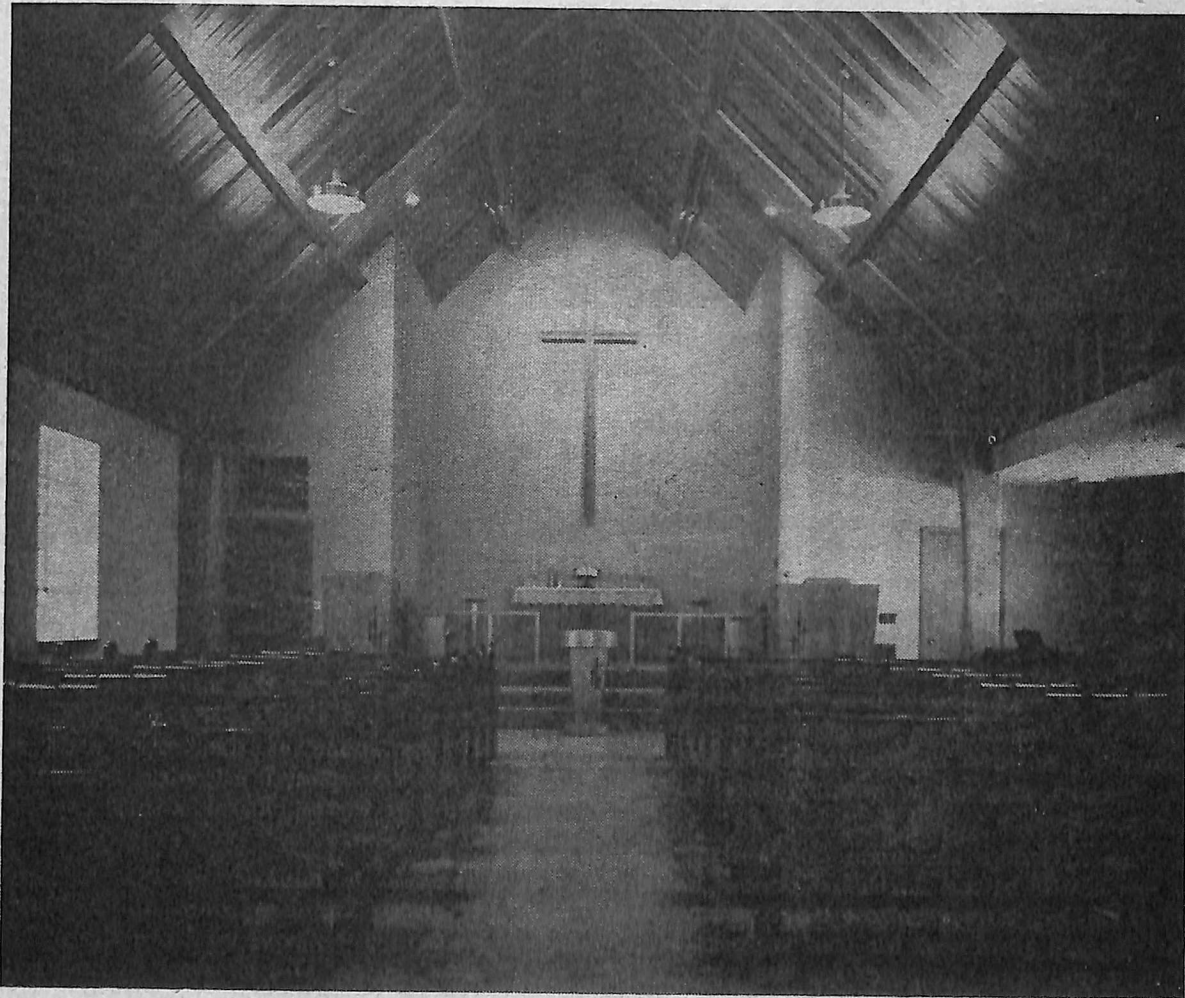


Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



Dedication of the new St. John's Church of Cozad, Nebraska, took place on May 24, 1959, with Dr. Alfred Jensen, synod president, officiating. Local pastor is the Rev. Thorvald Hansen, and also participating was the Rev. Charles Terrell of Newell, Iowa, former pastor at St. John's. The new church, which is located in rural Nebraska about ten miles from Cozad, will allow an overflow capacity of about 200, and the total cost including furnishings (except for pews and organ) amounted to \$32,572.50.



The new St. John's Church at Cozad, Nebraska. (See also cover picture.)

Church

Dedication

at Cozad

DEDICATION SERVICES were held on Sunday, May 24th, for the new St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church at Cozad, Nebraska. The Rev. Dr. Alfred Jensen, synodical president, officiated at the service of dedication and Pastor Charles Terrell, a former pastor of St. John's, preached at the service which followed.

A number of out-of-town guests were present for the occasion and the nave and the overflow space were filled to capacity. A community dinner was served at noon and a meeting was held in the afternoon. At the afternoon meeting a number of short talks were given, greetings were read and music appropriate to the occasion was presented.

The new church, which measures 63x35 feet, with an 8x15 foot projection in the northeast corner for the bell tower, is of red brick over hollow tile construction. Laminated arches are employed for roof support. The cement slab floor contains the pipes for the perimeter heating system which uses propane gas. The ceiling in the nave and chancel is of random width, tongued and grooved red cedar. The walls and other ceilings are plastered and painted. The doors and trim are of red oak, in natural finish, with the exception that, for economy reasons, the trim in the study, furnace room and rest rooms is of white pine and is painted.

Entering from the open porch in the northeast corner of the building, through the blue front doors, one comes directly into a spacious narthex, well equipped with hat and coat racks. Directly ahead is a door leading to a mother's room. To the right, the first door opens into the bell tower, from which the bell, moved from the old church, is rung. This tower is surmounted by a metal cross. Two other doors on the right lead to the men's and women's rest rooms.

The first door on the left leads to the Sunday School rooms which are separated from the nave by plastic folding doors. With all the folding doors

closed this space becomes three classrooms. This, of course, does not provide for the entire Sunday School but other classes are held in the parish hall. Also opening off the narthex to the left are double doors leading to the nave which is entered at the rear right. In the front part of the nave and to the right is an area for the choir and organ. The organ is the same as was used in the old church building. The pews also are the same. This means that, normally, the seating capacity of the new church is the same as that of the old and this is adequate for most occasions. However, the space at the rear, used for Sunday School, may be opened allowing room for some 75 chairs. This gives the church a total capacity of about 200 when necessary.

The chancel is flanked by the pastor's study on the right and a furnace room on the left. Both of these rooms may be entered from the outside as well as from the nave. The chancel furnishings were not included in the contracts since it was felt that the old ones could be used if necessary. However, through the receipts of memorials honoring some of the deceased pastors and laymen who have played an important part in the life of St. John's, it became possible to have entirely new chancel furniture much sooner than had been expected. Other gifts made it possible to secure new altar appointments also. The

(Continued on Page 15)

Lutheran Tidings - PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Office of Publication: Lutheran Tidings, Askov, Minnesota.
 POSTMASTER: Send Forms 3597 to ASKOV, MINNESOTA.
 Editor: Rev. Verner Hansen, 4260 Third Ave., Los Angeles 8, California.
 Circulation Manager: Svend Petersen, Askov, Minnesota.
 Member of Associated Church Press

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

Published semi-monthly on the 5th and 20th of each month. Second class postage paid at Askov, Minnesota.

Progress on Merger

ULCA Press Bureau

FORTY-SIX REPRESENTATIVES OF four Lutheran church bodies planning organic union have acted upon nearly all of the sections of a proposed constitution and by-laws, which will be the governing documents setting forth the "complete polity" for a new 3,000,000-member church.

The Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity, representing the United Lutheran Church in America, the Augustana Lutheran Church, the **American Evangelical Lutheran Church**, and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church (Suomi Synod), reviewed 21 of the 22 articles contained in the seventh draft of the proposed constitution during a three-day meeting here last week. (May 14-16)

An additional article given provisional approval provides for an official publication of the new church. Twenty other articles were given similar approval previously by JCLU. One article dealing with the church's official name still awaits approval.

The 25-page constitution and the by-laws covering an additional 57 pages, were drafted by a six-man committee headed by the Rev. Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, New York, president of the United Lutheran Church.

To clarify the intention of one provision in the constitution, that dealing with qualification of candidates for the ministry, JCLU voted to substitute the following wording for Section 4 of Article VII:

"After the organization of the (name of church) no person, who belongs to any organization which claims to possess in its teachings and ceremonies that which the Lord has given solely to His Church, shall be ordained or otherwise received into the ministry of this church, nor shall any person so ordained or received by this church be retained in its ministry, if he subsequently joins such an organization. Violation of this rule shall make such minister subject to discipline."

