

Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Tyler and People Home
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Ordination services for Ivan Westergaard were held in St. Peter's Church, Detroit, with Synod President Alfred Jensen (center) officiating. Pastor Ottar Jorgensen, Minneapolis, is at left, and Dean Axel Kildegaard, Des Moines, is on the right.

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Visiting the Danish Seamen's Church

Sunday afternoon of August 23rd, Mr. and Mrs. Bianco Brylle of Our Savior's Lutheran church, Newington, drove for us to New York. We were to hear Pastor A. T. Dorf, a former pastor of the AELC, now retired in Copenhagen, who was the guest speaker at the Seamen's church. Driving from Newington, Conn., to New York City on the "pike" is like traveling on a highway through a beautiful park — Mowed lawns, artistic bridges, flowering shrubs and thousands of trees.



Dr. A. Th. Dorf
(Child is Siri Kildegaard)

We found the Seamen's church with two large flags waving us a greeting of welcome. Pastor Dorf conducted an informal service in the church. In spite of his age Dorf speaks exceedingly well — clear and to the point. After church service we gathered at the coffee table—a long table like the old folk-school tables of old. We visited with the sailors and what impressed me most was the youthful appearance of some of the lads. I asked one of them about his age. He was fifteen. There were others of that age in the group. Sailing the seven seas at 15! What a contrast to the life of an average American kid of 15. The stern realities of life come to most people a lot earlier than to us here in U.S.A.

What a blessing the Seamen's church is for these men and boys. There is plenty in New York City and other ports which pull in the wrong direction.

While yet at the coffee table the song books were brought out and we sang to our heart's content until we needed a rest, and at once Pastor Dorf made use of the pause. He told us in a very vivid way about the life and work of Jacob Riis in New York City.

It was an interesting evening at the Danish Seamen's church. Pastor Asger Obdrup and his charming wife have a great task before them. They need our help.

It was most interesting to reminisce with Pastor Dorf—who, looking back over many, many years, speaks the part of a sage.

When he was pastor at Nysted, Nebraska, I was a mere lad. Although I was only six I can well remember him driving in a cutter over the white snow at a very brisk trot with sleigh bells, fur coat, cap and huge mittens. He really got around. He still does.

Holger O. Nielsen.

He who neglects the present moment throws away all he has.

Schiller.

Correction:

The Old People's Home in Askov

The last issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS reported that the Convention in Detroit approved the guarantee of a large loan to make possible the new home in Askov. It has been pointed out, correctly, to the editor, that certain conditions were to be fulfilled before the guarantee would go into effect. To clarify and correct the previous news item, Synod Secretary Willard Garred sends on this summary of convention action and subsequent Synod Board action:

The findings committee reported:

"1.) After a thorough review of the Pioneer Memorial Home prospectus, the Committee moves that a more intensive study by the Synodical Board, the Board of Welfare, and the Pioneer Home Board, should be made, in order to determine a more accurate estimate of the anticipated revenue and expenditures and a continuing supply of guests for the Home over a period of many years."

This was adopted by the convention.

"2.) The Committee further moves that the Synod guarantees the payment of this loan through the Federal Housing Authority in the amount of \$150,000 at 4½% amounting to a total of \$850.00 monthly for 40 years, providing that the above boards find it feasible."

This was adopted, after a counting of votes which showed 99 for, 43 against.

"3.) The Committee further moves that the Synodical Board be authorized to arrange for the necessary revision of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Pioneer Memorial Home, if it decides favorably on the above."

This was adopted.

The day following this convention action, the Synod Board met with the following: Welfare Board Chairman Holger P. Jorgensen, Mrs. Esther Sorensen and Mr. F. G. Brandes of the Pioneer Home Board, Askov.

The resolution of the findings committee, which was adopted by the convention, Thursday, August 13, was studied. There was much discussion of the financial plans for the Askov Home. Mr. M. C. Miller of the Board will ask the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis for population estimates for future years for the Askov-Pine County area.

The Synod Board then voted the following:

1) If sufficient evidence is given to the Board of the AELC Church that the F.H.A. loan of \$150,000 authorized for the Pioneer Memorial Home, Askov, Minnesota, will be self-liquidating over a period of forty years, the Board of the AELC declares its willingness to guarantee this loan.

2) That the Pioneer Home Board supply the Board of the AELC Church for its meeting to be held November 9, 1959, the most realistic estimates of receipts and expenses of the projected Pioneer Memorial Home, and that the source of these estimated figures be given.

He who is afraid of a thing gives it power over him.

Moorish proverb.

*The Desperate, Hopeless Cry:***"I Am a Refugee"**

(Church World Service)

"I am a refugee."

In the world of 1959 that sentence is a claim to citizenship in a tragic nation — a nation of millions of men, women and children whose cities are clusters of makeshift shacks, whose bitter traditions are destitution, dependence and despair. And its population is growing daily as fresh thousands are driven from their homes by new persecutions. Forty million people — as many as the combined populations of Ireland, Greece and Spain — have been turned into homeless refugees since the end of World War II.

On July 1 the world began to observe World Refugee Year. Proclaimed by President Eisenhower and leaders of other nations the Year was born in a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly, which stated a double purpose:

"To focus interest on the refugee problem and to encourage additional financial contributions from governments, voluntary agencies, and the general public for its solution;"

and

"To encourage additional opportunities for permanent refugee solutions, through voluntary repatriation, resettlement, or integration on a purely humanitarian basis, and in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the refugees themselves."

The resolution puts into new words goals toward which the churches have been working since the first cry went up from the first mid-century refugee. Since 1945 Church World Service, cooperative overseas relief agency of thirty-five major Protestant denominations, has brought 106,000 refugees to the United States for resettlement. Five hundred more, as many as current legislation permits, are presently arriving every month under Church World Service sponsorship. And CWS has joined other voluntary agencies in urging new legislation that will allow 20,000 refugees a year to enter the United States — including many now barred from coming because of age or health.

But it is to the overseas legion of the luckless that the

Church World Service programs are chiefly directed. Originally many of the programs were intended as temporary measures, to meet immediate needs until the refugees' problems were solved. Today, after ten to fifteen years of relief ministry, the churches recognize homelessness as a permanent problem and a permanent responsibility.

For special emphasis during World Refugee Year the American churches have chosen three projects — aid for White Russians, new help for orphans from Hong Kong, and assistance to Pakistani refugees in and around Calcutta.

One of the oldest refugee problems is the plight of ten thousand White Russians who fled first to China and Manchuria when the Soviet government came into power, then ran before the Reds again when China fell under Communist control. Many of them have already, with the help of the World Council of Churches, been resettled in Australia, New Zealand and Brazil. A year of intensive effort may bring all of them to the beginning of new lives in new homes.

Hope is not as strong for solution of the other two problems chosen for special attention, but increased help will keep the refugees' hope alive.

A million refugees — most of them from the Communist-held Chinese mainland — are living, sleeping, dying on the sidewalks, rooftops and in the caves of Hong Kong. Cold and hunger have invited another enemy — tuberculosis. Church World Service provides foods, medical care, clothing, shelter — and tries to find ways for the refugees to help themselves.

Thousands of these Hong Kong refugees or children — many of them orphans, for whom continued homelessness means almost certain death in an anguished society where parents cannot care even for their own children. Church World Service has provided special funds to International Social Service that it may step up its efforts to find adoptive homes for many of these children.

Three million refugees who have fled to India from East



Future baker at work. CWS provides funds for training programs to help refugees learn new trades. Loans set them up in business. (Jerusalem)



Inspecting work brought from villages. Knitting and embroidery help women who need help to help themselves. (Pakistan)

Pakistan since the partition are still sleeping and starving in the streets of Calcutta — a region chillingly called "the human dead sea." They are the third group of refugees on whose needs the churches will concentrate during World Refugee Year. The National Christian Council of India, with gifts provided by Church World Service, offers them shelter in refugee colonies, and is exploring self-help programs to help to restore their self-respect. And, during the World Refugee Year, a team including a trained social scientist, will explore ways in which further aid may be constructively given.

During World Refugee Year the churches, through Church World Service, hope to strengthen and intensify their programs for relief of refugees, not only in Calcutta, Hong Kong, and among the White Russians, but in every part of the world, wherever there is need.

There is need in the Near East. More than ten years have passed since Arab refugees fled from their homes in Palestine, and more than a million—900,000 "official" and 200,000 "economic" — are still encamped on its borders, living in poverty and idleness on a dwindling hope of repatriation and little else. The Near East Christian Council distributes clothing and food from America and has set up a loan program to encourage the re-birth of business in the refugee community, encouraging young men to learn marketable skills.

India has 10,000 new refugees. Tibetans are streaming down from their Communist-conquered country, ragged, hungry, frightened and disoriented. For them the churches find food, clothing, medicine and shelter.

