 1955 the Six Point Program, based on suggestions offered in the questionnaires, was adopted, the purpose being to develop WMS as an organization which can guide the women of our synod in all the aspects of the work of the church woman.

### The Six Point Program

#### Point I Reorganization

1. The constitution needs revision.
2. WMS is too loosely and informally organized to be an effective auxiliary of the synod.
3. We need more organization at the district level.

#### Point II Membership

1. Membership in the organization should be more clearly defined. It was learned through the questionnaire that many women were unaware that they were considered members of WMS.
2. While the membership of WMS necessarily consists of individuals, we propose in the new constitution an organizational pattern of group memberships and District auxiliaries, through which the national officers function to carry out the decisions of a representative convention.

#### Point III Finance

1. Funds should be disbursed by the Board according to the annual budget, which is to be adopted by the annual convention.
2. A study of stewardship as applied to financial support should be made and effective methods of raising funds should also be considered and adopted.

#### Point IV Publicity

1. Our questionnaire revealed a need for better contact between the Board and societies in order to keep the members well informed on the activities of WMS. Despite much effort to publicize the information on The Women's Page, we were urged to find additional means of disseminating information about our activities.
2. The Board decided to request that each local group appoint a "Key Woman" who should keep the Board informed about activities of her group, and keep her group informed about matters concerning WMS.

#### Point V Missionary Education

1. While WMS should be interested in gathering funds to promote missions, it should also attempt to keep its membership and the entire congregation well informed on the mission activities of the church.
2. A definite program should be outlined and followed to promote the missions of our church — Home Missions, Santal Mission, Seamen's Mission, Welfare services, etc.

#### Point VI Program Planning

1. Program planning is important in developing our local and national organization. Many local groups have requested assistance through WMS.
2. WMS might give aid in finding good sources of program materials, in instructing the groups in how to use materials and plan worthwhile programs, and in planning two or three programs yearly, to be used by all groups on subjects pertaining especially to projects in which we all are interested as members of WMS.

HOW MUCH PROGRESS HAVE WE MADE? — Not nearly as much as our Board had hoped. We felt that the first step in effecting advancement of the Six Point Program was to reorganize under the proposed revised constitution. You will note, when you study the constitution carefully that it embodies the SIX POINT PROGRAM. **As soon as our constitution is adopted, we can proceed more effectively.**

We have appointed a Budget and Finance Committee to begin work in the area of stewardship and finance. Key Women are helping us with the task of bringing information on our activities to the local groups. However, we have not yet been successful in securing a Key Woman for each group. The Key Women have been valuable in assisting us in effecting action on the constitution in the local groups. The Standing Committees which will be appointed following the adoption of the constitution will work on publicity, missionary education, membership and program planning.

While we strongly hope to have the proposed revised constitution adopted at this convention, we are also presenting a district constitution, which parallels the national constitution, and provides guidance to the district officers. This will give added strength to our Women's Mission Society. We therefore, recommend that the convention adopt it as a model district constitution, and refers it to the district conventions for formal adoption this year. The district constitution will be presented as a committee report.

Through the leadership of the Lutheran Women's Coordinating Committee, which represents the women's organizations of the National Lutheran Council, WMS has assisted in bringing 11 women from various parts of the world to attend the Lutheran World Assembly at Minneapolis, who otherwise could not have come. One of these overseas guests, Mrs. Armgard von Alvensleben, will address our convention at the WMS meeting on Saturday evening.

The LWCC has arranged for Post Assembly Meetings for Lutheran women in 12 areas of the United States. Our overseas guests will appear as speakers at these meetings, traveling in teams of two or three. These speakers will bring a message from the LWF Assembly and also tell us of their work in their homelands. If it is at all possible for you to attend any of these meetings, we urge you to do so.

WMS is represented on the Lutheran Women's Coordinating Committee by Mrs. Johannes Knudsen and the national president.

The Women's Retreats which have been held during the past two years have greatly strengthened the fellowship of our group. Since these are mentioned in the District President's reports, I will mention them only briefly. Running concurrently with our convention is the Women's Retreat of District VIII. I suggest that our convention sends a message of greeting to this group. They are planning a special session of study and discussion on the work and projects of WMS.

I have felt privileged in being invited to address the women at the Fellowship week end at Nysted, Nebraska, in March, and the Women's Fellowship at Tacoma in May. These contacts also help to strengthen our fellowship. WMS has a great potential, but to realize the strength of that potential, we must find means of tying our group together with common goals and purposes. The Districts who have had Retreats have set good examples for others. We hope that all our districts will eventually try their success in sponsoring a Retreat.

The WMS Board has discussed rather seriously the problem of our very limited convention sessions. We are of the

(Continued on Page 10)

## District II Convention

District II of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet for its annual convention at Trinity Lutheran Church in Greenville, Michigan, September 20-22. The opening meeting will be Friday evening, the closing one Sunday afternoon.

All pastors should be in attendance and the congregations are reminded to send delegates, one for every 25 voting members of their membership. All interested in attending these meetings shall be welcome.

**Edwin E. Hansen**, District President.

### CONVENTION INVITATION

The Trinity Lutheran Church and the Dannebrog Lutheran Church, Greenville, Michigan, hereby extend a generous invitation to pastors, delegates and members of our district to attend the annual Michigan District convention to be held here September 20-22, 1957. The people of our congregations are preparing for your coming, and we will do whatever we can to make this week end a pleasant one.