Voting upon an article in the constitution dealing with membership on the 30-member Executive Council, governing body of the church, was deferred until the next meeting of the commission in Chicago, July 16, 17 and 18. An article dealing with provisions for changing the by-laws was returned to the Constitution Committee for minor revisions.

A section of another article which covers representation and delegates to biennial conventions of the church was referred back to a sub-committee for restudy after JCLU had considered three different proposals on methods of selecting the approximately 700 voting delegates.

The alternatives were computations based on pastoral charges, or upon confirmed members or a combination of these two.

A modification of the third plan which would use both the bases of the number of confirmed members and on the number of congregations, regardless of size, instead of upon pastoral charges, was proposed

to the sub-committee for reconsideration along with the other methods.

Approved was a proposal for 1,000 voting delegates at the constituting convention of the new church, with 700 delegates at regularly-called conventions.

A 166-word, two-sentence preamble to the proposed constitution, praying that the new church might lead to "a more inclusive union of all Lutherans on this continent," written by the Rev. Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, president of Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill., was sent back to the committee with the request that Dr. Bergendoff be asked to make several minor changes in its text.

In leading the commission, section by section, item by item and word by word, through the second draft of the by-laws, Dr. Fry explained that "every point at which the constitution requires supplementation in by-laws, either explicitly or implicitly, had been covered."

"The church-to-be," Dr. Fry said, "will start its life without the great body of precedents and prior convention actions to which we have all been accustomed and on which we rely in our present church bodies.

"Therefore, things have to be spelled out somewhere. We have included in the by-laws all sorts of things that convention action will be needed to determine, and in the future, change."

Dr. Fry said that "nothing had been repeated in the by-laws which was already stated in the constitution."

"In the structure of the house we are building," he continued, "the by-laws are a super course of masonry which rests on the lower course, the constitution."

Covered in the by-laws are sections dealing with congregations, ministers, synods, special interest conferences, conventions, nominations and elections, the officers, the Executive Council, agencies and auxiliaries in general, commissions, the official periodical, the Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship, auxiliaries, a Court of Adjudication, the Canada section, financial matters and provisions for a seal, headquarters location and amendments to the by-laws.

While complete action on the section dealing with the Executive Council was deferred until the July meeting, JCLU voted provisional approval to a proposed Standing Committee on Approaches to Unity. The committee would be authorized "to enter into conversations with sister Lutheran churches in the interests of a wider union of Lutherans in North America and of cooperation leading thereto."

A proposed name for one of the nine boards of the new church was approved and the name of another was changed by commission action.

A board in which will be centered activities of a Department of Social Action and a Department of Social Missions will be called "the Board of Social



Pictured above are members of the Constitution Committee of the JCLU. At front, left, is Dr. F. C. Fry, chairman, while Dr. Alfred Jensen of the AELC is in center, back row. One committee member is absent, at this May meeting. The entire committee, besides those mentioned, consists of Dr. Bernhard Hillila, (Suomi) secretary of the committee, and Dr. P. O. Bersell, (Aug.), the Hon. Judge James F. Henninger, (ULCA) and Mr. S. T. Anderson, an attorney, (Aug.).

Ministry." Reversing an earlier decision, JCLU decided to rename the Board of World Mission, changing it to "Board of World Missions."

The other seven boards are those of American Missions, College Education and Church Vocations, Evangelism, Parish Education, Pensions, Publication and Theological Education.

Provision was made for four 12-member commissions under the Executive Council, in the fields of church architecture, church papers, worship, and press, radio and television.

JCLU also approved creation of a 20-member Commission on Stewardship and defined its relationship with the Lutheran Laymen's Movement.

Provision will be made for three official church-wide auxiliaries for men, women and youth. A sub-committee on auxiliaries has not completed its study as a basis for recommendations to be included in the by-laws.

A sub-committee of six members to make recommendations on financial matters to be covered in the by-laws was authorized. JCLU also approved creation of three four-member sub-committees on the official seal, on headquarters location and on archives.

Sections in the constitution, most of which have already been provisionally approved, include the confession of faith, membership, the nature of the church, objects and powers, congregations, ministers, synods, special interest conferences, conventions, the officers, the Executive Council, boards, commissions, common agencies, the official periodical, auxiliaries, staff mem-

bers, a Court of Adjudication, the Canada section, associated churches and by-laws and amendments.

Dr. Fry, who wrote the original drafts of both the proposed constitution and the by-laws, which he said will embody, "the complete polity" for the emerging church, told JCLU that it was expected that the suggested constitution for synods would be ready by the commission's July meeting and that a model constitution for congregations might possibly be ready by December.

Dates for the first fall meeting of the joint commission were set for October 8, 9 and 10 in Chicago, the Rev. Dr. Malvin H. Lundeen, LaGrange, Ill., chairman of JCLU, announced.

Dr. Lundeen is vice president of the Augustana Lutheran Church.

The commissioners expect to have final drafts of the constitution and by-laws for the new church, suggested constitutions governing the possible 35 constituent synods and the model constitution for congregations ready for submission to the separate conventions of the four merging church bodies by 1960.

Assuming favorable action by the conventions of the four church bodies next year, and ratification by ULCA's constituent synods and Augustana's conferences, it would be possible, JCLU spokesmen said, to hold the constituting convention of the new church late in 1961, or early in 1962, and for the church-to-be to begin functioning late in 1962 or early in 1963.

The four church bodies have been negotiating merger since 1956, after the AELC and Suomi accepted invitations issued jointly by the ULCA and Augustana to the 14 other Lutheran bodies in America late in 1955 "to consider such organic union as will give real evidence of our unity in the faith" and "to proceed to draft a constitution and devise organizational procedures to effect union."

Only AELC and Suomi responded affirmatively to the ULCA-Augustana invitation.

Geographical Boundaries for Thirty-one New Synods Defined

Provisional approval for 35 constituent synods in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean area — 31 of them territorial units — in a new 3,000,000-member Lutheran church body has been given by the Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity.

Commissioners representing four merging churches — the United Lutheran Church in America, the Augustana Lutheran Church, the American Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church (Suomi Synod) — in acting upon a section dealing with synods in the proposed by-laws for the new church, left the way open for four synods to continue as non-geographical units.

They are the presently constituted American Evangelical Lutheran Church and Suomi Synod, and the Icelandic and Slovak-Zion Synods, two of the 32 synods of the ULCA.

Names for the 31 other synods in the new church will be left to those synods to decide for themselves.

The by-law provision given tentative approval by

JCLU defined the boundaries of these synods as follows:

1. Maine; New Hampshire; Vermont; Massachusetts; Connecticut; and Rhode Island.
2. That part of New York State which is bounded on the south by the southern boundary lines of Delaware, Ulster, and Dutchess counties.
3. That part of New York State which is bounded on the north by the northern boundary lines of Sullivan, Orange and Putnam counties.
4. New Jersey.
5. That part of Pennsylvania which is bounded on the west by the western boundary lines of Bradford, Sullivan, Columbia, Schuylkill, Berks and Chester counties.
6. That part of Pennsylvania which is bounded on the east by the eastern boundary lines of Tioga, Lycoming, Montour, Northumberland, Dauphin, Lebanon and Lancaster counties, and bounded on the west by the western boundary lines of McKean, Elk, Clearfield, Cambria and Somerset counties.
7. That part of Pennsylvania which is bounded on the east by the eastern boundary lines of Warren, Forest, Jefferson, Indiana, Westmoreland and Fayette counties; that part of West Virginia which is bounded on the south and east by the southern and eastern boundary lines of Cabell, Putnam, Kanawha, Nicholas, Webster, Randolph and Tucker counties; and that part of Maryland which is bounded on the east by 78°50' west longitude.
8. Delaware; District of Columbia; Accomack and Northampton counties, Virginia; and that part of Maryland which is bounded on the west by 78°50' west longitude.
9. Virginia, except Accomack and Northampton counties; and that part of West Virginia which is bounded on the north and west by the northern and western boundary lines of Grant, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Fayette, Boone, Lincoln and Wayne counties, and by the mutual boundary line of Maryland and West Virginia.
10. North Carolina.
11. South Carolina.
12. Georgia; Alabama; Mississippi; and Tennessee.
13. Florida.
14. Puerto Rico; and the Virgin Islands.
15. Ohio.
16. The lower peninsula of Michigan, including adjacent islands.
17. Indiana; and Kentucky.
18. New Brunswick; Nova Scotia; Prince Edward Island; Newfoundland; Quebec; and that part of Ontario which is bounded on the west by 88° west longitude.
19. Wisconsin; and the upper peninsula of Michigan, including adjacent islands.
20. Illinois; and that part of Missouri which is bounded on the west by the western boundary lines of Schuyler, Adair, Macon, Randolph, Audrain, Callaway, Gasconade, Crawford, Iron, Reynolds, Carter and Ripley counties.
21. That part of Minnesota which is bounded on the north and west by the northern and western boundary lines of Lac Qui Parle, Swift, Pope, Stearns, Morrison, Cass, Itasca and Koochiching counties.
22. Iowa.
23. North Dakota; South Dakota; that part of Minnesota which is bounded on the east and south by the eastern and southern boundary lines of Lake of the Woods, Beltrami, Hubbard, Wadena, Todd, Douglas, Stevens and Big Stone counties; and that part of Montana which is bounded on the west by 111° west longitude.
24. Nebraska.
25. Arkansas; Kansas; Oklahoma; and that part of Missouri that is bounded on the east and the north by the eastern and northern boundary lines of Putnam, Sullivan, Linn, Chariton, Howard, Boone, Cole, Osage, Maries, Phelps, Dent, Shannon and Oregon counties.
26. Louisiana; and that part of Texas which is bounded on the west by a line drawn south from the southeast corner of New Mexico to the Rio Grande River.

