

The
Northwestern
Lutheran

MARCH 1, 1984



God's way:
the cross

PAGE 70

guest comment



Pastor Malchow
is the
stewardship
counselor
for the Synod.

The news was not good. A phone call from Norbert Manthe, WELS Chief Accounting Officer, brought word that total congregational offerings for 1983 amounted to only 95% of the subscriptions which had been made for the year. No one was quite ready to evaluate the impact of this shortfall.

Other news was also depressing. The president of American University in Beirut, Lebanon was shot and killed by Moslem gunmen who perpetrated the crime in the name of religion. Such "holy" killings made one think of words Jesus said to his disciples: "In fact, a time is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is offering a service to God" (John 16:2). Depressing news.

Then there was the hospitalization of the one who regularly sits at this desk and gives us spiritual food for thought "from this corner." "Pastor James" (Schaefer), as staff personnel refer to him, underwent serious surgery for replacement of the aortic valve to his heart. Subsequently his condition called for the implantation of a pacemaker. On this day he was still resting, albeit uncomfortably, in the intensive care unit.

All this calls to mind words which "Pastor James" cited in this periodical's first issue of 1984, "A righteous man . . . will have no fear of bad news: his heart is steadfast trusting in the Lord" (Psalm 112:7). No matter how bad or depressing the news may be, believers have this serene assurance that everything is in the Lord's hands and under his total control. Always there is much for which to be thankful, much for which to praise our Lord for his goodness.

Will the shortage in subscription offerings force us once again into a borrowing program to meet budgetary needs? At this point no one knows. But at the same time we marvel as the blessings of the Lord upon Reaching Out continue to swell. On this day the total for cash remitted exceeded \$9.9 million!

Fatalities in Beirut and in other war-torn areas of the world, particularly Central America, continue to mount. Yet for well over a century the Lord in his grace has spared the cities and landscapes of our beloved country from the ravages of war.

And, yes, we are very grateful that in answer to many prayers the Lord is granting "Pastor James" a slow but steady recovery. The Lord who heals all diseases is the Lord in whose hands he rests. To be in the Lord's hands, that is the best news of all.

Daniel H. Malchow

COVER — Friday morning: Jesus in prison. Painting by Bible illustrator James J. Tissot (1836-1902).

May the Lord our God be with us
as he was with our fathers;
may he never leave
or forsake us. 1 Kings 8:57

The Northwestern Lutheran

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE
WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

VOLUME 71 NUMBER 5
MARCH 1, 1984

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Subscriber service

For subscription service, write: Northwestern Publishing House, 3624 W. North Avenue, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208-0902. Allow **four weeks** for a new subscription, subscription renewal or change of address.

Subscription rates (payable in advance)

U.S.A. and Canada — **One year, \$6.00; two years, \$11.00; three years, \$15.00.** Twenty-five or more unaddressed copies sent in a bundle to one address at \$3.75 per subscription. Every home plan at \$4.25 per subscription. All prices include postage.

All other countries — Please write for rates.

THE NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN is available in braille or on cassette for the visually handicapped. For information, write: Workshop for the Visually Handicapped, 559 Humboldt Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55107.

THE NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN (ISSN 0029-3512) is published semimonthly, except monthly in July and December, by Northwestern Publishing House, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Second-class postage paid at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to THE NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN, c/o Northwestern Publishing House, 3624 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208-0902.

Illustration credit

Schnorr von Carolsfeld, 70,71.

Lent and repentance

Then Jesus began to denounce the cities in which most of his miracles had been performed, because they did not repent (Matthew 11:20).

There are tremendous blessings in being familiar with the Bible through regular reading and study. But let us be on guard lest familiarity with the Scriptures dulls us to some of its "hard" truths. The familiar eleventh chapter of Matthew's Gospel brings us face to face with some of those harsh realities. There Matthew tells us that Jesus "began to denounce the cities."

Just and holy

Yes, we heard it right. The evangelist is talking about the meek and mild Babe whom we saw in the manger, the One who laid aside his divine glory and who in his lowliness went about here on earth teaching and doing good. He is a mild and gentle Savior. But he is also the just and holy God. Hence he must speak out against all sin and unrighteousness. He *denounces* those who cling to their sins, cherishing them as something they refuse to give up.

Denounce is not a pretty word. Webster defines it "to proclaim blameworthy or evil." Jesus found it necessary to denounce the cities "because they did not repent." Harboring sins as something to be defended and retained is not softened by our Savior as merely a petty failing or weakness, nor does he view it as a sickness. He denounces sin as evil, something blameworthy and deserving of punishment. To the unrepentant cities Jesus says, "It will be more bearable for Tyre and Sidon on the day of judgment than for you" (11:22).

Judgment certain

Skeptics among us declare, "There is no heaven or hell. And even if there were, a gracious God wouldn't doom anyone to eternal suffering in

hell." Not so our Savior. Note that Christ operates with the truth that there is a day of judgment coming, a day when stern punishment will be meted out to unrepentant sinners. In fact, so stern that on judgment day some will be worse off than Tyre and Sidon, than Sodom and Gomorrah.

To whom is Jesus saying this? To cities "in which most of his miracles had been performed." Recall the familiar description of Jesus' ministry — that he went about Galilee,

*Nowhere
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more clearly
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upon us.*

preaching and teaching in their synagogues and healing their diseases. The miracles were not an end in themselves. They were the proof of his teachings. They established his claim that he was the Son of God, the only Savior from sin, to be accepted by faith. Many in Galilee, however, refused to believe him, both when he spoke about their sin and about a savior from sin. Despite Christ's preaching and miracles, they remained impenitent. Hence the woes upon them were inevitable.

Woes inevitable

But those woes upon impenitence are inevitable also today. We miss the point if familiarity with Matthew's account causes us to think only of Korazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum as the offenders. We would do well to substitute the name of our own hometown there, for Christ's woes are applicable to im-

penitence everywhere — even in our own lives.

The life of the child of God is to be marked by daily contrition and repentance. And nowhere is the need for repentance taught us more clearly than in the Lenten season once more upon us. In our Savior's sufferings and death we see the power of sin. The hymnwriter has aptly stated: "Ye who think of sin but lightly, nor suppose its evil great, here may view its nature rightly, here its guilt may estimate." Sin cost the lifeblood of God's Son.

Repentance needed

As we follow to Calvary, how unthinkable that we at the same time should continue to harbor and cherish the sins for which our Savior is dying! No, the Lenten season calls for repentance and speaks the strongest woes on impenitence.

But it also promises the greatest blessings to the penitent who grieve over their sins and repent of them. As strong and binding as Christ's woes on the impenitent, so sure and certain are his promises of forgiveness and peace to the penitent who believe and trust in him. Let us not fail to note that though Matthew's eleventh chapter opens with the strong woes on the impenitent, it closes with the precious promise and invitation, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." May familiarity with the Scriptures never dull us either to the "goodness" or the "severity" of our God. □



Professor Panning teaches New Testament at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin.

The press and truth

By and large, we can give the American press good marks for reliability and accuracy. Our newspapers strive to be objective in their reporting. If they make errors in fact, they appear to be willing to correct them. We have no right to expect an impossible one hundred percent accuracy from the press. Readers should realize that the press in our country may well achieve more accuracy than the readers are aware of.

Yet the press falls short of the truth it purports to publish. Important facts are omitted or underplayed in the interest of a good story, or of the liberal or conservative position of the paper, which tends to arrange the facts to accord with its viewpoint. Pressure groups, like business interests, labor unions, Israeli lobbies, minorities, farm lobbies, teachers' associations, and the like — even churches — make it difficult for the local or regional press to publish the whole untempered truth.

The press is human. It is affected by the human ambition and pride, by the human prejudices, and by the human weaknesses of those who serve it.

What is not always evident to the average reader and yet is of greater significance is the fact that the public press is captive to the age of which it is a part. In any given age there are ideas that are accepted as true, whether the public believes them to be true, or whether the social and intellectual leaders of the time declare them to be true.

