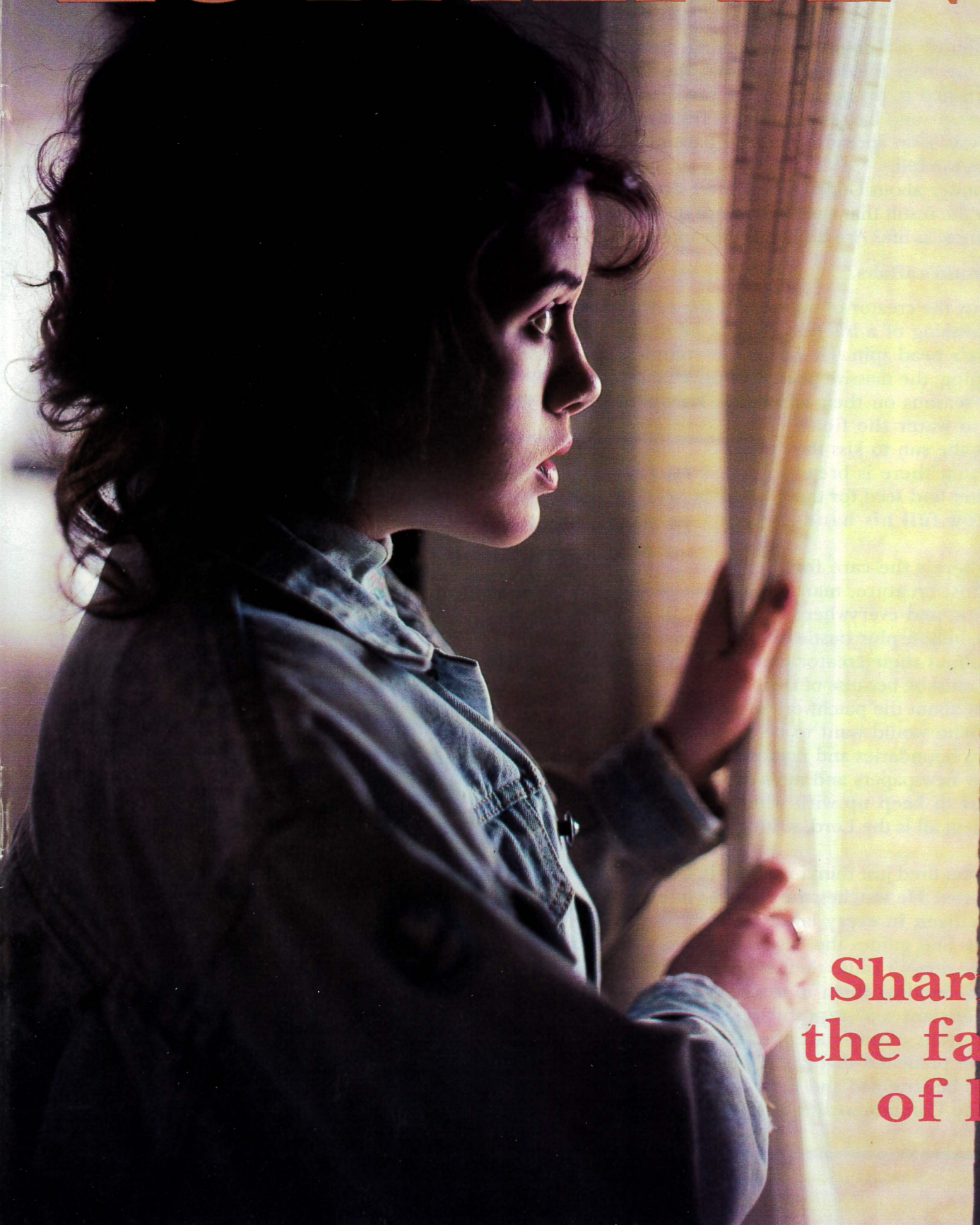


August 1992

A ticking time  
bomb p. 268

WELS Districts meet  
in convention p. 272

# NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN



**Sharing  
the facts  
of life**

p. 264



# His hands are never too full

The Lord watches the sparrow in every tree and the citizen in every land

by Richard E. Lauersdorf

**A**lmost you could see it coming. Balancing two bags filled with groceries, the shopper fished in his pocket for the car keys. Down went one bag and the mess from the broken eggs was soon spreading on the pavement. His hands were too full.

Ever wonder about God? Does he ever drop something with the result that a mess develops on the pavement we know as life? Are his hands ever too full?

## With the world's affairs

How busy the creator of the ends of the earth must be. Just thinking of a fraction of what he does daily makes one's head spin. He keeps the complex universe running, the massive planets in their places, the changing seasons on their schedules. He opens the heavens to water the fields and sends the sun to kiss the crops so that there is bread for the eater and seed for the sower. How full his hands must be.

Then there's the care for his foremost creature, man. Here, there, and everywhere those five billion plus bustle about, often with little thought about their creator or his will. How much busier he must be because of them.

Or what about the patchwork of people we call the nations? Who would want to be in the map-making business as boundaries and names change overnight? How many newspapers and news shows would it take for us just to keep up with what's going on? But behind them all is the Lord, writing their history into his-story.

Makes you tired just thinking about it. But the Lord never wearies. He watches the sparrow in every tree and the citizen in every land. He determines the boundaries and guides the destinies of every nation. Though he doesn't cause their sinful schemes, yet he uses them, bending them to serve his gracious purposes. Politicians may expostulate, scientists experiment, futurists extrapolate, but God knows. Who would have predicted that in the 1990s the iron curtain would be scrapped and we'd be sending missionaries to the Commonwealth of Independent States,

formerly known as the USSR, just to mention one example.

Always the Lord, the everlasting God, is in control. He's busy, but never too busy. Never are his hands too full with the world's affairs.

## For our affairs

Seems like we can believe that he takes care of the world. It's when the picture is shrunk down to just me that doubt comes. Does he really know me, my life, my concerns? If he does, does he care? Or are his hands so full that he already has or soon will drop me on the pavement?

What about my sins? Those past ones which rise sporadically like some white-sheeted ghost to scare my conscience. Those pet ones into whose worn grooves my daily life slips so easily. Those sudden ones which trip my feet of faith and bloody my nose before I hardly know what's happening.

Are his hands too full to handle them? Does he grow weary when I bring them again and again? Or are those nail-pierced and risen hands, so full of forgiveness, still reaching out to me through word and sacrament?

What about my problems? Those that swoop down like some tornado and spread me out on the ground. Those that eat away inside of me where nobody else can see. Those that stay and stay regardless how hard or often I pray.

Are his hands too full to handle them? Have I used up my share of his concern and care? Or does his promise still stand, "I will deliver you"?

We know the answer for both the massive world and our own little lives. But from time to time we need a reminder. Thank you, Isaiah, for telling us again that his hands are never too full.

*The Lord is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.  
He will not grow tired or weary  
(Isaiah 40:28).*



Richard Lauersdorf is pastor of St. John, Jefferson, Wisconsin, and the synod's first vice-president.



May the Lord our God be with us  
as he was with our fathers;  
may he never leave us  
nor forsake us. 1 Kings 8:57

# NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN

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## FEATURES

- CHRISTIAN FAMILIES TODAY  
**Sharing the facts of life** by James A. Aderman .....264
- Parish Services: Serving God's people in our churches**  
by Wayne D. Mueller .....266
- A ticking time bomb** by James A. Aderman .....268  
An open letter to a postabortion sister in Christ
- PLANTING A MISSION  
**Part of the body** by LeRoy A. Martin .....269
- WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE  
**Luther's Large and Small Catechisms** by Wayne A. Laitinen .....270  
Part two
- It's Thursday evening at Birch Lane** by Dorothy J. Sonntag .....280

## NEWS

- News around the world • WELS districts meet in convention: Nebraska, North Atlantic, South Atlantic, South Central, Southeastern Wisconsin, and Western Wisconsin Districts • Conference center explored  
• California and Michigan District news .....271

## DEPARTMENTS

- THOUGHT FOR TODAY  
**His hands are never too full** by Richard E. Lauersdorf .....262
- PARABLES OF GRACE  
**The cost of being a disciple** by Mark E. Braun .....275
- EDITORIAL COMMENT  
**Sinners and saints** by Carleton Toppe .....276
- READERS FORUM .....277
- FROM THIS CORNER by the editor .....279

## FORWARD

- Parents need to speak with their children about sexuality, says James Aderman. It's not always easy, but it is essential—a "matter of self-defense" in a society that no longer considers chastity a virtue. Aderman offers practical advice about how to talk about sex with your children in "Sharing the facts of life" on page 264. If you don't have young children, you might want to share the article with someone who does. This is the last in a six-part series for Christian families.
- A number of articles in this issue demonstrate how the WELS works. LeRoy Martin in "Part of the body" (p.269) shows how each agency of the synod helps his mission congregation. Wayne Mueller describes the work of the synod's Parish Services division (p. 266). Finally, in this issue are the reports of six district conventions; the remaining six will appear in the next issue.
- Please don't miss Jim Aderman's "A ticking time bomb" (p. 268).

