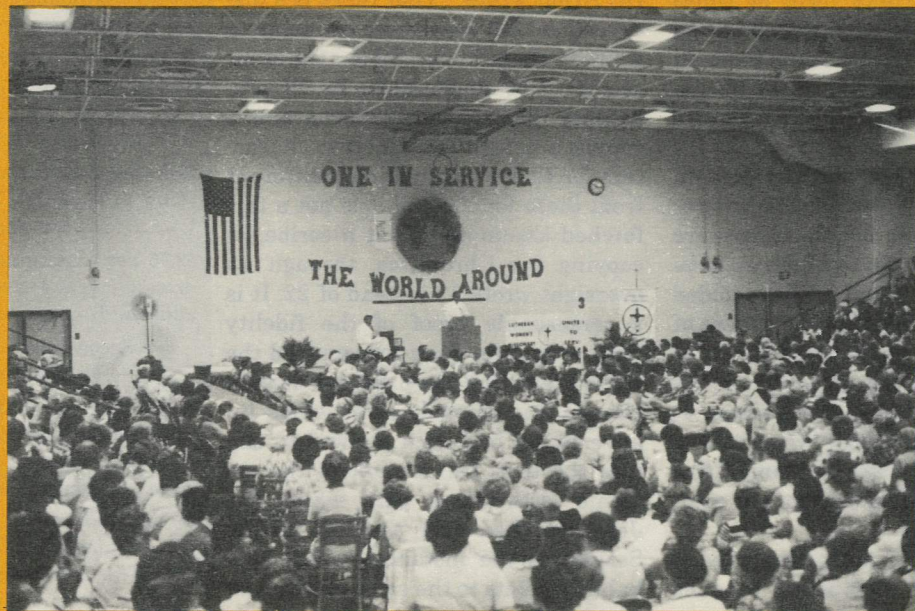
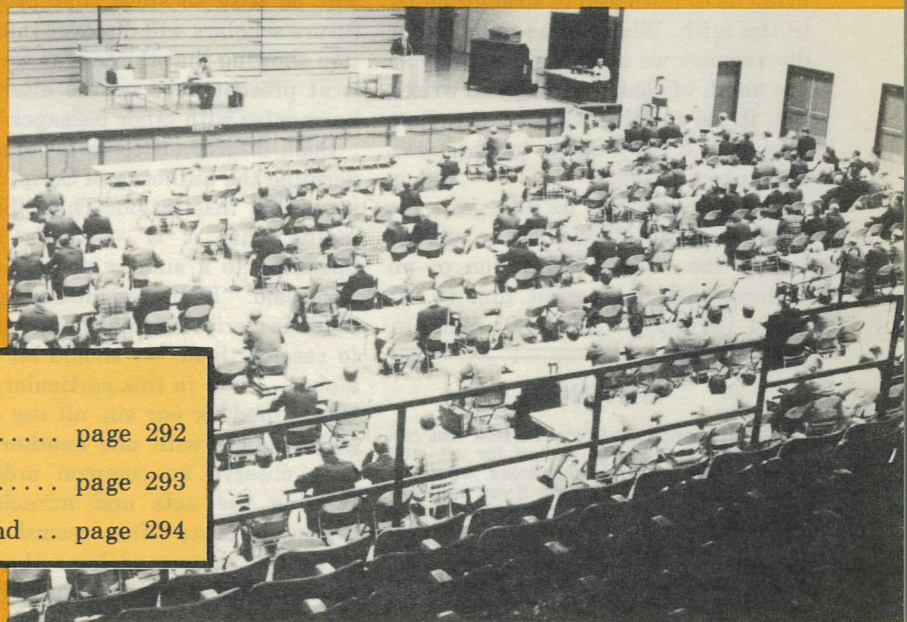


The Northwestern Lutheran

September 19, 1976



Convention Time



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Briefs by the Editor

The art of writing an editorial is a difficult one. As a rule, an editorial strives to drive home just one point. Space does not permit an exhaustive treatment. Consequently, all three of our editorial writers have at times received letters from readers pointing out that they have failed to treat all sides of an issue. This is to be expected, since it lies in the very nature of an editorial.

As an example, let's take an editorial in this issue. The writer begins by pointing out that there are matters in Scripture to which we have no real answer. He might have added that this is true even in the sphere of doctrine. For example, the doctrine of election. Scripture clearly teaches that salvation is by grace alone. It also teaches that those who are lost have only themselves to blame. How this jibes logically is beyond our comprehension.

In such cases we must simply teach both truths as Scripture teaches them. The Spirit of God has no difficulty in using the Scripture to bring us to faith and to strengthen us in the faith. What seems to us like a discrepancy we must leave entirely in the hands of God. The editorial writer put it very well: "One of the first lessons the Holy Spirit teaches is a lesson in humility."

Without a doubt, he also gave the member of the Bible class an answer which the natural limitation of an editorial did not permit him to include. Perhaps he quoted Dr. William

Arndt in "Does the Bible Contradict Itself?" — a worthwhile book which went through many editions but now unfortunately is out of print. Treating II Kings 8:26 and II Chronicles 22:2, Dr. Arndt wrote: "That there is a disagreement between these two texts as we read them in our Bible at present seems to be undeniable. In all probability II Chronicles 22:2 contains a copyist's error. The Hebrew characters for 42 are not strikingly different from those for 22, and it is not a far-fetched assumption that a scribe, in copying the Chronicles, through an oversight wrote 42 instead of 22. It is a remarkable proof of the fidelity with which the Jews transmitted the sacred text that they did not dare to change this palpable error which inadvertently had been allowed to slip into the text. On account of the extreme faithfulness with which the Jews watched over the text of the Scriptures the instances where probability points to the error of a copyist are comparatively rare. Even where we hold that such an error occurred, it will be wise to state that probably future scholars will discover information showing that the text as we have it at present need not be altered to harmonize with other passages."

Such discrepancies in no wise undermine the authority of Scripture or its verbal inspiration. The Bible remains what it is — God's Word. Speaking to a similar point, Luther once said: "If discrepant statements occur in Scripture and we are unable to resolve them, we should let them alone. . . . For in this particular, that Christ died for our sin, all the evangelists agree with one another. But they observe no common order in relating the acts and miracles of Christ, for they often record something that happened later than the times of which they are speaking at the moment."

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Recent changes in Postal Service fees call for a 25-cent charge levied for all mail returned with a change of address. We would therefore appreciate it greatly if you would inform the Northwestern Publishing House (3624 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53208) of your change of address promptly — perhaps even before you move. Drop a card or use the form provided by the Post Office. Be sure to include your former address and to mention *The Northwestern Lutheran*.

*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

1976 has been a year of conventions in our Wisconsin Synod. Illustrated are the convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society and the meeting of the Minnesota District. The LWMS met at Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin, on June 26. The Minnesota District convened at Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, on June 29.

Editorials

Catholic Celebration Over Like the eucharistic congresses before it, the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia emphasized "the central place of Christ's love as portrayed in the sacrifice of the cross and celebrated in the liturgy of the mass."

To this historic purpose was added the theme of the various "Hungers of the Human Family." In keeping with it, the congress also occupied itself with such social concerns as world hunger, disease, repression, injustice, family life, the quest for understanding and peace among the nations. The congress gave evidence of achieving the hope of Cardinal Krol, host for the congress, that the event would bring forth spiritual renewal in "seeing their personal relationship with Jesus in the eucharist more intimately, and of fulfilling their responsibilities to all their brothers and sisters more effectively."

But a priest from Iowa may well have expressed another purpose for the congress. "We were long overdue for a party," he said, "and at last we're having it." As a Catholic teen-ager remarked, it was time to "feel good about being Catholic." It was a folk festival of unity at Philadelphia. Roman Catholics celebrated the solidarity of their church and felt good about it.

Sometimes a party is a mask for distress and heartache. While the party-goers celebrate, they forget about their problems. Catholics did not take up their problems at Philadelphia.

According to a Catholic survey, nearly three-fourths of American Catholics now believe in remarriage after divorce, and 72 per cent would allow for the abortion of a malformed fetus — despite the inflexible position of the official church. In spite of their church's mandate, only 50 per cent are attending mass weekly. Only 42 per cent agree that the Pope holds his authority in direct line from Jesus. Nuns and priests continue to desert the active ministry, and financial support is still declining. Many of the faithful are now challenging the once unquestioned authority of their church.

The party at Philadelphia didn't change these realities; it didn't even discuss them. Now the party's over.

Carleton Toppe

Proper Labeling "I'm not very good with numbers," the man said during Bible Class, "but if I figure this right, King Ahaziah was two years older than his father. Now how can that be?"

The fellow figured right. Scripture says that King Jehoram died at age 40, and Ahaziah his son, age 42, became king. To make matters more difficult, another passage says that Ahaziah was 22 when he became king.

It would be easy to solve the problem by pretending it doesn't exist, to answer the question by avoiding it, to put

down the inquirer with a couple of pious cliches and pat religious answers that don't cover the case.

Or we might avoid the vexing problems by picking and choosing from Scripture only what we think people ought to hear, or by skipping over the troublesome and uninteresting chapters as irrelevant.

Or we may substitute for the Bible itself all kinds of man-made tracts, pamphlets, manuals, brochures, organizational programs, or ecclesiastical trivia. But then we ought to label the package properly. A Bible Study Class should be just that: a class that studies the Bible.

One of the first lessons the Holy Spirit teaches is a lesson in humility. People who do not know what Scripture itself really says have little right to make wild and outrageous claims, about themselves or Scripture.

It is not the man who proudly thinks he has the doctrines of God neatly pigeonholed, but rather, "To this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and *trembleth at My Word.*"

John Parcher

A Program For The Young People It is fairly safe to say that the area of the church's ministry with which most members are least satisfied is its youth program. To see young people drifting away from the church is an all-too-common experience nowadays. The consensus voiced in meetings and in private conversations is that the church should do more for the young people.

Just what it is that needs to be done to hold these young people is usually not set forth in specific terms by the critics of the church's youth program, but their thoughts seem to center in a vague way on "activities." In their minds it appears that if enough interesting activities were sponsored by the church under the right leadership the problem would disappear. The church would be filled with happy young people on Sunday mornings after a series of unspecified but interesting activities during the week.

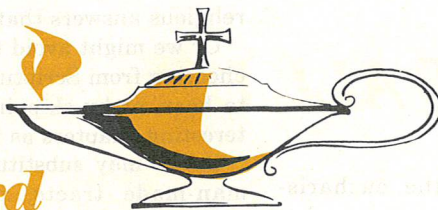
Looking at the matter realistically, however, it must be said that not a single soul has ever been saved by fun-filled activity. It may attract people to the church externally, but interest in such activity has a way of waning or being outgrown. Furthermore, the world is better at offering external attractions than the church, and the church which relies on such activity to attract its youth will sooner or later find itself coming in second to the world.

God has given us one tool for winning people and keeping them with the church. It is the so-called Means of Grace — the Gospel in Word and Sacraments. It applies equally to people of every age group. Any program either for the young or for the old which is geared to accomplishing the purpose of the church by any other means is based on a false premise and is doomed to eventual failure. Furthermore, the Means of Grace is a complete tool which requires no human window-dressing.

Well-meaning adults who want to do something for young people are well advised to direct their efforts and support to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, beginning with their own example of Christian faith and conduct.

Immanuel Frey

Studies in God's Word



A Pastor Speaks of Qualifications

But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children. So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the Gospel of God only, but also our own souls because ye were dear unto us. For ye remember, brethren, our labor and travail, for laboring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the Gospel of God. Ye are witnesses and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe; as ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children, that ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto His kingdom and glory (I Thess. 2:7-12).

What do you look for in a pastor? Tongue in cheek, we might answer, "Everything." He must have the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job. He must be powerful in the pulpit and excellent in administration. He must be good with the elderly and even better with the young. He must be no older than 35 and yet have 20 years experience.

