

The Northwestern Lutheran

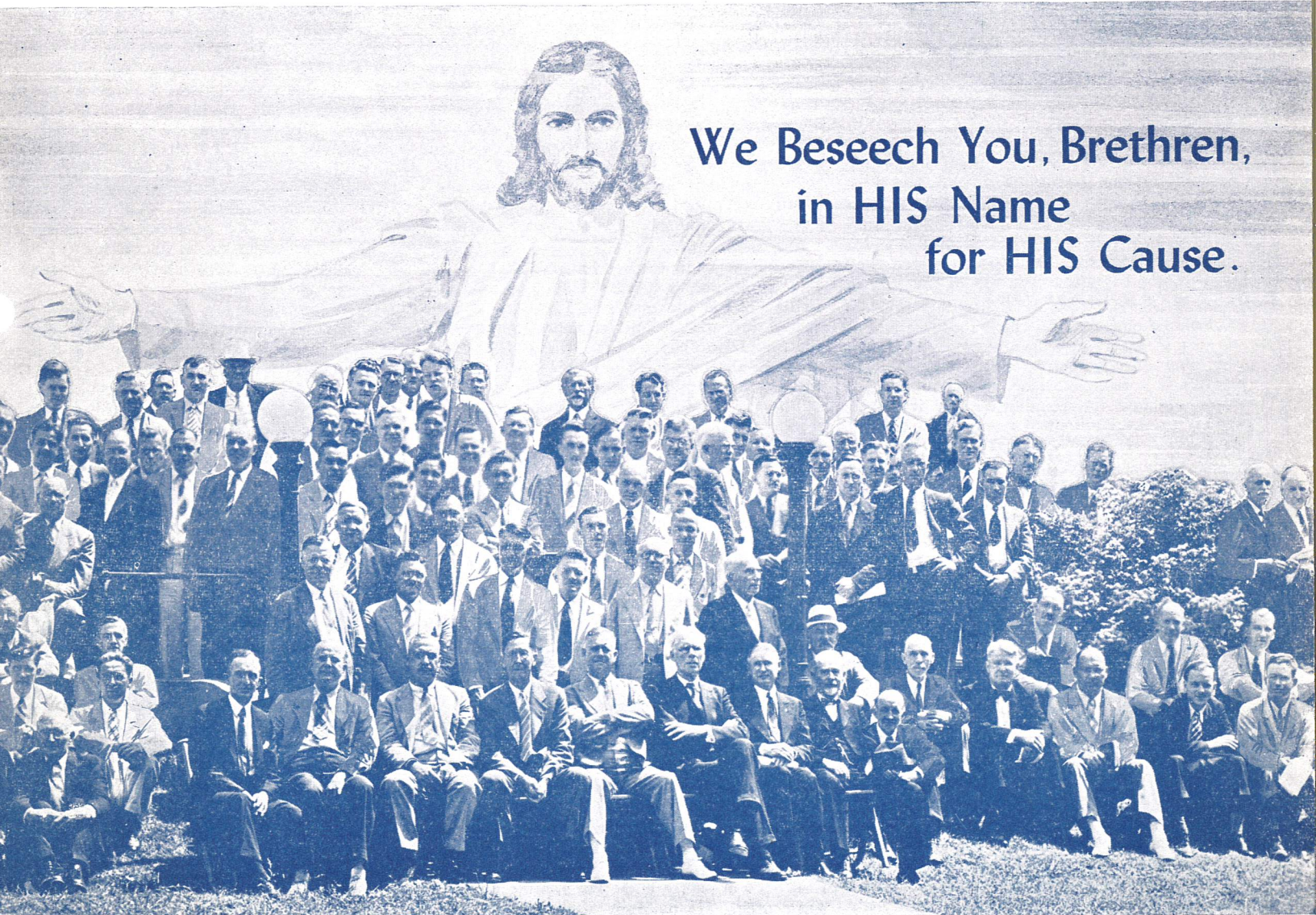
"The Lord our God be with us, as He was with our fathers, let Him not leave us, nor forsake us." 1 KINGS 8-57

WISCONSIN SYNOD

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

August, 31, 1947

Volume 34 — Number 18



Convention Number

SERMON DELIVERED AT THE OPENING OF THE JOINT SYNOD AT WATERTOWN AUGUST 6th, 1947, BY PRESIDENT JOHN BRENNER

I Cor. 3:9-17



Fellow-Workers in Christ our Lord:

The words of our text greet us at the opening of the twenty-ninth convention of our Joint Synod. We are assembled here as duly elected delegates of some eight hundred congregations to speak and act for them in matters of the work in which they are jointly engaged. We are in the service of these churches and responsible to them.

But the endeavor in which they are united is not of man. It is the work of God, the building of His temple here on earth. He designed it from eternity; in the fullness of time He laid its foundation; and it grows solely by the working of His grace. We are privileged to be co-workers with Him, but only as humble servants who in all things look to Him for direction and who strive only to please Him. His voice comes to us from our text:

TAKE HEED HOW YE BUILD

- I) Build Only On The Foundation That Is Laid.
- II) On That Foundation Build Only That Which Will Abide.

- I) Build Only On The Foundation That Is Laid

I Have Laid the Foundation

Paul had done the pioneer work in Corinth. He had entered that great, busy and rich, but idolatrous and wicked city with fear and trembling and had remained there for eighteen months only because the Lord had comforted him: "Be not afraid, but speak and hold not thy peace: for I am with thee: for I have much people in this city." This is the voice of the Great Masterbuilder who has planned, who has chosen the site, who holds all necessary priorities, and whose work will be completed in spite of all possible opposition. His own part in this great

work the apostle defines in deep humility: "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers (servants) by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?"

When the Lord sent Paul on, He led other men into this field and committed into their hands as a sacred trust the church the apostle had founded.

About one hundred years ago there came into the territory in which our Synod had its origin men sent by God to do the work here which Paul did in Corinth. Under the same divine promise that comforted and strengthened the apostle, they served as pioneers undauntedly enduring privations and hardships, facing trials, and meeting every opposition to their work. Churches were formed here and there. Since those days of old, their number has been steadily increasing. More laborers came. As the need was felt, institutions were founded to prepare men for this service. New fields were opened, even in distant Arizona, and jointly with our brethren, in the South of our country and in Nigeria beyond the sea.

We who constitute our Synod today are reaping the fruits of the labors of those who have gone before us, and Paul reminds us, as he did his successors at Corinth, of our sacred duty to continue faithfully to build on the foundation laid by the fathers. But this requires that we have a true knowledge of the character and purpose of the building, of materials and means. What are we building?

"God's Building" — "The Temple of God"

Paul did not come to Corinth to start a political movement, nor to better the economic conditions, nor to work for social and moral reforms. In that godless and corrupt city, he wanted to build a house of God; over against the shrine of Aphrodite, the temple of the living God.

But God is a Spirit, He "dwelleth not in temples made with hands." The temple which Paul was building, and which we are to build, remains invisible to the eye of man. Nevertheless it is more real and more enduring than all the edifices we can see, truly His house, which He designed and which He builds, that He fills with His glory, where He dispenses His divine blessings, and where He is truly worshiped.

Wonderful? Indeed, but our wonderment increases when we hear Paul ask: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God?" God does not only build His temple among sinful men. He builds it of them; they are the building stones. "Ye are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit," the apostle tells the Ephesians, and Peter declares: "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God by Jesus Christ."

The men who form this temple are men whom God declares righteous and receives as His sons and daughters, claiming them from the world as His very own. He reveals Himself to them and showers His blessings down upon them. He dwells in their hearts. Begotten by Him, they partake of His nature and serve Him in newness of life, praising and glorifying His name. They are His heirs, and fellow-heirs with Christ. Let us ever be mindful of the fact that our work as builders is purely of a spiritual nature, restoring man to the blessed communion with His God which was lost to our race through the fall of our first parents.

But, how can this be done; how can God build a holy temple of sinful men?

Other Foundation Can No Man Lay Than That Which Is Laid, Which Is Jesus Christ

Well may we ask that question as we contemplate the wickedness of Corinth in the days of Paul. But the Corinthians are not an exception. The apostle tells even the pious Jews: "There is no difference, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Though the natural man denies this and in his pride claims that he has all necessary spiritual powers, however the Scriptures declare that we are all sinful by nature, guilty in the sight of God and under the judgment of death, totally depraved in intellect, will and affections, and hopelessly enslaved to the prince of darkness. No sinner has ever by the use of his reason found God, nor by his works made himself worthy to be received by God.

Salvation is of God. He in His infinite grace planned our redemption from eternity and in the fullness of time sent His Son into the world born of the Virgin Mary as the one and only mediator between God and men. "He made him to be sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." Only the precious blood of the Son of God shed on Calvary was sufficient to expiate the sin and guilt of mankind; and only His obedience unto death, even the death of the cross could achieve for man a righteousness that is acceptable to God. Bowing His head in death, the Lord cried out, "It is finished," and Paul interprets: "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." By Christ the whole sinful race was wrested from the power of sin, Satan, death and hell, and justified before God. The way to the home of the Father is open to all. Truly, Christ is the foundation on which the conscience-stricken sinner can safely rest his faith and hope, on which the Church is built so firmly that the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.

The Foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself Being the Chief Corner Stone

When Paul says, "as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation," he does not merely tell us that he began the church at Corinth, no, he wants us to understand that he in that city laid the foundation of which we have spoken. He came to the Corin-

(Continued on page 276)

Editorials

The 1947 Convention of Joint Synod The 1947 convention of the Joint Synod is history. The delegates sat in sweltering and stifling heat during the entire convention. They were hot and uncomfortable physically, most of the time, but no one would have been aware of it judging from their manner in which they attended the work that called for utmost concentration and attention. This was, it seems to us, one of the most eventful conventions we ever attended. Grave issues were presented to this body and demanded unequivocal decision and gravely they were met and fearlessly and wisely disposed of. There was the grave matter of our position on Scouting, the report of the Union Committee, the adoption of a million dollar budget, the Centennial Offering, etc. In all these matters there was an unanimity of spirit that made one's heart glad. In the Scouting issue, for instance, though men were urged and begged to express themselves if they were not in full agreement with the report of the committee, not one voice was raised in opposition to the judgment of the committee. A few had misgivings in regard to policy but none expressed a variant view in regard to the subject matter. Debates there were a plenty as one would expect when such important matters are under consideration, yet most of the issues were unanimously adopted by the delegates. This spirit of unanimity was discernible in the report of the election committee on the first ballot cast for president of the Joint Synod. Pastor John Brenner was reelected on the very first ballot (nominating ballot) as was also the first vice-president, Pastor A. Voss. It indicated the temper of the delegates. They had given thought to the important issues to be presented and were ready to voice their opinion and to vote on them in their turn. Proof of the spirit of the convention, if proof be needed, was the fact that in spite of the terrific heat (one day excepted), there was little indication of restlessness among the delegates. They were found in their seats and entirely occupied with the matters at hand. Even though the time of sessions had to be prolonged and special evening sessions had to be arranged, the attendance did not lag. A near full representation was still on hand at midnight on Tuesday when the 1947 convention was finally brought to a close. Yes, the days were long, the weather was hot and the matters under discussion were serious, but the spirit and attentiveness was commendable. May the God of all grace, who so richly blessed our synod and who was with it during the days of this convention with His Spirit, continue to enlighten, instruct and guide us in the paths of His Truth.