All pastors and delegates and visitors, are asked to please send their registrations to the chairman of our committee, Mr. Winston Cairns, 200 South Barry Street, Greenville. We will provide housing for all our guests.

When you send us your registrations please note when you are arriving and how; who is traveling with you if you come by car; do you want hotel or motel accommodations reserved for you? We would appreciate knowing at least one week in advance how many are coming from each congregation.

Will those people who plan to come only for Sunday also please notify us? Our ladies should know how many to count on for Sunday dinner.

**Winston Cairns**, Pres., Trinity Lutheran Church.  
**Earle Madison**, Pres., Dannebrog Lutheran Church.  
**Peter D. Thomsen**, Pastor.

## District III Convention

District III of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will have its annual convention in St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 8500 Maryland Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, September 27, 28 and 29, 1957. Members and friends of our churches are welcome to participate. Congregations are reminded that they are to elect delegates to the meeting on the basis of one delegate for every 25 voting members.

**Ivan E. Nielsen**, District President.

### INVITATION

St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran congregation, 8500 Maryland Avenue, Chicago 19, hereby extends to members and friends of District III of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church a hearty welcome to all who may desire to share in the above meeting. Please send registrations to Mr. Chris Korsgaard, 1454 West 183 Street, Homewood, Illinois, by September 21, 1957.

**Richard Iverson**, President.  
**Paul E. Wikman**, Pastor.

## District VII Convention

### NYSTED (DANNEBROG) NEBRASKA, SEPT. 27-29, 1957

District VII of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet in annual convention at St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Nysted Community, Dannebrog, Nebraska, September 27, 28 and 29. Members and friends are invited to attend and share in the convention.

Congregations are reminded that they are entitled to one delegate for every ten voting members or major fraction thereof. Congregations are also reminded that their proportionate share of the district budget should be forwarded to the district treasurer six weeks prior to the convention.

Delegates are asked to bring a brief, written report of the activities of their congregations during the past year.

The tentative program for the convention is presented below. We invite all to come to share and serve together

in the work of our district to the glory of God and to the future of His church.

**Thorvald Hansen**, Vice President, Secretary.

### INVITATION

St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Nysted Community, Dannebrog, Nebraska, hereby extends a cordial invitation to all pastors, delegates and friends of District VII to attend the district convention at Nysted.

Nysted is located about nine miles north of Cairo, Nebraska; five miles south of Farwell, Nebraska; and three miles west and one mile north of Dannebrog, Nebraska.

Those wishing to stay at Camp Nysted (Folk School) are asked to bring blankets, etc. Please state if you prefer to stay at Camp Nysted. Registrations may be sent to Mr. Anton Faaborg, Dannebrog, Nebraska.

**Anders Nielsen**, President.  
**Arnold Knudsen**, Pastor.

### TENTATIVE PROGRAM

#### Friday, September 27

- 3:30 p. m.—Coffee and registration.
- 4:00 p. m.—Discussion, "The Church and Christian Education," introduced and led by Pastor Arnold Knudsen.
- 8:00 p. m.—Holy communion service, Pastor Carl Laursen, assisted by Pastor Jens A. Holst.

#### Saturday, September 28

- 9:00 a. m.—Morning devotions, Pastor Marius Krog.
- 9:30 a. m.—Business session.
- 1:30 p. m.—Business session continued.
- 6:30 p. m.—Women's Mission Society business session.
- 8:30 p. m.—Women's Mission Society, Pastor Willard Garred, speaker.

#### Sunday, September 29

- 11:00 a. m.—Worship service, Dr. E. W. Mueller, of the Division of American Missions of the National Lutheran Council, preaching.
- 2:00 p. m.—"The Lutheran Church and the New Rural Society," Dr. Mueller.
- 8:00 p. m.—Closing meeting, Pastor M. Mikkelsen, speaker.

## WMS President's Report, 1957

(Continued from Page 9)

opinion that we can be more effective as an organization, if we held our convention independently of the AELC convention, even though this might curtail attendance. Such a convention should also include lectures, Bible study, instruction in groups leadership and program planning for WMS. We have requested more time for sessions at this convention, but it was not possible for several various reasons.

The WMS meetings held at the District Conventions are also too short. Would it be possible for the District groups to arrange with the District AELC Board to permit them to have an afternoon session for the women, and have a discussion session for the men simultaneously? Even a two-hour session on a Saturday afternoon allows more time than 1 hour or less for a longer session for their business meeting. Previous planning is also necessary for a successful meeting. The district business meeting should be publicized through the local presidents and Key Women, urging attendance, reports, etc.

Our Women's Mission Society will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of its founding on June 13, 1908. On June 13, 1958, many observances will be held. This observance is in the hands of a very capable Golden Jubilee Committee, which is composed of one member representing each of the nine Districts. Since a full report will be presented by Mrs. Holger Strandkov, chairman of the committee, I will not give any detail here, but because they have performed so excellently to date, I wish to commend them for the fine work they have already done. It is very encouraging to see the enthusiasm with which they have approached their task.

No special Project was undertaken by the convention last year. As a result we note a decrease in our receipts

(Continued on Page 15)

## The Mountain Revisited

Sermon on the Mount as translated in RSV

### IV

Jonathan Swift considered that "the two noblest things are sweetness and light." Many suppose that Christianity is summed up in what Matthew Arnold calls "the pursuit of sweetness and light." In the Sermon on the Mount, however, Christianity is described as salt and light. Jesus did not say that Christians were to be the sugar of the earth. Sugar is not so necessary to life as salt, nor is it so widespread in nature. Sugar may cause disease; salt may be used in the cure of disease. Sugar, too, is easier to adulterate than salt.

