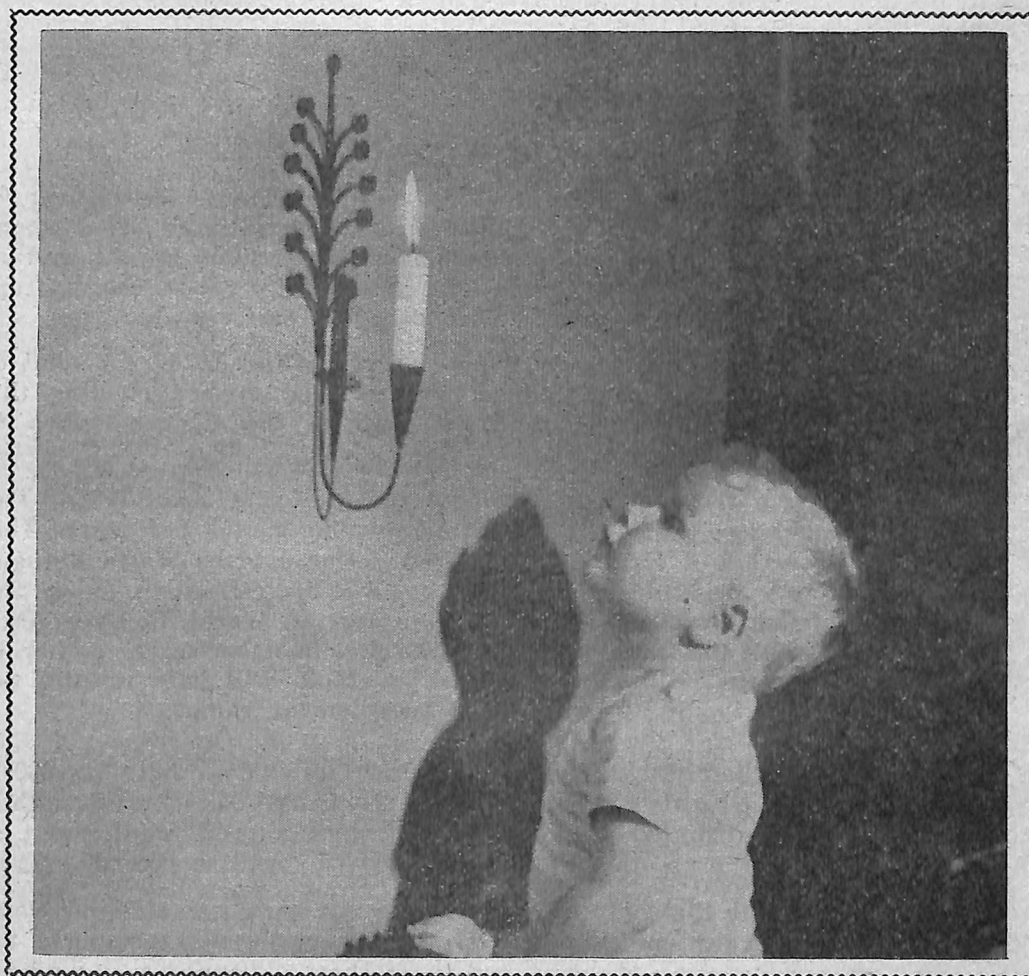


Lutheran Tidings

PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



"Where did the Light come from?" Peter, son of the Ib Rasmussens, Seattle, seems to ask. Our Advent candle on the cover reminds us of the questions asked by the world for centuries. Christ, the Light of the World, came from on high, and Christmas is the anniversary of His advent.

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A Reminder

While we are still in the mood of Thanksgiving may I remind the congregations and the pastors of the synod of an excellent and practical way in which to give thanks.

I am thinking of the situation revealed when Synod Treasurer M. C. Miller, furnished the Board of the Synod with the following information at its meeting November 9 and 10. It was about like this:

October 31, with one-sixth of the year left, only a little over 63 per cent of the total budget or \$70,496.51 has been received. This means that in order for the synod to meet all its obligations by the end of the year more than \$44,000.00 must be received by the treasurer from our people in the congregations and from the pastors.

The allocated part of the synod budget is \$100,000.00. A total of \$63,167.32 or 61.61 per cent has been received toward meeting this minimum goal, while the unallocated part of the budget, which is \$14,422.00 has received \$7,329.14.

Lutheran World Action minimum goal this year is \$18,741.00. The treasurer had received \$10,893.00 toward meeting it, (58 per cent). This year is, by action of U. N. and Congress, declared to be World Refugee Year and it is decided that LWA give all of its collections above the minimum goal toward realizing the purpose of World Refugee Year namely to swell the funds which all the religious agencies are gathering in order that the millions it is hoped to obtain will help resettle the millions yet living in the subnormal resettlement camps.

There are less than six weeks left in which to give at least \$55,000.00 toward these minimum goals. Remember also the Santal Mission. Less than \$5,000.00 had been contributed by October 31 toward a total requirement of \$14,200.00. Are we to greet the Harold Ribers with such a record?

Do I need to state that only as we embrace our purposes and our goals with the strength of our contributions can we expect these to prosper? We have seen how our missions at home and abroad have expanded, how we have been able to aid an increasing number of retiring ministers and their families, that our College and Seminary has been adequately dealt with and how we have shared the support on a proportionate basis of the many agencies at home and abroad, which today declare and practice the love and compassion of our Lord and Saviour. May we continue together toward meeting our goals.

November 28, 1959
Des Moines, Iowa.

Alfred Jensen.

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His Mission

The business before us is concerned with refashioning this present world, making this earth clean and sweet and habitable. The purpose of all that Jesus said and did and hoped to do was always the social redemption of the entire life of the human race on earth. If we regard Him in any sense as our leader and master, we cannot treat as secondary what to Him was the essence of His mission.

—Walter Rauschenbusch.
In Christianizing the Social Order.

**Synod Secretary Submits Important
Reports for Every Synod Member**

Meetings of Synod Board, Grand View Trustees, Home Mission Board

Willard Garred

The synod secretary came home from four days of meetings in Des Moines with a larger than usual batch of "minutes." They turned out to be 19 closely spaced typewritten pages of reports which were mailed from the synod president's office to the 21 members of the boards and council which met at various times during the four days, November 9-12.

The AELC board organized itself as follows: Executive Committee, to serve from January 1: Charles Lauritzen and Carl (Kelly) Jensen. (The four officers, president, vice president, secretary and treasurer are ex-officio members.)

Finance Committee: Aksel Nielsen and John Lund (treasurer and secretary are ex-officio).

Our vacant congregations and pastoral shortage are a constant concern of the synod board, and should concern all of us who belong to the AELC. We have 60 active pastors, but six of these are not in parishes but in other church work. Several more are on the point of retirement. We have 79 congregations in 62 "pastoral charges," and we end up, at present, with 11 vacant pastoral charges, namely. Troy, Bridgeport-Byram, Montcalm County-Michigan, Kimballton (in the spring of 1960), Des Moines, Nysted, Rosenborg, Denmark-Excelsior, Brush, Wilbur and Tacoma (the latter two as of January 1960). In addition to these, Newark and Racine are being served by non-AELC pastors.

All of the vacant charges listed above are being served by neighboring pastors or lay preachers, either AELC or other. It is to be expected, and hoped, that the JCLU merger will allow for a better use of the available manpower in the new church (currently the JCLU churches together have 4,560 active pastors), and that hundreds of the church's young men annually will feel the call to the ministry.

It was reported to the synod board that a committee of the Grand View College and Seminary Board has been appointed to decide which property, now owned by the corporation as such, might rightfully belong to Grand View Seminary which is moving to Maywood, Ill., mid-year 1960. Our seminary will remain under the same corporation, but the board of the corporation recognizes the legitimacy of a claim on the part of Grand View Seminary as it severs its physical ties to Grand View College.

During the Home Mission Council meeting, Dean Kildegaard reported that the seminary in its final year at Des Moines has one senior student, three middlers and four juniors, and after graduation of the senior next spring, expects to move to Maywood in the fall of 1960 with at least nine students, which is the most the seminary has had for many years. Let us thank God for these prospective pastors and pray that He will call more laborers into His vineyard.

Financial matters were considered by the board,

such as the handling of bequests to the synod. A few of the treasurer's accounts which have accumulated sums of idle money were invested in federal savings and loan associations.

The matter of guaranteeing an FHA loan for the proposed Pioneer Memorial Home, Askov, is still under consideration. After studying further plans of the Pioneer Memorial Home, it was decided to appoint President Jensen, Treasurer Miller and Trustee Aksel Nielsen to visit Askov and study the matter further, then report to the Synod's Welfare Board, and finally reconsider the case at the synod board meeting in February.

At the August meeting of the board it was decided to ask four of the five synod trustees to visit Tyler and make recommendations regarding the disposal of the synod's property under the name of Tyler Old People's Home. As a result of the trustees visit and recommendation, the Tyler Home Board is authorized to sell 10 acres of land. The Ruthton and Diamond Lake churches have voted to become participating members in Tyler Lutheran Home, Inc. It is hoped that two Augustana churches in the area will become members. The board appointed seven AELC members to be the AELC members (a majority) on the first board of directors of Tyler Lutheran Home, Inc.

