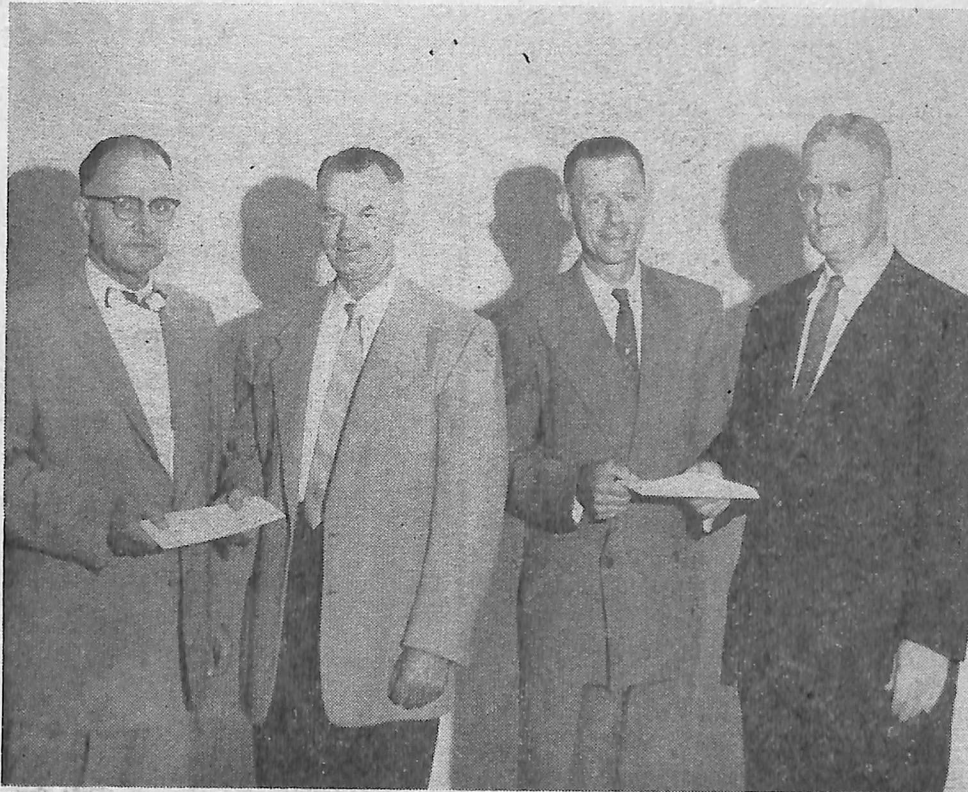


# Lutheran Tidings

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PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Left to right: Pastor Erik Moller, N. P. Petersen, Jack Wood, Dr. P. C. Nyholm

## *Children's Homes Receive Generous Gifts*

The Danish Brotherhood Lodge No. 3 of Davenport, Iowa, recently sold its building and at a recent meeting voted to give a total of \$6,000 to the three children's homes owned by the two Lutheran synods of Danish background. As a result, our AELC home in Chicago received a welcomed check for \$2,000 through its representative, the Rev. Erik Moller. Two homes owned by the UELC received similar sums, and Dr. Nyholm (who is Wartburg Seminary professor and editor of "DANSK NYTAAR") is shown above as representative for our sister synod. Lodge president, N. P. Petersen, and the secretary, Jack Wood, presented the checks at a little ceremony held in Davenport this summer.....One of the UELC homes is located at Oaks, Oklahoma, and houses about 70 American Indian children.....This genuine demonstration of social concern by the Brotherhood Lodge may, it is hoped, have far-reaching importance as a precedent for other societies that may have idle funds.

## *The Mountain Revisited*

### "The Darkest Dark"

(Sermon on the Mount as translated in RSV)

XXI

"The eye," said Jesus, "is the lamp of the body." Two square inches of sensitive retina is all we have to face the world with. If anything happens to that or to the nerve linking it with the brain, then for us the lights have all gone out. Strange how significant are the parts of the body that seem so small. A school-teacher left his job because he was unable to walk. He insisted, however, that he was 99 per cent sound. All that happened was that the fluid in his inner ear had hardened, and he therefore had no sense of balance. Almost nothing the matter with him — but he was wholly incapacitated!

A broken toe made it impossible for Dizzy Dean to employ his most effective pitching stance, and his spectacular successes were ended. The interdependence of the body's parts is described by Paul: "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you'! On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable" (I Corinthians 12:21f). The eye is a small organ, but through it the body derives all its illumination.

How important then that the eye do its work well! "If then the light in you is darkness," said Jesus (Matthew 6:23), "how great is the darkness!" Even if the eye functions only partially, what distortions it may cause! Said Alexander Pope:

"All seems infected that th' infected spy,  
As all looks yellow to the jaundic'd eye."

The English word "fraternity" is built upon the Latin word for "brother"; fraternity means brotherhood. Some years ago a fraternity at a New England college initiated a Negro into its membership. The local chapter was thereupon expelled from the national organization on the charge of "unfraternal conduct." Darkness is pretty dark when organizations that profess to stand for brotherhood penalize members who practice brotherhood for being unbrotherly. "If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!"

J. Carter Swaim.

Where you are is of no moment, but only what you are doing there. Petrarch.

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# The Ministry OF MERCY

Thorvald Hansen

Cozad, Nebraska

## *Genuine Concern Demands Action!*

*A Message to the Seattle Convention on  
the Theme: The Ministry of the Church.*

**I**T WOULD BE STRANGE indeed if the consideration of the church's ministry of mercy did not cause our thoughts to turn in the direction of the parable of the Good Samaritan. Not only is this one of the best known and most beautiful stories ever told but through it Jesus speaks to us emphatically and authoritatively concerning deeds of mercy.

It is interesting to note, therefore, that the parable tells us nothing about the man in the ditch. Aside from the fact that there is a man, who has been beset by thieves, lying by the roadside we are told nothing about the victim. Concerning his background, his status, his character, his creed, — all of these things — there is no information. On the other hand, the parable speaks volumes to us concerning the Priest, the Levite and the Samaritan. Of course, we are not given this information in the parable in so many words. It comes to us rather through legitimate inferences which we may draw from their actions. We know, as the lawyer who was questioning Jesus at once knew, which of these men proved himself neighbor to the injured man. And this is really the ultimate question which the parable answers. The lawyer has asked, "who is my neighbor?" Jesus did not answer that question. He told the parable and then raised another question, i. e. "which of these three do you think proved neighbor to the man who fell among robbers?" This is the real question related to mercy. The question is not, "who is my neighbor; to whom should I show mercy?" The real question does not find its answer in the external situation. The real question is, "do I, through mercy prove myself to be a neighbor?" Does the love of God so dwell in me that I become concerned in a specific situation and am moved to action? Deeds, or lack of them, will not reveal whether another is my neighbor, which is really not important. But they will indicate whether or not I have proved to be a neighbor.

It is through mercy that we ultimately prove ourselves neighbors. Through mercy, in the language of the parable, we "go and do likewise." We do so in specific situations because we are moved to concern and action by the love of God. Or, to carry the matter still further, to its rightful conclusion, it is in the deepest sense not you or I, or we as a church, who minister in mercy. It is the spirit and love of God dwelling in us.

Most people, even those who do not profess to be Christians, heartily endorse the idea of mercy. We are all agreed, for instance, that something should be done to help the starving people of the world. There is no argument about whether or not social work is needed. No one questions the need for hospitals, homes for the aged, and all the various agencies and institutions for the alleviation of human suffer-

ing. Few within the church would question but that the church should alert itself in this direction. And it would certainly be unjust and self-depreciating to imply that much has not been done. Through the centuries the church has been active on behalf of suffering humanity. Many of the great institutions of mercy in our land and other lands have their origin in the church or in the determination of individual Christians. In our own century we have seen the church engaged in a vast ministry of mercy on a world wide scale. Lutheran World Action, with which we are most familiar, is but one of the agencies through which the church has gone forth to minister and to show itself neighbor to those who stand in need.

Our Christian faith does imply that we have concern for our fellow men, no matter where they may be, no matter what their plight may be. The Christian church is many things but not least it is a fellowship of the concerned. It is concerned not only with itself; not only with its own relationship to its Lord and with its status in society but it is concerned also with people, all people. The church must not let its concern for the spiritual welfare of men, its concern for souls, which is a basic and legitimate concern, blind it to the physical and material needs of men. Without a concern for the total welfare of all men the church, the fellowship of believers, would be less than Christian. Without such concern the church can never perform a ministry of mercy.

But this concern is not always translated into action. This concern does not always issue in a ministry of mercy. The easy explanation of this is that there is then not enough concern. But the easy explanation is not always the correct one or the best one.

Some wit has suggested a reason why the Priest and the Levite did not stop to aid the man on the Jerico road. He suggests that they were hurrying to a meeting to discuss what might be done about the plight of victims of robbers on the Jerico road. This facetious explanation may contain more than a grain of truth, if not about the Priest and the Levite then about ourselves. Some one has written that "much of the chaos in our world just now can be attributed to Christians with their bedroom slippers on, arguing over what ought to be done." Whether such criticism is justified or not is beside the point here. But it does indicate this that it is one thing to be concerned and it is quite another thing to act, and mercy demands action. It does not take much reflection to indicate that we are concerned about many things but the concern rather seldom becomes action.

