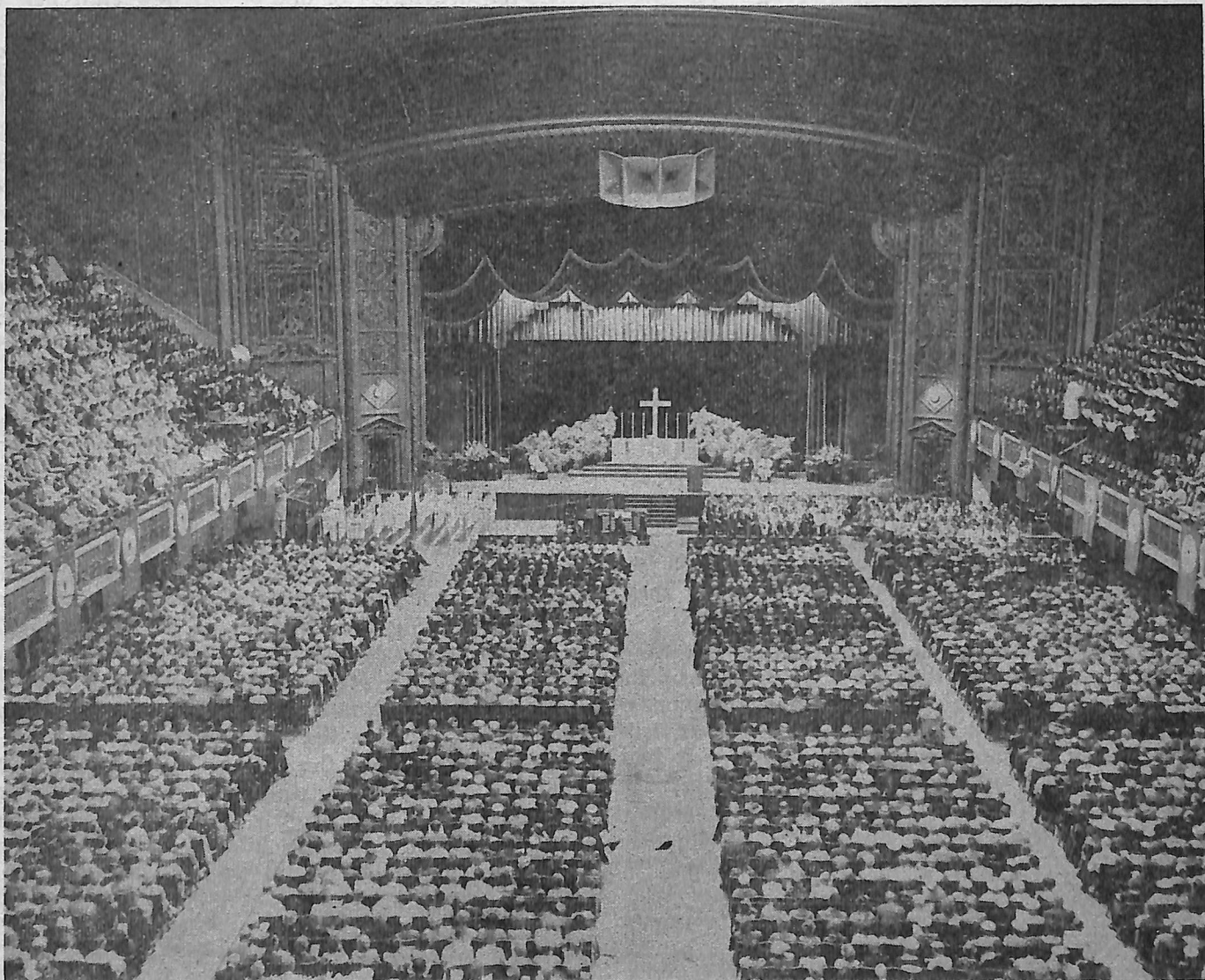


Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



A PORTION OF AN overflow crowd of persons who jammed the Minneapolis Municipal Auditorium for the opening worship service of the Third Assembly of the Lutheran World Federation. More than 11,000 persons in the Auditorium heard Bishop Lajos Ordass of Budapest, Hungary, deliver the keynote sermon, and 7,000 others participated in the service through loudspeaker systems. The Assembly ran from August 15 to August 25 and was attended by four officials of the AELC and possibly hundreds of others.

This is the Church

*The Message of the Opening Service
Ringsted Convention, August 6*

HOLGER O. NIELSEN
Vice President, AELC

Matthew 28:18-20

"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

LET IT NOT be said of the Church's convention that it is merely a meeting of the corporation reporting to its membership on business affairs. It is that, but it is much more. It is still a place where friend meets friend in the light of the cross as it is symbolized here in the convention auditorium.

O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from Thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead
And from the ground that blossoms red,
Life that shall endless be.

At this the eightieth convention of the AELC I wish to preach on the subject: The Holy Christian Church.

What and where is the Church? We Lutherans answer — Where the Word is preached and the Sacraments rightly administered. And what is the task of the Church? To **preach**, to **teach**, to **reach**.

The Church is no mere human institution. Neither is it a lodge or a club, be these ever so dressed up in religious frills. What alone gives the Church authority to speak is the faith that it is Christ's Church. If it is not His Church it stands condemned because it has taken God's name in vain and made faith empty. His Church may be hidden by materialism and human effort...but by the grace of God the Church still continues to speak its message of reconciliation from generation to generation.

Christ's Church is militant. It speaks to man's condition in every era. When I was a farm lad in Nebraska we saw no airplanes, but the chicken hawk furnished the same entertainment. When he, the hawk, glided over the farm yard the cocky rooster sounded the alarm and he leading all the old hens and baby chicks ran for a sheltered protection. We humans are like that too; we scamper for cover when the going gets rough. But somehow the Church militant stands.

Christ's Church is alert to the prophetic voice and should itself be one. It is an everlasting credit to the Jews that the Books of the prophets have been preserved and handed down to posterity as God's Word. God used the prophets to say to man what man does neither want to hear nor believe. That assignment was passed unto His Church through the Gospel. If the Church has developed a severe case of laryngitis, God will be looking around for someone else to preach

His prophetic Word outside of the organized Church as did John Wesley in his day.

The great commission is a great and stirring message. "Go Ye" are the marching orders of the Church. It's a great temptation for us here in America to understand these words as organized activity that sends us out striving to storm the gates of heaven with our own efforts. However, when all that is said, the fact still remains He said, "Go Ye." The Church must be alert to her divine call. It is sensitive to her own age and its needs.

At the dedication of one of our new churches, the pastor wrote in LUTHERAN TIDINGS as follows: "For many language groups it was not easy to discern which values were transitory and which were eternal. As a result they remained as cultural islands within the larger culture too long. They fought against assimilation. They were afraid of losing their heritage; of losing their identity. Regrettably, the self-imposed isolation prevented them from doing the missionary task which was their **first** responsibility." The Church must be true to its divine call.

Secondly the Church must go out to all nations. Here I bow my head in shame. We church people have been so busy closing doors that our churches are often referred to as "exclusive clubs." Forgive us Lord that we should select those to our own likening for admittance to Thy Church because Thou hast created all men and nations. Help us Lord to open church doors so we may serve all the people in the community.

"Go and baptize..." Bishop Bergrav of Norway has written a wonderful little book called Land of Suspense. In it he tells of visiting a church in northern Norway in which infant baptism has become an issue. While catechizing the children he asked them, "Can these little children we carry to the baptismal font really have faith?" The answer was a resounding "No."

The Bishop continued, "Can a baptismal child have a bankbook?" Again the same answer.

"Yes he can," said the Bishop. "You think he has to earn it. He can be given one. You think we have to understand, to accomplish. But here comes Jesus and says: Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of heaven; I give them faith; I give them into God's hand. In short, Jesus gives them the gift of faith from God. To be a child is to accept openly, without deception or doubt — to be a child is to possess more than one knows.

"Do you children believe we can bring a little child to God and have it baptized into His Kingdom?"

"YES," said the children. "Amen," said the Bishop.