DJS



# Sharing the facts of life


by James A. Aderman

did a part of me. Even now as I relive the memory, I am surrounded by darkness and intense loneliness. I don't want to stay here for too long."

These words, shared with me by a young woman who was sexually active as a teen, could well be the words of your closest friend, your son or daughter, or you—especially if you are 40 or younger. Recent studies have shown that Christian teenagers are just as likely to be sexually active as non-Christians. A 1990 study of Wisconsin high school seniors reveals that 74 percent of the males had had sexual intercourse and 70 percent of the females (the figures for freshmen were 44 percent of the males and 28 percent of the females). Each year about 10,000,000 Americans visit a doctor to be treated for a sexually transmitted disease (the actual number of persons infected each year is estimated at twice that). In the United States 3,000 adolescents become pregnant each day. That's a million each year!

## Society promotes sexual laxity

Little wonder. Powerful forces shaping our society (including our public educational system, our legislators, and the media) teach that it is unreasonable to expect unmarried people to abstain from sexual intercourse. In the face of such pressure, even the plague-like threat of AIDS has been unable to demand support for sexual purity. In place of chastity, the lie of "safe sex" is being promoted. Public schools put a stamp of approval on premarital sex by making condoms and abortion advice freely available to their students. Television programs frequently portray promiscuity as desirable and healthy. Comic books feature



**"I** trusted him when he told me, 'I love you.' He trusted me when I said the same. We trusted our emotions when they said, 'It's OK. Show each other how much you care.' When our relationship died, so



super-heroes who are gay (Marvel Comics, Northstar; DC Comics, Flash).

But we Christians need to be honest. The blame for our children's disregard for the sixth commandment lies at our own doorsteps, as well. A laissez-faire attitude toward sexual morality (as evidenced in the low moral content of television programs we tolerate in our homes, the movies we spend money on, the magazines we read, the humor we enjoy) powerfully teaches flesh-pleasing sexuality. A lack of parental supervision of teens invites promiscuity (what a temptation exists when a 16-year-old couple is at home alone). And when mom and dad neglect to cultivate a Christ-centered, loving relationship with each other and with their children, those children tend to seek love-substitutes in other places.

### Parents must not be silent

Parents need to speak with their children about sexuality. If you find that a challenging imperative, you're in good company. Because of its intensely intimate nature, the thought of addressing the topic of sex with our children usually provokes a strong emotional reaction. But we dare not avoid this responsibility. We cannot prevent even young children from learning about the subject long before they need to. Sex education of children by their parents is a matter of self-defense. Only if we serve as the instructors, can we be sure our children will accurately learn the essential facts together with appropriate moral values.

Here are some suggestions regarding speaking with your children about their sexuality.

- Know what you're talking about. The easiest subjects to teach are those one knows the best. Read books by Bible-believing, Christian authors about human sexuality and adolescent development. That information will help you talk with your children, especially when they question you because their friends have taught them something different. But there will also be a fringe benefit. It will heighten your awareness about the kind of sexual being God has made you and how better to relate to your spouse, your children, and all others.

- Talk about sex as a wonderful gift. Sometimes, in an attempt to warn adequately against the dangers involved in abusing sexuality, parents overemphasize the perils and minimize the gift of sex. Don't motivate your children to abstain from sexual activity with fear

or guilt or threat; motivate by God's immeasurable grace in Jesus. Speak positively about sex. From the time they ask where babies come from, teach your children to marvel at the astounding miracle of conception. Help them rejoice in the blessing God intended a sexual relationship to be. Thank God with them for the bounty in store for those who use their sexuality according to God's guidelines.

- Start early. When your five-year-old asks about the difference between boys and girls, smile and calmly talk about God's loving plan to provide families with mommies and daddies who are intentionally different but who together help each other and their children through life. Tailor your remarks to meet the maturity level of your children, but never lie to your kids.

- Practice Christian sexuality. Examine what you and your spouse teach about sexuality with your lips and with your lives. It's astounding how many parents never take the time to speak about sexual morals with their children, yet expect that their children will share their values. It's stunning how many parents never relate their children's inappropriate attitudes about sex to their own disrespect for that gift.

Perhaps we need to repent, in our children's presence, for those times we've made fun of sex, entertained ourselves with R-rated films, or justified the immoral living arrangements of relatives. Perhaps our children need to see us treat their father or mother with much more tenderness, consideration, and respect.

- Know what resources are at your disposal. Check with your pastor about books, videos, and tracts you might use to prepare you to talk with your child about sexuality or to give to your child as a reference. Take advantage of workshops at your congregation on parenting adolescents and preadolescents. You might even help arrange for someone to speak on this topic at your church (and don't forget to invite your unchurched neighbors). Team up with other parents, share what you've learned, encourage each other.

But, please, don't ever abdicate your responsibility as a parent. Other resources are helpful, but none are as good as parents talking directly with their children about God-pleasing sexuality.



James Aderman is pastor of Fairview, Milwaukee.



# Parish Services

## Serving God's people in our churches

by Wayne D. Mueller

*(The 1991 synod convention approved the restructuring of the division of Parish Services so that the division "will be able to carry out its ministries more effectively." A year has passed since the authorization took affect. We have asked Pastor Wayne Mueller, the division administrator, to give our readers a report on how the division is working under its new structure.)*

**T**he Parish Services division of our synod does just what its name says: it helps churches.

While our mission boards plant new congregations at home and around the world, Parish Services provides those parishes with support for their daily gospel ministry: hymnals, choir music, catechisms, Bible histories, Lutheran elementary and high school curriculum material, stewardship and evangelism training, vacation Bible school studies, youth Bible courses, Sunday school material, liturgical helps, and adult Bible studies. While the Worker Training division prepares young men and women for work in the church, Parish Services assists them after graduation with motivation and instruction for their ministry.

### A vision statement

The 1989 synod convention adopted a Mission Objectives-Vision statement that identified revitalizing parishes through called workers as a key thrust. The Parish Services division is primarily responsible for implementing that key

thrust. Ten new Parish Services' efforts are specifically aimed at this synodical directive.

The first of these, "Training Christians for Ministry" (TCM), is the spearhead of WELS' effort to revitalize parishes. TCM is a refreshing study of Scripture, Lutheran teaching, and ministry. It is supported with video tapes, attractive student texts, and leaders' manuals. Growing adults will find renewed joy in seeing the Bible applied to their lives in today's world. TCM is slated for release in January 1993.

Another major initiative by Parish Services is *Parish Leadership*, a 50-page periodical aimed at our Lutheran parish leaders. This journal, published three times a year, will focus on biblical and practical information from the six units of the Parish Services division. There will be articles on worship and liturgy, youth education, adult spiritual growth, family ministry,

### WELS Board for Parish Services

#### Commission on Adult Discipleship

- Bible study
- Group life
- Singles ministry
- Spiritual growth
- Stewardship

#### Commission on Evangelism

- Mass media
- Member retention and assimilation
- Parish evangelism

#### Commission on Parish Schools

- Early childhood education
- Elementary schools
- Lutheran high schools
- Mission focus
- Publications
- Teen ministry

#### Commission on Special Ministries

- Aging
- Called workers' care
- Civilian chaplaincy
- Counseling
- Hearing impaired
- Institutions
- Members away
- Retarded
- Visually impaired

#### Commission on Worship

- Liturgy and music
- New hymnal
- Physical settings for worship
- Preaching
- Special worship services

#### Commission on Youth Discipleship

- Children's ministries
- Coordinated curriculum
- Youth ministries





*Providing parishes  
with support  
for their daily  
gospel ministry.*

evangelism, financial stewardship, Sunday school, church management, membership retention, the new hymnal, church music, and various special ministries. Beginning November of this year, subscriptions will be available to WELS and non-WELS members.

The Commission on Parish Schools bolsters our Lutheran elementary school faculties through its Team Ministry effort. Beginning this summer, pastors with one year of parish experience will attend Parish Ministry Enhancement, a week of study and encouragement at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Special Ministries is establishing Care Committees for Called Workers (CCCW) in every congregation. These CCCWs will encourage our pastors, teachers, and staff ministers to continue their professional education, help them deal with practical problems of ministry, and pay close attention to their material needs.

### **Declining membership**

Many of our congregations face steadily declining membership. Studies of WELS parishes have shown this is not due to the lack of receiving new members annually. Rather it is caused by the large number of "backdoor" losses of members. For that purpose the Evangelism Commission now provides training for congregations in membership retention and assimilation. WELS leaders are seeking the spiritual and practical means to retain our new members.

