

# 69th Annual Convention of the E.L.S.



## *Partners In The Gospel*

### **ESSAY:**

*Partners in the Gospel*

### **ESSAYIST:**

*The Rev. Erwin John Ekhoﬀ*



**BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE**

**MANKATO, MINNESOTA**

**JUNE 15-20, 1986**

**69th REPORT  
REGULAR CONVENTION  
of the  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**

**and the  
30th Annual Meeting of the  
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE  
CORPORATION**

Convention Theme:  
**"PARTNERS IN  
THE GOSPEL"**

Essay:  
"Partners in the Gospel"  
Essayist: The Rev. Erwin John Ekhooff

**Compiled by  
Alf Merseth, Secretary**

**Held at  
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
June 15-20, 1986**

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*Partners  
in the  
Gospel*

The 69th Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod focused the attention of the participants and of the whole Synod on the Christian's responsibility, as Christ says it, "Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19). "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). And "Ye shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8). The preaching and teaching of the Gospel of salvation in Christ to the innumerable throngs who do not know Jesus yet is the responsibility of the church.

"Partners in the Gospel" was the title of the essay as well as the theme of the convention. The essayist, the Rev. Erwin Ekhooff, outlined Paul's Epistle to the Philippians, calling it "The Partnership Letter." The partnership that existed between Paul and the Philippians, the essayist emphasized by saying "Seventeen times this short epistle mentions the words 'joy' and 're-joice' which reflects this bond and great love that Paul had for these people, his partners in the Gospel. This is a bond where partners—shepherd and sheep, men and women, boys and girls—work for the common cause of the church."

Focusing on what he called "The Partnership Text" (Philippians 1:3-6) where Paul thanks the Lord for the "partnership in the Gospel" which he had with the Philippians, the essayist discussed partnership in the four concepts spoken of in that text: "thanks," "prayers," "fellowship," and "Gospel."

In the concluding portion of the essay the essayist discussed "The Partnership of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod." This was shown in worship, in teaching, in witness, in publications, in charities, in prayer, and in the Special Offering for Home Missions.

The essay is printed in its entirety in the Synod Report.

The services and the devotions at the convention were also planned in such a way that the focus would be on "Partners In The Gospel" which is the theme of the three year Special Offering for Home Missions which was begun at this convention.

Alf Merseth, secretary

## THE CONVENTION DAY BY DAY

### SYNOD SUNDAY June 15, 1986

"The Rescued Become The Rescuers" was the Rev. Paul Petersen's theme as he preached the Synod Sunday Festival Sermon to the assembled worshipers in the Bethany Lutheran College Auditorium-Gymnasium at 10:30 a.m. on June 15, 1986. His text was Romans 1:14-16.

The Apostle Paul is an example. He was rescued from his unbelief in which he persecuted the church of Jesus Christ and became the most ardent preacher of Jesus' Gospel. He wanted to pay his debt, he says in the text.

We have the same Gospel with the same "power of God unto salvation" in our hands as the tool that we can use to pay our debt and rescue others.

Following the service a multi-media film produced by John Shep was shown, outlining briefly the history of missions in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and introducing the Special Offering for Home Missions.

President M. Meyer of Bethany Lutheran College welcomed the worshipers and President Orvick responded with a word of thanks and made some necessary announcements.

At 2:30 p.m. on Synod Sunday afternoon the GRADUATION SERVICE FOR BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY was held in the college chapel.

The Rev. Alf Merseth, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, addressed the assembly on the basis of John 7:37-39. He spoke of the graduates as "Living Wells Dispensing The Water of Life."

The "Water of Life" is the full and complete salvation that Jesus Christ, through His keeping of the law of God, through His carrying our guilt and punishment to the cross, through His shedding His blood to pay our debt before God, has prepared for all sinners.

All believers, all spirit-filled Christians, have the responsibility of dispensing this "Water of Life" to those who thirst in repentance and faith. The graduates have dedicated themselves to being such servants of Jesus in a very special office and are the servants of Jesus and the stewards of His mysteries, the Means of Grace, in a very special way.

The Rev. Merseth concluded by urging the graduates to lead their people to that "pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God, and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1).

The Rev. M. E. Tweit presented diplomas to the following graduates: Harvey Abrahamson, Richard Gudgeon, David Hoyord, Robert Lawson and Jonathan Madson.

President Orvick welcomed the graduates into the clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.



Seminary Graduates. (Front, left to right)—Jon Madson, Richard Gudgeon. (Back)—Harvey Abrahamson, Robert Lawson, David Hoyord.



Convention in session

## MONDAY June 16

Convention Chaplain, the Rev. Richard Long, opened the first working day of the convention with a devotion based on Daniel 12:1-3. He used as his theme "Unity of our Purpose." The convention was reminded that as congregations, as a Synod and as individuals we are people with a purpose—that of being instruments in "turning many to righteousness" by bringing the saving message of Jesus Christ to as many as possible.

President George Orvick welcomed the pastors, delegates and visitors to the convention. Secretary Alf Merseth called the roll to which 59 permanent voting members either responded or were present by the end of the first working day. Twenty-five permanent advisory members responded to the roll call.

The Credentials Committee represented by E. Schumacher recommended the seating of 98 delegates who had been elected and certified by their congregations. The assembly resolved that these be seated as voting delegates to this convention and President Orvick declared the 69th Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 30th Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation to be in session in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

President Orvick read his message and presented his report for the convention's consideration. Various greetings to the convention were read and the convention elected its working committees.

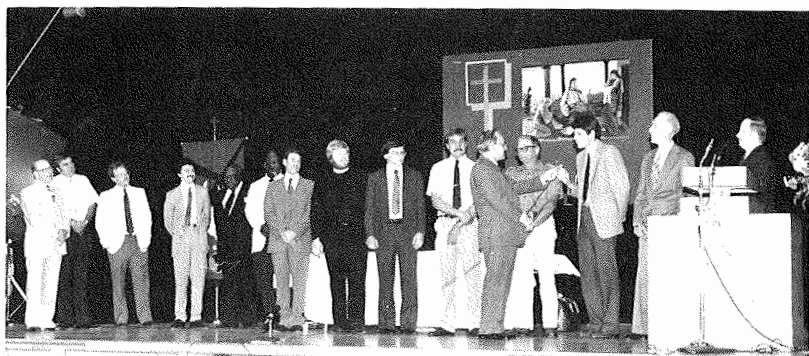
The afternoon devotion was conducted by the Rev. Frank Fiedler. After the assembly sang a hymn, Pastor Fiedler read 1 Corinthians 3:5-11 and led the assembly in prayer.

The work of the convention from the Book of Reports and Memorials and from the Convention Handbook was assigned to the appropriate working committees. Two additional memorials which had not been printed were read and accepted by the convention and were assigned to appropriate committees. The convention was recessed at 2:15 p.m. so the working committees could spend the remainder of the afternoon and evening preparing resolutions for the convention's consideration and action.

## TUESDAY June 17

The Rev. Joseph Burkhardt was the speaker for the morning devotion. Using Matthew 9:35-38 as his text he addressed the theme "United in Our Compassion for the Lost." Those without Jesus Christ as their Good Shepherd are the lost for which we must have compassion. Our responsibility is to be witnesses for the Savior and to pray that workers be sent into the harvest fields.

After the customary preliminaries the order of the day was the consideration of the report of the Committee on Synodical Membership. The convention accepted six pastors as permanent voting members of the Synod and one pastor, one professor and one Christian Day School Teacher as permanent advisory members of the Synod. Two congregations: Emmaus Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois and Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grants Pass, Oregon were received into membership.



**Welcoming new members**

The Miscellaneous Committee recommended that the revised Constitution and By-Laws which had been adopted at the 1985 convention be ratified. The convention so resolved by a vote of 138 to 3. At this time a historic event took place: The Synod elected its first full-time president for a term of four years. The Rev. George Orvick, Madison, Wisconsin was elected to this office. The Rev. John Moldstad, Sr. was elected as the Synod's vice president for a four-year term.

The Rev. Steven Sparley conducted the afternoon devotion. Pastor Sparley read Matthew 5:13-16 and led the assembly in prayer.

The completion of the election of officers was the order of the day. The Rev. Alf Merseth was elected as secretary for a two-year term and Mr. Leroy W. Meyer was elected as treasurer for a two-year term. Following the election of officers the convention completed consideration of the report of its Committees on Christian Service and Publications and began considering the report of its Committee on Education and Youth.

## **WEDNESDAY June 18**

The Rev. John Moldstad, Jr. conducted the Wednesday morning devotion. Using Colossians 4:2-4 as his text Pastor Moldstad



addressed the theme "United in our Prayers for Outreach."

There is no higher partnership in this world than that which exists among fellow believers in the work of spreading the saving Gospel. This partnership is a praying partnership. As we embark on our Synodical "Partners in the Gospel" outreach, may we fervently pray that the efforts of our pastors, missionaries, teachers and lay workers would produce much fruit. Let us pray specifically that God would open doors and that the mystery of Christ may be proclaimed.

Secretary Merseth, on behalf of the Synod and its Board of Trustees, presented the Rev. George Orvick with a Diploma of Vocation to the full-time presidency of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for a term of four years.

President Orvick responded with a brief summary of the goals and objectives as he sees them in the full-time office of the president of the Synod.

The convention considered part of the report of its Committee on Missions.

The Committee for the Special Offering for Home Missions made its presentation to the convention. Its chairman, the Rev. M. E. Twit, and its Executive Secretary, the Rev. W. Kessel, spoke to the assembly. The multi-media production depicting the history of missions in the reorganized Synod was shown. President Orvick led in prayer, the assembly sang "Take My Life And Let It Be," and the pastors, delegates and visitors placed their pledges or offerings on a table in front of the auditorium. During the afternoon session it was announced that there was \$169,309.00 in pledges and \$9,474.35 in cash.



