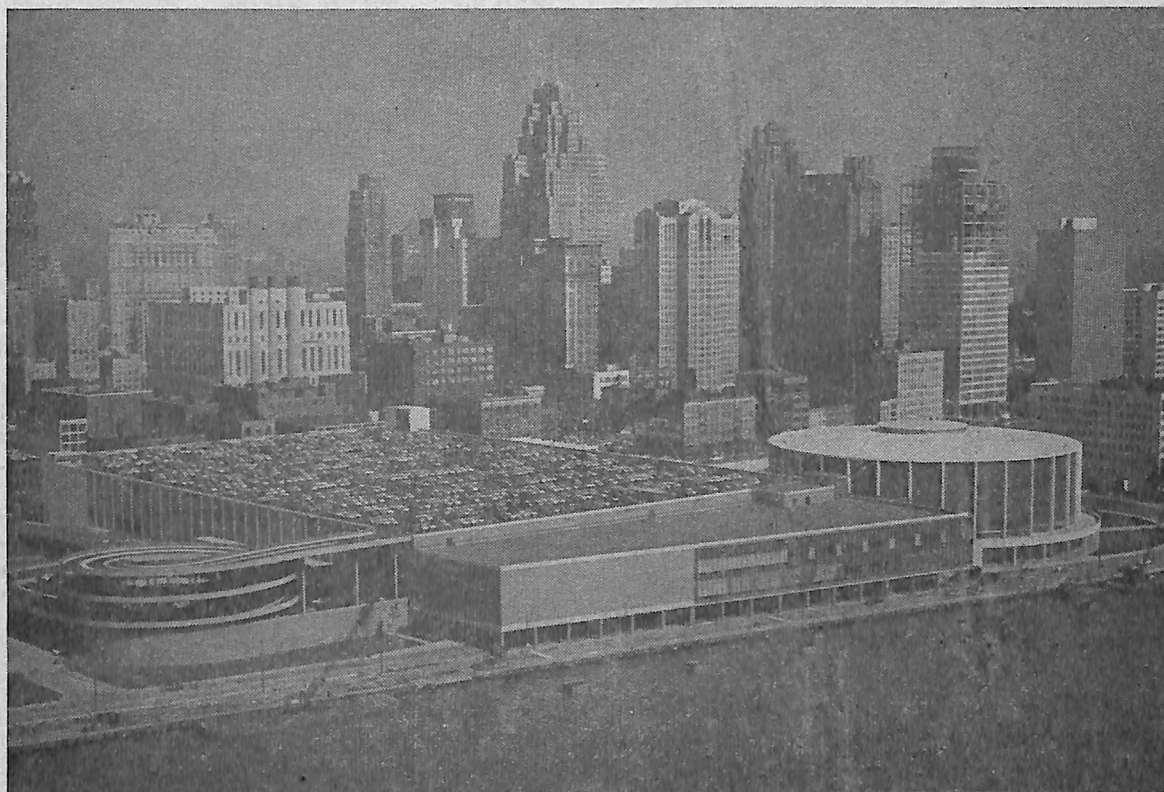


Lutheran

published by:

The American Evangelical Lutheran Church

Tidings



Cobo Hall and downtown Detroit

scene of the

Constituting Convention of the LCA

and the

1962 AELC Convention

**Volume XXVIII
Number 20
May 20, 1962**

Notice of the Annual Convention of the

American Evangelical Lutheran Church

The congregations and pastors of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church are hereby notified that the 84th Annual Convention of the Church, a recessed meeting, will reconvene on June 24, 1962, at 8 p. m. The opening service will be held at St. Peter's Danish Lutheran Church, 19900 Greenfield Road, Detroit, Michigan. All other sessions will be held at Cobo Hall, Detroit, beginning at 9:30 a. m., on June 25 and concluding on June 27. Notice is also given herewith of the Annual Meeting of the Grand View College and Grand View Seminary Corporation Annual Meeting, a recessed meeting, which will reconvene at 2 p. m., on June 26. A Special Meeting of the GVC and GVS corporation will convene immediately upon the adjournment of the recessed meeting for the purpose of taking action upon the revision of the Articles of Incorporation and the By-Laws.

St. Peter's Danish Lutheran Church of Detroit has agreed to help with arrangements for the meeting and the housing of the pastors and delegates attending this convention, as well as the Constituting Convention of the Lutheran Church in America. Visitors will also be housed as far as possible. Meals will not be served by St. Peter's congregation but can be obtained at Cobo Hall, or nearby, for moderate prices. All arrangements will be coordinated with the Detroit General Committee for the LCA Constituting Convention.

All registrations should be sent to REGISTRATION COMMITTEE, AELC CONVENTION, 19900 Greenfield Road, Detroit 35, Michigan, by April 25. Further information on costs, program, etc., will appear in Lutheran Tidings from time to time.

The delegates elected by the congregations last year to the Tyler Convention will be the delegates to the meeting in Detroit, but all of them must re-register as must all pastors. Should a delegate not be able to attend the congregation should elect a substitute. If a congregation was not represented at Tyler by the full number of delegates it is allowed according to Art. IX of the AELC constitution, additional delegates up to the allowed number may be elected. Statistics for 1960 as printed in the 1961 Bulletin of Reports will govern the number of delegates from each congregation. Congregations in Districts I, VIII and IX as well as those in Danevang, Texas and Dalum, Canada are referred to Art. V, Sec. 6, a, b and d of the By-Laws of the AELC governing convention representation.

Each person registering for the convention will be charged a registration fee of \$1.00 plus a 50c incidental fee. Convention committee appointments made last year are still in force but committees will not need to meet prior to the convention. Should a member be unable to attend, the convention chairman will appoint substitutes as needed.

All delegates and pastors, as well as visitors are

urged to remain after our convention to participate in the Constituting Convention of the Lutheran Church in America on June 28 to July 1. Aside from official delegates from the AELC to this convention all delegates and pastors to the AELC concluding convention will be classified as "Official Visitors" to the LCA convention. All others may attend as "Visitors."

May I urge as many as possible of our people to attend these two historic meetings. May the Lord of the Church bless us as we assemble to complete our business as the AELC and grant wisdom, vision and trust as we merge with our sister churches into the Lutheran Church in America.

A. E. Farstrup, President,
American Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Invitation

While St. Peter's Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church of Detroit, Michigan is not the official host to the American Evangelical Lutheran Church Synod Convention, June 24, 25, 26 and 27, it never-the-less wishes to extend an invitation to all delegates and guests to the convention at Cobo Hall.

The congregation will try to house all delegates and guests who attend the conventions. We hope there will be a large delegation for these historic meetings.

Cobo Hall, the site of the conventions, is located on the Detroit River in the downtown area. It is one of the largest convention buildings in the country. Parking areas and restaurants are located right in the building.

Please send registrations to:

Registration Committee, AELC Convention
St. Peter's Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church
19900 Greenfield
Detroit 35, Michigan

Registration will begin at St. Peter's Church on Saturday afternoon, June 23, and continue there throughout Sunday the 24th after which the registration desk will be moved to Cobo Hall. The church is located on the northwest side of the city. Further directions will be forthcoming as to how to get to the church and Cobo Hall.

St. Peter's Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church,

Paul Hansen, President.
Howard Christensen, Pastor.

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"He has promised to go with us through every hard place."

Why ???

by: Pastor George Mellby

Life is full of perplexities, as we all know. The secret of a happy Christian life is to make use of these perplexities. Trials are only stepping stones to greater blessings, for no matter how distressing our circumstances may become, we can always look forward to the day when we shall be happy and praise God for deliverance. So let testing time be the trusting time.

Yes, life is full of perplexities. We shall here just mention four basic ones: Sorrow, physical suffering, financial difficulties, and the countless irritations and frustrations in our daily dealings with our fellow men. Sometimes we experience all of these trials, sometimes only one or more. But we cannot escape them, for they are a part of everyone's life here on earth. But the advantage the children of God have over other people is that they can know God's promise is that all things shall work together for good for them that love Him.

Sometimes you have asked God to fill you with His love. You wish to become more kind, more loving. Then you find that in your home, or perhaps in your place of business or in your club or church organization you have to deal with the most aggravating, most unlovable persons you can imagine. You are beginning to dread each time you have to meet that person or persons. And you wonder, "Why does this have to happen to me?" Little do you realize at the time that God is using these things to develop the quality of love in your character. These irritations and vexations we experience are God's sandpaper which He uses to rub away the rough spots in our Christian characters, so that He can make something beautiful out of us. One of the saints of another generation said this, "It is no great matter to live lovingly with good natured, humble and meek persons, but he that can do so with the forward, with the willful, and the ignorant, with the peevish and perverse, he only hath true love."

Perhaps your perplexities concern financial problems — even your daily bread. Sometimes, as you look ahead into the future, you are frightened by the lack of security you see for yourself. Others seem to get along so nicely, but not you. And you wonder, "Why does this have to happen to me?" This problem, too, a child of God can leave in His Father's Hand. Do you realize all the marvelous promises God has made to His children? "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want." "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God . . . and all these things shall be added unto you." God has promised to take care of His own. Why then does God sometimes place us in these positions which test our faith in His care for us? Because we

will never learn faith in comfortable surroundings. God gives us promises in a quiet hour; God seals our covenant with great and gracious words but the test seems to contradict all that He has spoken. It is then that faith wins its crown. Then is the time to look up into His face and say, "I believe, Lord, that it shall be done as it was told me."

