

# Lutheran Tidings

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PUBLISHED BY THE AMERICAN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Dr. Alfred Jensen and his wife, Vera, shown here on one of President Jensen's many travels to California.

## *Dr. Jensen to Retire as AELC President*

Dr. Alfred Jensen has completed 24 years of service as president of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church. He has been full-time president for 18 of those years, and has completed 12 terms. (In 1956, the term of office changed from two years to four years.) Dr. Jensen has reached the age of 67, which makes him ineligible under the constitution to start yet another term. A successor will be named at the 83rd Convention of the AELC in Waterloo, Iowa, August 9-14. President Jensen will continue in office until the end of this year, December 31, 1960.

# AELC Pastors Pay Tribute to Dr. Jensen

## Composite

**Editor's Note:** No doubt many pastors would gladly have contributed to our symposium of opinion about our retiring AELC president. We have asked a number of them, a coast-to-coast cross-section of our ministers, to write brief paragraphs of tribute on this important occasion. These are testimonials to respect a leader who has borne an enormous amount of the responsibility of carrying on organizational matters during the past quarter century. Alfred Jensen was born January 6, 1893, in Brenderup, Denmark, and came to the U. S. in 1911. His education was at Grand View and the University of Nebraska. His pastorates included Cordova, Nebr., Tyler, Minn., again at Cordova, Nebr., and finally in Kimballton, Iowa. During the past 18 years he has lived in Des Moines. In 1935, he became synod secretary, and the following year was elected president. In 1952 he was honored with a doctor of divinity degree from Carthage College, and in 1950 was made a Knight of Dannebrog by the King of Denmark. His son, Herluf, is general secretary of the National Student Christian Federation. One of his three daughters is the wife of Pastor Calvin Rossman, of Ruthton, Minn. The pastors who contribute the following paragraphs were told to write anything they pleased, bearing on their relationship with the synod president, and their impression of him.

### Ottar Jorgensen, Minneapolis

It seems not long ago since that day in 1936 at the Kimballton, Iowa, convention when the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church called upon Pastor Alfred Jensen to assume the duties and responsibilities as its president.

Again and again upon the completion of a term of office his church has elected him to continue his good work. This, we believe, has been in deep appreciation of his tireless, conscientious and devoted service. Behind the service of Dr. Jensen one senses the motivation, that the church is not only his beloved church, and that of his people, but that it is most of all the Lord's church.

Dr. Alfred Jensen's presidency has been a ministry.

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The underlying spirit of this ministry has manifested itself as he would occupy the pulpit or serve at the communion table at conventions, church anniversaries, or as part of an every Sunday morning worship.

In order to serve as president, Dr. Jensen had to sacrifice much of that which is closest to the heart of any pastor, the parish ministry.

On his retirement from the presidency, we extend to him our most sincere thanks. We pray the Lord, whose church he has served so unselfishly, richly to bless him in the days ahead.

### Johannes Knudsen, Maywood, Ill.

It is almost impossible for me to think back to a time when I did not know Alfred Jensen. He was at Grand View more than forty-five years ago when my father was president, and he was there when I attended the academy. In fact, we were graduated together — he from the Seminary and I from the academy. Throughout the years my strongest personal impression has been that of friendship. I have at times disagreed sharply with him, and we have argued vehemently, but I have never lost the strong, kind feeling of friendship. It has grown deeper with time, and I appreciate it more than I can say. One cannot give public testimony to the intimacies of friendship, however, and I shall therefore choose to turn to the other extreme of a long range of accomplishments, expecting that others will cover the scale of things in between.

It has been my privilege to see Alfred Jensen in activity in relation to other church groups, particularly the Lutheran, and to know many of the men with whom he has worked. Let me therefore first of all say, that Alfred Jensen has won a place of strong respect and affection among these men. This respect has accrued to our synod. In many ways he has been the "Mr. AELC" in ecumenical circles. In the World Council of Churches, in Lutheran World Federation, in the National Council of Churches, but especially in the National Lutheran Council and in the Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity, he has represented us ably and well. He has caused us to be known, and known in a good way, and he has ceaselessly, though not uncritically, brought to us the message and influence from these groups. For this earnest and untiring endeavor we thank him sincerely as he now gives the work over to other hands.

### Edwin Hansen, Muskegon, Mich.

The transition of the AELC toward becoming a more fully integrated American Church began with Alfred Jensen's presidency of the synod. He realized from the outset that without a more aggressive home mission program, we could have but a limited church growth. He realized also that we could not continue to fulfill our function and purpose as a church by



ministering to our people in the Danish language only.

In my opinion the change of attitude toward our home mission policy was in evidence already a few months after Alfred Jensen's election to office. The Juhl congregation in Marlette, Michigan, established in 1898, had been without a resident pastor for at least 16 years. There was a nucleus of Danes there, but the work to be done in the congregation would have to be done among non-Danes mainly. The congregation had tried to call a pastor for years without success.

No synod official had ever visited the congregation or community before. This was Alfred Jensen's first task. Then he set out to find a pastor who might serve there. During the week between Christmas and New Year of 1936 when the winter was severe in Iqwa, he drove 350 miles over hazardous road conditions to interest a pastor to accept the challenge of serving these people. When after months of waiting a call finally came to the pastor, the conditions were such that he could not accept it. Again Alfred Jensen appealed on behalf of the congregation that the pastor personally make the trip to Michigan to investigate the field before giving a final refusal to the call.

Had it not been for the personal interest in the congregation and pastor as well as for the persistence on the part of the president of the synod, the Juhl and Germania congregations may not have been a part of our synod today.

AELC owes a debt of gratitude to Alfred Jensen for his many years of diligent, untiring and devoted service to God and the people of our church.

### **Jens Christian Kjaer, Seattle, Wash.**

When God wants to guide His people, He often anoints a man to become their leader.

Few could have predicted that the non-conformist rural pastor who was elected president of our synod in 1936 would succeed so eminently in winning the respect and confidence which again and again caused his re-election and to this day retained him as our chief executive.

Endowed with a fine native intelligence, a firm Christian faith, and an unusually rugged constitution, he gave all he had to his high and exacting office. For too many years he resisted our efforts to provide him and his family a proper standard of living and scoffed at first class accommodations on his incessant travels from coast to coast. Eventually he discovered roomettes and airplanes and other modern means of arriving relaxed and rested for important meetings and conferences.

Here he found rapport with national and international church leaders and gained a large and richer concept of the Church which he communicated to us. During his 24 years as our president, our synod became an indigenous American Lutheran church body and was integrated into the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches.

His somewhat brusque manner did not camouflage his warm-hearted concern for all the members, pastors and congregations of our synod. Alfred Jensen's genuine interest in hundreds of families unto the fourth and fifth generation is unique. How many triumphs and defeats, joys and sorrows hasn't he shared?

While his responsibilities taught him to govern by laws and rules and to develop some diplomatic skill, our president is as yet not a polished ecclesiastic diplomat. He can still rumble ominously when well-intentioned but harebrained or impractical proposals are submitted for his and the synod's consideration.

But in our homes and at our hearths we shall always cherish the memory of his many welcome visits, his lively interest in the things and causes that matter, and the love and compassion of this great-hearted leader and beloved friend. Soon the Rev. Dr. Alfred Jensen may drape his mantle around the shoulders of his successor, but the fruits of his labors will endure. May the days of his remaining years be kind to him.

### **Holger P. Jorgensen, Alden, Minn.**

My pleasant association with Dr. Alfred Jensen has been in three main areas.

The first is as Synod President. He has been my chief during his entire presidency. I have cherished his sound advice on many problems. I have appreciated his good counsel.

As synod president he is on the Board of Welfare of which I have been chairman since its inception about 12 years ago. This has been a valuable association. He has the ability of seeing clearly the problems and of advising wisely. I have appreciated the way he has not encroached upon the prerogatives of the chairman. We have worked well together seeking only the best interests of our welfare agencies. This area will regretfully come to a close as he leaves his post as synod president.

The second area is that of being his pastor. During the nearly 12 years I was pastor of Luther Memorial in Des Moines, Iowa, he was one of my parishioners. It thus became my privilege to minister to him and his family both in times of sorrow and joy. It was here that I got to know him best and admire him most. He zealously guarded my rights as the pastor of the congregation and would never function at ministerial acts except in family cases and then only after insisting that I be present and have a part. He persisted in that the pastor of a congregation should always be represented. He was a good listener. It was easy and pleasant to have him as a church member. I will always cherish the memory of these nearly 12 years of pleasant relationship and good advice.

Regretfully for both of us this area of relationship came to an end a year ago.

The third area is that of a friend. We have been good friends for these many years and have visited in one another's homes countless times. I am sure that this area of relationship will not end. I will always cherish his friendship with deep thankfulness.