Pledges for the Special Offering for Home Missions

To open the afternoon session the assembly sang the hymn "On Galilee's High Mountains."

At the memorial service for the Rev. H. A. Preus, Mrs. Erling Ylvisaker and Mrs. G. O. Lillegard, Pastor R. Newgard used 1 Corinthians 15:55-57 as his text and addressed himself to the theme "The Victory in a Christian's Death."

The convention considered part of the report of its Miscellaneous Committee and part of the report of its Committee in Finances. It completed consideration of the report of its Committee on Missions and it also elected its Nominations Committee for the 1987 convention.

## THURSDAY June 19

The Thursday morning devotion was conducted by the Rev. John Wilde. His text was 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. He addressed the theme "United in Our Total Commitment to Outreach." He emphasized 4 points: 1) We are all united in our work as brothers and sisters in Christ; 2) We are united in our total commitment; 3) We reach out with the Gospel by all means that we might save some; 4) The Gospel is our motivation.

The essayist, the Rev. E. Ekhoﬀ, who had begun reading his essay on Wednesday, completed the reading of his essay "Partners in the Gospel." Time was allowed for discussion.

At this time there was a higher education presentation at which President Marvin Meyer of Bethany Lutheran College and President W. W. Petersen of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary spoke to the assembly.

The convention considered the report of its Committee on Higher Education.

To open the Thursday afternoon session the assembly sang "There Still is Room."

President Orvick introduced Prof. Richard Strobel, representing President Carl Mischke. He brought fraternal greetings to the convention from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

An anniversary service was conducted by the Rev. Norman Madson honoring the following for their years of service in the church: Pastor A. M. Harstad—60 years, Pastor Carl Rusch—50 years, Prof. B. W. Teigen—50 years, Pastor P. G. Anderson—40 years, Pastor G. F. Guldberg—40 years, Prof. Norman Holte—40 years, Prof. R. E. Honsey—40 years, Prof. J. B. Madson—40 years, Pastor Robert Waldschmidt—40 years.

Using as his text Hebrews 13:7-8 Pastor Madson addressed the theme "United in Our Appreciation for Faithful Church Workers." Four hundred years of accumulative service rendered

## THE ANNIVERSARY DEVOTION HONORED...



**Pastor A.M. Harstad,  
Tacoma, WA  
60 years**

**(Not Pictured)  
Pastor Carl Rusch,  
Piedmont, MO  
50 years**



**Dr. B.W. Teigen,  
Mankato, MN  
50 years**



**Pastor Paul Anderson,  
Yelm, WA  
40 years**



**Pastor G.F. Guldberg,  
Thornton, IA  
40 years**



**Prof. Norman Holte,  
Mankato, MN  
40 years**



**Prof. Rudolph Honsey,  
Mankato, MN  
40 years**



**Prof. J.B. Madson,  
Mankato, MN  
40 years**



**Pastor Robert  
Waldschmidt,  
Fillmore, CA  
40 years**

to the church by the anniversary celebrants. We show this appreciation in a special anniversary service at our convention because the Lord has told us to "remember" those who have spoken unto us the Word of God. We are called upon to follow their faith, that is the object of their faith, namely Jesus Christ.

During the afternoon the convention finished its business.

The resolution to adjourn was passed at 5:55 p.m. on Thursday June 19, 1986 and President Orvick declared the 69th Convention

of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 30th Annual Meeting of the Bethany College Corporation to be adjourned in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

The Rev. David Haeuser conducted the closing devotion. The assembly sang "Spread, Oh, Spread, Thou Mighty Word." Using 1 Corinthians 1:18-24 as his text Pastor Haeuser pointed his closing remarks at the theme "United in Our Voice, Proclaiming The Crucified Christ."

Alf Merseth, secretary  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

## ROLL CALL

### A. PERMANENT MEMBERS (Pastors serving member congregations)

Present at this convention:

P. Anderson, T. Bartels, R. Branstad, E. Bryant, J. Burkhardt, R. Dale, J. Dalke, M. DeGarmeaux, M. Doepel, J. Dukleth, E. Ekhooff, R. Fehr, C. Ferkenstad, F. Fiedler, T. Fox, W. Frick, W. Granke, R. Gudgeon, G. Guldberg, T. Gullixson, D. Haeuser, R. Halvorson, W. Halvorson, H. Handberg, N. Harstad, G. Haugen, P. Haugen, B. Homan, C. Keeler, M. Krentz, J. Krikava, J. Krueger, D. Larson, H. Larson, R. Long, M. Luttman, N. Madson, P. Madson, M. Marozick, W. McMurdie, A. Merseth, D. Moldstad, J. Moldstad, Jr., J. Moldstad, Sr., D. Nelson, R. Newgard, G. Obenberger, J. Olsen, G. Orvick, J. Petersen, P. Petersen, S. Petersen, T. Petersen, S. Quist, T. Rank, D. Schlicht, G. Schmeling, K. Schmidt, P. Schneider, T. Skaaland, J. Smith, R. Smith, S. Sparley, E. Stubenvoll, F. Stubenvoll, F. Theiste, D. Thompson, P. Vangen, H. Vetter, R. Waldschmidt, J. Wilde, C. Wosje

Absent:

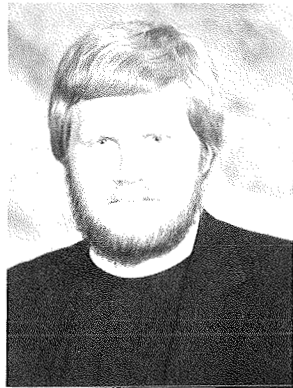
H. Behrens, M. Elliott, D. Faugstad, P. Jecklin, R. Mathison, R. McMiller, K. Mellon, N. Merseth, H. Mosley, J. Schmidt, L. Vinton, A. Wagner, O. Wraalstad

### PERMANENT MEMBERS (Accepted at this convention)

T. Bartels, M. DeGarmeaux, H. Gieschen, D. Moldstad, J. Petersen, T. Rank, D. Roembke, F. Fiedler



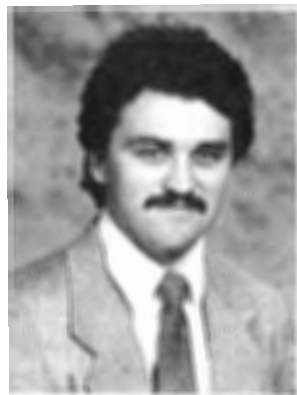
The Rev. Tim Bartels



The Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux



The Rev. Frank Fiedler



The Rev. Don Moldstad



**The Rev. Thomas Rank**



**Teacher David Roembke**



**The Rev. John Petersen**



**The Rev. Richard  
Wiechmann**

**Not pictured, The Rev. Henry Gieshen**

**B. PERMANENT ADVISORY MEMBERS (Not eligible to vote)**

**Pastors serving non-member congregations:**

**Present:** G. Faleide

**Absent:** T. Erickson, D. Lillegard, W. Mack, D. McMiller, M. Teigen

**Accepted at this convention:** **Absent:** H. Gieschen

**Pastors not serving congregations at this time:**

**Present:** T. Aaberg, E. Buhr, F. Schmugge, J. Shep

**Absent:** D. Bakke, R. Carter, D. Faugstad

**Pastors Emeriti:**

**Present:** G. Gullixson, W. Gullixson, A. Harstad, A. Kuster, Joseph Petersen, B. Teigen, O. Trebelhorn, M. Tweit

**Absent:** L. Gerbhardt, D. McElwain, C. Rusch, N. Tjernagel, E. Unseth, W. Werling

**Professors:**

**Present:** M. Harstad, N. Holte, R. Honsey, W. Kessel, T. Kuster, J. Madison, D. Marzolf, M. Meyer, W. Petersen, S. Reagles, G. Reichwald, E. Teigen

**Absent:** S. Lee, D. Metzger

Accepted at this convention: R. Wiechmann

Christian Day School Teachers:

Present: D. Dahlke, R. Diepenbrock

Absent: E. Bartsch, S. Born, L. Engel, D. Madson, L. Rude, J. Treder

Accepted at this convention: D. Roembke

#### CONGREGATIONS ADMITTED INTO MEMBERSHIP:

Emmaus Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois

Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church, Grants Pass, Oregon

#### ACCEPTED INTO FELLOWSHIP:

Faith Ev. Lutheran Parish of Grace Lutheran Church, Australia

Scriptural Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

## CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE ACTION OF THE SYNOD

### Resolution No. 1: Pastors and Permanent Members Absence, Late Arrival and Early Departure

WHEREAS, *Letters of excuse have been filed with the Credentials Committee by the following for full- or part-time absence from the 1986 Convention of the ELS; and,*

WHEREAS, *These excuses appear to be valid, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That they be excused,*

*Full-time Absence: Theodore E. Aaberg, Darryl Bakke, Howard Behrens, Michael Elliott, Leonard Engel, Donald McElwain, Kenneth Mellon, Nile Merseeth, Homer Mosley, Carl Rusch, John Schmidt, Eivind Unseth, Larry Vinton, Alvin Wagner, O. E. Wraalstad*

*Part-time Absence: Mark Harstad*

*Early Departure: Richard Smith, Warren Granke, Gary Faleide, Philip Vangen, James Krikava*

*Late Arrival and Early Departure: Rodger Dale*

## 1986 REPRESENTATIVES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
P. Anderson	Yelm, WA	Our Redeemer	Daniel Porter
T. Bartels	Eau Claire, WI	Pinehurst	Harvey Julson
			Cliff Rather
H. Behrens	Chicago, IL	St. Mark's	
R. Branstad	Mayville, ND	First American	
J. Burkhardt	Richardson, TX	Good Shepherd	
E. Bryant	Port Orchard, WA	Bethany	William Erickson
			Ken Sowell
R. Dale	Apple Valley, MN	Heritage	Mel Schwanz
			William Overn
J. Dalke	Mt. Vernon, WA	St. Luke	Dan Malsch
			Alfred Deshane

