

The Northwestern Lutheran

December 28, 1975



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Briefs by the Editor

Does the close of a calendar year depress you? Another year older, still nothing accomplished, death and judgment that much nearer! The world still a mess, famines and rumors of war always just beyond the horizon! Politics corrupt, and God's church threatened by the twofold peril of heresy and hypocrisy!

Frightening thoughts like that also enter the Christian's mind, even that of the Christian pastor and teacher. The Christian faith does not insulate us from the world and its troubles. What's the remedy?

During the last twelve months we Christians have indeed faced serious problems — personal, community, national, and church problems. But there is also another side. There was sin, but also the forgiveness of sin. There were troubles, but also God's comfort, the kind word spoken and the gentle deed sent our way in the name of Christ. There was bad news, but also the gloriously good news brought in Word and Sacrament. The number of criminals grew, in low places and in high; but also the number of those won for Christ and eternal salvation. God was still in charge, and He who in Advent and Holy Week came in the name of the Lord walked by our side all the way. His Holy Spirit sustained us in illness, in grief, in loss, amid soaring inflation. We are still the Father's children and the friends of His Son. That's what counts.

With that in mind, we are ready to cross the threshold from 1975 to 1976, knowing that His presence and His promises will continue to attend us. And as we do, we recall a word meant for us, a word from one of the stories Christ related while among men. Ten "pounds" were given to each of ten servants, and they were told: "Occupy till I come" (KJV). Or as Beck puts it in *An American Translation*: "Trade with these till I

come." Or the *New American Standard Bible*: "Do business with this until I come back." Or *The New International Version*: "Put this money to work until I come back." Whatever translation we may choose, the words are meant for us.

We believers occupy a very special position in this life: we are the Lord's servants, His workers, His agents, His ambassadors — all of us! The work He has given us to do has a claim on our prayers, our purses, our time, our talents, our witnessing. And all of it has eternal dimensions. Our greatest joy in eternity, next to seeing our Lord face to face, will be to meet those with whom we shared, who learned to know the Lord because we were there.

That's why you will be happy to hear about some decisions made just lately. Additional missionaries, some of them replacements and others new personnel, have been called for Central Africa, for Colombia, for Mexico, for Puerto Rico, for Hong Kong. A District Missionary has been called for the Pacific Northwest. In November, 15 home missions received land search authority, another 15 building allocations. Twelve received planning funds, and seven parsonages were allowed. Ten exploratory fields were given mission status, one of these in New Hampshire, the 45th state in which we are now represented. Manpower (pastors) was approved for seven. Eleven new exploratory fields were opened. Add to that the plans being formulated in your own congregation and in your own area, and you will realize that the picture for 1976 is anything but gloomy. There is much work to be done before He comes. Should He come in 1976, there is one thing I hope to be doing, and I know you feel the same: Be at work in the kingdom! "Occupy till I come," He said.

God bless you and use you in 1976!

*The Lord our God be with us,
as he was with our fathers:
let him not leave us,
nor forsake us. I Kings 8:57*

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The Cover

Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Wau-paca, Wisconsin, is one of many new WELS churches dedicated during 1975. Previously located in the center of town, Immanuel Congregation has relocated to a 5.3-acre plot on the city's southwest side. Pastor of the congregation is the Rev. James R. Diener. (See page 424f.)

THE NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN

Editorials

The Shepherds' Return News commentators often take to the air to lament the little effect the tidings of "peace on earth" have had among the nations. In the "letdown" after Christmas and New Year's we, too, may wonder what really has changed.

The shepherds could tell about this seeming contradiction. They heard the good tidings of great joy and the multitude of the heavenly host praising God. They hastened to Bethlehem to see the Babe lying in a manger and made known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

And then, "the shepherds returned." Returned where? Why, they returned to the fields, to their lonely night vigil, to the same old smelly sheep, to their lowly station in life.

Externally nothing had changed. Outwardly their lot in life had not improved. Ah, but *they had changed* — within, where it counts. They returned with changed hearts, gladly "glorifying and praising God."

Our Christmas services are soon over, the strains of "Silent Night" fade away, and our whole holiday season comes to a close. Like the shepherds, we must return to our fields of labor, the daily grind in shop or office, in classroom or kitchen, the humdrum routine where nothing seems to change.

But God's good tidings spark a change and kindle the fire of faith within us. Our joy is not tied to externals. In Christ our hearts are possessed by a peace the world knows nothing about. However humble our lot in life, we may return to it, as the shepherds did, "glorifying and praising God" for all the things which we have heard and seen.

John Parcher

One Star Is Needful God created the stars to spangle the night skies with beauty, but He also made them for useful purposes. From the beginning they were to serve as "signs." By declaring the glory of their Creator, they point man to his God. One day they will announce the coming of the Son of Man to judge the world. For ages they have guided the ships at sea.

Almost from the beginning the stars have been put to false uses. Throughout the ages they have been forced to serve idolatry. The ancient heathen believed that the stars determined their lives, and as many as 32,000,000 Americans, two-thirds of them women, believe so today. By publishing daily horoscopes, four out of five daily papers in the United States help to perpetuate this idolatry and superstition.

One must add — perpetuate this nonsense. The wordings of the horoscopes are so vague and uncertain that they can apply to almost any human circumstance. For the individual almost any sign of the zodiac will do.

Virtually as many churchgoers as nonchurchgoers believe in astrology. For shame! Don't they know that the Lord condemns astrology? "Let now the astrologers, the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up, and save thee from these things that shall come upon thee. Behold, they shall be as stubble; the fire shall burn them" (Isa. 47:13,14). Why don't they heed the words of Daniel? "The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers . . . show unto the king; but there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets" (Dan. 2:27,28).

The Wise Men also believed in a star, but it was the Star that arose out of Jacob and that led them to a blessed house in Bethlehem. That is the only Star we need, the only one that will lead us aright.

Carleton Toppe

Helping Out God If the kingdom of God were a business corporation, chances are that the Lord would be removed as the head and replaced by an executive who would update the corporation's policies and produce better results.

The policy established by the Lord for building the kingdom is simple: Proclaim the Word. This policy carries with it a guarantee: "My Word shall not return unto Me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

To us it often appears that this policy doesn't work too well, and the validity of God's guarantee comes into question. The Word doesn't prosper as we would like to see it prosper, and it doesn't accomplish that which we please. But we're stuck with it. That being the case, we feel that the least we can do is to fashion some crutches to help it along.

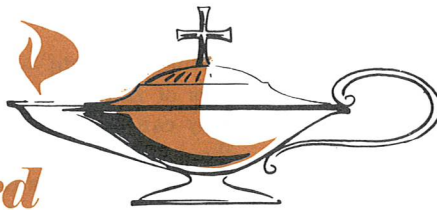
These crutches can take the form of new programs designed to attract people where the Word of God fails. A stepped-up program of social activity is not the least popular — "something for the young people," picnics, pot-lucks, prizes, and amusements which appeal to specific age groups and to the community as a whole. Some of these things are desirable as natural expressions of fellowship, but when they are designed to help God's Word along, they reflect doubts about the efficacy of God's Word and lack of confidence in the reliability of God's promises.

God does not promise 100 per cent success. Jesus did not experience it; neither did the Apostles. And judged by human standards, God appears to have been a monumental failure at times in His dealings with the Children of Israel.

We have one assignment: "Preach the Word," not design crutches. We have one accurate measurement of success: "It shall accomplish that which I please," not what we please. In carrying on the work of His kingdom, let us not presume to help out God.

Immanuel Frey

Studies in God's Word



The Christian and the Year's End

From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust and have not; ye kill and desire to have, and cannot obtain; ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the Scripture saith in vain, "The spir-

it that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy"? But He giveth more grace. Wherefore He saith, "God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble." Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double-minded. Be afflicted and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up. (James 4:1-10)

Soon 1975 will be over and the world will review its events. Top news stories will be recounted; tragedies and triumphs retold. As Christians at year's end, we might profit from some spiritual recounting and retelling. Here James would help us. In his *Course on Concrete Christianity* he has words that can be applied to "the Christian and the Year's End."