In our verses Paul brushes all these thoughts aside. His "Epistle of Earnest Expectation" shows how *A Pastor Speaks of Qualifications*.

The Love of a Nurse

The enemies' charge that Paul had come to Thessalonica seeking fame and fortune faded when held up to the light of Paul's ministry among them. Paul had been gentle, not domineering and demanding as those seeking gain and glory usually are. Those believers were dear to him. Like in-

fant in the faith, he nursed them, warming them and working with them out of love. There was nothing he would hold back from them. The Gospel he had received he shared fully with them; the life he had been given he used fully for them.

God grant us always pastors who give unselfishly and unstintingly of themselves! Help them to be pastors down among their people, not professionals up on a plateau. Let the perfect example of Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve, be their constant guide and let His perfect love for the sheep be the source of their love.

The Loyalty of a Herald

Contrary to the charges of the enemy, Paul came to them only to "preach the Gospel of God." Though he might well have expected them to support him financially as others had (I Cor. 9:7-14), he wisely did not demand this. Instead he labored overtime, before daylight and after dark, as a tentmaker to support himself. Before such self-sacrifice the slander that Paul preached only for pay fell flat.

Paul's mission was to preach the Gospel of God. That word "preach" is a New Testament favorite for the ministry and means to act as a herald. A herald's duty was to announce publicly what he was ordered. Loyally Paul heralded his God-given Gospel news without addition or subtraction.

God grant us always pastors who are loyal heralds of God's message! In an age when some "wise" heralds try to improve on God's message and others try to subtract from it, give us men who preach nothing more and nothing less than the Word! Give us men who in pulpit and classroom with *The Book* before them can say, "Thus saith the Lord"!

The Life of a Christian

Paul's life had been slandered, but they and God knew what his conduct among them had been. His life had been separated to God and dedicated to His service. His behavior had been that of a believer made righteous by Christ's blood. His work as God's ambassador had been free from blame. Certainly he was a sinner, but by the grace and with the strength of God he preached in word and deed among them.

God grant us always pastors who adorn with Christian living the message they bring! Pardon them for Christ's sake when they fail; power them for our sakes when they lead. Let their light so shine before us that together we may glorify our Father who is in heaven.

The Leading of a Father

What a pastor Paul was! Like a father with his growing children, Paul "exhorted and comforted and charged" every one of them. When they were hesitant, he strongly encouraged them. When they were fainthearted, he tenderly comforted them. When they were weak, he firmly admonished them. Each one's needs were met by fatherly advice from God's Word.

That advice centered around the thought, "Walk worthy of God, who hath called you into His kingdom and glory." Paul was not telling them how to live in order to get into God's kingdom and gain His glory in heaven, for through God's call in the Gospel they were already in His kingdom and heirs of His eternal glory. Now they were to walk as royal children. With His strength they were to serve Him in gratefulness till in heaven they shared His glory in all its fullness.

God grant us always pastors who lead like a father! When our sins give us alarm, may they lead us to Calvary! When our lives falter, may they strengthen us through Word and Sacrament! When our sights fall, may they raise them again to the coming glory! Above all, may they constantly remind us that we walk worthy of God only when we are on the Right Way, Jesus (John 14:6)!

These are the kind of pastors we need, and pray God, will always want.

WRAPPING IT ALL UP

By Pastor James P. Schaefer

One day in mid-April I received a call from a member of one of our churches in the Milwaukee area. The caller said he had heard from someone that the 125th Anniversary Thankoffering would not be completed as scheduled (June 30). Yes, I said, it's true, but I explained that we were extending the offering to the end of December. By that time, I said, I was hopeful that all congregations would have fulfilled their commitment. He thanked me for the information and expressed his disappointment that it could not be completed when planned. He also promised to send a gift "to help things along." Two days later I received a check of \$1,000 for the offering.

That same spirit, generosity, and enthusiasm have been the hallmark of the 125th Anniversary Thankoffering. With a minimum of fuss, congregations made their commitment to the offering, each congregation as the Spirit moved it. Within months, commitments had been received for \$3.4 million. Late starters finally brought the commitments up to \$3.55 million, 18.3% above the offering goal of \$3 million.

The offering was, first of all, intended to be a spontaneous response to 125 years of God's unending grace to the Synod. Secondly, it was intended to take care of some urgent capital needs: \$2 million for dormitories at Northwestern College and Michigan Lutheran Seminary, \$750,000 for the Church Extension fund, and \$250,000 for the World Mission Building Fund. Later an additional \$400,000 was allocated to Michigan Lutheran Seminary.

Planning and construction of the three dormitories progressed rapidly. The dormitory at Northwestern College, Wittenberg Hall, was dedicated in May of 1975. The two dormitories at Michigan Lutheran Seminary, as yet unnamed, were dedicated in February of this year.

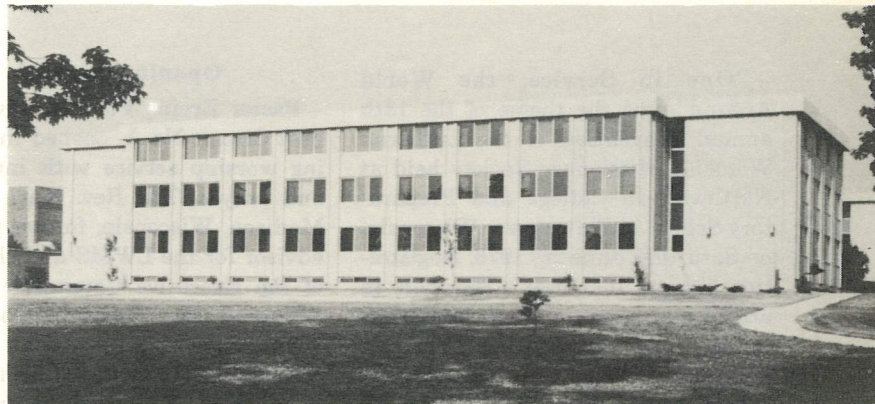
In the world mission fields the

offering has funded, in whole or in part, the following projects: a chapel, school, and two classroom additions in Apacheland; in Japan, land and a chapel at Utsonomiya; at El Paso, a chapel-seminary building; in Mexico City, a condominium apartment for a national pastor, Pastor Chichia Gonzalez; in Zambia, a chapel at Kitwe; and in Colombia, our newest mission field, a chapel and seminary building at Medellin.

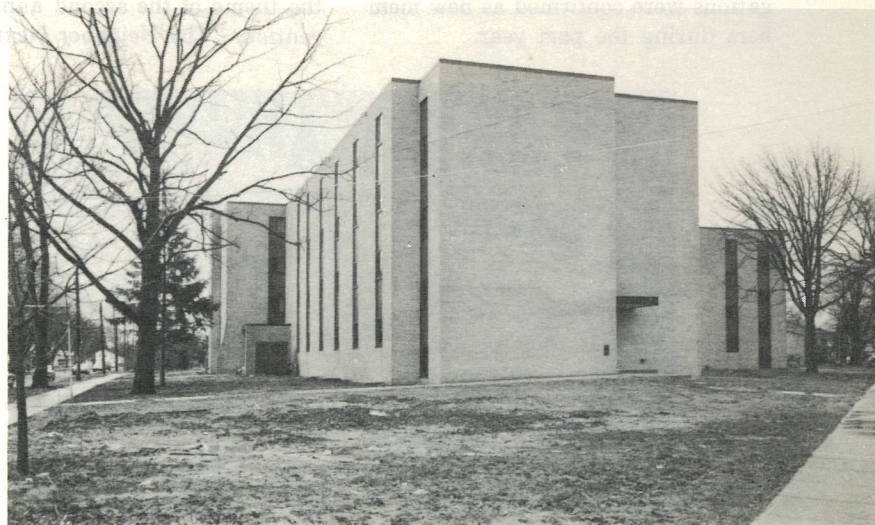
The portion of the offering designated for the Church Extension Fund brought similar blessings to our domestic congregations. Under current policies of the Board of Trustees,

the Church Extension Fund is being held at approximately 50% Synod equity and 50% borrowed money. The \$750,000 portion from the offering, therefore, permitted a draw of nearly \$1.5 million on the Church Extension Fund for land and mission chapels. When we are opening missions at the rate of 20 to 25 each year, such large infusions of money are vital for the healthy growth of our mission congregations. There is a definite — not to say decisive — point in the life of a young mission when the lack of its own worship facility seriously retards its witness to the community.

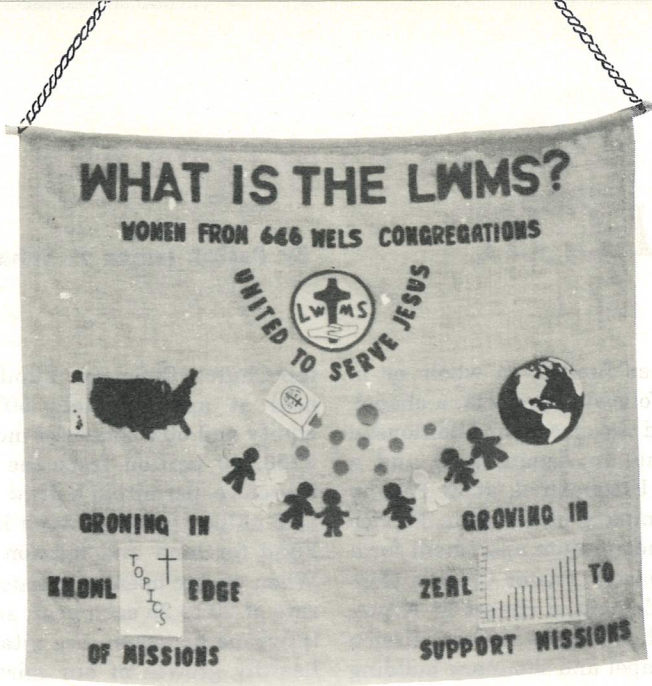
(Turn to page 305)



Northwestern's Wittenberg Hall, dedicated in May, 1975



The women's and men's dormitories, built back to back, at Michigan Lutheran Seminary.



One in Service — The World Around

"One in Service, the World Around" was the theme of the 13th annual convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society held at Northwestern College and Preparatory School in Watertown, Wisconsin, on Saturday, June 26, 1976. Registration showed that over 1,300 were in attendance, coming from 36 LWMS circuits and representing 16 states and seven foreign countries. Almost 300 of the 645 member-congregations were represented. Forty-three congregations were confirmed as new members during the past year.

Opening Service

Pastor Ervine Vomhof, advisor for host Circuit No. 1, opened the morning worship service with invocation and prayer. The Rev. Karl Bast of Madison, Wisconsin, former pastoral advisor for the LWMS and chairman of the Executive Committee for the Lutheran Ev. Christian Church in Japan, based his sermon on Christ's command, "Go ye forth," as recorded in Mark 16. He noted the growth in vision of the LWMS by comparing the theme of the second annual convention, "Thy Neighbor Next Door,"



Pastor Marvin Radtke installed the new officers: left to right: Mrs. D. Burnstad, Mrs. R. Averbeck, Mrs. S. Ivascu, and Pastor J. Diener

with that of this year's convention, "the World Around." Pastor Bast exhorted us to achieve our goal of "One in Service" by first becoming one with our Lord Jesus Christ. He stated that we enter into the spirit of our Lord in service only when we forget about ourselves and set aside any thought of personal gain. He encouraged those present to train for this service by getting to know the workers in the mission fields and by attending circuit rallies and conventions and functions with a mission emphasis. Above all we must, as St. Paul entreats us, "Pray Together." Joining as one with our fellow believers, we are to pray for our mission workers and their families who take our place "the World Around."