As many will recall from the synod convention and reports, our Children's Home at Chicago, is reconsidering its field of service. It has been a "home for the custodial care of orphaned and dependent children," but it discontinued operations as such a home November 1, 1959. Though the Home is leased to the Danish Lutheran Children's Home, which is incorporated in Illinois, and which has charge of the management of it, the Home is still owned and ultimately controlled by the AELC, and this church will have the final decision on any new type of program the Home may adopt.

We hope that by now all readers of LUTHERAN TIDINGS have heard of the World Refugee Year, sponsored by the U. N. At both board and council meeting we heard reports about our responsibility in the Lutheran World Action program for helping resettle these refugees. District President Holger O. Nielsen had attended a LWA rally in New York, and District Presidents Howard Christensen and Ivan Nielsen a similar rally in Chicago at which information and inspiration was given by various LWA and LWR leaders (one was our own Pastor Ove R. Nielsen), who together had visited in 61 countries in the past 12 months. You will hear more of this World Refugee Year from President Alfred Jensen (here in LUTHERAN TIDINGS) and from your district president and pastor.

The officers of the 12 man Board of Trustees of Grand View College Endowment Fund were re-elected

for one year. They are: Chairman, Dr. Alfred Jensen; secretary, Rev. W. R. Garred; and treasurer, M. C. Miller. The Endowment Fund has been yielding \$14,000 to the Grand View College corporation a year. It is expected that the figure this year will be \$14,500 with somewhat improved earnings from the investments. The fund's apartment buildings in Des Moines and its Osage farm in Mitchell county, Iowa, are capably managed by Joseph Chamberlain and Jens G. Thuesen respectively.

Of our nine districts across the breadth of the United States, five have new presidents since last year. They are: (All pastors) Howard Christensen, Michigan; Ivan Nielsen, District III; Harold E. Olsen, Iowa; Robert Hermansen, District V; and Paul I. Nussle, California.

The other four district presidents are: Holger O. Nielsen, District I; Calvin Rossman, VI; Thorvald Hansen, VII; and J. C. Kjaer, IX. J. C. Kjaer was absent and reported by mail. Robert Hermansen was absent, undoubtedly due to that blizzard that covered Montana about that time and which reached Iowa on the last day of our meeting.

The nine district presidents and the nine synod board members constitute the Home Mission Council. The main work of this council is to supervise the synod's home mission fields, presently eight, namely: Brayton, Iowa; Cedar Falls, Iowa (St. Paul); Circle Pines, Minn.; Enumclaw, Wash.; Cedar Falls (St. Peter, North Cedar), Iowa; Nysted, Nebr.; Watsonville, Calif.; and Brown City, Mich.

These churches receive home mission aid from the synod budget; this aid is administered by the Home Mission Council. Most of the churches also have Church Extension Fund loans. Reports from the fields are reviewed by the council twice annually. Brayton, North Cedar and Watsonville are building or about to build church buildings.

Title to the property at North Cedar which has been held by the synod is being turned over to the St. Peter's Church there. Richard Sears, a member of Bethlehem Church, Cedar Falls, and treasurer of the Home Mission Committee of our Iowa District, was mentioned at our meetings as deserving of much thanks for his efforts, first at Cedar Heights (St. Paul Church) and then at North Cedar. His services, which included preaching, have helped these congregations to get started.

The district presidents each reported from their respective districts about the work and special problems in it. A few highlights from these reports: District VII (Nebraska, etc.) is our most undermanned district (most pastoral vacancies). It may be a surprise to the readers of LUTHERAN TIDINGS, as it was to this writer to hear that our Newark Church (served by Donald Baron, graduate of the ELC Seminary, and now studying at Yale Divinity School, New Haven) is already racially integrated. Of 38 children at the Vacation Church School this past summer, 28 were Negro and 10 white. Our Los Angeles congregation is experimenting with joint services with a

nearby Augustana congregation, the two pastors taking turns at the services, held in the Augustana congregation.

Our Evangelism Secretary, Pastor Peter D. Thomsen, and our Division of American Missions Committee members, Pastor W. Clayton Nielsen, are on the job! A committee of three pastors will, as a result of Pastor Thomsen's recommendations, plan sessions on evangelism for AELC pastors in connection with the 1960 Pastors' Institute, to be followed by area meetings on evangelism for pastors and lay people and a special lay visitation emphasis in every congregation of the synod in 1961.

Pastor Clayton Nielsen had made and presented a critical evaluation of the synod's home mission program. He presented eight points of recommendations for improvement, most of which were adopted.

The synod secretary was asked to write to all our home mission congregations to use Sunday School materials from the Lutheran Churches we are close to, namely the "Christian Growth Series" or "The Augsburg Uniform Series," rather than other Lutheran or non-Lutheran materials.

We who have served for some years on the synod board, and the Home Mission Council will miss Trustee Erling V. Jensen, who finishes 10 years of such service at the end of 1959. But we are glad that he is being replaced by another Jensen, Mr. Carl (Kelly) Jensen, who has the welfare of the synod equally at heart.

Pastors and others may have seen the 1958 "statistics for Lutheran Church Bodies in the U. S. A. and Canada." They were published on page 7 of the November 5 issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS.

In these statistics there is an error on the AELC's number of confirmed members. It should be 15,977 confirmed members instead of the listed 13,323 (which is the number of voting members). The error was made in the New York office of the National Lutheran Council, and is being corrected by them wherever possible.

Willard R. Garred,
Secretary, AELC.

The Lineup

Think about this:

"Visualize a line starting from your front door, made up of the hungry of the world — many ragged and disease-ravaged, with pinched faces. The line goes out of sight over continent and ocean, around the world — 25,000 miles — and returns to your front door. On and on it stretches, circling the globe not twice nor five times, but twenty-five, and there is no one in the line but hungry, suffering humanity. . . . If you drove ten hours a day, averaging fifty miles an hour, it would take you three and a half years to cover the length of the present line. What is more, as populations increase it is expanding over twenty miles a day."

Faris, "To Plow With Hope," Harper Bros. 1958.



The universe is full of magical things, patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper.

Eden Phillpotts.
A Shadow Passes
The Macmillan Co.



The Church in the North Woods

Pioneers Take the First Shaky Steps of Faith in God and in Themselves, and a Community is Born

Contributed by
HARALD KNUDSEN

THE MESSIAH Lutheran Church of Roscommon, Michigan, a little white church in the North Woods, nestles in the rapidly maturing second growth of the lower peninsula. The founders of the church were Swedish settlers, their union with the AELC is of recent date. As we are reaching out to know and understand our Lutheran neighbors it might also be profitable to catch a glimpse of the life among the neighbors who have moved into the family. To them a merger will mean moving back into organizational fellowship with the people of the Augustana church from whence they came.

Friendliness and faithfulness mark this small group. Children, parents, young and old assemble faithfully to worship. Visitors appreciate their warm hospitality and during the vacation months the little church is full, at times to overflowing.

Their first services were held in the rural schoolhouse. When consolidation of schools came the building was purchased by the congregation for the sum of \$1. Recent remodeling and redecorating, new flooring and new pews, has greatly enhanced the appearance of the church.

The following stories, from early life in the settlement and the Christmas recollections of Mrs. Velma Ostling and Mrs. Kirsti Soderholm, are taken from the pages of **The North Woods Call**, and are based on an interview by Miss Marguerite Gahagan, editor of that interesting little paper.

These ladies are still active in the work of the church. Sunday, October 18, family and many friends gathered at the home of Mrs. Soderholm to celebrate her eightieth birthday. Mrs. Ostling, grandma Ostling, is 75. Although handicapped by arthritis she still pursues her hobbies, quilting and rug-making. The other day when I called on her she was busily tearing and sorting rags for another quilt or rug. At such times she loves to tell of the early days in the settlement. I enjoy these stories, the quiet humor they convey, the faith and courage they reveal, and the family life they portray.

Some of these stories appear in the following tales from old Swede Settlement in Roscommon.

Harald Knudsen.

Pioneers in Old Swede Settlement

Velma Ostling and Kirsti Soderholm sat in the Soderholm farm house, looking out at the pines heavy with snow and talked of the days when they pioneered in Roscommon county.

Peter and Mina Skagerberg had

come to the United States in '89 when their Velma was just five years old, heading for Minnesota and the rich farmland but when Velma was 20 she decided to go to the big city and it was there in Chicago that she met and married John Ostling.

By 1910 John Ostling was ready to leave Chicago. He heard about Michigan. A big real estate dealer had picked up land for \$1 an acre. Folks were talking about the land being fine for farming. John Ostling headed for Michigan, for Roscommon and on a cold winter day looked over the snow-covered fields and listened to the tales of a land with a great future.

Back home in Chicago Velma Ostling was ready to take the gamble. "We can save on fuel," she said. "There's all that wood for the stove. And we can grow potatoes. That means we won't starve."

A hay truck hauled her furniture out from Roscommon's railroad station that day in 1910 and she looked at the 39 acres that was now her world. Where were the five big pines John had told her about? Those were to provide the lumber for a house. "Gone. Cut. How crazy we were not to have suspected what would happen," she said.

