

The Northwestern Lutheran

September 27, 1981



**CONVENTION
REVIEW**

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Comments by the Editor

Prairie du Chien — With its Villa Louis mansion and 30 other places of interest, Prairie du Chien, the site of our Synod's 1981 convention, proved to be an interesting place to spend the first week in August. The convention dates coincided with the community's observance of its 200th anniversary. Greetings were brought to the convention by the mayor of the town, the Honorable James Bitter. Prairie du Chien, which has a population of 5,859, is the second oldest town in the state of Wisconsin.

Martin Luther Preparatory School, the youngest of our synodical worker-training schools, is listed among the prominent points of interest for those who visit Prairie du Chien. The blurb puts it this way: "This residential high school is operated by the Wisconsin Synod of the Lutheran Church and prepares youth of the church for religious education and pastoral careers. Originally was Champion College, then high school operated by the Society of Jesus."

If you haven't seen the school and the town, the delegates all agree that it would make a fine vacation trip. For the delegates, however, it wasn't a week of vacation, but a week of doing the Lord's work.

Mission Items — Handouts at a convention usually emphasize interesting points which as a rule do not show up in any of the whereases and resolutions adopted by the convention. Particularly interesting was the world missions handout.

The page on the Lutheran Church of Central Africa, our fastest growing world mission, gave some encouraging statistics. The LCCA now has 15 expatriate missionaries, 7 national pastors, 29 evangelists, 94 congregations, 17 teaching stations, 8,510 baptized souls, 4,669 communicants, a 3,852 average weekly church attendance, and 1,748 enrolled in Sunday school.

Information on the Medical Mission, sponsored by WELS women's societies, noted that over 68,000 persons were served in Zambia and Malawi last year.

The flyer also brought this appeal: "It is becoming evident that if we want to continue this work of love it is important that all women's organizations consider it a privilege to support this endeavor with a yearly offering and that the offerings are increased to offset the high inflation rate in Africa."

The Apacheland contribution zeroed in on the increased contributions being raised by the Apache congregations — from \$6,398 in 1951, to \$24,447 in 1961, to \$35,938 in 1971, to \$102,765 in 1981.

"Strengthening the Stakes in Japan" called attention to the seven-member expatriate staff and the five-member national staff and concluded with these words: "Most of our Japanese Christians came to know Jesus as their Savior through children. The children come to Sunday school and then go home and tell their parents. Pray that the gospel will continue to penetrate the barriers of Buddhism and Shintoism in this land of 110 million where only one percent confess Christ as Savior."

The Latin America information sheet shared the following: "In all of our Latin American mission fields we have 20 congregations and preaching places. Four have been formally organized into congregations. Our Latin American Church Extension Fund has assisted greatly in providing places of worship. . . . At the present time we have provided 10 permanent churches where the gospel can be preached and the sacraments administered."

The Southeast Asia News provided information on Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, and Indonesia. Concerning Indonesia we read: "The preparation of devotional, instructional and outreach materials has become an item of high priority for the WELS mission team in Indonesia. During the past 18 months a number of needed materials have been produced or have been scheduled for early completion. A revision of an earlier translation of *This We Believe* is nearing publication."

All told, we support 50 world missionaries serving 15,544 baptized persons. There are also 24 national pastors and 53 national evangelists.

*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

The site of the 46th biennial convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod was the Martin Luther Preparatory School at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Shown are some of the delegates during a break. For information on the convention see page 310 and following.

THE NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN

Editorials

More Learning By now the business of reopening the nation's schools is completed. As in every fall, this year's endeavor has brought the usual amount of trauma for kindergarten enrollees and their mothers, and boredom for postgraduate students and their working wives. For responsible boards and officials it has been more problems, as continuing enrollment declines force school closings and teacher layoffs. The baby boom of the latest World War is long over, but the effects of its end linger.

None of these adverse effects need mar the reopening in this season of a most important educational endeavor of our congregations, the Adult Bible Class.

When that Bible Class resumes, enrollment need not be down as the number of persons in the school years drops. There are no such things as age limits or graduations here. All of us are potential class members, whether our age is 25 or 85.

There is no cause for any beginner's trauma in the Adult Bible Class. It is the continuation of a program in religious education that we began early in life. It offers us more of the same good thing in an enriched form.

There cannot be any reason for any veteran learner's boredom in the Adult Bible Class. Boredom, when offered the opportunity to grow in spiritual knowledge and to look more deeply into the Scriptures, and thereby into the loving heart of God? Impossible!

The Adult Bible Class of our congregation needs us. We need it much more.

Edward Fredrich

"Don't Count the Candles" "Don't Count the Candles" is a television film produced in England by Lord Snowden; it depicts old age with disturbing frankness. There are depressing scenes of physical decline, of weakness and helplessness. Aged eyes gaze vacantly at the present; they are lost in the past.

A number of the people in the film make almost pathetic efforts to resurrect the past, when they were young and strong and beautiful. With toilsome effort they bend and weave; laboriously they pedal their exercise machines. Masseurs attempt to tone their wrinkled skin and sagging muscles. A man has the distilled essences of an unborn lamb injected into his aging flesh in a futile effort to regain his vanished youth.

To the credit of the film, it also states that old age can be a time for belief. There is a positive note in the funeral hymn, "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past," recorded in the film, but it is more disinterested reporting than conviction.

The Christian views his declining years with clearer eyes and brighter hope. He knows the futility of trying to revive the past and restore faded strength and vitality. He endeavors to preserve his health, but he also accepts his lot. For the satisfactions and the usefulness he still enjoys he is grateful, but he does not try desperately to reclaim the rewarding days and years gone by. He does not expect death to be pleasant, as if to "cease upon the midnight with no pain"; he knows it is loss and pain and tragedy and grief.

Earth's joys and glories grow dim, yet his aged eyes are still bright with hope and trust. Far off but drawing ever nearer are "yonder shining regions," on which they fix faith's steady gaze.

"Don't count the candles" is the message of Lord Snowden's film. It tells the viewer to ignore their tally of vanished years. The Christian counts the candles but without dismay as their light fades away; for him "there breaks a yet more glorious day." In life and death the Christian has a clearer sight.

Carleton Toppe

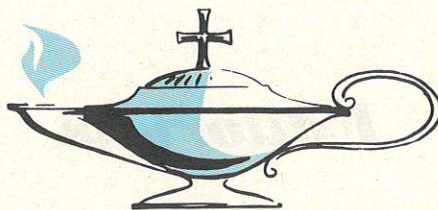
What Is Success? Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the renowned Roman Catholic nun, is quoted as having remarked, "God has not called me to be successful. He has called me to be faithful." While it is a bit unusual for us to cite a Roman Catholic in matters of faith, this remark happens to enunciate a standard set up in the Scriptures, and we can subscribe to it wholeheartedly.

Faithfulness does not always make for success — in the eyes of men, that is. We do not win many friends by being faithful to unpopular doctrines of the Bible, such as the doctrine of original sin or the necessity of Christ for salvation. We arouse negative emotions and bring down abuse upon ourselves through such things as our practice of "close" Communion. We are relegated to the ranks of the unscholarly by insisting that the inspired Scriptures are inerrant. By being faithful to the teachings of God's Word we can turn people off and drive them away rather than attract them. We get the unwelcome reputation in the community and before the world of being "unloving" and "narrow-minded."

From the human point of view this is not the way to success. But what is success? As Christians, whose approval do we want? For the answer we don't have to rely solely on quotations from famous people of any persuasion. The Lord himself, through an inspired apostle, declared, "It is required in a steward that a man be found faithful."

It comes down to the question of how you view success.

Immanuel Frey



Studies in God's Word

Gospel Gems from The Revelation to John

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son" (Revelation 21:5-7)

In the *Revelation* John is shown many a picture and vision, the proper understanding of which is often given to John by an angel accompanying him. Sometimes there is an unidentified voice giving John information or instruction. Always, of course, this is divine, reliable information from the Lord of hosts. But in the words under discussion for today, we have one of the relatively few cases in the *Revelation* where God addresses John directly. John reports, "He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new.'" These are words so important that John is ordered, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Creative Activity

Note that God uses the present tense when he says, "I *am* making everything new." It was an ongoing activity with God when this assurance was given to John at the turn of the first century, about A.D. 90 to 100. It is the same activity that God spoke of al-

ready some eight centuries earlier when he promised Isaiah, "Behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth" (Isaiah 65:17). And it is an ongoing activity also today. In fact, the Apostle Paul enlarges the area of God's continuing creative activity when he says, "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation" — God's creation (2 Corinthians 5:17).

But does God's ongoing, continuing creative activity mean that nothing ever gets finished, that the new heavens and the new creation in Christ simply remains "on hold" in a constant state of becoming? Far from it! There is a culmination and a completion to all of this.

