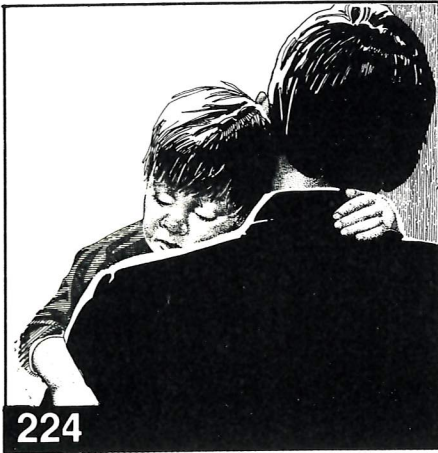
An illustration in a dark teal color palette. A father is shown from the back, hugging a young child from behind. The child has their eyes closed and a peaceful expression. The father's hand is resting on the child's shoulder. In the bottom left corner, a brown teddy bear is visible. The background is a textured teal color.

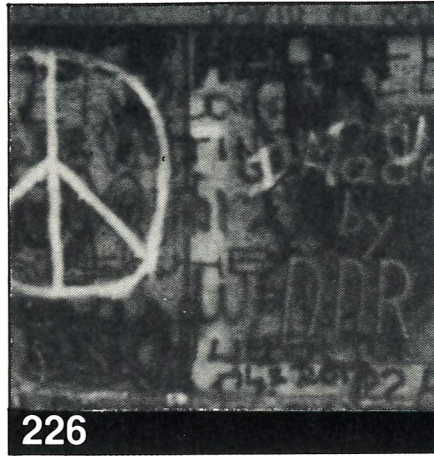
# the Northwestern Lutheran

## **YE FATHERS**

1. Love abundantly
2. Discipline constructively
3. Be clear, consistent, and authoritative
4. Punish in private
5. Be flexible, reasonable, and understanding
6. Discourage continued dependency
7. Spend time together
8. Develop mutual respect
9. Really listen
10. Tend to personal and marital needs



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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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**Editorial office**

Rev. James P. Schaefer, Editor  
*The Northwestern Lutheran*  
2929 N. Mayfair Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53222-4398  
Phone 414/771-9357 FAX 414/771-3708  
Dorothy J. Sonntag, Assistant Editor  
Wendy L. Greenfield, Intern

**Contributing editors**

R. D. Balge, T. B. Franzmann, I. G. Frey,  
J. C. Gerlach, R. H. Hochmuth, P. E. Kelm,  
R. E. Lauersdorf, F. E. Piepenbrink, V. H.  
Prange, C. Toppe.

**District correspondents**

K. H. Pasch (Arizona), H. K. John (California),  
R. L. Kruse (Dakota-Montana), J. L. Langebartels  
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(Western Wisconsin).

**Production**

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# A record of events

by Robert H. Hochmuth

*We are witnesses of everything he did (Acts 10:39).*

**P**eter didn't need to select a text for his sermon. His missionary messages in the early history of the Christian church were based not on verses, but on events—events of which he, along with the other apostles, had been eyewitnesses. A reading of the first ten chapters of Acts will document this observation.

This points up that what Christianity is all about is not men's ideas or theories, but God's saving actions on our behalf. On Pentecost, for instance, the foreigners described the apostles' speaking to them in their own tongues as "declaring the great deeds of God."

## Witnessed

So it was that Peter could make much of the fact that the great things he had to share with the world were events of which he and others had been eyewitnesses.

The ministry of God the Son, his willing sacrifice, and his triumphant resurrection were events so momentous and so pivotal for sinners facing eternity that the apostles could not be silent, nor could they be silenced.

## Heralded

It's noteworthy that the eyewitness reports of Jesus' resurrection quickly circulated by word of mouth, causing groups of believers to spring up far and wide. As a result of the saving acts of God there were many who came to have trust and hope in a living Savior even before the New Testament writings came into existence.

News of astounding events travels rapidly, and so it was with the message "Christ has risen." Long before a group of disheartened fishermen would have consorted to invent ideas about Jesus of Nazareth being alive, or have schemed to devise and promote a new religion, the record of the actual events was being heralded, and heralded convincingly because it was being told by eyewitnesses, willing to die for what they were reporting.

Without any prospect of gain for themselves they went out preaching the fact of Jesus' resurrection, urging people to find pardon and life in the events

God had brought about. To encourage their hearers they demonstrated that the events they published were consistent with God's long-standing prophecies.

When Bible-doubters or falling-away Christians are in a mood to talk about the evidences for Christianity, we might do well to establish this fact: There was a new testament message very shortly after the resurrection event, long before there was a New Testament book. Those events have to be reckoned with, no matter how a person presently regards the Bible.

## Recorded

Years later, in accord with Jesus' promise, the Holy Spirit guided the eyewitnesses to put their testimony in writing, preserving it so that we would not be dependent on second-hand reports or attracted to subsequent reputed divine revelations.

Some did so personally, like Matthew and John; others of the eyewitnesses recorded through a co-worker, as Peter did with Mark. When Christians eventually determined to compile the various writings, the criterion for those that were regarded as divine and authoritative was: Is the writing the work of an eyewitness or of someone who recorded the testimony of an eyewitness?

As a result our New Testament today presents not human speculation but testimony to divine actions from those who walked and talked with the living Christ. We would contend even an agnostic owes them at least as much attention as he gives a newspaper reporter.

For our own benefit we do well to make the most of the assurance that our faith rests on facts and events, not conjecture. Jesus rose from the dead. There's testimony that on the basis of his atoning sacrifice God has declared a world of sinners forgiven.

Through that record of events the Holy Spirit invites us to trust in Jesus, accept God's forgiveness, and share in the confidence and hope of the eyewitnesses.



*Robert Hochmuth is pastor of St. Andrew, Sacramento, California.*

## Happy Father's Day

Fathers are getting a bad press these days. When marriages fail or when children go astray, more likely than not it seems that the finger of blame is pointed at father. He is scored for being too often absent from the home and content to leave the task of child-raising to mother.

In cases of divorce, when judges decide which parent should have custody of children, nine times out of ten it won't be the father. For any number of reasons he is usually regarded as the parent less likely to do a good job of caring for his children. Father is the one who gets the children on weekends. And along with the children may come a steady barrage of hostile criticism from his ex-spouse.

Sometimes it is said of a father: "All he does each week is bring home the pay check." Perhaps the father who "only" brings home the pay check each week needs to hear a word of commendation rather than a recital of what else he should be doing.

We hear that a mother's work is never done, that being a mother is a really tough job. And there's no denying the truth of this assertion. At the same time it needs saying that being a father is no easy task. His workplace may be filled with tension and strife. Just getting to work has its own difficulties for some. Temptations to sin are all around. Finding no appreciation on his arrival home will only magnify feelings of guilt at being a less than adequate husband and father.

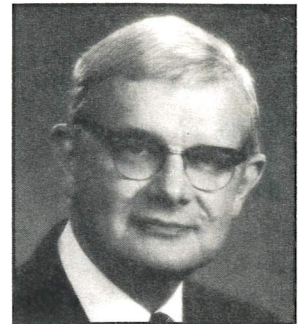
Those to whom God has given the responsibility of parenting children will not lack for opportunities to find fault with each other's performance. Spouses especially need to take to heart the question asked by Jesus: "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's (spouse's) eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" Far better to build up one another in love than to mark each shortcoming.

Because parenting is so important and so demanding, fathers and mothers will together want to work at improving their skills and strive to do a better job. I found helpful a list of suggestions for fathers which I came across years ago and taped to the inside front cover of my Bible. Here's the list unedited:

1. Love abundantly
2. Discipline constructively
3. Be clear, consistent, and authoritative
4. Punish in private
5. Be flexible, reasonable, and understanding
6. Discourage continued dependency
7. Spend time together
8. Develop mutual respect
9. Really listen
10. Tend to personal and marital needs

And to all of you who are so blessed: Happy Father's Day!

Victor H. Prange



Victor Prange  
is pastor of Peace,  
Janesville, Wisconsin.

# Psalm 132

## Songs for going up to worship

by James A. Aderman

**P**salm 132 is one of the "Psalms of Ascent" or "songs of going up" (Psalms 120-134). Perhaps these psalms gained that title as believers used them while journeying up the hilly countryside to Jerusalem for religious festivals. These "going up" psalms may have been sung by priests as they went up the temple stairs to worship. Perhaps that name stuck when the exiles returning from the Babylonian captivity sang them. Or all three explanations may apply.

Psalm 132 has four major sections (verses 1-5, 6-10, 11-13, and 14-18). Each section contains ten lines of Hebrew poetry and mentions David once. The first section describes David's deep desire to build a temple for the Lord. That is followed in the second section by the believer's response. The final two sections are restatements of God's commitment to David and to his people. Read the psalm to acquaint yourself with these three divisions.

### David's deep desire

From early on in David's political career it was his goal to provide a house of worship for the Lord. Even after David's long and tumultuous rise to monarch, building a temple was not an easily attained goal. Read 2 Samuel 6 about the difficulties David had in bringing the ark into Jerusalem.