The action demanded by mercy may be no more than a kind word or a word of forgiveness — which incidentally are not small matters. Or, it may be the action of many people in behalf of many other



people that is called for. In any case, mercy does not bog down in debate. Mercy does not count the cost; mercy does not think in terms of whether or not it is deserved. As a matter of fact, the expression "deserve mercy" as it is commonly used, is a contradiction in terms. If it is deserved it is not mercy — it is justice.

The action that is implied by mercy may not be all that is needed. It may not be adequate to the task before it but this is beside the point. Mercy implies that man does all he can for his fellow man in a specific situation. Failure to do whatever can be done, however much or little it may be, is failure to show mercy. The failure to act is to neglect the ministry of mercy.

And, fail we do, all too often. We fail not through lack of power or ability nor yet through lack of concern. We fail so often because the call for mercy comes to us in specific situations. There is always the tendency to say "well, this case is different."

It is easy to believe in what is generally referred to as the "brotherhood of man." It is easy to read Jesus' words about forgiveness and gently nod in agreement. These ideas which form a background for mercy are seldom questioned. Man is, in theory at least, seriously concerned about the fate of his brother. But, when the theory is to be translated into specific action it often becomes another story.

There is no reason to think that the Priest and Levite were unconcerned about the man in the ditch. But this was not their personal problem and they could undoubtedly think of many reasons why they should not stop and help him. Or, take the matter of forgiveness. We believe in forgiving and we daily call upon God to forgive us. But let us for example come face to face with the question of forgiveness for one who has committed a serious offense against society. Then it becomes quite another matter. In such a case forgiveness is, of course not to be confused with turning criminals loose. But it surely does mean that we do not rejoice or gloat in punishing them as is so often the case.

There are so many ways in which we may be called upon to show mercy and for the moment we may be genuinely concerned and want to act but when we learn it will cost something — time, inconvenience, and especially money we easily sink back in our armchairs and deplore the sad state of the world.

Let us consider, for example, the matter of foreign aid, a matter which has been of such prominent concern these latter years. Foreign aid is not passing out guns and planes for our own good. Foreign aid, in its best sense, is a response of mercy to the needs of people in other lands; needs which may often be desperate. We believe in helping others. We are willing to send missionaries. We are willing to gamble on their oil wells. But when the issue of genuine foreign aid, really showing mercy to those who are much less fortunate than ourselves, arises we begin to balk. We quickly find all kinds of reasons why

this or that country should not be assisted. And the tragic part of it is that we take our own reasoning seriously. The result is that so much of what passes for foreign aid has had to be done in the name of enlightened self-interest. Surely self-interest provides the motivation but how much enlightenment there is in it is open to question.

The point is, given a specific situation of human need, mercy does not balk. It does not ask questions; it acts. And the reason that mercy acts as best it can is that it is motivated from within. It is motivated not by external circumstances but by the will of God.

Mercy implies God. It implies God's love for us and for all men. It implies God working in us and through us that we may do His will. Mercy does not say, "I ought to do what I can." Mercy says, "I will do what I can." Mercy is not called forth by the state of those who stand in need, however pitiful that state may be. As someone has written, "Jesus found His mission to the outcast not in the pitiful state of the outcasts but in the will of God." There are situations that call for mercy but actually we might better say we are not called to acts of mercy

but that we are driven to them. Real mercy grows out of an awareness of God, of what He has done and what He continues to do for us. Real mercy is love in action; it is God in action through us. The expression "Love's working arm" is not only a good slogan for Lutheran World Action but it is actually a good description of the whole concept of the ministry of mercy. For

the ministry of mercy, whether that of an individual or of the church as a whole, is love in action.

Humanitarianism, sympathy, human brotherhood — these things are fine and good. But sooner or later, unless there is also a recognition of the Fatherhood of God, these things will all bog down and fail. In the final analysis it is not too much to say that it is not we who are merciful but it is God working in us and through us, who shows mercy. And, when we think of the ministry of mercy as a part of the work of the church, we might more rightly say that it is not you or I, or we, who do these things but it is God achieving His purposes through His church. The church's ministry of mercy is really a manifestation of the presence of the spirit and power of God.

Thus, the ministries of the church, and not least the ministry of mercy, arise not out of self-interest, nor simply out of a concern for others. Nor do they in their best sense arise out of a feeling that this is a demand of God upon us. They arise purely and simply out of the presence of the spirit and power of God in His church. Through mercy the church shows itself not only a neighbor, it shows itself not only concerned about the state of man, whatever the situation may be, it not only translates ideals into action but it proves itself God's church. For where His spirit is present, where there is response to His love, there mercy will flourish and there the ministry of mercy will not be a requirement to be fulfilled or a duty to be done. It will rather be an expression of that

(Continued on Page 14)



# An Invitation to Learning

Dr. Ernest D. Nielsen

**T**HIS ARTICLE is in the nature of an inquiry from which we hope to receive many replies from individuals who may be eager to spend a week at Grand View College sometime during the summer of 1959. We are anxious to learn whether there are individuals who would like to attend and be willing to give an early indication of their desire to participate in order to enable us to plan early and wisely.

Secondly, this inquiry is indispensable if we are to develop public understanding of what we aim to accomplish. We shall need interested individuals to help us communicate to others something of the spirit, uniqueness, quest, hope, and faith which underlie education for adults at its best. Without an inquiry of this kind, we cannot possibly estimate the number of adults who may be interested. The question of number is never insignificant in any serious planning of an educational program of unquestioned quality.

The kind of education for adults that we plan to inaugurate and develop, provided adults respond, is one that will serve adult concerns. Adults' awareness of the issues of the day is rooted in the roles which the individual cannot escape. Some of the most acute problems that face man today are those of the soul and society. In spite of the vast network of media for communication, modern man often finds himself isolated from other men.

A few years ago I wrote:

"The reason that the Church ought to pioneer in adult education today is precisely because education alone is not able to solve the problems that face the adult as an individual, as a worker, as a member of primary social groups, and as a member of society. The problem is not solved either by the convenient use of religion as a prop for education. Nothing short of the Church exercising her teaching mission and articulating her redemptive message to man for his fundamental needs is required today.

"The educational aim of the adult education which we propose is the integration of man and his total human education in the light of his vocational responsibility and social relationship in the setting of democracy and upon the foundation of the Christian faith."

The subject matter which will be favored will be those which will contribute most directly to the study and discussion of the issues and problems which confront our time.

The church bodies in America have come a long way in setting up institutes for church workers, in establishing splendid pastors' institutes, in conducting learned seminars for men and women engaged in various professions, in providing leadership courses with special emphasis upon principles, methods and techni-

## *An Interesting New Summer Program at Grand View for Adults May Be Just What You Need to Wake You Up*

ques for the increasing number of people who serve the church on a full time basis in the many offices and agencies throughout the land, and summer camps for children, youth and the family.

The time is ripe for a program of education for adults within the church who are looking for an opportunity to come together with other laymen — men and women — to understand and learn from one another through serious study and discussion of subjects which bear directly upon the great issues, questions and problems of today. With our expanded facilities, which have added so much to the campus, we are now in position to say, "Come, spend a week at Grand View College."

We are helped educationally by the college's history, I believe, to do something similar, although not identical, to what is being done today by the so-called evangelical academies in Western Germany. I question the wisdom of any attempt to transplant these residential centers of study to America, but we can learn from them how they attempt to deal with the condition that faces modern Christian men and women. Moreover, I believe we can learn from them why adults respond to their programs and come to spend a shorter or longer period to learn, discuss and meditate.

The program we envision, finally, is not for those who missed educational opportunities along the road of life, nor for those who are asking to learn the "know how" of this or that, but for those who are concerned about the most basic and essential aspects of human life both within the church and outside of it. It is not a program which is limited to any select group; it is for any adult who is concerned about the enlargement of his view of life. Here, one new horizon has opened since we first began to think, speak and write about a one week or ten day summer program of education for adults at Grand View College. With the growth of Lutheran ecumenical relations, we are challenged to the acceptance of a farther vision, the vision of Grand View College as a possible center of an annual summer program of adult education for Lutheran adult men and women, regardless of their synodical affiliation. The compactness of the campus makes the college an ideal place for a summer institute; its location in Des Moines makes it easily accessible by any means of transportation.

We shall welcome correspondence on the subject. It is not too early to begin to think about the worthwhileness of an educational opportunity of this kind. The cost will be kept at a very reasonable figure.

### TEACHING

I put the relation of a fine teacher to a student just below the relation of a mother to a son, and I don't think I could say more than this.

Thomas Wolfe.

(Unseen Harvests—A Treasury of Teaching)



## Highlights and Sidelights

### Seattle Convention

— BY THE EDITOR —

**T**HE SEATTLE CONVENTION, our Synod's 81st, held August 12-17, had only a few highlights during the business sessions, but had quite a few during the moments set aside for inspiration. Obviously, the entire Convention becomes at its best a matter of inspiration. The services and lectures provide a special kind, however, where the keyed-up soul can relax and be receptive as the Gospel is presented via many good minds and various persons. It is a rather odd rule in our By-Laws that the Synod President must preach a sermon at the Convention. Any President would be most anxious to give to the Convention his special witness to the message of our faith, without the urging of a By-Law. This year, Dr. Jensen chose to speak at the Memorial Service held right in the heart of the business sessions, at 11:30 on Thursday morning. It was a sincere, devout and uplifting message, all the more remarkable because the President had to get up from the taxing meetings to go immediately into the service without the period of mental preparation a pastor ought to be afforded. This should be our best attended service, since it deals with a fundamental element of our faith, as well as a matter of extreme emotional and sentimental impact. However, it never is. Those who missed it this year are the poorer for it.