I have learned to admire, cherish and love him for what he is and as he is. I thank him for the past years in which we have worked together. I hope and pray that we may have his counsel and diligent service for many years yet as God may choose to use him. Though he will soon retire as synod president I am sure God will use him to good advantage and that he will continue to be a blessing to our church and to His kingdom.



### Harry Andersen, Chicago

Being one of the men who received your helpful counsel regarding entrance into the ministry, and having cherished your counsel regarding parish work, I seek to express my personal admiration and appreciation to you in the following remarks:

Having been the synod president of our church for more than two decades, you have made a decided contribution towards determining its past as well as shaping its future. As a church rooted in a Christian heritage brought from Denmark, seeking to make its contribution to American church life, and now on the threshold of becoming a part of the "Lutheran Church in America," we shall be eternally indebted to you for having been a focal point and a center of strength around which our congregations could rally during the periods of readjustment. Your accomplishments in behalf of our church have come to fruition because you as a person possess such outstanding characteristics as amazing stamina for hard work, vigorous integrity, penetrating intellect and consecrated spiritual commitment.

Your remaining fresh and youthful in maturity has been a tremendous stimulus to those of us who have lacked among other things, the wisdom of experience. Your keenness of mind and perception is to be seen in your enviable ability to be conversant in a vast area of interests. You have served your church well by being well-informed about many facets of life. Persons with special interests have found common ground with you. Your readiness to share insights and analyze problems pertaining to the total Church even beyond our own denomination, whether we were on important committees or fledgling ministers just out of seminary or laymen in the congregation, has made you a most stimulating, interesting and exciting person to know.

Your vigorous integrity shows itself sometimes in an almost devastating impatience with half-baked ideas that have been served up by naive enthusiasm resulting from our sometime poorly drawn conclusions. Though we have felt chagrin we have also been challenged by your forthrightness. Though an ardent debater and determined advocate whose points are pressed with sometimes an alarming vigor, your love and friendship seems never to waver — at once a fighter for or against issues, yet a friend of those who express opposing views. You are a man with strongly held convictions but one who holds no grudges.

Most significant of all is the fervor of your Christian Faith. The passion and loyalty with which your life has been dedicated to the ministry of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, sets you as one who has diligently and faithfully sought to love God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength and to love your neighbor as your self. We thank God for what great things He has wrought through you, a faithful servant.

### C. A. Stub, Fredsville, Iowa

Our president, Dr. Alfred Jensen, has now served our synod in that capacity for 24 years. During that time our church has made great progress in growth, breadth of vision, singleness of Christian purpose and

orderliness in the conduct of its affairs. It has been a time of great change. Much of this advance has been due the tireless and singleminded devotion with which Dr. Jensen has pursued his task. He has never spared himself. The efficiency and acumen with which he has attacked the fiscal affairs of our church has set our house in exemplary order on a solid material foundation. He has understood not only the professional life of the churchman but also the human side of the common life of the people. He has served longer as president than any other man, and his service has been one of strong, purposeful and efficient leadership. Our church owes him a deep debt of gratitude for the way in which he has conducted its affairs and for the inspiration his leadership has been to its spiritual life.

### Paul Nussle, Salinas, Calif.

I have just finished re-reading the two great letters of St. Paul to Timothy. As one of our youngest pastors, these letters have played an important role in my ministry during the past four years.

Not a few times has it occurred to me that Timothy found great courage and strength in his ministry knowing that Paul's confidence was with him, ready to come to his side. I realize that there are many limitations to such an analogy as I am drawing, especially in view of the questioned authorship and recipient of the letters; however, realizing such limiting factors our president has often guided our young men with the same confidence and strength there displayed.

Certainly within my own brief association with the highest office of the AELC there is no doubt that the two ministries which I have served have been directly brought about through that association. In both roles it has been necessary to seek counsel from that office and in both instances it was given consideredly and surely. On such occasion it would be so simple for a young man, were not such counsel firmly and confidently offered, to retreat into himself and lose sight of the great ministry before him.

Those who know me are quite aware of former conflict with this office; however, the young pastors of our church who have in similar ways been affected by Dr. Jensen's strong leadership will always recall as I do, "My son, be strong in the grace that Jesus Christ gives." (II Tim. 2:1).

Look sharply after your thoughts. They come unlooked for, like a new bird seen on your trees, and, if you turn to your usual task, disappear; and you shall never find that perception again; never, I say — but perhaps years, ages, and I know not what events and worlds may lie between you and its return.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

Job 37:35 says, **Stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.** Truly, this is a world of wonder. Behind this wonder is God, our Creator, who devised a plan so wonderful that all of life has purpose and all of creation has beauty. We need to stand still and consider the wondrous works of God.

— Jessie V. Sterns, in Power.

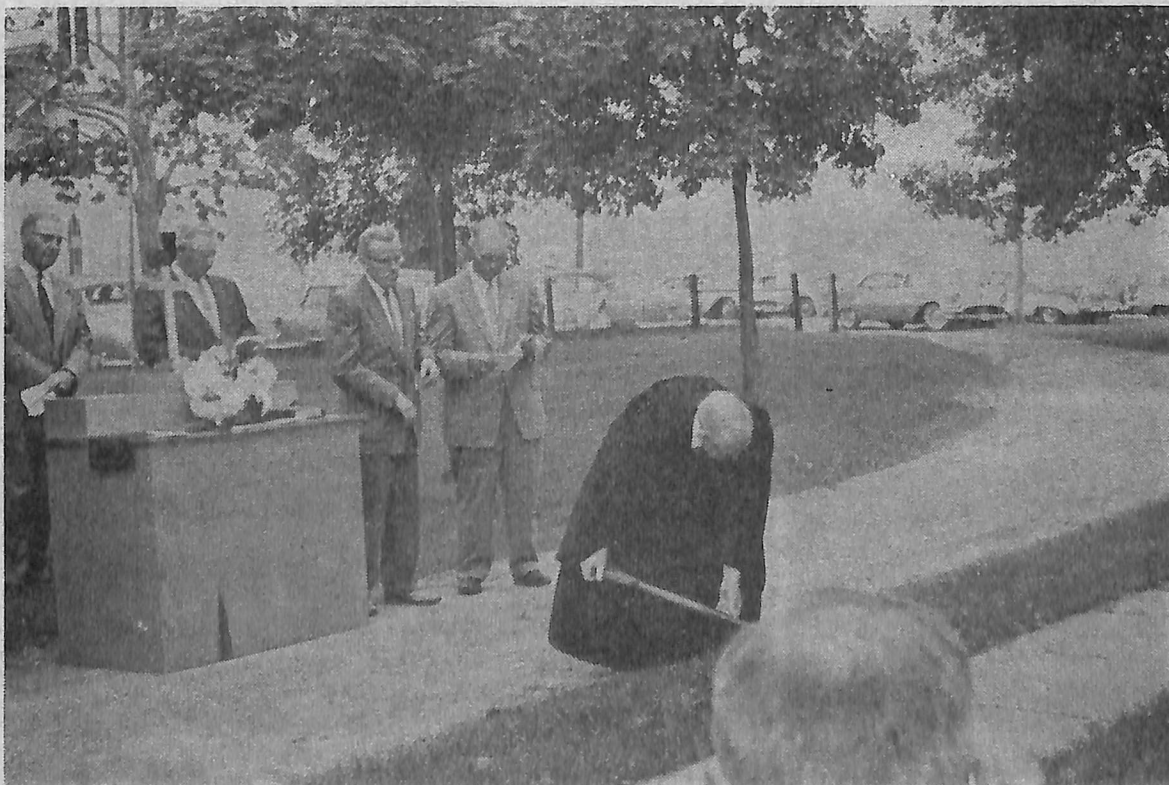


## Break Ground for New Fredsville, Iowa Church



**GROUND BREAKING** ceremonies took place June 12 at the site of the new Fredsville Lutheran church. Top photo left to right shows: Edward Sherwood, superintendent of the Sunday School; Betty Danielsen, president of the Lutheran Guild; Nida Nielsen, president of the Ladies' Aid; Harry Thuesen, first chairman of the Building Committee; Harold Madsen, president of the Church Council; Clark Mikkelsen, president of the Young People; Clarence Johnson, finance committee member; Jens G. Thuesen, chairman of the finance committee; Rev. C. A. Stub; Woodrow Parker, building committee chairman; and Harold Andersen, chairman of the chancel committee.