"I kicked the earth and it was all sand. I cried. I said that nobody on God's earth would be foolish enough to take such a place off our hands."

She rocked slowly back and forth and Kirsti Soderholm nodded, "I know. I know."

"But we never regretted it. We had our children with us. They grew up good. What might have happened if we had stayed in the big city?" said Velma Ostling.

"Now I sit and think what in the wide world were we thinking. If you had the best land it would take a year to get it in shape, and this land was sand, all wild land, all had to be cleared. And they were selling a 40 for \$1,000."

She looked back over the years; at the six years in the little 14 by 20 where three more of her babies were born; where all the water had to be carried from a well at the old Wayne school about a city block away.

"I remember the winter John worked in a camp in the woods for \$1 a day. I had to take care of the farm. We had two cows and I'd drive the cows to the school pump and fill a tub for them to drink and then carry two pails of water home. I told John my work was worth more than \$1 a day and that was the last time he worked in the woods."

It was the day after Thanksgiving in 1915 that John Ostling moved his family from the 14 by 20 to a



real house and what a celebration there was. Today Velma Ostling looks at the little building still standing in back of the big comfortable white farm house where she lives and thinks back to the old days.

Kirsti Soderholm refilled the coffee cups and said, "It's funny that we are still hanging together today, that we are even here. How did our children ever survive those days?"

"Remember the old outhouse? There would be a little round spot free of snow where they'd sit. Remember the kerosene lamps? Then we had gasoline and we thought we were in heaven. I had a gasoline iron. I thought there could never be anything better. And the Aladdin lamps came and then electricity."

It was in 1879 that Kirsti Nelson Soderholm was born in Sweden, and it was in 1911 that her husband, Elof Soderholm came to Chicago, decided this was his country and sent word back that the family was to join him. By 1919 Elof Soderholm had enough of the big town and was listening to tales of the land of fine farms in Roscommon, Michigan.

"He traded some real estate we had in Chicago for these 40 acres. Never even asked me. Never even saw this land. He didn't know anything about farming, just was bound this was where we should come. And I came — with seven children and another on the way."

"We lived in a tar-paper house. I had brought two rugs. We had a board floor and some of the knots had fallen out and the wind would come through those holes and make the rugs move right there on the floor."

But Elof Soderholm had his Michigan land, all covered with second growth and the big stumps from the virgin timber. "He had to grub those stumps out. When he'd get one pried up he'd holler for me and the four oldest children and we'd go out and help him pull it out. The next year we had a horse and a stump puller and we cleared seven acres."

That first year was hard, but they still had a little money to fall back on. Elof Soderholm liked to clear the land. He saw in each acre a good potato crop. "And every year they froze out," said Kirsti Soderholm. "Then he put in corn. We had four cows to feed. He worked on that corn field all summer. So a frost came and there went the corn. I had a birthday I'll always remember. Everyone that came brought me a sack of potatoes. That kept us through the winter."

For nine years the Soderholms lived in the little house. And then in 1928 came the great move. It meant living in a tent, though, for the lumber from the old house would go into the new one. That summer Kirsti Soderholm camped. "I cooked right by that tree," she said looking out of the big dining room window to the old pine. "One night the cows and the horse got loose. They got in my flour and sugar. I'd washed and had soap water in a tub. Nellie, the cow, drank every drop of it."

The memories of the old days grew bright. Some bitter. Some sweet. Feeding the cows, and the fodder buried under the snow. Getting wood for the stove and the woodpile so deep under snow it had to be dug out. Bundling the children up in leggings and

heavy underwear, and wash days. Carrying water, scrubbing the heavy clothes on a washboard, boiling them, wringing them out.

Canning. The women of Swede Settlement never stopped canning. "We'd can 400, 500 quarts. We'd butcher and put up 200 cans of meat. How tired the kids would get of it before the winter was over," they said.

They'd pick blueberries around Higgins lake, can 200, 300 quarts and pick more to sell. Higgins lake was becoming popular. Summer folks would pay 20 cents a quart.

The children liked to go to Higgins lake to swim. It used to make them mad when the cows would hold them up from going swimming. The cows ran wild in the woods. "We'd send the children to bring the cows in. They'd listen for the bells, but sometimes the cows would wander too far and they couldn't hear them and it would take hours to find the cows," said Kirsti Soderholm.

But the cows were important. From the good cream came the homemade butter for the homemade breads. "Twenty-five pounds of flour a week," said Velma Ostling. "Just last week my old flour bin was taken out. I'm getting a whole new kitchen and when that old bin was taken out I just thought of how much money had gone in there over the years."

John Ostling had to make every hour of every day count to buy enough flour and food for his one girl and seven boys. So, too, did Elof Soderholm. He had four boys and four girls. After the two men learned that Roscommon's sand was not going to grow bumper potato crops, and killing frosts could knock out corn, they turned to carpentry. For 28 years they worked together building the summer homes that were becoming so popular around the big lakes. And six years ago, within six months the long-time neighbors died.

"My John used to walk the five miles to Higgins lake to work for \$9 a week," said Velma Ostling.

"And Elof had to go to the south end of the lake. Finally they bought bicycles. That was a great help," said Kirsti Soderholm.

"Today they call those days pioneer days," said Velma Ostling. "But we seemed to have time to do things that people don't do today. I never seemed to have a day with a little time for myself but I'd come like a deer through the woods to have a little visit with a neighbor."

"We had our Ladies' Aid meetings. We had church meetings and Grange parties. We'd walk to them even if we got stuck in the snow. I remember we came home from town one time and there was a thaw. They used to roll and pack the snow roads then. We had to unhitch the team and let them go home across the fields. The road was going fast."

"We used to have good times," said Kirsti Soderholm. "I used to dance the Swedish dances, polkas and waltzes."

And John Ostling used to play his guitar and a month before Christmas, Swede Settlement began preparing for the greatest occasion of the year.

(To be Continued)

*Passing of an Era***From the Children's Home —
An Explanation****Margaret Hisey**

This summer the Danish Lutheran Children's Home celebrated its 75th anniversary. We wish to thank all the congregations and pastors who commemorated this occasion with us. We have been able to serve such a good cause for three-quarters of a century for which we are both thankful and glad.

During these 75 years many changes have taken place which have greatly altered our lives and the world around us. These changes have gradually changed the operation of the home and the cumulative affect of some of them suddenly and sharply raised the question: Could, or should, the Danish Lutheran Children's Home continue operating under the 75 year old program of caring for dependent children?

Such a serious question should not be decided by the board without advice and information from other experienced and informed sources. Our synod president and members of the synod's welfare board, the director of the Lutheran Charities Federation of Illinois, welfare leaders of the United Lutheran Church and the Augustana Lutheran Church, and superintendents of other child care agencies in the area met with the board of our home to discuss this grave question.

Mr. J. K. Jensen, president of our board of directors, made a report of this meeting and the situation at the home to the synodical convention in Detroit. After Mr. Jensen's report, Dr. Alfred Jensen, synod president, expressed to the convention his faith in the board of the home and that they could be entrusted to take wise and right action. This expression of confidence was greatly appreciated by our board of directors.

It is now appropriate we tell you of our decision.

On August 19 we met at the Maywood Receiving Home with their board and executive director. This meeting was presided over by the executive director of the Lutheran Charities Federation of Illinois, Dr. Edgar F. Witte. The points for discussion were the alternate plans of a joint operation with the Maywood Home and the placement of the children now in the Danish Lutheran Children's Home. After this meeting was adjourned the board of our home met in special session. It was moved, seconded, and passed that "no later than December 31, 1959, the Danish Lutheran Children's Home no longer care for dependent children." The facts of the "crisis" which guided us in reaching this decision are as follows:

After the tragic death of 140 children in the fire of Our Lady of Angels School the city fire commissioner ordered the installation of an automatic sprinkler system throughout our building. Such an installation would cost about \$17,000. At almost the same time our director advised us that, though the home was licensed for 32 children, only 14 would be registered after the summer vacation, and there was not much prospect that more would seek admittance.

Why? Here we meet the results of the changes that have taken place in this field during the last 75 years.

Medical science has made such remarkable progress in controlling and curing disease that young children are seldom orphaned by epidemics or illnesses. The programs of Social Security and Aid to Dependent Children has made it possible for mothers, even if the provider of the family is gone, to maintain their children under their own care and roof. Realizing that a home life situation is often better than institutional care many children, for whom it is right, are now cared for in foster homes.

This means that every institution established to care for dependent children has been operating "below capacity." There is no prospect that this trend of fewer and fewer children needing institutional care will reverse itself.

The board felt that it was not justified in installing the expensive sprinkler system and maintaining this type of service at today's high operating cost when it was not really needed. Other Lutheran homes with excellent records and facilities could easily absorb the 14 children at our home.

Now after a careful study of each child and its circumstances, they have all been placed in private homes or other Lutheran children's homes in the Chicago area. Does this mean that the Danish Lutheran Children's Home has permanently closed its doors to the needs of children? No, because there are great needs and fields yet in which to serve the spiritual and physical wants of children. It is just that in 75 years the kinds of needs have changed.