John tells us, "He said to me, 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.'" Here God uses a perfect tense to describe his activity. Translated literally, the words would say, "It *has been done*." When God speaks, it's as good as done. His faithfulness is such that promise and completion are one and the same thing. And to impress that on John, as well as on us, God calls himself by two pairs of distinctive names.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," he says. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and omega is the last. Hence this is the equivalent of saying, "I am the A and Z, the first and the last." But God continues, "I am . . . the Beginning and the End." The word used in the original for "beginning" does not mean merely that God is the first in a series, as in the letters of the alphabet, or the first in time. It means rather that he is the source, the origin,

the fountain from which flows everything that has existence. And the "end" also does not mean last in time, or the last in a series, but its basic meaning is that of a *goal* or *objective* toward which everything that he does leads.

Eternal Life

And what is Alpha and Omega's gracious goal for men? He who is "the Beginning and the End" promises, "To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life." The goal of God's creating, sustaining activity is nothing less than the bestowing of life — eternal life with him in heaven. That is why he sent his Son, Jesus Christ, so that by faith in him we might be his "new creation" who are to live with him in the new heaven and the new earth that he is creating. Everything that he does serves this "end," the sure and certain goal of the Creator.

The goal is sure and certain because it depends on him, not on us. We are "thirsty" ones, unable to provide even our most basic needs, but he promises to *give* the water of life "without cost."

Faith in Christ

And how does he give it? Through faith in Christ, for he says, "He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son." Recall the repeated encouragements in chapters two and three to "overcome" by clinging to Christ in faith. The same is urged also here.

Overcoming by faith in Christ makes all the difference in the world. The believer is God's son and heir, destined to inherit a home in heaven, whereas "the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderer, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur" (v.8).

That is where we would all be, if it were not for God's faithfulness. He is Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. He has called us and he sustains us with his promise: "Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Armin J. Panning

Mining the Treasure of God's Word

Matthew 10:34-36
Luke 12:49-13:9



BY JULIAN G. ANDERSON

More on Discipleship

If you'll get out your mining tools, we'll go to work. And we'll begin with

Luke 12:49-53

Once again Jesus discusses his purpose in coming into the world, which is a very important topic. Underline what he says about this in verse 49a. Here he is using the words "set on fire" (TEV) in a symbolic or spiritual way. So to understand what he means we must ask, "What are the uses and effects of fire?" And the answer will be twofold. One, that fire is used to *destroy* things that are useless or bad, and two, that it serves also to *purify* certain valuable metals. Applying this to the world (earth), we realize that Jesus is saying that he has come to destroy that which is sinful and bad, but to purify that which is good, things like God's holy people. And verse 49 may be translated to read, "And *what more* can I want if it is already kindled?" Thus he reminds us that the processes of testing and judgment have already begun.

In verse 50a Jesus points symbolically to his own coming sufferings and death, the "baptism" he is going to undergo. This was his main purpose in coming into this world (compare Matthew 20:28). Note his comment on this in verse 50b, which could also be translated, "I'm under a *terrible pressure* until it's over." How true that was!

Next underline what he said about his purpose in verse 51, a truly surpris-

ing statement to the modernists and liberals in the church, and a blow to their unionistic schemes. Here also these divisions Jesus came to create involved spiritual things. Matthew put this even more strongly in 10:34a, suggesting real hostility! The kind of divisions Jesus was talking about are made clear in Luke 11:23. Verses 52 and 53 make it clear that such divisions will even reach into the family, the closest of all human relationships. See Luke 14:26 and Matthew 10:21.

If you wish to continue your study of Jesus' purposes in coming into the world, look up Matthew 5:17; 9:13b; 20:28; Luke 19:10; John 5:43; 7:28; 9:39; 12:27, 46, 47; and 18:37. Then we can move on to

Luke 13:1-5

Luke's words "at that time" remind us that this incident took place during Jesus' travels in Judea and Perea. The killing mentioned in verse 1 is not mentioned in the four Gospels, nor in any profane or Jewish writers. But it must be dated between A.D. 26, when Pilate was appointed governor of Judea, and 28 or early 29, when this was reported to Jesus. Keep in mind that Galilee, in the north, was the home of much anti-Roman feeling and many subversive anti-Roman groups. And the mass killing was probably the outcome of some plot by one of these

groups. The men who raised this subject (v. 1) were probably Pharisees, who did so hoping that Jesus would say something in defense of the Galileans, so that they could report Jesus to Pilate also. But Jesus' answer showed that he had no interest in their local politics (vv. 2-5).

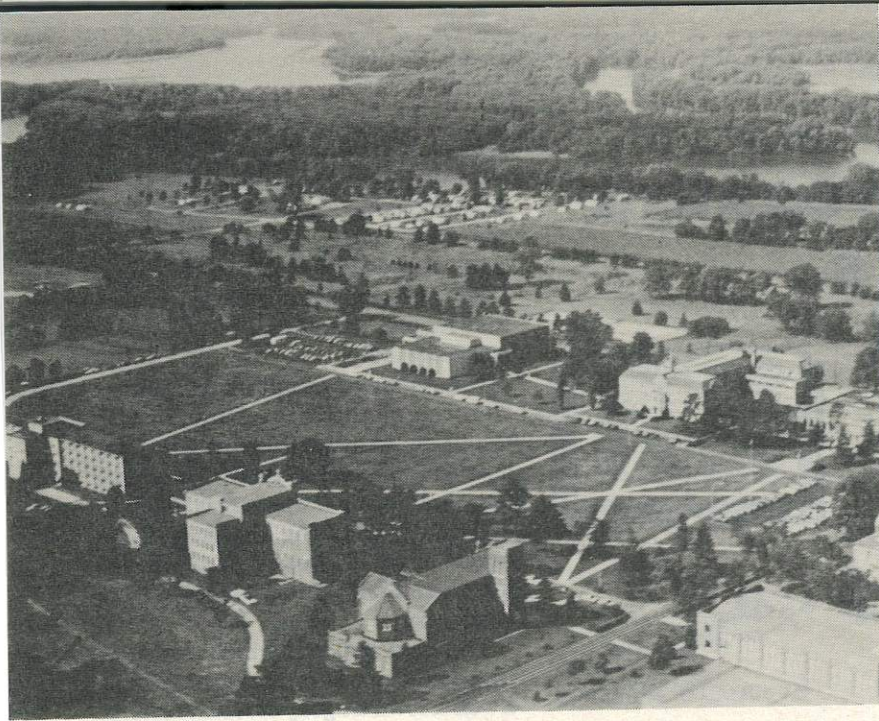
Note what Jesus said about the men who were murdered (vv. 2 and 3a), and then how he used this incident as a lesson for his hearers (v. 3b). He makes the whole incident a picture of the final Judgment, picturing the eternal destruction of all *sinner*s. And he also told them the only way to escape such destruction.

The next incident which Jesus referred to in verse 4 must also have been a well-known tragedy of recent history, but again we have no other references to it in the literature of the time. The pool of Siloam was in the southeastern corner of the city, the Lower City (see your map of Jerusalem and John 9:6, 7). Note that Jesus made the same application in verse 5 as he did in verse 3.

Now go to Luke 13:6-9

This little parable emphasized the lesson Jesus had drawn from the two incidents above (vv. 3b and 5b). The tree was obviously a picture of the nation of Israel; and God is the owner, looking for the fruits of faith from his "tree." The three years perhaps represent the three main periods of Israel's history: 1) from the Exodus to Solomon, 2) from Rehoboam to the captivity, and 3) from the captivity to Jesus' day. The truth is that Israel had never borne proper fruit as God's chosen people; and he had decided to get rid of them. But Jesus, the "gardener," pleads for "one more year," or one last period of grace. If there was still no fruit, that would be the end. And this came in A.D. 70, 40 years later.

The parable must be of interest to us, the members of the Christian Church, God's present chosen people. It illustrates God's patience, and shows clearly what God expects from his people, namely, the *fruits of faith*. And so, the question arises, "What do you suppose God is thinking now about his church, his new 'tree,' after these last 1,900 years?" In any event it would seem that we must be in that last, final period of grace!



Aerial View of MLPS
Site of the 1981 convention

“Strengthen the Stakes!”

Facing inflationary costs and high interest rates — on the personal, congregational, and synodical levels — the delegates to the 46th biennial convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod faced serious budgetary problems and a number of heart-rending decisions. Taking these matters to the Lord in prayer, the voting and advisory delegates regularly assembled to be instructed by God’s Word and also partook of his sacrament.

Services

In the opening communion service on August 3 the Rev. Waldemar Zarlring, president of the Michigan District, preached on Acts 10:32ff, asking the more than 500 delegates and visitors to “Rejoice in the Watchfulness of Heaven,” conscious of God’s program, honored by God’s selection, and inspired by God’s direction.

The preacher at the closing service on Friday, August 7, was the Rev. James P. Schaefer, Stewardship Counselor and chairman of the Division of Administration and Services. Choosing 2 Corinthians 9:11 as his text, he pointed out that we are “Blessed to be Generous.”