The Church has a divine command to teach. Teach what? "To observe all things I have commanded you." This command has given our Church a great and long teaching tradition. This tradition is accepted by our people, but there is, however, a part of this tradition that is being sadly neglected; namely, the teaching responsibility of the homes. Here are far reaching implications involved. We need only to be aware of the retreat from the teaching profession by young teachers because schools have become so unruly that teaching has become secondary and the problem of discipline a primary one. Behavior is the task of

(Continued on Page 16)

*The Third Assembly
Was A Great*

Display of World Lutheranism

BY THE EDITOR

DURING THE COMING WEEKS, our AELC delegates to Minneapolis will be working on their reports, parts of which will appear in LUTHERAN TIDINGS when enough time has elapsed to insure the absence of any deadline pressure. Pastor Holger Nielsen and Prof. Axel Kildegaard will bring articles to our readers delineating the detailed theological controversies and problems and outlining the decisions. This brief report will merely attempt a birdseye survey, from a journalistic viewpoint — a description of the Assembly as it appeared to the visitor who could browse around and who was not required to stay at a delegate's post throughout.

The Minneapolis Auditorium is a vastness which can only be appreciated when one stands in the topmost row at the far end and looks down across the slopes of human beings who crowded in night after night, filling every one of the almost 11,000 seats. The opening service, August 15 in the evening, achieved an immediate climax of popular attendance that was not to be exceeded again at that site. An hour before the service, the doors were gradually shut, and only those fortunate enough to be wearing a badge with a bright ribbon attached (blue for delegates, red for official visitors, white for the press) were then admitted to their reserved places. Outside, thousands milled through the streets between Central Lutheran Church, where the

procession was being formed, the Wesley Methodist church, the auditorium of the Vocational High School, the auditorium of the Lutheran Brotherhood, and the press-room of the Disabled American Veterans' building, into all of which the sound was electrically piped. No one knows how many did not get in any of these buildings. But even those who did not, saw the impressive and dignified procession of 252 delegates, and several hundreds of official visitors as they moved from the Church to the Auditorium. The processional hymn, meanwhile, was being sung by the audience and the great "Twin City" choir, drawn from fifteen church choirs of the area, and the all-male Liturgical Choir which was to thrill and inspire the congregation of the Assembly unnumbered times for the rest of the meeting, (made up from Lutheran seminaries). Over and over the hymn went, until finally the last in the procession appeared and made their way to their places. It was a massive beginning, and, it was unequalled until the final, unbelievable day when thousands upon thousands more gathered for closing services on the State Capitol grounds in St. Paul.

The crowds did not quite fill the Auditorium during business sessions. Seats were there for those willing to pay one dollar apiece, and many people were. 45,000 seats were available for the nine plenary (business) sessions, and 40,517 were sold. This helped tremendously



An impressive procession of delegates opened the Third Assembly, including churchmen from such Iron Curtain countries as Hungary, Yugoslavia (see cut) and the Orient. Central Lutheran Church, host congregation, is seen in the distance. Auditorium is on right.



The Auditorium became a church on opening night. Bishop Lajos Ordass, in black, preached the sermon. Shown here with him on the stage at the altar is the lector for the service, the Reverend Ezra Keller from Liberia.

in paying the enormous expenses involved in conducting the meeting, in helping foreigners in their travel expenses, in defraying rentals, etc. (Public collections amounted to \$49,333, with the offering received on opening night amounting to \$7,443. Registrations amounted to over \$14,000 and altogether, the receipts for the Assembly totalled more than \$116,700.) Officials of the Federation said, however, that the response by the public was much greater than they had dared hope for. People traveled from all over the country to be present, and we talked to not one who was disappointed.

Minneapolis is a lovely city — more than 200 parks, mostly bounded by lakes. The Auditorium, however, is a grimly ugly building, and must have been a disappointment to Europeans accustomed to Gothic splendor and terrazzo. Before the week was out it felt like home to us all. The press, privileged as always, had special tables and chairs in the very orchestra pit adjoining the stage. Delegates sat at tables on the main floor, which were comfortably and aesthetically covered with green felt, each delegation plainly marked by an extravagant banner bearing its name and country of origin. (The AELC had a center aisle location half way back.) Official visitors were placed in the center of the auditorium, and there sat the president of our Synod and its secretary, Dr. Alfred Jensen and Pastor Willard Garred. Still farther back on the main floor were seats for special visitors and guests, wives of delegates, etc. Flanking the main floor, almost encircling it, were two tiers of gallery seats for interested spectators. A more or less efficient loudspeaker system sent speakers' voices through the space with a minimum of echo and bounce. In some respects, the best view of the proceedings was from the balconies. On votes, for example, a clear picture was obtained at once from above, while from the main floor this was not readily possible.

A few feet above the delegates' heads was strung a network of almost invisible bare copper wire — antenna



Delegates during a plenary session. AELC delegation is on center aisle near the back. Prof. Axel Kildegaard is seen with hand on chin.

for the shortwave radio signals sent out on I.B.M. equipment to the delegates and officials and press in any of three languages, "including the Scandinavian." If the speaker spoke German, one could dial on the English channel and receive a simultaneous translation beamed out by perspiring translators seated in sound-proof booths just offstage. Most of the delegates and visitors seemed to be bilingual and/or trilingual so that English was the most-used language. For benefit of spectators, the speakers would be heard for a few sentences only in their own language, and then the loudspeakers would fade out the foreign language, and fade in the translation in English. This irked some of the speakers but pleased the audience, and was one concession made to the public in return for the tremendous public interest that the Assembly obtained.

Minneapolis people cooperated to handle organizational details smoothly. A "motor pool" made up of volunteer drivers in first-class automobiles loaned by car dealers (50 in all) provided taxi service to foreign delegates to and from their place of lodging. Bus service was provided to special functions, picnics, and the final closing service in St. Paul, — when over 200 special chartered buses brought thousands from the meeting place to the Capitol grounds — creating an astonishing parking problem in themselves. This report could easily deteriorate into a recitation of awesome statistics of one or another kind, each more superlative than the other. One simply had to be present to understand the display which this Assembly was, from beginning to end.

Under the auditorium roof, but not in the same great hall, was a special large room of conveniences, bureaus, post office, telegram booths, lodgings and meals arrangements, etc. Prominently on display was a large box, within reach of all, marked "Theological Suggestions." Presumably the most forlorn visitor, afraid of being unheard in the crowds of people, here could put his own ideas and hope that they might be given voice somewhere. I glanced in. It was a wastepaper basket, nothing else! This whimsicality offered a pleasant



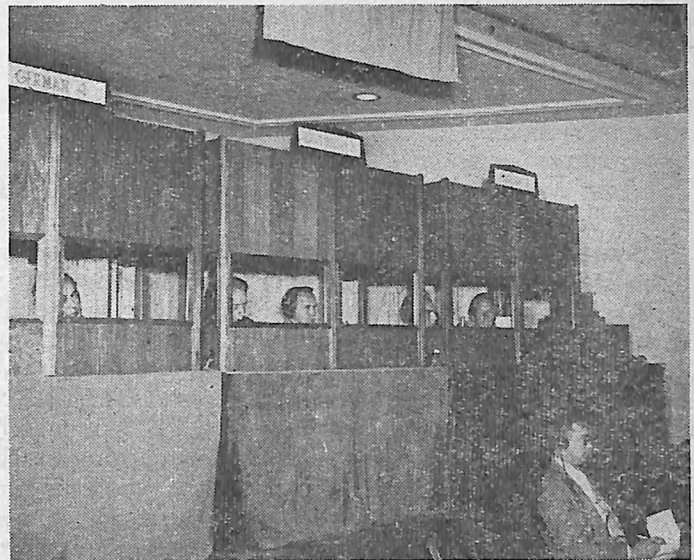
Stage setting during business meetings. (Contrast this setting with stage in the cover picture.) Scene changes were made in minutes by use of drops. Empty chairs in foreground reserved for choirs.

break in many a discussion. With a press badge in my lapel, I was considered to be an authority by those who didn't know better, (an authority is anyone more than 50 miles from home) and strangers frequently stopped to ask advice, or to seek "inside information," whatever that is. When they wanted to make suggestions, I tactfully steered them toward the room with the "theological suggestions" box. This worked well until one time when I gave this advice to someone who had already seen the box and knew what it was!

No official meals were served. Nearby churches served dinners and luncheons with cost ranging from seventy-five cents to \$1.50. Foreign youth delegates ate regularly at one such church (Gethsemane Episcopal) and once a group of friends and I enjoyed a carefree hour among the jubilant youths, most of whom had been together all summer at one conference or another, and who had long since lost whatever reserve and shyness they may have started off from home with. The experience was unforgettable (I have forgotten what we ate) and I am grateful for having learned that American young people are not the only buoyant and slightly crazy youth that there are in a world which for many of them is a pretty grim business. Laughter and song characterize the young everywhere.

