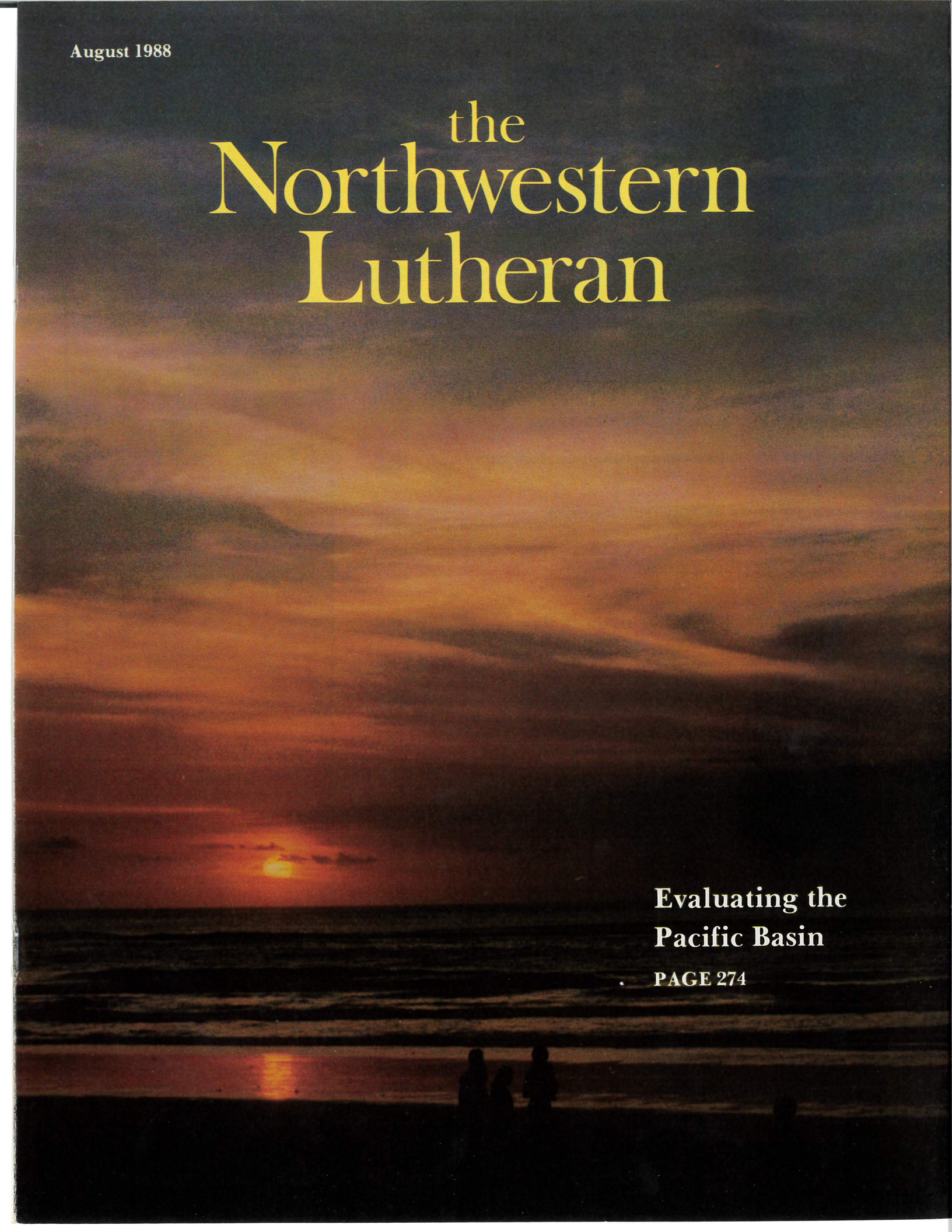


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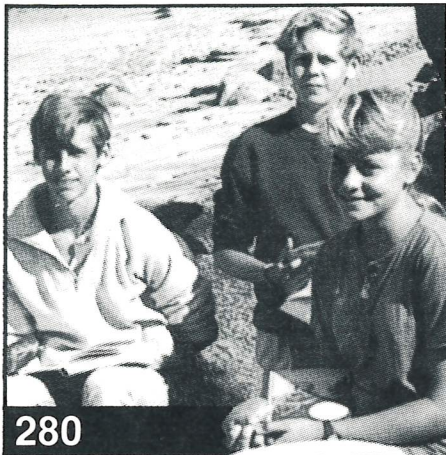
# the Northwestern Lutheran

Evaluating the  
Pacific Basin

PAGE 274







280



274

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

# the Northwestern Lutheran

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## FEATURES

**The word for today** by *Richard E. Lauersdorf* 263  
Much like us!

**Paul's letters from prison** by *Julian G. Anderson* 265  
Philippians 4:2-23

**The Lord's Prayer** by *Wayne A. Laitinen* 266  
"Our Father who art in heaven"

**Civil rights? Anything goes** 267  
by *William F. Buckley, Jr.*

**If it's Wednesday, it must be malaria day** 268  
by *Kurt F. Koeplin*  
An overview of a Southeast Asia field visit

**Sixty years** by *Jim Adams* 269  
Preach, teach the Bible, visit people

**Doughnuts and dogmatics at the beach** 280  
by *Silas R. Krueger*

## COLUMNS

**Editorial comment** by *Carleton Toppe* 264  
When "conscience" isn't enough

**Letters** 270

**From this corner** by *the editor* 279

## NEWS

**District conventions** 271

**Day to remember for the LECC** 272

**AAL grant announced** 273

**New magazine for student writers** 273

**Evaluating the Pacific Basin** 274

**Hymnal report: Summer 1988** 275

COVER: Sunset on the island of Bali.

PHOTO CREDITS: Cover, 268 - Robert Siirila. 269 - Star Tribune. 274 - Kurt Koeplin. 280 - Silas Krueger.



# Much like us!

by Richard E. Lauersdorf

*Then he brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas" (which, when translated, is Peter) (John 1:42).*

**H**e talked when he should have been thinking. He slept when he should have been watching. He denied his Lord even after boasting he never would. He misunderstood his Master's mission even after having seen his glory. How much like us Peter was in his weakness. Yet look at what the Lord did with him just as the Savior also can do for us.

## There's hope for us

What do you think Simon might tell us if we could meet him face to face? Might he have something to say about knowing our weaknesses? Knowing our strengths can lead to great accomplishments, but knowing our weaknesses can prevent even greater tragedy. If only Peter had recognized his pride! What sins and tears he might have avoided. What is our weakness? Is it that same devilish pride which thinks we are so much and others so little and which shows in the way we treat them? Is it the sin of gossip which just can't rest until something tainted is heard or repeated about someone else? Is it gold and fingers which reach and hearts which covet till we can never have enough? "Know your weakness," Peter might tell us, "the devil does and if you don't, he'll win."

"Shed your tears," he might also tell us. Our 20th century weeps too little over sin and we so often follow suit. When's the last time our sins really hit us? The last time we really stopped to think about the damnable difference between what God in his mercy wants us to be and what we actually are in daily life? That Maundy Thursday evening Peter finally knew and his tears flowed. What about us?

But above all, Peter might say, "There's hope for you too." "Consistently inconsistent" Peter has been labeled. Doesn't that label also fit us? One moment our faith seems so strong, the next it's shot full of holes by doubts and questions. One moment we love the Savior with all our heart, the next we deny him with our lives. One moment we sincerely repent of our sins and earnestly purpose with the aid of God the Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives, the next we are just as mean and irritable, uncharitable and unforgiving as before. "Consistently inconsistent" — yes,

that's us too. But Peter would tell us, "There's hope for you. Look at what the Master did to me and what he wants to do to you."

## There's strength for us

It took months of pounding and hammering, molding and shaping, but look what Jesus did to Simon. When his faith and knowledge needed broadening, the Master patiently taught him and repeated the lessons. When the boaster denied, the Savior looked on him and brought him to tears of repentance. When Easter Sunday came, the risen Lord came to him individually to stop his tears. And in the next few weeks the Lord restored him publicly to his discipleship telling him, "Feed my sheep, feed my lambs." As the Lord worked on him, more and more he became Peter the rock (which is the meaning of Cephas and Peter) and less and less clay was left in him. More and more he who had been so "consistently inconsistent" became "consistently strong."

Read the first 12 chapters of Acts and notice how Peter's strength shows. It was he who preached the sermon on Pentecost. It was he who, along with John, faced the hostile Sanhedrin and said, "We cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." It was he who, when jailed for the second time, rejoiced that he was counted worthy to suffer shame for Jesus' name. Peter preached sermons, put up with imprisonment, prepared the way for work among the Gentiles — all with the strength Christ gave him.

What do you think Peter might tell us if we could meet with him? Might he say, "There's no use in even trying. You'll never become as strong as I?" Or would it be, "There's strength for you and you can find it in the same place I did?" It was Peter who wrote, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation" (1 Peter 2:2). And it was Peter who in his last recorded verse in Scripture urged, "Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever" (2 Peter 3:18).

Do we want to have more strength? To be more rock and less clay? Peter shows us how — through the Savior and his word. □



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

## When “conscience” isn’t enough

**T**he self-assured nun fixes bold eyes on the studio camera as she asserts her right to defy her church’s teaching on abortion. She declares that her conscience compels her to defend the rights of women to do as they please with their own bodies and with the new lives being formed within them.

