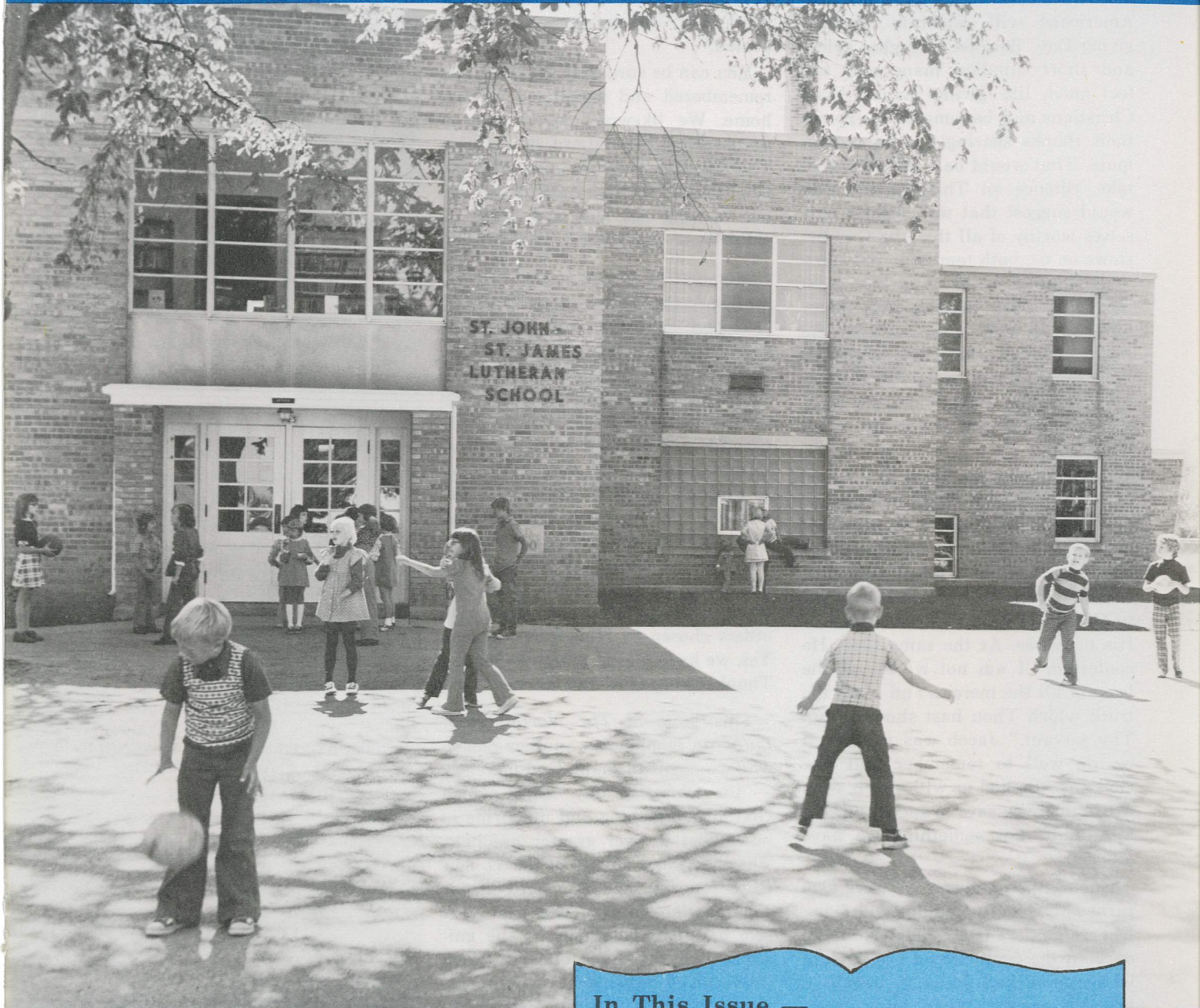


The Northwestern Lutheran

November 17, 1974



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Briefs by the Editor

A little over a week from now Americans will celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Because of higher prices and short supplies, many may not feel much like giving thanks. Even Christians may be tempted to express their thanks sparingly or to remain mute. That would be a grievous mistake. Silence on Thanksgiving Day would suggest that we consider ourselves worthy of all the gifts God bestows on us, both temporal and spiritual. Nothing could be farther from the truth. This Thanksgiving, therefore, we do well to meditate on the words in which others have expressed their thankfulness in the full realization that they did not deserve what the Lord had so graciously given them.

Returning to the land of promise from self-imposed exile in Padanaram, Jacob was about to meet his brother Esau. Deeply conscious of his sins and that Esau might well take out his wrath on him, Jacob turned to God in prayer, reminding Him of His promises. At the same time, He confessed, "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto Thy servant." Jacob was right, and we do well to remember that too. God has supplied us with much, even as He liberally gave to Jacob. But it's all a gift, not something we have merited.

During the past year we have also turned to God in troubles and fears. Did we deserve God's help? No more so than the centurion of Capernaum who approached Jesus in behalf of his sick servant. When Jesus promised to come, the centurion answered, "Lord, I am not worthy that Thou shouldst come under my roof." Though the Lord did not force His way into the centurion's home, He answered the prayer of faith the man

had addressed to Him, "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed."

You can be sure that the Lord was remembered and worshiped in that home. We likewise owe a debt of thanksgiving to our Lord, not only on Thanksgiving Day but every day. He has provided us with daily bread; He has covered our sins and made us children of the Father. Pure Grace!

Members of our Wisconsin Synod have special reason to thank God this year and next. God has been marvelously good to us during these past 125 years. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, but according to His mercy. He has led us from wishful Lutheranism to confessional Lutheranism. He has brought us safely through spiritual trials and preserved us in the truth. He has supplied us richly with Word and Sacrament, with pastors and teachers. He has moved us to share His truth with those who are our own and with others chosen by Him from eternity. Yes, we have reason to thank God, on Thanksgiving Day and always.

This issue of *The Northwestern Lutheran* emphasizes another reason why we ought to thank God fervently — the Christian day school which God is establishing and nurturing in our midst in ever greater numbers. The individual stories of the 11 new Christian day schools opened in our congregations during the past year give a united testimony to the guidance and the grace of God. Some small, some large, some in missions, some in self-supporting congregations, some in temporary quarters, some in permanent buildings — all of them are God's doing in our midst. Thank God for them, pray for them, make use of them, urge others to establish them, ask God for them!

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

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THE COVER

Schools like churches are as young as their youngest members. Buildings and textbooks may age, but the message of the Gospel nourishes a life that never grows old. So we enjoy the picture of a school that celebrated its 100th birthday, but whose emphasis is on youth. Read about St. John-St. James School of Reedsville, Wisconsin, on page 371. We hope you will also enjoy the story of the eleven new schools. They are a gift of God's grace.

THE NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN

Editorials

"If A Blessing He Withhold"

"Tho the harvest store be scant," writes the author of a Thanksgiving hymn. This year we have again been reminded that harvests may fail. Late sowing and planting, the summer drought, and early frosts have shrunk this year's harvest. The bins and cribs on many farms in America's agricultural heartland will be only half filled or even empty.

The unbeliever who is a victim of these natural disasters may curse God for not preventing them. The weak believer may complain about God's unfairness and neglect. The atheist will continue to scoff at the idea that there is a God.

But it is God who sends the rain or withholds it, and it is from His chambers that heat and cold, the rushing wind and the gentle zephyr issue forth. The God-fearing farmer knows that and knows that it is his Father in heaven who gives him whatever his fields provide. Even if the harvest is thin, he also knows that what his Father does is well. Though the fruits of the earth be blighted and shriveled, He can bless, He can provide, He can save. "If a blessing He withhold In the field or in the fold, Is not He Himself to be All our store eternally?"

And if, in days to come, many of us in other callings also receive fewer gifts from His hand, may He give us also the trust and confidence of the Christian men and women who sow and reap our nation's fields.

Carleton Toppe

"Only Believe"

No clear picture emerges of the troublemakers in the churches Paul addressed in his Epistles. They did not, it seems, come right out and deny Christ, but insisted salvation was a matter of faith *and* works which men do.

"Yes, yes, Jesus died for your sins," they allowed, "but now you must get busy finishing your salvation by what you do." Simple faith in Christ alone was made to appear childish and immature compared to man's impressive zeal and piety.

In church circles today few people flatly deny Christ or the value of faith. But the whole weight of emphasis easi-

ly shifts from what Christ has done for us, to "Hey, man, look what we are doing for Christ."

You are given a condescending look reserved for religious Philistines if you "only believe," if you haven't also signed up for organizational activities, if you aren't involved with liturgical acrobatics and meaningful encounters in the sanctuary, if you are not familiar with Pentecostal outpourings, charismatic gifts, tongues, and exorcism.

"Don't just stand there, do something," is man's own way of salvation. The watchword has become, "Are you active?" Doctrine is considered dry and dull, "Give us deeds not creeds." The impression is given that you must be sort of sub-Christian, unfinished, and immature if you "only believe."

God's way may seem weak, helpless, and puny in comparison to the impressive works by which man makes himself look big. But Jesus' word to Jairus, "Only believe," is more than a main thing. It is the only thing.

John Parcher

Gilding the Gospel

The offer of a chance on a free turkey for Thanksgiving by attending church would likely boost the attendance. Inducements like this have been tried before. During the Great Depression of the thirties, when a dollar was a day's wage for many, one congregation conceived the idea of inserting a dollar bill between the pages of one of its hymnals each Sunday to attract people to the services. There was the prospect of becoming a dollar richer if you got the right hymnal.