If one walked down one of the invitingly cavernous ramps leading toward the underbelly of the auditorium one finally came to another vast area which one never suspected was there — several acres of exhibition rooms brilliantly lit and bustling with activity. Over fifty commercial concerns exhibited their wares and even gave free samples (I have some plastic communion glasses I don't know what to do with). These commercial booths were not objectionable, nor were they the main attraction down in the catacombs. An art display was worth several hours' study, and if one exercised the imagination it was possible to see what some of the impressionists were driving at. It was a little strange to find modernistics done by Lutherans — somehow to my tortured mind, Lutheran dogmatics and artistic impressionism are antithetic. Still, the first prize went to an evidently successful synthesis called "Malefactor" — an armless and headless piece of muscular sculpture which left many viewers wondering over the vagaries of modern art.

Other displays were less demanding, but equally intriguing. The book display was one of the most complete we have ever seen anywhere. (One could buy books on Grundtvig in English, Danish or German.) There was a display on youth work, on foreign missions, on home missions. There were organs for sale. Signs invited the visitor to go to the National Lutheran Council display and see "Miss Minnesota." As one scurried off to see what this might be, one went by altar exhibits, architecture exhibits, Bible displays, stained glass window displays, and four or five dozen other kinds of inviting exhibitions of church related activities or wares. All was tastefully done, with no "hawking" and no obnoxious carnival atmosphere. Miss Minnesota turned out to be what one suspected, an unusually beautiful Nordic young lady who showed slides of National Lutheran Council activities, operated a somewhat mean-



Translators' booths, from which came the translations of all spoken words of the Assembly in the three Federation languages. Pastor Jens Thomsen of Copenhagen is in the center.

ingless system of symbolic electric trains, and sold subscriptions to the National Lutheran. Her presence there was somewhat enigmatic until I learned that she was herself a member of a St. Paul church, Lutheran, and was active in youth work and also taught Sunday School. (And she really is Miss Minnesota, 1957.) Part of the display over which she presided was one of the most fascinating of many gadgets one could study in the exhibition hall. It was a system of electronic switches which the spectator could operate and which connected up, by colored lights, the various inter-synodical groupings, such as the NLC, the World Council, the various current merger-talk groups, etc. Each Lutheran Synod was represented by a church of proportionate size which lit up when one punched the right switch. In the midst of all the others, our church looked pretty insignificant. But there was something meaningful to me in the fact that when I operated the right switch, it too, small as it was, lit up.

One could go on enraptured about the many offerings available to the casual visitor and the dedicated delegate alike. Many things tempted one away from the main business at hand, the sometimes dull plenary sessions. In this report, I have perhaps likewise been tempted away from what was really vital at Minneapolis. If so, Pastor Nielsen and Prof. Kildegard will make up for it in their articles to come. In a subsequent article, I intend myself to dwell somewhat at length on the "American Evangelical Lutheran Church and the 3rd Assembly."

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The Outstanding

Personalities at Minneapolis

BY THE EDITOR

It would be possible, it seems to me, for a person to be dominating without being domineering. The former term describes Franklin Fry, new president of the Lutheran World Federation, and "Mr. Protestant" as far as much of the Christian world is concerned. There appears in this issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS a rather long article about Dr. Fry which will be of interest to all our readers, and nothing much more need be said here. There are those who fear the influential power which he holds, but those who know him best have no such fears. (Nothing about him justifies the humorous remark by a Ringsted delegate that he is "just about two inches from a pope.") He is a man of incredible mind and capacity, and it will be no surprise if he, in addition to being the president of the ULCA, and chairman of the Central Committee of the World Council, and now president of the LWF, will late this fall be elected to be president of the National Council of Churches, to succeed Eugene Carson Blake.

Another American whose work and whose nature impressed us by its obvious stature was Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, a delegate from the ULCA, and dean of the graduate school of the Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia. Dr. Nolde's particular sphere is international affairs, and his opinions and recommendations have frequently been sought out by Washington, and even by the White House. The Assembly heard him speak several times, and his major talk was the highlight of one of the evening "open" sessions, when his topic was "Our Mission in International Affairs." I have heard him speak on other occasions, and the keynote of his approach is, as he said again at Minneapolis, "the application of moral force for the solution of world problems, willingness to take calculated risks to break impasses," and also continued "efforts to remove injustices by . . . peaceful change," and by "mutual assistance that will anticipate needs and . . . future developments." He is a man of average height, balding and in his late fifties, ruddy-faced, and with a countenance that is either supremely jovial or supremely serious, but in either case nervously energetic.

The opening speaker of the Assembly was Bishop Lajos Or-

dass (pronounced Or-dash), of Hungary. Bishop Ordass is a tall, gaunt, greying, unassuming gentleman who is characterized by extreme modesty. Under arrest by the Communists for almost eight years, his lined face seemed to show the strain. Modestly using the third-person pronoun, he called himself, in his opening sermon, "an aging disciple of Christ . . . who would like to say how many times in his life he has experienced the forgiving grace of Jesus Christ . . . And he would like to say that when he was in bondage in the most literal sense of the word, Christ gave him royal freedom." Perhaps in Bishop Ordass as in no other visitor or delegate did we find the Assembly theme personified, Christ Frees and Unites. His speech, even in such offhand conversations as press conferences, was marked by deep humility, as well as by Hungarian emotion that was almost Pauline in some of its utterances. But there was the sense of finality and conviction, as, after such a press conference, he warned the press against overdramatizing or sensationalizing his statements, he said, "Nevertheless, what I have said here I will stand behind, if you choose to print it."

Bishop Lilje, now past president of the LWF, and presiding official at most of the sessions, was less

tragic and more Falstaffian in personality. Affable, witty, with a slight impression of the Prussian, Hans Lilje gave the plenary sessions official send-off with an outline of its tasks and a hope for its success. "The church must speak to the world today, for the moment in which we set forth our confession of the living God is the present moment, the immediate world," "(the) fascinating spectrum of longing and dread, technical triumphs and world-wide catastrophes . . ." He called attention to the "Internationale of dread which embraces more men than do any of the great political ideologies." Continuing, he said, "Christians must never grow tired of proclaiming that the only one from which such a total renewal of man (as will be necessary) can proceed, is Jesus Christ." It is "mandatory that (modern man's) skepticism be met not by a fearful, minimal apologetic, but rather by the power and clarity of faith." Lilje is short, pudgy, but manages to be at the same time



Bishop Lajos Ordass of Hungary, preaching as the opening service of the LWF Assembly.

awesome, which is no mean feat. His humour is a mixture of satire and joviality, of the time-honored Bavarian sort, but is also more subtle than one usually finds among the Germans. Listening to Ordass, one was reminded of the great suffering of him and his people. Listening to Lilje, one tended to forget that he, too, had suffered deeply, had been imprisoned by the Nazis for many, many months, and was rescued by American soldiers from hanging only a day before his execution was to be carried out.

Probably of particular interest to many LUTHERAN TIDINGS readers would be a description of the Danish delegation. Led by Bishop G. Schiøler, there were sixteen in all, including journalists, youth delegates and visitors. Bishop Schiøler won me over at once. In Denmark, bishops are elected by the pastors of a district, usually on the basis of some particular talent or sphere of competency or excellence of public speaking. Bishop Schiøler at once showed himself to have been elected simply because all the pastors of the district liked and respected him. He is not a "bishop" at all, in the usual sense of the word, which may or may not be a complimentary thing to say. The writer heard him preach in Ringsted and his sermon was a touching, simple message of Christian faith which cut deeply by its sincerity and humility. Among the other Danes, the theologians K. E. Skydsgaard and Regin Prenter are of wide reknown. Prof. Skydsgaard of Copenhagen preached at the two services in our church in Minneapolis. He has the ability which theologians seldom have, (and which the late S. D. Rodholm did have), — to be able to say deeply theological things without using theological terms. Prenter, of Aarhus, likewise is profoundly simple, but simply profound. In this connection, I might here call attention to one of the few organizational slip-ups we met in Minneapolis. Dr. Prenter had been scheduled to speak at the auditorium of the spanking new Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance building. I did not arrive at the last minute, but already when I got there the place was overflowing. It was impossible to get in. Large numbers sat in chairs outside the auditorium and looked in, but the public address system did not send the sound outside the room. So many were disappointed. A man of Prenter's appeal should have been scheduled into a much larger auditorium.