Pastor Peter Rasmussen in his 84th year can still preach inspiringly. He and Pastor Brix Kronborg, of Vancouver, held the Danish service on Wednesday evening. It was a shame that this service had to be held in the Mormon Church across the street, even though it was extremely convenient. To this writer it would seem even more appropriate to hold a service in a synagogue. . . . . Meanwhile, the Grand View evening was getting under way, and it was good to hear the College president and the Seminary dean give their messages of academic concern.

### Grand View Program

In this connection, it may be permissible to insert here a comment on the Grand View Evening at the conventions. In recent years, it has been thrilling to hear again and again the story of the rising importance of our institution of learning — in Des Moines, and in college circles in Iowa and even farther. The curriculum has been expanded, the faculty has been continuously strengthened, the administrative levels have been more and more adequately dealt with. It would seem opportune now, at some future convention, to give some needed variety to the Grand View Evening. What delegates need, now that the scholastic

program at the college has been so ably provided for, is some fresh demonstration of what the college can contribute to life in the home congregations. It is fine that individual students can attend the school assured of a competent, comparative education. This is absolutely necessary, and indeed a minimum. But the Synod supports the college so heavily with more than a minimum in mind. The college life, even under the extremely crowded and difficult conditions on the campus, can contribute to the strengthening of congregational life at home. This is in the highest traditions of our school, and of course can only be possible if our communities will send their youth to Des Moines. It seems to this writer that some imaginative presentation of this factor would be helpful to delegates. Possibly it could be arranged to have some of the students take part in the Grand View Evening, or part of the Grand View choir, or some of the drama department. There are obvious enormous difficulties in arranging this, but it would certainly be worthwhile, and would help to lift the convention out of the annual routine.

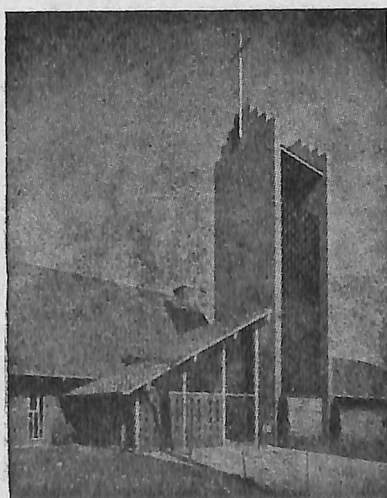
### Some Disappointments

While mentioning routine, it may be well to dispose of a minor complaint which we heard expressed at the convention. Fifteen major addresses were given by our own men (and women) at Seattle. Quite a number of these men speak often at our conventions. Quite a number of our synod pastors seldom are offered this opportunity (not including this writer). Of the fifteen, ten have spoken during the last two or three conventions, and this does not count minor appearances as panel members or liturgists. It is admittedly impossible to please everyone in this respect, but it is a valid complaint in that there are some of our pastors whom we almost never hear. It is a valuable experience for delegates to become acquainted with as many as possible of our men, since congregations often face the prospect of calling total strangers to be their pastor.

More specifically, in the disappointment department, this writer is sorry that the convention voted down the establishment of the office of Youth Director in our synod. The committee working on this had done a fine job in defining specifically the areas of responsibility for such a Director. As the committee described it, the work looked enormous, but under analysis the responsibilities were not impossible. The reason the convention turned it down was lack of manpower. However, this lack is no more acute today than it was a year ago when the committee really got under way. It should have been turned down then, if for that reason.

### New Gym and Dorm

It was also disappointing to hear that the Board of Directors for Grand View had decided to go slow in the matter of the men's dormitory. The convention expressed its confi-



St. John's, Seattle



dence in the decision of the Board. Yet, it seems to this writer that the situation calls for full speed ahead, and not conservative caution. We have lost a whole year in the matter of the men's dorm, and prospects for capacity enrollment have not diminished, but have increased. The slow progress of the gymnasium matter ought not, it seems to us, be too closely related to the matter of the dormitory, since the dormitory cost was expected to be largely self-liquidating, and the funds for it were to come from the U. S. government. It was possibly some post-convention correspondence in these pages a year ago that prompted the Board to go slow, but we hope that the Board will now shift into high gear once more. The dormitory is occupied almost entirely by Synod young people, so it is a matter of enlightened self-interest for the synod to have these facilities improved at once. The Chairman of the Board did remark whimsically that "perhaps the Board has been too conservative." The Findings Committee commended the Board for its prudence, however.

The passing of the old gymnasium can come none too soon, despite the many memories attached to it. The muscle-straining back-breaking bar exercises (called the "ribs" in the appropriate Danish term), the cold, hard floor against perspiring backs, the exciting basketball games, the Studenterfest gymnastics exhibition, the Unge Kræfter dances and the Fastelavns shenanigans — all these yesteryear experiences are associated with the old gym for many an alumnus. (This writer was gymnasium janitor for one unforgettable winter, and almost blew up the steam boiler and building. He was promptly fired, — possibly for not succeeding so that a new gym could have been built twenty years ago.) Many former students will recall fondly the blood, sweat and tears that have gone into the old brick building — mostly sweat.....

### WMS Banquet

A highlight on the convention program certainly was the Women's Mission Society Banquet which will undoubtedly be reported fully on the page, Our Women's Work. The food was delicious, attractively prepared, but the program was interminable. It lasted so long that many guests got up from the table hungrier than when they sat down. The toastmistress and program committee were not at fault. Each of the many, many speakers had been told to confine himself to three or to five or to ten minutes in order to prevent from happening exactly what did happen. The speakers failed to cooperate. Each one had several points to make and could not bring himself to eliminate even one or two of them. Five-minute speeches turned into fifteen-minute addresses. There was no main speaker for the evening, there were six or eight. There is no way of stopping an after-dinner speaker once he gets started, short of pulling him down by the coat-tails. The program started off so very well with that perfectly charming talk by Mrs. Mary Knudstrup, who has the kind of wit that comes from genuine personality. Mrs. Knudstrup is getting up in years, and judging from her grace and appearance must be well over forty by now. As she peered down at her notes, and squinted around at the brightly lit room, she said "It isn't that I can't

see — it's just that you haven't got sufficient light!" and Danny Kaye never got a heartier laugh.

It was just too bad that each of the speakers who were to bring "greetings" and "brief talks" took so long about it. Affairs of this kind are so often spoiled by lasting four or five hours when two or three would be ample.

### The Elections

One of the most responsible, delicate and time-demanding jobs at the convention is the one performed by the Nominations Committee. One pastor and one layman from each district compose the Committee, and their task is monumental. It might help in the future if pastors and laymen would think about the positions to be filled (as announced in advance by the Synod Secretary) and suggest in advance the most qualified candidates for those positions. It might even be possible to get from them a "yes" or a "no" as to willingness to run for office, so that the delaying, expensive procedure of telephoning to those absent from the convention could be avoided. (These calls sometimes go across the entire continent and sometimes end only in a "no" response.) It is difficult to get an entirely satisfactory election procedure, and special study committees have given up in despair over improving our present method. Elections themselves do go quickly and take only a fraction of the time they used to take some years ago. But nominations are still a problem. We noticed one little oddity, and that was that Trinity congregation, Chicago, had four winners on the ballot, which must be some sort of record for one single congregation, (J. K. Jensen, Aksel Nielsen, Knud Overgaard, and Johannes Knudsen).

### Our Friends at Troy

The President of the Synod had recommended that the convention apologize to the Troy congregation for the Synod's responsibility in the unfortunate loss of the pastor to the Roman church. The convention somehow did not quite feel this responsibility. The Synod had educated and granted ordination to the pastor, but there is a grave question over how far the responsibility goes beyond that, especially when almost a dozen years have gone by. It would be illogical to apologize to Troy and not also do so to other congregations served by the pastor, such as Brooklyn and Los Angeles. However, the convention felt deeply concerned and sympathetic to Troy for this occurrence, and the feeling of this writer is that the convention would go to the very extreme in feeling apologetic and responsible as far as it possibly could. Conventioners all had real prayers of concern in their hearts for our Eastern congregation.

### Thanks

The Resolutions Committee (Findings Committee "E") had as one of its points: Thanks and appreciation to the members and friends of St. John's Lutheran Church; to the pastor and his wife, Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Kjaer; for the hospitality, help and friendliness of the whole congregation.... efficient committee work in serving....etc. This is done routinely each year, but could not be more seriously intended each year. No congregation faces a more stupendous one-week task than hosting a convention, and to Kristen Jorgensen and Earl Steberl and the rest, a thousand thanks!





## Paging Youth

American Evangelical Luth.  
Youth Fellowship

EDITOR: EVERETT NIELSEN

1100 Boyd,  
Des Moines 16, Iowa

### Dagmar-Volmer Reports

The Dagmar-Volmer LYF in Montana has had a full year of activities. Meeting on the first and third Fridays of each month, the 21 members are divided into three main committees: devotions, lunch and recreation.

On February 9, we met for our Youth Sunday. Six boys led in the service, with Phillip Brinkman delivering the sermon. Other members of the LYF and the 4-H club sang in a junior choir. A potluck dinner was served, followed by a program by the Dagmar Happy Gang 4-H club.

Also in February, the annual "Fastelavns" party was held. To use a pun, "hitting the cat out of the barrel was a big hit." Gail Christensen and Jerry Thuesen were crowned king and queen. It seems they were the "biggest hits." Hot cross buns were the center of attraction for lunch.