Elections

In the afternoon business meeting, the following were elected to office: Mrs. Donald Burnstad, St. Paul's Congregation, Tomah, Wisconsin, vice-president; Mrs. Sam Ivascu, Emanuel Congregation, St. Paul, Minnesota, secretary (second term); the Rev. Harold Wicke, a member of Good Shepherd Congregation, West Allis, Wisconsin, and editor of *The Northwestern Lutheran*, pastoral advisor; Mrs. Robert Averbeck, North Trinity Congregation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Spiritual Growth Committee Laywoman; and the Rev. James R. Diener, Immanuel Congregation, Waupaca, Wisconsin, Spiritual Growth Committee Pastor.

In her report to the convention, Mrs. Clarence Millett, president, noted that though the Lord has richly blessed the organization, there is still much to do among our Wisconsin Synod women to increase interest in and support of our missions, and to encourage service. Checks for \$9,175 each were presented to Pastor Edgar Hoenecke, executive secretary for the General Board for World Missions, for the Books for Missions Fund, and to Pastor Norman Berg, executive secretary of the General Board for Home Missions, for the Home Mission Equipment Fund. Recipient of the morning offering of \$2,239.42 was Books for Biblicum (Sweden). The delegates voted to have the proceeds of the 1977 mission boxes go to the

Inner-City Conference Fund (Home Missions) and the Libraries for Young National Pastors Fund (World Missions).

World Seminaries Represented

A special highlight of the day was the panel discussion by representatives of the seminaries of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. These included Pastors Ernst Wendland and Donald Fastenau of Africa, Pastor Rupert Eggert of the Latin American field, Pastor Ernest Zimdars of Colombia, South America, Pastor Harold Johne of Japan, and Pastor Gary Schroeder of Hong Kong. Also taking part was Dr. Seth Erlandsson from Sweden. The panel moderator was Professor Heinrich Vogel of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary at Mequon. These men reported on the work in their respective fields and also on the meeting of the Fourth World Seminary Conference held the previous week in Mequon. The most urgent need in all areas, they emphasized, is the need for more

national students. We were urged by all the speakers to pray daily and fervently that the Lord will move young men and women to enter the preaching and teaching ministry. The time is growing short — the harvest is great — the workers are few!

Other guests included the Rev. Oscar J. Naumann, president of the Wisconsin Synod; the Rev. Harold Essmann, first pastoral advisor of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society and also chairman of the Executive Committee for Latin American Missions; Mr. Alfons Woldt, executive secretary of the Special Ministries Board; Mr. Ben Wunsch, Mission for the Visually Handicapped; Pastor Paul Behn, recently of Hong Kong; several missionaries wives; and Nurse Darlene Boehme, recently returned from Africa.

"Abide With Me"

The closing vesper service began with the singing of "Abide With Me" and the responsive reading of Psalm 100. Pastor Marvin Radtke, Eagle

River, Wisconsin, having served the LWMS as pastoral advisor for the past four years, based his farewell message on Psalm 146:1-4. He exhorted all of us to praise the Lord always, to learn from our weaknesses, and to be self-critical in order to be able to serve others better. By the grace of God, the LWMS is a large organization, but let's not depend upon mere organization. Let us consider the urgency of mission work, the urgency of what we can and must do. In so doing we praise our Lord — Our Lord, in whom we are United to Serve.

At this service the newly elected officers were installed into their respective offices by Pastor Radtke. We closed this extraordinary time of working, praying, and giving together for missions by singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow."

(Mrs. Lamoine Steinke, St. Mark Congregation, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, served as Convention Reporter.)



Successful Summer Session

Prof. George Heckmann, director of the summer session, reports an overall increase in attendance this past summer at Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota.

A total of 268 persons attended. Of these, 101 were enrolled in the regular five-week program, and another 39 were enrolled in courses of the Advanced Study Program. Participants in the eight workshops numbered 128.

A large variety of courses was offered in both the regular program and the Advanced Study Program. The Advanced Study Program included courses on Isaiah as Witness to Jehovah's Judgments, Isaiah as Herald of Jehovah's Salvation, Ethics of the Christian Teacher, The Family in Christian Education, Chorale Preludes of Bach, Clavieruebung III, Instruments for Lutheran Worship Other than the Organ, Thought and Religions of India, and Historical Geography of Bible Lands. The members of the Bach course presented an excellent recital toward the close of the sessions.

Workshop courses included Production and Utilization of Supplementary Reading Materials, Learning Packages and Learning Centers, Math Laboratory Activities for Primary Grades, Parish Music Program-School Music, Elementary School Administration, Audio-Visual Materials, and a Workshop for Supervising Teachers, the latter conducted at Appleton, Wisconsin.

The varied programs afforded a fine opportunity to grow in the knowledge of the Scriptures and in the use

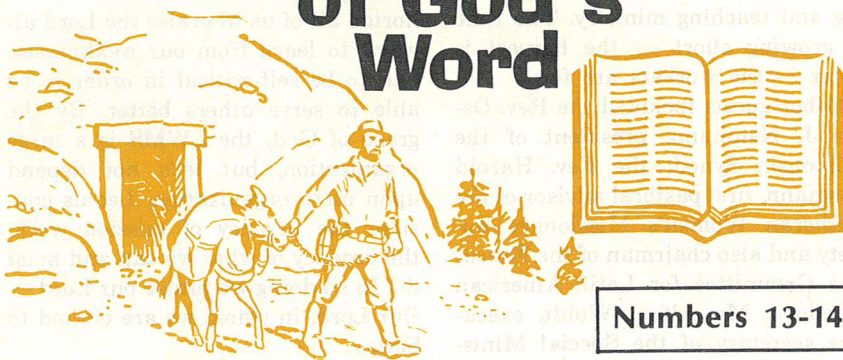
of various teaching tools.

The closing service was held on July 16, 1976. Prof. D. Brick delivered the sermon, based on Ephesians 1:20-23. He emphasized the thought that an appreciation of our nation is furthered as one sees the USA as a part of our Savior-King's kingdom of power.

Prof. A. Schulz conferred Bachelor of Science in Education degrees on the following: Mrs. Joan L. Blauert, Tomah, Wisconsin; Mrs. Janice Braun, New Ulm, Minnesota; Mrs. Ruth Heikes Dusseau and Mrs. Dorothy Russell Sonntag, both of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The following were recommended for Synod certification: Stephen Berg, La Crosse, Wisconsin; Larue Kay Jans, Annandale, Minnesota; William H. Kruck, Jr., Benton Harbor, Michigan; Thomas R. Schwartz, Ossian, Iowa; and Sharon Lynn Worley, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

It is DMLC's prayer that more of our teachers will avail themselves of the opportunity for personal growth and professional advancement by taking courses during coming summer sessions.

Mining the Treasure of God's Word



Numbers 13-14

Before we begin our digging today it would be worthwhile to turn back to the June 27 issue, which dealt with the exodus, and review what was said in the closing section (Exod. 14—18) on what God was trying to teach His people and do for His people as their journey from Egypt began. Then we'll be ready to resume our study of that journey of God's people to their promised land (Gen. 12:1,2). Note first where the group was at this time (Num. 12:16).

Now Read Numbers 13 and 14

Note the instructions God gave in 13:2, and how these orders were carried out in 13:3-25. We have met the man mentioned in verses 8 and 16 before, in Exodus 17:9-13, and again in Exodus 24:13, where his name is given in the more familiar form. Remember this name, and also the man mentioned in verse 6. Then do you remember what we learned about the tribe of Judah (also mentioned in verse 6)? If you're not sure, look it up in the lesson for May 16, on Genesis 49. Also keep in mind what we said about this land in the opening paragraph today. Note the three things the men were to look for (verses 18 and 19), and how long it took them to carry out their task (13:25).

Their report is given in 13:26-29. Note the recommendations of the two men mentioned earlier, as given in 13:30 and 14:6-9, and especially the reasons given by Joshua in verse 8a and his plea in verse 9, and how positive Joshua was in verse 9b. What particular quality was Joshua demon-

strating here? It's mentioned in Hebrews 11, especially verses 23-29.

The recommendations of the majority are given in 13:31-33. What particular quality were they thus demonstrating? And what do we learn about the people as a whole from their reaction in 14:1-4? Compare what the writer of the letter to the Hebrews says in 3:19. And finally, what do you think God was trying to do by His action described in 14:10b?

Note God's reaction in 14:11, especially His second question, which brings this problem of the people into sharp focus. His first thought was expressed in verse 12; and here we should notice what a faithful leader Moses was (verses 13-19). Here Moses appears as a type of Christ in his double capacity as leader (king) and priest (Moses was a member of the tribe of Levi). He was doing for his people exactly what Jesus does for us, as described in Romans 8:34 and Hebrews 7:25. And we must notice God's response to Moses' plea (verse 20), which of course applies to us in the work of Christ, the antitype.

But we should note that while God pardons them in the sense that He didn't "smite them with a pestilence," as He had first proposed, He does "disinherit" them (verse 12), because they had "disinherited" Him. That is, they had consistently refused to believe and trust in Him, and follow Him as their God, their heavenly Father. And thus they were really *not* "His people" at all, and had not been for some time. They weren't children of Abraham either, for Abraham had

a real faith in God and believed all His promises (Gen. 15:6). And it was to Abraham's family, that is, to his true *spiritual* children, that God had promised to give the land of Canaan (Gen. 12:1,2). Thus these people whom God was dealing with now could never inherit that land. That was why God spoke as He did in 14:21-23.

This is the shocking and important truth of this section, that of that whole nation of 600,000 men only Caleb and Joshua would ever enter the land of Canaan (verses 24 and 30), because only those two had a real faith in God! Now you can understand more fully Jesus' words in Matthew 7:13 and 14, and 22:14, and Luke 13:23,24. When He spoke those words, He was undoubtedly thinking of this incident, and also about the Flood.

God then proceeded to explain what would happen to those people (14:27-35), and it isn't a pretty picture. Notice how long they would wander about in the wilderness (verses 33 and 34), and what would happen to them (verses 29a, 32,33), all except Caleb and Joshua. And the first to die were the 10 faithless spies (verses 36 and 37).

This section closes with a rather astonishing incident, recorded in 14:40-45, to show how hardened they were in their unbelief.

A Lesson for Us

But for all who followed them, including us, there is a vitally important lesson to be learned from this incident. It is best expressed, perhaps, in Hebrews 3:12-19 and Hebrews 11:6. What this means for us has been well expressed by the Apostle Paul in Romans 3:28, and Luke in Acts 4:12, and by the Lord Himself in Matthew 7:14 and John 14:6. This is the way of salvation, the most important truth anyone will ever learn. Yes, this is the truth that lay at the very heart of Luther's Reformation. The only ones who will ever inherit the "promised land" Jesus spoke about, the kingdom of heaven, are those with a real faith in Christ as their Savior. Luther summarized it by saying that we're saved by *faith alone*.

We'll have more good digging in the next lesson.

Julian G. Anderson

"As He Was With Our Fathers"

Daniel M. Buske

"As He was with our fathers!" These words, chosen as the theme for this year's convention, join the many other slogans reminding us how our God has multiplied blessings to our country in its 200 years of existence and to our Synod in its 125 years. More scientific achievement, greater industrial strength, and greater individual wealth have been granted to our nation than to any people before us; and, particularly in the last years, wider fields of opportunity have been granted to our Synod than our fathers could have anticipated. Yet the entire passage from which this phrase is taken shows that it is more than a reminder of blessings. In this prayer Solomon was not asking for an encore of blessings as much as for pureness of hearts. So then, while calling God's graciousness of the past to mind, the prayer of Solomon and the words of our theme are a request for motivation, a petition that God would by His grace and mercy give us willing hearts joyously to do His will."

Thus Pastor Waldemar Zarling, president of the Michigan District, began his presidential report to the delegates from the farflung congregations of the District, assembled in convention at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan, from June 15 through June 17, 1976. As the words and the work of the convention unfolded, this opening statement became more and more a fine summary of the proceedings; for the focus of attention was our Christ-commissioned work of preaching His Gospel in view of the expanding opportunities He has placed before us, as we enter the third century of our nation's history of freedom.