There are some who act as if Christianity were nothing but sweetness. In an effort always to be agreeable, they accommodate themselves to existing prejudices, rebuke no wrong, speak no stern word. In one of his plays Shakespeare writes:

"Your fair discourse hath been as sugar,  
Making the hard way sweet and delectable."

Elsewhere the bard says:

"With devotion's visage  
And pious action we do sugar o'er  
The devil himself."

A few sweets are desirable, but life cannot be sustained upon them. Too much of them leads to obesity, diabetes and gangrene. So men are quickly fed up with honied words and come

"To loathe that taste of sweetness, whereof a little  
More than a little is by much too much."

"You are the salt of the earth," said Jesus, and added: "if the salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men." One translation at this point reads: "it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men." That can still be understood, but plainly the Revised Standard Version expresses the idea in the phrases that are common in the 20th century.

An ancient writer tells how salt that had become unfit for use was sprinkled in wet weather upon the slopes and steps of the temple, so the feet of the priests would not slip. But this is not the function salt was intended to serve, and it is still true that salt that has become corroded is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out — far from the household uses it was intended to serve.

### "A Laborer is Worthy of His Hire"

Around the church the artisans who are hired from time to time to plaster, to paint, to decorate, to repair the plumbing, etc., get two or three times as much as the pastor, and the bills for these services are promptly met as a matter of course. When the subject of bringing the pastor or the teacher's salary in harmony with the prevailing economy comes up, then a dead silence pervades the room.

Take the time element invested in preparing for the ministry. Six years beyond the high school period — in some instances more. If he had worked as a laborer at the present average wage of \$2.00 per hour (40 hour week) it would in six years have amounted to \$24,000. Add to this his tuition, clothes, board, room and books, etc., and other expenses and it will easily add up to another \$1,000 per year. We now have a capital investment of \$30,000. At 6 per cent this amount alone would earn \$1,800 per year. Let us then depreciate this capital over thirty years and we have another \$1,000 per year to add to this total. We now find that our minister is making an outlay in us — not we in him — of \$2,800 per year. If, then, we will pay him the very least we could possibly pay him which would be \$2.00 per hour for a 40 hour week, we would owe him this \$2,800 reimbursement plus \$4,000 going wages, or a minimum of \$6,800 per year. This is merely facing up to his actual cost plus a gardener's wage. (A carpenter now gets \$4.00 per hour in some areas.) And where is the minister who works only 40 hours per week?

Today I sat in a meeting where the subject under discussion was the employment of a young staff member. It was hoped that he could be secured for \$10,000 per year. He is not as qualified for his job

— at least not yet — as is our minister, and still his opening compensation is way beyond anything we would even dream of as our pastor's compensation. Add then the fringe benefits received in industry (which now aggregate more than 20 per cent) and we have the ghastly contrast.

I despair of our people ever being realistic enough to meet even the minimum amount which any fair analysis would indicate. What I do hope for is that a sense of fairness can be developed over against these servants of the Lord.

E. J. Gallmeyer.  
"American Lutheran."

### The Postman Was Lutheran

Minneapolis — (NLC) — A post card arrived safely at the Lutheran World Federation's temporary headquarters here at 701 Second Avenue South even though it was addressed as follows:

Christ Frees and Unites

426 So. 5th St.

MPLs 15, Minn.

The theme of the LWF's Third Assembly in Minneapolis, August 15-25, is "Christ Frees and Unites."

LWF officials have a hunch that the postman on the route must be a Lutheran.



## OPINION AND COMMENT

WE NOW HAVE THE reports to the convention, and while on this date there has been too little time for a serious study of these reports, many will have given them a thorough inspection by the time this issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS reaches the readers. On page six is found President Jensen's remarks about the revised synod constitution. LUTHERAN TIDINGS has rather expected that this subject, up for passage for the second time at this year's convention, would have aroused some interest during the year. Apparently, the small group who opposed so strongly the wording in Article II, paragraphs 1 and 2, have either retreated from their positions, or are waiting to bring all their persuasive energies to bear on the delegates at the convention. To the large majority of our people, it seems that the issue itself does not matter too much. To the small minority, it matters a great deal. It would appear, therefore, that in the interest of harmony, it should be the majority group that should make the compromises, if any are to be made. We do, however, believe, with the president, that "a prolonged debate on fine points of theology on the convention floor" would be a mistake. But it should be possible to lift the argument out of the level of fine points to reach at least one major point. If agreement can be reached on what the major issue is then quibbling will not be possible; quibbling belongs in the area of fine points. To us, it would appear that the major point of issue is this: Does Paragraph 2 say to us what we believe the Bible to be? If it does, then we will again pass this revision. What others may believe as they read our constitution would seem important only insofar as they are willing to let us interpret our own words for them. On this basis it is possible for this writer to urge passage of the revision a second time. While we do not like the term compromise, if this is what it is, so be it. (See also page 16).