In the light of God's revealed truth, and even in the light of human reason and experience, much of this prevailing thought is untruth. And because the public press is captive to the age of which it is a part, and which it serves as its voice, it often promotes untruth, rather than truth.

The public press, in general, continues to foster the delusion that evolution is a fact. It supports the notion that society's great evils are traceable to our environment, to politics, to the evil around us rather than to the corruption within our hearts. It nurtures the naive trust that more and better public education will solve the problems of the day. It upholds the freedom of adults to take their pleasure as they desire, even if their freedom corrupts our children morally and spiritually. It confirms our nation's women in the lie that the fate of the child in the womb is solely the responsibility of the mother and her physician, to be disposed of at will. It promotes the unreasoned assumption that "equality" must be a universal principle: "equality" must be achieved in the home and in the church as well as in society; "equality" must give even sexual perversion equal status with sexual morality. In the realm of religion the public press preaches universalism, the notion that one church's error is as valid as another church's truth.

These and similar beliefs are the wisdom of our age; the public press is its willing captive and servant.

The "wisdom of the age" was untruth and an enemy of the cross of Christ when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians 1 and 2. It is still so today. The public press may report facts with commendable accuracy, but it takes more than facts to add up to truth.

Carleton Toppe



Professor Toppe is president of Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin.

letters

Some disturbing questions arise

The WELS student center in Oshkosh (January 1, p. 10) seems to be a cause for rejoicing, as it should be. It is a tool being used to bring souls to Christ.

Some disturbing questions arise, however. Would the WELS students not be attending a local WELS church if the center were not there? Are we teaching through our actions that for certain groups our local congregations cannot do the job? How much is it stressed that a student center is not a substitute for congregational membership and the responsibilities that go with it? (It is stressed, isn't it?) If, as the article stated, the primary purpose is to minister to our own, what percentage of the possibly 750 WELS students are being reached?

Those of us who support an area Lutheran high school must deal with getting high-school-age members involved in the congregation. A common reply is, "I get religion five days a week. That's enough." If area Lutheran high schools and college student centers are becoming churches within churches, then it is time to examine both them and the local congregation.

Our local congregations must wake up to their responsibilities to the youth. It is too easy to pass the buck. I suspect that those WELS youth active in these student centers would be active in a local congregation if given a chance.

Arthur Callies
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The Kinderhook plates

The article *Mormons, Adventists, Jehovah's Witnesses* (January 1, p. 8), identified an illustration as "one of the six gold plates" used by Joseph Smith in his production of the *Book of Mormon*. Actually, one of the so-called Kinderhook plates is shown. These brass plates were produced, buried, and with a great deal of publicity, "discovered" by a group of anti-Mormons. These men hoped the Mormon prophet would be fooled by their crude forgeries, attempt to translate them through his mysterious methods, and

be totally discredited when they told the truth about their plates.

In the May 1, 1943 *Times and Seasons*, a Mormon publication, the discovery of the Kinderhook plates was described in great detail. Of course, the plates were taken to Smith, who apparently fell for the gag. According to his own *History of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints* (vol. 5, p. 372), he had "translated a portion of them. . . ." He even included an illustration of one plate.

Smith was murdered in June 1844 and the Kinderhook plates fraud died also. Apparently he never completed his translation and, in any case, the Mormons all left the area for Utah.

The gold plates Smith claimed to have used to produce the *Book of Mormon* were, he said, too holy, sacred, etc., to be reproduced, except for a few rows of characters he copied. These were published many places and they did not seem to be such obvious fakes as the Kinderhook plates' characters. Smith's characters did not appear to be Egyptian, Chaldaic or Assyrian either.

I offer this as a slight correction to an otherwise excellent article.

John M. Ball
Huntsville, Alabama

Luther not "humane"

Regarding Prof. Siegbert W. Becker's defense of Luther on the "humane-ness" of Luther's statement that Jewish synagogues be burned (December p. 346), to say that Luther was more humane than others who urged the burning of men may be true, but to say that all of his anti-Semitic remarks were "humane" in any way is ludicrous, even when viewed in the historical spectrum.

Where was Luther's Christian love toward God's chosen people in his old age? The adjectives "callous" and "unloving" seem more appropriate than "humane."

Granted, we owe Luther much for his bringing the gospel to all men, yet we too must be quick to recognize and admit that he wasn't always spiritually and politically correct. Then maybe this tendency to idolize Luther could be substituted with personally experiencing the hand of God in our lives.

Dean Dawson
Douglas, Alaska

Let's support our institute

Readers of the Northwestern Lutheran would surely appreciate the articles that appear in another Wisconsin Synod publication, the WELS Historical Institute Journal. The most recent issues offered fascinating glimpses into the lives of influential leaders of WELS from the past like Professors August Pieper and J. P. Koehler and our Synod's first traveling missionary, Pastor Ernst August Gottlieb Fachtmann.

An individual membership in the WELS Historical Institute is available by paying annual dues of \$10 (\$15 for husband and wife). Members of the institute receive the journal which is published semi-annually.

I also urge our lay leaders and pastors to persuade their congregations to join the institute, which has ambitious plans to lease the historic Salem Lutheran Landmark Church in Milwaukee and to use that building, which dates back to 1863, as the WELS museum. Renovation costs on the building could run from \$50,000 to \$100,000.

In 1983, only seven WELS congregations paid the modest \$50 membership fee. Obviously, if hundreds or even more than a thousand of our WELS congregations would get behind the institute's efforts to preserve our heritage and to remember our leaders of the past who preached and taught the Word of God to us, those formidable renovation costs could be covered in just a year or two.

Let's get behind our WELS Historical Institute and their very exciting plans with our wholehearted interest and financial support in the form of membership dues from individuals, couples, and hundreds of our congregations. Access to the excellent articles in the Journal will be an added bonus for our participation. Send your dues to: WELS Historical Institute, 2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Reuel J. Schulz
West Allis, Wisconsin

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God's way: the

How will it turn out this time? From Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, from lectern and pulpit, we will be following the story of our Savior's suffering and death. Whether we are hearing it for the first time or the fiftieth, there will be moments when we speculate: "If this had been said or if that had been done, might it not have ended differently?"

But the story never changes and the ending is always the same: *Crucified, dead and buried*. A young man, an innocent man, a man who went about doing good is unjustly executed and laid in a borrowed grave.

*No matter how unjust
the trials and crucifixion
of Jesus were
from a human perspective,
justice was being done.*

It is a tragic story, but the tragedy is not what happened to Jesus of Nazareth. The tragedy lies in the schemes and actions and failures of those who contributed to and brought about his judicial murder. The truly tragic figures are those who cannot see in his death anything but a tragic example of man's inhumanity to man.

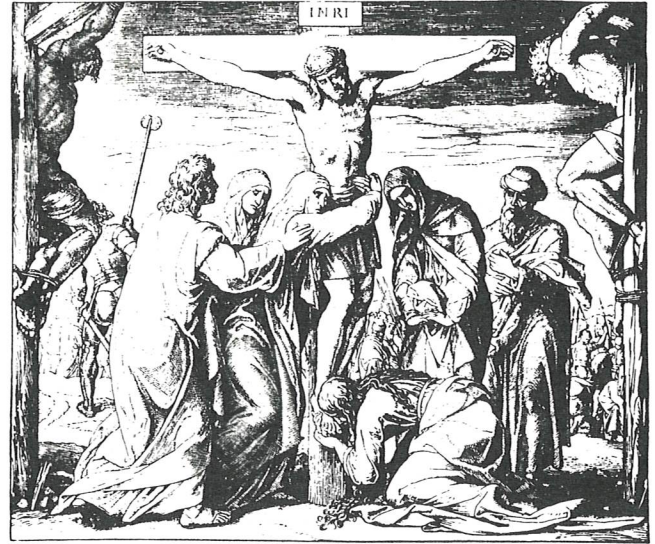
Many a miscarriage of justice has been compared to what happened in Jerusalem during those twenty or so hours from Thursday night to Friday afternoon. However, no matter how unjust the trials and crucifixion of Jesus were from a human perspective, justice was being

done. He was not guilty of treason or blasphemy. His worst enemies, their eyes sharpened by jealous hatred, could not convict him of sin. But he had taken on himself the sins of the whole race, and the just and holy God punished those sins. God treated him as the one who was guilty of every transgression ever committed.