Pastors and congregations, concerned about nonattendance and apathy on the part of members and non-members alike, are tempted to resort to similar gimmicks to improve the attendance, attract new members, and build up the membership of the congregation's organizations. This seems to be particularly true in efforts to keep the young people with the church, the thought being that an attractive program of fun and games will draw the young people and somehow strengthen their faithfulness.

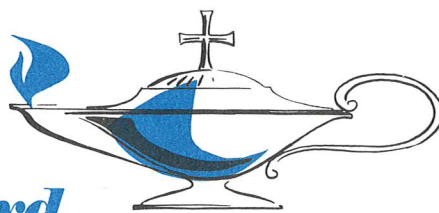
This may work after a fashion. But it works something like fishing. Take the bait away, and the fish leaves; or he stays until he sees more attractive bait elsewhere. Then you see him no more.

As the record of Scripture indicates, Jesus Christ at His time on earth could have won many more disciples by offering an attractive social program. But He declined to do so. Instead, He preached the Gospel, and those who stayed with Him stayed because He had "the words of eternal life."

This is what the Church is commissioned to offer, and it is the only thing that will make true disciples of Christ. Attempting to draw people to Christ by means of external attractions is, in effect, gilding the Gospel. There are two things wrong with this. One, it's dishonest; and two, it won't work.

Immanuel Frey

Studies in God's Word



The Christian and Thanksgiving

“Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning. Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures” (James 1:16-18).

Man needs a day of Thanksgiving. Unfortunately he does. Like his children, clutching a new present in their hands, he needs to be reminded to “say thank you.” This year, particularly, he might need the reminder which a national Day of Thanksgiving brings. Contending with the trouble of rising costs and shrinking dollars, concentrating his efforts and energies on the sandy treasures which the world’s winds want to blow away, he may have little thought in his heart and even less talk on his lips about Thanksgiving.

Christians can forget their words of thanks, too. Their eyes can drop down to life’s ditches and their backs become bent from picking up life’s pennies so that they need a reminder about praising the God from whom all blessings flow. Such a reminder James offers us in his *Course in Concrete Christianity*. No, he doesn’t use the word “thanksgiving” in our verses; instead he points us to the great Giver of all and to His greatest Gift of all. A brief look at that God and His Gift will tell us about the “Christian and Thanksgiving.”

The Great Giver of All

For giving thanks we need to lift our eyes in the right direction — up, to the right giver — God. About this Giver believers are not to be mis-

taken. From Him comes no temptation to evil, but only and always “every good and every perfect gift.” From this Giver comes only giving that is good and gifts that are perfect. With this pile up of words James tells us what to expect from our God, a constant, continuing stream of good and perfect gifts.

How can anything but good come from Him? Look at His very nature. He is “the Father of lights with whom is no variableness neither shadow of turning.” He fathered the splendid sun, moon, and stars in the sky and yet they change. To our eyes the stars vary in brilliance, the moon waxes and wanes, the sun casts shifting shadows. But with the great Giver of all is no variance or shadow caused by change. Always He shines on His children in undimmed glory. Always His mercy continues and His blessings are full. Through the precious pearl-string of His gifts runs the permanent silk cord of His unchanging goodness.

Beloved brethren, get those eyes UP to the great Giver of all. And when you do look at Him, don’t look too low by just celebrating a “thing Thanksgiving.” Certainly the various earthly blessings we have received should cause us to thank Him. Yet limiting our thanks to such items makes for little more than a turkey drumstick and pumpkin-pie sort of Thanksgiving. God has greater gifts for us than gleaming gadgets and better blessings than baker’s bread. In the spiritual realm we find His greatest gift and a gate of gratitude opened wide for all Christians.

The Greatest Gift of All

A proper view of God’s greatest gift takes us beyond Thanksgiving Day to

other days. Back in the endless day of eternity God willed to save us. In His marvelous grace, without any worthiness in us whatsoever, He chose us of His free will out of the mass of mankind to be His children and heirs of His heaven.

Then came the day when angels sang and shepherds saw in a manger the miracle of God’s love. There lay the best God could give, His Son born of woman, burdened with man’s sins, that man might become God’s son, unburdened of all sin. Soon after came another day, a black one with its crimson cross. On that cross the Savior took the pains of hell we had deserved and drained the cup of sin we had filled. On Sunday came the victory. Since Easter, the risen Christ is at work in the world. In His Word of Truth He has deposited all that man needs to know of life and salvation. Through that Word of Truth His Spirit works in men’s hearts, begetting them, producing in them the new life of faith.

For us there’s been another day, the day when God begat us through the same Word of Truth. At the baptismal font or through the spoken Word He has made us His firstfruits. Just as the first sheaves of grain were set aside for God’s use in the Old Testament, so He has set us aside for His very own. Others may be His creatures; we are His children. The world may be His goods; we are His treasure. Again and again through that same Word of Truth He has resurrected our faith when it has failed or renewed it when it has faltered.

One more day we look at — the eternal day ahead when He will take us from the church here to the church there, from the faint view of His face to full sight of it, from stumbling in a vale of tears to standing at His side, His firstfruits forevermore.

All these days we find in the words, “Of His own will begat He us with the Word of Truth that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.” For this greatest gift of all, our free salvation, we say a perpetual “thank you” to our God.

Richard E. Lauersdorf

Mr. A. Fehlauer, executive secretary of the Synod's Board for Parish Education, points to

Our Christian Day Schools As Evidence of God's Grace

In this 125th anniversary year our thoughts will be directed to the many blessings God has granted the Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod. Foremost among those blessings is the pure Word of God that is taught and preached to young and old. Another great blessing that God has granted our Synod throughout its 125 years is the Christian school. We thank our Lord for this heritage that has come down to us from our fathers. They wanted their children brought up "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord," and so do we.

In reviewing the history of the Christian day school in our midst, permit me to quote from *You and Your Synod*, a book prepared by the Board for Parish Education and published by the Northwestern Publishing House:

"When our Lutheran forefathers came to America they immediately set about establishing their own schools. At first the same building usually served as the school during five days in the week and as a church on Sundays. In many congregations the pastor was also the teacher.

"These early Lutheran schools were often called German schools because reading, writing, and spelling were taught the children in German. The catechism, Bible passages, and hymns were memorized and recited in German; and the devotions were conducted in Ger-

man. English reading, geography, history, arithmetic, and grammar were also taught. The children had to receive thorough instruction in German because that was the language used in the homes and the churches. If the young people were to understand their Bible and to participate in the church services, they had to have a good knowledge of the German language.

"The number of schools did not increase very fast in those early years because it was difficult for congregations to find capable pastors and teachers to teach their children. The Civil War also hindered the work of Christian education in the congregations. However, when the Civil War was over and when the country was fully recovered from the hard times that followed the war, Lutheran congregations and schools began to thrive. When the Wisconsin Synod celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1875, the number of schools had grown to 85. The increase in schools has continued to the present time."

In this anniversary year we have 272 Christian day schools taught by 1,178 teachers and 10 area Lutheran high schools taught by 190 teachers. A total of 26,433 children receive their elementary education and training in Christian day schools this year; 3,550 young people are enrolled in our Lutheran high schools. Eleven

congregations started their own Christian day schools this fall, and one Lutheran high-school association began a new high school. These statistics are evidence of God's continued blessing upon our Synod. They are also evidence of concerns that congregations, pastors, and parents have for the soul's welfare of their children. We continue to quote from *You and Your Synod*:

"Great changes have taken place in our Lutheran schools since those early days. In place of the crude one-room schools, we now have fine modern schools taught by well-trained teachers. Beginning about 1920, our congregations began to build new schools. They tried to improve them in every way with good facilities, teaching aids, textbooks, and required courses of study. In scholastic achievements, our schools today are equal to other schools. We have every reason to be proud of the good work being done in our Christian day schools.

"The Lord has richly blessed His Word and the faithful work of concerned Christians in our Synod, so that today many children can receive their elementary and high-school education in a Christian school."

The Christian school is indeed one of God's greatest blessings! May we never grow weary of the prayers, the work, and the sacrifices needed to establish and maintain this institution of Christian learning that can assist our parents in making their children "wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." May the Lord Himself give us the needed strength, wisdom, and zeal to carry out this great and important work of Christian education!

***On the next pages read about our
Eleven New Christian Day Schools, located at:***

***Austin, Texas
Shawano, Wisconsin
Stillwater, Minnesota
Onalaska, Wisconsin***

***Riverside, California
Sebewaing, Michigan
Fort Worth, Texas
Platteville, Wisconsin***

***Escondido, California
Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin
and
Watertown, Wisconsin***

Holy Word Ev. Lutheran of Austin, Texas, says:

It Can Be Done!

"It can't be done!" is an expression we are most accustomed to hear from the lips of natural man, and too often such a negative approach is also taken by God's children.



First day of school



Recess

Certainly when they weighed all the factors in trying to determine whether it was the time for Holy Word Ev. Lutheran Church of Austin, Texas, to begin a Christian day school, the voters of the congregation might have said, "It can't be done!" Here was one of the factors. In February, 1974, the pastor of the congregation began exploratory services in Temple, Texas, 60 miles north of Austin. In April, the General Board for Home Missions granted the group in Temple mission status. At the May meeting of the voters of Holy Word at Austin, the same meeting in which it was decided by unanimous vote to begin the school, 25 communicants

(37 souls) were transferred to the new mission in Temple. In the same meeting two other families were granted transfers to other WELS congregations. This reduced our communicant membership from 110 to 81. One would therefore not have been surprised to hear the words "It can't be done!" when the recommendation was made to begin the school. It would have been quite natural to suggest that we ought to wait until our membership had again increased and we had achieved a larger financial base.