In 2 Samuel 7 David offered to build the Lord a temple to house the ark of the covenant, but the Lord turned him down. Instead God promised to build David a "house," that is, a dynasty. It was the Lord's plan that David's son would build his temple and, even better, that it would be through David's descendants that the Messiah would come. Although he could not start construction, David did everything he could to facilitate the building of the temple.

The psalmist thought of all this when he asked the Lord to consider David's untiring zeal for constructing the temple (verse 1). In poetic exaggeration the king's ardor is described in verses 3-5.

### The believers' response

God's people were willing to share David's dream.

Throughout the land the prayer went up for the ark to find a permanent resting place (vv. 6-8). Note that Jaar is a shortened form of Kiriath Jearim where the ark stayed for 20 years and Ephrathah is another name for the area around Jaar.

The Old Testament church also prayed that their religious leaders would conduct themselves in accord with the Lord's will and pleasure and that each believer would respond to God's goodness with thankful heart and life. The Lord is also called on to remember his promise about keeping David's descendant ("the anointed one") on the throne (vv. 11-12). "The anointed one" also describes the entirety of God's chosen people and, certainly, the ultimate anointed one, Jesus.

### The Lord's oath

The assurance that God will keep his promise is affirmed in this final section of the psalm. Verse 13 provides the reason God's commitment is "a sure oath."

To prove his commitment God promises special blessings (including an answer to the prayer in verse 9): abundant provisions, food for the poor, godly priests, and joy filled people. He also promised to provide David's family with protection and victory ("a horn," Deuteronomy 33:17, Psalm 18:2) as well as with unerring guidance and brilliant glory ("a lamp," 2 Samuel 22:29,30, Isaiah 62:1). The other side of that promise is the shame his defeated enemies will bear.

Psalm 132 is an excellent psalm to use to prepare for worship. It reminds us of our God, his relationship with us, and his promises to us. It tells us about our response to our God and his grace. Use this psalm, along with its sister psalms of ascent, before next "going up to worship."

*Next time: Psalm 130.*



James Aderman is pastor of Fairview, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

# Who's that sleeping in my bed?

by Joel C. Gerlach

“**N**ein, nein.” Eight times the Ministry of Education in East Germany said “no” to Uwe Holmer’s children when they tried to enroll at the university in East Berlin. The Ministry of Education doesn’t usually give reasons for its rejection of applications for enrollment. But in this case the reason wasn’t hard to guess. Uwe Holmer, the father of the eight applicants, is a Lutheran pastor at Lobetal, a suburb of East Berlin.

For 26 years the Ministry of Education was headed by Margot Honecker, wife of East Germany’s premier, Erich Honecker. The Honeckers appeared to be at the pinnacle of their power last summer when East Germany celebrated the 40th anniversary of communist rule. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was on hand for the celebration, as were other communist dignitaries.

Ordinary citizens, however, weren’t as enthusiastic about the celebration as their leaders were. When Hungary opened its borders with Austria, East Germans took advantage of the opportunity to flee to the West. The exodus began as a trickle, then swelled to a flood.

Anniversary billboards still proclaimed the glories of the revolution and the virtues of the Marxist social order when the Berlin wall cracked, and then opened to the West. Honecker and his wife were unceremoniously dismissed from office. He is now under indictment for criminal activities during his tenure as premier.

At the end of January the Honeckers were evicted from their luxurious palace in Wandlitz, an exclusive suburb of palatial homes reserved for VIPs in the party. The Honeckers suddenly found themselves friendless, without resources, and with no place to go. None of their former cronies showed them any of the humanitarianism communists boast about. No one wanted to identify with the Honeckers. The man who had ruled with an iron fist suddenly found himself

Looking across the Berlin wall at the Brandenburg Gate.





holding out his hand like a beggar in search of charity.

Enter Uwe Holmer. Remembering the words of Jesus, "If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also," Holmer extended an invitation to the Honeckers to stay with his family in the parsonage of the parish church in Lobetal. The rest of the story is reported in an article in the April issue of *The Religion & Society Report* published by the Rockford Institute.

One of the two rooms the Honeckers occupy was formerly the bedroom of Holmer's 18 year-old son, Traugott. He commented, "It's crazy. Because I wasn't in the FDJ (the communist youth organization), I wasn't allowed to do the academic track and had to learn cabinetmaking. Today the woman who refused me the Abi [the diploma that permits a graduate to enter the university] is living with us."

The Honeckers eat their meals at the table with the Holmer family. Pastor Holmer has not reported that the Honeckers have renounced their atheism and professed faith in Jesus as Savior and Lord. But at least they fold their hands and bow their heads when the family prays together. Who knows what the Holmer's faith-in-action plan will lead to before this extraordinary episode ends?

Turning the other cheek is not one of the easier precepts to follow in the practice of our faith. Perhaps the Lord wants to use this incident to remind us that Jesus was not asking the impossible when he said, "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:43-45).

It wouldn't be fair to ask whether you would have done what the Holmers did if you had been given the opportunity. But it is appropriate to ask how we as ordinary Christians can be captivated by that kind of spirit. That happens only when we allow the Christ who died for us also to dwell in us, so that our words and actions become an extension of his words and actions in today's world.

Someone has said, "Christian love is seeking to identify myself with God's interest in other people." The Holmer family's act of charity provides us with an object lesson in what that means. That's an art that none of us ever masters completely.

But Jesus urges us to keep working at it.



Joel Gerlach is pastor of St. John, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

# Jessi's gift

by John W. Covach

A hand-folded envelope carried the treasure. Notebook paper and crayoned flowers, addressed to Mom and Dad. A third grader's artwork, but inside was the evidence of the Spirit's power.

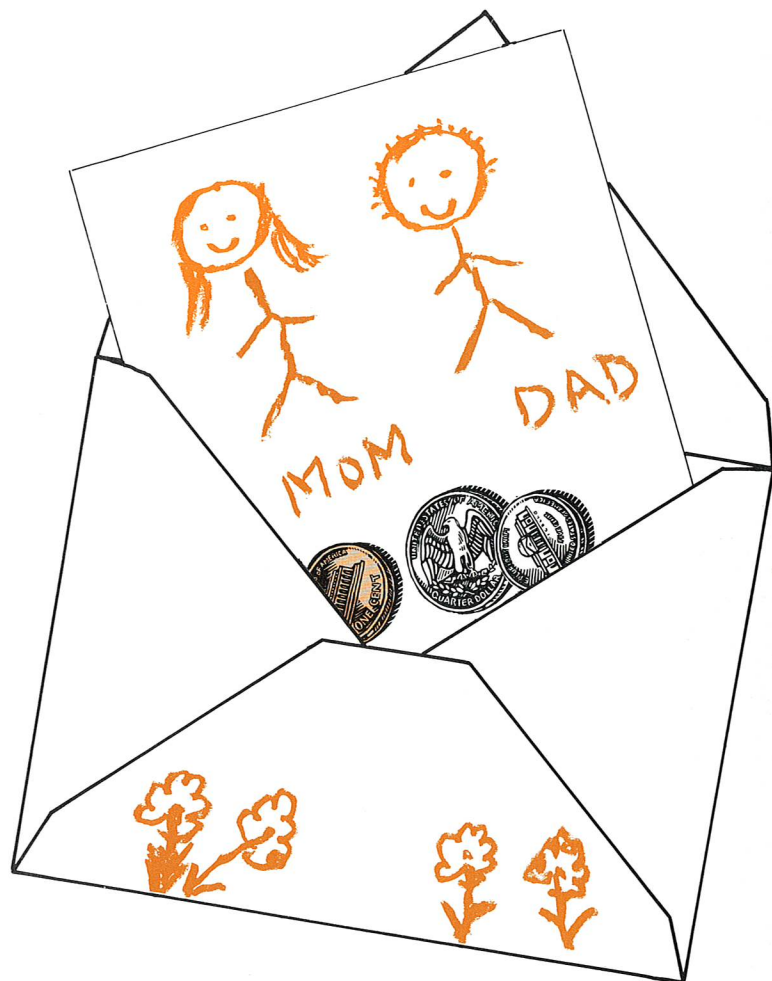
The children in my home are always learning. It isn't that I'm such a great teacher; they are just all eyes and ears. In a parsonage, that can prove to be both a burden and a blessing for little people.

The late night talk of Mom and Dad was not supposed to be overheard. It was full of speculation and troubled expectation. These are hard days for WELS missions on the frontier.

Oh, the gospel is doing its job and the Holy Spirit takes his captives. Dark hearts are fired with Pentecost's flame and enlightened as they become new homes for our King. But those new to the faith have years of growing to go before they glow with the Christian maturity of a 100-year heritage. And it's sad, but the "bite" usually comes in the "bucks."

These are hard times for our nationwide, worldwide church. Every deficit seems to touch missions, and as the dollars fall short, the threat of closed doors hits home—my home—and little ears.