The Saturday before Memorial day, the LYF spent the day in our two cemeteries tending graves left unattended.

In June, the group served dinner and lunch for an insurance meeting and had a big splash with a car wash. Coffee was served to the customers as they waited for their cars. A picnic at a nearby lake rounded out the June activities.

In July, the LYF served dinner and operated a refreshment stand for a baseball game at Dagmar. At Midsummerfest, we served evening lunch and had a refreshment stand.

The money made at these events was put to excellent use. Fifteen members made the trip to Spirit Lake, Wisconsin for the Northern Lights District Camp and Convention. Their expenses were paid from these funds.

Eileen Pedersen,  
Corresponding Secretary.

### Over The Typewriter

Your editor is leaving Nebraska as soon as he finishes typing this last sheet. Yes, it's back to Des Moines and more education after a wonderful summer working with the congregation at Nysted. If any of you young people ever come out this way, I can assure you of good food and lots of conversation. I gained weight, to say the least.

Camp reports have been slim and they are late. If you want to read about your camp during December, just keep on waiting to send the reports. But if you enjoy CURRENT news, get them in immediately.

I'll be seeing some of you in Des Moines soon.

And so this isn't all waste space, I am happy to announce that "And With This Ring" has been found and is again available.

### Nebraska District Meets

The annual camp and convention of the Great Plains District of the AELYF met at Marquette, Nebraska, August 18-21. There were approximately 18 in attendance for the four-day meeting which included crafts, swimming, dancing and business. The Kronborg (local) LYF had the largest representation with 12 or more young people. Nysted sent three; Denmark, Kansas, two; and Hay Springs and Davy each sent one.

The meeting opened on Thursday noon with dinner followed by swimming at Central City. The supper was highlighted by the announcement that everyone would be allowed to attend the local fair that night. Friday morning devotions opened that day, followed by a discussion of teen-age problems centered around popularity and morality. After dinner, Don Zinger, professor at Grand View Seminary, lectured on world missions.

Professor Zinger pointed out that a revolution is occurring in the thinking of many people in the mission fields. There is a desire for self-teaching rather than foreign or outside leadership. A humorous incident occurred during the lecture concerning Mr. Zinger's son, Mike. Just as Mr. Zinger pronounced the words: "We are entering....", Mike walked in the door behind him, smiling broadly.

Mr. Zinger completed his two-part lecture in the evening with the congregation also in attendance. Following the lecture, campfire was held, and the younger set adjourned for a planned party. One of the local LYF'ers opened her house to them for a grand time.

Saturday morning, following devotions, the business meeting was opened. Discussions centered around the possibilities of hosting 1959 National AELYF convention at Camp Nysted, Nebraska. Approval is necessary by the camp board before such an undertaking can be official. If such a move is approved, the district young people will gather there for several work weekends prior to convention to make everything shipshape.

Election of officers was held, with the following comprising the Great Plains District Board: President, Keith Davis, Hay Springs, Nebraska; Vice President, Carolyn Espersen, Nysted (Dannebrog), Nebraska; Secretary, Leota Laursen, Marquette, Nebraska; Treasurer, Lou Ann Rasmussen, Marquette, Nebraska; Fifth Member, Bob Scott, Marquette, Nebraska.

Saturday night found the local LYF presenting various Danish dances before the group. A wiener roast and swimming had been enjoyed later in the afternoon, and the day was completed by the usual campfire.

Bible study opened Sunday morning with worship services and Holy Communion following. A delicious noon meal was served among the tears of farewell. A special thank you from the group goes to all who made this a fine convention-camp.



# Our Women's Work

MRS. AAGE PAULSEN, EDITOR

Beaver Crossing, Nebraska



## Afternoon Tea

On June 26 the women of the Bethania congregation here in Solvang had an afternoon tea, in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the WMS, with sixty present.

Mrs. George Petersen (Clara) opened her beautiful ranch home to the three Guilds; the Danish Ladies' Aid, Bethania Guild and the Evening Guild.

This home typifies those that are interested, and have been for so many years in the work of the WMS. Here on a balmy afternoon, a delightful program was enjoyed, recalling the work that has gone before. With a gentle breeze singing in the tops of the beautiful pines close by, it was easy to imagine the early years when Lutheran women first started their missionary work. We were all inspired again to remember work that the women of our synod have been doing all through the years, and received inspiration to forge ahead in this new era of women's work.

Mrs. Chris Nelson (Eleanor) was in charge of the interesting program, assisted by several others. Thyra Larsen brought her violin along and played some special numbers, as well as accompanying the group for singing songs. One of the most delightful bits of entertainment, was the large group of former Grand View students that sang the "Grand View Alma Mater." We were very happy to see more than one generation of alumni among our women here!

After the inspiring and entertaining program, tea was served at a beautifully appointed table, set amongst the colorful Fuschias, Tuberous Begonias and other shade loving plants, that make the patio at the Petersen's such a delightful spot to visit.

At the close of the afternoon, a dedication offering was taken, and the sum of \$77 was collected. We all went home feeling that the work of the women of our synod held more meaning to each of us personally.

Velma L. Weisbrod.

## Program at Askov

The Bethlehem Lutheran church of Askov reports:

We had our Jubilee program Sunday afternoon, June 15 in the church. Special programs were printed for the occasion. We gave the Greenville pageant and parts of the Tyler one.

Our total offering, including what came in that day and envelopes turned in since, amounted to \$103.59. We had given out envelopes to all the women of the church, including a few who were members of the Ladies' Aid but not of the congregation.

After the program we had coffee in the church basement at decorated tables with a three-tiered anniversary cake flanked by yellow candles. The cake was made by Valborg Nedegaard.

Ruth Stovring made a map showing all the churches of our synod which was displayed in the church basement. Ellen Jorgensen made a banner and at one of our Ladies' Aid meetings (or two, rather, as we did it at both English and Danish Aid) we gave large cut-out hands with yellow ribbons on to each woman. As Marietta Strandkov's little piece from the Women's Page about WMS stretching helping hands to many different causes was read, each pinned her hand on the wall, with the ribbon leading from the banner to the hand, as each cause was mentioned that corresponded to the words on the hands.

I should have mentioned how we gave out the envelopes. We had two coffee parties where we discussed what WMS was, and had done, through the years and then each woman was given a list of names to whom she was to deliver envelopes and also tell those people something about WMS so they would know to what they were contributing.

—Taken from a personal letter from Ardis Petersen to Mrs. Kildegaard.

## The Jubilee Banquet

"....a complete sellout," was what Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Kjaer told us concerning the WMS Jubilee Banquet as we stopped at the parsonage upon arriving in Seattle, Sunday evening. "However, we are making plans whereby all the women who wish to can purchase banquet tickets," Maria Kjaer added. It was an ingenious plan by which men who were registered at the convention could relinquish their banquet ticket if they wished and yet be served the banquet menu at an earlier hour. The committee hoped this would make some tickets available to District IX women. Many of our men responded and cheerfully sat down with the children for dinner.

The Seattle WMS Jubilee Committee had been in touch with Mrs. Holger Strandkov, chairman of the National Jubilee Committee, for many weeks; and they had thought of and provided everything for a truly festive setting. In order to avoid congestion in the dining hall, the Jubilee banners and other Jubilee memorials were displayed in the lounge and corridor where people could linger and study them all through convention week.

The large banner and smaller table banners which Anna Nussle had made for the Jubilee celebration at St. Stephen's church, Chicago, had been lent to St. John's, Seattle, and here furnished part of the decorations in the dining hall. I hope our page will feature a picture of this banner so that all of you may see it. It is an artistic creation as well as a labor of love. Gilded clam shells as nut cups, beautiful flower arrangements, candles and programs completed the table

(Continued on Page 15)



# *The Hong Kong Refugee Story*

**Editor's Note:** Hong Kong is one of the sorriest spots in the world-wide refugee migration. According to Ove Nielsen, who spoke at Seattle at the 81st Convention, our relief work there is pitifully inadequate. Read these stories, and remember Hong Kong when you make your donation to Lutheran World Action.

## **"The 'Family Lam' "**

Old Father Lam is dead. He died in a lorry accident some months ago.

His wife, who was sick with tuberculosis suffered severe shock after his death and also died. At their squalid little hut in the squatter area in Homantin, Knowloon, they left three children.

The oldest, aged 12, is now "Big Lam." There is also his younger sister and "Little Lam," a toddler.

The three live in abject poverty with their aged granny. "Big Lam" now has the task of feeding the family. When he can run errands — like fetching water or delivering groceries — he can make enough money for a couple of bowls of rice. But he prefers to be paid in food. This makes his responsibilities easier.

Even when there are no errands to run "Big Lam" must still find food for four mouths. So he takes "Little Lam" by the hand and the two make the rounds at meal time with their bowls.

Generous neighbors, who have a little more, sometimes give the young Lams the leftovers of their meals. Usually it means a spoonful from this hut and one from that until they have enough. In this way one day follows another.

There are thousands of youngsters who must live like this in Hong Kong. Without the supplementary food supplies given them by Lutheran World Service they would probably die.

Your contribution to Lutheran World Action helps support this and similar programs in 75 countries around the world.

## **"For Their Son — A Better Chance"**

In a dingy little hut on a hillside in Hong Kong lives a paralytic and his family of five. He is Lee Sun. Together, he and his wife try to eke out a living by teaching.

It was not too bad some time back when they had twenty young pupils under their care. But now the number had dwindled to six and their monthly income to about U. S. \$3.00.