27. Saskatchewan; Manitoba; and that part of Ontario which is bounded on the east by 88° west longitude.
28. Wyoming; Colorado; Utah; New Mexico; and that part of Texas which is bounded on the east by a line drawn south from the southeast corner of New Mexico to the Rio Grande River.
29. Alberta; and British Columbia.
30. Alaska; Idaho; Oregon; Washington; and that part of Montana which is bounded on the east by 111° west longitude.
31. Arizona; California; Nevada; and Hawaii.

Confession of Faith for New Church Body Approved

A doctrinal statement which will serve as the confession of faith for a new 3,000,000-member Lutheran church body was given provisional approval by the Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity here last week.

The statement, prepared by the Committee on Doctrine and Living Tradition, was approved unanimously by the joint commission and inserted as Article II in the proposed constitution.

In presenting the doctrinal statement to JCLU, the Rev. Dr. Karl Mattson, president of Augustana Seminary, Rock Island, Ill., told the commissioners that while it will have legal significance as a constitutional provision, the committee hoped that it will be "first of all a ringing challenge and a joyful affirmation of the blessings we share together in our Christian and Lutheran fellowship."

Dr. Mattson said the doctrinal statement will be the "final and rightful test of the propriety of membership" in the new church.

It is a "consensus of faith among those uniting to form the new church," underscoring "the unity and wholeness of the proclamation and activities of the church."

The text of the statement follows:

Article II. Confession of Faith

"SECTION 1. This church confesses Jesus Christ as Lord of the Church. The Holy Spirit creates and sustains the Church through the Gospel and thereby unites believers with their Lord and with one another in the fellowship of faith.

"SECTION 2. This church holds that the Gospel is the revelation of God's sovereign will and saving grace in Jesus Christ. In Him, the Word Incarnate, God imparts Himself to men.

"SECTION 3. This church acknowledges the Holy Scriptures as the norm for the faith and life of the Church. The Holy Scriptures are the divinely inspired record of God's redemptive act in Christ, for which the Old Testament prepared the way and which the New Testament proclaims. In the continuation of this proclamation in the Church, God still speaks through the Holy Scriptures and realizes His redemptive purpose generation after generation.

"SECTION 4. This church accepts the Apostles', the Nicene and the Athanasian creeds as true declarations of the faith of the Church.

"SECTION 5. This church accepts the Unaltered Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism as true witnesses to the Gospel, and acknowledges as

one with it in faith and doctrine all churches that likewise accept the teachings of these symbols.

"SECTION 6. This church accepts the other symbolical books of the evangelical Lutheran church, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, Luther's Large Catechism, and the Formula of Concord as further valid interpretations of the Church.

"SECTION 7. This church affirms that the Gospel transmitted by the Holy Scriptures, to which the creeds and confessions bear witness, is the true treasure of the Church, the substance of its proclamation, and the basis of its unity and continuity. The Holy Spirit uses the proclamation of the Gospel and the administration of the Sacraments to create and sustain Christian faith and fellowship. As this occurs, the Church fulfills its divine mission and purpose."

Merger Group Continuing Search for Name of Church

Representatives of four Lutheran church bodies negotiating organic union are still looking for a name for a new 3,000,000-member church body after the possible legality of six proposed names had been narrowed down to two.

The Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity, representing commissioners of the United Lutheran Church in America, the Augustana Lutheran Church, the American Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church (Suomi Synod), interrupted its consideration of proposed by-laws for the merged church long enough to hear a report from its Legal Committee on possible names for the church.

Reporting for that committee, its counsel, H. Ober Hess, Philadelphia, a ULCA layman, questioned, from a legal standpoint, use of any one of the four names proposed at an earlier JCLU meeting.

They were the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America, the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Lutheran Church in America.

Two of the names suggested by the commission, Lutheran Church-United Synods and the United Lutheran Church in America, Mr. Hess said, in his opinion, could be used, as far as legality was concerned.

He said that names of any of the four merging church bodies were available for consideration, from a legal standpoint, with the possible exception of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church. And he indicated that the name of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church might not be suitable because of its nationalistic emphasis.

That left the names of the 2,400,000-member United Lutheran Church in America and the 550,000-member Augustana Lutheran Church still available for consideration.

Another name, suggested from the floor by Gilbert Olson, Phoenix, Ariz., a ULCA commissioner, that of the "United Lutheran Church," might also be available from a legal standpoint, Mr. Hess said.

"It would be wise indeed," Mr. Hess emphasized, "if the new church were to adopt either the precise name of one of the merging churches or another name which is distinctly different from that of any other church.

"Deceptive similarity must be avoided" in the choice of a name, Mr. Hess said, "to prevent injunctive action by the organization already using the name."

The JCLU voted to refer the matter of selecting a name for the church to a reactivated Committee on Nomenclature, which may suggest other possible names to the Legal Committee.

Members of the Legal Committee are Judge James F. Henninger, Allentown, Pa., ULCA, chairman; John W. Ausama, Detroit, Mich., Suomi; James Hall, Des Moines, Iowa, AELC; and Bernhard Levander, Minneapolis, Augustana.

The commission voted to refer to this committee for study at a meeting June 27, all provisions of the constitution and by-laws already approved by JCLU.

August Bang Fund

A few weeks ago a fund was started in behalf of August Bang, Cedar Falls, Iowa, (see May 20 issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS). Now that Mr. Bang has passed away, inquiries have been made as to whether the fund is still active and any longer necessary.

Friends in Cedar Falls announce that the fund is still working, and is even more necessary at this time. All congregations of our synod have been approached privately on this matter, but this announcement will inform readers that contributions may still be sent to:

Mr. and Mrs. Harald Madsen
1907 Franklin
Cedar Falls, Iowa

Celebration

On June 14 St. Peter's Church in Detroit, Mich., is celebrating the 25th anniversary of Mr. Aage Sorensen as choir director and organist.

Mr. Aage Sorensen is well known throughout the synod as he has played for many of the services at the National Conventions. He also taught music at Grand View College.

The congregation in Detroit is giving a dinner and program in honor of Mr. Sorensen's faithful service over many years. Invited to the dinner and program is his music teacher and all choir members who have sung under his direction. It is hoped that Mr. Sorensen will direct them in two numbers the night of the celebration.

Seeing it is Jesus

The famous minister and missionary Andrew Fuller once asked a gift for missions from a friend. He replied: "I will give you five pounds (at that time nearly fifty dollars), Andrew, seeing it is you."

The minister at once returned the money with the remark: "I will take nothing, seeing it is I." The friend answered: "You are right, Andrew, here are one hundred pounds, seeing it is for the Lord Jesus."

— Selected.

Meditation on

The Sixth Sunday After Easter

Ernest D. Nielsen

President, Grand View College

(John 15:26—16:4)



THE GOSPEL FOR the Sixth Sunday after Easter is relevant to many of the questions which arise in the minds of thoughtful Christian men and women as they think in terms of the Church's responsibility in today's world. The Gospel for this day does not offer a panacea for the solution of the conflicts and tension between a Christian perspective and a wholly secular view of life, but it does touch in an unmistakable manner upon the question of persecution. The modern concomitant of persecution, in contrast to the time in which the New Testament itself emerged, is the widespread refugee problem. For the Christian social worker who faces the refugee problem day after day there is no question, I am certain, of the relevancy of the Gospel for this day. The same is true for the parish pastor who sees the vision of the spiritual potential of the laity in his congregation, if only he could be given the enabling grace to articulate his preaching, teaching and pastoral counseling on this point in such a way as to gain a sensitive response. In other words, this Gospel offers a world of perspectives to those who are willing to approach it for the purpose of discovering its implications for their own daily life and vocation.