We continue to review our service to WELS brothers and sisters with diverse needs. The Special Ministries Commission has a long record of providing ministry help to those with special learning needs, to the hearing and visually impaired. Other committees are now working to see if there are ways we can better share the message of Jesus with other identifiable groups.

The Task Force on Family Ministry offers a way to introduce home devotions and models for family ministry. The Singles Study Committee wrote articles and invited pastors' and teachers' conferences to study

how we are serving the growing number of single persons in our parishes. The Committee on Ministry To and Through Seniors has four pilot projects which invite mature members to increased Bible study and service to their congregations.

### **Helping individual congregations**

Some congregations ask for help tailored to their specific needs and circumstances. On invitation from the pastor and leaders of a congregation, Parish Services offers such help through Parish Assistance. Through an objective assessment of ministry, Bible study, and spiritual encouragement, congregation leaders are led to refocus their commitment to the mission Christ gave his church. At a time when resources of workers and money are short, parishes learn how to make hard choices and set priorities that seek to win souls through the means of grace.

At the heart of Parish Assistance work is a new Bible study for WELS church leaders, *Lutheran Leadership Series*. Five six-week Bible courses help officers, board, and committee members recall Jesus' commission to his church, learn spiritual planning, and seek to grow in the grace of Christian leadership.

In the end, our synod's ability under God to carry the gospel to all the world will depend upon the strength of each parish here at home. That thought underlies every effort of the Parish Services division these days. Our ministerial schools, our home and expatriate missionaries, and the money and the prayers that support them—all that comes from our

local churches. As Parish Services seeks to help the local church, it serves in turn to strengthen the spiritual base from which we reach all the world with the love of Christ.



*Wayne Mueller is administrator  
for the synod's Board for Parish Services.*





# A ticking time bomb

**An  
open letter  
to a  
postabortion  
sister in Christ**

by James A. Aderman

number of PAS victims.

For many women the fact that they permitted the extinction of life is like a ticking time bomb. A bomb hidden away, buried below a mountain of denial. A bomb set to explode years later. The shrapnel from that explosion will be felt as depression, shame, fear, hatred, sleeplessness, nightmares, flashbacks.

I need to apologize to you because, when you were brave enough to share your story, your hurt, your fear, your tears, I had no idea how terribly the abortion experience and the ghosts of its memory haunted you.

**W**e talked about your sin. I tried not to sound condemning, but I'm not sure you heard that. You told me that Jesus is your Savior and I assured you of your forgiveness. We worked at resolving your guilt issues, but I know we only touched the surface. I recognize now that I was not as understanding as I should have been. I'm afraid that I just added to your belief that no one—not even your church, perhaps not even your God—could help you.

I apologize. I ask you to try again to find healing for your hurt with a brother in Jesus who will stand by you, accompany you to the Savior's cross and empty tomb, and try harder to apply to your wounded soul the balm only the miracle cure of God's grace can give.

*Note: Perhaps there are readers who have tried to find counsel for postabortion difficulties with their pastors or other counselors and have not received the help they were seeking. Tell your counselor you'd like to try again.*

*James Aderman is pastor at Fairview, Milwaukee.*

**I**'m sorry. I just didn't understand.

You sat in my office, across my small meeting table, crunched down in the chair as if crushed by some powerful, unseen hand. Tears formed in your eyes, then slowly trickled down your cheeks. You dabbed at them now and again with a small ball of tissue clutched tightly in your right hand. Your tears' watery tracks remained etched on your face.

You go by several names because you represent a number of women. Each of you is unique. Your backgrounds and circumstances differ widely. But your pain is the same. The pain is the result of an abortion.

"It ruined my body," you told me. "I'll never have children again. My parents helped me get an abortion. I was a high school junior, too young to have a baby. I know I killed a real person, but I didn't know what else to do."

**I**n a way you are among the fortunate ones. You recognize the problem and are trying to deal with it. It's estimated that up to 50 percent of the women who have had abortions suffer from post-abortion syndrome (PAS). With nearly 30,000,000 legal abortions since 1973 that adds up to a frightening





# Part of the body

## Every agency of the synod is helping us

by LeRoy A. Martin

**O**ur WELS mission statement describes our church's goal with the phrase "to share the word with the world." I'm not sure I always understood or appreciated how it works. Being in an exploratory mission setting has helped.

I don't know of one agency of our synod that doesn't in some way affect us and help us accomplish our purpose. It all starts with God's grace to you, the friend and member of WELS—your personal commitment to the word, your offerings, your prayers. And it includes every committee, commission, staff, and board of WELS.

It certainly includes our supportive and experienced home mission board, together with the helpful staff. It also includes the local hardworking district boards, the mission counselors who help to plan and advise, the mass media people who help call attention to us and our message. These are all people who directly affect us in an exploratory setting.

### There is more

But there is much more. When questions arise about what materials we will use, how great it is to have our synod's division of parish services. Whether we are looking for an order of worship service, Sunday school material, outreach resources, worship folders, material for Bible class, or clear and uplifting material for devotions or leisure reading, it's there, thanks to our publishing house. Thanks also to the commission for communication and financial support which is responsible for funding the synod's budget.

And then there's the excellent system our synod has of preparing our future workers for the challenges of ministry. And for a fledgling group as ours, there is great comfort in trusting the experienced leadership of our coordinating council and board of trustees doing the best pos-

sible to use the limited resources of God's people wisely, the investment commission doing the same. And how could a small group such as we ever provide the kind of health care benefits and pension for our pastor that our appointed VEBA and pension commissions offer?

Or how can we who are isolated from the rest of synod know of the challenges and other victories God is giving in world missions or wherever, were it not for Northwestern Lutheran. When we get to writing a constitution, we'll have professional advice from our WELS constitution committee. How great to be able to tell our prospects we have a committee on relief to help the needy. And to know a commission on interchurch relations is always searching for linkups with other churches that have the same purpose.

### Special ministries

And when our people go to a university, or join the military, or land in an institution, WELS special ministries will help serve their spiritual needs. And to help us meet our responsibility to share the word with the world, our world mission board is at work.

And to help remember God's gracious dealings with us, a historian is recording for future generations how God has been good to us.

"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. . . . Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12).

It really makes us in a small exploratory group feel in Port Charlotte, Florida, proud to be even a tiny part of such an important body.



*LeRoy Martin is pastor of Christ the King, an exploratory mission in Port Charlotte, Florida.*



# Luther's Large and Small Catechisms

## Part two

by Wayne A. Laitinen

In 1528 Elector John of Saxony authorized a widespread visitation of the parishes in Saxony. His purpose was to determine whether the spiritual needs of his people were being met. Luther was one of several religious leaders who were given this task. The visitation committee discovered an urgent need for better spiritual training, not only for the people, but for the pastors and heads of households as well.

Luther wrote this about his visits: "In our visitation of the area around Wittenberg, we have discovered so far that all the pastors are living in harmony with their peasants, but the people are lazy when it comes to word and sacrament. Pray for us."

He lamented the open immorality of the people and the unwillingness of priests to correct the situation. In an off-hand remark, Luther said that one only needed to count the number of beer steins to know what time of day it was. One church had no Bible for almost three decades, but didn't seem to care. Another church simply stopped having public worship services. Still another complained that the Lord's Prayer was too long to memorize. Some of the clergy did not even know the Apostles' Creed. The seven deadly sins were better known than the Ten Commandments.

### Luther writes the catechism

The urgency of the situation forced Luther to take the writing of the catechism into his own hands. Almost simultaneously, Luther finished both the Small Catechism and the Large Catechism in 1529.

The Small Catechism consisted simply of three posters. One for the Commandments, another for the Creed, and the third for the Lord's Prayer. Later he added wall charts which included more prayers, baptism, and holy communion. These charts enjoyed instant popularity.

Printers had trouble keeping up with the orders. Printers did not have to wrestle with the copyright laws we have today. So when a pastor asked to have Luther's Catechism printed with a special addition or deletion, it was made to order. The Use of the Keys and Confession may have made it into Luther's

Catechism at the request of a Lutheran pastor who wanted to include this section in his catechism instruction. Whether or not Luther actually included this section in his catechism is debated by historians. However, it certainly reflects the Lutheran, biblical teaching about the Keys and Confession.

The Small Catechism taught the chief teachings of the Christian faith by answering familiar questions like "What does this mean?" It provided a simple and effective way for parents and clergy to instruct the young or uneducated.

The Large Catechism explained the chief parts in sermon style. It was meant to teach adults and enrich them in their faith-life. The Large Catechism was to be a companion volume to the Small Catechism.