W. J. S.

We Will Do It So said your representative at the convention of our Joint Synod. They said this with their vote concerning many things; but they said it emphatically in regard to the million dollar budget that was adopted by the delegates assembled at Watertown. We have confidence in the word of these men who voted for the increased budget because they are Christians, children of God, who want to do the work that God gave us to do and want to do it well. There was no uncertainty or hesitancy in their vote. They realized that the adopted budget allowed for no squandering of money, no wild speculations, no needless expenditures, but that it accurately reflected the present high cost of living. A higher budget was expected by all who see facts as they are and who know the conditions in the world today, especially in the United States. With food at an unprecedented high level, with rents higher than before, with commodities still climbing to higher levels, it was necessary to consider these factors in setting up the budget. As a result of these conditions the requisitions of our schools are of necessity higher, salaries of our missionaries had to be raised to meet the increase in the cost of living and all other departments of synod had to be considered proportionately. Realizing, however, that God has blessed us proportionately your delegates had no misgivings in accepting the million dollar budget. They voted with confidence in the grace of God and the willingness of our people who will not let the work of the Lord suffer for nothing more than the lack of money. Of course our people will raise the money demanded by the budget. Our pastors, as the shepherds of their flock over which the Holy Ghost has made them overseers, will be faithful shepherds and will not neglect to remind their people, these children of God, of the need of their synod. That will do it. The child of God is interested in his heavenly Father's business and will be mindful of the needs of His kingdom if only he is told and reminded often of it. They too have the flesh in which dwelleth no good thing, and which must be overcome in them if they would do the will and work of the Lord. They need to be reminded of the great price Christ paid to make them His own and heirs of everlasting life. For Him and His kingdom they will be ready to give as His work demands their gifts. In this spirit your delegates voted for that new budget. We are not going to let them down nor dissipate their confidence in us who are called to sons of God. We can raise that budget without working hardship on any one of us — and we will raise that budget God granting us His grace and Spirit.

W. J. S.

**Sermon Delivered at the Opening
of the Joint Synod at Watertown
August 6th, 1947, by President
John Brenner**

(Continued from page 274)

thians "determined not to know any thing among them, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified." He preached Christ. He did not, as some did then and many do now, preach his thoughts about Christ, his evaluation of the person and work of the Lord. He preached, as he tells us, the things God "has revealed unto us by his Spirit."

That is why Paul tells the Ephesians, "ye are built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone." No, this is not a second foundation. You cannot separate Christ from the written Word, the revealed Gospel, or from any part of the written Word. And this Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; the word of truth, by which God begets us that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures; and the sword of the Spirit which casts down all the forces of darkness.

Without that Gospel no sinner is saved. Where it is not preached, the temple of God is not found. Paul had preached it in all its purity and fullness and thus had laid this foundation in the hearts of the Corinthians, gathering them into Christian fellowship. They who followed the apostle in this work inherited, as it were, not only the fruits of his labors, but also the precious means that produced them, the living word of the Gospel.

And now God says to us, I have preserved to you the Gospel of my Son Jesus Christ; you have before your eyes in your congregations, schools, and missions, its glorious fruits: now, build on, but build on that one and only foundation, depart from those who would subvert it, and you are building My holy temple in which My grace is revealed to poor sinners for their salvation.

**II) On That Foundation Build Only That
Which Will Abide**

We Are To Build

Paul departed but his work was to go on. In fact, the building of the temple of God must continue until the last of His elect has been brought in. Then the Lord will come to show His house in all its glory. We build the temple when we win men for Christ and add them to those already founded on Him in a living faith.

This is a holy task, the noblest endeavor in which a man can be engaged. It is not a blessed privilege to be a co-worker with God in saving men from eternal perdition and leading them to Christ to find life and salvation in Him? There is a satisfying joy in building here in this transitory world the temple that will stand in glory when the heavens and the earth will crumble and fall to be consumed with fire.

Let there be no indifference, no neglect. By the love of Christ our Lord this work claims our hearts, our hands, our time, our

earthly means, our self-denying service, yes, if God so wills, our very life. Many signs tells us that the time is short, and there is so much to be done. Let us work while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work.

But the believers, though justified, are not yet perfected. They are to grow in grace, to be filled with the Spirit of God, increasing in spiritual knowledge and understanding. Their faith is to grow stronger and their hope more fervent. They are constantly to make progress in battling against the devil, the world, and their flesh, and in bringing forth fruits of true holiness and righteousness. Ephesians four calls this the edifying of the body of Christ; our text, the building of the house of God.

The Lord will never forget those who labored for Him and with Him. Though we will never be able to repay Him for the grace we are enjoying and the glory we will enjoy in all eternity and therefore have no merit before Him, nor claim on Him, He will graciously and richly requite every acceptable service we render. We read: "If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward."

But here the apostle warns us that in building true wisdom is required as well as diligence or zeal, lest we suffer a loss.

*"Now If Any Man Build Upon This Founda-
tion Gold, Silver, Precious Stones,
Wood, Hay, Stubble"*

The apostle has two classes of preachers in mind. Both leave the foundation untouched. They preach Christ crucified, calling sinners to repentance.

In their further teaching, counseling, and leading, however, their ways diverge. They of the first group build upon the foundation gold, silver, and precious stones; they of the second, wood, hay, stubble. A comparison of the separate items of each group is not necessary. The thought of the apostle is clear. Gold, silver, and precious stones, are valuable and enduring, while wood, hay, and stubble, are of little value and perishable. Turning to the fourth and fifth verses of the second chapter, we read: "My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and power: that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

The opposites evidently are the wisdom and word of God and the wisdom and words of men. God's word is true and holy, more precious than silver or gold, and it will endure forever, but "the Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain."

The preachers who build on the one foundation gold, silver and precious stones are those who adhere faithfully to the revealed Gospel, declaring the whole counsel of God, employing no other means. They trust entirely in its power to achieve the purpose of God in their hearers.

The others, while still preaching repentance, add in doctrine and in practice that which is of man, pleasing to the flesh, and not according to the wisdom of God. The temptation to do this is great.

When the Gospel was first brought to them, the Corinthians had received its message with great joy as the greatest wisdom. But now Paul has to say: "Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us." They show this by exalting the person of the preacher over the message itself. They turn back to the philosophy of man, so highly prized by the Greeks, and question, even deny openly the revealed truth of God. Under the influence of their environments and of their flesh, they were growing worldly in their personal lives and were tolerating gross evils in the congregation.

The danger is just as great today. We have had the full pure Gospel for so many years. Are we tiring of its simplicity? We are living in a time of almost feverish religious activity. Yet, what do we find when we survey present-day Christendom? Innumerable false teachings, un-Scriptural practice, man-made laws, increasing worldliness in thought and conversation, wrong aims and objectives, and questionable methods and means to achieve them. We cannot here go into the details of the picture, but it would be well for every worker to scrutinize his work in the light of what has been said, for the apostle admonished us, "Take heed how ye build."

This Is An Earnest Warning

This warning does not lose its force by the fact, stated by the apostle, that even such a builder may, by the grace of God, remain in the saving faith in Christ and be accepted by God. On the contrary, the goodness of God should lead us to repentance and to greater watchfulness and faithfulness.

Let us always remember that we are building the temple of God, working under His eyes. The divine architect approves or rejects both, the building material and the product of our work. "Every man's work shall be made manifest for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire: and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." In that fire only the divine Word itself will endure, and only that which the Spirit of God Himself has built up in the hearts and lives of men, while human wisdom itself and all that it has accomplished will be turned into ashes.

A man may have all his life worked in sincerity and with diligence; he may have achieved great outward success; he may have enjoyed the acclaim of his fellow-men: yet, if he is saved, he will be saved as by fire. What a bitter disappointment, to see the fruits of one's labors consumed by the fire of the judgment of God. Paul does not make mention of the hearers of such preachers, but it is evident from what we have heard that the wisdom of men with which their souls are fed stunts their spiritual life, depriving them of many of the comforts and joys, the enrichment in knowledge and wisdom, the strengthening for a holy life and for the battle against the enemies of our soul, with which the grace of God would endue them. If they remain in Christ, they will be saved, but also as by fire.

But now the warning of the apostle reaches its climax: "If any man defile (de-

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stroy) the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are." The temple of God is being destroyed when the deity and the redemption of Christ are denied and men are deprived of their trust in His blood and merit and misled to seek their salvation elsewhere. Many of those who attack this foundation have never believed in Christ. But there are also those who have lost the blessed confidence they once possessed. Some fall away suddenly, others die away gradually. And here lies another danger in introducing human wisdom and words into the work of the Church in any form. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump. Error tends to grow on us. The denial of one doctrine of the Holy Scriptures may easily lead to the loss of all truth, of the very Gospel itself. There is no more damnable a sin against God than the denial of His grace in Christ Jesus. No greater wrong and harm can be done a man than that of robbing him of his faith in Christ.

*A Grave Responsibility Rests On All Builders
But, Who Are These Builders?*

We — "laborers together with God; ye, God's husbandry, God's building." At Miletus he speaks of overseers, bishops, and of the flock of God to which they are to take heed, which they are to feed. Clearly, there are ministers and there are churches that are to be served by them. There is a public ministry into which the Lord Himself through the church calls men to oversee and shepherd His flock. (Let individuals and groups who on their own initiative assume leadership in the Church inquire very seriously, has God called us to do what we are undertaking to do?) These men will have to give an account of their stewardship.

But they are not lords over the faith of the believers. Paul tells the Corinthians, "All things are yours." The ministry of the keys is given to all believers. Every Christian is a witness of Christ. The believers erect the public ministry and call men into the service in the name of the Lord. Every Christian is a builder.