All sessions of the convention were opened with prayer and song. The devotions were conducted by Pastors

David Valleskey, Clayton Krug, Joel Frank, Arthur Valerio and Wayne Fischer.

“Firsts”

The convention was marked by a number of “firsts.” It was the first time that the convention met at Martin Luther Preparatory School at Prairie du Chien. It was the first time that the convention was restricted to one week, and then the convention even closed a day early, on Friday noon instead of

Saturday noon. It was also the first time that advisory boards restricted the number of persons representing them. And for the first time, the sessions of the convention were recorded on tape. Unlike past conventions in which the forenoon sessions were devoted to the reading of doctrinal essays, the forenoon sessions of this convention were marked by Bible Studies, conducted by Pastor Victor Prange. Using the convention theme, “Strengthen the Stakes,” as the basis for the Bible studies, Pastor Prange spoke on Isaiah 54:1,2; 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:13; and Luke 19:1-10. Delegates, both voting and advisory, agreed that the convention was well run and that it emphasized the positive rather than the negative.

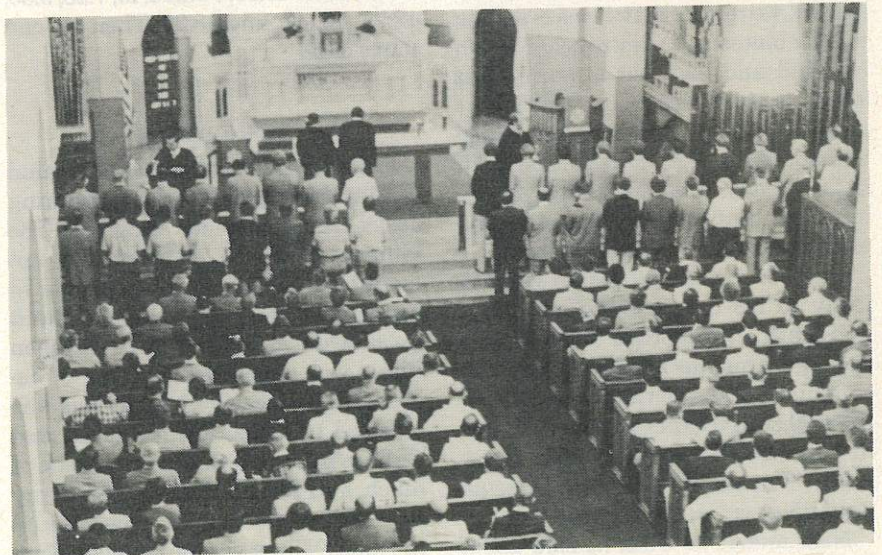
The President’s Report

The Monday forenoon session was devoted to President Carl H. Mischke’s report to the convention. This is well summarized in the first resolution proposed to the convention by Floor Committee No. 4. The resolution reads:

“WHEREAS 1) we are urged by President Mischke to strengthen the stakes in matters of doctrine and practice so that we always have a message that is worth sharing with the world; and

WHEREAS 2) we are urged to strengthen the stakes through education, so that there will always be a new generation that is not ashamed to call Jesus “Lord”; and

WHEREAS 3) we are encouraged to strengthen the stakes through evan-



Opening Communion Service

gelism, sharing Christ with those who do not know him as their Savior; and

WHEREAS 4) we are asked to strengthen the stakes through stewardship, so that our mission will not be crippled or impaired for the lack of funding; therefore be it

Resolved, That we pray God to continue to bless our efforts to strengthen the stakes, so that by his grace we may also lengthen the cords.

Doctrine and Fellowship

At 131 Years

Especially noteworthy as we report on the 1981 convention, lest someone get the notion that it was devoted entirely to finances and budget matters, are President Mischke's words concerning doctrine. We quote:

"First, and always foremost, there is an ongoing need to 'strengthen the stakes' in matter of doctrine.

"Our Synod is now 131 years old. By God's grace — and we cannot emphasize this too strongly — we still believe and confess that the Bible is God's inerrant Word, errorless and incapable of error in all its parts. On the basis of the Bible we still proclaim Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Savior from sin, our only Hope for time and for eternity. By God's grace there is no difference between the doctrine that is taught in our schools and that preached from our pulpits.

"It is no secret that there are those who predict that it's only a matter of time before we lose our doctrinal heritage. They are quick to point to what has happened in church bodies before us and appear to be watching almost eagerly for the little chink in the armor that proves the same is happening to us. And we'll have to admit that they have history on their side. But I am not convinced that we are destined to stand helplessly by and watch history repeat itself, not if we are willing to heed the voice of our God, 'He that hath My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully' — not if we, under God, are ready to let strengthening the stakes in matters of doctrine be our ongoing concern."

This must indeed be our ongoing concern, and should be the subject of

prayer and diligent Bible study not only at conventions, not only in church services, not only in our schools, but in all our homes and our individual lives. The Bible dare not only have an honored place on our bookshelves — it must be a vital part of our lives. Only then can we and a Synod such as ours pass resolutions that are pleasing to God.

Fellowship Matters

"Hand in hand with the doctrine of the Word is the doctrine of fellowship. We cannot long retain the former without being equally clear that the practice of fellowship at all levels calls for full agreement in doctrine and practice." The convention in its resolutions concerning The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Ev. Lutheran Church-Synod of France and Belgium, the Free Ev. Lutheran Synod in South Africa, and the Ev. Lutheran Free Church in East Germany clearly demonstrated that it agrees wholeheartedly with the above words of President Mischke.

Concerning the *Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod* the convention took note of that fact that in obedience to Scripture's teaching on fellowship the LCMS had terminated its fellowship relations with the American Lutheran Church but pointed out that a lack of complete faithfulness to the Scriptural principles on fellowship continues to be evident in other areas such as its continued membership in the Lutheran Council in the USA. Fellow members in the LCUSA are the Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church, and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches [congregations that broke away from the LCMS]. Nor does the LCMS object to its sister mission churches having membership in the unionistic Lutheran World Federation. The convention therefore resolved "that we continue to pray that the LCMS return to a clear understanding and confession of the Scriptural principles of fellowship which are to guide us in all of our practice."

In putting these principles into practice itself, the Synod regretfully resolved "That the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod notify the *Evangelical Lutheran Church-Synod of France and Belgium* that it can no longer

continue its fellowship with that church body." It, however, expressed the willingness to consider reestablishment of fellowship with it when conditions are such that triangular fellowship relations are no longer involved. The triangular fellowship relations referred to are that church body's fellowship in protest with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and its fellowship with the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) of West Germany.

Since no information had come from the *Free Ev. Lutheran Synod in South Africa*, the Synod in convention once more asked that church body to express itself with respect to its fellowship practices. The convention, however, took note that the *Ev. Lutheran Free Church of East Germany* has been giving testimony to the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) in West Germany.

Japan and Nigeria

Church fellowship was also formally confirmed with our mission church in Japan. Though it is taken for granted that the mission congregations established through the activity of our WELS expatriate missionaries share the doctrinal position of our Synod and are in de facto fellowship with the Synod, yet since the *Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church (Japan)* in its development as a national church undertook a formal study of our Synod's doctrinal statements and declared that it accepts these doctrinal statements "as the teaching of the Word of God and our Lutheran Confessions," the convention gratefully acknowledged this formal declaration on the part of the Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church.

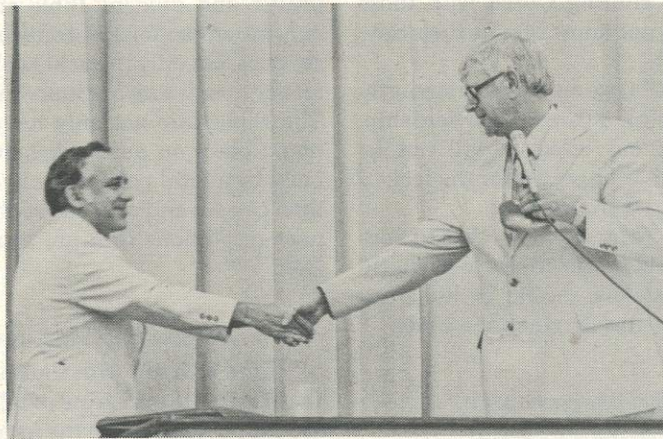
The Synod also formally declared itself in fellowship with *Christ the King Lutheran Synod in Nigeria*. Christ the King Lutheran Synod for confessional reasons has separated itself from the Lutheran Church of Nigeria and is carrying on the confessional heritage originally brought to Nigeria through the mission of the former Synodical Conference.