"False and Full of Sin I Am"

Our God wants a unique relationship with us — not some off-in-the-distance one like that of master and slave, but intimate like that of husband and wife. Such a relationship allows no wanton flirting with others, just wholehearted fidelity to God. No more than a wife can give herself to two men at the same time can the believer live for God and the world simultaneously. Those who want to be friends with the world only wind up becoming enemies of God. Our God wants us exclusively for Himself. Even His Spirit, whom He causes to dwell in us through Word and Sacrament, "lusteth to envy" or, we might say, "yearns jealously." That Spirit

grieves when He sees our hearts divided between God and the world and yearns to turn that heart wholly to God.

Yet what do we see so often when we look at our lives? The same "lust" which James saw in his day. Lust refers to all feelings, whether vulgar or refined, which are concerned only with self-gratification. Like atomic energy, it burns within the reactor of the heart and radiates its fallout upon our fellow men. People who get in lust's way need to be shoved aside, and wars and fightings are the result. Nor is lust ever satisfied. "More, more, more" is its language; satisfaction like some mirage is always just beyond its grasp. Lust works havoc with prayer life, too, leaving no time for prayer or promoting praying amiss. Prayers which ask God's help in satisfying selfish impulses are insulting to Him and unanswered by Him.

Is James' talk too strong? What do we find in our lives as we recount and retell the past year? Was it always "body here, yet soul above," or at times "body here and soul too"? Was it at times spiritual fence straddling, trying to make our life a "both

God and the world" instead of the "either-or" of the Bible? Was it at times my bodily members — my tongue, my hands, my thoughts — powered by lust, pursuing the world, producing hatred? Was it always fidelity to that heavenly Bridegroom or moments, more than I care to remember, of spiritual infidelity to Him? The year's end is time for sober soul searching and thorough repentance. It's time for inward mourning and outward weeping, time for standing before God with crushed heart and contrite spirit in the confession, "False and full of sin I am."

"Thou Art Full of Truth and Grace"

Full of sin as we are, yet God's great love will not let Him cast us off. Instead, it moves Him to give more grace to us. From our loving God comes a limitless supply of grace, channeled through His Word and Sacraments. In that grace He humbles us, emptying us of all self-pride and reliance. In that grace He draws us like prodigal sons to return in repentance and runs to meet us with His pardon. In that grace He lifts us up, exalting us to sonship in heaven.

In His grace He also supplies power to fight against sin. From Word and Sacrament comes power to submit to Him, to lay our lives humbly in His hands and look hopefully to His will. From Word and Sacrament comes power to resist the devil, to send him packing by swinging the Sword of the Spirit. From Word and Sacrament comes power to purge ourselves of doublemindedness, to rid ourselves more and more of divided allegiance and to devote ourselves to Him.

When we recount and retell the past year, we just HAVE to know of that abounding grace of God. We have to know His grace will cover and His love receive. We have to know that we who have raised His cross are redeemed by it. We have to know that in Jesus is pardon for the sins of the past and power against those sins in the future.

Thank God, we do know this! Thank God that at the year's end we can say again in confidence, "Thou art full of truth and grace."

Richard E. Lauersdorf

And Everybody Speaks Spanish

Medellin

Medellin — the name of a large South American city which most North Americans can't even pronounce. Medellin — the industrial center of Colombia which our Lusaka travel agent hadn't ever heard of before. Medellin — celebrating its tricentennial as a city, twice as old as Milwaukee. Medellin — a veritable beehive of over two million inhabitants, with its tall buildings and its stately residential areas; with its densely populated barrios climbing up its steep-sided, surrounding hills and its comfortable fincas nestling on its adjacent mountainsides; with its darting pedestrians and its rushing traffic and its multicolored buses and its screaming jets overhead.

And everybody speaks Spanish!

An Excellent Choice

Those of our Synod who several years ago surveyed South America, and recommended Medellin as the place to begin a new mission field, chose well. The early response to the efforts of our Wisconsin Synod mis-

sioners bears this out. This response has come from both upper and lower middle classes, and from the poor as well. Various areas have been tested. The interest shown in solid Bible teaching in all of them is a heartening experience to observe.

More Workers Needed

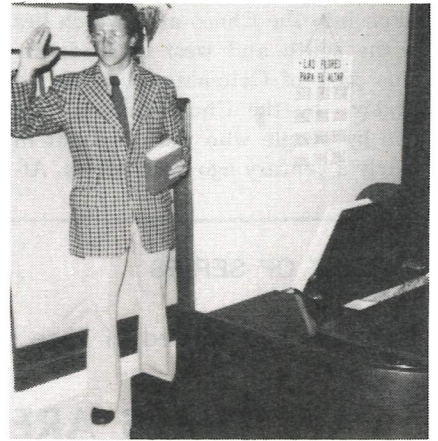
As a result of this favorable reaction, our Synod's missionaries feel that Colombians like Omar Ortiz, Carlos Cueto, and Jorge Zapata should be trained as national pastors in order to extend the Gospel work, begun among their people less than two years ago. In order to discuss this situation a worker-training conference was held in Medellin, September 2-12, 1975. It is hoped that this conference will lead to coordinated efforts on the part of all Latin American fields toward the establishment of national ministries.

A Worker-Training Conference

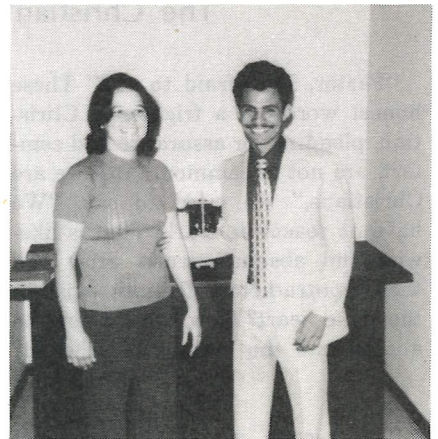
Missioners Roger Sprain and Ernest Zimdars served as conference hosts. Pastor Rupert Eggert, Mexico's

Friendly Counselor and head of its Seminary program, served as conference secretary. Professor E. H. Wendland, head of the Bible Institute and Seminary of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa, acted as consultant.

Most of the conference discussion centered on the goals, the levels, and the curriculum of a worker-training program in a mission field, and how



Omar Ortiz, above, preaching his first sermon, and Carlos Cueto, shown below with his wife, are the first Bible Institute students in Colombia.



Members of congregation at Medellin in Colombia

teaching materials for such a program can be produced in the Spanish language on a coordinated basis. A workshop on *Theological Education by Extension* was held simultaneously. By this method of instruction the worker is trained right where he lives.

The pleasant springlike temperatures of Medellin and the warm hospitality of the resident missionaries and their wives helped considerably toward getting the tasks set for the conference done within the scheduled

time. Conference participants also appreciated the efforts put forth by the Board for World Missions through its executive secretary, the Rev. Edgar Hoenecke, and the Latin America Executive Committee through its chairman, Pastor Harold Essmann, in arranging for the sessions.

An Excursion to the Choco Area

Following the conference a trip was taken into the Choco area which lies to the south and west of Medellin. This part of Colombia is inhabited largely by the Cholo Indians and also by people who were brought in nearly a century ago from Africa. Af-

ter a few hours' drive out of Medellin by Jeep there is mountain scenery of breathtaking beauty. Then a little further on toward the Pacific coast are jungle areas so primitive that they seem out of another world. As one passes through these areas, one does so with the prayer that our young church which has been so recently begun might also reach out some day with its saving message to these remote places.

Pray the Lord of the Harvest!

Medellin — known throughout Latin America and elsewhere for its orchids, its textiles, and its mountain-grown coffee. Medellin — with

its fiestas and its many statues of the "Blessed Virgin." A pleasant city, so similar to any present-day metropolis in other parts of the world, yet not without its peculiarities and subtle differences. These can present problems to anyone of another culture working there, problems which are difficult to appreciate unless personally experienced.

Those who do this pioneering in our name, facing new situations each day, deserve our constant prayers. May theirs be the courage and the wisdom to commit sound doctrine "to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also" (II Tim. 2:2.)

