

# Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



The two enlargements shown here are part of a set of 10 such pictures being used in a display on "Youth Work in the Lutheran Church" prepared for the Lutheran World Federation Third Assembly in Minneapolis, August 15-25. Each picture measures 6x8 feet, and portrays some phase of youth activities in the churches. It might take a Solomon to tell which are the real people. Only three of them are — Dr. W. E. Bergstrand, Youth Director of the Augustana Synod, at left; Miss Lorraine Bergstrand is behind him, and the Reverend Carl Manfred, Associate Youth Director, is at the center. Dr. Bergstrand is chairman of this exhibit which is one of 16 being prepared for the Assembly under the general theme, "What Lutherans Believe and Do."

## RESOLUTIONS

1. Be it resolved that the American Evangelical Lutheran Church in convention assembled at Ringsted, Iowa, express its gratitude:
  - a. to the members and friends of St. John's Lutheran Church and to Pastor and Mrs. Carlo Peterson for extending the invitation to hold our convention in their midst and for the hospitality and efficient service we have received;
  - b. to St. Paul's Lutheran congregation of Ringsted for their help and cooperation in serving the needs of this convention; and to Ringsted Presbyterian Church;
  - c. to the Board of Education of the Ringsted Public School for making available to us the excellent facilities of its new school building;
  - d. to other citizens and organizations of Ringsted and friends from other congregations for their part in serving us in various ways at this convention.
2. Be it resolved, that the convention express its appreciation to the convention officers and clerical staff for their diligent work in preparation for and during the course of this convention.
3. Be it further resolved that:
  - a. since all men are created by God in His image without distinction that can be expressed with discrimination in terms of nationality or race, it is mandatory for those who believe in God through His incarnate Son to strive for equality of opportunity for all the races of our country in all areas of human living. Among other things, this means that church fellowship must be open to all, without distinction of nationality or race;
  - b. we commend Dr. Albert Schweitzer for his courage in calling to the attention of mankind the danger of fall-out of radio-active materials as a result of the explosion of nuclear weapons; we concur in the statement of the World Council of Churches which points out that the condemnation of modern warfare "finds broad support in the fact that total war in the sense of warfare without any limitations in the methods employed, is universally in conflict with the conscience of mankind," and then adds: "We know that a comprehensive program for disarmament must proceed by stages, and we realize how much depends on deepening of confidence between the nations. But we urge that as a first step, governments conducting tests should forgo them, at least for a trial period, either together or individually, in the hope that the others will do the same."
  - c. in order that we do not surrender to complacency and frustration, we re-state and re-confirm our trust in the United Nations and particularly its many specialized agencies as instruments of nations and peoples in promoting the peace and welfare of mankind;
  - d. we believe that the goal of aiding and developing the underdeveloped areas of the world should not be overshadowed and replaced by a complete reliance upon military aid, and that efforts to reach the above mentioned goal should be increased and expanded.

Alfred C. Nielsen, Chairman.  
Harald A. Petersen.  
Sylvia D. Esbeck.  
Herbert V. Lang.  
Mrs. Chester Peterson.  
Johannes Knudsen.  
Howard Christensen.



# Summoned by God

Dr. Ernest D. Nielsen

President, Grand View College

At this eightieth annual convention of our church, it may not be amiss to remind ourselves that the march of the faith always is historically conditioned. This is what makes one decade different from another. The issues that constitute the burning questions of one period give way to new problems and challenges in another generation. One cannot look back upon the long course of the church's life without observing that the annual church conventions contribute something to an increasing awareness that the people of God are summoned not only to witness to our generation but to seek and discover the way to the fuller realization of the church's oneness in spirit and body through Christ Jesus. We are not unacquainted with the experience of oneness which the Holy Spirit effects among us, but dare we move forward, as the Holy Spirit may direct the church, into a larger oneness?

As a church we are not unconscious of either history or tradition, but to be historically minded is not equivalent to being enslaved by history. Any enslavement of the church and of the people of God is a defection. The right historical attitude for every generation is to approach its God-given task "with a due sense of the greatness of Jesus, and of the divine power which was somehow working in Him."

We are summoned by God to do His work. We need to grasp realistically that the church is His rather than ours. We are not owners; we are, at the best, stewards and dispensers of the things which Christ, through the Holy Spirit, gives us in order that we may pass them on to others. It is both a wonderful and fearful thing to be summoned by God. What it means when that challenge is accepted in Christian obedience and humility is something which every church can point to in its own history. And at this eightieth convention, I would like to relate the following.

Less than two months ago, on Tuesday, June 25, I visited a church, **Kristianskirken**, in the city of Copenhagen. On the right wall of the entrance to the church I saw a new stone tablet placed there in memory and appreciation of N. F. S. Grundtvig's service in that church. I copied the inscription, which, in translation, reads:

This stone tablet is placed here to speak to coming generations about N. F. S. Grundtvig, who while he was not allowed to administer the Lord's sacraments of baptism and communion, nevertheless, served as a free preacher of the living word of God. Here, under great hardships he prepared for the awakening of Danish congregational life and hymn singing, which, through him, were to emanate from the church of Vartov.

## GLORY BE TO GOD

Wherever the name and word of Jesus Christ are confessed and preached, the kingdom of God is verily present, however infant the beginning.

There is an "oughtness" which we must heed. It calls for a higher obedience. The text is Matthew 7:15-21.

What I am anxious to point out is that whether we are ministers or laymen, we gradually discover, as Bernard Lord Manning wrote that, "Christian experience is ecclesiastical experience," or to put it in another way, it is in and through participation in the life of our respective congregations that we experience most fully the meaning of being a Christian people summoned to do the will of God.

To be summoned by God, to be alive to God in Christ, may mean a break with the past; it always leads in new directions. Here lies probably something of the appeal of the Sermon on the Mount. If there is one thing which is startlingly clear, it is this that for the evangelist who gave us that gospel, the church's authority is Christ. It seems very simple, yet, how often do we not betray the mind and spirit of Jesus by looking elsewhere.

When Jesus says, "Judge not," "beware of false prophets," "not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven," his words strike hard at every man. Do we not want to see justice executed, truth maintained, and godliness practiced? The answer, of course, is yes but the people of God must add **under God**.

We fail to take the Sermon on the Mount seriously because we think the precepts are impracticable as if practicability were the determining factor. The very context in which the Gospel for Today must be interpreted is that of salvation and the expectation of the last day with Christ's return as judge. The tension which arises between the Christian and the secular concept of society is precisely rooted in this that the Christian community, which is the church, knows that it stands under the judgments of God, and all other judgments must ultimately be subordinate to and eventually come under the same judgment.

Every single reform movement which has left a permanent influence upon the church began as a criticism against a defective realization of what the church, by the grace of Christ, was meant to be. Jesus' admonition to beware of false prophets is really a warning against failing to reckon with God. In any age in which man is obsessed with security, whether personal or social, economic or political, religious or secular there will always be those who will advocate action on the basis of expediency rather than truth. Neither the church nor the world has been free from blind witnesses to the truth. The church's leavening influence in human society is undisputed, but we sometimes forget that the impact of society upon the church is no less real. These influences, whether good or bad, are a challenge to the church to meet the unmet needs of society, to show that Christianity is significant for and speaks to our modern situation. That which Christianity has to offer to

---

The message at the main English worship service, Convention Sunday, at Ringsted, Iowa, August 11.



mankind today is not merely **another** opinion. Christians do have opinions and convictions on many of the questions which face the world today, church conventions pass resolutions which often are expressive of Christian conscience, or indicative of the conviction that there is a Christian way of life both for the individual and society. All of it springs from the church's distinctive message. Against the erroneous conceptions of his day, Luther declared, "The true treasure of the Church is the most holy Gospel of the glory and grace of God." The way to escape the danger of diluting Christian truth and of regarding the ethical implications of Christianity as irrelevant to our modern situation is to take note of Jesus' chief concern in the Gospel for Today. Is not His concern this, that we take the will of God seriously and do accordingly? Is not the strongest motivation for Christian ethical action centered in the deeds, on our behalf, of Him whom we rightly call Lord?

We are summoned by God not only to stand under judgment and to be true rather than false; we are also summoned to manifest the Christian way of life. Christian love in action is a reconstructive force; it springs from our response to the redeeming love of God in Christ. Whenever faith becomes active in love, the enabling grace of God in Christ is at work in and through us.