ELS

Represented at the convention through its president, Pastor George M. Orvick, and the president of its sem-

inary, Prof. Wilhelm W. Petersen, was our sister synod, the *Evangelical Lutheran Synod*. The attention of the convention was called to a series of discussions that had been held between the doctrinal commissions of both synods on the matter of the Lord's Supper. In its June convention the ELS adopted the following resolution:

"WHEREAS the theses on the Doctrine of the Lord's Supper composed by the Doctrine Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the statement on the Doctrine of the Lord's Supper composed by the Commission on Inter-Church Relations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod are in agreement with each other, and with the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions,



ELS President Orvick welcomed by President Mischke

BE IT RESOLVED, That we gratefully acknowledge the unity which continues to exist." Our own convention took note of

this, expressed its thanks to God for these discussions, and asked the Lord to continue to bless these contacts in the future.

"Strengthening the Stakes" in the Area of Missions

Home Missions

Inflation and high interest rates have taken their toll on our Synod's home mission program. Whereas in past years the General Board for Home Missions usually reported 15 to 20 *mission openings* annually, the number was substantially less this time. Though proposals by the district mission boards show the opportunity to open at least 60 new missions in the next biennium, budgetary and Church Extension Fund shortages have forced the board to reduce its goal for new mission openings to 10 annually.

President Mischke put it this way: "The drastic reduction in the number of home mission openings, something that has been going on for a number of years already, must be a matter of deep concern for all of us. Its most immediate impact may be the possible failure to make good use of the gifts the Lord is giving his church in the form of pastoral candidates. Its long-range impact will be that it will effectively stymie our growth. Not only will we be able to reach fewer unchurched people with the saving gospel, but it will also seriously impair our soul conservation when we are not on the scene to receive our members whose job transfers take them to other parts of the country. We (also) will not be broadening our base of support, the kind of base we need for

a vigorous mission thrust into all the world. This is an area to which we must address ourselves, both in our operating budget and in the Church Extension Fund."

The convention did address itself to this matter in adopting a proposed \$10 million capital fund offering, a matter which will be discussed later. Strengthening the stakes at times also involves a periodic review of the work being carried on by the Synod. The convention therefore adopted two resolutions which hurt. One was to *eliminate the subsidy* for six existing mission congregations. They will be served through tape services and other forms of services. Supporting the view of the General Board for Home Missions, which encourages local congregations, conferences and area association of congregations to make both referral-type and missionary-type institutional work their own responsibility, the convention further eliminated the subsidy for the institutional ministries at Madison, Wisconsin; Minneapolis, Minnesota; and the Fox River Valley area of Wisconsin from the synodical budget and referred it to the congregations of the areas involved.

Nine new congregations were recommended for voting membership at this convention. They are the following: Valley View Ev. Lutheran Church,

Helena, Montana; Christ Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church, Trumbull, Connecticut; Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church, Englewood, Ohio; Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, York/Waco, Nebraska; Christ Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church, Fremont, Nebraska; Christ the King Ev. Lutheran Church, Washington, Kansas; Abiding Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, Mauldin (Greenville), South Carolina; Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, North Carolina; and New Hope Ev. Lutheran Church, Melbourne, Florida.

Key to more mission openings are the gifts our members designate for the Church Extension Fund and their loans to the Building His House and the Kingdom Loan programs. *Membership loans* presently are the Synod's only source of low-interest borrowed funds. The convention encouraged each congregation to appoint a capable layman as a director of membership loans in its midst.

World Missions

The *furloughs* of a surprisingly large number of WELS world missionaries coincided with the days of the synodical convention. That enabled the following missionaries to address the delegates: Gary Schroeder of Hong Kong, John Janosek of Malawi, Mark Goeglein of Colombia, Howard Fester-

ling of Indonesia, Ralph Martens of Puerto Rico, Arthur Guenther of the Apache Indian Mission, and John Boehringer, Harold Johne, and Elwood Fromm of Japan.

Since all world missionaries also hold membership in one or the other of the Synod's 10 districts, the districts were encouraged to submit their names for election as voting delegates at such times when their furloughs would coincide with the synodical conventions.

As previously reported, formal fellowship was also declared with Christ the King Synod in Nigeria and with the Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church of Japan. Note was also taken of the fact that the **Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church in Japan** will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its founding in 1982. At the request of



Pastor Raymond H. Zimmermann,
retiring chairman of
Board for World Missions

the Board for World Missions, the convention authorized the observance of September 12, 1982, as a synod-wide prayer and thankoffering Sunday for the Japan Mission Church Extension Fund.

The convention also recognized the need for **additional missionaries** on almost all world mission fields. Subject to funding, it authorized an additional missionary for Malawi, our fastest growing world-mission field, and renewed the authorization for a fourth missionary for the mission in Hong Kong. The need for additional manpower in Latin America, Taiwan and Indonesia and for a fifth missionary in Hong Kong was deferred to the 1983 convention because of the Synod's present budgetary squeeze.

“Strengthening the Stakes” in Education

Parish Education

The Board for Parish Education reported that seven **new Christian day schools** were opened in 1980 and that seven are being planned for 1981.

During the past year the Synod's Board for Parish Education was particularly active in producing a significant number of **publications**. Among them are the *Children's Garden of Learning* (a kindergarten manual); new memory books; *Catechism Lessons* (for intermediate grades); *The Young Christian's Life and God's Letters to Us* (devotional books); *Teaching from the Scriptural Point of View* (a faculty study guide); *Different Gospels* and *Celebrate Grace* (two new Bible class courses); the new nursery and kindergarten Sunday-school courses; and the *Bible History Commentary—Old Testament*. The BPE Publication Fund is worthy of your special support.

A new area to be studied is the matter of **early childhood education**. The board was urged to appoint a standing committee to study this matter when funds become available.

Northwestern College

Subject of a great deal of discussion pro and con was the matter of the **accreditation of Northwestern College**, Watertown, Wisconsin. On June 30, 1981, the North Central Association declared Northwestern College to be an accredited school. The faculty of Northwestern, however, was definitely divided as to the wisdom of accepting such accreditation. Though many recognized that the North Central Association does not espouse an official philosophy to which all of its members must subscribe and that one of the greater benefits is that through accreditation Northwestern's credits are readily transferable to other colleges and universities, an equal number called attention to the fact that North Central's suggestions always express the emphases of secular education. The faculty, however, admitted that “the differences among us are not doctrinal disagreements, but the kind of differences of judgment which Christians experience also in some other aspects of their life in the world.”

In endorsing the accreditation of Northwestern College, the Synod also recognized the validity of the above concerns and instructed the NWC Board of Control and faculty together with the Synod's Commission on Higher Education carefully to evaluate any and all recommendations from the NCA in the light of the goals, objectives and philosophy of NWC. Should the NWC Board and faculty together with the CHE at any time become convinced that the continuation of accreditation by the NCA would require them to violate any Scriptural principle or the goals and objectives of NWC, the Synod would expect NWC to withdraw from the NCA.

“Man and Woman”

Two items under the auspices of the Commission on Higher Education received more than usual attention on the part of the delegates. The one was the CHE statement on “The Role of **Man and Woman** According to Holy Scriptures.” Since the districts had asked for additional study and clarification of a number of points, the convention handed this matter to the Conference of Presidents, asking them to appoint a committee to study the matter further and to report to the districts in 1982.

WELS Historical Institute

In 1979 the Synod authorized the Commission on Higher Education to make the necessary plans and to take the necessary steps to organize a **WELS Historical Institute**. Reacting to the recommendations of the committee appointed to study this matter, the Synod in convention resolved that the WELS Historical Institute be included in the bylaws of the constitution as an authorized agency of the Synod; that a board of directors, along with the Synod's archivist and historian, conduct the affairs of the WELS HI, and that the Institute be supported by its own membership and such nonbudgetary funds as it may receive.

Miscellaneous

The convention dissolved the *Synodical Council*, a group previously active in preparing and assembling the materials for upcoming conventions. It recognized that since the restructuring of the Synod, including the establishment of the five divisions and of the Coordinating Council, the Synodical Council had become no more than an editing body, having no authority to legislate or amend any reports or work programs. The convention therefore authorized the Synod's praesidium to appoint an Editing Committee to review all reports to be included in the *Book of Reports and Memorials* and the *Report to the Ten Districts*.

Since the growth of the Synod over the years had led to the geographic enlargement of district lines in a somewhat haphazard fashion, with little regard for area characteristics and their impact on the work of the church, the 1979 convention had called for the appointment of a committee to study the matter of guidelines for the formation of new districts. The study revealed the need for a close look at *synodical redistricting* before the formation of any new districts. The convention decided to submit the plan proposed by the committee to the 10 districts for study and reaction, with the request that they report back to the 1983 convention.

Both the 1977 and 1979 conventions

recognized the deteriorating conditions of the neighborhood around the *Synod Administration Building* and the *Northwestern Publishing House* and authorized their *relocation* as soon as nonbudgetary funding became available. The present convention in addressing itself to this matter rescinded the priority given to the Northwestern Publishing House relocation by the 1979 convention and authorized the Board of Trustees with the concurrence of the Coordinating Council to proceed with the relocation of the Synod Administration Building as unencumbered funding would become available from the Rehbein estate or from other nonbudgetary sources.