But by the grace of God it can be done! Already in 1969 when this mission began, the hope was expressed that we might soon have a Christian day school of our own. In fact, the first worship facility on our own land was formerly a two-room school, a portable structure measuring 24 x 60. Purchased for \$10,500 in 1971, it was moved to our property and served as our church until the dedication of our present church in February of this year.

The real impetus for the school was provided with the election of a Board of Education in January, 1974. For several months the board studied and planned and distributed information. On May 5, Teacher Dan Schmeling of Calvary Lutheran, Dallas, Texas, addressed the congregation, providing us with much helpful information and guidance. On May 26 the vote was taken to begin our school in the fall of '74 with grades kindergarten through eighth.

When our first call for a teacher was declined, it was decided to call Mrs. James Radloff, the pastor's wife. She had had four years of teaching experience in Green Bay and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. With only two months remaining before the opening of school, much work needed to be done to convert the former chapel back into a classroom.

Opening day found 14 students in attendance, with none in the fourth and eighth grades. Kindergarten is being taught four mornings a week, with ladies of the congregation assisting as teacher's aids. Through the efforts and gifts of many people our classroom is fully equipped with all the necessary teaching aids. But, most important, our classroom is staffed with a Christian teacher whose daily desire it is to lead our children into a fuller knowledge of the grace and love of our God in Christ Jesus.

We wish to thank the Texas Mission District Mission Board and the General Board for Home Missions for granting us permission to begin this school while we are still a mission congregation. A hearty thank-you also to the many people who worked hard and made generous contributions. But chiefly we praise God for having led us to begin a school where our children will receive a full-time Christian education. By His grace and with His blessing it can be done!

Pastor James Radloff

Divine Savior of Shawano, Wisconsin

"The Lord bless you," is a portion of the benediction which the members of Divine Savior Lutheran Church in Shawano, Wisconsin, have heard at the end of every service they've attended. Of course, "The Lord bless you" is always a true spiritual promise of our loving God. But what a wonderful thrill when we are allowed to SEE the Lord bless in visible ways!

This has been the privilege enjoyed by a congregation of God's people located on the southern edge of Wisconsin's summer and winter vacationland. Established in 1966 as a WELS mission in an area heavily concentrated with people and churches of other Lutheran fellowships, Di-

According to Salem Ev. Lutheran of Stillwater, Minnesota

It Pays to Plan

When the present Salem Lutheran Church and Education Building at Stillwater, Minnesota, were dedicated in 1963, three of the classrooms were designed to be of sufficient size to be used for day-school purposes, if and when the congregation should resolve to establish a Christian day school.

In the January, 1973, congregational meeting Salem's voting members resolved to investigate the possibility of opening a school and appointed a committee to survey the congregation. When this survey produced encouraging reports, the committee was authorized to conduct "cottage meetings" at which the advantages, problems, and difficulties involved in establishing a Christian day school were discussed.

The following January the congre-

gation resolved to open its Christian day school, allotting up to \$10,000 to finance the first year and proceeding to call a teacher for grades kindergarten through fourth. After two calls had been issued unsuccessfully, Miss Bonnie Voth was persuaded to accept our call. In the meantime it was resolved to include grades 5 and 6 in response to requests by some parents.

Enrollment for the first year numbers 21 children in grades kindergarten through 6. Mrs. Charles Kurth of Hastings, Minnesota, a graduate of DMLC, offered to teach the kindergarten and to assist with the first and second grades. The vicar, Dalles C. Miller, teaches religion and language to the upper grades. Some of the mothers also assist in various ways.

The congregation's master plan has set aside space on the church grounds for an eight-room school adjacent to the present education building. The church grounds, which cover two city blocks, provide very adequate playground space.

Pastor P. R. Kurth



Erected in 1963

Visible Proof of God's Blessing

vine Savior from its beginning has been blessed by the Lord with the marvelous Gospel of Jesus Christ drawn from God's inspired Word.

By 1970, Divine Savior was a five-year-old, still-struggling congregation of 15 communicants that received permission to build a chapel. The Lord blessed Divine Savior with a CEF-financed worship facility and immediately added to that blessing by giving the congregation its first resident pastor, Ronald Muetzel, who continues to serve the congregation at present.

Suddenly the young congregation found its membership increasing

(Continued on next page)



Mr. and Mrs. E. Knobloch and pupils.

rapidly. Adult confirmands, doctrinally-concerned Lutherans, and transfers from other WELS congregations contributed to the growth. Within four years the Lord blessed Divine Savior so greatly that its communicant membership rose from 15 to 160.

One visible blessing brought with it another. In the summer of 1973 Divine Savior was able to become self-supporting. The Lord blessed the congregation with financial stability and a membership sincere in their stewardship efforts.

And now, another visible blessing of God. On September 3, 1974, Divine Savior Lutheran School began holding classes in the basement of the church. Visible for all to see were two

well-equipped classrooms, 22 eager students, and three faithful teachers.

In every way this new Christian day school has to be considered a blessing of the Lord. The classrooms are furnished with more than adequate teaching tools. While an early estimate projected an enrollment of five students, the Lord blessed the school with an opening enrollment of 22. Divine Savior had planned to open its school with all eight grades in one classroom taught by one teacher. The Lord blessed the school with that one teacher and principal, Ernest F. Knobloch, a 1974 graduate of DMLC. The Lord also multiplied His blessing when He moved Mrs. Janet Knobloch and Mrs. Joyce Frisque voluntarily to assume responsibility

for grades 1 to 4, making it possible for the children to be taught in two classrooms.

The comment has frequently come from those of the "original 15" who are still members of Divine Savior: "Who would have guessed that the Lord could bless as richly as He has!" It is certainly proper that all the members of Divine Savior as they reflect on the Lord's past blessings will also look to the future with the confidence that the Lord will continue to bless. He has made that promise. In the brief history of Divine Savior He has given visible proof of that promise.

Pastor Ronald M. Muetzel

St. Paul's of Onalaska, Wisconsin tells what happens

When the Lord Forces Your Hand

There are times when the Lord forces your hand and brings things about before you ever dream it possible. It was this way with the establishment of St. Paul's Lutheran School in Onalaska, Wisconsin.

Onalaska is known as the "Bedroom of La Crosse." It's a village that has grown rapidly into a city of houses. When St. Paul's Congregation dedicated its church back in 1957 the members did not realize

how fast the village and the congregation would grow. As the Lord blessed the congregation with many new families and many children, the congregation felt somewhat like the old woman who lived in a shoe. Saturday school found children everywhere. Some were taught the saving Word in the sacristy, others in the balcony, and still others in the parsonage basement. The Lord had given the congregation more children than its facilities could handle. Thus He gave the members little choice but to expand their educational facilities.

In January, 1972, after years of planning and praying, the members voted to build an educational unit. The building was to serve the Saturday school and Sunday school. It was also to meet the state code for a Lutheran grade school, since nearly 40 children from St. Paul's Congregation were attending parochial school in La Crosse at that time, and there was considerable interest in Lutheran grade-school education. In March, 1973, the congregation dedicated a new, one-story, 60 x 84-foot education building. The structure, which cost \$126,000, has a full basement and four classrooms.

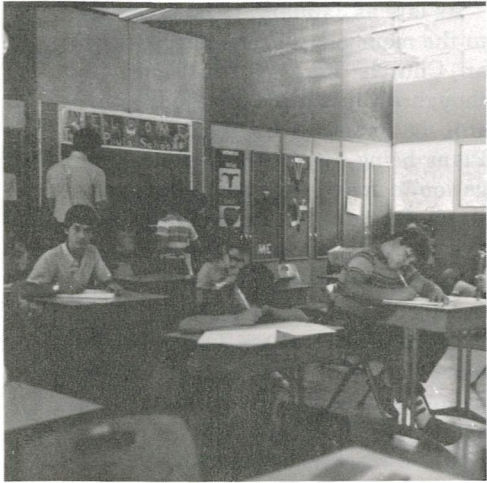
Also in 1973 an Education Committee was established and given the assignment of studying and improving the Christian education program of the congregation. The committee



Mr. John Lau and a number of his first-to-fourth graders

An Empty Schoolbuilding Filled

At St. Paul's, Riverside, California



A busy classroom —
Mr. J. Sievert at blackboard

Tuesday, September 10, 1974, was an exceptional day for the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church at Riverside, California, its children, and its pastor, the Rev. A. B. Haben. On that day, our Christian day school opened its doors for the first time to 22 students in grades 1 through 7.

Just one year ago, September 30, 1973, our congregation dedicated its facilities to the Glory of God. These facilities included an empty school building (see *The Northwestern Lutheran*, January 13, 1974). God who

gave us the building also moved us to open our school so that our youngsters might not only learn the "three R's" but also learn the Word of God.

We have been richly blessed indeed! God has provided us with the facilities, the support of the congregation, the funds necessary for the needed supplies and equipment, and the youngsters to be taught. He has sent us a teacher to help guide our youngsters. He has provided us with the necessary parent help for the various services needed to make a school function. If someone even thought that "our school was unnecessary, or that it would fail for lack of interest," they were proved totally wrong, for we have been blessed with everything needed to establish and conduct our school. A nearby sister congregation, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of Yucaipa, also brings every one of its school-age children to our school so that they, too, might obtain a Christ-centered education.