Photos by Russell Nielsen, Dike, Iowa



**REV. C. A. STUB** was photographed turning over the first spadeful of dirt for the new church.



# New Fredsville Church Takes Shape

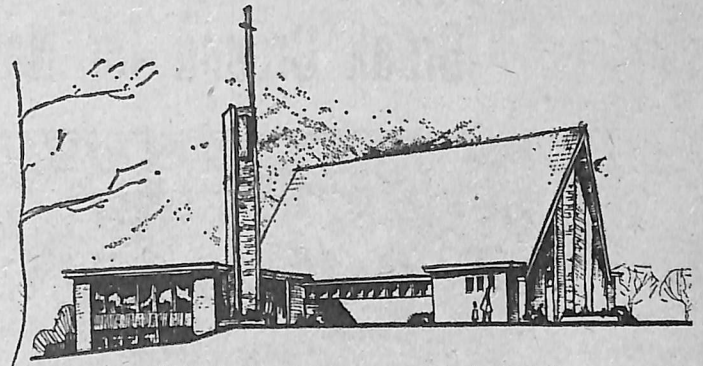
The red brick and white stone church, which will have an approximate area of 6,400 square feet of floor space, will be constructed of masonry. The interior is to be exposed concrete block and plaster. The windows will be aluminum, the roof of wood and the floors of concrete. The building consists of a nave, chancel, pastor's study, choir section, class room and narthex on the ground level and mechanical room, toilets and possible extra classrooms in the basement.

The chancel area, part of the church around the altar, will be approximately 20 by 34 feet. The exposed arches and ceiling planking will be of an oak finish with white marble and plaster interior. The choir section which will seat 25 persons will be on the left or north side facing the chancel. The pastor's study will be on the right and will be almost the same size as the choir section.

The nave, or that part of the church which is between the side aisles and extends from the chancel to the principal entrance, forming the main part of the church, will be approximately 53 feet long and 34 feet wide. As planned there will be 11 pews on each side with a seating capacity of 176 with additional space for more pews. A strip of carpet will be installed between the pews on the tile floor. The room will have plaster sidewalls with exposed arches and ceiling decking and will have concealed lighting.

The church lounge will be in the south end of the building and will be approximately 28 by 20 feet. The room will be used for special small ceremonies, a meeting room, a mother's or cry room and as an overflow room for the nave. A glass partition will be installed between the lounge and the nave with allowances for a public address system. Storage cupboards will be built on the outside walls of the tiled floor room.

The narthex or vestibule will be at the east side



Architect's drawing of completed church.

of the new church and next to the tower entrance. The 16 by 27 foot room will have walls of concrete wall block and an access to the basement and to the 22 by 17 foot room in the back of the building. Plans are to make this room into a new kitchen some day.

The bids were let at a meeting of the congregation on Thursday evening, June 2. The base bid was let to the Cervetti Construction company of Steamboat Rock for \$62,348 plus \$956 for chancel fixtures. The plumbing and heating contract was given for \$11,449, the electrical contract for \$4,880. Thorson and Brom of Waterloo were the architects for the new building. On the basis of pledges which have been made they will approximately cover the cost of the new church.

The building committee which was formed three years ago has Woodrow Parker as their chairman, Harry Thuesen served as the chairman for at least six months when the committee was first formed. Working with Mr. Parker are Edward Sherwood, serving as secretary, Arnold Mikkelsen, Carl Miller and Harold Madsen.

The new church finance committee is headed by Mr. and Mrs. Jens G. Thuesen as their chairman and Oscar Lechner, Jim Jacobsen, Clarence Johnson and Leonard Posekany working together.

The sanctuary advisory committee is headed by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Andersen and Mr. and Mrs. Jens Chris Nielsen and Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Johnson serving with them.



Photo by Russell Nielsen, Dike, Iowa

PHOTO SHOWS a portion the large crowd which attended the ground breaking ceremony at the Fredsville Lutheran Church.



# What Is Mornai?

## Editorial Report

**T**HE HAROLD RIBERS are now back in India. Harold arrived in the States in November and his furlough, from our viewpoint, has been all too short — almost to the point of unfairness. However, Harold himself seemed only eager to get back to his new work, that of manager of the Mornai Tea Plantation. This report will endeavor to inform LUTHERAN TIDINGS readers as to some of the interesting features about the Tea Estate, and will be based on a small pamphlet issued some time ago by Oluf Eie, former manager. Before getting into the report, however, may we here quote from the May, 1960, issue of "The Santal Missionary" as follows:

"During his brief furlough, Riber has had no vacation. He has visited practically every congregation in the AELC from the Atlantic to the Pacific, leaving with them a challenge to go forward in this joint work in India. At times, we have encouraged Riber to take a rest, but he has felt the need of cultivating the home field. We are thankful to the Ribers for their zeal, demonstrated on the mission field as well as at home. May the Lord bless and keep them on their journey over Denmark and upon their return to the field. They will be remembered in prayers and with best wishes from a host of friends. On the field their address will be:

"Mornai Tea Estate  
Dingdinga P. O., Goalpara District,  
Assam, India."

It is interesting to see that even Riber's colleagues and administrators use the familiar term "Riber" in speaking about him. In other persons, this formal sobriquet would appear objectionable, but to those of us who know Riber it is most fitting and friendly to call him by his last name. Even his wife does that. From early days at Grand View, in 1940, he has always been "Riber" or simply "Reeb." This is a characteristic and helps define the indefinable about him which endears him to us all, and which points up the qualities that seem to make him particularly suited to his new work.

As manager of the Tea Plantation, Missionary Riber

will be charged with the difficult task of being advisor to workers and administrators in a business venture which involves almost 2,000 people. There is a village inside the plantation where most of these people live. One can only vaguely imagine the social, economic, family and religious problems, as well as problems with the greater government, which can arise in such an environment. The Tea Plantation Manager is mediator and counselor in labor disputes — a far cry from what one expects a missionary to be. Whether or not he wants it that way, he gradually develops a kind of father-image for the people within the sphere of his responsibility. For this reason, he must be a person of calm, restraint, sincerity, field experience, mechanical aptitude, spiritual depth and personal rapport.

It is not difficult to understand, then, why Riber was chosen for this impressive task. As we know him, he fits the task admirably.

In 1881 the Santal Colony began. The first town established was called "God's Village" (Thakurpura) and it thus began with the intent of being a Christian community, even in name. Disease and wild life ravaged the early community, but there are nevertheless more than 7,000 Christians in the Colony at this time. There are four large churches where they worship.

The Tea Plantation lies in one corner of the Colony. It was started by people who were business men and had little concern for the spiritual or social welfare of the people. This unconcern soon led to friction between management and Santal labor, and in order to salvage the situation, the missionaries decided to buy the Estate and run it themselves. This was done in 1890.

Borresen and Skrefsrud (who does not know these names by this time?) saw that a tea plantation could be a real asset to the Christian community in Assam. It became a refuge for the very poor, where work could be had. And it became home for Santal settlers who desired to work a plot of ground themselves.

It was difficult at first. Profits were small, but profit-making was only a minor consideration in the Colony. In 1910, under the leadership of P. O. Bodding, Skrefsrud's successor, new machinery was purchased and the tea factory itself was vastly improved. As a result, profits increased, and persons who came to the plantation empty-handed could in time own a pair of bullocks or buffaloes. This in turn increased their earning capacity. There was free land available outside the plantation, and conditions among the Santals improved.

On the Estate, life is comparatively good. Homes are furnished the laborers. Hospital and medical care is provided. Schools are built and staffed, as well as the churches. All year, at least 700 persons are employed directly by the business, and during the rainy season, twice that number find good work. Tea grows well in a hot climate where the rainfall averages about 12 inches a month. Almost three quarters of a million pounds of tea are produced annually, and tea bushes produce sometimes for 35 successive years.

Life is not all ease, however. The climate in which tea flourishes is hard on human beings. Diseases are a constant threat. But the mundane needs of the body which bring many people to the Christian community

(Continued on Page 15)





## Paging Youth

American Evangelical Luth.  
Youth Fellowship

EDITOR: EVERETT NIELSEN

512 East Washington Avenue  
Bridgeport 8, Connecticut

### WHOSE WORLD?

#### *A Timely Book Review*

Everything we really believe has an "ought" buried in it somewhere. Mr. John S. Wood, the author of this Friendship Press book (475 Riverside Drive, New York, \$1.00), challenges Christian young people to "accept their full responsibility in a world falling apart at the seams." This problem cannot be "put off." This is LIFE....or DEATH....spiritual as well as physical. The challenge is the same one God put to Cain. We must answer whether or not we are our brother's keeper.

Whose world? Does it belong to the strong nations? The Western nations? Man? God? Whose world is this anyway? In helping us search for the answer, Mr. Wood emphasizes that we must not lose the personal touch in our international and personal relationships. The world is made up of persons with much the same likes, dislikes and fears and you and I. The next step is to be missionaries and live up to our "Sunday promises." Mr. Wood specifically indicates the dangers and necessity of action. "Reports released in Kansas concerning rotting farm surpluses become front page news in Calcutta (India where millions are starving) the very next day." Incidents of racial tension are known and feared throughout the world in the same instant as they take place. Mr. Wood is no glassy eyed idealist, but he does outline a long, hard and vitally necessary plan of "revolution."