Jessi's bedroom is close to the living room where my wife and I share our hopes and fears. Yes, fears. We sometimes forget that only the Lord opens mission doors, and that only he determines which will remain open. No one can close what his gracious power wills to remain



open. We forget about open doors. We also forget that, come time for bed, Jessi's bedroom door is wide open.

Well, she heard. That's not bad; in fact, it was beautiful! My wife and I found a gift under a pillow. We had to break the masking tape that sealed the package. Inside was a picture of a smiling Mom and Dad and the contents of an emptied piggy bank. "What should we do with this, Jessi?"

"Use it to help."

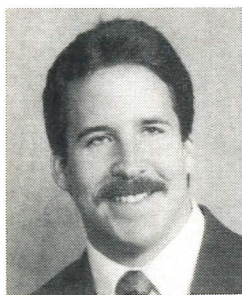
The community clubhouse got set up for our church service. God's people came to worship. The crayoned flowered envelope hugged the bottom of the collection plate.

My fear is that my writing about this will cheapen its beauty. But Jesus knows the heart. He will graciously accept Jessi's gift. He'll help me to stop resenting personal sacrifice, and start learning.

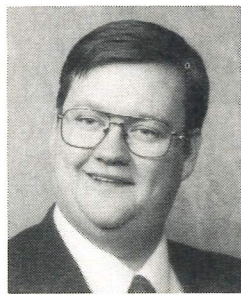
*John Covach is pastor of Lamb of God exploratory mission, Bothell, Washington.*



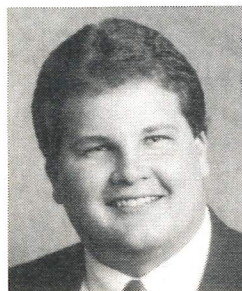
# 1990 graduates & assignments



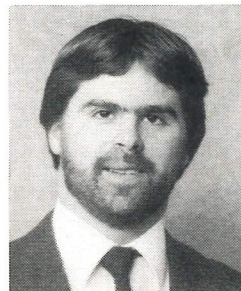
**Joel D. Albrecht**  
Brookfield, Wis.  
Exploratory outreach  
Rancho California, Cal.



**Eugene R. Andrus**  
La Crosse, Wis.  
To be assigned later



**Curt S. Backhaus**  
Glendale, Ariz.  
Exploratory outreach  
Portsmouth, Va.



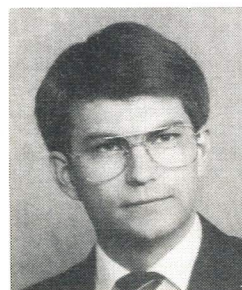
**David H. Birsching**  
Sebewaing, Mich.  
St. Paul  
Tacoma, Wash.

WISCONSIN LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Mequon, Wisconsin



The 1990 graduates were assigned by the Conference of Presidents on May 14 and 15. The seminary graduation service was held on June 1.



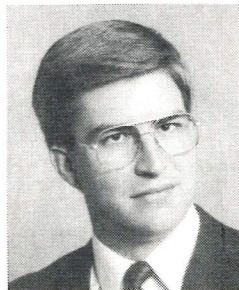
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Council Bluffs, Ia.  
Peace, Shenandoah, Ia.



**John C. Boeder**  
Bloomington, Minn.  
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Martin Luther  
Preparatory School  
Prairie du Chien, Wis.



**Jeffrey A. Bovee**  
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Associate  
St. Paul  
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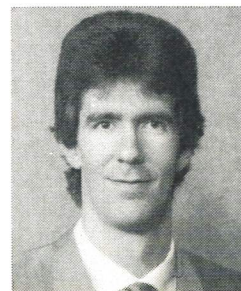
**Jon D. Buchholz**  
Tucson, Ariz.  
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Trinity  
Waukesha, Wis.



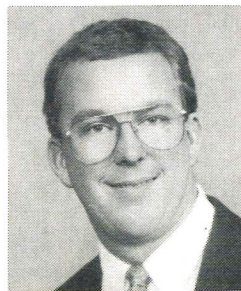
**Mark D. Buske**  
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Associate  
St. Paul  
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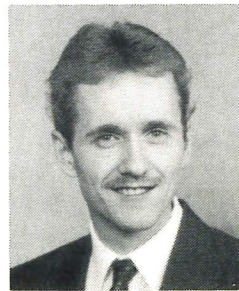
**James C. Danell, Jr.**  
Red Wing, Minn.  
Graduate Assistant  
to President,  
Northern Wisconsin  
District



**James A. Dunham**  
Livonia, Mich.  
To be assigned later



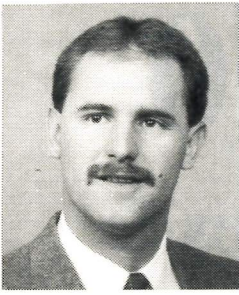
**Joel P. Gaertner**  
Dallas, Tex.  
Exploratory outreach  
Boone County, Ky.



**Franklin A. Gronemeyer**  
Germantown, Wis.  
To be assigned later



**Daniel E. Haag**  
Sedona, Ariz.  
To be assigned later



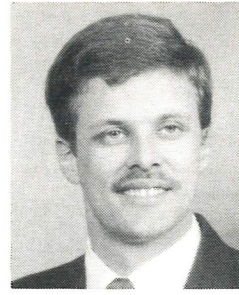
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Bethlehem, Raymond, S.D.



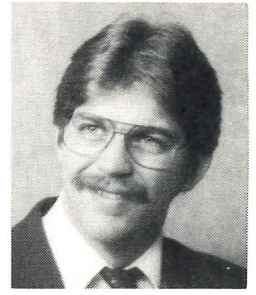
**Steven P. Handorf**  
Ridgeland, Wis.  
St. John  
Bowdle, S.D.



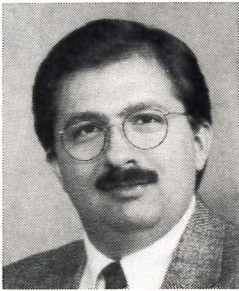
**Paul A. Hirsch**  
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To be assigned later



**Jonathan L. Hohenstein**  
Brooklyn Park, Minn.  
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Immanuel, Ward, S.D.



**Steven R. Kahrs**  
Colorado Springs, Col.  
Zion  
Mission, S.D.



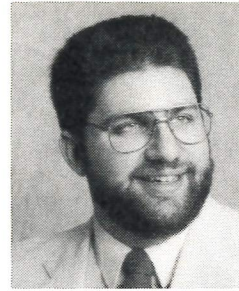
**Robert J. Knippel**  
Menomonie, Wis.  
To be assigned later



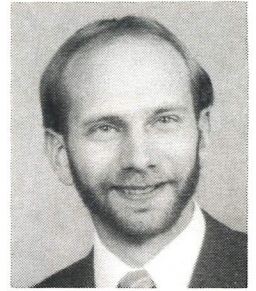
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Tutor  
Northwestern College  
Watertown, Wis.



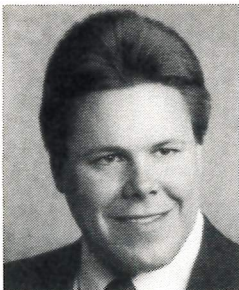
**Lon P. Kuether**  
Grafton, Wis.  
To be assigned later



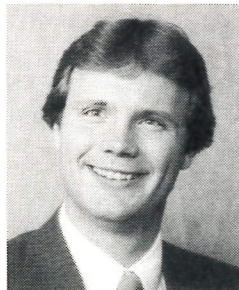
**Paul J. Lidtke**  
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Tutor  
Michigan Lutheran  
Seminary  
Saginaw, Mich.



**Wilhelm F. Limmer**  
El Paso, Tex.  
Immanuel, Tyler, Minn.  
Zion, Island Lake, Minn.



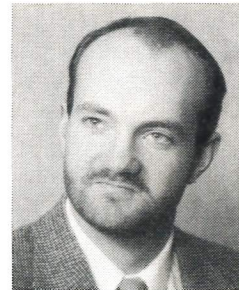
**Philip D. Malchow**  
New Berlin, Wis.  
Tutor  
Northwestern  
Preparatory School  
Watertown, Wis.



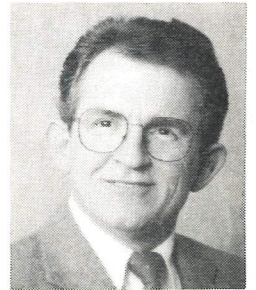
**William L. Mayhew**  
Valentine, Neb.  
Associate  
St. Paul  
Saginaw, Mich.



**Scott C. Mielens**  
Bay City, Mich.  
Bethlehem  
Manassas, Va.



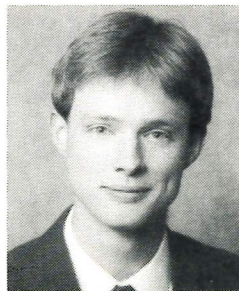
**Jonathan H. Nitz**  
Sun City, Ariz.  
To be assigned later



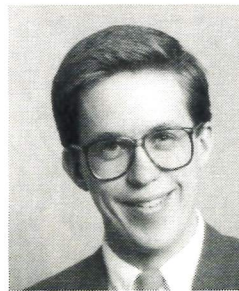
**R. Stephen Nuss**  
Anderson, Cal.  
Grace  
Spring Hill, Fla.