The Gospel for the Sixth Sunday after Easter has a bearing upon any educational endeavor in which teaching and learning are allowed to take place in an atmosphere which is congenial to the Christian faith. This is not the place to discuss in philosophical terms the question of truth and knowledge, but the significance of the Gospel for this day is that it in contrast to any system of ideas points to a person,

Jesus Christ, and His Spirit as the source of truth about God and man and sin and salvation. Indeed, the Gospel has something to say, at least by inference, as to how we may come to the knowledge of truth, truth in the broadest sense of the word. And the Gospel for this day confronts the responsible scholar with the task of an honest examination of the teachings of Him "in whom," according to St. Paul, "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden" (Col. 2:3).

The Gospel for the Sixth Sunday after Easter takes us beyond the question of truth, which always is a respectable subject of discussion in any academic gathering. In its emphasis upon witnessing, it demands, in reality, a **concern** which plays havoc, indeed, with the idea that education can be neutral or inarticulate in matters related to faith and knowledge. I am convinced that our educational institutions must find their own solution to this problem of how to bring the Christian witness to the academic community. If we are tempted, at times, to succumb because of the difficulties and disappointments we often face, we may find new encouragement in the comment by W. Mason when he says, "The teaching of Jesus throws us not primarily upon ideas but upon God."

Christian education seldom fails to recognize that education in its most vital areas concerns itself with ends rather than means. This recognition, yes, even vision of the importance of knowing the difference between means and ends lies at the very heart of Jesus' prayer: "Sanctify them in the truth." Truth may serve many purposes, but it can serve no nobler purpose than the stature of the Christian man and woman.

Our wisdom, devotion and effort are not always commensurate to the task which is entrusted to us.

The environmental factors in modern America place high hurdles in the path of parents, teachers and pastors in their human efforts to exercise their particular and respective Christian vocations.

The encouraging note in the Gospel is that we are not left to our own limited, human resources. We are not alone. The promise of the Spirit is to us. It is not a question of the availability of the Spirit. We cannot indict God. But we need to ask ourselves whether we really permit the Spirit to become a determining factor in life. As education of necessity relates itself to spirit and truth, there rests upon the Christian schools the obligation to be sensitive to the guidance and work of the Holy Spirit. The biblical injunction: "Walk by the Spirit" (Gal. 5:16) is more than a pious admonition to live a godly life; it is the indispensable condition of our sanctification.

Dr. Nielsen preached this sermon at Trinity Lutheran Church, Chicago, on May 10, which happens to be the anniversary date of his ordination, (1931).



Paging Youth

American Evangelical Luth.
Youth Fellowship

EDITOR: EVERETT NIELSEN

1100 Boyd,
Des Moines 16, Iowa

Iowa District Convention

The Iowa District of the AELFY held its annual convention at Hampton, Iowa, May 29-31. Many of the conventioners arrived Friday evening for "get acquainted" games and mixers. Approximately forty were registered for the meetings.

Saturday morning opened with devotions by Ralph Andersen of Grand View Seminary, using the Morning Sufferages from the new LUTHERAN SERVICE BOOK AND HYMNAL. He spoke on the parables of the poor stewards and the message was well accepted. The convention was opened by District President John Johansen. He was elected convention chairman with Donna Jespersen serving as convention secretary.

Several items of business were discussed, including the report of the National President, Dick Jessen, who was present during the convention. It was decided to authorize the district board to send out newsletters when necessary, to publicize coming events. It was also carried that each Fellowship should do all in its power to send campers to the summer and winter camps of the district. The local congregations will again be asked to support the camp if they do not send campers.

A welcome song break led by Rev. Carlo Petersen helped to make the morning go faster. The new WORLD OF SONG was used. A delicious dinner was enjoyed in the church basement, after which the business meeting continued. The new board to be elected later in the day was directed to meet with the old board to draw up definite plans for summer camp. It was also voted that the Iowa District purchase or have made a lectern to be given to Hickory Village of the State 4-H camp. Another motion carried stating that the convention offering be sent to Operations India.

A recommendation asking that the Iowa District make use of the new Youth Activities Director and support same with a donation of \$10 was passed. It was pointed out that this district is a very active one and could well afford such a move.

Election of new district officers closed the business session for the day. Karl Sears of Cedar Falls was elected president for a two-year term. Donna Jespersen of Cedar Falls was elected to fill an unexpired term as secretary, and Diane Hansen of Hampton was elected to a two-year term as treasurer. Vernon Johnson has one year remaining as vice president, as does Rev. Harold Olsen as advisor.

One good discussion centered around the various merits of summer and winter camp. The discussion pointed up the fact that those who attended each

thought it was the better of the two. Those who had attended both camps liked them both. It was hoped that both camps would be well attended this year.

There were four representatives of the Iowa Conference of the Augustana Luther League present. One was Pastor Sahr of Centerville, who is the Conference Advisor. An item of business pertinent to their visit concerns the Augustana sponsored leadership training school at Simpson College. It was decided to examine the possibilities of sending two of our group to this week-long session.

After a break for pop and candy, a short discussion centered around publications was led by Everett Nielsen. It was pointed out that there are many helpful publications available. One program help, "role-playing" was demonstrated. It was also pointed out that WORLD OF SONG, YULE and PAGING YOUTH could be used to better advantage.

Volley ball and soft ball filled the remainder of the afternoon, with the rain beginning to fall on the beautiful grounds near Hampton.

The delicious ham, mashed potatoes and all the trimmings filled the stomachs at the banquet Saturday night. Vernon Johnson was toastmaster, with Rev. Harold Olsen delivering the challenging main address entitled "Invasion of a Small Planet." He pointed out how conscious we are of invading other planets in this scientific age, but that long ago, this insignificant planet was invaded by God. This is the invasion that really has meaning for us if we stop to think about it.

Folk dancing, led by Rev. Ronald Jespersen, and devotions by Rev. Charles Terrell closed the evening.

Sunday morning dawned bright and clear after a two-inch downpour during the night. The group attended the post-confirmation Sunday School class which discussed the origin of various Lutheran churches.

Sunday morning services were conducted by Rev. Willard Garred, host pastor, with John Johansen delivering the sermon. The communion service made a fitting close to the official activities of the convention. A delicious dinner and farewells were all that remained.

Congratulations to a well-hosted and planned convention go to the Hampton LYF and a thank-you to the congregation of St. John's Church.

Over the Typewriter

We are looking forward to hearing from the other district conventions as they are held. It was our privilege to attend Iowa's in person. They are indeed an active group.

Are you planning a special summer project? Do not forget Operations India. Plans are quite definite to bring a female Indian student here this fall. The fund can use your donations!

Do not forget to go to your district camp this summer. Your editor plans to attend all of them if he can, so we'll be looking for you there!

Congratulations to all the new graduates.

Our Women's Work

MRS. AAGE PAULSEN, EDITOR

Beaver Crossing, Nebraska



A Reminder

Women's Retreat for Districts 4, 5 and 6 at Danebod College, Tyler, Minnesota, June 23, 8 p. m. to June 26 — Breakfast closing meeting.

General Topic for Lectures

by Dean A. C. Kildegaard

American Christianity Today: "Faith and Culture"

1. The Popular Front: "Try Jesus"
2. The Fringe Group: "Those set apart"
3. The Integrated Tradition: "All Life from the hand of God."

The Committee.

From a worldly point of view, there is no mistake so great as that of being always right.

Samuel Butler.

Out in the Fields With God

The little cares that fretted me
I lost them yesterday
Among the fields above the sea,
Among the winds at play;
Among the lowing of the herds,
The rustling of the trees,
Among the singing of the birds,
The humming of the bees.
The foolish fears of what might happen,
I cast them all away
Among the clover-scented grass,
Among the new-mown hay,
Among the husking of the corn,
Where drowsy posies nod,
Where ill thoughts die and good are born —
Out in the fields with God.

Author Unknown.

What Can I Do ?

Mrs. Bernard Spong

President, Augustana Lutheran Church Women

The following article is the first of a series of devotional articles by the president, or some other member from each of the 8 Lutheran Church women's organizations in the National Lutheran Council. They agreed at their meeting in March, that they should appear the same month in all the issues of women's magazines — in our case "Our Women's Work."

E. P.

Whether the accent is on the interrogative or the personal pronoun, the question is frequently asked by the church woman who desires to serve her Lord Jesus Christ: What can I do?

It is a question asked by 99 per cent of the people of the Church, for it is the laity which constitute all but one per cent of the church membership. Let us seek to answer the question: What can I do right where I live and work to forward the mission of the Church?