Ernest H. Wendland

LAST OF SERIES

Psalm 31 — I trusted in Thee, O Lord: I said, Thou art my God.

MY TIMES ARE IN THY HAND!

Part VI: The Day of Death

The Christian's Triumph Day

"Pastor, I'm afraid to die!" These honest words of a frightened Christian, pleading for assurance and comfort, are not uncommon. "But we are Christians," we want to say. "We have no reason to fear!" That is likewise the absolute truth. How can these contradictory feelings exist in the same heart? How can the first be abated and the latter strengthened?

Sin

The reason we Christians must still deal with fear in the face of death is our ever-present sinful human nature. Stirred by Satan's lies, it raises doubts and uncertainty as to the truths we have learned. "Have I misplaced my faith?" "I can't see for sure what lies ahead!"

For this reason we must continually seek to be enlightened by the Holy Spirit in our understanding and acceptance of death for what it is. This enlightenment is given through the Means of Grace. Then follows courage and confidence. Although the cycle of fears and then calm may re-

peat itself many times in our life, even on our deathbed, we have God's own assurance that He will uphold us: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee, yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness" (Isa. 41:10).

Throughout this series we have stressed the fact that life and death are in God's hands. We are to preserve our life. But that does not mean we must fear death. Rather, it is a matter of trusting God to set the length of our days and to determine the crosses we will carry. The day of death is the Christian's triumph day.

What Is Death?

It's easy to say: "I am not afraid to die"; but unless we depend on the Lord's help and strength, the first strong wind of death's storm can drive that courage away. Think of the Eleven on Maundy Thursday. "Peter said unto Him, Though I should die with Thee, yet will I not deny Thee.

Likewise also said all the disciples" (Matt. 26:35). Then, in only a matter of a few hours, "all the disciples forsook Him, and fled" (Matt. 26:56).

The Lord's help begins with the understanding of what death is. Death is not the end of anything for the human being, except his existence on this earth. Rather, eternity begins at the moment the soul is separated from the body. What this separation means for the believer is described in Ecclesiastes 12:7: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."

At the moment of death the soul is judged and goes immediately to the joy of heaven (the repentant thief on the cross, Luke 23:43) or to the torment of hell (Judas, Acts 1:18,25) while the body remains on this earth and returns to dust (Gen. 3:19) to await the resurrection.

Whether the verdict is heaven or hell depends not on our merits, but whether in this time of grace we repented of sin and were brought to faith in Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

The Goal of the Believer

Heaven is one of the sweetest words in our language, because it is the name given to our eternal home where we will be with the Lord. A

great many questions may be asked about heaven to which the Bible gives us no definite answer, but enough has been revealed to us by our Lord to assure us that it is a place of unending joy, a joy so great that our mortal minds cannot as yet grasp it.

There's more! The bodies laid in the grave, lost at sea, destroyed by disaster, or consumed by fire, all will be raised, that is, body and soul will be reunited. "The hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth" (John 5:28,29). That hour will be the Last Day, the day of judgment upon the earth.

For the believer the day of resurrection will be glorious, because Jesus will "change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body" (Phil. 3:21). Old things will have passed away and all will have become new, as our body is purged from every taint and every effect of sin.

The Fate of the Ungodly

For the ungodly it will not be so. God reveals in His Word that the ungodly will also be raised. However, the bodies of the wicked will be raised unto shame and everlasting contempt. Theirs shall be a resurrection to damnation (John 5:29).

Thus, with body and soul reunited, the dead in Christ will live, and together with the believers still living at the Last Day (I Cor. 15:51,52) enter into eternal bliss . . . all because of Jesus. "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the Law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Cor. 15:55-57). The unbelieving and unrepentant, however, have reason to fear.

With the help of God the Christian can face the day of death with calm and courage, filled with the assurance of the forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation. That moment becomes, as a Christian doctor described it, "the pinnacle of life on this earth, the culmination of religious experience, the most challenging test of faith, . . . the moment of victory!"

Gerald C. Schroer

A Parish Pastor's Perspective

Christmas Surprises

A young mother of two was attending my Adult Information Class. A week or so after the lesson on the life of Christ, she told me: "Pastor, I did not know that Mary was not married, and had never had relations with a man. Now I know why Christians are so enthusiastic at Christmas time when they celebrate the birth of Jesus." She went and told her mother. It was a surprise to them both.

That Jesus was born of a virgin is no surprise to most of us, who have grown up knowing and believing that miracle. But there are other surprises in connection with the Christmas story, not so well known among us. One of them goes back many years before the birth of Christ.

The people of Israel were poised on the border of Canaan, ready to occupy it according to God's promise. Joshua, their leader, sent two spies across the Jordan River to check out the city of Jericho, which lay in their path. He wanted to find out whether the morale of the inhabitants was high or low.

The spies entered the city through the gate, and went to the house of Rahab, a woman of Jericho, whose house was built right on the city wall. When we read the account in Joshua chapter two we are surprised to read that Rahab was a prostitute.

The spies stayed at Rahab's house. But they had been spotted while entering the city, and it was known that they had entered Rahab's house. When the king's men came to the house to arrest the men, Rahab risked her life for the two spies. She hid them under some stalks of flax on the roof. Then she told the officers, "The two men left about the time the gate was shut in the evening. If you hurry, you can catch up to them." The officers believed her and left, taking the pressure off the two spies.

Rahab used a rope to lower the two spies over the wall of the city. They escaped to Joshua, and reported that the people of Jericho were shivering

in their boots and were ripe for conquest. When the Lord brought the walls of Jericho down in a cloud of dust, the people of Israel conquered the city, taking great care to spare Rahab and her family, according to an agreement the two spies had worked out with her.

Are we surprised that God would use a prostitute to accomplish His purposes? It is surprising, but what the Old Testament tells us about Rahab is not as surprising as what the New Testament tells us about her!

In Matthew chapter one, in the genealogy of Jesus Christ, we read: "And Salmon begat Boaz of Rachab (Rahab); and Boaz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse; and Jesse begat David." The fact that Rahab the prostitute could have the privilege of being one of the mothers of our Savior is a surprise!

The writer of Hebrews tells us how this can be. Hebrews 11:31 states: "By faith the harlot Rahab perished not with them that believed not, when she had received the spies with peace." The reason she could be in the genealogy of Jesus was that God had created faith in her heart, a faith that was willing to take action for the Lord (James 2:25).

We can't excuse Rahab's former way of life. After she came to faith and grew in her knowledge of God's will, she also did not defend her past life.

What we know about Rahab, however, does enrich our celebration of Christmas. Oh, the wonders that our God performed to bring His Redeemer into the world! Oh, how full of surprises is our God!

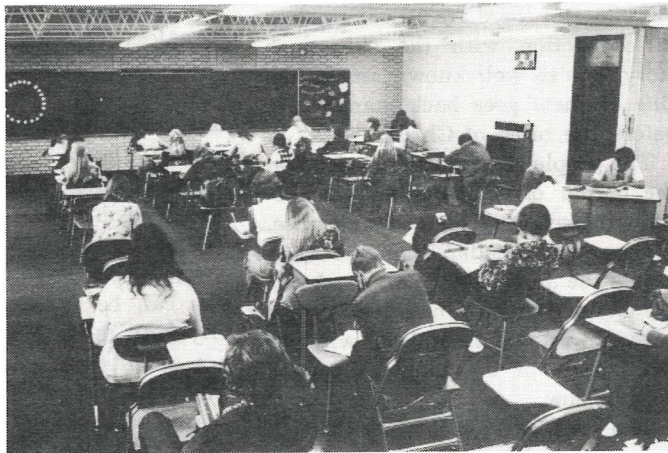
As we Christians struggle with our own sinfulness, Christmastime ought to be a time of great encouragement to us. If God could change the heart of the harlot and fill the womb of the virgin, then He can do whatever is necessary to make our hearts and lives conform to what is right. He can work surprises among us, too!

Thomas B. Franzmann

Addition at Saint Croix Lutheran



Three-tiered library accommodates 10,000 volumes



New classroom has a 90-student capacity

The beginning of a new year always brings a touch of excitement for student and teacher alike. But for students and teachers at Saint Croix Lutheran High School in West St. Paul, Minnesota, a number of "news" brought special challenge and excitement this year. Above all, the changes filled hearts with gratitude and praise to a most gracious Lord.