The Korean War seems long past to most Americans, but it has left a legacy of 500,000 homeless people who fled from North Korea to crowd into the free but impoverished South. War wounds and bombings have left a painfully high percentage of amputees — many of them children. Inadequate fuel and food have made tuberculosis a common killer. Korea Church World Service, an interdenominational agency of Korean churches, has set up an amputee rehabilitation project, a mobile TB clinic — and self-help programs, plus the vital distribution of clothing and medicines, all sustained by help from American Christians.

For thousands of refugees in Europe, too, World War II has never ended. There is no true peace in a refugee camp, poor, anxious and comfortless, battling for simple survival. For these refugees the churches are synonymous with hope — hope of resettlement, or of finding homes and work where they are — hope for enough food and enough warm clothing to keep alive until the miracle happens. Among them are 200,000 East Germans who escape every year to the West and need help from the churches until they can get on their feet in the free zone.

The funds that feed and clothe these needy ones and keep the minds and spirits of refugees alive are contributed by the people of the churches through One Great Hour of Sharing, the Share Our Surplus program, and the United Clothing Appeal of the churches.

"A ship in harbor is safe; but that's not what ships were built for."
— F. A. Shedd.

Silver Anniversary

"JOE AND ELLEN"

Dr. Johannes and Ellen Knudsen celebrated their Silver Wedding Anniversary on Saturday, July 18. The following evening Trinity congregation, Chicago, invited the honored couple, out of town guests, relatives, and friends to a special celebration at the church. Among the out of town guests were Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Eriksen, Des Moines, Iowa; Mr. Folmer Hansen, Tyler, Minnesota; Pastor Erik Moller, Danevang, Texas; Mrs. Chris Nelson, Cordova, Nebraska; and Mrs. Andrew Petersen, Des Moines. The latter two are sisters of Mrs. Knudsen. Dr. and Mrs. Donald Heiges, and Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Sittler were also among those who came for the occasion.

Pastor Erik Moller acted as toastmaster, and presented a program of speakers, music, and group singing. One highlight of the evening was a song written especially for the event by Folkvar Knudsen, brother of the "groom."

Dr. Sittler and Dean Heiges spoke words of deep appreciation for contributions made by Dr. Knudsen in his work as teacher and Dean of the Graduate School at Maywood Seminary. Special mention was made of his love for students, his enthusiasm for life, and his clear and forceful presentations of theological insights reflecting the spirit and life of Danish theology. "One thing we can bank on at Maywood," Dean Heiges said, "is that when Dr. Joe is in charge of chapel, (you can bet on this!) there'll always be a hymn by Grundtvig."

Dr. Sittler paid tribute to his colleague for helping him to see that "though we are alienated from God we are not separated from Him." Then, speaking in a humorous vein, he said: "This is something of a monumental event — Ellen has lived with Joe for 25 years!"

Several congratulatory letters and telegrams from friends living in various parts of the country were read by the toastmaster, and many, in brief remarks, expressed thanks to the Knudsen home.

Synod president, Dr. Alfred Jensen, speaking on behalf of the entire church, extended hearty congratulations, as well as sincere appreciation for the many ways in which the honored couple has served our church and people.

Gifts were presented by Trinity congregation, and after a spoken response from each member of the Knudsen family, chairman of the event, Mr. Knud Overgaard, expressed the joy it had been for the committee to help prepare the celebration.

Lutheran Tidings - PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Office of Publication: Lutheran Tidings, Askov, Minnesota.

Second class postage paid at Askov, Minnesota.

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable as addressed, attach Form 3579, give new address, and return entire paper to

LUTHERAN TIDINGS, Askov, Minnesota
Return Postage Guaranteed

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.

A Plumber Earns Eight Thousand a Year

A Pharmacist Earns Twelve Thousand

What Does Your Pastor Receive ?

For Services Rendered

Axel C. Kildegaard

Three true stories with their own morals:

1. At the annual meeting of one of our AELC congregations the members were discussing the minister's salary. Someone raised objection to the suggestion that he be given a raise because "The cost of living has risen so sharply during the past months that we can't afford to give more." The pastor's salary was not increased.

2. Another of our congregations had received a rejection from the first pastor that they had called to fill their present vacancy. They had selected a second man to call when the question of terms came up. Someone suggested that since their current choice was receiving a lesser salary, he could probably be "gotten for less." The terms of the call were lowered.

3. In still another of our churches, the pastor and his wife debated together regarding the replacement of their worn-out automobile. It was in the mid-thirties and salaries were modest indeed. But they plunged and half of their annual salary went into the purchase. To buy the same equivalent model in 1959 at the same proportion of salary would demand a salary of about \$7,000.

The annual reports of our church have been in our hands for some time and contain much of interest, not least in the statistical compilations. The amounts recorded for pastoral salaries are admittedly already a year old and are difficult to compare because of the various extras included. In my opinion, items such as utilities may legitimately be included when the pastor's salary is considered. Their separate listing is justified only because a tax advantage is to be gained. On the other hand, car allowance is not part of the minister's salary. It is an occupational expense that should be considered simply a part of the ongoing cost of a congregation. About half of our congregations do now allow a car-expense item for their pastors. These range from \$200 to \$900 but two-thirds of these are of \$500 or less and one-half are below \$400. A current study by another Lutheran church body indicates that a pastor drives an average of about 10,000 miles a year on congregational duties and this costs him about \$1,000 a year in operating costs, insurance and depreciation. Deduct the car

allowance, if any, which you give your pastor from \$1,000 and then take that amount from his salary. This is a more honest figure.

After making the above adjustment, the salaries of our pastors as reported for last year, ranged from \$1,400 to \$4,400 with the median figure (as many below as above) at \$3,000. That is the annual — not the quarterly or semi-annual amount. When this figure is translated into the groceries, the utilities, the clothes, the books and the thousand other things necessary to a household that is expected and deserves to maintain a certain standard in the community, a number of situations become clear. Many a minister is of necessity a bargain hunter, and economic concerns rob him of time as well as certain items that should be considered essential to his own growth and service, e.g. books and magazines. Sometimes other sources of income have to be sought; sometimes his wife must seek employment. Too little income can divert man's concerns and interests from the essentials of life as easily as can too much. Poverty and wealth carry the same danger. At any rate, it is the congregation which is the loser. Worry can sap a man's energy; and concern at the sight of his family deprived of what may be considered the normal comforts and securities distracts from what is his genuine calling and responsibility in the ministry.

Ministers also derive certain other benefits which should be added to the incomes mentioned above. There are prerequisites which they sometimes receive when certain pastoral acts are called for, and the special offerings at church festivals. These are relics of an earlier age and relationship between pastor and parishioner. The former have not kept pace with changing economic conditions and in many communities the custom is fast disappearing. The special offerings are likewise gradually being eliminated, as is evident in our yearly report. Only a decade ago these were common practice; today they are becoming a rarity. Ironically, some of our congregations have abandoned this practice, added what they considered to be an equal amount, and considered that to be a raise in salary.

The big benefit that is included in most calls is a parsonage. In my own opinion this is a mixed blessing. There are many attractive parsonages

Axel Kildegaard is Dean of Grand View Seminary.

throughout our church and although these are not and cannot always be tailored to the particular needs of the specific pastor and his family, they do relieve him of a significant economic drain. But it is never his own home. He remains a sojourner and he knows that the day will come when he must retire and give up the parsonage to the new pastor. My own salary includes a housing allowance that is comparable to rents paid in the area in which I live. But I am free to invest this in a home and as the equity grows it will not be too many years before that home is my own. This itself forms a security in the future for myself and my family which most pastors never know. A parsonage is often an exaggerated value.

I suspect that some will be offended by the viewpoints which this article presents. Being in the employ of an institution of our Church and not directly of a congregation, it is perhaps my responsibility to explore this situation, painful and disturbing as this may be. The pastor and his family are in no real position to bargain. They are expected to be above such worldly considerations as salary, and many look askance at those who do. But they pay the same for bread and gasoline that you and I do. A minister, as you and I have often heard it said, has undertaken his calling not for material advantages but for the service in Christ. Aside from the obvious nature of this in fact, there are two comments to be made. The same should be said of any Christian, no matter what his calling may be. Secondly, while it may be commendable and even expected for a pastor to feel this way, it is something less than right and ethical for a congregation to exploit this devotion and thereby escape its own obligation.

Do minister's salaries affect the recruitment of men for the ministry? Four years of college are required of all who enter the Seminary. With college costs as high as they are today, most young men have large debts accumulated before they are through college. Many are married or are planning to be married and some already have children or are hoping to have a family soon. They have an earning capacity when they finish college which is equal to and usually greater than that which they can expect after three additional years of Seminary study. It is my impression that most of the young men with whom I speak concerning the ministry are not unduly concerned with wealth. But they would like to liquidate their debts and they do feel responsibilities toward their present or future families. If they do work for a year or two after college they soon become accustomed to a standard of living which is difficult to relinquish. They may also conclude, quite validly, that they can find areas of Christian service outside the ministry itself. Economic facts can be overwhelming. While any opposite situation in which men seek the ministry for reasons of financial security would be intolerable, there does not seem to be any danger of that. It would seem that the answer to the question is clear.