In the opening convention devotion Pastor Leonard Koeninger of St. Peter's, Plymouth, Michigan, based his words on Galatians 5:16-24 and led the delegates to meditate on the theme: "God's Free People," reminding them of the truth that the only truly free people are those who are free through faith in Christ and whose lives are filled with the fruits

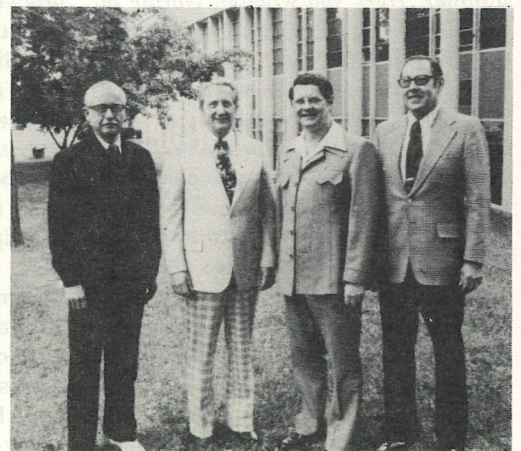
of the Spirit.

Such thoughts, viewing our nation's bicentennial from the Christian perspective of the Word of our God and the work which He has given His Church to do, were reinforced by the two essays presented to the convention. In the first, President Conrad Frey of Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, addressed the delegates on "The Blessings of God Upon our Fathers," reviewing the development of religious liberty in our country and then proceeding to stress our responsibilities as individuals and as a Synod as our nation enters its third 100 years. In the second, Professor Edward Fredrich of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin, gave a practical exegesis of Romans 13:1-7, elaborating on Paul's exhortatory reminder that "God's Governments Are to Be Obeyed by God's People."

At the convention service held on Wednesday evening at St. John's in Bay City, Pastor Winfred Koelpin of St. Paul's, Livonia, Michigan, in similar fashion stressed the theme: "Christian Patriotism, Outdated or Updated." He reminded the convention that God's governments, established so that Christians may "lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty," have a definite purpose in relation to His plans of spreading the Good News of salvation in Christ, because thereby He establishes the quiet and peace He uses so very well to carry out His gracious



President Conrad Frey of DMLC was the essayist



Left to right: John Westendorf, Secretary; Waldemar Zarling, President; Robert Mueller, 1st Vice-President; John Brenner, 2nd Vice-President

desire "that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth" that "there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the man, Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all."

Thus fortified with the Word of our Savior-God, the delegates were enabled as God's own free people profitably to hear and discuss the various reports concerning the work being carried on in and through our District and our Synod under the blessings of the provident hand of our God in this nation of religious freedom.

Routine?

The remainder of convention time might in a way be described as routine. It was filled with the usual spate of elections — and with the customary expressions of thanksgiving

and praise for the way in which our God has blessed our work — seven new missions begun in the District in the past year, 11 graduates from the Seminary beginning their ministry in our District, seven new teachers, four new congregations accepted into membership, the division of both the Colonial and Ohio conferences into two circuits, the establishment of a District Special Ministries Board for a trial period of four years. Also presented were the needs arising from increasing opportunities — mission offerings for Synodical work and more recruitment of future pastors and teachers.

All routine work for a District convention — but only in an outward sense! It was obvious that the routine came not out of self-satisfaction, self-confidence, and self-righteousness over our own abilities effectively to

proceed with our Lord's work, but from hearts trusting in His promise to "be with us as He was with our fathers" and from hearts which pray: "May the Lord our God not leave us nor forsake us, that He may incline our hearts unto Him to walk in all His ways and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His judgments which He commanded our fathers!"

Elections

The incumbent officers of the District were reelected: as president, Pastor Waldemar Zarlum of Good Shepherd, Benton Harbor; as first vice-president, Pastor Robert Mueller of Salem, Owosso; as second vice-president, Pastor John Brenner of St. John's, Bay City; and as secretary, Pastor John Westendorf of Trinity, Saline.

Nebraska District Convention

"God's Word Is Our Great Heritage"

Richard J. Kuckhahn

The district conventions of the WELS are intended to provide grassroots discussion and reaction to the work and issues before this church body. "Grassroots" is typified by Hadar, Nebraska, most surely the smallest of the cities hosting the delegate conferences of the 10 Districts this summer. Here the wooden Gothic of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Congregation's church building and the warm hearts of its members welcomed the 30th biennial convention of the Nebraska District, June 22-24, 1976.

In the opening Communion service, Prof. Siegbert Becker of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary addressed the words of Psalm 48:9-14 to the convention theme, "God's Word Is Our Great Heritage." The 100 delegates, pastors, and teachers heard him recount the blessings of our heritage, received not *from* the church, but *through* the church from our gracious Lord. Among these are: the Name of God, which is everything we know about God from His Word; the works or judgments of God in which we

must glory rather than in our own works; and the hope of God, the life and salvation He has graciously given us for now and for eternity.

Essay

Our heritage of the Word of God as given us in the inspired Scriptures is eroded by those who employ the historical-critical method of interpreting the Bible. Dr. Becker's convention essay explained this method and showed how it affects the church of today. Dr. Becker stated, "It is written' becomes not a final argument, as it is in the New Testament and on the lips of Jesus, but just a proposal of a human opinion which may or may not be true." Man places himself in judgment over the Scriptures and as a consequence questions or rejects almost everything written there. The only heritage left by the great cloud of proponents for this method adduced by Dr. Becker is a chorus of "It seems to me" and "We suppose" instead of the cry of faith, "Speak, Lord, for Thy servant heareth."

Growth

Shepherd of the Hills Ev. Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado, and Rock of Ages Ev. Lutheran Church, Kansas City North, Missouri, became members of the District. The latter congregation now represents the 10th state in which the Nebraska District works.

Two mission boards operate within the District boundaries, one serving the three Nebraska conferences proper, the other serving the Colorado Mission District. A compilation of their reports indicates exploratory work being done in six cities with mission congregations in 31 other places.

Six pastoral candidates and one teacher candidate became members of the District at this convention.

Business

A standing committee on secondary education formed two years ago was dismissed with thanks. Its work has resulted in the formation of the

God Shed His Grace On Thee!

Delbert Begalka

"God Shed His Grace on Thee" was the theme of the 30th biennial convention of the Minnesota District, which met on the campus of Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, June 29-July 1, 1976. Preceding the official opening, the Lord's Supper was offered to the delegates at a special service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Pastor Emil F. Peterson of St. James, Minnesota, addressed the worshippers on the basis of John 3:30: "He must

increase, I must decrease," using the theme "The Divine Necessity."

The convention was opened by President Gerhard Horn. Following organizational details, he gave his report urging the delegates: "In this Bicentennial year of our nation, let us thank God for the government He has granted us. But at the same time let us pray fervently that He will continue to bless us with a climate of peace which will allow us to carry on the Lord's work without let or

hindrance." His report on District activities noted that 10 congregations had joined the District during the past two years, that 41 pastors, two professors, and 13 teachers had been installed, and that a total of 22 workers had left the District. He also mentioned that over two-thirds of the workers in the District have been installed within the past four years.

Elections

Elections for District offices were carried on during the sessions. Pastor Horn was reelected as president of the District and Pastor Gerhard Birkholz of Litchfield, Minnesota, as first vice-president. Pastor Le Roy Dobberstein of New Ulm was elected second vice-president and pastor Warren Henrich of Delano, Minnesota, was reelected as secretary of the District.

(Continued on next page)

Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School Association and in widespread enthusiasm for opening a Lutheran high school in the District, possibly by 1977. The District Board for Parish Education was at the same time expanded by two members to enable it better to encourage the development of secondary education. In other action, the District established a special ministries board and asked the stew-

ardship board to establish a District-wide series of clinics on deferred giving.

Of special interest was a set of five tracts presented to the convention by the Nebraska District Commission on Evangelism. They are but one effort of an energetic and busy District commission and show that our Lord leads and uses local and District organizations to do His kingdom-work

well. The tracts may be ordered by writing to Mr. Robert Meister, 1018 S. Williams St., Denver, Colorado, 80209.

In all the reports, business, and worship of this convention there was evident an appreciation of and love for the heritage of the Word of God. May the conviction grow in the hearts of us all that this heritage is ours not to hoard, but to share!



Left to right: Gerald Free, President; Paul Knickelbein, 1st Vice-President; William Leerssen, 2nd Vice-President; William Goehring, Secretary



Immanuel Ev. Lutheran Church, Hadar

"As We Enter Century III"

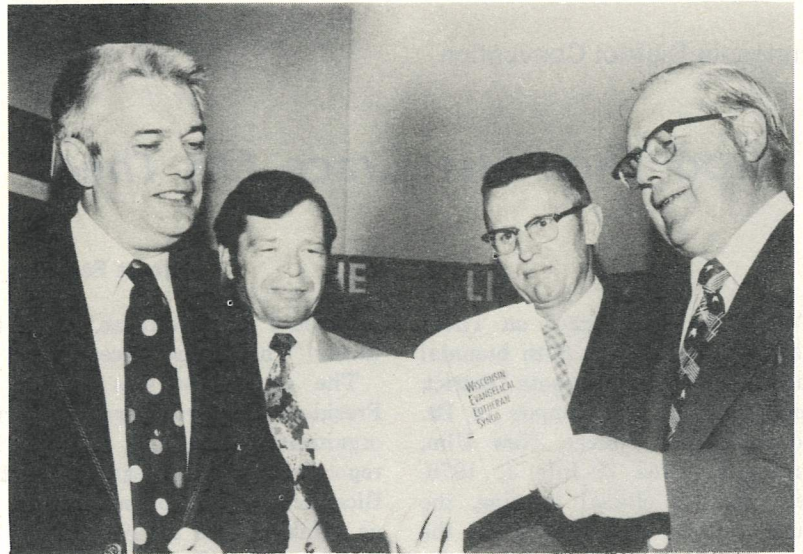
A highlight of the convention was the presentation by Prof. Paul E. Eickmann of Northwestern College on "What Do the Prophets Have to Say to Us as We Enter Century III?" Professor Eickmann compared the situation of Israel at the time of the Prophets to that of the United States today and emphasized the fact that the Prophets do indeed have a great deal of instruction, admonition, and guidance for us in this present day. He stressed that the religious life of Christians includes their life in the world, knowing that the ultimate security of God's people is not in any earthly government but in His everlasting kingdom.

Conferences Realigned

The convention determined to realign most of the southern conferences in Minnesota along more practical geographic lines. This realignment, effective January 1, 1978, will affect mostly the Redwood Falls, New Ulm, and Mankato Conferences.

Convention Decisions

With a prayer for the Lord's richest blessings upon our World Mission efforts, the District urged the Synod to send two additional missionaries to Japan, one to the African field, and one to serve our fellowship in Europe. The delegates declined to



Minnesota District Officers (left to right): Gerhard Birkholz, 1st Vice-President; Warren Henrich, Secretary; Leroy Dobberstein, 2nd Vice-President; Gerhard Horn, President

support the creation of a full-time Synodical office of Coordinator of Evangelism. They also declined to establish a District Special Ministries Board.

In a special presentation the essayist, Professor Eickmann of Northwestern College, brought to the attention of the delegates the grave concern there should be in our Synod over the radical decrease in enrollment at Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin. He urged those present at the convention to work hard in recruiting more manpower and to pray for a greater

abundance of workers.

The delegates voted that the offering gathered at the opening service be equally divided between The Lutheran Home, Belle Plaine, for the construction of its mental retardation care facility, and the New York Bible Society — the latter to assist in the translation of the New International Version of the Old Testament.

Following the report that 372 delegates were in attendance, the convention closed with a devotion led by Pastor Frederic Tabbert of Osceola, Wisconsin.