Bishop Otto Dibelius, 77-year old spiritual leader of territory on both sides of the Iron Curtain, spoke on several occasions. His main address was also an evening open meeting, "Our Mission to Those in Need." He is head of the Church of Berlin-Brandenburg, and five million of his parishioners are in the East Zone. Known as the one-man airlift, he frequently flies into the East to reach his people. Under the Nazis, Otto Dibelius was an outspoken opponent. Currently, the Soviets regard him as an enemy because of his support of NATO and the build-up of West German strength. He is a short, mustached man with a Van Dyke bearded chin, and a furrowed but usually smiling face. "We march," he said in his address, "into this historic battle, the battle for the minds and souls

of men." He contrasted Christian love and the materialistic ideas of Communism. According to the latter, he said, charity is "bourgeois sentimentality of the day before yesterday." But, Dibelius said, "we shall find in the whole New Testament not one single passage which could be taken as being sentimental or a magna charta for bourgeois thinking." And he further said, "What was really proclaimed by Christ and His apostles was a new way of life." "The greatest fact in life and eternity is love....Sacrificial love is anything but sentimentality."

From India came Bishop Rajah Manikam, the first non-European Lutheran bishop ever elected. (See LUTHERAN TIDINGS, July 20, page 6). Bishop Manikam, representing one of the younger churches, made an eloquent plea that the Fourth Assembly be held on the other side of the world, in the East, thus emphasizing that LWF is a "World" Federation. (The World Council meeting will be held in Ceylon, 1960.) It was my great good fortune to be seated next to Bishop Manikam at a press luncheon, and he and his charming wife dominated the conversation at our table of eight, mostly because their remarks were so extremely interesting. Asked why it seemed that Chris-

tianity had such difficulty making headway in India, the bishop responded that India was a land of many religions, including the "civilized" religions of Buddhism and Mohammedanism and also including the primitive religions, such as animism. In India, the Christian had to compete with the philosophical and intellectual creeds of sophisticates with a background of learning.

In New Guinea, on the contrary, the main obstacle to Christianity was the superstition of animism. Also, in India the Christian convert is immediately ostracized, escorted out of the family and social circle, if not the village. This is not true in the other Asiatic countries. Christians in India have been completely dependent, the bishop said, on the thought coming out of Europe and America. "We haven't even produced a decent heresy to our credit." (Laughter.) India takes in Western music, art, architecture — it also takes in Western theology. This makes for slow hard progress among non-Christian Indians who are not overwhelmed by the so-called advantages of Western culture. The bishop's wife is a very good-looking woman in her late forties or early fifties, always in native costume, conducting herself with the dignity of Eastern breeding coupled with the warmth of her own Christianized personality. It was a privilege to meet these two unusual, dark-skinned Lutherans from around the horizon....The Indian people are as a rule extremely handsome. This may be a shallow generalization.

There were many other interesting personalities at Minneapolis, of course. The Assembly heard an African tribal chief, for example and a Lutheran church president from Japan, innumerable Germans, Finns, and even French Lutherans. Every day new evidence was seen that this was a "round-the-world-in-10-days" Assembly. As a convention, it was impressive enough. But it is **people** who are most interesting, and, finally, most impressive.

~~~~~  
All ambitions are lawful  
except those which climb  
upward on the miseries or  
credulities of mankind.

~~~~~  
Joseph Conrad.

*Meet Mister Protestant***Franklin Clark Fry**

The New President of the LWF is a Man of Infinite Wisdom, Humor and Capacity for Work

AN INTELLECTUAL and physical giant — the Rev. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, president of the United Lutheran Church in America — is generally recognized in religious circles as the most influential figure in organized Protestantism today.

Dr. Fry's world-wide eminence as a churchman is a tribute to a man of striking personality whose spiritual zeal is coupled with a wealth of native talent and an unlimited capacity for hard work — all leavened by a strong sense of humor.

Out of this unique combination of attributes, he has forged an unrivalled record of leadership in cooperative church activity at home and abroad over the past decade. The major posts of responsibility he occupies impinge on nearly all areas of non-Roman Christendom.

Dr. Fry is chairman of the policy-making Central Committee of the World Council of Churches.

He is also the new president of the Lutheran World Federation and played a prominent part in its Third Assembly at Minneapolis, Minnesota, August 15-25.

Although a leading member of the General Board of the National Council of Churches, and chairman of its Policy and Strategy Committee, Dr. Fry is not an officer of the interdenominational agency. But that is only because he has declined nomination as president.

He is also closely identified with the National Lutheran Council, as a member of its Executive Committee and chairman of its Division of LWF Affairs. For many years he headed the NLC's program of aid to orphaned missions.

In the opinion of Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, who has long been associated with both the National Council and the World Council, "Dr. Fry is at his best as a presiding officer."

That view is shared by many others, including reporters who cover the religious beat for the nation's press. Usually sparing in their accolades, they rank Dr. Fry as the foremost church parliamentarian in the country. When he is in the chair, press tables are sure to be crowded.

It is a delight, according to witnesses, to watch Dr. Fry, silver cross dangling on his clerical vest, an unruly lock of dark hair falling across his high forehead, preside over a large assembly.

Always master of any situation, he never loses control of the proceedings as he slashes through parliamentary tangles with incisive speed and dexterity, letting the quips fall where they may.

In one church discussion, an enraptured delegate rose to say: "I move what the president thinks."

The tall, slouching, 57-year-old churchman — he's six feet, one and a half inches tall — comes into a meeting saturated with knowledge of every matter due for consideration, its past, present and possible future. These details seem to be filed in his capacious mind in

complete order, waiting to be pulled forth for application at just the proper moment.

In a smallish, informal meeting, Dr. Fry permits himself the luxury of a good cigar. As he leans back in his chair, his heavy eyelids appear to droop momentarily and his agate eyes take on a slightly glazed, withdrawn look.

Or, seemingly oblivious to the hubbub of voices arguing a knotty or controversial issue, he may pursue one of his favorite diversions, working a double-croctic puzzle.

Actually, he's neither sleepy nor indifferent. Both attitudes reflect deep concentration on the subject at hand. Almost invariable he'll raise a pointed question that gets right to the heart of the matter. Or he will summarize an involved discussion with succinctness and humor.

Dr. Fry is an adroit tactician and can rout an opponent before he knows what is happening to him. Frequently it's done with a quip that his irresistible humor cannot forego.

At one conference, a delegate held the floor unduly, not to say tiresomely, long, going over and over the same point and asserting time and again his readiness "to go to bat."

On the third repetition of this phrase, Dr. Fry could not resist. He brought his gavel down sharply and exclaimed, "Three strikes and you're out!"

When he himself once made a slip in reading a proposal to provide closer coordination between church boards, he quipped: "There's no more coordination between my brain and tongue than between the boards of the Church."

On a television show, when the master of ceremonies expressed ignorance of the vestments worn by the clergy, Dr. Fry retorted, "Well, why not go to church and find out for yourself."

At the close of the program, the m. c., apologizing for the lack of theological content in the questions he had asked, was reassured by the reply, "Oh, that's all right. I thought they were up to the usual standards."

On occasion, Dr. Fry's quickness of wit makes him the target for similar sallies. At a dinner in his honor, the toastmaster praised him for his great patience. Dr. Fry, he pointed out, always gave the ULCA's Executive Board "all the time in the world to come around to his way of thinking."

His forbearance and kindness were put in more serious vein by a friend who said that "he is so far out ahead in his thinking processes, he has to exercise a saint's patience while he waits for the slower folks to catch up."

Men of Dr. Fry's own stature enjoy and admire the finesse with which he handles a situation. More deliberate men may feel frustrated, and sometimes resentful.

All concede, however, that "F. C. Fry," as he signs himself in a neat, fine, unpretentious scholar's hand, is serving his Church and the Protestantism with rare distinction and ability.

"He works like a horse from morning to night," says the Rev. Dr. Frederick R. Knubel, president of the ULCA's New York and New England Synod, "and he

makes everyone around him work like a horse from morning to night."