Obviously the pastor's salary is tied to the Church's

ability to pay. The only remedy to the situation is to be found in our growth in stewardship. Bad habits inherited from an outmoded past throttle our attempts to solve this problem. In view of the position which a pastor is expected to maintain in a community, the education which he needs to prepare himself for his service, his responsibilities toward his own family, and the need of pastors for the future, some drastic thinking must be done in all of our congregations with respect to the pastor's salary. Certainly that salary should total no less than the average salary of the male members of the congregation. But even more important, we have to change the question from one that is asked in the law to one that is asked in love. Not: "What must we pay in order to get a pastor?" but: "What are we able to pay in love?" I am convinced that if that question were asked in the context of faith and prayer, a completely different picture would result. It is the basic question of our stewardship which is at issue, "Why and how do we give?"

One more true story with which to close: The congregation had been engaged upon a three-year building program and the new edifice was finally completed. A final list of donors was compiled for the records. The pastor's own contribution was prominent among these. For three years the congregation had not given the pastor a raise in salary, pleading the pressures of giving to the new building. Thus it was that the much needed raise which the pastor never received was in fact one of the largest contributions, though it never appeared on the list of those who had given.

THE CURE FOR "MONEY SICKNESS"

People in all income brackets can be affected by what a Boston doctor calls "money sickness." He believes that many physical symptoms are caused by emotional upsets resulting from money problems. He thinks doctors overlook this common ailment in their diagnostic efforts.

Probably this season of the year, when wage earners struggle with income tax reports, is the best time to search for symptoms of "money sickness." It is obvious that most of us are spending more each year for things that satisfy less. Hence our striving to get while the getting is good and our reluctance to give at all sacrificially. So the symptoms of "money sickness" multiply.

The Great Physician diagnosed our malady long ago. He offered some drastic prescriptions "Sell all you have and give to the poor." This sounds like a fatal dose, but it worked for men like Barnabas and Francis of Assisi. "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth but treasures in heaven." "Do not be anxious about your life. . . . but seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." To the extent that Christians can place the kingdom first, their anxieties—and those headaches and stomach pains also—will give way to wholeness and happiness. Do you want to hear more from a specialist? Your appointment is for the worship hour next Sunday. —Gospel Messenger.

~~~~~  
A congregation  
who can't  
afford to pay  
a clergyman  
enough  
want a  
missionary more  
than they do  
a clergyman.

