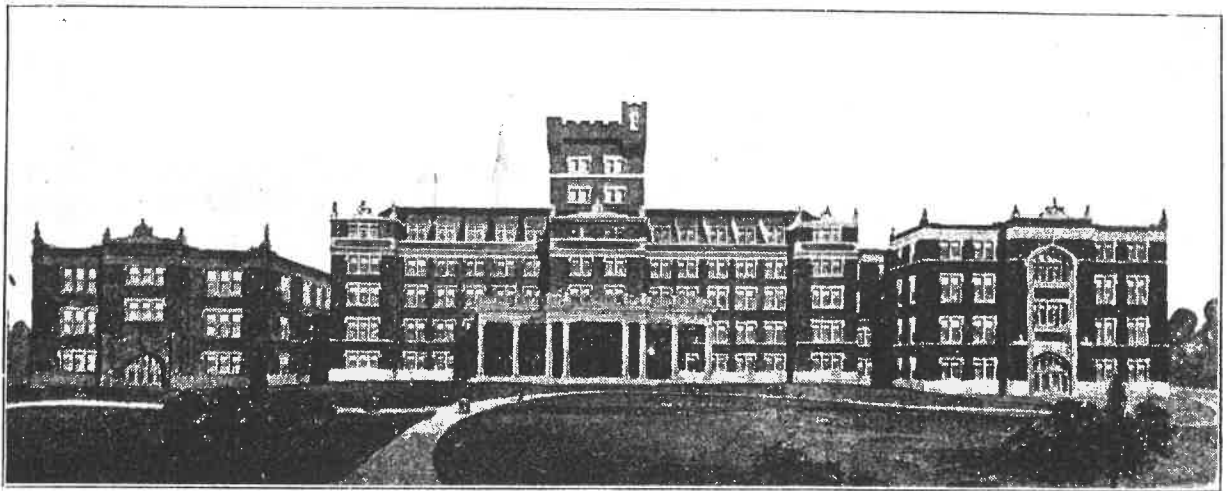


BULLETIN No. 5

Evangelical Lutheran Educational Association

MANKATO, MINN., MAY, 1915



Recitation

Administration Building

Music Hall
Not Yet Erected

BETHANY LADIES COLLEGE

BETHANY - - A GIFT OF GOD'S "GRACIOUS PROVIDENCE IN SHAPING EVENTS"

"The Synod hereby expresses its gratitude to God for his gracious providence in shaping events so that we have been enabled to secure such an excellent school property as we now have in Bethany Lutheran College." (1928 Synod Report, p. 108)

"Shaping events," indeed! By human standards Bethany should never have become our school. There were too many obstacles standing in the way, such as: the extremely small size of our synod in those days, the great strife going on in the association that owned Bethany at that time, the huge financial undertaking in purchasing the college, persuading the clergy and laymen even to consider buying this school, the quick decision which had to be made, and overcoming the opposition in our synod. even after an association of pastors and laymen had purchased the school and offered it to the synod.

No doubt there were other obstacles to our acquiring Bethany, but these are the ones we have gleaned from Synod Reports, "Grace for Grace", Lutheran Sentinel articles, "A City Set On A Hill" and especially from the archives which our synod keeps in the lower level of the Bethany Memorial Library.

Not only did God's "gracious providence shape events" so that all of these obstacles were overcome, but it is also due to the grace of God that our fathers at that time were moved to trust in His grace and providence. It took great courage for such a little flock to attempt this huge undertaking. Their courage, thanks to the working of the Holy Spirit, should be held up to us in these later generations as true examples of "Hearts of Oak", as Theo. Aaberg describes them in "A City Set On A Hill." (We encourage all to read again the section on Bethany in this historical review of our synod's first fifty years, pp. 95-118).

Let us consider the above obstacles one by one.

1. The extremely small size of our synod in those days

"The synod was so tiny", as an older pastor told this writer years ago, "that no statistics were published until the synod was ten years old. And then some of the pastors padded the figures of their congregations, so that the "merger people" wouldn't know how tiny we were." Even after ten years, there were only forty-five congregations which had joined the synod. Of these only twenty-two had more than one hundred souls! There were an additional twenty-five congregations and preaching-stations which were unofficially associated with our synod.

Many congregations were in the process of rebuilding, having lost church and parsonage when they refused to join in the "Merger" of 1917, or when they withdrew from that body in the years that followed. In addition, some were trying to establish Christian Day Schools. Aaberg's "City . . ." describes those days well:

As the Apostles were to start their work in Jerusalem, so the ELS. Jerusalem, to the ELS, often meant small minorities who in loyalty to the Word of God, had stepped out of established congregations in settled and well-churched communities, to face the task of building anew on the right foundation. The basic history of many a congregation in the ELS is that of one or two steadfast Christian laymen who confessed the truth faithfully, and confidently left their cause to the Lord. The building of new congregations in such situations meant slow work and great financial burdens, and the ELS sought to help these brethren to the best of its ability. Many mission pastors, and not least, young pastors fresh from the seminary, have written noble chapters of sacrifice in many of the presently well-established congregations of the ELS. It is a testimony to God's wondrous grace that most of the small minority groups which came into being after the Merger of 1917 have developed into fair-sized, self-supporting congregations, which, in turn, have been able to be a blessing to others. The building of congregations from the few people left stranded here and there across the country after the Merger of 1917 is, in some respects, the most glorious chapter in the fifty-year history of Home Mission work in the ELS."

As reported in President Orvick's conference paper last year, there was in those early years a heavy emphasis on Christian education at our synod conventions, both in papers and strong speeches on the synod floor. It is true, most of it was directed toward establishing and maintaining parochial schools. But there was always the hope that some day we could have our own "Luther College" as our old Norwegian Synod had.

In spite of the many difficulties in the local parishes, the synod at its second convention, in 1919, with only ten voting pastors and twenty-seven lay delegates present elected a "skolekomite for høiere skoler." The following year's convention heard President Bjug Harstad express joy that "well equipped institutions of both kinds (seminaries and college) we have access to through the kindness of our German Lutheran brethren. Our college is now Concordia College at St. Paul. At this institution our professor, Dr. S.C. Ylvisaker has this last year successfully labored among many students." Our synod had eleven students there, while paying Dr. Ylvisaker the handsome salary of \$925 for the year.

In 1922 the synod established a professorship at DMLC in New Ulm, Minnesota, calling Prof. Oscar Levorson as our representative on the faculty to care for those who wished to be parochial school teachers. These schools of our "German Lutheran brethren" had both high school and college departments. Our young people were strongly encouraged to attend even if they were not intending to enter full-time church work. The enrollments of Norwegian students at the two institutions usually totalled between twenty and thirty-five. At the convention, many speeches of gratitude were made to our German brethren for their willingness to help our synod in providing high school and college training for our young people.

For the time being then the synod's efforts in higher education were centered around the support of our students' attendance at Concordia and DMLC.

2. The strife going on in the association that owned Bethany at that time

This obstacle to our acquiring Bethany involved the very existence of the institution itself. If there were ever a college "on the ropes" it was Bethany. The fact that it was even in operation by the year 1926 is due solely to the gracious providence of God. The institution certainly had problems aplenty which should have long since caused its demise.

Bethany began as a ladies college on September 6, 1911, holding classes in the old Mankato High School building. It was owned and operated by the Evangelical Lutheran Educational Association, a corporation formed by pastors and lay members of the Synodical Conference. They purchased fifteen acres on McMahon Hill and construction began at once. After completing "Old Main" and the classroom building they ran out of money to build their proposed building for the fine arts. There were forty-four enrolled the first year. Three years later the enrollment reached its peak at 136, but steadily declined thereafter, due chiefly to financial problems.