His son Franklin says, "Father believes the children of light must work as hard or harder than the children of darkness. And he believes the children of light must be just as smart, too, in using their brains."

It early was his thesis that Lutheranism must move out of its traditional Scandinavian and German environs and minister to other nationalities and races. He led the way by going on preaching missions all over the country and achieved high popularity in the pulpit.

In 1938 he was asked to make the commemorative address at the 20th anniversary of the founding of the United Lutheran Church. In 1942 he was asked to serve on its Executive Board and was named to a four-year term which he was not destined to complete. In 1944, the late Rev. Dr. Frederick H. Knubel completed 26 years of distinguished service as the first president of the ULCA. He was 74, and in failing health, when the Church met in October of that year in biennial convention at Minneapolis. It was the last session over which he presided.

Voting secretly, without nominations, the 600 delegates, half pastors and half laymen, gave Dr. Fry a two-thirds majority on the third ballot and, at 44, he became president of the largest Lutheran body in America, now numbering nearly two and one-half million members.

From that day, he steadily gained prominence as a pivotal figure in the national and international activities of organized Protestantism. Along the way he has been awarded 14 honorary degrees by colleges and universities.

When Lutheran World Relief was organized after World War II in 1946 as the material aid agency of the National Lutheran Council, Dr. Fry was elected and still remains as president. Since then he has made numerous trips to war-devastated countries in the interest of church relief and reconstruction.

In January 1951, he made a round-the-world flight for Church World Service's "One Great Hour of Sharing" appeal, inspecting conditions and needs of displaced persons and war refugees. On his return he reported in person to the President of the United States and to the nation via radio and television.

That same year he was appointed vice chairman of American Relief for Korea. The government of Korea has conferred upon him honorary citizenship in that country.

He has also been awarded the Grand Order of Merit by the German Federal Government at Bonn, and the Austrian Great Silver Cross with Stars, honors which he accepted in the name of American Christians and as a tribute to their generous outpouring of help to helpless brethren overseas.

Prominent in the ecumenical movement, Dr. Fry was active in the formation of the World Council of



Franklin Clark Fry

Churches at Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 1948, became vice chairman of its governing Central Committee and, after six years, chairman. He is also vice chairman of the U. S. Conference of Member Churches of the World Council.

Also a leader in interdenominational efforts, Dr. Fry presided at the opening session of the constituting convention of the National Council of Churches at Cleveland in 1950.

So meticulous was he in hewing to the line on prescribed principles of organization that he found himself insisting upon 44 amendments to the document. This is said to have caused one prominent churchwoman to sink into her seat one day after an absence from the convention hall and whisper to her neighbor:

"What do the Lutherans want now?"

When this remark reached Dr. Fry by the grapevine, he slapped his thigh and laughed uproariously.

His presence in the National Lutheran Council's headquarters in New York City (his own offices are further up Madison avenue) is detected by this habitual vigorous thigh slapping and hearty laugh.

If a remark strikes him as particularly funny, he slaps his right leg smartly, often repeating the blow several times. People not quick enough, or subtle enough, to follow his unspoken mental processes, are startled and wonder what on earth he is laughing at.

At Lund, Sweden, in 1947, when the Lutheran World Federation was formed and he was named treasurer, Dr. Fry was waiting to appear on an international radio hookup. While standing by for his speech, he said to the engineer across the Atlantic:

"How did the New York Yankees do today? I won't go on the air until you tell me."

The Yankees are a passion with Dr. Fry. He has been heard to remark that his four major interests in order of importance are:

1. The Lord.
2. The Lutheran Church.
3. The family.
4. The Yankees.

(Editor's Note: In Minneapolis, reporters asked him what his favorite baseball team is. He said, in that strong Milwaukee territory, "The Milwaukee Braves are my favorite team — for the Yankees to beat!" It broke up the press conference.)

Five years ago, Dr. Fry, whose habitual exercise is double-crochets, noticed that he was tipping the scales at 255 pounds. A very heavy jowl hung over his clerical collars, his cheeks were chubbic. He asked his doctor if he had not better reduce. "Why bother?" said the doctor, "you're a tall man and you're very fit."

But he reduced anyway. "It was sheer vanity," he told Dr. Knubel, his close friend and best man at his

(Continued on Page 16)

Editor's Note: Part of this article, prepared by the NLC News Bureau, has had wide publication elsewhere. It is most timely now, however, since Dr. Fry's election to head Lutheran World Federation.

OPINION AND COMMENT

WE HAVE LOOKED with a great deal of interest in various religious journals and papers to see what coverage they have given the great Third Assembly in Minneapolis, and by and large we have been quite pleased by the wide interest shown. *TIME* magazine, for instance, mentioned the assembly in three successive issues, with pertinent, if not elaborate coverage. *LIFE*, of course, joined in. The Lutheran papers of other synods were all represented at Minneapolis, and so far, they have given whole issues to the Assembly. Most of them are weekly publications, and their readers have been made to feel the real impact of the Assembly frequently. *THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY* sent one of its top-notch editors (Martin Marty) to cover the event, and the article in the September 4 issue was smoothly done, with the Century's typical edge of sophistication. It was a little startling to find Mr. Marty suggesting that the Assembly should perhaps not have been held in such strongly Lutheran country as Minneapolis. This, he said, tended to give the foreign delegates and visitors the impression that the United States is far more Lutheran than it really is, and that Lutherans "can run the show." This comment, though harmless enough, seems to us to miss the point entirely. This was a "world" assembly, but it was no miniature "world council of churches" — it was a world council of Lutherans! Foreign visitors were not so fatuous as to believe that Minneapolis and St. Paul (25 per cent Lutheran) represented the rest of our country. As pointed out elsewhere in this issue, the organizational factors involved in conducting the Assembly were so overwhelming that an enormous amount of volunteer help was called for. It would have been silly to hold the Assembly in less Lutheran territory where such help might not have been available. -----Daily papers all over the country carried the press releases sent out by wire services, as well as pictures. It helped that such famed persons as Ordass, Lilje, Debelius, Christian heroes of world-wide prominence, were all present to add more than denominational interest and news value.

AS THIS GOES to press, other great meetings are in the offing. At Oberlin, Ohio, during these very days, the Faith and Order conference is being held. (See *LUTHERAN TIDINGS*, August 20, page 12). The Minneapolis theme, "Christ Frees and Unites," could well be something of a dim and distant goal for the Oberlin meeting, where all the denominations will be meeting in an ecumenical encounter. As the theologians sit down in Ohio to try to uncover the seeds of our faith which we have in common with others, and to discover the nutritional elements which each church can contribute, we at the grass roots will not expect any startling, experimental results. Representatives will be there to "represent" — that is, they will be there as defenders of their particular faith, and their explorations will not carry them beyond the particular doctrinal bounds which their individual traditions and patterns have set for them. But there is the great ecumenical hope alive in the world that these boundaries

somewhere overlap. In the World Council of Churches they overlap at that point where each church confesses that we find God in His Son, Jesus Christ, Who thus is Master and Saviour of all mankind. Within this slight overlap we can join in a Council together with Eastern Orthodox, Anglican, Baptist, etc. Oberlin will have 300 devoted delegates trying to agree on the nature of the unity which we ultimately hope for. We pray that our four delegates (Alfred Jensen, Axel Kildegaard, Johannes Knudsen and Arild Olsen) will see great visions and dream great dreams and will communicate to us afterwards the deepened perception and insights which such conferences inspire. All members of the Synod ought to read again these days, page 4 of the President's Report to the Ringsted convention.