~~~~~  
Josh Billings.
~~~~~



*The Sunday Morning  
Convention Sermon*

# *Listen - - Listen, and Speak!*

**Enok Mortensen**

**Pastor, Tyler, Minnesota**



HAVE SOMETIMES HEARD people argue about the relative misfortune of blindness and that of deafness. Most people apparently consider blindness the greater misfortune.

But I don't. Needless to say, it is futile to argue the point as long as we ourselves have not been in that situation, but I base my opinion on observation. Most of the blind people I have known in spite of their handicaps have been rather well adjusted and happy, while many of the deaf people I have known have been moody and melancholy.

Deafness has a way of isolating us from others because we find it difficult to communicate. We communicate largely through speech, and we learn to articulate by hearing. Our Gospel deals with a man who cannot speak because he cannot hear.

The sight of Jesus as he encounters this man indicates how deeply Jesus pitied him and how anxious he was to help him.

The "technique" of Jesus is a further indication of the man's need and the Master's will to help. Sometimes he has helped and healed by just a word; but here there is no communication, since the man is unable to hear. He can feel and see, and so Jesus touches his ears and his tongue and looks toward heaven — "from whence cometh our help." And the man is healed.

It is becoming increasingly clear to all of us, I am sure, that many of the ills of the world are rooted in our failure to communicate. This is as true in our personal relationships, in our homes and in our congregations, as it is on a larger world scale. So often we are not on speaking terms because we cannot, or will not, hear. We are shouting at one another and no one is listening. Children by the millions are crying for bread and we drown out their voices in our own oratory. Men and women in underdeveloped areas — across the seas, or perhaps just across the tracks — are crying for justice and freedom and a chance to live like human beings. And maybe we respond by stepping on the accelerator while turning on the radio and this soothing song:

"We'll build a little nest

Somewhere in the West

and let the rest of the world go by—"

There is only one misfortune more tragic than that of not being able, or willing, to listen and to communicate with our fellowman; that is our inability or unwillingness to hear God speak. I need not labor the point, but the two are of one piece. You cannot truly listen to the voice of humanity until you hear the voice of God. You cannot love God without also loving man. "We love because He first loved us —"

The Scriptures are full of references to the need of hearing God speak. You remember how the relatives of Jesus came and asked for him. One senses

the possessiveness, even the jealousy, of his kindred. After all, they were his relatives! But then Jesus breaks the boundary lines and widens the relationship: "Who are my mother and my brother?" — "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." The same emphasis is found in his encounter with the woman who sentimentally praised his mother. Ah, she was blessed! But no —: "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it." And again, as he talks of himself as the Good Shepherd. How does the shepherd lead? By his voice. "My sheep hear my voice." Not only his words but also his voice; not only what he says, but the way in which he says it.

As we are gathered here for another convention of our beloved Church I would urge a new emphasis on listening to "the still small voice of God."

During the last few days so many of our deliberations have dealt with the practical aspects of our work, the many and variegated activities. I am not downgrading the importance of all this. I am a fairly busy pastor who must constantly promote and direct diverse activities. Maybe that's why I feel a special need of urging that we stress the necessity of listening.

In the last issue of *THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY* the old warrior, Charles Clayton Morrison, bemoans the fact that "The pulpit which is the throne of Protestantism seems to have become the footstool of a new ruler — the Cult of Consultation. The sermon has lost its character as an Event, either for the pastor or the congregation. It has become hardly more than a space-filling homily in a highly liturgical or folksy impromptu exercise preparatory to the coffee break."

There was a time when people — young and old — could listen. The sermon, or the lecture, was an Event! Now the trend is toward workshops and panel discussions where everyone talks and no one listens. I am not equating the voice from the pulpit with the voice of God; yet Paul wrote that "it pleased God through the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe." I thank God daily not only for the privilege of preaching, but also for the opportunities I have had — especially in my youth — of learning to listen.

In our story the man was made to hear. Then another miracle could take place. "His tongue was released and he spoke plainly."

The Christian Church has sometimes been accused of not having spoken plainly and positively on important issues and events. But perhaps our failure to speak more effectively is due in part to our lack of listening. A soldier must learn to obey before he can command. In that great Psalm which inspired Luther to write his battle hymn of the Reformation the emphasis is plain: "Be still and know that I am God!"

(Continued on Page 16)





## Paging Youth

American Evangelical Luth.  
Youth Fellowship

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### AELYF Doin's

**Mid-Nebraska:** The LYFs and Young Adults of the Cordova, Kronborg and Nysted churches gathered on August 23 in York for a swimming party. About 50 turned out for the gala time, with a picnic supper filling a dire need after all the exercise.

**Lake Michigan District:** There will be LYF activity at the two district church conventions at Menominee September 25-27 and Manistee September 18-20. You should be watching for more publicity from your district officers.

**Tyler, Minnesota:** The fall kick-off meeting will be held here on September 13. We are looking forward to a year full of activity.

**Hartford, Connecticut:** New officers were elected at our last meeting. Mary Larson, president; Carol Meyer, vice president; Dick Lerche, treasurer; and Nancy Jespersen, secretary, will take over at the September 20 meeting. Thirteen of our group visited Old Mystic Seaport this summer. Dinner at the Black Angus Inn and a swim at Grove Beach made the day a complete and interesting one. We plan to go to the Edison Township young people's barbecue and square dance soon. We will also have a district officers' meeting at that time.

**Luck-Bone Lake, Wisconsin:** We have recently merged our youth groups here. We hope to have increased activity now and are looking forward to working together. Our treasuries will be separate for now.

### Youth Sunday Service

The Kimballton, Iowa, young people held their Youth Sunday on August 23. Four young people gave scripture readings with the whole LYF singing verses of "Take My Life and Let It Be." The theme of the service was "Discipleship." Our guest speaker was Everett Nielsen, Synod Youth Activities Director.

The Good Fellowship (Young Married Couples) Group served a delicious dinner. Speaking at the dinner was Dr. Jensen, a Baptist missionary who spent thirty-three years in China. He told us many interesting things about his work there, including the several threats on his life by the Communists. He also showed us many interesting pieces of material and trinkets from China. Mr. Nielsen also gave a short talk urging parents and young people to support the program of youth activity in the church.

To be conscious that you are ignorant is a great step to knowledge.  
**Disraeli.**

### ULCA's Camp Okoboji

Your Synod Youth Activities Director attended the camp of the Luther League of Iowa (ULCA) at the Walther League Camp Okoboji, August 17-23. He led the campers in folk dancing on Thursday night and served as a cabin counselor.

The contrast between AELYF's camps and LLI's is primarily one of size. There were over 300 campers for the week, with a staff of around 50. As you can see, the staff was as large as most of our total attendance at camp.

Their program contains many of the same things as ours: Bible study, discussion groups, crafts, camp paper, choir, dramatics, and so on. There is also the necessary swimming and athletics of all kinds: softball, volleyball, basketball, shuffleboard, ping pong, horse-shoes, and others.

The "nights doing" included such things as a "Pow Wow" with the camp divided into tribes and holding contests, a "Gold Rush" with the tribes searching for hidden gold in the camp, a "Carnival" with booths built by the campers, "Folk Dancing," a banquet and "Talent Night."

The carnival should be explained somewhat: Each cabin (15 or so in a cabin) was assigned a space and was allowed to choose a booth. There were wet towel throws, basketball throws, dunk the counselor games, and so on. Beans were used for money and points were awarded to the booth with the most beans at the end of the evening. It gave the campers a chance to be creative as well as a chance to have some fun.

LLI is unfamiliar with folk dancing, but now that they have tasted it, many are anxious to learn. The banquet speaker was Ben Jensen, as student from Liberia, Africa, now attending Grand View College.

The leaders were very cooperative and are anxious to have the AELC give them suggestions from our experience in camping. We can look forward to the merger with great anticipation in the area of camping.

The large size of the camp makes it impossible to meet everyone. Free time is naturally cut down because of the size. But they hope to help these problems in the near future since they are developing their own campsite of 133 acres on East Okoboji. With this camp, they will have smaller groups at different periods during the summer.

Those of you who live outside of Iowa might do well to check in your areas and see how ULCA and Augustana run their camps. They might have some suggestions for us. But better than that, we might be able to give them some help with our experience.

Personally, I feel that our camps were fully as successful as theirs. We have good ideas that can be shared. Invite campers from these other synods to your camp. Try to attend their camp. We will be better prepared for the merger by doing so.

### More Convention Data

The National Workshop and Convention of the AELYF at Nysted, Nebraska, November 6, 7 and 8 will cost \$8.50.



# Our Women's Work

MRS. AAGE PAULSEN, EDITOR

Beaver Crossing, Nebraska



## Scholarship Fund

**History:** The idea of a Scholarship Fund was conceived as a fitting way to show our gratitude for the blessings that have come to us and our church throughout the fifty years since the WMS was first organized as DKM. Since we desired to show our gratitude in a concrete way, it was decided at a meeting of the WMS Board and the District Presidents that a scholarship fund be started. The wish of the group was that this should be a "Living Memorial," and it seemed that a scholarship fund would suit this purpose best. By the establishment of such a fund, the women of the AELC could assist their young people to train themselves for Christian service. (The committee interprets "Christian service" to mean church vocation.)

The following recommendations of the scholarship committee, as amended by the convention, were accepted.

### NAME:

The scholarship fund shall be called THE MARY SEELY KNUDSTRUP SCHOLARSHIP FUND.

### AMOUNT:

The scholarship shall be awarded in the amount of \$500 and shall be paid directly to the college or university which the student will attend. The scholarship may be awarded to one person for two consecutive years, if the recipient is outstanding and there is evidence of real need and promise.

### ELIGIBILITY:

The student must be under 25 years of age, and a junior, senior or graduate student. It is especially important that this student has proven her worth as a good citizen and a person of scholastic attainments. Any young woman member of AELC who can meet the required rules is entitled to apply.