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
M. DeGar-meaux	Waterville, IA	East Paint Creek	Willard Leiran Lester Busness
M. Doepel	Waukon, IA Hartland, MN	West Paint Creek Hartland	Gordon Gilbertson Peter Erickson Karl Pedersen Edward Hendrickson (alt)
J. Dukleth,	Manchester, MN Scarville, IA Scarville, IA	Manchester Center Scarville	Nels Faugstad
E. Ekhooff	Golden Valley, MN	King of Grace	Norman Werner Gary Carlson
M. Elliott R. Fehr	Camarillo, CA Oklee, MN Trail, MN	Faith Clearwater Nazareth	Oliver Hofstad Edwin Halvorson Harry Hanson
C. Ferkenstad	Hesperia, MI Holton, MI	Hesperia Holton	Edwin Gibson
F. Fiedler T. Fox W. Frick	The Dalles, OR Ames, IA Parkersburg, IA	Bethany Bethany Faith	Martin Tjernagel Casjen Boelman Henry Johnson G. Faleide A. V. Kuster
W. Granke	Madison, WI	Grace	
R. Gudgeon	Rochester, NY Scottsdale	Indian Landing	
G. Guldberg T. Gullixson D. Haeuser	Thornton, IA Bishop, CA Bell Gardens, CA	Richland Our Savior Christ the King	Laverne Hiller Gordon Dally Julius Hammermeister
R. Halvorson	Sioux Falls, SD	Bethel	Adolph Jungemann Gerhard Ordahl
W. Halvorson	Luverne, MN Jasper, MN	Bethany Rose Dell Trinity	Arthur Anderson John Arends Otto Haug Holger Ausen Ronald Stennes Vern Stargel
H. Handberg	Tacoma, WA	Parkland	
N. Harstad G. Haugen	Ashland, WI Myrtle Creek, OR	First English St. Matthew Christ	John Burkhardt Basil Denison
P. Haugen	Sutherlin, OR Belview	Our Savior's Rock Dell	
B. Homan P. Jecklin C. Keeler	Suttons Bay, MI Savannah, GA Audubon, MN	First Christ Immanuel	Karl Holt Gerhard Becker Miles Becker
M. Krentz J. Krikava	Tacoma, WA Brewster, MA	Lakewood Trinity	Paul Chamberlin Harold Muller
J. Krueger D. Larson	Piedmont, MO Wisconsin Dells, WI Portage, WI	Grace Newport St. Paul's	Wilbur Maves
H. Larson R. Long	San Antonio, TX Marietta, GA	Faith Resurrection	David Jaeger Hillard Granne- mann



Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
M. Luttman	Lombard, IL	St. Timothy	Leroy Meyer David Meyer
N. Madson	St. Peter, MN	Norseland	Harold Rodning Floyd Tungsvik Conrad Kaupang (alt)
	Gaylord, MN	Norwegian Grove	Leslie Enter Wallace Tollefson
P. Madson	Hawley, MN	Our Savior's	Douglas Voss Roger Mjones
	Ulen, MN	Calvary	Clinton Klemetson Lyle Manthe
M. Marozick	Burlington, MA	Pinewood	Norbert Rhinerson
R. Mathison	Minneapolis, MN	Hiawatha	
R. McMiller	Phoenix, AZ	Christ	A. T. Bliss George Kronbach
W. McMurdie	Tustin, CA		
K. Mellon	Lakeland, FL	Our Savior	
A. Merseth	Northwood, IA	First Shell Rock	Obert Harmon Dale Songstad
	Lake Mills, IA	Lake Mills	Lawrence Levorson Carl Willert
	Lake Mills, IA	Lime Creek	Lars Petersen Paul Dahle
	Lake Mills, IA	Somber	Reuben Holt Odis Holstad
	Riceville, IA	Immanuel	
N. Merseth	Yuba City	Bethel	Herb Fisher
J. Moldstad,	Lake Havasu City,	Our Saviour	Dale Kindelberger
Jr.	AZ		Gene Kershaw
J. Moldstad,	Vero Beach, FL	Grace	
Sr.			
H. Mosley	Grants Pass, OR	Our Savior's	Bernard Siebert Lloyd Miller
D. Nelson	Princeton, MN	Bethany	Clifford Olson Glen Hansen
R. Newgard	Mankato, MN	Mt. Olive	Oren Quist Rudolph Honsey
G. Obenberger	Lawler, IA	Jerico	James Costello David Anderson
		Saude	Kenneth Natvig Odell Natvig
J. Olsen	Cottage Grove, WI	W. Koshkonong	Philip Nordlie Allen Wollenzien
G. Orvick	Madison, WI	Holy Cross	Howard Hougan Alton Erlandson
J. Petersen	E. Grand Forks, MN	River Heights	Ralph Sorenson Robert Bernard
P. Petersen	Oregon, WI	Faith	Sherman Orvick
T. Petersen	Bloomer, WI	Good Shepherd	John Melby Darrell Hoepner
S. Quist	Naples, FL	Our Savior	Edward Williams
T. Rank	Oklee, MN		
D. Schlicht	Forest City, IA	Forest	
	Thompson, IA	Zion	Norman Skogen
G. Schmeling	Cottonwood, MN	English	
	Tracy, MN	Zion	Bryan Hayes Dennis Neisses

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
J. Schmidt	Santa Rosa, CA	Our Savior	
K. Schmidt	West Bend, WI	Trinity	Ellsworth Butt
P. Schneider	Midland, MI	Holy Scripture	Otto Henning
			Harvey
			Abrahamson
T. Skaaland	Elderon, WI	Our Savior's	
J. Smith	Clintonville, WI	St. Paul	
	Shawano, WI	St. Martin	
R. Smith	Crookston, MN	Grace	Everett Schumacher
	Fertile, MN	First	Truman Opheim
S. Sparley	Colorado Springs, CO	St. Andrew	Walter Sack
E. Stubenvoll	Marinette, WI	Trinity	
F. Stubenvoll	Calmar, IA	Trinity	
	New Hampton, IA	Redeemer	Wilmer Broer
F. Theiste	Eau Claire, WI	Concordia	Nanian Thompson
			Gary Kochan
D. Thompson	Albert Lea, MN	Our Savior's	Ralph Olson
			Robert Langemo
P. Vangen	Madison, WI	Our Saviour's	Robert Edwards
H. Vetter	Iola, WI	Redeemer	John Mikels
			Lenwick Hoyord
L. Vinton	Hillman, MI	Faith	Marlin Goebel
A. Wagner	Ventura, CA	Wayfarers' Chapel	
R. Waldschmidt	Fillmore		
J. Wilde	Sebastian, FL	Trinity	Carl Albers
			Jack Dougherty
C. Wosje	Chicago, IL	Emmaus	George Lawson
			John Dean
<b>Vacancies</b>			
	Okauchee, WI	Holy Trinity	Dale Dalke
			Patrick Tiffany
	Princeton, MN	Our Savior's	Erik Soule
			Robert Soule

## CONVENTION COMMITTEES

1. **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND REPORT**  
**Pastors**—W. Halvorson, H. Handberg, G. Guldberg  
**Delegates**—Wilbur Maves (Newport), Karl Holt (First, Suttons Bay), A. T. Bliss (Christ the Cornerstone)
2. **NOMINATIONS (Elected at the 1985 Convention)**  
**Pastors**—R. Newgard, E. Ekhoﬀ, M. Krentz, P. Petersen  
**Delegates**—Sig Lee, Loyd Miller, Robert Soule, Norman Werner
3. **CREDENTIALS**  
**Pastors**—E. Teigen, J. Dukleth, P. Haugen  
**Delegates**—E. Schumacher (Grace, Crookston), Gary Carlson (King of Grace), Nels Faugstad (Scarville)
4. **PROGRAM**  
**Pastors**—J. Moldstad, Jr., R. Fehr
5. **PUBLIC PRESS AND CONVENTION SENTINEL**  
**Pastors**—E. Teigen, D. Nelson, D. Moldstad
6. **DOCTRINE**  
**Pastors**—R. Newgard, M. Doepel, W. Gullixson, D. Haeuser, P. Petersen, G. Reichwald, J. Smith, J. Krueger, E. Buhr, F. Fiedler  
**Delegates**—Lenwick Hoyord (Redeemer, Iola), Alton Erlandson (Holy Cross, Madison), Robert Edwards (Our Saviour's, Madison), David Anderson (Jerico), Robert Fenger (English, Cottonwood), Art Anderson (Bethany, Luverne), Patrick Tiffany (Holy Trinity), Harold Rodning (Norseland), Darrel Hoepner (Good Shepherd, Bloomer), William Overn (Heritage, Apple Valley), Ed Williams (Our Savior, Naples)
7. **MISSIONS**  
**Pastors**—H. Larson, C. Ferkenstad, M. Luttman, D. Marzolf, J. Moldstad, Sr., W. Petersen, J. Shep, R. Fehr, B. Homan, E. Stubenvoll, J. Petersen, T. Bartels  
**Delegates**—Walter Sack (St. Andrew), Reuben Holt (Somber), Sherman Orvick (Faith, Oregon), Nanian Thompson (Concordia, Eau Claire), Harvey Julson (Pinehurst), Harvey Abrahamson (Holy Scripture), Everett Schumacher (Grace, Crookston), Truman Opheim (First Evanger), John Arends (Bethany, Luverne), Otto Houg (Rose Dell), Clinton Klemetson (Calvary, Ulen), Daniel Porter (Our Redeemer, Yelm), John Melby (Good Shepherd, Bloomer), David Jaeger (Resurrection, Marietta), Paul Chamberlin (Trinity, Brewster), George Lawson (Emmaus, Chicago)
8. **HIGHER EDUCATION**  
**Pastors**—S. Petersen, F. Theiste, S. Sparley, T. Aaberg, R. Gudgeon, W. Frick, P. Anderson, T. Fox, P. Haugen, T. Kuster  
**Delegates**—Lawrence Levorson (Lake Mills), Allen Wollenzien (W. Koshkonong), John Mikels (Redeemer, Iola), Howard Hougan (Holy Cross, Madison), Julius Hammermeister (Christ the King), Casjen Boelman (Faith, Parkersburg), Dale Dahlke (Holy Trinity), Ronald Stennes (Parkland), Hillard Grannemann (Resurrection, Marietta), David Meyer (St. Timothy, Lombard), David Roembke (Advisory), Martin Tjernagel (Bethany, Ames), Willard Leiran (East Paint Creek), Robert Soule (Our Saviour's, Princeton), Gene Kershaw (Our Saviour, Lake Havasu), Norman Werner (King of Grace)
9. **EDUCATION AND YOUTH**  
**Pastors**—E. Bryant, W. Halvorson, G. Haugen, S. Reagles, D. Schlicht, G. Faleide, T. Skaaland, R. Wiechmann  
**Delegates**—Oliver Hofstad (Clearwater, Oklee), A. T. Bliss (Christ the Cornerstone), Robert Bernard (River Heights), James Costello (Jerico), Bryan Hayes (Zion, Tracy), Douglas Voss (Our Savior's, Hawley), Glen Hansen (Bethany, Princeton), Wallace Tollefson (Norwegian Grove), Miles Becker (Immanuel, Audubon), William Erickson (Bethany, Port Orchard), Robert Langemo (Our Savior's, Albert Lea), Gerhard Ordal (Bethel, Sioux Falls), Marlin Goebel (Faith, Hillman)
10. **PUBLICATIONS**  
**Pastors**—R. Branstad, P. Vangen, E. Teigen, E. Ekhoﬀ, R. Dale, J. Dalke, G. Guldberg, S. Quist, F. Schmutge, O. Trebelhorn, T. Rank