A new 4,000-square-foot library and classroom addition, which links the two previous buildings into one, greeted the 218 Crusaders coming to St. Croix this fall. The three-tiered, carpeted library can accommodate 45 students and has room for over 10,000 volumes. An acoustical curtain can divide the large carpeted classroom into two smaller teaching stations with a capacity of 45 students each.

Two new staff members were in-

stalled at the dedication service by the Rev. Donald Meier, St. Paul, chairman of the Twin City Lutheran High School Association. The Rev. Robert Voss, executive secretary of the WELS Commission on Higher Education, preached the dedication sermon. Mr. Clarence Jenkins, formerly a parochial-school teacher at Brownsville, Wisconsin, was installed as instructor in English. Mr. Daniel Italiano, a native of La Crosse, Wisconsin, and a 1975 graduate of St. Olaf, was inducted as Director of Instrumental Music.

Renovation of the old library-office area resulted in a spacious, carpeted suite housing a general office area, three private offices, a faculty lounge, and a faculty workroom. With the help of volunteer labor and two generous gifts, the cost to the association was under \$4,700.

Administrative appointments have also been made at Saint Croix. Mr. John Oldfield, Jr., who has been with the school for 12 years, has been named assistant to the principal. Mr. David Ross succeeds Oldfield as athletic director of the school.

A new rotating schedule challenged the memory of the returning Crusaders. Classes which previously met every day during the five-day week now meet seven times in eight days. This has opened up our daily schedule to provide a 20-minute activity period for various clubs and organizations.

Also new to the student body this year are two students from Vietnam who came to America as refugees. Dun Dao is a freshman, and his sister Mai is a junior. A junior, Robert Lutz, the son of a Lutheran missionary, received his first two years of high-school training in Australia.

New every day is the amazing grace of God upon all of us as we continue to train mind, body, and soul by keeping Christ in secondary education in the Twin Cities area.

Principal Robert A. Sievert

Catechism Revision

The 1975 Biennial Convention of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod resolved "that we resubmit the revised Enchiridion to District, pastoral and teacher conferences, and to local congregations for further study; and that we encourage these groups to send their suggestions to the revision committee for consideration."

In order to carry out the above resolution in the most efficient and economical way, the Board for Parish Education resolved to include a copy of the Enchiridion in the December issue of the *Lutheran Educator*. All pastors, professors, and teachers will thus have copies available for study. Additional copies for study by individuals, groups, congregations, or conferences are available from Northwestern Publishing House, 3624 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208. Comments on this second draft of the revised Enchiridion should be sent to the Board for Parish Education, 3614 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208.



FRIENDS OF THE RETARDED OFFICIATE AT

Pastor P. Hanke turning first shovel, assisted by (left to right) Pastor D. Begalka, Pastor F. Nitz, Pastor R. Schlicht, Pastor W. Vathauer, Pastor W. Neumann, Mr. L. Lieske, Pastor W. Henrich, Mr. M. Hinnenthal, and Mr. C. Neumann.

Groundbreaking at Belle Plaine

"I will open you the windows of heaven and pour you out a blessing." These words seemed appropriate in a variety of ways as nearly 300 friends of the retarded gathered on Sunday afternoon, November 9, 1975, at Belle Plaine, Minnesota. The occasion was the formal groundbreaking for our Synod's first residential facility for the retarded. A worship service was conducted in Trinity Church in

Belle Plaine where Pastor Warren Henrich, secretary of the Minnesota District and pastor of Mount Olive Church at Delano, Minnesota, preached the sermon based on Genesis 2:7. Pastor Del Begalka, who serves the Lutheran Home as Resident Services Director and also as its MR Program Director, was the liturgist.

The welcome rain on groundbreak-

ing day was a daylong evidence of God's blessing for the farmers who had been laboring with great effort to plow their hard, dry fields. The rain was also strikingly symbolical of the manner in which the Lord has "opened the windows of heaven" to bless the "YES" program. His grace made it possible for the program to progress from its inception on July 12, 1975, to groundbreaking for the new facility in less than four months!

In solemn gratitude to the Lord, and in the midst of the rain, Pastor Paul Hanke, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Home, led a group of dedicated people with undampened spirits in the breaking of ground at the new building site. Everyone cherishes the hope that the turning of the shovel in groundbreaking at Belle Plaine may symbolically uncover a new era of opportunity for the retarded throughout our Wisconsin Synod. We know that scores of hearts throughout the Synod are touched with joy over God's special grace to His special children, and it is our particular privilege to be sharing this joy in a special way with them!

R. W. Schlicht

Looking at the Religious World

Lutheran Statistics — 1974

The decline in North American Lutheran membership since the all-time high of 9,239,274 in 1968 continued in the previous year, but the 1974 loss was the smallest in the last four years. That loss was a minimal .43 of one per cent, a membership decrease of 38,779 leaving the Lutheran total at 8,966,434.

In the various Lutheran bodies whatever gains or losses were recorded tended to be below the one per cent figure or only slightly larger.

The larger bodies all registered declines, with the ALC loss of 1.12 per cent being the largest of the three. Our Synod gained 1,617 baptized members, a .41 per cent increase.

States which showed the largest Lutheran membership increases were Texas, Florida, Minnesota, Arizona, Nebraska, and South Carolina. Largest decreases were noted in Pennsylvania, Ohio, California, and New York, with Wisconsin much farther down on this list.

One aspect of the financial statistics is especially discouraging. While

home-purpose contributions rose a respectable 10 per cent, the church work-at-large figure only increased by two per cent, failing by far to keep pace with inflation. In the latter category our Synod's increase was even less than one per cent.

The national economic problems are hurting churches, especially in the work-at-large area. Unfortunately we are hurting even worse than others. This factor should be borne in mind when prebudget subscriptions are made in the near future.

What Shaped America?

Selling briskly at bookshops and supermarkets these days is a *Life Special Report* that cashes in on bicentennial interest by depicting "100 Events That Shaped America." One item in that total of post-1776 events

is specifically of a religious nature. It is Finney's revivalism efforts back in the 1830's.

One reacts inevitably with the hope that Christianity has had more of an impact on America than the *Life* selection would seem to indicate. The hope is transformed into certainty by the bimillenary-old reminder of Paul that "the world by wisdom knew not God" and the evaluation of Jesus, equally old and equally true, that the saving of one soul is more important than gaining the whole world.

When eternity unrolls the true record of major events in America's bicentennial story, and that of whatever centuries are to come, it will include many an instance of a Sunday morning administration of the Sacraments and proclamation of the Gospel, many an instance of a Gospel lesson taught in a Christian school and a Christian home, and many an instance of a believer telling his neighbor about the Savior or simply letting the light of his faith shine before his fellow man.

Are Moravians Lutherans?

Lutheran World Federation membership stands presently at 92 church bodies throughout the world. Three pending applications could bring the total to 95 by next year, if there are no substantial objections. Included in the three is the 67,000-member Moravian Church in South Africa.

The Moravian denomination, born in Germany in the first part of the 1700's, has accepted the Augsburg Confession and Luther's Small Catechism, but it also subscribes to Anglican and Reformed confessions. Thus it qualifies for membership in the Lutheran World Federation, which requires of its member bodies general subscription to the Lutheran Confessions of the 1500's but also allows subscription to other documents not necessarily Lutheran.

This is the great fellowship error of the Lutheran World Federation. Some 200 years ago in Philadelphia, Lutheran Pastor Muhlenberg clearly laid down the dividing lines between himself and Moravian leader Count Zinzendorf. In the process he is said to have begun the work of planting the Lutheran Church in this land.

Now the LWF seems to be saying that Muhlenberg erred. We don't think he did. One wonders what the Lutheran Church in America, both a member of the LWF and a spiritual descendant of Muhlenberg, will do about the pending membership application.