Just as Christ died for all men, just so there is a place for each one of God's children in the Kingdom tasks. In fact, we who follow the leadership of Martin Luther need to remind ourselves of his interpretation of Christian vocation: that the Christian call comes to all — to the laborer in the field and the kitchen maid in the home — as well as the intended clergyman. The personal pronoun denotes me, the first person singular—yes, **I am called to serve.**

Every person is born with the divine intention for his life, a vocation he is bidden to

fulfill — to serve Christ in His Kingdom. None can say, "Oh, I'm just a housewife. I am not called to serve. God calls only those who are talented, the pastors, the missionaries, the deaconesses; and those who are in full-time service for the Church."

When Jesus walked here on earth, He said to the humble fishermen, "Come, follow me!" He delegated the founding of the Church to a group of twelve unlearned, but dedicated men.

We, too, may define our work or occupation as a Christian vocation if we give our best of will and skill; if we work with people as God's children; and if we pray about our job and also pray on the job.

A most honored vocation for womanhood lies within the realm of the home where, within the family circle, Christ becomes a reality to parents and children alike. The scope of Christian vocations for women has broadened during the past century. Let us recall the names and the events which clothe the lives of a few leaders among the women: Jane Addams, founder of Hull House, who is sometimes called America's greatest woman, was a true friend of the poor and bewildered immigrant of the 19th century; Susan B. Anthony, also a gentlewoman, who was a proponent of woman's suffrage; Emmy Evald, founder of the Women's Missionary Society of the Augustana Church, who gave significant leadership in the area of world missions; Margaret Reynolds Seebach



Mrs. Spong

(Continued on Page 15)

Vita

I, Joseph Burdette Sibert, was born on October 2, 1918, at Reinbeck, Iowa, the last of four children born of Joseph Sibert and Burnetta M. Sibert. I was baptized a few months later in the First Methodist Church at Reinbeck, Iowa.

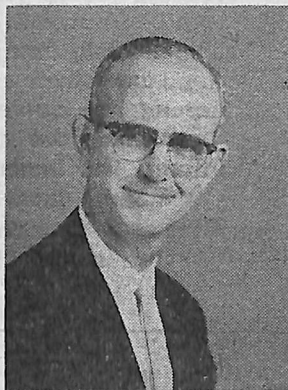
The family moved to Waterloo, Iowa, in the spring of 1919. I was accepted into membership of the First Methodist Church in Waterloo, Iowa at the age of 12. I graduated from West Waterloo high school in June, 1936, but was unable to go on to college because of financial reasons.

In 1938 I transferred my church membership to the Cedar Heights Community Church (Presbyterian) because of the fellowship I had found in the Young People's Organization. Here, under the guidance of Rev. L. H. Newhouse I participated in many church activities in addition to the youth group. It was here that the church began to have new meaning and become a vital part of my life. It was also in this church that I met the girl who was to become my wife.

In March, 1942, I enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. I attended the U. S. Naval School of Photography at Pensacola, Florida, and served the marines four years as an aerial photographer. On August 13, 1943, I was married to Elizabeth Anne McMaster at El Centro, California. Three children have been born to our marriage: Karen, now age 14; Shirley, now age 12; and Steven, now age 10.

After discharge from the marines, I returned to Waterloo, Iowa, where my family and I lived for the next ten years. I was employed during this time as a commercial photographer. From 1946 to 1952 we were members of First Presbyterian Church where Dr. H. H. Dierenfield was pastor. I taught Sunday School for several years and during my last two years was a member of the Board of Deacons.

On December 7, 1952, we joined St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church in Waterloo, Iowa. There my wife and I were members of the choir and worked in the Sunday School as teachers and on the administrative staff. In 1955, I served as Chairman of the Building Committee during the planning and initial stages of construction of the educational unit. We also became very close, personal friends of Pastor and Mrs. Richard Sorensen. It was largely through our church work at St. Ansgar's and, in particular, the close association with the Sorensen family that my interest in the ministry began to grow. Through their devotion to the Lord's work, I began to see the ministry in a different light. Through the patience and encouragement of Pastor Sorensen, Dean Axel Kildegaard and especially my wife, I finally reached the decision that this was what I must do if at all possible. I was



Pastor Sibert

admitted to the Seminary and began my studies in the fall of 1956.

The three years at the Seminary have served to broaden my knowledge of the Christian Gospel and to strengthen my convictions as to its relevance in the world today. For this I shall be ever grateful, especially to my Seminary professors and also to my fellow students who have shared with me their time and their thoughts during my preparation for the ministry.

During the summer of 1958, I served my internship at the Central Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Here I gained much needed experience both in the pulpit and in parish work. It has also been my privilege to serve as supply pastor in many of our churches here in the midwest. This has given me an opportunity to become better acquainted with more of our people and to get a broader outlook on church life.

I am deeply grateful to the American Evangelical Lutheran Church for giving me this opportunity to study for the Christian ministry. Especially to those pastors and laymen who have guided and encouraged me along the way and to my wife and family for their help and understanding. I thank God for having provided so well for me during these eventful years. I pray for His blessing and guidance that I may serve within His Church to the glory and honor of His name.

I have accepted the call of the Brayton Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brayton, Iowa. Subject to my graduation from Seminary, I hereby apply to the American Evangelical Lutheran Church for Ordination.

Editor's Note: Joseph Sibert was ordained at Waterloo, Iowa, on May 31, 1959.

Public Issues

A minister of religion has many duties, some of which are quiet and inconspicuous, and no one minds if he is zealous in attending to them. If, however, he performs with equal zeal the duty of applying religion to a public issue and is widely heard, he will be sharply criticized. This he expects — not because he thinks that he has overstepped the boundaries of his ministerial obligations but because he knows that religion, if it be authentic, is greatly feared and widely misconstrued.

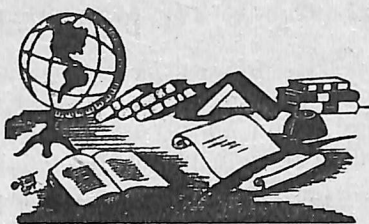
A. Powell Davies.

In The Urge to Persecute (Beacon Press)

The Future

The testimony of scientists and engineers shows conclusively that the performance of airplanes is limited only to short distances. The consensus is that a 30 per cent increase over present performance is the most optimistic that can be hoped for. I beg you not to be deceived by dreamers of fantastic and impossible dreams of giant airplanes carrying tons of explosives over thousands of miles, destroying fleets and cities. — Hilary P. Jones, court martial of General Billy Mitchell, 1925.

OPINION AND COMMENT



THE GOD—HOME—COUNTRY award which recently went to Miss Carol Sorensen, Enumclaw, Washington, deserves special mention. Only four young people of our synod have won this award, which has been given to Lutheran young people of merit during the past decade. Congratulations to this young lady on earning an award which does not come easily!

MUCH OF THIS issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS will be used for publishing recent events on the "merger negotiations." Somehow, that word "negotiate" seems inappropriate in this connection. The word implies disagreement. The four-way merger started on the basis of agreement. "We want to explore merger." This was how we started; we were proceeding from a position of early unity of spirit.... Out of the explorations have recently come some statistics which are of considerable interest. For example, it is revealed that there will be a minimum of 4,373 congregations ("pastoral charges") in the merged church. Our synod, with its confirmed membership of 15,734 in 56 congregations, will comprise less than 1 per cent of the new church. The largest of the four churches is, of course, the ULCA, which will contribute about 79 per cent of the membership. Second is Augustana, bringing in 19 per cent and third, the Finnish Church, Suomi, whose 26,233 confirmed members will be 1.26 per cent of the total. These statistics are important at this point because the by-laws and convention procedures of the new church are now being "negotiated" and many points at issue will have to be decided on the basis of statistics. At present we are on equal footing with the other bodies; but after the merger, our identity being gone, we will have to adjust to being part of a great whole. The conventions of the new church will be vastly different from those we are accustomed to enjoying. We will not be sending delegates from all our congregations. Only a fortunate few from our present synod construction will attend the great conventions. Obviously, even if each congregation were allowed one delegate, the meeting would involve 4,300 lay delegates, plus pastors, and this would hardly be a convention of meaning. Present plans call for the possibility of a convention of about 700 votes — which would, under one plan, mean one delegate for every 12 congregations, on the average. If this seems a little startling at first, we must remember that under a complete merger we would be identified not with churches of our present synod or even of our present districts, but with churches of neighborhood fellowship..... Other statistics are interesting, as well. The average sized congregation in the ULCA is 532, while in our synod it is only 288. In the Augustana Church it is 464 and in the Suomi Synod it is somewhat smaller than ours, 247. So it can be seen at once that even on the basis of a delegate to

a convention from each congregation, equality of representation can in no sense be achieved, nor should it be expected or even necessary..... The geographical location of the membership strength of the new synod is also basis for an interesting speculation. Most of the membership will lie in the East, even if we use the non-centrally located city of Chicago as the dividing point. East of Chicago there will be about 57 per cent of the membership, while to the West will lie only 33 per cent. The remainder will be in the South and Canada, etc. Accustomed as we are to think of the Midwest as the stronghold of our Synod, it may be a little difficult (especially for District VIII and IX members) to accept the movement still farther to the East of the center of population of our church body. Headquarters will also very likely be in the East; but this has not yet been determined.