Our teacher, Mr. James Sievert (DMLC-74), came to us in July and was installed in August as teacher-principal. His call directs him to "develop the school to its full potential," and he is working to his full capacity in that direction. The assignment of Mr. Sievert included a "bonus" to our congregation, in that his wife, the former Marilyn Wagoner of Norfolk, Nebraska, is also a teacher (DMLC-74). She spent countless hours with her husband helping to prepare the classroom for the opening of school and is now helping to provide individual and small-group instruction to some of the students.

Our congregation is proud of its school and fully realizes that what we have is a gift from God, who has helped us through our members, friends, and also through the Church Extension Fund. It is our intent, with the help of God, in the near future, to fill our remaining classrooms with students.

Joseph G. Werner, chairman
St. Paul's Congregation

felt that a Lutheran grade school, where God's Word is taught every day and where Christ is all in all, would be a great blessing to the congregation and that the time was "now." Waiting would only mean that some children would not have the blessings of a Christ-centered education.

Questionnaires were sent to each home of the congregation. The members were asked whether they were interested in establishing a Lutheran grade school and if they would enroll their children in such a school. Though less than one-third of the questionnaires were returned, the vast majority of those returned were in favor of establishing a Lutheran grade school. The parents of over 40 children indicated that they would enroll their children.

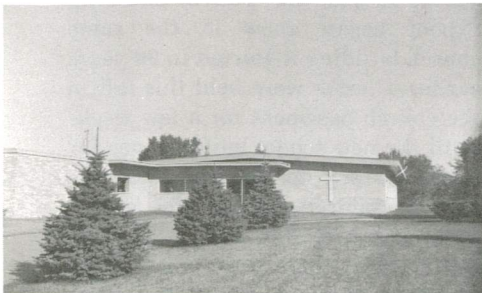
A series of information meetings were held in November of 1973. Filmstrips concerning Lutheran grade-school education were shown, fol-

lowed by panel discussions with question and answer periods. At the annual meeting in January, 1974, the Education Committee proposed that the congregation establish a Lutheran grade school in the fall of this year. By a majority of 39 to 10 the congregation voted to establish a Christian day school. The Lord had moved the congregation to take this step of faith sooner than many of the members dreamed it possible.

In the meantime the congregation also voted to call a part-time teacher for kindergarten and a full-time teacher for up to four grades. Mrs. Rodney Bauer, a member of the congregation, accepted the call to teach the kindergarten. The Holy Spirit moved Mr. John Lau of Edmonds, Washington, to become the full-time teacher and principal.

On opening day, September 3, 1974, the enrollment was eight children in kindergarten and 29 children in grades 1 through 4. The message of the opening service centered on the words of the 12-year-old Jesus, "Wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?" May the Father in heaven bless this new school and grant that the students, teachers, parents, and all the members of St. Paul's Congregation be eternally blessed as they go about His business!

Pastor James Mumm



New Salem Lutheran at Sebewaing, Michigan

A Garden Spot Reopens A Garden for Souls



Plants in God's garden

Sebewaing, Michigan, could well be called one of the garden spots of Michigan. It is surrounded by fertile land and bountiful harvests. Here New Salem Lutheran Church, one year after observing its 120th anniversary, opened a garden for souls when it reopened its Christian day school. Here, long after the sugar beets and navy beans have been harvested, children will continue to learn of how the events that transpired in the Garden of Eden and in the Garden of Gethsemane have affected the souls of all, stressing the importance of the final harvest of souls.

New Salem continues to follow in the footsteps of its mother congregation, Salem Lutheran Church of Scio, (Ann Arbor) Michigan, in its mission and Christian education emphasis. Back in 1886 when New Salem Congregation dedicated its first school building, it received an influx of new members which brought new life to the congregation. In 1938 the old school was moved to its present location and another classroom added in 1958. Then, in 1965, the school was closed.

A canvass of every home, made in November 1973, revealed that 90 per cent of the members were in favor of reopening the Christian day school. The necessary approval of the voters was also received in the subsequent annual meeting of the congregation. Mr. Martin Roehler, serving New Salem as Minister of Christian education since 1969, accepted the call as principal and teacher of grades 5 to 8. Miss Lois Lindke, a 1974 graduate of Dr. Martin Luther College, is the teacher of grades 1 to 4. Many hours of donated labor by the members and special gifts toward furnishing and equipping the school helped to ready the school for the 29 pupils — representing all eight grades — present on opening day, August 27, 1974.

May the Lord continue to bless all efforts on behalf of Christian education so that many more gardens for priceless souls may be established in accord with Jesus' invitation, "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not"! Of this the hymnwriter says, "If thus you place them in His care, you and your household well shall fare."

Pastor Phillip Huebner

As late as January, 1973, it seemed to the members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Fort Worth, Texas, as though a Christian day school would still be many years in the future. Plans being discussed by the congregation included only the building of a small first unit, to be followed in a few years by an educational wing.

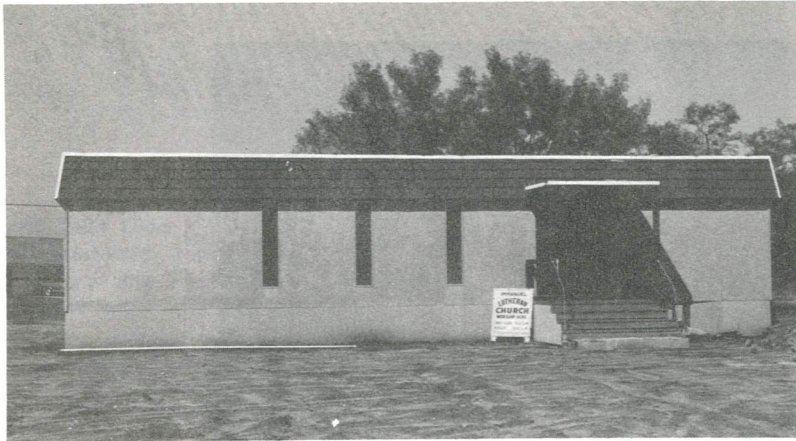
Then the Texas Mission Board provided us with a relocatable chapel (see *The Northwestern Lutheran*, October 21, 1973). This chapel enabled us to postpone definite building plans until our communicant strength would warrant a larger facility. Planning, however, proceeded and included a first unit large enough to provide space for a Christian day school.

Although building funds had not yet been authorized from the Church Extension Fund, the Lord opened an opportunity for us to begin our school before we had even begun the construction of our first unit. Several favorable events in the summer of 1974 encouraged us to begin by making use of the relocatable chapel. The

St. Paul's of Platteville, Wisconsin, is a congregation 98 years old. Slightly more than 200 confirmed Christians call this congregation their church home. St. Paul's was blessed with having a Christian day school from 1876 until 1917. In May of 1973 God saw fit to guide the voters to determine to reestablish that Christian day school. After much prayer, planning, and persistence, the recommendations to build a new school building, to call a teacher, and to begin classes in the fall of 1974 were adopted by the voters in May of 1974.

Thus, 57 years after that first school closed, St. Paul's Lutheran School began anew in the same church building it started in 98 years earlier. Classes were held this fall in the church basement for a few weeks until the new school building was far enough along to accommodate the school children. When the school opening service was held on September 9, 1974, there were tears of joy and there were questions. But there

Immanuel of Fort Worth, Texas, rejoices in *An Unexpected Blessing*



The Relocatable Chapel that became a School

congregation had always favored a parochial school, and now it developed that nine children would enroll in the school if we could find a way to start it. In August the congrega-

tion voted unanimously to request the mission board for permission to open a school. An experienced teacher was available. Prof. F. Wulff of DMLC would be in Fort Worth for a

year studying at Texas Christian University. His wife Annette was willing to teach, and Pastor Myrl Wagenknecht agreed to serve as principal.

Equipment was rounded up in a hurry. The congregation already had much Sunday-school equipment on hand. St. Paul's Lutheran School of New Ulm, Minnesota, provided curriculum guidance, loaned us some books and sold us others. Calvary School of Dallas, Texas, gave us a used duplicator. And, above all, Immanuel's members responded generously with donations of books, bookshelves, teaching aids, and supplies. Several women of the congregation also offered to assist in the classroom. So school was ready on opening day.

Groundbreaking for our new unit is planned for December, and it is our hope that our school will finish its first year in its own new building. Realizing the great blessing of a school which is Christ-centered, we are motivated all the more to "tell His wonderful deeds."

Pastor Myrl Wagenknecht

St. Paul's of Platteville, Wisconsin, urges *Prayer, Planning, Persistence*

was also our faithful Lord guiding us with His Word of promise. Dedication of the new building will take place on November 17 at 3:00 P.M.

Miss Terry Vanderlin is our teacher. She is a 1974 graduate of Dr. Martin Luther College. A native of Green Bay, Wisconsin, she attended St. Paul's Lutheran School in Green Bay and Fox Valley Lutheran High School in Appleton. Miss Vanderlin teaches songs, science, Scripture. She plays keep-away with our children. She laughs with our children. She disciplines our children. But, most important, she points our children daily to their Savior. How can we rightly thank our Lord for such a blessing!