Recognizing that these changes were occurring, the various child care agencies of the Lutheran Charities Federation of Illinois last year commissioned the Child Welfare League of America to make a study of their agencies and recommend such changes as would improve the over all picture of the services they were giving to children. This impartial and professional agency made the recommendation that the Danish Lutheran Children's Home, in view of the type of physical plant it had, change its program.

There were several areas of services listed as possible and necessary. However, of the two which seemed most feasible and affordable were a day nursery to care for the children of the working mothers. The immediate neighborhood has none and the income level of its residents is now such that many homes need the wages of two parents. The second choice was day care and training for mentally retarded children. It must be understood that either of these programs would be run on a welfare basis for the benefit of those parents who need them, but cannot afford to pay their full cost.

Today for the first time the board met in a home empty of children. It was sad to feel the quiet and emptiness where always before the children had been laughing, living and glowing. All of us missed the feeling that these rooms, these properties were being used to shelter children and helping in their formative years to sow the seed of a good person. But the sadness was dispelled by a determination that as soon as possible the Danish Lutheran Children's Home will

(Continued on Page 14)



Paging Youth

**American Evangelical Luth.
Youth Fellowship**
EDITOR: EVERETT NIELSEN
1100 Boyd
Des Moines 16, Iowa

Scholarship Time Again

Although April 1 seems far away, it is none too soon to be considering your application for the Lutheran Youth Leadership Award. By that dead-line time, all graduating seniors who would like to earn \$150.00 toward their college expenses (at a Lutheran school) should have their applications in to the AELYF Office, 1100 Boyd, Des Moines, Iowa. Two of these awards are made each year through AELYF by the Lutheran Brotherhood Life Insurance Society. They are available to active LYFers and are awarded on the basis of scholarship and activities in church, school and community. Boy Scouts and 4-H Club members should list the rank and activity and projects being carried for the current year.

This is an opportunity which should not be taken lightly. Few people can afford to pass up \$150.00 for college expenses. If you wish to take advantage of this offer, write today for an application blank and get your application in by April 1, 1960.

Thy Kingdom...on Earth

The theme of youth week this year is "Thy Kingdom...on earth." Those who attended the Nysted convention were told of the many values in using the youth week packets available for \$1.00. Many were purchased at the convention. There are still several in the National Office for your purchase.

Contained in this packet is a manual outlining every phase of youth week (January 31-February 7) and how they can be put into use in your youth group. There is a service for worship, a large poster with an explanation, an order blank for more materials, a radio play, a planning check list and other valuable materials. **You cannot afford to be without this helpful packet.** Order it today from 1100 Boyd, Des Moines 16, Iowa.

Youth week is very important in our church. It serves notice to the adults that we young people are ready, willing and able to serve in Christ's kingdom as his servants. This is the traditional time for our Youth Sunday observance in the churches. But do not stop with a Sunday service. Make yourselves available for community witness through a project to help needy people, shut-ins, sick, and others. Get together with other church youth groups in your area for a joint service and project. Alert your newspapers to the fact that it is youth week. These are just a few ideas to get you started on the way to worthwhile emphasis on service to Christ.

Don't wait another minute. Talk this over at your next LYF meeting!

Some Statistics

How many people were registered for the 1959 Workshop and Convention? Where were they from? Who had the largest delegation? These statistics will answer your questions:

93 were registered, including pastors, wives, and Friends of Youth.

45 were from Iowa, including Grand View College.

32 were from Nebraska.

5 were from Michigan and Wisconsin.

4 were from Minnesota.

2 were from Illinois.

The largest delegation came from Marquette, Nebraska, which sent twelve people. The largest Friends of Youth delegation came from Kimballton, Iowa, with three couples. The Manistee and Detroit people came the longest distance, with the Wisconsin people driving through the most snow and ice.

AELYF Doin's

Hay Springs, Nebraska: Sixteen LYFers and six drivers collected funds for UNICEF on October 29. We collected \$67.25 for the needy children of the world. We elected new officers in November with these results: Mike Gibson, president; Allan Clapp, vice president; Terry Terrell, secretary; Don Davis, treasurer, and Ruth Glenn, reporter. We will have a new Friends of Youth committee with us at our December meeting when we will make plans to sell YULE, make Christmas decorations and go caroling.

Withee, Wisconsin: At our meeting in November, we invited a neighboring church group to join us. A scavenger hunt and games filled the evening with fun. On November 8, three of our group led the worship service in the absence of our Pastor, Beryl Knudsen. The three were Gene Frietag, Jack Jalling and Jim Carlsen. It was greatly appreciated.

Salinas, California: Twenty of us attended a beach party recently at Carmel Beach. We played football in the sand, had a roaring campfire for our wiener roast and closed the evening with an hour of singing and devotions. We also had a "Splash" party at Watsonville with their youth group recently. (Ed. Note: These Californians sure have it nice: swimming in November while the Mid-Westerners have snowball fights and sliding parties.)

Over the Typewriter

The wheels are buzzing in the AELYF office. Plans are being laid for the first large scale Leadership Training School. Files on each district and local Fellowship are being brought up to date. Plans are being laid for a caravaning program. These and many other things are happening at 1100 Boyd. If you have any suggestions, questions or criticisms, send them to that address.

This is the season of Advent. It is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ...preparation for Christmas. When you do your shopping, baking and other material preparing, remember to keep Christ central in your actions. Do not neglect your spiritual growth along with your physical growth.

Our Women's Work

MRS. AAGE PAULSEN, EDITOR

Beaver Crossing, Nebraska



Notice

May we remind you to encourage contributions to the Home Mission Fund, now overdrawn, so that the account may be cleared before January 1.

Report of District II WMS Meeting

The women of District II met for their annual WMS meeting on Saturday evening at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, in Manistee, Michigan. Presiding was Miss Thora Hansen, president.

The meeting was opened by singing the hymn "Jesus Shall Reign." Devotions were led by Mrs. Donald Holm.

Since the secretary, Mrs. William Kester, was unable to be present, the president appointed Mrs. Donald Holm to act as secretary. The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read and approved as read. A note to the WMS, sent by Mrs. Mary Knudstrup, was read. Mrs. Knudstrup was unable to attend.

The president asked WMS groups to push, in particular, the Scholarship and Mohulpahari TB Sanitarium projects. She expressed her thanks to the district for having paid her expenses to a workshop meeting, held last fall in Des Moines, for District Presidents and the National officers.

Mrs. Donald Holm was elected president by unanimous vote. It was necessary to elect a new vice president as Mrs. Earl Appel had moved, and would no longer be able to serve. Mrs. Rolf Wickman of Germania was elected by unanimous vote. Mrs. Rauli Aho of Juhl, volunteered to accept the position as treasurer.

Reeta Petersen suggested that a letter be sent to all the WMS groups in District II, informing them of the name and address of the new District Treasurer. Mrs. Paul Blinkilde agreed to do this.

Several spoke about last year's retreat. It had been decided at this year's retreat, that the next retreat should be held in the Manistee, Grayling, Roscommon, Ludington area, and the retreat committee should be selected from this area. The convention decided that the selection should be left to the new president. Mrs. Robert Osling stated that she believed Mrs. Dave Olsen of Roscommon, would be willing to be a member of the committee.

Two committees for the coming year were selected: Auditing Committee: Mrs. Moberg and Mrs. Robert Osling. Nominating Committee: Reeta Petersen, Mrs. Paul Blinkilde and Mrs. Henry Willwood.

The collection, taken at the evening meeting, was given to the TB Sanitarium in India. Mrs. Paul Blinkilde told of the work of the WMS in District II.

The meeting closed by singing "Hark, The Voice Of Jesus Calling." Mrs. W. Kester, Sec. Dist. II.

A Prayer for the Peace of the World

Let us now pray for our country and for the world, following the pattern by which we have been taught to pray:

We draw near to Thee, Almighty God, Who hast taught us to cast all our care upon Thee, **Our Father, Who art in heaven.....**

Our weakness, our blindness, our selfishness hold us back from wise and courageous action; but wisdom and power are Thine, and Thou givest them to those who truly trust in Thee, **Our Father, Who art in heaven.**

Through our readiness to accept cheerfully the sacrifices demanded of us for the common good, **Hallowed be Thy Name.**

Through the growth of unity among Christians and of good will among all men, **Hallowed be Thy Name.**

By the establishment of peace, and by the readiness of the nations to prefer justice to force, **Thy Kingdom Come.....**

In all that is done for the settlement of our problems, **Thy will be done.....**

By the sympathy which gives help to the needy both at home and far away, **Give us this day our daily bread.**

Because we have indulged in national arrogance, finding satisfaction in our power over others rather than in our ability to serve them, **Forgive us our trespasses.....**

If other countries while pursuing their own interests have unduly hindered ours, **We forgive them that have trespassed against us.**

If we have suffered loss or grief through the wrongful ambition of others, **We forgive them that have trespassed against us.**

When opportunity comes to win wealth for ourselves at the cost of poverty to others, **Lead us not into temptation.....**

At times of self-satisfaction, self-seeking, and self-confidence, **Deliver us from evil.**

At times of fear concerning what others may do to us, and of desire to strike lest we ourselves be struck, **Deliver us from evil.**

For over all races and nations and classes Thou rulest as King; Thy fatherly love embraces all; and in Thy will is our peace, **Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

This prayer condensed from a longer one by the late Archbishop William Temple of England was used by Rajkumari Amrit Kaur of New Delhi, at the Denver Assembly of United Church Women.