The disgraced TV evangelist, whose gross immorality has disqualified him for the public ministry insists on a quick return to his pulpit despite his church body’s prohibition. He declares that his conscience is directing him to ignore the ban.

Doesn’t conscience decide the issue in each case? Conscience tells us what is right and wrong. Conscience is the voice God has placed within us to approve our actions when we do what is right, and condemn them when we do what is wrong. Surely, then, we must heed this voice within us, since it is God-given. Certainly we must also respect the conscience of others, who regulate their lives by their consciences.

More than that, it is wrong to sin against conscience. Christians who deliberately act contrary to their conscience and their better knowledge are on their way to destroying their faith and ceasing to be Christians. The unbeliever too is responsible to his conscience. When he sins against it, he destroys himself as a decent and trustworthy human being.

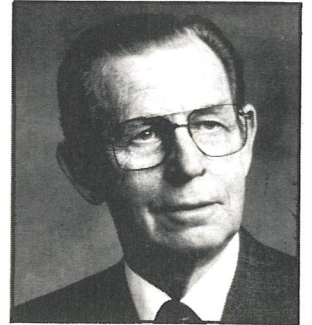
Then, do the consciences of the liberated nun and of the self-serving evangelist back us into a corner? Must we accept the pronouncements of their consciences while our own consciences cry out against them? Not when people play games with their consciences; not when they have erring consciences.

The appeal to “conscience” to justify sins and even crimes can be the refuge of a scoundrel who tries to pass off his or her sinful and selfish desires as conscience. The voice of lust or disobedience or vainglory is not the voice of conscience; it is the voice of self-serving sin.

Furthermore, when conscience does speak, it may be erring. Sin can distort the message conscience transmits to us. It can twist our knowledge of what is right and wrong, and then conscience follows and defends these false standards. Conscience may still be functioning, but it is using the wrong principles on which to act. The “conscience” of the Pharisees condemned Jesus’ disciples for plucking heads of grain for food on the Sabbath, but it was operating according to the wrong law. Paul’s “conscience” once drove him to hound Christians to death, but it was a conscience that was locked into the principle of salvation by works.

A conscience that works with lies and falsehood is an erring conscience, and its judgment is neither to be respected nor heeded. When the voice of a conscience contradicts the will and work of God and defends sin, it must be disowned. The voice of conscience must echo the revealed word of God, or it is a false judge and guide, however pious its pronouncements may sound.

Carleton Toppe



*Professor Toppe is the retired president of Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin.*



# Philippians 4:2-23

by Julian G. Anderson

**I**n most of Paul's letters the last section or chapter is filled with personal news, greetings, comments, etc., which make them real letters. Thus Paul begins here with

## Personal requests (2-3)

"Euodia and Syntyche, I'm pleading with you to be perfectly agreed, as sisters in the Lord. And I'm asking you, my true partner, to help these ladies who have worked so hard with me to spread the Good News, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are written in the Book of Life." Unfortunately we know nothing else about any of the people named here. Then Paul writes

## Be living examples of the Christian life

"Always be joyful, as those who are in the Lord. I'll say it again — always be joyful. Everyone must know how kind and considerate you are. The Lord is coming soon. So don't be worried about anything. But every time you pray and ask for something, let God know what you want with a thankful heart. And God's peace, which is far greater than any mind can understand, will guard your hearts and minds, since you are in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers and sisters, you must keep on thinking about everything that is excellent and worthy of praise, the kind of things that are true, respectable, right, pure, lovely and pleasing. And do those things you have learned and received from me, whether it was something I told you to do, or something you saw me doing. And our God who gives us peace will be with you." These were Paul's last words of advice to his friends in Philippi. Then he continues

## Thanks for all your gifts and help! (10-20)

"My heart was filled with joy to see that now, after all this time, you were still concerned about me. Of course you were always thinking of me but you didn't have the chance to show it. I'm not saying this because I'm in need of anything, because I have learned to be content under all conditions. I know what it is to be poor, and I know what it is to have plenty. And I have learned the secret of feeling that I have all I need in every situation and at all times, whether I'm well-fed or hungry, whether I have more than I need or not enough. I'm strong enough for every situation be-

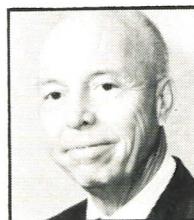
cause of the one who makes me strong." What a beautiful philosophy of life. And one that we should make our own.

"But you did a fine thing to share what you have with me in my troubles. And you people in Philippi also know that in the early days, right after I brought you the Good News and then left Macedonia, there wasn't any other church who shared their income with me to repay me for what they had received. You were the only ones who did this. For even when I was in Thessalonica you sent a gift to supply my needs, not just once but twice. It isn't that I'm looking for a gift. Instead I'm looking for the fruit that keeps on piling up on your account. Now that I have received your gift from Epaphroditus I have received full payment, and even more, so that I have more than I need. And the gifts you sent were a sweet smelling offering to God and a sacrifice which was pleasing and acceptable to him. (This is the way we should think of all our gifts to our church and synod.) And in his wonderful way my God will supply your every need from his limitless wealth through Christ Jesus. So the glory and honor belong to our God and Father forever and ever." No wonder the Philippians were Paul's favorite congregation. Then come Paul's

## Final greetings (21-23)

"Give my greetings to every one of God's people, as from one believer in Christ Jesus to another. The brothers who are with me send you their greetings (see Colossians 4:7-14). All of God's people here send you their greetings, especially those who are living in the emperor's palace. I pray that you will continue to enjoy the undeserved love of our Lord Jesus Christ."

And with that we come to the end of the four letters Paul wrote during his first imprisonment in Rome, from 60 to 62 A.D. And as Paul hinted in Philippians 1:23-26, he was tried, found not guilty and released in 62 to resume his travels, but only briefly. □



Pastor Anderson's "New Testament in Everyday American English" which was used in this series is available from Northwestern Publishing House at \$4.95 plus postage.

*Julian Anderson is a retired pastor and seminary professor living in Naples, Florida.*



# “Our Father who art in heaven”

by Wayne A. Laitinen

“Our Father. . . .” It seems that the label “father” has been suffering from bad press lately. Many wives and children recoil at the word. They remember only the physical or emotional abuse they have suffered at the hands of someone named “father.” Through no fault of your own they associate your name with that of a tyrant or despot. But you, dear God, purify and restore benevolence to the title “father.”

Where others maim and tear down, you gave us life and healing.

Instead of broadcasting our sins and shame, you have buried them in the wounds of your holy Son.

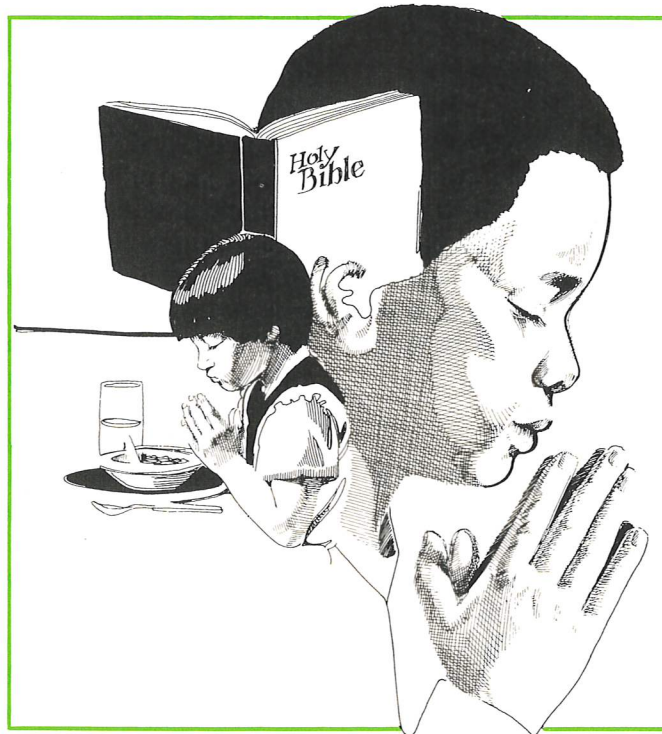
Though we deserved it, you did not take the bread from our mouths.

Rather, you filled us with the Bread of Life through word and sacrament.

Who would not live with such a father forever?

How tenderly you invite us to ask you for what we need!

“Our Father. . . .” It is written: “You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus” (Galatians 3:26). Only those who believe that Jesus took away their sins and eternal punishment can be called your children. We thank you that you have given us your divine fingerprints in the early part of this prayer. Now we know that only the Triune God is worthy of



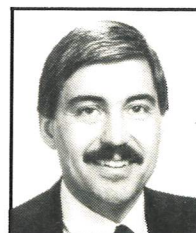
the name “father.” No other god can give us the gifts which we are about to request.

“Our Father. . . .” How bold this sonship makes us feel! For if you’ve given us your one and only Son, why would you withhold from us our daily bread, your kingdom or deliverance from every evil? We can approach you as confidently as a toddler asks her dad for a cup of milk or a graduate requests the keys to the family car.

“Our Father. . . .” We are not alone. You, gracious Father, are “ours.” What a comfort to know that the prayers of *many* righteous people are flooding your throne of grace at this moment. When we couple this with the fact that you have given us the very things you want us to ask for in this prayer, there can be no doubt that we are receiving them.

Teach us to recognize and appreciate your answers to our prayers. Often we pray for solutions to your answers. We do this because your reply does not match our expectations. Father, help us to stop asking, “What good has our praying accomplished?” and begin discovering the fulfillments of your promises.