THE PROPOSED BUDGET will come under discussion, but it would appear impossible to pare it anywhere, (except possibly in the area of editors' salaries!) The major increase is the Santal Mission item, which is explained clearly on pages 17-18 of the Report. Another substantial increase is found in the area of Pensions, and again this increase is understandable, and no one could object. Other increases are relatively small. It is our opinion that our people have become increasingly stewardship-conscious, (as the president states, largely through Faith and Life Advance), and that the old pattern, of giving cautiously, is being outgrown. The people who attend our conventions usually are among the more cooperative of synod members, in regard to stewardship efforts. We believe our conventions, by and large, would probably "okay" any budget proposed by the synod board, and that the board usually errs on the side of caution, if at all. These delegates may meet a less cooperative spirit when they themselves return home, of course. But part

of their duty as delegates is to convince their local congregations of the importance of measures they have helped to pass.

WE WERE tremendously cheered by the report from the committee to study pastors' salaries, for it would seem that on the average our congregations are doing well compared with congregations of other Lutheran synods. (No attempt, was made apparently, to compare with non-Lutheran bodies, which is just as well. Their very concept of the office of the ministry is often so totally different.) We quote here from an article on this whole subject in the "American Lutheran" (Missouri) as follows: "There was a time when the minister was expected to make all the sacrifices. He was not to own his own home, nor have anything extra. He was to be self-effacing to the point where he became an object of charity. People took pity on him and sent him the leavings to help him through. Patched trousers were not a rarity in those days. The situation resulted in reducing the minister to a mendicant. Wherever he went he resorted to the detestable expedient of asking for a discount. He always asked for "the cheapest." The Church, because of that, was often regarded as "cheap," and was treated with patronizing toleration. The minister was not to save anything. Somehow, in old age, he was to expect "the Lord to provide." Consequently many an aging pastor clung desperately to his position, long after he realized his inadequacy for his office. His spirit was broken, his body close to the breaking point, because he lived in deathly fear. This, thank the Lord, has changed." Yes, thank the Lord, it has changed. Congregations who have not changed this situation will recognize themselves. One word of scientific caution to the committee, however. The statistics used are based on too few replies and reports to give a very valuable average, as the committee is no doubt aware. Out of 58 pastors questioned, only 47 replies could be used. This allows a possible margin of error so great that no real conclusions can be drawn. If those not replying are among the lowest-paid, or among the highest paid, the entire picture would be changed. However, the committee has done an exhaustive sometimes unpleasant work, and is to be thanked by every pastor and congregation for this illumination. It has always been our observation that a pastor usually shares in the prosperity or the depression of his congregation, and no pastor really expects anything else. We can thank God, can we not?, that no pastor enters the ministry because of the possibility for a high salary.

PAGING THROUGH the Report to the Convention with our editor's eye, we were once again amazed by the awe-inspiring amount of work that has gone into its preparation. The cooperation of all those reporting, and the various synod offices involved, in itself is no small matter. The editing, organizing, checking and re-checking that must be necessary presents a monumental task which nothing but grueling, painstaking work can overcome. The synod in convention will no doubt thank the president for his report. We would like, in this paragraph, to thank him publicly as well for the tremendous expense of energy he has endured in assembling all the other reports, etc., with a

## East-West Relations May be Major Issue at LWF Assembly

Minneapolis—(NLC)—Should churches in the free West maintain relations with churches in the communist East?

That question, now being raised with increasing frequency in world Protestantism, may erupt into explosive controversy at the Third Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation here this summer. Its sessions are scheduled August 15-25.

In the opinion of Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, executive secretary of the LWF, the problem of East-West church relations could become a major issue in the plenary sessions of the Assembly, at which delegates from the 57 member Churches in 29 countries will chart the course of the federation for the next five-year period.

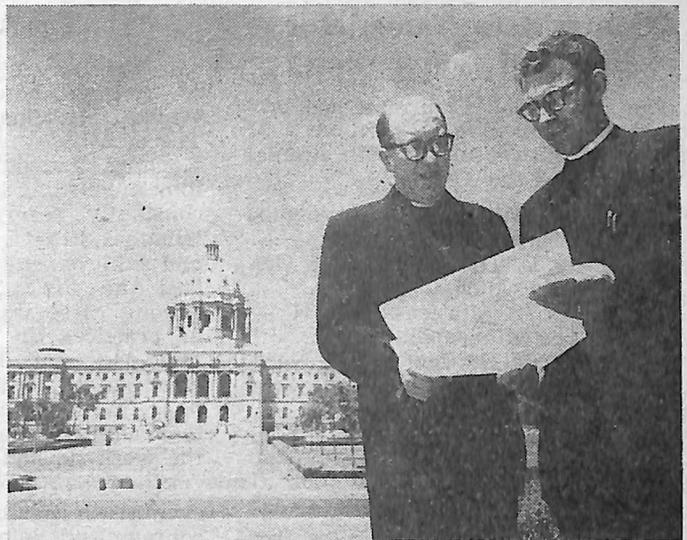
"It has been the policy of the federation to seize every opportunity to establish contact with Lutherans everywhere, regardless of the political system under which they live," he said. "We are now in touch with all known Lutheran groups in the world."

Dr. Lund-Quist noted that both in the World Council of Churches, where Lutheran members are a majority, and in the LWF "the churches more and more recognize a need for a re-evaluation of contacts between East and West to determine the kind of relationship that should exist."

The issue has been raised most sharply, he pointed out, by the Church of Norway through its former Primate, Bishop Eivind Berggrav, who has questioned the wisdom of relations with church leaders in satellite countries who are obviously supported by the Communist regimes.