- Delegates**—Carl Willert (Lake Mills), Phil Nordlie (W. Koshkonong), Nels Faugstad (Scarville), Gordon Dally (Christ the King), Gerhart Becker (Immanuel, Audubon), Bernard Siebert (Our Savior's, Grants Pass, OR), Vern Stargel (Parkland), Lester Busness (East Paint Creek), Erik Soule (Our Saviour's, Princeton), Leroy Meyer (St. Timothy, Lombard), John Dean (Emmaus, Chicago)
11. **FINANCES**  
**Pastors**—K. Schmidt, W. Granke, M. Tweit, C. Wosje, J. Olsen, G. Obenberger, R. Long, N. Madson, M. Harstad, C. Keeler, W. Kessel, F. Stubenvoll, D. Thompson, D. Moldstad  
**Delegates**—Edwin Halvorson (Nazareth), Obert Harmon (First Shell Rock), Paul Dahle (Lime Creek), Wilmer Broer (Redeemer, New Hampton), Gary Kochan (Concordia, Eau Claire), Al Deschane (St. Luke, Mt. Vernon), Ralph Sorenson (River Heights), Lavern Hiller (Richland), Ellsworth Butt (Trinity, West Bend), Clif Rather (Pinehurst), Kenneth Natvig (Saude), Otto Henning (Holy Scripture), Gordon Gilbertson (West Paint Creek), Dale Kindelberger (Our Saviour, Lake Havasu), Harold Muller (Trinity, Brewster), John Burkhardt (St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek), Ken Sowell (Bethany, Port Orchard), Mel Schwanz (Heritage), Lloyd Miller (Our Savior's, Grants Pass)
12. **CHRISTIAN SERVICE**  
**Pastors**—D. Nelson, H. Vetter, T. Gullixson, D. Larson, J. Krikava, R. Honsey, R. Smith, J. Moldstad, Jr., M. DeGarmaux  
**Delegates**—Harry Hanson (Nazareth), Dale Songstad (First Shell Rock), Odell Natvig (Saude), Jack Dougherty (Trinity, Sebastian), Henry Johnson (Parkersburg), Clifford Olson (Bethany, Princeton), Leslie Enter (Norwegian Grove), Adolph Jungemann (Bethel, Sioux Falls), Basil Denison (Christ, Sutherlin)
13. **MISCELLANEOUS**  
**Pastors**—P. Schneider, J. Wilde, M. Krentz, P. Madson, M. Marozick, G. Schmeling, J. Burkhardt, T. Petersen  
**Delegates**—Lars Petersen (Lime Creek), Edwin Gibson (Holton), Peter Erickson (Hartland), Holger Ausen (Rose Dell), Carl Albers (Trinity, Sebastian), Roger Mjones (Our Savior's, Hawley), Ralph Olson (Our Savior's, Albert Lea), Oren Quist (Mt. Olive, Mankato), Norbert Rhinerson (Pinewood)
14. **SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP**  
**Pastors**—J. Madson, R. Waldschmidt, G. Gullixson, W. McMurdie, R. Halvorson  
**Delegates**—Odis Holstad (Somber), George Kronbach (Christ the Cornerstone), Wilbur Maves (Newport), Karl Peterson (Hartland), Lyle Manthe (Calvary, Ulen), Gary Carlson (King of Grace), Floyd Tungsvik (Norseland), Herbert Fischer (Bethel, Yuba City), Dan Malsch (St. Luke, Mt. Vernon)
15. **MINUTES**  
**Pastors**—P. Madson, C. Wosje  
**Delegates**—Ronald Stennes (Parkland), George Kronbach (Christ the Cornerstone)
16. **PASTORAL CONFERENCE RECORDS**  
**PASTORS**—B. Teigen, A. Harstad
17. **RESOLUTIONS**  
**Pastors**—Joseph Petersen, A. V. Kuster
18. **TELLERS**  
**Pastor**—G. Obenberger  
**Candidates**—H. Abrahamson, D. Hoyord, R. Lawson, J. Madson
19. **CHAPLAIN**  
**Pastor**—R. Long
20. **HEAD USHER**  
**Pastor**—J. Dukleth
21. **PARLIAMENTARIAN**  
**Pastor**—M. Tweit
22. **ORGANIST**  
**Pastor**—H. Vetter

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

June 1986

President George Orvick



ESTEEMED MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD: GRACE BE UNTO YOU AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND FROM THE LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.

A word that has characterized the spirit of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod throughout its history is: OPTIMISM. If we look at the historical records we shall find this to be true. Going all the way back to the 50th convention of the old synod held in 1903 we find Dr. U. V. Koren speaking of the joy and exultation that is in his heart. How encouraging is his message to the Synod. Now Koren was a realist. In a thoroughly scriptural fashion he points out the weaknesses, the lack of faith, the troubles and sins which are so prevalent in the church. But he proceeds to show that the New Testament congregations also had their problems and yet the Apostle calls them "fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God . . ." (Ephesians 2:19). Therefore the members of the Synod should also rejoice in spite of whatever trials may confront them.

In the book, *Blessings in the Midst of the Land*, the Rev. Ahlert Strand writes about the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Synod held in 1928. He writes, "Looking back to the seventy-fifth anniversary of our Synod, one can scarcely escape being impressed by the spirit of optimism which characterized that occasion. "It seems," he writes, "that if one is to point to one specific thing, which more than any other, characterized our Synod in 1928, one would be inclined to say: there was a notable attitude of hopeful confidence in the Lord of hosts which impelled men and women, young and old, to roll up their sleeves in cheerful application to the tasks which lay before us . . . Yes, we were on the threshold of the great depression. But the optimism refused to be downed. Definitely, there was solid confidence in our Father in heaven who clothes the lilies of the field and watches over little sparrows."

At the 100th anniversary celebrated on May 31, 1953 the Rev. Erling Ylvisaker, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin was the guest speaker. He chose as his text the beautiful prophecy of Isaiah, "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:18-19) On the basis of these words he reminded the centennial gathering that while we honor the fathers who built so well, we do not worship or glorify them. He urged the Synod to go forward. "I shall do a new thing," says the Lord. In the wilderness of men's hearts God makes rivers to flow in the desert, rivers of salvation.

Therefore, in spite of the tribulations that our Synod has endured during the years of its history, from the original organization in 1853 right on through the reorganization in 1918, it did not lose its courage nor its confidence in the Word of God. It optimistically relied on the promise "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth; it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah

55:11) This was especially evident even among the handful that met at Lime Creek in 1918, as we have often heard.

But what about us in 1986 as we gather here for the 69th annual convention of our church body? Have we reason to continue with the same optimism, the same courage as our forefathers? We must answer this question with a resounding "yes!"

Now, of course, it depends upon in which direction one is looking as to what his attitude will be. If we look inwardly and examine ourselves in the sight of the Law we shall soon be led to despair. The great apostle Paul understood the nature of sinful human beings. When he looked inside of himself he exclaims, "I see another Law in my members, warring against the Law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the Law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" (Romans 7:23-24) The hymnwriter Selnecker described life in this world very well when he wrote:

"O God! how sin's dread works abound,  
Throughout the earth no rest is found;  
And wide has falsehood's spirit spread,  
And error boldly rears its head." (L.H. 427)

As we look back to New Testament days we often glamorize the conditions that were obtained at that time, that is, until we begin to study our Bibles more diligently. Then we learn that the situations in the congregations of the early church were indeed far from ideal. Paul had to write to the Corinthians about factionalism, immorality, lawsuits, meat offered to idols, abuses of the Lord's Supper, false apostles, problems about marriage, disorderly conduct of assemblies, and heresies about the resurrection. The Galatians were being misled by certain Jewish teachers who insisted that the Gentiles could not be Christians without keeping the Law of Moses. And so, on and on, Paul had to deal with such matters and try to teach them the way of God more perfectly. Thus we today must acknowledge our sins and pray with the hymnwriter:

"Dear Saviour, help, Thy Church uphold;  
For we are sluggish, thoughtless, cold;  
Indue Thy word with power and grace,  
And spread its truth in every place." (L.H. 427)

Now while it is necessary that we, as people who know well the holy Law of God, take a good hard look at ourselves and at the conditions in the church today it is also imperative that we turn to the Lord and to His Holy Gospel to find comfort and inspiration for our lives and work. The Law drives us to despair. The Gospel forgives, encourages, comforts and strengthens.