Countless individuals were involved in the establishment of our

school. There were the members of the Lutheran Pioneers, the Youth Group, and the Ladies' Aid who sanded and painted the desks. We

(Continued on next page)



Miss Terry Vanderlin opening the door to a new experience

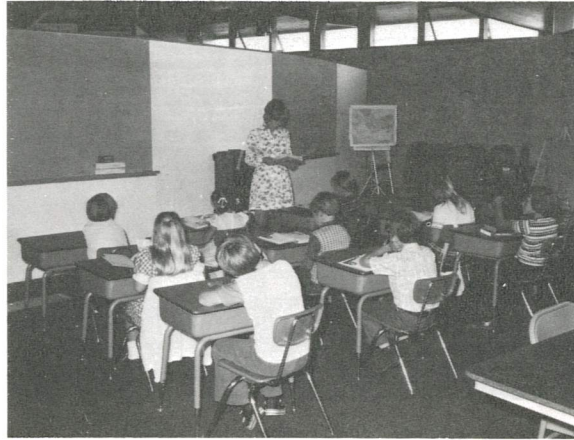
Can Any Good Come from the Energy Crisis?

Ask Ascension Lutheran at Escondido, California

"What good could ever come out of the energy crisis?" God has assured His children that He can make good come from the troubles that affect them in this world. The members of Ascension Lutheran Church, Escondido, California, can testify to that. The good that came to them from the energy crisis was their own Christian day school.

Ever since the founding of the congregation, the members of Ascension Lutheran had in mind starting their own Christian day school. Until such a time as the congregation was able to begin its own school, many of the members transported their children to the school of their sister congregation, Reformation Lutheran Church in San Diego. For many this meant driving 140 miles a day. In January, 1974, the high price of gasoline and its scarcity moved the families who were sending their children to the day school in San Diego to ask their congregation, which had set as its goal to begin a school in the fall of 1975, to consider the question of beginning in 1974.

The Board of Education undertook a study of the question, dealing with such questions as: What would be the financial impact on the budget? How many children would enroll? Could the fellowship area be transformed



Left: Miss Marcia Lindemann busy teaching grades one to eight

Right: Pastor L. Lange and the children of Ascension Christian Day School



into a temporary classroom? How many grades would be represented? The initial study, involving a personal contact with every parent who had grade-school-age children, revealed great interest. It was determined that all eight grades should be

offered to meet the needs of the congregation. On April 21, 1974, the Board of Education recommended to the voting members of the congregation that the congregation begin a Christian day school in September. The motion passed unanimously.

Platteville (Continued)

owe thanks to friends who donated school items, members who in gratitude to their Lord promised to support the project, grandmothers who with their prayers boldly approached the throne of God, our Synod's Board for Parish Education which gave guidance and advice, and former pastors who had held this goal before the congregation. People did much. But God did it all.

It is a small beginning. The school building is a steel structure with an

area of 5,000 square feet and costing \$50,000. The enrollment for the first quarter is 10, with children in grades 1, 3, 4, 5, and 6. But there have been other small beginnings. Only eight emerged from the ark. Two lived in the genesis of life in Eden. One died on the cross. Thus, though it is a small school, with many unsolved and even unmet problems, we have a God who is greater and who wants us to test His power, His promises, His love.

You don't have to be young to be interested in a Christian school. You don't even have to have children of school age to be interested in a Christian school. God's love for man, our confession of sinfulness, concern for perpetuating the faith, love for the Savior, thankfulness for God's pure Word — all basic ingredients of any Christian — these all impel us to be interested.

Pastor LeRoy Martin

Now a great deal of work needed to be done in a short time. The fellowship area of the church was renovated to serve as a classroom. Desks and supplies were ordered. A teacher was called. The Lord opened the hearts of members and friends of Ascension so that the offerings exceeded even the fondest expectations of the pastor and the Board of Education. Generous gifts made it possible to furnish the entire school without drawing on the general fund. Several schools in California and Wisconsin donated textbooks and resource books. All the bookshelves and blackboards were constructed by a member of the congregation.

Miss Marcia Lindemann, a graduate of DMLC, was called as teacher for all eight grades. An arrangement was worked out whereby the pastor of Ascension would teach the religion classes for grades 5 to 8. Miss Lindemann is also assisted by aids from the congregation.

On September 10, 1974, school began with an enrollment of 21 students, representing about 77 per cent of the potential in the congregation. Of special interest is the fact that the eighth grade is the largest class. Quite often, when a new school is begun, parents are reluctant to enroll their child for only one year. This was not the case at Ascension.

The members of Ascension Lutheran are thankful to the Lord for enabling them to open a full-time agency of Christian education in their congregation. In a Christian day school the Law and the Gospel are applied to the hearts and lives of the children in the classroom and on the playground. Every Wednesday morning the children assemble in church for a chapel service. Offerings are collected to help share the Gospel with others in other parts of the world. Thus our children are taught to share their greatest blessing with others.

What good thing can come out of the energy crisis? The members of Ascension know that God used it to spur them on to begin their own Christian day school earlier than they planned. For this they respond with a humble yet hearty "Thank You!"

Pastor Lyle W. Lange

Read why

St. Paul's of Rt. 1, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, says that she is

The Grandmother of Them All

On January 20, 1974, St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Congregation, R. 1, Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin, better known as the church at Millersville, passed the resolution to open a Christian day school for its children. It was decided to begin with grades kindergarten through 5.

How many times a like resolution was made in the congregation's 112-year-old history is known to God alone. How many surveys for a Christian day school were made in the past and how many hearts longed for a Christian day school for their children is not recorded. And God only knows how many prayers were uttered for a Christian day school. These prayers, however, were not in vain, for this grace, the grace of having a Christian day school, has now also been given to St. Paul's. St. Paul's may well have the distinction of being the oldest congregation in the Synod to open a Christian day school for the first time. We may well call her "the Grandmother of them all."

In 1966, the congregation erected a "Christian Education Building," planned and constructed in such a manner that the building could be used for both Sunday-school classes and a Christian day school. The building provides space for three classrooms and an office. It can accommodate 100 day-school children.

On March 17, 1974, the congregation called Mr. Theodore Lau as teacher-principal to open its new Christian day school. Mr. Lau accepted the challenge and was installed on June 30. His coming to us so early provided time and opportunity to prepare properly for the opening of school. Donations, which flowed freely and joyfully, equipped the one classroom with everything needed for the school operation. What has taken some schools years to accumulate, God has showered upon St. Paul's at the very beginning.

On the day the congregation voted to open its Christian day school, 14

(Continued on next page)



Class with Mrs. Simonsmeier (teacher's aide) and Teacher Th. Lau

After 40 years of conducting
a joint school with St. Mark's,

Trinity of Watertown, Wisconsin, *Erects Its Own School*

To include Trinity Lutheran School in a list of new schools opened this year in the Synod is only true in part. Trinity Lutheran Church has been active in the area of Christian elementary education for most of the years of its existence. Pastor F. E. Stern, the first resident pastor of the congregation, taught several classes at St. Mark's Christian Day School in Watertown. In 1933 the congregation extended a call to its first teacher, Miss Hertha Sievert, who has continued to serve faithfully these many years. Trinity has been united in a joint effort with St. Mark's for more than 40 years, calling and salarizing presently three teachers, paying its proportionate share of operation and maintenance costs, and also paying depreciation on the facilities owned by St. Mark's. It has been a joint endeavor with St. Mark's and one which has brought abundant blessings to both congregations.

The Lord's gracious hand rested in blessing upon this joint school, increasing its enrollment until it became one of the largest in the Synod, with more than 450 pupils presently enrolled. When St. Mark's found it necessary to replace one of the buildings in the school complex, the members of Trinity resolved after prayerful and careful deliberation that this was the proper time to erect their own facility.

Trinity's new school building is situated on a site purchased from the city and ideally located only a block from the church property. The building is of block and brick construction, with four classrooms readied for present use and a large assembly room which can easily be converted into two additional classrooms. A sizable gymnasium, bookstore, principal's office, teachers' lounge, nurse's office, and the necessary auxiliary rooms have also been provided. The total cost of the project, includ-

ing site and equipment, will be approximately \$370,000. Occupancy is anticipated about the first of the year.

Trinity's faculty at the present time numbers three teachers: Mr. Allen Krause, principal and upper grades (since 1969), Miss Hertha Sievert, intermediate grades (since 1933), and Miss Magdalene Pabst, primary grades (since 1974). The student body totals 95, including 88 children from Trinity and 7 from St. Luke's Congregation in Watertown. Plans are being made for the addition of a fourth teacher.

The members of Trinity are indeed grateful that their children have been privileged these many years to sit at Jesus' feet in the school operated jointly with St. Mark's, and now in a facility of their own. May the Lord's loving hand rest upon both schools!

Pastor Walter A. Schumann, Jr.



Under construction

Mr. Allen Krause teaching upper grades



Sheboygan Falls (Cont.)

children were expected to attend. Before the opening day, 22 children were enrolled. On September 3, 1974, school opened with a divine service, which was well attended by the members of the congregation. This gave much encouragement to both the children and their teacher. Our teacher is also assisted daily in his classroom duties by a very capable teacher's helper, Mrs. Robert Simonsmeier.

Our congregation is happy. Our children are happy. Our teacher is equally happy. The parents are most helpful and cooperative. For all this, and for much more than can be told here, we humbly thank and praise the grace of our heavenly Father in Jesus' name.