Northern Wisconsin District Convention

Harlyn J. Kuschel

— Praying for New Pioneers —

A spirit of joyful thanksgiving prevailed among the 350 pastors, teachers, and lay delegates who gathered at Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, for the 30th Biennial Convention of the Northern Wisconsin District, August 2-4, 1976. As they faced the main stage of the auditorium at the Winnebago Lutheran Academy, the delegates were reminded by the Bicentennial banner to thank God for 200 years of grace to our nation. The convention reports also evoked joyful

thanksgiving for the Lord's rich grace in blessing the kingdom work of the District and the Synod. A more immediate cause for thanksgiving was a temporal blessing the Lord had bestowed on the District. During the week just before the convention three inches of rain had fallen throughout most of Northern Wisconsin, ending a month-long drought and reviving parched croplands.

A District convention gives its participants, the "grassroots" of the

Synod, opportunity to worship, to study, to take care of the District's "housekeeping" tasks, and to review and make recommendations concerning the work program of the Synod. Participants in this year's Northern Wisconsin District convention began the convention and each day's sessions with worship. The Rev. Walter Strohshein, a veteran pastor in the District, preached the sermon at the opening Communion service. On the basis of Acts 4:19-20, he reminded the

delegates that Christians are under obligation to do what is right in the sight of God and assured them that as Christians they cannot but speak the things that they have seen and heard. Devotions at the opening of the various sessions emphasized missions, evangelism, parish education, worker training, and stewardship. The final session opened with a memorial service.

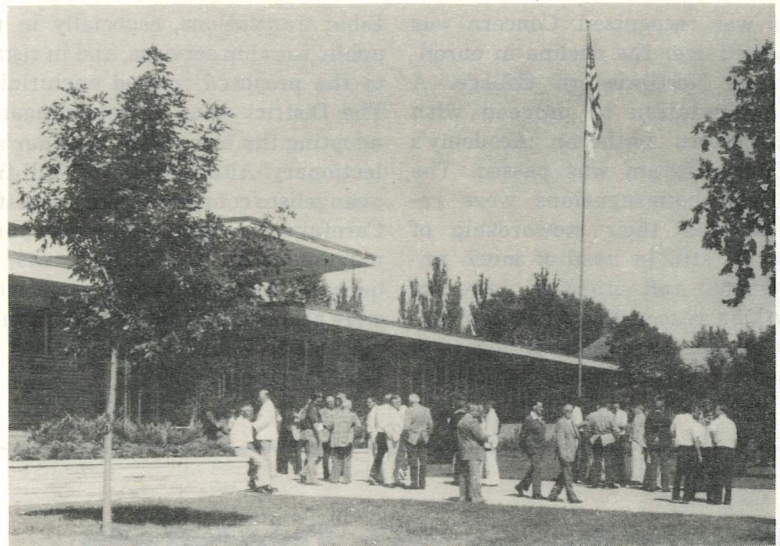
"A Nation Under God"

The convention study was led by Prof. Martin Westerhaus of our Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. The study theme was "Our Bicentennial Prayer: A Nation under God." In the three parts of his essay, Prof. Westerhaus pointed out that God establishes a nation and its rulers, God assigns proper functions to its rulers, and God appoints important duties to its citizens. A correct Scriptural understanding of what God wants a "nation under Him" to be, the essayist declared, will be of value in itself for us as American citizens, and it will help us celebrate our Bicentennial in a way that will bring lasting blessings to us and our nation. Christians, he concluded, are still the best resource of our country.

District Business

Housekeeping tasks in the District itself were minimal. That there were no doctrinal controversies or serious matters of discipline to be resolved was in itself testimony to God's rich grace. One important internal matter that the District did take up was the establishment of its own Special Ministries Board. The members of this new board will be appointed shortly and begin functioning on several pressing District needs. In this connection the District also voted to ask the Synod for a constitutional change, calling for representatives from each District Special Ministries Board on the Synod's Special Ministries Board.

To guide the District for the next biennium the delegates re-elected the entire praesidium: Pastors Carl Voss of Green Bay as president, Martin Janke of Fond du Lac as first vice-president, Clarence Koepsell of Oshkosh as second vice-president, and David Worgull of Manitowoc as secretary.



The Convention met at Winnebago Lutheran Academy

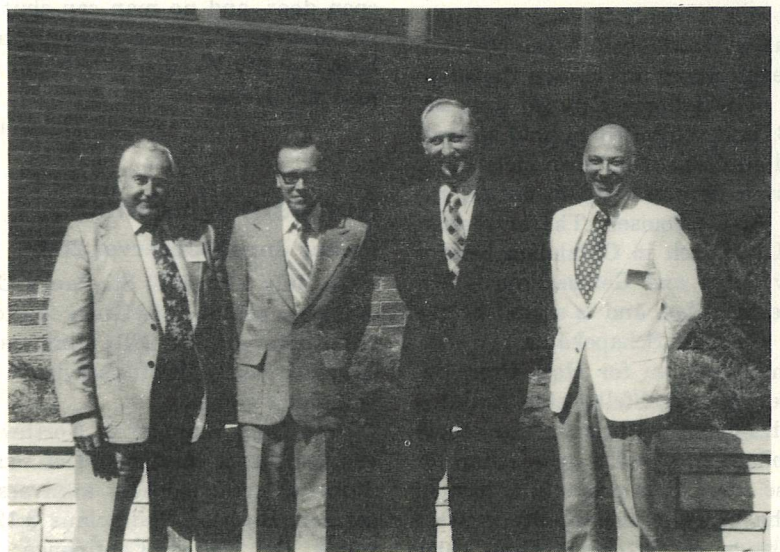
Firsthand Information

As the convention reviewed the various aspects of the Synod's work, it had opportunity to hear about much of the work firsthand. Synodical workers who were able to make personal appearances at the convention included Pastor Norman Berg of the home missions division; Missioner Ralph Martens (a son of the District) of Puerto Rico; Pastor H. Wicke of the publications division; and Prof. Paul Eickmann of the worker-training division. Of special concern was Prof. Eickmann's report indicating a coming manpower emergency in the Synod. Pastor Luther Weindorf, a District representative on our Board for

World Missions, Dr. Gary Greenfield of Wisconsin Lutheran College, and Pastor Del Begalka of the Lutheran Home at Belle Plaine, Minnesota, also brought reports to the convention.

Recommendations

The District's various recommendations reflected both its deep commitment to the spread of the Gospel and its evangelical concern that the Gospel not be comprised or confused in any way. Careful attention was given to the report of the Commission on Inter-Church Relations and God's blessings were implored on their various discussions. The need for more workers on our foreign mission



Left to right: Clarence Koepsell, 2nd Vice-President; Martin Janke, 1st Vice-President; Carl Voss, President; and David Worgull, Secretary

fields was recognized. Concern was expressed over the decline in enrollment at Northwestern College. A recommendation to proceed with Northwestern Lutheran Academy's building program was passed. The District's congregations were reminded that their stewardship of money is still in need of much improvement, and urged to pray for growth in responsible Christian giving. Cautions were raised in regard to immediate and extensive use of new

Bible translations, especially in the public worship services, and in regard to the proposed revised enchiridion. The District went on record against adopting the new ILCW calendar and lectionary. Alternatives to a full-time evangelism counselor were suggested. Careful supervision of the new youth movement in the Synod was requested. And the proper authorities were asked to look into finding a more suitable title for the "Lending to the Lord" program.

In his opening report to the convention President Voss called for a "new generation of pioneers" to lead us into the third century — Christian pioneers with grace-filled vision, pioneers who will not rest until the needs of those who still do not know the Gospel are finally met, pioneers who will never tire of asking, "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" He expressed the desire that God would use this convention to sharpen the vision of all who attended it.

Direct from the Districts

Nebraska

Oklahoma City Ground-Breaking

On July 25, 1976, the sun's bright beams filled the western sky, and the Son's bright beams of grace shone on the members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Oklahoma City as they assembled at their new church site for a ground-breaking service.

Basing his sermon on Revelation 3:8, Pastor Paul Knickelbein of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, the first WELS church in the state of Oklahoma, reminded the assembly that the congregation which is faithful to the pure Word of God is praised by God and is richly blessed by Him.

Pastor Knickelbein began conducting exploratory services on the south side of Oklahoma City on July 22, 1973, and continued to hold services until July 20, 1975, when Holy Cross received its first resident pastor, the Rev. A. R. Domson. The only other WELS church in Oklahoma besides Holy Cross and Gethsemane is Mt. Olive in Tulsa, and is served by the Rev. Gerhard Schapekahn.

The site plan for Holy Cross includes a chapel/fellowship building as phase one, a Christian day school for phase two, and a gymnasium for phase three. The property is located in the heart of the rapidly growing southside of Oklahoma City which has a population of 700,000. Oklahoma City is the second largest city

in the U.S., covering an area of 650 square miles. The chapel/fellowship building, to be completed next spring, will feature contemporary design, having a steeply pitched roof and a towering 40-foot cross on the front. It is designed by Gralla and Downing, architects.

We wish there were some way of translating the thankful joy felt by the members of Holy Cross to the hearts of our brothers and sisters throughout the Synod who set aside a portion of their income for missions and for the Church Extension Fund. May the Son's rays of grace continue to shine on all of you!

"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My Word, and hast not denied My Name."

A. Domson

Northern Wisconsin

Pastor Juroff Observes 25th

On July 11, 1976, St. Paul's Congregation of Howard's Grove (Millersville) observed the 25th anniversary of Pastor Henry Juroff's service in the preaching ministry.

Prof. Gary Baumler of Northwestern College, a confirmand of Pastor Juroff's, preached the anniversary sermon. He used Philippians 3:12 to speak on "Christ Confidence, the First Ingredient for Serving God." A classmate, Prof. Philip Janke of

Manitowoc Lutheran High School, was liturgist.

Pastor Juroff, a native of Eau Claire, Michigan, is a 1951 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He interrupted his seminary training for a year's work in the Apache Mission at Cibecue, Arizona. Since graduation he has served at St. John's, Battle Creek, Michigan; the congregations at Florence and Tipler, Wisconsin, and Iron Mountain, Michigan; and since 1962, the congregation at Howard's Grove. Presently he is also supervising the new WELS mission at Plymouth.

On November 3, 1951, Pastor Juroff was married to Rosemary Martin. They have four children: Timothy, Rebecca (a 1976 graduate of DMLC), Kathryn, and Cheryl.

The 25th for Pastor Norval Kock

First German Congregation of Manitowoc observed Pastor Kock's 25 years in the ministry on July 25, 1976.

Pastor Henry Juroff, a classmate, occupied the pulpit for the occasion, speaking on I Timothy 1:12 and dwelling on "The Thoughts of a Grateful Pastor on His Anniversary." Vicar William Hartmann conducted the service.

Pastor Norval Kock was born in Osceola, Wisconsin, and grew up in Red Wing, Minnesota. After attending Dr. Martin Luther High School and Northwestern College, he studied at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, graduating in 1951. Congregations he has served include First Lutheran, La Crosse, Wisconsin; Cross Lutheran,

Rockford, Minnesota; and St. John's, Wood Lake, Minnesota. In 1966 he accepted the call to one of our Synod's oldest congregations, First German of Manitowoc.

He is presently serving the church at large as circuit pastor of the Manitowoc Conference and as secretary of the Synod's Board of Trustees.

Pastor Kock is married to the former Dorothy Bauer. They have a daughter, Mrs. Steven (Jeneane) Thiesfeldt, and three sons, Jerome, Norval, and Mark. The Kocks also observed their 25th wedding anniversary,

South Atlantic

Beautiful Savior of Charleston Receives First Resident Pastor

On July 11, 1976, members and friends of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Charleston, South Carolina, gathered at the Sheraton Inn to welcome their first resident pastor, the Rev. Randall Bartelt.