### ADMINISTRATION OF SCHOLARSHIP:

Each District WMS shall be asked to appoint a scholarship committee to interview, screen and nominate candidates. Information shall then be sent to the Central Committee with final authority to grant or reject. The Central Committee shall consist of the chairman of the scholarship committee of GVC, and three members of WMS. (Either board members or others designated by the board to act in this capacity.)

### COLLEGE:

For the junior and senior student, it is required that the college selected be a Lutheran College. A graduate student applying for the scholarship shall have attended a Lutheran College for at least two years undergraduate work.

### REPAYMENT:

Should the recipient fail to enter the Christian service for which she was being trained, the amount of the scholarship shall be due and payable according to the schedule set up by the Central Scholarship Committee. The student shall agree to remain in the service for a minimum of two years. (If death, illness, etc., draw training to a close, the case shall be considered by the Central Scholarship Committee.)

### REPORTS:

Since this scholarship is not a usual kind of scholarship, certain requirements are stipulated. The school

shall be asked to report academic progress, and the student shall be asked to answer letters requesting a brief summary of her activities. The promptness with which these letters are answered reflects the student's business courtesy and bespeaks the appreciation of the assistance afforded through this scholarship.

## How Strong and Sweet My Father's Care

This old, old hymn, the words of which are by an unknown author, is one that children in every generation love to sing in their high, clear, sweet, childish voices.

Children have a good many fears and worries about which adults know little. Perhaps that is the reason why there is something particularly attractive to little children in the sentiment expressed in the words of this hymn.

Most of these little ones have been taught by loving mothers, and faithful church-school teachers that their heavenly Father not only knows what they do, but that He cares for them and watches over them, as do their own parents.

They find joy, therefore, in expressing, through song, their confident belief that this heavenly Father, whom they cannot see not only loves them, but that His spirit is round about them all the time in loving watch-care.

The teachings of Jesus would seem to support the fact that God watches over these little ones in a peculiar way, for does not Jesus say, speaking of the children, "their angels do always behold the face of My Father who is in heaven?" (Matthew 18:10)

This, the children's hymn, is usually sung to the tune "Eudora," composed by J. R. Murry.

How strong and sweet my Father's care,  
That round about me, like the air,  
Is with me always, ev'rywhere,  
He cares for me.  
O keep me ever in Thy love,  
Dear Father, watching from above;  
And let me still Thy mercy prove,  
And care for me. Amen.

Anonymous.

(Taken from "Christ and the Fine Arts")

## EVIL AND GOD

If evil were stronger than God, He would never have sent His Son to show us how to overcome it. God in His wisdom knew that evil could be defeated. God in the person of His Son faced the cruel facts of evil and pain and death unflinchingly for us. The crucifixion was the seeming triumph of evil, and God allowed it, but the resurrection was God's secret weapon and with it He triumphed by demonstrating His power to replace evil, suffering and death with the creative force of love and life. The resurrection tells more about God and His power to overcome evil than any other event in history.

From THE SECRET OF EFFECTIVE PRAYER  
by Helen Smith Shoemaker  
(Fleming H. Revell Company)



# Highlights and Sidelights

## Detroit Convention

—BY THE EDITOR—

(Conclusion)

Only one "Proposition" came before the convention, the proposal that synod representatives on the Boards of our various Old People's Homes be chosen by the respective District Conventions. The proposal was immediately tabled when it was explained to the convention that there is no proper way for the District Conventions to carry on some of the business of the National Convention. The Home representatives were subsequently chosen at the regular elections on Saturday of the convention. The Home representatives from the synod normally are selected from the communities wherein lie the Homes. In the case of the Solvang, Calif., Home, this was one election where a mid-westerner did not appear on the ballot! In only one other case, did a non-midwestern candidate win an election, which seems something of an over-balance.

It might be well to say something here about elections. Almost every year new proposals are made to improve our election procedure. The present method is perhaps as fair as any that could be devised. The Nomination Committee is, however, an unwieldy unit which often shows a tendency to nominate its own members in the effort to fill the slate. Perhaps it would be wiser to have a committee of, say, six members, with two from the East, two from the Midwest, and two from the West. This representation would not be quite as fair as the present method of selecting two from each district, but there would be advantages to the system. (It is doubtful that any further changes in our methods will go into effect between now and the merger.)

Some peculiar things sometimes happen in our elections. Sometimes the most unlikely candidates win and sometimes the most qualified candidates seem to lose, in this writer's opinion. Perhaps our rigid rule against "electioneering" is at fault. Is it an outmoded regulation that all that the convention may be told about a candidate is his or her occupation? This is not even democratic, since a professional man will almost always win out over a laborer even though the laboring man may have far the best qualifications. Perhaps a minute or two of time should be given a member of the Nominating Committee to speak in behalf of each candidate the committee presents, stating not only occupation but other qualifications which the Committee has considered in making its selection. There are some instances when it is in the best interest of the synod that incumbents be re-elected. This was shown, for example, when the President through his Report asked the convention to re-elect the members of the Church Relations Committee (who are working on merger). This was certainly a wise and reasonable request, and if it can be called "electioneering"

(as it was called) perhaps we need more of it. Odd note: In the election results reported in the August 20 issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS, the printer filled out the column with a one-line filler from a file-full supplied by the editor. At the bottom of the column of election victors appeared the line, "Our Lord cannot be fobbed off with less than our best." **Bishop of Sheffield.**

During the interesting study session on the Constitution for the merged church, held on Wednesday evening of the Convention, a momentary diversion occurred which caused much merriment and discussion subsequently. At the time, however, it was serious enough, and deserves at least a mention here, whether as a sidelight or a highlight. A woman asked for the floor, stating that she was an American Lutheran. This was taken to mean she was a member of the synod, although it could mean anything. She was of peculiar appearance, to put it charitably, and her actions were more than peculiar. She used her opportunity to speak as a forum for denouncing the pastors and leaders of other Lutheran synods and of proclaiming her own version of what constitutes the word of God. As she spoke she got more and more excitable. Finally the presiding officer, on learning she was a stranger among us, asked her to relinquish the floor again since this was "not a public meeting." The lady had somewhere learned that merger was to be discussed and had seen it as an obligation to warn us against some of those we were in discussion with! The sense of duty sometimes takes strange forms. ....

The new congregation being formed in Cordova, Nebraska, out of our present congregation there and a church of another synod, gave cause for satisfaction. Frequently, such mergers have resulted in the loss of a congregation to our synod, which has undeniably been dwindling in recent years. In accepting this new congregation, the Convention sanctioned what seemed to this writer to be extra-legal procedures. The Constitution clearly defines our procedure for adopting new congregations. By a large majority vote the Convention decided in this instance to allow the Synod board to determine when the requirements for membership have been met, and to receive the congregation. It was an effort to cut red-tape, no doubt, but some objected to it. However, the chair was upheld, and it was a victory for practicality in the face of cumbersome legality. There was certainly no question as to whether or not the congregation was to be welcomed.

Dean Kildegaard (see article this issue) voiced his concern over the extremely low salary scale of some pastors in our synod, and so the convention voted to urge congregations to review regularly the salary schedules. No salary minimum was proposed, since



some congregations are so small that it would be pointless to tell them what they should pay. (However, the Lutheran Free Church at its convention recently adopted a minimum schedule of \$4,800, plus house and automobile expenses.) In our synod, pastors' salaries have always been on about par with other salaries paid by the synod, for example to teachers at our college and seminary. Institutional salaries can be manipulated by Board action, and in view of the diminishing dollar buying-power, such salaries have risen steadily, and outdistanced the average pastor's salary in our synod. Since the layman's contribution to the Sunday offering pays both these salaries, in fairness there should not be too great disparity between them. It is up to congregations to care for pastors, it was pointed out.

Perhaps the ones most hurt in the situation are home mission pastors who labor usually among younger couples of limited means, and who are employed by churches with large debts weighing down on them. When such a congregation gets ahead financially, it usually reduces its debt rather than raises its pastor's salary. In a sense, then, it is the pastor who is paying off the debt of the church. Since a pastor has already invested perhaps \$30,000 in his career, in terms of income lost during schooling and also the cost of schooling itself, this seems hardly fair.

The Convention publicly expressed its thanks to two retiring pastors, Viggo Hansen and Holger Strandkov. The Hansens are moving to the Los Angeles area. The Strandkovs will take up trailer life, and we understand will be willing and anxious to serve briefly in vacant congregations during the early years of their retirement. . . . . The Convention also said thanks and farewell to Prof. A. C. Nielsen who this year severs all teaching connections with Grand View College, where he has served since 1936. Prof. Nielsen will be remembered by all his former students, particularly for his skill in awakening social consciousness in his immature students, and his wit. His classes were invariably uplifting, and certainly Prof. Nielsen is one major reason why students recall their years at our college with respect.

Several phases of youth work were stressed during the meeting, and Paging Youth will no doubt publicize them. We would like to say a word here in behalf of YULE magazine, edited by Pastor Harris Jespersen. Thanks were expressed to him for his work during the past many years he has been editor. The magazine has grown, and has profited, making other youth efforts financially possible. The new WORLD OF SONG was likewise mentioned, and its purchase urged.