We cannot manifest the Christian way of life in church and society without giving obedience to the will of God a central place in all of our thinking and planning. There is an **oughtness** inherent in the Gospel, which the Christian cannot escape. There are sanctions which cannot be pushed aside from our consideration. Modern world problems show the dilemma which the world faces. The modern world is experiencing a **lostness**, quite different from that sense of having **arrived**, which characterized such men as the poets Heine and Aakjær.

The central theme of the morning devotions at this convention has been that Christ frees and unites. Neither freedom nor unity of the church is achieved without struggle. It will call for a higher obedience than we often practice. It will not lessen the demand that we concern ourselves about the truth, but it will compel us to ask ourselves whether we dare adventure in faith and move into a fuller actualization of that oneness, that catholicity, of the church which we confess.

We need to try to understand today what God is calling our generation of Christians to do. We are summoned to bear good fruit, yes, even much fruit, not for ourselves but for the kingdom of God.

## Election Results

### Synod Convention

Synod Vice President:

Pastor A. E. Farstrup, Solvang, California.

Trustee, Synod Board:

Charles Lauritzen, Dwight, Illinois.

Trustee, Synod Board:

Andrew Smith, Troy, New York.

Trustee, Synod Board:

John Lund, Waterloo, Iowa.

Board of Ordination:

Pastor Ottar Jorgensen, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Pension Board Chairman:

Pastor Viggo Hansen, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

Board of Parish Education:

Pastor Charles Terrell, Newell, Iowa.

Synod Santal Committee:

Pastor Carl Laursen, Marquette, Nebraska.

Lutheran Church Relations Committee:

Pastor Erik Moller, Chicago, Illinois.

Committee on Publications:

Folmer Farstrup, Des Moines, Iowa.

AELYF Board Representative:

Pastor Harald Petersen, Luck, Wisconsin.

Chairman, 1958 Convention:

Dr. Erling N. Jensen, Ames, Iowa.

Assistant Chairman, 1958 Convention:

Pastor Holger Strandkov, Kimballton, Iowa.

Secretary, 1958 Convention:

Pastor Calvin Rossman, Ruthton, Minnesota.

Assistant Secretary, 1958 Convention:

Mrs. Folmer Farstrup, Des Moines, Iowa.

Des Moines Old People's Home Board:

Arthur Marck, Des Moines, Iowa.

Des Moines Old People's Home Board:

A. C. Nielsen, Des Moines, Iowa.

Tyler Old People's Home Board:

Mrs. Jess Larsen, Ruthton, Minnesota.

Note: Two ballots were required to elect one trustee for the Synod Board, Charles Lauritzen defeating Herbert Lang, Hay Springs, Nebraska.

Three ballots were required to elect a Synod Vice President, Pastor Farstrup defeating incumbent Pastor Holger Nielsen, Cedar Falls, Iowa. And three ballots were required to elect a member of the Board of the Des Moines Old People's Home, A. C. Nielsen defeating Mrs. Sam Andersen and Mrs. Peter Jorgensen, both of Des Moines.

Board of Directors, Grand View College:

Dr. C. Arild Olsen.

Note: Election to this Board was held during the Corporation meeting on Friday, August 9.

## My Children's Garden

How seldom grows the rose within my garden  
Unless 'tis planted there.  
But, when I plant and water, watching ever,  
The borders of beauty flare.

So, carefully, in my child's heart, I plant  
The slips of Rose of Sharon;  
Then watch, with prayer, while beauty grows and  
blossoms  
And makes a garden therein.

Mrs. Hilda D. Lingenfelter.

## Lutheran Tidings - PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Office of Publication: Lutheran Tidings, Askov, Minnesota.

POSTMASTER: Send Forms 3597 to ASKOV, MINNESOTA.

Editor: Rev. Verner Hansen, 4260 Third Ave., Los Angeles 8, Calif.

Circulation Manager: Svend Petersen, Askov, Minnesota.

Member of Associated Church Press

Subscription price: 1 year, \$1.25; 2 years, \$2.25

Published semi-monthly on the 5th and 20th of each month. Entered as second class matter September 16, 1942, at the post office at Askov, Minnesota, under the act of March 3, 1879.



## *Highlights and Sidelights*

### Ringsted Convention

Fortunately, it was not one of our largest conventions. We had a sense of crowding, especially at meal times. But this was perhaps the only inconvenience at a most pleasant convention, the 80th Annual meeting of the AELC. Ringsted is not a large town, but it boasts a fine new high school building. The facilities of this building were turned over to the convention and made an excellent headquarters. The gymnasium was decorated nicely, with the banner carrying the convention theme, "Christ Frees and Unites," reminding us continuously of Him who brings us together, in our churches, in our work, and in our convention. Fine loudspeakers made it possible for everyone to hear in the acoustically poor vastness, (for gyms are purposely deadened for obvious reasons.) Meals were served down the hall from the gym, and classrooms along the corridor made good committee areas. Breakfasts were cooked and eaten at the parish hall of St. John's congregation, a mile or two out of town. Weather was balmy, becoming humid, but not as insufferably hot as it often gets in August in Iowa. On Thursday, a slow, soaking rain fell, and observant conventioners could see inches added to the corn and the beans as a result, before they left. The rain was opportune, and probably meant added income to the farm community, and it was a pleasure to share in the joy and the smiles of the farmers over these pennies from heaven.

So much for the physical description. It is more difficult to bring to the reader a description of the spirit, the fellowship, the accomplishments, the inspiration, and the surprises of the meetings themselves. In some ways, what had looked in advance to be quite an uneventful meeting turned into a really momentous session. The details will be brought home by the delegates, and will be published in the minutes. Here we can only be explicit about a few matters. But in the summary found elsewhere in this issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS, points 3, 14, 16, 20, 27, 30 and 32 should be especially noted. These seem to this writer to be the really important decisions taken at the 80th Convention and must be counted as highlights.

It was a convention full of defeat for conservative voices. As a result of the Ringsted meeting, policies, actions and tangibles will now appear which can only be described by the word "new." We have a new Model Constitution, we have a new Synod Constitution, we will have a new Sunday School paper, we will very likely have a new men's dormitory at Grand View, we will have a new Synod vice president, we will have a new Santal mission policy, we will have a new pension system, and all these changes were decided upon quietly but firmly — the only close vote being the one passing the motion to publish a revised Sunday School paper.

The expected serious discussion over our doctrinal statement took place, and it appeared that those who opposed the Article II, Par. 2, statement had gained ground over the year. At any rate, the back-

ers of the new Constitution barely acquired the necessary two-thirds majority, and a handful of votes could have changed the outcome. (Nevertheless, this can not be called a close vote.) It seemed to this writer that the great portion of the convention agreed with those who said that the old "word of God" controversy of sixty years ago is no longer valid today, and that theological terminology has moved along out of "fundamentalist" concepts into an interpretation which is not now singular to us, but quite usual in Lutheran circles. Whatever the reason, the convention passed the constitution into law.

The Santal Mission will now be on our budget. This does not mean that our giving to this cause can relax. On the contrary, we must see to it that we give the more. We normally expect about ten thousand dollars to come in as direct gifts, but our stewardship must be rethought so that this cause will benefit quite a bit more. To put it bluntly, we have not been doing our share, and the decision to put the Mission on the budget is an attempt to awaken us into a realization that we must do more. (The offering taken during the Santal Mission meeting, Friday night, amounted to \$387.27, a generous amount. If each congregation could somehow contribute half that amount, too, the budget would easily be met.)

One of the highlights for us was the little talk given by the representative of the American Bible Society. It was numbing to learn that less than half of the people of the world have heard of Christianity, and have never heard even one sentence of the Bible. On the brighter side, we learned that 250 languages now have the entire Bible in translation, while a total of 1,109 have portions of it. Good news about the "good news."

Many decisions at the convention are taken unanimously, of course. The convention, as our supreme legislative authority, is not always easy to read, and that nebulous something called "the mind of the synod" is often obscured by prejudices and personalities. In retrospect, it is somewhat amazing to see how much work can actually be accomplished by a group where so many people have a voice and where so many conflicting opinions are given opportunity to be heard. Part of the credit goes to the chairman and the assistant chairman, and part goes to the willingness of the delegates and pastors to cooperate. We like to think, too, that we have felt in this 80th Convention the work of the Holy Spirit, directing and assisting, illuminating the uncertain future by the light of faith.

Incidentally, few delegates knew that Chairman Erling Jensen has continued this summer to take home trophy after trophy from the tennis wars, and that following the convention several more important tournaments were to take place. The week before, Dr. Jensen injured a leg muscle, and all through the convention was directing the business with a lower limb heavily bandaged. It seemed to be no handicap.