"Strengthening the Stakes" Budget — Pension Program — Capital Funding

\$27.5 Million

In its final session on Friday morning the convention approved a *budget of \$27.5 million* for the next biennium. This figure represents a cut of \$1.9 million from the requests originally submitted by the five divisions of the Synod's work and involves the canceling of a number of programs, among them buildings at synodical schools and mission openings. There was no area of the Synod's work that remained unaffected. The action was necessary because at the close of the 1980-81 fiscal year the cumulative budget deficit was \$806,647. It is hoped that with the tightening of the belt and an improvement in giving by the congregations, borrowed money may be totally eliminated from the budget by June 30, 1983.

\$771,440

Among the larger items removed from the budget was the cost of the *WELS Pension Program*. It was acknowledged by the representatives of the congregations at this convention that the present annual contribution of \$771,440, representing nearly 6 percent of the annual synodical budget, would have to be transferred from the synodical budget to the congregations effective January 1, 1982, if the Synod was to remain solvent. It was also recognized that the present

system that includes the pension costs within the larger synodical budget actually fails to bring home to the individual congregations their ongoing responsibility toward the retirement needs of their workers. It was therefore decided that each congregation be billed quarterly at the estimated annual rate of \$225 per parish worker. Other calling bodies within the Synod will also be billed at the same rate. It is hoped that all congregations and agencies of the Synod while assuming this additional obligation will nevertheless continue to grow in their support of kingdom work.

\$10 Million Plus

Since high inflation and excessive interest rates invalidated the projections regarding building needs at our synodical schools contained in the six-year budget adopted in the 1979 convention; and since the Church Extension Fund (CEF) is suffering from high interest rates, which have severely restricted the opening of new missions; and since the World Mission Building Fund (WMBF) programs have not been adequately funded to pursue the goal of spreading Christ's gospel throughout the world, the convention authorized a capital funding program with a minimum goal of \$10 million. The offering will be divided as follows: 50 percent for the Education Institution Building Fund (EIBF), 40 percent for

the Church Extension Fund (CEF), and 10 percent for the World Mission Building Fund (WMBF).

The step was taken recognizing that the members of the Synod have in the past cheerfully responded to God's rich blessings by giving their financial support to past special-funding programs. The convention had no doubts that the Lord would move their hearts to respond again, yes, again and again.

Special Thanks

Remarkable was the number of persons reaching the end of their terms of service in 1981 or retiring from their positions. Among those given special words of thanks by the convention were the following: Mr. Harold Peckham, director of the architectural office; Mr. Paul Unke, fiscal executive for the Board of Trustees; Mr. Norris Koopman, treasurer and controller; Prof. Conrad Frey, president of Dr. Martin Luther College; Prof. Arthur Glende of the DMLC faculty; Coach Edgar Pieper of NWC; Pastor Arnold Mennicke, for 30 years of service on the Board for World Missions, specifically as a member of Executive Committee for Central Africa; Pastor Arnold Schroeder, chairman of the Institutional Ministries Committee; Pastor Raymond H. Zimmermann, chairman of the Board for World Missions; Pastor Walter Oelhafen, Sr., member of the

Board of Support; Prof. Heinrich Vogel (25 years) and Pastor Werner Franzmann (10 years) on the Commission on Inter-Church Relations; Pastor D. H. Kuehl and Teacher Richard Scharf, members of the Northwestern Publishing House Board of Directors; and Pastor Harold Wicke, editor of *The Northwestern Lutheran*. May our Lord continue to bless these servants of his!

Officers

Elected to guide our Synod during the next biennium were Pastor Carl H. Mischke, president; Pastor George W. Boldt, first vice-president; Pastor Gerald E. Free, second vice-president; and Prof. Heinrich J. Vogel, secretary. All of them were reelected by large majorities. Pastor Boldt also serves as president of the Southeastern Wisconsin District and Pastor Free as president of the Nebraska District. Professor Vogel is a member of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary faculty.

Member-Loan Workshops

On Saturday, October 10, 1981, the first member-loan workshop will be held at Eastside Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin. This will be the first in a series of six workshops to be held at various locations in Wisconsin and Minnesota during October and November. The member-loan representatives from the 545 congregations in these states will be invited to attend. We also hope to offer similar workshops in other areas of the Synod during 1982.

The workshops are being held in response to the need expressed by the member-loan representatives for training to help them carry out their work. The workshops will also provide opportunities for them to share problems, experiences, and suggestions with each other. These workshops are being partially subsidized by a grant from the Aid Association for Lutherans.

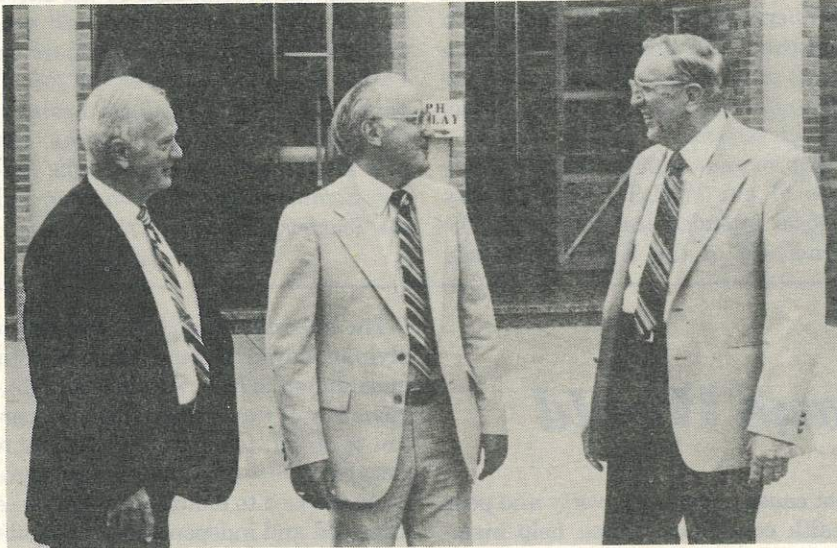
The member-loan programs "Building His House" and "Kingdom Loan Plan" allow you to let your savings do the greatest work there is: spreading the gospel. The Church Extension Fund's "Building His House" program is a major source of funds to provide worship facilities for our home mission congregations. The "Kingdom Loan Plan" is currently refinancing high-priced short-term loans incurred by our worker-training schools, freeing hundreds of thousands of precious dollars for Kingdom work.

The member-loan representatives provide important help in publicizing these programs in their congregations. They also serve as a source of information and assist people who want to participate.

If your congregation doesn't as yet have a member-loan representative, it is still possible to appoint one in time to get the benefits of the workshops. Letters have been sent to the pastors urging that this be done.

The workshops are a reminder that there has been a lot happening in the member-loan program during the past year. The use of member-loan representatives, the increased level of publicity, and the addition of certificates with

(Continued on page 319)



Secretary Vogel and Vice-Presidents Free and Boldt

Closing



President Carl H. Mischke

In his closing remarks, President Mischke expressed his appreciation for the faithful attendance and dedicated cooperation of the delegates in doing the Lord's business. The voting delegates numbered 310, and the advisory delegates numbered 77. The convention was adjourned on Friday, August 7, 1981, at 10:20 A.M. in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

H. Wicke



Planning and Decision Making

The title of this article states the main focus of the ten 1981 district principal-visitor seminars conducted by the District Boards for Parish Education during the past summer in the following locations: Phoenix, Arizona; Houston, Texas; Omaha, Nebraska; Watertown, Wisconsin; New Ulm, Minnesota; Manitowoc, Wisconsin; N. Hollywood, California; Saginaw, Michigan; DuPont, Washington; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The participants learned and practiced a step-by-step procedure for problem solving. The process includes eight steps: 1) stating the problem; 2) listing factors causing the problem; 3) determining if and why the group should tackle the problem; 4) establishing a goal for solving the problem; 5) listing the tasks which have to be completed in working toward a solu-

tion; 6) deciding when and by whom the tasks will be done; 7) selecting a person who will be in charge of the project; and 8) selecting the process for evaluating the project.

Mr. Carl Bartels, principal of St. John's, Watertown, Wisconsin; Mr. Jerome Birkholz, principal of Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, New Ulm, Minnesota; Mr. David Sauer, principal of St. Mark Lutheran School, Citrus Heights, California; Mr. Donald Zimmerman and Mr. LeDell Plath from the WELS Board for Parish Education office served as leaders for the seminars. At least two of them attended each seminar.

Approximately 250 of the 373 principals of our WELS Christian day schools attended the seminars. The principals of the ELS elementary

schools were invited and a number of them attended. In addition, the school visitors of each district were expected to attend. All who attended learned procedures which will be of great help to them in administering, supervising and leading.

The seminars are conducted annually by the district boards for parish education. The Aid Association for Lutherans sponsored the training sessions for the five leaders, and AAL also provided most of the materials needed to conduct the seminars.