SPEAKING OF RINGSTED, it is unfortunate that this 80th convention has been overshadowed by the Third Assembly of the LWF. Editorially, we are conscious of having rather neglected Ringsted in favor of Minneapolis. Pages could be written about our synod convention. Many memorable "highlights" have not been mentioned. One of them, for us, was the Sunday morning worship service in our own church (in Danish) where Bishop Schjøler preached. The church was so crowded many had to sit outside. It is usually so much more satisfying to have visitors from abroad speaking in their own language. The bishop preached movingly and disturbingly and inspiringly. One of the disappointments of the convention was the address of Mrs. Armgard von Alvensleben, for, while no fault could be found with what she said, she was so obviously uncomfortable speaking in English that the audience became nervous; it also had difficulty understanding her. How much better it would be to have foreign speakers use their own language, and have an interpreter standing by. In America such procedure is unheard of. In Europe, Asia, and elsewhere it is quite ordinary. This writer has used the method in two places, while preaching for German prisoners-of-war, and many times while teaching a Bible class of Korean young people. The adjustment comes easily. It is much more meaningful to allow the speaker's real personality to come through in his mother tongue, even though his words are not understood. The translator standing by can take care of the words. As the world shrinks, Americans are going to be more and more aware of their own lack of real cosmopolitanism, in this respect at least....Most of the ministers of our synod were present at Ringsted — an unusually large percentage, we thought. Distance prevented some, illness others. We heard many people inquiring about such absences as Enok Mortensen (who is, of course, in Europe) and Viggo Hansen and Arthur Frost. Another man we always remembered seeing was J. L. J. Dixen, whom death has claimed. Over the years, the faces change. The young pastors are coming into their own, and the names which once were the foundation of our synod life gradually slip away. Old timers said this again and again in our hearing at Ringsted, with a touch of wistfulness in their voices. But it was a forward-looking convention, not backward-looking. There is no holding back time, and, as Bishop Lilje said at Minneapolis, *tempus sure does fugit*.



Paging Youth

American Evangelical Lutheran
Youth Fellowship

EDITOR: EVERETT NIELSEN

1100 Boyd,
Des Moines 16, Iowa

"Be Not Conformed to This World" Romans 12:2

The Apostle Paul's words, "Be not conformed to the world," cannot be taken literally in all cases. There are social standards to which one must conform, and laws to be observed. There are also other examples of times when conformity to the ordinary does not meet the ideal.

An example of conformity which is good is the recent trend in America of increased church attendance. We need to go to church each Sunday, for there is the place that God speaks to us in the scripture readings, the sermon and the quiet moments of meditation.

But conformity cannot be taken as a general rule, nor can its opposite, non-conformity. The situation is important and what one does depends upon the circumstances present. Generalizations are always dangerous, and this fact is strikingly true as regards the situation of conformity to the ordinary.

Paul's words are evidently meant for situations such as the following. The **Paging Youth** editor recently said, "slow down and think" and I am sure he referred to the subject of what we should do with Christ. There are many people who consider themselves Christians, yet really do not accept Christ because they do not "slow down and think." Instead, they continue living their fast lives of apathy and selfishness. It seems we would do better by not conforming to these standards. Rather, we should live as one of the great and outstanding Christians of our day, Dr. Franklin Fry, Head of the National Lutheran Church Council. He recently listed his four major interests in order of importance. They are, first, The Lord, second, The Lutheran Church, third, The Family, and fourth, The New York Yankees.

Each young person ought to "slow down and think" about these matters, and, among other things, about the subject of the nuclear bomb tests. Are we going to conform to the present standard and shrug our shoulders while the government goes on with these tests? Or are we going to accept the advice of scientists and religious leaders who ask, "Is any nation justified in continuing the testing of nuclear weapons while the magnitude of the danger is so little known and while effective means of protection against these dangers are lacking?"

We, today, have several aspects to study in regard to further nuclear testing. Walt Disney's story of the atom ended with the question, "will we start a chain reaction explosion which will destroy all of us?" The leaders of the World Council of Churches

feel that the explosions will make the possibility of war greater. They say that Christians should take a "risk for peace" by encouraging the end of testing. One thousand scientists recently signed a petition that urged the world to quit testing nuclear bombs. Those who have had extensive radiation or X-ray treatments testify that the body becomes highly susceptible to contagious diseases. They know that radiation does something to a body. Will successive doses of radiation harm us? Will radiation felt now be of harm to your children of tomorrow?

Obviously, Paul's words do have meaning and there are many standards in which one ought not conform. You, the young person of 1957 must realize what the problems of today are.....you must "slow down and think!"

Walter E. Brown.

AELFY Doin's

Cedar Falls, Iowa: An outing at Reads Lake near Hampton was the order of the day last August 11. Volleyball, boating and swimming, plus the usual huge quantities of food filled the day with physical activity, but there was time for a good deal of spiritual fellowship, too.

Hay Springs, Nebraska: Sunday evening, July 21, found the Mirage Flats LYF enjoying a wiener roast. Interesting games were played followed by an enlightening devotional period in which the story "The Winds and the Ape" was discussed. A songfest closed a fun-packed evening.

Tyler, Minnesota: The LYF there was host to the Diamond Lake and Ruthton groups recently for a songfest and evening of entertainment led by the two young men from Germany, Martin and Hans. Twenty-six young people attended the Camp of the Northern Lights District, and transportation for such a large group became quite a problem. A pick-up, station wagon and several cars finally chugged off to the Wisconsin camp site for the inspiring week. Plans were being made for a similar jaunt to the Lutheran World Federation meeting held recently in Minneapolis. A splash party and wiener roast are also in the offing.

Over The Typewriter

An article appears in this issue by Pastor Walter Brown, presently recovering from TB in Seattle, Washington. A past pastor of the Diamond Lake, Ruthton, and White congregations, he resigned his post there to take a church in Arizona due to his poor health. He has suffered the effects of radiation which were necessary for treating a disease, and knows full well of the dangers involved. Read his article carefully, for it is of definite value to you.

Sonja Knudsen is leaving this week for Denmark and will be unable to continue her duties as AELFY treasurer. Former treasurer, Agnete Bollesen, 835 Martin St., Menasha, Wis., will handle all the responsibilities during her absence.

This is the last time I will write this column in Seattle, so please have piles of mail for me when I return to Des Moines the 12th of September.

Just a note about National AELFY Workshop and Convention, November 8, 9 and 10. It will be in Newell, Iowa, this year. More details later.

Our Women's Work

MRS. ELLEN KNUDSEN, EDITOR

1033 South Tenth Street

Maywood, Illinois



An Explanation

In answer to those who wondered why the information concerning the women's lunches and programs held at LWF Assembly was not published on this page I can only say that this publicity was sent to the Editor of LUTHERAN TIDINGS and was not forwarded to me. It is unfortunate that it was not published because there were daily get-togethers with the foreign guests in the Minneapolis and St. Paul homes to which anyone who signed up was entitled. We thus missed a once in a lifetime opportunity to share fellowship with women from many countries.

Minutes of Annual Convention of WMS

(Continued from last issue)

ARTICLE III BY-LAWS — Duties of Officers.

Section 6

Upon motion section 6 was added and adopted:

The key woman shall:

1. Keep the district and national boards informed about the activities of the local organizations.
2. Keep the local organizations informed about matters concerning the district and national activities.

ARTICLE V BY-LAWS — Membership Dues.

Section 1.

After lengthy discussion motion was made and seconded to adopt Article V — Section 1.

ARTICLE VI — Amendments to the By-Laws.

Upon motion this was adopted unanimously.

It was now moved by Mrs. E. Olsen of Hartford, Connecticut, that we adopt the proposed revised constitution as a whole as corrected. The motion was seconded and the constitution was adopted unanimously.

Miss Stockholm thanked the convention for their help and cooperation in adoption of a new constitution for WMS.

Recess:

Upon motion the convention recessed until 6:15 p. m.

Reconvening Time: Saturday, August 10, 1957.

Opening:

The meeting reconvened at 6:15 p. m., by singing the first and last stanzas of "Thy blessings fill our earthly needs." Mrs. Thyra Hansen led us in devotion and we read responsively: John 15—1 to 11.

Election:

Mrs. Oda Sorensen, vice president presiding.

Presentation of Ballot:

President (2 years)

Miss Emilie Stockholm (Incumbent)

Mrs. Marie Mortensen

Assistant Secretary (2 years)

Mrs. Esther D. Sorensen (Incumbent)

Miss Thora Hansen

The chair called for further nominations from the floor.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried that the nominations close.

Findings Committee's Report on President's Report:

The committee notes with approval the President's report of the progress made on the Six Point Program as adopted previously and wishes to commend the president, Officers, and the Constitution Committee of the WMS for their sincere efforts towards the realization of these points.

1. The committee feels that WMS has a definite need for a revised constitution and moves the adoption of recommendations Number 1.

RECOMMENDATION 1. That the proposed revised constitution be adopted at this convention.