Pastor Henry Juroff

Christian Day School Centennial

Reedsville, Wisconsin

September 22, 1974 will be a day long remembered by members and friends of St. John-St. James Congregation of Reedsville, Wisconsin. For on that crisp, clear, sunny day the Lord privileged them to observe the centennial anniversary of St. John-St. James Christian Day School. Over 1,250 worshipers in three services lifted their voices to the Lord in thanksgiving for the countless blessings the Lord has bestowed on the congregation and its children through this full-time agency of Christian education. Some 600 members and guests enjoyed Christian fellowship at a potluck noon meal hosted by the ladies of the congregation. Ten former teachers were able to accept the congregation's invitation to return for the day. Historical displays, including confirmation pictures dating back 70 years and other memorabilia, brought a valuable lesson in history for the young and fond memories for the not-so-young. A special painting in honor of the occasion was presented to the school by Mrs. Gilbert Bonnin of Appleton, sister-in-law of the school's principal, Mr. Earl Brassow. The special centennial offering was designated for projects in the school, especially the improvement of the school's library.

Almost immediately after German immigrants from Pomerania and West Prussia founded St. James Congregation of Reedsville in 1857, the congregation's members began to work toward the establishment of a facility for the Christian training of their children. A merger between St. James Congregation and another group of Lutherans on the other side of what is now the village of Reedsville in 1861 formed the present St. John-St. James parish and made the need for the Christian training of the children all the more evident. The difficult economic times into which

the entire nation was plunged by the Civil War, however, delayed the opening of the school until 1874. In the fall of that year Pastor Albert Kluge began teaching about 30 students in a small frame building that served as both church and school. The building became exclusively a school in 1879, when the present church building was erected. All courses were taught in German until 1887, when the congregation decided that both German and English should be taught. Our *You and Your Synod* reports that when the Wisconsin Synod observed its 25th anniversary in 1875, the number of Christian schools in the Synod was 85. St. John-St. James School of Reedsville was one of them.

have served the congregation during the school's first century. In 1903 a sturdy, two-story brick building was erected at a cost of \$4,000. This building, extensively remodeled in the early 1940s, still serves as a wing of the present school. Other wings were added in 1951 and 1961. The first woman teacher was called shortly after the 1903 building was dedicated. Forty women have thus far served as teachers in our school.

It was the Word of God on which St. John-St. James School was founded. Its program of education, 100 years later, still centers on the same Word. Two former pastors of St. John-St. James reminded the worshipers of this vital truth on Centennial Day. Pastor Harold Eckert, executive secretary of the Synod's Board of Trustees, who served St. John-St. James from 1934 to 1949, brought the Word of Life in the two morning services. Using as his text Hebrews 9:28, he spoke to the worshipers on the theme "Once Only in History." He reminded the congregation that once only in history, once and for all time, Christ out of love and mercy offered



St. John-St. James' faculty (left to right): Mrs. Norman Pantzlaff, Norman Pantzlaff, Earl Brassow, Mrs. Albert Zimmermann, and Miss Ellen Geiger.

When in 1880 the press of congregational duties grew so great that the pastor could no longer serve also as teacher, the congregation called its first full-time teacher, a Mr. Henry Pautz. A total of 17 men teachers

Himself on Calvary as the substitutionary sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. All the unbelief in the world cannot change the truth of this

(Continued on next page)

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

On September 10, 1974, Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for the forty-fifth time began a new school year with an opening service in the Seminary chapel at Mequon, Wisconsin. In this opening service the chairman of the Board of Control, Pastor W. O. Pless, formally installed the Rev. Paul Nitz as the sixteenth member of the Seminary faculty. We note with thankful appreciation that thereby the Seminary faculty staff reached its full requested strength. Professor Nitz was called to teach in the fields of Old Testament and Pastoral Theology. During the present school year he will, however, be pursuing graduate studies at Madison in the University of Wisconsin's Department of Hebrew and Semitics.

The Seminary enrollment likewise gave cause for rejoicing on opening day. The new Junior class numbers 70 members. Of these, eight came to the Seminary by way of the Bethany Program of Special Preseminary Training. Of the seminarians, 174 will be attending classes during the school year, 69 will be engaged in vicar service, and one will be pursuing supplementary studies in music. The total enrollment is 224.

Prof. Richard Balge, who preached in the opening service on Acts 20:24,

focused the attention of all faculty members and students, the new as well as the old, upon the work of the Gospel ministry. Concerning this ministry he fittingly stressed the following thoughts:

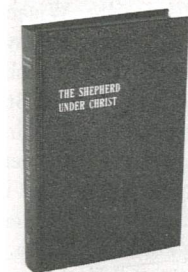
The Apostle Paul regarded his ministry as more important than life itself. In the face of danger to body and life, he continued his purposeful running in the service of the Savior and His Gospel. We may not be called upon, as he was, to risk our lives in this ministry. The work does not often require that men die for it; but it always requires that they live for it.

Paul attached such importance to this ministry because it was committed to him by the Lord Jesus. The men to whom he spoke had received their ministry as elders in Ephesus mediately; but it was still the Holy Ghost who had made them overseers of the flock. The ministry which Jesus established is entrusted to us through congregations or assignment committees or seminary boards, but its real source is still the Savior.

The work of the ministry would have no real purpose if it were not for the content of the Gospel. Paul summarizes it here as "the grace of God." The Friend of publicans and sinners

had called him, a Pharisee and self-righteous fanatic, to be a believer and an Apostle. That was grace, and that too was the heart of his message. The content of the Gospel has not changed. It is still the grace of God. All of our theological study is an effort to grow in appreciation of that Gospel of the grace of God, so that all the years of our ministry may be spent in faithfully proclaiming it.

Carl Lawrenz



THE SHEPHERD UNDER CHRIST

by A. Schuetze and I. Habeck.

The authors are two professors who teach Pastoral Theology at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. They have had extensive experience in the parish ministry.

Every one of our pastors should have this book for his library. It is practical and speaks directly to the circumstances which pastors face in our modern world. A truly evangelical and Lutheran spirit pervades the entire book, according to the Christian ministry the position which it has in Scripture — that of undershepherds of the Good Shepherd of the sheep, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Cloth. 389 pages. Retail price until December 31, 1974, is \$7.50. After January 1, 1975, the price will be \$10.00

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St. John-St. James School

historical fact. That "once only" in the life of Christ alone could make possible this "once only" centennial observance of this Christian day school, for without Calvary there would be no Christian day schools. Everything that is worthwhile and of eternal value in a program of Christian education is there because of that "once only" in the life of our Savior.

In the evening service Pastor J. J. Wendland of Escanaba, Michigan, pastor of St. John-St. James from 1954 to 1962, impressed upon the hearers a "Twofold Anniversary Reminder." Expounding on Exodus 19:3-5, he urged them to "Be Mindful

of God's Love" and to "Be Mindful of God's Word." Pastor Wendland assured the congregation that it was God's love which for 100 years granted them the blessings that only a Christian school can bring. He urged them to adhere steadfastly to these blessings in the future.

The century of grace now concluded has fully convinced the members of St. John-St. James that a Christian school is indeed the backbone of a Christian congregation, the very best way a congregation can assist parents in carrying out the Lord's admonition to bring up their children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." St. John-St. James' enrollment of 114 represents 95 per cent of the congregation's children of school

age. Mr. Earl Brassow, at Reedsville since 1960, is principal. Mr. and Mrs. Norman Pantzlaff, Mrs. Albert Zimmermann, and Miss Ellen Geiger complete the faculty. Miss Geiger also conducts a special religion class for several of the congregation's children with learning handicaps.

St. John-St. James Congregation of Reedsville, a 117-year-old congregation with a 100-year-old school, is deeply grateful to the Lord for the undeserved grace that He has bestowed upon it through its Christian school. We pray that the Lord will move the members of many more of our Synod's congregations to support and maintain Christian schools.

Pastor H. J. Kuschel

Pastor Henry C. Sprenger
1887 - 1974



Pastor Henry Sprenger was called to rest on June 9, 1974. He began his pilgrimage as one of six children born to Henry Sprenger and Bertha Hundertmark. He was born at Kelso, Missouri, November 3, 1887. To train for the Lutheran ministry, he enrolled in Concordia Lutheran College

and then studied theology at Springfield Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. Upon graduation in 1912, he received his first call to a mission at Edgemont, South Dakota. Pastor Sprenger served in the holy ministry for a total of 43 years, retiring in 1955 because of ill health. Upon "call" he continued to minister to others almost up to the day of his death. The places where Pastor Sprenger labored in the Lord's vineyard are: Edgemont, South Dakota (9 months); Parker, South Dakota (6 years); Brookings, South Dakota (13 years); Marshall and Milroy, Minnesota (6 years); Balaton, Minnesota (17 years). He also served faithfully as a member of the Dakota-Montana Mission Board.

After retirement in 1955, Pastor and Mrs. Sprenger moved to Tracy, Minnesota, where they lived for seven years. During the past 12 years they made their home in Balaton. During

these years Pastor Sprenger was always available to serve as an assisting pastor at Christ Lutheran, Marshall, Minnesota.

Pastor Sprenger was married to Emma Wienbert on October 6, 1912. God blessed their home with six children, all of whom survive. They are: Walter Sprenger of Los Angeles; Eleanora, Mrs. Lawrence Wickmann of Balaton; Esther, Mrs. Melville Schultz of Belle Plaine; Vernon Sprenger of Sussex, Wisconsin; Rhoda, Mrs. Darwin Knudson of Balaton; and Norman Sprenger of Cloquet, Minnesota. Mrs. Sprenger continues to live in Balaton.

The funeral service was held at Christ Lutheran, Marshall, Minnesota, with burial in St. Peter's Lutheran Cemetery at Balaton. "Precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of His saints."