The opinion is frequently expressed that the layman need not concern himself about matters of doctrine and confession, which he may leave to the professors and pastors, and that he, therefore, can be broader than the teachers of the church and do things which are forbidden to them.

Paul says, "Let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." We are all included in this admonition.

Let us open our hearts to it, and in this spirit approach our task as delegates of our churches and, returning to our congregations, schools, and missions, earnestly strive that we in true unity of the Spirit avoid the building, and builders, of wood, hay and stubble, and by the grace of God diligently and singlemindedly build gold, silver, and precious stones, on the God-laid foundation, our Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel. The fruits of this work will not appeal to the natural man, nor win his acclaim, but they will be made manifest on the day of our Lord and will abide in eternity. Amen.

REPORT ON THE TWENTY-NINTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION OF THE EV. LUTH. JOINT SYNOD OF WISCONSIN AND OTHER STATES

BY G. A. SCHAEFER, NEENAH, WISCONSIN, REPORTER

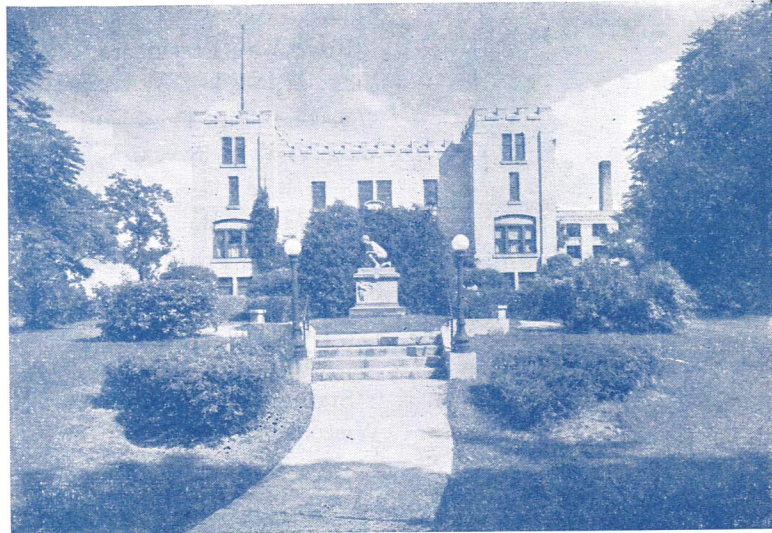
We Met At Watertown

By train and plane, by car and bus, from the sunny State of Arizona, from the hills and beautiful vistas of Washington, from the Grand Canyon State and from the prairies with their waving grain, from the luscious green fields of Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, from populated Michigan, Illinois, and Ohio — they came to the beautiful city of Watertown, the city which is closely linked in its history with that of our Wis-

consin Synod. We met on the beautiful campus of Northwestern College. We gathered within the spacious walls of the Gymnasium. There we deliberated the great problems which confronted and still confront every member of our Wisconsin Synod.

ner preached the sermon which is found on the pages of this issue of the *Northwestern Lutheran*. Unlike conventions of the men of the world, each session was opened in the name of our God, under the direction and comfort of God's Word, and with prayer to our Lord and God, without whom we could not do anything to the honor and glory of His name in the Church.

It was in that spirit that the delegates set at the tasks as they were outlined in



Northwestern College Gymnasium Where Sessions Were Held

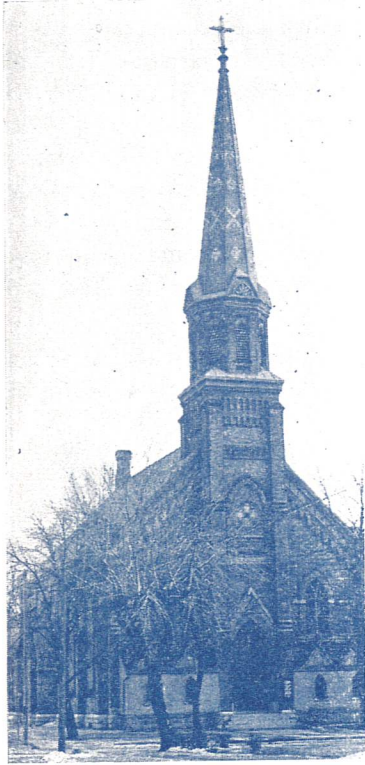
the convention program. It was a commendable spirit. It was the spirit born of the Holy Spirit through the Gospel of Christ. There was the earnest zeal for the Lord's work which was sensed in the remarks of the delegates. One could feel the spirit of Paul, the missionary, who was not content to sit still in any one place, but was rather driven on by the urgency and the need of preaching the Gospel to more and ever more sinners. Whenever the subject of advancement and growth, both spiritual and numerical, was presented to the body for discussion and approval, in clarion tone it was made clear that there could not be a retrenching, no, not even the slightest relaxation of effort. To each delegate it meant "onward" and "forward" in the name of the

In The Name Of The Triune God

Watertown, Wisconsin, reported the highest temperature in the state (101 degrees) as The Ev. Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States opened its 29th Biennial Convention. The first service was held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The communion of the brethren assembled came to a full expression in the celebration of the Sacrament of the Altar. President John Bren-

ner preached the sermon which is found on the pages of this issue of the *Northwestern Lutheran*. Unlike conventions of the men of the world, each session was opened in the name of our God, under the direction and comfort of God's Word, and with prayer to our Lord and God, without whom we could not do anything to the honor and glory of His name in the Church.

Lord of Hosts. The sweltering delegates were mindful of the approaching Centennial of our beloved Synod. In that spirit they made preparations for a fitting thank-offering to mark the occasion.



St. Mark's Church Where Services Were Held

The Lutheran Church is the Church of The Word of God. "Sola Scriptura," Scriptures alone, must decide all issues. This was in evidence throughout all the discussions which concerned themselves with the doctrine and practice of our church body. The questions of Boy Scoutism and Union, issues of a serious nature in our day, were studied, discussed, and solved in the light of Holy Scriptures. When our mission work was discussed and the possibilities of opening new fields were presented, more than once the will of our Savior was spoken. Clear as a bell it rang through the convention-hall: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." If the Lord opens the door to a new field, it was clear to all that we must enter. Thus it was an undaunted spirit, born of the Holy Spirit through the power of the Gospel, that was clearly revealed on the floor of the Convention. May God grant that in that same spirit the many resolutions passed by this Synod will be

carried out to the glory of God and the salvation of priceless souls of men.

God's Special Gifts to Our Synod

A growing synod, a synod which is awake to its possibilities and prospects, must have capable men as officers, members of Boards, and Commissions, to carry out the resolutions of their synod, supervise the work, and act in synod's stead between conventions. Such men are God's gift to our Synod. For this purpose elections are held for various offices, Boards, and Commissions. Consecrated men were elected to fill these various positions. Space will not permit to mention all of them. Hence, we report only the following:

President, Rev. John Brenner, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

First Vice-President, Rev. Arthur P. Voss, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Second Vice-President, Rev. Irvin J. Habeck, Weyauwega, Wisconsin.

Secretary, Rev. W. Schaller, So. St. Paul, Minnesota.

Recorder, Prof. R. Fenske, Mobridge, South Dakota.

Chronicler, Rev. F. Reier, Waupaca, Wisconsin.

Statistician, Rev. E. Tacke, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The Northwestern Lutheran

The Work of Our Synod: Sowing The Seed of the Word of God

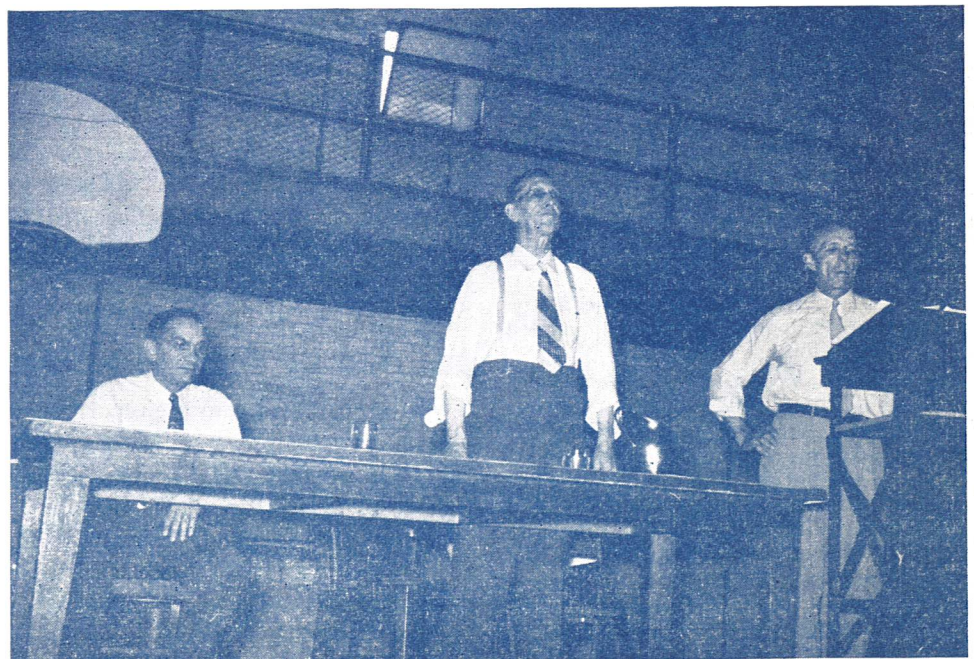
Luke 8, verse 5 we read: "A sower went out to sow his seed." In verse 11 Jesus tells us: "Now the parable is this: 'The seed is the Word of God.'"

What could describe the work of our Synod more clearly? Our work, our business, the very reason for the existence of our Wisconsin Synod from its very inception nigh unto the hundred years ago is the work and business of *Sowing The Seed Of The Word of God.*

I. Sowers Of The Seed

To carry on our work we need sowers of the seed. Our Synod always did and still does realize that, unless we have men and women in Church and Christian Day School who will sow the seed of the Word of God, it will assuredly sign its own death warrant. If the sower (the farmer) leaves the grain in his storehouses untouched, he can not expect to reap a harvest. He must sow that seed. If he has many fields and farms which are scattered over the United States and foreign lands he needs laborers, sowers of the seed, to plant his fields and to care for them and to "water" them.

To have such laborers the congregations in Synod have joined their hands in the erection and support of these



Secretary Rev. W. Schaller President Rev. John Brenner At Lectern Prof. E. E. Kowalke

schools, which prepare men and women as sowers of the seed of the Word of God.