Perhaps you are one of those who have lost loved one after loved one. It seemed as if all your dear ones were being taken away from you, and you are left alone. And you ask, "Why did this happen to me?" Even in those bitter experiences, remember, **God is there.** The sweetest fellowship a child of God can have with His Heavenly Father comes in just such times as these — when he goes to Him for comfort. And here is another blessed fruit of these experiences. Listen to 2 Cor. 1:4 "Blessed be God . . . who comforteth us in all our tribulation that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God." Yes, who is better able to help someone in trouble than the one who has been in it himself and experienced God's comfort and guidance through it all?

Perhaps you are one of those who has to endure a great deal of physical pain and suffering. The doctors can't seem to find any relief. You have prayed but to no avail. And you ask, "Why did this happen to me?" The problem of physical suffering is one of the most difficult ones to solve. Suffering is a discipline that brings out genuineness of our profession. It sweetens and enriches the true Christian, while it makes the false Christian bitter and resentful. These present circumstances which press so hard (if surrendered to Christ) are the best shaped tools in the Father's hand to chisel you for eternity. Trust Him, then. Do not push away the instrument, lest you lose its work.

Many things happen to us which we do not understand. To us they seem calamities. But they may be great blessings. Here is a classic example of what I mean. The only survivor of a wreck was thrown on an uninhabited island. In a few days he managed to build a hut in which he placed the little that he had saved from the wreck. Daily he prayed to God for deliverance and anxiously scanned the horizon each day to hail any passing ship. One day, on returning from a hunt for food he was horrified to find his hut in flames; all he had was gone up in smoke. He decided God had forsaken him. (Wouldn't we all?) Shortly he saw a ship steaming to his rescue. "We saw your smoke signal," said the captain, "or we would never have known there was anyone here." Yes, indeed, God moves in mysterious ways His wonders to perform.

In closing I want to leave you with this thought. Take care that you do not waste your sorrow, lest loneliness, or other afflictions that come into your

Pastor Mellby serves the AELC congregations at Lake Norden and Badger, South Dakota, but he has recently resigned and plans to retire as of this summer.

(Continued on Page 16)

AELC Statistical Survey 1951 - 1961

	(year) 1950 (Yearbook) 1951	1952 1953	1954 1955	1956 1957	1958 1959	1960 1961	1961 1962	Gain or loss last year
Members:								
Baptized	19,899	20,434	21,847	22,899	23,571	24,201	23,808	—393
Confirmed	14,409	14,859	15,576	15,818	15,977	16,393	16,153	—240
Contributing	7,382	7,589	7,787	7,851	7,735	7,739	7,512	—227
Pastoral Acts:								
Baptisms	778	861	897	918	826	825	831	6
Confirmation	428	350	441	501	517	545	650	105
Communicants	19,784	22,193	28,173	32,125	36,224	41,256	45,215	3,959
Weddings	332	266	248	287	271	289	262	—27
Funerals	405	533	488	483	529	526	528	2
English services	3,336	3,735	4,134	4,467	4,444	4,570	4,399	—171
Danish services	739	607	474	313	269	163	136	—27
Sunday Schools, No.	70	72	78	78	75	75	74	—1
Pupils	3,589	3,965	4,552	5,252	5,286	5,580	5,557	—23
Vacation Schools, No.	38	51	51	53	58	62	63	1
Pupils	1,493	2,018	2,503	3,069	3,606	3,950	3,886	—64
Auxiliaries:								
Women (Aid Mbrs.)	3,906	4,346	4,272	4,551	4,527	4,332	4,351	19
Youth	1,010	929	877	991	921	1,137	1,151	14
Liabilities	\$ 89,496.00	\$ 123,283.00	\$ 228,724.00	\$ 288,989.00	\$ 444,756.00	\$ 576,468.00	\$ 674,986.00	\$ 98,518
Net Assets	\$2,025,959.00	\$2,326,278.00	\$2,643,205.00	\$2,951,700.00	\$3,552,849.00	\$4,450,553.00	\$4,534,863.00	\$ 84,310
Mbrship. Ctrib.	\$ 233,082.00	\$ 353,465.00	\$ 332,550.00	\$ 399,771.00	\$ 468,402.00	\$ 534,682.00	\$ 579,306.00	\$ 44,624
Total Receipts	\$ 429,506.00	\$ 541,735.00	\$ 769,378.00	\$ 816,716.00	\$1,406,751.00	\$1,324,316.00	\$1,436,516.00	\$112,200
Oper. Expenses	\$ 196,034.00	\$ 191,177.00	\$ 279,255.00	\$ 298,525.00	\$ 300,901.00	\$ 335,284.00	\$ 339,877.00	\$ 4,593
Total Expenses	\$ 413,542.00	\$ 451,894.00	\$ 601,466.00	\$ 687,098.00	\$1,105,568.00	\$1,068,169.00	\$1,186,944.00	\$118,775
Pastors Salaries	\$ 133,578.00	\$ 162,395.00	\$ 179,638.00	\$ 208,094.00	\$ 219,508.00	\$ 246,243.00	\$ 251,584.00	\$ 5,341
No. Congregations	80	81	86	80	80	79	75	

Statistics do tell something of the life and work of congregations

Figures That Speak

by: Pastor Willard Garred

In this, the last year of the synod's present organization, let us take a ten year statistical and historical review. (See opposite page) After gaining steadily for years, in 1961 we find a baptized membership loss of 393, or 1.6%. The 1961 baptized membership figure is 23,808. This is due partly to the loss of the congregations of Newark, N. J.; Troy, N. Y.; Marinette, Wis.; and Pasadena, Calif.; with a total of 314 baptized members, but it is also partly due to membership roll adjustments and real losses. In ten years the synod has lost 896 baptized and 656 confirmed members through local merger-transfers of congregations (we are glad to report that most of these joined Augustana or ULCA), and to dissolved congregations. Our eastern district alone in ten years lost 647 baptized members through merger-transfers of congregations.

One might say that it was high time when the synod in 1952 began to establish new home mission congregations. This was the year the synod changed its name from "Danish" to "American." Our membership rolls would look worse were it not for Brown City, Cedar Heights, North Cedar and Circle Pines, which now have a total of 988 baptized members. We may also mention that there have been good gains in reactivated fields such as Enumclaw, Hay Springs, Brayton and Watsonville.

The synod has gone from a high of 86 congregations in 1954-55 to 75 congregations in 1961. This number changes some due to local mergers and realignments of congregations even within the AELC.

With a loss of only 393 baptized and 240 confirmed members, the 75 remaining AELC congregations are stronger than ever before. Many of them have gained well and a number of rural churches have gained slightly or remained constant in membership despite rural loss of population.

Looking at the ten year record of pastoral acts, the number of baptisms was high in 1956-57 with 918 (1961: 831), and the number of confirmations reached a high in 1961 with 650 (the post-war baby boom is coming of age!). There is a continued and remarkable increase in the number of communicants (this does not mean "communing members" but the number of times holy communion has been received by people in AELC churches in a year) from 19,784 in 1950-51 to 45,215 this year.

Danish language services have dropped from 739 in 1950-51 to 136 this year. (About the year 1936 there was approximately an equal number of Danish and English services.) The number of English services



also took a slight drop due to the loss of congregations. The AELC has seven congregations that have more than one English service a Sunday.

The number of Sunday school pupils continues to be high with a loss of only 23 for the year. This means that most Sunday schools gained or held their own. Vacation Church School figures likewise were only slightly affected by the loss of congregations. There is a slight gain in members of Ladies' Aid-Church Women, and

in AELYF-Luther League.

The vigor of the synod is witnessed in the rise of almost \$100,000 in total liabilities to \$674,986, or almost a 15% increase for the year, indicating continued new church and new parish hall building. It would appear that in general building debts are being paid off at a good rate. Net assets grew by \$84,310 to more than \$4½ million (almost 2%).

Membership contributions and total receipts continued to rise, both by approximately 8%. Local operating expenses saw only a small increase, due in part to the drain on resources which a building program makes. Total expenses, including building programs, rose by \$118,775, or 10%.

Pastors salaries, after rising at times during the ten year span as much as \$25,000 in two years, have leveled off during the last year, rising only by \$5,341, a little more than 2%.

We all know that statistics do not tell everything, but they do tell something of the life of the congregations and of the circumstances under which congregations work.

A word about the Lutheran Church in America definitions, asked for in our statistical report this year. Our 75 congregations reported 1,069 fewer confirmed members according to the LCA definition (a person who has either received holy communion or made a recorded contribution during the last three years) than according to our definition, or their interpretation of our definition. This is only a little over a 6% drop between the two categories, but in the case of a few congregations the drop was as high as 60%. There may still be some misunderstanding behind this. The LCA definition of a confirmed member is really synonymous with an adult member, for example.