In 1919 the corporation was reorganized and a stock company (1500 shares) formed under the direction of a so-called "Creditors' Committee," composed of business men in Mankato. They "tried to liquidate the indebtedness of the school by issuing stock which was exchanged for bonds, notes or other obligations of the corporation or by selling stock and using the money to pay creditors. The new name of the company was incorporated with the official name of 'Bethany College, Incorporated.'" A year later this Creditors' Committee ceased functioning and turned over all the affairs of the corporation to the board of directors of Bethany

College, Incorporated, leaving them with \$29,400 in debts and \$1,854.10 in cash in the banks. "We have no official record of the transactions of the corporation from June 8, 1920, up to June, 1924. The only records available are those of the school. It seems that two different accounts were kept, one for the school and the other for the corporation." (From "Report to the Stockholders of Bethany College, Incorporated" in 1926, in the Bethany archives.)

An appeal was made to the Wisconsin Synod for at least moral support in 1919. (There was no Missouri Synod church in Mankato until about 1950.) The Wisconsin Synod appointed a committee of two to be advisors to the Bethany board. "However, after two years of work this committee advised an appointment of a larger committee to investigate the school from its very beginning. This committee was appointed, and ever since that time the moral support was withheld." (From the "Report to Stockholders, etc.") Apparently they didn't like what they uncovered.

Infighting, intrigue, rumors, bitterness, hardship, slander are all words that would find place in any historical accounting of the years from 1920 to 1926! Some examples:

An offer by the National Lutheran Education Association (later so kind to Bethany) to purchase the college in 1923 was accepted by the stockholders by a rising vote, after those holding proxies were denied the right to vote by a rising vote. Two months later, thirteen stockholders called a special meeting and reversed the decision by a vote of 96-34. (The National Lutheran Educational Association was attempting to gain control of the college and get an additional \$25,000 from the stockholders for the price of \$1.00 per share for 800 shares, which the stockholders were to turn over to them.)

In a letter to our clergy, President Holden Olsen, who had just arrived on campus a few weeks before the opening of the 1925-26 school year, wrote: "On Sept. 7th we started with a total enrollment of only thirteen. Before the end of the first week this number had grown to sixteen. Not a very auspicious beginning! It dawned on me that heroic steps would have to be taken to increase the attendance, if the school was to be kept alive. Accordingly I did what I could to remove the ingrained prejudice, suspicion, and ill-will of the public against the school, to spread reliable and reassuring information

concerning the new status of the school, and to secure the endorsement and cooperation of the officials as well as the ministers of the Syn. Conf. It was working against odds - - how great I did not know until I had tried it for a few weeks."

At our 1925 convention, our synod was approached to buy the college, or at least to use the facilities rent-free, with an option to buy it later, if only we would run the school. The offer was turned down by our men, who felt that we were not in a position to make such a quick decision for a project that large. We needed more information and more time. Our committee which considered the offer during the convention suggested that the Bethany board approach the Wisconsin Synod instead.

The Bethany board then offered it to the Wisconsin Synod for \$126,000. The Wisconsin Synod elected a committee to look into the matter, appointing the Rev. A. Ackermann, pastor of the local WELS church in Mankato, Immanuel Lutheran, as chairman. Thereupon there began a bitter battle with Ackermann at the center. Wisconsin Synod Trustees and lawyer, professors from DMLC, Bethany board and attorney, the Mankato Chamber of Commerce, stockholders, bondholders were all involved one way or another. Rev. J. Pieper of Stillwater, Minnesota was secretary of the board for the Bethany Corporation, representing the stockholders. The "Report of the Stockholders, etc" states: "A few days after the meeting in Mankato, Rev. Pieper was informed by a member of the Chamber of Commerce that Rev. Pieper had defrauded widows and orphans." Also: "It also was stated to the Chamber of Commerce that Rev. Pieper had paid little or nothing for his stock and now was asking 50 cents on the dollar from Synod."

In a statement to the WELS Board of Trustees, the Bethany board wrote: "To put more weight to our impression as to the hostile attitude of Rev. A. Ackermann an article appeared in the Free Press of Mankato on October 24, 1925. Statements are made in this article which are deliberate falsehoods and which question the moral character of our representatives and also the whole board of directors. Through this article we are placed into an embarrassing position before the whole

reading public of Mankato." They wanted Ackermann "eliminated" from the WELS committee. "Through the unwarranted article in the Free Press, a serious situation was created. Our creditors and bondholders became alarmed and lost confidence in the board of directors, to a certain extent, and some insurance has been cancelled." But when the WELS Trustees met with representatives of the Bethany board "Mr. Graebner took the floor and remarked that the article which had appeared in the Free Press quoting Rev. A. Ackermann was 'a breach of confidence and did not present the fact.' After some discussion Rev. G.E. Bergemann, president of the Wisconsin Synod, made the remark: 'Although I do not sanction the article, yet I take exception to some things in the letter of Bethany College, and furthermore let it be said, YOU MUST NOT DICTATE. (Original emphases) This statement was repeated several times. Rev. E. Ph. Dornfeldt, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, stated that Rev. A. Ackermann was just the type of man they wanted on the committee."

Attorney Ernst von Briesen representing the Wisconsin Synod Trustees came to Mankato to meet with representatives of the Bethany board and its attorneys. Mr. von Briesen "wished to meet with Rev. Ackermann alone before the meeting with Mr. Schmidt and Rev. J. Pieper. Bethany Committee was in the anteroom waiting for a call of the meeting. However, Prof. Bliefernicht, president of New Ulm College, entered. He asked the question, 'Where is the meeting?' 'What meeting,' queried Rev. Pieper. 'Isn't Ackermann here?' responded Prof. Bliefernicht. 'Rev. Ackermann is in that room with Mr. von Briesen,' answered Rev. Pieper, pointing to Mr. Volk's (attorney) room. Prof. Bliefernicht left the room again, and within a few minutes re-entered accompanied by Rev. G. Hinnenthal, Prof. Sitz, and Prof. Stindt, all of New Ulm, Minn. What a surprise. After entering the room occupied by Mr. von Briesen and Rev. Ackermann this intruding New Ulm committee and the committee on negotiation of the Wisconsin Synod met for more than an hour. In the meanwhile the Bethany committee was waiting patiently. Thereupon Mr. von Briesen entered the anteroom and

spoke to Rev. J. Pieper alone and stated that he would like to speak to the Bethany committee. Mr. von Briesen was asked whether he had invited the New Ulm people, but he stated that he had not, and that he was greatly embarrassed when they entered the room in which he and Rev. Ackermann met. The Bethany committee was ready to meet with Mr. von Briesen, but refused to meet with the New Ulm delegation which had no business there." (From: "Report to Stockholders, etc.")

These examples give a little of the flavor of what was going on at Bethany, especially behind the scenes, before our men entered the picture in the spring of 1926. There was so much trouble stirred up by Rev. Ackermann over the purchase of Bethany that Dr. S.C. Ylvisaker is quoted in "A City Set On A Hill" as saying, "There was on the one hand, no general agreement within the Synodical Conference that we were acting even altogether uprightly in this purchase." "Our men thereupon met with the General Committee of the Wisconsin Synod and offered to sell the entire property to them for the original purchase price. The General Committee appointed a neutral committee to examine the record of the BLC Association's dealings to determine if the charges against the Association might be judged true or false. This committee, after a lengthy and careful investigation, declared that it was convinced that the BLC Association had acted in good faith, and wished them God's blessings in the significant undertaking." (Emphases mine)

Three years later Rev. Ackermann was still causing trouble. In a letter dated Dec. 13th, 1929, the Rev. Christian Anderson, ELS president, wrote to Prof. Walter Buszin, Acting President of Bethany, "With reference to continued negotiations with Rev. Ackermann, I want to say that I would be willing to discuss this matter indefinitely if I had reason to believe that it would not only aggravate matters. You probably know that our board had a ten hour session with Rev. Ackermann shortly after it had taken possession of the college. At the end of this session they were much further away from a solution than at the beginning." He then explains the difficulty with Ackermann. Whereas our synod men dealt directly with the board which represented the stockholders, Ackermann was trying to deal directly with the stockholders behind the board's back.