**Christopher C. Oehlke**  
Woodville, Wis.  
To be assigned later



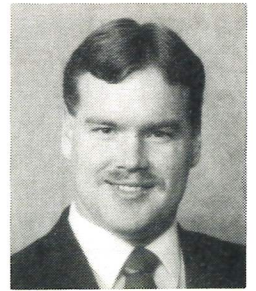
**James A. Panning**  
Mequon, Wis.  
Assistant  
Redeemer  
Tucson, Ariz.



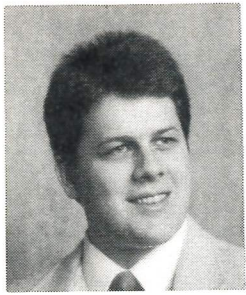
**Bradley J. Pearson**  
Hanover, Minn.  
Shepherd of the Lakes  
Fairmont, Minn.



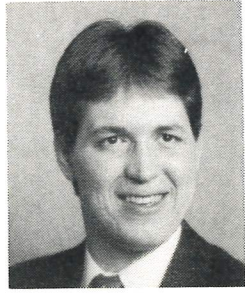
**Michael J. Quandt**  
Kearney, Neb.  
Instructor (1 year)  
West Lutheran  
High School  
Hopkins, Minn.



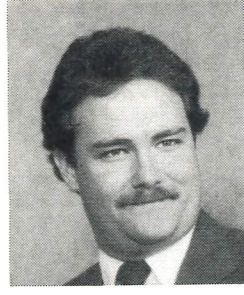
**Daniel K. Reich**  
Loretto, Minn.  
Redeemer  
Pierre, S.D.



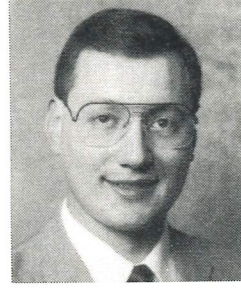
**Michael R. Riley**  
Oregon City, Ore.  
St. John  
Maribel, Wis.



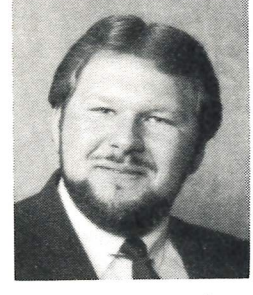
**Rodney H. Rixe**  
Johnson, Minn.  
To be assigned later



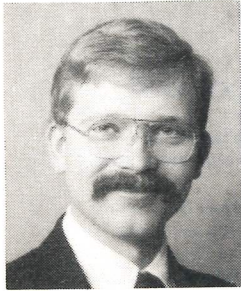
**Ralph R. Rosenberg**  
Tecumseh, Mich.  
Abiding Peace  
Greenville, S.C.



**Michael E. Schwab**  
Kawkawlin, Mich.  
To be assigned later



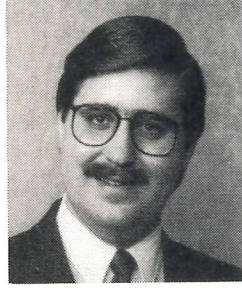
**Larry R. Schwanke**  
Manitowoc, Wis.  
To be assigned later



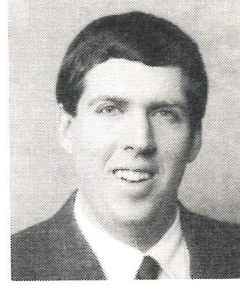
**James W. Schwark**  
Manitowoc, Wis.  
To be assigned later



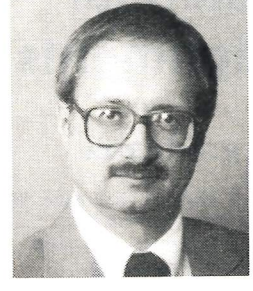
**William M. Sebald**  
Wauwatosa, Wis.  
To be assigned later



**James V. Seiltz**  
Black Creek, Wis.  
Trinity  
Wabeno, Wis.



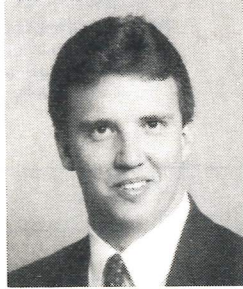
**Keith H. Siverly**  
Waukesha, Wis.  
New Salem  
Sebewaing, Mich.



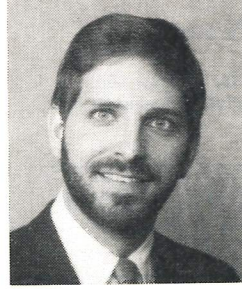
**James R. Sonnemann**  
Milwaukee, Wis.  
Salem (Cramer St.)  
Milwaukee, Wis.



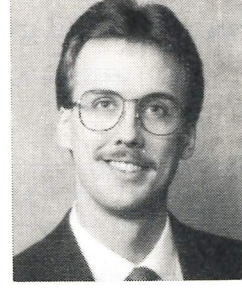
**Joel R. Spaude**  
Watertown, Wis.  
Lutheran Church  
of Central Africa  
Chipata, Zambia



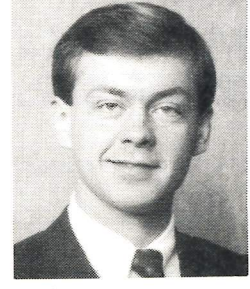
**Kevin I. Stellick**  
Monroe, Mich.  
Zion  
Morton, Minn.



**Nathan J. Strobel**  
Watertown, Wis.  
Associate  
St. John  
Bay City, Mich.



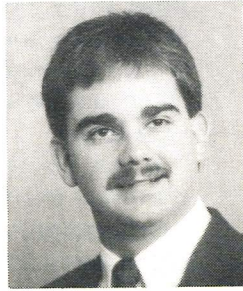
**Erich A. Stuebs III**  
Manitowoc, Wis.  
Exploratory outreach  
Lexington, Ky.



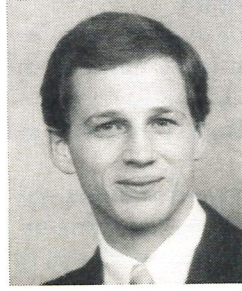
**Bill J. Tackmier**  
Coleman, Wis.  
Graduate assistant  
to the President,  
Michigan District



**Kurt M. Uhlenbrauck**  
Appleton, Wis.  
Our Savior  
Grants Pass, Ore.



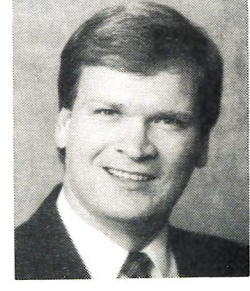
**Wayne R. Uhlhorn**  
New Ulm, Minn.  
St. Paul, Valley City, N.D.  
James Valley  
Jamestown, N.D.



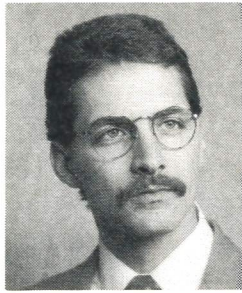
**Marc A. VonDeylen**  
Fort Wayne, Ind.  
To be assigned later



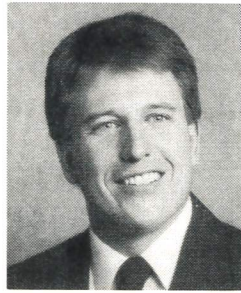
**Mark S. Voss**  
Green Bay, Wis.  
Graduate assistant  
to the President,  
Southeastern Wisconsin  
District



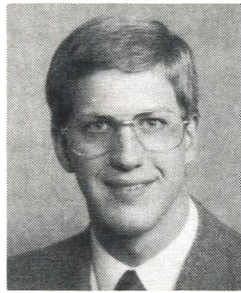
**Richard A. Waldschmidt**  
Fond du Lac, Wis.  
Graduate assistant  
to the President,  
Western Wisconsin  
District



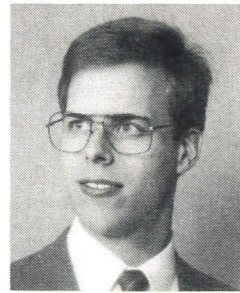
**Jonathan D. Werre**  
Ridgeway, Minn.  
Christ  
Cambridge, Minn.



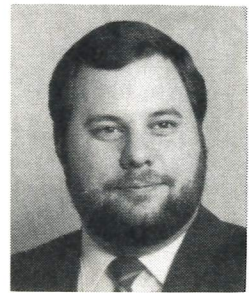
**William W. Werth**  
St. Peter, Minn.  
Graduate assistant  
to the President,  
Minnesota District



**Martin G. Wildauer**  
Dearborn Heights, Mich.  
Good Shepherd  
Beckley, West Va.



**Patrick C. Winkler**  
Watertown, Wis.  
To be assigned later



**Matthew F. Wobeck**  
Onalaska, Wis.  
Assistant (1 year)  
St. John  
St. John's, Antigua,  
West Indies

## Additional assignments

### 1989 graduates

**Charles S. Duford**, St. Francis, Wis.  
Abiding Word, Somers, Wis.

**Daniel L. Lindquist**, Greenville, S.C.  
St. Timothy, Maumee, Oh.

### 1988 graduates

**Kenneth A. Brokmeier**, Watertown, Wis.  
Recruiter (1 year)  
Martin Luther Preparatory School  
Prairie du Chien, Wis.