“Our Father. . . .” Your flag of glory . . . our shield of confidence. Remain our Father forever! □



Wayne Laitinen is pastor of Arlington Avenue Lutheran, Toledo, Ohio.



# Civil rights?

# Anything goes

by William F. Buckley, Jr.

**W**hen the civil-rights bills were passed in the mid-'60s, their principal sponsor, Sen. Hubert Humphrey, promised in one melodramatic session that he would "physically eat" the bill he was promoting if ever anyone attempted to use his bill in order to prefer a member of one race at the expense of a member of another race. Senator Humphrey died from other causes than the food poisoning to which he'd have been subjected after the Supreme Court OK'd affirmative action.

A fortnight ago, we had the Civil Rights Restoration Act, which now extends to the federal government the right to inquire into the racial or sexual composition of a school's basketball team if its medical school is receiving federal subsidies. And last week, Georgetown University, the oldest Jesuit college in America, capitulated on the lawsuit demanding that it make room within Georgetown for gay and lesbian student federations.

One supposes that Georgetown's administrators would at this point interpose that they did not completely lose the fight. True, Georgetown has not been required by the courts to "recognize" the student homosexual groups.

But it is required to give the groups facilities. And, it is conceded, the groups will draw their rations from student funds. So far as one can discern, Georgetown's victory is limited to the asterisk it is permitted to use in its catalog of student activities after "Lesbian Liberation Front": Not officially recognized by the university. To such farthings are the defendants today reduced, if the juggernaut running over them is labeled "civil rights."

In 1952 the Commission on Financing Higher Education of the Association of American Universities issued a warning against the dangers of accepting federal funds. "Under federal control, our hundreds of universities and colleges would follow the order of one central institution, and the freedom of higher education would be lost."

Among the signers of that document were the presidents of Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Stanford and Brown. Those learned gentlemen would take from the situation today whatever satisfaction is desired by prophets of doom.

But even so, it is hard to imagine that they'd have foreseen a day in which a federal court instructs a religious institution that is required to countenance, let alone provide quarters for, groups engaged in promoting activity deemed not only wrong but sinful by the

moral architects of that institution.

Those who stress (and restress) the separation of church and state are certainly narrowing the area within which the freedom of religious exercise is tolerated. Perhaps in the storm cellar. Here is a scenario: A son sues his father for denying him facilities in the home in which to practice homosexuality with a neighbor's son.

The ACLU defends the son's freedom on the grounds that the father's house is a beneficiary of a federally backed mortgage, and therefore the civil rights of all its occupants need to be observed.

Lunatic reasoning? Who, 10 years ago, would not have thought it lunatic reasoning that a religious institution dedicated to teaching, among other things, the moral law should be obliged to extend its hospitality to those who seek to flout such laws?

I observed with fascination, only a week or so ago, the plausibility with which Sen. George McGovern, as ever on the cutting edge of liberal reasoning, defended the recent civil-rights extension. It sounds so reasonable to say that "the taxpayers" do not wish their money to be spent on "any institution" that permits the practice of discrimination. Discrimination against race, ethnic background, sex and now sexual inclination.

One wonders — I brought this unsuccessfully to the attention of Mr. McGovern — what has happened to the concept of privacy. Just as the idea of civil rights has expanded, one would have expected that the concept of private rights would expand, in an age when the clearest threat is that posed by omnipotent government.

But the only private right anybody ever got exercised about in recent times is the right to use birth-control devices. Private clubs are gradually disappearing, under the sanction of civil rights. If I were in Congress, I would be tempted, I said to Sen. McGovern, even if only on April Fool's Day, to introduce a "Civil Rights Bill for Preemptive War Against the Soviet Union." My only purpose would be to permit me in the campaign ahead to point to all those Democrats who voted against the "Civil Rights Bill of 1988" and thereby stifle 100 political careers.

Somebody, somewhere, somehow, has got to stop the civil-rights thing. It is making a joke out of one after another of our Bill of Rights. □

*On The Right by William F. Buckley Jr. Copyright 1988 Universal Press Syndicate. Reprinted with permission. All rights reserved.*





Missionary Plath, Missionary Schult, Koeplin

## If it's Wednesday, it must be malaria day

by Kurt F. Koeplin

**T**he anatomy of an executive committee's field visit to our missions in Southeast Asia is, in theory, supposed to look like a race horse. In reality it looks like a camel. It travels for long distances, stores up U.S.A. water, and for thirty-one days doesn't eat lettuce, garden salads or anything that can't be peeled, boiled or broiled.

It's 31,000 plus miles of travel by air, train and honking, no-spring taxis. It's ninety-six hours (that's over four days) of going to airports, going through customs, standing in lines, sitting for cramped hours in plane seats designed by sadistic cost accountants, thirty-eight one minute segments of sheer terror called takeoffs and landings, and fast waddling with three bags from one airport gate to the opposite end of long terminals.

And then it's meetings, all sorts of meetings. It's eleven up close and personal interviews of three to four hours duration with each of the expatriate missionary families in Taiwan, Hong Kong and Indonesia. It's three-day, all day, sessions with each of the mission teams where blessings are recounted, strategy is reviewed and planned, problems are resolved, and God is praised as his word and Spirit produce the living harvest. It's smiles, handshakes all around, and conversation through missionary interpreters with national pastors, evangelists, seminary students; new Christian brothers whose speech is a puzzle, but whose love for the Savior shines through the eyes and is evident in their lives of witness.

It's a three day, "All SEA" Conference in Indonesia, where common problems are thrashed out and twenty-one new countries in the Pacific basin are systematically viewed, evaluated and "weighted" for the next mission thrust in our corner of God's green globe. It's thirty-six expats, husbands, wives and visiting fire-

men gathering together around word and sacrament in a moving communion worship service, and afterwards singing for two hours following a shared meal on the beach portion of a seaside restaurant.

It's remembering to take your malaria pills on Wednesdays and remembering the hugs, tears, laughter, joy and sheer wonder of love and fellowship with "the family," separated by thousands of miles and yet bound by a kinship which is almost indescribable.

It's thinking back, not too many years ago, when there was no WELS — SEA and now watching in open mouthed amazement as hundreds and hundreds of Taiwanese, Chinese, Indonesians and Indians call Jesus the Lord of Life.

It's Lins and Chens and Lees and Pandji and Devabhushanam. It's seeing ex-Buddhists, ex-Taoists, ex-Matsu worshipers, ex-Hindus, ex-Muslims waxing ecstatically about their sure hope of a real heaven given to them by a real Redeemer.

It's the Garys and the Carols, the Robs and the Noras, the Jims and the Jans. It's Bruce, Barb and Becky, Charlene and Charlotte. It's Ralph and Roger, Bonnie and Sue, Mark and Judy, Duane, Dan, Dave, Nancy and John. It's bonding and unburdening; Bible study and bridge building.

Like the camel, an executive committee's trip is somewhat ungainly and doesn't look pretty. But like those "ships of the desert," they deliver the cargoes of greetings and material support. In turn they receive the good news that now close to a thousand on the cutting edge of SEA missions are sharing in the best news ever given to people by our God of love.

Great trip and well worth the 44,640 minutes that it took. □

*Kurt Koeplin is pastor of Atonement, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.*



by Jim Adams

Carl Bolle is a man at home as he walks quietly through the soaring sanctuary of St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church in West St. Paul.

His eyes follow the sunbeams to the stained glass windows in walls that ascend to a ceiling arching 45 feet above.

The tall, slender minister has a right to feel at home.

He was there in 1942 when masons built the 2-foot-thick walls with limestone slabs obtained when the old Ramsey County Courthouse was torn down. And he was in the basement, at age 26, when 27 people founded St. James in 1928 at the corner of Annapolis St. and Cherokee Ave. It took the congregation almost 15 years to surface.

"I hoped to get out of the hole in the ground eventually," said Bolle, 86. "I never dreamed it would be a church as beautiful as this."

The congregation this week celebrates 60 years with Bolle, its first minister. He was its only minister until 1968 when the Rev. Iver C. Johnson arrived. Bolle now visits about 70 sick people and shut-ins a month for the 1,200-member church.

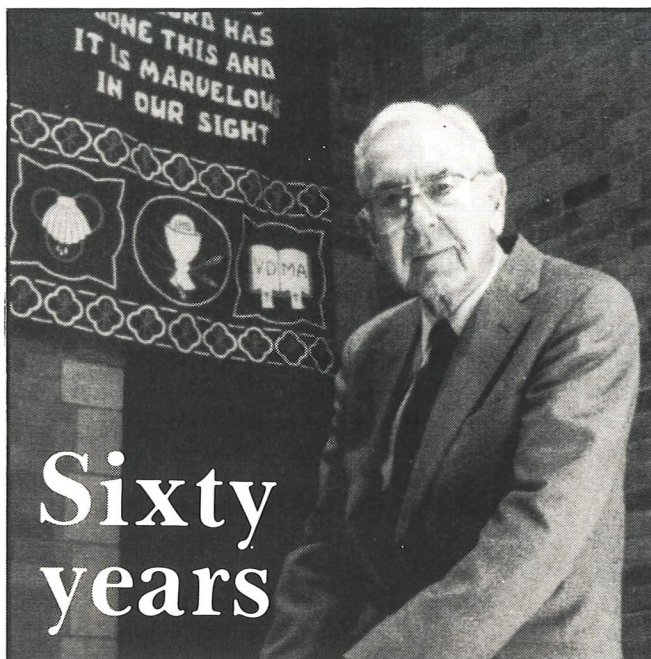
The Rev. Richard Stadler, 44, is the junior clergyman, with 12 years at St. James. Bolle's focus is on serving people, Stadler said.