OPINION AND COMMENT



FAILURE OF Congress to pass adequate legislation in aid to education is only obliquely a legitimate concern of LUTHERAN TIDINGS. However, one angle of the matter is properly of importance to readers of this page of "lasting insignificance." This angle, a sharp one, is that parochial schools are laying plans to share in these federal funds when they do finally become available. The National Catholic Education Association is quietly at work in Washington steering the legislation into forms that will make this possible. The organization called "Protestants and Other Americans United" (POAU) (united for separation of church and state) is less quietly at work counteracting this attempt. A special committee from our synod's Council of Ecumenical Studies is now also at work studying this and related matters, and will present a report to the next meeting of the Council in April. Many states in recent years have tested at the polls and in the courts the legitimacy of the use of public treasury funds for private institutions. Synod members are urged to note news on this subject in local newspapers and in national periodicals, and if possible to send information to the Council which may be helpful. (Communications can be addressed to the editor.)

WHILE OUR discussion is at the national level, we call attention to a coming anniversary, the 168th, of the Bill of Rights (the first 10 amendments to our national constitution). One of these involves our freedom of worship, and the anniversary date of December 15 is being observed in some churches on the preceding Sunday. Number one in the Bill of Rights states: "Congress shall make no law—respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances." This amendment is so vital to our concept of government, that one wonders why it was not included in the main body of the constitution. It is history that it was the individual states which requested this further spelling out and definition of basic freedoms when they ratified the original constitution. Let us remember to be grateful to God and to our Founding Fathers for insuring us our right to worship as we choose. People often commemorate anniversaries of far less significance than this one.

THE BILL OF RIGHTS also contains the provision known as the "right to silence" — the Fifth Amendment — whereby one can escape self-incrimination. It is true that the right to silence has been abused. One reason it seems that it has been over-abused is that if one is to plead the Fifth Amendment, one must not answer any part of any question which is under investigation. If a person doesn't want to answer a later

question, he will often refuse to answer even such questions as "Who is your father?" English law is perhaps more sensible on this. There, a witness may invoke the right against self-incrimination at any point in the proceeding, which makes for more co-operative witnesses. Since the Fifth Amendment is part of the Bill of Rights, attacks on it reflect on the entire Bill. It seems only prudent to be cautious about criticism of the Fifth Amendment which might reflect on the sound principle of not only that amendment but the others in the Bill, including the freedom of worship portion.

WE ARE PLEASED to give space in this issue to a number of new writers. Helen Bower is the movie critic of the Detroit Free Press. We visited her last summer while in Detroit for the convention, and asked her to write something about "The Big Fisherman" — a movie which was then making the rounds in the big cities. She is a member of our synod, and was glad to grant us this favor. LUTHERAN TIDINGS does not, of course, regularly review movies. However, in church circles there has been a controversy in recent months over the Bible pictures which have poured out of Hollywood (and poured money back into Hollywood). By and large, it has proved better to have Bible movies made by church groups without thought of profit. The profit motive makes "box-office" additions to the text irresistible, and almost always they spoil the effect. Nor should Bible movies be made with "entertainment" as the secondary motive, leaving inspiration or religious education to third or fourth consideration. We are grateful for Miss Bower's views on "The Big Fisherman."

DOES ANYONE STILL read Lew Wallace's "Ben-Hur?" We were invited last week to a preview of the new movie "Ben-Hur" over in Hollywood, and we went in a most prejudiced frame of mind. We expected another spectacle-type film with all the emphasis in the wrong places. We were most pleasantly surprised. There is plenty of spectacle in "Ben-Hur" but the real story is where Gen. Wallace intended it to be: the conflict of character which develops in the rich Jew who gradually comes under the influence of the Nazarene carpenter. The picture is much too long, and would be greatly improved if about one hour of it could be omitted. But the photography is so uniformly excellent and the acting so convincing and the story so true that it must be difficult to decide what can best be left "on the cutting room floor," as the trade cliché puts it. The figure of Christ is seen in a literal presentation of the "Sermon on the Mount" setting, but otherwise the story is not His, it is the people who came into contact with Him. And this, perhaps, is what His story really is. The whole film is tasteful, except where it becomes unnecessarily gruesome. (We prefer the practice of the ancient Greeks who allowed no violence to appear in their dramas; it is always reported by a witness.) The sea battle and the chariot race are exciting and realistic beyond belief. The final miracle is also beyond belief. But it succeeds in making a major point; faith must always precede the miracle. On the whole, this is one of the best of the many films on early Christianity. But attend it alert and well-rested, or its length will be soporific.

Wanted--More Traction for the Tractor Fund

Only \$1,500 Needed to Complete A Worthy Project for India

Edwin E. Hansen
Muskegon, Michigan

Several years ago a group of inspired laymen in one of our California congregations were "constrained" by the love of Christ to start gathering a fund for the purpose of purchasing one or several tractors to be sent to India for use on the Santal Mission Field. A great deal of enthusiasm and interest made possible the purchase of one tractor and some \$700 toward a second. The project was a splendid one, well executed.

When the Santal Mission committee of our synod met in Des Moines in October, a letter with a check for over \$700 had been received from Pastor Einar Farstrup. The committee was authorized to channel this money into the work of the Mission. However, it was suggested that it be used for the maintenance and operation of the tractor sent since it was money gathered for the tractor fund.

At the 1958 synod convention at Seattle, it was learned that a second tractor had been purchased for the Mission, but that it had not been paid for in full. A member of the Santal committee was asked to check into this matter. We now have the information that it was purchased with funds advanced by the Mornai Tea Estate on the field; but we now also know that the Tea Estate is in need of this money for its own operation. Therefore the Santal Mission committee feels that the Estate should be reimbursed, and approved a motion that the check received be sent to the synod treasurer with the instruction that it be forwarded to the Mission and designated for the Mornai Tea Estate as partial payment on the tractor. The committee further decided that an appeal be made to the friends of the Santal Mission for contributions to help make up the balance due on the purchase, an amount of approximately \$1,500. It is this appeal I should like to bring before you at this time.

What, you say, does a tractor have to do with Missions and the proclamation of the Gospel? What does a jeep have to do with it? A jeep might more readily be associated with the work, for it is obviously needed as a means of transportation to get the missionary from village to village to preach and minister to the natives. But a tractor?

To the agricultural missionary, whose special concern it is to make the soil yield, nature is a miracle — the germination of a seed of sorghum, wheat or rice, its growth, its reproduction. To help the native farmer understand this is an effective way of proclaiming the gospel. If to the above miracles he can add greater production to feed the hungry masses, his work becomes increasingly effective.

"Hunger is an inescapable fact for half of the human race." It manifests itself in the demand for political freedom, for greater educational advantages, for an improved economic system, but most of all for food. Famine is common in India; farming methods there are, in general, crude and primitive. The average farm consists of but four or five acres; many are

smaller. The soil yields much less per acre than does the soil in our country.

The land owned and operated by the Mission must be made to yield as much as possible. To win souls for Christ, we must show compassion as He did. We must help the Santal people, by sharing, yes, but also by making it possible for them to become self-supporting. This can be done by increasing production and production is increased by the use of machinery such as a tractor.

The tractor is already at work, thanks to the helping hand given by the Tea Estate. The friends in California have made a good beginning toward reimbursing the Estate, which is in need of the money. If all the friends of the Santal Mission throughout the synod would give an "extra" lift by means of a gift to the tractor fund, as an "extra" contribution to the Santal Mission, this project started so long ago, could be completed shortly.

This appeal comes a bit late in the year. We must meet our synodical share of the Santal Mission budget for 1959. The Tractor Fund can be continued after the first of the new year. But please designate such gifts "Tractor Fund" and do send all contributions for the Santal Mission to Michael Miller, 79 West Road, Circle Pines, Minn., and NOT to the Mission Office in Minneapolis.

Yule 1959

These California eyes took immediate pleasure at the cover of YULE 1959. Long pine needles supporting natural snowballs — one of winter's most gorgeous sights which we who live in perpetual sunshine have all but forgotten. And what a pleasure to see a back cover of pure white unspoiled by attempts to get us to buy cigarettes or Chevrolets.

Inside there are further delights. The title page bears a madonna sketched by a paralyzed polio patient who holds her tools in her mouth. (We had planned this picture for LUTHERAN TIDINGS. Editor Harris Jespersen once again beat us to it.) There are several stories for those who like fiction, and biography (of Sister Kenny) for those who like fact. There are thoughtful pieces by Ronald Jespersen and Carlo Petersen, a United Nations section with special attention to UNICEF, a three-faceted jewel by Johannes Knudsen, a spiritual cardiogram of A. Lincoln, and a number of other no less interesting features. There are photographs on which to feed the soul, if one would only take the time. There are descriptions in word and picture of some of the new churches in our synod. There is art work by talented hands, and even some music — score and all.