For every grudge you or I have ever nurtured, for every time we have quietly or loudly gloated over the downfall of someone who irritated us, for every time we opened our mouths and said what was not true or necessary or kind to say, he bore the guilt. God laid on him every murder ever committed and every impulse of hate in your heart or mine. Christ assumed the guilt of all the perjurers at his trial and every selfish shading of the truth in which any of us has ever indulged. Not just the monstrous sins of a few villains but my everyday failures to love.

Anselm of Bec said to his contemporaries: "You do not take the cross seriously because you do not take sin seriously." Sin isn't only scandalous conduct, activities which society punishes or disapproves. It is everything in my life, even in my heart, which does not meet the standard of God's law of love. By that standard there is always something impure in my motives. There is an admixture of sin in my best efforts. There is something that needs to be forgiven in my finest deeds.

We have all earned our mortality. We have all deserved eternal separation from the Giver of life. But Christ suffered sin's payoff without being sinful himself. Sin and death were utterly alien to him who was holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners. But he suffered God-forsakenness as the world's greatest sinner.



CROSS

by Richard D. Balge

Sometimes it seems as though every university has at least one professor who says: "The Christian God is either a sadist or a masochist, depending on your view of Jesus." The implication is that the God of the Bible either tortures an innocent man or tortures himself, depending on whether Jesus is only a man or also God incarnate. "Your God must be sick," is the suggestion. Rather, "You who believe in such a god are not mentally healthy."

But if there is a standard of justice (and there is), if justice is to be done (and it must be), then someone must be held accountable and punished for sin. Someone was.

*Where there is forgiveness
of a wrong,
the one who forgives
accepts the consequences
of the wrong for himself.*

That was not sadism. That was God's love, sacrificing his Son to make us his children. It is not a mark of genius to be able to ask whether God could not have done it another way. It is our salvation that he did it this way.

That was not masochism. That was God's love, forgiving his enemies. Where there is forgiveness of a wrong, the one who forgives accepts the consequences of the wrong for himself. Where there is forgiveness of a debt, the one who forgives accepts the loss for himself. Where badmouthing is quietly forgiven, the one who forgives accepts the hurt in himself. So Christ bore our sins in his own body on the cross. That was his way, and it

is eternal life to believe that he did it for you.

That he loved us at all is a wonder. That he loved us enough to lay down his life for us is the thing we could never believe by our own reason or strength. There was nothing in us that could prompt or compel him to do what he did. Everything about us ought to have kept him from doing it. But he did it. He had said he would do it and he did.

How will it turn out this time? The ending will be the same: *crucified, dead and buried.*

But of course that isn't the end. If that were the end there would be no creed, for there would be no basis on which to say: "I believe." If that were the end there would be no Good News, for it would mean that the world's last hope had been snuffed out by an untimely and unjust execution.

Lent ends with his death; the Passion history ends with the story of his burial.

But the weekend has only begun. *On the third day he rose again from the dead.* That's how the story really turns out. That is why we are ready to hear it all again this Lenten season. That is why we hope to celebrate his accomplishments and his victory with him forever. □



Professor Balge is dean of students and teaches church history and homiletics at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin.

A MISSION

How would you like to pay \$40 per person a day for room and board at a lodging which provides a bed sagging like a trough in the middle, a bathroom where the water is alive with wiggly creatures and runs only sporadically, and where you eat so many chickens and eggs that you wonder which came first — why you don't begin to crow like a rooster! Such an inn is the only place available in this remote town in an African country where our Synod is engaged in mission work, but where we have no resident missionaries. The cost at this place is considerably lower, of course, than at the big city hotel where you might have stayed overnight. There you had to pay twice as much for "first-class" facilities where the water ran out while taking a shower and the electric power failed just when you were ready to settle down with a good book. It seems nobody is greatly upset about this state of affairs. It happens so frequently that it has become an accepted way of life.

When you complain to the manager about the rates in your hinterland haven, he gives you a baleful stare and tells you that a bush chicken sells for \$14, a small bag of potatoes for the same amount, eggs are \$3 per dozen and that he is giving you "European food." As if to say that those who require special attention must pay the price. The locals, of course, are satisfied with rice, yams, cassava and pumpkin stew. So you either stop complaining or book a return flight to America.

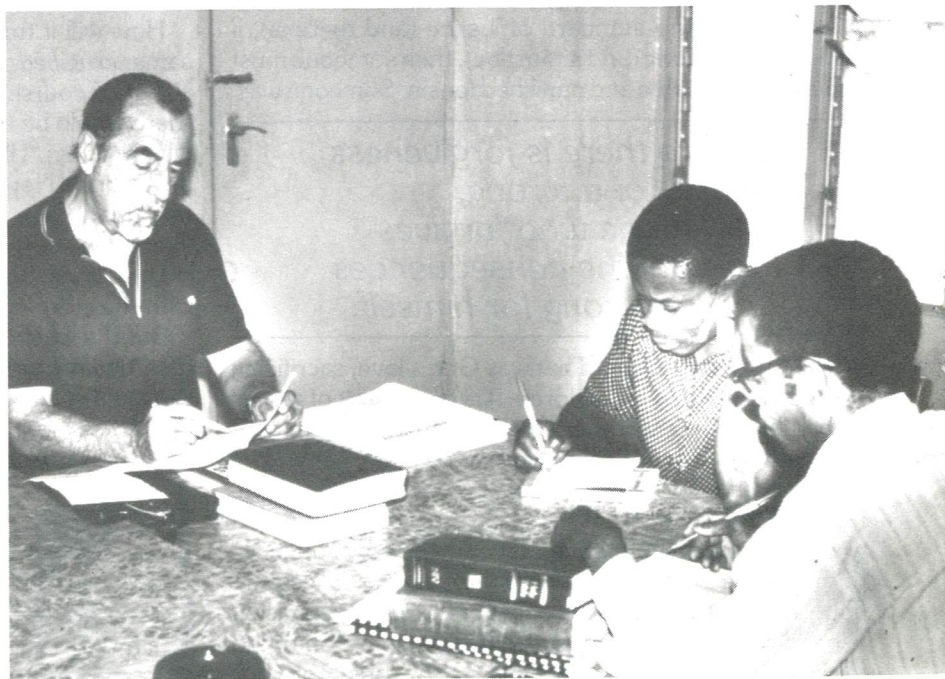
Booking return passage, however, may not be all that easy. A certain national airline in Africa is notorious for overbooking its flights. The result is pandemonium at the check-in counter in the air terminal, sometimes to the point where anxious passengers practically climb over each other's back to get served before the counter is closed. A con-

firmed reservation means nothing. Queuing up in orderly fashion is unknown. It's a matter of first-come-first-served and a survival of the fittest. It's also amazing what the people manage to bring onto the plane as "carry-on" luggage. Should you be fortunate to get a seat, you might be jammed in between a passenger carrying a stereo set and another with last month's laundry. But then, consider yourself lucky that they're not carrying along live chickens!

Having to cope with another way of doing things is apparent after stepping off the plane and entering the strange, new country. Health, customs and immigration checks are carried out with gestapo-like austerity but without the same efficiency. Why it should help these people to know your date and place of birth, the exact number of days you plan to spend in their country, the purpose of your visit and how many traveler's checks you have in your possession, you don't know. It's extremely

important that you give all this information patiently and with as big a smile as you can muster. Any lack of friendliness and cooperation on your part could result in being told to step aside and having your luggage inspected piece by piece. To try entering the country without a proper visa, for which you perhaps had to wait months before going on this trip, is tantamount to committing an act of defiance for which the authorities can ship you out on the next flight leaving the country, regardless of the direction it is going.