It was what we so often say, "a good convention." It was not a large convention, but despite the humidity, it was an active one. It finished its work ahead of schedule. And there was afterward the sense of satisfaction. This report, however, closes with a quotation from the President's Report. "So much more should have been accomplished than actually was completed. There is never reason to view anything or anybody with pride. We must always ask God's forgiveness for not having served Him better."

Good luck is a lazy man's estimate of a worker's success.

## District I Convention

Immanuel Lutheran Church, 508 7th Avenue, North Troy, New York, extends to delegates, pastors and friends of District One an invitation to be our guests during the district convention at Troy, N. Y., September 25-27. Will all guests kindly enroll early with Mr. Hans Frederiksen, 498 7th Avenue, N. Troy, N. Y., who is chairman of the local convention arrangements. All efforts will be made to secure lodging for our guests, however, if there are people who want to make their own arrangements for housing please indicate so in your letter to Mr. Frederiksen who can make reservations at a hotel or motel in your behalf.

To arrive at the church follow Route 4 north to 113th Street then turn right five blocks to Seventh Avenue. The church is one-half block north of 113th Street on Seventh Avenue.

**Irving Jensen, President.**

**Warren H. Truland, Secretary.**

## INSTRUCTIONS

At the convention of District One there will be the usual items of business, and reports from special committees pertaining to camps of other Lutheran Synods and their availability to the congregations of the District. Also a committee report on the Children's Home Fund of the District. Revision of the Constitution of the District is on the agenda, too.

Congregations of the District are entitled to one delegate for every 35 voting members or major fraction thereof, as given in the latest edition of the synodical convention report. I am urging all congregations to send delegates and ask the pastors of the District to be present.

**Holger O. Nielsen, District President.**  
Newington 11, Conn.

## District II Convention

District II of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet for its annual convention at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Manistee, Michigan, September 18-20. The opening meeting will be on Friday evening, September 18 and the closing meeting on Sunday afternoon, September 20.

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, Dist. Pres.**

## CONVENTION INVITATION

As the host congregation to the District Convention this year, Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Manistee, Michigan, extends a cordial invitation to the members and friends of our District Congregations to be our guests during the days of September 18-20.

Please send all registrations to Mr. Elmer Ness, 81½ Division, Manistee, Michigan by September 11 if possible.

**Donald A. Holm, Pastor.**

**Ernest Knudstrup, President.**



**PROGRAM****Friday, September 18, 1959**

- 7:00 p. m.—Committee Meetings  
 1. Allocations committee  
 2. Nominating committee  
 8:00 p. m.—Words of Welcome  
 Pageant "The Beginning of our Church," presented by members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church.  
 9:00 p. m.—Worship Service, Pastor Howard Christensen preaching; Pastor Beryl Knudsen, liturgist  
 9:30 p. m.—Coffee

**Saturday, September 19, 1959**

- 9:00 a. m.—Morning Devotions, Pastor John Christensen  
 9:30 a. m.—3:30 p. m.—Business Meeting  
 3:30 p. m.—Coffee  
 4:00 p. m.—Address, "Home Mission Work in Michigan," Dr. Frank Madsen, president of the Michigan Synod of the United Lutheran Church in America  
 5:30 p. m.—Supper  
 6:30 p. m.—WMS Meeting  
 8:00 p. m.—Study and Discussion of proposed Merger, Dr. Alfred Jensen, Synod President  
 9:30 p. m.—Coffee

**Sunday, September 20, 1959**

- 10:30 a. m.—Worship Service, Pastor Ivan Westergaard, preaching, Pastor Donald Holm, liturgist  
 12:00 Noon—Dinner

**District III Convention**

The annual convention of District III will be held at Menominee, Michigan, September 25, 26 and 27, starting with a communion service Friday evening. Delegates and pastors will please enroll by letter to the local committee.

**J. Knudsen,**

Acting District Chairman.

**INVITATION**

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Menominee, Michigan, hereby extends an invitation to all pastors, delegates and visitors, to the District III Convention, September 25, 26 and 27.

Please send all registrations to Patricia Madsen, 2125 15th Avenue, Menominee, Michigan. Please register as soon as possible.

**Gudmund Petersen, Pastor.****Harry Nielsen, President.****District IV Convention**

St. Paul's Church takes pleasure in inviting members and friends of District IV to take part in the annual District Convention at our church.

**Harold Olsen, Pastor.****Verner Jensen, President.****PROGRAM****Friday, September 18, 1959**

- 2:00 p. m.—Opening Devotions with message "We Are Commissioned," by Rev. H. Strandskov  
 2:30 p. m.—Convention business session called to order  
 3:00 p. m.—Afternoon coffee  
 3:30 p. m.—Business session resumes (Rev. Riggert represents ILCM at 4:30 p. m.)  
 6:00 p. m.—Supper at St. Paul Lutheran Church  
 8:00 p. m.—Worship service with message, "Christ's Commission and the Spirit of Unity," by Rev. Charles E. Witt, secretary of the United Lutheran Synod of Iowa. Rev. Richard Sorensen will serve as liturgist using the new Service Book and Hymnal of the Lutheran Church in America

**Saturday, September 19, 1959**

- 8:00 a. m.—Breakfast for men and women at Howard Johnson Restaurant  
 8:30 a. m.—District WMS business meeting at Howard Johnson Restaurant  
 8:45 a. m.—Men's meeting at St. Paul Lutheran with Rev. Carlo Petersen presiding. Message by State Representative Bernard Balch, "Christ's Commission and Current Issues"  
 10:00 a. m.—Business session resumes. (Home Missions special order at 10:15 a. m.)  
 12:00 Noon—Dinner at St. Timothy Methodist Church  
 1:30 p. m.—Panel Presentation on "Merger Questions." Panel members to include JCLU Commissioners Willard Garred and Harold Madsen, together with Rev. Ronald Jespersen  
 3:00 p. m.—Afternoon coffee  
 3:30 p. m.—Final business session, including elections and adoption of budget  
 6:00 p. m.—Supper at St. Timothy Methodist Church  
 8:00 p. m.—Evening program with message, "Christ's Commission in the Eyes of Youth," by Seminarian Everett Nielsen. Rev. Charles Terrell presiding  
**Sunday, September 20, 1959**  
 9:30 a. m.—Morning Worship with Holy Communion. Sermon by Rev. Joseph B. Sibert, "Christ's Commission and the Younger Churches." Liturgist Rev. Harold Olsen  
 12:30 p. m.—Dinner at Cedar Heights Presbyterian Church  
 2:30 p. m.—Afternoon program with message, "Christ's Commission and Our Fellow Men," by Mr. Leonard Larsen, Branch Director, Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa  
 3:45 p. m.—Closing Devotions by Rev. C. A. Stub  
 4:00 p. m.—Lunch hour

**District V Convention**

District V of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will meet for its annual convention at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Askov, Minnesota, September 25, 26 and 27. The opening meeting will be Friday afternoon September 25, at 2 o'clock and the closing meeting Sunday afternoon, September 27.

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.

**Harald A. Petersen,**

District President.

**INVITATION**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Askov, Minnesota, hereby extends a cordial invitation to the members and friends of District V to be our guests during the District Convention.

Please register at least one week before the opening of the meeting.

**Harold Petersen, Pastor.****Verner Clausen, President.****PROGRAM****Friday, September 25, 1959**

- 2:00 p. m.—Opening Devotions by Harold Petersen, host pastor  
 2:30 p. m.—Business Meeting  
 8:00 p. m.—Message by Robert Hermansen, pastor of Nathanael and Volmer churches, Dagmar, Mont.  
**Saturday, September 26, 1959**  
 9:00 a. m. to 9:45 a. m.—Morning Devotions and message by Gordon Miller, pastor of the Dalum church, Wayne, Alberta, Canada  
 10:00 p. m.—12:00 Noon—Business Meeting



- 1:30 p. m.—2:00 p. m.—Meeting of the Young People's Home Aid Association  
 2:00 p. m.—3:30 p. m.—Discussion of the constitution and the by-laws of the merged church led by Axel Kildegaard, dean of Grand View Seminary  
 4:00 p. m.—Meeting of the WMS  
 8:00 p. m.—Message by Dean Axel Kildegaard  
**Sunday, September 27, 1959**  
 9:00 a. m.—Danish service conducted by Ottar S. Jorgensen, pastor of St. Peder's Church in Minneapolis  
 10:30 a. m.—Morning worship with Holy Communion, Harris Jespersen, pastor of St. Mark Church, Circle Pines will give the sermon and Harald A. Petersen of the West Denmark and Bone Lake congregations at Luck, Wisconsin, will be in charge of the communion service.  
 3:00 p. m.—Message by Holger Jorgensen, pastor of First Lutheran Church, Alden, Minnesota

### District VI Convention

Trinity Lutheran Church, Gayville, South Dakota, hereby extends an invitation to all delegates, pastors and visiting members, to be our guests during the District Convention, September 18, 19 and 20.

In order to secure a place to stay for all that want lodging, we ask you to register as soon as possible, by writing either Chester Petersen or Mark Miller, both of Gayville, S. D. The cost for the week end is \$4 per person.

May God richly bless us in our fellowship together.

**Harald Ibsen, Pastor.**

**Mark Miller, President.**

### INSTRUCTIONS

Congregations are to elect delegates according to approved procedure 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. Contributions to the budget should be sent to the district treasurer, Jorgen Krog, Lake Benton, Minnesota.

### PROGRAM

#### Friday, September 18, 1959

- 8:00 p. m.—Lecture or sermon by Rev. Harald Ibsen

#### Saturday, September 19, 1959

- 9:00 a. m.—Devotions by Rev. Calvin Rossman  
 9:30 a. m.—Business session until finished  
 8:00 p. m.—Lecture by Rev. Enok Mortensen

#### Sunday, September 20, 1959

- Morning—Worship and Holy Communion, sermon by Rev. John Enselmann and liturgy by Rev. Harald Ibsen  
 2:30 p. m.—Discussion of the proposed Constitution and By-Laws of the new merged Church, led by JCLU committee member, Dr. Ernest D. Nielsen  
**Rev. Calvin Rossman,**  
 District President.

### District VII Convention

District Seven of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will hold its annual convention at Danevang, Texas, October 2, 3 and 4, 1959. The convention will begin on Friday afternoon and will close on Sunday evening. It should be noted, however, as stated in the invitation below, that the congregation at Danevang invites all convention delegates and guests to be its guests for an outing to the Gulf of Mexico on Monday, October 5th.

All congregations in the district are urged to send

their quota of delegates. One delegate is allowed for every ten voting members.

Reports from the congregations should be sent to the District President not later than September 10th. They will then be reproduced and distributed to the delegates at the convention. Any major topics to be introduced for discussion and action should preferably also be submitted to the District President in advance of the meeting.

We look forward to a good meeting and a fine fellowship at Danevang in October.

**Thorvald Hansen, President,**

### INVITATION

The Danevang Lutheran Church takes great pleasure in extending a most cordial invitation to members and friends of District Seven of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church to come to Danevang, Texas, for the convention of the district.

Danevang is located on Highway 71, ten miles south of El Campo, Texas. There is bus service to El Campo and rail service to Bay City. If you use public transportation to reach either of these points please notify us when and where you will arrive so we may have someone meet you.

Please send your registration to Mr. Verner Petersen, Danevang, Texas, or to the Rev. Erik K. Moller, Box 99, Danevang, Texas, not later than September 26th, 1959 — and earlier if possible.