3. The huge financial undertaking in purchasing Bethany

When the opportunity came for our synod to purchase Bethany the practicality of raising the necessary asking price, to say nothing about the cost of running the school, became a real obstacle for many. Our synod had been made aware of

Bethany by President Bjug Harstad already at its 1920 convention, recommending that our synod join the association which at that time was operating Bethany as a school for girls, both high school and junior college. But the idea of taking on such a huge financial responsibility was probably the most difficult decision the synod has ever had to make, even more difficult than the decision years later to leave the Synodical Conference, painful as that was. This latter decision was based on clear passages of Scripture, whereas the decision whether or not to purchase Bethany lay in the realm of human judgment.

To draw an exact comparison between the finances of the mid-1920's and ours today is not easy to do with precision, but the following might help us understand why the decision was not easy and why it took tremendous faith in the providence of God for our fathers to vote for the purchase.

The size of our synod's budget today is 50 times as large as the budget was at the time the college was purchased.

The lowest paid pastor in our synod today no doubt receives a salary package at least 15 times as much as the highest paid pastor in the synod did at that time.

The total cost for a student at Bethany today is over 30 times as much today as it was then.

In addition, we must remember that the size of the synod at that time was only one-third the size of ours today even if we include all the congregations that had not joined with us formally, but identified with us.

To try to translate this into today's dollars: the purchase price of Bethany, when first offered to our synod at our 1925 convention for \$126,000 would be the same as \$5,670,000 today. (This figure is arrived at by using 15 times the dollar value in 1925 and multiplying it by 3, since our synod is three times larger today.)

Even when the price later was lowered to \$90,000, it would still have amounted to a project of about \$4,000,000 for our synod today. (When we remember that our synod has never raised even one million in a special offering, we can better appreciate the tension on the part of our fathers, who definitely wanted our own school, but who even wondered whether or not to undertake this project would be to tempt God!)

4. Persuading clergy and laity even to consider buying this institution

Not all people arrive at the same decision at the same time. In an undertaking as large as the purchase of a college, there are going to be many with varying opinions, and people whose opinions can change or be changed, and opinions which cannot

be changed, etc.

In addition to the aforementioned huge purchase price for Bethany were other considerations which influenced many of the pastors especially, not the least of which were the various problems in many of the local parishes, trying to rebuild after the merger in 1917.

Many of the clergy were comfortable with the arrangement of having our young people attend Concordia, St. Paul and DMLC both for training future church workers and for general Christian education for those not planning to enter church work as a profession. Even at the very convention in 1926 where it was announced that a group of synod pastors and laymen had formed an association to purchase Bethany with the announced purpose of turning it over to the synod as soon as feasible, the convention nevertheless issued a call to Holden Olsen (the President of Bethany and a member of our synod's clergy) to be our synod's professor at Concordia. (He declined the call.)

In addition, buying and running a college seemed out of the question for some because the synod was having a hard time paying for the salaries of our professors, one at Concordia and the other at DMLC. How could we ever pay for running an entire school?!

Bethany at that time was a ladies' school, perhaps something like the old Norwegian Synod's Ladies Seminary at Red Wing, Minnesota. The idea of a school (call it liberal arts or general education) run by the church was not generally accepted in Synodical Conference circles. At that time, neither the Missouri Synod nor the Wisconsin Synod had as a policy to provide this kind of education for other than church-workers.

Dr. S.C. Ylvisaker, writing in the Lutheran Sentinel, Sept. 27, 1947, looking back on those beginning days of our reorganized synod, comments on the advice given our fathers by well respected brethren in the Missouri Synod, "The advice of a Dr. Pfothauer and a Dr. Pieper was sound, to the effect that our Synod could not properly perform its mission without a higher institution of its own." But not all of our pastors and laymen had arrived at the point of accepting that advice at the time in 1926 when the decision had to be made whether or not to purchase Bethany.

Some also believed that there was more important use for our "mission money"

than to contribute it to the purchase of what was really a "white elephant" for those who were currently running the college in Mankato. Struggling parishes needed help. New missions needed to be started. The fear for many was that even if we could purchase the college it would take virtually all of the resources of the synod to keep it going.

The ELS Department of History and Archives even has material from the man who was acting president of Bethany at the time the college was offered to us in 1925, Prof. Ole C. Torgerson, a member of our synod. He protested Bethany's falling into the hands of Norwegians. It should be a German school. It was bought and paid for by Germans and German it should remain. It should have a German president! Also, it should remain a girls' school because that was the intent of the founders of the college!

It is at this point we wish to take note of the important contribution that the Rev. Holden Olsen made towards moving our men to consider purchasing Bethany.



Rev. Holden Olsen

He had been a pastor at Our Saviour's in Madison, Wisconsin from 1906 - 1922. He was an insurance agent for the next three years. In late summer of 1925 he was called to be the President of Bethany Ladies' College. Without his presence on the campus, and without his being a member of our clergy, it is doubtful that we would have ever purchased the college. He was on the inside, as the president, knew the terrible financial straits the college was in, was aware of all the behind-the-scenes activities going on, and who most forcefully prodded our men into taking seriously the purchase of Bethany. Dr. S.C. Ylvisaker, the President of Bethany from 1930 - 1950, is always extolled as the one who "carried Bethany on its shoulders" and he did! Even before Dr. Ylvisaker became president of the college, he was elected as the chairman of the association that quickly purchased Bethany, using his great persuasive powers to spur our pastors and laymen into action. But let it be said here, that if it weren't for the prodding of Rev. Olsen Bethany would no doubt have fallen into hands other than ours. The Lord provided us with the right man in the right place at the right time.

5. The quick decision which had to be made

This obstacle was one of the hardest to overcome. If it were not for the presence of President Olsen, who had just assumed the reigns of the 13-member-student-body-college, our men would no doubt have been unable to act quickly enough to purchase the college even if they had wanted to. He was "on the inside" and through his first-hand information of the extreme urgency of the situation Bethany was in he was able to spur our men into at least seriously considering the purchase. The creditors were so impatient, would wait not longer and were calling for the immediate sale of the property and equipment.

As an illustration of how desperate things were, we quote from a letter sent to Rev. G.A. Gullixson by Ole C. Torgerson, the acting president of Bethany at the time that Rev. Olsen was called to be president, July of 1925:

"Next came the selection of a President. I wanted a German and so did our Faculty. But to secure one at such a late hour was not so easy. I wrote to Wauwatosa for advice and finally selected one from the Minnesota District. He came and looked the situation over. The meager financial backing we had rather deterred him from accepting. I next thought of Rev. Olsen of Madison and he was written to. He came up on a Sunday and spent the day here in Mankato (sometime during the first part of July). When I found out something of his personal requirements in the way of a financial remuneration, we teachers only hoped that he would not accept. Also the many delicate situations peculiar to Bethany made me feel that some with more experience should have been selected. In the meantime Prof. Duin returned from a trip with instructions to me not to call a Norwegian President. I was told that his friends instructed us to continue as we had done the year before. I then wrote Olsen and told him that since the attendance would in all probability be small we would have (to) try to get along at least for a few months without a president. He replied, however, that he had made up his mind to come, and we could therefore expect him."

Our synod had been offered the opportunity to purchase the college at its 1925 convention by desperate representatives of the beleaguered board, which was trying to save the institution of the conservative Lutheran church, while at the same time trying to stave off many of the stock and bond holders who were demanding their money. As previously mentioned, the offer was declined by our convention because of lack of time to thoroughly consider the matter.

The Bethany board then approached the Wisconsin Synod, offering it to them

for \$126,000. The Wisconsin Synod Trustees were definitely interested, since they were in the process of planning a new dormitory at DMLC and owning Bethany would have given them an interesting option. But due to the previously mentioned conflict between the Trustees' man-in-charge, Rev. Ackermann, and the Bethany board, the negotiations between Wisconsin and the board dragged out through the end of 1925 and for several months of 1926.

It was then that President Olsen went into action, strongly and enthusiastically encouraging our men to purchase the college. Feeling certain that WELS would not complete the purchase, he began writing to the pastors of our synod in January of 1926, telling them what a good thing this would be for our synod, what a bargain we would be getting, etc. Because of his persuasive writing, the three area small pastors' conferences discussed the matter at their meetings in February and March. The idea of purchasing a school of our own was favorably received and expressed by many, committees were elected, but no action was taken. Synod conventions are for that purpose.