About half of our congregations gave the same confirmed member figure for both categories, the other half had smaller or larger variations. A few reported more confirmed according to the LCA category! Those who have large variations, or large drops from the AELC to the LCA category, in my opinion, carry all too many inactive members on their rolls, and should place the majority of these on their "inactive list" or "responsibility list" if these members still live in their area.

Willard Garred serves St. John's Lutheran at Hampton, Iowa. He is also the secretary and the statistician of the AELC.

History of the AELC

In the annual report to the convention at Tyler, our synod president, Pastor A. E. Farstrup, gave expression in concise terms to the importance of the writing of a history of the AELC. (Pages 24 and 25.)

As a consequence, the matter was discussed and acted upon by the convention to the effect that the synod board was authorized to appoint a committee for the purpose of gathering funds to insure the writing of a History of the AELC.

Such a committee has been appointed and has met twice. It consists of President A. E. Farstrup, John Lund, synod board member; Erling Jensen, Des Moines, Gerald Rasmussen, professor of history, Grand View College, secretary; Pastor Harold Sorensen, and Pastor Ottar Jorgensen, chairman.

The committee is wholeheartedly agreed that this project of writing a history of our church is a highly worthy and important matter and should be carried to a successful conclusion.

There is much valuable historical material of our church from many scattered sources which should be recorded in book form. The content of the four papers given recently at the Pastors' Institute in Des Moines on various phases of the history of our church is rich evidence of the rewarding work to be done in this field. In the words of President Farstrup in his annual report, "We owe it to ourselves and to posterity not to let our historical background slip silently away."

The committee is of the opinion that in order to insure a well documented and interestingly written history of our church, a qualified writer should be engaged full time for two years. There is yet much source material to be gathered and sifted, besides what is available in the archives. There should also, if possible, be some funds available at least to initiate the publication of such a book.

Therefore, the committee has set a goal of \$20,000. This may seem to be a large sum, but we are also many to have a part in this. And, if our membership is convinced of the worth of this undertaking — and that we hope it will be as serious thought is given to it — then we can accomplish what we propose to do.

This project should be a concerted work of love; expressing our gratitude to the past, with a firm hope in the future as we merge in the Lutheran Church in America.

Other Lutheran church bodies both in the LCA, as well as those which recently joined to form the ALC, have such histories of their respective church bodies, or are in the process of compiling and writing such histories.

The Joint Commission on Lutheran Unity, we are told, looks with much favor on our writing of such a history.

At the last meeting of the committee held during the Pastors' Institute, the secretary received the following telegram, addressed to the pastors, from **Henry Steele Commager**, eminent American historian at Amherst College, Massachusetts, and a grandson of the late Adam Dan, pioneer pastor in the Danish Church: "Across the years I send greetings to the convention of pastors of the church with which my beloved grandfather was so long associated. I urge you to sponsor a history of the church while many of those who made it are still here and the sources still available."

Yes, friends, it is a privileged responsibility that we who are recipients of so goodly a heritage, especially those of us who are children of the AELC, undertake to gather the funds which will make possible the writing of the history of the church which reared us.

A general ingathering of contributions is planned for September. Meanwhile, a special gifts appeal is being launched in the congregations in June and July. All pastors have been asked to give this latter matter their immediate support. The committee is confident that there are dedicated men and women of means in our congregations who, if given the opportunity, will lead the way with generous contributions, and thus prepare the way for the general ingathering in September.

A word should be said about the handling of the contributions. All contributions, checks or cash, will be channeled through the synod treasurer. Provisions will be made for establishing an AELC History Fund when our synod ceases to exist as a separate church body. It has been suggested that the Special Interest Conference of the AELC could take over and complete this work.

Articles on the subject of the History of the AELC will be written by others in succeeding issues of Lutheran Tidings. Watch for them.

Ottar S. Jorgensen.

The church has too often worked to get its laymen tuned in on its monologue, rather than prepare them for dialogue and even collision with the world. The modern tragedy of the church is its falling into the fallacy of a misplaced emphasis upon itself, instead of the world. This fallacy stems from the theological heresy that "God so loved the Church that He sent His only begotten Son that whosoever followeth it shall move to a suburb and live happily ever after."

Carl E. Braaten
in "Koinonia."

The Hymnal Supplement

The supplement has some commendable features but....

by: Pastor J. C. Aaberg

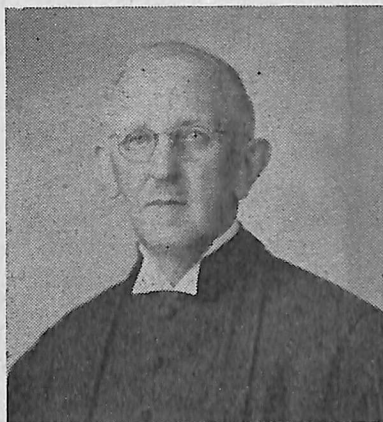
Many of our churches, perhaps even a majority of them, have now changed from the old hymnal to the new and may also have obtained the supplement for this which has been published by our synod. If they have not, I hope they will. For although the supplement is small, much smaller than many had expected, it still affords us a chance to sing a Danish hymn once in a while. And, as one man wrote to me, he was grateful that some people had taken the trouble to collect a few crumbs from our once rich table. I believe

there are many people, more than many realize, who feel just that way. Coming out from a service one day, at which we had sung a Danish hymn, a young woman came up to me and said, "Wasn't it nice to sing a Danish hymn once again." And I have heard many others tell me or write to me how deeply they missed the Danish hymns.

The collection is printed in the same format as the new hymnal and, being thin, only 27 pages, it fits nicely into the back of this without adding too much bulk to the already bulky book. Another practical feature of the collection is that the numbers of its hymns continue the numbers in the hymnal and can thus be announced or found the same as any other number in the book.

Yet, in spite of these commendable features, I believe the supplement will be a disappointment to many. It does not contain enough hymns, only twenty-five hymns and one song from the Danish, to present a really fair collection of even the very best and most favored of our hymns, and it does not fulfill the purpose for which it was to be published.

The basis for the resolution to publish the supplement was a claim by the committee for the new hymnal that its reason for adopting so few Danish hymns was that their translations were not up to the linguistic standard required by the committee. During the discussion of the proposal, this lack of merit in the translations was attributed to the fact the men, who had done most of the translating, did not speak English as "their first language." And so it was proposed that a committee, composed of people, who did, should be appointed to compile a supplement of improved translations that might eventually be found good enough to be adopted into new editions of the hymnal. And that was the proposal finally adopted by the convention. On obtaining a copy of the supplement, I was, therefore, greatly surprised to find that it did not contain a single new translation, but



that all of its hymns, with the exception of one English hymn and one translation from the World of Song, were selected from Hymnal for Church and Home, some of them without any changes and others more or less altered, mostly less.

The changes are of two kinds, abbreviations and alterations. In some of the translations one or more stanzas have been left out. As many Danish hymns are admittedly rather long, especially for impatient Americans to sing, such hymns may well be improved by being shortened. The original translators did shorten many of them, either by eliminating whole verses or working two of them into one, so that the essence of both was preserved. But in doing so, one has to be careful not to break the sequence of the hymn and leave the following verse up in the air. Take, for instance, Grundtvig's beautiful and much beloved hymn, "God's little child what troubles thee," in which the committee has eliminated the fourth stanza:

Clad are flowers in raiments fair,
Fairest to see on deserts bare;
Neither they spin nor weave or sew,
Yet no kings can such glory show
The Lord be praised.

Now this verse, so beautiful in itself and so characteristically Grundtvigian, constitutes a natural extension of the preceding verse about the birds that, through God's care, find a seed even where the hoarder dies from need. Further, it forms the background for the following verse about the flowers that bloom at break of dawn only to wither when day is gone and that cannot with the child compare who shall its Father's glory share. With the preceding verse eliminated, this comparison of a withered flower with a child of God has no background at all.

From Grundtvig's great apocalyptic hymn, "Lift up thy Head, O Christendom," the committee has eliminated the second and third verses, although the second verse, "And when in every land and clime, Thou shalt behold His signs sublime, the sinful world appalling, then shalt with joy thou lift thine eyes and see Him coming in the skies, while suns and stars are falling," forms, as it were, the basic point of Grundtvig's vision. It is thus on the basis of this verse, which he in the following verse asks Christians, in spite of their yearnings, not to forget "why His return the Savior is delaying." In its translation, the hymns had already been shortened from six to five verses (in the new Danish hymnal it has nine) which should not be too many for even impatient Americans to sing.

In addition to these and other abridgments, the

Pastor Aaberg, now living at Valborgsminde in Des Moines, served several pastorates in the AELC. He has also been very active in translating and working with hymnology.

committee has also marked eleven of its twenty-five hymns as "revised," a term which would indicate that they had been rather extensively altered, while the changes in their texts, with one exception range from one word to a couple of lines. Thus the only change in the text of Rev. Paulsen's popular translation, "As wide as the skies," is the change of one word in the first line of its last verse from "rest" to "feast." In Paulsen's translation the line reads, "For languishing souls Thou preparest a rest," Now I can very well imagine a weak and weary soul longing for a rest, but I doubt very much that it would have any special craving for a "feast." In addition to this, the word is supposed to rhyme with "blest," which it doesn't.