During the days of the Nazi occupation of Norway in World War II according to Bishop Berggrav the Norwegian Church would have opposed and misunderstood any outside contact with the Quisling bishops installed by the invaders.

"Bishop Berggrav feels strongly that there ought to be some understanding among us as to what kind



The grounds in front of the Minnesota state capitol building will be filled with at least 100,000 (some say 200,000) persons the afternoon of August 25 for the Concluding Festival Service of the Lutheran World Federation's Third Assembly in Minneapolis. Where these people will be placed is explained by Dr. E. Clifford Nelson (right), director of the Assembly, to Dr. Carl E. Lund-Quist, executive secretary of the Federation from Geneva, Switzerland. Church leaders from more than 30 countries will attend. Dr. Nelson has taken a two-year leave of absence from Luther Seminary in St. Paul to serve as Assembly Director. Dr. Lund-Quist has been living in Geneva, where LWF headquarters are located, for the past six years. He is an American citizen and member of the Augustana Lutheran Church.

of contact there should be with Communist-dominated churches," the LWF executive said.

While this could become one of the chief points of debate at the Assembly, Dr. Lund-Quist said that "it is questionable whether we could reach an agreement on the issue," due to the conflicting views of the federation's member churches.

"Asian churches, such as India, would favor continuing visits to churches in China and other parts of the communist world," he added. "Even among Americans, there is difference of opinion as to the value of these contacts."

Dr. Lund-Quist said that developments in the churches of Hungary before and after the revolution in that country last fall "emphasize the value of continued contact with churches in isolation behind the Iron Curtain."

He said he was convinced that the willingness of the Communist government to negotiate with the Lutheran World Federation on the church situation in Hungary "was due in no small part to the ties which we had maintained over the past decade."

Dr. Lund-Quist stated as his personal belief that "we should continue to seek contacts and make visits wherever there are faithful congregations and pastors."

"Even though we may disagree with their particular church-state relationship, we have a bond of unity with them that rises above political differences," he said.

minimum amount of secretarial help, and publishing them so conveniently for our use.

THIS IS THE 80th convention of our synod, a significant year. Those of us who love the synod will praise Almighty God for these 80 years. Through this Church we have been better able to discover ourselves, our divine purpose, and our eternal destiny. We will ask for God's continuing blessing on our Church, whatever its future course, and remain true in our dedication to our Lord, the Master, under His Spirit.

## Committees Named for Ringsted Convention

The Convention Chairman has proposed the following as members of major committees at the 80th Annual Convention of the AELC:

### Findings Committee A (President's, Dist. Presidents' Reports)

Rev. Peter D. Thomsen, 716 W. Oak St., Greenville, Mich.—Chairman

Rev. Ottar S. Jorgensen, 4434 — 41st Ave. So., Minneapolis, Minn.

Rev. Thorvald Hansen, Cozad, Nebr.  
Mr. Harry A. Nielsen, 1304, 23rd Ave., Menominee, Mich.

Dr. F. N. Thomsen, Tyler, Minn.

Mr. Harold Smith, 1717 No. 82nd Ave., Seattle, Wash.

Mrs. Hans J. Schmidt, Rt. 4, Cedar Falls, Iowa.

### Findings Committee B (Grand View College and Seminary Reports)

Rev. Charles Terrell, Newell, Iowa—Chairman

Rev. Harry S. Andersen, Route 3, Marlette, Mich.

Rev. Paul E. Wikman, 8500 Maryland Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Mr. E. Vendelboe Nielsen, 36 Willow Road, Watsonville, Calif.

Mr. F. G. Brandes, Askov, Minn.

Mrs. Chris Nelsen, Exeter, Nebr.

Mr. Holger Nielsen, 18 Henry St., Metuchen, New Jersey.

### Findings Committee C (Matters of Finance)

Mr. Aksel Nielsen, 1612 74th Ave., Elmwood Park, Ill.—Chairman

Mr. Paul Blinkilde, 29153 Southgate Drive, Birmingham, Mich.

Mr. David Christensen, 1126 Patton St., Waterloo, Iowa.

Mr. Erling J. Grumstrup, P. O. Box 21, Circle Pines, Minn.

Mr. Fred C. Swendsen, D.S.R. El Campo, Texas.

Rev. Eilert Nielsen, 405 North 4th St., Clinton, Iowa.

Rev. Harold Petersen, Askov, Minn.

### Findings Committee D (General Matters)

Rev. Ronald Jespersen, Box 325, Danevang, Texas—Chairman

Rev. Vagn Duus, Alden, Minn.

Rev. M. Mikkelsen, Lindsay, Nebr.

Mrs. Viggo Sorensen, 3629 Washington Ave., Racine, Wis.

Mr. Carl A. Jensen, 1509 Osceola, Des Moines, Iowa.

Mrs. Chris Meyer, Lake Benton, Minn.

Mr. Christ Jensen, 882 Sternberg Rd., Muskegon, Mich.

### Committee on Resolutions

Mr. A. C. Nielsen, 2103 Glenbrook Dr., Des Moines, Iowa—Chairman

Rev. Johannes Knudsen, 1033 South 10th St., Maywood, Ill.

Rev. Howard Christensen, 19900 Greenfield, Detroit, Mich.

Mrs. Sylvia Esbeck, Kimballton, Ia.

Rev. Harald A. Petersen, Route 3, Luck, Wis.