Having successfully passed through these checkpoints you are confronted with an array of nondescript baggage handlers who are most eager to carry your luggage for you — that is if it has perchance arrived on the same flight. Since it has, you decide it's worth carrying yourself rather than trust it to strange hands. As you trundle off toward a door which you hope is the right way, you suddenly remember that



Professor Wendland instructing two men at a seminar at the Hollywood Inn.

JUNKET TO AFRICA

by Ernst H. Wendland

you had better cash in a few travelers' checks. After dragging your luggage around in various directions — all the while pursued by baggage handlers who can't understand why you don't want to avail yourself of their services — you finally find a place in the airport designated as a "Bank." You dutifully line up, wondering why everybody else seems to push in toward the window ahead of you and get by with it. You get tired of being pushed aside and manage to shove and muscle your way up to the window just like everybody else. "When in Rome" you know! You finally manage to get a fistful of some filthy kind of paper money, the value of which is still a mystery, grab your suitcases and head for the exit.

A lineup of cabs is standing near the door. A dozen cabbies spot the "white man" and shout for his attention. Obviously he's a foreigner and expected to pay ten times the local rate. Two of the fellows grab your suitcase at the same time.

Another tries to make off with your briefcase as you desperately hang onto it. If that is lost, all is lost. A shouting match ensues such as you thought happened only in your wildest dreams. You are relieved that the burliest of the cabbies has finally prevailed and you are happy to find yourself being whisked off to your lodging place for the night. That is if you get there in one piece. The cabby drives like Jehu, but so does everyone else, and by this time you're beyond the point of worrying very much about anything. You've reached the first leg of your journey, and tomorrow's another day.

Although you wonder while en route if being pushed around like this is worth the effort, all such thoughts quickly disappear when the destination is reached and the business of participating in mission work begins. The people you have come to visit are so happy to see you. Somebody from far away is interested in sharing the gospel with them,

counseling with them in their problems, extending the hand of Christian fellowship in a common cause of confessional Lutheranism.

It has been said at times, either jokingly or disparagingly: "These mission junkets must be a delightful way of spending the Synod's money." Traveling in some parts of the world today is anything but a delightful experience. And in spite of all the complaining, America looks mighty good to somebody who's been away for a while.

Postscript: Less than two weeks after leaving the country described above, its government was toppled in a "bloodless coup d'etat." A news report stated that "all external communications were closed down, all airports, seaports and borderposts were shut, and a dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed until further notice." □

Professor Wendland teaches homiletics and Old Testament at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin.



(Top) Our quarters during a recent seminar. "Air conditioned" means ceiling fans when the electricity functions. (Bottom) The Hollywood Inn.



(Top) A hotel sign along the road. We had good reason to question the validity of the "very moderate prices" which were advertised. (Bottom) An afternoon stroll in the surrounding countryside.

I believe in . . . Jesus Christ our Lord

Dear Bev,

When we got your last letter and read how depressed you were, I decided to reply right away. I can understand how embarrassed and ashamed you feel. I'm grateful for that. There are plenty others who would fuss and fume and blame everybody under the sun except themselves if they were stopped for being drunk while driving. I'm thankful that your conscience is still active and that you don't feel rotten just 'cuz you got caught, but because you sinned against God. But, Bev, while we remember how serious it is to sin against God by getting drunk and endangering your life and others by climbing behind the wheel of a car, let's not forget what God wants you to believe even now.

LOVE LETTERS ON THE CREED by Richard H. Stadler

We focus on it when we say in the creed that we believe in "Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord." We know that Jesus Christ is *our Lord*. That doesn't mean taskmaster. That doesn't mean drill sergeant. That means redeemer. Remember Luther's explanation to the second article: "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God from all eternity and also true man, born of the virgin Mary is *my Lord, who has redeemed me!*" See? At the very center of our Christian faith is the Spirit-wrought conviction that Jesus is the *Lord who redeems his people*.

This name *Lord* is used throughout the Old Testament to emphasize the God who redeems, who saves, who reaches out to sinners who have fractured their reputations and their relationship with him. That is the same God we know in Christ.

I realize your buddy Charlene may use this as an excuse to discredit what you have been saying about Christ, just as you fear. But, Bev, this can also be a rich opportunity to emphasize to her exactly what kind of God you believe in. He is a God who still wants us and loves us even after we have bitterly disappointed him and gone awol from him.

Because Jesus is the "only Son" of God, his relationship to God is unique. The very mystery of the Trinity is locked up in that relationship of the Father to the Son. I can't unravel it with my mind, but I believe what the Bible reveals: "Jesus is Lord" (1 Corinthians 12:3). That Jesus is Lord is gospel, not law. It is promise, not threat, to us. His lordship means liberty, freedom from guilt. He has liberated us from our past. Like father, like son. The Son is the expression of the Father's love. We don't have to wonder whether God will forgive our sinful stupidities or carelessnesses. Christ is proof that he has.

The person who views the Lord as a drill instructor can never know with certainty what attitude God will take toward his guilt. Maybe he will eventually just run out of patience with our apologies for marching out of step with him and drum us out of his army. No way! He promised through the prophet Jeremiah that he would make a new covenant in which he would "forgive their iniquities and remember their sins *no more*" (Jeremiah 31:34). Well, sweetheart, that is the kind of God you have been professing to live with every time you have said the creed in church. "His only Son" is our *Lord*, not our accuser. That is what John saw in John 1:14: "We beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, *full of grace and truth*" — not fire and brimstone.

I realize that some of the recruits in your barracks can't swallow that. That is why they are making life so miserable for you. By denying that Jesus is true God, claiming he is only a son of God, they miss the essence of his lordship. When the early church applied the Old Testament name *Lord* to Jesus, I am convinced they were claiming by faith the promise in the name *Immanuel* — our God is "with us" in the person of Jesus. He is not just here to teach us how to find God or to lead us to God. He is God, living in a human body, drawing all people to himself. Only God could presume to do that. John the Baptist, Paul, all the apostles never dared to draw sinners to themselves. Instead, they always pointed sinners to the *Lord Jesus Christ*. Remember how God demonstrated his love for sinners: not by sending his Son when the world finally demonstrated it was worth his divine investment. Instead, Paul simply says, "while we were *still sinners*, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). Well, we're still sinners, Bev, "and the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). If others around you can't live with that, just remember: God can, and God does! His only Son our Lord proved it once and for all.

Your mother and I will be praying that God rivets your faith on that promise.

Love, as ever,

Dad



Pastor Stadler
is at St. James,
West St. Paul, Minnesota.



TRAVEL/CANVASS/WITNESS TEAMS — Pastor Norman W. Berg (right), executive secretary of the General Board for Home Missions, wishes Godspeed to Vicar Phil Gieschen as he and Vicar Mark Koch join eight DMLC graduates who are spending a full year traveling, canvassing and witnessing to the gospel in mission congregations. The team is traveling from Wisconsin through New England, to Florida, through Texas and the midwest. The four vehicles were provided by WELS donors.

WELS Lutheran seniors to meet

Martin Luther Preparatory School, Prairie du Chien, Wis., will be the setting for the first retreat of the Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) on July 10-12.

In the news

WELS members who are retired or over 55 are invited to participate. The purpose of this gathering is to promote spiritual, cultural and personal growth among this increasing population within our Synod. Participants will be encouraged to use their God-given talents among their fellow Christians, their local congregations and for the benefit of synodical programs. An interesting program has been planned which should prove edifying for all. The program is varied so those attending are free to choose all or some of the sessions.

Recreational time will permit

participants to enjoy swimming, mini-golf, horseshoes, cards, music demonstration, and mass choir rehearsal. On Wednesday evening there will be a banquet followed by entertainment including a community singalong.

A constitution will be presented at the gathering and if sufficient interest is shown by the participants, the Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors will be established.



WELS Special Ministries

For a descriptive brochure on the retreat and the objectives of the proposed organization, please write: Special Ministries Board, 2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222; 414/771-9357.