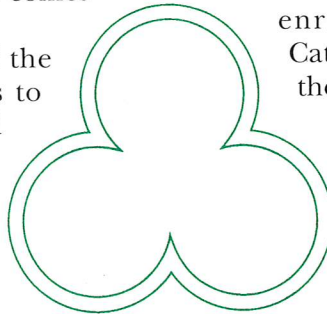
### Instruction is waning in the home

Is your house ready for a "Saxon visitation"? Would you allow your pastor to spend a day in your home to see what kind of basic Christian instruction is happening there? One wonders if American homes receive more impressions of "basic Christianity" from MTV, CBS, Fox, and NBC than from God's word. Do we know what we are praying in the Lord's Prayer? Do families pray together? Does the head of the house speak with his family about the gracious things God has done for them, as the Creed explains? Are children learning that repentance, not excuses, is the appropriate response to a broken commandment? Is Jesus' free and full forgiveness declared to the penitent? Are households eager to "live under him in his kingdom and serve him," as redeemed and baptized children of God? Do the confirmed eagerly await the next opportunity to receive the Lord's body and blood?

In fact, there is a divine visitor making visits at our homes daily. He longs to bless our homes with peace, if we would but listen to him.

*Call Northwestern Publishing House (1-800-662-6022) to order a Large Catechism for adult devotional material or a Small Catechism for teaching the young.*

*Wayne Laitinen is pastor of Palos, Palos Heights, Illinois.*





**Creationists win victory in California . . .** According to Religious News Service, education officials in California have formally acknowledged the right of a private school to teach the biblical account of creation as factual as long as teachers also give information on evolution. The acknowledgement came as part of a settlement between Bill Honig, superintendent of public instruction in California, and the Institute for Creation Research in Santee, Calif. The settlement means the school, which teaches science from a biblical perspective, can continue to operate and that California education officials have acknowledged that they have no authority over its curriculum content except as otherwise provided by law. The Institute got permission from the state board of education in 1981 to operate a graduate school of science. Its program, which offers masters' degrees in biology, geology, physics, and science education, has been accredited by an agency that accredits fundamentalist Christian institutions. The settlement stemmed from a federal lawsuit filed by the Institute for Creation Research in 1990. It filed the suit after Honig notified the school that re-approval to operate had been denied because of its teaching on creation.

**Religious side of people's lives rarely seen on TV . . .**

In a study commissioned by American Family Association "the religious sides of people's lives are rarely included in the fictional world of television," says researcher Thomas Skill of the University of Dayton. In a study of 100 episodes of network TV with 1,462 speaking characters there was evidence of 115 total religious behaviors: 45 personal prayers, 8 statements of belief in God, 8 group prayers, and 3 references to Scripture. While the study found that many TV characters pray, the most common prayer was a simple "Thank God!" followed by prayer to "God as last resort." Donald Wildmon, director of the American Family Association, said it "clearly indicates the bigotry and bias the networks and Hollywood have toward religion and religious people."

**First Danish Bible translation since 1740 . . .** Queen Margrethe of Denmark authorized a new translation of the Bible for use in the Lutheran Church of Denmark. It will be the first time since 1740 that a new Danish translation of the complete Bible will be made available. The queen's authorization was made at the recommendation of the minister of church affairs. The new translation will be printed in eight different editions and published on November 8. It will be first used in church services on Advent Sunday, November 29. Several of the country's ten bishops expressed reservations about a few key words, but the recommendations were ignored in the final approval.

**1992 report of the Christian world . . .** Missiologist David Barrett recently issued his report on the state of the Christian world. There are 2,500 Christian radio/television stations in the world. In 1992 there were 67,440 new book titles published and 26,000 Christian periodicals. Christian workers, both domestic and foreign, added up to 5,409,000. But the workers are not equitably distributed. For example, he points out, the island of Samoa averages 7,915 indigenous Christian workers per one million residents, yet foreign-missions groups still send another 3,300 workers per million people. Meanwhile, other countries go wanting for Christian workers. In Uganda, there are only 1,229 indigenous Christian workers and 160 foreign missionaries per million people.

**IRS reporting of church contributions dropped . . .**

Recently the Internal Revenue Service proposed that churches report to the IRS contributions of \$500 or more a year by their members. It met with intense opposition from churches and was soon dropped. Churches said the requirement would "work a severe burden" on churches. Churches do not now require social security or tax identification numbers for contributions. The record keeping required would "exceed the capacities of the traditional volunteer financial secretary" and the requirement of magnetic/computer reporting by congregations with more than 250 donors "would add additional cost and training burdens."

**Influential Protestant leaders . . .** Whom do church leaders look up to? According to the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches (1991), researchers at Hartford Seminary's Center for Social and Religious Research surveyed 1,497 Protestant leaders to find out. They pulled members of national policy-making boards and national and regional executive and program staffs. Those polled represented the National Council of Churches, American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A., Assemblies of God, Baptist General Conference, Evangelical Free Church of America, United Church of Christ, and United Methodist Church. Sorted by respondents' theology are their top-five choices of influential religious writers and activists. *Conservatives:* Billy Graham, James Dobson, Charles Colson, Lyle Schaller, C. Peter Wagner. *Moderates:* Lyle Schaller, Henri Nouwen, Martin Marty, Robert McAfee Brown, Harvey Cox. *Liberals:* Robert McAfee Brown, Henri Nouwen, William Sloane Coffin, Jr., Martin Marty, Harvey Cox.

News items appearing in *News around the world* represent current events of general interest to the readers of Northwestern Lutheran and should not be interpreted as representing the views of the editors.



# WELS districts meet in convention

Every other year each of the twelve districts of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod convene in the month of June. Reports from six of our district correspondents follow. The final six district conventions will be reported on in the September 1 issue.



President Frank  
Nebraska



President Beckmann  
North Atlantic



President Guse  
South Atlantic

## Nebraska District

The Nebraska District met June 8-10 at Nebraska Lutheran High School, Waco, Nebraska. Pastor Joel Frank of Plymouth, Nebraska, was reelected to his second two-year term as president. Pastor Philip Zarling of Overland Park, Kansas, was reelected first vice-president; Pastor Kenneth Bode of Westminster, Colorado, was reelected second vice-president; Pastor Theodore Wendt of Norton, Kansas, was elected secretary. Teacher Earl Heidtke was thanked for his eight years of service as secretary.

There was considerable debate over the Feasibility Study Committee report in regard to the closing or consolidating of one or more of our synod schools. While the delegates concurred that it would be feasible to combine Martin Luther Preparatory School with Northwestern Preparatory School and to move Northwestern College to the campus of Dr. Martin Luther College, they opposed the implementation of such a plan.

—Theodore L. Wendt

## North Atlantic District

The North Atlantic District convention was held June 9-10 at the New Windsor Service Center in New Windsor, Maryland. Walter Beckmann, Grace, Falls Church, Va., was elected to his fifth term as president of the district.

Other officers elected were Thomas Zarling, first vice-president; Donald Tollefson, second vice-president; and Brett Voigt, secretary.

The issue which generated the most interest and discussion was the recommendation to consolidate the ministerial schools. After considerable discussion, the delegates voted in favor of a resolution recommending the amalgamation of Martin Luther Preparatory School on the Watertown campus and the amalgamation of Northwestern College

with Dr. Martin Luther College on the New Ulm campus. The resolution was passed by a margin of 32 to 17.

—Jon R. Bitter

## South Atlantic District


The South Atlantic District convention met at Plaza Convention Center, Orlando, Florida, June 8-10.

Pastor John Guse of Marietta, Ga., was reelected to his fifth two-year term as president. Pastor Keith Kruck of Madison, Tenn., was reelected first vice president; Pastor James Pope of Bradenton, Fla., was reelected second vice president; and Pastor Robert Krueger of Melbourne, Fla., was reelected secretary.

While the convention agreed that the report of the Feasibility Study Committee concerning our worker training schools was feasible, a resolution was passed asking that other viable alternatives to the consolidation of MLPS and NPS and NWC and DMLC be studied and presented to the 1993 synod convention.

One of the highlights of the convention came when Dr. Jayasuri Kollipara and his wife Dr. Indira Kollipara, natives of India and now members of our exploratory mission in St. Lucia, West Indies, addressed the delegates and expressed their heartfelt thanks to the members of the Wisconsin Synod for their generous outpouring of gifts through "Lift High the Cross" offerings which have made possible our proclamation of the gospel on the island of St. Lucia. In a firsthand way, the delegates were reminded of what it means to "be all things to all people."

—Jonathan C. Voss



**Mission of the WELS**

**A**s men, women, and children united in faith and worship by the word of God, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod exists to make disciples throughout the world for time and for eternity, using the gospel to win the lost for Christ and to nurture believers for lives of Christian service, all to the glory of God.

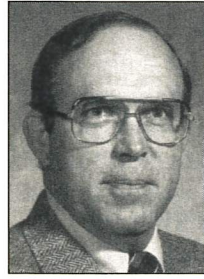




**President Glaeske**  
South Central



**President Rutschow**  
Southeastern Wisconsin



**President Gurgel**  
Western Wisconsin

## South Central District

The fifth biennial convention of the South Central District met at St. Mark, Duncanville, Texas, June 8-10.