Top Ten Hymns

Over 3,000 Lutheran Church in America congregations participated in a survey to discover what hymns had been sung at services during the last two years and how often they had been selected. The 10 hymns used by the largest number of congregations are:

1. Holy, holy, holy
2. A mighty fortress
3. The church's one foundation
4. Joy to the world
5. Beautiful Savior
6. Jesus Christ is risen today
7. Come, Thou Almighty King
8. Praise to the Lord
9. My faith looks up to Thee
10. I know that my Redeemer lives

The most frequently used hymn of all was "Beautiful Savior," sung 11,348 times by the 3,169 congregations. Near the bottom of the list were evening hymns, suggesting perhaps that evening services are definitely on the wane. Joining them near the bottom was "Jerusalem, thou city fair and high." No matter how little attention some hymns received, the survey results revealed the surprising fact that every single hymn and tune available in the hymnal of the church body were used at least once.

"Say It Isn't So"

A teacher of confirmands in the American Lutheran Church addresses to the September 16 "Question Box" of that church body's *Lutheran Standard* this problem:

"God let Bible writers make mistakes on questions of science, geography, and history. Why?" This statement is on page 24 of the Study Book, *God Speaks in His Word* [Word/Grace/Faith Series, Augsburg Publishing House]. It

really startled me as I was preparing to teach a weekly lesson to seventh-grade confirmands.

My question is, "Does the ALC really teach this?"

The statement supplied as answer, running to almost a full page, speculates as to the purpose of the matter in question and concludes the intention must have been to stimulate discussion. There is a paragraph on editorial responsibility. When the answer gets to the "larger concern about the authority of Scripture," the charge is made that the matter is put "too mechanically" when it is stated, "God let Bible writers make mistakes."

This is explained in another column and a half by referring to what Bible writers knew and didn't know, what they quoted from others in the believing community, what variations there are in Gospel accounts. The sum is, "Historical 'facts' do not make up the whole of truth."

Amid all the explanations the "Question Box" answerer never gets around to saying it isn't so.

Chile Church Created

Overinvolvement in political affairs seems to be the prime cause for the origin of a new Lutheran church in Chile. Five congregations and one pastor, the Rev. Richard Wagner, it is reported, withdrew from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (ELCC) to form the Lutheran Church in Chile (LCC) last June.

Since Allende's overthrow in the fall of 1973, there has been dissension in the ranks of Chilean Lutherans. Bishop Frenz and his involvement in social rights activities have been the storm center, with German-speaking congregations seeking to force his resignation and deportation. Bishop Frenz has been supported by Spanish-speaking congregations, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany which supplies aid, and most recently by ELIM.

Latest available figures set the ELCC membership at about 25,000 but it can be assumed that there has been considerable decrease in the past two years of conflict and split.

Edward C. Fredrich

Seminary Auxiliary Meets

On Saturday, October 4, 1975, a beautiful fall day, 413 women registered for the third annual meeting of the Seminary Auxiliary.

The program began with an inspiring message by Prof. Richard Balge, based on Matthew 20:26-28. The liturgist was Pastor Robert Uttech. The Seminary Male Chorus favored the group with two selections.

Mrs. Carroll Dummann, president, conducted the business meeting. Election results were as follows: Mrs. Gordon Snyder, second vice-president; Mrs. Clifford Krueger, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Rae Schumacher, treasurer; Mrs. Harold Bitter and Mrs. Fred Priebe, representatives at large; Pastor Robert Uttech, pastoral adviser; Prof. Wilbert Gawrisch, faculty representative. Mrs. Dale Arndt, first vice-president, automatically became the new president of the organization.

The project committee concentrated its efforts on furnishings for the



Mrs. C. Dummann, past president, hands gavel over to Mrs. Dale Arndt, former vice-president.

married students' lounge and on contributions toward the chapel carpeting fund. A thank-you was extended to individuals for many hours of labor and to groups and individuals for other donations. The following projects were chosen for 1975-76: \$250

for chapel carpeting, \$3,000 for weight lifting and exercise equipment, \$250 for dark shades for the gymnasium. The ladies gave a generous offering of \$680.55 toward these projects, but much more is needed if they are to become a reality. Further donations may be sent to the treasurer, Mrs. Rae Schumacher, 9527 W. Good Hope Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53224.

Following the business meeting, Prof. John Jeske discussed the work involved in translating the Old Testament into modern day language. Professor Jeske had worked on that project together with a group of Bible scholars in Greece last summer. Later in the program, three Seminary students, Mr. Lynn Wiedmann, Mr. Thomas Speidel, and Mr. Robert Paulson, spoke on "How I got to the Seminary."

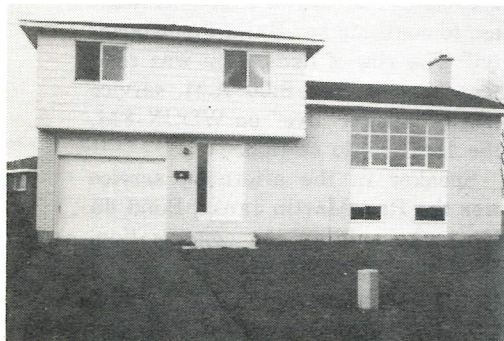
In closing, Mrs. Arndt thanked all who had made this day an enjoyable one. May we see many new faces at our next meeting on October 2, 1976!

Mrs. Fred Priebe
Publicity Committee

Direct from the Districts

Michigan

Parsonage Dedicated at Orleans, Canada



On Sunday, October 5, 1975, Abiding Word Ev. Lutheran Church, Orleans, Ontario, Canada, dedicated its new parsonage in a special afternoon service. Pastor Thomas Pfothenauer of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Otta-

wa, addressed the congregation on the theme "Responsible Kingdom Building," using the words of Psalm 127:1,2. An open house and light lunch followed.

Abiding Word Ev. Lutheran Church was born under the direction of God's Grace and through the efforts of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Ottawa when 8½ acres of land were purchased in Orleans upon recommendation of the Mission Research and Development Committee of St. Paul's Congregation.

Mission status was granted the Orleans mission in August, 1973. In 1974 David Priebe, a Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary graduate, was called as first resident pastor of the congregation. He was installed as pastor in August, and the first service of Abiding Word Congregation was held in September. Services are being

conducted in the local French High School.

The purchase of the new parsonage is a blessing, not only because it provides a home for the pastor and his family, but also because it provides meeting space for the congregation.

Minnesota

25th for Pastor W. Neirmeier

The Christian Women's Guild of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Harrisonville, Missouri, on September 21,



Pastor and Mrs. W. T. Niermeier

1975, sponsored a service of thanksgiving commemorating Pastor W. T. Niermeier's 25 years of service in the ministry. Over 200 friends and relatives from three states and 23 towns and cities attended the celebration. Present was the entire membership of Immanuel Lutheran Congregation, a sister mission at St. Joseph, Missouri, about 100 miles away. Their pastor, the Rev Galen Sommer, conducted the 9:00 A.M. service, basing his sermon on Ephesians 4:1-6. He reminded the congregation that their unity with their pastor was based on a unity of faith. The observance closed with a "This Is Your Life" presentation after the noon luncheon.

Later in the afternoon the Youth League of Our Savior Congregation hosted the young people of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Overland Park, Kansas, and of Immanuel Lutheran Church of St. Joseph, at a fun social and hamburger fry.

Nebraska

Classroom Addition at Overland Park, Kansas

On October 5, 1975, Mt. Olive Congregation of Overland Park, Kansas, was privileged by God's grace to break ground for a new classroom addition to its basic unit. The addition will contain two classrooms for its Christian day school. The full basement will be used as a Sunday

school and fellowship area. This area can be divided into two more classrooms when needed. Mt. Olive's Christian Day School opened in 1973 and now has two teachers and 28 students.

The power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is particularly evident in the fact that this congregation of 126 communicants has received sufficient gifts and commitments to cover the cost of the entire project, about \$96,000. The impetus came from a gift of stock presented to the congregation. When the rest of the congregation was contacted, another individual was moved by the Holy Spirit to give a most generous gift, one equal to all other commitments combined. With joy the congregation could now proceed with its much needed addition.