The five institutions of our Synod with all their problems and needs came in for a good deal of discussion. The increased enrollment brings us face to face with insurmountable obstacles. Every institution, with the exception of our Seminary at Thiensville, is filled beyond capacity with men and women, boys and girls, who are preparing themselves for

Church is preparing laborers to sow His Seed. It is an answer to our prayers. The harvest truly is great and the laborers always few.

Resume of Institutions

Seminary at Thiensville: Enrollment 52 — 22 graduates available for our own work. — "To relieve Director Meyer of work in order to enable him to write his textbook on Dogmatics," the temporary office of Dean was created, which

dropped to 141. Teaching staff short-handed. Addition to the Refectory will be built as voted by the last Convention. More new buildings are needed.

Northwestern Lutheran Academy, Moberge, South Dakota: Enrollment since 1945 almost doubled. 73 enrolled last year. Large enrollment demands larger teaching staff. Urgency demands that a new Girls' Dormitory for \$65,000 be built as soon as funds are available.

Here then we see the Lord's blessing upon our Synod in giving us future sowers of the Seed, so that we may carry on our work with great blessing.

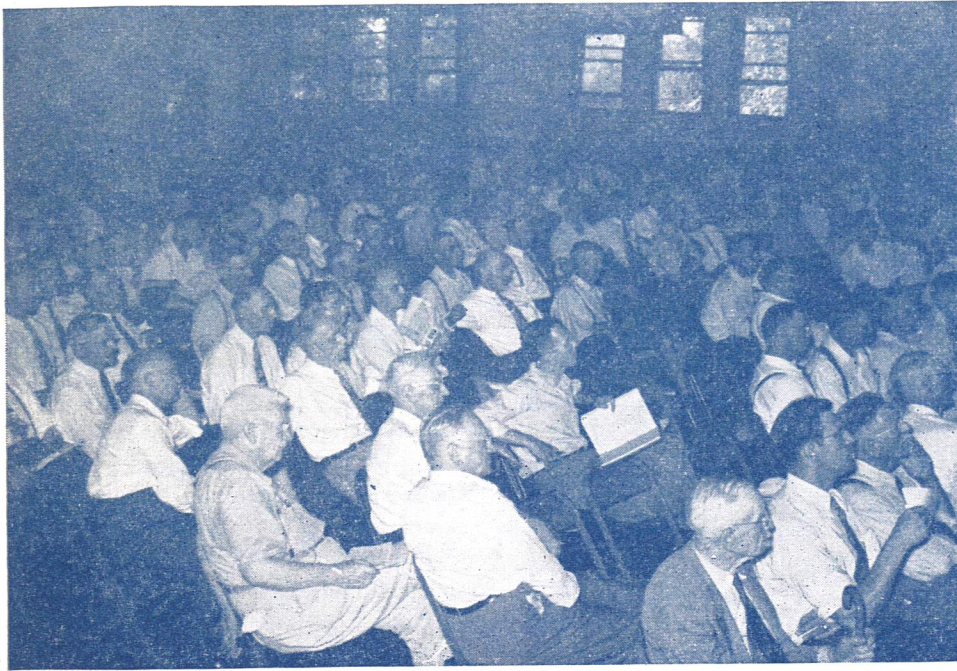
II. Fields Upon Which The Seed Of The Word Is Sown

It is a foregone conclusion that, if the Lord Jesus in the parable of the sower speaks of the sower and the seed, there should be fields upon which the Seed of the Word of God is sown. Much time was spent upon the floor of the Convention in the reports of the various Commissions and Boards of our Synod which keep a watchful eye upon the various fields intrusted to them by Synod.

Home Missions

Home mission work is that work which is carried on under the direct supervision of our Eight Districts and the two Mission Districts, Colorado and Arizona.

The General Mission Board reports: "Our work among those of the household of faith in our country, hampered though it was in many ways, yet, with the help of God, showed commendable progress. Because of prevailing economic conditions our work was slow. Our District Boards had to curtail to a large degree exploratory work in and around their territories. Men for missionaries were either not available or hard to get. Vacancies often occurred that took months to fill, if at all." Another obstacle to expansion in the past two years was building restrictions and the unavailability of suitable places of worship and homes for the missionaries when new fields were opened. Outright purchases of buildings had to be resorted to, and always at inflated prices. Missionaries who lived in rented houses were often served with eviction notices and, in some instances, had to store their household goods, send their families to



Convention In Session

the work in the Church. To quote Director Schweppe of Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, is to present the common picture. He stated: "I believe that by now I was forced to refuse about 100 prospective students admission. That hurts." Buildings and facilities in general are being utilized beyond their capacity. The present shortage of workers in Church and School makes our overcrowded conditions in our institutions seem almost ridiculous. But the facts are there. The upper or graduating classes are small now and the lower classes are large. This gives promise of a bright future in the work of our Synod. Expansion of our mission work, expansion of Christian Day Schools, High Schools, and Colleges is assured under God as we enter the second century of our Synod's existence. The Lord of the

office was filled by Prof. E. C. Reim. — A new professor's dwelling granted.

Northwestern College, Watertown: Peak enrollment of 325, of which 229 are preparing for the ministry. Prospective students are presently being turned back for lack of space. New buildings sorely needed. — An additional professor was granted.

Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota: Enrollment for the year 328, 103 in Normal, 225 in High School. Prof. Blifernicht, who served the school since 1908 and was called by the Lord to his eternal home in January, is sorely missed. — An additional professor was granted. New residence required. \$15,000 needed to enlarge Kitchen and Dining Hall.

Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Michigan: Peak enrollment of 156

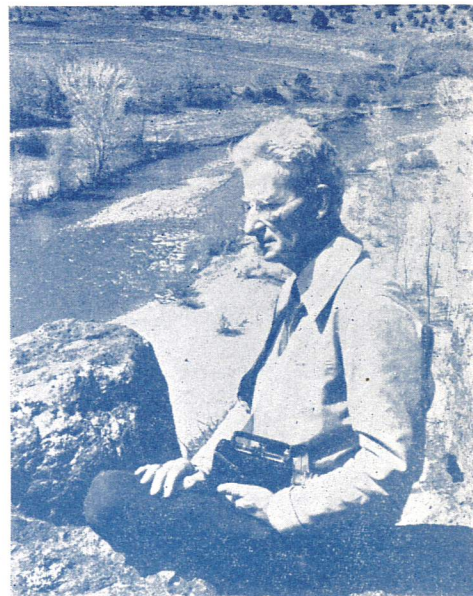
their parents, and rent a room for themselves.

And yet, in spite of all these obstacles, twenty-four new missions were opened, as well as five new schools in the mission fields. Twenty-three of our missions became self-supporting during the past biennium. Growth under the above described conditions made heavy demands upon our Church Extension Division. From time to time additional funds had to be allotted by the Board of Trustees to fill the depleted Extension Division. This Church Extension Fund is indeed a revolving fund, regular repayments being made into this fund by mission con-

It is rounding out thirty-five years of uninterrupted service this year.

The work here is fraught with difficulties and hardships for the missionaries who sow the Seed of the Word of God in Apacheland. There are not only the natural obstacles of bad roads and mountainous climbs, of somewhat primitive conditions, but as Pastor F. Uplegger pointed out, the devil is also busy sowing the seed of lies and distrust. However, Missionary Uplegger gave us a fine picture of what lies uppermost in the hearts of these missionaries. He stated: "Now is the day of salvation. We are ambassadors for Christ to bring the Gospel of

Building, renovating, expansion, and high wages for the Indian workers are responsible for increased budget requests for the coming biennium. The Executive Secretary of Indian Missions, Rev. Edgar



Rev. E. E. Guenther
A Veteran In The Apache Mission



Informal Gathering At Convention

gregations who have received loans, but demands upon this Fund are by far greater than the amounts returned. It is evident that Synod must have at least a One Million Dollar Revolving Church Extension Fund if it is to carry on its work of missions effectively, lest the work of the Lord be hindered. This fact became evident to all delegates present.

Foreign Missions

Indian Mission

The Indian Mission among the Apaches of Arizona is our Synod's only independently supported heathen mission.

salvation and peace to the Apache. This we must do with much patience, . . . by the word of truth, by the power of God, by evil report and good report . . . Each missionary must know that in his faithful ministry he is a sweet savour unto God in Christ." The speaker received the delegates' every attention. We heard a faithful missionary speak, a man and servant of God, who had already stood among and before the Apaches for 28 years. These men, as all our missionaries, are faithful sowers of the Seed of the Word, who sow the Seed where we ourselves can not go.

Hoenecke, gave a complete report and explained the reasons for the requests. The entire report was adopted as well as the requested budget.

Special mention should be made of the fine spirit which prevails among the Apaches, especially in regard to the willingness of native boys and girls who wish to prepare themselves as workers and sowers of the Seed in Apacheland. Two have been enrolled at New Ulm; two could not be accommodated. Four others are seeking entry in our schools presently. Special mention was made of the need for facilities to train Indian workers for work in the Church. Such facilities should be in Arizona.

Negro Mission and Africa Mission

Negro mission work, both in the States as well as in Africa, is carried on jointly with the other three members of the Synodical Conference of North America, namely The Missouri Synod, The Norwegian Synod, and The Slovak Ev. Lutheran Church. Pastor Karl Kurth, of the Missouri Synod, is the new executive secretary who spends his time solely in the interest of Negro Missions.

When the Ev. Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America met at Milwaukee in 1946 suggestions regarding organization of our Negro Church in the United States were adopted. These suggestions were to be presented to the constituents of the Synodical Conference for

start or to expand mission work among the Negros."