**Jonathan A. Kuske**, Prairie du Chien, Wis.  
Exploratory outreach, Richmond, Va.

**Peter J. Leyrer**, Lake Mills, Wis.  
Exploratory outreach, Andover, Minn.

**Richard T. Pamperin**, Eden Prairie, Minn.  
Associate, Trinity, Marinette, Wis.

**Paul T. Prange**, Saginaw, Mich.  
Risen Savior, South Austin, Tex.

**Roger W. Rockhoff**, Litchfield, Minn.  
St. Paul, Honolulu, Hawaii

**Martin A. Spriggs**, Milwaukee, Wis.  
Beautiful Savior, Summerville, S.C.

**Joel W. Thomford**, Green Bay, Wis.  
Immanuel, Willmar, Minn.

**Robert J. Timmerman**, Westminster, Cal.  
Associate, Grace, Tucson, Ariz.

**Charles A. Westra**, Watertown, Wis.  
Exploratory outreach, Spring Hill, Tenn.

### 1987 graduate

**Jeffrey D. Wegner**, Watertown, Wis.  
Good Shepherd, Rumford, R.I.

### 1986 graduate

**Matthew A. Crass**, Owosso, Mich.  
Associate, St. Peter, Weyauwega, Wis.

## Reassigned for one year to their present call

**David C. Maertz**, Marshall, Minn.  
Tutor, Martin Luther Preparatory School  
Prairie du Chien, Wis.

**Duane A. Rodewald**, New Ulm, Minn.  
Tutor, Michigan Lutheran Seminary  
Saginaw, Mich.

**Timothy J. Satorius**, Roseville, Cal.  
Instructor, Nebraska Lutheran High School  
Waco, Neb.

**Snowden G. Sims**, Milwaukee, Wis.  
Tutor, Northwestern Preparatory School  
Watertown, Wis.

**Ross A. Stelljes**, New Ulm, Minn.  
Tutor, Northwestern College  
Watertown, Wis.

**Peter L. Unnasch**, Nodine, Minn.  
Assistant to the Dean of Students  
Dr. Martin Luther College  
New Ulm, Minn.

## IN THE NEWS



### Mass Media Digest

#### Cable TV— A free resource

Most communities have cable television systems, which must provide a public access channel on which programs are aired free of charge.

St. John, New Ulm, Minnesota, has been airing its Sunday worship services on the local

public access channel. The shut-ins of the congregation appreciate it, and some of the people who worshiped in church watch the service again.

The pastor of St. John is frequently greeted by name in the hospital or on the street by strangers who tell him they see him on TV.

All that is needed to get started is simple video equipment connected to the sound system of the church. (Of course, more sophisticated equipment can produce a more professional-looking product.) Three or four

people are needed to do the taping and to deliver the tapes to the cable office.

A Sunday worship service, a Bible study, or a youth group skit or play could be aired as a service to the shut-ins of the congregation and the community at large.

If you are not using this opportunity for free airing of your congregation's activities, why not give it a try? If you need more information, write Prof. John Paulsen, Media Director, Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN 56073

# The new hymnal marches on

by Kurt J. Eggert

January marked the fifth anniversary of the hymnal project. On January 2, 1985, the orientation meeting of the committees was held.

A few changes in personnel, particularly the untimely death of our music editor, Prof. James Engel, slowed our work. But the Lord has given us gifted people to carry on the assignment. One gift that deserves to be mentioned is the dedication and enthusiasm of our committee members.

At this point we hope that committee work will be finished and manuscripts turned over to Northwestern Publishing House in 1992 and the publication process, printing, and introduction of the new hymnal into congregations may take place in 1993.

Field-testing will be a part of the 1990 schedule. Two services, *Evening Worship* and the *Service of the Word* (non-communion), are being readied for trial use. According to present plans, the *Service of Word and Sacrament* and *Morning Worship* will follow. The committee is exploring ways of gaining reaction to revisions of the hymns.

Our new music editor, Kermit Moldenhauer, will be working at the hymnal project on a full-time basis as of this summer. An office will be provided for him at Northwestern Publishing House, which is switching its operation to fully electronic publishing. This will include the purchase of software which will enable us to make copies of liturgies and hymns by computer. Up to this time that

work needed to be done by hand.

This year the committee will focus on the psalms, canticles, the propers, and the lectionary. The size of our book depends to a considerable degree on decisions in these areas. Decisions also are before us on the format and page layout of the hymnal and on the name, logo, and color of the hymnal cover. We also are thinking about things that have to do with hymns, such as symbolism, descants, and guitar chords. The hymn section will need six or seven indexes, particularly an expanded topical index.

A number of other projects, not directly the responsibility of the regular committees, need attention this year. The Commission on Worship is handling some of these, such as the production of the worship leader's manual. The organist's edition is a major task which will be primarily the responsibility of the music editor.

The vital task of planning and guiding the introduction of the hymnal in the congregations of the synod will be the task of a soon-to-be chosen project director. Pastor Michael Engel is working on a topical index of the hymns. Pastor Mentor Kujath has been appointed text editor and is at work reviewing the hymns. Prof. John Brug has provided a list of

psalms and refrains.

A number of critical reviewers, including the district worship coordinators, are providing reactions to tentatively approved items. There is also a three-person theological review committee which will ferret out ambiguities or unbiblical statements. Eventually, several people will read the final manuscripts for content and style.

There are philosophical, theological, and practical questions which we need to discuss and keep before us. How well is our book shaping up in meeting the guidelines set up by the synod? Is it scripturally sound, in harmony with the character and heritage of our church body, reflecting the larger perspective and mainstream of the worship of the Christian church, and welcomed and judged to be highly satisfactory for purposes of devotion and worship by a majority of our members?

We believe we are succeeding at the first three. There are no guarantees as far as the last question is concerned, but we are listening and trying. The members of the committees would be grateful if you would join them in taking it to the Lord in prayer.

This article appeared first in the Spring 1990 issue of *Focus on Worship*. Pastor Kurt Eggert is project director for the synod's new hymnal.

## Committee plans uses for center

The synod's Special Education Services Committee plans several uses for the resource center recently opened in West Allis, Wis., reports chairman Bruce Cuppan. The committee helps to provide programs and material for the spiritual training of the developmentally disabled.

One use for the center will be as a library for religious training materials. WELS members who cannot visit the center can request that sample materials be sent to

them. Another use, says Cuppan, will be to provide work space and reference materials for people working on the development of new materials for the special education committee. Teacher training workshops are also held at the center.

Those wishing to contact the center can write to the Special Education Services Committee, 8420 W. Beloit Rd., West Allis, WI 53227, or call 414/541-6066.

**New Soviet Baptist church growing rapidly . . .** *A Soviet Baptist congregation that was only organized in October is experiencing phenomenal growth and is recruiting volunteer workers from the United States to help renovate a historic building that was recently turned over to it by the government. The church, known as the Temple of the Gospel in Leningrad, has about 400 members and is attracting between 800 and 1000 to Sunday services, according to its pastor, Sergei Nikolaev. The congregation recently acquired a structure that was built around the turn of the century and that once belonged to the Old Believers, a group that was expelled from the Russian Orthodox Church in the 17th century. It was closed as a church in 1933 and was used periodically as a factory until last year.*

**Boycott of Clorox ends . . .** Christian Leaders for Responsible Television, a national coalition of about 1600 Christian leaders, has ended a nine-month boycott of Clorox products after the corporation announced steps to have its policies for sponsorship of television programs enforced more stringently. Last July the coalition announced a boycott of both Clorox and Mennen products to protest what they called the amount of sex, violence, profanity, and anti-Christian stereotyping on TV programs sponsored by the firms. Officials of the Clorox corporation blamed a monitoring agency for failure to properly apply the corporation guidelines. The company has been assured by the monitoring agency that the company's standards will be followed more closely. The boycott of Mennen products continues, however.

**Brief opposes use of Bible . . .** *Using the Bible to teach moral values in public schools is an unconstitutional government establishment of religion, according to a brief filed in federal court by the American Jewish Congress and the Committee for Public Education and Religious Liberty. The brief asks the Eighth Circuit Court of appeals in St. Louis to uphold a district court ruling barring classes that were conducted twice a week in the Gravette (Ark.) elementary school using Bible stories that were chosen for their moral or ethical value. Teachers used religious songs to reinforce the Bible principles, and the district court found that the songs emphasized Jesus' role as savior of humanity and the need to accept him as "the gateway to heaven."*

**Philippine church severs ties with Missouri Synod . . .** The Lutheran Church in the Philippines has severed its ties with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, charging that the much larger American church failed to respect the "autonomy, sovereignty, and integrity" of its Third World partner. While the Lutheran Church in the Philippines has been a partner with the Missouri Synod, it has also been linked since 1973 with the Lutheran World Federation, a pan Lutheran federation with over 100 denominations around the globe. The Missouri Synod is not a member of the federation for doctrinal reasons.