Pastor Bartelt's former pastor, the Rev. Elton Huebner, formerly of Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, but recently installed as executive secretary of our Synod's Board of Trustees, brought the ordination-installation message. The Rev. James Vogt of Bradenton, Florida, the first vice-president of the South Atlantic District, read the rite of ordination. Pastor John Guse, Columbia, South Carolina, served as

liturgist for the service, attended by 60 thankful worshippers.

Using John 1:35-42 as his text, Pastor Huebner spoke of the "Growth of the New Testament Christian Church." It is growth which began with one person, Jesus Christ, and which came about as believers pointed others to their Savior. As one of our Synod's newest missions, Beautiful Savior Congregation is very much a part of that growth and will seek, with the Lord's help and blessing, to contribute to this growth as pastor and people unite to tell sinners of the beauty and grace of Jesus.

Monthly Communion services were begun in Charleston in late 1972 as part of an effort by our Synod's Special Ministries Board to bring the Word and Sacraments to the men and women of our Synod stationed at the Charleston Naval Station and the Charleston Air Force Base. The closest WELS congregation was in Columbia, some 120 miles northwest. The next three years were a story of on-again-off-again services with attendance fluctuating between two and 30; of services in Naval chapels and in homes; of "live" services and tape-recorded services; of 240-mile trips to and from Columbia; of hopes and dreams and fervent prayers.

An influx of WELS people led to the authorization of exploratory services in January of this year. Mission status was granted at the General Board for Home Missions meeting in

May. On May 18, the Holy Spirit called Randall Bartelt from the graduating class of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to be the shepherd of this new congregation.

Let us remember Pastor Bartelt, his wife, Mary, and our fellow saints in Charleston in our prayers! May Jesus continue to dwell among them and in them; and may He bless their efforts in leading others to their Beautiful Savior!

John Guse

Southeastern Wisconsin Bicentennial Banner for Parkside

Parkside Lutheran Church, Sherman Blvd. and North Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin, featured a special Bicentennial banner on July 4, 1976.

The creation of this banner, which pictures Parkside Church and the flag of the United States, was a family affair. The idea was the brainchild of Pastor and Mrs. Richard Stiemke. The design and layout were the work of their son, Philip Stiemke. The banner itself was made by Mrs. Stiemke and daughter, Barbara Haefer.

The choice of Psalm 33:12 as motto, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord," enables Parkside Congregation to display the banner whenever it wishes to take special note of God's gifts through our government.

The picture was taken by Mrs. Robert Parker, a member of Parkside.



Above: Beautiful Savior Congregation, Charleston, S.C.



Right: Pastor and Mrs. R. Stiemke and Bicentennial Banner

Looking at the Religious World

Somewhat Embarrassing

Mormon Church officials were understandably pleased recently with the discovery of the original copy of the "Book of Abraham," the sacred book purportedly translated by Joseph Smith into the *Pearl of Great Price*. Mormon scholar, D. J. Nelson, an Egyptologist, was assigned the task of retranslating the text with the understanding that the new translation would be published.

The new translation, however, has not appeared in print. Nelson discovered the "sacred" book was nothing more than the form for an Egyptian burial service.

Church officials are saying nothing. Nelson and his family have resigned from the church. Unfortunately, few Mormons will ever discover that they are victims of a monumental hoax — until it is too late.

Meanwhile, Herbert W. Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God endured public embarrassment with the media disclosure of the defection of ranking officials together with a number of the church's ministers. The defectors pointed to the church's rigid standards and the inconsistent practice of the church's top ranking officials as the cause for their action. They were understandably rankled by the double-standard conduct of the Armstrongs and their associates.

Last month Armstrong's Worldwide Church of God took steps to settle its internal problems and to curb the defections by adopting a revised set of rules for church members. Revisions now allow members to celebrate their birthdays, to vote, to divorce and remarry on grounds of adultery, even to marry a person of another race. Members are no longer subject to dismissal for not tithing 30 per cent of their income to the church.

Armstrong gave no explanation for the abandonment of practices previously based "on the clear Word of

God." If according to his British-Israelite views interracial marriages were wrong before, what makes them right now? But then, false prophets have never had a reputation for theological consistency — or fidelity.

Missouri Realignment Continues

Dissident groups within The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod have held organizational meetings in recent weeks in various sections of the country to further the process of establishing a new Lutheran church body.

The name of the new body which was legally incorporated last April is the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches (AELC). Regional synods now forming in various parts of the country are expected to join the AELC at its constituting convention next December. The regional groups which have held constituting meetings to date are the Pacific Synod, The Great Rivers Synod, the English Synod, and the East Coast Synod.

As these lines are being written, the moderate movement within the LC-MS is holding its 4th assembly in Chicago. Participants are faced with deciding whether to continue the ELIM movement and programs within the synod, or to assign its programs to the new AELC. The synod moderates have supported a mission program known as Partners in Mission and Seminex, the rebel Concordia Seminary in Exile.

Synod officials continue to estimate that no more than 200 of the synod's 6,300 congregations will leave the synod to join the new church body. Moderates predict a much larger exodus from the synod.

Meanwhile the case of Dr. John Tietjen, the dismissed former president of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, has been turned over to Dr. Theodore Nickel, third vice-president

of the synod, for review. The dismissal of Dr. Tietjen on heresy charges precipitated the division which is now taking place in the synod.

It is possible that the Tietjen case will become a moot one if the new AELC adopts Seminex and Tietjen becomes a member of the new body. Dr. Tietjen is currently president of Seminex.

Principled Presbyterians

The July convention of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, included a "heresy trial" which did not receive the usual treatment in the public press.

The trial involved charges of charismatic practices against OPC missionary Arnold Kress. Kress was recalled from the church's Japan mission after he began to speak in tongues. The Ohio Presbytery formally charged him with teaching "contrary to the Word of God" for asserting that "the gifts of prophecy and tongues may continue in the church today."

Kress appealed his case to the convention of the Synod. After devoting three days and two nights of convention time to the appeal, delegates (commissioners in the OPC) voted to uphold the judgment of the Ohio Presbytery and to admonish Pastor Kress.

Though the Synod ruled against him, Kress was impressed with the evident loving concern displayed toward him by those who decided his case. He must now decide whether he can accept the decision of his brethren and teach in accord with the public doctrine of the OPC.

We admire the forthright way in which the OPC resolved the doctrinal case — the first in its 40-year history. In an age when many churches are notorious for avoiding such doctrinal confrontations for various reasons, these Presbyterians revealed themselves to be men of principle who take the Word of God and their confession of it seriously.

How different things might have been in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod if the doctrinal aberrations of erring Seminary professors had been handled in similar fashion.

Joel C. Gerlach

Praise, Joy, and Thanksgiving!

We of the Dr. Martin Luther College and Martin Luther Academy Auxiliary have reason to express *Praise, Joy, and Thanksgiving* to our kind Lord. He has richly blessed DMLC and MLA and the schools where His precious lambs are fed by dedicated workers taught at DMLC and MLA. We feel we also want to give praise — and be joyful and thankful, too — to our Lord for the many blessings He has heaped on the Ladies' Auxiliary!

The primary purpose of our Ladies' Auxiliary is to promote greater interest in DMLC and MLA, and to promote Christian fellowship among the women of our Synod. This is your Auxiliary, ladies! Why not spend a day on campus at New Ulm, and share the joy expressed by the faculty and the students! Truly, it is an experience not to be forgotten!

Since its first meeting, when 800 women assembled at New Ulm on October 16, 1960, the Lord has seen fit to help the Auxiliary carry out projects

totalling more than \$61,000 for the benefit of the students and faculty on this campus. Each year, at one of its three meetings, the Auxiliary Board carefully screens the needs of the two schools. A list of projects is then presented at the annual meeting — the day you're going to be at DMLC!

Praise, joy, and thanksgiving will prevail on the New Ulm campus when we meet you in Luther Memorial Union for a friendly coffee hour at 9:30 A.M. on October 13, 1976. The business meeting will begin at 10:30 in the Chapel Auditorium. Lunch (that interesting session!) will be served at noon. Of course, we'll return to our business in the afternoon, but it won't be all business. Our students are providing entertainment for the gathering, something that is always refreshing.

And so, won't you join us and exult with the Psalmist, "Because Thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice"!

Mrs. O. Lindholm, president

Pastor F. E. Thierfelder 1915 - 1976

Pastor Frederick E. Thierfelder was born on February 7, 1915, in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Thierfelder. Shortly after birth he entered into covenant with his Lord through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. He attended Christian day schools in Kenosha and Milwaukee and repeated his Baptismal vow in the rite of confirmation at Bethesda Lutheran Church, Milwaukee.

His preparation for the holy ministry took place at Northwestern Preparatory School and Northwestern College, from which he graduated in 1937. He completed his ministerial training at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, in 1940.

On April 13, 1941, he was ordained and installed as the pastor of St. John's Church, Town of Woodville, rural Kaukauna, Wisconsin. In January of 1947 he began his pastorate at Immanuel, Black Creek, Wisconsin. His final charge was Riverview Lutheran Church, Appleton, Wisconsin, which he served from 1955 till the time of his death.

Pastor Thierfelder was stricken with a third heart attack on Thursday, July 29, while at his doctor's office. Although the latest medical equipment was available, the Divine Physician, in His goodness and mercy, on that day chose to call His servant to eternal rest and unending happiness.

Survivors include his wife, Ananda nee Sandsmark, whom he married on July 5, 1941; his daughter Jean, a medical student at the University of Wisconsin, Madison; his son Paul,

WRAPPING IT ALL UP

(continued)

I am a confirmed "hoper," and I am sure that by December 31 all congregations will have concluded their part in the offering. All of us have so many blessings to remember. I recall one retired pastor with slim resources who sent a check of \$1,500 for the offering. "I have so much to be grateful for," he wrote. "I am especially grateful for my teachers at Northwestern College and the Seminary who prepared me for a Gospel ministry to God's people in the Synod. While I don't have everything I *want* in my retirement, I do have everything I *need* — including my health. For all of God's blessings, please place the enclosed check into the 125th Anniversary Thankoffering."

Of the measurable blessings of God to the Synod through the 125 years, there have been many. It is appropriate that all those measurable blessings of 125 years be crowned by the successful conclusion of the 125th Anniversary Thankoffering. The offering itself is only a veneer over all of God's other blessings to us, reaching down to our hearts which have been fitted by Him through His Son for forever.

James P. Schaefer

who is preparing for the ministry at Northwestern College. He is also survived by two brothers, Victor of Englewood, Florida, and the Rev. William Thierfelder, Long Island, New York; and one sister, Mrs. Fritz Miller, La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Basing his message on Isaiah 61:10a, Prof. A. Schuetze brought the rich comfort of God's Word to the members of the bereaved family and to the members of the congregation at the funeral conducted on August 1, 1976. Pastor W. Zickuhr served as liturgist.

Our brother's mortal remains were laid to rest in St. John's Cemetery, Woodville, Wisconsin, to await the summons of the Lord to life everlasting. We thank God that He clothed our brother with the garments of salvation and covered him with the robe of righteousness.