It is many years since YULE raised its modest price. If we are asked for something more than usual this year, it is only because in the past we have given less than we should in exchange for the several hours' reading enjoyment which YULE provides. One Dollar — how casually we offer a dollar for other pleasures whose effects are far more fleeting? Buy a copy from your local young people, or send for one from Mrs. Paul Gantriis, 7238 Wentworth Avenue South, Minneapolis 23, Minnesota.

And why not buy a few of them while you are at it? YULE makes a nice little "extra" gift for your niece or for your friend who is a shut-in.

The World Refugee Year

What America once said to the refugee, the whole world needs to say today. What did we say? On the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in the New York harbor it is written:

"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-toss't to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

That this is the age of the Uprooted and the Century of the Homeless Man has at long last been recognized by the U. N. and it has called upon people everywhere to make a special effort to ease the plight of the refugee throughout the world in World Refugee Year (1959-60).

Who are the refugees? Where are they? Gunther Beijer of the Research Group for European Migration Problem, the Hague, for the postwar period tells us the tragic story in figures which read as follows:

Africa, ca. 170,000; Asia, ca. 21,532,500; Europe, ca. 17,965,000. In Greece there are 30,000 refugees who came in 1922-23 from Asia Minor. They have lived there ever since in camps and hovels.

How can the world ever stabilize itself when millions are forced to live in wretched camps where there is no future. Will we try to give some hope to those who live in stark darkness?

Holger O. Nielsen.

The Refugee Problem — What Lutherans Have Done About It

A speaker at a recent Lutheran World Action directors' meeting in Chicago stated that the proper scripture text for Lutheran World Action is the feeding of the 5,000. With five barley loaves and two fish Jesus satisfied the needs of 5,000 people.

This Issue of Tidings Contains Several Appeals for Financial Support for Various Causes. None is More Vital Than this One. LWA Must be Over-Subscribed.

LWA has, by the grace of God, performed a miracle to the starved and underprivileged people of the world. You, as a member of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church, have had a hand in this great deed of mercy. Your contribution of a few barley loaves and a few fish has not satisfied the thousands, but it has done much to alleviate the miserable plight of these people. Much has been accomplished through LWA — much, much more needs to be done.

One of the great areas of concern by the Lutherans in recent years is that of the refugees. A major part of LWA gifts each year aids these homeless people. Since 1948 Lutheran agencies have assisted more than 58,000 refugees to start a new life in the United States.

The United Nations has designated 1959-1960 World Refugee Year. It has called for people everywhere to make a special effort to ease the plight of refugees. The U. N. request has been endorsed by the United States (although Congress adjourned in September without passing any significant new refugee legislation) and more than 50 other nations, by the World Council of Churches and by international Roman Catholic and Jewish groups. The LWF and its U. S. member churches in the National Lutheran Council have endorsed the objectives of World Refugee Year and pledged their cooperation.

One of the main objectives of the World Refugee Year is not to provide emigration but to settle the people in their own areas. Out of 40,000,000 refugees since World War II, 15,000,000 are still looking for a place which they might joyfully call home. "Let none hear you idly saying, 'There is nothing I can do'."

Ivan E. Nielsen.

Notice

Annual Reports, Minutes, etc., are to be obtained from the Office of the Synod President, 1232 Pennsylvania Avenue, Des Moines, and not from the Synod Secretary.

Following is the complete LWA report as of November 30:

Church Body	GOAL	RECEIPTS	Per Cent Goal Nov. 30, 1959
United Lutheran Church	\$1,809,860.00	\$1,230,107.23	68
Evangelical Lutheran Church	794,993.00	450,445.05	57
American Lutheran Church	707,239.00	501,100.00	71
Augustana Lutheran Church	439,104.00	255,000.00	58
Lutheran Free Church	57,945.00	32,945.00	57
United Evangelical Lutheran Church	42,828.00	14,965.00	35
Suomi Synod	29,290.00	16,661.44	57
American Evangelical Lutheran Church	18,742.00	9,324.87	50
Undesignated		20,177.19	
	\$3,900,000.00	\$2,530,725.78	65

"Big Fisherman" Deserves Praise

Helen Bower

DETROIT FREE PRESS MOVIE CRITIC

Member, St. Peter's Danish Lutheran Church

It might be well to precede a review of "The Big Fisherman," which the editor has asked me to write, by brief reference to a recent editorial in THE CHRISTIAN CENTURY, which may have been noticed by readers of LUTHERAN TIDINGS.

It is a blast at "anti-Biblical Biblical extravaganzas" which Protestant churches have in the past encouraged their members to see. Some of its comments are based on advance publicity for movies the writer had not yet seen, one of which is "The Big Fisherman."

In my Detroit Free Press column I have already indicated that this pre-judging from the advance advertising may have been ill-advised. No one should condone what the Christian Century writer calls "lurid distortions of the Bible."

But "The Big Fisherman" doesn't happen to be a "religious spectacle picture." As I wrote in my review for the Free Press, there isn't a bathtub in it, and the only "orgy" is a dance sequence shown in silhouette.

This story of Simon Peter and his conversion, based on the Lloyd C. Douglas novel, has a simplicity and personal appeal that even the late great Cecil B. DeMille never captured in such movies as "Samson and Delilah" and "The Ten Commandments."

Howard Keel, previously known for his singing roles, gives a straight dramatic performance in the title role. Physically a towering figure, he is a very human fellow with faults and virtues. He believes in a Supreme Being and is well aware of his shortcomings. His portrayal excellently foreshadows the Peter of the night of Christ's betrayal.

Young Susan Kohner, who promises to develop as a dramatic actress, and John Saxon are youthful figures, she half-Arabian and half-Judean and he an Arabian prince. Herbert Lom is Herod, with Martha Hyer as Herodias. They represent the evil that opposes the good. While the movie was not filmed in the Holy Land, its settings are suitably convincing. Scenes of pageantry and luxury in Rome and Galilee in the Tetrarch's palace contrast with the simple village life.

The presence of the Christ is only indicated. Nothing about the picture could be construed as irreverent. The voice of the Christ is that of a non-professional, a man who is not an actor and whose identity is known only to himself and Rowland V. Lee, producer of the movie.

Fellow members of St. Peter's Church here in Detroit who have seen "The Big Fisherman" are unanimous in regarding it as the best of the Biblical movies produced for the commercial theater.

As a professional movie critic, I should say that

another endorsement is in the fact that "The Big Fisherman" has not yet drawn throngs to the theaters in which it has been shown. Partly the reason is the title, which gives the average person no idea of the nature of the movie. But I also believe that the lack of anything intentionally "lurid" in the picture has kept away the sensation-seekers who thrive on that combination of "Bible and bubble-baths" which the Christian Century editorial writer termed DeMille's "unbeatable box office combination."

In my opinion "The Big Fisherman" may be viewed by Lutherans without any feeling that they are "letting themselves be used" in recommending it.

LATE SPRING

Quite recently Pastor Harold Petersen invited me to speak to the congregation and community in Askov. He asked me to talk about the things that had been important in the life of our church, particularly in view of the fact that merger is a possibility in the near future. This assignment gave voice to a concern which is strong in the excellent little book which he recently published and which is printed by the American Publishing Company in Askov. I am delighted to recommend the book, and I hope that many of the readers will use it as a Christmas present. It may be purchased from the author, the Rev. Harold Petersen, Askov, Minnesota, for \$1.75.

Harold Petersen is not only concerned about the values which have characterized our common life; he is a profound spokesman for them. He speaks for them, not by analyzing them and telling us in abstraction what they are, but by speaking from them. He is a voice from our church and our fellowship, and a very good one. Quite naturally, he does not represent everything within our church. Who does? And there are occasional items about which I might want to argue. But this is a sign of strength, and the author is an eloquent advocate for the points of view which for him are important. The book reads well, for it is well written.

The thirty-one articles (111 pages) range from profound subjects in sermon form to simple but genuine meditations about the little things of life. They have a strong and positive message and they repeatedly make the reader take stock of himself. Their sources are first of all the faith and proclamation of the church and the Bible. After that they draw — and not in any order of preference — from a strong tradition of family life, a genuine involvement in the local community, an intimate relationship to nature, a keen participation in culture, American as well as Danish, and an insight into the world of books, literature as well as reflective works. When such sources are used by one with a facility for writing, the result is bound to be good.

I am personally appreciative to Harold Petersen for his gift of these "meditations" and his initiative in publishing them. He deserves the support of our church people, but the one who makes a purchase also does himself a favor.

Johannes Knudsen.

The Voice from Grand View

We Give Thanks for Our Many Blessings !

Thanksgiving ushers in the holiday season, and as usual most of us "took off" to help Mother and Dad, sisters and brothers do justice to the great big beautiful bird. When we aren't around, the college stands as quiet as a tomb, or at least so we are told. This holiday proved to be an exception, though, for we have it on very good authority that the college was filled with GIRLS! The occasion was the Church Vocations Conference for Girls held at Grand View College, November 27-28, and sponsored by the Iowa synod of the ULCA, and assisted by the Iowa districts of the AELC and the Augustana Lutheran Church. There were about 100 girls in attendance, and a good substantial list of leaders. All things considered, it proved to be an excellent conference, according to Dr. Nielsen.