The Gospel tells us how precious the church is to the Lord. In the book of the prophet Isaiah the Lord is speaking of His Church, "Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God." (Isaiah 62:3) Zechariah writes, "And the Lord their God shall save them in that day as the flock of his people; for they shall be as the stones of a crown, lifted up as an ensign upon his land." (Zechariah 9:16) His tender care is described in these words of the prophet Isaiah, "He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young." (Isaiah 40:11)

In the New Testament Paul tells the Ephesians "ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone." (Ephesians 2:19-20) And the Apostle Peter writes, "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9)

But how can this be, that poor, sinful, lost and condemned creatures can be elevated to the lofty estate of saints of God, a royal priesthood, an holy nation? How can those who deserved hell become heirs of heaven? The answer must be found nowhere else than on the cross of Calvary. It was the shedding of the blood of the very Son of God that paid the penalty for our sins. Jesus Christ, true man

and true God, went to the accursed tree and bled and died for us. And now Scripture tells us that we have been "justified by His blood," Romans 5:9, and "redeemed by His blood," I Peter 1:18, and "cleansed by his blood," I John 1:7. The saints of God in heaven are those who have "washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the lamb." (Revelations 7:14) Yes, we believe, teach and confess the "blood atonement" because, as God's Word proclaims, "without the shedding of blood there is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22) The words of the hymnwriter sum it up for us:

"Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness  
My beauty are, my glorious dress;  
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed,  
With joy shall I lift up my head." (L.H. 415)

Here, dear friends, is where we find cause for optimism. Having been cleansed from sin, reconciled to God, and made heirs of eternal life through the perfect life and innocent suffering and death of our Saviour, how can we not rejoice and look to the future with confidence. The same Saviour who redeemed us ascended up on high to rule over all things for the benefit of His Church. Through the sacred means of Grace, the Word of God, Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the Holy Spirit distributes and imparts to us the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation which Christ won for us on the cross. What a high privilege it is to be along in making known to others the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

With such God-pleasing optimism based squarely upon the Words and promises of God our Synod should look to the future. We cannot live in the past or dwell too long, as it were, under the famous oak trees. There is a world out there that is perishing at a frightening pace. Souls are going to eternal perdition because they do not know Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Redeemer. The world's population climbed to 4.9 billion in 1985, adding 85 million people, the equivalent of the population of Mexico. By the end of this century another billion will be added. Our Lord has given us the great commission saying, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded." (Matthew 28:19) With the resources God has given us; with all the manpower, talent, and energy that we have we need to reach out to save the lost. How can we possibly do anything else when the eternal welfare of souls is at stake. We need to do this by preaching and teaching; by making disciples and by instructing them, as the Lord has told us.

We have a golden opportunity before us as we begin our "Partner's in the Gospel" program. Just think of what could be done to bring people to saving faith in Christ! If every family in our Synod would give a mere 1% of their income each year for this three year endeavor it would result in over a million dollars being available each year. From the earnings of this fund the salaries of many home missionaries could be paid. From the fund itself new churches could be built. So much could be done to bring souls into the Kingdom of our Lord and to eternal life in heaven if we will only seize this opportunity.

We shall begin at this convention as was mandated last year. Now is the time for each one to give serious thought to what his part will be. Has not the Lord richly blessed us with so many material things? Does not all that we have belong to Him? Are we not merely the managers of what He has given us? Let us then so manage the Master's money that we may bring in a great harvest of souls. On Wednesday of this week we shall prayerfully come to the front of the auditorium and lay our gifts or commitments on the offering table. The flesh will look for excuses not to take part. But the new man within us will tell us, "This is the Lord's work and not our own. It is His will that we win souls. I want to be a part of it."

When our people look back at the convention of 1986 let them say "Once again optimism prevailed. The Synod took seriously the Lord's great commission. It embarked upon an earnest effort to reach out to the lost."

In a similar spirit let us uphold, with our prayers and with our support, every phase of our Synod's work. Having recently visited our foreign mission in Peru I think often of the fact that six million people are living in the city of Lima and very few of them know the Saviour. But the Word of God is having its effect. The

preaching of the Gospel is bringing one soul after another to faith in the Saviour. Our four missionaries are dedicating their lives to the work of building God's church in that dark land. What else can we do but uphold them and support them?

As we gather on the beautiful campus of Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary are we not visibly reminded of how God has blessed that decision of the Synod back in 1927 to establish our college? Soon it will be 60 years that our college has been training young people in the "one thing needful." Just think of how many have gone out to labor, witness and serve in the church and society after having graduated from our school. What our society needs is not mere robots who know how to run sophisticated electronic equipment. It needs people who have strong Christian values who can influence the world around them by really being the salt and the light that the Saviour wants them to be. A strong Christian training in the home, in our Sunday Schools and Day Schools, in our churches and Bible classes, and at our Bethany College is the only way such values can be inculcated. We must not only win souls for Christ but edify, build up, strengthen and equip the saints for a life of service. The writer of the Book of Proverbs has put it in these words, "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life." (Proverbs 4:13) How precious therefore is every agency of Christian instruction. We should come before the throne of grace with urgent prayers asking the Lord to continue to bless all of our schools.

This fall will mark the 40th anniversary of the founding of our seminary. The training of pastors is surely one of the most important tasks a church body can have. How shall the Gospel be preached if we have no pastors? How shall souls be fed with the precious means of grace if shepherds are not trained and sent out. How thankful we are that we have four candidates to place this year. We could use four more right now! We will need a constant supply of pastors in the years to come. With our new mission program and with new congregations looking to our Synod for help the need will be great. But are we urging qualified young men to enter our seminary? Are parents, teachers, and pastors on the lookout for those who would make good pastors? This is a need that deserves our serious attention. Along with our new mission outreach program there should be a corresponding effort to find qualified men to be trained for the ministry. "Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)

As we look to the future we as a Synod, as individual members and pastors, and in our congregations, need to ask ourselves: Are we serving our members to the best of our ability? Are we listening to their needs, the anguish that is in the hearts of some young people, the pain being suffered by those effected by declining sectors of the economy, the additional stress placed upon the homes where both parents work? Only as we listen can we properly apply the Law and the Gospel which can provide the spiritual help that is needed.

As a Synod we also have opportunity to witness in the theological world. Small though we may be, yet the truths of God's Word can shine just as brightly as in a large body. There are pastors and congregations that are wondering what to do and where to go as they face the theological pluralism that is prevalent in so much of Lutheranism today. Surely we must continue to stand fast upon the pure Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions so that we may be a "city on a hill" in this dark world.

There are, therefore, great challenges before us on every hand. Let us go forth to meet them with the same reliance upon the God of all grace and with the same optimistic spirit that was in the hearts of our forefathers.

In Jesus Name. Amen.

George M. Orvick, president



# REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

## ORDINATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS

Candidate of Theology Donald Moldstad was ordained and installed as associate pastor at King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota on June 23, 1985. The Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., father of the ordinand, delivered the sermon. The Rev. E. Ekhoft served as liturgist and the Rev. N. Madson performed the rite of ordination and installation.

The Rev. Richard Smith was installed as pastor of the Grace Lutheran Church in Crookston and of First Evanger Lutheran Church in Fertile, Minnesota on June 23, 1985. The rite of installation was performed by the pastor's father, the Rev. Melvin Smith. The sermon was delivered by the Rev. Paul Madson.

Candidate of Theology Timothy J. Bartels was ordained and installed as pastor of Pinehurst Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin on July 7, 1985. The Rev. Alf Merseth, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, preached the sermon. The Rev. Harry Bartels, father of the ordinand, performed the rite of ordination and installation. The Rev. Kenneth Schmidt served as liturgist.

Candidate of Theology Frank Fiedler was ordained and installed as pastor of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Dallas, Oregon on July 7, 1985. Seminary president Wilhelm Petersen preached the sermon and performed the rite of ordination and installation.

Candidate of Theology Mark DeGarmeaux was ordained and installed as pastor of East Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waterville, Iowa and West Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waukon, Iowa on July 14, 1985. Prof. Mark Harstad preached the sermon and the Rev. M. E. Tweit performed the rite of ordination and installation.

Candidate of Theology Thomas L. Rank was ordained and installed as pastor of the Oklee-Trail Parish, Minnesota on July 14, 1985. Prof. Erling Teigen preached the sermon and the Rev. Charles Keeler performed the rite of ordination and installation. The Rev. Wayne Halvorson served as liturgist.

The Rev. Steven R. Sparley was installed as pastor of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado on July 21, 1985. The Rev. Milton Tweit preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Joseph N. Petersen served as liturgist.

Candidate of Theology John Petersen was ordained and installed as pastor of River Heights Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, Minnesota on August 19, 1985. Seminary president W. W. Petersen, preached the sermon. The Rev. Paul Petersen, father of the ordinand, performed the rite of ordination and installation. The Rev. Charles Keeler served as liturgist.

On August 25, 1985 Mrs. Mary Kleinsteinber was installed as pre-school teacher at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin.

On September 8, 1985 Mrs. Judith Lemke was installed as kindergarten teacher at Lakewood Lutheran School, Tacoma, Washington.

Candidate of Theology Dennis Marzolf, professor at Bethany Lutheran College, was ordained at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota on October 6, 1985. Prof. Erling Teigen was the speaker and the Rev. Richard Newgard performed the rite of ordination.

The Rev. Richard Weichmann was installed as Director of Admissions for Bethany Lutheran College on November 12, 1985. The Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., chairman of the Board of Regents, performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Homer Mosley was installed as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grants Pass, Oregon on November 18, 1985. Your synodical president preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Gregory Haugen served as liturgist.