In addition to becoming acquainted with the proper method of problem solving, the participants at the meetings were made acquainted with new publications produced by the Board for Parish Education, such as the *Principal's Handbook*, *Catechism Lessons*, *Children's Garden of Learning*, the new kindergarten manual, *Bible History Commentary-Old Testament*, and the *Teacher's Handbook for Testing*.

LeDell Plath

Looking at the Religious World

Hostility Continues Toward Wycliffe Missionaries

Wycliffe Bible translators have been in the limelight following the murder of Chester Bitterman in Colombia. In May we reported the expulsion of all Wycliffe workers by the government of Ecuador. In June, 20 Wycliffe workers were expelled from Panama on the charge of working as spies for the U.S. government.

A Wycliffe spokesman, Jerry Elder, has responded to the rising tide of criticism. He noted that "until 1972 our work drew basically praise, commendation and good press." He cited Wycliffe's record of achievement around the world as well as in Latin America. Wycliffe helped start Colombia's first indigenous language newspaper, aided in the founding of bilingual education, and initiated community development work there. Wycliffe workers also work with natives to raise their health standards.

Wycliffe's problem may be its record of success. Guerilla insurgents are increasingly hostile to the mission agency's efforts because they take away the

root causes, such as poverty and poor health conditions, which help insurgents gain the support of the people.

Wycliffe has been so successful that not only guerillas, but anthropologists, activist students and liberal churchmen complain that tribal peoples are learning the Protestant work ethic from missionaries. Wycliffe responds by insisting that it is being victimized by "a radical critique of capitalistic society" that originates from a "Western intelligentsia."

The current plight of Wycliffe workers brings to mind Jesus' comment about the coming of "the night when no man can work."

New York Governor Vetoes "Cult Bill"

Legislation to give courts the right to appoint a temporary guardian for someone who has undergone "a systematic course of coercive persuasion" from a cult-like group passed the New York state legislature. After lengthy consideration, Governor Hugh Carey vetoed the bill.

The bill, introduced by state assemblyman Howard Lasher, proposed an amendment to New York's mental hygiene law. It would have allowed a person to obtain temporary custody of a close relative to put him through a program devised to enable him "to make informed and independent judgments at the end of the period of temporary guardianship" — in other words, deprogramming.

Supporters of the bill agreed that it was aimed primarily at Moon's Unification Church, the Hare Krishna sect and a number of other active fringe sects. Though the bill did not use the word deprogramming, clearly that was the bill's intent.

Seldom has any piece of legislation been opposed by as many diverse religious groups as was the Lasher bill. Catholics, Protestants and Jews were almost unanimous in their condemnation of the bill. Critics insisted that the bill could easily have been employed to curb bona-fide evangelism by churches. A New York Civil Liberties Union lawyer called it "big brotherism of the worst sort."

In this case the "cure" proposed by New York's legislature was worse than the "disease." Christians are fortunate that New York's governor had the good sense to veto the bill.

Joel C. Gerlach

Direct from the Districts

DAKOTA-MONTANA Reporter Thomas Schmidt

An Evangelist Is Working

God always uses means: the Word, people, the weather, you name it, to effect his gracious purposes.

In Missoula, Montana, 40 miles from the Idaho border, God is using Pastor Harold Wood, a man known for his gift as an evangelist. In the past 12 months, Mount Zion Lutheran in Missoula has been blessed with the addition of 11 adults through instruction and confirmation and 11 children through baptism. Seven of the adults were also baptized. Seven more adults are being instructed in two classes. Some of them have children to be baptized. The members of Mount Zion are praying that the Lord will soon bless the congregation with a place of worship. Attendance is now in the 40s.

God is working in Missoula, and so is an evangelist.

NORTHERN WISCONSIN Reporter Harlyn Kuschel

Zion of Mercer Marks 60th

Zion Ev. Lutheran Congregation of Mercer, Wisconsin, observed the 60th anniversary of its founding with a special service on July 5, 1981. The congregation came into existence in 1921, when the mission board of the Wisconsin Synod was requested to station a missionary in the Mercer area.

The first pastor to serve the congregation was the Rev. Arthur Lengling. The first church building was erected and dedicated in 1927. The present building, on the outskirts of Mercer on U.S. Hwy. 2, was dedicated in June 1971.

During its 60-year history the congregation has been served at various times by WELS pastors from Rhineland, Minoqua and Hurley. At present the congregation is part of a dual parish with St. Paul's of Hurley. Pastor Wal-

ter Hoepner shepherds the congregation. In its 60th year Zion numbers 55 communicants and 63 souls.

Pastor H. Bergholz Observes 40th And Retires

Forty years of service to the Lord and his Church by their pastor emeritus, the Rev. Hoge W. Bergholz, was noted by St. Paul's Congregation of Appleton, Wisconsin, on Sunday, July 19, 1981. In the morning services Pastor Orvin Sommer of Oshkosh, a classmate, addressed Pastor Bergholz and the members of St. Paul's on Acts 20:24, reflecting on the joys and sorrows of the Christian ministry. The service was conducted by Pastors Ralph Waack and Jan Eggert of St. Paul's. A dinner and program followed. A special guest at the anniversary was seminary president emeritus Prof. Carl Lawrenz, with whom Pastor Bergholz had served for many years in his work on the Seminary Board of Control.

Hoge W. Bergholz was born in Green Bay in 1915, a son of William F. and Agnes Hansen Bergholz. He prepared for the ministry at Northwestern Preparatory School and College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, graduating from the latter in 1939.

In the fall of 1939 Pastor Bergholz began his ministry as an associate pastor and elementary teacher at Trinity Congregation, Brillion, but was not ordained until April 1941 when he began serving as a mission pastor in Terry, Montana. In 1945 he accepted a call to Rapid City, South Dakota; in 1947 to St. John, Town Center, Outagamie County, Wisconsin; in 1956 to Fox Valley Lutheran High School, where he served as instructor and guidance director; and in 1965 as associate pastor of St. Paul's.

His 40-year ministry has also been marked by service to the Synod as a member and chairman of the Commission on Christian Literature and as member and chairman of the Seminary Board of Control.

On July 5, 1942, Pastor Bergholz married Viola Luebke. This union was blessed with one daughter, Miss Kirs-

ten, a German instructor at Fox Valley Lutheran High School.

Pastor Bergholz retired from the full-time ministry on July 1 of this year, but will continue to serve St. Paul's as a part-time assistant. May the Lord continue to bless his servant in his Kingdom of Grace!

Forty Years for Pastor Lyle Koenig

The members of Bethany Congregation in Appleton arranged a special day of worship and fellowship on June 21, 1981, to commemorate 40 years in the ministry of their pastor, the Rev. Lyle Koenig. The 40th wedding anniversary of Pastor and Mrs. Koenig was also observed.

Pastor Loren Schaller, a former member of Bethany, preached the sermon in the two morning services on 1 Corinthians 9:24-27, urging pastor and congregation to "Run In Such a Way As To Get the Prize." Vicar Michael Wolff, a son of the congregation, served as liturgist. Prof. Oscar Siegler, a classmate, preached the sermon in the afternoon service. On the basis of Romans 12:3 he spoke of "The Admonition to Think Soberly of Ourselves, According as God Has Dealt with Us." Pastor Orvin Sommer served as liturgist. Members from Pastor Koenig's former congregations in Mosinee and Wausau attended the day's activities, as did the Koenig's children and their families.

Pastor Lyle Koenig was born in Sauk County, Wisconsin, in 1913. Following his graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1940, Pastor Koenig received a call from the Western Wisconsin Mission Board to canvass and conduct services in Mosinee, Wisconsin. His ordination and installation at the new Immanuel Mission that resulted took place in May 1941. In 1942 the same mission board called Pastor Koenig to southwestern Wausau, where Our Savior's Congregation was organized in September of that year. In 1952 he accepted the call to Immanuel of Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. During his ministry there, he helped organize Our Savior's Congregation in the "Canadian Soo" and Our Savior's in Cedarville, served Kinross Air Force Base at Sault Ste. Marie, and conducted exploratory services at St.

Ignace. In 1957 he accepted the call to Bethany in Appleton.

Pastor Koenig married Alice Hinz on June 21, 1941. Their union has been blessed with five children and 11 grandchildren.

May the Lord continue to fill his servant with the love and zeal that for his sake "runs to get the prize"!

MINNESOTA

Reporter Del Begalka

The Senior Oelhafen Retires

Rev. W. J. Oelhafen, the pastor of St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran Church of Ellsworth Twp., Meeker County, Darwin, Minnesota, retired from the active ministry on August 1, 1981.

He had served in the Lord's ministry for 48 years, in parishes at Herrick and Winner, South Dakota; Berlin and Redgranite, and Montello, Wisconsin; and at Winthrop and St. Peter's in Ellsworth Twp., Darwin, Minnesota.