On groundbreaking Sunday, Pastor Soukup reminded the congregation, on the basis of Haggai 1, that even as it was the Lord who stirred up the people to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, so it was also the Lord's will that Mt. Olive have its new classroom addition. God is really the One who provided it! To Him be the thanks and glory!

Mt. Olive will reach interest-subsidized status on December 1 and has been instrumental in starting another mission in North Kansas City. The congregation is most thankful to the Synod for making this work in Kansas City possible.

Northern Wisconsin

Dedication of School Addition

An all-purpose room and gymnasium is a real asset to the program of any Christian day school. Zion Congregation of Morrison is now privileged to have such a unit and on September 14, 1975, dedicated this new addition to its four-classroom school. The addition consists mainly of a 60 x 87 gymnasium, but also includes a well-equipped kitchen. Time elapsing between groundbreaking and dedication was 17 months.

Pastor Waldemar Loescher reports that many donated hours of labor by a large number of members reduced the overall cost considerably. In round figures, the total cost of the project was \$120,000.

In morning and afternoon services Pastor Edward Stelter of Two Rivers and Pastor Carl Klein of Wrightstown reminded the members of Zion that as Christians build, they build to the Lord, and whatever they build is the Lord's.

Church Dedicated at Waupaca

Sunday, August 17, 1975, was "a day which the Lord hath made" for Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Waupaca, Wisconsin. The members and their pastor "rejoiced and were glad in it," as they were privileged to dedicate a new church to the glory and service of God.

The Rev. James R. Diener, pastor of Immanuel, preached in the two morning services. Using Ephesians 2:19-22 as his text, he urged his hearers to continue to "Build For Eternity!" The rite of dedication was read responsively. The 8:00 A.M. service was broadcast "live" on WDUX-FM, the local radio station.

Speaker in the afternoon service was the Rev. Martin Janke, Fond du Lac, who said to the congregation, "See Your New Church as a Gift of God." Basing his sermon on II Samuel 7, he suggested that the congregation will want to value God's gift highly.

Over 950 persons attended the three services. The ladies of the congregation served a dinner at noon and a sandwich lunch in the afternoon.



Pastor P. Soukup doing the groundbreaking honors for D. Smith, B. Stuckwish, J. Westhoff, M. Frey, W. Gutzmer, N. Ventura, A. Draeger, and E. Chambon (architect).

The new church, built on a 5.3-acre site on the city's southwest side, is a modified A-frame with roof of laminated arches and wood decking. Walls are of block and brick. A carport and belltower are attached. The 500-pound bell is a carry-over from the old church. The office wing contains a sacristy, the pastor's study, and a church office.

The carpeted church seats 352 in the nave. Symbols adorn the face of the chancel furniture and are also incorporated into the two large artglass windows in the chancel. A 15-foot oak cross adorns the wall above the altar. New candelabra, missal stand, vases, and offering plates were purchased through the Memorial Fund.

A unique feature in the church is found in the vestibule, where 35 stained-glass windows from the old church form a border next to the ceiling. Lighted from behind, they are especially impressive at night.

The church has a full basement, housing a kitchen, fellowship hall, and nine Sunday-school rooms.

The planning phase of the project took almost five years for the nine-member building committee. Construction of the church took only 10 months. But the work to which Immanuel Congregation has been called has eternal consequences.

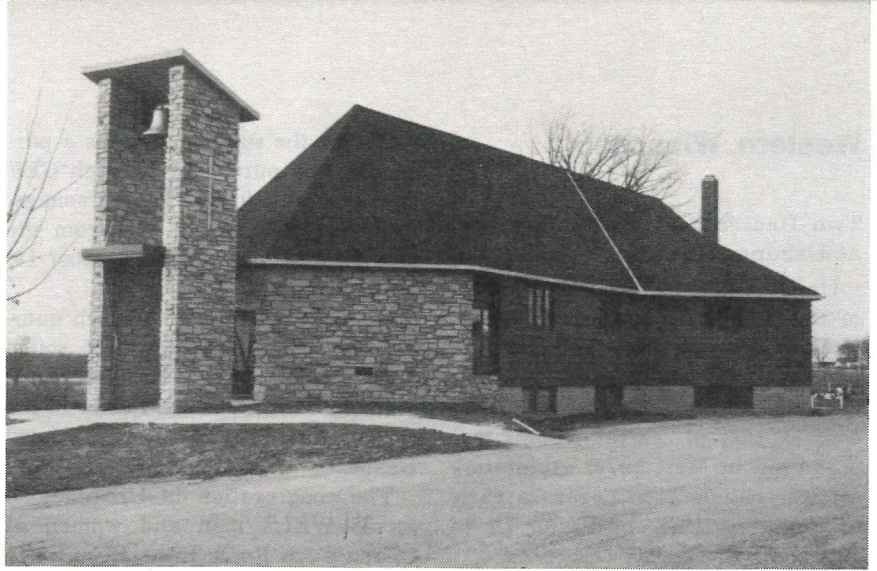
"This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."

Peace, Wautoma Celebrates 75th

In September, 1900, 13 men met to organize Peace Lutheran Church, Wautoma, Wisconsin. Ten years later the congregation joined the Wisconsin Synod and called its first resident pastor.

Peace observed its 75th anniversary on September 21, 1975, with special thanks to the Church's Head for the Gospel peace which He had granted to the congregation for so many years. A son of present members of Peace, Prof. Richard Balge of our Seminary, brought the festival message.

The last 15 years of the Wautoma congregation's history have been especially eventful. Needs of the growing congregation led to relocation and the building of a new church, completed in 1961, and a new par-



Remodeled St. Paul's Church of Stephenville, Wisconsin

sonage, completed in 1963. The congregation now numbers just over 300 communicant members. Peace Congregation and its pastor, the Rev. Lester Groth, pray that the Lord will bless them with continued peace.

Pastors who have served Peace include: H. Anger (1910-20), E. G. Behm (1920-35), W. Gieschen (1935-43), T. W. Redlin (1943-51), A. D. Laper (1951-59), G. Kaniess (1959-71), and L. Groth, 1971 to the present.

Stephenville Church Remodeled

On November 16, 1975, St. Paul's Lutheran of Stephenville, Route 1, Hortonville, Wisconsin, dedicated its remodeled house of worship. Preacher in the morning service was the pastor of the congregation, the Rev. Donald Ninmer. Dr. S. Becker of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary addressed the worshippers in the afternoon service.

St. Paul's Congregation was organized in 1882. The first church building was erected in 1899 and dedicated in February, 1900. This church served the congregation until January, 1955, when the present edifice was dedicated.

Plans for remodeling the present church were approved by the voting members on January 19, 1975. The plans included a new entrance, new bell tower, wings on each side of the church to provide more seating space in the nave and additional space for Sunday school classes in the basement. An education room was also added on the north side of the church.

Construction began on April 30.

Since the members of the congregation donated many special items and a great deal of labor, the final cost came well below the original \$45,000 estimate.

At the time of the dedication the congregation numbered 283 baptized persons, of whom 209 are communicants.

Pastors who have served the congregation are: August Kleinhans, Richard Siegler, August Vollbrecht, W. H. Kansier, Emil Redlin, Carl Henning, Robert Waldschmidt, Robert Carter, and Donald Ninmer.

Southeastern Wisconsin

Organ Incorporates Old and New

The pipe organ project at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, W. Melvina Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, began about two years ago when the congregation purchased a pipe organ from Saron Congregation, then merging with St. Paul's on N. 73rd.

The Verlinden Organ Company completely rebuilt and upgraded the existing instrument, adding 305 new pipes and incorporating the chimes from St. Matthew's former organ at 10th and Garfield. The organ is a two-manual, dual-chamber installation. There are 23 ranks and 1,421 pipes, of which 366 are exposed on the chancel wall. The console is new.

The organ was presented to the public at an organ recital on November 16, 1975. Organist for the occasion was Prof. James Engel of Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota.

Western Wisconsin

Two Dedications Mean Progress at Urbana, Illinois

On November 9, 1975, the members of Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church, Urbana, Illinois, witnessed the first baptism to be conducted in their new church building. This new WELS congregation of central Illinois was organized in May, 1973, exploratory services having been begun as early as February, 1972, by Pastor David Rutschow of Peoria.