The Rev. Nile B. Merseth was installed as pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, Yuba City, California on January 12, 1986. The Rev. G. A. R. Gullixson preached the sermon and your synodical president performed the rite of installation. The Rev. W. Werling served as liturgist.

The Rev. Edward Bryant was installed as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Port Orchard, Washington on February 2, 1986. The Rev. Hugo Handberg preached the sermon and the Rev. Paul Anderson performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Michael Krentz served as liturgist.

The Rev. Thomas Petersen was installed as pastor of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bloomer, Wisconsin on February 2, 1986. Seminary President Wilhelm W. Petersen preached the sermon. The Rev. Kenneth Schmidt performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. John K. Schmidt was installed as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Santa Rosa, California on February 9, 1986. The Rev. Adolph Harstad preached the sermon and the Rev. William Kessel served as liturgist and performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Kenneth Mellon was installed as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lakeland, Florida on March 9, 1986. Your synodical president preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation. Seminary President Wilhelm Petersen was the liturgist.

The Rev. John Krueger was installed as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Piedmont, Missouri on April 6, 1986. Alternate Visitor Wilfrid Frick preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Henry Gieschen was the liturgist.

The Rev. Carl R. Wosje was installed as pastor of Emmaus Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois on April 27, 1986. Your synodical president preached the sermon and the Rev. Kenneth Schmidt performed the rite of installation.

#### COMMISSIONING

The Rev. Daniel F. McMiller was commissioned as missionary to Peru on October 6, 1985. The Rev. Robert J. McMiller, father of the missionary, preached the sermon and your synodical president served as commissioner. The Rev. Theodore Aaberg was the liturgist.

#### MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

The following pastors and teachers have applied for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The proper letters of request are on file.

The Rev. Donald Moldstad, associate pastor of King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota

The Rev. Thomas L. Rank, pastor of the Oklee-Trail Parish, Minnesota

The Rev. John Petersen, pastor of River Heights Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, Minnesota

The Rev. Mark DeGarmeaux, pastor of East Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waterville, Iowa and West Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waukon Iowa

The Rev. Timothy J. Bartels, pastor of Pinehurst Ev. Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin

The Rev. Frank Fiedler, pastor of Bethany Ev. Lutheran Church, The Dalles, Oregon

The Rev. Henry D. Gieschen, pastor of Scriptural Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri

The Rev. Richard Wiechmann, Director of Admissions, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota

Mr. David Roembke, principal of the Koshkonong Lutheran School

The following congregations have applied for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The proper documents have been submitted.

Emmaus Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois

Our Savior Ev. Lutheran Church, Grants Pass, Oregon

#### FELLOWSHIP REQUESTS

The following congregations have applied for fellowship status with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The proper letters of request are on file.

Faith Ev. Lutheran Parish, Kallangu/Maryborough, Queensland, Australia

Scriptural Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri



**The Rev. Wosje and members of the Emmaus Church Council**



**Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church**

## **DEDICATION**

The renovated Bethany Lutheran College Chapel was dedicated on September 23, 1985. The Rev. Alf Merseth was the guest speaker. The dedicatory prayer was given by the Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., chairman of the Board of Regents. Pres. Marvin Meyer spoke on behalf of the college.

On Sunday, September 29, 1985 Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota dedicated its new sanctuary and education facility. The Rev. Hugo Handberg was the speaker for the afternoon service. The Rev. Richard Newgard, pastor of the congregation, read the rite of dedication.

Grace Ev. Lutheran congregation, Madison, Wisconsin dedicated its renovated church building on November 3, 1985. Your synodical president was the guest speaker and the rite of dedication was read by the pastor of the congregation, the Rev. Warren Granke.

On December 15, 1985 Calvary Lutheran Church, Ulen, Minnesota dedicated its new parsonage, which serves as the parsonage for the Ulen-Hawley parish.

Bethel Lutheran congregation, Yuba City, California dedicated its renovated worship facility on January 12, 1986. Your synodical president preached the sermon. Pastor elect Nile B. Merseth served as liturgist and the Rev. W. Werling performed the rite of dedication.

The consecration-dedication of the stained glass chancel at the Wayfarers' Chapel, Fillmore, California took place on Sunday, May 18, 1986. The Rev. Al Wagner delivered the message and conducted the dedicatory rite.

Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grants Pass, Oregon dedicated its house of worship to God's honor and glory on Pentecost Sunday, May 18, 1986. The Rev. Homer Mosley, pastor of the congregation officiated.

#### **GROUND BREAKING**

Holton Lutheran Church, Holton, Michigan held a ground breaking service on October 20, 1985 for its relocated church building. The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad officiated.

#### **ANNIVERSARIES**

The following have observed anniversaries of ordination or of service:

- The Rev. Adolph M. Harstad—60 years
- Prof. Bjarne W. Teigen—50 years
- The Rev. Carl Rusch—50 years
- The Rev. Paul G. Anderson—40 years
- The Rev. Gottfred F. Guldberg—40 years
- Prof. Norman Holte—40 years
- Prof. Rudolph E. Honsey—40 years
- Prof. Juul B. Madson—40 years
- The Rev. Robert Waldschmidt—40 years



**Lime Creek Evangelical Lutheran Church**

On September 22, 1985 Lime Creek Ev. Lutheran congregation, Lake Mills, Iowa observed the 125th anniversary of its organization. Prof. Rudolph Honsey was the speaker for the morning service and the Rev. Glenn Obenberger for the afternoon service. The Rev. Alf Merseth, pastor, served as liturgist.



**First Lutheran Church**



**Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**

On August 18, 1985 First Lutheran congregation of Sutton's Bay, Michigan observed the 100th anniversary of its church building. Your synodical president was the speaker. Former pastors were also in attendance.

Grace Ev. Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin celebrated the 25th anniversary of the organization of the congregation on November 3, 1985. The Rev. Wilhelm W. Petersen, former pastor, was the guest speaker.

Bethany Lutheran congregation, Port Orchard, Washington observed its 40th anniversary in May 1986. The congregation was organized in November 1945.



**Bethany Lutheran Church**

#### **RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

Prof. Steven L. Reagles resigned from the Board for Foreign Missions. The Rev. Wayne Halvorson was appointed to take his place.

The Rev. Darryl L. Bakke resigned as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Piedmont, Missouri.

The Rev. Nile Merseth resigned from the Self Study Committee. The Rev. David J. Nelson was appointed to take his place.

The Rev. Rodger Dale resigned from the Evangelism Board. This position should be filled at this convention.

The Rev. Daniel Faugstad resigned as pastor of Our Savior's Ev. Lutheran Church, Princeton, Minnesota effective May 26, 1986.

The Rev. Steven Petersen resigned from the Board for Education and Youth. The Rev. Donald Moldstad was appointed to take his place.

The Rev. Tosten Skaaland resigned as pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Amherst Junction, Wisconsin. He continues to serve Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Elderon, Wisconsin.

#### **DEATHS**

Mrs. Erling Ylvisaker, widow of the Rev. Erling Ylvisaker, passed away on September 22, 1985. Christian burial services were held at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin on September 25, 1985. Your synodical president officiated.

The Rev. Herman A. Preus passed away at the age of 98 years. The funeral service was held at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Albert Lea, Minnesota on December 4, 1985. Vice President Madson spoke on behalf of the Synod.

Mrs. Bernice Lillegard, widow of the Rev. George O. Lillegard, died on May 5, 1986. Christian burial services were held at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota on May 10, 1986. The Rev. Richard Newgard officiated.

#### **INTER-SYNODICAL MATTERS**

##### **THE WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**

Our sister Synod held its 48th Biennial Convention August 5-9 at Saginaw,

Michigan. I attended the convention and brought greetings from our Synod. The emphasis at the convention was on evangelism and outreach.

Representatives of our Doctrine Committee and I are invited to attend sessions of the WELS Commission on Inter-Church Relations. President Petersen and I attended such a meeting on January 24th. At this meeting the possibility of establishing a new Synodical Conference was discussed. The WELS CICR has developed a proposal for such a conference and it will be presented to their district conventions this summer and to their 1987 synod convention. The idea was also presented by the WELS at a meeting this spring with the Ev. Lutheran Free Church in East Germany and met with favor there also. The WELS proposal reads as follows:

#### **Proposal for a New Synodical Conference**

"A number of factors have led the Commission on Inter-Church Relations to conclude that the time has come for those who continue to uphold the confessional positions in doctrine and practice of the former Synodical Conference of North America to again establish such a federation. It would, however, be international in scope. The position taken by the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in the DDR, the isolation of the Lutheran Confessional Church (Scandinavia) and the needs of other churches that are concerned about upholding the sound confessional position of the former Synodical Conference are among these factors. The Board of World Missions of our Synod likewise has been advocating for some time the formation of such a conference which could include in its membership the more organized of the WELS mission churches. We present here some thoughts on how we conceive of such an organization, especially in regard to its purpose, confessional basis, membership and activity.

**Purpose:** The purpose of such a conference would be predominately confessional. It would aim to bring together churches or synods so that they might strengthen one another in their confession to Scripture and to the Lutheran Confessions and present to the world (religious and otherwise) a united confession of faith on a sound scriptural basis.

**Confessional Basis:** The confessional basis would in essence be the same as that of the former Synodical Conference. This basis would include a clear confession to the Bible as the inspired and inerrant Word of God, to all Scripture doctrine and to the Lutheran confessions as a true exposition of Scripture in the doctrines therein confessed. It would call for doctrinal discipline to be practiced in accordance with this doctrinal basis.

**Membership:** Those synods or churches, including WELS mission churches, would be eligible for membership who are in full agreement on the confessional basis of the conference and are not involved in fellowship with churches that in any way deviate from the confessional standard of the conference. This would eliminate the problem of triangular fellowship relations that has arisen since the demise of the former Synodical Conference. It should be noted that this would also require action on the part of our Synod, terminating the triangular fellowship relations in which we are still involved.