The problem is a big one. Generations before us have struggled with it, but the difference between our failing and theirs is that we can completely destroy ourselves....all of mankind....be blown to bits if we also fail.

We must do two things, Mr. Wood says, in order to help solve our problem: 1. Reach some understanding of the true nature of the world in which we live, and 2. Better know the nature of our Christian faith. These two belong inseparably together.

This book spells out these two necessary avenues to real Peace, and I strongly suggest his book as a step in accepting our Christian responsibility.

Paul Pedersen, Seminarian.

### Over the Typewriter

What with all the talk today about the trouble in the world and our ability to destroy all life on earth, we felt that the two features on this page were very timely and fit well together. If we are to meet our responsibilities as young Christians, we must involve ourselves in the big issues of life.

Movies and TV and cook-outs and swimming are fine, but we must not neglect that which makes the difference between living as free men under God or as slaves under Communism or dead men from the H Bomb.

We will be traveling to the synodical convention as the next issue goes to press. We hope to see many young people there, listening in as the future of our AELC is discussed. This, too, is a "big" issue with which we should be concerned. We may not qualify as delegates, but the meetings are open to all, and young people especially should know what the new church is all about.

### Davis in Switzerland

Keith Davis, head of the Operations International Committee of the AELYF, is in Lausanne, Switzerland, this week, July 13-24, for the European Ecumenical Youth Assembly. American, African, Asian and Europeans are in attendance, with the hope that contact with other nations will broaden Christian perspective and challenge all to meet the world wide implications of faith in Christ. The theme for the gathering is "Jesus Christ, the Light of the World."

Mr. Davis is being sponsored by the American Evangelical Lutheran Youth Fellowship which pays half his expenses. He is from Hay Springs, Nebraska, and will be a sophomore at Grand View College this fall. He will give lectures of his experiences in Europe upon his return and will represent the AELYF at the North American Youth Assembly in 1961.

While in Europe, Mr. Davis will participate in the 1960 European Youth Exchange sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation. Sixty American Lutherans have been in various countries since the middle of June. Mr. Davis has visited Denmark and Germany. While in Denmark, he visited in private homes and attended a conference at the International Student Center. From there, he went to Oldenburg, Germany, from July 8-12 where the entire group of 60 met with 15 more church youth from African and Asian countries, and 75 youth from Europe. The theme of that camp was "Being a Member of the Church," with discussions of such topics as "What is a Lutheran?" "Renewal of the local congregation," "Fellowship in the Church," "Burning issues of the Church Today" and "What is our contribution as Lutherans to the Ecumenical Picture?" Bishop Hans Lilje will be one of the renowned speakers.

Following the large meeting in Lausanne at which some 1700 delegates are expected, Mr. Davis will attend a recreation camp near Zurich for African, American and Asian youth from July 25-27.

From that time until August 10, Mr. Davis will travel on his own, stopping for some time in Norway as guest of a family whose daughter attended Grand View College last year.

Mr. Davis states that it is a very enlightening experience for him and through it, he hopes to better help our youth groups and churches in America. He asks that we remember these meetings in our prayers, granting the wisdom of God to fall upon all in attendance.



# Our Women's Work

MRS. AAGE PAULSEN, EDITOR

Beaver Crossing, Nebraska



## NOTICE

Extra copies of the March issue of LUTHERAN WOMEN are available for 10c per copy. Order from Rock Island. E. P.

## Program for National Convention WMS

"Great Expectations," an address by Mrs. Ruth Youngdahl Nelson, Washington, D. C., will climax the annual convention of the Women's Mission Society, in session concurrently with the synodical convention of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church, August 9-14, at the Westminster Union Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, Iowa.

Mrs. Nelson is probably the best known Lutheran church woman in America. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Augustana Lutheran Church Women and chairman of their Service Committee. She is also an author of note, her latest book being, "God's Song in My Heart." Last fall, upon the invitation of the U. S. Army, Mrs. Nelson addressed rallies of the Protestant Women of the Chapel throughout Europe finding "a wonderful spirit of Christian unity and togetherness."

Mrs. Nelson is the wife of Dr. Clarence T. Nelson, pastor for the past thirteen years of the Augustana Lutheran Church, Washington, D. C. Their family includes two sons, John and David, both preparing for the ministry; two daughters, Mary, a student at Gustavus Adolphus College, spending her junior year in Munich, Germany, and Elizabeth, working with the Lutheran World Federation in Indonesia; a foster daughter, Mrs. Winfield Johanson, Geneva, Ill., and four grandchildren.

Life in their church and parsonage is colorful and exciting. Their home is a hospitality center for people of many nations and races. But Mrs. Nelson finds time to accept speaking engagements from all parts of our country thereby sharing her time and talents with others.

Mrs. Nelson's address at the AELC convention is scheduled for Saturday evening, August 13, when WMS is host to all pastors, delegates, and guests of the church convention.

Other WMS convention sessions are scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, August 10, 6:30 - 7:45 p. m. — Mrs. Enok Mortensen, Vice President, presiding. Discussion of the future of WMS, relating to program, projects, and merger.

Thursday, August 11; 6:30 - 7:45 p. m. —

Business session.

Friday, August 12, 8:00 p. m. —

Business session.

Business on the convention agenda includes the election of a vice president, secretary, and treasurer; adoption of the budget; and discussion of missionary projects.

## Some Kinds of Giving Are Better Than Others

Thanksgiving is an offering of oneself and a vehicle for things which cannot be said. And if it is the best one has, whether it is a nursery school production or a life of service, it is enough.

It appears to be true that an act of thanksgiving, springing from an inner attitude of thankfulness, not only enlarges one's horizon but also makes possible an expansion of the spirit, a relatedness, a power. Since God is all the power there is, and since He shows forth that power chiefly in being merciful, our humble and hearty thanks for Him and to Him becomes an avenue of grace between creature and creator, between man who needs and God who gives.

There are three kinds of giving: grudge giving, duty giving and thanksgiving. Grudge giving says, "I have to," duty giving says, "I ought to," thanksgiving says, "I want to." The first comes from constraint, the second from a sense of obligation, the third from a full heart. Nothing much is conveyed in grudge giving since "the gift without the giver is bare." Something more happens in duty giving but there is no song in it. Thanksgiving is an open gate into the love of God.

Note: The above quotation is taken from Robert N. Rodenmayer's THANKS BE TO GOD. (Harper's)

## Letter

Dear Friends,

July 9, 1960

It is with deep sorrow that I report to you the death of Mr. Aage C. Paulsen, husband of Mrs. Eileen Paulsen, Editor of "Our Women's Work." Mr. Paulsen passed away July 2 at his home near Cordova, Nebr.

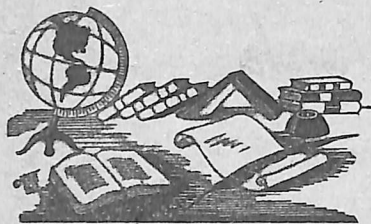
At this time of bereavement I extend to Mrs. Paulsen and her family the heartfelt sympathy and understanding of all that read this page. May God be very close to all of them and strengthen and comfort them. For we know, "He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds." Psalms 147:3.

Mrs. Clifford Jensen.





## OPINION AND COMMENT



OUR SYNOD merger vote is just around the corner. When votes are to be taken, polls are also taken, and predictions are made right and left. Looking over our roster of congregations, it is interesting to try to predict how the vote will come out in Waterloo. Without the benefit of any poll, we will amuse ourselves, and our readers, by venturing a rash prediction. As we sense it, the vote will be: Geographic (total) merger: 85 per cent. Non-geographic (partial) merger: 12 per cent. No merger: 3 per cent. We look for merger to pass by a comfortable margin, since only about 67 per cent is needed. However, next year the vote must be taken again, and it is quite possible that some opposition might develop before that time.

HERE ON THE WEST COAST, merger is being taken for granted, and work has tentatively begun on organizing our local Synod. We suppose such developments are taking place elsewhere as well. A vast amount of administrative work must be done on these comparatively local levels before we can hope to have smoothly functioning Synods. The tentative plan here is to have a sort of minor-league JCLU composed of equal numbers of representatives from the four merging churches to begin planning the local Synod. Officers, structure, name, seal, etc. — these are the details that must be looked into (under the proposed Synod constitution in the merger documents.) A September meeting has already been determined for this young-brother edition of JCLU. This date has rather daringly been set prior to the great ULCA October convention, but it seemed worthwhile to run the unlikely risk that the ULCA would reject merger, in order that the meetings might get started. We have heard nothing about such preliminary meetings elsewhere, but as we survey what must be done, in lining up staff, and in establishing an organization, it appears not too early.