**Dr. Wolbrecht dies . . .** *A memorial service for former Missouri Synod executive Dr. Walter F. Wolbrecht was held recently at an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congregation in Portland, Ore. Wolbrecht, 74, died of complications arising from pneumonia. Before joining the ELCA, he had served as executive director of the Missouri Synod from 1961-1971.*

**ELCA synod brings charges for ordination of homosexuals . . .** The Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has brought charges of "willfully disregarding and violating a criterion for recognition as congregations of the ELCA" against St. Francis Lutheran Church and First United Lutheran Church of San Francisco. The two churches defied ELCA rules by calling and installing as pastors three persons who do not meet criteria which state that ELCA pastors may not be practicing homosexuals. The matter is headed for a discipline committee which will rule on the status of the two congregations. Possible disciplinary actions include censure and admonition by the bishop, suspension of the "rights and privileges of a congregation" for a designated period of time, or removal from the ELCA roll of congregations.

**Amish must obey vehicle law . . .** *In a 7-2 ruling in April the U. S. Supreme Court has set aside a Minnesota Supreme Court ruling that the state's Amish people cannot be forced to equip their horse-drawn buggies with triangular slow-moving vehicle signs. The high court told the state court to reconsider the case in light of the Supreme Court's decision that drug laws may prohibit Native Americans from using peyote in religious ceremonies. In that case the high court concluded the First Amendment guarantee of the free exercise of religion does not require states to carve out religious exemptions from criminal and other laws applicable to all citizens.*

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

## Handbell festival held at New Ulm

The weekend following Easter saw about 325 handbell ringers assemble at Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., for the eleventh annual WELS handbell festival. Groups came from as far west as Watertown, S.D., and as far east as Green Bay, Wis., and the greater Milwaukee area.

Coordinators of the festival were Wayne Wagner and Gwen Tjernagel of DMLC, who also directed the mass choir selections. Cheryl Ziemer, Randy Bode, and Sandi Coates served as directors of the three smaller choirs, and Richard Lehmann conducted a selection which combined the two colleges in our synod (DMLC and Wisconsin Lutheran College) which have handbell programs.

During the weekend, in addition to rehearsing, each church and school represented at the festival constructed banners, which lined the DMLC gym for the Sunday concert. Also included in the activities was a concert on the three-octave carillon bells of the New Ulm Glockenspiel. Charles Luedtke of DMLC gave the ringers the experience of hearing the handbell's closest cousin, tuned tower bells.

The festival concert inspired the audience of several hundred with a stirring arrangement of "A Mighty Fortress," with a brass quintet accompanying the mass ensemble of ringers.

Special thanks are due to all at DMLC who helped make the weekend enjoyable for the participants. The ringers returned to their home congregations with renewed zeal and desire to "Ring to the Lord."

—Richard W. Lehmann



Handbell festival participants constructed banners for the Sunday concert.

### Also in the news

**Dr. Martin Luther College**, New Ulm, Minn., has been requested to do a feasibility study on a teacher education program for early childhood education. The study was requested by the Conference of Presidents. . . . **Prof. Edward C. Fredrich II** and **Prof. Armin W. Schuetze**, both of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, have announced their retirement at the end of the 1990-91 school year. . . . **Pastor Lee Vaccarella** of St. Paul, Muskego, Wis., has been called as the third special giving counselor. The special giving phase of Lift High the Cross offering will require double the number of visits originally planned for. The Conference of Presidents extended the limited call at its recent meeting. . . . Fruits of **Lift High the Cross** are already appearing. On June 14 two missionaries to Nigeria were called to assist in establishing a seminary for Christ the King Lutheran Church. This is one of six mission projects authorized with offering funds. Among the other projects are seven new home missions. . . . Teacher **Joel A. Nelson** of Santa Barbara, Cal., has been appointed to the synod's Board for Stewardship. He will fill the unexpired term of Jason Nelson. . . . Representatives of the **Church of the Lutheran Confession**, the **Evangelical Lutheran Synod**, and the **Wisconsin Synod** met on April 5-6 and drew up a joint statement "Regarding the Termination of Fellowship Between Church Bodies." The statement will now be submitted to the full committees of the three synods. . . . The **Board for Home Missions** has granted pastors to six new missions: Las Vegas, Nev.; Andover, Minn.; The Woodlands, Tex.; Port Charlotte, Fla.; Lexington, Ky.; and Richmond, Va. . . . Senior **Reed Degener** of Northwestern Prep School, Watertown, Wis., reached the state wrestling finals all four of his years and capped his career by becoming NPS's first state champion and earning most valuable player honor at this year's state finals. . . . **Dr. Paul H. Randolph** of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, has been awarded a lecture and research Fulbright grant at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, for the 1990-91 academic year. Randolph is professor of business administration at Texas Tech. He is a member of Shepherd of the Plains, Lubbock, Texas. . . . A grant of \$10,000 has been given to the **WELS National Sunday School Convention** by Lutheran Brotherhood. It will be used for scholarships and to videotape workshops. The convention is scheduled for July 20-22 in Madison, Wis.

## Arizona-California District

The residents of the **Arizona Lutheran Retirement Center** in Phoenix gathered on Jan. 27 to dedicate a new sign, erected in memory of Erwin Perkins. The center, operated by a federation of WELS congregations, has been serving retirees from many states for over 10 years. It is managed by Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Krug. . . . The members of **Holy Cross, Tucson**, gathered for a service of celebration Feb. 25 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of their congregation. . . . **Deer Valley, Phoenix**, celebrated its tenth anniversary Feb. 25. The next day construction was begun on a new chapel. The

congregation's first chapel will be razed due to freeway construction.  
—*Kenneth H. Pasch*

Four California churches are celebrating anniversaries. Observing 25 years were **Alpine Lutheran in Alpine**, and **Shepherd of the Hills, La Mesa. St. Paul, Riverside**, celebrated its 20th anniversary. **St. Mark, Citrus Heights**, will observe its 20th anniversary in July. . . . **Pastor and Mrs. Silas Krueger** of Carlsbad, Calif., flew to Monte Carlo for a wedding in March, where a member of their congregation was married. Pastor Krueger writes, "I have gone some distances to weddings and have conducted services in unique settings, but never as far or in as romantic a set-

ting as Monte Carlo". . . . Pastors **Edgar Hoenecke** and **Norman Berg** keep meeting as they serve their Lord. Edgar and Norman grew up as neighbors in Saginaw, Mich. Pastor Berg followed Pastor Hoenecke as shepherd of St. Peter, Plymouth, Mich. They later served together in Milwaukee, where Edgar was administrator of the Board for World Missions and Norman was administrator of the Board for Home Missions. Now again their lives have intertwined as the Bergs temporarily moved to Rancho Penasquitos, Calif., near Rancho Bernardo where the Hoeneckes live. From February through May Pastor Berg served the vacancy at Christ Our Redeemer.  
—*Hermann K. John*

## OBITUARIES

### Walter A. Krenke 1900-1988

Walter A. Krenke was born in St. Louis, Mo., on December 12, 1900. He died November 12, 1988.

A 1925 graduate of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, he served in McIntosh, S.D.; Paradise, N.D.; Grafton, Neb.; and Maneos and Colorado Springs, Col. Krenke started two missions in the Dakotas and did exploratory work in the West Slope counties of Cortez and Delores, Col. While in Colorado he served as camp pastor at the Air Force Academy, Fort Carson, and Ent Air Force Base. He also served as chairman of the Colorado Mission Board for ten years.

Krenke is survived by his wife, Martha; a daughter Margaret (Don) Strever; and two step-daughters, Marilyn Hafemeister, and Delores Myers.

Services were held at Pilgrim, Mesa, Arizona and Salem, Colorado Springs, Col.

### Walter A. Paustian 1906-1990

Walter Paustian was born April 24, 1906, at Redwood Falls, Minn. He died April 28, 1990, in Benson, Ariz.

He attended Northwestern Preparatory School, Northwestern College, and graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. From 1932 to 1940 he served at St. Paul, Onalaska, Wis. For the next 35 years he served Christ, West Salem, Wis. He also served on the board of Luther High School, Onalaska, and was a member of the synod's Board of Support. He retired in 1975.

He is survived by his wife, Lillian; a son, Richard; a daughter, Jean; two brothers and a sister; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held at Bethlehem, Benson, Ariz.

### Gerhard J. Struck 1908-1990

Gerhard J. Struck was born in Oesdorf bei Pymont, Germany, on July 7, 1908. He died in

Frankenmuth, Mich., on April 11, 1990.

He prepared for the pastoral ministry by attending Northwestern Preparatory School, Northwestern College, and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. He served congregations in Manitowoc, Maribel, and Wrightstown, Wis.; Hillrose, Colo.; and Dowagiac, Bay City, and Elkton, Mich. He also served on the synod's Board for Student Aid. He retired in 1983.