The delegates returned Vilas Glaeske to the office of president for his fifth term and elected Richard Gurgel, first vice-president; David Krenke, second vice-president; and Joel Rakos, secretary.

The major issues were the reports of the Committee on Program Review (CPR) and the Feasibility Study Committee (FSC).

The floor committee dealing with program review recommended no resolutions at this time so that the CPR might continue its work in an unbiased manner. The floor committee did, however, submit to the CPR a number of suggestions for changes in the synodical program.

The delegates rejected the FSC recommendation to combine two of the synod's preparatory schools and the two colleges and requested the following proposal be considered: retain the colleges in their present locations; make Northwestern Prep the "flagship" prep school; make Michigan Lutheran Seminary and Arizona Lutheran Academy "hybrid" half-time prep schools; close Martin Luther Preparatory School.

The delegates supported the restructuring of the Board for Worker Training. The recommendation calls for replacing the voting members, the school presidents and chairmen of the board of control of the schools, with pastor, teacher, and lay representatives.

—Charles D. Learman

## Southeastern Wisconsin District

The 528 delegates to the 38th biennial convention of the Southeastern Wisconsin District elected Pastor David Rutschow, Downers Grove, Ill., as president, succeeding retiring president Winfred Nommensen, Milwaukee. Pastor James Huebner, Milwaukee, was elected first vice-president; Pastor Mark Jeske, Milwaukee, second vice-president. Pastor Robert Pasbrig, Crete, Ill., was reelected secretary.

The report of the synod's feasibility study regarding our worker training schools met a stalemate as the convention rejected both the majority and minority reports of the floor committee by less than 30 votes. Keep the "status quo" summarizes the majority report. The minority report recommended the consolidation of Northwestern and Martin Luther Prep schools on the Watertown campus and a combined

teacher-pastor training college on a new campus in Wisconsin. After much discussion the delegates recommended that the booklet "The Philosophy for Crosscultural Ministry," prepared and adopted by the Multicultural Mission Committee, be revised and rewritten with a clear emphasis on scriptural foundation and motivation.

Contrary to the synod's recommendation for districts to reconstitute its circuits into groups of five to seven pastors, the delegates resolved to maintain its circuits as presently constituted.

Regarding the restructuring of the Board for Worker Training, the convention expressed concern that area Lutheran high schools would be represented by two voting members and the ministerial schools would have no voting members.

For the first time the delegates enjoyed the meeting in the air-conditioned auditorium/gymnasium on the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary campus.

—Robert A. Sievert

## Western Wisconsin District

The Western Wisconsin District held its convention June 8-10 on the campus of Martin Luther Preparatory School, Prairie du Chien. President Karl Gurgel of St. Paul, Lake Mills, was elected to his third two-year term. Also reelected were first vice-president Pastor Herbert Prahl, second vice-president David Fischer, and district secretary Pastor Douglas Bode.

One of the most difficult issues facing the convention was the consolidation of schools. After extensive debate, the delegates voted 184-121 against consolidating the two Wisconsin based prep schools and the colleges at Watertown, Wis., and New Ulm, Minn. The adopted reso-

lution called for each congregation of the district to take an active lead in raising synod mission offerings by at least seven percent to maintain the status quo in worker training.

The convention delegates identified and prioritized key strategic issues. The top three were the spiritual growth of called workers and congregational members through continuing education in the word; the recruitment and training of young people for ministry; and the necessity to increase each congregation's synod mission offering to carry out the Lord's work on the synodical level.

—Elton C. Stroh



## Conference center explored

The possibility of a WELS conference and retreat center was the subject of discussion at a seminar conducted April 23-24 by Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service.

Pastor Robert Michel, executive director of WLCFS, explained that the retreat center became a possibility when the agency was given 37 acres of land near West Bend, Wis., a location within a two-hour drive for 100,000 WELS and ELS members in 400 congregations.

Participants at the seminar, representing three WELS districts and 22 organizations, were asked to suggest what indoor and outdoor facilities would be preferred and what uses might be made of a center.

WLCFS anticipates making use of the center about 120 days per year and hopes that other WELS and ELS groups would make use of it the remainder of the time. Public rentals would be a "safety net," said Michel, since keeping the center in use at all times would be financially necessary.

A final decision on whether to build the center has not been reached.

—Dorothy J. Sonntag

### ONE ISSUE

There is only one issue of Northwestern Lutheran for August. The next issue will appear September 1.

### WELS Connection videotapes

#### August topics

- Home mission exploratory in Layton, Utah
- Home mission exploratory in Port Charlotte, Florida

For more information, contact *CCFS, WELS Administration Building, 2929 N Mayfair Road, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398*. Cost of a year's subscription is \$48.

## California news

Ground breaking for a new church took place on February 23 at **Risen Savior, Chula Vista**. By employing the assistance of Builders for Christ, the congregation hopes to reduce the cost by \$150,000. . . . **Prince of Peace, Thousand Oaks**, celebrated its 25th anniversary on May 24. . . . **St. Peter, Modesto**, dedicated its new chapel on April 26. About 225 were in attendance. . . . **Green Valley, Henderson, Nev., and**

**Sommerlin, Las Vegas, Nev.**, are both looking forward to beginning chapel construction soon. . . .

**Beautiful Savior, Carlsbad**, formed a branch of WELS Lutherans for Life on January 27. . . . **California LHS** graduated 17 seniors on May 30. Five plan to continue their education at Dr. Martin Luther College. . . . We are thankful to our Lord that no WELS members or churches suffered losses in the LA riots.

—Hermann K. John

## Michigan District news

On May 24, **St. John, Riga**, dedicated a pipe organ. The organ had been installed in 1958 in St. Michael Episcopal Church in Toledo. David Robertson, St. John's organist, was reading the Sunday paper before church when he saw the organ offered for sale. Between Sunday school and church, he called St. Michael and arranged to see the organ that afternoon. The following Sunday, the voters agreed to purchase the organ for \$10,000; a comparable new organ would cost up to \$60,000. The organ was installed in St. John by the same company that had originally installed the organ in St. Michael. . . . St. John, Bay City, observed the 25th anniversary in the ministry of teacher **Willard Engel**.

. . . **Appointments:** Raymond Arnold of St. John, Bay City, was appointed to the District Special Ministries Board. Pastor Tim Buelow of Holy Redeemer, Port Huron, was appointed as coordinator of the District Worship Committee; Pastor Martin Wildauer of Peace of Our Savior, New Carlisle, Oh., was also appointed to this committee. Pastor Rick DeRuiter of St. Paul, Saginaw, teacher Roland Schultz of Salem, Owosso, Pastor Tom Knickelbein and teacher Rebecca Klockziem of Salem, Ann Arbor, were appointed to the District Care Committee for Called Workers. Pastor Richard Scheibe of St. Paul and Zion,

Remus, was appointed as circuit pastor of the northwest circuit of the Northern conference. . . . After 40 years in the ministry, **Pastor Daniel Gieschen** retired on April 30 from St. Stephen, Adrian, where he had served for the past 35 years. . . . After 40 years of teaching, **Prof. Gerald Cudworth** retired from Michigan Lutheran Seminary. . . . On June 14, **Peace, Livonia**, dedicated a new church. . . . Even though school was out for the summer, 26 **Michigan Lutheran Seminary students** spent most of June in school-related experiences. Eight students spent two weeks in Milwaukee with MLS tutors Keith Wessel and Natalie Zimmermann working with the central city VBS program. Seven students spent three weeks with Prof. and Mrs. Gary Johnson at MLS's linked school in Germany, Trifels Gymnasium. The group also traveled to the former East Germany to spend time with youth of the ELFK, a small church body in fellowship with the WELS. Eleven students spent four weeks on project HOST. The students studied Spanish at a language institute in Guadalajara, Mexico, for three weeks and then spent one week at El Paso, Texas, where the students helped organize the VBS program at San Juan Lutheran Church. Pastor and Mrs. Gary Pieper of Emanuel, Flint, served as chaperones for the group.

—James L. Langebartels



It costs nothing to become Jesus' disciples,  
but it costs everything to be his disciples

# The cost of being a disciple

*Luke 14:28-33*

by Mark E. Braun

**I**t seems an odd title in a series about parables of grace—"The cost of being a disciple." If it's grace, it's free. If it's free, how can there be a cost?

But listen: "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters—yes, even his own life—he cannot be my disciple," said Jesus. "And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." That sounds like a cost.

To explain, he told two "mini" parables. What contractor in his right mind starts a building project and doesn't first estimate the expense? They'd laugh you out of town, and you'd have it coming.