"You're taught in seminary to preach, teach the Bible and visit your people, and he (Bolle) pretty much stuck to that. He didn't worry too much about budgets or administrative details. The lay people jumped in and took care of that," he said.

Stadler said he's read that the average pastor stays about six years at a church. "At seminary, they said 10 years is the maximum you want to stay someplace. But I can see the value of a longer ministry; it gives a sense of stability, if it is harmonious."

Having three ministers with different talents provides the variety needed to keep the middle-class church out of ruts, Stadler said. Once viewed as "the stuffy church on the hill," St. James has changed in the past 20 years, said Stadler, so that its high, wooden pews hold kids in blue jeans and people in open collar shirts as well as those in suits and designer clothes.

Bolle, who worked at one other parish before St.



James, said he stayed because "I love the Twin Cities and I love the people. By the grace of God, I hoped to stay here." He got calls to lead other churches in the early days, but "for the past 50 years I've had none."

Bolle credits his longevity partly to getting away fairly often to fish or to pursue other interests. He was particularly fond of Lake

Martha, a private lake in Wisconsin known for its muskie fishing. Ignoring the "keep out" signs, he and a friend asked a caretaker for permission to fish. The caretaker, who had heard Bolle, an accomplished pianist, play at a concert, not only let them fish but also provided a steak dinner.

But on one trip, "There were all kinds of strange men and women around the place. This man followed and he said, 'Where are you going?' I said, 'Fishing.'

"He said, 'Do you know whose place this is?' I said, 'No.' So, this fellow says, 'This is Al Capone's place.'

"We had been fishing his lake and eating his steaks all summer."

The pastor said he found fishing for people was "even more fascinating than muskie fishing." He used to go door to door looking for members.

To land those new members, he applied a tip from a cook. The cook advised members of the church's ladies' guild to try new cooking techniques at least three times to get in the habit of using them.

"It occurred to me, well now, if they come to church for three Sundays straight, by that time they'd be hooked."

A member once suggested he visit an elderly, ailing atheist who had recovered from a serious illness and had taken a sudden interest in the Bible.

At the man's request, Bolle brought him a large-print edition of the Bible. The man let the book fall open and read the passage his finger landed on at Psalm 14:1.

The passage reads: "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.' "

"It was uncanny," Bolle recalled with a smile. □

*Jim Adams is a reporter for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. The article is reprinted with permission.*



### A small cost for TNL

I believe some perspective is needed on the editor's remarks (May 15) about the rising costs of putting out *The Northwestern Lutheran*.

I pay \$180 per year for my local newspaper, my son receives a sport magazine that costs over \$55 per year, my wife receives some craft magazines that cost us over \$25 per year. We also subscribe to *The Northwestern Lutheran*; our investment there is 28¢ per issue.

What else can we get for 28¢ today? One-half can of pop, a bit of a Big Mac, one-quarter slice of pizza or about eight French fries. As you can see, 28¢ doesn't buy much today. Except it gives me and my family, twice monthly, the *priceless* message of salvation through my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For 28¢ I am able to feed my soul with the living bread of my Savior's message.

Please do not talk about cutting back; the increase you mentioned amounts to four cents per issue. Raise it ten cents, an astronomical sum, so you have a little room to breathe. All of us who receive *The Northwestern Lutheran* will *gladly* invest whatever it takes because we all realize how important this periodical is to us and our families, or else we would not subscribe in the first place.

May our heavenly Father continue to bless all your efforts in keeping the quality of this important publication up to the standard we've become accustomed to.

*Jon Habermann  
Neenah, Wisconsin*

### Advertising in TNL?

From this corner (May 15) suggests that the editor is comfortable with the idea of *The Northwestern Lutheran* accepting advertising — in fact I get the impression that's probably putting it mildly. Let me offer my opinion that I see wisdom in what our fathers decided at the '61 and '63 conventions.

Isn't it possible that some of our people would look upon an ad in the synod's official publication as their church officially endorsing some

product or service? What's more, what would such advertising contribute to the cause of biblical stewardship among us? We're working hard to wean our ladies' aids and youth groups away from bake sales and car washes — will it help to have a synodical agency engaging in what is essentially the same thing? If we as a church body want a glossier *Northwestern Lutheran*, shouldn't we pay for it ourselves?

Until these questions are answered, I'm sorry; I just can't warm up to the idea.

*Kenneth A. Cherney, Jr.  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

### A church tour in East Germany

Here are a few of my observations on the state of the Church in East Germany (DDR) — in response to articles run during the past year.

On my second trip our DDR guide, Trudi, was a Christian — and what a difference that makes. She and her family attended Mendelssohn's church in Leipzig. Her teenagers would not go to Communist youth activities, they preferred to go to church. She really enjoyed telling us about Luther as we traveled from place to place. We were aware of how proud the Christians are to be at the places where Luther lived and worked.

Our East Berlin guide, Doris, surprised me as we passed St. Mary's Lutheran Church and told us, "My family and I attend this church."

In Erfurt the Augustinian Cloister is now a seminary. We enjoyed the company of nine-year-old Christian, son of the pastor of the cloister church, as we toured the complex.

I picked up several Sunday bulletins and noted the many activities held at these churches for all age groups.

Church attendance isn't encouraged, but evidence of it was seen. State performed marriages are followed by ceremonies in the church. (We saw plenty of them in Prague's Old Town Square.)

What really touched me was a children's bulletin board of a fruit tree in one church. The children wrote their

names on a "fruit" along with a "good fruit" they wanted to do for Jesus — not the state.

My favorite, by far, was the sign on the pastor's house in Torgau: "Ich will den HERRN loben allezeit" ("I will praise the Lord always.") After so many Communist signs it was very welcome.

The church always seems to survive and thrive in times of persecution and adversity. I pray especially for the Christians in Communist countries that God will continue to bless them. The birthplace of the reformation may be experiencing a rebirth — "soli Deo gloria!"

*Evelyn R. Drews  
Cudahy, Wisconsin*

### Safeguard your schools

I was dismayed to read in the May 1 issue that "three elementary schools will close at the end of the current year. No congregations have reported new school openings for fall. This will reduce the number of our schools, 374, by three."

Please, WELS congregations, safeguard your schools. The Lord has not blessed us with children to attend our schools but my husband and I strongly advocate Christian education. WELS has an excellent teaching facility in the form of Dr. Martin Luther College and we have come to know and appreciate many of its dedicated graduates. Educating our children in a Christian environment requires a special person and is truly a God-given call.

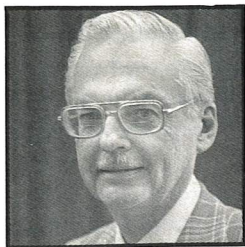
I have enjoyed reading Mr. Boll's series on "Consider the teaching ministry." He has done an excellent job on all of the articles and appears to be one of the "dedicated graduates" I mentioned above.

*Mrs. Randi J. Carlson  
Zumbrota, Minnesota*

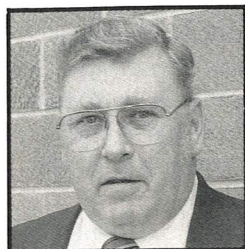
Letters between 100 and 250 words are preferred. In the interest of conciseness, letters are subject to editing. Full name, address and phone number should accompany each letter. Names will be withheld only under unusual circumstances. Letters cannot be acknowledged, nor can all letters be used. Address your letters to LETTERS, *The Northwestern Lutheran*, 2929 N. Mayfair Road, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53222.



# District conventions



President  
Nitz  
Arizona-  
California



President  
Kaiser  
Nebraska



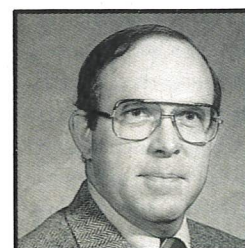
President  
Beckmann  
North Atlantic



President  
Widmann  
Pacific  
Northwest



President  
Nommensen  
Southeastern  
Wisconsin



President  
Gurgel  
Western  
Wisconsin

## Arizona-California District

The Arizona-California District convention was held June 13 and 14 at Arizona Lutheran Academy, Phoenix. Pastor Marcus C. Nitz of Garden Grove, Calif., was re-elected for a two-year term as president; Pastor Lowell Smith of San Diego was elected first vice-president; Pastor Philip Koelpin of Flagstaff, Ariz., was elected second vice-president; and Pastor Allen Schroeder of Mesa, Ariz., was elected secretary.

The convention went on record as not approving a name change for the synod at this time eliminating the word "Wisconsin." The convention also did not favor undertaking a \$10 million mission offering at this time.

— *Kenneth Pasch*

## Nebraska District

Delegates to the Nebraska District Convention, meeting June 13-15 at Nebraska Lutheran High School in Waco, elected Pastor Ronald Kaiser of Colorado Springs, Colo., to his second two-year term of office as district president. Other officers reelected were Pastor Joel Frank of Plymouth, Nebr., first vice-president; Pastor Larry Ellenberger of Topeka, Kas., second vice-president; and Teacher Earl Heidtke of Waco, Nebr., secretary.

The 136 delegates, representing 87 congregations in seven states, reviewed work programs on both the district and synodical levels.