Lee Sun has seen better days. His father once owned a silversmith shop in Macao, and it was there he grew up and studied.

As a young man he went into the fruits and hogs wholesale business, but that was closed down with the Japanese occupation.

He came to Hong Kong with his wife and children and became a hawker, selling goods from a stand in the marketplace. Later he found a job with the Hong Kong Tramways Co., and "from gateman I was promoted to driver."

But misfortune struck. Three years ago he became ill and the right side of his body was paralyzed.

Now his wife who had taken a teachers' training course in her native town of Kong Moon, teaches a few pupils in their little hut in the Chai Wan district. On the days when he feels well enough Lee Sun helps her with the lessons.

Their elder son, who is 19 now, is working as a boy in a taxi company earning HK \$90.00 a month (about U. S. \$15).

"But he has to eat outside and is going to a night school so he cannot give us much," Lee Sun explains. "And it is important that he go to school and learn English."

"My wife and I don't know English, so she can't find work. That is why, no matter how hard life is, we want our son to learn English and have a better chance than we have had."

To live the Lee Suns are almost wholly dependent upon donations of food and clothing from Lutheran World Service.

## **"In Her Bins, Her Daily Food — On the Doorway, Her Bed"**

The cold gray dawn is just breaking. The shivering human form stirs under a worn thin blanket in the doorway.

She is a small woman in her fifties. She has slept poorly — the light fitful sleep of one who is cold and hungry.

Awake now, her hunger returns. Her only thought is to find food. Hurriedly she rolls up the blanket and throws it over her shoulders.

She knows that the garbage is put out at this hour at the Officers' Mess nearby and she makes her way along Queen's Road Central to the kitchen area.

It is almost a daily routine with her now and she is a familiar sight to the men in uniform. Two big bins are outside the door and in them — two pieces of bread. Then she makes her way to the Central District.

When the weather is good, she sometimes stands outside the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank Building, sunning herself a little to keep warm.

When it is raining she stands under the veranda outside the Chartered Bank Building. Other times she walks up and down Queen's Road Central outside the dockyard. Some kind passerby may give her a coin. But she does not beg and she does not stretch out her hand to every passing pedestrian.

At times she seems wrapped in her own thoughts. She remembers her younger days.

She was not starving and nameless then. She was



Chan Kwai-fun, daughter of the owner of a pawnshop, a member of a well-to-do family.

Looking up at the tall buildings of the Central District, she sees again in her mind's eye the skyscrapers of New York. Once, long ago she had visited there. Then she returned to Canton to be married.

As a young woman she had been married only one year when the Sino-Japanese war broke out and she was separated from her husband. Since then she has not heard from him — and does not know whether he is dead or alive.

When the Japanese occupied Canton, she left the city and made her way to Rangoon, where she worked for a while as a cashier in a restaurant. Then she made her way to the interior of China.

She found work in Kweiyang and Liuchow. After V-J day she went to Hong Kong.

Her memory of dates is vague. She recalls working for a welfare organization in Hong Kong many years ago, but it seems now to her that she has been without work for about eight years.

She is without family or friends. Home is any sheltered doorway and her only possessions are the clothes she wears.

When the sun goes down and the evening air becomes chilly, she pulls her blanket more tightly around her shoulders and looks for a place to sleep.

She finds a doorway and spreads the blanket on the ground. Another day has passed — and she is still alive.

### **"Let it Fall and Bury Me"**

The temperature has taken a sharp plunge. All over Hong Kong people are wearing heavy coats to keep out the biting cold. For the poor — life becomes harder.

Huddled in a little hut on the hillside of Chai Wan is an old woman of eighty-three — alone, without family or friends.

The paper-thin walls of her little hut are poor protection against the chill of the winds.

The woman, Chan Sum, has been a widow for fourteen years. In all this time she has had to beg for most of her food.

Now, with age, she is growing deaf and her memory is dimmed. She cannot tell a coherent story about herself. All she can remember of her husband is that he used to work as a cook.

They had a son, but he also died "during the big strike." "That was long before you were born," she tells a case worker.

From her neighbors it is learned that she moved into the hut about five years ago. She had gone there with a nephew, now also dead.

She was cooking her evening meal when the case worker arrived — a few boiled potatoes given her by a kind-hearted stranger.

During the last typhoon her little hut was shaken so terribly it nearly collapsed, the neighbors say.

"This hut will never stand another typhoon," they prophesy.

"Let it collapse and bury me with it," the old woman responds.

Chan Sum is one of the 82,000 persons in Hong

Kong who receive food and clothing every month through Lutheran World Service. Your contributions to Lutheran World Action help support this and similar aid programs in distress areas in 75 countries around the world. Give and give generously to the 1958 Appeal.

### **"The Blind of Hong Kong"**

There are an estimated six to ten thousand blind in the Colony of Hong Kong.

Many are in dire circumstances, suffering poverty and old age.

In a tiny hut, not more than eight feet square, on the hillside off Shaukiwan Main Street East, lives a blind man of 71 and his deaf wife, age 60.

Squatting on his hard plank bed covered with a faded cotton quilt, he stares blankly into space, as he is interviewed by a case worker.

The man, Lee Ming, had worked as a cook in Canton in his younger days.

Living in the tiny hut with the aged couple are their widowed daughter and a 17-year-old grandson.

"We are living practically on charity," Lee Ming says trembling at the effort.

His son who is working as an electrician in Borneo sends them HK\$200 (about U. S. \$33) every month to support his daughter-in-law and four grandchildren. From this the daughter-in-law usually gives them HK\$40.

"My daughter used to work in a factory and could earn about HK\$1.80 a day when there was work, but now she has been out of a job for many months," Lee explains.

Although too old to work themselves, the Mings would like to be self-sufficient. Their daughter-in-law, too, does not want to depend on charity and hopes to find another job.

The old couple's hopes lie in their grandson, 17-year-old Tang Shing-hong, who is working as a messenger boy for an American newspaper correspondent in Hong Kong.

"He is a very good boy," the grandfather says proudly. "He is going to night school to study."

But in the meantime to stay alive they must depend upon food and clothing given them by Lutheran World Service.

### **There is a Difference**

At an international gathering of young people in New York City a young American asked an educated lady from Burma what was the common religious belief of her native land.

When she answered: "Buddhism," he said: "Oh well, it does not matter, for after all, all religions are the same."

But she replied: "If you had lived in my country, you would not have said that. I have seen what centuries of superstition, fear, and indifference to social problems have done to my people. We need the truth and salvation of Christianity. When I became a Christian it cost me a good deal. Had your religion cost you something, you would be aware of its superiority."

**The Expositor.**



## District I Convention

District I of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold its annual convention at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 30 West Hartford Road, Newington, Connecticut, September 26-28.

All congregations are asked to be represented by delegates (one for every 35 voting members) and all pastors are asked to be in attendance. Others who may desire to attend will be welcome.

The convention will open with a service on Friday evening and will close on Sunday afternoon.

**Theodore J. Thuesen,**  
District President.

## INVITATION

Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Newington, Connecticut (formerly of Hartford), hereby extends a cordial invitation to members of District I of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church, and friends of our church, to be their guests for the annual convention of District I, September 26-28, 1958. All expecting to attend are asked to register by September 19. Registrations should be sent to Mrs. Axel Krogh, 17 Baltimore St., Hartford 5, Connecticut.

**Svend Bidstrup,** President.  
**Holger O. Nielsen,** Pastor.

## District II Convention

District II of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet for its annual convention at Central Lutheran Church in Muskegon, Michigan, September 26-28. The opening meeting will be on Friday evening, September 26, and the closing meeting on Sunday afternoon, September 28.

All pastors of the District are expected to be in attendance and the congregations are reminded to elect and send delegates, one for every twenty-five voting members or fraction thereof. Everyone interested in attending this convention shall be welcome.

**Beryl M. Knudsen,**  
District President.

## CONVENTION INVITATION

As the host congregation to the District Convention this year, Central Lutheran Church of Muskegon, Michigan, extends a cordial invitation to the members and friends of our District Congregations to be our guests during the days of September 26-28.

Please send all registrations to: Mrs. L. G. Thompson, 945 Petrie Road, Muskegon, Michigan, by September 20 if possible.

**Hans Nielsen,** President.  
**Edwin Hansen,** Pastor.

## PROGRAM

Convention Theme:  
GROWING THROUGH THE CHURCH

**Friday, September 26**

7:00 p. m.—Committee meetings.

8:00 p. m.—Opening service, "Growing in Faith," Rev. Harry Andersen.

9:15 p. m.—Coffee and fellowship.

## Saturday, September 27

9:00 a. m.—Devotions, "Growing through Worship," Rev. James Lund.

9:45 a. m.—Business meeting.

12:00 Noon—Dinner.

1:30 p. m.—Business meeting (cont.).

4:00 p. m.—Lecture, "Growing through Education," Rev. Howard Christensen.

5:30 p. m.—Supper.

7:00 p. m.—WMS meeting.

8:00 p. m.—Lecture, "Growing in Service to Others," Rev. Harry Wolf, Executive Director of Lutheran Charities, Detroit, Mich.

## Sunday, September 28

10:45 a. m.—Worship service with holy communion. Rev. Donald Holm, preaching. Rev. Edwin Hansen, Liturgist.

12:00 Noon—Dinner.

1:30 p. m.—Closing meeting, "Growing in Fellowship," Rev. Harold Knudsen.