Florida

Church dedicated at Zephyrhills

Emmanuel Lutheran of Zephyrhills, Fla. dedicated its new church on November 13, 1983.

Because the area is made up of many retirees, the mission congregation built a medium-sized chapel to accommodate the



Emmanuel

attendance during the peak vacation season. The attendance fluctuates from less than 20 in the summer to more than 130 during the January - April season.

Emmanuel was organized in 1976 as a sister congregation to Calvary (now Northdale) of Tampa. In July 1983 Roger Sloan was installed as the first full-time pastor of the 52-communicant congregation.

Reported by John Huebner

Minnesota

500th celebrated in Johnson

Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Johnson, Minn. celebrated the 500th anniversary of Luther's birth with special activities over a six-month period. One Sunday a month focused on the six chief parts of the small catechism. The school children learned about their Lutheran heritage by studying Luther's hymns, hearing devotions based on the picture catechism and collecting news articles about Luther in today's press. A computer program was written to help reinforce Luther facts and concepts learned in class and the

children presented the play *Martin Luther* written by Grace Hagedorn Bartel.

The October 30 worship service emphasized Luther's music and seven area congregations participated in the afternoon Reformation festival service.

On November 10 the school bell rang 500 times in memory of Luther's birth and 500 helium-filled balloons were released. Some were found as far away as Chicago, Ill. and Michigan.

On November 13 the chapel choir from Dr. Martin Luther College participated in the service. A German dinner was served for the congregation and slides of modern day Lutherland were shown. A painting of the Wartburg commissioned by the congregation for the occasion was unveiled.

Andrew R. Backus is pastor of the 200-communicant-member congregation.

Reported by Charles Degner

Wisconsin

New church dedicated

Nearly 1,300 worshippers participated in dedication services for the new Trinity Lutheran, Caledonia, Wis. in November 1983. The new edifice is the third church structure in the 130-year history of the congregation, which has been served by 12 pastors.

Planning for the new church began in 1973 with construction getting underway in December 1982.

Replacing the former church of 1911, the new building features seating for 550 with an overflow capacity of 750. The nave seating is in a four-section, wrap-around style and the pastor conducts the entire liturgy behind the free-standing altar, enhanced by a fieldstone reredos wall donated and constructed by members. The pews are padded and the church is carpeted throughout.

The 655-communicant-member congregation is served by John Schroeder. The Christian day school enrolls 113 students served by six teachers. □

Reported by John Schroeder

With the Lord

Erhard C. Pankow 1910-1984

Pastor Erhard C. Pankow was born on July 5, 1910 in Lemmon, S. Dak. He died on January 23, 1984 at Milwaukee, Wis.



Pankow

A 1932 graduate of the seminary, he served his entire ministry at Garden Homes, Milwaukee. He was the first chairman of the Synod's Commission on Evangelism; president of the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Conference when it was organized in 1955; and was active in inner-city evangelism.

He was united in marriage in 1933 with Edna Kahn. He is survived by his wife and one sister, Elda Ablers.

Funeral services were held January 26 at Calvary, Thiensville, Wis.

Looking back from The Northwestern Lutheran

50 years ago . . .

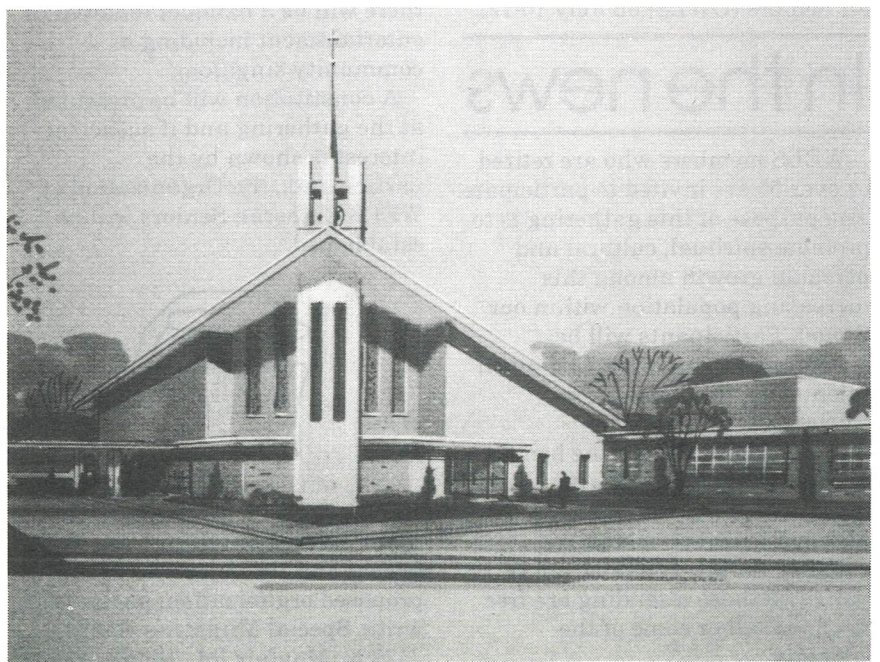
The Board of Directors of Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota has fixed June 14 and 15 as the time for the observance of the fiftieth anniversary. This will combine the jubilee with the annual commencement exercises.

25 years ago . . .

St. John's Lutheran in Red Wing, Minnesota recently celebrated its centennial in special services, followed by a lunch served by the Ladies' Guild. A new school building was dedicated in 1952.

10 years ago . . .

A recipe for success was demonstrated recently when Bay Pines Lutheran of Seminole, Florida opened its new Christian day school. There are 72 pupils enrolled, taught by four teachers. This is not man's success. Rather, it's a story of God's blessing, as is clear from an item in Pastor Raymond L. Wiechmann's letter. The item reads: "Recipe for success — Importunity in prayer. Many hours of volunteer labor. Concerned parents. The Lord's promised blessings." □



Trinity

Lenten Devotions

COME, FOLLOW THE LAMB —

Family Devotions

By Carla Shoffner

Here is a special book of Lenten devotions and prayers for families with children ages 3-8. The 47 devotions are designed to be used daily, from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. Each devotion considers an aspect of our Lord's Passion and uses an illustration from everyday life to help bring the message across to the younger members of the family. 56 pages. Paper cover.

06 N 0563 \$3.50

A NAME ABOVE ALL OTHERS —

Family Devotions

By Debera Fellers

This Lenten devotional book was written for families with children ages 9-12. It contains 47 devotions, one for each of the 40 days of Lent, the 6 Sundays in Lent and Easter Sunday. Most of the devotions are based on names and titles given to Jesus. On a special day, such as Good Friday, the devotion centers on the meaning of the name given to that day. Each devotion includes a designated Bible reading, devotional applications, discussion questions and a prayer. 56 pages. Paper cover.

06 N 0562 \$3.50

THE MARTIN LUTHER EASTER BOOK

Translated and arranged

by Roland H. Bainton

Martin Luther's profoundly illuminating meditations on the Gospels form an unusual and unique source of inspiration. This charming book presents to you, in narrative form, Luther's poignant thoughts on Holy Week, the Lord's Supper, the arrest and trial of Jesus, his crucifixion, and his resurrection. 87 pages. Paper cover.

40-2392 \$3.50

PLEASE SEND ME:

Quan. Book	Each	Total
_____	Come, Follow the Lamb (06N0563)	\$3.50 \$ _____
_____	A Name Above All Others (06N0562)	\$3.50 \$ _____
_____	The Martin Luther Easter Book (40-2392)	\$3.50 \$ _____

Enclosed is a check or money order for the above plus 10% of the total dollar amount, \$1.50 minimum — \$3.00 maximum, for handling and transportation. (Wisconsin residents add 5% state sales tax).

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME (print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PUBLISHING HOUSE
Northwestern 
3624 W. NORTH AVENUE
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53208-0902
PHONE (414) 442-1810

NL

NOTICES

The deadline for submitting items for publication is five weeks before the date of issue

NOTICE

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

April 24-25, 1984

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.