The Ringsted congregation observed a birthday, and it was a happy coincidence that we could all be present in this 75th Anniversary year. Special, exquisite table decorations on Sunday took note of the event. St. John's is almost as old as the Synod, and the occasion has been made especially memorable for



her members by the labor of love which hosting a convention always is.

The new pastors' pension plan was acted on and passed, together with an urgent plea that all pastors participate. While this writer intends to do so, we were not altogether happy with the progress of the discussion. It seemed to us that too great emphasis was placed on the merit of the pension plan as a kind of "insurance." This does not seem to us to be the spirit of a proper pension, which should be a reward for long and faithful service, primarily. (This is what it is in industry and in many institutions.) We do see a different set of values, however, when it is pointed out that pastors' contributions will help **current** pensioners, and need not be thought of as a kind of self-pre-payment. Social security payments and the new pension schedule will enable all pastors to face old age unafraid.

Other highlights made us happy. The great enrollment at Grand View is astonishing. The current level of enrollment is already now at the mark which was predicted (by "projection") for 1965. The operating funds for the school this year have showed a healthy surplus and enabled the administration to pay off some old debts of several thousands of dollars. New teachers have been contracted for, and the new science building will be ready for use by around the end of the year. In a spirit of joy and optimism, as well as practical faith, the school board has set its sights on an ingathering among Des Moines businessmen of \$250,000, rather than the \$100,000 modestly planned for originally. The new gym hall, a much-needed facility, will soon begin to take shape. The possibility of a new men's dormitory within a couple of years, including new eating facilities, makes the campus future bright. (This will also release much space in "Old Main" for offices, storage, classrooms, etc.)

Perhaps the most surprising decision of the convention was the election of a new vice president. Many attempts have been made to analyze just what the intention of the convention was. The two candidates had been on the same ballot two years ago, and the decision then went to Holger Nielsen, who had served for 10 years on the synod board. This time, the decision went to Ejnar Farstrup. Perhaps the explanation is that the "mind of the convention" every once in a while decides to shuffle things around, as though afraid of too rigid a pattern. The same thing occurred 12 years ago, when Pastor Nielsen defeated also for no apparent reason, an incumbent who had served in the office for about 10 years. At any rate, the synod owes a deep thanks to Holger Nielsen for his 12 years of service as secretary-vice president. He expressed his deep thanks, in turn, for his opportunities on the board and for representing us at Evanston, and at other important meetings. He will now, of course, be available for other assignments and duties and offices, and will continue to serve the synod in other capacities. And certainly popular Pastor Farstrup will make a solid contribution to the synod board.

One of the lighter moments occurred when the convention discussed the new by-laws of the Pension Fund. Article I, Par. 7, (page 119 of the Report) was

a complete impostor. No one seems to know who wrote it in, or where it came from, including the committee. Perhaps gremlins at the print shop were responsible. The paragraph was meaningless, and quickly deleted, but it provided a minor mystery and a major laugh during the proceedings.

Less laughable was the intention of a small group to reprimand the school board for proposing a motion to permit them to borrow over a quarter of a million dollars from the government for a new dormitory without publishing this in advance. There are no rules requiring such advance notice, but it has been the general practice that major matters such as this are discussed in the congregations before coming to the convention floor. In this case, the board of directors had carefully explained that information had come to them within a week or two before convention time, and they believed they would have been negligent in their duties if they had **not** made their proposal. The dormitory was not an entirely new subject, since it has often been talked about in the long-range planning for the school. Three pastors, however, felt that this was a dangerous precedent, and their motion to, as one of them put it, "spank" the board, was intended to be a reference for future conventions showing that this was unusual and unwanted procedure. The reprimand did not receive much support, however. Now, a few days later, we seem to sense that the convention was so happy over its decision, that it did not want anything to dampen its enthusiasm for the development at Grand View. We tried to count the vote, and it appeared from where we sat that only three laymen and three pastors voted for the reprimand.

Next year, the convention will be in Seattle, Wash. It should be of great interest for synod members to see what is probably the synod's largest and best church property, and one of its newest. Congregations all up and down the West Coast will be looking for visitors next year, and the Seattle congregation can expect a record turnout, we are sure.

We thank God for the success of our 80th Convention.

— V. H.

---

### Serving

The sweetest lives are those to duty wed,  
Whose deeds, both great and small,  
Are close-knit strands of unbroken thread,  
Where love ennobles all.

The world may sound no trumpets, ring no bells;  
The book of life the shining record tells.

Thy love shall chant its own beatitudes  
After its own life working. A child's kiss  
Set on thy sighing lips shall make thee glad.  
A sick man helped by thee shall make thee strong.  
Thou shalt be served thyself by every sense  
Of service which thou renderest.

— Elizabeth Barrett Browning.



# Synod Summary

80th Annual Convention, AELC, Ringsted, Iowa

August 6-11, 1957

- 1) A total of 249 votes were registered, (somewhat less than normal). About 50 pastors were present.
- 2) Corrections in Annual Report noted as follows:  
Page 69, line 22, should read \$2,032.38 (not \$3,032.38).  
Page 167, Marvin Fischer Deed should read \$42,250.  
Page 151, Prof. Don Zinger salary should read \$3,300.
- 3) Revised and adopted a Model Constitution.
- 4) Heard the Synod President's introductory remarks (in the Report) read aloud by him, and heard him lead in prayer of thanksgiving for this 80th Convention and the 80 past years.
- 5) Greeted with joy the first report of the Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity.
- 6) Expressed hope that pastors of retirement age would continue in active service, due to the shortage of pastors.
- 7) Noted with sadness the passing of former pastors: J. L. J. Dixen, Erik Bach, Hans O. Jensen, L. C. Larsen, as well as Mrs. Hans Jensen and Mrs. Jens Holst.
- 8) Noted with regret the passing of Synod Board member Jens M. Sorensen, and sent a message of condolence to Mrs. Sorensen.
- 9) Noted the building plans of churches in Enumclaw, Salinas, Circle Pines, Withee, Perth Amboy, Hartford, and Cozad.
- 10) Advised members of churches at Trufant, Flaxton and Moorhead to seek church membership in other nearby churches.
- 11) Released Zion congregation, Canwood, Canada, and Our Saviour's congregation, Brooklyn, from synod membership.
- 12) Greeted, and was greeted by, Bishop Gudmund Schioler, Roskilde, Denmark. The Bishop later addressed the convention and preached at Danish services on August 11.
- 13) Heard interesting, definitive reports from Home Missions at Brown City, Mich., Circle Pines, Minn., and Newark, N. J., from pastors, Harry Andersen, Harris Jespersen and Theodore Thuesen.
- 14) Passed for the second time (and thus into law) the revised Constitution, including the controversial "word of God" paragraph of Article II, Confession and Doctrine. (See page 45 of the Report.)
- 15) Heard greetings from Bishop H. Fuglesang-Damgaard and Missionaries Harold and Mary Riber, Dr. Alfred Beil (Pres. of Iowa Synod, ULCA).
- 16) Recommended that congregations pay pastors a salary of \$3600 minimum per year, plus adequate allowances for automobile and utilities.
- 17) Expressed public appreciation to Statistician Vernon E. Nelson, to Mrs. Elkjer R. Nielsen, to Dr. Cordelia Cox, and to Mr. Axel Thomsen.
- 18) Heard the Synod President give special thanks to God for the success of "Faith and Life Advance" and pay extraordinary tribute to the "Advance" director, Harry C. Jensen, for his leadership and administrative efforts contributing to its success. (Total in cash and pledges: \$215,436.65. Goal was \$150,000.)
- 19) Noted the Gift Fund, and provided by an addition to the By-laws that specified causes may be named by donors to this Fund.
- 20) Passed a budget for next year of \$113,880, of which sum \$96,500 will be allocated for payment by Districts, equally per capita.
- 21) Welcomed Trinity Lutheran Church, Brown City, into synod membership.
- 22) Set a goal of \$18,291 for Lutheran World Action, about \$1.20 per confirmed member.
- 23) Appointed seven representatives to the General Assembly of the NCCCUSA meeting in December in St. Louis. (See page 28 in Report.)
- 24) Passed new rules for the Pastors' Pension Fund providing for the payment by pastors of 2 per cent of their salaries (and offerings, if such are received). Pensions to be \$1,000 annually for man and wife, or \$750 for the single pensioner.
- 25) Heard addresses by Pastor Carl Larsen, American Bible Society, Mrs. Armgard von Alvenslaben, of Hannover, Germany, Dr. Paul Empie, of the NLC, Dr. Kent Gilbert, of the Long Range Program, and welcomed Pastor Jens Thomsen, of Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 26) Noted the faithful work done by Pastor and Mrs. Svend Kjaer at the Des Moines Old People's Home, and welcomed Pastor and Mrs. Alfred Sorensen into this new work.
- 27) Decided to publish a "bi-weekly, 8-page church school paper to be sent to all homes having children of Sunday School age" with a primary and a junior department, and also a monthly teachers' paper. Total cost approximately (for the first year) \$3,100.
- 28) Voted a cost of living bonus of \$50 per pensioner. Voted to authorize the Synod Board to give financial aid to former pastor, Walter Brown, seriously ill, when need arises.
- 29) Accepted the invitation to hold the 1958 convention in Seattle, Washington, with St. John's congregation as host. Also heard an invitation for 1959 from St. Peter's church in Detroit, Michigan.
- 30) Elected, after three ballots, a new Synod Vice President, Pastor A. E. Farstrup, of Solvang, California, (4-year term). Elected John Lund, Waterloo, Iowa, to unexpired 2-year term as trustee.
- 31) Noted the considerably improved salary schedule of teachers and administrators at Grand View, and also increased the Synod President's salary \$650 this year and an additional \$650 next year in order to reach an adequate and comparable eventual salary of \$7,500.
- 32) Noted the 39 per cent increase in college students at Grand View the past year, and authorized the school Board to investigate and negotiate, at a suitable time, a government loan for the building of a new men's dormitory. (Estimated cost, about \$275,000, rooming 80 students). Loan to be payable over 40 years, partially through rent.
- 33) Noted that the local Des Moines drive in behalf of Grand View has been planned for the near future, with the goal revised upward from \$100,000 to \$250,000.
- 34) Welcomed Prof. Don Zinger to the Seminary staff. Field: Church History. Pastor Zinger is from the ULCA. Noted the probabilities for the largest Seminary enrollment for 1959. Urged the development of congregational life to inspire many more future pastors.
- 35) Noted the future plans for Pastors' Institutes, and urged congregations to pay travel expenses of pastors to attend.