**Activity:** At periodic intervals representatives of the member synods would meet to consider matters of doctrine and practice. In the interest of its united doctrinal position the conference could set up the procedure for jointly producing doctrinal statements that address those issues that have arisen and troubled the church in recent years and that are not treated specifically or adequately for our time in the Book of Concord. Examples would be a statement on Scripture, on its proper interpretation (hermeneutics) and on fellowship.

We present this proposal to the districts for their reaction with the intention of presenting it to our synodical convention in August 1987. We will also present it to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the hope that it will join us in implementing this proposal.

We would hope that under God's gracious blessing such a conference could be a means of drawing closer together for mutual strength and encouragement confessional Lutheran churches which are already united in doctrine and practice."

I believe that our Synod should strongly support and encourage the establish-

ment of a new Synodical Conference along the lines suggested. It would clarify the various triangular fellowship situations that exist for us also. It would also give encouragement to the small confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.

#### **THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN FREE CHURCH (East Germany)**

The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church continues to remain steadfast in its suspension of relations with the Altlutherische Lutheran Church. The reasons for their suspension are stated as follows:

- 1) that it could no longer be answerable for the sharp disagreement which exists between the two church bodies with respect to the doctrine of Holy Scriptures;
- 2) that in spite of the pleas by the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church the Evangelical Lutheran (Old Lutheran) Church in East Germany now tolerates in its midst historical-critical principles of scriptural interpretation. As listed by the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church, examples of such historical-critical principles now tolerated within the Evangelical Lutheran (Old Lutheran) Church are the following: a) the contention that Christ was both fallible and infallible: fallible in historical, natural science and literary matters; infallible in matters pertaining to salvation; b) the contention that biblical statements regarding historical facts may in principle be subject to correction on the basis of historical proof, that statements of Jesus and his apostles, for example, concerning certain people and events in the Old Testament are true only in their spiritual context, but not as having actually occurred; c) the contention that there are statements of Jesus based on his contemporary human knowledge of the time, but that such contemporary-conditioned knowledge of the time can never claim binding authority in the church for all time.

(Compare 1985 WELS *Reports and Memorials*, pages 144 and 145)

Last year our Synod expressed its encouragement for this church body and also urged them "to be steadfast and persist in their stand against errors." Our resolutions were conveyed to President Wilde. We are not certain if our letters succeed in getting through to the DDR because we have had no reply.

A delegation from the WELS visited the church in April of 1986 and reported that the group stands strongly against such errors and that it is much interested in the proposal to form a new synodical conference. Let us continue to remember them in our prayers and again express our encouragement and support.

#### **THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH— SYNOD OF FRANCE AND BELGIUM**

Last year our convention addressed this church body in resolutions urging them to deal with the triangular fellowship relations that confront them and also us. Our resolutions were discussed by their Synodical Council and President Bohy has communicated with me by letter. We would surely urge the ELC—Synod of France and Belgium to join us in the formation of a new Synodical Conference. This would solve the triangular fellowship relations for them and us.

#### **THE LUTHERAN FORUM FOR CONFESSIONAL CONSULTATION**

The proposal which our Synod set forth in 1984 that there be an exchange of specially prepared theological essays between church bodies interested in preserving confessional Lutheranism now lies in the hands of the International Lutheran Conference. The chairman of the conference is Dr. Johannes Gedrat of Brazil. Perhaps the Continuation Committee of the ILC will consider it. The ILC holds its next meeting in Oberursel in 1987.

#### **THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFESSIONAL FORUM**

The 19th meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum will be held October 20-21 in Milwaukee with the WELS as hosts. Twelve representatives from our Synod meet with twelve from the WELS for the discussion of doctrinal



and practical matters. We will be interested in a progress report on the new hymnal which WELS intends to publish.

#### **THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD**

No meetings were held this year with representatives from the LC—MS. We are invited to send observers to their convention which meets July 18-25 in Indianapolis.

#### **THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONAL CHURCH (Sweden and Norway)**

The Lutheran Confessional Church (Sweden and Norway) is concerned about how to spread the Gospel in those countries where rationalism and liberalism have so long held sway. They face a difficult task in trying to set forth confessional Lutheranism against such heavy opposition. With God, however, nothing is impossible and we should remember them in our prayers and encourage them. They are our brethren in the faith and need our support. Their convention meets in Ørje, Norway, July 16-20. The theme will be: "Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people. . ."

#### **CIRCUIT VISITORS' CONFERENCE**

The Circuit Visitors' Conference was held October 24-25, 1985 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin. Visitors (one alternate) were present from all ten circuits. Reports were given by the visitors on events, activities, and conditions in their respective circuits. The WELS "Handbook for Circuit Pastors" which dealt with the various aspects of the office of visitor was read and discussed. I am pleased to report that four formal congregational visitations were conducted. Visitor Mark Marozick conducted a visitation at Trinity Lutheran, Brewster, Massachusetts on August 21, 1985. Visitor Charles Keeler conducted two such visitations, First American at Mayville, North Dakota on January 15-16, 1986 and at Calvary Lutheran, Ulen, Minnesota on February 16, 1986. Alternate Visitor, the Rev. R. M. Branstad, conducted a similar visitation at Immanuel Lutheran, Audubon, Minnesota on January 8-9, 1986. The visitors, pastors, and congregations expressed appreciation and satisfaction with the visitations. This is a practice which should be encouraged and can be very beneficial to all concerned. The visitors have carried out a large number of duties such as conducting call meetings, installations, ordinations, and helping where problems existed. Their work is much appreciated. The Visitors' Conference was funded by a generous grant of \$4,800 from Aid Association for Lutherans. We appreciate their generosity. Another conference is scheduled for this fall.

#### **CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE BIBLE STUDY SERIES**

By this time most of our congregations have finished the first volume of our "Christ the Cornerstone" Bible Study series. This volume was entitled the "Life of Christ." More people were engaged in Bible study in our Synod than ever before. We hope that all of our congregations have used or are now using the second volume, "The Living Church." It can be ordered from the Lutheran Synod Book Company. We are concerned that the interest in Bible study generated by the first volume not be allowed to diminish, but that the very helpful second volume be a natural follow-up to volume 1. The real strength of a church body lies in the faithful use of the Means of Grace including the regular study of God's Word.

#### **THE ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE**

We are pleased that we have four candidates of theology ready for service in the congregations of our Synod. They are: David Hoyord, Harvey Abrahamson, Robert Lawson and Jonathan Madson. At the time of this writing we have five vacancies in our parishes. These are in the process of calling but so far only two have requested candidates. Another vacancy may be created if a full-time president is elected. The Assignment Committee has therefore decided to wait until after the convention to make final assignments. The placements will be made on June 29th and the candidates and congregations will be notified. Members of the

Assignment Committee this year are: the Synod president; the Seminary president, the Rev. W. Petersen; Circuit Visitor M. E. Tweit; and Mission Board member the Rev. E. Ekhoft.

## FOREIGN MISSION CONFERENCE IN LIMA

On April 7th the Rev. and Mrs. James Olsen, the Rev. Norman Madson and I left for Lima, Peru. There we were met by our four missionaries and their wives. It was a happy reunion for all of us. We had a week long conference in the MSELP building. The building was bought by our Synod and is located in downtown Lima. It is thus very central to all of our missionaries and the congregations and serves as a headquarters building. The building is very attractive and well maintained. It is freshly painted and clean. The missionaries have their offices, work room, and seminary classroom in the building and there is a large area for worship. I really don't see how we got along without this fine facility which was purchased a couple of years ago.

The conference was called to consider very important matters. We had thorough presentations on the training of national pastors, the security precautions that must be observed, the pre-field training which Missionary Dan McMiller experienced at the University of Wisconsin, progress reports on the various mission locations, a study of the early Christian church under persecution, and many practical matters effecting the lives of our missionaries and their work.

One of my chief objectives was to find out how our national seminary students are doing. We therefore arranged for a colloquy with Mr. Fidel Conversio. Fidel has attended our seminary longer than the other students and is farther along in his training. I can report that I was very pleased with the accounting that he gave of his knowledge and understanding of the Holy Scriptures. In the meeting we went through the doctrines of our faith very thoroughly. His answers were complete and accurate. He reflected a real knowledge of our Lutheran faith. I am convinced that our seminary is doing an excellent job of training the students for the ministry. There are ten enrolled right now. Several of these student pastors are preaching and teaching regularly in congregations. In fact, Fidel intends to return to Paillon and again serve as pastor there. His courage and boldness to proclaim the Gospel is wonderful, and yet he is such a humble servant.

We also met briefly with Roberto Berrospid and found him to be a fine man and bright student.

To learn more about security measures that must be taken in the country we attended a briefing at a major oil company and again at the American Embassy. The security officers gave us a detailed explanation of what precautions to take while living in Peru. Our conference concluded that living in Lima was something like living in any other large city where you would exercise precautions for your own safety. We did not feel that our missionaries are in any real danger right now, but that they could carry on their work in relative safety. There is some terrorist activity but it is mostly in the mountains where our men do not go. Having seen once again the tremendous challenge of bringing the Gospel to those teeming multitudes I must say that I am pleased that we have a fourth man on the field. The Helping Hands Program has been a real success so far and I am confident people will continue to respond to the needs of the Lord's work for all phases of our Synod's operation. We should be especially grateful for the \$300,000 gift from Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Schwann which has been placed as an endowment fund in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation.

I visited the field once before in 1972. Now 14 years later it was a joy to be there again. It really does a person good to see and talk to the people who have been won for Christ through our work. It makes you realize how vital foreign mission work is in rescuing people from destruction and bringing them into the Kingdom of God. The final service of our visit was held on Sunday, April 13th. Pastor James Olsen preached and I spoke on behalf of our Synod. These people are our brethren and sisters in the faith and we are one with them in Christ.