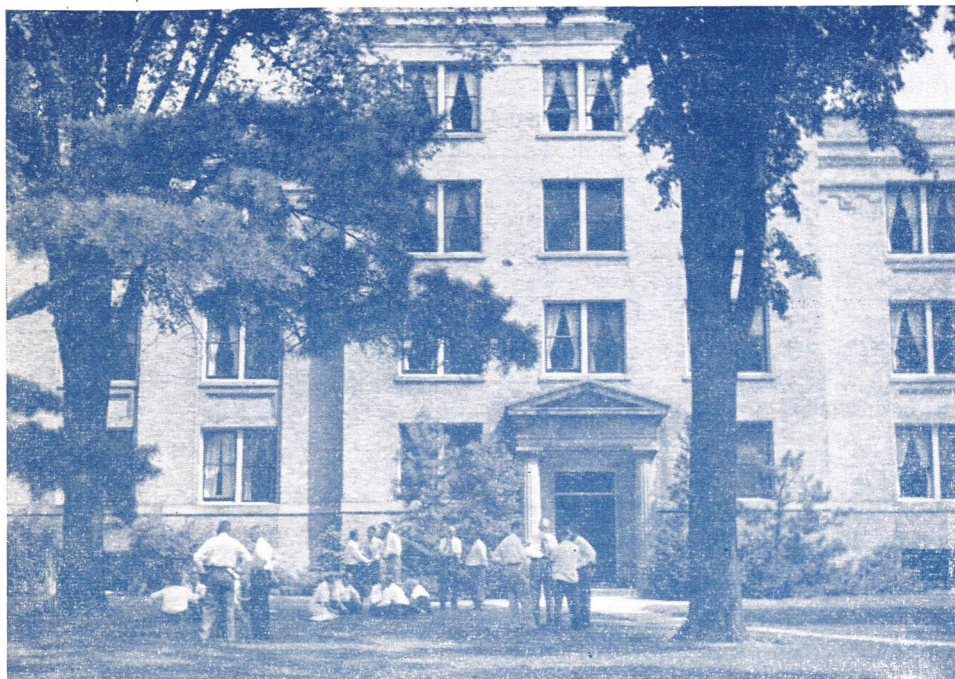
Africa

In the province of Nigeria we now have a colony of twenty-five white people instead of the two or three white

Transportation problems which have haunted the workers during the war have been solved by a number of station wagons which have been transported to Africa. This will make for more effective work through greater freedom of movement in this large field. From great distances the chiefs come with the request that the Seed of the Word also be sown among them. Thus the possibilities for the future know no bounds as far as human eye can see. It is still a field ripe unto the harvest.

Poland Mission

Under foreign missions we also study Poland Mission. However, it should be said now that in the future we shall not speak of "Poland Mission," but rather use the new title: "The Ev. Lutheran Refugee Mission in Germany, Wisconsin Synod." This local reorganization was necessary for purposes of official recognition, to enable our pastors to carry on the work of our Church in their new surroundings. This reorganization was effected at a conference in Memmingen, Germany, which was attended by Director W. Bodamer and Rev. A. Maas, Executive Secretary of this mission. These two men left by plane on June 4, 1947, and again boarded a plane on June 20 to return to the United States. In this short space of time they visited our seven missionaries, attended many meetings, including the one at Memmingen, conferred with the officers of Religious Affairs Division of the United States Army, by whom they were well received, as well as by the Public Welfare Division of the Army. Rev. J. Scherzer, a representative



Resting In Front Of Dormitory

ratification and adoption. The action taken by our Synod is as follows:

1. that Negro congregations be given the right to apply for membership in a white District, that the Districts be given the right to accept them, and that wisdom and love be exercised while doing this.
2. that supervision of Negro mission congregations be carried on by the Districts and that our Districts proceed in the customary manner through the General Mission Board.
3. that in regard to acceptance of Negro students at our institutions, it be left to practice and experience to help develop a permanent policy.

Future Outlook

"The Executive Secretary's report on his visits to various Colored Mission fields bears witness to the fact that in every part of our country from the Pacific to the Atlantic, from Minnesota to the Gulf, promising fields are awaiting workers to

workers. There are ten married missionaries, one unmarried, and one lady teacher. There is also Jonathan Ekong and another native worker. Pastor W. Schweppe of our Synod has arrived safely in Africa with his family.

God has fairly worked miracles in Africa in the past eleven years. To look at these figures should convince all: 83



Pastors In The Refugee Mission In Germany

churches, 67 schools, 4,000 communicants, 4,657 scholars, and 178 teachers. The average attendance at Sunday services in the 83 churches was 7,951.

of CRALOG, gave them valuable information on mailing of supplies to individuals, bulk shipment through Lutheran World Relief consigned to committees

of our people in the various zones, indirect payment of salaries to our pastors through credits established in the United States. It must be said that our government gave its full cooperation to help our men in their short stay, men who had come to look after the bodily and spiritual welfare of these our brethren in Germany.

Their Need

The need of our brethren in Germany has not changed. They are poor, yea, destitute, hungry, packed into living quarters of the kind that one can only call them such by reason of the fact that our brethren are forced to live in them. To meet the dire needs of our brethren the following resolutions were adopted:

1. That Synod, by resolution, acknowledge its responsibility with regard to physical relief for our brethren of the Refugee Mission.
2. That Synod ratify the appointment of the Relief Committee for the purpose of continuing and intensifying the relief program.
3. That the Relief Committee work, under supervision of the Executive for the Refugee Mission, in devising the best ways and means for efficient administration of the relief program.
4. That all pastors and congregations of the Synod be urged to give wholehearted support to the relief program.

Personnel

At present we have seven pastors, two of which are not able-bodied, to care for the brethren who are scattered throughout the three zones. We cannot send help from here presently, although six are needed immediately. There is a possibility that three from Germany itself will enter the work in our Refugee Mission.

Inner Missions

The oldest and for a long time the only Inner Mission of Synod is the Home for the Aged, Belle Plaine, Minnesota. To this the Madison Student Mission was added some years ago. Here work is carried on jointly with the South Wisconsin District of the Missouri Synod. 1,100 stu-

dents were served this last school year by the student pastor, Pastor Burhop. Other Inner Mission work is carried on by four men at present, who devote their entire time to the forgotten people in public and private institutions, such as in the Fox River Valley and the Madison area.

Spiritual Welfare Commission

This Commission is not "closing shop." Spiritual literature is still being sent to the men in service, although there are a goodly number of "addresses unknown." There are 89 in the hospitals who receive mail weekly. Eleven contact pastors are serving groups and individuals in camps and hospitals. Plans for the future were taken into consideration when the Commission was asked to make a further study "of a better service and care of men in the army" in the event of future wars.

III. Supporting The Laborers Who Sow The Seed Of The Word

That men who have been put to work for us in the kingdom of God, to sow the Seed of the Word of God for us, should be supported by us as Synod, is obvious to every thinking Christian. That in times of financial upheaval, inflated prices, and high cost of living, we should be met with increased budgets, must also be clear to us.

Finances in General

Most of the departments of Synod have been forced to exceed their budget allotments. However, due to increased income and revenues, there is a sizeable and comfortable balance in our budgetary treasury — \$76,000. As the Budget Resume will show, the budget for each department of Synod is considerably higher. Chairman Pieper of the Board of Trustees estimated that the budget would run to \$1,020,000 for 1947-1948 fiscal year. To meet this budget the Convention voted the \$5 per communicant quota as the average contribution.

Church Extension Division

This Division of Synod concerns itself with loans which are made to mission congregations for chapels, schools, parsonages and the like. These loans have reached an all time high of \$719,108.68.

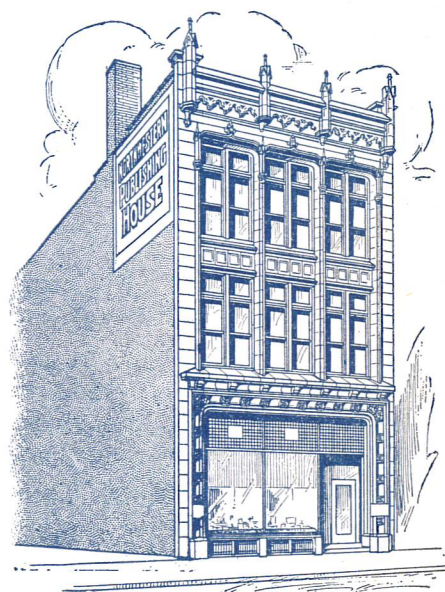
It is Synod's goal to have a Million Dollar C. E. D. Fund, a fund which is sufficiently large enough to meet the demands for loans and will be kept revolving through the repayments of these loans on an annual basis.

Further Needs

Due to the high cost of living an increase in the salaries of missionaries and professors was mandatory. Then there is the need for an additional \$375,000 for the Church Extension Division to bring the Fund to One Million Dollars.

Northwestern Publishing House

Because the entire block in which our Northwestern Publishing House is located is being bought up by the city of Milwaukee for civic purposes, the Board of Trustees was forced to buy and pay for a new site and a new building, located at



the northeast corner of West North Avenue and North 37th Street. This transaction will still cost the Synod an additional \$80,000 for remodeling. This amount will have to be met by May, 1948. We may note here that not only will this building house the Publishing House, but also the offices of Synod.

Further emergencies must be met in the form of a new Girls' Dormitory at Moberg, where we must build or turn back a large number of girls who are preparing themselves for work in the church. The cost is estimated at \$65,000. The Dining

Hall and Kitchen at Dr. Martin Luther College must be enlarged at an estimated cost of \$15,000. Additional professors' dwellings must be provided, where additional professors were granted because of the increased enrollment. Although the smaller items among the emergencies can be met by payments from our regular budget, the large items demand that the members of Synod raise additional funds.

Synod's Million Dollar Building and Expansion Fund

At the time of the Convention the Financial Secretary, Rev. G. W. Fischer, reported that \$1,052,223.85 were collected by the congregations of Synod. We are short of our \$6 communicant goal by about \$130,000, although we have ex-

an indebtedness of the type which hindered our work so much and cost us so much during the "depression," we will have to raise additional monies within the coming biennium. We shall need at least another \$500,000 for the Building Fund.

A Special Collection Authorized

Many hours of deliberation passed on the Convention floor in the study of the extra demands made upon our budget. The Board of Trustees presented a detailed plan, asking Synod to authorize a special collection to take care of the emergency needs which were pressing the

Synod. This plan was adopted. Synod authorized the Conference of Presidents to make the arrangements for this special collection. The goal was tentatively set at \$1,200,000. The proper allocation of these funds was thoroughly discussed.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. C. J. Niedfeldt, Synodical Treasurer, reported total receipts for the budgetary collection as being \$868,687.48 for 1946-1947 fiscal year. Revenues earned in this same period were \$116,290.94 or a total income of \$984,978.42. The total disbursements were \$822,040.80.