Ralph E. Scharf, Secretary
Board of Trustees

CHANGES IN MINISTRY

TEACHERS:

Dusseau, Ray L., from Atonement, Milwaukee, Wis., to Shoreland Lutheran High School, Somers, Wis.
Nelson Jan., from inactive to Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, New Ulm, Minn.
Schibbelhut, Lydia, from inactive to Faith, Fond du Lac, Wis.
Westphal, Patti, from inactive to St. Paul, Mt. Calvary, Wis.

ADDRESSES

PASTORS:

Bratz, Dennis R., 570 W. 14896 Cornell Circle, Muskego, WI 53150.
Kruck, Keith C., 2033 Hercules Ave. N., Clearwater, FL 33575.
Zindler, Ronald F., 4530 Oakland Gravel Rd., Columbia, MO 65202; 314/474-8755.

TEACHERS:

Arndt, Paula, 2070 Pauline Blvd. No. 2A, Ann Arbor MI 48103.
Borck, Holly, 134 N. Marion Ave., Jefferson, WI 53549.
Butzow, Michael, 696 E. Cottage, St. Paul, MN 55104.
Emde, Ruby, em., 231 E. Norma Lane, Tucson, AZ 85705.
Fenske, David, Rt. 1, Box 248, Lake Mills, WI 53551.
Gaub, Tammy, 6925 Milwaukee Ave., Wauwatosa, WI 53213.
Goodger Arnold, 108 Railroad St., PO Box 22, Jenera, OH 45841.
Hains, Christina, 838 Glenview Ave. No. 3, Milwaukee, WI 53213.
Johnson, Dean, 9993 E. 1st Ave. Apt. J104, Aurora, CO 80010.
Morser, Mark, 1810 Florence, Kaukauna, WI 54130.
Rogers, Regina, 1207 Wyman St., New London, WI 54961.
Russow, Lori, 1598 Main St., Crete, IL 60417.
Sullivan, Ruth, 2615 1/2 - 6th Ave., Moline, IL 61265.
Wege, David, 2620 W. Forrest, Grand Island, NE 68801.
Zolldan, Leanne, 14799 - 62nd St. N., Apt. 6, Stillwater, MN 55082.

CONFERENCE

Pacific-Northwest District, Fall Teachers' Conference, March 8-9 at Calvary, Bellevue, Wash. Agenda: Using Children to Minister to the Elderly (Koeppel); Time Management for the Christian Day School Teacher (Sauer); Implementing Computers in Christian Day Schools (Luginvill); Workshop — Math Aids and Games.

1984 DISTRICT CONVENTIONS

Arizona-California	June 12-14	Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix, AZ
Dakota-Montana	June 19-21	St. Martin, Watertown, SD
Michigan	June 12-14	Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, MI
Minnesota	June 26-28	Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN
Nebraska	June 18-20	St. Paul, Norfolk, NE
* North Atlantic	June 12-14	Our Savior, East Brunswick, NJ
Northern Wisconsin	June 25-27	Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton, WI
Pacific Northwest	June 12-14	Evergreen Lutheran High School, DuPont, WA
South Atlantic	June 12-14	Bay Pines, Seminole, FL
South Central	June 11-12	St. Mark, Duncanville, TX
Southeastern Wisconsin	June 12-13	Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee, WI
Western Wisconsin	June 11-13	Northwestern College, Watertown, WI

* Tentative

SUMMER QUARTER AT WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

During the summer of 1984 Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary will again offer a number of graduate courses to men who are in the public ministry of the WELS or of churches in its confessional fellowship. In the schedule which follows, please note that Professor John Brug has replaced Dr. Siegbert Becker as instructor for the course ST 430 — *Doctrine of the Word*. This change is necessary because Dr. Becker has accepted the call of our sister church in Sweden to engage in literary work for one year and thus will not be available to teach in the summer of 1984.

Summer Quarter Schedule

June 18 to July 6, 1984

7:15 — 9:00 am (two hours)

NT 443 — Jesus' Withdrawals and Panning
Perean Ministry — Brug
ST 430 — Doctrine of the Word — Brug
CH 465 — The Mission Century — Wendland

9:05 — 9:55 am (one hour)

NT 420 — Exegesis of Philipians — Habeck
OT 447 — Survey of Daniel — Jeske
CH 487 — Lutheranism in America — Westerman
1634-1820 — haus

10:15 — 12:00 am (two hours)

OT 440 — Exegesis of Isaiah 1-12 — Gawrisc
PT 484 — Guiding the Religious Development of the Adolescent — Robert J. Voss
ST 466 — History of Doctrine: Post-Apostolic Period — Dobberstein

June 18 to June 22

1:30 — 4:30 pm (one hour)

PT 452 — Computer and Audio-visual Use in Christian Ministry/ Workshop — Kuske

An off-campus extension of the summer quarter program is also available in the form of an eighteen-day tour in Germany and Switzerland. The *Reformationlands Study Tour*, offering 4½ credits applicable to the seminary's graduate program, is scheduled for July 23, to August 10, 1984.

For further information address inquiries to: Professor Armin W. Schuetze, President Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary 11831 N. Seminary Drive, 65 W Mequon, WI 53092

APPOINTMENTS

Appointments to the Michigan District Board for Parish Education: Pastor Daniel Hennig to fill the term of Pastor Daniel Koelpin who resigned because of other assignments and Mr. Ron Buelow as the area high school representative filling the term of Pastor Karl Peterson who has moved to another district.

Waldemar J. Zarlring, President
Michigan District

REQUEST FOR COLLOQUY

Pastor Benjamin Lorenz, Plainview, Texas, formerly a pastor in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, has requested a colloquy for the purpose of entering the pastoral ministry of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Correspondence relative to the request should be addressed to the undersigned.

President Vilas R. Glaeske
South Central District

THE WORLD IS COMING TO NEW ORLEANS

If you are planning to attend the 1984 World's Fair (mid-May to mid-November) in New Orleans, Louisiana, Crown of Life Lutheran (15 minutes east of the fairgrounds) invites you to join us for Sunday worship at 10:00 a.m. To confirm time, obtain directions, or receive transportation, contact Pastor Mark Bitter, 9781 W. Rockton Circle, New Orleans, LA 70127; 504/242-3442.

RECOVERING ALCOHOLIC INDIVIDUAL/FAMILY RETREAT FOR LUTHERANS

The first Recovering Alcoholic Individual/Family Retreat for Lutherans sponsored by Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service Alcoholism Awareness Program will be held Friday, March 31 beginning at 7:00 p.m. and ending Sunday, April 1 at 3:00 p.m. The retreat will be held at a retreat center near Hubertus, Wis. Recovering individuals and/or their entire families are invited for Christian learning, sharing, fun and fellowship in an effort to enhance sobriety in their Christian lives. Adults who attend are expected to be active members of Alcoholism Awareness, A.A., or Al-Anon. For alcoholics who attend, sobriety for the previous three months is required.

A \$10.00 nonrefundable registration fee will be charged per individual/family that will be applied toward their total cost. The cost will be \$25.00 per adult in a two-bed room; \$10.00 for each child (18 and under). Two children can fit in their parent's room. Children need to bring their own sleeping bag and pillow. Children over 10 will be active participants. Free baby-sitting for children under 10 will be available (at least during the sessions). To make this retreat available to anyone who is interested, financial adjustments can be made for special circumstances upon request.

Some sample topics will be: Alcoholism and the Christian; It's In the Past; Commitment; For This New Day; Making Sobriety Easier, Renewed and Strengthened By God; My Three Goals For the Future. There will be films, literature, a worship service, punch party and sing-along.

For additional information or registration forms, call or write: Mrs. Susan Zimmermann, Wisconsin Lutheran Child & Family Service, P.O. Box 23221, Milwaukee, WI 53223; 414/353-5000.