Bethlehem Church, Urbana, Illinois

Bethlehem's church building, originally built by another Lutheran body in 1950, was purchased from the Nazarene Church and dedicated by Bethlehem as its house of worship on April 13, 1975. For the price of \$80,000 the congregation received a worship facility which seats 150. Four Sunday-school rooms, a kitchen, and fellowship hall provide ample room for other church activities. Two adjoining lots were included in the purchase to provide parking space.

On dedication day, 171 worshippers gathered to offer thanksgiving to their gracious Lord. The Rev. Donald Bitter, first vice-president of the District, addressed the congregation in the morning service. Using the words of Genesis 28:16,17, Pastor Bitter reminded the congregation, "This is the House of God, and this is the Gate of Heaven."

After the dedication dinner, Pastor David Rutschow of Peoria addressed the congregation on Acts 2:42-47, reminding them that "Behind a Thriving Congregation is a Model Congregation."

During the summer months a parsonage was purchased through CEF at a cost of \$40,500. The parsonage, located a mile and a half from the church, was dedicated September 14, 1975.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church numbers 38 communicants and 55 souls. Nine children hear about the Lord Jesus in Sunday school. Pastor of the congregation is the Rev. Richard Raabe.

The congregation in Urbana also serves WELS men and women at Chanute Air Force Base, 15 miles to



Dedication of Parsonage

the north, in Rantoul, Illinois. About 30 WELS students are attending the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana, with 12 of them actively participating in a newly formed Lutheran Collegians chapter.

The members of Bethlehem express their gratitude to all the members of the Wisconsin Synod for their mission dollars and many prayers which made the physical structure of the congregation possible.

Our prayers are that God's Word in this community will continue to draw souls to the Savior and comfort them with certain knowledge of the resurrection and eternal life offered by the Lord Jesus.



NOMINATIONS

The following have been nominated by the members of the Synod as candidates for the position of Executive Secretary of the Board for Parish Education, a vacancy created by the retirement of Executive Secretary Adolph F. Fehlauer effective August 1, 1976.

Prof. Glenn Barnes	New Ulm, MN
Prof. Gerhard Bauer	New Ulm, MN
Mr. Gerald Berger	Milwaukee, WI
Prof. Jerome Birkholz	Saginaw, MI
Prof. Gerald Cudworth	Saginaw, MI
Mr. Ray Dusseau	Milwaukee, WI
Rev. Kurt Eggert	Milwaukee, WI
Rev. William Fischer	Brookfield, WI
Prof. Arthur Glende	New Ulm, MN
Prof. George Heckmann	New Ulm, MN
Prof. John Isch	New Ulm, MN
Rev. Philip Janke	Two Rivers, WI
Mr. Darrell Knippel	Minneapolis, MN
Prof. David Kuske	Mequon, WI
Mr. George LaGrow	Pompano Beach, FL
Mr. Gerald Lanphear	Whitefish Bay, WI
Mr. Norbert Manthe	Benton Harbor, MI
Mr. LeDell Plath	Milwaukee, WI
Mr. James Raabe	Wonewoc, WI
Rev. Loren Schaller	Onalaska, WI
Rev. Gerhard Schapekahm	Tulsa, OK
Mr. John Schibbelhut	Crete, IL
Mr. Daniel Schmeling	Dallas, TX
Mr. John R. Schultz	Lake Mills, WI
Mr. Ferdinand Schultz, Jr.	Juneau, WI
Prof. Arthur Schulz	New Ulm, MN
Mr. Melvin Schwartz	Weyauwega, WI
Mr. Richard Sonntag	Milwaukee, WI
Mr. Adelbert Voigt	Beaver Dam, WI
Rev. David Waage	Minneapolis, MN
Mr. Alfons Woldt	Milwaukee, WI
Mr. Donald Zimmerman	Stevensville, MI

Correspondence concerning these nominees should be in the hands of the secretary of the Board for Parish Education no later than January 19, 1976.

Mr. F. W. Schultz, Secretary
Board for Parish Education
363 Lincoln Drive
Juneau, Wisconsin 53039

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES

MICHIGAN

SOUTHEASTERN PASTOR-TEACHER CONFERENCE

Date: January 19-20, 1975; Communion service, 10:00 a.m. Monday.

Place: St. Paul Lutheran Church, Monroe, Michigan; R. Winter, host pastor.

Preacher: R. Baer (G. Lenz, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of James 5:12-20; D. Anderson; Doctrinal Perspective of Church-State Relations; W. Koelpin; Practical Perspective of Church-State Relations; R. Brutlag; Discussion of *Gesetzlich Wesen Unter Uns*; K. Krauss; An evaluation of the TAS Evangelism Program; L. Koeninger; Conference Reports and Business.

E. Fredrich, Secretary

OHIO CONFERENCE

Date: January 19-20, 1975.

Place: Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Grove City, Ohio (M. Ahlborn, host pastor).

Preacher: K. Grunewald (T. Bartz, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of Romans 14; L. Prah, The Third Use of the Law; K. Fuhlbrügge; Excommunication, Removal, Suspension, Expulsion, Self-exclusion; J. Brug.

L. Prah, Secretary

MINNESOTA

RED WING PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: January 27, 1976; 9:00 a.m. Communion service.

Place: First Lutheran, La Crescent, Minnesota; M. C. Smith, host pastor.

Preacher: T. H. Kuske (W. A. Meier, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of Zechariah 4; J. Ruppel; Ecclesiastes; M. F. Doelger; Miscellaneous Material.

W. A. Meier, Secretary

NORTHERN WISCONSIN

RHINELANDER PASTOR-TEACHER CONFERENCE

Date: January 16, 1976; 9:00 a.m. Communion service.

Place: Zion Lutheran Church, Mercer, Wisconsin; W. Hoepner, host pastor.

Preacher: C. Siegler (F. Bergfeld, alternate).

Agenda: The Doctrine of Holy Communion: E. Kock; What Constitutes a Complete 5-to-7-Minute Devotion? W. Hoepner.

C. J. Siegler, Secretary

THE NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

CHICAGO CONFERENCE

Date: January 13-14, 1976; 1:00 p.m. (EST).
Place: To be arranged by Pastor James Castillo, 4003 Fern Valley Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40219; phone (502) 968-9735.
Preacher: N. Paul (N.T. text); P. Prange, alternate (O.T. text).
Agenda: Exegesis of Titus 1 (cont.): N. Paul; Exegesis of Titus 2: J. Castillo; How Far Can We Accept Evolution? G. Boldt; Practical Applications of the Letters to the Seven Churches: J. Zickuhr.
Note: Please excuse to the secretary.
 R. W. Pasbrig, Secretary

WESTERN WISCONSIN

CHIPPEWA RIVER VALLEY- WISCONSIN RIVER VALLEY PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: January 20, 1975; 9:00 a.m. Communion service.
Place: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 2nd and Hemlock, Marathon, Wisconsin; R. P. Otto, host pastor.
Preacher: R. Schultz (B. Stensberg, alternate).
Agenda: Exegesis of Isaiah 40:3ff: L. Koester; Doctor Luther on Isaiah 64:6 (St. Louis edition of Luther's Works, Vol. VI, 814-815): W. Gieschen; Catechism Revision continued; Ministry of the Keys: R. Otto and G. Schmeling; Pentecostalism: R. Kobleske; Reports: Questions of Casuistry.
 D. C. Dengler, Secretary

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

(Submitted through the District Presidents)

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 Phone: (414) 739-8338

IN JAPAN

Members of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod and of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, either civilians or military personnel, in Japan's Kanto Plain area (Tachikawa-Tokyo-Yokohama-Yokosuka) are invited to attend English worship services on the first, second, and fourth Saturday afternoons, and on the third Sunday afternoon of the month at the Lutheran Church of the Atonement. Services are followed by a fellowship dinner (home cooking!). Overnight lodging is also available.

The Lutheran Church of the Atonement is located at 2-17 Saiwai-cho, 3-chome, Higashi Kurume Shi, Tokyo 180-03. From Ikebukuro take Seibu-Ikebukuro Line to Higashi Kurume Station. Welcoming you are Pastors Habben, Tel. (0424) 71-1855, and Roger W. Falk, Tel. (0424) 74-2125.