SOME OF the most distressing news we have had recently was to learn of the heart attack of Dr. Paul Empie, executive director of the National Lutheran Council. According to reports, "massive heart damage" was done. However, Dr. Empie is now resting comfortably in the Chicago Passavant Hospital, and has himself recently sent out a mimeographed letter in which he states that he is improving steadily. He writes, "At the moment I am very much rested and relaxed....I really feel very much better....pulse, blood pressure, and temperature are normal; I can feed myself, shave myself, read my mail....answer the phone if I wish. I'm still confined to the bed however, and suspect the doctor will keep me in Chicago for a total of a month. Here's where I catch up on some reading!" Dr. Empie's letter goes on in a similarly refreshing manner, and we are glad to observe the indomitable spirit which is so much needed in cor-

onary convalescence. We all remember Dr. Empie from his frequent visits to our annual conventions, and we certainly all join our intercessory prayers for his complete and early recovery.

THE MEETING Dr. Empie was attending was an important conference (and the heart attack came right in the midst of deliberations, but not during a moment of particular stress.) Twenty-one representatives from the NLC and nine from Missouri Synod had gathered to explore cooperative relations. From July 7 to 9, the closed meeting went on, engaged in positive appraisal of roadblocks which will stem the Lutheran merger movement in America. Another meeting is to be held November 18-19 in St. Louis....Position papers had been prepared by the two groups expounding their various views on the doctrinal and practical issues involved in Lutheran cooperation.

NEXT WEEK, all eyes will be on the Republican Convention in Chicago. Less interesting, perhaps, than the Democratic Convention, since the outcome of the presidential nomination race seems even more fore-ordained than was the case in Los Angeles, there are still important things to look for. One wonders in which direction Vice President Nixon will be moving? Will he seek to liberalize the Republican viewpoint, a la Rockefeller? Or will he move in the direction of conservatism, a la Goldwater? We should learn something from watching the Republican platform take shape. Mr. Nixon is swift of foot, and could move in either direction. He will observe shrewdly, and then throw all his energies behind his decision. The coming election will match two good-looking capable young men, both backed by considerable money, and both spurred by a sacrificial ambition....Incidentally, those who feel that Kennedy is too young might remember that Mr. Nixon was four years younger than that when he became Vice President; and on the occasion of the President's heart attack, almost became President at the very age which is Kennedy's now....In the final months of the campaign, the issue of foreign policy seems to be the dominant one. No one can question that our international relations are much worse today than they were four years ago. The question for many voters will be to decide whether Mr. Nixon is so tied to the current Administration policies that he will have to continue them. No issue can be more vital than world peace, and all special interest groups, such as labor, farmers, Big Business, will have to bear that in mind and soft-pedal their private demands on the candidates.

CARL, our church custodian, grumbled into the office yesterday, complaining about another contribution he had been asked to make to a worthy money-raising cause for the needy. We pointed out that he had more of this world's goods than he could use, himself, and besides, his purpose in this life was to help others. He replied, "That may be, pastor, but what are all the others here for?"

Since this was unanswerable, we hastily excused ourselves and went over to the parsonage for coffee.



## The Last in our Series of Articles on the Minneapolis Assembly of the LWF

Issued by the National Lutheran Council

# Free and United in Hope

James H. Burtness



IN ALBERT CAMUS' novel *The Stranger*, the author tells about a little man who floats through life, pushed by circumstances quite beyond his control. In the clutch of fate, he commits a foolish murder and is sentenced to death. A chaplain tries to speak to him, but in a rage the condemned man whips him with an angry tongue. The final words of the stranger are these:

"It was as if that great rush of anger had washed me clean, emptied me of hope, and gazing up at the dark sky, I laid my heart open to the benign indifference of the universe. All that remained to hope was that on the day of my execution there should be a huge crowd of spectators and that they should greet me with howls of execration."

Camus describes for us a character who lives without hope. He is neither motivated nor directed by any great goal. He accepts whatever comes his way with a neutral shrug. Because the future has no content for him, the present becomes an illusion. He is called "the stranger" because he is cut off from the reality of the world in which he lives.

In the face of this hopeless character, Camus confronts us with our own image. We too become strangers in this world because we live without genuine hope. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote a few years ago that there has never been a period in the course of human history with less ground under its feet than our own. Martin Buber describes us as a homeless people who live out on the open desert without even four pegs with which to pitch a tent.

As a people we know neither who we are nor where we are going, and we don't really care. Our conversation is punctuated with phrases like "Live it up," "Have a ball," "Let the cookie crumble," "Let the ball bounce." In the words of Dennis the Menace, "Go throw milk on your ulcer." Why concern one's self with the present when the future is at best only a question mark?

Because we lack that true hope which keeps life open to the future and fills the present with eternal significance, we find ourselves making commitments to false goals. We become hypersensitive to the whims of our associates. We become enslaved to public opinion and degenerate into conforming non-entities. The editors of a leading news-magazine are aware of this when they encourage us to read their publication, not necessarily so that we can become more intelligent voters, but rather to equip ourselves with some choice tid-bits to spice up the after-dinner conversation and thus impress our friends. An automobile manufacturer sells its cars with the motto: "Where can you buy popularity so cheaply?" A home builder reminds prospective buyers: "The home you

choose today will be the symbol of your success for years to come." Time and again, our actions are determined not at all by what we think about a given issue, but by what we think others think about it. As a people, we are in the hopeless situation of playing follow-the-leader on a merry-go-round.

We must not forget that we in the church share to a very great extent the plight of this hopeless people of which we are a part. Because our eyes are not clearly focused on the goal toward which God is at work in this world, our task in the present is ill-defined. As we tend to take over the moods and methods of the hopeless people with whom we live, we climb on their bandwagon of status and statistics. In our obsession with successful parish programs, we conform ourselves to the world and tend to make of the Church of Jesus Christ a glorified service club. Without knowing it, we become little more than pagans with a thin veneer of verbal religiosity.

As individuals and as a church, we need to be recalled to a genuine Christian hope. Theologically, this is happening. The Christian hope is riding high as a major topic of conversation in seminary classrooms and in current scholarly publications. But we must also take this seriously in the local congregation.

One of the finest ways in which we can do this is to commit ourselves to careful study and discussion of Section V of *The Minneapolis Theses*. This section on the Christian hope was not simply tacked on at the end because it seemed logical to conclude the statement with section on "The last things." It was included rather because of a deep-seated conviction that "it is only in the dimension of hope and with the power of the Spirit that the church can be true to herself and her Lord." (*The Minneapolis Theses*, V. 11)

One reason we have neglected the Christian hope is that we have reacted against its distorted proclamation by the sects. But in this statement, the error of caricaturing the Christian hope by the postulation of abstract timetables is avoided. Also avoided is the error of those who would reduce the Christian hope to some kind of "religiously strengthened cheerfulness." (M. T. V. 3) The key is not any *idea* of hope, but rather the risen Lord of the Church who has come and established His kingdom, who now rules the world with His sovereign power, and who will come in glory as Judge and Savior. (M. T. V. 1.) The Christian hope is not merely based on nostalgic retrospection (M. T. V. 2), nor does it merely look forward to pie-in-the-sky-by-and-by. The Christian hope is a post-Easter phenomenon pointing to the inaugurated but not yet consummated Kingdom of God. The Church is thus the People of God who live under His kingly rule be-

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The Rev. Burtness is from Albany, Oregon.



tween the resurrection and return of Christ, and who identify themselves to one another and to the world by the confession of his present Lordship (Roman 10:9; I Cor. 12:3)

Living under the Lordship of Jesus Christ we are both united and free.

We are united in the power of the Holy Spirit. Our unity is not in the similarity of our salvation experience, however precious this may be to us. It is not in our acts of love, however Christ-like these may appear. It is not in the intellectual formulations of our faith, however necessary it may be for the church to theologize. Our unity is in the Spirit, who empowers us to carry out the command of Christ. The Spirit is unthinkable apart from the Christian hope. When Peter preaches on Pentecost, he quotes from the prophet Joel concerning the coming of the Spirit in the last days, and indicates that these last days have now arrived. The Spirit is the "downpayment of our inheritance." (M. T. V. 4) We have the first fruits. We await the harvest. "The dimension of hope is the dimension of the Spirit." (M. T. V. 10.)

Our unity is further in the sacraments through which the Spirit works. There is no thesis in section V which demands attention from the church more than does thesis 6:

"In the Sacrament of Baptism we are brought under the power of His resurrection and are born anew to a living hope, waiting for the redemption of our bodies. In His Word God acts here and now as our Judge and Savior. The Sacrament of the Altar, where Christ is really present, is the anticipation of the heavenly banquet. He who comes to us in bread and wine, is the same Christ who is to come in glory."

We tend to think of the sacraments in a purely static and individualistic manner. This statement reminds us that the sacraments are given to the Body of Christ which lives by the power of the Spirit. Baptism is the washing of regeneration, but it is also incorporation into the church of Jesus Christ which lives between His resurrection and return. In the Lord's Supper we are given the remission of sins, but we are also proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes. (I Cor. 11:26) The Sacraments have a decidedly forward thrust. They unite us in the Christian hope.