John W. Mattek

ADDRESSES

(Submitted through the District Presidents)

Pastors:

Degner, Steven C.
5673 Encina Rd., No. 106
Goleta, CA 93017

Falk, Roger W.
38-147 Azashimobara
Hyogozuka-Machi
Utsunomiya
Tochigi 320, Japan

Kiecker, James
303 S. Jefferson
(Zilwaukee)
Saginaw, MI 48604

Naumann, Peter J.
1049 1st Ave. North
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Tel.: (612) 252-9475

Plocher, Karl M.
1015 33rd St.
Bay City, MI 48706

Reimers, Reuben O.
809 Range St.
North Mankato, MN 56001

Schmidt, James A.
P.O. Box 367
Morgan, MN 56266
Tel.: (507) 249-3133

Seelow, James P.
6117 First St. Box 96
Mayville, MI 48744

Toppe, Frederick
208 S. Pine St.
Kimberly, WI 54136

Voss, David E.
3451 Eden Drive
Santa Clara, CA 95051
Tel.: (408) 248-3484

Weber, D. Craig
1702 Magnolia St.
Plover, WI 54467

Teachers:

Jacobs, David M.
307 Cherokee Ct.
Altamonte Springs, FL 32701
Tel.: (305) 830-5496

Marten, Thomas
1269 Nantucket
Aurora, IL 60506

Moeller, James R.
17103 Ella Blvd. No. 261
Houston, TX 77090

Treder, Gerald
115 2nd Ave., S.E.
Watertown, SD 57201

Warning, Gerald P.
P.O. Box 116
Sanborn, MN 56083
Tel.: (507) 648-3665

ORDAINED AND INSTALLED

(Authorized by the District Presidents)
Ordained and Installed

Pastor:

Schmidt, James A., as pastor of Zion, Morgan, Minnesota, on August 8, 1976, by R. Kant (Minn.).

Installed

Pastors:

Kiecker, James, as pastor of St. John's, Saginaw (Zilwaukee), Michigan, on August 29, 1976, by N. Schroeder (Mich.).

Toppe, Frederick, as pastor of Mt. Calvary, Kimberly, Wisconsin, on August 1, 1976, by R. Ash (N. Wis.).
Reimers, Reuben O., as pastor of St. Paul's, North Mankato, Minnesota, on August 8, 1976, by R. Haase (Minn.).

Voss, David E., as pastor of Peace, Santa Clara, California, on August 8, 1976, by A. Young (Ariz.-Calif.).

Teachers:

Adickes, Mark, as teacher at Faith, Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, on August 8, 1976, by M. Janke (N. Wis.).
Jacobs, David M., as teacher at King of Kings, Maitland, Florida, on August 22, 1976, by M. Goeglein (S. Atl.).

Marten, Thomas, as principal and teacher at Resurrection, Aurora, Illinois, on July 11, 1976, by T. Deters (SEW).

Moeller, James R., as teacher at Abiding Word, Houston, Texas, on August 8, 1976, by W. Gabb (Ariz.-Calif.).

Storm, Jay S., as teacher at Trinity, Jenera, Ohio, on August 15, 1976, by D. Laude (Mich.).

Warning, Gerald P., as teacher at Zion, Sanborn, Minnesota, on August 15, 1976, by R. Kant (Minn.).

CALENDAR OF CONFERENCES

DAKOTA-MONTANA

ALBERTA-MONTANA FALL PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 21-22, 1976.

Place: Trinity Lutheran Church, Terry, Montana; D. Hrobbsky, host pastor.

Preacher: J. Engel (A. Schulz, alternate).

Agenda: What Implications Does the Title Have on Our Christian Stewardship? D. Neumann; The Meaning and Use of Old Testament Types: P. Schliesser; The Ordination of Women: H. Nehmer; Exegesis of the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 7:15-29): K. Wenzel; Reviewing the new WELS Enchiridion: A. Schulz.
H. Nehmer, Secretary

WESTERN PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: October 5-6, 1976.

Place: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Faith, South Dakota (first day) and Peace Lutheran Church, Isabel, South Dakota (second day).

Preacher: L. Schroeder (C. Lindemann, alternate).

Agenda: Formula of Concord, Article IV: P. Heiderich; Origin and Terminology of the Athanasian Creed: R. Krueger; Hebrews: G. Lemke; Evaluation of Arm-strongism: H. Elwein; How to Preach a Book of the Bible (as Luther did): L. Schroeder.

Note: Send excuses to the host pastor.
R. Pless, Secretary

MICHIGAN

NORTHERN PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 20, 1976; 9 a.m. (Note: One-day conference only.)

Place: St. John, Frankenmuth, Michigan.

Preacher: H. Sauer (E. Schmelzer, alternate).

Agenda: Augsburg Confession and Apology, Article XII: D. Fritz; A Study of Excommunication and Suspension: D. Krause; A Study of Transcendental Meditation: C. Bonow.

E. C. Schmelzer, Secretary

DISTRICT PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: Sept. 20-21; 10:00 a.m.

Communion service: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Grace English Ev. Lutheran Church, Tecumseh, Michigan, K. Strack, host pastor.

Preacher: J. Westendorf (L. Hallauer, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of Romans 13:1-7, R. Baer; Practical Paper: What Degree of Doctrinal Agreement is Necessary for Membership in the WELS?; E. Frey; Doctrinal Paper: *Gesetzlich Wesen Unter Uns*, discussion leader H. Engel.

Note: Send excuses to the host pastor.
D. Schulz, Secretary

SOUTHWESTERN PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 21, 1976

Place: Good Shepherd, Benton Harbor, Michigan (W. Zarling, host pastor).

Preacher: J. Graf (W. Hein, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of I Corinthians 14:33-35 and I Timothy 2:11-15: A. Ruddat; Continuation of *Gesetzlich Wesen*: J. Graf and H. Kuske; Meditation: Pagan and Christian (continued): F. Toppe; Reports and Conference Business.

R. Semro, Secretary

DISTRICT TEACHERS' CONFERENCE

Place: St. Paul's Lutheran School, South Haven, Michigan.

Date: October 6-8, 1976.

Agenda: Transcendental Meditation: Pastor L. Schroeder; Luther as Father and Teacher: Prof. A. Koelpin; Individualized Reading: Teacher J. Boehm; Junior Choir: Teacher R. Kallies; Kindergarten in the Multi-grade Classroom: Teacher P. Hannemann; Metric System in Our Schools: Prof. M. Spaude; Reports by the Area Lutheran High Schools, the Synod Board for Parish Education, the District Board for Parish Education, the District President, Dr. Martin Luther College, Secretary of Certification.

J. Martens, Secretary

MINNESOTA

CROW RIVER PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 21, 1976; 10:00 a.m. Communion service.

Place: St. Mark's Lutheran, Bemidji, Minnesota.

Preacher: G. Johnson (J. Lillo, alternate).

Agenda: Isagogical Study of the Gospel of St. John: T. Frey; "The Divine Call" with emphasis on how and when a call is terminated: N. Gieschen; Sermon Study on Genesis 50:15-23: M. Lopahs; (Exegesis of I Timothy 1:1-14: M. Crawford, alternate).

J. Moldenhauer, Secretary

NEW ULM PASTOR-TEACHER-DELEGATE CONFERENCE

Date: September 19, 1976; 2:30 p.m.

Place: Nicollet, Minnesota.

L. W. Meyer, Secretary

MANKATO PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: October 5, 1976; 9:00 a.m. Communion service.

Place: St. Paul's, North Mankato, Minnesota; Reuben O. Reimers, host pastor.

Preacher: E. Peterson (R. Schlicht, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of II Timothy 3: A. Jannusch (alternate); Exegesis of II Timothy 4: O. Lindholm; Role of Women in the Church; Questions of Casuistry.

W. E. Wagner, Secretary

NEBRASKA

CENTRAL PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 21-22, 1976; 9:00 a.m. Communion service.

Place: Good Hope, Omaha, Nebraska.

Preacher: R. Roth (R. Beckmann, alternate).

Agenda: A Review of the Proposed Enchiridion Revision: R. Roth; Isagogical Study of Amos: R. Schlieve; Exegesis of Romans 3:21-31: D. Hartley; An Evaluation of Available Adult Instruction Materials: G. Freese.

Note: Please announce intentions concerning meals and lodging to the host pastor.

R. Schlieve, Secretary

NORTHERN WISCONSIN

WINNEBAGO PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: Sept. 20, 1976; 9:00 a.m.

Place: Grace Lutheran Church, Pickett, Wisconsin.

Preacher: WLCFS Representative (W. Weissgerber, alternate).

Agenda: Smalcald Articles — Introduction and Part I: E. Semenske; Exegesis of Titus, chapter 1: A. Tiefel; *Shepherd Under Christ*, Chapter 2: L. Groth.

S. Stern, Secretary

FOX RIVER VALLEY PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 21, 1976; 9:00 a.m. Communion service.

Place: Christ Ev. Lutheran Church, Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin.

Preacher: WLCFS Representative (C. Voss, alternate).

Agenda: A Definitive Study of Proselytizing: C. Lawrenz; Exegetical Study of I Peter 5: A. Wood; Exegetical Study of Psalm 10: J. Behling; Homiletical Study of the Gospel for Second Sunday after Epiphany: J. Schewe; Questions of Casuistry; Elections.

R. Muetzel, Secretary

LAKE SUPERIOR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS' CONVENTION

The 47th annual Lake Superior Sunday School Teachers' Convention will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church, Abrams, Wisconsin, on Sunday, September 26, 1976, at 2:30 p.m. CDT. The host pastor is Karl E. Kuenzel.

Mrs. D. Polzin, Secretary

LAKE SUPERIOR PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: October 12-13, 1976.

Preacher: L. Weindorf (R. Frohmader, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of Genesis 49: T. Trapp (Alternate: Genesis 50: J. Kingsbury); *This We Believe*: The Teachings that are Condemned, Part I: P. Kuckhahn; Methods of Educating Our Congregations in the Liturgy: A. C. Meyer; Exegesis of Galatians 3 (continued): D. Tills; Exegesis of Galatians 4: K. Kuenzel; *Augsburg Confession*, Art. 9, *Of Baptism*: L. Weindorf; Book Review: F. Mueller; Circuit Pastor's Report; Parish Education Report; Conference Business.

Note: Those desiring lodging are requested to make their intention known to the host pastor as soon as possible.

K. Kuenzel, Secretary

PACIFIC NORTHWEST

PACIFIC NORTHWEST PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 28, 1976.

Place: Seaside Inn, Seaside, Oregon.

Chairman: A. Valario.

Preacher: G. Ditter (R. Mehler, alternate).

Agenda: Homiletical Study: F. Zimmerman; Exegetical Study on II Peter 1:3-15: N. Meier; The Millennium: M. Teske; Euthanasia: R. Bauer; Study on *Shepherd Under Christ*: L. Lambert; The Revised Enchiridion: W. Widman.

P. Lemke, Secretary

SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN

METRO-SOUTH PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: Sept. 20, 1976.

Place: Woodlawn Lutheran Church, West Allis, Wisconsin.

Preacher: E. Lehninger (C. Leyrer, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of Mark 6:30ff.; V. Thierfelder; How do VFW, American Legion, Jaycees, and Kiwanis Differ from the un-Christian Lodge? R. Brassow; Isagogics of the Book of Joel: P. Hartwig; (Augsburg Confession, Article VI: G. Snyder, alternate).

Note: Please send excuses to the host pastor, R. Schulz.

R. Kom, Secretary

METRO-NORTH PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 20, 1976; 9:00 a. m. Communion service.

Place: Zion Church, 415 W. Capitol Drive, Hartland, Wisconsin 53029; N. Barenz, host pastor.

Preacher: D. Kuske (K. Lenz, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of Hosea 2:1-5; P. Nitz; Essay: Euthanasia: I. Habbeck; Mini-essay: Isagogical Treatment of Joel: N. Engel.

Note: All excuses are to be sent to the host pastor or the conference secretary.

K. Mahnke, Secretary

SOUTH ATLANTIC

FLORIDA PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: Sept. 27-28; beginning at 10:00 a.m. on Monday.

Place: Redeemer, Merritt Island, Florida.

Communion service: Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Preacher: J. Anderson (M. Goeglein, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of James 1:16-21; R. Wendland; Doctrines and Beliefs of Seventh-Day Adventism: J. Aderman; Outline of the Life of Christ: L. Lemke; The Historical Background Which Led to the Formation of The Protestant Conference: Joh. P. Meyer; Continued Reading of J. P. Koehler's *Gesetzlich Wesen Unter Uns*: J. Lawrenz.