Pastor William Ziebell

Looking at the Religious World

Time to Talk Turkey

As America prepares to celebrate Thanksgiving Day, 1974, it appears there will be less propensity to talk about our unprecedented prosperity than in many a year. With rampant inflation the number one concern on almost everyone's mind, this may be the year for talking turkey instead of eating it.

Much is being said and written currently about the problems inflation creates. The problem list is almost endless, and the church is certainly not exempted. A representative of the Lutheran Church who participated in President Ford's summit Conference on Inflation listed a number of them. They included:

- inflated congregational operating costs coupled with an erosion of the giving source";
- the difficulty of church-related institutions to borrow high-interest money to meet their needs;
- the consequent necessity for individuals who are recipients of Christian charity to seek public assistance, thus requiring more tax dollars;

— the likely possibility of legislation which would seriously affect tax benefits to individuals who give to churches or to church causes.

That by no means exhausts the list, but it does indicate some of the areas of concern. There is, however, another inflation-related problem which appears to pose much more of a threat to the future of the church though scant attention is being paid to it.

Estimates are that in another six years the Middle East oil-producing nations will have accumulated a foreign currency surplus amounting to \$650 billion (*Time*, Oct. 14, p. 33). A Lebanese banker has predicted that by the end of the century those nations will be in possession of two-thirds of all the monetary reserves in the world.

What then? The nations which will control all that wealth are Moslem. None of them are at present open to Christian mission work. For centuries the bulk of the resources to conduct Christian mission work came from the nations of the Western world. If

information and insight

and when the monetary reserves pass from their hands into the hands of the leaders of Moslem nations, what will happen to the cause of Christian missions? That is something to pray about as we gather to thank God for the abundance of His blessings past and present.

It just may be that the Lord of missions is using the high cost of living to teach us all a lesson about the cost of living high. Blessed is the man who has learned that lesson, for he has learned the secret of enduring prosperity! And he really has something to be thankful for!

Something for the Suggestion Box

Committee men in many of our churches are currently giving hard, serious thought to budget proposals for next year. The inflationary spiral does not make their task an easy one. How does one make ends meet in an era of ever increasing costs?

Yet we dare to suggest an additional budgetary item which could return big dividends to the congregation. That additional item is the cost

of making it possible for your pastor to attend the summer quarter at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, June 23 to July 11, 1975.

The experience of one of last summer's enrollees may help to make the point. "I came to the summer quarter," he noted, "because the opportunity was made available to me by the congregation, not because I had an eagerness to pick up some weeks of hard study. After several days here, I realized that with a 13-year reprieve from this side of the classroom, it was one of the finest experiences that could have happened to my ministry. One so easily gets in ruts, especially in large congregations where the schedule is routinely similar. This affects preaching, teaching, and pastoral work. One begins to feel he is playing a role that the congregation expects a minister to play. This quarter of 'back to the basics' has put me back on top of the situation again. I have learned how little I knew, how much I have forgotten, and how perfunctory the ministry can become without such a refreshing jolt."

Lest some think that only large congregations are in a position to make such participation possible, let it be noted that three California missions helped make it possible for their pastors to attend the last summer quarter.

Even if you aren't on the budget committee, you can still pass the suggestion along. Your congregation has much to gain and nothing to lose.

Joel C. Gerlach

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(Submitted through the District Presidents)

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Montello, WI 53949

Direct from the Districts



South Atlantic Teachers' Conference (left to right); standing: J. Breiling, C. Hutchinson, M. Bahn, E. Bahn, Pastor R. Wiechmann, D. Schwanke, M. Wagie, and G. Vetter; seated: L. Smith, M. Boehme, R. Fischer, G. Boehme, T. Fisher, G. LaGrow, and D. Page.

South Atlantic

New South Atlantic Teachers' Conference

Fourteen teachers, representing the three Christian day schools of the South Atlantic District, met in balmy Lake Placid, Florida, in late summer to form the southernmost teachers' conference of the Wisconsin Synod. The theme, "The Mission School in the Mission Church," was developed in a series of papers delivered by District President Raymond Wiechmann and the four veteran male teachers of the District, George LaGrow, Gordon Vetter, Mark Boehme, and Robert Fischer. On hand to open the August 2-3 meeting was the chairman of the District's Board for Parish Education, Pastor John Lawrenz. Also present and contributing to the discussion was the chairman of the District's Mission Board, Pastor Larry Zwieg.

The newly formed conference resolved to continue its study of the pe-

INSTALLATIONS

(Authorized by the District Presidents)

Pastors:

Kujath, Mentor E., as editor in chief of the Northwestern Publishing House in a service at Gloria-Dei-Bethesda Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, on September 22, 1974, by D. Kuehl (SEW).

Teachers:

Gurgel, Donald, as teacher at St. John's, Montello, Wisconsin, on October 8, 1974, by P. Kolander (N. Wis.).

culiar challenges presented to a Lutheran school in a District whose congregations are all either missions or recently self-supporting. Mr. Vetter was elected the first president of the conference. Mr. Fischer was selected as vice-president and Miss Diane Page as secretary-treasurer.

District congregations in Cutler Ridge (Miami), Florida, and Birmingham, Alabama, operate kindergarten-nurseries. Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church of Jacksonville, Florida, plans to open a full eight-grade school in the fall of 1975.

Northern Wisconsin

45th Annual SST Convention

The 45th annual Lake Superior Sunday-School Teachers Convention was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Coleman, Wisconsin, on Sunday, September 22, 1974. The devotions were led by the host pastor, the Rev. W. Zink.

Papers presented at the convention included one by Prof. H. Warnke entitled "The Fifth Commandment" and another by Pastor J. Kingsbury on "Sunday-School Opening Devotions."

Following the meeting a fellowship supper was served by the Ladies Aid of Trinity Congregation.

The 1975 convention will be hosted by Grace Lutheran, Crivitz.

NEW W.E.L.S. CHURCHES

Names Requested

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

Alabama	Mobile*
Alaska	Fairbanks*
Arizona	Paradise Valley
California	Fremont
	Mission Viejo
	Sacramento
	Sierra Madre
Colorado	Arvada/Westminster
	Colorado Springs
	Greeley*
Delaware	Wilmington
Florida	Beverly Hills
	Engelwood*
	Gainesville
Idaho	Boise/Nampa
Illinois	Bloomington/Normal
	Champaign-Urbana
	Crystal Lake
	Schaumburg*
	Springfield*
	West Chicago*
Iowa	Dubuque*
	Shenandoah*
Louisiana	Alexandria
Michigan	Holland
	Indian River
	North Pontiac
	Romeo*
	Taylor Twp.
Minnesota	Bemidji
	Eagan Twp.*
	Forest Lake
	Owatonna*
Missouri	Columbia*
	N. St. Louis County
	St. Charles County*
	St. Joseph
Nebraska	Scottsbluff*
New York	Long Island*
	Rochester*
	Schenectady
North Carolina	Raleigh
Ohio	Wooster*
	Youngston (Niles)
Pennsylvania	Altoona*
	Lehigh Valley*
	Providence
Rhode Island	Huron
South Dakota	Mitchell*
Tennessee	Memphis
Texas	Beaumont*
	Corpus Christi*
	Lubbock*
	San Angelo*
	Temple
	Weslaco
Washington	Spokane Valley*
	Vancouver
Wisconsin	Ashwabeno*
	Middleton*
	Prairie du Chien*
	Suamico
Wyoming	Cheyenne
Alberta	Edmonton*
Ontario	Orleans
	(Ottawa)

*Denotes exploratory services.
(New Missions in cities already having a WELS church are not listed.)

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

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

NAMES REQUESTED

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

Please send names of any WELS members or prospects in the Charlotte, N.C., area to Pastor Paul Schmieg, 720 Currituck Dr., Raleigh, North Carolina 27609.

INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MINNESOTA

The Minnesota District Mission Board requests the names of WELS members and prospective members in the International Falls area. Please send names to: Pastor Lee Vaccarella, 1209 Bemidji Ave., Bemidji, MN 56601.

EXPLORATORY SERVICES

LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

Exploratory services are being conducted in the Brooklyn-Queens-Long Island, New York area, on Sundays at 3:00 p.m. (Sunday school and Bible class at 4:00 p.m.) at the Pickwick Motor Inn, conference room C, Long Island Expressway, exit 48, Plainview, New York. Please send addresses of interested families to: Pastor David Pagel, 218 E. Crescent Avenue, Ramsey, NJ 07446; phone (201) 825-3816.

TIME AND PLACE

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church, our mission in Louisville, Kentucky, conducts worship services at the Jefferson City Farm Bureau Ins. Building, located at 730 Locust Lane. The services begin at 10 a.m. (C.S.T.). For more information, or to submit the names of prospects, write: Pastor James Castillo, 7020 Leisure Ln., Apt. A-11, Louisville, Kentucky 40229.

BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

St. Mark's Ev. Lutheran Church, a WELS mission, is worshipping at 824 America Ave. (former 7th Day Adventist Church) in Bemidji. Sunday school and adult information class begin at 9:00 a.m. and the Sunday service at 10:15 a.m. For more information contact: Pastor Lee Vaccarella, 1209 Bemidji Ave., Bemidji, MN 56601.

PARADISE VALLEY, ARIZONA

The Wisconsin Synod Lutheran Mission in the Paradise Valley area of Phoenix is conducting services at Greenway Elementary School, 3003 E. Greenway Road, Phoenix. Sunday school is at 10 a.m. and worship at 11:15 a.m. For more information, contact: Pastor Hugh Reaume, 6701 E. Osborn Road, Scottsdale, Arizona, 85251, Phone: (602) 947-6012 or 945-6798.