1984 YEARBOOK

The official directory of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, 6 x 9 inches, 160 pages with a spiral binding. The 1984 Yearbook contains a complete listing of the name, location, and time of service of WELS churches; the name, address and phone number of WELS pastors, professors, missionaries and teachers; and a listing of all WELS organizations, officers, boards, commissions and committees. Stock number 29N1422, net price \$5.25

PLEASE SEND ME _____ COPY(s) of the 1984 Yearbook (29N1422). Enclosed is a check or money order for \$5.25 plus 10% of the total dollar amount — \$1.50 minimum — for transportation and handling. (Wisconsin residents add 5% state sales tax).

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

NAME (print) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PUBLISHING HOUSE
Northwestern
 3624 W. NORTH AVENUE
 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53208-0902
 PHONE (414) 442-1810

NL

FAMILY CAMPING TOUR

The Lutheran Science Institute family camping tour for 1984 will be along the southern shores of Lake Superior beginning around Porcupine State Park, Mich., July 16 to 27. Besides geology and nature studies there will be an overnight or two of backpacking if interest is shown at time of registration. The last 3-4 days will be spent fossil hunting near Escanaba. Early registration permits the directors greater savings and adventure for the group. Costs are: LSI members \$15 per family; WLS members \$30 per family or \$3 per day; non-WELS \$60 per family or \$6 per day. Deduct \$10 from any rate for an individual 18 years or more. \$10 deposit required (payable to LSI and applied to registration). Notice: No contact lenses will be permitted in backpacking phases. Address to: Lutheran Science Institute, 10317 - 195th Ave., Bristol, WI 53104; 414/857-2089.

SUNDAY SCHOOL COURSE

Materials from "The Story of God's Love" Sunday school courses are available for cost of shipping. Contact Redemption Church, 5641 N. 68th St., Milwaukee, WI 53218.

CIVILIAN CHAPLAINS

Rev. Richard A. Froehlich Home Address Hunsruckstr 12 6500 Mainz-Hechtsheim 42 West Germany Telephone 06131-58453
Rev. Donald L. Tollefson Home Address Goldwitzerstrasse 31 8524 Neunkirchen a. Br. West Germany Telephone 09134-5716

Tourists in Europe: For time and place of services call the chaplains or WELS Special Ministries Board, 414/445-4030, USA.

Financial Report Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod

PREBUDGET SUBSCRIPTION PERFORMANCE

1 January 1983 through 31 December 1983

	Subscription Amount for 1983	Prebudget Subscription Offerings	Percent of Subscription
Arizona-California	\$ 864,404	\$ 829,270	95.9
Dakota-Montana	366,753	342,500	93.4
Michigan	1,923,523	1,825,280	94.9
Minnesota	2,118,512	2,055,354	97.0
Nebraska	475,323	475,484	100.0
Northern Wisconsin	2,119,664	1,979,160	93.4
Pacific Northwest	206,351	204,783	99.2
Southeastern Wisconsin	2,705,310	2,534,837	93.7
Western Wisconsin	2,449,327	2,311,674	94.4
South Atlantic	239,264	239,743	100.2
Total — 1983	\$13,468,431	\$12,798,085	95.0
Total — 1982	\$12,979,993	\$12,579,992	96.9

N.B. Offerings for 1983 received through January 13, 1984 are included in PBS 1983 offerings total

CURRENT BUDGETARY FUND

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

Twelve months ended 31 December 1983 with last year comparisons

Twelve months ended 31 December

	1983	1982	Increase or (Decrease)	
			Amount	Percent
Receipts:				
Prebudget Subscriptions	\$ 12,621,449	\$ 12,544,282	\$ 77,167	0.6
Gifts and Memorials	208,345	337,838	(129,493)	(38.3)
Bequests	273,820	484,158	(210,338)	(43.4)
Other Income	140,682	100,585	40,097	39.9
Transfers from Other Funds	412,390	576,046	(163,656)	(28.4)
Total Receipts	\$ 13,656,686	\$ 14,042,909	\$ (386,223)	(2.8)
Disbursements:				
Worker-Training	\$ 4,957,152	\$ 4,881,126	\$ 76,026	1.6
Home Missions	2,996,069	2,532,495	463,574	18.3
World Missions	2,301,831	2,354,469	(52,638)	(2.2)
Benevolences	784,479	614,000	170,479	27.8
Administration and Services	1,301,552	1,284,817	16,735	1.3
Sub-total	\$ 12,341,083	\$ 11,666,907	\$ 674,176	5.8
CEF — Interest Subsidy	897,243	1,047,583	(150,340)	(14.4)
Transfers to Building Funds	402,080	590,000	(187,920)	31.9
Total Disbursements	\$ 13,640,406	\$ 13,304,490	\$ 335,916	2.5
Twelve Months Increase/(Decrease)	\$ 16,280	\$ 738,419		
Fund Balance — Beg. of Period	\$ (939)	\$ (739,358)		
Fund Balance — End of Period	\$ 15,341	\$ (939)		

Norbert M. Manthe
 Chief Accounting Officer

MANAGER AND COUNSELORS NEEDED

Camp Killarney, owned and operated by an association of WELS churches in Southeastern Michigan, is in need of a camp manager in return for housing and half utilities. Counselors are needed for summer camp the last two weeks in July. For more information contact Pastor Jim Langebartels at 517/458-6706.

ORGAN

Kimball church organ (two keyboards, one octave pedal board, cherry case, in excellent condition) available to mission congregation for cost of shipping. Contact Pastor M. S. Grubbs, St. Mark's, 2325 Bardwell Dr. NW, Bemidji, MN 56601; 218/751-6334.

CENTENNIAL

St. Peter's Lutheran of Balaton, Minn. will celebrate its centennial on Sunday, June 10, 1984 with two special services. At 10:30 a.m. Pastor Robert Schumann will be the guest speaker and at 2:00 p.m. Pastor Herald Bittorf will be the guest speaker. A noon dinner will be served. All former members and friends are invited to attend. Dinner reservations are to be made by May 12. Contact Mrs. William DeWitt, Balaton, MN 56115.

CENTENNIAL

Bethlehem Lutheran in Raymond, South Dakota will celebrate its 100th anniversary on June 9 and 10, 1984 with a special banquet and program on the 9th and special services and picnic on the 10th. For information or banquet reservations contact Mr. Bill Danekas, Rt. 2, Box 8, Raymond, SD 57258 or Rev. Wayne L. Rouse, 111 S. Idaho, Clark, SD 57225.

CENTENNIAL

Christ Lutheran of Milwaukee, Wis., is observing its centennial year with special services throughout 1984. Special services on April 29 and May 6 at 10:00 a.m. will highlight the celebration. Pastor Winfred B. Nommensen will preach on April 29 and Pastor Carl H. Mischke will be the guest speaker on May 6. On May 6 at 1:30 p.m. the choirs of the congregation will participate in a special service. All members and former members are cordially invited to attend the services.

NEW WELS CHURCHES

Names Requested

In recent months the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod began work in the states and cities listed below. Please send all names of members who moved into the general area of these cities, as well as names of people who may be interested in a Wisconsin Synod mission, to:

WELS MEMBERSHIP CONSERVATION
2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222

Names as well as pertinent information regarding members referred will be forwarded to the nearest pastor and/or mission board chairman.

Alaska	Juneau*
	South Anchorage*
	Wasilla*
California	Clovis*
	Poway*
Colorado	N. W. Denver*
Florida	Cape Coral*
	Miami (Hispanic)*
Georgia	N. Atlanta*
Idaho	Boise*
Louisiana	Baton Rouge*
New Jersey	Dover*
New Mexico	W. Albuquerque*
North Carolina	China Grove
North Dakota	Dickinson*
Ohio	Marietta*
	S. E. Cincinnati*
Texas	Abilene*
	Bryan/College Station*
	N. W. Houston*
	S. Austin*
	San Angelo*
Virginia	Parkersburg*
	Richmond*
	Roanoke*
Wisconsin	Hayward*
	Madison (Hispanic)*

*Denotes exploratory services.