Proposed Budget For 1947-1948

General Administration		\$ 33,164.00	
Educational Institutions			447,856.06
Theological Seminary	\$ 44,825.06		
Northwestern College	116,075.00		
Dr. Martin Luther College	129,052.00		
Michigan Lutheran Seminary	47,140.00		
Northwestern Lutheran Academy	25,764.00		
Advance on Building Projects:			
Michigan Lutheran Seminary	\$ 20,000.00		
Northwestern Lutheran Academy	65,000.00	85,000.00	
Home for the Aged			16,320.00
Missions			465,799.58
Indian		79,457.00	
Negro		40,000.00	
Home Missions		285,338.58	
Pacific Northwest	18,275.00		
Nebraska	35,006.64		
Michigan	41,933.18		
Dakota-Montana	22,333.48		
Minnesota	17,000.00		
North Wisconsin	27,848.44		
West Wisconsin	37,392.00		
Southeast Wisconsin	21,640.00		
Colorado	34,326.84		
Arizona	29,583.00		
Poland		10,856.00	
Madison Student		3,238.00	
Expansion (Current Church Extension)		40,000.00	
Spiritual Welfare Commission		6,910.00	
Winnebago Lutheran Academy			3,000.00
General Support			64,580.00
Indigent Students			2,500.00
School Supervision			6,860.00
Estimated Salary Increases			50,000.00
Total Budget for 1947-1948			\$ 1,090,079.64



Recess

ceeded the Million mark. Synod's resolution still stands, namely that no monies for building at our institutions be taken out of this fund until all are able to build and that an equitable distribution of funds must be observed. However, one part, which was earmarked for Church Extension, namely \$200,000, already had to be used because of the emergency which existed through the demands made upon the Board of Trustees for funds.

That building cost figures must be revised upward considerably is known to all of us. Hence, unless we would incur

C. J. NIEDFELDT, *Treasurer.*

CONVENTION NOTES

Members of the Synodical Convention of North America who came as visitors to our Convention, to bring the greetings of their respective bodies, came from far and wide. Among those who were welcomed by President John Brenner were Dr. J. W. Behnken, Oak Park, Illinois, President of the Missouri Synod; Rev. Andrew Daniels, Detroit, Michigan, President of the Slovak Ev. Lutheran Church; Rev. George C. Lillegard, Cambridge, Massachusetts, a representative of the Norwegian Synod.

From still greater distances came Rev. P. H. Peterson, Berlin, President of the Ev. Luth. Free Church of Germany, and Dr. Matthias Schulz, also of Berlin, Germany, a representative of the Breslau Free Church in Germany.

* * * *

The Rev. G. E. Bergemann, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, celebrated his 85th



Pastor G. E. Bergemann
Celebrated 60th Anniversary In The Ministry
85th Birthday

birthday on Saturday of the Convention. He attended all the sessions of the Convention. This faithful servant of the

Lord asked that his name be disregarded for reelection to the Seminary Board. He has been chairman of this Board for many years.

Pastor Bergemann's service to his Synod stretches over the long period of forty-seven years of continuous service. He served as President of the Wisconsin Synod from 1907-1917, and of the Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States from 1917-1933.

May the Savior's gracious hands continue to be raised in blessing over this faithful servant of the Lord.

* * * *

Thirty years of uninterrupted service among the Apache Indians are rounding out this year for two servants of the Word, namely, Pastor Alfred M. Uplegger and Pastor Henry E. Rosin. Amidst "sunshine and shadow" they have been privileged under God to see the growth of our Apache Indian Mission.

* * * *

President John Brenner's remarks in his biennial report, concerning the importance of Christian education in the Christian home, are most timely. Well might all of us realize that the future of our Synod is, to a great extent, decided in the Christian home. Our Synod is no stronger spiritually than its congregations, and the congregations than their Christian homes. Many of the Synodical resolutions are carried out in the kitchen and living room of our homes. It is there especially that Synod's financial condition is decided.

G. A. SCHAEFER.

The Northwestern Lutheran

tion Program of the Synod. Pastor L. Grams served as conference chaplain for the remaining sessions.

The conference was privileged to hear an essay delivered by Professor E. Reim of our Theological Seminary. Professor Reim spoke on the present Union Movement in the Lutheran Church, specifically between the Missouri Synod and the American Lutheran Church. He stressed the responsibility that the individual Christian has in this matter and explained the manner in which our Synod as a body is discharging its responsibility. In enlarging upon his theme Professor Reim traced the history of the Lutheran bodies in America and showed how in the course of their development different doctrinal positions were assumed by the different Lutheran Synods. He then gave a clear and concise explanation of the doctrinal differences that have separated the various Lutheran groups from the earliest times to the present time. His concluding remarks centered around the Scriptural principle that there can be no God-pleasing union of the Lutheran Church in America without first achieving true doctrinal unity.

On Tuesday evening the conference service was held, at which the pastors and members of Trinity partook of Holy Communion. Professor Reim delivered the sermon, basing his remarks on Acts 2: 14-21.

In addition to discussing the business that will confront the Synod at its convention in August the conference took note of a matter that is the immediate concern of our district. We have felt for some time the need of a Lutheran High School in our district, and a memorial to the Synod was drawn up, presenting our request for the establishing of such a school.

One election was held, which resulted in the Rev. E. F. Kirst being chosen District Visitor.

The conference was both edifying and enjoyable. We enjoyed the scenic surroundings of the Okanogan valley and were especially grateful to the Omak congregation for their generous hospitality in providing splendid meals and lodging.

G. FREY.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST DELEGATE CONFERENCE

THE Pacific Northwest district delegate conference met from June 24-26 in the pleasant surroundings of Trinity Lutheran Church, Omak, Washington. Fifteen pastors, thirteen lay delegates, and our district treasurer were present.

After an opening service conducted by Rev. T. F. Stern, the local pastor, the conference was called to order by the chairman, Rev. E. F. Kirst. Sessions got under way with the chairman assigning various committees to review the Conven-

THE DEBATE ON UNION

The Chicago Convention

BY PROFESSOR E. REIM, THIENSVILLE, WISCONSIN

IT was the privilege of this writer to attend the recent convention of the Missouri Synod from beginning to end, July 21 to 29. A number of impressions received and an account of a few of the many items of business transacted may not be amiss, particularly because of the bearing which they have on the matters which we have been discussing in these columns during the past months.

Call To Humility

It was a Centennial Convention. The fact that a Synod which had become great in the first hundred years of its existence was now entering upon its second century was in the foreground of everyone's thoughts. Many were the references to the great things which God had wrought, many the expressions of gratitude, and great the determination and zeal to go on to even greater things in the second century. We were also happy to hear a note of selfsearching criticism in a paper read by Prof. A. O. Fuerbringer of Concordia Teachers' College of Seward, Nebraska; also a plea against false pride and for true humility in the Centennial Sermon of President Behnken.

Prevailing Mood Of Delegates

There can be no doubt but that this awareness of the Centennial also governed the thinking and the voting of the delegates, making for an outstanding degree of loyalty and a determination to stand together and to keep disturbing differences in the background as far as possible. When on a few major issues such differences did appear, it was obviously difficult for the speakers to run counter to this prevailing mood of the convention.

Union Movement

Our readers will be interested in the decisions of the Synod in the matter of the proposed union with the American

Lutheran Church, particularly in the reply to the "Friendly Invitation" of this latter body. A number of important resolutions were passed. The Synod declared that it is not ready at this time to enter into fellowship with the A. L. C. At the same time it declared its willingness to continue doctrinal discussions with the A. L. C. It requested its constituent districts to sponsor inter-synodical conferences wherever possible. The most important resolution, however, is the following: "That Synod declare that the 1938 resolutions shall no longer be considered as a basis for the purpose of establishing fellowship with the American Lutheran Church." It followed this almost immediately by a statement declaring its "sincere desire that true Scriptural unity with the American Lutheran Church and other Lutheran bodies be achieved."

It is too early to attempt to evaluate these resolutions. Much will depend on the reaction of the A. L. C. to the decision concerning 1938, the St. Louis Agreement. We believe that it indicates a new trend in the course of Missouri. But the fact remains that the fundamental weaknesses of the 1938 resolutions, particularly the one which comes out so plainly in the "Friendly Invitation," ("allowable and wholesome latitude of theological opinion") have not yet been squarely faced.

Membership In The National Lutheran Council

Among the related matters which came up for action was the question of membership in the National Lutheran Council, an agency for joint action by Lutheran bodies which are not yet united in any other way. At present this Council is made up of the United Lutheran Church and the constituent synods of the American Lutheran Conference. Missouri postponed action for another three years. However, it expressed its official willingness "to

cooperate in matters agreeing with Synod's principles." One cannot help wondering what the effect of this synodical precedent will be on the wave of "cooperation in externals" (which so often go beyond mere externals) which we discussed in our issue of July 20.

Prayer Fellowship

In the matter of Prayer Fellowship, particularly the question of whether joint prayer at intersynodical conferences constitutes unionism, the Saginaw resolutions of the Synod, in which the latter is approved under certain specific conditions, were reaffirmed. However, the matter is to be given further study. The committee also added a warning which we quote at least in part: "since unionism is the great evil of our time and would eventually undermine our Synod, we voice an earnest warning against all forms of unionism, offense, and the violation of a brother's conscience; and we urge that the Saginaw resolutions should not be misused to condone unionism . . ."

Selective Fellowship

A memorial advocating Selective Fellowship, specifically that "any congregation affiliated with our Synod which may find any neighboring Lutheran congregations that subscribe to the pure doctrine as outlined in Synod's constitution may establish prayer, altar, and pulpit fellowship with such congregations regardless of their synodical affiliations," was denied, chiefly on constitutional grounds. The fact that such congregations by their continued membership in a body which upholds false doctrine or practice make themselves partakers of that error, even though they may also subscribe to the pure doctrine as outlined in some other synod's constitution, and the further fact that therefore the Scriptural injunctions against fellowship apply, did not receive the consideration which in our judgment it deserved. We venture the guess that this issue will continue to plague our sister synod for some time to come.

Scouting

In the matter of Scouting in the Lutheran Church a committee considered a memorial from our Union Committee, also a similar one from a number of members of its own synod. Referring to a request of the Synodical Conference (1946 Report, p. 59) which asks the synods to restudy the matter and to consult with the other synods, the Synod resolved "that the president of Synod appoint three men, who in conjunction with the Bureau of Information and the Board for Young People's Work re-study the matter, and report to the next convention.

We express the fervent hope that this be done speedily, and that through such consultation our synods may again come to see eye to eye in this troublesome question.

ANNIVERSARIES

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

On Tuesday evening, May 27, midst a large gathering of children, grandchildren and friends, Mr. and Mrs. Louis C. Romberg of St. John's Lutheran Church of Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, were privileged to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. A fine program was arranged by some of the children, which was preceded by an appropriate devotion and address by the undersigned. May the Lord, by whose grace and help they were enabled to serve these fifty years, continue to bless these His servants and grant them at His time a blessed entrance into the joys above!