We know of a young man, a student at GVC, who feels that he has a very special reason to be thankful this year. He is Ben Jensen, student from Africa whose wife Ruth joined him here in the States just a day ago. Ben's flashing white teeth are much in evidence as he smiles and presents his Ruth. We are very happy for both of you, Ruth and Ben, and will try to make this year as pleasant as possible.

The Faculty Wives made arrangements for, and sponsored a dinner for the entire faculty. It was held at Caesars, and there were about 43 present. Pat and John Rex acted as "arrangers(?) and program committee," and a good time was had by all. The dinner, by the way, was said to be m-m-m good!

Mrs. Noyes has not been very much in evidence this past couple of months, but we spied her one day last week in Dr. Nielsen's office. She has been ill, but looks and feels better now, so we imagine she will soon be back with us. We wish for her that she will continue to improve. This brings us to a related matter. It will soon be time for our plays. Tryouts reveal many potential actors and actresses, but we don't want to give you all the news in one column, so we will withhold the information you are "dying to know" — who's playing what role in which play, or is it which role in what play??? (But does it really matter?)

Scarcely do we finish off our left-over turkey before we begin to plan for Christmas! This year our choir concert will be presented at Luther Memorial Church, December 15. The program will be different from anything that has been attempted in the

past. It is entitled "A Festival of Lessons and Carols as sung on Christmas Eve in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England." The time is 8 p. m. Should you be in or near Des Moines, do plan to hear our choir on December 15.

Our third TV celebrity has now made his debut. Gerald Rasmussen presented a book review about a week ago over KDPS, educational TV. We have heard that Gerry Rasmussen did us proud, as the expression goes. Anyway, there were many viewers who took the time to phone and tell the college about how much they enjoyed the three TVers. Bob Speed is next. We are confident that he, too, will do a fine job.

A couple of sort-of-new desks are gracing the quarters of Mrs. Williamson and John Rex. No, it isn't because they are favored, it is probably because their desks looked just a little the worse for wear. The desks were bought from Solars when they sold out all their equipment.

Guess this is about it. See you soon.

Info, Inc.

OUR CHURCH

Los Angeles, Calif. The November "Fellowship Meeting" — a monthly series during the winter months in Emanuel Church here — was held November 29, and featured an "honor the old folks" evening, similar to the one held across country in Newington, Conn., as reported in the last issue of L. T. About 75 persons were present to enjoy the evening, which began with Danish service at 5 p. m., and continued with a beautifully spread sandwich supper and marzipan cake during which the three oldest ladies present received beautiful corsages and three oldest men received carnations for their lapels. Pastor Viggo Hansen preached at the opening worship, and Pastor Verner Hansen presented the program including musical numbers, with a guest soprano, a Negress, some poetry and piano numbers, and the showing of pictures of "Christmas in Denmark." Pastor Viggo Hansen and his wife now live at 1485 North Altadena Drive, Pasadena, Calif.

Brooklyn, N. Y. Mr. and Mrs. John Torsleff (527 E. 8th St., Brooklyn) who are well-known Lutheran lay-people in our synod, celebrate their golden wedding on December 15. Mrs. Torsleff is the former Marie Busk, one of the first Grand View College students before the turn of the century. John Torsleff still works at his office daily at the shipping firm of Isbrandtsen, and has been active in our churches in the Bronx, and in Brooklyn, for many years. The Torsleffs are now members of the merged "Christ Lutheran" (Aug.) Church where many of our former synod members now worship.

Dansk Nytaar



Once again Editor Paul Nyholm offers an attractive Christmas package for those who understand and love the Danish language with its special capacity for spiritual expression at Christmas time. Space limitations prevent naming here the almost "fabulous" list of persons who have contributed this year. Eight short stories by such familiar names as Knudsen and Mortensen give extra pleasure, while the informative and inspirational pieces are no less a delight. The cost is just one dollar, and may be ordered from P. O. Box 547 in Blair, Nebr., or (we assume) from Grand View Book Store, Des Moines, Iowa. —V. H.

From the Children's Home

(Continued from Page 7)

again be open to the kind of children who are waiting for our love and help. We are always investigating and studying which of the two programs mentioned we can best hope to maintain.

In the meantime, may we remind our friends that having operated the home and cared for the children for almost a full year the costs of this budget must still be met? Since we have always operated at a deficit, we are still considerably in debt for the care we have rendered up to now.

It would encourage us greatly in getting started on a new program to have our debts taken care of and thus know we have your continued interest and support.

Within our church the Danish Lutheran Children's Home is the only institution that serves children. We are sure that the members of our synod will want to have us carry on with some work in this field so that our American Evangelical Lutheran Church is actively heeding the words of our Lord, who said: "Suffer the little children to come unto me."

Finally, a word of thanks to the members of the staff. They have all served with a special interest in the welfare of the little ones in their care. Their dedication to serving others is shown by the fact that they have gone on to other positions connected with Christian and social service.

District I Convention

TROY, NEW YORK

Continued from November 20 issue

Rev. Ove Nielsen said that the National Lutheran Council will provide personnel at no charge to tell how such a fund could best be used. Rev. Nielsen then read the following recommendation: "The committee (advocates changed to) recommends that the District express to the Synod a desire that a study be conducted wherefrom suggestions may be derived concerning how the earnings from the Fund can be of greater help within the field of Christian Social Welfare in geographical areas where the Fund has been designated to be of service."

Dr. Jensen said that this was good reasoning, we would hear what suggestions would be made, it is well to get a study that will perhaps get this income into more regular channels.

Rev. Ove Nielsen said the Ch. Home Board would study the report from the Synod.

Dr. Jensen then suggested that the outcome of the study be channeled through the Welfare Board of the Synod instead of the District going direct to the Synod.

Mr. Harry Lund suggested a copy of the report be given to the Trustees of the Fund, so they can immediately begin operating under the present framework.

The recommendation was then approved.

Carmon Christensen then reported from the Inter-Lutheran Camp Committee, which consists of Rev. Ove Nielsen, Rev. Holger O. Nielsen and Carmon Christensen. There have been meetings with Augustana, Suomi and ULC, and they will have further meetings of this group this fall, to work out how the present properties of the various synods can best be put to use for the benefit of all. The District Camp Committee, consisting of Mrs. Elvira Hansen, Mrs. Karen Chadwick and Carmon Christensen, assisted by Rev. Ove Nielsen, will continue to carry on the work and responsibility of the camp site we now have near Hartford, Conn.

Mr. Lund reported for the Nominating Committee with the results that the following are the officers of District I for the coming year:

President: Rev. Holger O. Nielsen, Newington.

Vice President: Rev. K. Kirkegaard-Jensen, Edison Township.

Treasurer: Carmon Christensen, Newington.

Edison Township issued an invitation to the District to hold its convention there in 1960, and this was accepted with thanks.

The subject of the Lutheran Welfare Association of New England then came up for discussion.

Rev. Ove Nielsen made the motion, which was carried, that the District President be requested to write to the Division of Welfare of the Na-

tional Lutheran Council for information concerning approved agencies in the Lutheran Churches in the areas which affect our District congregations.

The following item on the agenda was written by the District President as follows: "What Lutheran Old People's Homes are there in District I, and may I suggest that a committee be appointed to seek information and report back to next year's convention and find out among other things if our old people may apply for entrance, etc."

This was made a motion and carried. Pastor Holger Nielsen commented on the Danish Seamen's Church in New York, mentioning, among other things, the youthfulness of some of the sailors, and voicing approval of this project.

The Chairman thanked the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church of Troy for being host to the District Convention of 1959, and a rising vote of thanks was given. Irving Jensen, chairman of the convention, was recognized.

Rev. Ove Nielsen requested that at the next convention the District Board set aside one hour in which to discuss the liturgical part of the worship service to learn what we have in common. The Chairman assured him that his request would be given consideration.

The Chairman expressed appreciation to Dr. Alfred Jensen and his wife for being present at the convention to guide and encourage us, and thanked the convention secretary.

A rising vote of thanks was given the Convention Chairman, Rev. H. O. Nielsen.

Worship service was held Sunday morning, with the sermon by Rev. Holger O. Nielsen of Newington. Rev. Nielsen's topic was "Christian Love in a Loveless World." Communion was celebrated with Rev. Ove Nielsen and Rev. Holger O. Nielsen officiating.

A delicious dinner was served. A program followed, consisting of songs by a girls' choir from the Charlton School of Burnt Hills, New York. This is a school for girls who "need affection, wise counsel, advice and real understanding." There were about fourteen in the group, and it was a beautiful and touching program.

In the afternoon the convention heard an address by Pastor Ove Nielsen on the subject "India, her impending crisis." After Rev. Nielsen finished there could be no question in anyone's mind as to the worthwhileness of anything we can do in this field. As Pastor Nielsen pointed out, no one can cure India's ills, but much can be done to alleviate human suffering, especially of the little children. It was a very moving and revealing talk.