125th ANNIVERSARY

First Lutheran of La Crosse, Wis., will observe the 125th anniversary of its founding in April 1984 with special services at 8:15 and 10:00 a.m. Schedule of services: April 1, Synod and Missions Sunday (Pastor Walter Beckmann); April 8, Christian Education Sunday (Pastor Edward Werner); April 15, Confirmation and Reunion Sunday (Prof. Paul Nitz); April 22, Easter Sunday (Pastor Karl A. Gurgel); and April 29, Anniversary Sunday (President Carl H. Mischke). A congregational dinner will follow the service on April 29. Former members, confirmands and friends of First Lutheran are cordially invited to attend. For further information contact Mr. Julius Kletzke, 2147 S. 23rd, La Crosse, WI 54601; 608/788-4685.

EXPLORATORY SERVICES

to determine the potential for establishing a WELS mission in the area. Services are held on Sundays.

THORNTON/NORTHGLENN (NE DENVER), COLORADO — Lord of Life, Leroy Drive Elementary School, 1451 Leroy Dr., Denver. 9:15 a.m.; Bible class/SS 10:30. Pastor Mark Birkholz, 11120 Dahlia Dr., Denver, CO 80233; 303/457-2408.

CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO — Carlsbad Women's Club, 1100 N. Canal St., Carlsbad. 6:00 p.m.; Bible class/SS following. Pastor Steven Blumer, 10232 Singapore, El Paso, TX 79925; 915/594-0556 or Mr. Robert Craig, 505/885-8040.

ABILENE, TEXAS — Holy Scripture, meeting at West Texas Rehabilitation Center, East Wing, 4601 Hartford, Abilene. 10:00 a.m. Pastor Jeff Londgren, 4633 Plover Lane, Abilene, TX 79606; 915/698-8053.

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS — Our Savior, Disabled American Veterans' building, 1030 E. 19th St., San Angelo. 10:30 a.m.; Bible class/SS 9:15 a.m. Pastor Jeffrey A. Weber, 2618 Junius, San Angelo, TX 76901; 915/944-7261.

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA — Our Savior, Holiday Inn South, 1927 Franklin Rd. SW, Roanoke. 9:30 a.m.; Bible class/SS 10:45 a.m. Pastor Rich Scheibe, 516 Greenwich Dr., Roanoke, VA 24019; 703/362-1198.

WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN — Crown of Life, The Teaching Centers, one-half block south of Sunset Dr. on Industrial La. 10:30 a.m.; Bible class/SS 9:00 a.m. Pastor A. J. Kunde, 519 N. Hartwell, Waukesha, WI 53186; 414/542-7902.

CHANGE OF TIME OR PLACE OF WORSHIP

in the following exploratory areas or mission congregations.

VICTORVILLE/HESPERIA/APPLE VALLEY, CALIFORNIA — St. John, 16700 Greentree Blvd., Victorville. 9:00 a.m.; Bible class/SS 10:30 a.m. Pastor Scott J. Stone, 16700 Greentree Blvd., Victorville, CA 92392; 619/245-9090.

BAYONET POINT, FLORIDA — Grace, 205 Beach Blvd., Bayonet Point. 9:00 a.m.; Bible class/SS 10:30 a.m. Pastor David Nottling, 706 Las Cruces Ct., Port Richey, FL 33568; 813/863-3957 or 813/862-6031.

TOPEKA, KANSAS — Beautiful Savior, 5905 West Tenth Street, Topeka. 10:30 a.m.; Bible class/SS 9:30 a.m. Pastor Curtiss Seefeldt, 1044 Lilly Cr., Topeka, KS 66604; 913/273-3127 or 913/272-2000.

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS — Beautiful Savior, South Knoll Elementary School, Langford and Southwest Parkway, College Station. 9:30 a.m.; Bible class/SS 10:30 a.m. Pastor Loren Fritz, 1008 Dominik, College Station, TX 77840; 409/693-4514.

NAMES WANTED

Survey work preliminary to conducting exploratory services. People interested in WELS services, contact pastor noted.

CALIFORNIA AREA — Salinas and Monterey; Chico/Paradise; Livermore/Pleasanton/Dublin/San Ramon. Pastor Joel C. Gerlach, 360 Spode Way, San Jose, CA 95123; 408/629-2354.

LAFAYETTE, INDIANA — Pastor Lester Hieber, 121 Judson Dr., Mooresville, IN 46158; 317/996-3859.

NEWPORT NEWS/WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA — Pastor Joel Luetke, 3229 Sandra Lane, Virginia Beach, VA 23464; 804/424-3547 or 420-9652.

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA — Pastor Richard A. Scheibe, 516 Greenwich Drive, Roanoke, Virginia 24019; 703/362-1198.

MARIETTA, OHIO/PARKERSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA — Pastor Richard A. Krause, 1313 - 17th St., Vienna, WV 26105; 304/295-8820.

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE
1984 CHOIR TOUR
Itinerary**

March 2	8:00 p.m.	Good Shepherd, Sioux Falls, SD
March 3	1:30 p.m.	St. John's, Stanton, NE
	8:00 p.m.	Christ, Grand Island, NE
March 4	11:00 a.m.	St. Paul, North Platte, NE
	5:00 p.m.	Shepherd of the Valley, Westminster, CO
	8:00 p.m.	Zion, Denver, CO
March 5	8:00 p.m.	Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, UT
March 6	8:00 p.m.	Shepherd of the Mountains, Reno, NV
March 7	7:30 p.m.	St. Mark's, Citrus Heights, CA
March 8	7:30 p.m.	Apostles, San Jose, CA
March 9	7:30 p.m.	Mt. Calvary, Redding, CA
March 10	8:00 p.m.	Grace, Portland, OR
March 11	10:30 a.m.	Peace, Vancouver, WA
	7:00 p.m.	Evergreen Lutheran High School, DuPont, WA
March 12	7:30 p.m.	Grace, Seattle, WA
March 13	7:30 p.m.	Grace, Yakima, WA
March 14	7:00 p.m.	St. Matthew's, Spokane, WA
March 15	8:00 p.m.	Apostles, Billings, MT
March 16	8:00 p.m.	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Mandan, ND

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Little voices for God

by Holly Beckman

There was not a cloud in the sky that morning as we prayed before breakfast. I pulled up the blinds and our daughter Angela looked out the window. It was quiet for awhile until Angela said happily, "It's a beautiful day to go to heaven. Elijah went with those horses and didn't even die." My husband I looked at each other in amazement. She remembered the Bible story quite well. Heaven to Angela is a special, wonderful place and death is something not to be feared. Before she goes to sleep at night she will often say, with a happy, smiling face, "Tonight I'm going to dream about heaven."

As I watched this very special child of God eating her breakfast, I thought about an incident that happened a few days earlier. That morning Angela had her friend Becky over to play. I was busy in the kitchen but now and then glanced out the open window. Suddenly there was a pause in their playing. I looked out as Becky was pointing to the church.

"Why is that church so close to your house?" she asked.

"Oh, that's our church," Angela replied. "My dad is minister there."

Becky's face lit up. It was a day of discovery for her. She had never known a little girl whose father was a minister.

They talked awhile about their churches. Becky went to church every Sunday. She too knew about Jesus. She heard about him in her Sunday school.

As they resumed their play, I sensed that a bond

had been formed between them. They seemed to be better friends because both knew and loved Jesus.

I wonder how often Angela talks to other children about Jesus. For children, talking about Jesus is not embarrassing. In their uninhibited way, it is so spontaneous — so natural. What witnesses we have in our children!

Sunday after Sunday we send these little people to Sunday school. They bring home their study folders and projects. "How cute," we think. "They really do try to teach something to these tiny children."

They learn more than we realize and apply it to their everyday life. Some detail, some lesson, will pop into their heads at the strangest time and strangest place.

How many children and adults have our children innocently and humbly witnessed to? What a mouthpiece for our God they are. They need those Sunday school classes, those family devotions and discussions and those special moments with God. They need our guidance, support and encouragement to speak for Christ. The little voices for God will be heard. □



Holly Beckman
and her husband,
Pastor David Beckman,
reside in
Mobile, Alabama.