But Olsen knew the creditors would wait no longer. So he wrote our pastors on March 14th:

"Bethany College is facing the greatest crisis in its history. The negotiations with the Wisconsin Synod have come to an abrupt end, and the institution is about to be sold to the highest bidder - to conservative Lutherans preferably; but if that cannot be, to sectarians, or to the State. Another rock straight ahead threatens immediate disaster. Under a judgment against our furniture and equipment, the replacement value of which is not far from \$12,000, a sheriff's sale of said furniture and equipment has been ordered for March 20th."

Somehow that sheriff's sale was postponed for a few weeks. But the word had gotten out that the college was for sale. Representatives from the Merger paid a visit and were favorably impressed. Olsen reported that they also had \$100,000 on hand from the sale of the Ladies Seminary in Red Wing. Catholic nuns from Good Counsel in Mankato were reported looking over the equipment, even counting the silverware. Others also were interested.

Because none of the area pastors' conferences took any action regarding the purchase, Dr. S.C. Ylvisaker, the pastor of our synod's largest congregation, Our Saviour's in Madison wrote the following to the vice-president of the synod, the Rev. Christian Anderson of Minneapolis:

"Dear Anderson;

I suppose I have no business writing this letter, but interest in the cause prompts me anyway. I have just received a copy of the resolution adopted at the conference in Minneapolis, and get a sort of feeling from the wording of it that the purchase of Bethany will drift on without an earnest effort to put it across.

By this I do not want to imply any lack of interest on the part of the committee elected, and I may be altogether mistaken in my understanding of the resolution. However, I thought you ought to know that some of the laymen here are quite enthusiastic about the deal--and that without urging on my part--and they are really worried for fear the opportunity will slip out of our hands. Mr. Rein from Koshkonong had expressed himself similarly yesterday, and was of the strong opinion that that congregation--as well as others--ought to do what Our Savior's did here, guarantee at once a certain sum toward the purchase of the school, and then go ahead. I called up Guttbo today, who seemed to have the impression that there was nothing more doing, and he promised to see some of his members at once and try to have his congregation do something. If the congregations would commit themselves in favor of the deal, would that not amount to more than a subscription from a certain few individuals, as far as authority to go ahead is concerned?

If this idea about the congregations as such taking hold does not strike you, then anything, just so we get started. I may seem impatient, but I really feel that we would be shirking if we did not at least make a real attempt at this.

Yours with greetings and in haste,

S.C. Ylvisaker
Copy is being sent to Gullixson and Madson"

On April 8th of 1926 Holden Olsen, in a letter to the synod pastors, expressed the possibility of purchasing the college for a figure as low as \$60,000, since the creditors were ready for action. That extremely low price for the institution really caught the attention of the leaders of our synod. Now they began to seriously consider the possibility of purchase. However, the past reputation of the college both in church circles as well as in Mankato, and the question of Rev. Ackermann and the Wisconsin Synod might cause some of our men to hesitate. Therefore on April 11th President Olsen wrote our men the following:

"Knowing something about the difficulties and objections, I have taken the trouble to inform myself as well as I can. I have gone over the ground with Rev. Pieper and very fully with Rev. Winter. No one knows more of the past financial dealings of the school than the latter. For this reason I asked him to tell me frankly and honestly all that he knows both of good and of bad. My conversation with him lasted about five hours. I believe that he was entirely open and truthful with me. My conversation with him has still further confirmed me in the conviction that there is no moral stigma attaching to Bethany College which cannot be removed. The trustees of the Wisconsin Synod came to their conclusion only after Rev. Ackermann, the implacable enemy of both Pieper and Winter, had asked for the privilege of transmitting certain secret and confidential information to his colleagues. Their attorney, Mr. Van Briesen, objected, said he would not listen, and went out while the Board went into executive session to hear Rev. Achermann's charges. Very apparently the unfavorable decision of the Board came as a result of this confidential information - information that Rev. Lehninger,

Pres. of Nebraska District and President of the Board of Trustees, told Pieper afterwards was of such a nature that, if true, would constitute sufficient reason for bringing him, Rev. Pieper, into "Kirchenzucht". But since Rev. Ackermann had not first dealt with his brother Pieper according to Matthew 18, the information he gave was slander pure and simple, and construing it thus Rev. Lehninger promised Pieper to rebuke Ackermann for it. This episode and my knowledge of Rev. Ackermann's tactics in general lead me to the conclusion that the action of the Board was to say the least hasty and ill-advised. Again let me say that I am very certain that we need not fear any alleged moral responsibility in taking over the school."

In response to Olsen's letter of April 8th, suggesting the possibility of the price being as low as \$60,000, the vice-President of the synod, Rev. Anderson wrote President Gullixson of Chicago the following on April 10th:

"Dear Gullixson:

Received a letter from Holden Olsen today. You no doubt received the same thing. Now if such a thing were possible that we could get the plant in Mankato for 60 or 70 thousand dollars, it may be a crime not to look into it further. If it were possible, our committees ought to get together. Could you not wire the men you think ought to meet? If you have not been notified of the appointment of any committee for Albert Lea Conference, how would it be to call Torgerson and Quill or Sande in place of one of them? If Moldstad cannot get away, you might get Ylvisaker or Guttebo. To either of these men you might get a pass on short notice. Thoen has an annual, and I am sure that he would like to attend such a meeting.

I will leave it with you to take the initiative in calling a meeting.

In haste,

Yours fraternally,

Chr. Anderson"

A special meeting was held in Mankato on April 15th. Here we quote from p. 97 of "A City Set On A Hill":

On April 15, 1926, a group of ELS pastors and laymen gathered in the college reception room with the school's Board of Directors 'to consider the question of the higher educational system in our Synod.' The question, in a more practical form, was whether or not to buy Bethany College for the sum of \$90,000.

Writing some twenty years later of this meeting in which he had not only participated but had also served as acting chairman, Dr. S.C.Ylvisaker, after noting the comparatively simple arrangement which the Synod had at that time for the training of pastors and teachers at the schools of sister synods and the difficulty which the Synod experienced in raising even the small sum needed for that program, went on to say:

And now this small group sat in consultation about the project which would include the purchase by our small Synod of a property to cost the neat sum of \$90,000 and the payment of running expenses which

would certainly mount up to several thousands of dollars a year! Inexperienced as we were in such matters, we understood at least so much that here was placed before us a venture of faith, where we would see no hope of success if we depended on human help alone. The deliberations of this meeting were long and earnest. All realized that the advice of a Dr. Pfothenauer and a Dr. Pieper was sound, to the effect that our Synod could not properly perform its mission without a higher institution of its own--by this time this conviction had forced itself upon us as a self-evident conclusion. On the other hand, would it not appear as if would be tempting God if we, in the face of the apparent poor resources of our people, should start off on a project as big and as far-reaching in importance as this? Conditions were such that it was not possible to await the opinion of the annual convention to be held in June. Bethany was on the point of bankruptcy, and the sheriff was already at the door.

The group of pastors and laymen from the Synod could come to no positive solution, however, and two of the pastors were on their way through the door to catch their train when the chairman offered the stray suggestion that we go home and each member of the group do what he could to solicit members of an association, which, if the number reached fifty, would undertake to buy and operate Bethany as a school to serve the best interests of our own Norwegian Synod, and eventually also the interests of the Synodical Conference generally."

The next day Dr. Ylvisaker sent the following letter to the pastors of the synod:

"Dear Brother:

A meeting of the committees elected by the several circuit conferences regarding the proposed educational society was held at Mankato yesterday April 16th. This meeting was attended by the following men from our synod: The pastors Gullixson, Anderson, Torgerson, Sande, Madison, Quill, Gullerud, Moldstad, Ylvisaker, Prof. H.M. Olsen, Mr. Oscar Swenson. The Bethany Board was represented by Rev. Pieper, Rev. Winter, Mr. Torgler and a fourth gentleman. The board, after considerable discussion, offered to sell title clear, at the following terms; \$60,000 cash, to be covered by a payment of \$20,000 as soon as possible, and an immediate loan of \$40,000 - see below; furthermore, the annual payment of \$50.00 from the tuition of each girl until the sum of 90,000 is reached inclusive of the original \$60,000. These \$30,000 carry no interest. The loan of \$40,000 will be arranged by the Board, at 6 per cent interest, the first year's commission at \$2500 to be paid by the Board, thereafter by us. . .