2. The committee moves that recommendation Number 2 in the President's report be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 2. That the convention adopts the proposed model district constitution and refers it to the

At LWF Assembly

Mrs. C. W. Baker, chairman of the Lutheran Women's Coordinating Committee, is shown with 10 of the 11 women which the committee sponsored to the LWF Assembly. From left to right they are: Front row, Mrs. T. S. Sihombing, Indonesia; Miss Henrietta M. Westerman, Holland; Dr. Marthe Ramiamanana, Madagascar; Mrs. Hajime Inadomi, Japan; and Miss Teli S. Rajeswari, India. Back row: Frau Hildgard Ellenbeck, Germany; Mrs. Byron Traub, Liberia; Frau Armgaard von Alvensleben, Germany; Miss Eira Paunu, Finland; and Mrs. Dorthea Seydel, Brazil.



district conventions for formal adoption this fall, to be effective at once.

3. The committee moved the adoption of recommendation Number 3.

RECOMMENDATION 3. That a greeting be sent to the Women's Retreat of District VIII which is being held concurrently with the AELC convention.

4. The committee looks favorably upon fellowship gathering as stated in recommendation Number 4 and moves that it be discussed on the convention floor.

RECOMMENDATION 4. That the districts be encouraged to sponsor a fellowship meeting annually, or bi-annually, if this seems more feasible.

5. The committee discussed this with some favor and feels that we should work towards this goal in the future. Therefore we move that the convention consider recommendation Number 5.

RECOMMENDATION 5. That the convention consider the possibility of holding our national convention independently of the AELC convention in the not too distant future.

6. The committee moves the adoption of recommendation Number 6.

RECOMMENDATION 6. That the District Officers be encouraged to arrange for more time for the annual district business meeting.

7. The committee moved the adoption of recommendation Number 7 and suggests the convention recognizes Mrs. Strandskov's leadership as chairman of our Golden Jubilee Committee with a rising vote of thanks.

RECOMMENDATION 7. That the convention recognizes the fine leadership of Mrs. Holger Strandskov as chairman of our Golden Jubilee Committee and that we lend enthusiastic support to our committee in carrying out their proposed plans for a festive Golden Jubilee.

8. The committee moves the adoption of recommendation Number 8.

RECOMMENDATION 8. That the convention undertake several specific projects this year.

9. The committee moves that the local groups of WMS be encouraged to seek information about local Council of United Church Women and if possible take an active part in their work.

RECOMMENDATION 9. That the members of WMS be encouraged to take active part in local Councils of the United Church Women.

10. Since the committee feels that many do not know about the work of the United Church Women we suggest that some general information on their activities be presented to this convention by one of our representatives and moves that \$50 be contributed to the general operation fund this year.

RECOMMENDATION 10. That WMS begins to assume responsibility in sharing the support of the program of United Church Women, by contributing \$50 this year to the general operating fund.

11. The committee moves that recommendation 11 be adopted. RECOMMENDATION 11. That WMS support the Santal Mission by creating more interest among our local groups, by encouraging more monetary support and by sponsoring a Santal Mission Day in their local groups or congregations during this 90th anniversary year of the mission.

12. The committee moves that recommendation Number 12 be adopted.

RECOMMENDATION 12. That the local groups acquaint themselves with the material published by the Pilgrim Press for the National Council of Churches of Christ, and employ it as program material for their meetings.

Mrs. Aage Paulsen.
Mrs. M. Petersen.
Mrs. K. Kjolhede.
Mrs. E. Grumstrup.
Mrs. H. Smith.
Mrs. H. Jorgensen.
Mrs. T. Knudsen.

With only one substitution and a few comments all these recommendations were passed. These were as follows:

RECOMMENDATION 4. The convention felt this to be the duty of our key women.

RECOMMENDATION 5. There was considerable discussion on this recommendation. Mrs. H. Strandskov made the following substitute motion: That the WMS Board in conference with the Synodical Board arrange for a longer period of time for our meeting. This was seconded and carried.

RECOMMENDATION 11. Miss Dagmar Miller spoke in behalf of the mission, telling us of the need for us to be "shook out of our indifference." It is wonderful work God has entrusted to us these 90 years.

It was moved that the report be gratefully accepted. This was carried.

Election Results:

PRESIDENT:

Miss Emilie Stockholm ----- 41 votes
Mrs. M. Mortensen ----- 27 votes
Mrs. E. Kjaer ----- 1 vote

ASSISTANT SECRETARY:

Mrs. Esther D. Sorensen ----- 56 votes
Miss Thora Hansen ----- 12 votes
Blank ----- 1 vote

Report by Findings Committee on District Representative's Report:

The following points gleaned from the district president's reports were thought by the committee to be worthy of consideration and emulation by our various women's groups:

1. A local newsletter sent out monthly to all women of the congregations.
2. A district board instead of merely a district representative. Should be some system set up for paying traveling expenses for board members.
3. A district retreat or fellowship meeting.
4. Projects—1. Support of a Korean Child.
2. District Scholarship to GVC for a girl student from that district.
3. Getting subscriptions to Santal Missionary into each home.
4. Distribute devotional books to each home.
5. Gifts to Seamen's Mission.
6. Personal gifts to missionaries.
5. Finance—1. Set a goal of \$1 per woman for WMS and earmark one-third for general fund and two-thirds for GVC dormitory bed fund.
6. Programs 1. Study of missions.
2. Films and filmstrips.
3. Visits to churches or institutions. Suggest such as homes for the aged, rest homes, children's homes, etc.

Ardis Petersen.
Dagmar Jensen.
Gertrude Sorensen.
Sylvia Esbeck.

It was not deemed necessary to discuss this report. The women attending the convention were asked to bring its many good suggestions along home for more effective district work.

Sample copies of the newsletter of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women of Cedar Falls, Iowa, were available for the asking. They should prove excellent idea material when our women re-organize on a local level.

Financial Report:

This report was also in mimeographed copy in our WMS packet mentioned earlier. Mrs. Ela K. Nielsen, treasurer, voiced appreciation for generous support during the past year. She asked that the following omissions in her report be entered:

District V contributions:
District convention ----- \$47.80 GVC beds
St. Mark's Guild, Circle Pines ----- \$5.00 Scholarship
District V
Bone Lake, Wis., Ladies' Aid ----- \$7.25 Santal Mission
District VI contributions:
District convention ----- \$69.02 M. Nielsen's Work
Danebod English L. A., Tyler ----- \$26.00 Seminary Fund

After making the above corrections it was moved, seconded and carried to accept the treasurer's report.

(To be continued)

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.

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.

YOUTH WORKSHOP AT DISTRICT III CONVENTION

The young people of District III are conducting a one-day workshop at St. Stephen's Ev. Lutheran Church, 8500 Maryland Ave., Chicago, during the district convention there.

Come and have your own sessions during the business meeting of the convention on Saturday, September 28. Saturday evening there will be special youth activities.

Send your registration to Miss Ginger Olson, 7541 Yale Ave., Chicago 20, Ill., who will take care of housing.

St. Stephen Youth Fellowship.

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.

INVITATION

The Oak Hill and Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran congregations of Atlantic and Exira, Iowa, are happy to extend an invitation to pastors, delegates and members of the Fourth District to attend the District IV annual convention. It will be held September 20-22, 1957.

Our committees and members are preparing to make this an enjoyable convention, and to make all the arrangements for your comfort. We all look forward to the spiritual growth in our churches through our unity in Christ and in the fellowship of His Church.

All pastors, delegates and visitors are asked to please send registration to the chairman of the registration committee, Mr. Royal Haner, Brayton, Iowa, by September 10.

Dr. Melvin Crane, President.

Ronald L. Hansen, Student Pastor.

District VI Convention

District VI of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet for the annual convention at Tyler, Minnesota, October 4-6. Congregations are reminded that they are entitled to one delegate for every 25 voting members or fraction thereof. Remember it is voting members not contributing members. Also remember to send your district dues, 25 cents for each contributing member, to the district treasurer, Jorgen Krog, Lake Benton, Minn., before the convention. Each congregation is to bring a report of the activities of their congregation during the past year.

Harald Ibsen, President.

INVITATION

Members and friends of District VI, American Evangelical Lutheran Church, are hereby invited to attend the annual district convention to be held at Danebod Lutheran Church, Tyler, Minnesota, October 4-6. We ask that you please register your intent as early as possible, including time of arrival, with Mr. Johan P. Johansen, Tyler, Minnesota.

Ludvig Petersen, President.

Paul Nussle, Associate Pastor.

Below is a tentative program of the convention.