He is survived by his wife, Charlotte, a son, David; a daughter, Judie (Thomas) Conzelmann; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and three sisters.

Services and committal were held at St. John, Frankenmuth, Mich.

#### NORTHWESTERN PUBLISHING HOUSE Summer Store Hours

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

Vacationers are welcome to browse at the Northwestern Publishing House store, 1250 N. 113th Street (one block north of Watertown Plank Road on 113th St.), Milwaukee, Wis.; 414/475-6600.



### Visit the shut-ins

I have been incarcerated for 17 years and have been a Lutheran for over five years. I don't think most Christians realize incarcerated Christians need more than prayers.

Shut-ins, both sick and incarcerated, are children of God and sometimes we need Christian encouragement more than non-shut-ins. Temptation increases in prison and I find the only person that always has time for me and to visit me is the devil himself.

It appears the more I ask my fellow Christians to visit me, the more they offer excuses, and the more time Satan has to offer me. It's sad to think Satan is willing to work harder than Christians are. Please visit the shut-ins.

*Matthew L. Baker  
Muskegon, Michigan*

### Christian education is important

Two editorials in the Feb. 15 issue reminded me that there is no time in our history in which a Christian education has been more important to our youth.

One pointed out the pressures teenagers face because of alcoholic parents, sexual and physical abuse, illicit sex, and illicit drugs. The other spoke of a society that is morally bankrupt. Both point to the result of an educational system founded on the religion of secular humanism.

Our children need to be rooted in a foundation that holds firm in an increasingly godless and immoral society. Lutheran elementary and high schools aid parents in establishing a foundation that copes with the pressures facing our young people.

At a time in which many question the cost of our Lutheran schools, these editorials were reminders that Lutheran schools don't cost—they pay. Christian education is more important now than any time in our history.

*Daniel M. Schmeling  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin*

### Thanks to chaplains

I enjoyed Pastor Priebe's interview with Arthur Clement, the chaplain in the Madison hospitals (April 1). I'm sure I speak for many in saying that our chaplains' and pastors' hospital visits are deeply appreciated, and extend to them a heart-felt "thank you."

*Dawn Schierenbeck  
El Paso, Texas*

### What about adiaphoron?

Editor James Schaefer (March 1) quotes the statement, "... the Bible is 'the infallible authority and guide for everything we believe and teach and do . . . and that no authority, be it man's reason, science, or scholarship, may stand in judgment over Scripture.'" This is what we recognize as the sufficiency of Scripture.

When we believe that the Bible is the guide for everything we believe, teach, and do, where does the word "adiaphoron" (something God has neither commanded nor forbidden) fit in Christians' lives? When God's word is our guide in all areas, adiaphora should not be a factor in our lives.

*Eugene C. Hill  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

*Professor Richard Balge,  
of Wisconsin Lutheran  
Seminary, replies:*

The Greek word adiaphoron means "something indifferent." The term was used by the earliest Lutherans with reference to ceremonies or church rites. They pointed out that these are neither commanded nor forbidden by God's word. The Lord commands his believers to proclaim and hear his word, to use his sacraments, and to worship him. He wants us to do this in decency and order, in ways which will honor him and build up his saints. None of this is an adiaphoron, a matter of indifference, because he has commanded it. He did not command or prohibit orders of service we use as we worship him together. Under normal circumstances, where nothing else is involved to cloud the issue, the order of service is an adiaphoron.

Later Lutherans applied the term to questions of morality. For exam-

ple, they had to answer Pietists who believed that truly earnest Christians do not play games. Games, they said, are neither productive work nor prayerful meditation. It is clear that we must be good stewards of time and energy, and that we must not let love for play take us away from God's word. But it is also clear that God's word neither commands nor prohibits playing games.

Lutherans do not apply the term adiaphoron to what God's word clearly teaches. The command to baptize, the use of water and the word in baptism, its value for us, and its significance for our lives—these are clearly taught and are not indifferent matters. The mode of baptism (immersion, pouring, sprinkling) is not prescribed. It is an adiaphoron.

In matters of conduct I am not free to ignore a clear commandment of God or a prohibition of his word as though it were adiaphoron. On the other hand, where scripture has not spoken, I must not command or prohibit. The apostle Paul teaches this principle clearly in Romans 14, with practical examples and practical guidance. He also stresses that I must act not only according to knowledge, but also out of love for my neighbor. I must take into account the possible effect of my actions on others.

The Biblical principle of adiaphoron does not undercut the clarity of God's word, which tells me to love God and my neighbor and gives me many examples and specific commands. That God has not listed every possible human action under headings which say, "Do this" and "Don't do that" does not subvert the sufficiency of the scriptures.

Adiaphoron is a useful term, expressing a necessary principle, which is taught by scripture.

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 53222-4398.

## NOTICES

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

### ADMINISTRATOR WANTED

Martin Luther Memorial Home, Inc., which operates convalescent and nursing homes in four Michigan locations, is seeking applicants for the position of executive administrator. Applicants shall be members of (or in fellowship with) the WELS, experienced health care professionals, and college graduates. Please direct inquiries to Steven L. Korth, 501 E. Smith St., Bay City, MI 48706.

### EUROPEAN STUDY TOUR

Dr. Martin Luther College will offer a six-week European study tour from June 10 to July 22, 1991. Participants may earn six hours of credit in social studies. The tour will include Istanbul, Turkey, Crete, Greece, Yugoslavia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, and Germany. Tour guides will be DMCLC professors Arnold Koelpin and Theodore Hartwig. Address inquiries to John Isch, Director of Special Services, 1884 College Heights, New Ulm, MN 56073.

### MATH WORKSHOP

Christian Educators for Special Education presents Teaching in the World of Math, Aug. 14, 9:00-3:00, at Klemmer's Williamsburg Inn, Milwaukee, Wis. The program, presented by Dr. Henry Kepner of UWM, will include ideas for problem solving, computation, and math projects. Registration, including meal, before Aug. 1 is \$13.00 for members and students, \$18.00 for nonmembers. After Aug. 1, \$23.00. Please send check payable to CESE to Christian Educators for Special Education, Wisconsin Lutheran College, 8830 W. Blue-mound Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53226.

### PRESCHOOL TEACHERS' WORKSHOP

St. Matthew, Iron Ridge, Wis., will host a workshop for early childhood educators on August 18. Spend a day growing professionally and spiritually. Topics include emergent writing, rhythm activities, make-it and take-it projects, and more. Contact Dan Whitney, 8371 N. Ann St., Milwaukee, WI 53224; 414/354-9713.

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### ALCOHOLISM AWARENESS RETREAT

The seventh annual Alcoholism Awareness retreat for recovering alcoholics and/or family members will be held July 13-15 at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. For more information, contact John Cook, Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service, 6800 N. 76th St., PO Box 23980, Milwaukee, WI 53223; 414/353-5000.

### VBS FOR HEARING IMPAIRED

Vacation Bible school for hearing impaired children ages 4-12 will be held July 9-13, 1:30-3:00 p.m., at Grace, 700 Beechwood Ave., Waukesha, Wis. Volunteers and observers are welcome. Contact Ruth Ihde, 414/527-1484; Verna Weigand, 414/547-3096; or write WELS HANDS, 10131 W. Schlinger, West Allis, WI 53214.

### FAMILY CAMPING IN MICHIGAN

Camp Lor-Ray has 30 fully developed campsites nestled among the pines on a private lake. It is owned and operated by an association of WELS and ELS churches in western Michigan and is available for overnight or weeklong stays from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Contact Milt Chariot at camp, 5281 Russell Rd., Twin Lakes, MI 49457; 616/766-3152; or at home, 2233 Hudson St., Muskegon, MI 49441; 616/755-2004.

### VACATIONERS

If you are vacationing in the Wisconsin Dells area this summer, you are invited to attend services at Newport Lutheran (ELS), five miles southeast of Wisconsin Dells on Hwy. 16. Services at 7 p.m. Saturdays and 10:30 a.m. Sundays. Pastor Joel Willitz, 212 Volk St., Portage, WI 53901; 608/742-4286.

## ANNIVERSARIES

**Buffalo, Minnesota** — Immanuel (100th), Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m. Pastor William Leerssen, speaker; 3:30 p.m., Pastor Norman Kuske, speaker. Catered dinner at noon. Children's centennial service, 8 p.m., Sept. 15. Contact Pastor Stephen Smith, Rt. 1, Box 244, Buffalo, MN 55313; 612/682-1878.

**Seaforth, Minnesota** — St. Paul (90th), Aug. 12, 10:30 a.m., John Stellick, speaker; 2:00 p.m., James Babler, speaker. Catered noon meal. If you plan to attend meal, please contact Pastor Steven Schmeling, Rt. 1, Box 119, Bellview, MN 56214; 507/644-3113.

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Pilgrim's LWMS will send sermon tapes to those with no access to regular church services. Please send names and addresses to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Attn: LWMS, 3901 First Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55409.