G. HOENECKE.

EIGHTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

St. John's Congregation Ridgeville, Wisconsin

The eighty-fifth anniversary of the founding of St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Ridgeville, Monroe County, Wisconsin, was fittingly observed by the congregation on the third Sunday after Trinity, June 22, 1947.

The guest speakers were the Rev. Theophil Baganz of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, a son of a former pastor of the Ridgeville Church, and the Rev. Reginald Siegler of Madison, Wisconsin, a grandson of a former pastor of the church. The former preached on Revelation 3, 11; the latter on Haggai 1, 2-8.

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name.

C. E. BERG.

DIAMOND JUBILEE

Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church Saline, Michigan

Sunday, June 29, was a day of great rejoicing for the members of Trinity Church, Saline, Michigan. On that day they observed the diamond jubilee of the dedication of their house of God with three divine services. In the morning service Pastor E. Hertler, a son of Trinity, of La Crescent, Minnesota, based his sermon on the Word of God as it is recorded in Haggai 2, 9. Pastor Hertler pointed the members to the true glory of the Church, namely Christ Jesus our Savior. In the newly remodeled church Christ crucified forms the central theme. The church choir sang, "The Lord God Hitherto Has Helped Us."

In the afternoon service Pastor H. Buch of East Ann Arbor preached the sermon on Numbers 6, 23-26 calling upon all to rededicate their hearts unto the Triune God that the blessing of the Triune God may rest and remain upon Trinity Congregation. Mrs. A. H. Baer sang two appropriate selections.

In the evening service Pastor G. Press of Wayne preached the sermon on Psalm 27, 1-6, pointing out vividly that Trinity's house of God was once dedicated to the preaching of the Truth and that today its beautiful house is rededicated to the preaching of the same Truth as it is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. This devotion to the Truth provokes opposition and is in sharp contrast to the indifference and callousness of today, but it has the blessing of the Triune God. That is all that matters to us Lutheran Christians. The Southeastern Conference Choristers beautified the service with two selections.

The Northwestern Lutheran

Trinity Congregation was organized in 1865 by eleven male voting members. For seven years the small group was without a church home. A part of the time it worshipped in the local Baptist church. In 1871 the corner-stone for the present house of God was laid, and in September, 1872, the completed brick structure was dedicated unto the Triune God. Seventy-five years ago Trinity Church was an outstanding building in our community, and it still is today. At



the time the church was amply large, but the well attended services today are a testimony to the faith and foresight of the fathers. Six pastors served the congregation with Word and Sacrament: Pastor Wolf, 1865-1868; Pastor J. Doerfler, 1868-1874; Pastor Frederick Mueller, 1874-1878; Pastor C. A. Lederer, 1878-1926; Pastor Adolph Lederer, who assisted his father for a number of years and then served alone from 1926-1939; and the undersigned from 1939 to the present time.

For two years Trinity Congregation has been preparing for the seventy-fifth anniversary of its church. In 1945 a Barton electro-pneumatic pipe organ was installed in a new two-story organ chamber at a cost of \$5,300.00. The same year it was decided to remodel the interior of the church. Before actual construction could be begun a governmental order limiting materials interfered. Though

dismayed, the members did not despair. Lumber that had been gathered from farmers was stored. Some contracts were canceled, some were held in abeyance. With the approval of the governmental agency, however, the church was insulated and rewired, and new light fixtures were installed at a cost of about \$3,000.00. The sacristy was also enlarged. In January, 1947, it became possible to carry out the planned remodeling. The ceiling and the plaster on the walls were removed. The exposed beams were cased. A new stairway to the balcony was built. The entire interior was replastered and decorated. New carpeting was laid; and a new altar, pulpit, baptismal font, and lectern were purchased. In the decoration and in the new chancel furniture the cross of Christ dominates all. To Christ be all glory and honor, dominion and power! The cost of remodeling the interior of the church for its diamond jubilee is about \$10,000.

H. L. ENGEL.

TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY Pastor O. W. Koch

Sunday evening, June 8, Salem Lutheran Church of Lowell, Wisconsin, celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of Rev. O. W. Koch's pastorate in its midst. Not only the congregation, but also many friends and pastors from neighboring congregations attended the service. Pastor Henry Gieschen preached the sermon, basing his words on John 3, 25-30, and Pastor Walter Zank acted as liturgist. Mr. John Leistico spoke in behalf of the congregation, presenting Pastor Koch with a purse as an expression of appreciation from the congregation. In a brief response Pastor Koch thanked God for the loving kindness shown him in the years he was privileged to serve in the ministry and during the twenty-five years at Lowell, also expressing thanks for the anniversary service and gifts presented to him.

Following the service the congregation and guests assembled in the Town Hall, where the women of the congregation had prepared a luncheon for all. Congratulatory messages were extended the jubilarian by the many friends and fellow pastors who had been associated with him during his years of service. At the

close all present rose in memory of the sainted Mrs. Koch, who had been called to her eternal rest in the years 1942.

E. WENDLAND.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF CHURCH DEDICATION ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH Hale, Michigan

A grand double festival took place June 15. The occasion being the tenth anniversary of the building of its church which was dedicated May 9, 1937.

In the church anniversary service, held in the forenoon, the Rev. Kenneth Vertz of Salem Lutheran Church, Owosso, Michigan, first resident pastor of St. Paul's, delivered the anniversary sermon. He based his discourse on Psalm 115:1.

In the afternoon the dedicatory service of the newly erected parsonage took place. The Rev. Amos Schwerin of Freeland, Michigan, a former pastor of the congregation, was the speaker. He based his discourse on 1 Cor. 15:58.

Both services were well attended. The mixed choir of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tawas City, Michigan, under the direction of teacher Wilbert Mueller rendered two appropriate selections. The ladies of the congregation served meals at noon and following the afternoon service.

St. Paul's Church before its organization was served by pastors of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tawas City. They were Pastors Karl Henning, August Kehrberg, Walter Voss. On June 23, 1935, the congregation organized. In September, 1935, the congregation became a member of the Ev. Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States. As a member of synod St. Paul's has not been delinquent in contributing her share toward synod.

In the building of the church and parsonage members of the congregation have shown their love and zeal and we sincerely hope the same spirit will continue in the future as in the past.

The congregation has been served by the following resident pastors: Kenneth Vertz, Amos Schwerin, Wilbert Kehrberg and the present pastor Gustav Schmelzer.

May the name of the true God be glorified in this place and His mercy and truth move us to trust, serve, and obey Him.

GUSTAV A. SCHMELZER.

APPOINTMENT

I have appointed Pastor George Barthels, Burlington, Wisconsin, as Visitor of the Southern Conference of the Southeastern Wisconsin District. He succeeds Pastor Eugene Hinderer who has accepted a call to a congregation in the Eastern Conference.

ARTHUR P. VOSS.

NOTICE

Nominations are in order for the new professorship granted Northwestern College. The new professor is to teach Latin and English.

Nominations must reach the secretary before September 14.

K. A. TIMMEL,
Watertown, Wisconsin.

SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

In answer to the special request for additional candidates for the fourth professorship at Northwestern Lutheran Academy, Mobridge, South Dakota, the following names were submitted during the convention of the Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States at Watertown, Wisconsin.

Pastor Gerhard Albrecht, Dexter, Minnesota.
Pastor J. C. Dahlke, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Pastor Richard Jungkunz, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin.

Pastor Leonard Koeninger, Ann Arbor, Michigan.
Pastor Hilbert Schaller, Glencoe, Minnesota.
Pastor Armin Schuetze, Thiensville, Wisconsin.

All correspondence should be in the hands of the secretary by September 10.

KARL G. BAST, Secretary,
514 First Avenue East,
Mobridge, South Dakota.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

God granting, opening service for the new school year will be held in the Seminary Chapel at Thiensville on Tuesday, September 9, 1947, at 10 A. M.

JOH. P. MEYER.

NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN ACADEMY

Northwestern Lutheran Academy will open the coming school year with a service at Zion Lutheran Church, Mobridge, at 2 P. M., Monday, September 8.

R. A. FENSKE.

MICHIGAN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

The new school year at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Michigan, is to begin September 9 (not as given in the catalog, on the 5). For catalogs and information apply to

DR. OTTO J. R. HOENECKE,
2204 Court Street,
Saginaw, Michigan.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, will begin on Tuesday, September 9, at 8:30 A. M.

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE

The new school year at Northwestern College will begin on September 8. Opening exercises will be held in the gymnasium at 2 P. M.

By order of the Synod and the Board of Trustees the following changes in the rates for board and tuition have been made and will go into effect at once:

Board and Room: \$150.00 for the year.
Tuition in College Department: \$125.00 for the year.

Tuition in Preparatory Department: \$60.00 for the year.

E. E. KOWALKE.

WINNEBAGO LUTHERAN ACADEMY

Fond du Lac, Wisconsin

Winnebago Lutheran Academy will begin the 1947-1948 school year on September 2. Opening exercises will be held at 9 A. M. on that day.

E. C. FREDRICH.

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES

SOUTHWESTERN DELEGATE CONFERENCE OF THE WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

The Southwestern Delegate Conference of the Western Wisconsin District will meet at St. John's Church, Norwalk, Wisconsin, Rev. R. C. Hillemann, pastor, on Sunday, September 7, 1947, at 2 P. M.

G. H. HECKMANN, Secretary.



SOUTHWESTERN CONFERENCE OF THE WESTERN WISCONSIN DISTRICT

The Southwestern Conference of the Western Wisconsin District will meet on September 16 at Warrens, Wisconsin, at 9:30 A. M.

Works: Titus 3, A. Werner; Woman Suffrage, H. Kuckhahn; Is the so-called modern engagement binding? A. Stuebs; Gospel for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity, A. Looek; Points of difference between Synodical Conference and other Lutheran bodies to be stressed in making mission calls, H. Kirchner; Second Letter in Revelation, G. Gerth.

Sermon: H. Paustian. E. G. TOEPEL, Secretary.

MIXED PASTORAL CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA DISTRICT

Date: September 2, (9:45 A. M. communion service) and 3.

Place: Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota.

Program: Historical Sketch of Synodical Conference, N. Madson; Exegesis on Titus 3, 10 in its Context, H. W. Degner; The Religious Elements of the Boy Scout Movement and How They Affect the Faith of our Youth, Th. Urban; Recent Synodical Resolutions on Lutheran Union, Missouri Synod, O. Soeldner and W. Mueller, Wisconsin Synod, G. Hoenecke; Unity in Liturgies, Wisconsin Synod, G. Hoenecke and Liturgy, E. T. Heyne; Selective Fellowship by W. Arndt (C. T. M., June, 1946).