Friday, October 4

8:00 p. m.—Opening service, Rev. John Enslemann. (No supper served).

Saturday, October 5

9:00 a. m.—Devotion, Rev. Calvin Rossman.

10:00 a. m.—Business meeting.

7:00 p. m.—Women's Mission Society.
8:00 p. m.—Lecture, Mrs. Enok Mortensen.

Sunday, October 6

9:30 a. m.—Danish service, Rev. Harald Ibsen.
10:30 a. m.—English service (communion), Dr. Alfred Jensen and Rev. Enok Mortensen.
2:30 p. m.—Lecture, Rev. Enok Mortensen.

We had a wonderful convention at White last year, this is going to be much better. Let us meet up with a large number from each congregation.

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.

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 Lutheran 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.

Eben-Ezer Sunday, September 15

When Eben-Ezer Lutheran Home again comes to you with our Thirteenth Sunday after Trinity Appeal it is first of all to thank you for faithful help in the past and to tell you that you have helped us to reach another milestone in the 53 years ministry of the institution.

The goal we hoped to reach during the past year was the completion of the elevator — and extension program, which included an elevator between the three floors, a sitting room on first floor and two more bedrooms. On September 22 we shall have the official opening of these facilities, which turned out to be even more beautiful than we dared hope for. On that day and in coming days hundreds of invalids and their helpers will feel deeply grateful to God and to you friends who were instrumental in bringing these blessings into our lives.

While mentioning our faithful helpers in the daily work it will interest you to know that one of our deaconesses, Sister Sena Frandsen, will be honored during the annual meeting of the board of trustees on October 13 for 50 years service at Eben-Ezer. Like all our "retired" deaconesses Sr. Sena is giving a helping hand on the floor every day.

But the increasing need for our help to those who appeal to us does not permit us to rest on past accomplishments. Daily care of 69 in the home, nearly all of them invalids, a long waiting list of applicants and over hundred inquiries remind us, that our field of service is large, and the workers pitifully few. It is therefore our hope and prayer — while we bring our facilities up-to-date — that we may find one or more Christian women who would feel called to the ministry of the diaconate. We would then help them through training at one of the recognized deaconess schools, before they took up their duties here.

We are thankful for the privilege of having maintained our reputation for a high standard of nursing care and for the recognition of our mission in this western state as a Lutheran Church Home. However, an old institution has handicaps that new homes do not have: to bring our equipment in accordance with the state laws and to renew that which has served its time. Too much charity through our hospital (management of which is now leased to a Lutheran society) has delayed this transition. Hoping for help from friends of Eben-Ezer. And they have never failed us.

We need a dishwasher — new furniture in the dining room (after 40 years) — funds for future renewal of our boilers — and for helping patients who are not citizens and not eligible for old age pension, and without relatives.

Yours in His service,

Rev. and Mrs. Victor E. Bagger
and The Sisters.

Honor means that you are too proud to do wrong;
pride means that you will not own you have done wrong.

Laurence Housman.

Victoria Regina, Charles Scribner's Sons.

OUR CHURCH

Dwight, Ill. Pastor Ivan Nielsen, formerly of Menominee, Mich., will be installed at St. Peter's Church here on September 15. During the vacancy, the pastoral and preaching work has been carried on by a former pastor of the church, J. C. Aaberg, retired, who first served the congregation 45 years ago.

Junction City, Ore. Pastor Harold Olsen has resigned here to accept the call to serve our home mission in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Hampton, Iowa. Pastor Gudmund Pedersen will move to Menominee, Mich., late this year, having resigned his pastorate here some time ago.

Gowen, Mich. Cornerstone laying services for the new construction at Settlement Lutheran Church were held August 4.

Kimballton, Iowa. Pastor and Mrs. Holger Strandskov are on an extended West Coast vacation during the current four-week period and the local church will be served on September 8 by Prof. Leroy Norquist of the Seminary. On September 1, Dr. Alfred Jensen was preacher.

Salinas, Calif. On September 12 the congregation is giving a dinner, sponsored by the three agencies handling the new building project, the Council, the Relocation and the Building committees. Plans for the new building will be presented. Pastor Paul Nussle will leave Tyler about October 1 and will probably be installed October 26, after attending the Solvang fall meeting the week end of October 18.

Juhl, (Marlette), Mich., At a special

meeting of the congregation here in July it was decided to build a new parsonage, with a goal of \$25,000 as part of the plan. Harry Andersen is pastor.

St. Stephen's, Chicago. The church here has a new look, according to the church paper. Washing, repainting, new carpeting (red), as well as carpeting in the study and stairs, are among the improvements.

Enumclaw, Wash. Pastor Holger Andersen of our home mission congregation here, has been appointed part-time teacher at Pacific Lutheran college where he will teach two sections of introductory sociology and one class in "Disorganization" starting this fall term.

Des Moines, Iowa. Pastor and Mrs. Arthur Frost will be making their home in Des Moines at the following address, starting at once, 3119 Wright Street. They have rented an apartment until next summer.

Copenhagen, Denmark. Pastor Peder Rasmussen, ret., will be returning via M. S. Stockholm motorship leaving Copenhagen September 9. He expects to take part in the Tyler folk meeting, October 15-20.

The Danebod Folk Meeting

The folk meeting at Danebod Folk School, Tyler, Minnesota, will be held October 15-20. The first meeting will be Tuesday night at 8:15 o'clock.

The speakers will be the pastors Michael Mikkelsen, John Enslemann, Harald Ibsen, Ottar Jorgensen, Paul Wikman, P. Rasmussen and Enok Mortensen. Thyra Nussle will lead the singing.

Since I shall return from Denmark only a short time before the meeting, please send enrollments to Danish Folk Meeting, Tyler, Minnesota. Welcome to Danebod.

Enok Mortensen.

Editor's Note: The Mortensen's sail from Copenhagen on the Stockholm on September 9.

This is the Church

(Continued from Page 2)

home and church and certainly not a major job of the school.

The task of the Church to preach, teach and reach is a basic one and therefore never easy.

The great commission ends with a divine promise — "I am with you always even to the end of the world."

I shall never forget the Englishman who related to a group of us the story of the British explorer who many years ago went on an expedition to the Arctic region. He and his party were scheduled to be back at base by fall, but they never returned. When climatic conditions permitted, a rescue party ventured forth to find the lost men. They never found them but they did find the last campsite and the diary

of Captain Sir Charles. In it he described in detail their futile attempt of reaching the winter base. One by one the men perished of cold and hunger until he alone was left. At the end of the diary was laboriously scrawled with a dull pencil, "I am now the only one left of the party. All are dead. But I am not alone; Christ, through faith, is ever present."

"And lo, I am with you always to the end of the world. Amen."

Letters

DEAR FRIENDS:

Words fail me to express the feelings in my heart. With the richness of blessings and experiences of various aspects of American life and wider outlook of life, I am what I am today, through your generosity. While, on the one hand, I am leaving this wonderful country with so many nice and close friends and hospitable homes with a real feeling of sadness, on the other, I am very happy to be going back to my home country and join my family and friends.

I sincerely thank you one and all of the Youth Fellowship and the AELC for so kindly receiving me in your homes and congregations as your friend and brother in Christ.

Unable to thank you enough for all that you have done for me, I pray, may the Lord Himself say to you, "Truly, I say to you as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

Goodbye! Yours in Christ,

Gora C. Tudu.

Franklin Clark Fry

(Continued from Page 9)

wedding. Today he weighs 185 and because of his height looks a little gaunt.

Renowned as Dr. Fry is for his organizational skill and his administrative genius, he is also outstanding for his high level of churchmanship. Says Judge James F. Henninger of Allentown, Pa., one of the ULCA's leading laymen, "his greatest contribution is a spiritual one."

To Dr. Fry, real faith must not be merely a thing of vague emotion, but a product, too, of the intellect, grounded in a sturdy theology, one "to teach, to saturate, the inquiring and absorptive mind of man."

He believes wholeheartedly that nothing is more important than to preach the Gospel and administer the Sacraments, and he looks forward to returning some day to the parish ministry.

Many things contribute to Dr. Franklin Clark Fry's stature as a giant of modern Christianity, but above all is the clear, strong evangelical witness that marks him as a dedicated man of God.

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.

September 5, 1957

I am a member of the congregation at _____

Name _____

City _____ State _____

New Address _____

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