And another instance of the committee's peculiar use of the word "revised" is presented by the hymn, "This is the day which the Lord hath given," which is also marked "revised" although the only revisions in its text is a change in the spelling of the word "hath" to "has" and the substitution of the word "sanction" by the words "Bless Thou." Now I dare say that if it had been a general practice to call such small changes "revisions" there would hardly be a hymn in any hymnal that would not be marked revised. And with a revised mark beneath it, only a very few will ever know how much of a hymn is the work of its author or translator or of the committee that edited it.

As instances of the committee's more extensive changes in the translations — with one exception there are no real revisions in any of the hymns — I call attention to its change of the first few lines of Kingo's great hymn, "Nu rinder Solen op i Osterlide, forgylder Klippens Top og Bjergets Side," which in Rev. Paulsen's fine version is translated, "The sun arises now in light and glory, and gilds the rugged brow of mountains hoary." In the committee's rendering of the lines, this has been changed to, "The sun arises now and brightly beaming a golden crown on every height is gleaming." And I must confess that I am wholly unable to understand why the committee should undertake to replace Paulsen's fine rendering of the original with its own both grammatically and pictorially faulty version. The original translation has been accepted into a number of hymnals, among which is the new Missouri Synod Hymnal; and no one can make me believe that that synod would appoint men to its hymnal committee that didn't know good English.

In the translation of the hymn, "Lord Jesus Christ, My Savior blest," the committee has changed two lines in the last stanza, which in the original translation read, "Yea, Help us Lord, with one accord to love and serve Thee solely, that henceforth we may dwell with Thee eternally and see Thy presence holy." In the committee's version, the third line, "to love and serve Thee solely," has been changed to "to live in love together," which is rather tautological, since the togetherness has already been expressed by the word, "with one accord," in the preceding line. It is also dogmatically suspect, because merely "living in love together" does not by itself fit people for an eternal life with God. Even non-believers may do

that. The last line of the stanza has also been changed from "And see Thy presence holy" to "And live in joy forever." Which is grammatically all right, but does not, as it should rhyme with "together," a defect which will bar it from adoption into any other hymnal.

A number of other and similar "revisions" might also be mentioned, as, for instance, the committee's scrambling and emasculation of the widely used hymn, "Most wondrous is of all on earth," from which it, besides a number of doubtful alterations in its text, has eliminated several of its most characteristic verses. In its original translation, this hymn has, by the way, been arranged for choral singing by Melius Christiansen. I once heard it sung by the famous Hamlin University Choir, and it sounded beautiful. This widely known director of the St. Olaf Choir has also arranged a number of other Danish hymns for choral singing, among them, "Now found is the fairest of roses," and I have often wondered why they never seem to be used by any choirs in our church.

In spite of these defects in the abbreviations and alteration in the supplement, it is, nevertheless, a big improvement over an earlier draft of it, that I had a chance to see. For in that the alterations were far more extensive and even more defective, not to say impossible. As it is I still hope that congregations using the new hymnal will also obtain the supplement. If the wording of some of its hymns is not perfect, neither is the phrasing of some of the hymns in the new hymnal, far from it. But if the committee for the new hymnal, as it was reported to have done, rejected our translations because they were not up to its literary standard — which, after seeing some of the hymns it did accept, I very much doubt — then the revisions made by the committee for the supplement has not raised them up to that supposed standard.

Omaha's Central Lutheran Relocation Assured

A first-year pledge goal of \$20,000 was oversubscribed by \$5,000 May 6, at Central Lutheran Church, Omaha, to assure relocation next year to a new 3-acre site in northwest Omaha. Tentative plans call for a first unit consisting of a parish hall and a part of the religious education unit to be started in May of 1963.

The history of Central Lutheran Church dates back to its organization on April 29, 1874, by a group of Danish immigrants; the present location was occupied in the Omaha "suburbs" of 1888 when the original building at 18th and St. Mary's Avenue was sold.

Central Lutheran is making its present relocation plans in cooperation with officials of the Central States Synod and the Department of Church Extension of the United Lutheran Church in America. Negotiations are under way for purchase of a parsonage immediately in an area near the new church, so that survey and development of the new congregation can begin this summer. Present church and parsonage buildings will be sold. W. Clayton Nielsen, pastor of the congregation, indicated that he anticipates good growth of the congregation in view of the rapidly developing area.

Paging Youth

American Evangelical Luth.
Youth Fellowship

Editor: KAREN KNUDSEN

Grand View College
Des Moines 16, Iowa



Award Winners Announced

Inez Busse of Chicago, Illinois, and Diane Buffington of Newell, Iowa, were nominated by a committee of AELYF to receive the two \$200 Lutheran Brotherhood Lutheran Youth Leadership Awards which are allotted to AELYF. The alternate in case either of these is not able to accept the award is Glen Madsen of Cedar Falls, Iowa. Those who applied for the awards were judged on scholarship and leadership abilities.

Inez, Diane and Glen will attend Grand View College next school year.

AELYF was fortunate in being allotted two awards this year. Last year only one was given. This went to Karma Ibsen of Marquette, Nebraska.

Pro Deo Et Patria Award Winner

From Junction City, Oregon, comes the news that Jim Andrews, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Andrews, who are members of Faith Lutheran Church (AELC), was presented the God and Country Award on April 8, 1962. To earn this highest award given to Boy Scouts by the Lutheran Church, Jim built symbols of the church year for the Sunday School at Faith Lutheran. He mowed the church lawn several times and has been faithful in ushering. Jim is also the Church School secretary.

Three other Boy Scouts from Faith Lutheran are working for the Pro Deo et Patria Award.

Goings'on at Greenville

GREENVILLE, MICHIGAN: The Trinity Luther League seems to be, as it is said in contemporary language, a "real swingin'" group. For instance they raked the church lawn as a service project for Easter. On May 4 they visited a Greek Orthodox Church in Grand Rapids, and, two days later, they attended a Luther League Rally of the Michigan Synod (ULCA) in Grand Rapids. A hay ride was scheduled for May 18.

The Leaguers are invited to visit the Faith Lutheran Church (ULCA) Luther League in Grand Rapids for a supper meeting and program on May 23. Last year the Trinity League entertained a group of 30 Leaguers from Faith Church.

Countdown

(Here's an excerpt from an Iowa District communique.)

The Iowa District LYF will soon launch into a new experience by joining the project: Luther League

of LCA. Before we can successfully launch, we must have one more Iowa District get-together. There is about an hour's worth of final business that must be discussed. Our meeting will be held at Dolliver Memorial State Park near Lehigh, Iowa, on June 9, 1962.

Progress of an Award Winner

With the announcement of the 1962 winners of the Lutheran Youth Leadership Award perhaps you are wondering how an Award Winner fares in college. Karma Ibsen, the 1961 recipient and daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Harald Ibsen, proves that winners do succeed in college.

Many of us were introduced to Karma through her AELYF activities. She was a delegate to the North American Ecumenical Youth Assembly in August, 1960. We were entertained by her interpretative reading of a James Thurber essay at the 1961 AELYF National Convention banquet. We saw that Karma was a tall, vibrant, redhead with a husky, expressive voice.

Her voice and the ability to act are keys to Karma's accomplishments. Her main interests are drama, speech and psychology. These interests naturally lead to acting.

Karma played the lead in "Antigone," the fall play of the Grand View Drama Department. She played a nurse in "Harvey," the Studenterfest play. She and Dave Walker presented small amusing skits for the World University Service Benefit Talent Show. Karma is a member of Delta Psi Omega, an honorary drama fraternity and is a valuable asset to Grand View's drama department.

In the area of speech-making Karma has also been active. She was Mistress of Ceremonies at the Studenterfest banquet. Chosen for her excellence in speech class, Karma participated in a Library Week symposium for a college convocation.

Music is another interest of this versatile redhead. She sings tenor in the GVC A Cappella Choir and plays the piano for chapel and devotions.

Karma keeps up in her religious activities, too. She is a member of the Student Christian Fellowship and participated in Grand View's Youth Week service. She worked on the Youth Week Packet Committee. Since January the OIC Treasurer's position has been filled by Karma.

All of these activities do not deter Karma from her scholastic work. Her first semester grades were straight A's. She is a temporary member of the Iowa Junior College Honor Society.

So you see a Lutheran Youth Leadership Award winner does not stagnate in college. On the contrary, the 1961 winner is developing into a person of whom AELYF can be proud.

Change of Address

The summer address of your "Paging Youth" editor will be Solvang Lutheran Home, Solvang, California, after June 1.

Our Women's Work

MRS. AAGE PAULSEN, Editor

CORDOVA, NEBRASKA



News Release

Minneapolis, Minn. — Miss Dorothy J. Marple, former dean of women and foreign student advisor at Thiel College, Greenville, Pa., was unanimously nominated this week for the position of executive secretary of Lutheran Church Women, the women's auxiliary that will come into being this summer following the merger of the United, Augustana, American Evangelical and Finnish Lutheran Churches.