We, who were present at the meeting, were convinced that the Synod within the next five years would need an institution of its own and that we would do our Synod a poor service by allowing this splendid opportunity slip by. . .

It was finally resolved that those of us who were present should, through myself as chairman, at once send this letter to our pastors asking them to interest individuals in their respective congregations toward the formation of an educational society which should assume the temporary responsibility toward the acceptance of the Bethany College property on the condition specified above. As soon as I have been notified of fifty names of individuals who are willing to serve our church in this manner, the organization shall be considered effected and the deal closed. Notification to this effect must be in the hands of Rev. Pieper by Wednesday of next week, April 21st. The Board meets for final sale and disposal of the property on April 22nd...

Please consider again that our Synod undoubtedly will need a school of its own within a very short time and that this is an opportunity which we who discussed the matter did not dare to let pass. Our request to you is that you at once act by presenting this letter, or the facts contained in it, to some of your members and that you, if necessary telegraph me their names so that I have them on Wednesday at the very latest. Even if you can find only one interested person, let us have his name together with your own.

Fraternally,
S.C. Ylvisaker"

It would take at least one or two days for Ylvisaker's letter to reach the pastors. That meant that our men had only three or four days to enlist at least fifty men willing to back this venture of faith. A letter written on April 21st by the Rev. Norman Madson of rural Princeton, Minnesota to Dr. Ylvisaker is an example of the spirit of many of the pastors. We quote a portion of it:

"Dear Sig,

By now you have my telegram with the number of names accompanying those \$2300.00. Today I shall forward the names themselves. Here they are:

From Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Princeton, Minn.

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|----------|-----------------|
| Mr. Nils Johanson | - | \$200.00 | |
| Mr. Aslak Anderson | - | 200.00 | |
| Mr. Markus Brynteson | - | 200.00 | |
| Mr. Martin Johnson | - | 200.00 | |
| Mr. Gunder George | - | 200.00 | |
| Mr. Andrew George | - | 100.00 | |
| Mr. Ben Butler | - | 100.00 | |
| Mr. John M. Johnson | - | 200.00 | |
| Mr. Thomas Tellefson | - | 200.00 | |
| Mr. Oscar Odegard | - | 200.00 | |
| Mr. T. W. Thompson | - | 200.00 | |
| Mr. Juul B. Madson | - | 100.00 | (By J.M. Gamst) |
| Norman A. Madson | - | 200.00 | |

Total - - - - - \$2300.00

This sum could have been increased if I had but had the time. But while it represents only a dozen names, it was a solid day's work. I don't know when I have been so tired as I was when it was all over and the reaction set in. But I am glad that I had the opportunity

to do this work. It is not going to harm the solicitor or the donors, but will do all of them good."

The deadline was met. Not fifty, but seventy-four men had "signed up" to support the project. An organization was formed called "Bethany Lutheran College Association" with Dr. S.C. Ylvisaker elected as its temporary president.

On May 3rd, Ylvisaker wrote to the pastors of our synod:

"Dear Brother:

The Bethany Lutheran College Association having been duly incorporated, and the terms of purchase of the college formally agreed upon, our next step must be an intensive and quick campaign to secure the necessary funds. We have agreed to furnish the sum of \$10,000 within the next ten days, (\$450,000 in today's comparison for us?) and another \$10,000 within sixty days. So far the sum of \$3100 has been paid over of the first \$10,000, and the note of the corporation for \$5000 has been deposited with the American State Bank, Mankato. This note is payable ten days from date.

The opinion of the group here in Madison was expressed last night to the effect that all groups and individuals who have shown interest in this cause should immediately solicit cash and subscriptions with the earnest intention of covering at once the whole sum of \$20,000. If this could be done by all groups with the same zeal and spirit of sacrifice which the Princeton men have shown, we would have no difficulty. In this congregation, which within the last six years has built a church, a parsonage, a school, \$2300 were subscribed within the first twenty-four hours and this group has hereby set a worthy example for us all."

An appeal for the support of the Association was made in the Lutheran Sentinel. Our people responded so well, that by July 17th the BLC Association could report



Dr. S. C. Ylvisaker

that \$20,000 (\$900,000 for us today?) had been paid on the property! The BLC Association had become the legal owners of Bethany as of June 1st, 1926 and now began the work of running the college in the fall. Board members elected by the Association were: Dr. S.C. Ylvisaker, Chairman; Rev. G.A. Gullixson, vice-Chairman; Rev. Norman Madson, Secretary; Rev. J. E. Thoen; Rev. C.J. Quill; Mr. Clarence Olson and Attorney K.T. Dahlen. Rev. Holden Olsen was chosen to continue as President of Bethany for the time being, and the institution remained open only for women.

Years later, in commenting on that first year, Dr. Ylvisaker wrote:

"When Bethany College was taken over by an Association of members of the Norwegian Synod in 1926, it all came about so suddenly that no preparations had been made to meet the obligations which it involved. Aside from a few liberal gifts which were received, nothing had been done to raise the necessary funds in advance. It was all so new and unexpected that it took some time for our people to realize what was involved.

"However, collections were made in some of our congregations at once so that, when the transfer was made in July, 1926, we were able to make the needed first payment of \$20,000. A member of the committee which negotiated the sale promised to help us to get a bond issue to the amount of \$40,000. The balance of the sale price, \$30,000 was to be paid according to a "Gentlemen's Agreement." When the school would have an enrollment of fifty, the sum of \$100.00 was to be paid for each student above that number.

"In 1929 a readjustment of the "Gentlemen's Agreement" was made, so that they were willing to settle for fifteen instead of thirty thousand dollars, if we could pay it all at once. This would save paying a substantial sum for each student above the enrollment of fifty. However, interest had to be paid on the loans which were secured."

"In this way the plant was secured for the time being, so that we might begin the school year of 1926-27 in September. But there was still the question of operating expenses, of various repairs, some additional equipment, interest on bonds, etc. The first year the enrollment was between 25 and 30. Very little income from the students could therefore be expected. Fortunately for us some of the teachers who so heroically, and with great sacrifice, had kept the school going the previous years, were willing to continue to work at a very small salary. Only the President was paid something approaching a living wage.

"From the beginning, therefore, the board and the administration were under the greatest stress to keep the work going. Time and again the board adjourned without knowing how obligations, sometimes running into the thousands, were to be met."

(From an article titled: "The Assistance Given By the National Lutheran Education Association To Bethany Lutheran College," in the archives.)

6. Overcoming the opposition in our synod to assume ownership and control of the college

From the very beginning, the BLC Association had the clear intention to turn the ownership of the college over to the synod. Therefore, at its first annual meeting, in May of 1927, the Association turned down an offer to take over the college by the Minnesota District of the National Lutheran Educational Association, an organization that later was so kind to our college. ("Grace for Grace", p. 128).

Turning the college over to the synod, however, was no easy matter. There was considerable opposition among the pastors and laymen to the synod's assuming the ownership and management of the school. It just seemed to be too large an undertaking for the synod in this ninth year of its struggling existence. Strong speeches and heated discussion occupied much of the time at the 1927 convention of the synod. The final vote to accept the college was 33 in favor, 21 against, and 2 abstentions. If we assume that the majority of those who voted in favor were already members of the BLC Association, that would indicate that those in favor of the resolution were unable to persuade a majority of the remaining pastors and delegates to undertake the operation of the college. A resolution of such importance, supported by only 59% of the voters, after all the effort, persuasion, and financial commitment that the Association had put into it, and the solid support of the leadership of the synod, is a clear indication of the very strong opposition that prevailed in the synod at that time. But as has so often been mentioned in the past, once the decision had been made by the synod, the vast majority rallied to the support of the college.