Rev. Oelhafen served the church-at-large on the Board of Missions in the Nebraska District; as circuit pastor in Wisconsin; on the nominating committee of the Minnesota District; as chairman of the Crow River Pastoral Conference; and the Wisconsin Synod and the Minnesota District on the Board of Support for 15 years.

Pastor and Mrs. Oelhafen have moved to 154 Vermont Street, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

Ascension of Rochester Achieves Self-Support

Heartfelt thanks to Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who willed that Ascension of Rochester be begun and who in a relatively short period of time has given such an increase that it is now able to assume the status of a self-supporting congregation! Our heartfelt thanks also to the members of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod for their prayers, guidance, support and the Church Extension Fund loan.

Exploratory services which led to the organization of Ascension Lutheran were started on July 25, 1976. In October of the same year mission status was granted. On November 4 the name Ascension Evangelical Lutheran Church was chosen and articles of

incorporation were filed. Mission status gave the group the privilege of becoming a congregation with the right to call its own pastor. Pastor Alvin R. Kienetz was installed as the first resident pastor on July 10, 1977.

The land for Ascension's buildings was purchased on October 6, 1978, from the Mayo Foundation. The parsonage was completed early in October 1979. On May 18, 1980, a 4,500-square-foot church and fellowship hall were dedicated.

The Lord has also blessed Ascension with numerical growth. In 1976 the new congregation numbered 45 souls, of whom 28 were communicant members. At the time of reaching self-support on July 1, 1981, Ascension had 225 souls, of whom 148 were communicant members. Where did these people come from? At Ascension a third originated from our mother church (Resurrection), about a third from other WELS congregations (transfers), and about a third through adult classes. To God alone be all glory!

WESTERN WISCONSIN

Reporter Harold Sturm

Mother to Juneau Vicars Dies

On Sunday, July 19, 1981, St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Juneau, Wisconsin, was privileged to honor one of its members, Mrs. Martha Schuett. Mrs. Schuett provided room and board in her home for all 13 vicars who have served St. John's Congregation. Her "boys" include Rev. Wayne Mueller, Rev. Donald Buch, Rev. Dennis Halvarson, Rev. Herbert Prah, Rev. John Stellick, Rev. Richard Kogler, Rev. Kenneth Kratz, Rev. James Oldfield, Rev. Charles Papenfuss, Rev. Steven Radunzel, Rev. David Rosenow, Rev. Raymond Schumacher, and Mark Rieke, a senior at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary.

A picture was presented to Martha on her day, together with congratulatory letters from former vicars and President Carl H. Mischke, her former pastor. Because of her failing health, plans for a congregation dinner had to be abandoned.

It was her wish to retire at the end of August 1981, but the Lord had other plans. On August 6 she entered eternal



Pastor D. Priebe, Principal F. Schultz, and Vicar M. Rieke looking on as President R. Cox of St. John's presents Mrs. Schuett with the "Way to Emmaus."

life after serving the Good Shepherd with her Christian life for 74 years. Her faithful service to her Lord's Church on earth was greatly appreciated and will be missed.

Double Anniversary

On July 26, 1981, the members of Faith Ev. Lutheran Church, Elizabeth, Illinois, celebrated a double anniversary in honor of their pastor and his wife, Pastor and Mrs. Martin T. Bradtke. The Bradtkes were married on June 2, 1951, at Watertown, Wisconsin, and on July 29, 1951, Pastor Bradtke was ordained into the holy ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church, Brewster, Nebraska. May the Lord grant the Bradtkes many more double anniversaries!

Pastor Harold Essmann's 25th Anniversary

The 25th anniversary of the ordination of Pastor Harold Essmann was observed by St. John's Congregation, Waterloo, Wisconsin, on Sunday, August 9, 1981, in two worship services and at an afternoon program. The Rev. A. L. Mennicke, Winona, Minnesota, preached the anniversary service. Using Psalm 115:1 as his text, he spoke on the theme "A Faithful Congregation and Shepherd Give Glory to God." Vicar Rodney Dietsche served as liturgist.

Pastor Essmann is a 1956 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. His first call was to the mission field in Northern Rhodesia, now known as Zambia, Africa. He was ordained and commissioned

on August 12, 1956, at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Winona, Minnesota, where he had served as vicar.

After three years in Africa Pastor Essmann accepted a call to St. Michael Lutheran Church, Fountain City, Wisconsin. During his pastorate there a new parsonage was built and a large addition added to the Lutheran Home for the Aging, operated and supported by the congregation. In October 1965, Pastor Essmann accepted a call to St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Waterloo, Wisconsin. During the years he has been there the congregation has grown from 820 communicants to 985 and a large addition has been added to the school.



Pastor H. Essmann

Besides his congregational work, Pastor Essmann also served the church-at-large as secretary of the Mississippi Valley Pastoral Conference and chairman of the Radio Committee for that area and was one of the persons instrumental in the founding of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society of our Synod in 1964. He served this organization as its first national pastoral advisor from 1964 to 1968. Appointed as a member of the Board for World Missions in 1965, he is the chairman of the Executive Committee for Latin America and is presently supervising the mission field in Puerto Rico, Mexico and Colombia.

In celebrating his 25th anniversary, the congregation also arranged for an afternoon program at which Pastor and Mrs. Essmann's 25th wedding anniversary was observed. Mrs. Essmann is the former Ruth Lawrenz of Plainview, Minnesota. The Essmanns have three children: Rhoda, the wife of Rev. Dennis Belter, Midland, Texas; David, principal and teacher at Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Bay City, Michigan; and Michele, a student at Dr. Martin Luther College.

Member-Loan Workshops (Continued)

higher rates of interest are some of the major things which have been done.

We thankfully note that the Lord has blessed our efforts with an increase of \$1,902,000 in member loans during the 1980-81 fiscal year, the largest increase in eight years. May the Lord continue to bless the member-loan program and move the hearts of our people to participate, so that this program can keep on helping our Synod "preach the good news to all creation"!

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES

DAKOTA-MONTANA

EASTERN FALL PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: Oct. 13-14, 1981; 10:00 a.m.
Place: Trinity Ev. Lutheran, Elkton, South Dakota.
Preacher: W. Zickuhr; E. Conradt, alternate.
Agenda: Exegesis of Titus 3; R. Voswinkel; The Awesome Blessings of the Lord's Supper; E. Conradt; False Prophets: What Are They? Do They Serve A Beneficial Purpose?; P. Steubs; Misfits in the Ministry; T. Schmidt.

D. Linn, Secretary

MICHIGAN

DISTRICT TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Date: October 7-9, 1981; worship service on October 8 at 7:30 p.m.
Place: Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Michigan.
Agenda: Papers: "Word of the Holy Ghost"; P. Kuske, and "Use of Spiritual Gifts"; M. Braun; Seminars; Business Meeting and Reports.

K. Kasten, Secretary

MINNESOTA

MANKATO PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: October 6, 1981; 9:00 a.m. Communion service.
Place: Grace Ev. Lutheran, LeSueur, Minnesota.
Preacher: R. Reimers; alternate: A. Ruddat.
Agenda: Exegesis of 1 Corinthians 5: R. Polzin; A Study of the Augsburg Confession: L. Holtz; Questions of Casuistry.
Note: Please excuse to host pastor.

W. E. Wagner, Secretary

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FALL PASTOR-TEACHER CONFERENCE

Date: October 7-9, 1981; Communion service on October 7 at 8:00 p.m.
Place: Grace Lutheran, Seattle, Washington.
Preacher: P. Lemke.
Agenda: Divorce and Remarriage, A Christian Outlook; R. Baerbock; Special Concerns of the Hearing-Impaired; W. Hughes; Sex Education in the Lutheran School; H. Cook and D. Morrison; The Supposed Mechanisms of Evolution and the Lack of Evidence to Support Them; W. Hanson; Homiletical Study of 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

Gordon. J. Peters

WESTERN WISCONSIN

WISILLOWA PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: October 5-6, 1981, noon to noon.
Place: St. Mark, Bloomington, Illinois.
Preacher: P. Krieger
Agenda: Word Study of *koinonia* and 1 Corinthians 10:15-17; C. Sievert; How Do We Know the O.T. Believers Hoped for the Resurrection?; J. Braun; An Overview of the Protestant Controversy Then and Now; J. Schneider; Isagogical Study of Nahum and Habakkuk; S. Radunzel.

J. Kutil, Secretary

The Initial Meeting
of the

WELS HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

will be held Wednesday
October 28, 1981
6:30 — 9:00 p.m.

at Wisconsin Lutheran College
8830 W. Bluemound Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

All interested members of the Wisconsin Synod are invited to attend.
Watch for further details in the next two issues of the Northwestern Lutheran.

ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

(Authorized by the District Presidents)

Pastors:

Ordained and Installed

Aufferheide, Stan M., as pastor of St. Paul's, Douglas, Arizona, and Grace, Warren, Arizona, on August 9, 1981, by C. Found (A-C).
Schaefer, William J. II, as pastor of Shepherd of the Verde Valley, Sedona, Arizona, on July 19, 1981, by J. P. Schaefer (A-C).
Smith, Mark H., as pastor of Shepherd of the Hills, La Mesa, California, on August 9, 1981, by S. Degner (A-C).