Because we are united in hope through the Spirit who empowers us to confess Jesus as Lord, we are free from the demand for petty conformity to the world. The perspective of hope which keeps our eyes fixed on the consummation of God's work in this world and allows us to be directed by the Spirit frees us from the necessity of seeking approval from our fellows. The church is never actually the church when it is enslaved to the will of those around it. "Therefore the church has to be cleaned from all that would transform the manifestations of the kingdom into human activities of a society for the preservation and promotion of Christianity as a philosophy, an ideology, or a way of living." (M.T. V.11.) In the dimension of hope, this cleansing can take place, for it is only as the church lives in hope that it has the courage, the

imagination and the patience to manifest both the freedom and the unity which it has in Christ. (M.T. V.12.)

The church lives in the present as does the world. The Spirit is not merely a guarantee for the future, but a power for the present. (M.T. V.4.) The drastic difference lies in the fact that the present in which the world lives is an empty present which cuts one off from the world. The empty present in which the world lives finally makes one a stranger to the world. When the future is meaningless, the present becomes an illusion. On the other hand, the present in which the church lives is a present filled with the significance of eternity because of the present Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is the risen and returning Lord who opens life to the future and makes it possible by the power of the Spirit for his church to freely serve its fellowmen in the present.

### God's Surprise

Of the numerous recognition scenes in the Bible, I think especially of three in which the wonderful, Divine surprise came to someone who little expected it. When Joseph's brothers first hurled him into a deep pit and then sold him into slavery in Egypt, that was supposed to be the end of him....But later, when his astonished brothers, standing in the court of Pharaoh, recognized their brother Joseph against whom they had executed all of this evil, Joseph said to them, "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." And it was good.

\* \* \* \* \*

The prodigal son started home laden with sin and full of remorse. But while yet a great way off, he was surprised by joy beyond his imagining, when his father ran to him, threw himself on his neck, and kissed him. Into the life of the prodigal who had sinned, God had come with the surprise of forgiveness.

\* \* \* \* \*

Then there is that greatest recognition scene of all. Mary Magdalene, walking in the garden in despair, sees the gardener and asks him where they have taken her Lord. Jesus speaks one word, her name, "Mary," and the unbelievable surprise of the Resurrection floods over her soul.

\* \* \* \* \*

Above all, into the loneliness and defeat left by death God comes with the surprise of the Resurrection....God has prepared a surprise of triumph over our last enemy. On the one side suffering, but God on the other, while we are yet a great way off, sees us and redeems us. On the one side death, but God on the other raises us up. Hallelujah! Amen.

Note: The above quotations are taken from Robert E. Luccock's new book THE POWER OF HIS NAME. (Harper's)

### WORTH REPEATING

When you go to church, you should actively seek something. You must not go like an empty bucket, waiting passively to be filled. —Roger Williams Riis.



## In Memoriam



### Aage Paulsen

Once again our community has been saddened by the untimely death of one of our faithful and active members.

Aage Paulsen died unexpectedly on July 2. He was apparently making a satisfactory recovery after suffering a severe heart attack a couple of months ago, when he was suddenly taken away by a second attack.

Aage was a strong and a vigorous man. A busy and efficient farmer, he still found time for many other activities. He was keenly interested in all community affairs and held many positions of trust in various organizations. However, for Aage and Eileen the work in the congregation and the affairs of the church were always of the greatest concern. He served in our church council in various capacities for almost 20 years. He was instrumental in bringing about the recent merger of our two Lutheran churches in Cordova. Wherever he was called he served faithfully and to the best of his ability.

He will be sadly missed in his home, in the congregation and community, and not least by his feeble old parents whose help and comfort he was. I will always remember Aage as I saw him one Sunday morning, carrying his crippled little mother into church in his strong arms.

"With joy we depart for our fatherland,  
Where God our Father is dwelling.  
Where ready for us His mansions stand,  
Where heaven with praise is swelling;  
And there we shall walk in endless light  
With blest ones His praise forth telling."  
(Grundtvig)

Agnes Nelson.

### Wilhelm Raae

Wilhelm Raae of Grayling, Michigan, passed away at the Mercy Hospital, Grayling, July 3. For more than a year he had been confined to his home, and the last six weeks of his life were spent at the hospital.

Born in Vester Kippinge, Falster, he came to Grayling at the age of seventeen. He quickly worked into positions of trust and responsibility with the Salling Hansen lumbering company. From 1917 to 1930 he was secretary and general manager of the Johannesburg Manufacturing Company, the last of their large lumber mills in this area.

His first wife, Laura Nelson, succumbed in 1930. In 1949 he married Ingeborg Hanson of Grayling, who survives him. There are no children.

Through almost twenty five years he served on the Grayling Evangelical Lutheran Church board, most of this time as president of the board. His many friends in Grayling will remember with gratitude his many acts of friendship and service in the congregation and the community.

My family and I will always thankfully remember

his kindness and helpfulness in sickness and in health, and the fellowship we shared with him as he regularly took his place in the pew on a Sunday morning. His quiet and friendly ways and humor we will always treasure.

—Contributed.

### Christian Sorensen Hasle

Pastor C. S. Hasle passed away very suddenly two weeks ago as a result of an unexpected heart attack. He was 75 at the time, and in apparent good health. For some years, the pastor had been Justice of the Peace in Junction City, Oregon, and was up for reelection this fall. Pastor Hasle was pastor-emeritus of our congregation in Junction City, which he served from 1944 to 1953, and also in the period between 1919 and 1922. He was born March 12, 1885, in Silkeborg, Denmark, and emigrated to the U. S. in 1903 where he attended Grand View. He was ordained in Grayling, Michigan, in 1913. Other pastorates include Tacoma, Washington; Marinette, Wisconsin, and Memominee, Michigan, and Ringsted, Iowa. For a time before his recent service in Junction City, he was in private business. In 1952 he authored a history of the Junction City congregation entitled "Through Five Decades." We thank God for this servant of the church.

### St. Augustine

It's necessary to die, but nobody wants to; you don't want to, but you are going to, willy-nilly. A hard necessity that is, not to want something which cannot be avoided. If it could be managed, we would much rather not die; we would like to become like the angels by some other means than death. "We have a building from God," says St. Paul, "a home not made with hands, everlasting in heaven. For indeed in this we groan, longing to be clothed over with our dwelling from heaven; provided, though, we be found clothed, and not naked. For indeed we who are in this dwelling-place groan, being burdened; in that we do not wish to be stripped, but to be covered over, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life" (2 Cor. 5:1). We want to reach the kingdom of God, but we don't want to travel by way of death. And yet there stands Necessity saying "This way, please." Do you hesitate, man, to go this way, when this is the way that God came to you?

Sermon I on Psalm 30 (31).

### Here's One on the Race Question

Some religious organizations in South Africa are circulating a story which they claim is true and reveals the ridiculousness of racial segregation in church. An official in one of the churches in Cape Town accosted a Negro Zulu entering the building and sternly asked, "Don't you know this church is for whites only?" The Zulu replied, "I'm going in to sweep the church sir." "That's all right, then," the official said, "but heaven help you if I catch you praying!"

Christian Century, 6-1-60.



## 83rd Annual Convention of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church

August 9-14, 1960

The 83rd annual convention of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1301 Kimball Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa, beginning with a worship service Tuesday, August 9, 8 p. m., upon the invitation of St. Ansgar's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1122 West Eleventh Street, Waterloo, Iowa.

The business session of the Church as well as all the main meetings and services will be held at the Westminster Presbyterian Church. The business sessions of the convention will begin Wednesday, August 10, at 10 a. m. Registration for all pastors and delegates as well as visitors will take place at Westminster Church. Noon and evening meals will be served in the dining room there; breakfast will be served in St. Ansgar's Church.

All congregations of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church are urged to be represented at the convention by delegates chosen according to the by-laws of said Church. All pastors are likewise urged to attend. Regarding election of delegates to the convention the AELC constitution Articles VIII and IX apply as well as By-Laws Article V, 7a, b, c and d.

May I quote also by-laws, Article V, 6b: "Each congregation shall submit in writing the names and profession or occupation of its delegates to this credentials committee by July 15." The name and address of the credentials committee chairman is: Mrs. Herlov Olsen, 1127 Grant Avenue, Waterloo, Iowa.

The convention will deal with all business submitted to it for action according to the rules governing the convention. All reports from the various institutions, missions, councils and committees as well as the presidents of the nine districts must be in the hands of the president of the AELC by May 20 in order that they may be printed in the Annual Report and distributed to the congregations and pastors for their study in due time before the convention.

Any member of a congregation, any congregation or pastor of a congregation may submit topics for the consideration of the convention according to Article VIII, 5. Such topics must be in the hands of the president in time for publication in the July 5 issue of LUTHERAN TIDINGS.