Note: These points are unofficial notes. For more detail, be sure to refer to the official Minutes.

The Editor.





## Paging Youth

American Evangelical Lutheran  
Youth Fellowship

EDITOR: EVERETT NIELSEN

2400 42nd No.  
Edgewater Park,  
Seattle, Washington

### Atlantic District Convention Report

Hartford, Connecticut was the scene of the Atlantic District convention this year. Delegates from Brooklyn, Bridgeport, Perth Amboy, Newark and Hartford, along with three advisors and four pastors convened to elect officers and conduct their business.

The National AELF convention theme, "Consider Your Call," was introduced, along with discussion of the national budget, Paging Youth and the Lutheran World Federation. These items were discussed and the national president's report was read. It was decided to send a gift of \$25 to the Lutheran World Federation for use in defraying the expenses of the guests.

The main discussion centered around the camp that is in the making for this district. A portion of land called Coventry has been acquired for a campsite, but due to legal difficulties, definite action could not yet be taken. After considerable discussion, it was decided to set up a committee "for the purpose of promoting social functions in order to solicit funds for the building of Operation Coventry. This money will be passed directly to the Atlantic AELF district treasurer, who, in turn, will pass the money to the district camp committee as soon as time permits"....

District officers were elected and are as follows: President, John Larsen, 28 Buckley Ave., Hartford 6, Connecticut; vice-president, Skip Blakely, 31 Court Park, West Hartford, Connecticut; treasurer, Bruce Agesen, 651 Hazel Ave., Perth Amboy, New Jersey; and secretary, Margrethe Chadwick, 30 Highland Ave., Nutley, New Jersey.

All who attended agreed that a successful and worthwhile week end had been enjoyed.

### Over The Typewriter

Your editor has enjoyed a fine summer here in the beautiful Pacific Northwest. The new church here in Seattle adds to the always fine services conducted by Dr. Kjaer; the view of the Olympic Mountains from one of the windows in the church are inspiring and relaxing, while making one feel small in the eyes of God. There have also been the hydro-plane races which were thrilling, the drives through the beautiful parks, around the lakes and Puget Sound, clam digging on the beach, and many more happy times. The point your editor wishes to make is this: It is difficult to appreciate the beauty of God's earth until he slows down.

Rushing through the busy streets of Seattle to go to work at busy Boeing, I take time to look around at the people rushing with me. They look unhappy and troubled. But when I see these same people on the beach on Sunday afternoons, they are happy and gay.

They enjoy what they have been so graciously given, but only for a few hours a day on one day. They are not alone in their feelings, for most of us act in the same way every day.

About a year ago, I wrote a few words in this column about the terrific pace of our life and how fast we had to travel to keep up. It has not changed, but has perhaps increased in speed.

I ask you, the young people of today and the adults of tomorrow, "Where are we going?" Do we gain by hurrying through life until we have no time to remember what we have seen? Are we too busy to appreciate the autumn colors, the singing of the birds, the smile of the little child?

It would be well if we could but "shift down" as the truck driver does when he comes to a hill. We have so much to wait for, and so little to hurry for. Someone once said: "All things comes to he who waits." Our mode of life today seems, rather, to be, "All things comes to he who hurries!" Is this not one reason our mental institutions are filled to overflowing?

My point is this: After having hurried through the summer, slow down and take stock of the things which you have enjoyed so much during the summer. Thank God for the opportunities that have been presented during the year. But, most of all, slow down and think!

Your editor will be returning to Des Moines in a few short weeks to enter Grand View Seminary. It will be with fine memories that I leave the Water Wonderland, Seattle, with its mountains, lakes and trees. And I have taken time to thank God for the wonderful times that I have had. Send your mail to me before September 1, because that will be the last issue datelined Seattle. But, please, send something!

### Report From the District VII Junior Camp Camp Nysted, July 7-12

This year the camp opened at supper time on Sunday, 40 campers being registered at that time. Three entered later. We had six men counselors: Pastors Arnold Knudsen, Willard Garred, Carl Laursen, Thorvald Hansen, and student pastors, Lavern Larkowski and Folmer Farstrup. Miss Marilyn Missen, Mrs. Carl Laursen, Mrs. Thorvald Hansen and Mrs. Folmer Farstrup were the girls' counselors.

A typical day went as follows: The bell rang at 7:30 a. m. for the campers to get up and get ready for breakfast. After breakfast we cleaned our rooms or were on K.P., then we went to devotions, led by Thorvald Hansen, held in the church, and then to our classes. At 10:30 we had sports. The teams as chosen were named: Greg's Go Getters, Judy's Jumpers, Steve's I Don't Knows, and Lannie's Undecideds. The teams rotated playing volley ball and softball.

At 11:45 the K.P.s assisted with dinner which was served at 12:00. The cooks were Mrs. Hertha Jacobsen and Mrs. Begitta Jacobsen. 12:30 was rest period — everyone went to bed for an hour before going to crafts.

At 1:30 we had crafts. Lillian Laursen taught the girls how to make feather corsages. She had dyed duck feathers different colors and showed how to

(Continued on Page 15)



# Our Women's Work

MRS. ELLEN KNUDSEN, EDITOR

1033 South Tenth Street

Maywood, Illinois



## Women's Mission Society Board

PRESIDENT: Miss Emilie Stockholm,  
3320 Evergreen Street, Chicago, Illinois.  
VICE PRESIDENT: Mrs. Oda Sorensen,  
1456 Hawthorne Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa.  
TREASURER: Mrs. Ela K. Nielsen,  
48 First Street, Edison Township, Fords, New Jersey.  
SECRETARY: Mrs. Thyra R. Nussle,  
2615 West 104th Place, Chicago 43, Illinois.  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY: Mrs. Esther D. Sorensen,  
Askov, Minnesota.  
HONORARY PRESIDENT: Mrs. Mary S. Knudstrup,  
345 Third Street, Manistee, Michigan.

## Minutes of Annual Convention of WMS

FRIDAY and SATURDAY, AUGUST 9 and 10, 1957  
AELC Convention, Ringsted, Iowa

The meeting was opened at 6:30 p. m., by singing, "Lord, I wish to be Thy Servant." Miss Emilie Stockholm led us in devotions, reading from the letter of James, Chapter 1, verse 5. Miss Stockholm extended a sincere welcome to the many women in attendance and expressed wishes for a meeting of genuine Christian fellowship, during which we could accomplish much towards planning for a year of real growth through unification of all our church women.

The agenda was presented by Miss Stockholm and upon motion was adopted.