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES

MINNESOTA

REDWOOD FALLS PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: December 3, 1974; 9:00 a.m. Communion service.
Place: Immanuel Lutheran, Gibbon, Minnesota.
Preacher: P. Werner (R. Vomhof, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of I Timothy 4:1-16; R. Vomhof; A Study of the First Article of Luther's Large Catechism; P. Werner; A Review of the New Lectionary, with emphasis on the first series; R. Hellmann; How to Keep Our Young People Moral in the Age of New Morality; N. Gieschen; Conference business.

L. A. Hohenstein, Secretary

NORTHERN WISCONSIN

WINNEBAGO PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: November 18, 1974; Communion service at 9:00 a.m.

Place: Good Shepherd, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Preacher: G. Schaefer (E. Semenske, alternate).
Agenda: Isaiah 9: A. Aichele; Catechism Questions 37-48; W. Weissgerber.

K. Gawrisch, Secretary

FOX RIVER VALLEY PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: November 19, 1974; 9:00 a.m. Communion service.

Place: Immanuel, Appleton (Town Greenville), Wisconsin (R. Kaiser, host pastor).

Preacher: F. Brandt (D. Nimmer, alternate).

Agenda: James 5: N. Engel (I Peter 2: F. Brandt, alternate); Psalm 6: A. Hertler (Psalm 7: J. Mattek, alternate); Preaching on the Gospel for the Sunday after New Year: Im. Boettcher (Gospel for Epiphany: J. Behling, alternate); Consideration of the Terms *Worthy and Damnation* in I Corinthians 11:20-34: K. Kuschel (Pastoral Practices Regarding Members Unable to Attend Services: A Schabow, alternate); dues and casuistry.

R. Muetzel, Secretary

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

JOINT METRO-NORTH AND SOUTH PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: November 18, 1974, at 9:00 a.m.

Place: St. Philip Ev. Lutheran, 2976 N. 1st Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212; G. Schroeder, host pastor.

Preacher: R. Kleist (K. Koeplin, alternate).

Agenda: The Clarity of Scripture as It Affects the Mission of the Church (with Application to the Creation Account): C. Lawrenz; reports and conference business.

Note: Excuses are to be sent to the host pastor.
J. Sullivan, Secretary
Metro-North

MEDITATIONS

"Called to be His Disciples" are Christ-centered family devotions for every day of the church year, 1974-75. Digest size for easy reading, and to carry in pocket or purse for private devotions. A Christmas gift that lasts all year. Annual subscription, four issues \$1.50
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Nominations — NWC

The following nominations have been submitted for the German professorship to be vacated by the intended retirement of Prof. D. Rhoda at the end of the current school year at Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin:

Rev. Kermit Biedenbender, Benton Harbor, MI
Rev. Donald Bitter, Fort Atkinson, WI
Rev. Daniel Deutschlander, St. Albert, Alta., Canada

Rev. Paul Eckert, Greenfield, WI
Rev. Edgar Gieschen, Mayville, MI
Rev. Ronald Gosdeck, Kenosha, WI
Prof. Herbert Grams, Wauwatosa, WI
Rev. Martin Janke, Fond du Lac, WI
Prof. Harris Kaesmeyer, Saginaw, MI
Prof. Robert Kirst, Ripon, WI
Rev. Frederic Kosanke, Elkhorn, WI
Rev. Roderick Luebchow, St. Paul, MN
Prof. Daniel Malchow, Moberg, SD
Rev. Martin Petermann, St. Paul, MN
Rev. Philip Press, Pigeon, MI
Rev. Keith Roehl, Grove City, OH
Rev. Ronald Semro, Wyoming, MI
Rev. William Staab, Oakdale, MN
Rev. Kenneth Strack, Tecumseh, MI
Rev. Richard Strobel, Rapid City, SD
Rev. John Sullivan, Mequon, WI
Rev. Melvin Teske, Yakima, WA
Rev. Christoph Weigel, Jackson, WI
Prof. William Zell, Watertown, WI

Correspondence concerning the nominees should be in the hands of the undersigned no later than November 13, 1974.

Rev. W. A. Schumann, Secretary
612 So. 5 St.
Watertown, Wisconsin 53094

Treasurer's Report

PREBUDGET SUBSCRIPTION PERFORMANCE

Nine months ended September 30, 1974

	Subscription Amount for 1974	9/12 of Annual Subscription	Subscription and Pension Offerings	Per Cent of Subscription
Arizona-California	\$ 284,176	\$ 213,132	\$ 216,025	101.4
Dakota-Montana	198,690	149,018	141,293	94.8
Michigan	1,013,283	759,962	681,722	89.7
Minnesota	1,050,611	787,958	768,705	97.6
Nebraska	204,415	153,311	161,131	105.1
Northern Wisconsin	1,140,109	855,082	795,392	93.0
Pacific Northwest	75,950	56,962	54,159	95.1
Southeastern Wisconsin	1,374,223	1,030,667	958,307	93.0
Western Wisconsin	1,320,560	990,420	887,096	89.6
South Atlantic	52,870	39,653	38,649	97.5
Total — 1974	\$6,714,887	\$5,036,165	\$4,702,479	93.4
Total — 1973	\$6,416,873	\$4,812,655	\$4,456,765	92.6

CURRENT BUDGETARY FUND

Statement of Income and Expenditures

Twelve months ended September 30, 1974 with comparative figures for 1973

Twelve months ended September 30

	1974	1973	Increase or Decrease*	
			Amount	Per Cent
Income				
Prebudget Subscription Offerings	\$6,984,733	\$6,256,689	\$728,044	11.6
Pension Plan Contributions	92,590	94,685	2,095*	2.2*
Gifts, Memorials and Bequests	85,880	60,124	25,756	42.8
Earnings from Fox Estate	94,758	62,558	32,200	51.5
Income from NWPB	—	—	—	—
Other Income	11,512	2,372	9,140	—
Transfers from Other Funds	83,015	20,503	62,512	—
Total Income	\$7,352,488	\$6,496,931	\$855,557	13.2
Expenditures				
Worker-Training — Expense	\$3,995,990	\$3,506,802	\$489,188	13.9
Worker-Training — Income	1,627,085	1,474,506	152,579	1.0
Worker-Training — Net	\$2,368,905	\$2,032,296	\$336,609	16.6
Home Missions	1,285,897	1,072,467	213,430	19.9
World Missions	1,208,577	986,347	222,230	22.5
Benevolences	824,314	812,658	11,656	1.4
Administration and Services	520,504	494,755	25,749	5.2
Total Operations	\$6,208,197	\$5,398,523	\$809,674	15.0
Appropriations — Building Funds	213,244	244,114	30,870*	12.6*
Appropriations — CEF Program	807,508	788,624	18,884	2.4
Total Expenditures	\$7,228,949	\$6,431,261	\$797,688	12.4
Operating Gain	\$ 123,539	\$ 65,670	—	—

Norris Koopmann, Treasurer & Controller
3512 West North Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

Note: Future cutoff dates of PBS receipts in the Synod's Office Lock Box are as follows:

For the month of:	Cutoff Date
November	December 6
December	January 7
January	February 7
February	March 7

NOTICE

The next regular plenary session of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for December 16 & 17, 1974.

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.

Carl S. Leyrer, Secretary
Board of Trustees

REQUEST FOR COLLOQUY

Pastor Harry Bartels of Glenshaw (Pittsburgh), Pa., formerly a pastor of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, has requested a colloquy with a view to entering the preaching ministry of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Correspondence relative to the request may be addressed to the undersigned.

President W. J. Zarlring
Michigan District

REQUEST

Prince of Peace Ev. Lutheran Congregation, a mission congregation at Yankton, South Dakota, is in need of pews for its soon to be erected chapel. If you have some used pews which you wish to dispose of, please contact Pastor Paul A. Stuebs, 2403 Western Avenue, Yankton, South Dakota 57078.

CAMPUS MINISTRY — RIVER FALLS

Students attending the University of Wisconsin — River Falls are invited to attend Faith Lutheran Church (113 1/2 E. Elm) worship services at 9:30 a.m. A special Collegian Vesper service is conducted every other Wednesday at the church at 7 p.m. Lutheran Collegians meets at 7 p.m. on the alternate Wednesdays. All correspondence is to be mailed to: Rev. Carl Ziemer, Route 4, Box 10 Apallo Road, River Falls, Wisconsin (Phone: 425-6598).

REQUEST FOR BOOKS

Luther High School, Onalaska, Wisconsin, is interested in developing its library in the area of religion and church history. We are anxious to acquire a sufficient number of theological and historical books in order to enable students to do research and class projects. We especially are interested in the following titles:

Qualben, HISTORY OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Schwiebert, LUTHER AND HIS TIMES
Mayer, RELIGIOUS BODIES OF AMERICA
Hoyer, THE STORY OF THE CHURCH
Moldenhauer, STORY OF OUR CHURCH
Spitz, OUR CHURCH AND OTHERS
Just, LIFE OF LUTHER
Roth, CHURCH THROUGH THE AGES
Tjernagel, REFORMATION ERA
THE LUTHERAN and/or THE CONCORDIA
ENCYCLOPEDIA

If you have some of these titles and would be willing to contribute them to our library please contact: The Religion Department, Luther High School, 1501 Wilson Street, Onalaska, Wisconsin 54650.