Announcement of the nomination, which is tantamount to election, was made by Mrs. Bernard Spong, chairman of the Joint Planning Committee of Lutheran Church Women. Election of all top staff of the new women's auxiliary will take place at the first meeting of the LCW board of directors, following the constituting convention of LCW, July 30-August 1, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Miss Marple, who is presently completing course work and residency at Columbia University, New York City, leading to a doctorate in the field of education, will head the 300,000-member organization which will be created by a merger of the United Lutheran Church Women, Augustana Lutheran Church Women, Women's Mission Society of AELC, and the Lutheran Guild of Suomi Synod. She will begin full-time work in her new position on September 1.

The new executive of Lutheran Church Women was dean of women at Thiel College from 1953 to 1961. Prior to this she was counselor and assistant in the office of the dean of women at Duke University, Durham, N. C., for three years, and student dean at Syracuse University, Syracuse, N. Y., from 1948 to 1950. During 1952 she served as a work camper in Italy for the World Council of Churches.

In 1948 Miss Marple received her A.B. degree from Ursanious College, Collegeville, Pa., graduating cum laude; and in 1950 she received her M.A. degree in education and student personnel from Syracuse University. She had the Fellowship of the Danforth Foundation Seminar in 1954.

An active member of the United Lutheran Church in America, Miss Marple is a frequent speaker at church groups and professional women's organizations. She is a member of the National Association of Women Deans and Counselors, the Pennsylvania Association of Women Deans and Counselors, the American College Personnel Divisions, the Greenville Civic League, and Greenville Business and Professional Women's Club. She served as president of the latter from 1958 to 1960. Her home is in Ambler, Pa., where her mother resides.

In an interview following her nomination by the Joint Planning Committee, Miss Marple said: "I see Lutheran Church Women and my role in it as a great adventure in which all of us shall try to make Chris-

tianity live in the hearts, minds and actions of Lutheran women. The venture to me is challenging because I see opportunities for creativity, leadership, planning and stewardship."

Fellowship Weekend

Camp Nysted — Dannebrog, Nebraska
April 27, 28 and 29, 1962

Spring is in the air now,
Stirs in every living thing;
All the world is wondering:
What will summer bring?

Yes, we wonder what the summer will bring. With the many new exciting things taking place in our church we look forward to all with great anticipation.

The WMS meeting, Saturday, April 28, opened with the hymn, "Spring is in the Air." Mrs. Eileen Paulsen, District VII President, read from Romans 15: 2-8, and led the group in the Lord's Prayer.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were read. Mrs. Guilford Nissen, district treasurer, reported a balance of \$105.90. Mrs. Paulsen asked all societies to turn in their contributions to Mrs. Nissen not later than October 1.

Lutheran Women, the magazine published by the four merging churches, was highly recommended to those not subscribing for it.

A very interesting and informative letter from Miss Naomi Torkelson of the Santal Mission, was read.

Mrs. Paulsen introduced Mrs. Nanna Mortensen of Des Moines, Iowa, as the speaker of the afternoon. Mrs. Mortensen asked the group to sing "O God, in Restless Living," then she presented "Leisure That Recreates." The topic was written by her as a program for the "Program Packet," produced by the Education Committee of the four merging churches. It was very interesting and stimulating. Her presentation was explicit. We are truly grateful to Mrs. Mortensen for accepting our invitation. This program can be highly recommended as a worthwhile lesson at any time. The meeting closed with the singing of "Dear Lord and Father of Mankind."

Mrs. Clifford Jensen, Dist. VII Sec.

Day of Fellowship

Sixty-six women of the Women's Missionary Society of District II enjoyed a day of fellowship at the Settlement Church at Gowan, Michigan.

Miss Reeta Petersen, president of the WMS of District II extended a cordial welcome to all present.

Following a 9 a. m., coffee hour, devotions were given by Mrs. Donald Holm of Manistee, Mich.

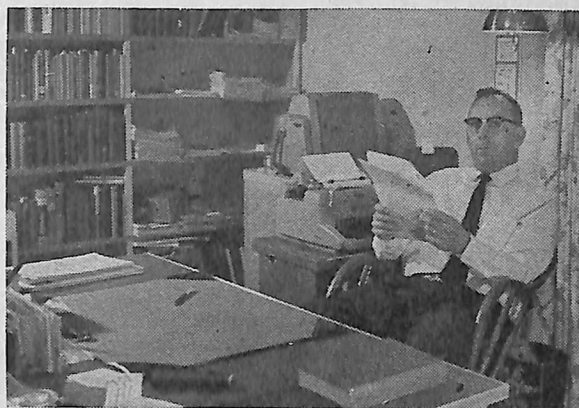
Mrs. Edwin Hansen, president of the WMS of the

(Continued on Page 15)

opinion

and

comment



THE DEDICATION OF the new physical education building at Grand View College marks another and a significant milestone in the forward march of the college. Those of us who have spent some years at Grand View know how real the need for such a building has been. There is a real joy to us in knowing that this need has now been met. But there is joy also in a larger sense. To be familiar with the history of Grand View is to know something about the struggle and the disappointments and the heartaches that those who were committed to this cause came to know. We have, for instance, always been impressed by the exceedingly bold venture in faith which marked the establishing of the college. But we thank God that there were those who were willing to venture. After the Second World War things began to look up for the college. The building of the new girls' dormitory in 1946 was a first significant step in the expansion of the physical plant. The new science building, erected some five years ago, was a wise second step. The new gym, dedicated this month, is a logical third step. There will be more steps. We find joy in this because it means that Grand View, which has known difficult years as a struggling infant, whose very life was often in doubt, has now grown to the extent that we need no longer fear for its future. As we, in the merger, turn Grand View over to the Iowa Synod we can do so knowing that it is a healthy child of the AELC and that, as such, it can make a real contribution in and to the new church.

FOR SOME YEARS now Central Lutheran of Omaha has been confronted with a very real problem. The solution to that problem has not been too clear. However, persistent efforts and thorough research have now pointed the way and the problem has been brought a step nearer solution. We are happy to note that the drive for a building fund and the move to relocate Central Lutheran is progressing. We rejoice with the people at Central Lutheran in this because we believe that the area in which the church is presently located will not enable the congregation to serve the kingdom of God in the best manner. And, it should be noted, when Central Lutheran does relocate it does not mean that the area from which it moves will be left unchurched. Other churches in this general area, among them another Lutheran church, will adequately fill the needs of the neighborhood around South 22nd Street. We, therefore, congratulate Pastor

W. Clayton Nielsen and his congregation on the recent developments at Omaha. Our prayers and good wishes go with them as they move forward.

THE DANISH GYM TEAM, which is currently touring the United States under the direction of Mr. Erik Flensted-Jensen, has been received by large and enthusiastic audiences in many American cities. In the latter part of May the team, which came to the United States in October of last year, will appear at the Seattle World's Fair where nine performances will be given. We recently had the opportunity of seeing the team perform. Not only is their performance excellent but it is typical of a traditional Danish interest in fundamental gymnastics. The 16 men and the 16 women who compose the team range in ages from 17 to 25. They come from all walks of life. These young people were selected from gymnastic organizations and clubs throughout Denmark. The purpose of the emphasis on gymnastics in Denmark goes much deeper than recreation, competition or entertainment. Control, coordination, flexibility and strength are developed with the aim of bringing the entire body into full harmony. The guiding purpose is well stated in the slogan, "A sound mind in a sound body." To see the team in action is to be reminded of what we so easily forget — that we have been entrusted with a body as well as a mind and soul and that God is no more pleased to have us neglect one than the other. Denmark will undoubtedly be well represented at the World's Fair in a number of different ways. However, we doubt that any of the ways in which she is represented will bring more credit to her and be better received than the performances of the gym team.

A BUSINESSMAN RECENTLY suggested to us one way of settling the Sunday closing question which continues to be a problem through the country. His idea was very simple. Business establishments should not only close on Sunday but on Saturday as well. This should satisfy both those who favor Sunday as a day of rest and those who favor Saturday as a day of rest. At least it should go a long way toward putting to rest the religious aspects of the controversy. This idea appeals to us, though of course we have no real expectation that it would satisfy very many. It is the kind of solution that may be fifty years ahead of its time. Or, on second thought, is perhaps already too late.

Pastors Hold Final Institute

by the editor

Pastors' Institute is not intended as a "Student-fest" or time of reunion for pastors but, nevertheless, to some extent it becomes such. To be sure, the institute has a great deal more to offer than this. There is much that is spiritually and mentally stimulating but the fellowship is not to be minimized.

The 21st annual Pastors' Institute, which was held in Des Moines, on April 24 and 25, and which 46 pastors and five seminary students attended, was not lacking in any of these things. The program this year was somewhat different. Ordinarily there have been speakers, authorities and experts in their fields, from outside the AELC. But this year, knowing that this would be the last AELC institute, the program became a medium for examination and re-evaluation of our own position. The theme for the institute was "Our Church and Its Time." This general topic was divided into four sub-topics, "The Premises," "The Life," "The Educational Concern," and "The Significance."