The theme of the convention

was "Speak God's Word Faithfully." Prof. Armin Schuetze of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary delivered the convention essay, "The WELS and LC-MS: Where are we Today?"

— *Timothy Bauer*

## North Atlantic District

The North Atlantic District convention met June 14-15 at the New Windsor Service Center in rural Maryland. The following officers were reelected to another two-year term: Pastor Walter Beckmann of Falls Church, Va., president; Pastor Thomas Pfothauer of Ottawa, Ont., first vice-president; Pastor John Mittelstaedt of Largo, Md., second vice-president and Pastor Robert Balza of Bear, Dela., secretary.

The convention reflected on the history of the first 25 years of the WELS on the East Coast, where the numbers have increased from one pastor and 28 worshipers to the present 34 pastors and over 4400 worshipers. President Beckmann pointed out in his report that although in membership the North Atlantic District is the smallest district in the synod, it has a greater number of people within its boundaries than any other district in WELS.

Prof. Richard Balge of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary presented a five-part study on the topic, "The Principles and Practice of Church Fellowship."

— *David Kehl*



## Pacific Northwest District

The Pacific Northwest District convention was held June 16 and 17 at Evergreen Lutheran High School, DuPont, Wash. President Warren Widmann of Portland, Ore., was re-elected to his second two-year term as president. Also reelected were Pastor Theodore Lambert of Bremerton, Wash., first vice-president; Pastor Gerald Ditter of Portland, second vice-president; and Pastor Gordon Peters of Bend, Ore., secretary.

The delegates recommended that "we do not change the name of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod at this time," deeming the name to have historical value. The district also did not favor a \$10 million mission offering proposed by the 1987 synod convention.

Organized in 1918 by seven pastors and 447 communicants, the district celebrated its 70th anniversary. Currently the district has 39 congregations served by 40 pastors.

— James Oldfield

## Southeastern Wisconsin District

Pastor Winfred B. Nommensen, 64, Milwaukee, Wis., was reelected to his third term as president of the Southeastern Wisconsin District in its 36th biennial convention, June 7 and 8, held at Wisconsin Lutheran High School. The 509 delegates present at the convention also elected Pastor David N. Rutschow, Downers Grove, Ill., first vice-president; Pastor Robert J. Zink, Muskego, Wis., second vice-president; and Pastor Mentor E. Kujath, Milwaukee, secretary.

The district recommended that the name of our synod remain the "Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod." The convention also recommended a delay in the implementation of the \$10 million mission offering.

— Robert Sievert

## Western Wisconsin District

Citing a desire to devote more time to his parish ministry in Fort Atkinson, President Donald Bitter, 59, declined to run for another term. He had served since 1979 as president. The 408 delegates rose to offer thankful applause to President Bitter for his service to the Lord and the district.

Elected president for a two-year term is Pastor Karl Gurgel, 46, of Lake Mills, Wis. He had served as second vice-president the past biennium.

Elected vice-presidents are Pas-

tor Herbert Prahl, 41, of Eau Claire, Wis., first vice-president, and Pastor David Fischer, 48, of Lewiston, Minn., second vice-president. Pastor Harold Sturm, 46, of Arlington, Wis., was reelected district secretary.

Much of the convention time was devoted to reports and related discussion on synod and district work. Of particular note were the reports of the district mission board and its work, including the mission exploratories in Waunakee, Wisconsin Rapids and Portage, Wis., and south Rockford, Ill.

— Herbert Prahl



## Day to remember for the LECC

Left to right: Mr. Nidaira, Missionary Falk and Pastor Yoshida.

April 5 was a day to remember for the members of the Lutheran Ev. Christian Church of Japan as its seminary program began a new school year. Mr. Takeshi Nidaira began his first year of seminary studies after having successfully completed the two-year preparatory course.

During the past two years Mr. Nidaira completed studies in such fields as Hebrew and Greek, an intensive survey of Bible background and history, theological English, basic doctrines of the Bible, Galatians, Western history, church history, Bible lands, introduction to the Lutheran Confessions, church music (including organ playing) and typing.

Preacher at the opening service

was Missionary Roger Falk, interim director of the theological training program. Using the text Romans 4:25, he pointed out that the founders of all of the world's religions are dead, and that before they died they had not found the answers to life's most important questions. Christ alone is the exception, for he is alive and has provided the only way of salvation for sinful men.

During the service Pastor Tadashi Yoshida of Chiba presented Mr. Nidaira with a certificate of completion of the preparatory course of studies and offered a prayer asking God's blessings upon the next step in Mr. Nidaira's preparation for work in the kingdom.

Roger W. Falk



# AAL grant announced

In its report to the 12 districts the Coordinating Council (CC), the synod's budgeting agency, announced a new program of block grants by AAL to church bodies whose members it serves. "This eliminated the need," the CC explained, "to make applications for specific projects.

"AAL will provide us with a fixed amount each year," explained the CC, "to be administered by us according to certain guidelines. The guidelines will assure that we cannot become dependent on such grants to do the work of the church."

According to the CC report, the sum of \$250,000 was granted for 1988, and was allocated in the following manner: a campus ministry manual for the parish, \$30,000; orientation and repatriation of missionaries, \$15,500; language grants for world missionaries, \$9,700; Northwestern College faculty development, \$5,000; Dr. Martin Luther College faculty development \$15,000; DMLC in-service continuing education support, \$8,000; pilot workshop for principals, \$9,200; computer center software upgrading, \$22,600; Hispanic outreach, study and training, \$10,000; planning for special mission offering, \$25,000; administration seminar/strategic planning conference, \$100,000.

Previously the church bodies developed proposals for special projects and each proposal was individually considered for funding. According to Charles Bose, manager of the AAL grant program, AAL's new experimental church-wide grant program was developed

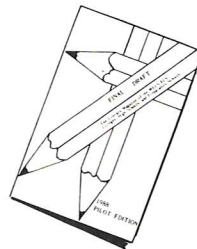


**Paul H. Kelm** (front row, right) is on a two-year assignment to teach the missionaries' children at Hope, Tsuchiura, Japan. He is pictured here with the congregation and two visitors from the States: Marvin Kelm, his father, and Evelyn Kelm, his grandmother. The Kelms were there for four weeks last March. "We came away with an important message," writes Marvin. "Yes, they are doing a good job; yes, our missionaries need our prayers and support; yes, their work is necessary."

based on the high level of trust which has developed between AAL and the Lutheran church bodies.

"Church administrators," said Bose, "with whom we have worked over the past ten years have demonstrated a very high degree of accountability. They're interested in cutting down on the paperwork required to do good things — and so are we."

## New magazine for student writers



The pilot issue of a new literary magazine, *Final Draft*, appeared in May. It comes after over a year of planning and work by the English departments of Northwestern College and Preparatory School. The magazine highlights the literary

work of students in WELS and ELS high schools and colleges.

In January of this year the editors called for student manuscripts for the first issue. Over 140 manuscripts of poetry and prose were submitted by 65 students in Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona and Washington. From them the editorial board selected 31 manuscripts from 24 authors to appear in its pilot issue.

*Final Draft* was conceived to provide an opportunity for students in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod throughout the country to publish their original poetry and prose. The next issue is scheduled to appear in January 1989. Depending on the reception of the pilot issue the magazine is planned to be published in January and May each year.

A limited number of copies of the magazine are available and may be obtained for \$1.50 a copy by writing to *Final Draft*, 1300 Western Ave., Watertown, WI 53094. Subscription information is available by writing to the same address.



# Evaluating the Pacific Basin



## *New answers to old questions*

by Robert A. Siirila

As part of the triennial field visit of the Executive Committee for Southeast Asian Missions (also see p. 268), a mission conference was held on Bali, one of a group of islands that make up Indonesia. The 34 participants came from Hong Kong, Taiwan, Hawaii, the United States and the host country Indonesia.

A number of Asian countries had been profiled with an eye toward expanding the mission field in that area. As these were reviewed during the conference some interesting facts came to light:

- There is a nation in Asia, the Maldives, with no known Christians
- Although Bangladesh's population is half that of the U.S., the Christian population is only about the size of the WELS membership
- While only six people in 1,000 in China belong to the official church, perhaps 50

people in 1,000 belong to an underground church

- It is impossible to send traditional missionaries into 83 percent of the countries of the world

These facts place an enormous challenge before the WELS. The Maldiv Islands, an Islamic country off the southern tip of India, does not allow Christian missionaries to work within her borders. More and more nations are following a similar policy. The political, social or economic situation in other countries may greatly increase the challenge of mission work. For example, although Bangladesh allows missionaries, it has such a low standard of living that many Westerners have a difficult time living there.

The conference recognized the need for continued traditional mission outreach wherever it can be done. Nevertheless new ways of outreach were also explored. Many

countries are looking for people with special skills such as English teachers, technology experts, social workers and similar resources. Organizations are already in place or could be developed in the WELS to send out skilled people. There are also business people who have opportunities to live in such countries. With training, WELS lay people could share the gospel in a country closed to ordained missionaries. This kind of program is already being used successfully by other churches.

With Asia's population of over two billion people, it was necessary for the conference to tackle the problem of priorities. The conference developed a basic method to help sort out the priorities. By identifying 17 factors the participants were able to identify high-priority countries such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, China and Pakistan for further research.

On this note the three-day conference in April ended. It had considered new answers to old questions. "There are opportunities out there," said a participant, "that we never dreamed of."