The convention closed with coffee and a social hour, with comments and farewells from various members of the congregations.

Vera Jespersen,
Convention Secretary.

Acknowledgment of Receipts From the Synod Treasurer

For the Month of October, 1959

Unassigned Receipts:

(by Congregation)	
Withee, Wis.	\$ 583.00
Seattle, Wash.	331.13
Dannebrog, Greenville, Mich.	200.00
Dwight, Ill.	196.77
Salinas, Calif.	500.00
Newell, Iowa	606.90
Racine, Wis.	310.03
Bethany, Ludington, Mich.	400.00
Wilbur, Wash.	50.00
Kimballton, Iowa	200.00
Nysted, Nebr.	295.00
Clinton, Iowa	200.00
Waterloo, Iowa	699.12
Badger, S. D.	298.41
Cordova, Nebr.	300.00
Brush, Colo.	185.00
Circle Pines, Minn.	25.00
Detroit, Mich.	125.79
Muskegon, Mich.	285.00
Sidney, Mich.	300.00
Zion, Marlette, Mich.	100.00
Ringsted, Iowa	293.60
Omaha, Nebr.	180.00
Watsonville, Calif.	109.31
Menominee, Mich.	65.18
Minneapolis, Minn.	201.00
Bridgeport, Conn.	100.00
St. Stephen's, Chicago, Ill.	200.00
White, S. D.	151.50
Fredsville, Iowa	1,500.00
Danevang, Texas	314.00
Pasadena, Calif.	182.56
Newington, Conn.	150.00
Askov, Minn.	260.00
Alden, Minn.	300.00
For Pastor's Pension Fund:	
Seattle, Wash.	50.50
For Children's Home:	
Ole C. Andersen, Withee, Wis.	5.00
For Lutheran Tidings:	
Sidney, Mich.	6.00
For President's Travel:	
Ringsted, Iowa	25.00
For Santal Mission:	
Senior Confirmation Class, Danebod Luth., Tyler, Minn.	10.44
In memory of Mrs. Hansine K. Hanson, by Mrs. Ingeborg Raae and Mrs. Mildred Blaine, Grayling, Mich.	10.00
For Home Missions:	
Sunday School, Bethania Church, Racine, Wis.	53.21
In memory of Anna Nielsen and John Hutton, Bone Lake, Wis., by Bone Lake Evangelical Church	10.00

Total Budget Receipts from
Congregations\$10,368.45
Previously acknowledged --- 52,798.87
Total to date\$63,167.32

Other Budget Receipts:

Pastor's Pension Contributions:

Seattle, Wash.	\$ 21.00
Grayling, Mich.	10.50
Menominee, Mich.	18.00
Dannebrog, Greenville, Mich.	12.00
Hay Springs, Nebr.	19.52
Brush, Colo.	15.00

Sclyang, Calif.	22.80
Dwight, Ill.	22.00
Salinas, Calif.	15.00
Tacoma, Wash.	15.50
Danevang, Texas	23.40
Bethany, Ludington, Mich.	12.50
Kimballton, Iowa	18.00
Fresno, Calif.	9.00
Clinton, Iowa	21.40
Rev. H. O. Nielsen	69.30
Detroit, Mich.	24.00
Muskegon, Mich.	21.00
Sidney, Mich.	30.00
Marquette, Nebr.	20.00
Roscommon, Mich.	7.50
Ringsted, Iowa	24.00
Junction City, Ore.	20.50
Cedar Falls, Iowa, St. Peter's Evangelical Luth. Church	17.49
Wayne, Alberta	18.00
Synod Vice President	1.25
Askov, Minn.	18.00
Synod President	10.50
Alden, Minn.	21.00
Total for month	\$ 558.66
Previously acknowledged	2,569.80
	\$3,128.46

Annual Reports:

Withee, Wis.	\$ 10.00
Menominee, Mich.	7.50
Hay Springs, Nebr.	6.00
Salinas, Calif.	4.00
Edison Township, N. J.	7.50
Newell, Iowa	5.00
Bethany, Ludington, Mich.	7.00
Nysted, Nebr.	3.00
Clinton, Iowa	4.00
Waterloo, Iowa	7.50
Rev. John Enselmann	6.50
Cordova, Nebr.	5.00
Sidney, Mich.	7.50
Viborg, Kans.	3.00
Denmark, Kans.	3.00
Ringsted, Iowa	12.50

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

LUTHERAN TIDINGS, Askov, Minnesota
Return postage guaranteed.

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

St. Peter's, Cedar Falls, Iowa	5.00
Watsonville, Calif.	9.00
Hampton, Iowa	15.00
Fredsville, Iowa	12.50
Pasadena, Calif.	1.00
Newington, Conn.	7.50
Askov, Minn.	10.00
Total for month	\$ 159.00
Previously acknowledged	146.50
	\$ 305.50
Total Budget Receipts to date	\$66,601.28
Received for Items Outside of Budget:	
For Lutheran World Action:	
Withee, Wis.	\$ 74.55
Dwight, Ill.	41.83
Salinas, Calif.	81.00
Edison Township, N. J.	92.50
Newell, Iowa	50.00
Newell, Iowa	172.00
Racine, Wis.	5.00
Brown City, Mich.	30.00
Nysted, Nebr.	72.00
Fresno, Calif.	97.20
White, S. D.	38.00
Badger, S. D.	47.40
Brush, Colo.	47.60
Circle Pines, Minn.	5.00
In memory of Niels Lamb, by relatives (from J. Thomsen, Stanton, Mich.)	12.00
Sidney, Mich.	43.00
Viborg, S. D.	75.01
Denmark, Kans.	15.00
Ringsted, Iowa	50.56
Watsonville, Calif.	22.50
Junction City, Ore.	57.77
Menominee, Mich.	13.34
Minneapolis, Minn.	39.30
Danevang, Texas	147.60
Askov, Minn.	238.00
Total for month	\$1,568.16
Previously acknowledged	9,124.14
Total to date	\$10,692.30

For Santal Mission:

Ribers' Work—In memory of Mrs. Fred Houberg, by Mr. and Mrs. Ehms Eskildsen, Dwight, Ill.	3.00
From Mrs. Clara Jensen's Sunday school class, Dwight, Ill.	2.74
In memory of Jens Peterson, Freeborn, Minn., by Mrs. Mads Strandskov, Leo and Herluf Strandskov, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Jensen, Dagmar, Mont.	5.00
Racine, Wis., Sunday School ..	53.21
Racine, Wis.	5.00
In memory of Jens Peterson, Freeborn, Minn., Mrs. Hans Scotte, Mrs. Christine Mauseth, Mrs. Emma Raforth, Christian Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Orange Millhouse, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Young, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Rasmussen, Mr. and Mrs. P. N. Ravn, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Swenson, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Pedersen, Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Jensen, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hemingsen, Mr. and Mrs.	

Anker Mathiasen, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Millhouse, Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Petersen	8.00
For work among the Lepers in India, from Eline and Laura Clausen, Chicago, Ill.	5.00
In memory of Niels Wodder, by Mrs. Norma Hutchinson, Marquette, Nebr.	5.00
In memory of Sine L. Holst, by Jens A. Holst, Marquette, Nebr.	5.00
From Mrs. T. A. Ostegren, Marquette, Nebr.	10.00
In memory of Mrs. Elise Sorensen, from Valborgsminde	10.46
In memory of Mrs. Elise Sorensen, Luther Memorial Ladies' Aid, Des Moines, Iowa	5.00
From Sina Petersen, Owen, Wis.	5.00
For Children of the Santal Mission, from Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Andersen, Westbrook, Me.	35.00
In memory of Anton Sorensen, Luck, Wis., by West Denmark L. A.	3.00
In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Jensen, and Andrew Jorgensen, Hampton, Iowa, from St. John's Congregation	25.10
In memory of Mrs. Ton Knudstrup, by Mrs. Alfred Jensen, Des Moines, Iowa	10.00
From Sunday School, Marquette, Nebr.	30.00
Total	\$ 225.51
For Eben-Ezer Mercy Institute:	
St. John's Lutheran Church, Marquette, Nebr.	55.80
Denmark Evangelical Lutheran Community Church, Vesper, Kansas	35.00
Total	\$ 90.80

For American Bible Society:	
From Nazareth Lutheran Church, Withee, Wis.	8.50
For Faith and Life Advance:	
Congregation, Seattle, Wash.	44.00
For North Cedar Building Fund:	
St. Peter's Ev. Luth. Church, Cedar Falls	113.04
Fredsville Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa	302.50
AELC District IV treasurer ..	88.70
Total	\$ 504.24
Gifts from District III, AELC:	
For Home Missions —	
North Cedar	87.13
Watsonville	87.13
75th anniversary gift for Children's Home, Chicago, Ill. ..	75.00
From District V, AELC	
For District Home Mission —	
St. Mark Ev. Luth. Church, Circle Pines, Minn.	250.00
District IV Home Mission	
For North Cedar from Bethlehem Ev. Luth., Cedar Falls	10.00
District Treasurer	225.00
Total	\$ 235.00

M. C. Miller, Treasurer.