This paper has only recounted many of the obstacles that had to be overcome before Bethany could become the property of our synod. The story of the college from 1927 and up to the present time is not only most interesting and thrilling to those who know much of its history, but also shows how right the foresight of our fathers was in securing this important asset to our synod's work. And above all, the many blessings amid hardships in paying for and running the college is proof that the faith our fathers had in God's "gracious providence in shaping events" was certainly not misplaced.

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(Attached to this paper are the pictures of all those who were pastors in our synod in 1926-27 when Bethany became ours. Blessed be their memory!)

John M. M. M.
EHS General Pastoral Conference
January 7, 1992
Minneapolis, MN



1926

Harstad, Adolph Marius.

Ord. 1926. S. C., 1926—.

Born Jan. 10, 1902, at Parkland, Wash., of Bjug Harstad and Guro (Omlid). Attended Pacific Luth. Acad., Parkland, Wash., 1916-18; Lincoln High School, Tacoma, Wash., 1918-20; Concordia Coll., St. Paul, Minn., 1921-23; Concordia Theol. Sem., St. Louis, Mo., 1923-26 (C.T.). Pastor, Thornton and Story City, Iowa, 1926—. Teacher, Parkland Parochial School, 1920-21.



1901

Harstad, Bjug Aanondson.

Ord. 1874. N. S., 1874-17; N. S. A., 1918-28.

Born Dec. 17, 1848, at Valle, Sætersdalen, Norway, of Aanond Tellefson and Torbjørg (Kittelsen Harstad). Attended Luther Coll., 1865-71 (A.B.); Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., 1871-74 (C.T.). Pastor, Mayville, N. D., 1874-91; Parkland, Wash., 1891-28. Temporary professor, Luther Sem., 1839-90, 1910-11. Pres., Minn. Dist., 1884-92; pres., Pacific District, 1893-98. Editor, "Pacific Herald," 1896-98, 1899-04. One of the organizers of the Norwegian Synod of the Am. Ev. Luth. Church, 1918; its first president, 1918-21. Founder of Franklin School, 1878; principal of same, 1878-80; Gran Boarding School, 1880-89; founder, Bruflat Acad., N. D., 1889; founder, Pacific Acad., Wash., 1894; principal, 1894-95, 1897-98; teacher, 1894-06, 1913-15. Temporary pastor, San Francisco, Cal., 1896; Los Angeles, Cal., 1904; near Farmington, Minn., 1911. *Guro Svendsen Omlid (Omlid), 1877.



1913

Quill, Carl Johan.

Ord. 1907. N. S., 1907-17; N. L. C. A., 1917-22; N. S. A., 1922—.

Born June 21, 1878, in Dodge Co., Minn., of Gudmund Knudson Quill and Ingrid (Knutson Bossum). Attended Willmar Sem., 1897-99; Luther Coll., 1899-04 (A.B.); Luther Sem., 1904-07 (C.T.). Pastor, Bowden, N. D., (10 congs.) 1907-09; Grove City, Minn., (3 congs.) 1909-15; N. E. Minneapolis, Minn., (Concordia cong.) 1915-19; Renville, Minn., 1919-23; Albert Lea, Minn., (3 to 6 congs.) 1923—; Chairman, Finance Com., N. S. A., 1924-25; sec. of same, 1926-27. Assoc. editor, "Ev. Luth. Tidende," 1924; pres., summer school, Bethany Coll., Mankato, 1925. *Bolida Braaten, 1907.



1913

Tjernagel, Helge Mathias.

Ord. 1902. N. S., 1902-17; N. S. A., 1923—.

Born May 23, 1871, at Story City, Iowa, of Ole Andreas Tjernagel and Martha Karine (Anderson Follinglo). Attended Luther Coll., 1888-94. Farmer and teacher, 1894-98; teacher, Luther Acad., Albert Lea, 1898-99. Attended Luther Sem., 1899-02 (C.T.). Pastor, Stanwood, Wash., 1902-10; Eskimo Mission, Teller, Alaska, 1910-13; Santa Barbara, Cal., 1913-16; Crookston, Minn., 1917-18; Indian Mission (Missouri Synod), Gresham, Wis., 1918-23; pastor, (Norwegian Synod), Lawler, Iowa, 1923—. Pacific Dist. Home Mission Com., 1905-10; Eskimo Mission Com., 1905-10; manager, "Pacific Herald," 1905-10; pres., Board of Trustees, Josephine Old People's Home, 1907-10; pres., Board of Home Missions, 1924—; vice-pres., N. S. A., 1927—. *Anna Brue, 1904 († 1924).



1915

"Sentinel." 1926—; solicitor, Bethany Lutheran College, 1927. *Elsie Haakonson. 191A

Madson, Norman Arthur.

Ord. 1915. N. S., 1915-17; N. L. C. A., 1917-25; N. S. A., 1925—.

Born Nov. 16, 1886, at Manitowoc, Wis., of Andrew Madson and Mary (Hoverson). Attended Wittenberg Acad., 1903-07; Luther Coll., 1906, 1907-11 (A. B.); Chicago Univ., 1912; Luth. Sem., 1912-15 (C. T.). Asst. pastor, St. Mark's Chicago, Ill., 1915. Teacher, Luther Coll., 1911-12, 1916-18. Pastor, Hibbing, Minn., 1915-16; army chaplain, 1918; pastor, Bode, Iowa, 1919-25; near Princeton, Minn., 1925—. Sec., Bethany Lutheran Coll., Assoc., 1926—; chairman, Board of Educ., N. S. A. Editor, "Lutheran



1902

Gullixson (Gullixson), George Albert.

Ord. 1893. N. S., 1893-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born Dec. 19, 1866, at Bode, Iowa, of Andreas Gullixson and Anne (Rossing). Attended Luther Coll., 1882-87, 1888-90 (A. B.); Luther Sem., 1890-93 (C. T.). Pastor, Beloit, Wis., 1893-02* Chicago, Ill., 1902—. Pres., Bode Luth. Academy, 1887-88; Eastern District Home Miss. Com., 1898-13; pres., Evang. Luth. Home Finding Society of Ill., 1912-17. Assoc., editor, "Luth. Tid." 1919-23; "Lutheran Sentinel," 1920-22. 1926—. Pres. of Norw. Synod, 1922-26; pres., Board of Trustees, N. S. A., 1924—; Member, Home Mission Com., 1926—. *Minnie Amanda Olson, 1897.



1913

Mommsen, Max Frederich.

Ord. 1909. N. S., 1909-17; N. L. C. A., 1917-22; N. S. A., 1922—.

Born Jan. 22, 1877, at Husum, Schleswig, Germany, of Jacob Mommsen and Margaret (Kornels). Immigrated 1882. Attended Rice Lake, Wis., High School, 1895-99; Superior, Wis., State Normal School, 1899-01. Teacher Wisconsin public school, 1901-03; principal, Haugen, Wis., High School, 1903-06. Attended Luther Sem., 1906-09 (C. T.). Pastor, Spooner, Wis., 1909-12; Belview, Minn., 1912-28; Parkland, Wash., 1928—. *Julia Olson, 1903.



1904

Jensen, Lars Peter.

Ord. 1884. N. S., 1884-13; N. S. A., 1920—.

Born April 20, 1858, at Møen, Denmark, of Jens Chr. Jørgensen and Mette Kristine (Strandskov). Immigrated 1871. Attended Luther Coll., 1875-78; Albert Lea, Minn., High School, 1878. Teacher, Riceland, Minn., 1878-80. Attended Luther College, 1880-82; Concordia Sem., Springfield, Ill., 1882-84 (C. T.). Pastor, Denver, Colo., 1884-86; Albert Lea, Minn., (Freeborn Cong.) 1886-91; Latimer, Iowa, 1891-02; Linn Grove, Iowa, 1902-13; lived at Mankato, Minn., 1914-20; field sec., Luth. Ladies' Sem., Red Wing, 1914-15; Bethany Coll., Mankato, 1915-17; Amer. Luth. Educ. Assoc., 1917-19; pastor, Marshfield, Ore., 1920—. Sec., Iowa Dist., 1907-16; N. S. A., 1919—; member, Mission Board, 1923-24; supt. of missions, Pacific Coast, 1925—. *Anna Louise Wilson, 1884 († 1919).