Pastor Enok Mortensen spoke of "The Premises," outlining some of the background and early history of the Danish Church up to and including the split in 1894. "The Life" of the church was presented by Dean Axel Kildegaard. He spoke of the life of the church with respect to its mood, stance and concern, with an emphasis on the period of the 1920's and 30's. Dr. Ernest Nielsen discussed the educational mission of the church, stressing the transition from folk-school to college. Dr. Johannes Knudsen, in discussing the significance of the church, spoke of the importance which Grundtvig's view of man has held for the church and the effects which this may be expected to have on theology in the future.

It is not our purpose here to review the papers presented at the institute. These will be published in a supplement to the annual synodical report. The papers, without exception, were good. There were negative notes; indeed at times the negative notes seemed just a bit excessive. But there were positive notes also. More important, what is often referred to as "our heritage" took on new depth and meaning. It is far from an empty phrase. That this is true is reflected in the fact that a man as familiar with American theology as is Dr. Johannes Knudsen could say, "The Grundtvigian view of man is and will be significant in theology."

Following each paper there was a brief presentation by a discussant in which he attempted to draw out some of the highlights or to raise questions regarding some of the features of the paper. A general discussion then followed.

A new departure at the institute this year, because it was the last such meeting, was a banquet served by the ladies of the Luther Memorial Church. Some 75 people were present for this banquet, at which Pastor Ottar Jorgensen spoke briefly. He recounted some of his memories of amusing incidents that he had experienced in the AELC.

The pastors and others present at the banquet are indeed grateful to the ladies of Luther Memorial for the fine dinner they served. More than that, they are grateful to the ladies for making such an occasion possible by their willingness to serve. It was a feature that added a great deal to this final institute.

At 8:30 on Tuesday evening, following the banquet, there was a communion service at which Dr. Alfred Jensen officiated.

There were some interesting and amusing sidelights at the institute. There had been some concern that this last meeting would be marked by an overdose of nostalgia. For a time on Tuesday morning, however, it seemed that it would go far beyond this and that the entire meeting would become a tearful event. It seems the ladies of Luther Memorial had worked far into the night on Monday, preparing for the banquet on Tuesday. On Tuesday morning the church basement, where the meetings were held, literally reeked of onions.

Another amusing incident occurred when a speaker became thirsty and developed a cough. No less than four people became involved in trying to find a glass for him. Meanwhile, the speaker found relief without the benefit of a glass. We wonder if the searchers ever did find a glass.

It was a good meeting. We are glad to have been there. We have been happy to be present at many Pastors' Institutes through the years. Not only have pastors been inspired and intellectually stimulated but ties have been strengthened. No doubt in the new church there will be somewhat similar meetings. Meanwhile, we owe a debt of gratitude to those in the seminary who, through the years, have made these institutes possible.

Each of the seven days of the week is designated as the Sabbath by various nationalities and religions. Monday is the Greek Sabbath, Tuesday the Persian, Wednesday the Assyrian, Thursday the Egyptian, Friday the Turkish, Saturday the Jewish, and Sunday the Christian.

—Selected.

New Gym Dedicated at GVC Studenterfest

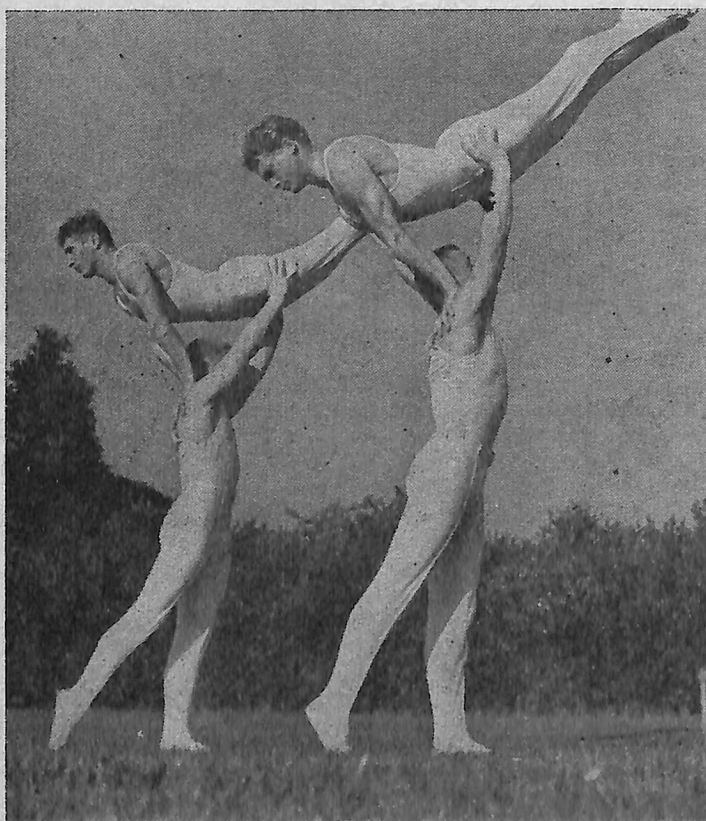


The new Grand View College physical education building was dedicated on Sunday afternoon, May 6 at 2 o'clock. Speaking at the dedication, AELC President A. E. Farstrup said, "The true purpose of physical education is not to develop a small group of elite athletes but to improve the health of all the students."

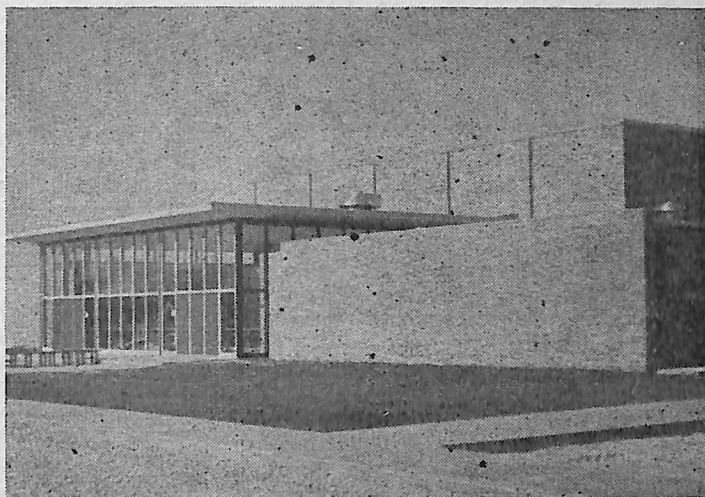
Following the dedication an open house was held in the newly completed building. The gym, which is located approximately a quarter of a mile east of the main campus, was built at a cost of \$350,000. It will seat 1,150 persons at basketball games. It will also be used for convocations, commencements and other student activities.

The dedication ceremony was a part of the annual Studenterfest at the college. This event, which is a time of homecoming and reunion, began with the presentation of the play "Harvey" on Friday evening and continued through Saturday and Sunday. Saturday was marked by a softball game, a choir concert and alumni meeting and a gala banquet and dance, the latter being held at Hotel Fort Des Moines. On Sunday worship services, a folk dancing exhibition and dedication of the new gym were highlights of the day.

Gym Team in United States



A balancing exercise being performed by members of the Danish Gym Team which is currently touring the United States en route to the World's Fair in Seattle.



The new physical education building is located one block east of East 14th street.

BOOK REVIEW

BEST SERMONS — 1962. Edited by G. Paul Butler. Published by D. Van Nostrand Co. Inc., Princeton, New Jersey. 328 pages, \$5.95.

Forty-two sermons, arranged in nineteen categories, including such widely diverse subjects as biography, faith, missions, politics and stewardship, comprise this latest Protestant edition of "Best Sermons."

"Best Sermons" has been published eight times since 1942. Contributors to this volume include some of the outstanding preachers in America and several foreign countries. There are also sermons by lesser known ministers. Three of the sermons are by prominent Lutherans: Paul Scherer, William Lazareth and Lambert Brose.

Preceding each of the sermons is a short biographical sketch which serves very well to acquaint the reader with the contributor. This is a valuable feature of the book.

In a work of this kind it is natural that there should be found all types of sermons from various backgrounds. With some of the sermons one would, of course, not be in full agreement. Others of the sermons would strike a responsive chord. This is a sermon collection that has a great deal to offer to those of all backgrounds, not least because it serves to broaden the reader's appreciation of the faith.

We for example, found especially rewarding a sermon on "Truth and Faith" by Dr. Henry P. Van Dusen, President of Union Theological Seminary. A sermon that is particularly timely as we face merger is one written by Dean Liston Pope of Yale Divinity School. Dealing with the matter of Christian unity, it is called, "That All May Be One." Speaking of unity, Dean Pope says, "True unity will never come from a lowest common denominator of conviction; to minimize the importance of a particular confession of faith is to betray the deeper quest of knowledge of Christ."

"Best Sermons" is a book which will have great value for the general reader, for the pastor seeking inspiration and for anyone who wishes to have his appreciation of the Christian faith both broadened and deepened.

T.C.H.

Church News From Around the World

CALLS "HILLS OF HOPELESSNESS" BREEDING SPOTS FOR COMMUNISM ..

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. (APRT)—"Hills of hopelessness" in Latin American countries have become breeding-places for Communism and must be eradicated in order to make the Western Hemisphere safe for democracy, a noted radio commentator and news columnist told a women's convention here.