# Hymnal report: Summer 1988



As far as the people in the pews are concerned, the hymnal project hasn't made much noise since the *Sampler* came out. Don't let the quiet fool you.

The six-member Hymn Committee has completed its three-year project of analyzing and rating over 1200 hymns. In that group were all the hymns from *The Lutheran Hymnal* as well as popular hymns from other Christian worship books. There were old chorales and gospel hymns, hymns written by our own members and by non-WELS authors and composers. The ratings of all 1200 were reviewed by the Joint Hymnal Committee (JHC) in August 1987; the Hymn Committee then analyzed the entire set again.

Of those 1200, 589 now appear on a master list of hymns and have been divided into categories such as "Advent," "Marriage," "Stewardship," etc. Seventy-two percent are from *The Lutheran Hymnal*; 28 percent are from other sources. As you read these words the master list is being perused by all the members of the JHC and will be studied thoroughly during a week of meetings in August. The committee is confident that the proposed list will begin appearing in *The Northwestern Lutheran* sometime this fall.

As soon as the *Sampler* feedback arrived, the six-member Liturgy Committee compiled the information and then put that Page 5/15

revision on the back burner. The committee had been working on four major services and determined to complete that work. The JHC has given tentative approval to the texts of *Morning Worship* (Matins), *Evening Worship* (Vespers), *A Service of Word and Sacrament* (an original setting of the historic Christian communion service) and *A Service of the Word* (an order for use when the sacrament is not offered).

The process for field testing these services is fairly complex. Once their texts have been approved by the JHC, they are offered to various individuals for critical review, then re-analyzed and re-submitted to the JHC. Then the music for the services is commissioned. When the musical settings have been reviewed, analyzed and selected, the services will be field tested by a core of WELS congregations.

Once the results of that selective field testing have been received, the services will be analyzed again and then distributed to our congregations to use as they see fit. Final feedback and editing will prepare the services for the new hymnal. The Liturgy Committee has begun to work on the texts for the rite of baptism, funeral and wedding services, for morning, evening and general devotions, and for a service of confession and absolution.

Like we said, don't let the quiet fool you!

— James P. Tiefel

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WELS Member Loan Counselor  
2929 N. Mayfair Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53222  
Or call 414/771-6119  
(collect calls accepted).  
You and our mission congregations will be glad you did.



## WITH THE LORD

### Rupert W. Rosin 1922-1988

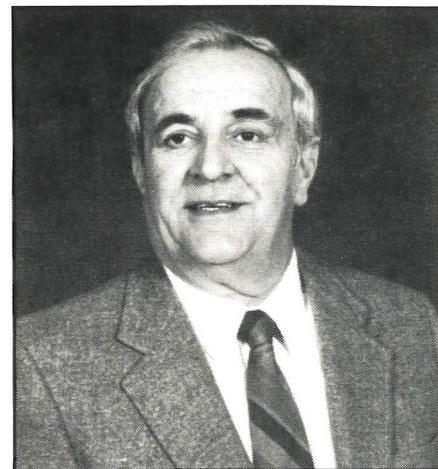
Rupert W. Rosin was born June 15, 1922 in San Carlos, Ariz. He died May 11, 1988 in Fort Atkinson, Wis.

Following graduation from Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm,

Minn., he taught in Christian day schools in Cibecue, Ariz., Caledonia, Wis., and Oklahoma City, Okla.

In 1949 he married Ruth Hohmann. He is survived by his wife; sons, Jon and David; daughters, Elizabeth (Alex) Sabo, Margaret (Harlan) Pelischek, and Stephanie Rosin; and five grandchildren.

Funeral services were held May 15 at St. Paul, Fort Atkinson, Wis.



Hoenecke

### Paul H. Hoenecke 1930-1988

Pastor Paul H. Hoenecke was born April 19, 1930 in Detroit, Mich. He died June 8, 1988 in Kewaskum, Wis.

He graduated from the seminary in 1956. After two years of teaching at Martin Luther Preparatory School, New Ulm, Minn., he served congregations in Bangor and Hartford, Mich. before accepting a call to St. Lucas in Kewaskum, Wis. He also served on the Michigan District Board for Information and Stewardship, Winnebago Lutheran Academy board, Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service board and the Synod Nominating Committee.

In 1962 he married Deborah Dorn. He is survived by his wife; daughter, Katherine; son, Andrew; mother, Clarissa; brother, Robert (Deloris); and sisters, Louise Hoenecke, Margaret (Charles) Sergison and Elisabeth (Allen) Luedtke.

Funeral services were held June 11, 1988 at St. Lucas, Kewaskum, Wis.

## Person, places, etc.



Penk

Recently Christ, North St. Paul, celebrated the 65th anniversary of **Pastor Erich Penk's** ordination. Pastor Penk, 89, who is a member of the parish, preached the sermon on the theme "Hallelujah, Hosanna, Amen." He served congregations in Montana, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Minnesota before his retirement in 1973. He still roller-skates, bowls, gardens and fishes and in 1980 supervised the building of a new house, finishing the basement himself. The sentiments of his many friends at Christ were expressed in

the closing line of the plaque they presented to him: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." . . . Another veteran, **Pastor E. Arnold Sitz**, will celebrate his 95th birthday August 27. A 1917 seminary graduate, he served congregations in Wisconsin and Arizona before accepting a call to Grace, Tucson, in 1923. After serving it for 48 years he retired in 1972. He helped organize the Arizona-California District and was its first president from 1945 to 1966. He was also a long-time member of the Commission on Inter-Church Relations. He is presently living with a daughter at 12566 Cabezon Place, San Diego, CA 92129. . . . At the end of the school year at Dr. Martin Luther College, **Dr. A. Kurt Grams** and **Prof. George Heckmann** retired. Grams completed 51 years of service in the ministry, 18 of them at DMLC as registrar. Heckmann completed 47 years of service in the church, 26 of them at DMLC as instructor and director of special services. . . . Through a cooperative program with **Bethany College of Mankato, Minn.**, Evangelical Lutheran Synod students may transfer from Bethany, a junior college, to DMLC and complete their studies in elementary education. . . . To assist district presidents in the "Big Five" districts, **graduate assistants** have been assigned to their congregations. Five graduates of the seminary were assigned to the congregations of the presidents for a one-year term. The "Big Five" districts are Southeastern Wisconsin, Western Wisconsin, Northern Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Michigan. . . . **Luther Kolander** has retired after teaching 43 years at the old Milwaukee Lutheran high school and at Wisconsin Lutheran high school. He went to the old school in 1945 following his graduation from Northwestern College.

### ONE ISSUE

There is one issue of The Northwestern Lutheran in August. The next issue will be dated September 1, 1988.



## NOTICES

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

## CHANGES IN MINISTRY

### PASTORS:

**Bloom, Andrew S.**, from St. Jacob, Grass Lake, Mich., to retirement.  
**Horneber, Theodore J.**, from Glory, De Soto, Tex., to retirement.  
**Koepsell, Clarence A.**, from Grace, Oshkosh, Wis., to retirement.  
**Kriehn, David A.**, from Grace of God, Dix Hills, N.Y. to Taiwan, Republic of China.  
**Majovski, Matthew T.**, from Faith, Austin, Minn., to St. John, Red Wing, Minn.  
**Schmitzer, Alois III**, from Trinity, Bangor, Mich., to Trinity Jenera, Ohio.  
**Schultz, Adalbert F.**, from Zion, Kiel, Wis., to retirement.  
**Weiss, Irvin W.**, from Zion, Warren, Mich., to retirement.  
**Wendland, Luther J.**, from St. Paul, Hillsboro, Wis., to St. Paul, Platteville, Wis.

### TEACHERS:

**Albrecht, Quentin T.**, from St. John-St. James, Reedsville, Wis., to retirement.  
**Agenten, Gloria**, from inactive to Christ, Zumbrota, Minn.  
**Draeger, Delbert, D.**, from Northland Lutheran High School, Wausau, Wis., to Shoreland Lutheran High School, Somers, Wis.  
**Geyman, Adeline I.**, from St. John, Baraboo, Wis., to retirement.  
**Grams, A. Kurt**, from Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., to retirement.  
**Heckmann, George H.**, from Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., to retirement.  
**Hilbert, Colleen**, from inactive to St. Paul, New Ulm, Minn.  
**Hohler, Ann**, to St. John, Dowagiac, Mich.  
**Liebenow, Janet**, from inactive to North Trinity, Milwaukee, Wis.  
**McIntyre, Gayle**, to St. Paul, Ft. Atkinson, Wis.  
**Neubauer, Deanna**, from inactive to First, La Crosse, Wis.  
**Popke, Judith**, from inactive to Martin Luther, Neenah, Wis.  
**Rakos, Paul A.**, from Nebraska Lutheran High School, Waco, Nebr., to Manitowoc Lutheran High School, Manitowoc, Wis.  
**Schaumburg, Sue**, from inactive to Grace, Glendale, Ariz.  
**Schmill, Greg R.**, from Mt. Olive, Delano, Minn., to King of Kings, Maitland, Fla.  
**Schneck, James A.**, from Grace, Muskegon, Mich., to Holy Trinity (ELS), Okauchee, Wis.  
**Sievert, James M.**, from St. Paul, Riverside, Calif., to Trinity, Brillion, Wis.  
**Spiegel, Connie M.**, from St. Paul, Riverside, Calif., to Pilgrim, Mesa, Ariz.  
**Stelter, Andrea**, to Northland Lutheran High School, Wausau, Wis.  
**Strandt, Marlene E.**, from Risen Christ, Milwaukee, Wis., to Gloria Dei-Bethesda, Milwaukee, Wis.  
**Strieter, Sue**, from inactive to St. John, Montello, Wis.  
**Tetzlaff, Joanne**, from inactive to St. Luke, Oakfield, Wis.  
**Treichel, Sharon**, from inactive to Grace, Durand, Mich.  
**Zimmerman, Jane**, to St. Lucas, Milwaukee, Wis.