NEW WELS CHURCHES

Names Requested

In recent months the Wisconsin Synod began work in the states and cities listed below. Please send all names of members who moved into the general area of these cities, as well as Wisconsin Synod mission, to the Synod's Membership Conservation office. Names as well as pertinent information regarding members referred will be forwarded to the nearest pastor and/or mission board chairman. Pastors who want stations included in this list are to inform the respective District mission board chairman. Area names are dropped from this list after appearing in the Yearbook for one year.

Alabama	Mobile
Alaska	Eagle River/Wassila
Arizona	Northwest Tucson Paradise Valley
California	East Anaheim Modesto* Petaluma Sacramento Sierra Madre
Colorado	Greeley
Florida	Clearwater* Daytona Beach* Engelwood Sarasota*
Illinois	Springfield* West Chicago Westmont*
Indiana	LaFayette* Merrillville
Iowa	Burlington Dubuque Shenandoah*
Michigan	Gaylord Grand Ledge Lake Orion Port Huron* Romeo
Minnesota	Cambridge* Lakeville Northfield* Owatonna
Missouri	North Kansas City
Nebraska	Fremont* Norfolk* Scottsbluff*
Nevada	Reno
New Hampshire	Nashua
New Mexico	Las Alamos* Las Cruces*
New York	Long Island Syracuse Charlotte*
North Carolina	S.E. Columbus*
Ohio	Wooster*
Pennsylvania	Altoona* Glenshaw (N. Pittsburgh) Lehigh Valley*
South Carolina	Charleston*
South Dakota	Mitchell
Texas	Beaumont* Lubbock Temple
Virginia	Roanoke*
Washington	Pullman
Wisconsin	Hudson* Middleton Prairie du Chien (Preaching Station)
Alberta	Edmonton*
Ontario	Pembroke*

*Denotes exploratory services.

(New Missions in cities already having a WELS Church are not listed.)

Note: All names and addresses of members who move unless they can be transferred directly to a sister congregation, should be mailed to our —

WELS MEMBERSHIP CONSERVATION
 3512 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53208

EXPLORATORY SERVICES

SARASOTA, FLORIDA

Exploratory services are being conducted at the Recreation Hall of the Sarasota Mobile Home Park, 2100 E. Laurel, Sarasota, Florida, each Sunday at 12 Noon. Please send names and addresses of interested persons to Pastor James L. Vogt, 3012 — 18th Ave. W., Bradenton, Florida 33505; phone: (813) 748-7648, or (813) 747-2373.

WOOSTER, ASHLAND, MANSFIELD, OHIO

Exploratory services are being conducted in Wooster Township School in Wooster, Ohio. Services are being held Sundays at 4:00 p.m. Please send names of prospects, or requests for information, to: Pastor Kurt Grunewald, 328 Kathron Ave., Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 44221.

TIME AND PLACE

RENO, NEVADA Change of Location

Shepherd of the Mountains Ev. Lutheran Congregation is now meeting at 955 W. Peckham. Pastor Hugo Warnke, District Missionary, also resides at this address. ZIP 89502 Phone: (702) 825-3292. Worship at 11 a.m.

SAUK RAPIDS, MINNESOTA

Petra Ev. Lutheran Church, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota, is conducting worship services at a new time and at a new address. The new location is 1049 1st Avenue North and the time is 9:00 a.m. for the worship service and 10:00 a.m. for Sunday school. The pastor is the Rev. Peter J. Naumann, phone 252-9475.

VISITORS

VISITING ARIZONA

To those who are moving to or wintering in the Sun City-Youngstown-Peoria area we extend a cordial invitation to come and worship with us. Our Savior Lutheran Church is located in Phase I, on the south end of Sun City, at 9825 N. 103rd Avenue. Services are conducted on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. from October through April, and at 9:00 a.m. from May through September. Bible class meets on Thursday evenings at 7:00. Resident pastor is the Rev. Victor C. Schultz, 9901 N. 103rd Ave., Sun City, Arizona; phone 977-2872.

INSTALLATIONS

(Authorized by the District Presidents)

Pastor:

Sabrowsky, Daniel L., As pastor of Grace Lutheran, Seattle, Washington, on November 9, 1975, by G. Frey (PNW).

Teachers:

Hermanson, Roger, as instructor of music at Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton, Wisconsin, on August 29, 1975, by J. Schroeder (N. Wis.)

Treder, Gerald, as teacher at St. Martin's Lutheran School, Watertown, South Dakota, on July 20, 1975, by E. Habermann (Dak.-Mont.)

Ziebell, Thomas, as instructor at Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton, Wisconsin, on August 29, 1975, by J. Schroeder (N. Wis.).

APPOINTMENT

Dr. Heinz Hoenecke, a practicing pathologist, could not accept the election to the Apache Mission Executive Committee because the time spent at meetings would interfere with his medical practice. Mr. Karl Krauss, Jr., of El Paso, Texas, has been appointed in his stead.
 Oscar J. Naumann, President

WANTED

Apostles Lutheran Sunday School desires to purchase five sets of the two-volume work, *Bible History References*, by F. Rupprecht. Anyone willing to part with these books is asked to write to: Apostles Lutheran Sunday School, 3240 Broadwater, Billings, Montana 59102.

NOTICE

The next regular plenary session of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for

January 19-20, 1976.

Business to be acted upon is to be submitted to the executive secretary of the board with copies to the chairman of the board no later than ten days prior to the meeting date.

Norval W. Kock, Secretary
Board of Trustees

REQUEST FOR NOMINATIONS

Because of the death of Miss Dorothy E. Westphal who served as a called organ instructor at Dr. Martin Luther College, the Commission on Higher Education has approved the request of the Board of Control to fill the position she held.

Women nominated should be good organists, should have a better than average knowledge of church music, should know what needs congregations have in the field of church music as a result of personal experience, and should possess the attitudes and overall abilities which contribute to the development of competent organists.

The voting constituency of the Synod, as specified in the bylaws of the Synod's constitution, is encouraged to submit the names of women qualified to fill this position. To assist the board in its calling responsibilities, as much pertinent data as possible should be included. Names should be submitted to the undersigned by January 12, 1976.

Mr. Darrell Knippel, Sec'y
DMLC Board Board of Control
4818 Garfield Avenue So.
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55409

NOMINATIONS

The following pastors have been nominated by the members of the Synod as candidates for the position of executive secretary of the Board of Trustees, a position that became open when Pastor Harold H. Eckert announced his intention to retire effective with the installation of his successor.

Norman W. Berg, Milwaukee, WI
George W. Boldt, Morton Grove, IL
Milton Burk, Yucaipa, CA
Walter A. Diehl, Dallas, TX
Daniel M. Gieschen, Adrian, MI
Paul G. Hartwig, South Milwaukee, WI
Elton H. Huebner, Beaver Dam, WI
Carl S. Leyrer, Milwaukee, WI
David M. Ponath, North St. Paul, MN
James P. Schaefer, Milwaukee, WI
Robert W. Schlicht, Belle Plaine, MN
Erhardt G. Schultz, Durand, MI
Robert J. Voss, Brookfield, WI

Correspondence concerning these nominees should be in the hands of the secretary of the Board of Trustees no later than January 7, 1975.

Pastor Norval W. Kock, Secretary
715 Marshall St.
Manitowoc, Wisconsin 54220

CHAPLAIN E. C. RENZ

HOME ADDRESS

6501 Gau-Bischofsheim
Bahnhofstrasse 92
West Germany

Telephone: 06135-3249

MAILING ADDRESS

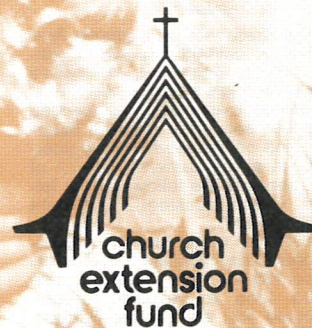
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APO NY 09185

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For more information, write to:

Church Extension Fund / Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
3515 West North Avenue / Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208