Installed

Teachers:

Bakjian, Thomas M., as teacher at St. Bartholomew's, Kawkawlin, Michigan, on August 16, 1981, by H. Henke (MI).
Berg, Theodore F., as teacher at St. Paul's, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, on July 19, 1981, by H. Juroff (NW).
Kanter, John H., as teacher at Bethany, Concord, California, on July 26, 1981, by A. Keibel (A-C).
Otto, Philip A., as teacher at St. Bartholomew's, Kawkawlin, Michigan, on August 16, 1981, by H. Henke (MI).
Schultz, Mark A., as teacher at Grace, Eau Claire, Michigan, on August 2, 1981, by P. Bell (MI).
Weindorf, Thomas C., as teacher at Messiah, North Hollywood, California, on July 19, 1981, by L. Weindorf (A-C).

ADDRESSES

(Submitted through the District Presidents)

Pastors:

Aufferheide, Stan M.
1421 - 11th Street
Douglas, Arizona 85607
Fuerstenau, Gordon A. em.
98 Hillcrest Drive
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
Schaefer, William J. II
170 View Drive, Route 2
Sedona, Arizona 86336
Phone: 602/282-4423
Smith, Mark H.
9130 Southern Road
La Mesa, California 92041
Ziemer, Paul C.
4013 Greenville Road
Haymarket, Virginia 22069
Phone: 703/754-2935

Teachers:

Bakjian, Thomas M.
407 W. Wheeler Road
Auburn, Michigan 48611
Berg, Theodore F.
1123 S. Alcott
Howards Grove, Wisconsin 53081
Huebner, Robert J.
4110A West Roosevelt Drive
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53216
Otto, Philip A.
2471 S. Fraser Road
Kawkawlin, Michigan 48631
Peterson, Kenric F.
12512 Cay Street
Tustin, California 92680
Schultz, Mark A.
P.O. Box 225
Eau Claire, Michigan 49111
Weindorf, Thomas C.
12041 Strathern, Apt. #5
North Hollywood, California 91605
Phone: 213/765-8532

TIME AND PLACE

TRUMBULL, CT

Christ Redeemer Lutheran Church, Trumbull, Connecticut, has changed its worship location from 20 Hickory St. to 1460 Huntington Turnpike (lower level). Worship is scheduled for 9:30 and Bible study for 10:30 a.m. Pastor Kieth B. Kuschel, 44 Rocky Ridge Dr., Trumbull, CT 06611; phone: 203/378-1270.

ANTIGO, WISCONSIN

Ascension Lutheran Church, the WELS mission congregation in Antigo, Wisconsin (54409), is now worshipping at 806 S. Superior, Hwy. 45. The worship service is scheduled for 8:00 a.m. Sundays. Ascension is served by Pastor D. Fleming of Pelican Lake, Wisconsin.

APPOINTMENT

Pastor Martin Scheele, Two Rivers, Wisconsin, has been appointed to the Northern Wisconsin District Nominating Committee, replacing Pastor Percy Damrow who has accepted a call into the Minnesota District.

C. W. Voss, President

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

SUMMER QUARTER IN ISRAEL '82

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary is planning its third Summer Quarter in Israel for the summer of 1982. Approximate dates are July 25 to August 31. SQI '82 includes 20 days of field archaeology at Tel Gerisa and 15 days of travel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, Galilee and the Jordan Valley. The program offers 7½ credits in biblical geography and archaeology to pastors and male teachers which may be used toward the earning of a M.S.T. or M.A.R. degree from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Laypersons and women teachers may apply as noncredit participants to fill places in the group not claimed by pastors or male teachers. Any interested person may receive more information, including monthly informational bulletins, by submitting his or her name and address to:

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary SQI '82
c/o John C. Lawrenz, Coordinator
2128 Court Street
Saginaw, Michigan 48602

CALVARY LUTHERAN CELEBRATES

Calvary Ev. Lutheran Church, 8231 W. Herbert Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin (N. 82nd, two blocks north of Hampton), will be having special observances the first three Sundays in October.

October 4 at 10 a.m. — 25th Anniversary Sunday

October 11 at 10 a.m. — Confirmation Reunion Sunday

October 18 at 10 a.m. — Dedication and Memorial Sunday

Calvary is just completing a much needed addition, consisting of a multipurpose room, pastor's study, kitchen and storage area. Calvary Lutheran sincerely hopes that former members and friends will come and rejoice with the congregation in the blessings the Lord has bestowed upon Calvary.

Pastor Robert M. Krueger

DMLC LADIES AUXILIARY

An invitation is extended to all the women of the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod to attend the 22nd annual meeting of the Dr. Martin Luther College Ladies Auxiliary at our teacher-training school, Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, on Wednesday, October 14, 1981. Coffee hour and registration will begin at 9:00 A.M. Baby-sitting service will be provided for your small children if you wish to bring them. The opening worship service will be at 10:30 A.M. A noon luncheon will be served in Luther Memorial Union. The ladies will vote on projects to be carried out this coming year. You may send your gifts to help carry out these projects to the treasurer, Mrs. Larry Enter, RR 2, Box 259E, Watertown, Minnesota 55388. Make checks payable to the DMLC Ladies Auxiliary. Educational and entertaining programs are being planned for the day. There will be mini-tours of the campus. The business meeting will conclude at 3:15 P.M. Come and spend an enjoyable day with your fellow Christians!

Rev. LeRoy H. Lothert
Pastoral Advisor

PARAMENTS NEEDED

Good Shepherd Ev. Lutheran Church of Midland, Texas, a WELS mission in west Texas, is in need of altar paraments for its recently acquired Mobile Chapel. We will pay shipping or postage for any articles our sister congregations may wish to donate. Contact Pastor Dennis Belter, 4401 Storey, Midland, Texas 79703; phone 915/694-3002.

PARAMENTS NEEDED

Absence makes the heart grow fonder! — That is the situation that your mission congregation in Nampa, Idaho, finds itself in. We do not have a full set of altar paraments and we miss the enrichment of our service that they can give. Therefore if any congregation has a set not being used and would like to donate them to us, we truly would appreciate it. We would be more than willing to pay the cost of shipping. For more information contact Messiah Lutheran Church, 534 W. Iowa Ave, Nampa, Idaho 83651, or call Pastor Mark Cares 208/467-2573.

SIGNBOARD

A used lighted outdoor church signboard with standards is available free for the cost of transportation. Please contact Rev. James Gorseger, Route 2, Box 238, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911; phone 414/757-5502.

WELS CONTEMPORARY SACRED MUSIC EXPOSITION — 1981

Wisconsin Lutheran College
November 13-14, 1981

Exposition Concerts — Friday and Saturday night, November 13 and 14 at 7:30 p.m. A wide range of contemporary music written and/or performed by WELS composers will be featured. Young people and youth groups are especially invited Friday night. A less formal AFTER-GLO follows each performance. Tickets will be available at the door — \$2.00 for adults, \$1.00 for students.

Exposition Workshop — Saturday, November 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A workshop for choral directors, youth group leaders, teachers and composers. Opportunities to hear, sing and share ideas for selecting, composing and publishing contemporary sacred music in the WELS.

For information or registration call or write:

Wisconsin Lutheran College
8830 W. Bluemound Road
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53213
(414) 774-8620

HYMNALS NEEDED

Lone Star Lutheran, the WELS exploratory group in Tyler, Texas, is in need of some two dozen hymnals. If any congregation has some to spare, Lone Star Lutheran would appreciate receiving them. Lone Star Lutheran meets every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. at the Seventh-Day Adventist church on Loop 323 E.S.E. and Altra Mira. Contact Pastor Robert Neumann, Rt. #6, Box 106A, Tyler, Texas 75704.

WANTED NEW/USED/WORN HYMNALS

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, a WELS mission in Charlotte, North Carolina, is in need of hymnals. If any congregation should have surplus hymnals — old, new, or worn — that it would like to donate to a mission, Grace Lutheran would be happy to receive them. Grace Lutheran is willing to pay the shipping charges. Please contact Pastor Jon Guenther by phoning 704/536-1753. Your assistance is appreciated.

REQUEST FOR A COLLOQUY

Leonard G. Bernthal of Missoula, Montana, formerly a pastor of the Church of the Lutheran Confession, has requested a colloquy for the purpose of entering the preaching ministry of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Correspondence relative to the request may be addressed to the undersigned.

President Wayne I. Schulz
Dakota-Montana District

NOTICE

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

October 13-14, 1981.

Business to be acted on is to be submitted to the Executive Secretary of the Board, with copies to be furnished the Chairman of the Board, no later than ten days prior to the meeting date.

Richard K. Pankow, Secretary
Board of Trustees