Further, the Danevang Lutheran Church extends a hearty invitation to all guests who are able to stay over on Monday, October 5th, to be our guests for an outing to the Gulf of Mexico. (An early morning fishing trip can be arranged for fishermen.) Please let us know when you register whether or not you plan to stay for the outing.

**Erik K. Moller, Pastor.**

**Fred Swendsen, President.**

### PROGRAM

#### Friday, October 2, 1959

- 3:30 p. m.—Lecture — "Christ's Church," Pastor Carl Laurson, Marquette, Nebraska  
 5:30 p. m.—Supper  
 8:00 p. m.—Communion service. Sermon, Pastor Lavern Larkowski, Hay Springs, Nebraska. Liturgy, Pastor Erik Moller, Danevang, Texas

#### Saturday, October 3, 1959

- 9:00 a. m.—Devotions, Mr. George Novotne, Denmark, Kan.  
 9:30 a. m.—Business session  
 12:15 p. m.—Dinner  
 1:30 p. m.—Business session continued  
 3:30 p. m.—Coffee break  
 3:45 p. m.—Business session continued  
 5:30 p. m.—Supper  
 7:00 p. m.—WMS business meeting  
 8:15 p. m.—WMS program

#### Sunday, October 4, 1959

- 10:30 a. m.—Sunday School  
 10:30 a. m.—Worship service, Sermon—Pastor Clayton Nielsen, Omaha, Nebraska. Liturgy, Pastor Moller  
 12:30 p. m.—Dinner  
 3:00 p. m.—Presentation of merger plans and discussion of same, Pastor Moller  
 5:30 p. m.—Supper  
 8:00 p. m.—Lecture, Pastor Folmer Farstrup, Cordova, Neb.

**MORE CONVENTION ANNOUNCEMENTS  
 ON PAGE SIXTEEN**



Across the Ocean—No. 2

# This Amazing Country Called Norway

Dr. Paul C. Nyholm

(Editor, DANSK NYTAAR)

I have just completed my eighth visit to Norway and I discovered new beauty I had not seen before. America has nothing to compare with the majestic scenery that meets the eyes of one who takes a trip up the fiords. In the inspiring company of Dr. E. Schramm, editor of the "Lutheran Standard," it was my privilege to cross the country from the capital Oslo to the next largest city of Norway, Bergen, which is located on the west coast. The highlight of the trip was a boat ride on Sogne Fiord, but there was impressive beauty all the way — lovely lakes, green meadows, endless forests and rugged snow-clad mountains.

While traveling by tourist bus we often listened to recordings of the music of Grieg, based partly on old folk tunes he found among the people living in isolated valleys.

We stood at Eidsvold, where Norway on May 17, 1814 — partly under the influence of what happened in the U.S.A. on July 4, 1776 — received her free constitution. Denmark's constitution was signed much later, on June 5, 1849. At Eidsvold may still be seen the chairs on which were seated the members of the convention that prepared the constitution. The youngest of them was only seventeen years old. The average age was thirty-two!

Reviewing some of Norway's history as we did, and being reminded of some of her literature as we viewed the statues of Henrik Ibsen and Bjoernstjerne Bjoernson (strongly influenced by Kierkegaard and Grundtvig, respectively), and looking at typical Norwegian scenery gave one a new understanding of the Norway of today. Intuitively one sensed the national awakening that led to new literary and artistic production and to Norway's independence in 1905, and the amazing commercial and cultural progress that has followed.

Many overlook the fact, however, that one of the most important causes of the progress since 1814 lies in the Christian movement begun by Hans Nielsen Hauge who was freed from his prison cell in 1814, the same year in which all of Norway received freedom through its new constitution. Under God Hauge helped great numbers of people to find peace with God. They learned to rely on God and courageously oppose all tyranny in church and in state. A new foundation was laid for a fight for political freedom and democracy, for cultural progress (Hauge's followers were often called "readers") and for economic advance. Hauge started several successful business enterprises and definitely aimed to help the downtrodden peasants economically as well as spiritually.

Archbishop Soderblom has aptly

characterized the difference in Scandinavian Christianity with his reference to the Church of Sweden, the congregations of Denmark and the Christians of Norway. Sweden is the only country in the world that has a Lutheran archbishop. The Church binds the Swedish people together and it is not accidental that the Augustana Church in the U.S.A. has never been divided while the Norwegians in America have had as many as twelve church bodies at one time. In spite of all the mergers that have taken place the United States still has five Lutheran bodies of Norwegian background. In Denmark the emphasis has neither been upon the one church nor upon individualism, but upon something in between. Both Grundtvigians and Inner Mission people have so often stressed the smaller groups: congregations or conventicles.

One need not travel far in Norway before one realizes that the very geography of the country produces and promotes individualism. The sailors on the immensely long coast are forced to develop self reliance, and the many isolated farmers in remote valleys are likewise compelled to battle alone when, with admirable patience, they carve a living out of small patches of lava on the stony mountain slopes.

It is not easy to fully understand another country. One often faces confusing and apparently contradictory or at least contrasting evidences. Church attendance in Scandinavia is poor, yet there are many staunch Christians. Traveling through Norway one easily notes that the churches are comparatively few and far between, and consequently it is not so easy for people to attend church. Besides, the number of pastors is so small that many churches do not have services each Sunday. In one particularly isolated church, services were conducted only five times a year. Denmark has nearly twice as many pastors as Norway although it is about one-eighth the size of Norway and has far easier traveling conditions. Until 1919, when the cross-country railroad was built over the mountains, it took longer to get from Bergen to Oslo than it did from Bergen to England.

No wonder then that the number of lay preachers has increased greatly since Hauge began to preach the Word without being ordained. Today there are probably as many lay preachers as ordained ministers in Norway. It is practically impossible to give an exact figure since so many laymen only use part of their time to proclaim the Word. It can however be fairly safely estimated that on an average Sunday more people listen to a lay witness than to an ordained man.

The church attendance is undeniably

pitifully low, but there are many evidences that Norway is by no means an ungodly nation. The daily papers give much attention to religious affairs for they know that many of the subscribers are interested in reading such material. Norway has two Christian daily newspapers as well (in the United States plans were once made for starting a Christian daily newspaper but they were never carried out).

Another evidence of Christian interest is that under special circumstances practically everyone will listen to the Word of God. Some pastors go to factories and conduct fifteen-minute devotions just before or after the lunch hour. Factory owners permit the workers to attend without any pay reduction. One pastor told me he conducts such devotions in some twenty-five factories, and in each of them he has 100 per cent attendance and wonderful attention from a total of about 2,500 workers.

Several pastors conduct services in hotels, and here too they have practically 100 per cent attendance. It is customary for many people to take a ten-day Easter vacation in which they go to the mountains. At least fifty pastors conduct services in hotels situated in these vacation areas. One pastor told me that on Easter day he generally conducts six services in hotels, spending at least five hours on skis to reach these places. He is richly rewarded by having capacity attendances.

The most astonishing evidence of religious interest in spite of poor church attendance is, however, the almost incredibly great interest in religious radio broadcasts. A very careful investigation a few years ago revealed the following remarkable figures concerning all adults (over eighteen) in Norway: 38 per cent listen to the religious radio service every Sunday; 12 per cent at least every other Sunday; 29 per cent once in a while; 18 per cent never; 3 per cent did not know about the broadcast! The radio service lasts about 1½ hours and is broadcast from actual church services, changing Sunday to Sunday from one locality to another. Last year the number of those who listened each Sunday increased from 38 to 42 per cent.

No other program on Sunday is so popular as the radio service, with the exception of the brief news broadcasts and the weather prediction. A daily radio devotion is also conducted each weekday from 8:15 to 8:35. Last year 32 per cent of all adults in Norway listened to it each day, against 30 per cent the preceding year.

These are only a few of the many significant facts from the amazing country of Norway, but I fear the editor will have no more space for me in this issue. Several readers, both in the U.S.A. and in Canada, have told me they were interested in reading about conditions "across the ocean." If the editor permits, you will hear more from me.



## Tyler Old People's Home

### Donations Received Through July 29, 1959

|                                  |           |
|----------------------------------|-----------|
| Frederiksen, Aage (Super Market) | \$ 200.00 |
| Beck, Peter                      | 100.00    |
| Biever, Alvin                    | 50.00     |
| Billie, Chris                    | 100.00    |
| Bollesen, Lars                   | 500.00    |
| Bovbjerg, Chris                  | 50.00     |
| Buhl, Harold                     | 50.00     |
| Christensen, Jorgen G.           | 100.00    |
| Christensen, Louise              | 100.00    |
| Christensen, Martinus            | 10.00     |
| Driver, C. W. (Coast to Coast)   | 5.00      |
| Frederiksen, Glenn               | 25.00     |
| Hansen, Andreas                  | 200.00    |
| Hansen, Einar                    | 25.00     |
| Hansen, Folmer U.                | 500.00    |
| Hansen, Orval                    | 40.00     |
| Hansen, Rasmus                   | 100.00    |
| Holdt, Louisa                    | 25.00     |
| Holm, Marie Ries                 | 1,000.00  |
| Hynding, Jens                    | 100.00    |
| Jagt, Arend, Jr.                 | 25.00     |
| James, Mrs. Walter               | 150.00    |
| Jaspersen, Jens                  | 1,000.00  |
| Jensen, Edward D.                | 100.00    |
| Jensen, Einer                    | 100.00    |
| Jensen, Emma K.                  | 100.00    |
| Jensen, Victor E.                | 500.00    |
| Jensen, Volmer                   | 50.00     |
| Jessen, Jens                     | 200.00    |
| Johansen, Arild U.               | 60.00     |
| Johansen, Eiluf U.               | 500.00    |
| Johansen, Johan P.               | 500.00    |
| Journal Printing Company         | 150.00    |
| Kaltoft, Jess                    | 100.00    |
| Kelley, Irene M.                 | 10.00     |
| Kuld, Louis                      | 50.00     |
| Larsen, Otto K.                  | 25.00     |
| Lauritzen, Mrs. Peder            | 25.00     |
| Linnett, Nis                     | 50.00     |
| Lund, Jens C.                    | 500.00    |
| Melgaard, Dr. H. T.              | 100.00    |
| Mobil Service Center             | 10.00     |
| Nelson, Stanley C.               | 100.00    |
| Nielsen, B. B.                   | 50.00     |
| Nielsen, Mrs. Elsie              | 50.00     |
| Nielsen, H. Chris                | 50.00     |
| Nielsen, Niels X.                | 100.00    |
| Norgaard, H. P.                  | 100.00    |
| Norgaard, Wm. H.                 | 100.00    |
| Pedersen, Morton G.              | 100.00    |
| Petersen, Donald E.              | 25.00     |
| Petersen, Henry W.               | 200.00    |
| Petersen, Lisa C.                | 300.00    |
| Petersen, Peter                  | 100.00    |
| Rasmussen, Carl                  | 25.00     |
| Rasmussen, Peter                 | 500.00    |
| Rasmussen, Thorvald B.           | 50.00     |
| Reinseth, Odd                    | 25.00     |
| Ries, Mrs. Elise                 | 500.00    |