During the week, packets had been distributed to all the women of the convention. These contained, among other things, mimeographed copies of the minutes of the 1956 WMS convention, as well as the various reports to this year's convention. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to dispense with reading of the minutes. One correction was made to read: This committee consisted of Mrs. Ellen Knudsen, Mrs. Thorvald Hansen and Mrs. Delford Henderson. Upon motion, the minutes were accepted.

### Findings Committees:

President's Report: Mrs. Aage Paulsen, Chairman; Mrs. M. Petersen, Mrs. K. Kjolhede, Mrs. E. Grumstrup, Mrs. H. Smith, Mrs. H. Jorgensen, Mrs. T. Knudsen.

District President's Report: Mrs. Ardis Petersen, Chairman; Miss Dagmar Jensen, Mrs. Gertrude Sorensen, Mrs. C. B. Jensen.

Financial Report: Mrs. C. B. Jensen, Chairman; Miss Reeta Petersen, Mrs. Ove Jensen, Mrs. Aage Paulsen, Mrs. Richard Sorensen.

Santal Committee Report: Mrs. Harry Andersen, Chairman; Mrs. Hans Egede, Mrs. Eilert C. Nielsen, Mrs. Erwin Thomas, Mrs. C. A. Stub, Mrs. Harold B. Petersen, Mrs. Ernest Nielsen.

Model District Constitution: Mrs. Marie Mortensen, Chairman; Mrs. H. Jensen, Mrs. P. Nussle, Mrs. J. P. Petersen, Mrs. E. Olsen.

### Santal Committee Report:

Mrs. Harry Andersen, Chairman, urged continued interest and support of our mission in India and placed special emphasis on subscribing to the little paper: The Santal Missionary. The subscription price is only \$1 per year. It would serve to keep us all better informed and as we are informed greater interest will be aroused.

### Proposed Revised Constitution:

This was placed early on our agenda, because the executive board felt the urgency of adopting a workable constitution. Miss Stockholm reported that in answer to our

request for ratification of the proposed constitution the following result had been obtained:

Total groups in the synod	116
Responded	73
Ratified without amending	51
Suggested amendments	22
No	12
Unclassified	7
No report	24

Motion was made, seconded, and carried, to pass on the constitution point by point. Miss Stockholm suggested that we, first, pass on the suggested amendments received in the mail prior to convention time, same to be treated as actual motions.

### ARTICLE III — Membership, Section 1.

Motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to delete: **that desire membership.**

#### Section 2.

Upon motion this section was changed to read: Associate membership may be granted to individuals who are members of the synod, but not members of a local organization. The article as a whole was now adopted.

### ARTICLE IV — Powers, Section 4.

Upon motion this section was changed to read: The executive officers shall be charged with the responsibility of disbursing such funds according to the budget or as ordered by convention or board action. The article as a whole was now adopted.

### ARTICLE V — Convention.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to adopt Article V in its present form.

### ARTICLE IX — Schedule for adoption, Section 1.

Upon motion this section was changed to read: This constitution shall become effective when it has been ratified as a whole by two-thirds majority of the votes cast at the national convention in August 1957.

### BY-LAWS:

#### ARTICLE I — Convention, Section 3.

After some discussion motion was made, seconded, and carried, to refer this section to the constitution committee for further study.

Recess: Motion was made, seconded and carried, to recess until Saturday at 1 p. m.

The meeting reconvened at 1 p. m., by singing the last two stanzas of, "Lord, Jesus Christ, my Savior Blest."

### Constitution Committee Report:

#### ARTICLE I — BY-LAWS — Section 3.

Mrs. Marie Mortensen reported on this particular section which had been referred to the committee for further study before recess on August 9. The committee suggests the following change: A sum not to exceed \$200 shall be allotted yearly from the general fund for traveling expenses for the executive officers attending the annual convention. This sum to be pro-rated on a mileage basis. Upon motion this was unanimously adopted. At this point Mrs. E. Olsen made the motion, which was seconded, to accept the proposed revised constitution as a whole. Objections were raised, because many felt that we were still in need of something definite in regard to our key women. Mrs. Olsen withdrew her motion.

#### ARTICLE II — BY-LAWS — Officers, Section 7.

It was moved and seconded to add, as section 7, the following: The women of each congregation shall elect or appoint a key woman. The length of term shall be determined by the local organizations. Adopted.

(To be continued next issue)



## Lilje Scores Charges of Red "Propaganda" at Assembly

Washington D. C.—(NLC)—Bishop Hanns Lilje, of Hannover, Germany, president of the Lutheran World Federation has strongly scored charges that Iron Curtain delegates to the organization's forthcoming Assembly are secret appointees of Red governments and would use their visits to spread "false propaganda" about freedom of religion in Communist countries.

"We will not be fooled" the German church leader told newsmen in a recent interview. "If there is a man who is just a servant of the other system (atheism) and who does not really care for Christianity, we would soon find him out."

Delegates from nine Communist-ruled countries have been invited to attend the Assembly, August 15-25, at Minneapolis, Minn. for which Bishop Lilje will be the presiding officer.

The German churchman asked that people in the free world not pass judgment upon the leaders of Christian churches behind the Iron Curtain who may be forced to make compromises with their Communist governments.

"From my own experience under the Nazis I know that the lines are not always clearly drawn," he said.

(Bishop Lilje was imprisoned for about nine months by the Nazis and sentenced to hang for his outspoken criticisms of the Third Reich. He was liberated by U. S. troops.)

He urged that representatives from Communist areas be received with cordiality and said he hoped the press would refrain from asking them questions "which are bound to be embarrassing to them."

It would be good both for the Assembly and for them to attend, he added. "It does something to a man to be able to breathe, if only for a few days, the air of freedom that we take so much for granted."

Bishop Lilje noted that the Lutheran Church has taken the stand that "the shepherd must stay with his flock" and that pastors serving congregations in the East Zone must stay there as long as any members remain.

"They have a hard duty to perform," he observed, "and I don't think it is up to us to judge them."

"We know that the Communist governments are against religion and believe that in 50 years or so it will die out and not exist any longer, but our job is to give a constructive Christian testimony, not to argue politics."

Iron Curtain countries from which delegates have been invited to attend the Assembly are Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Poland, Rumania Yugoslavia,

Czechoslovakia and East Germany. At last report 37 leaders from four Iron Curtain countries — East Germany Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary — had been given permission by their governments to attend. No confirmation has yet been received from the others.

## I Gave a Dollar to God

Three thousand for my brand new car,

Five thousand for a piece of sod,

Ten thousand I paid to begin a house—

A dollar I gave to God.

A tidy sum to entertain

My friends in pointless chatter,

And when the world goes crazy mad

I ask: "Lord, what's the matter?"

—Yet there is one big question,

For the answer I still search:

"With things so bad in this old world

What's holding back my church?"

—Selected.



Fifty paintings and 12 pieces of sculpture have been selected by the Art Exhibit Committee for display at the Lutheran World Federation's Third Assembly in Minneapolis August 15-25. Here, Mr. Robert Nelson, Minneapolis, secretary of the committee, and Pastor Richard Hillstrom, St. Paul, chairman, inspect some of the entries. An art jury selected the pieces and paintings from over 250 entries. This is one of the 16 exhibits under the theme "What Lutherans Believe and Do."



## Merger Group Settles All Major Points at Issue

Northfield, Minn. — (NLC) — All remaining major problems referred to the Joint Union Committee of the three Lutheran church bodies scheduled to merge in 1960 were settled at a three-day meeting on the campus of St. Olaf college here.

The points of difference that were disposed of at the session, July 10-12, centered in the authority and the operations of the Board of Trustees of the new Church and in the ownership and financing of its colleges.

The Joint Union Committee represents the Evangelical, American and United Evangelical Lutheran Churches, all of which are officially committed to unite in The American Lutheran Church, which will have more than two million baptized members.

Since the 1956 conventions of the uniting churches, the JUC has been dealing with questions referred to it by those assemblies and with reports from the joint boards on details of the operation of the new church.

The JUC approved changes in the constitution and by-laws of TALC proposed by the joint Boards of Trustees. The intent of these changes is to outline with greater clearness the precise powers of the Board of Trustees and, in general, to strengthen its authority.

Most important of the constitutional changes approved by the JUC dealt with a section which originally said, "The Board of Trustees shall have charge of the general management and control of the business affairs of The American Lutheran Church not otherwise assigned in the Constitution or Bylaws or by the General Convention."

The JUC endorsed a proposal from the joint Boards of Trustees to omit the final portion of this section, so that it will read: "The Board of Trustees shall have charge of the general management and control of the business affairs of The American Lutheran Church."