## ADDRESSES

### PASTORS:

**Covach, John W.**, 17522 Brook Blvd., Bothell, WA 98012; 206/481-4982.  
**Dose, Brian L.**, 3434 Holly Rd., Corpus Christi, TX 78415; 512/855-5275.  
**Gosdeck, David M.**, 128 S. Concord Ave., Watertown, WI 53094.  
**Gunn, W. Jeffrey**, P.O. Box CH-195, Lusaka, Zambia, Africa.  
**Loescher, Kurt W.**, 726 Payne, New Ulm, MN 56073.  
**Pope, James F.**, 3012-18th Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 33505; 813/748-7648.  
**Quandt, John E.**, 1112 E. 47th St., Kearney, NE 68847; 308/234-2999.  
**Schumacher, Raymond W.**, 647 Rosegate Lane, Orlando, FL 32811; 407/290-6885.  
**Siirila, Robert A.**, Box 57-126, Taipei, Taiwan 10098, Republic of China; (02) 230-1272.  
**Wendland, Luther J.**, 220 Broadway, Platteville, WI 53818; 608/349-6776.

### TEACHERS:

**Blauert, Karl M.**, 6224 S. 41st St., Greenfield, WI 53221.  
**Collyard, Larry S.**, 812 London St., Menasha, WI 54952.  
**Hintz, Laurel A.**, 1405 Salem Church Rd., Apt. 303, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55075; 612/457-7511.

## CIRCUIT PASTORS' WORKSHOP

The WELS Circuit Pastors' Workshop will be held November 1 and 2 at the Red Carpet Hotel in Milwaukee. Theme of the workshop is "Ambassadors of Peace." Registration will be held Monday, October 31, 5:00 to 11:00 p.m. Tuesday sessions are 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Wednesday sessions 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

## WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY AUXILIARY

All women of WELS congregations are invited to the sixteenth annual WLSA meeting on October 1 at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis. Registration and coffee hour will begin at 9:00 a.m. followed by a worship service at 10:00. The day's activities will conclude about 4:00 p.m.

Please register before September 17. The \$6.00 fee includes registration and dinner and should be mailed to Mrs. Gertrude Bendlin, 2358 S. 98th St., Apt. #6, West Allis, WI 53227. Make checks payable to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary Auxiliary and include your name, address, telephone number, church membership and pastoral conference.

## INDIA FUND

The Board for World Missions has assigned responsibility for India outreach to its Committee for Interim Missions. A brief exploratory/contact visit was made to India in May by CIM representatives. The CIM suggests that all support from WELS members for individuals and/or outreach work in India be channeled through the Board for World Missions "India Fund" so that good order and accountability can be followed. Anyone wishing to share information with the BWM regarding outreach possibilities and contacts in India may send information to CIM Chairman, Pastor Daniel Koelpin, 1607 Cottownwood Dr., Waukesha, WI 53186 or to the BWM office, 2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

## FAMILY CAMPING IN MICHIGAN

Camp Lor-Ray, owned and operated by an association of WELS and ELS churches, has 30 fully-developed campsites nestled among pines on a private lake. It is easily found and available for overnight or week-long stays from Memorial Day through Labor Day at reasonable rates. Follow Hwy 31 to Russell Rd. exit (3½ mi. north of Muskegon); continue north on Russell Rd. to Camp Lor-Ray sign. For further information contact Milt Karnitz at camp, 5281 Russell Road, Twin Lakes, MI 49457; 616/766-3152 or at his home, 2233 Hudson St., Muskegon, MI 49441; 616/755-2004.

## FAMILY RETREAT

Faith Lutheran, Pittsfield, Mass., will host the 15th Annual Labor Day Weekend Retreat in the Berkshire Hills. Theme of this year's retreat is "Everyday Christianity" and participants may attend three out of five of the following Bible studies: James, Ecclesiastes, A Christian look at alcoholism, Sermon on the Mount and We've never done it that way before. A special program for teens and Sunday school age children is also being planned.

A newer camp with superb facilities has been selected for the September 3-5 retreat featuring canoeing, swimming, volleyball, softball and campfire sing-a-long. For further information contact Pastor Mark Schulz, 881 Holmes Rd., Pittsfield, MA 01201; 413/499-3479.

## ALTAR AND DOSSAL CLOTHS

St. John Lutheran of Mio, Mich. has used altar cloths and dossal cloth available to any mission for cost of shipping. Contact Mrs. Frank Weighman, 2786 Mishler Rd., Mio, MI 48647.

## SINGLES ALIVE!

The Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service will sponsor its second annual singles' retreat October 14-16 at the Yahara Center in Madison, Wis. All WELS singles age 21 to 98 (including those once married and now single) are invited for a weekend of spiritual growth and fun aimed at the Christian single. Cost is \$105.00 for the weekend. If you are on the mailing list a registration form will be mailed by the end of July. Anyone else interested may write to: WELS Singles 1988, c/o Jeff Scheibe, P.O. Box 26963, Wauwatosa, WI 53226.

## CESE SUMMER CONFERENCE '88

The Christian Educators for Special Education will hold their summer conference on August 16 at Klemmer's Williamsburg Inn, 10401 W. Oklahoma Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. Sessions from 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 3:30. Registration costs (including noon meal) before August 1: Members, college students and recent grads, \$10.00; Non-members, \$15.00. Registration after August 1, \$20.00. Send check payable to: CESE, 6098 N. 35th St., Milwaukee, WI 53209; or for further information call 414/464-1494.

## ART EXHIBITION

The WELS Art Guild is seeking artists for its annual "Drawing from the WELS" art exhibition at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Anyone who is a painter, drawer, photographer or sculptor is invited to participate in the display to be held September 11 to December 28.

For further information contact Debra Heermans at the college, 8830 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226; 414/774-8620.

## OWLS TOUR

The Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) is sponsoring a tour, "U.S. Southwest and WELS Missions" September 27 to October 14. Reservations must be made by September 6 with Reuben A. Feld, W4262 Emerald Dr., Watertown, WI 53094; 414/699-3780.

## BELL TOWER

Wisconsin Lutheran College wishes to have a bell in its bell tower. If you have an old bell, please contact the college at 8830 W. Bluemound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226 or call Duane Schlomer at 414/774-8620.

## LOWRY ORGAN

Available for cost of shipping: Small Lowry organ. Needs some repair. Contact Linda Berner, 414/871-2983.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Kawkawlin, Michigan** — St. Bartholomew (100th), September 11, 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. (noon dinner) and 4:00 p.m. (lunch to follow). Contact Pastor Fred Zimmerman, 2460 Fraser Rd., Kawkawlin, MI 48631; 517/882-1004.

**Rural Belview, Minnesota** — St. John, Sheridan Township (100th), August 14, 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (noon catered meal). Contact Pastor Steve Schmeling, Rt. 1, Box 119, Belview, MN 56214; 507/644-3113.

**Florence, Wisconsin** — St. John (100th), September 4, 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Noon catered meal and program. Contact Pastor J. S. Hering, P.O. Box 81, Florence, WI 54121; 715/528-3337.

**Milwaukee, Wisconsin** — Jerusalem (100th), September 18 (organ recital) 3:00 p.m.; October 9, 9:30 a.m. (catered dinner to follow). Contact Fred Dawson, 3335 N. 95th St., Milwaukee, WI 53222; 414/466-4145.

**Watertown, Wisconsin** — St. Mark (100th church building), September 11, 7:30, 9:00, 10:45 a.m. Noon dinner. Pastor Donald R. Sutton, 216 N. Sixth St., Watertown, WI 53094; 414/262-8500.



## NAMES WANTED

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

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA — Contact Mr. Peter Krafft, 904/561-8473.

## CHANGE OF TIME OR PLACE OF WORSHIP

in the following exploratory areas or mission congregations.

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA — Exploratory Mission, Capitol Inn, Apolachee Parkway, Tallahassee. Sunday 5:00 p.m.; BC/4:00 p.m. Contact Mr. Peter Krafft, 904/561-8473.