1913

Moldstad, Christian A.

Ord. 1908. N. S., 1908-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born Oct. 29, 1882, at De Forest, Wis., of Anders J. Moldstad and Johanne Karine (Berg). Attended De Forest, Wis., High School, 1896-99; Luther Coll., 1899-04 (A. B.); Luther Sem., 1905-08 (C. T.). Pastor, Chicago, Ill., 1908; Boston, Mass., 1908—.*Stephanie Biewend, 1915.



1911

Moldstad, John (Johannes) A.

Ord. 1906. N. S., 1906-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born April 14, 1874, at De Forest, Wis., of Anders J. Moldstad and Johanne Karine (Berg). Attended Luther Coll., 1888-94 (A. B.); Wisconsin Univ., 1894-95. Manager and ass't editor, "Amerika," 1896. Teacher, Luther Acad., Albert Lea, 1896-97. Pres., Clifton Coll., 1897-99. Attended Wis. Univ., 1899-00 (A. B.). Merchant, De Forest, Wis., 1899-03. Attended Concordia Sem., St. Louis, 1903-06 (C. T.). Pastor, Chicago, Ill., (St. Mark's cong.) 1906—. Editor, "Church Messenger," 1909-11; "Kirkebudet," 1912—; editor, "Ev. Luth. Tidende," 1919—; "Lutheran Sentinel," 1923-24. Vice-pres., synod, 1917-22. Impressario, Luther College Concert Band, Norway tour, 1914. *Ethelyn Holverson, 1920.



1895

Thoen, Jacob Ellingson.

Ord. 1895. N. S., 1895-03; N. S. A., 1920—.

Born May 10, 1864, near Decorah, Iowa, of Elling Nilson Thoen and Anne Sophia (Brekke). Attended St. Ansgar, Iowa, High School, 1880; St. Olaf School, 1881-83. Teacher, public school, and farmer, 1883-87. Attended Luther Coll., 1887-92 (A. B.); Luther Sem., 1892-95 (C. T.). Pastor, Hemingford, Nebr., (Sweetwater cong., etc.) 1895-97; Wells, Minn., 1897-03; pres., Luther Acad., Albert Lea, 1903-14; farmer, Griebrok, 1914-20. Pastor, Oklee, Minn., 1920-23; Amherst Jct., Wis., 1923—. Board of Trustees, N. S. A., 1927—. *Caja Christiane Wulfsberg, 1895.



1908

Hendricks, John.

Ord. 1896. N. S., 1896-17; N. S. A., 1919—.

Born Sept. 10, 1865, at Selbu, N. Dalene, Norway, of Henrik Pedersen and Karen H. (Hammer). Attended Trondhjem Realskole, 1882. Immigrated 1885. Attended Business Coll.; Oshkosh State Normal; Wittenberg Normal; St. Ansgar Sem. (grad. 1891). Teacher, 1891-93. Attended Luther Sem., 1893-96 (C. T.); Minnesota Univ., 1915-16. Pastor, Big Rapids, Mich., 1896-02; Viroqua, Wis., 1902-06; West Prairie, Wis., 1906-12; Minneapolis, Minn., (city missionary) 1912-17. Field sec., 1919—. Manager, Luth. Synod Book Co., 1926—. Editor, "Betragtninger for Syge," 1915. Author, "De rette frikirkelige principer for kirkestyrelsen," 1922; "Unionism in the Early History of the Lutheran Church of America," 1926. Member of Norwegian Synod of America, 1918—. Treas., Rescue Home, Minneapolis, Minn., 1914. *Julia F. Grøndalen, 1893.



1913

Peterson, Sophus Christian Nelson (C. N.).

Ord. 1889. N. S., 1889-92, 1893-09, 1911-14;
N. S. A., 1922—.

Born July 17, 1864, in Sherburne Co., Minn., of Nels Peterson Grindheim and Martha M. (Johnson). Attended Luther Coll., 1880-86 (A.B.); Luther Sem., 1886-89 (C.T.). Pastor, Forest City, Iowa, 1889-90; Norway Lake, Minn., 1890-92; pres., Sioux Falls Normal School, 1892-93; pastor, Effington, S. D., 1893-09; financial sec., Willmar Sem., 1909-11; pastor, Hibbing, Minn., 1911-14; New London, Minn., 1922-23; Fertile, Minn., 1923—. Editor, "Ev. Luth. Tidende," 1917-19. Sec., 1918-19. Sec., Finance Com., 1902-11; Board of Pensions, 1913-16. *Anna Sophie Sander, 1889.



1912

Gullerud, Sven Olaf Michaelson.

Ord. 1906. N. S., 1906-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born June 19, 1876, near Zumbrota, Minn., of Michael Gullerud and Karen (Lunde). Attended Luther Coll., 1892-93; Valder Business Coll., 1894-95; Sioux Falls Normal School, 1899-02. Teacher, parochial school, Cashton, Wis., 1902-03. Attended Luther Sem., 1903-06 (C.T.). Pastor, Tracy, Minn., 1906-16; Princeton, Minn., 1916-25; St. Peter, Minn., 1925—. Board of Home Miss., 1921-24; Finance Com., 1922-24, 1926—; Board of Elementary Christian Educ., 1924-26; Board of Higher Educ., 1923; pres., General Pastoral Conf., 1926—. Editor, "The Visitor," 1926—. Author, "Nødtvungen redegjørelse," 1917. *Sara Marie Tyssen, 1906.



1900

Blækkan, Ingebrigt Johnson.

Ord. 1895. N. S., 1895-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born Nov. 15, 1862, at Halse, Nordmøre, Norway, of John Blækkan and Marie (Sæter). Attended Trondhjem Borgerskole; schools in Orkedalen and Halse, 1876-82; Trondhjem school for non-commissioned officers, 1882-84. Immigrated 1884. Attended Luther Coll., 1886-92 (A.B.); Luther Sem., 1892-95 (C.T.). Pastor, Eureka, Cal., 1895-98; Everett, Wash., 1898-00; Rockford, Wash., 1900-17; Coeur d'Alene, Ida., 1917-24; Spokane, Wash., 1924-25; Holton, Mich., 1925—. Sec., Pacific Dist., 1898-90. *Clara Wiger, 1899.



1906

Ingebritson, Henry.

Ord. 1906. N. S., 1906-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born Oct. 29, 1876, in Hamilton Co., Iowa, of Haagen Ingebritson and Anna (Romsdahl). Attended Luther Coll., 1896-03 (A.B.); Luther Sem., 1903-06 (C.T.). Pastor, Fir, Wash., and other towns in Skagit Co., Wash., 1906-10; Fowler, Mont., 1910-11; Lake Mills, Iowa, 1911-18; near Lake Mills, 1918—. Board of Educ., 1918-19, 1924-27; Christian Day School Board, 1919-21; vice-pres., N. S. A., 1925—. *Ella Henrietta Thompson, 1907.



1913

Preus, Herman Amberg.

Ord. 1913. N. S., 1913-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born April 11, 1888, at Eau Claire, Wis., of Rev. J. W. Preus and Linka (Hjort). Attended Luther Coll., 1904-10 (A. B.); Luther Sem., 1910-13 (C. T.). Pastor, Spokane, Almira, and Eik, Wash., 1913-15; Chicago, Ill., 1915-25; temp. pastor, Portland, Ore., 1918; chaplain, U. S. army, 1918; ass't pastor, Calmar, Iowa, 1924-25; pastor, Calmar, Ia., 1925—. Business mgr., "Ev. Luth. Tidende," 1919—; "Chicago Luth. Messenger," 1919-25; Mission Com., 1922-23; Publication Com., 1919—.

Guldberg, Gottfred.

Ord. 1916. N. S., 1916-17; N.L.C.A., 1917-21; N.S.A., 1922—.