Addressing 500 delegates of the Augustana Lutheran Church Women of the Minnesota Conference, George Grim of Minneapolis explained that most of the poverty-stricken slum areas of Latin American cities are located on hills where there are no sewers and no public utilities of any kind.

"The stench of garbage is in the air, and human misery and hopelessness are present everywhere," he said. "There are more people living in these slum hill areas of Rio de Janeiro alone than the entire population of the twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. And because of their hopelessness, they fall into godlessness, and become the easy victims of false Communist promises."

Sugar cane raised by slave labor on huge privately-owned plantations is shipped abroad, and the proceeds are deposited in Swiss banks, according to Grim.

"None of this reaches the national treasury of the producing country," he said, "since there is no income tax, no property tax and no export tax."

Latin American dictators are usually elected by the actual vote of the people, he stated, but on the basis of "cynical promises of plenty of work and plenty of food."

"They usually get out with their ill-gotten wealth just before the people discover that they have been deceived," he added.

In a strong plea for church support of efforts to aid Latin American nations, the Minneapolis columnist asserted that the people of the United States need "a strong dose of divine discontent."

"We dodge responsibility," he said, "because we are so comfortable, we have the highest standard of living of any people in the world. What I fear most is that we are making it our religion. We are happy and comfortable in our homes and in our churches. There's a danger in being too satisfied. I'm for making people unhappy in church. We need a liberal dose of divine discontent that will really make us concerned about the needs of others."

MISSOURI SYNOD BECOMES LARGEST LUTHERAN BODY

NEW YORK, N. Y. (APRT)—The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has taken over the number one spot as the largest Lutheran church body in America, succeeding the United Lutheran Church in America, which formerly held the distinction.

As a result of a net gain of 75,508 members during 1961, the Missouri Synod now

has 2,544,544 baptized members in the United States and Canada.

Dr. George F. Harkins, ULCA secretary and statistician, revealed, on the other hand, that the net gain in baptized members in the 32 synods of his body has only been 754, making the total membership, 2,495,763.

The Missouri Synod, however, will maintain its top position only six months. Destined soon to become the largest body in American Lutheranism is the new Lutheran Church in America, to be constituted on June 28 with a total baptized membership of more than 3,200,000.

The small gain registered by the United Lutheran Church in 1961, Dr. Harkins explained, resulted from a sharp paring of its figures "as a remedial and constructive effort to cleanse the membership rolls in preparation for the coming merger."

The ULCA, however, still maintains its lead in confirmed members with a total of 1,691,398 as over against 1,631,137 in the Missouri Synod.

The latest compilation of statistical figures by the research and statistics department of the National Lutheran Council reveals that there are 9,456,863 baptized members in all Lutheran bodies in the United States and Canada.

MINNESOTA CONFERENCE VOTES TO BUY CHURCH HEADQUARTERS

ST. PETER, MINN. (APRT)—The Lutheran Minnesota Conference of the Augustana Lutheran Church, meeting here for its 104th and final annual convention, voted unanimously to purchase the headquarters building of the Augustana Church in Minneapolis and to present it as a gift to the new Minnesota Synod of the Lutheran Church in America.

The action was one of a series of moves preparatory to the merger next month of the Augustana Church with the United Lutheran Church in America, the American Evangelical Lutheran Church and the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church to form a new 3,200,000-member church body.

Inasmuch as the headquarters of the Lutheran Church in America will be located in New York City, the Augustana church house at 2445 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, will no longer be needed for the national body. The Minnesota Conference already possesses an equity in the building, having used a portion of it for its headquarters.

BARTH MEETS LUTHERANS, TOURS CIVIL WAR SITE

GETTYSBURG, PA.—(NLC)—Reformed theologian Karl Barth lunched with students and faculty members of the Lutheran Theological Seminary here before touring Gettysburg's Civil War battlefield.

Dr. Barth of Basel, Switzerland, told the seminary group that "historic relations between Lutheran and Reformed theologians have not always been good ones. However, many things we have together—Lu-

theran and Reformed—and as creatures of our Lord we belong together."

"I feel that perhaps I should make a theological speech," he said, "but I am now 76 years of age and retired from Basel where I held my last lecture on the first of March. I have lectured in Chicago for one week, and at Princeton, (N. J.) for one week, and now I am fulfilling a desire to see Gettysburg. It is good to be with Lutherans."

The renowned theologian is completing his first visit to the United States.

His trip to Gettysburg came as a result of his interest in the U. S. Civil War. After lunching with some fifty faculty members, their wives and students of the Lutheran school, Dr. Barth received a firsthand view of the battlefield where the North met the South in a three-day encounter, July 1-3, 1863.

The Lutheran Theological Seminary, founded in 1826, is located on a ridge overlooking the town of Gettysburg from the west. During the battle of Gettysburg in 1863, the Confederate forces stretched their principal battle-line on "Seminary Ridge."

One of the seminary buildings, which in 1959 was leased to the Adams County (Pa.) Historical Society to be preserved as a historic site, was used as an observatory by Union officers, then as a signal station by Confederate troops, and finally with the other seminary buildings as a hospital for the wounded of both the northern and southern armies.

Following lunch at the refectory, Dr. Barth began his battlefield tour at Lee's headquarters, located at the edge of the seminary grounds.

NEW LUTHERAN WELFARE DIRECTORY PUBLISHED

New York—(NLC)—The 1962 Lutheran Health and Welfare Directory, published by the National Lutheran Social Welfare Conference, went into circulation in April with two new features expected to increase the usefulness of the reference booklet.

In addition to standard statistical data published annually, the current edition includes a listing of the specific services offered by the nearly 500 health and welfare agencies of the denomination in the United States.

Another feature added this year, it was noted by Dr. Henry J. Whiting, NLSWC executive secretary, is a state-by-state listing of the baptized membership strength of all Lutheran church bodies in the nation.

Dr. Whiting, who heads the National Lutheran Council Division of Welfare, said the directory is designed as "a compendium of facts which can be used by a wide community for a variety of purposes."

The directory is distributed free to NLSWC members, Lutheran college and seminary libraries and state departments of public welfare. Copies are available for \$1 from NLSWC headquarters, 50 Madison Ave., New York 10, New York.

WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES LEADER OPPOSES MIXING OF RELIGIONS

MINNEAPOLIS—The general secretary of the World Council of Churches warned here that the Christian church must take more seriously the challenge of world-wide syncretism.

Syncretism, Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, Geneva, Switzerland, explained, is a view which claims that history holds no unique revelation and that it is necessary to harmonize as much as possible all religious ideas and experiences to create one universal religion for mankind.

If Christians fail to oppose attempts to mix the different religions and to seek a common religious front, they may find themselves before long "exceedingly rich in religion and exceedingly poor in real Christianity," he said.

Dr. Visser 't Hooft discussed syncretism in three C. C. Hein Memorial Lectures at Luther Theological Seminary in St. Paul. Earlier, he had given them at two other seminaries of the American Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbus, Ohio, and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa.

The World Council leader said that the Christian Church had failed to demonstrate that it can meet the demands for a total universal religion that will unite humanity.

"Christianity has suffered an eclipse from its universal elements," he observed. "It has been distorted by individualism which has come from the Renaissance.....

"Modern man looks to syncretistic movements for a wider dimension which individual piety does not offer him."

He said it was "high time" that Christians rediscovered that Jesus Christ "has not come to make a contribution to the religious storehouse, but that in Him God has reconciled man to Himself."

Christ "has come once for all," he emphasized. "There cannot be other incarnations."

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NAME LUTHERAN LAYMEN AS AUGUSTANA PREXY

Rock Island, Ill., (APRT)—Dr. Clarence W. Sorensen, dean of the graduate school of Illinois State Normal University, Normal, Ill., has been named president of Augustana College to succeed Dr. Conrad Bergendorff, who has headed the institution for 27 years.

Announcement of the appointment was made by the Rev. Earl H. Lusk, Lincolnwood, Ill., chairman of the Augustana board of directors.

Dr. Sorensen will be the first layman of the Church to serve as president of the local institution, which is owned and controlled by the Augustana Lutheran Church. The five previous presidents have all been clergymen.

The new college executive expects to assume his duties by September 1. He has been a member of the faculty of Illinois State Normal University since 1949, and has served as dean of the graduate school for three years. In accepting the presidency of Augustana, Dr. Sorensen said:

"It is a high honor to become associated

Notes From Danebod

Two important announcements have been made concerning meetings at Danebod, Tyler, Minnesota, during the next few months.

Danish Folk Meeting: Such a meeting is being planned for September 4-9. More detailed information will be available later.

Leisure Time Workshop: This annual workshop will be held July 22-28. Resource leader will be Professor Gerald Rasmussen of Grand View College and the discussion topic will be "Modern Images of Man." There will be a full assortment of crafts, plus folk-dancing. Registrations are being accepted now. The registration fee is \$3, which is included in the full camp fee of \$25 for a single person, \$45 for a couple and \$10 for every school-age child.