D. Lemke, Secretary

WESTERN WISCONSIN

MISSISSIPPI RIVER VALLEY PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 21, 1976; 9:10 a.m. Communion service.

Place: Trinity, Wilson, Minnesota.

Preacher: J. Mumm (N. Kuske, alternate).

Agenda: Exegesis of Luke 8:4; F. Miller; The Impact of Christianity on the American Revolution: Prof. E. Fredrich; Article I of the *Formula of Concord*: J. Liggett; Questions of Casuistry; Business.

E. Klumb, Secretary

SOUTHWESTERN PASTORAL CONFERENCE

Date: September 28, 1976; 9:00 a.m.

Place: St. John's Lutheran Church, Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Preacher: H. Winkel (E. Breiling, alternate).

Agenda: Philippians 4: L. Wendland; Guidelines in Divorce Counseling, with Special Emphasis on "What is Malicious Desertion?" E. Breiling; A Study of the Second Draft of the Revised Enchiridion of Luther's Catechism: F. Werner; The OT and NT on the "Separation of Church and State": R. Kloehn.

R. Kloehn, Secretary

STUDENTS AT IOWA STATE

The Lutheran Collegians of Iowa State University would like to hear about any Wisconsin Synod students who have newly enrolled in Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, or are continuing their studies at Ames. Please send information to: Pastor Chris Morales, 3219 Diamond St., Ames, Iowa 50010.

STUDENTS UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Students attending the University of Illinois are invited to attend worship services at Bethlehem Ev. Lutheran Church, 312 W. Elm St., Urbana, Illinois. Bible class begins at 9:30 a.m. and worship service at 10:30 a.m. Parents and pastors are asked to send all names to Pastor Richard Raabe, 2102 E. Vermont Ave., Urbana, Illinois 61801, or call (217) 344-6206.

OFFER

Gethsemane Ev. Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa, offers to any mission congregation or exploratory group, for the cost of transportation, 36 wooden folding chairs in good condition. Please contact Pastor M. W. Dietz, 2414 E. 32nd Street, Davenport, Iowa, 52807; phone: (319) 359-0144.

STUDENTS

WELS college-age students who are attending non-Synodical institutions away from home are entitled to receive *Meditations* and devotional materials. In addition, they may also receive *The Northwestern Lutheran* upon request.

The request for students' names to be placed on a spiritual mailing list must be renewed *each* year. Pastors should send names to the Student Services Committee, 3512 W. North Ave., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208. Since it takes several weeks to process names, please take care of submitting the names *today*.

NEW WELS CHURCHES

EXPLORATORY

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

Exploratory services are now being conducted in Modesto by Pastor Hugo Warnke at 10:30 a.m. at the YMCA chapel, 2700 McHenry Street. Send Merced and Castle AFB references to Pastor Warnke at 3313 Sherwood Dr. No. 2 Modesto, California, or call (209) 527-0563.

SCOTTSBLUFF, NEBRASKA

Exploratory services are being held at the Scottsbluff Inn in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, at Highway 26 and 21st Avenue at 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Sunday school is at 10:00 a.m. The services are conducted by the Nebraska District Missionary, Pastor A. L. Schmeling, whose address is 2917 Park Lane Road, Scottsbluff, Nebraska 69361.

PLYMOUTH, WISCONSIN

Exploratory services are being held in Hotel Mitchell, downtown Plymouth, at 8:00 a.m. Sundays. For information, please call Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Hansmann at (414) 892-7349, or Pastor John Baumgart at (414) 533-4385. The Hansmanns live at 18 Grove Street, Plymouth, Wisconsin 53073.

HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Exploratory services are being conducted Sundays in the area of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, at Yellow Breeches Motor Inn, located at I-83 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Services begin at 7:00 p.m. For local information call 561-1928. Please send names of prospects to Pastor Dennis Valleau, 231 Eagle Street, Wescosville, Pennsylvania, 18106, or call (215) 395-0925.

NAMES REQUESTED

KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE

Please forward names of WELS people and prospects living in the Knoxville, Tennessee, area to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Burke, 105 Edinboro Lane, B-22, Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830, or to Pastor John Guse, 429 Shag Bark Trail, Lexington, South Carolina 29072.

IMLAY CITY, MICHIGAN

The Michigan District Mission Board is considering the above area for a possible mission. Anyone knowing of persons living in the area (Imlay City, Lapeer, Capac, Almont) is asked to send their names to Pastor Robert Diener, PO Box 316, North Branch, Michigan 48461.

BRIDGEPORT/CONNECTICUT AREA

The Colonial Mission District is investigating the need for exploratory services in the greater Bridgeport/Connecticut area. Please send the names of interested parties living in, or moving to, southwestern Connecticut to the Rev. Karl Gurgel, 296 Buckland Road, South Windsor, Connecticut 06074, or call (203) 644-1980.

TIME AND PLACE

ALTOONA, PENNSYLVANIA

Our Savior Lutheran Church of Altoona, Pennsylvania, is worshipping in the War Governor's Suite of the Penn Alto Hotel, 13th Ave. and 12th St. downtown. Sunday school and Bible class are at 9:30, worship service at 10:45. Please send names and direct requests for information to Pastor Matthew Zehms, 106 Ruskin Dr., Altoona, Pennsylvania 16602.

TOMAHAWK, WISCONSIN

Visitors to Wisconsin's Northwoods, please note: Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church (the WELS mission in Tomahawk) will begin a new schedule of services effective September 12, 1976 (the Sunday after Labor Day). Sunday worship services will be held at 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

CLIFTON PARK, NEW YORK

King of Kings Lutheran Church, formerly of Schenectady, New York, now has a new address. It is Cresent Road, Clifton Park, New York 12065. Pastor of the congregation is the Rev. Erich Waldek, 37 Onderdonk Rd., Scotia, New York 12301 (Phone 518-399-3046).

CLEARWATER, FLORIDA

Christ the Lord, our mission church in Clearwater, Florida, is now worshipping at the Holiday Inn on Highways 19 and 60. Worship services begin at 9:30, followed by Sunday school and Bible class at 10:30 a.m.

CHAPLAIN E. C. RENZ HOME ADDRESS

6501 Gau-Bischofsheim
Bahnhofstrasse 92
West Germany
Telephone: 06135-3249

MAILING ADDRESS

398-12-3568
Box R
APO NY 09185

CHANGE OF NAME

The former Martin Luther Lutheran Church of Santa Barbara, California, organized in 1972, recently changed its name to Our Redeemer Ev. Lutheran Church. Pastor of the congregation is the Rev. Steven C. Degner.

WINTERING ON THE NORTH SUNCOAST

Winter residents and tourists to the north Suncoast of Florida (Gulf side) are invited to worship Sundays at 9:30 a.m. with the members of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church at Bayonet Point. Our mission chapel is located at 200 State Road 52 in the Gateway Executive Center, Room 202A. Names and addresses of WELS members or prospective members in the Port Richey, Hudson, or Spring Hill areas may be sent to Pastor L. H. Lemke, 1403 Hunting Saddle Drive North, New Port Richey, Florida 33552. Phone (813) 863-3957.

Treasurer's Report

PREBUDGET SUBSCRIPTION PERFORMANCE

Seven months ended July 31, 1976

	Subscription Amount for 1976	7/12 of Annual Subscription	Subscription and Pension Offerings	Per Cent of Subscription
Arizona-California	\$ 351,776	\$ 205,203	\$ 217,023	105.8
Dakota-Montana	218,873	127,676	123,491	96.7
Michigan	1,115,796	650,881	575,997	88.5
Minnesota	1,177,243	686,725	735,563	107.1
Nebraska	221,420	129,162	125,131	96.9
Northern Wisconsin	1,247,301	727,592	698,916	96.1
Pacific Northwest	99,040	57,773	63,167	109.3
Southeastern Wisconsin	1,542,708	899,913	831,423	92.4
Western Wisconsin	1,465,523	854,889	772,858	90.4
South Atlantic	71,860	41,918	47,867	114.2
Total — 1976	\$7,511,540	\$4,381,732	\$4,191,436	95.7
Total — 1975	\$7,042,363	\$4,108,045	\$3,843,761	93.6

CURRENT BUDGETARY FUND

Statement of Income and Expenditures

Twelve months ended July 31, 1976 with comparative figures for 1975

	Twelve months ended July 31		Increase or Decrease*	
	1976	1975	Amount	Per Cent
Income				
Prebudget Subscription Offerings	\$7,429,119	\$6,802,998	\$626,121	9.2
Pension Plan Contributions	82,807	83,054	247*	0.3*
Gifts and Memorials	130,101	230,254	100,153*	43.5*
Bequests	113,617	—	113,617	—
Earnings from Fox Estate	41,703	50,460	8,757*	17.4*
Other Income	13,674	13,836	162*	1.1*
Transfers from Other Funds	88,713	57,374	31,339	54.6
Total Income	\$7,899,734	\$7,237,976	\$661,758	9.1
Expenditures				
Worker-Training — Expenses	\$4,539,983	\$4,242,927	\$297,056	7.0
Worker-Training — Income	1,926,606	1,700,648	225,958	13.3
Worker-Training — Net	\$2,613,377	\$2,542,279	\$71,098	2.8
Home Missions	1,495,059	1,388,363	106,696	7.7
World Missions	1,241,079	1,201,919	39,160	3.3
Benevolences	946,292	865,281	81,011	9.4
Administration and Services	723,263	589,340	133,923	22.7
Total Operations	\$7,019,070	\$6,587,182	\$431,888	6.6
Appropriations — Building Funds	200,000	188,076	11,924	6.3
Appropriations — CEF Program	548,448	801,179	252,731*	31.5*
Total Expenditures	\$7,767,518	\$7,576,437	\$191,081	2.5
Operating Gain/Deficit*	\$ 132,216	\$ 338,461*		

Norris Koopmann, Treasurer & Controller
Donald E. Wilke, Assistant Treasurer
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208

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

For the month of	Cutoff Date:
September	October 7
October	November 5
November	December 7
December	January 7

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY AUXILIARY REMINDER

The Fourth Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Auxiliary will be held Saturday, October 2, 1976.

An invitation is extended to all women who are members of Wisconsin Synod congregations or congregations in fellowship with us.

Registration and a coffee hour are scheduled from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. The opening service begins at 10:00 a.m. Music will be furnished by the Seminary Chorus. A freewill offering will be taken. Memorials or donations from individuals,

congregations, or their organizations will also be gratefully received. The business meeting will follow with a break at noon for a meal in the dining hall and a tour of the buildings for those who desire it.

Later an informal program will be presented by Seminary professors and students. The day's activities will conclude about 4:00 p.m.

Reservations are to be made by September 18, 1976. Please send them, together with \$4.25 to cover the registration fee and the noon meal, to Mrs. Clifford Krueger, 6565 W. Edgerton St., Greendale, Wisconsin 53129.

The Publicity Committee
Mrs. Fred Priebe, Chairman

NOMINATIONS FOR ASSOCIATE EDITOR Northwestern Publishing House

The following have been nominated as Associate Editor of the Northwestern Publishing House:

Rev. Roland C. Ehlike	Little Chute, WI
Rev. David Gosdeck	Lake City, MN
Rev. Ronald Gosdeck	Kenosha, WI
Rev. David Gray	Phoenix, AZ
Prof. Eldor Keibel	Milwaukee, WI
Rev. Clarence Koepsell	Oshkosh, WI
Rev. John Lawrenz	Gainesville, FL
Rev. Marcus Nitz	Garden Grove, CA
Rev. Victor Prange	Janesville, WI
Rev. Neal Schroeder	Monroe, MI
Prof. Robert Sievert	West St. Paul, MN

Correspondence concerning these nominations should be received by the Secretary of the NPH Board no later than September 27.

Mrs. H. P. Gieschen, Secretary
Northwestern Publishing House
3624 West North Avenue,
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53208