Born June 10, 1883, at Tananarivo, Madagascar, of Missionary Dr. Carl Johan Guldberg and Louise Henriette (Sand). Attended Otto Andersen Latin School; Christiania Business Coll., 1901-02; Treider Business Coll., 1902-03. Teacher, 1901-05. Immigrated 1905. Salesman, 1906-12. Attended Luther Sem., 1913-16 (C. T.). Pastor, Red Top, Minn., 1916-18; Suttons Bay, Mich., 1918—. Financial sec. of Michigan Dist., 1920-22. Asst. editor, "Ev. Luth. Tidende," 1924—. *Aasta Agnette Kalstad, 1916.



1916

Petersen, Justin Axel.

Ord. 1916. N. S., 1916-17; N. L. C. A., 1917-24; N. S. A., 1925—.

Born Jan. 2, 1891, at Escanaba, Mich., of Julius Petersen and Maria (Anderson). Attended Manistique, Mich., High School, 1905-08; Luther Coll., 1909-13 (A. B.); Luther Sem., 1913-16 (C. T.). Pastor, Locust, Iowa (suppl.), 1916-17; Linn Grove, Iowa, 1917-24. Scarville, Iowa, 1925—. Author, "Secret Societies," 1924. *Nettie Knutson, 1916.



1916

Hansen, Emil.

Ord. 1906. N. S., 1906-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born April 26, 1880, in Norman Co., Minn., of Østen Hansen and Matthea (Lerud). Attended Park Region Coll., 1896-97; Luther Coll., 1897-03 (A. B.); Luther Sem., 1903-06 (C. T.). Pastor, Warren, Minn., 1906-08; Forest City, Iowa, 1908-14; Scarville, Iowa, 1914-25; Mayville, N. D., 1925—. Board of Elementary Christian Educ., 1920-21, 1922-23. *Anette O. Anderson, 1908.



1903

Guttebø, Lauritz Seman.

Ord. 1904. N. S., 1904-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born Oct. 7, 1881, at Lake Park, Minn., of Rev. Kjøstel Larson Guttebø and Kari (Peterson). Attended Bode Acad., 1894-95; Luther Coll., 1895-01 (A. B.); Luther Sem., 1901-04 (C. T.). Pastor, Chicago, Ill., (St. Mark Cong.) 1904-06; Story City, Iowa, 1906-08; Waterville, Iowa, 1908-18; Deerfield, Wis., (W. Koshkonong) 1918—. Board of Foreign Miss., 1919-20; Board of Church Ext., 1920-23; Board of Educ., 1923-24; Board of Foreign Miss., 1924—. *Anna Emelie Vangsnes, 1905.



1912



1913

Anderson, Christian.

Ord. 1899. N. S., 1899-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born April 7, 1874, in Grant Co., Minn., of Christen Anderson and Karen Margrethe (Hartvigsen). Attended Luther Coll., 1890-96 (A. B.); Luther Sem., 1896-99 (C. T.). Pastor, Genesee, Ida., 1899-03; Minneapolis, Minn.; Zion cong., 1903-16; Fairview, 1916—. Pres., Y. P. S., Norw. Synod, 1906-08; transportation sec., 1913-17, 1918—; Board of Home Missions, 1918-21; Board of Publ., 1921—; vice-pres., synod, 1922-26; pres., synod, 1926—. *Inger E. Wulfsberg, 1900 (†1922); Bergine Sofie Livdahl, 1927.



1904

Torgerson, Augustinus Jensenius.

Ord. 1894. N. S., 1894-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born Nov. 27, 1870, in Worth Co., Iowa, of Rev. Torger A. Torgerson and Dina (Anderson). Attended Luther Coll., 1886-88, 1889-90; Ind. Normal School, 1890; Luther Sem., 1891-94 (C. T.). Pastor, Silver Lake cong. near Lake Mills, Iowa, 1894; Renville, Minn., 1895-96; Lake Mills, Iowa, 1896-19; Northwood, Iowa, (Somber) 1919—. Treas., Synod, 1918—. *Ingeborg M. Pedersen, 1895.



Sande, Stephen.

Ord. 1920. N. S. A., 1920—.

Born Aug. 8, 1885, at Scarville, Iowa, of Hans Sande and Kari O. (Engum). Attended Luth. Acad., (3 terms), 1900-01, 1903-04; Park Region College, 1908-16 (A. B.). Luther Sem., 1916-17; Luther Theol. Sem., 1917-18; Concordia Sem., St. Louis, 1918-20 (C. T.). Pastor, Story City, Iowa, 1920-23; Hartland, Minn., 1923—.



1895

Strand, Johan Johannesen.

Ord. 1892. N. S., 1892-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born April 10, 1863, at Strand, Stavanger, Norway, of Johannes H. Strand and Anna T. (Barque). Immigrated 1881. Attended Luther Coll., 1882-89 (A. B.); Luther Sem., 1889-92 (C. T.). Pastor, Great Falls, Mont., 1892-93; Hartland, Minn., 1893-08; Grand Forks, N. D., 1908-09; Bowdon, N. D., 1909-10; St. Peter, Minn., 1910-25; Chicago, Ill. (St. Luke's) 1925—. *Cathinka Hjort, 1897.

Runholt, Joseph Rudolph.

Ord. 1926. N. S. A., 1926—.

Born Jan. 25, 1902, at Cottonwood, Minn. Attended Cottonwood High School, 1916-20; Concordia Coll., St. Paul, 1920-23; Concordia Sem., St. Louis, 1923-26 (C. T.). Pastor, Minneapolis, Minn., (Emmaus Mission) 1926-27; Ulen, Minn., (South Wild Rice Cong.) 1927—.



1909

Unseth, Joseph Bernhard.

Ord. 1900. N. S., 1900-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born Nov. 11, 1875, at Coon Prairie, Wis., of Peter T. Unseth and Johanne (Bjørge). Attended Luther Coll., 1891-97 (A. B.); Luther Sem., 1897-00 (C. T.). Pastor, Edmore, N. D., (8 congs.) 1900-13; Thor, Iowa, 1913-18; Waterville, Iowa, 1918—. Home Mission Com., Northwestern Dist., 1912-13. Finance Com., 1923-24; Church Extension Com., 1924-25; sec., Home Mission Board, 1926-27. *Alice C. Bye, 1901 (†1923).



1899

Nesseth, Guttorm Pederson.

Ord. 1894. N. S., 1894-17; N. S. A., 1918—.

Born Aug. 26, 1867, at Minneola, near Zumbrota, Minn., of Peder N. Nesseth and Ingebor (Nustad). Attended Luther Coll., 1882-87; St. Olaf Coll., 1887; Luther Coll., 1889-90; Luther Sem., 1891-94 (C. T.). Pastor, Duluth, Minn., 1894-95; Weme, near Foss-ton, Minn., (7 congs.) 1895-15; Clearbrook, Minn., 1915—. *Bertha O. Moen, 1899.

Ylvisaker, Erling.

Ord. 1926. N. S. A., 1926—.

Born July 5, 1898, at Zumbrota, Minn., of Andrew Christian Ylvisaker and Mary (Erstad). Attended Zumbrota High School, 1913-17; Univ. of Wis., 1919-23 (A. B.); Luther Theol. Sem., 1923-24; Concordia Sem., St. Louis, 1924-26 (C. T.). Pastor, Madison, Wis., 1926—. *Clara Luella Hegne, 1926.



1953



1953

Lee, Sophus Edward.

Ord. 1927. N. S. A., 1927—.

Born Sept. 30, 1901, at Northwood, Iowa, of Rev. Ole T. Lee and Ella Marie (Lien). Attended Northwood, Iowa, High School, 1915-19; Concordia Coll., St. Paul, Minn., 1919-21 (grad.); Concordia Sem., St. Louis, Mo., 1922-25, 1926-27 (C. T.). Parochial teacher and home missionary, Madison, Wis., 1925-26. Pastor, Emmaus Mission, Minneapolis, Minn., 1927—. *Ruth Meyer, 1927. Lives at Robbinsdale, Minn.