Mr. Herbert Lang, Gordon, Nebr.  
Mrs. Chester Petersen, Gayville, S. D.

## To A Friend

In February, 1946, I wrote a tribute to Irving Andreassen for the Bda Wauka, Medicine Lake school paper. The occasion was his retirement from teaching, forced by illness which left him languishing in bed for weeks with constantly recurring fever. In the tribute I listed some of the qualities and achievements that had characterized the life of Irving Andreassen. Among these was the way in which he practiced the scout law: "and defeat does not down him." At the close of the tribute I voiced the fervent hope of myself and his many friends that he might soon recover to continue the work he had so well begun.

Few of us believed that Irving would ever teach again, but his dauntless courage and determination proved us wrong, for he returned to teaching the following year and over a period of eight years continued, by the expenditure of almost superhuman effort, to teach and to further his own education.

In April of 1954 I again assumed some of Irving's teaching duties while he went away to seek treatment during the closing weeks of the school year. This time he was leaving teaching for good. His heart and soul were in the school he had served to the utmost of his strength for so many years, and I know that it was a heart-breaking experience. I shall never forget the empty and faraway look in his eyes as he fumbled with his books and papers while giving me instructions for carrying on with his classes.

During ten years of close association with Irving in educational work I came to know him intimately as a man whose adherence to high principles together with a liking for children and young people and a keen sense of humor made a lasting impression on students, fellow faculty members, and many other friends.

Former students remember the lively parties he used to give. They remember the time he took a pupil convalescing from an appendicitis operation to a picnic. They remember the outings of Boy Scouts whom he served as Scoutmaster. They remember how when he overheard some reluctant students wondering what they might be getting into in square dancing, slyly ventured: "Well, I'll tell you what I think they're going to do. I think they're going to hurt you." They remember the long extra hours he used to spend at school helping journalism students put out the school paper and annual. They remember the friendly counsel that was always available when they were in trouble and needed help. They remember too that he was a man of honor and expected the same in his students. A student who had been guilty of unethical tactics and thought he was getting away with it once came to him and asked why he had been given an F for the period. He received the stern reply, "Because

you've been cheating for the whole six weeks."

One of Irving's most cherished achievements was the tradition of excellence which he established for his journalism students and the school newspaper. Over the years this paper repeatedly received recognition among the best in the state and was referred to as an example to be emulated. It was with the greatest pleasure that I was informed by the head of the journalism department of Montana State University that the gold key, awarded to the outstanding journalism advisor for the year, was to be awarded to Irving Andreassen.

Those who knew Irving well will remember his matchless wit and droll humor. It was a common occurrence to have him join a group at the end of the school day and relax the tension with some appropriate dry remark or joke. His clever wit made him a regular choice as master of ceremonies at banquets and social events. He once won a contest for the best masquerade makeup simply by the way he parted his hair and the expression he wore during the evening.

Highlights of the history of the Dagmar community were portrayed in a booklet entitled "The First Fifty Years," compiled and published by Irving for the Golden Jubilee celebration, October 6 and 7, 1956. This book, representing an enormous amount of research, will be cherished as a memorial not only to the Dagmar Community but to the author.

Irving Andreassen was born on January 1, 1914, a native of the Dagmar Community. He passed away on April 23, 1957, after his physical condition had been steadily reduced over a period of twenty years by the crippling disease, multiple sclerosis.

On Sunday morning the message of Easter was proclaimed in the churches of the world. Two days later, with the message still ringing in their minds, friends and relatives were to find comfort in this message as they mourned the loss of a departed one.

Irving Andreassen's life was cut short, but his life was a sermon in Christian living. In spite of physical handicap his influence was felt far and wide. He may not be famous in our history books but his memory will be enshrined in the hearts of former students, fellow teachers, and the people to whom he has been a friend and counsellor. He was a devoted son and a loving husband. His dauntless courage and determination in the face of physical handicap provided a lesson in compassion to many students. It may truly be said of him that "When the great scorer comes to mark your final score, it's not whether you won or lost but how you played the game."

May God richly bless the memory of Irving Andreassen.

Henry Jorgensen.

## OUR CHURCH

**Detroit, Michigan.** Bishop Gudmund Schiøler, Roskilde, will speak at St. Peder's Church here August 1, and is scheduled for Trinity Church, Chicago, on August 4 in the forenoon, and St. Stephen's church in the evening of the same day. He will be one of the principle speakers at the Ringsted convention.

**New York City.** Dr. Arthur V. Jensen, son of Synod Ordainer Valdemar S. Jensen, was appointed Assistant Dean of New York Medical College on July 1, 1957. The school is the oldest chartered medical school in New York, and is the ninth largest in the U. S. Dr. Jensen is an alumnus of Grand View College, Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., and Cornell University.

**Troy, New York.** We have a report that Pastor Einar Anderson has resigned here, in order to continue his schooling.

**Tyler, Minnesota.** The Danish Folk-Meeting will be held in Tyler October 15-20. Pastor and Mrs. Enok Mortensen expect to be home again from their year's stay in Denmark, and their European tour which is in progress at this writing.

**Pasadena, California.** Belated congratulations to Jens Kristian Jensen, former active pastor in the Synod, who was 75 years old June 10.