During the discussion of this point a promise was made that somewhere in the union documents a statement will be included that all boards of the new church are subject to the constitution, by-laws, articles of union and articles of incorporation of TALC.

Typical also of the more precise spelling out of the powers of the Board of Trustees was the JUC's agreement to a recommended change in the by-laws for the new board.

A new paragraph is to be added to the regulations on fund raising which provides that "the inclusion of benevolence items on the district budget or the appeal for funds to the congregations of the districts for other than operational expense must have the approval of the Board of Trustees."

Most important action taken by the JUC regarding the colleges of The American Lutheran Church was one that deals with appropriations for these institutions. It was agreed to insert in the articles of union a new section on "Appropriations for Educational Institutions."

The intent of the formula for appropriations is to guarantee to each of the colleges of the new church an annual allocation for each of the first five years that is at least equal to the average appropriation it received for current operations in the eight years ending with 1959 — providing the general economic

situation permits it.

"Within any balance remaining," the formula continues, "provision shall be made" by the Board of College Education for a fund to be used for contingencies and a fund which shall be distributed according to enrollment on a decreasing scale as enrollments increase over 1,000 students."

The new section ends with a stipulation that "during these five years the Board of College Education shall set up a plan for future appropriations to the colleges and secondary schools."

The next meeting of the Joint Union Committee is scheduled for October 2-4 at Chicago.

## LWF Assembly to Introduce New Service of Worship

Philadelphia — (NLC) — The order of worship that is to appear in the new Service Book and Hymnal of the Lutheran Church in America will be introduced at the Lutheran World Federation's Third Assembly in Minneapolis this summer.

Permission has been granted to use the common liturgy with the new musical settings at the opening service of the Assembly in the Minneapolis Auditorium on Thursday evening, August 15.

It is expected that 10,000 worshippers will participate in the service, with a choir of 1,000 voices leading the congregation in singing the responses of the liturgy.

Bishop Lajos Ordass, head of the Lutheran Church of Hungary is scheduled to preach the sermon on the theme of the Assembly, "Christ Frees and Unites."

Dr. Luther D. Reed, chairman of the Joint Commissions on the Liturgy and the Hymnal, said here that the members had given unanimous approval to the Assembly's use of the liturgy "since we all recognize the advantages that will accrue to the Service Book from such an impressive introduction."

A formal request for permission to use the new common service at the Assembly was made by Dr. John W. Rilling, pastor of St. John's Lutheran church in Minneapolis, who is chairman of the committee on worship for the international gathering.

It is also expected that the new Service of Holy Communion prepared by the Commission on the Liturgy will be used at the Communion Service that will be sponsored by Central Lutheran Church on the morning of Friday, August 16. Such services will be held daily by Central throughout the 11-day Assembly.

According to Dr. Reed, proof has been read on all 602 hymns that will appear in the Service Book and it is expected that plates will be made and the work completed on this phase of the project by mid-April.

As there are three musical settings for the liturgy, work must then be done to prepare some 100 pages of manuscript for the printers. When plates of these are available, reprints will be issued in pamphlet form, choirs rehearsed and recordings made.

"The Book will probably not be in the pews before the first of the year 1958 — though no one knows the exact date," Dr. Reed said. Processes of manufacture are slow and the printing, binding and distribution of a first run of half a million copies will take time.

A general assembly of church musicians and regional conferences for study of the new Service Book, he added, will probably be held next fall.



# The Nature of the Unity we Seek

## Some Problems in Organizational Structures

Walter G. Muelder

**"The Nature of the Unity We Seek" is theme for the first North American Study Conference on Faith and Order to be held at Oberlin, Ohio, September 3-10. About 300 delegates from the U.S. and Canada will attend the meeting sponsored by the Canadian Council of Churches, National Council of Churches, U.S.A., and the World Council of Churches (U.S. Conference). Dean Walter G. Muelder of Boston University School of Theology is author.**

THE OBERLIN CONFERENCE is plowing new ground by raising the fundamental question of the nature of the church unity we seek. This Conference will show that North Americans have a real concern for vital theology and are eager to tackle the hard problems of faith and order. There is a tendency to regard Americans as primarily practical activists with little patience for the finer points of theological reflection. No one should close his eyes to the organizational concerns in churchmanship, though these sometimes substitute for precise thinking on questions of doctrine and ministry. Yet, as Hendrik Kraemer has repeatedly pointed out Americans do not wear their theologies on their sleeves. Through their denominational divisions and encounters in local communities they have, in earlier generations, experienced the cost of ecclesiastical strife. In a situation of political freedom they have seen the tensions in the life of a congregation or a whole denomination end in open schism. They have also seen efforts towards reunion.

Americans have fought over basic questions of doctrine, but they have also fought over the nature of the local congregation, the right kind of polity, the question of authority and freedom in church government and the ways in which church unity should be promoted. Sometimes the discussion and the conflict resemble a secular political campaign more than a humble waiting on the Lord for guidance and understanding. But even political debate regarding the true nature of government, its structure, power, authority and relation to freedom pre-suppose some ultimate commitments about man and society. Theology may not be worn on the sleeve, but it is latent in every serious consideration of organizational structures.

The Oberlin Conference will confront the deeper issues of the organizational unity we seek by considering the life of the local congregation, the work of the state and local councils of churches, the relation of authority to freedom in church, government, and the merits in the variations of denominational polity. In this discussion doctrine will illuminate practice and practice will help to clarify and perhaps modify doctrine.

If the ecumenical movement is to achieve its objectives it must do so in the life of local churches. What does church unity mean in terms of the fellowship of the congregation, its worship, education, mis-

sion and service? What spirit animates the people of God? Does the fellowship bear a true witness to Jesus Christ? Does it provide a voice for those who have no voice? Is it a home where every man can be at home?

Congregational life has taken on many forms both in its outward manifestations and in its corporate inner expressions. Christians reared in one place feel ill at ease in another. Habits of worship and traditions of organization influence the relationships of local churches to each other. How ready are we for a universally satisfactory expression of worship and service?

Local congregations often hinder unity by being dominated by a particular class in the community, or by a few individuals who wish to run the organization, or by an uncharitable spirit, or by looking only to their own immediate concern, or by refusing to accept the missionary obligation of the gospel, or by a spirit of rivalry with churches of other denominations or even in their own. Such problems indicate the need for self-discipline and for exploring with others the kind of Christian community which is truly obedient to Christ, the Head of the Church.

The most characteristic organizational form of ecumenical action in the United States has been cooperation through local, state and national councils. Today the number of state and local councils is pressing toward the thousand mark. This is an impressive development. Many of these councils have done outstanding work in integrating the cooperative endeavor of local churches and of denominations. In some cases the efforts are exceedingly meager. Some councils of churches are more inclusive in their membership and activities at the local and state levels than the National and World Council of Churches. In other cases the present level of cooperation is a hindrance to genuine ecumenical unity. Indeed cooperation along practical and expedient lines is often a substitute for thorough confrontation of the basic issues of doctrine and ministerial orders.

It is impossible to make great progress in church unity so long as the basic theological dilemmas are ignored. This need to bring theology and practice closer together is one of the motivating forces behind the Oberlin Conference. There is a need to make questions of faith and order a regular aspect of interdenominational conversations. In 1952 the Lund Conference on Faith and Order expressed the spiritual

(Continued on Page 16)



## District I Convention

District I of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet for its annual convention at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Bridgeport, Connecticut, September 27-29.

The opening meeting will be on Friday evening, the closing meeting 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.

**Einar Anderson**, District President.

In accordance with the announcement above, Our Saviour's Lutheran congregation invites pastors and members of our churches to be our guests during the District convention, September 27-29. Please send your reservation at least 10 days prior to the meeting, to LeRoy Sorensen, 338 Beechwood Avenue, Bridgeport 4, Connecticut.

**Hans Hansen**, President.

**Viggo M. Hansen**, Pastor.

## 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.

## CONVENTION PROGRAM

THEME: "THE LIVING CHURCH IN ACTION"

**Friday, September 20**

8:00 p. m.—"In The Congregation," Rev. John Christensen, Ludington.

**Saturday, September 21**

9:00 a. m.—"In The Home," Rev. Harald Knudsen, Grayling.

9:45 a. m.—Business session.

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

4:00 p. m.—"On the Field and in the Factory," Rev. Harry Andersen, Marlette.

6:30 p. m.—Women's Mission Society.

8:00 p. m.—"In the Church at Large," Dr. Alfred Jensen, Des Moines.