THE NEW EMERGING church will be the largest Lutheran group in the nation, almost three million. Our members have sometimes felt self-conscious about being the smallest of the NLC churches. We will now have to face the probability of feeling self-conscious about being the largest. Second in size in the USA will be the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, with between 2 and 3 million members. Third, and smallest of the major Lutheran groups in the nation, will be the new TALC group, scheduled to come into existence April 22-24, 1960, in Minneapolis, with a baptized count of 2,191,327.

SIZE AND NUMERICAL strength are not marks of vitality, however. Statistics can be made to show almost anything, but can never be the basis of evaluation of life. Microbes can destroy elephants. An example of how circumstance can affect statistics is strikingly noted by the 1954 removal of Greenland from colony status by Denmark, to annex Greenland by integration into the realm of Denmark itself (just as US has recently integrated Alaska and Hawaii into statehood). Denmark thus, in one day, moved from being one of the smallest nations in Europe into suddenly being the largest — if we exclude USSR which lies mostly in Asia. (Greenland as the crossroads of the Arctic had suddenly achieved world importance, and annexation was a diplomatic step taken to preserve Denmark's position as owner of Greenland.) The point is that size is not everything, as Danes have themselves long insisted.

THE PROBLEM OF A name for our new church is one of the most vexing. We conclude this page today with a "guest editorial" from John Novotney who is Associate Editor of "The Edmonton Journal" of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He gives us an interesting layman's slant:

From the stand point of public relations, a denominational name like the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod can't be beat. The emphasis is where it should be — on the Church rather than the synod. There can be no doubt in the minds of even the most uninterested that this is the name of a Church rather than of a congregation.

The dirty laundry of Lutheran divisiveness in North America would be less evident if the seven synods now negotiating merger named the two new synods the Lutheran

(Continued on Page 15)

Thank God for the Choir

Roger L. Sommer

"Are you one of the members of a congregation who takes the appearance of the choir at worship services as just a matter of course?" an editorial in the Detroit Free Press recently asked. "Or do you, once in a while at least, take the time to consider what must go on before choristers move from the measured tread of the processional to a place in the choir loft? Don't take your choir for granted."

In festival seasons, the editorial stated, church choirs work the hardest and longest to perfect their offerings.

Urging appropriate recognition of choir directors, singers and organists, the writer added: "Generation after generation choirs have added rich melody and beauty to the ritual of worship in churches of most faiths. In great cathedral or lowly mission, whether singers are of the greatest talent or merely giving untrained voice in musical devotion, choral music has inspired mankind and filled a great human need."

For every hour a choir singer or director appears before a congregation, the editorial noted, "there are many times that hour spent in preparation. Every phase of the choral presentation is carefully worked out."

"Collectively the choirs constitute a devoted servant of the church. They deserve the wholehearted support of the congregations."

When did you last thank God for your church choir? When did you speak words of encouragement to those who lead and perform this service to Him?

In the Lutheran Church what group can best teach and carry the lead in the sturdy hymns and noble melodies of the 16th-century Reformation? What person gives a better example of devotion and loyalty than a faithful choir member? To whom may the worshiper look for godly and fitting music but to organist, director and choir? Who carries the responsibility for high musical standards?

When the pastor chooses a hymn that echoes his message but finds the tune difficult to sing, whom can he count on to lead the way in congregational singing? Who but a trained choir can so well guard the treasury of hymns, churchly melodies and rich settings of service orders?

When popular but shallow songs threaten the survival of excellent Christian hymns, what task force can best show their superior qualities? To teach the timid worshiper to follow, the child to sing along, the self-conscious to overcome a complex — what group can best serve? It's the choir! Thank God for your choir!

Lutheran Witness.

Hypocritical Singing

The singing of a hymn should be a great experience for us — it can be a prayer, a testimony, a praise, an invitation to others. Some interesting comparisons have been written on the hymns we sing:

We sing "Sweet Hour of Prayer," and content ourselves with 10 or 15 minutes a day (if that much).

We sing "Onward Christian Soldiers," and wait to be drafted into His service.

We sing "O for a Thousand Tongues," and don't use the one we have.

We sing "Blest Be the Tie That Binds," and let the least little offense sever it.

We sing "Serve the Lord with Gladness," and gripe about all we have to do.

We sing "Marching to Zion," but fail to march to Sunday School, prayer meetings or Church.

We sing "I Love to Tell the Story," and never mention it all year.

We sing "Cast Thy Burden on the Lord," and worry ourselves into nervous breakdowns.

We sing "The Whole Wide World for Jesus," and never invite our next door neighbors to Church!

We sing "Throw Out the Lifeline," and content ourselves with throwing out a fishing line.

Pacific Lutheran.

Golden Jubilee

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Lake Norden, South Dakota, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the building of their church, built in 1909.

Three former pastors have been invited, and the program will be as follows:

Saturday, June 27: Evening service, 8 p. m., Rev. Charles Terrell, Newell, Iowa.

Sunday, June 28: Morning service, 10:30 a. m., Rev. Haakon Jorgensen, Newell, Iowa.

"Memories and Visions," 2:30 p. m., Rev. Frantz Olaf Lund, Humboldt, Iowa.

This celebration will be of interest to all former and present members of our two churches in Lake Norden and Badger, S. D.

The Ascended Savior

Christ is seated on high, awaiting the time when His enemies will be made His footstool. He does not sleep, but guards us. He does not ask anyone to take His place, but He does it Himself. When people turn to Him, He is there to help.

It is our comfort that Christ, our High Priest, who has atoned for our sins and graciously looked upon us, reminds His Father that He is our Portion when our enemies attack us. We fail to realize this only when our eyes do not penetrate the clouds and look into heaven where Christ surely rules as our Advocate.

—Luther.

God—Home—Country

The Lutheran God—Home—Country Award for 4-H club members was presented to Carol Irene Sorensen at a service at the Hope Lutheran Church on Sunday, May 3 at 11 o'clock in Enumclaw, Washington.

Carol is the 15-year old daughter of Harold and Catherine Sorensen and a member of the Merry 4-H Workers.

The God—Home—Country Award is a recognition given by Lutheran congregations to their young people who have a commendable 4-H club record, and who have given evidence of faithfulness and service to their church.

Only after three years of satisfactory 4-H club work does a member become eligible for the award. Each candidate submits a summary of 4-H projects



Carol Sorensen

completed and activities engaged in during his period of membership in the club. This report covers the member's work in regular 4-H projects, such as crops, gardening, clothing and foods; and his activities in health, safety, conservation and community service. Carol has completed projects in clothing, food preparation, home improvement and junior leadership.

The candidate was also required to give evidence of Christian character and conduct, actively take part in the regular church program of his congregation, and make use of every opportunity to prepare himself for the responsibility of adult church membership.

In addition, the candidate is required to write a theme on such topics as: How 4-H Has Helped Me to Become Interested in Better Country Homes and Living; Farming as a Christian Vocation; What the Church and 4-H Club Mean to Me; or Better Living for World Understanding.

Carol wrote her theme on What a 4-H Member Can do for His Church and Community. Mrs. Clarence Hansen, Jr., leader advisor, gave a brief summary of requirements for the award.

Mrs. David Everest, leader of the 4-H club, presented the candidate to the Rev. Theodore Thuesen, pastor of the church, who read the God—Home—Country Citation. Mr. Sorensen pinned the medal on the candidate.

The design of the God—Home—Country medal combines the symbolic four H's of the 4-H club program with the traditional Luther emblem, which was designed by Martin Luther himself in 1528 and is used in Lutheran churches throughout the world. Elements of the Luther emblem which may be seen on the medal include the Cross, the Christian heart, and the rose symbolizing Christ. Thus, the complete design is a symbol of those spiritual values emphasized by the 4-H program and nurtured by the Christian Church.

Edwin Hansen Family Honored



The Reverend and Mrs. Edwin E. Hansen were pleasantly surprised Sunday evening by members of the congregation of Central Lutheran Church. The celebration was a combined bon voyage and anniversary party commemorating Rev. Hansen's 25 years in the ministry.