**Los Angeles, California.** The mid-city church property here was the campsite for 22 teen-age campers during the week end of July 26, with the two meeting halls turned into dormitories for boys and girls. Camp was under the direction of Pastors A. E. Farstrup and Verner Hansen, and included outings to the beach, swimming pool, a nearby "ghost town," an ocean aquarium, and a visit to the Hollywood Bowl to see the stars of the Royal Danish Ballet. — At services in Danish on Pentecost, Mr. Axel Pedersen, a lay-member of the congregation, preached the sermon.

**Seattle, Washington.** For its program in February entitled "Parade of American Church Music" the choir of St. John's church here, under the direction of Talmage F. Elwell, was awarded highest national honors in the field of sacred music by the National Federation of Music Clubs at its recent convention in Columbus, Ohio. The citation read, "The very finest sacred program of the Parade of American Music. Comprehensive and correctly programmed. Judges suggest that all other church choirs follow suit. Congratulations. Double award." Scriptural readings were by the pastor, Dr. Jens C. Kjaer, and from the early Bay Psalm Book.

**Waterloo, Iowa.** The 1957 Vacation School served 169 boys and girls in 14 classes, with 27 volunteer teachers and special workers . . . . A new 16 mm. Bell & Howell sound projector has been added to permanent equipment here. Richard Sorensen is pastor.

**Minneapolis, Minnesota.** The Men's Club here sponsored an interesting evening recently, a discussion on Lutheran Unity, with a panel consisting of Pastor Harris Jespersen, Moderator, and Dr. Johannes Knudsen, AELC, Dr. H. J. Hokenson, Aug., and Dr. A. C. Ahlen, ULCA.

**Dagmar, Montana.** A recent quarterly meeting of the congregation began with a showing of the Mission film, "From the Jungles of Assam." The meeting decided on a renovation of the church basement, and voted to pay 1 cent per mile travel expenses of the pastor to conventions and "other meetings vital to the local church." A new permanently-installed movie screen has been placed in the parish hall.

**Fredsville, Iowa.** The ladies' Aid and the Lutheran Guild here combined to pay the expenses of papering and painting in the parsonage for Pastor and Mrs. C. A. Stub. A new door on the front was also added. The parsonage is also to be painted on the outside soon.

**Dwight, Illinois.** Pastor J. C. Aaberg, retired, is serving as interim pastor here. However, we have read in the "Santal Missionary" that Pastor Aaberg has undergone surgery in the Kankakee, Ill., hospital. The operation went well, and Pastor Aaberg expects to be completely recovered soon.

**Lincoln, Nebraska.** Dr. Otto Hoi-berg, widely known in our Synod, and author of "Exploring the Small Community," will visit Turkey for two years as an advisor to the government. He is a professor at the University of Nebraska.

## WMS President's Report

(Continued from Page 10)

this year. At our convention last year we spent a large part of our time discussing projects. It would seem that it is to have several projects, as has been suggested by one of our board members, namely, our vice president. Mrs. Richard Sorensen has spent some time in preparing this item for presentation, and I suggest that at this point we permit Mrs. Sorensen to present her recommendations, as approved by the Board.

Because the contents of our Handbook, which was discussed last year, is dependent upon the final form and plan presented by our constitution, our committee has delayed action on this project.

The annual meeting of the National Board of Managers of United Church Women met at Chicago on April 29 and 30. WMS was represented by Mrs. Hans Egede, Mrs. Ernest Nielsen and the president. We found the meeting stimulating and interesting throughout and feel privileged to be permitted to represent WMS.

In order to make us all better acquainted with the United Church Women, of which WMS is now a denominational member group through our synodical affiliation with the Na-

tional Council of Churches of Christ, we have included in our convention packets a number of leaflets pertaining to this organization. Please study them carefully. WE are members of this vast organization of American church women. As such it is our responsibility to take part in its activities and share in its program.

The National Board of Managers wishes to encourage support of its work at the national denominational level. Several of the denominational groups have begun to contribute to the national budget. I would recommend that WMS consider this request. As a member group we should assume our obligations as well as our privileges. I would recommend that we make a contribution this year of \$50.00 to the general operating fund of United Church Women.

You will also find in your packet several items of literature describing the work of the Santal Mission. Since this is the only foreign mission which our Synod supports, it would seem that we could make that support more effective. Encourage your local groups to contribute an extra gift to the Santal Mission this year and to try to raise our general contributions to this worthy mission. The slides described on the mimeographed sheet provide excellent material for programs for your meetings, and also for other groups in your congregations. We can also support the Santal Mission by arousing interest in the work and by encouraging others to contribute.

The Pilgrim Press, which publishes each year a series of mission study materials for the National Council of Churches of Christ has provided us with literature describing their current series. This material is also included in your packets. I would strongly recommend that your local groups consider this material for use in planning your programs. It is widely used in many denominations in the NCCC. Hundreds of thousands of church women throughout the United States study this material.

One of our pastors has suggested that WMS prepare a kit of materials for our local leaders containing suggestions for programs, helps in leading devotions, handbooks for program chairmen, the officers, and other committee members. The cost of such a kit will amount to about \$2.50 to \$3.00. This material would be very valuable to our local societies. I would be interested in having the members of this convention express their opinion and suggestions on this matter. Each group which purchases the kit would assume the cost, so there would be no expense to WMS.

Let us all pray that God will guide our hearts and our thoughts that we might make wise decisions as we approach our task at this WMS convention, so that our organization will continue to progress and bring honor to His Name as we attempt to serve our Lord and our fellowmen.

Emilie Stockholm, Pres.