The question of merger with the Augustana Lutheran Church, the Suomi Lutheran Church and the United Lutheran Church will doubtless be the foremost issue facing the convention. Copies of the four main merger documents have been distributed to all pastors of the AELC and to all congregations, one copy for each possible delegate and pastor, in order that these or any other members of the AELC may study same in order to be prepared to vote on the merger issue. A copy of "Agreement of Consolidation" will be sent by mail to each individual pastor and delegate according to legal requirements approximately one month before the convention. It is therefore imperative that names of all delegates be submitted to the credentials committee as soon as this is possible.

Members and friends of the AELC are invited to attend the meetings and services of the convention. The facilities of the Westminster Presbyterian Church are very spacious and comfortable. St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church will make the necessary announcement concerning lodging and meals of delegates, pastors and guests.

May God through His word and spirit prepare our hearts and minds for participation in the affairs of the convention. May He guide us to face the serious decisions and weighty actions placed before this convention in order that His will may be done in all things.

Alfred Jensen.

Des Moines, Iowa

### Topic for Discussion, No. 1

That the new merged church have at its church convention 250 Minister Delegates and 450 Lay Member Delegates, instead as now suggested — 350 Minister Delegates and 350 Lay Member Delegates.

Christian Warthoe.

### Convention Invitation

The pastor and members of St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Iowa, take pleasure in inviting pastors, delegates and friends representing congregations of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church to attend the 83rd Annual Convention to be held in our city, August 9-14, 1960, according to plans announced by the synod president, Dr. Alfred Jensen. We do believe that the facilities of our congregation, the facilities engaged at Westminster Presbyterian Church, and the accommodations offered by neighboring AELC congregations will amply provide for all who desire to participate in the convention.

Before May 15th our Registration and Credentials Committee will mail to each congregation such information as may be needed by those who would register as delegates or guests for the convention. This mailing will include registration cards, information on motel and hotel accommodations for those who desire same, and information on rail, airline and highway routings to Waterloo, Iowa.

May we remind you that provisions of the synod by-laws call for all delegates to be registered before July 15. We urge you to honor this provision in order that local committees can make the finest preparations for your arrival. All registrations should be mailed to Mrs. Herlov Olsen, Registration and Credentials Chairman, St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church, 1122 West Eleventh, Waterloo, Iowa.

We can assure you that we shall do our very best to act, for the first time in our congregational history, as good synod convention hosts in a year when every member of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church is hoping and praying for God's blessing upon this decisive convention.

Sincerely,

Roger P. Olesen, President of the Congregation  
Axel U. Larsen, Convention Committee Chm.  
Richard H. Sorensen, Pastor.



## Askov Pioneer Memorial Home, Inc.

### CONTRIBUTIONS:

By friends and relatives in memory of	
Margrethe Isaksen .....	\$ 4.50
Lars Sorensen .....	2.00
Carl Mogensen .....	1.00
Emil Andersen .....	75.75
Jorgen Christensen .....	21.50
Mrs. Adolf Jensen .....	126.60
Mrs. M. J. Nelson .....	10.50
Mrs. George C. H. Jensen .....	14.50
Christ Morgensen .....	43.50
Mrs. Gust Wahlquist .....	3.00
Mrs. Myrtle F. Burnham .....	1.00
Emil J. Fogt .....	17.75
John Krantz .....	5.75
Peter Thomsen .....	8.50
Chas. Oberg .....	6.00
Mrs. Carl K. Larsen .....	20.00
Mrs. Niles Jensen .....	2.00
Mrs. Niels Serritslev .....	29.50
Andrew Henriksen .....	22.50
Mrs. Aage Molby .....	17.75
Mrs. Jens Abrahamsen .....	16.50
Hans Bagge .....	18.75
Olav Keller .....	15.00
Chris Sandahl .....	229.00
Mrs. Christian Hyldahl .....	5.25
L. C. Hassenfeldt .....	2.00
Mrs. Merlin Davis .....	1.50
Adolf Jensen .....	13.50
Martin Sorensen .....	5.00
Mrs. Jorgen Jensen .....	5.00
Mrs. Philip Beck .....	1.00
Mrs. C. Svennerig, Racine by Mr. and Mrs. Anker Ericksen, Racine	5.00
Hans Pedersen, Racine, by Mr. and Mrs. Anker Ericksen, Racine, Wis.	2.00
J. R. Petersen, Askov, by Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Andreasen, St. Louis Park, Minn. ....	5.00
J. R. Petersen, Askov, by Mr. and Mrs. Gotlieb Suter, Medford, Wis.	100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Jorgen Paulsen, Askov, by Mr. and Mrs. Chris Nelsen, Exeter, Nebr. ....	10.00
Rigmor Wosgaard Petersen, Askov, by Evelyn Metzger, McLean, Va.	125.00
Mrs. Kate Kilstofte, by Holger B. Kilstofte, San Antonio, Texas ....	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. Anton Dietz, Askov, by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dietz, Owatonna, Minn. ....	5.00
by Mr. and Mrs. Wiggo Dietz, Minneapolis .....	25.00
by Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dietz, Robbinsdale, Minn. ....	10.00
Departed friends by Anna T. Miller, Chicago, Ill. ....	10.00
Mrs. Christine Christensen, Prior Lake, Minn., by relatives and friends .....	10.00
S. Chr. Dixon, Askov, by Einar B. Dixon, Santa Barbara, Calif. ....	10.00
Mrs. L. P. Jacobsen, Askov, by Helveg Jacobsen, Minneapolis, Minn.	100.00
Lauritz Nielsen, St. Paul, by Mrs. L. N. Bertelsen, St. Paul, Minn. ....	20.00
Jens Nielsen, Askov, by Mrs. Jens Nielsen .....	1,000.00
Mrs. Chris Flint, Askov, by Chris Flint and Valborg, Askov, Minn.	10.00
Jes Larsen, Sandstone, by Mrs. Ca-	

milla Larsen, Sandstone, Minn. ...	30.00
<b>GIFTS:</b>	
Bethania Lutheran Church, Racine, Wis. ....	\$ 34.90
Mr. and Mrs. Hjalmar Petersen, Minneapolis, Minn. ....	100.00
Karla Petersen, Minneapolis, Minn.	20.00
Sig Stottrup, Decatur, Ill. ....	25.00
American Evangelical Lutheran Church Women (WMS) .....	33.65
Mr. and Mrs. Einar Pedersen, Luck, Wis. ....	5.00
Leif Stottrup, Emerado, N. D. ....	10.00
Jens Lund, Askov, Minn. ....	30.00
Mr. and Mrs. Jens Krogh, Askov, Minn. ....	10.00
Homemakers Kraft and Koffee Klub, Askov, Minn. ....	45.50
Hans Mosbaek, Solvang, Calif. ....	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Krantz, Solvang, Calif. ....	25.00
Christ Morgensen, Askov, Minn. ...	500.00
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Eriksen, Des Moines, Iowa .....	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. Kay Nielsen, Northridge, Calif. ....	50.00
Ragna Sorensen, Askov, Minn. ....	15.00
Dansk Folkesamfund, by Alfred Holgaard, Clinton, Iowa .....	250.00
A sincere thank you to all.	

F. Clifford Krantz, Treas.  
Pioneer Memorial Home, Inc.,  
Askov, Minnesota.

## What is Mornai?

(Continued from Page 7)

there indirectly lead them to an understanding of deeper needs. The gospel is presented in conjunction with the presentation of food and medicine. Three languages (Santali, Mundari and Bengali) are used in bringing people from the darkness of pagan beliefs into the Light of faith in God and His revealing Son, Jesus Christ. To combat ignorance, educational programs are conducted, with the help of films and other visual aids — since many of the people cannot read.

Mornai lies about three miles from Gramphur, the Ribers' former station. And it is a similar distance from the post office of Dingdinga. We of the AELC congratulate Harold Riber and his family on the important responsibilities which have been thrust upon them, and we are content and confident that the Ribers are all endowed with ample capacities for fulfilling these difficult new duties. God is praised through their work, and they have become channels of praise for us who are with them merely in spirit.

## Ritual and Merger

It hardly surprises us that so many of our people found comfort in V. S. Jensen's little paragraph in LUTHERAN TIDINGS. One of the lines "when spirit lacks, liturgy grows" was fully appreciated.

In both Ladies' Aids it was discussed; the approaching merger too. Apparently both topics are close to the heart.

Of course our congregations are largely rural and that makes for simplicity. Farm-

ers dislike anything that looks like a frill. Innovations have to make sense. Still, it is not at all illogical that sense and mystery can reside in the same person, especially farmers. They do their work methodically but are close to the ever renewing mystery of growing life.

Their church is the spade-work, but when they "come into this Thy house to hear what Thou... will speak unto us" they want to sit in silence and simplicity. They see no reason to change a lifetime of simple church service to new rituals or chanting or responses. They would not even find comfort in it. Several of them have said, "We thought that was what Grundtvig wanted to change!"