For further information or to register write to:

Pastor Jerome Nilsen,
Danebod Parsonage
Tyler, Minnesota

with Augustana College and the Augustana tradition. Leaders in higher education throughout the nation know the contribution that Augustana has made under the distinguished leadership of Dr. Conrad Bergendorff."

Dr. Sorensen received his M. A. and Ph. D. degrees from the University of Chicago in the field of geography, with related studies in history. At one time he served as a special lecturer in geography in the community program service of the University of Minnesota.

Ten years ago he directed the preparation and publication of a series of textbooks for use in the government schools of Pakistan. In 1958 he visited the Soviet Union as a member of a group of American professors making an intensive study of Russian education. He is the author or co-author of fifteen books, as well as numerous articles for professional journals.

Last fall he was an official delegate of the Augustana Lutheran Church of the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches meeting in New Delhi, India.

Day of Fellowship

(Continued from Page 10)

AELC and Representative on the Joint Planning Committee, gave a very informative and interesting talk on how the merger will affect the WMS and procedure to follow in becoming members of the new District Assembly.

At 12:30 a delicious dinner was served by the women of the Settlement Mission Circle after which a fellowship hour was enjoyed.

A most inspiring program followed. Mrs. O. A. Kirk of Lakeview, Mich., read scripture from the Psalms while showing

OUR CHURCH

Dalum, Alberta, Canada: Pastor Holger Strandskov, who has spent the winter in Seattle, where he served St. John's church during the vacancy there, will be serving the congregation here at Dalum from May 20th through June 17th. A new pastor is scheduled to take up the work at Dalum shortly. While in Canada, Pastor and Mrs. Strandskov's address will be: Box 25, Wayne, Alberta, Canada.

Tyler, Minnesota: The barn at the Old People's Home here has been razed by volunteers. The board of the home plans to look into the feasibility of low-rent housing and the possibility of constructing a four unit building for this purpose.

Solvang, California: The annual convention of District Eight of the AELC was held here during the weekend of May 6th.

Dagmar, Montana: The annual "Midsommerfest" will be held here July 13-15 with Dr. Otto Hoiberg and Pastor Jerome Nilsen as speakers.

Ringsted, Iowa: Plans are being made here at St. John's to purchase new chancel furnishings, including a pulpit, an altar and a communion rail. Gordon Miller is pastor at St. John's.

If Jesus Knocked . . .

If Jesus knocked on your door today,
Would you act in your self same way?
Would you gladly let him in,
Or have a feeling of guilt within?

Would the Bible have to be taken down
from the shelf
Where it had been for months by itself?
Would you then read it every day,
Or would you again put it away?

And your actions, how would they be;
Kind and loving toward everybody?
Would you go to bed as you always do
Or would you say a prayer or two?

Though not here in flesh as of yore,
His spirit is with us forevermore
He is knocking today on the door of your heart,
Please let him come in; of your life be a part.

Jean Kuskie (Eighth Grade)
St. Peter's Lutheran Church School
Hay Springs, Nebraska.

appropriate slide pictures and having organ music as a background. Words fail to describe the beauty and inspiration of this program.

Once again coffee and fellowship was enjoyed. It was a beautiful day and all present agreed that more fellowship days should be held for women of the district.

Miss Petersen and the ladies of the Settlement Church should be commended for the hospitality shown and program presented.

Mrs. Carl A. Moberg,
Sec., WMS District II.

Acknowledgment of Receipts by the Synod Treasurer

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, 1962

For the Synod Budget:

Unassigned Receipts (by congregation)	
Byram, Conn.	\$ 360.00
Omaha, Nebr.	200.00
Seattle, Wash.	277.50
Grayling, Mich.	253.00
Bethany, Ludington, Mich.	548.00
St. Paul, Cedar Falls, Iowa	346.50
St. Peter's, Cedar Falls, Iowa	23.62
West Denmark, Luck, Wis.	330.00
Detroit, Mich.	455.00
Muskegon, Mich.	500.00
Kimballton, Iowa	200.00
Gayville, S. D.	405.00
Racine, Wis.	475.50
Trinity, Greenville, Mich.	200.00
Newell, Iowa	817.22
Tyler, Minn.	1,520.00
Cozad, Nebr.	82.33
White, S. D.	207.00
Edison Township, N. J.	200.00
Trinity, Chicago, Ill.	200.00
Clinton, Iowa	225.00
Solvang, Calif.	600.00

Pension Fund:

Dwight, Ill.	45.16
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Santal Mission:

St. Paul, Cedar Falls, Iowa, from the Sunday School	24.94
Des Moines, Iowa, from Rev. Alfred Sorensen	10.00
Detroit, Mich.	35.00
Racine, Wis.	10.00
Dwight, Ill.—In memory of Mary Eskildsen, from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lauritzen	4.00
Dwight, Ill.—In memory of Mary Eskildsen, from Mr. and Mrs. S. Dixen Sorensen and Miss Ellen Sorensen	5.00

POSTMASTER: If undeliverable as addressed, notify on Form 3579.
LUTHERAN TIDINGS, ASKOV, MINNESOTA

Name _____
New Address _____
City _____ State _____

May 20, 1962

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.

Synod Officers

President:

Pastor A. E. Farstrup
3112 Lawnview Drive
Des Moines 10, Iowa.

Vice President:

Pastor Holger O. Nielsen
42 West Hartford Road
Newington 11, Connecticut.

Secretary:

Pastor Willard Garred
Route No. 2
Hampton, Iowa.

Treasurer:

Mr. M. C. Miller
79 West Road
Circle Pines, Minnesota.

Publications:

West Denmark, Luck, Wis., (for Hymnal inserts)	15.49
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Total budget receipts from congregations	\$ 8,575.26
Previously acknowledged	19,659.40

Total to date\$28,234.66

Pastor's Contributions for Pension:

Eilert Nielsen	\$27.00
Joseph Sibert	24.57
George Mellby	37.00
W. Clayton Nielsen	25.50
Folmer Farstrup	23.60
F. O. Lund	30.00
Harold Knudsen	12.90
Erik Moller	23.70
Beryl Knudsen	22.50
Ivan Westergaard	5.51
Harold Olsen	27.00
Arnold Knudsen	23.00
Vagn Duus	7.00
Harold Petersen (Luck)	15.00
Detroit, Mich.	36.25
Muskegon, Mich.	31.98
Ronald Jaspersen	31.00
Lavern Larkowski	21.00
Niels Nielsen	4.00
H. O. Nielsen	23.75
Ivan Westergaard	15.05
Dwight, Ill.	25.00
Erik Moller	4.32
W. R. Garred	4.00
Harold Knudsen	13.75
Peter Thomsen	24.00
Ralph Andersen	24.00
Niels Nielsen	12.00
A. E. Farstrup	38.00
W. R. Garred	3.50
H. O. Nielsen	1.25

Total for month	\$617.13
Previously acknowledged ..	569.16
	1,186.29

Annual Reports:

(previously acknowledged)	9.50
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Total budget receipts to date	
April 30, 1962	\$29,430.45

Lutheran World Action:

Omaha, Nebr.	\$ 10.00
Davey, Nebr.	44.00
Centerville, S. D.—From Bertha Christianson in memory of Gustave Wiese	1.00
St. Paul, Cedar Falls, Iowa	47.82
St. Paul, Cedar Falls, Iowa, Special Gifts	17.00
St. Peter's, Cedar Falls, Iowa	2.65
St. Peter's, Detroit, Mich.	52.50
Gayville, S. D.	66.88
Racine, Wis.	15.00
Junction City, Oregon	312.50
Waterloo, Iowa	100.00
Newell, Iowa	120.62
Tyler, Minn., from Sunday school ..	50.00
Cozad, Nebr.	10.42
Victory, Ludington, Mich. from Ladies' Aid	15.00
Clinton, Iowa	25.00
Dwight, Ill.—In memory of Dora Kock, Luck, Wis., from Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lauritzen	5.00

Total for month	\$ 895.39
Previously acknowledged	2,180.46

Total to date\$3,075.85

Eben-Ezer Mercy Institute:

Dwight, Ill.	\$ 45.16
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Grand View Seminary Thank Offering:

Detroit, Mich.	\$ 10.00
Tyler, Minn.	5.00
Seattle, Wash.	94.00
Newell, Iowa	50.00
Trinity, Chicago, Ill.	3.00

Total for the month	\$ 162.00
Previously acknowledged	3,536.77

Total to date\$3,698.77

District IV Home Mission:

Received from District Treasurer —for St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls	\$ 100.00
—for St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls	140.00

Total\$ 240.00

Respectfully submitted,

American Ev. Luth. Church
M. C. Miller, Treasurer.
79 West Road
Circle Pines, Minnesota.

Why ???

(Continued from Page 3)

daily life **mar** you instead of **mending** you. See that they send you nearer to God and not that they drive you farther from Him. There is no failure in life so terrible as to have pain without the lesson, or sorrow without the softening. God could have kept Daniel out of the lion's den. He could have kept Paul and Silas out of jail. He could have kept the three Hebrew children out of the fiery furnace. But God has never promised to keep us out of hard places. But what He has promised is **to go with us through every hard place**, and to bring us through victoriously!

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