| Shriver, Henry, Jr.              | 50.00     |
| Simundson, Amalia                | 25.00     |
| Sorensen, Axel T.                | 100.00    |
| Sorensen, C. C.                  | 500.00    |
| Sorensen, O. P.                  | 100.00    |
| Stempges, Roland                 | 25.06     |
| Thompson, Emery                  | 25.00     |
| Thompson Hardware Co.            | 50.00     |
| Thomsen, Norman J.               | 25.00     |
| Utoft, Mrs. Albertine            | 25.00     |
| Utoft, A. N.                     | 1,000.00  |
| Vadheim, Dr. A. L.               | 500.00    |
| Williamson, Mrs. Annie           | 100.00    |
| Billie, Harold                   | 50.00     |
| Bollesen, Ansgar                 | 100.00    |



Shown above is a "thermometer" indicating the progress of the initial drive for funds toward a new Lutheran Home at Tyler, Minnesota. Henry Jacobsen, chairman of the Finance Committee and Robert L. Seibert, treasurer of the Committee are watching the "Climb."

|                                   |        |                                                                                        |                    |
|-----------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Buhl, C. A.                       | 100.00 | Svendsen, Hans C.                                                                      | 500.00             |
| Bullerman, Mrs. Elin              | 5.00   | Svendsen, Lowell                                                                       | 200.00             |
| Chris' Car Clinic                 | 15.00  | Svendsen, Manley                                                                       | 25.00              |
| Christensen, Chris P.             | 100.00 | Swanson, Olaf                                                                          | 25.00              |
| Christensen, Vernon               | 10.00  | Thomsen, Dr. F. N.                                                                     | 500.00             |
| Faaborg, Alfred                   | 25.00  | Urb's Mercantile Co.                                                                   | 50.00              |
| Hansen, Ernest                    | 100.00 | Utoft, Einer                                                                           | 100.00             |
| Hansen, Mary                      | 10.00  | Utoft, Dr. Ivan                                                                        | 200.00             |
| Jacobsen, H. Chr.                 | 25.00  | Utoft, Mrs. Mette                                                                      | 25.00              |
| Jensen, William                   | 100.00 | Wellberg, Darwin                                                                       | 25.00              |
| Knudsen, Carl J.                  | 75.00  | <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                           | <b>\$16,603.06</b> |
| Larson, Clyde                     | 50.00  | <b>Memorial Gifts to Building Fund</b>                                                 |                    |
| Miller, Harold                    | 10.00  | <b>During July</b>                                                                     |                    |
| Mortensen, Enok                   | 250.00 | In memory of Soren Jensen from friends and relatives                                   | \$ 5.00            |
| Nielsen, Albert                   | 20.00  | In memory of Anton Buhl from the Harald Nielsen children                               | 50.00              |
| Nielsen, Albert C.                | 35.00  | In memory of Andrew Madsen, Badger, S. D., from Otto Matson, Lake Norden, South Dakota | 3.00               |
| Norgaard, Kathryn                 | 5.00   | <b>TOTAL</b>                                                                           | <b>\$ 58.00</b>    |
| Nyhuus, Recca                     | 25.00  | More acknowledgments will follow.                                                      |                    |
| Oerter, Carl                      | 50.00  | Thank you for these gifts!                                                             |                    |
| Pedersen, Leo V.                  | 500.00 | <b>Mrs. C. C. Sorensen, Treas.</b>                                                     |                    |
| Reinke, Arthur                    | 100.00 | Tyler, Minnesota.                                                                      |                    |
| Skov, Mrs. Dora, Des Moines, Iowa | 5.00   |                                                                                        |                    |
| Sorensen, Carl and Magda          | 10.00  |                                                                                        |                    |
| Sorensen, Rasmus                  | 200.00 |                                                                                        |                    |
| Sorensen, Soren Chr.              | 125.00 |                                                                                        |                    |
| Stromberg, Gus                    | 100.00 |                                                                                        |                    |
| Struss, Cyril                     | 50.00  |                                                                                        |                    |
| Svendsen, Allen                   | 100.00 |                                                                                        |                    |
| Svendsen, Arlie                   | 100.00 |                                                                                        |                    |



## OUR CHURCH

**Dagmar, Montana:** A new baby at the parsonage! Pastor Robert and Elsie Hermansen are the proud parents of a baby boy, Daniel Erik, born July 7, 1959. Congratulations!

**Alden, Minnesota:** Following installation service for Pastor Holger P. Jorgensen, the congregation here held a potluck dinner and program. Also recently, the parsonage was redecorated and the kitchen remodeled.

**Marlette, Germania, Brown City, Michigan:** A Worship Committee, consisting of one member from each of these three congregations, was recently formed, to assist Pastor James N. Lund carry on the heavy load since Pastor Harry Andersen left for Chicago.

**Cedar Falls, Iowa (St. Paul's Lutheran Church):** A Laymen's Service was held here on August 16th while Pastor Harold Olsen attended our Church Convention in Detroit, Mich. Mr. Jack Greenley, a member of our congregation, preached the morning sermon.

**Askov, Minnesota:** Rev. and Mrs. Harold Petersen are very pleased with the complete remodeling of the parsonage kitchen. In the last Askov Messenger it is described as being "out of this world."

**Tacoma, Washington.** Pastor John Pedersen has the honor of having a showing of his works of art at the Tacoma Public Library during the month of September. The exhibit in-

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable as addressed, attach Form 3579, give new address, and return entire paper to:

LUTHERAN TIDINGS, Askov, Minnesota  
Return postage guaranteed.

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

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, 1959

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

cludes 36 pieces, including oils and water colors. Pastor Pedersen has been an amateur artist for many years, and is especially good at landscapes.

**Greenville, Michigan.** Pastor Ivan Westergaard was installed as pastor of Trinity and South Sidney Churches on August 30.

**Parlier-Easton, California.** In Parlier, the congregation has purchased a new Baldwin organ. In Easton, a new hall addition is planned and fund-gathering is well under way. A new Communion Set has been donated to St. Ansgar's Church, and nine new members were recently welcomed into St. John's Church.

**St. Stephen's, Chicago, Illinois.** Pastor Harry Andersen will be installed here on September 20. Dr. Johannes Knudsen will be in charge of the service.

**Hampton, Iowa.** Pastor Gudmund Petersen was guest preacher here on August 16, returning to his former parish on a visit. On August 30, guest preacher was Pastor Viggo M. Hansen.

**Ringsted, Iowa.** New church windows have been purchased for the church here, at a cost of about \$1,200.

**Dagmar-Volmer, Montana.** Guest speakers at the annual Midsummer Festival held here this year the weekend of July 19 were Pastor Harold Ibsen, Viborg, S. D., and Pastor Alfred Sorensen of Des Moines, Iowa.

**Dalum, Canada.** Pastor Harald A. Petersen, Luck, Wisconsin, was guest speaker at the Midsummer Festival in Dalum July 17-19.

**Seattle, Washington.** Dr. J. C. Kjaer, of St. John's Church here, is one of the Discussion Leaders and also a Resource Person in the Northwest Pastoral Conference (under the four-way Lutheran merger). He will also conduct opening devotions on Thursday, September 3, and the closing worship service as well.

## Listen - Listen, and Speak!

(Continued from Page 7)

In George Bernard Shaw's famous play "Saint Joan" the little French peasant girl is brought before the King and condemned as a heretic and witch because of what she has said and done. She defends herself by claiming that she merely obeys the voice of God as she hears it. The King arrogantly asks her, "Why don't those voices speak to me?" After all, he was the King! And Joan replies quietly:

"They do speak to you. But perhaps you don't listen!"

### THE TEMPERATURE DROPS

A planter was quizzing an itinerant Negro preacher as to the subjects he usually chose for his sermons when he was conducting revival meetings. "Sometimes Ah preaches on love, sometimes on baptism, sometimes on sanctification, sometimes on heaven, and sich subjects," said the preacher.

"Do you by any chance ever preach on chicken-stealing, and other forms of petty thievery, and gin-drinking and

## District IX Convention

Upon invitation of Faith Lutheran Church, Junction City, Oregon, the annual convention of District IX, AELC, will be held September 19-20, 1959, in the above church and city. The District Women's Mission Society will conduct its annual business meeting in Faith Lutheran Church the preceding Friday evening, September 18.

Each congregation is entitled to one voting delegate per each twenty (20) voting members reported in the 1959 Synodical Report, page 185.

In view of the pending JCLU merger and our constant need for Christian fellowship and divine guidance and inspiration, I urge all congregations to send generous representations. Will each congregation kindly be prepared to present a summary of activities since our last district convention and to hand a typed copy thereof to our District Secretary.

Pray that this district convention may further God's work among us and strengthen our Christian faith, hope and love.

Jens Christian Kjaer,  
District President.

## INVITATION

Faith Lutheran Church of Junction City, Oregon, invites pastors, delegates and friends of District IX to hold their District Convention here September 18, 19 and 20, 1959.

Please register with: A. P. Junker, 420 Laurel St., Junction City, Oregon, and notify us of the time of arrival. We would appreciate your early registration so we can plan for your meals and lodging. Supper will be served Friday evening.

May God Bless our meeting.

Arnold Knudsen, Pastor.  
Edward Jensen, President.

## PROGRAM

September 18-19-20, 1959

Theme:

OUR HOPE FOR YEARS TO COME  
Friday evening—Business meeting of WMS

Saturday morning—Devotions, led by Pastor Ted Thuesen

Saturday, all day—Business meeting  
Saturday evening—Program by WMS society

Sunday morning—Worship at 9 o'clock, Pastor John Pedersen. Worship service with communion at 11 o'clock, Pastor Arnold Knudsen and Jens C. Kjaer  
Sunday School at 9:45 a. m.

Sunday afternoon—Meeting, Pastor Einar Farstrup

Sunday evening—Meeting, Pastor Robert Fallgatter

lying, as well as various other kinds of orneriness?" demanded the planter.

The dusky missionary was perceptibly distressed. "Well, suh, boss, Ah do, occasionally. But somehow when Ah preaches on dem subjects, a kind o' coldness settles down oveh de meetin'."