Announce or excuse to Prof. Roland Hoenecke by August 27. H. A. SCHERF, Secretary.

REDWOOD FALLS DELEGATE CONFERENCE

The Delegate meeting of the Redwood Falls Conference will be held Tuesday, September 16, at 9 A. M., Renville, Minnesota. W. Dorn, host pastor. W. SCHEITEL, Secretary.

RED WING DELEGATE CONFERENCE

God willing, the Red Wing Delegate Conference will meet at Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Ononco, Minnesota, on Thursday, September 11, beginning with a celebration of the Lord's Supper at 9 A. M. The confessional speaker will be Pastor Gordon Radtke.

Program: A Christian's Conduct in the House of God, by Gale Maas; Tithing — God's System of Giving, by E. G. Hertler.

Reports by our delegates to the Joint Synod convention. H. F. MUENKEL, Secretary.

NEW ULM DELEGATE CONFERENCE

Place: St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Balaton, Minnesota. Pastor H. C. Sprenger.

Time: September 23, 1947, 9:30 A. M. Essays: Synodical Report by the Delegates; What is a Fair Salary for a Pastor, Missionary, Professor, and Teacher for 1947?, Pastor R. Schroeder; Is Marriage of One of our Members by a Catholic Priest a Sin Requiring Church Discipline?, Prof. R. Hoenecke.

Remarks: Kindly announce to the local pastor. WILBERT FRANK, Secretary.

NEBRASKA DISTRICT

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE CONVENTION

The Southern Conference of the Nebraska District will meet in Delegate session at Gresham, Nebraska, Pastor W. Schaller, on September 23-24, 1947. Opening session at 10 A. M.

Papers: Article V of Augsburg Confession, P. Habben; Rightfully Dividing the Word of Truth, 2 Tim. 3, 16, P. Bittorf; They Which Preach the Gospel Shall Also Live by the Gospel, P. Gruendemann; 1 Pet. 3, 18-20, with Special Emphasis on Christ's Descent into Hell, P. Kugler; Revelation 1, P. Roth.

Speaker: P. Weishan (P. Hertler). Kindly announce to the host pastor. R. H. ROTH, Secretary.

CROW RIVER PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Place: Hancock, Minnesota. Time: September 23-24. Opening devotions September 23, 10 A. M.

Essays: Problems in Communion Announcements, W. Voigt; Pros and Cons of a Separate Confessional Address, S. Baer; Historical Vestments of the Church, C. Albrecht.

Conference preacher: P. Kuske (C. H. Lueker). Please announce yourself to the host pastor, H. C. Duchmeier, Hancock, Minnesota. E. R. BERWALD, Secretary.

ST. CROIX PASTORAL CONFERENCE

The St. Croix Pastoral Conference will meet at Emanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota, G. A. Ernst and G. A. Thiele, pastors, on Tuesday, September 9, 1947, opening with Holy Communion at 9 A. M., A. C. Haase (A. E. Frey) preaching.

Essay: An Exegetical Study of Certain New Testament Bible Passages Pertaining to the Christian Ministry, A. H. Leerssen.

P. R. KURTH, Secretary.

WINNEBAGO PASTORAL CONFERENCE

The Winnebago Pastoral Conference will meet September 15 and 16 at St. John's Congregation, Montello, Wisconsin. Walter Oelhafen, pastor. The first session will begin at 9 A. M.

Essays: Exegesis of Hebrews 5, Roy Gose; Introduction to the Book of Amos, Harold Kleinhans; Divorce in the Light of Scripture, Gerhard Pieper; History of the Wisconsin Synod, Armin Engel; Joshua, a Type of Christ, Richard Ziesemer; Communism, a Threat to Christianity, Robert Reim; The Divine Call, H. J. Diehl; Is the Church the Conscience of the State?, George Kobs.

Preacher: Roy Gose; alternate, Traugott Redlin. Kindly send registrations to host pastor. O. SIEGLER, Secretary.

WISCONSIN RIVER-CHIPPEWA RIVER VALLEY PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Place: Rozellville, St. Paul's Lutheran, C. C. Kuske, pastor.

Time: September 16 and 17. Work: Old Essays: Veteran Organizations Evaluated in the Light of God's Word, J. Henning; The Scriptural Approach to Soul Winning with Reference to Evangelistic Meetings, E. Prenzlow. — New Essays: Hebrew Exegesis, K. Gurgel; Isagogical-Exegetical Treatment of the Book of Esther, O. Lemke; The Christian Home, E. H. Kionka; The Pastor's Prayer-Life, E. Kolander; The Pastor and Holy Communion, W. Schulz; Practical Psychology on Mission Work, L. Koenig; The Recent Joint Synod from the Viewpoint of a Layman, G. Bartelt. Preacher: C. Toppe (E. Walther).

All requests for lodging are to be announced previously to the local pastor. R. C. BIESMANN, Secretary.

MANITOWOC PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Place: Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Pastor E. Behm.

Time: September 16, 1947, beginning at 9 A. M. Preacher: Waldemar Gieschen (M. Schwartz). ROLAND EHLKE, Secretary.

NORTHERN MICHIGAN PASTORS' AND DELEGATES' CONFERENCE

Place: Brady, H. Schultz, pastor. Time: September 22 and 23, opening at 9 A. M. Work: Doctrinal Affirmation (continued), A. W. Hueschen; Bring your copy along; Continuation of Fundamental and Non-Fundamental Doctrines, etc., O. J. Eckert; A Practical Instruction in the Training of Children in the Christian Home, E. Kasischek; What is the Meaning of "Righteousness" in "Thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness"?, J. Vogt; The Ascension of Christ — Its Significance for Christ; Its Significance for Us, Wm. Stelth; What do our Confessional Writings Say as to the Scope of what the Law Reveals and how should this Revelation be Applied, Prof. A. Schultz; Exegetical and Homiletical Treatment of Luke 7, 36-50, A. W. Hueschen; Exegesis of Eph. 4, 3, G. Martin.

Sermon: N. Maas (G. Martin, substitute). No confessional. Kindly announce early to Rev. H. Schultz. A. SCHWERIN, Secretary.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PASTORAL CONFERENCE

The Mississippi Valley Pastoral Conference will meet, D. v., on September 23 and 24 at Stoddard, Wisconsin (Pastor Otto Engel).

Opening at 9:30 A. M., September 23. The program for the Conference will be: Introduction to the Book of Daniel, by G. Geiger; Sermon on Luke 7, 11-17, by G. Kionka; Book Review: "The Quest for Holiness," by H. Backer; Exegesis on Eph. 3, 12-21, by W. Gutzke; Review of Boettcher's New Catechetical Materials, by F. Miller; Funeral Practices, by J. C. Bast; Review

of Synod Conventions within the Synodical Conference during 1947, by A. Hanke.

The Communion Service will be held on the evening of September 23. Pastor Harold Neubauer delivering the sermon (H. Nommensen, substitute). H. NOMMENSEN, Secretary.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

(Authorized by the Proper Officials)

Ordained and Installed

Pastors

Hartwig, Theo., in St. Paul's Church, Mound City, South Dakota, and in Peace Church, Gale Tp., South Dakota; by Ph. Hartwig, assisted by G. J. Ehlert; eighth Sunday after Trinity, July 27, 1947.

Renz, E. C., in Emanuel Church, Custer, Michigan, and in the Scottville Mission, Scottville, Michigan; by A. G. Wacker and R. W. Scheele respectively; eighth Sunday after Trinity, July 27, 1947.

Werner, Richard, in First Ev. Lutheran Church, Prescott, Arizona; by R. H. Zimmermann, assisted by Victor Schultz; eighth Sunday after Trinity, July 27, 1947.

Installed

Herrmann, Max, in Zion Church, Date, South Dakota; by M. H. Hanke; eighth Sunday after Trinity, July 27, 1947.

Installed

Teachers

Kehl, Leslie L., as teacher and principal of St. Paul's Parochial Christian Day School, Menomonie, Wisconsin; by H. A. Pankow; sixth Sunday after Trinity, July 13, 1947.

Nolte, Waldemar, as teacher and principal of St. John's School, Burlington, Wisconsin; by Geo. A. Barthels, assisted by Wm. Nolte; ninth Sunday after Trinity, August 3, 1947.

Mueller, Gerhard, as teacher and principal of St. Peter's Christian Day School, Plymouth, Michigan; by Edgar Hoenecke; ninth Sunday after Trinity, August 3, 1947.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Pastors

Hartwig, Theo., Mound City, South Dakota. Werner, Richard, 628 1/2 Beauvoir Terrace, P. O. Box 41, Prescott, Arizona.

Teachers

Kehl, Leslie, 103 2nd St., N. W., Menomonie, Wisconsin. Mueller, Gerhard, 1380 Sheridan Avenue, Plymouth, Michigan.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND THANKS

We herewith gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a memorial wreath of \$6.00 in memory of the late Mrs. M. Lehniger for the library of the Theological Seminary at Thiensville, Wisconsin, from the Rev. W. Schaller, Jr., and his wife, from Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Neujahr, and from Mr. and Mrs. Robert Heinecke, all of Gresham, Nebraska. ADALBERT SCHALLER, Librarian.

MEMORIAL WREATHS

The following memorial wreaths for Dr. Martin Luther College Library were received during recent weeks:

- Class of 1922, in memory of Prof. E. R. Bliedernicht \$ 5.00
- In memory of Mrs. Emilie Gronholz, New Ulm, Minnesota, from the children, 15.00
- In memory of Mr. Henry M. Kiel, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, from the grandchildren 11.00
- In memory of Dorothea Toepel, La Crosse, Wisconsin, from Melodia Choir, La Crosse, First Lutheran Church 13.00

For these most welcome and useful gifts we are heartily thankful. RICHARD J. JANKE.

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In memory of Mrs. Severt Solem, \$25.00 for the Church Extension Fund, \$3.00 for the Lutheran Home for the Aged, Belle Plaine, Minnesota, by Pastor Chas. E. Found, South Shore, South Dakota.

In memory of Mrs. E. Nommensen, Raymond, South Dakota, \$4.00 for Missions, by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mehlberg and Mr. and Mrs. Roland Mehlberg; \$2.50 for the Lutheran Home for the Aged by the Ladies' Aid of Bethlehem Congregation, H. A. Hempel, pastor, Raymond, South Dakota. EDGAR VANDREY, District Treasurer.