**Sunday, September 22**

9:30 a. m.—Worship with communion (Trinity), Rev. Edwin Hansen, Liturgist. Rev. Howard Christensen, Detroit, preaching.

11:00 a. m.—Worship with communion (Dannebrog), Rev. Peter Thomsen, Liturgist. Rev. Johannes Knudsen, Maywood, Ill., preaching.

2:00 p. m.—Closing meeting. "Echoes from Oberlin Meeting," Dr. Johannes Knudsen.

## 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.

## Iowa District INVITATION

Delegates and visitors from the congregations of the Iowa District (District IV) of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church are hereby invited to attend the annual district convention to be held in the Oak Hill-Exira parish September 20-22, 1957. Registrations should be mailed as early as possible to Mr. Royal Haner, Brayton, Iowa.

**Rev. Richard H. Sorensen**, District President.

**Dr. Melvin Crane**, Pres. Oak Hill.

**Mr. Hans Christian Andersen**, Pres. St. John's.

**Ronald Hansen**, Student Pastor.

## TENTATIVE CONVENTION PROGRAM

**Oak Hill-Exira, Iowa, September 20-22, 1957**

**Friday, September 20**

10:00 a. m.—Pre-convention district board meeting.

2:00 p. m.—Opening devotions, Rev. Svend Kjaer.

2:30 p. m.—Business session begins.

3:00 p. m.—Coffee.

3:30 p. m.—Business session resumes.

6:00 p. m.—Supper.

8:00 p. m.—Worship service, Rev. Charles Terrell, preaching. Rev. H. P. Jorgensen, liturgist.

**Saturday, September 21**

8:00 a. m.—WMS breakfast with business session following.

8:00 a. m.—Men's breakfast with message by Rev. Don Zinger.

10:00 a. m.—Business session resumes.

12:00 Noon—Dinner.

1:30 p. m.—LWF Assembly discussion, Rev. H. O. Nielsen, moderator; Rev. A. C. Kildegaard, Rev. Holger Jorgensen, Rev. C. A. Stub.

3:00 p. m.—Coffee.

3:30 p. m.—Final business session.

6:00 p. m.—Supper.

8:00 p. m.—Evening program sponsored by WMS.

**Sunday, September 22**

9:00 a. m.—Worship with communion at Oak Hill, Dr. Ernest Nielsen, preaching; Rev. Richard Sorensen, liturgist.

10:30 a. m.—Worship with communion at Oak Hill, Rev. Alfred Sorensen, preaching; Rev. A. C. Kildegaard, liturgist.

10:30 a. m.—Worship at Exira with communion, Rev. Carlo Petersen, preaching; Rev. V. S. Jensen, liturgist.

12:00 Noon—Dinner.

2:15 p. m.—Afternoon meeting, Dr. Leroy Norquist.

4:00 p. m.—Closing lunch hour.



## 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.

## District IX Convention

The annual convention of District IX, AELC, will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, 5515 Phinney Avenue, Seattle, Washington, on September 14 and 15, 1957. In accordance with the constitution of the district each congregation will be entitled to one delegate for every twenty voting members or fraction thereof. All pastors of the district and a full slate of delegates from each congregation are expected to be present.

**Harold E. Olsen**, District President.

### INVITATION

St. John's Lutheran congregation, 5515 Phinney Avenue, Seattle 3, Washington, takes pleasure in inviting all members and friends of District IX, American Evangelical Lu-

theran Church, to the annual district convention, September 14-15, 1957.

All participants will kindly have their reservations for meals and lodging at the church office not later than September 6. Please state time and means of arriving at Seattle.

The church is located near the main entrance of Woodland Park, a few blocks west of Aurora Avenue, which is part of U. S. Highway 99.

**Kristen Jorgensen**, President.  
**Jens C. Kjaer**, Pastor.

### PROGRAM

#### CHRIST FREES AND UNITES

#### Saturday, September 14

- 9:00 a. m.—Morning worship, Pastor Holger M. Andersen. Welcome by Pastor Jens C. Kjaer.
- 10:00 a. m.—Business session.
- 12:00 Noon—Dinner.
- 1:30 p. m.—Business session continued.
- 3:00 p. m.—Coffee.
- 3:30 p. m.—Report from LWF Assembly, Dr. Alfred Jensen and Pastor Harold E. Olsen.
- 6:00 p. m.—Supper.
- 8:00 p. m.—WMS program, Mrs. C. S. Fynboe in charge.

#### Sunday, September 15

- 9:30 a. m.—Family service and Sunday school, Pastor Robert Fallgatter, sermon; Pastor Jens C. Kjaer, liturgist.
- 11:00 a. m.—Morning worship and holy communion, Dr. Alfred Jensen, sermon and Pastor Harold E. Olsen, liturgist.
- 12:30 p. m.—Dinner.
- 2:30 p. m.—Symposium on "Free for Service in the World," Pastor Holger Andersen, coordinator.
- 3:30 p. m.—Coffee.
- 4:00 p. m.—"United to Teach Christianity." How to Teach in the Sunday School. Mrs. George Norman, Robert Koch and others. Film strips and recorded script.
- 5:00 p. m.—Vesper service in Danish, communion, Pastor John Pedersen, sermon; Pastor Jens C. Kjaer, liturgist.
- 6:00 p. m.—Supper.
- 7:30 p. m.—"Our Mission at Home in the Congregation," Pastor Fallgatter. Closing devotions, the district president.
- 8:15 p. m.—Fellowship hour and refreshments.

### New Synod Budget Summary

Home Mission .....	\$14,560.00
Publications .....	12,460.00
GVC and GVS .....	28,230.00
Pensions .....	20,000.00
Welfare .....	2,900.00
Councils and committees ..	8,180.00
Administration .....	13,350.00
Santal Mission .....	14,200.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$113,880.00</b>
Less:	
Pastors' contribution .....	\$ 6,500.00
Miscellaneous income .....	880.00
Earmarked Santal Mission.	10,000.00
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$ 17,380.00</b>

Amount to be allocated to districts .... \$ 96,500.00



## Report From the District VII Junior Camp

(Continued from Page 8)

arrange them in flower shapes. Willard Garred had photography. He showed those interested how to develop, print, and enlarge film. Folmer Farstrup had copper crafts. Lavern Larkowski taught how to finish and paint designs on wood. Arnold Knudsen taught wood carving. Th. Hansen had plastic and wooden belt craft.

At 2:30 we all went to Grand Island for a refreshing swim. Supper at 6:00, and dishes again for the K.P.s.

Each evening at 7:30 we sang enthusiastically for an hour; played games and folkdanced for another hour; had a refreshing drink of Kool-aid before going to hear a story by the campfire and end the evening with devotions. The bell rang at 10:30 and the lights were out for the night.

Camp ended with dinner at noon on Friday. Everyone seemed to have had a good time, and we hope as many as possibly can, will be back again next year, along with some new campers.

**Greg Farstrup, Cordova, Neb.**  
**Laura Garred, Denmark, Kan.**  
**Gary Miller, Denmark, Kan.**  
**Gale Riggins, Kronborg, Neb.**  
**Karen Sibert, Des Moines, Iowa.**

## Northern Lights Beam on Northern Light's Meeting

The Northern Lights District, including parts of South Dakota, Wisconsin, Canada, Montana, and all of Minnesota, held their camp at beautiful Whispering Pines, Wisconsin, near Frederic Wisconsin, this year. Approximately 80 campers and pastors enjoyed the scenery and experienced inspiring fellowship at the campsite in wonderful Wisconsin.

Three special guests added their interesting side-lights to the group. They included Gora Tudu, the well known student from India, and the two guests from Germany, Hans Mayerl and Martin Junginger, who are in this country for the Lutheran World Federation meeting.

An interesting program, coupled with complete and wise planning yielded a fine time for all who attended and memories of a good time are still fresh in the minds of those who attended.

A complete report should appear in a later issue which will include the results of the business sessions and a few interesting highlights.

## ULCA Membership Reaches Total of 2,332,433

New York—(NLC)—Baptized membership of the United Lutheran Church in America reached an all-time high of 2,332,433 in 1956, it was announced here by Dr. F. Eppling Reinartz, church secretary and statistician.

Largest of the 16 Lutheran bodies in North America, the ULCA reported a net gain of 61,731 baptized members last year, an increase of 2.64 per cent, according to preliminary summaries of statistics from the denomination's 32 synods in the United States and Canada.

The number of confirmed members was reported at 1,594,655, a gain of 38,947 over the previous year, and communing membership totaled 1,165,755, an increase of 35,563 over 1955.