What king would be so foolish to attack the kingdom next door if he isn't sure he has enough soldiers to pull it off? If your army is only half as big as your enemy's, you'd better get to the negotiating table before he gets to your border. Anything less would be deadly.

Both parables talk about cost. Lest we miss the point, Jesus concluded, "In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple."

J. P. Morgan used to say, "If you have to ask, you can't afford it," but he was talking about yachts and mansions and big diamonds, which just about all of us have learned to get along without. But we can't get along without what Jesus comes to bring us, so we have to ask how much it costs.

**I**t costs you and me nothing to become Jesus' disciples. Of course, it cost him plenty. Coming to planet earth was no cruise to the Bahamas. To satisfy God's righteous anger over all we've done wrong, it cost our Lord his blood and his sweat and his life. Nothing less would do.

But this great rescue was conceived and conducted entirely without our permission or our cooperation.

It's grace.

Nowhere is that more obvious than in baptism. What merit does a baby bring before God's throne? None. God works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation. We cannot by our own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus, but the Holy Spirit calls us by the gospel. Pure grace. It costs us nothing to become his disciples.

But it costs you and me everything to be Jesus' disciples. Everything we've got—every dime, every dream, every day. The works. The whole farm.

If you love your father or mother or husband or wife or son or daughter or brother or sister, and you can still love Jesus more, fine. If you possess land and livestock and jewels, a boat and a BMW and a place on the beach, and Jesus is still your priceless treasure, fine.

But if anything or anyone comes before him in your heart, it has to go. Jesus comes first.

**T**he cross was what it cost Jesus to restore us to the Father's family, and the cross is whatever it costs us to remain and show we're part of that family. It's more than suffering in general; unbelievers suffer too. The cross is whatever we have to pay or give up or put up with because we belong to him.

God doesn't want us off looking for crosses. He doesn't want us inventing crosses of our own, or creating them for our neighbors. He doesn't want us wishing we could carry the cross next door because it looks lighter than ours. When he gives us one, he wants us to pick it up and follow him.

It doesn't take anything to become a Christian, but it does take our all to be one.

*Next: The lost son*



*Mark Braun is director of spiritual programming and instructor of theology at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee.*



## Sinners and saints

Americans—particularly young Americans—are being conditioned to think highly of themselves. Popular psychology is educating and counseling them to exalt their sense of self-worth and self-esteem. They are being persuaded that they are worthy, that they deserve the best from life and should expect to reap its richest harvest.

Admittedly, by nature everyone ought to have some sense of self-respect and self-worth for daily living. People need to feel that they are good for at least something, not good for nothing. It is unhealthy and unproductive for anyone to brood over “poor me,” convinced that no one cares who he is and no one values what he does.

Both inflated self-esteem and overwrought self-abasement need correction. We need to know who and what we are. There is an answer in the familiar words of our Sunday liturgy. We are “poor sinners” who are “by nature sinful and unclean” and who must confess to God that “we have sinned against thee by thought, word, and deed.” Sunday after Sunday we confess that so many of our thoughts have been sinful, so many of our words have exposed our evil natures, so many evil deeds have been prompted by our sinful hearts, and so many good deeds have been left undone.

Instead of magnifying our self-worth, we declare our unworthiness. Instead of congratulating ourselves, we reproach ourselves—even the strongest of Christians must do so.

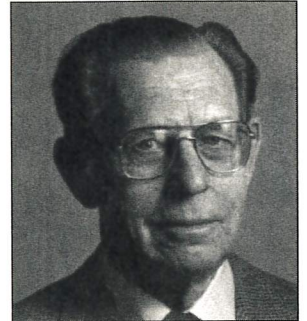
But, in a moment, we are forgiven, cleansed, renewed, consecrated. In our hopeless and helpless state we “flee for refuge” to the “infinite mercy” of our God and implore him to forgive us every one of our sinful thoughts, words, and deeds for the sake of his Son, who died for our sins. At once we again have the assurance that we are forgiven—even sinless and holy. Instantly we are again transformed from lost outcasts to saved “sons of God,” God’s blessed children. In God’s sight we pitiable, abject sinners have become restored saints—even ranked with the holy and glorious angels.

No matter what our role in life, we need always to see ourselves as both God’s sinners and God’s saints. Instead of smug satisfaction with ourselves, we need a realistic awareness of our many shortcomings. Instead of inflated pride and confidence in our own talents, we need to acknowledge humbly that it is God who had endowed us with our abilities. Instead of boasting of our achievements, we need to thank a gracious God for what he accomplishes in and through us.

We may dream of impressive human achievements accomplished through our own powers, but we dare not forget the God-pleasing good works the Spirit accomplishes through even the least of us—the small deeds of so little account in the eyes of the world. Our society sets up on its pedestals those whom it considers successful, but we need to remember that God’s abiding, eternal recognition is for those whom he crowns his kings and queens.

Christians cannot live by the self-esteem and self-worship of popular psychology. In our daily lives, where we often misjudge ourselves and misinterpret our accomplishments, it is both wholesome and encouraging to remember how God views us as sinner-saints.

Carleton Toppe



*Carleton Toppe,  
president emeritus  
of Northwestern College,  
lives in Watertown, Wisconsin.*



**Apache missions**

The May 15 issue had a beautiful article on the Easter service at Bylas, Ariz. However, this raises the point: Why does the WELS seem to be destroying the Apache mission churches after 99 years of work?

Nearly all of the Apaches shown attending the service went to the school at Bylas. Some became members after hearing God's word in school. Yet three years ago the school had to turn away mission prospects due to a lack of room when they had four teachers. Now, because of budget cuts, they will only be allowed two teachers.

Peter Baganz  
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Duane K. Tomhave, administrator for the Board for World Missions replies:

*The WELS Board for World Missions is certainly unaware of anyone trying to destroy the Apache Mission churches. We are thrilled at God's blessings on 99 years of gospel work. The synod and the Apache congregations support their six missionary pastors. A mission coordinator has also been called to assist our staff and help the Apache Christians to take an ever-growing role toward independence. It is the only place, outside of our worker training system, where the synod supports congregational education programs to that degree. Eighteen called workers in the Apache Mission teach in four elementary schools and one high*

*school. The recently authorized PAL (Partners in Apache Learning) program, which gives congregations and individuals an opportunity to help support the schools, will offer relief to education budgets presently in the budget of the Board for World Missions.*

**"Pastors' wives"**

"Pastors' wives" (5/15) brought out a valuable point: God has so many jobs for us and the job description is as endless for the woman as it is for all Christians. A pastor's wife has indeed a significant supportive role. But her husband can also support her in a career and activities which glorify God as well.

All Christians feel the need to set their priorities straight; pastors and their wives remain more visible in doing so.

With God's help, we all work, at home and away from home, in a way that allows God to bring his good news of eternal salvation to more people.

Nancy Griepentrog  
Vienna, Virginia

As a seminary student, I enjoyed your article "Pastors' wives" (5/15) very much. It seems as if the pastor's wife who wrote this article is comfortable with who she is and how she is living her life, in spite of all the preconceived ideas of what a pastor's wife should be.

I think we all need to be comfortable with who we are and what talents

God has given us. God makes each one of us individually by hand, not by pouring us into a prefabricated mold on an assembly line. It is unfortunate when congregations try to put called workers and their families into that mold, or when workers do it to themselves.

I thank God every day that I am going to marry someone who is a Christian individual with a personality all her own.

John D. Roebke  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Graduation**

The June 1 issue spoke of "our" graduates from "our" Lutheran schools (Thought for today). . . . There are many graduates who are Lutheran even though they have attended public schools. These students also walk with God.

These are the kids that may need a little extra encouragement and guidance to stay close to the church, not singled out as the "other" group. You've excluded them by speaking only of the Lutheran school graduates.

Sue Meyer  
Fish Creek, Wisconsin

In the interest of conciseness, letters are subject to editing. Full name, address and daytime phone number should accompany each letter. Names will be withheld only under unusual circumstances. Letters cannot be acknowledged, nor can all letters be used. Address your letters to *READERS FORUM, Northwestern Lutheran, 2929 N Mayfair Road, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398.*

**NOTICES**

Notices are printed in the first issue each month. The deadline for submitting items is five weeks before the date of issue.

**AUDIOVISUAL LENDING LIBRARY**

**GOD'S MISSION TO RUSSIA** VHS 123-GMR  
1992 18 min. 1/2" VHS color SCA  
Accompany a WELS exploratory team examining the potential for mission work in the former communist bloc nations. There are open doors in eastern Europe. This video will help our synod respond to the challenge.

With annual subscription or rental, order from AUDIOVISUAL LENDING LIBRARY, Northwestern Publishing House, 1250 N 113th St, Milwaukee WI 53226-3284. Phone 414/475-6600, ex.127.