The argument has been made that if all churches conform to the same rituals visitors would feel at home. Thus conformity has made the full circle: Conformity, Grundtvig, Conformity. In our estimation the only thing that can make people feel at home is the spirit they seek, a common longing; not what people can arrange and DO but what they can humbly receive.

We are merging into a few large synods; the new sects springing up with such apparent success go the opposite way, they form or break up into smaller nuclei. The slow wheel of time will show which is best. We believe merging is inevitable, but from various hurt cries we realize that something we hold dear is endangered. It is like leaving home for the first time; you may return to the same home but will you be the same?

At every Danish Christmas Eve service we are surprised at the increasing number of Americans who come, content to sit through it without understanding a single word. They cannot sing the hymns, they can't understand a word that is spoken, but they tell us they go away enriched and comforted. They come again and again. That is the mystery of spirit at work.

Ellen Nielsen.  
in "CONTACT"

## Merger

I see no reason why the layman, in the new Church, should give away his voting power. If there is any discrimination, it is against the layman, and not against the ministers. Our church is our contribution to America — our birthright that our old founders fought so to preserve for the future. This is what the other Lutheran churches need. That we are a small church is no reason why we should give up our voting rights. Let them give up some of theirs. We should stand fast so America can see this, our contribution. And America will see us — they are seeing us now, and our discovering that we as a church have a freedom they never had. Our old founders can be happy in their graves that what they planted in America will bear fruit. But we have to say "no" and not sell out our freedom, just because others never had it, or just because they are millions in numbers.

Christian Warthoe.



## News from Roscommon

The Messiah Lutheran Church of Roscommon, Michigan, is building an addition to their church. The sanctuary has been lengthened eighteen feet and the activity room twenty feet. Under the new structure is a basement twenty feet by forty-eight feet where the Sunday School classes will be accommodated. While the structure is as yet incomplete the first services were conducted there July 3. The sanctuary will seat one hundred worshippers, and the overflow will be seated in the adjoining activity room. Summer guests are filling the church every Sunday sharing the joy of the congregation as the work progresses.

The work is being completed by the members of the parish and friendly neighbors.

## Acknowledgment of Receipts by the Synod Treasurer

For the month of June, 1960

### For the Synod Budget:

Unassigned Receipts: (by congregation)	
St. Stephen's, Chicago, Ill.	\$100.00
Omaha, Nebr.	195.00
Wilbur, Wash.	412.50
Troy, New York	580.00
Racine, Wis.	349.61
Minneapolis, Minn.	204.00
Bethany, Ludington, Mich.	500.00
Clinton, Iowa	200.00
Dwight, Ill.	225.17
Brush, Colo.	125.00
Newington, Conn.	150.00
West Denmark, Luck, Wis.	5.00
Bridgeport, Conn.	100.00
Menominee, Mich.	79.94
Des Moines, Iowa	494.50
Muskegon, Mich.	900.00

**POSTMASTER:** If undeliverable as addressed, attach Form 3579, give new address, and return entire paper at transient second-class rate (P. M. 355.343; 355.334; 158.22) to

LUTHERAN TIDINGS, ASKOV, MINNESOTA  
Return Postage Guaranteed

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.

July 20, 1960

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

PETERSEN, ANDREW K.  
TYLER, MINN.  
RT. 2  
6-4

Marlette, Mich.	100.00
Danevang, Texas	409.25
Edison Township, New Jersey	200.00
Newark, N. J.	60.00
Greenville, Mich.	50.00
Trinity, Chicago, Ill.	200.00
Newell, Iowa	640.50
St. Paul, Cedar Falls, Iowa	227.25
St. Peter, Cedar Falls, Iowa	18.66
Omaha, Nebr.	195.00
Cozad, Nebr.	166.66
Solvang, Calif.	733.00
Enumclaw, Wash.	225.00

### For Pastor's Pension Fund:

(by Congregation)	
Newington, Conn.	41.50
Hay Springs, Nebr.	13.00
Trinity, Chicago, Ill., in memory of J. K. Jensen	25.00
Omaha, Nebr., Pentecost offering	41.80

### Santal Mission:

(by Congregation)	
Omaha, Nebr., from Sunday School	15.66
Wilbur, Wash., from Trinity Ladies' Aid, \$5; from Mrs. Jenny Lauritzen \$5	10.00
Racine, Wis., from Sunday school	42.67
Minneapolis, Minn.	6.00
St. Stephen's, Chicago, Ill., from Sunday School in memory of Mrs. Helga Buhl	5.00
Des Moines, Iowa, from Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Ellgaard in memory of Mrs. Soren Rasmussen, Mrs. S. E. Lincoln, Anton Berg	5.00
Dwight, Ill., Pentecost offering	87.50
Newington, Conn.	69.00
Danevang, Texas, from the Danish Ladies' Aid	13.50
Des Moines, Iowa, from Ladies' Aid	8.71
Tacoma, Wash.	24.00

June Budget Receipts from congregations	\$8,254.38
Previously acknowledged	29,856.90
Total to date	\$38,111.28

### Other Budget Receipts:

#### Pastor's Contributions for Pension:

Synod President	\$10.50
Rev. Harry Andersen	29.46
Rev. Ove R. Nielsen	112.00
Rev. A. C. Kildegaard	45.00
Rev. Dr. Ernest Nielsen	61.65
Rev. Carl Laursen	13.33
Rev. H. O. Nielsen	23.75
Rev. L. Larkowski	19.50
Rev. Verner Hansen	21.00
Rev. Alfred Sorensen	10.00
Rev. K. Kirkegaard-Jensen	22.20
Rev. Harold Knudsen	11.25
Rev. Ivan Westergaard	6.15
Rev. Peter Thomsen	23.10
Rev. C. A. Stub	20.00
Rev. Harold Olsen	20.50
Rev. Vagn Duus	17.49
Rev. Harald Petersen (Luck)	7.50
Rev. Harold Ibsen	15.60
Rev. W. Clayton Nielsen	22.50
Rev. A. E. Farstrup	27.80
Rev. Richard Sorensen	24.00

Total for June	\$ 564.28
Previously acknowledged	1,213.67
	\$1,777.95

Total Budget Receipts to date ....\$39,889.23

### Received for Items Outside of Budget: For Lutheran World Action:

Omaha, Nebr.	\$ 1.80
Racine, Wis.	12.43
Minneapolis, Minn.	39.00
Dwight, Ill.	39.00
Brush, Colo.	35.00
Newington, Conn.	75.80
Menominee, Mich.	13.27
Waterloo, Iowa	235.00
Waterloo, Iowa, for Chilean Relief	100.00
Des Moines, Iowa	87.50
Muskegon, Mich.	.50
Junction City, Ore., for Chilean Relief	25.00
Dwight, Ill., from Sunday School	150.00
Tacoma, Wash.	29.60
Des Moines, Iowa, from residents of Valborgsminde	8.00
for Chilean relief from residents of Valborgsminde	29.50
Greenville, Mich.	2.00
Newell, Iowa	113.10
St. Paul, Cedar Falls, Iowa	81.00
from Sunday School for Refugees	124.50
St. Peter's, Cedar Falls, Iowa	6.25
Bone Lake, Luck, Wis., from the Joint Ladies' Aid for Chilean Relief	29.00
Hay Springs, Nebr.	7.20
Solvang, Calif.	346.40

Total for June	\$1,590.85
Previously acknowledged	5,327.37

Total to date .....\$6,918.22

### For Santal Mission:

Racine, Wis.	5.00
Dwight, Ill., Pentecost offering	10.99
Newington, Conn.	4.50
Danevang, Texas, from Ladies' Aid	11.50
West Denmark, Luck, Wis.	32.10
Trinity, Greenville, Mich., in memory of Arthur Roberts	5.00
Des Moines, Iowa, \$5.00 is in memory of Mrs. S. E. Lincoln	80.80
Withee, Wis., from Ladies' Aid	20.00
National Women's Mission Society..	144.54
for Education of a Child from District 3	25.00
for Mollhupahari T. B. Sanatorium from District 3	25.00
Trinity, Chicago, Ill., from the Church Women for the Riber's work	25.00
Des Moines, Iowa	25.01
St. Paul, Cedar Falls, Iowa	20.00
from the Sunday School	24.24
Enumclaw, Wash., from Peter Molby	10.00

Total .....\$ 468.68

### For Faith and Life Advance:

Racine, Wis.	\$ 11.50
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### For Wisconsin Luth. Welfare Society:

Racine, Wis.	50.00
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### For Wisconsin Lutheran Student Foundation:

Racine, Wis.	50.00
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### For Lutheran Welfare, Iowa:

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls, Iowa	10.00
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Respectfully submitted,

American Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
M. C. Miller, Treasurer.  
79 West Road,  
Circle Pines, Minnesota.