Dr. Reinartz announced that the ULCA had 4,443 congregations, with 4,506 pastors on the church's rolls.

It is not hard to learn more. What is hard is to unlearn when you discover yourself wrong.

**Dr. Martin H. Fischer.**

## In the World

I heard yesterday a very good sermon on the prodigal son parable and besides expressing my thanks for it I want to add to it my little piece. I find in the parable as I find in the entire life and expression of Jesus a fundamental break with the trend in the church of the Jews. The trend was that of insurance and always more insurance. Historians tell me that when the Jews returned from Babylonian captivity they reorganized the church and in order to avert another catastrophe and insure survival they stabilized the office of priesthood as the center. The Danish professor Lindhardt tells us, that the Danish church did the same thing at the time natural science seemed to bulldoze the church into oblivion. On the basis of a select priesthood, segregated from laity, it is possible to draw a line between the religious and irreligious people insuring the first ones against the latter.

As soon as a church commences to live on the isolation insurance level

it adapts itself to the save face policy. Gradually and quite obscurely it goes into the show business. By a religion of appearance you try to scare and cajole people into allegiance, said Jesus to the devout people of the church. You perpetrate magic and you pose as very godly and very serious people. You put the colorful robe and ceremonial dedication on the front page. Your attempt to influence the administration of civic affairs is one of your acts on the stage. You try to augment your prestige by ostentatious welfare work.

The prodigal son was imparted to all this. He was protected and no one could accuse him of being disloyal. Then something of a very radical nature happened to him. The implication of the parable is that he heard Jesus. The result was that he no longer paid his dues and lost his insurance. He rolled out in the world and lived a life on uncertainty. His respectability went to pieces and when he sat by the bar with the girls and they talked religion he had to admit

that he had nothing to lean on. Everything he had been taught to accept as fundamental truth had been shattered. With the loss of his religion his sense of economy also disintegrated. The two are now, as they were then, closely connected. He was kicked around like a good-for-nothing vagrant.

Lo and behold! Now that he shared his life with irreligious people of the world who say that there is no God, the most remarkable and unusual thing happened to him. He came to himself, He went into himself. He found himself in company with a soul that was starkly naked and there was not even a shred of a costume to cover it. He discovered now the abiding reality of memory, the little gem which stays on top when the hulk sinks to the bottom. He was not aware of it till later on but the truth was, that life's ability and willingness to re-enliven the paled and shredded soul had now an opportunity which it had not had before.

**Aage Moller.**



## Acknowledgment of Receipts by the Synod Treasurer

For the Month of July, 1957

### Towards the Budget:

Unassigned: (by congregations)	
Cedar Falls, Iowa (St. Paul)	\$108.69
Menominee, Mich.	37.20
Detroit, Mich.	750.00
Newark, N. J.	60.00
Racine, Wis.	300.00
Ringsted, Iowa	399.50
Enumclaw, Wash.	150.00
Ludington, Mich. (Bethany)	250.00
Los Angeles, Calif.	100.00
Watsonville, Calif.	68.13
Kimballton, Iowa	142.15
Askov, Minn.	70.00
Salinas, Calif.	400.00
Pasadena, Calif.	80.00
Troy, N. Y.	200.00
Chicago, Ill. (St. Stephen's)	100.00
Canwood Saskatchewan	279.00
Minneapolis, Minn.	509.75
Junction City, Ore.	400.00
Muskegon, Mich.	325.00
Newell, Iowa	800.00
Diamond Lake, Minn.	85.00
Luck, Wis. (Bone Lake)	100.00
Grayling, Mich.	100.00
Bridgeport, Conn.	100.00
Solvang, Calif.	500.00

### Home Missions:

Congregations:	
Tyler, Minn.	50.00
Diamond Lake, Minn., In mem- ory of Bertha Brown	2.00
In memory of Jens P. Dahl	5.00

### Pastors' Pension Contributions:

Rev. Harold Olsen	10.00
Rev. John Pedersen	52.20
Rev. Beryl Knudsen	55.82

### Grand View College:

Congregation:	
Diamond Lake, Minn., In mem- ory of Bertha Brown	4.00

### Annual Reports:

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 20, 1957

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

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

TYLER, JENS M.  
TYLER, JENS M.  
RTE. 2,  
6-3

## LUTHERAN TIDINGS

Grant, Mich.	3.00
Total Budget Receipts for month of July	
Previously acknowledged	\$6,596.44
	29,628.47

### Total to date \$36,224.91 Received for Items Outside of Budget: For Lutheran World Action:

Congregations:	
Cedar Falls, Iowa (St. Paul)	\$ 68.71
Menominee, Mich.	12.30
Racine, Wis.—Minimum goal	75.45
Pastor Heide	10.00
Memory of N. U. Hansen by Mildred Hansen	2.50
Special Offering	1.00
A Friend	250.00
Volmer Church, Dagmar, Mont.	44.00
Victory Trin., Ludington, Mich.	54.75
Bethany, Ludington, Mich.	149.25
Watsonville, Calif.	18.13
Watsonville, Calif., Mr. L. P. Holgerson	20.00
Mrs. Emma Nelson	15.00
Salinas, Calif.	100.00
Vesper, Kansas	71.65
Canwood, Saskatchewan	24.62
Minneapolis, Minn.	117.87
Danevang, Texas, Rev. Ronald Jespersen	5.00
Newell, Iowa	200.00
Diamond Lake, Minn.	35.00
Nathanael Sunday School, Dag- mar, Mont.	27.00
Bridgeport, Conn.	100.00
Wilbur, Wash.	43.75

Total for month of July	\$1,445.98
Previously acknowledged	6,306.11

### Total to date \$7,752.09

### For Faith and Life Advance:

Congregation, Racine, Wis.	43.25
----------------------------	-------

### For American Bible Society:

Rev. John Christensen, Lud- ington, Mich.	10.00
--	-------

American Evangelical  
Lutheran Church,  
M. C. Miller, Treasurer.  
P. O. Box 177,  
Circle Pines, Minnesota.

## The Nature of the Unity We Seek

(Continued from Page 12)

imperative that we ought to do everything together except those things which in conscience we cannot do together. Many denominations act as if they believed they should cooperate only in those things which they cannot do separately. Oberlin will ask: Where is Christ leading us in the work of Councils of Churches? Are we willing to follow His lead?

On its institutional side the quest for church unity raises the issue of how much freedom and how much authority and in what combinations make for the best witness for Christ. Churches are not only theologically grounded they are social institutions in whose structure and function the right balance of freedom and authority must be achieved. There are no obvious or apriori answers to these problems. The various denominations

August 20, 1957

bring conflicting traditions into the ecumenical encounter. How much authority should be allocated to a Council of Churches? How much autonomy should be retained by a local church or by a denomination? In the present stage of conciliar development the participating churches have almost complete autonomy and may even withdraw at any time.

In part, the answer to the question of authority and freedom depends on the various conceptions of the nature of the church as an organism and as an organization. It also depends on a careful analysis of the functions which a unified interdenominational agency is to perform. Here the issues of diversity in unity and unity in diversity have a direct bearing on the structural questions of authority and freedom. In other words, the "power-structure" relates to the goals of internal cohesion within a local church or denomination and to the goals of cohesion and unity in the ecumenical organization which is to implement its assigned tasks.

A final organizational problem affecting the nature of the unity we seek grows out of the variations in the major denominational polities. When churches confront each other, what is the image which they have of the ultimate ecclesiastical solution? Will it be episcopal, presbyterian or congregational in polity? Some hold that the organizational structure is a matter of indifference and that what is essential to the life of the church may be expressed in several ways. Others hold that one or another of these polities grow directly out of the theological foundation of the church. Many contend that the nature of the unity we seek will be such as to conserve episcopal, presbyterian and congregational principles in some integral way. The Oberlin Conference will inevitably wrestle with such questions. It will be asked to distinguish between the essential order or being of the church and the good or beneficial or optimum order of the church.

Some churchmen are content with the kind of unity which is expressed in cooperation. Others believe that a more organic form of church life is required if Christ is to be truly the effective Head and the church His body. Still others believe that since there are many images of Christ's relation to the church in the New Testament, no one type of polity is the final solution to the institutional questions which are at stake.

All forms of institutional life as presently practiced in the churches may become a hindrance in the movement toward unity if they are given absolute values. Institutionalism often hides beneath the cloak of doctrine to conceal its real nature and motives. Hence it is urgent that all factors affecting the institutional life of local churches, denominations, and councils of churches be thoroughly analyzed and fearlessly confronted in the spirit of Christ.