**WELS VIDEO/FILM RENTAL**

**THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY BEGINS**

1992 34 min. 1/2" VHS color P  
An expert storyteller recounts events in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph in a way that little children will enjoy. There is a cartoon introduction and conclusion to this piece that are of uncertain value. Rental: \$5.00

**THE GREAT TREEHOUSE DISASTER**

1992 30 min. 1/2" VHS color P  
This cartoon demonstrates how much better things work when people cooperate in Christian love. However, the gospel motivation is not included in the story. The teacher should be prepared to explain that our love for each other is based on Jesus' love for us. Rental: \$5.00

Send your order for renting the videos to WELS VIDEO/FILM RENTAL SERVICE, Northwestern Publishing House, 1250 N 113th St, Milwaukee WI 53226-3284. Phone 414/475-6600, ex.127.

**ITEMS NEEDED**

**RUSSIAN HYMNAL** preferably with music and words, otherwise just words. Contact Ron Freier, 404 East Glenlord Rd, St. Joseph MI 49085; 616/429-4905.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**PORTAGE, MICHIGAN**—St. James (25th). Sept. 13, anniversary service 4:00 p.m. Dinner and program following. Contact Pastor Mark Gieschen, 616/327-4980.

**SHAKOPEE, MINNESOTA**—Mt. Olive (40th). Aug. 23, 10:00 a.m. Lion Park, fellowship following. 2:00 p.m., "Ex Corde" Christian contemporary music concert. 612/445-2885 or 496-2735.

**WATERLOO, WISCONSIN**—St. John (125th). Sept. 28. Catered meal at Waterloo Fireman's Park following 8:00 and 10:15 a.m. services. Contact Pastor Steve Schmeling, 365 East Madison St., Waterloo WI 53594; 414/478-2422.



## RESULT OF COLLOQUY

In a colloquy conducted October 16, 1991, David Sweet, formerly a pastor in the Church of the Lutheran Confession, was found to be in confessional agreement with the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod and is now eligible for a call into the ministerium of our Wisconsin Synod.

First Vice President Richard E. Lauersdorf  
Professor Richard D. Balge  
District President Marcus E. Nitz

## WELS KINGDOM WORKERS SEEK DIRECTORS

WELS Kingdom Workers national board of directors seeks a development director and director of the Christian volunteer corps. The development director will work to enhance membership growth and financial resources. The director of the Christian volunteer corps will oversee and coordinate all volunteers, activities, and programs for the volunteer corps. Both directors will work closely with the Kingdom Workers organization and synod mission boards to promote and extend WELS mission awareness.

Members of the WELS interested in these positions may obtain a job description from WELS Kingdom Workers, 2401 N Mayfair Rd, Suite 204, Wauwatosa WI 53226. Resumes may also be submitted.

## CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S RETREAT

St. Mark is sponsoring a Christian Women's Retreat in Green Bay, Wis., on October 17, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Cost is \$15.00, including lunch. For more information and registration, contact Dawn Bublitz, 414/336-0685, or Lori Schoenwalder, 414/498-1739, 1601 Port St, Green Bay WI 54313.

## HANDBELL FESTIVAL

The Eastern Regional WELS Handbell Festival will be held April 17-18, 1993, at the Hendrickson Center in Waupaca, Wis. For information, contact Cheryl Diener, 223 W Badger St, Waupaca WI 54981; 715/258-7203.

## ART CURRICULUM WORKSHOP

The Lakeside area Lutheran Principals' Conference K-12 Curriculum Committee will present its annual workshop August 20 at Manitowoc Lutheran High School. The workshop will focus on art curriculum. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. The day's activities will conclude at 1:45 p.m. Registration is \$10.00 for non-conference members. Contact Cindy Whaley, 12008C CTH C, Valders WI 54245; 414/758-2498.

## PRESCHOOL TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

Peace, Hartford, Wis., is hosting a workshop for Christian early childhood educators on August 15. This workshop will be held in conjunction with the CPS District Early Childhood Education Workshop. For information, contact Dan Whitney, 8371 N Ann St, Milwaukee WI 53224; 414/354-9713.

## NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

Since God has not restricted the ministry to his church to people of any one race, color, national or ethnic origin; and since one of the stated purposes of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with all people; and since the purpose of our synodical schools is to educate students for the preaching and teaching ministry of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, these schools cannot and do not discriminate on the basis of color, national, and ethnic origin in administration of their educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

The training schools of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod are:

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

Mequon Wisconsin

Northwestern College

Watertown Wisconsin

Dr. Martin Luther College

New Ulm Minnesota

Martin Luther Preparatory School

Prairie du Chien Wisconsin

Michigan Lutheran Seminary

Saginaw Michigan

Northwestern Preparatory School

Watertown Wisconsin

## RESOURCES REQUESTED

The WELS liaison for fraternal affairs is asking ten Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana congregations for help in a study designed to increase membership on the local level. Congregations that have used programs, planning processes, and consultative models are encouraged to send a one- or two-paragraph description of their experience to Dr. Wayne Borgwardt, worker-training administrator, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398.

## NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE STORE Vacationers welcome

Vacationers are welcome to visit the NPH store, 1250 N. 113th Street (one block north of Watertown Plank Rd. on 113th St.), Milwaukee, Wis.; 414/475-6600.

The summer hours for the NPH store from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend are as follows: **Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** The hours for the office remain the same: Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## CHANGES IN MINISTRY

### PASTORS

**Kovach, Roger**, from Lamb of God, Columbus, Ohio, to Ukraine (ELS).

**Thompson, Glen L.**, from Peace, New York, N. Y., to Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.

### TEACHERS

**Arndt, Jodi**, from Christ, Eagle River, Wis., to St. John, Dakota, Minn.

**Birkholz, Jerome**, from Minnesota Valley Association Coordinator, to Michigan LHS, St. Joseph, Mich.

**Bousley, Judy**, to Good Shepherd, Burnsville, Minn.

**Dankert, Anita**, to Christ, Grand Island, Neb.

**Gartner, Judith**, to Peace, Bradenton, Fla.

**Graf, Terrence**, from Mt. Lebanon, Milwaukee, Wis., to Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls, Wis.

**Gregorius, Jennifer**, to St. John, Waterloo, Wis.

**Just, Marilyn**, to Trinity, Kaukauna, Wis.

**Heidtko, Earl**, from Nebraska LHS, Waco Neb., to Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.

**Hermanson, Carol**, to Faith, Antioch, Ill.

**Hunt, Timothy**, from Peace, Otsego, Mich., to Trinity, Brillion, Wis.

**Hussman, Charles**, to Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.

**Kolander, John**, from Immanuel, Waupaca, Wis., to Fox Valley LHS, Appleton, Wis.

**Kopczynski, Keith**, to Faith, Antioch, Ill.

**Lemke, Steven**, from Manitowoc LHS, Manitowoc, Wis., to Calvary, Sheboygan, Wis.

**Loersch, Mark**, to Luther HS, Onalaska, Wis.

**Mietner, Merlin**, from Friedens, Kenosha, Wis., to West LHS, Hopkins, Minn.

**Metzger, John**, from Wisconsin LHS, to Good Shepherd, West Allis, Wis.

**Mundt, Sharon**, from Christ, Marshall, Minn., to Shoreland LHS, Somers, Wis.

**Natzke, Carl**, from Atonement, Milwaukee, Wis., to Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee, Wis.

**Noon, Edward**, from Michigan LHS, St. Joseph, Mich., to Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee, Wis.

**Norton, Cathy**, to Jerusalem, Morton Grove Ill.

**Pantzlaff, Kathleen**, from Trinity, Manitowoc, Wis., to St. Peter, Chilton, Wis.

**Rautenberg, Ann**, to Redeemer, Fond du Lac, Wis.

**Ring, David**, from Immanuel, Gibbon, Minn., to Northland LHS, Wausau, Wis.

**Rittierodt, John**, from St. Paul, Riverside, Cal., to First, Lake Geneva, Wis.

**Russ, Todd**, from Ocean Drive, Pompano Beach, Cal., to Shepherd of the Valley, Westminster, Colo.

**Ryder, Sandra**, to King of Kings, Maitland, Fla.

**Tess, Elizabeth**, to Immanuel, Manitowoc, Wis.

**Tjernagel, Joan**, from St. John, St. Paul, Minn., to St. Andrew, St. Paul Park, Minn.

**Vanderheyden, Patricia**, to St. Peter, Weyauwega, Wis.

**Westphal, Steven**, from Martin Luther, Neenah, Wis., to Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.

**Woldt, Jon**, from St. Mark, Brown Deer, Wis., to Winnebago Lutheran Academy, Fond du Lac, Wis.

**Zellmer, Nona**, from St. Peter, Ft. Collins, Colo., to Garden Homes, Milwaukee, Wis.

**Zimmerman, Larry**, to Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.

## LODGING FOR WELS PASTORS

Free lodging on a farm, available year-round, for one to three nights to any WELS pastor and his family traveling or vacationing in the Reedsburg/Wisconsin Dells area of Wisconsin. Accommodations are in the loft of a log home. Phone 608/986-4692.