### COMMUNION WARE AVAILABLE

An aluminum communion set (paten and four trays which hold 176 individual cups) is available for shipping costs. Contact St. Paul Lutheran Church, 125 E. School St., Neosho, WI 53059; 414/625-3422.

### CHOIR GOWNS AVAILABLE

Available for cost of shipping: 20 black choir gowns. Contact Cori Einhardt, 280 Meissner Apt. A1, Sebewaung, MI 48759; 517/883-3570.

## CHANGES IN MINISTRY

### PASTORS:

**Bork, Gregory R.**, from Faith, (ELS), Irvine, Calif., to California LHS, Garden Grove, Calif.  
**Dolan, John H.**, from Bethany, Appleton, Wis., to Fox Valley LHS, Appleton, Wis.  
**Engel, Michael L.**, from Salem, Milwaukee (N. Cramer), Wis., to St. Peter, Clovis, Calif.  
**Main, Donald G.**, from Trinity, Elkton, S.D., to Our Savior, Longmont; St. John, Platteville, Col.  
**Palmquist, David A.**, from St. John, Tarzana, Calif., to St. Paul First, N. Hollywood, Calif.  
**Persons, Steven E.**, from Redeemer, Pierre, S.D., to St. Mark, Leesburg, Fla.  
**Vaccarella, Lee L.**, from St. Paul, Muskego, Wis., to Lift High the Cross offering  
**Ziemer, Paul C.**, from Bethlehem, Manassas, Va., to St. John, Rock Springs, Wis.

### TEACHERS:

**Bird, Rozanne.**, from inactive to First, Lake Geneva, Wis.  
**Bock, Suzanne E.**, from Christ, Big Bend, Wis., to Jordan, West Allis, Wis.  
**Bode, Jeannette.**, from inactive to Shepherd of the Valley, Westminster, Colo.  
**Ebert, David A.**, from St. Paul, Wonecok, Wis., to Immanuel, Waupaca, Wis.  
**Kaye, Donna R.**, from Nebraska LHS, Waco, Neb., to St. Paul, Lake Mills, Wis.  
**Mathwig, Michael J.**, from Zion, Egg Harbor, Wis., to St. Mark, Mankato, Minn.  
**Miller, Pamela J.**, from St. Paul, Ft. Atkinson, Wis., to First, La Crosse, Wis.  
**Moldenhauer, Kermit G.**, from Martin Luther Prep. School, Prairie du Chien, Wis., to Music Editor, WELS Hymnal Project  
**Nell, Christine M.**, from St. John, Wood Lake, Minn., to St. Paul, St. James, Minn.  
**Stellick, Norman A.**, from Zion, Monroe, Mich., to WELS Planned Giving Counselor.

## ADDRESSES

### PASTORS:

**Priebe, David E.**, 11335 77 Ave. N., Seminole, FL 34642; 813/392-2848

## A WORD TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Because of budget constraints and increased costs we must reluctantly increase the Northwestern Lutheran subscription rates, effective July 1, 1990.

1 year subscription	\$ 8.50
2 year subscription	\$17.00
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Every home mailing plan per subscription	\$ 6.00



*“Every  
scout  
must  
recognize  
God.”*

**A**s doctrinal tension mounted between the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods in the 1940s and '50s, differing views of the scout movement added to the tension. Wisconsin took the position—commonly held in the Synodical Conference—that there were intolerable religious elements within the scout movement, elements which compromised a church confessing the Trinity as the one true God and Jesus Christ as its Lord and Savior. Long banned in the Missouri Synod, the scouts were approved in the early '40s by a Missouri Synod convention if a troop was under the direction of one of its congregations.

In those days there must have been a score or more articles on the subject in the *Northwestern Lutheran* as the synod sought to explain its position to its members. Typical is an article in the March 11, 1951 issue. “Article III of the boy scout constitution,” noted the author, “requires that every scout must ‘recognize God.’ . . . Where the first commandment requires recognition of the Triune God and Him only, the scout movement stands for recognition of all other gods on a level with Him.” The same point was also made in connection with the god mentioned in the mandatory scout oath.

Just recently the same problem surfaced in another arena. Mark Welsh, a first grader in a Willow Springs, Illinois, public school, wanted to join the Tiger Cubs (the junior boy scout organization). A flyer his teacher had passed out had promised him “lots of fun” in the scouts. As the new boys mixed at the information meeting announced in the flyer, Dad Welsh went up to the speaker’s table to apply. In the application material was a paragraph headed *Declaration of Religious Principle*. “The Boy Scouts of America,” it stated in part, “maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God and therefore recognizes the religious element in the training of a member.”

“We are not a religious family,” Welsh explained. (An RNS story called Welsh “an atheist.”) Faced with “what I took to be an unintentionally bigoted, outmoded boilerplate, I approached the BSA council officer who happened to be at the meeting and asked if the statement really meant that nonreligious families were not able to participate in Tiger Cubs. He replied that this was indeed the case, and was true at all levels of scouting.”

For Welsh the issue was clear. The boy scouts were willing to have public schools issue invitations to join the scouts, only to “discriminate against some of them solely on the basis of the religious beliefs of their parents.” Welsh has sued the BSA asking a federal court “to order the BSA to refrain from discrimination on the basis of religious belief.”

This incident, of course, will not make the top ten religious news stories in 1990, but it is interesting that our position relative to the religious elements in the boy scout movement taken half a century ago is shared in surprising circles today. Welsh’s problem will not be easily solved. Our solution was a blessing to us: under the creative and energetic leadership of Bruce Thompson, the organization of our own youth movement, Lutheran Pioneers for boys and its sister organization, Lutheran Girl Pioneers.

The entire incident is featured in an article by Elliott Welsh in the May 9 issue of the *Christian Century*. It is instructive reading.

*James P. Schaefer*

# Kids are fun



by Rolfe F. Westendorf

**I**wince when I hear a frustrated mother talk about the “terrible twos.” “Kid’s into everything. Can’t rest a minute. I’ll be glad when he gets out of this stage.”

I’ve heard a different version. A friend of mine, a veteran father, gazed reflectively on my two-year-old and decided that this was indeed the most delightful time for parents.

The worst time. The most delightful time. Now there’s a contradiction. And yet true in both opinions. A two-year-old is suddenly mobile, no longer safe in crib or playpen. He is infinitely curious, and must examine everything by tasting—including the bathroom cleaning fluids. He can’t see the top of the table, but he can find out what’s there by pulling on the table cloth. An unsupervised two-year-old is a disaster waiting to happen, and usually you don’t have to wait too long.

But at the same time this little person is eager to fill his brain with all the new experiences around him. He is beginning to communicate with something other than grunts and hollers. He is grasping the meaning of language. Memory is developing, so that delighted grandparents are fondly recognized when they drop by.

Almost every day a new challenge is met and conquered, and parents are probably more proud of it than he is. In fact, you can get a little tired of hearing parents brag about those accomplishments, relatively meaningless—except to child, mother, and father.

It is a hard time. That’s why God intended that the young should have children. It is a challenging time. That’s why God meant for each child to have two parents. But it is also a delightful, rewarding time.

I wince when I hear about “the terrible twos” because I sense that the parent who says that is being

deprived of some of the greatest joys of parenthood. But even more my heart stings for the child who is being told that he is just a lot of trouble for his mother, that maybe she’d get rid of him if she could.

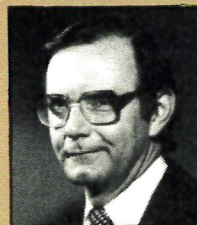
At any age, kids are fun, and I’d have to write a book to tell all about it. The precious newborn whose simple demands are met so simply and so trustingly received. The proud kindergartner marching off to school for the first time. The sleepy little girl who can read very well, but still likes daddy to hold her on his lap while he reads to her. The terrified youth at the free-throw line who heaves the ball at the basket and watches in numb disbelief as it goes through the hoop. The proud young man driving off in dad’s car for his first date. The startlingly beautiful young woman coming down the aisle in the arm of the man who is replacing “dear ol’ dad.”

Yes, kids are fun. No wonder the psalmist said, “Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.” And “blessed” means “happy.” Not only when they go off to accomplish great things in the world. Not only when they become financially independent. But also as they share their exciting, vibrant lives with the parents who gave them birth. And as the father of four grown children, I know whereof I speak.

Yes, children can be trouble, and will be in a sinful world. Sometimes children shame their parents and break their hearts, in spite of the best upbringing that love and faith and money could buy. Like the pangs of childbirth, pain is a necessary part of having children. But the pains are small, if only we take the time to enjoy the blessings.

That is what so many parents are missing today. They love their children and want the best for them. But “the best” always has a price tag attached. And that means that parents have to work for someone who pays them with something other than love and joy for their labor. So parents aren’t around to see the delightful things their children do. And “cute” isn’t quite as “cute” when you hear it second hand from a baby sitter.

I want all parents to know that *kids are fun*, in spite of what you may have said. Kids are fun. And if you don’t believe it, take some time to find out for yourself.



Rolfe Westendorf is pastor of Siloah, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.