## District III Convention

District III of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet for its annual convention at Bethania Lutheran Church, 1350 Orchard St., Racine, Wis., on September 26-28. The opening meeting will be Friday at 7:30 p. m., the closing meeting at 2 p. m., 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.

The program for the convention is presented below. All interested in attending these meetings shall be welcome.

Also this year there will be a special Youth Workshop in connection with the convention. We hope for a big turn-out.

**Paul E. Wikman,**  
District President.

## INVITATION

Members of Bethania Lutheran Church of Racine, Wisconsin, are happy to invite all the members of District III to attend the annual District meeting to be held September 26-28. Registrations and reservations for lodging and meals should be in the hands of our Committee not later than September 17. Please send registrations to Mrs. Amy Kauffman, 1545 Orchard St., Racine, Wis. We are looking forward to a stimulating convention and hope that we will see many of our friends.

Cordially,

**BETHANIA LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Edwin E. Erdmann,** President.

**Robert S. Heide,** Pastor.

## PROGRAM

### Friday, September 26

12:30 p. m.—Dinner for pastors and families.

1:30 p. m.—Pastors' meeting. "Various Aspects of the New Church" by Rev. Erik Moller.

5:30 p. m.—Supper (Please indicate number coming).

7:30 p. m.—Opening service Holy Communion, the Rev. Eilert Nielsen, Preacher.

### Saturday, September 27

9:00 a. m.—Devotions, the Rev. Gudmund Petersen.

9:30 a. m.—Opening Business Meeting.

10:30 a. m.—Coffee break.

10:45 a. m.—Business.

12:00 Noon—Lunch

1:15 p. m.—Business.

3:00 p. m.—Coffee.

3:30 p. m.—Women's Mission Society.

6:00 p. m.—Convention Banquet.

Three short "snapshots" from Kaj Munk's "The Word" will be shown by the Mixed and Married Group of St. Stephen's Church, Chicago.

7:30 p. m.—The Vesper Service. Dr. Alfred Jensen, Speaker.

8:45 p. m.—Young People's Social Hour.

### Sunday, September 28

9:00 a. m.—The Worship Service. The Rev. Erik Moller. Sunday School. The Rev. Ivan Nielsen.

10:30 a. m.—The Worship Service, Rev. Paul Wikman. Sunday School. Mrs. Thyra Nussle.

12:15 p. m.—Dinner.

2:00 p. m.—Closing Session, Dr. Johannes Knudsen, speaker.

3:00 p. m.—Coffee.

## Invitation to Young People's Workshop

In conjunction with the meeting of District III Convention to be held in Bethania Lutheran Church, Racine, Wisconsin, an invitation is extended to the Young People of the District to come and participate in an all day Workshop to be held on Saturday, September 27. Registrations for this Workshop should be sent to Miss Karen Ernst, 1627 Liberty St.

**The Young People's Group,**  
**BETHANIA LUTHERAN CHURCH.**

## District IV Convention

Members and friends of the Iowa District (District IV) of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church are invited to attend its annual convention in Hampton, Iowa, September 19-21, 1958. Registrations for pastors, delegates and guests should be mailed to Mr. Carl Sailer, Route 1, Hampton, Iowa, as soon as possible, preferably before September 10. The program, which will begin Friday at 2 p. m. and continue



through Sunday at 4 p. m., will be printed in this September 5th issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS.

**Rev. Richard H. Sorensen,**  
Pres., Iowa District, AELC.

**Rev. Willard R. Garred,**  
Host Pastor.

**Mr. Verner Peterson,**  
Pres. St. John's Lutheran Church.

### PROGRAM

#### Friday, September 19

- 2:00 p. m.—Opening Devotions, Rev. Alfred Sorensen.
- 2:30 p. m.—Convention Business Session called to order.
- 3:00 p. m.—Coffee.
- 3:30 p. m.—Business Session resumes.
- 6:00 p. m.—Supper.
- 8:00 p. m.—Worship service with Rev. C. A. Stub preaching; Rev. Willard Garred, liturgist. Message: "The Life of Our Church . . . Yesterday."

#### Saturday, September 20

- 8:00 a. m.—WMS Breakfast with business session following.
- 8:00 a. m.—Men's Breakfast with message by Rev. Holger Jorgensen, "Men in the Life of Our Church."
- 10:00 a. m.—Convention Business Session resumes.
- 12:00 Noon—Dinner.
- 1:30 p. m.—Message by Rev. Harold Olsen introducing discussion of the topic, "The Life of Our Church . . . Today."
- 3:00 p. m.—Coffee.
- 3:30 p. m.—Final Business Session.
- 6:30 p. m.—Banquet, sponsored by WMS for all conventioners. Message by Mrs. Charles Hipwood, president of the Des Moines Council of United Church Women.

#### Sunday, September 21

- 10:30 a. m.—Worship Service with Communion. Rev. Carlo Petersen, preaching; Rev. Charles Terrell, liturgist.
- 12:00 Noon—Dinner.
- 2:00 p. m.—Afternoon program with message by Dean Axel C. Kildegaard on the subject, "The Life of Our Church . . . Tomorrow."
- 3:30 p. m.—Concluding Devotions led by Rev. Holger Strand-skov.
- 4:00 p. m.—Closing Lunch Hour.

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

**Rev. Willard Garred,**  
Host Pastor.

### District VI Convention

#### INVITATION

Bethany Lutheran Church, Badger, South Dakota, hereby extends an invitation to all delegates, pastors and visiting members, to be our guests

during the District Convention, September 19 to 21.

In order to secure a place to stay for all that want lodging, we ask you to register not later than September 10, by writing to Rev. John Enslemann, Badger, South Dakota. May God richly bless us in our fellowship together.

**George Damm,** President.  
**John Enslemann,** Pastor.

### INSTRUCTIONS

Congregations are reminded to elect delegates for the business meeting on the basis of one delegate for every 25 voting members or fraction thereof. Each congregation should also present a written report of its activities during the past year. Congregational treasurers should forward contributions to the district budget, 25 cents for each contributing member, to Mr. Jorgen Krog, Lake Benton, Minnesota, before September 10. Registration and tickets for all meals will be \$6.00 a person.

**Calvin Rossman,**  
District President.

### District VII Convention

The annual convention of District VII of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held at Cordova, Nebraska, October 3-5, 1958. The convention will begin on Friday afternoon at 3 o'clock and will close with an early supper on Sunday evening.

All congregations of the District are urged to send delegates. Each congregation is entitled to send one delegate for every ten voting members or major fraction thereof.

May we assemble at Cordova in October for a good and fruitful meeting in God's name and to His glory.

**Thorvald Hansen,** President.  
District VII, AELC.

### INVITATION

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Cordova, Nebraska, extends a cordial invitation to all pastors, delegates and friends to attend District VII convention to be held here October 3-5, 1958. We would appreciate having your registration at least a week in advance so that we can provide housing for all of you. Also, will those coming only for Sunday please notify us? The ladies of our church will be planning the menus and would like to know how many to prepare for.

Please send your registrations to: Mr. Vernon Jensen, Beaver Crossing, Nebraska.

May God bless the fellowship of our meeting.

**Aage Paulsen,** President.  
**Folmer Farstrup,** Pastor.

#### Friday, October 3

- 3:00 p. m.—Coffee and Registration.
- 3:45 p. m.—Youth work discussion, Pastor Lavern Larkowski.
- 5:30 p. m.—Supper.
- 8:00 p. m.—Communion service, Pastor Marius Krog.

### Saturday, October 4

- 8:45 a. m.—Devotions, Pastor Folmer Farstrup.
- 9:15 a. m.—Business session.
- 12:00 Noon—Dinner.
- 1:30 p. m.—Business session continued.
- 3:30 p. m.—Coffee.
- 4:00 p. m.—Business session continued.
- 5:30 p. m.—Supper.
- 6:30 p. m.—WMS Meeting.
- 8:00 p. m.—Program by WMS.

### Sunday, October 5

- 10:30 a. m.—Two worship services. St. John's Lutheran (AELC) Pastor Ronald Jespersen. Our Savior's Lutheran (UELCL) Pastor Carl Laursen.
- 12:00 Noon—Dinner.
- 2:30 p. m.—Lecture, Dr Alfred Jensen.
- 4:30 p. m.—Supper and farewell.

### District IX Convention

The annual convention of District IX of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held at Hope Lutheran Church, Garfield at Elmont Street, Enumclaw, Washington, September 19-20-21. All congregations are entitled to one delegate for every twenty (20) voting members or fraction thereof. All pastors and a full slate of delegates are expected to be in attendance. Names of all delegates should be sent to the host congregation prior to the convention. Visitors are also invited to attend. A tentative program is printed below.

Friday evening will be devoted to the Women's Mission Society Business Meeting, Mrs. C. S. Fynboe, Parkland, Washington, in charge. Each women's group should send one delegate for each twenty-five (25) members, or fraction thereof, and its Key Woman.

We pray for God's blessing upon these meetings and hope that our deliberations may be to the glory and extension of His kingdom.

**Robert K. Fallgatter,**  
District Vice President.

### INVITATION

In accord with the above announcement, Hope Lutheran Church of Enumclaw, Washington, hereby extends a cordial invitation to pastors, delegates, members and friends of the congregations of District IX to our annual convention, September 19-20-21.

Registrations and reservations for lodging and meals should be sent at least one week prior to the meeting to John F. Hansen, 1906 Lowell, Enumclaw, Washington. (Telephone: TAY-LOR 5-2447). Arrival time will be appreciated.