Harold Nieser, program chairman, served as toastmaster. Mr. Nieser read his original poem cleverly depicting possible harrowing experiences en route, dramatizing them with humorous miniature gifts as solutions to problems they might encounter.

Gene Franks entertained with slides showing old photographs of various stages of the Hansen's earlier life.

Vocal selections were rendered by Mrs. Raymond Sweet and Jack Sorenson accompanied by Mrs. Donald Dezelsky. Group singing also entertained.

One hundred and fifty guests for the dinner were seated at tables decorated in a red and white color scheme. The center attraction was a huge two-tiered cake depicting the dual purpose of the occasion. The cake was topped by a miniature plane and an ocean liner. They will fly over and return by boat.

Hans Nielsen, president of Central Lutheran, presented the honor guests with a purse in behalf of the congregation in appreciation of their 11 years of faithful service in Muskegon, and wishing them bon voyage on their approaching journey.

Rev. Hansen expressed his thanks and said he was glad this was only a temporary goodbye, and that perhaps the happiest day would be their first Sunday back in our own church with their family and many friends. They have three daughters, Mrs. Gene Franks, Mrs. Rudy Thies and Mrs. Donald Dezelsky.

Rev. Hansen was graduated from St. Olaf's College in Northfield, Minn., in 1928. He taught school in Dagmar, Mont., for three years. In 1931 he entered the seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and was graduated in 1934. He was ordained in Des Moines, Iowa, in June, 1934.

Rev. Hansen served congregations in Hampton, Iowa; Marlette, Mich.; and Racine, Wis., before coming to Muskegon in February 1948. Since coming here he has played an active part in both state and civic

(Continued on Page 15)

81st Annual Convention of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church

AUGUST 11-16, 1959

The 82nd annual convention of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will take place at the Greenfield Methodist Church, 19370 Greenfield Road, Detroit 35, Michigan, upon invitation of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 19900 Greenfield Road, Detroit, 35, Mich. The business sessions, the main meetings and services will be held at Greenfield Methodist Church. The opening service of the convention is scheduled for Tuesday evening at 8, August 11. The business sessions of the convention will commence Wednesday, August 15, 9 a. m.

All congregations belonging to the Synod are urged to be represented at the convention by delegates chosen according to the by-laws of the Synod and all pastors are likewise urged to attend. Registration should be in the hands of the credentials committee of the convention not later than July 15. All delegates must be certified by the secretaries of their respective congregations. Name and address of the chairman of the registration and credentials committee appear in the invitation from St. Peter's Church printed below.

The convention will deal with all business submitted to it for action according to the rules governing the convention and found in the Synod by-laws as well as those governing the institutions, missions, councils and committees of the Synod.

The reports to be presented to the convention must be in the hands of the president of the Synod by May 20 in order that they may be printed in the Annual Report and distributed to the congregations and ministers for their study in due time before the convention.

Any member of a congregation or any congregation or pastor of the Synod may submit topics for the consideration of the convention according to Article VIII, par. 5, if such topics are received by the Synod president in time for publication in the July 5 issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS.

Members and friends of the Synod are invited to attend the meetings and services of the convention. St. Peter's Lutheran Church will make announcement concerning the lodging and meals of delegates, pastors and guests.

May God guide, instruct and inspire us as we prepare ourselves for work and fellowship as offered by the convention. Only as we willingly and faithfully accept our responsibilities as members of the body of Christ will we experience His blessing. May God grant us a fruitful convention.

Alfred Jensen.

Des Moines, Iowa, April 24, 1959

Convention Invitation

The Congregation of St. Peter's Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Detroit, Michigan, is pleased to extend a hearty and sincere invitation to pastors, delegates and members of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church to attend its Annual Synodical Convention, which will be held here from August 11-16.

We are fortunate in having secured an excellent

convention site at Greenfield Methodist Church, which is just two blocks south of our church. We are actively engaged in preparations and are anxiously awaiting the beginning of the Convention.

All pastors and delegates must send their registrations and credentials to our Registration Committee no later than July 15. The Registration Committee Chairman is Mr. George Everson, 19900 Greenfield Road, Detroit 35, Michigan.

We will provide housing for all the Convention personnel, pastors and delegates and will to the best of our ability accommodate guests.

We of the Detroit Congregation are pleased to have this opportunity to perpetuate the work of the Lord. May this Convention as its predecessors be an enriching Christian experience through its fellowship and spiritual enrichment.

Paul J. Blinkilde, President.
Howard Christensen, Pastor.

Topic for Discussion

That The Synod Representative for Eben-Ezer Lutheran Home and Hospital, Brush, Colorado, be chosen at the District VII Convention,

That The Synod Representative for Pioneer Memorial Home, Askov, Minnesota, be chosen at the District V Convention,

That The Synod Representative for the Des Moines Old People's Home Board be chosen at the District IV Convention,

That The Synod Representative for the Tyler Old People's Home be chosen at the District VI Convention,

That The Synod Representative for Solvang Lutheran Home, Solvang, California, be chosen at District VIII Convention,

And that the rules concerning such institutions be changed to accord with these changes.

Arnold D. Knudsen,
Junction City, Oregon.

Notice

The Board of Directors of Grand View College and Grand View Seminary proposes to the Annual Meeting of Grand View College and Grand View Seminary (August 14, 1959) that the following amendment be added to Article I of the By-Laws of Grand View College and Grand View Seminary as Section 8.

"The report of the secretary of the Board of Directors to the annual meeting shall contain, among other things, information regarding salaries, the number of students, and other statistical information. This report shall be considered by a findings committee appointed by the chairman and assistant chairman of the annual meeting. The rules for this findings committee shall be the same as those pertaining to the findings committees of the convention of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church."

Lutheran News from Around the World

U. S. THEOLOGIANS NAMED FOR LWF CONFERENCES

New York—(NLC)—Two American theologians — Dr. Julius Bodensieck, professor at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, and Dr. Charles B. Foelsch, president of Pacific Lutheran Seminary in Berkeley, Calif., — will lecture at three theological conferences to be held in Europe this summer under the auspices of the Lutheran World Federation.

The assignments were announced here by the National Lutheran Council's Department of Theological Cooperation.

Also announced was the appointment of Dr. Edgar S. Brown, director of the United Lutheran Church in America's Department of Worship, as "liturgical consultant" to the LWF Commission of Theology. Dr. Brown will serve in this capacity until the next assembly of the Lutheran World Federation in 1963.

The European conferences in which Dr. Bodensieck and Dr. Foelsch will take part are sponsored by the LWF Department of Theology in order "to encourage pastors and others inter-

ested in theology to come together for mutual strengthening and understanding."

The first conference will take place at Mansfield College, Oxford, England, August 4-7, and the others will be held in Germany, at Berlin, August 17-21, and at Neuendettelsau, August 24-28. Theme for the meetings will be "Does the Doctrine of Justification Still Divide the Churches?"

Dr. Bodensieck will be in charge of Bible studies for the conferences. Dr. Foelsch will lecture on the topic "Preaching Justification — A Self Scrutiny."

OSLO CHURCH INTRODUCES A VOLUNTARY CHOIR

Oslo, Norway—(NLC)—Young people of a local congregation set a precedent here when they formed a choir to lead the singing at their worship services.

"Var Kirke," Christian weekly newspaper, pointed out that Oslo churches usually depend on a small group of paid singers.

The article described the choir as proceeding "two by two, headed by

the clergyman, to the chancel, where they lead the responses and the hymns in unison."

The voluntary group has been provided with blue robes by the congregation, which was reported to be greatly appreciative of the new arrangement.

Formed to encourage young people to take a more active part in the church service, the choir has resulted in better church attendance among this age group, the article said.

UELC PRESIDENT HEADS JOINT UNION COMMITTEE

Chicago — (NLC) — The president of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church — which a decade ago initiated union negotiations with the Evangelical and American Lutheran Churches — was named here to head up final preparations for the three-way merger next year.

At a two-day meeting the Joint Union Committee elected as chairman Dr. William Larsen of Blair, Nebr.

He will complete his first three-year term as president of the UELC (membership 65,000) at its annual convention in Sidney, Montana, June 18-23.

Church Dedication at Cozad

(Continued from Page 2)

chancel, with its furnishings, is characterized by dignity and simplicity.

The altar picture from the old church, a representation of the ascension of Christ, has been cleaned, re-framed, and hung at the rear of the new church. A chancel cross has replaced it above the altar.

The total cost of the contracts, plus the architect's fee, is about \$31,300. The value of the memorials and other gifts brings the total worth of the building to some \$32,000.

The building was financed by a pledge drive among the members and a loan from a local bank. A part of this loan is covered by outstanding pledges. When these fall due and are paid, later this year, the remaining debt is expected to be considerably less than \$7,000.