### Greetings From Brush, Colorado

During the last few months, we have made extensive improvements which included the addition of a new "study" in order to modernize our parsonage. After being without a pastor for several months, it was a great pleasure to welcome Pastor and Mrs. Marius Krog and Dana on July 1.

During the vacancy our congregation has met every Sunday for worship services conducted by visiting pastors or by members of the congregation.

Eben-Ezer celebrated a quiet and restful Fourth of July by having a program outdoors at 3 p. m. Pastor Krog delivered an inspiring message to the inmates of the Home and several visiting friends. After the program, supper was served to everyone on the lawn.

Our congregation met at Luther hall Sunday evening, July 7, for a reception to welcome Pastor Krog and family.

On Sunday forenoon, July 14, our district president, Thorwald Hansen of Cozad, Nebr., came to Brush to install Marius Krog as our pastor.

Our Mission Study Group is not very large. Usually 12 to 16 members attend. Every year in October we have a "silver tea" with a visiting speaker. This is our only project for making money. A free will offering is taken at each meeting. We contribute at least \$50 each year to WMS. The regular meetings are held in the homes of various members, using missionary books for study. Our July meeting was different, as it began at 9:30 a. m., with the hostess serving us breakfast before the meeting.

We have quite a large Sunday school, considering the size of the congrega-

tion. Our adult Bible class meets loyally each Sunday during Sunday school.

Under the able leadership of Pastor Krog, we are looking forward that the work among the younger groups will prosper. We anticipate progress in our church in the months and years ahead. In the meantime, the Krogs are making themselves at home in the improved parsonage which they claim is very cozy. Pastor Krog is looking forward to a big flower garden next summer. Already now, he is having fun every week when it is his turn to irrigate around the place; perhaps he won't find it funny when his turn comes in the middle of a dark night!

Esther Larson, Secretary.

### To The Editor

Article II has become a very controversial issue, if for no other reason than the manner in which it was adopted. The activity that took place on the floor of the convention in Muskegon certainly proves the lack of interest on the part of many who were in attendance, on a matter that deserves the undivided attention of every member of the synod.

Article II, part 1, (in regards to confession) is as basic as God Himself. When we confess our faith through the Apostle's Creed there is not a soul on earth who can be doubtful of what is our belief. It is a strong and precise statement that leaves no possibility for contradiction through interpretation.

After making this clear statement of faith we proceed to attempt to place a limitation on the Word of God knowing that there is no limitation to the Word of God. We have left ourselves vulnerable to contradiction through interpretation. This is entirely against the Word of God. He has shown us the way through His teachings which are positive statements that no man can misunderstand. When we try to explain to our children various lessons in life we tell them as plain and simple as we possibly can, so there will be no doubt in their minds as to what we have told them. Then why shouldn't we proclaim to all the world exactly how we feel, especially in regards to the ideals and principles which we believe. It is absurd to approach a subject as profound as this and say it in a manner which someone else is likely to misconstrue so that it says something entirely different.

Martin Luther has discussed this very same issue and treats it in a firm manner. "A man's word is a little sound, that flies into the air, and soon vanishes; but the Word of God is greater than heaven and earth, yea, greater than death and hell, for it forms part of the power of God, and endures everlastingly; we should, therefore, diligently study God's Word, and know and assuredly believe that

God himself speaks unto us" (Table-Talk, No. XLIV).

There were two instances brought to our attention shortly after the 1956 convention. The religious editor for the Minneapolis Star and Tribune published his report of our convention and omitted the complete text of our new article, and in so doing misinformed THOUSANDS of readers in one of the largest Lutheran communities in the United States. The editor of "THE LUTHERAN," a publication for the ULCA, did a better job in his report but still misinterpreted the same Article. This is a very unhealthy condition, if left to remain as it now stands. When I tell a man something I want him to know just how I feel about it. I am sure Christ would have it no other way. If the teachings of our Lord were no clearer in text than ours, then certainly we would be building on sand. Let us strive to remove the sand and replace it with rock, for a firmer foundation.

Once again convention time is nearing. I hope that the people throughout the entire synod will give a little thought to this issue. By thinking and discussing Article II, Section II with friends and family, the delegates to the 1957 convention should be well informed to develop something of a more concrete nature.

Richard L. Morris.  
Hopkins, Minnesota.

### Ecumenical Aspects of World Lutheranism

(Continued from Page 3)

the Ministry, the Sacraments, the place of Church Order, had to be carefully investigated so that we might better understand "the differences in our unity and the unity in our differences" — to borrow the famous phrase of the Amsterdam World Conference.

This is the reason why confessional and denominational consideration have a legitimate place in the ecumenical movement of our days.

We have just entered the third stage of ecumenicity and its real goal lies still ahead of us. We will have to find out more clearly what forms of expressing our unity we can find in our days. But the only loyal contribution of a particular denomination towards this common aim is the attempt to represent within its denominational framework as clearly and purely as possible the One Holy Apostolic Catholic Church of our creed.

We do not yet know whether the grace of God and the power of His Holy Spirit will use this world-wide Assembly in Minneapolis as an instrument to vitalize the Lutheran Church. But if this happens it will be an immediate contribution to the Christian vitality of the Church Universal.

The most completely lost of all days is that on which one has not laughed.  
—Chamfort.

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.

August 5, 1957

I am a member of the congregation at \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

New Address \_\_\_\_\_

JENSEN, JENS M. RTE. 2,  
TYLER, MINN. 6-5