**Hans P. Christensen,** Pres.

**H. M. Andersen,** Pastor.

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# BOOKS

**THE AFFLUENT SOCIETY: By John K. Galbraith. Houghton Mifflin Co. 368 pages. \$5.00.**

The ancient Romans had a saying which ran something like this: "Happy is he who understands the meaning of things." In our complex times it is not easy to understand things, but we should continue to try.

In this book Mr. John K. Galbraith tries to explain our economy in an age of abundance. Most of the people of the world throughout all times have lived in an age of scarcity. It was not until very recently that a small

part of our western world became an "affluent society."

Not so much over a hundred years ago Thomas Malthus told the people of the world that it would be their fate to starve because population grew faster than the food supply. At about the same time David Ricardo formulated his Iron Law of Wages. His view of the future was as dark as that of Malthus.

How the eyes of Malthus and Ricardo would have popped if they had seen the surplus grain bins of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. Many, perhaps most, of our economic ideas grew up in an age of scarcity. Economists have not yet adjusted their thinking to abundance in production.

The cry is still: produce, produce. Throughout history it has been that or starve. We are still so obsessed with production that we think more of quantity in production than quality. Many of the things our modern world produces are hard to justify on moral grounds. We are told that the world needs a new and better deodorant for our bodies, but they have to spend millions of dollars in an advertising campaign to make us accept it. So often we produce the wrong goods.

Any American who has traveled in Europe must have been struck by the fact that the USA is a country of private wealth and public poverty. There may be good washing machines in Europe, but I have not seen them. But in Denmark they can afford flower beds along their railways and a Tivoli. Austria is a tragically poor country as compared with the United States. But the people of Austria feel they can't live without good operas and good living theatres, so the government pours money into the support of such activities. In the US we can afford cars with bigger and better tail feathers year after year, and very few cities have a good opera or theatre.

On page 253 of his book Mr. Galbraith has this to say: "The family which takes its mauve and cerise, air-conditioned, power-steered, and power-braked automobile out for a tour passes through cities that are badly paved, made hideous by litter, blighted buildings, billboards, and posts for wires that should long since have been put underground. They pass on into a countryside that has been rendered largely invisible by commercial art — They picnic on exquisitely packaged food from a portable icebox by a polluted stream and go on to spend the night at a park which is a menace to public health and moral." How well said and how true!

I hope there are still readers of LUTHERAN TIDINGS who are as yet strange enough to long for a better and more beautiful world. This book is for you. It is written by a man who was once an editor of FORTUNE, but who had the good sense to quit that to do something important — to teach the young at Harvard.

Alfred C. Nielsen.

## Institute on Preaching

"What are the twenty worst faults in contemporary preaching?" "What is prophetic preaching?" "The art of oral writing." These were among the subjects dealt with at the Third Institute on Preaching sponsored by the Board of Higher Education of the United Lutheran Church in America at Fremont, Nebraska.

At the invitation of the Board of Higher Education, ULCA, 23 pastors from our four synods of the ULCA, the Nebraska conference of the Augustana Church and the middle districts of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church converged upon Central Lutheran Seminary in Fremont, Nebraska, for a week of lectures, mutual sermon criticism and the sharing of ideas and insights in the matter of preaching. The purpose of the meeting was stated by Dr. Gould Wickey, executive secretary of the Board of Higher Education, ULCA, and director of the institute when he said, "This meeting is to approve the preaching in the Lutheran Church in America."

Lectures for the Institute were professors of theology, systematic and practical, from Lutheran seminaries all over the United States. Speakers and their subjects are listed below:

Professor Richard C. H. Hoefler, Southern Lutheran Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina, Oral Writing.

Dean Axel C. Kildegaard, Grand View Seminary, Des Moines, Iowa, Preaching and Worship, Flesh on the Bones. Dr. G. E. Lenski, Pacific Lutheran Seminary, Berkeley, California, Twenty Worst Preaching Faults, Prophetic Preaching.

President Karl Mattson, Augustana Seminary, Rock Island, Illinois, The Preacher's Pre-suppositions, The Preacher's Proclamation.

President E. B. Keisler, Central Theological Seminary, Fremont, Nebraska, Preaching at Top Level.

Professor C. C. Rasmussen, Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Faith and the Pulpit, The Holy Spirit and the Pulpit.

Dr. John Schmidt, Indianola Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio, Preaching the Gospel of Grace, The Bible in Preaching.

Professor Amos Traver, Hamma Divinity School, Springfield, Ohio, Preaching the Parables, Preaching the Miracles.

Dr. Gould Wickey, Board of Higher Education, ULCA, New York City, What is Preaching?

Those attending from the AELC were Pastors Clayton Nielsen, Calvin Rossman and Harold E. Olsen.

## The Ministry of Mercy

(Continued from Page 4)

spirit and that love which undergird His church. In the final analysis when the church becomes "love's working arm" we may well paraphrase Paul and say that it is not the church that ministers in mercy but it is Christ who lives in it.

### DISTRICT IX PROGRAM THEME—"THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

#### Friday, September 19

8:00 p. m.—WMS Business Meeting. Mrs. C. S. Fynboe, Parkland, Washington, District WMS President, in charge.

#### Saturday, September 20

9:00 a. m.—"The Door Into the Kingdom" — Opening sermon by District Vice President Robert K. Fallgatter, Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Wilbur, Wash.

9:45 a. m.—Business session.

12:00 Noon—Dinner.

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

3:00 p. m.—Coffee.

4:00 p. m.—"The Layman and His Church" — panel discussion.

6:00 p. m.—Supper.

7:30 p. m.—WMS program.

#### Sunday, September 21

11:00 a. m.—Morning Worship Service with Communion. Sermon, "The Kingdom and the Word," by Pastor Arnold Knudsen, Faith Lutheran Church, Junction City, Ore.; Liturgy by Rev. H. M. Andersen, host pastor.

1:00 p. m.—Banquet and program.

3:00 p. m.—"Some Aspects of the Merger" by guest speaker, Pastor C. W. Fagerlin, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Wash.

6:30 p. m.—Supper.

7:00 p. m.—Closing Meeting. "The Kingdom Within Us" by Dr. J. C. Kjaer, Pastor, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Seattle, Washington.

8:30 p. m.—Coffee and farewell fellowship hour.



## News From Newington

The convention committees are very busy preparing for the last week end in September, which is an eventful one for us. Not only is the District I convention going to be held in our brand new church, but we are going to install our new Pastor, Rev. Holger O. Nielsen.

The committee in charge of the convention consists of Svend Bidstrup, Oscar Morgan and Fred Donsbough. Mrs. Oscar Morgan is in charge of the dining room and Mrs. Hansine Overgard of the kitchen. The registration and housing committee are Mrs. Axel Krogh and her daughter, Mrs. Art Jeppesen.

Rev. and Mrs. Holger Nielsen visited us for a few days in July. We were very happy that they seemed quite pleased with the church and the parsonage. The church council met with Pastor Nielsen and came away very encouraged.

Mrs. Karna Cartensen held an open house in her gardens for Pastor and Mrs. Nielsen Sunday afternoon, and about 40 people enjoyed a lovely Smorgasbord and singing and good fellowship with each other and Pastor and Mrs. Nielsen.

The new parsonage is nearing completion. In fact as you read this it is most likely finished. Every Sunday after services there is a "tour of inspection" and the whole attendance troops, over to the parsonage to see what has been done since the previous Sunday. Everyone seems quite pleased with what they see.

We have upwards of a dozen or so new people attending our services these last Sundays, and they are being approached for membership. In fact one of these families has asked to join, and that is most encouraging. We feel that with the leadership and guidance of our new pastor, and with the work we are prepared to put into the work of our church, we cannot fail to grow in our new territory.

Vera Jespersen, Sec.

About 25 ladies attended a picnic at the home of Mrs. Fred Andersen July 1. It was a very hot day, but we were most comfortable in the tree-shaded lawn. Mrs. Andersen and Mrs. Sam Toft served coffee and dessert, and we had a most pleasant afternoon.

On August 6 the Church Women (formerly Ladies' Aid) were guests of Mrs. Karna Cartensen, who served us a beautiful luncheon in her home. We then went out into her lovely garden and had a brief meeting while the dozen or so husbands were having lunch. There were 26 ladies present, and we had a most delightful afternoon. Mrs. Carstensen served coffee and homemade kringle and cookies in midafternoon. Something special was planned for our next meeting, about which we will say more in a subsequent issue.

Inger Hansen, Sec.

## W. C. of C. Committee Meets in Denmark

That Europe is in danger of ignoring the world-wide changes taking place today is the opinion of 70 churchmen, sociologists, politicians and economists who met recently in Denmark for consultation on European responsibility to Asia and Africa.

Sponsored by the Department of Church and Society of the World Council of Churches, the consultation was held in Nyborg, Denmark, prior to the meeting of the council's Central Committee August 21-29.

In a report issued August 20, the group asked that European Christians be aware of their special responsibility when they utter opinions on nationalism in Asia and Africa "even though they may feel it necessary to point out the dangers to international co-operation of even constructive nationalism."

The consultants urged sensitiveness to claims of emergent nationalities and said that conditions hindering the chief aim of helping a country develop satisfactorily should not be imposed on either political or economic aid. The group said that in many — if not most — cases economic assistance to undeveloped countries should be on an international and multilateral basis and that the receiving countries should help plan the assistance and should act cooperatively in its use. The responsibility of recipient countries not to misuse aid was also stressed.