St. John's is an open-country congregation, of about 65 families, nine miles north and east of Cozad. It was founded in 1892 by the Danish settlers but it has long since become Danish in background only. A church was built shortly after the congregation was founded. A bit later a parsonage and a parish hall were built. The parsonage was replaced with a more modern structure in 1938 and a more adequate parish hall was built in 1948. Now, with the addition of a new church building, St. John's physical plant is complete, adequate and modern. Pastor Thorvald Hansen has served the congregation since September 1954.

What Can I Do?

(Continued from Page 9)

and Laura Scherer Copenhagen, great hymn writers, who also contributed outstandingly in the women's organizations of the United Lutheran Church.

Progress has been rapid in emancipation of women even in the Arab world as women find careers in education, journalism, nursing and government service. But we would not emphasize the specialized vocation. To answer the question, "What may I do?" revolves itself around our willingness to accept the responsibilities which are ours as Christian citizens: the use of the franchise to vote; active participation in our democracy that will help to diminish from this earth such ills as disease, poverty, ignorance, prejudice, hunger and strife. May we seek those many little tasks to do that can spread friendship, love and understanding among our fellow men.

Edwin Hansen Family Honored

(Continued from Page 13)

affairs. He served on Governor Williams committee for Refugees and Displaced persons. For five years he was president of Michigan District of American Evangelical Lutheran Churches. At present he is President of Greater Muskegon Pastors' Conference, Secretary-Treasurer of Lutheran Pastors' Conference of Muskegon and a board member of our local Mental Health Society.

The Hansens left Detroit May 14 by jet plane to tour England, France, Bel-

gium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Denmark. They eagerly anticipated their visit to Denmark, Rev. Hansen's homeland, which he left at the age of 12. This is his first return visit.

General chairman for the event was Max Paulsen, assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Hans Nielsen, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. James Steigleman and Mrs. Larry Ritter.

Opinion and Comment

(Continued from Page 11)

Church-----Synod (using in each case a commonly accepted synodical designation).

Perhaps some would consider this beneath the dignity of the Church, aping, as they might say, the Missouri Synod. However, if we could swallow our pride, I dare say a large segment of 95 per cent of the non-Lutheran population of North America would be a good deal less confused about the parochial Lutherans.

It appears that we've drained dry the barrel of the Lutheran alphabet soup tradition. (Possibly we're now entering the powder stage of our development, with "TALC" as the curtain riser.)

Is there something sacrosanct or uniquely Lutheran about the soup saga that must be preserved at all costs?

In this day and age when people are more interested than ever in the religions of their friends and neighbors, Lutherans could make their task easier by injecting some uniformity in one of the first things encountered — our names.

Junior Camp at Nysted, Nebraska

JULY 5-10, 1959

This year camp will be held again at Camp Nysted, Dannebrog, Nebraska, for boys and girls 9 through 14 years of age. Camp will begin with supper July 5 and end with dinner July 10.

Camper's Day

- 7:30 a. m.—Eyes open
- 8:00 a. m.—Breakfast
- 8:30 a. m.—Clean rooms, K. P.
- 9:00 a. m.—Devotions
- 9:30 a. m.—Bible Study Classes
- 10:30 a. m.—Sports, hiking, nature study
- 12:00 Noon—Dinner
- 12:30 p. m.—Rest period, K. P.
- 1:30 p. m.—Crafts
- 3:00 p. m.—Swimming or other activity
- 6:00 p. m.—Supper
- 6:30 p. m.—Free time, K. P.
- 7:00 p. m.—Singing
- 8:00 p. m.—Folk games
- 9:00 p. m.—Refreshments
- 9:30 p. m.—Campfire and devotions
- 10:00 p. m.—Bed time
- 10:30 p. m.—Lights out, eyes close

Campers are requested to bring sheets, pillow and case, blanket, towels, soap, swimming suit, and **permission to swim**. Each camper should also bring a New Testament and old World of Song if possible.

Price: \$12.50. Additional members in same family, \$10.00 each.

All campers must clean their own rooms and take turns policing the grounds as well as working in the kitchen and dining hall.

Attendance at all sessions required, unless excused.

No camper will be allowed to leave

the grounds without permission. Insurance will be carried on each camper. A nurse and camp doctor will be on call. The counselors will be the pastors, their wives and other qualified personnel. If possible, reservations should be sent to us before June 30.

Send your reservation to: **Pastor F. H. Farstrup**, camp director, Cordova, Nebraska.

OUR CHURCH

Askov, Minnesota. The Rev. Harold Petersen will be absent (while their parsonage is being remodelled) during early June. Paul Petersen will conduct services in Askov on June 14, while the pastor and family are at Leech Lake.

Seattle, Washington. George Kjaer, son of Pastor and Mrs. J. C. Kjaer of this city, has completed studies for his M.D. degree at University of Washington, and will receive the degree on June 13. He and his family expect to leave then for Detroit, Michigan, where Dr. Kjaer will intern at Detroit Receiving Hospital.

Bridgeport, Connecticut. Pastor and Mrs. Viggo Hansen will leave Bridgeport where they have served for the past seven years on June 29. They expect to vacation in Wisconsin and Iowa during July and will then attend the Detroit convention. After the convention, they expect to leave for California where they will be spending their retirement near their two sons in the Los Angeles area.

Kronborg, Nebraska. Seminary Student Harold Sorensen, son of the August Sorensens, of Ringsted, Iowa, will be married to Miss Carol Ann Beyer of Kronborg, Nebraska, on June 6. Harold and Ann will then be spending the summer at Nysted, Nebraska, where there is a pastoral vacancy.

Seattle, Washington. For the third successive season, St. John's church choir has earned national recognition for its spring concert. A double ribbon award of merit was granted by the National Federation of Music Clubs for the program called "All-Northwest Composers' Program" with this citation: "Unusual and splendid program, well arranged. We always look for a fine program from this group. Double award given." To win a double award, a program must be "outstanding as to musical content, prove cooperative effort, originality and neatness." The choir is directed by Dr. Talmage F. Elwell.

Fords, New Jersey. H. M. King Frederik IX has awarded the Knight of the Order of Dannebrog to the Rev. K. Kirkegaard-Jensen, Pastor of St. Stephen's Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Fords, New Jersey.

The decoration was presented by Consul General Paul B. Ryder in his home in the presence of the family and intimate friends.

Viborg, South Dakota. Joy M. Ibsen of this community has been awarded

a \$150 Junior College scholarship by the Lutheran Brotherhood. Miss Ibsen is attending Grand View College.

Los Angeles, California. The Sunday School here recently changed its annual fund-raising dinner from the Scandinavian "Smorgasbord" to Hawaiian "Luau" in honor not only of the new state but especially to honor the Hawaiian children of the Sunday School. Entree was "sweet and sour pork" and other dishes were also typically Hawaiian. Guests came in Island dress and children wore hand-made leis, and presented a program on the Hawaiian theme, including some Hawaiian songs which they had learned. The highly successful evening earned a nice profit for the self-supporting Sunday School treasury. Over 150 guests attended . . . Pastor Eigel Skovgaard-Petersen was scheduled to be guest preacher at Danish services here on June 7.

Enumclaw, Washington. Pastor Theodore Thuesen was installed here May 17 by District President Jens Kjaer of Seattle. Pastor Thuesen preached his first sermon in the church two weeks previously, on May 3, and had the privilege of presenting the God-Home-Country to Carol Sorensen, (see news article elsewhere this issue.) This was on Rural Life Sunday. He also gave first communion to 13 new confirmands on that day. The Merry 4-H Workers Club served refreshments following the service to welcome the new pastor and also to honor their member, Carol Sorensen, for her earning of the Lutheran award.

Donations to Tyler Old People's Home Building Fund

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Soren Christensen from the Christensen family	\$ 100.00
In memory of Mrs. Soren Christensen from friends	210.00
In memory of Sig. Jensen from friends	25.00
In memory of Soren Jensen from friends at the Tyler Old People's Home	5.00
In memory of John Gildsig from friends	10.00
In memory of Hans Hansen from Ida McKinley Chapter No. 178, OEC, Hopkins, Minnesota	10.00
In memory of Hans Hansen from friends at the Tyler Old People's Home	5.00
In memory of Mr. Willis Jacobsen, Arlington, S. D. by Bethania Lutheran Church, Badger, S. D.	7.00
In memory of O. P. Sorensen from friends and relatives	25.00
From the estate of John Gildsig	1,000.00

Total since January 1, 1959—\$1,397.00

Thank you for these donations!

Mrs. C. C. Sorensen, Treas.,
Tyler, Minnesota.

PETERSEN, ANDREW K.
TYLER, MINN.

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

June 5, 1959

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.