## WELS FILM/VIDEO RENTAL

### HOW TO BE A GOOD LOVER

1988 45 min. 1/2" VHS color JSCA  
As guest lecturer on a university campus, Josh McDowell straightens out a young man who is looking for the perfect mate. He learns that good marriages are made, not by what you can get from your spouse, but by what you can give to make your spouse secure and happy. **Rental: \$7.50.**

### GIVERS, TAKERS AND OTHER KINDS OF LOVERS

1988 50 min. 1/2" VHS color JSCA  
Josh McDowell uses three examples to demonstrate the healthy relationship that leads to a good marriage. A good relationship is neither demanding nor desperate. It is the giving, sharing relationship that works, and that is the kind of love that we learn through faith in Jesus Christ. **Rental: \$7.50**

### THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

1988 95 min. 1/2" VHS color PIJA  
Taken from the *Tales of Narnia*, the C. S. Lewis story takes young people on an animated journey through a magic wardrobe into a fanciful kingdom held in constant winter by a wicked snow witch until the lion arrives to break the witch's power. However, the lion forfeits his life to save someone who had joined the witch's forces, but he returns to life in time to rescue his friends from the witch's evil army. The story includes obvious and intended parallels with God's plan of salvation, and these can be discussed after the video is shown. However, much of the story is pure fancy with no point of comparison intended. The teacher will need to keep this in mind, just as when discussing Jesus' parables. **Rental: \$10.00.**

### NIKOLAI

1988 30 min. 1/2" VHS color IJSCA  
This is a drama depicting a Christian's life behind the Iron Curtain. The son of a Christian family must choose between a successful career under Communism or a life of political repression as a confessing Christian. At this point in history, communist persecution seems to be weakening. However, the conditions depicted in this video have been real in the past and may very well be more intense in the future. **Rental: \$7.50.**

### EASTER TODAY, EASTER FOREVER

1988 33 min. 1/2" VHS color PIJ  
Nanny's Easter is ruined by the unexpected death of her shut-in friend, and she remains inconsolable in her fear of death and loss of loved ones. In the end she finally understands the comfort of the Easter gospel through the encouragement of her friends and through the repeated blessing of God, which are described as "everyday Easters". **Rental: \$7.50.**

Send your order for renting the videos to WELS FILM/VIDEO RENTAL SERVICE, Northwestern Publishing House, 1250 North 113th Street, P.O. Box 26975, Milwaukee, WI 53226-0975. Phone 414/475-6600.

## VACATIONERS

If you are vacationing in the Detroit Lakes, Minn. area, you are invited to attend services at Immanuel (ELS) in Audubon (five miles west of Detroit Lakes on Hwy. 10). 9:00 a.m. Pastor Martin J. Doepel, Box 187, Audubon, MN 56511; 218/439-6259 or 439-3344.

## GAMES OF TEXAS

If you attend the 1988 Games of Texas to be held August 5-14 you are invited to worship at Beautiful Savior located at the entrance of Central Park (the games headquarters) at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Loren Fritz, 1007 Krenek Tap, College Station, TX 77840; 409/693-4514.

## YELLOWSTONE VACATIONERS

If you are traveling in the area of Yellowstone Park, worship services are held the third Sunday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the Powell Fairgrounds, Powell, Wyo. Pastor Ricky Himm, 711 W. 45th St., Casper WY 82601; 307/235-2700 or 265-9357.

## AUDIOVISUAL AIDS

### ANGEL OF THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL

(FS-A07-AEG)

1988 30 min. C & M color IJSCA  
This is another filmstrip describing the work of Martin Luther. Produced by the staff of Northwestern Publishing House, it uses a combination of modern photography and medieval art to present a vivid portrayal of Luther's life.

### LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEERS (VHS-58-LPG)

1988 15 min. 1/2" VHS color SCA  
This is the video for any congregation interested in starting Lutheran Girl Pioneers. Various Pioneer leaders explain the organization and function of this WELS organization for girls.

With annual subscription or rental, order from AUDIOVISUAL AIDS, Northwestern Publishing House, 1250 North 113th Street, P.O. Box 26975, Milwaukee, WI 53226-0975. Phone 414/475-6600.

## SUMMER SERVICES

When visiting Lake Superior and the Apostle's Islands on Wisconsin's North Shore, Apostles Lutheran invites you to worship on Saturday, July 2, 16, 23, 30 and August 6 and 27, 7:00 p.m. Services are held in Christ Episcopal Church, 2nd & Washington, Bayfield, Wis. Pastor Stephen Pope, 715/561-3242 or Severt Dahl, 715/779-3600.

## NEW WELS CHURCHES

### Names Requested

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

WELS MEMBERSHIP CONSERVATION  
2929 N. Mayfair Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53222-9357

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

Arizona	.....	Gilbert*
		Prescott Valley*
California	.....	Bakersfield*
Colorado	.....	Colorado Springs (East)*
Florida	.....	Miami (Hispanic)*
Illinois	.....	Buffalo Grove*
		Cherry Valley*
		Lindenhurst/Gurnee*
		Streamwood*
Indiana	.....	LaFayette*
Michigan	.....	Cadillac*
		Houghton/Hancock*
Minnesota	.....	Shoreview*
New Mexico	.....	Roswell*
		Santa Fe*
New York	.....	Manhattan*
Oklahoma	.....	Owasso*
Pennsylvania	.....	Bucks County*
Texas	.....	Abilene*
		Atascocita*
Virginia	.....	Loudon County*
Washington	.....	Everett*
		Spokane Valley*
		Woodinville/Bothell*
Wisconsin	.....	Green Bay (Southwest)*
		Madison (Hispanic)*
		Wausaukee*
Ontario, Canada	.....	Markham*

\*Denotes exploratory services.

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In this issue there are two related items. One is a news story of a missionary strategy conference — *The Bali Conference* — held on the island of Bali attended by our missionaries in southeast Asia, the state-side executive committee which supervises our mission there, and invited guests — 34 participants in all.

The second item is a report of that same executive committee to our readers, written by the committee chairman, Pastor Kurt F. Koeplin of Milwaukee, one of our regular contributors. The article, *If it's Wednesday, it must be malaria day*, with a touch of humor explains why it is so vital for the three-member executive committees of the world board to keep in touch with their fields with a field visit every three years. Some have unkindly berated these triennial tours as “junkets.” I hope that Chairman Koeplin's report will help to dispel that notion. The tours are working sessions designed to review the work, strengthen the bonds and update strategic plans.

Among present day church administrators this way of supervising a world mission field may appear medieval. But it represents a method, deliberately chosen by WELS, for administering major segments of its kingdom work. To the present time, this method has been the cornerstone of WELS administrative policy.

The Board for World Missions (composed of executive committees) was created by the 1953 convention. Facing the 1953 convention was the problem of administering a growing number of world “mission fields.” There were already three such fields and sharp eyes could see more to come. Prior to the convention a special committee had been appointed and its report recommending “executive committees” was submitted to the convention.

There was a nine-line introduction to the report summarizing the philosophy behind the report. The committee pointed out that it was guided by the principle “that the duties on synodical boards should not entail more work than a pastor of a congregation can perform without harm to his parish.” If the work on any board becomes too great, “such work should be divided.” The committee stated that it fully endorsed “the synod's expression of not favoring officials without a congregation.” In 1953 the only full-time official of the synod was the executive secretary of the Board of Education and it would be another six years before even the presidency became a full-time office. Much of the administration of the synod is still carried out by this method of “deputation,” especially in the home and world mission fields.

It is an unusual way, but the method has survived the close scrutiny of two administration survey commissions, the second one within the last half dozen years. At the very least one can say of it: It works!

I hope you will find a new appreciation for the work of the two pastors and layman who constitute each executive committee. The description of the work of an executive committee is not unique to the committee for southeast Asia. That is the way all the five executive committees work which presently comprise the world mission board. It is reassuring to catch a glimpse of their work.

*James P. Schaefer*





# Doughnuts and dogmatics at the beach

by Silas R. Krueger

Confirmation class at Beautiful Saviour: (left to right) Ellen Eberhard, Walt Priebe, Mike Dumas, Steve Van Boening and Joel Krueger.

It isn't the usual kind of classroom. The seats are really too hard, sometimes painfully hard. The floor is often wet and slippery. And at times the lighting can be a little too bright for easy reading. Besides that, there are any number of distractions that make it difficult for the students to concentrate. And yet, in spite of all those things, it is our seventh and eighth grade students' favorite classroom. We never have to ask twice about meeting there.

The "classroom" we're talking about is the beach in Carlsbad, California. In the spring of the year our confirmation class at Beautiful Saviour meets there about once a week. It's easy for us to do since the beach is less than a five-minute drive from our church and school, which sit on a hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean.

The young people have never yet rejected the chance to meet at the beach. The "seats" may be somewhat hard, because the students usually sit on the rocks along the shore. The "floor" does get pretty wet, especially at high tide. But we've solved that by allowing the students to go barefoot in that "classroom." The bright sunlight reflecting off the ocean can also necessitate wearing sunglasses. And there are distractions: surfers riding the waves; dolphins leaping playfully through the foam; and the grey whales migrating between Alaska and Mexico twice a year. But the students are still willing to put up with all those things in order to have doughnuts and dogmatics at the beach.

And what a place to reinforce the truths of God's

word! Our Lord's calming of the wind and the sea becomes much more impressive when we're discussing that along the beach on a stormy day. Jesus' walk across the top of the raging sea becomes even more striking when we talk about it against a backdrop of surfers struggling to stay on their boards in the capricious waters.

Nor do we have to look very long at the relentless flow of the tide to see why Isaiah uses that as a picture of God's steadfast love and forgiveness. And just an hour or so studying the ecology of the ocean makes it clear that evolution's explanation of things is woefully inadequate. The waves and the waters shout out the praises of a mighty, yet merciful Creator, as the psalmist says.

Come next fall, when the mornings are bright and clear and the crowds have thinned out a little, you're likely to see us down at the beach again. We'll once more be enjoying doughnuts and dogmatics along the shore. If you happen to be driving along Highway 1 about 8:15 some September morning, look for us. We'd love to have you drop in on our class. You'll have to bring your own doughnuts, but we'll supply the dogmatics. And God will provide the unforgettable object-lessons! □



Silas Krueger is pastor of Beautiful Saviour, Carlsbad, California.