The report acknowledged that churches often have not been realistic in their recommendations to governments to follow idealistic policies. It called for better education of church members about their responsibilities, asking that church members be educated to support more radical policies based on better understanding.

## General Secretary Reports

To interpret the recent meeting between representatives of the World Council of Churches and the Moscow Patriarchate "primarily in political terms" is "to miss its real importance." Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, World Council of Churches' general secretary, said August 21 in his report to the council's Central Committee at its opening session in Nyborg, Denmark.

The meeting between the two groups was held August 7-9 in Utrecht, Holland.

The sessions between the two groups of churchmen were "in the realm of church relationships and church history," Dr. Visser 't Hooft said, but pointed out that "it is true that it has its very real political aspect in that we cannot forget the international situation in such a meeting."

However, the general secretary assured the council's policy-making committee that "we have indeed tried to deal responsibly with the problems arising out of that situation."

More than 130 persons are attending the annual meeting in Nyborg which began August 21 and continues through August 29. Seventy-three committee members and substitutes are present, joined by fraternal delegates, officers of other international church groups and national Christian councils and observers.

## The Jubilee Banquet

(Continued from Page 9)

decorations. These hundred and ten places were set and all were filled.

After a delicious turkey dinner topped by an elegant fruit and ice cream dessert had been consumed Mrs. C. S. Fynboe, WMS District IX President, stepped to the "mike" and did an excellent job as master of ceremonies. The program was long, but as I look back, I feel there was not anything which should have been left out. The vocal solos by Jean Cook, Gloria Steberl and Paul Christiansen and a vocal duet by the last two were some of the highlights of the program. Mrs. Seeley Knudstrup and Mrs. C. A. Stub, two former WMS presidents, reminisced in a most delightful manner and Rev. Peter Rasmussen was in his usual good form as he told about WMS projects in Canada. Greetings from Mrs. Hans Egede, who served 10 years as WMS President, Mrs. Hazel Donsbough, Hartford, Conn., and Anna Nussle, Chicago, were read. Emelia Stockholm, our WMS President, spoke encouragingly on: "Our Challenge." Dr. Alfred Jensen, President of AELC, used the picture of Martha and Mary to depict the part WMS has played in the work of AELC. Rev. Axel Kildegaard thanked WMS on behalf of GVC and GVS for its 50 years of faithful support. Mrs. Ernest Nielsen spoke for the Santal Mission and Rev. Viggo Hansen for the Seamen's Mission. To those who were not present at Seattle this might sound as if we had searched far and wide so that we might spend an hour exulting our good deeds. This was not true. I believe the words spoken were a thanksgiving to God rather than praises of ourselves.

The two songs, Heritage and Challenge and Woman's Call written for our WMS Jubilee by Rev. Marius Krog and Dr. Johannes Knudsen respectively appeared in our programs and were sung by all of us.

Under the direction of Greta Larsen a group of Seattlites presented the pageant written by Kirsten Thomsen. It was a fine presentation and ended too soon even for a convention-weary audience.

After singing, Lord I Wish to be Thy Servant, all the women filed up to the stage to lay their offering and receive a lighted candle which we carried until everyone had one. Rev. Peter Rasmussen then offered a prayer and pronounced the Benediction and the evening, which had been anticipated for almost a year, came to a beautiful close.

Ellen Knudsen.



## St. Stephen's Presents "The Word"

We have received news in our editorial office of an interesting event that seems worthy of expansion here. Early this summer, the Mixed and Married Group of St. Stephen's Church in Chicago presented the English version of Kaj Munk's drama "Ordet" (The Word). Pastor Paul Wikman directed this very successful performance and Paul Sloth, Danish immigrant, played the role of Mikkel Borgen. The translation was by R. P. Keigwin, and this performance was probably the first one in this country in English.

A brief interpretation of the play and three short scenes from it will be on the program for the convention of District III in Racine later this month.

Kaj Munk was born in 1898 and at the age of 46 was brutally murdered by Nazi agents in Denmark because of his outspoken, vocal resistance to the occupation. His death touched off violent reaction in the whole resistance movement, according to Pastor Wikman, and made freedom once more necessary to the Danes.

"The Word" is a strong, strange play dealing with man's difficulty in believing that God is not only a spectator but a participant in history. It was first written in 1925 (in five days) and finally produced after many difficulties in 1932.

Pastor Robert Heide, of Racine, who saw the Chicago performance by St. Stephen's young people, writes: "An interesting sidelight to the performance was the fact that it was held in a public school which earlier in the afternoon had been badly desecrated by young vandals who had splattered

the walls with paint in halls and rooms alike, but fortunately had not touched the auditorium." Several people from Racine attended the performance with Pastor Heide. He writes further, "It was a notable performance in many respects, especially because none of the players had previous stage experience and some of them gave exceptionally fine interpretations of their role. Paul Sloth handled his part with restraint and yet with obvious sincerity. Pastor Wikman should be commended for his efforts."

## OUR CHURCH

**Cedar Falls, Iowa.** Ronald William Schwantes and Glen Harold Madsen of Bethlehem Lutheran Church here have been awarded the "Pro Deo et Patria." Both boys belong to Troop 43 of their church, and Hartvig Madsen is the scout master. September 14 will be the last Sunday in Cedar Falls for Pastor H. O. Nielsen and family, who will be leaving for Hartford, Conn., shortly. A farewell party is planned by the congregation for that evening. Installation of Pastor Nielsen in Connecticut will be September 26.

**Juhl Community, Michigan.** The Juhl Church was founded 60 years ago this year, and plans are being made for an Anniversary Festival, September 12-14. A pageant is being prepared and both the Synod President and District President are expected to be there. A historical booklet is being assembled, and community-wide participation is expected in the various week-end events.

## Contributions to Solvang Lutheran Home

### MEMORIAL GIFTS:

In memory of Mr. Th. Lund, Glendale, A Friend	\$ 5.00
In memory of Mrs. Dagmar Vestergard, Alhambra, by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Frandsen, and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Geertsen, Pasadena	5.00
In memory of Maren Moller, Oakland, by Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Borg, Hayward	5.00
In memory of Marianne Hansen, by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Holm	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Chester Thomsen	2.00
In memory of Mr. Paul Holme, Aptos, by Mr. and Mrs. Nick Olesen, Salinas	5.00
Mrs. Carla Brandt, Salinas	5.00
Pors & Schultz Family, Salinas	5.00
Else and Einer Solevad, Watsonville	5.00
Rev. and Mrs. Enok Mortensen, Tyler, Minn.	5.00
In memory of Mrs. Anna Olsen, by the Emanuel Guild, L. A. the Emanuel D. E. L. church, L. A.	10.00
In memory of Olga Jensen, by Margaret Dale, L. A.	5.00

In memory of Mrs. Wm. Olivarius, Santa Barbara, by Mr. and Mrs. Jorgen Jendresen, Santa Barbara	3.50
In memory of Anna T. Christiansen, Ballard, by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Christoffersen, Buellton	3.00
In memory of Mrs. Christine Larsen, Solvang, by Mr. and Mrs. Martin Jacobsen, Solvang	3.50
A Friend	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Roth	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Petersen	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Nielsen	3.50
Mr. and Mrs. Arden T. Jensen	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Jorgen Andersen	3.00
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Ruthers	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Holger Pohls	2.50
Mr. and Mrs. Axel Nielsen	5.00
Mrs. Hannah Parker	5.00
Mrs. Sorine Jensen	2.00
Mrs. Thora E. Bloom	2.00
Mr. Wagner Jensen	5.00
all of Solvang	
Mr. and Mrs. N. J. Nielsen, Ballard	2.00
Mrs. Axel Jorgensen, Solvang	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Nygaard, Solvang	3.00
In memory of Rev. Evald Kristensen, Denmark, by Mr. and Mrs. Axel Nielsen, Solvang	5.00
In memory of Ronald Hansen, Des Moines, by Mr. and Mrs. Axel Nielsen, Solvang	5.00
In memory of Capt. Carl Olsen, S. L. H., by Mr. Jack Boysen, S. L. H.	5.00
In memory of Mrs. Josephine Nielsen, L. A., by Lutheran Home Executive Committee, L. A.	14.00
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Larsen and Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Danbo, Marian A. Patten, Marie V. Praestegaard and Pauline Nielsen	14.00
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Madsen, Inglewood	2.00

### TO "BUILDING FUND":

In memory of Hans J. and Anna T. Christiansen and Carl Christiansen, by Ejner Christiansen, Junction City, Ore.	60.00
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### OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS:

Mr. and Mrs. John C. Collis, Solvang	50.00
Ladies' Aid, St. John's Lutheran Church, Fresno	50.00
Elizabeth Jensen, Van Nuys	10.00
Dania Ladies' Society of Dania, Watsonville	5.00
Danish Ladies' Aid, Parlier	50.00
Grand Lodge Dania	5.00
Mrs. Marie Willets, S. L. H.	50.00
Niels Max Nielsen, Vallejo	15.00
Mrs. Marie Du Jardin, S. L. H.	150.00
Eric J. Nielsen, Clinton, Iowa	5.00
Mr. Carl Jensen, S. L. H.	15.00

Period from April 1 to June 30, 1958 \$635.00

For every gift, a hearty thank you.  
Kindest Greetings,

SOLVANG LUTHERAN HOME  
Nis P. Pors, Treasurer.

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, 1958

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

PETERSEN, ANDREW K. 6-4

TYLER, MINN.