## TRAVELING CHURCH WORKERS

Bed and breakfast available on lakefront estate 30 minutes from downtown San Diego, 10 minutes from ocean. Hiking trails, quaint village. \$10 per night for church workers, missionaries, choirs. Write PO Box 19, Rancho Santa Fe CA 92067, or phone 609/756-2152.

## ADDRESSES

### PASTORS

**Barnes, Glenn R.**, Lot 156, 2526 S Bridge St, New Ulm MN 56073

**Bitter, Donald**, 1109 W Charles St, Fort Atkinson WI 53538

**Cherney, Kenneth A.**, R. Paulo Bento Lobato 190, 91051-060 Porto Alegre-RS, Brazil

**Covach, John W.**, 410 W Main St, Winneconne WI 54986

**Fetzer, Paul C.**, 1002 McEwan, Clare MI 48617

**Flunker, Charles H.**, R. Floriano Peixoto, 1895, 79824-090 Dourados-MS, Brazil

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**Gumm, Alan W.**, 2113 Autumn Court, Gillette WY 82716

**Gumm, Charles F.**, R. Vitor Hugo, 236, 90630-070, Porto Alegre-RS, Brazil

**Kauffeld, Shawn E.**, Route 2, Box 2662, Spring Valley WI 54767

**Marggraf, Bruce J.**, Av. dos Gauchos, 645, 91110-090 Porto Alegre-RS, Brazil

**Neumann, David M.**, 410 Main St, Box 35, Melstone MT 59054

**Pankow, James W.**, 1507 SW 32nd Terrace, Cape Coral FL 33914

**Schoeffel, Daniel**, 226 Essex Knoll Drive, Corapolis PA 15108

**Schuetze, John D.**, 1300 Lakeview Ave, Winona MN 55987

**Schulz, Alvin E.**, 85 Monroe St, Yankton SD 57078

**Schwanke, Larry R.**, 6151 23rd St, Zephyrhills FL 33540

**Starr, Richard D.**, R. Prof. Ulisses Cabral, 566, 91330-520 Porto Alegre-RS, Brazil

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**Voss, Frederick A.**, 11600 S Bragaw, Anchorage AK 99516

**Varnum, Neil R.**, 557 Plantation Rd, Pelican Lake WI 54463

**Wagner, Werner E. em.**, 1828 N Hawthorne Park Drive, Janesville WI 53545

**Wendland, Luther**, 1651 Cedardale Dr, Belvidere IL 61008

**Wilde, Philip F.**, 9325 180A Ave, Edmonton, Alberta Canada T5Z-2J3

### TEACHERS

**Kramp, Roger W.**, 731 Thayer St, Rhinelander WI 54501

**Lehner, Stacy**, W5122 Cty Hwy CW, Watertown WI 53094

For information on  
**The People's Bible series**  
see page 279

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Publishing House**



I recently received a commentary on 2 Corinthians from Northwestern Publishing House for review. Second Corinthians is a particular favorite of mine. The magnificent fifth chapter which spreads the forgiveness in Christ over the whole world, and the eighth and ninth chapters defining the Christian's use of his material gifts, under grace, have been a beacon for my life and ministry.

My appreciation for 2 Corinthians is further heightened by the late Prof. J. P. Meyer's lectures on the epistle (using the Greek text, of course). Prof. Meyer was president of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for 14 years, served the school for 44 years, and was still teaching a full academic load at 91 when he died after a brief illness. His lectures were a regular agenda item at the monthly meeting of my pastoral conference in the late '50s.

The commentary on 2 Corinthians I received was written by Prof. David Valleskey who studied under Meyer. Descending from his classroom heights, Valleskey makes plain for the laity the message of 2 Corinthians, an art he learned from Meyer. If you can read the newspaper, you can read with little trouble this lucid commentary. What Meyer did for us way back there in the Milwaukee City Pastoral Conference, Valleskey now does for the laity—somewhat more briefly, fortunately. If you get the idea that I am warmly commending this book, you read me.

The commentary, a paperback with the dimensions of a Reader's Digest, is the 23rd paperback in a series of commentaries on all the books of the Bible. The series is fittingly called "The People's Bible." When the series was first proposed 15 years ago, I said at the time it would never fly. We don't have, I said, the writers, the market, or the resources for it. Happily, no one listened to me. I was wrong, wrong, wrong—on all three counts. Since the first two paperbacks in the series were published in 1984—Exodus and Thessalonians—21 others have followed, all of them a match for anything like it on the market.

The other day I had a chat with Jerry Loeffel, president of Northwestern Publishing House. The target date for the completion of this ambitious project, he said, is 1996. "But, of course, the completion date depends on the authors. All of them have full-time calls as pastors or professors," he explained. He added that 36 of the 66 books of the Bible now have their commentary.

I asked President Loeffel how the commentaries were selling. "Very, very well," he enthusiastically responded. He said there were over 4,000 standing orders for the books as they came off the press, and some of the earlier paperbacks have sold over 10,000 copies. According to Loeffel, the books sold are mainly to individuals "the vast majority of whom are WELS people."

I have not read all the commentaries, but a scouting trip through ten or so of the paperbacks suggests that "The People's Bible" is a quality effort for which not only the writers but also the editors of the series deserve our thanks. The high quality represented by the commentary on 2 Corinthians is sustained and not confined to a single volume.

If you think I am pushing you into buying the series, you have got my message. Valleskey's 2 Corinthians is available from Northwestern Publishing House, \$8.99, softcover, 253 pages.

*James P. Schufes*

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*The high quality represented by the commentary on 2 Corinthians is sustained in The People's Bible and not confined to a single volume.*

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**I**t's Thursday evening and the residents of Birch Lane, in Mt. Carmel Health Care Center on Milwaukee's south side, are gathered for the weekly Bible study.

Many of the residents of Birch Lane are developmentally disabled adults. Nearly all have multiple handicaps. Some lived at home until their families could no longer care for them. Others have spent most of their lives in institutions.

Geri Woessner is telling the group about Jairus' daughter. "Jesus made the little girl alive again," Geri tells them, "and he will bring us back to life, too. He promises we will live with him in heaven."

I'm sitting next to Sandy. "Jesus will take you to heaven, too," I tell him. Sandy grins. "Me, too," he says.

Seven times each week, similar scenes are repeated at five institutions throughout the Milwaukee area. The volunteers (I'm one of about 50) who conduct the Bible studies are members of the Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Lay Ministry. The organization includes men and women who range from teenagers to retirees. Each week we bring the gospel to over 200 people living in rehabilitation or health care centers.

**T**he program started in 1988, when Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministry delegates authorized Chaplain Kenneth Lenz to begin an evangelism program for the developmentally disabled who lived in institutions. Lenz called on Bill Bonow for help. Bonow, a retired business executive, brought years of organizational experience to the task. He set up the program, recruited volunteers, and served as coordinator until 1990. Jane Krueger is now the coordinator.

At first, finding materials was difficult. Since we couldn't find appropriate materials, we wrote our own—55 lessons based on Bible stories.

In addition to bringing the gospel to the develop-



Phyllis Westerhaus (right), a Lay Ministry volunteer, leads a Bible study.

mentally disabled, the Lay Ministry transports some of them to Sunday worship services, offers Bible studies for geriatric nursing home residents, and conducts seminars for prisoners. Our next goal, when funds are available, is to work with the synod's special ministries board to develop a lay-led Bible study program for people in retirement homes.

A commitment to spend once a week year around may sound intimidating. But the lessons are brief. We can come and go in less than an hour. Since several volunteers serve at each facility, it's no problem when someone can't be there. Time for preparation is needed only occasionally,

since we take turns teaching. Some volunteers don't teach, and that's all right too.

And the rewards outweigh the inconveniences. One blessing is the friendship that develops among the volunteers. The caring, loving Christians I've met through the Lay Ministry have enriched my life.

Another is the affection and love the residents shower on us. How glad they are when we come, and how freely they show it! Pat greets us exuberantly. "I love you," she calls out repeatedly, "and I love Jesus." Connie doesn't talk, but she greets us with shining eyes and a smothering hug.

Best of all is the joy of sharing the gospel with these children of God, and the smiles that light up their faces when we talk about the love of Jesus.

Stop by Mt. Carmel some Thursday evening. You'll be glad you came.

*Copies of the lesson guide are available. For information about the Lay Ministry or for suggestions on how to start a program of your own, contact Mrs. Jane Krueger, WLIM Lay Ministry, 8420 W Beloit Rd, West Allis WI 53227; 414/541-6066.*



Dorothy Sonntag is assistant editor of Northwestern Lutheran.

## It's Thursday evening at Birch Lane

by Dorothy J. Sonntag