A generous grant of \$3,490 from AAL paid for all the expenses of the conference (meals, hotel, local travel, printing, etc.) except the air fares and so we are very grateful for this assistance.

## SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HOME MISSION EXPANSION

One of the chief endeavors of our Synod in the year to come will be the undertaking of the special offering for home mission expansion. In this day of secularism, materialism, and the tolerance of error our Synod needs to reach out with the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ to souls that are lost or drifting away from the Saviour. To be true to the Great Commission of the Lord we must have a burning desire to spread the message of salvation through faith in Christ. Our committee for the special offering has therefore worked zealously and diligently in the past year to give special instruction in stewardship and to organize the "Partners in the Gospel" program. They have produced informative and attractive material for use in every congregation. They have drawn up a careful schedule of events which will guide pastors and local leaders. A special effort was made to inform every pastor of the program by the carrying out of a series of "seminars" for all the pastors of the Synod. Pastor Paul Schneider gave a presentation on stewardship and Pastor William Kessel explained the procedure for the carrying out of the special offering in every congregation.

It is high time that we devoted more effort to home mission expansion. In our regular budget appropriation for home missions we have actually declined. In 1980 our budget called for \$97,000. In 1986 it is allocated only \$95,000. In 1977-80 we had a successful "Golden Anniversary Thankoffering" in which we raised money for the college, seminary and foreign missions. Home missions was not included. Surely this time we must open our hearts and wallets for the spreading of the Gospel at home.

The committee was instructed to begin the offering at this convention. We will therefore be called upon to prayerfully consider what the Lord has given us, and then lay our commitment on the offering table during the convention. The commitment is for three years. As a personal goal let us aim to give at least 1% of our income each year for this cause. As leaders of our Synod we need to set a good example for our fellow members. As the Apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians of how generous the Macedonians had been in their offering for the poor in Jerusalem, so let us trust in the Lord for his blessing and in turn commit ourselves to a generous three year offering.

During the summer the real work in the congregations will begin. Pastors and local committee members are urged to follow the plan offered by the Special Offering Committee. We need to get started early with the publicity, the plans for the every member visit, the stewardship instruction, the showing of the film-strip, and finally the commitment day itself which should be held on the 12th of October or a Sunday nearby. Let us not be fearful! When the thankoffering was conducted in 1977 it was met with a good response by our members. Our Synod was tremendously blessed. A new seminary building was constructed, our college was strengthened and our foreign mission program received a real boost. Now let us unite for the cause of home missions. Let us prove that we really are "Partners in the Gospel" determined to do the Lord's work. We want to express a word of special "thanks" to the committee members who have worked so hard to carry out this special endeavor.

## SYNOD FINANCES

It is wonderful to be able to report that at the end of April the members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod had contributed \$28,743.66 more than for the same period in the previous year. This is surely a different picture than we had last year at this time. This year we were short \$1,083.51 on our budget. Last year our budget income shortage was \$36,085.49. Of course, last year we were working with a budget of \$743,400 and this year a budget of \$724,625. But still the increased contributions are very encouraging. Let us keep up during the summer and thus perhaps avoid the necessity of a special offering in the fall.

We will do well to take note of the figures quoted below which show what we have done in setting budgets, revising them, and what we have actually taken in. Perhaps such a record will help to guide us as we adopt future budgets.

	Budget Analysis 1980-1987							
	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Approved Figure	636,200	726,000	740,070	800,000	810,000	770,500	779,525	745,800
Revised Figure		661,000		764,000	730,180	743,400	724,625	recom-
Actual Income	601,209	659,126	710,689	692,012	718,222	719,357		mended

In adopting our 1987 budget I would remind the floor committee on finances to pay special attention to the budgeting procedure which was adopted at last year's convention. It is found on pages 148-151 of the 1985 Synod Report.

## PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES

In the past year we have had the privilege of speaking at quite a few of our Synod's congregations and joining them on festival occasions. These congregations included: First, Suttons Bay, MI; Our Redeemer, New Hampton, IA; Trinity, Calmar, IA; St. Andrews, Colorado Springs, CO; Our Savior, Grants Pass, OR; Holy Trinity, Okauchee, WI; Grace, Madison, WI; Bethany, The Dalles, OR; Bethel, Yuba City, CA; Our Savior, Lakeland, FL; Centro Cristiano, Lima; Emmaus, Chicago, IL; and Ascension, Eau Claire, WI. I also attended the General Pastoral Conference, the Lake Michigan Pastoral Conference, The California-Arizona Pastoral Conference, the Madison area pastoral conferences, the Wisconsin Women's Missionary Society meeting, a meeting with Aid Association for Lutherans, and as many board and committee meetings of the Synod as possible. I was also the guest speaker at the Northern Iowa-Southern Minnesota Circuit meeting at New Hampton, Iowa and the Lutheran Youth Association Convention at Montello, Wisconsin. I also spoke at Concordia Lutheran Church in Hood River, Oregon.

## CONCLUSION

Another chapter in the history of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod was brought to a close with the passing of three faithful servants. The Rev. Herman A. Preus passed away at the age of 98 years after more than 70 years in the ministry. Mrs. Erling Ylvisaker, wife of the sainted Rev. Erling Ylvisaker, was called to rest on September 22, 1985. And Mrs. G. O. Lillegard, wife of the sainted pastor and professor, G. O. Lillegard joined the heavenly throng on May 5, 1986. May the example of their faithful service be an inspiration to all of us.

We would like to extend our best wishes to Mrs. S. C. Ylvisaker, wife of the sainted S. C. Ylvisaker, who will celebrate her 90th birthday on June 25.

May the Lord preserve our Synod in this day of doctrinal confusion and unrest. May He make us faithful witnesses to the Gospel and to true Lutheranism. Without the pure Word and sacraments we have nothing. But at the same time let us give heed to His great commission to "Go and preach the Gospel to every creature."

All blessing, honor, thanks and praise,  
To Father, Son and Spirit,  
The God who saved us by His grace,  
All glory to His merit:  
O Father in the heavens above,  
The work begun performs Thy love,  
Thy worthy name be hallowed.

(Lutheran Hymnal 205)

Soli Deo Gloria!  
George M. Orvick, president

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND REPORT ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

### **Resolution No. 1: President's Message and Report**

WHEREAS, *The President's Message and Report to the Synod again contains items of interest and concern for people of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,*

WHEREAS, *The continued blessing of the Lord upon the Synod's work is evident from the president's activities and his involvement of circuit visitors in those activities in which he cannot participate, and,*

WHEREAS, *The president has urged that we continue to be optimistic as we begin our tasks as "Partners in the Gospel," and,*

WHEREAS, *The building of the Church of Christ is indeed our primary purpose as Christians,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That we praise the Lord for His blessings, thank Him for His many mercies, and rededicate ourselves to our task of Gospel proclamation.*

### **Resolution No. 2: President's Message and Report**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *That the President's Message and Report be published in the 1986 Synod Report.*

### **Resolution No. 3: Full-Time President Acceptance**

WHEREAS, *The Evangelical Lutheran Synod has issued a call to the Rev. G. Orvick as the first full-time president, and,*

WHEREAS, *President Orvick has accepted the call, therefore,*

A. BE IT RESOLVED, *That we praise and thank God the Holy Spirit for moving President Orvick to accept the call and pray that the Holy Spirit give him strength and wisdom to serve faithfully, and,*

B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *That we recognize gratefully the goals and objectives that he shared with the convention in his acceptance speech, that of being a servant of Christ and the Synod.*

## **SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

### **Resolution No. 1: Membership Applications of Pastors**

WHEREAS, *The following pastors have been recommended by the faculty and approved by the Board of Regents of the Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, and,*

WHEREAS, *It has been established that in each application for synodical membership the requirements of the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have been met,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the following pastors be received into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:*

1. *The Rev. Donald Moldstad, associate pastor of King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota*

2. *The Rev. Thomas L. Rank, pastor of Oklee-Trail parish, Minnesota*

3. *The Rev. John Petersen, pastor of River Heights Lutheran Church, East Grand Forks, Minnesota*

4. *The Rev. Markos DeGarmeaux, pastor of East Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waterville, Iowa, and West Paint Creek Lutheran Church, Waukon, Iowa*

5. *The Rev. Timothy J. Bartels, pastor of Pinehurst Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin*

6. *The Rev. Frank Fiedler, pastor of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Dalles, Oregon*

**Resolution No. 2: Membership Application of Pastor**

**WHEREAS,** *The Colloquy Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has approved the Rev. Henry D. Gieschen, pastor of Scriptural Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *It has been established that in his application for synodical membership the requirements of the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have been met, therefore,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Rev. Henry D. Gieschen be received into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.*

**Resolution No. 3: Membership Application of Pastor**

**WHEREAS,** *It has been established that in the application for synodical membership of the Rev. Richard Wiechmann, Director of Admissions, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota, the requirements of the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have been met,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Rev. Richard Wiechmann be received into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod by transfer from our sister synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.*

**Resolution No. 4: Membership Application of Teacher**

**WHEREAS,** *It has been established that the application for synodical membership on the part of David Roembke meets the requirements of the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That Mr. David Roembke, principal of the Christian Day School of Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, be received as a permanent member of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.*

**Resolution No. 5: Membership Application of Congregations**

**WHEREAS,** *It has been established that in each application*

*for synodical membership the requirements of the constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have been met,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the following congregations be received into membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:*

*1. Emmaus Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois*

*2. Our Savior Lutheran Church, Grants Pass, Oregon*

**Resolution No. 6: Fellowship Request**

**WHEREAS,** *Scriptural Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, has made application for recognition of fellowship by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod while retaining its independence status, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *It has by congregational resolution declared itself to be in doctrinal agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and*

**WHEREAS,** *Its pastor, the Rev. Mr. Henry Gieschen, has been received into permanent membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, therefore,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod recognize the fellowship that exists with Scriptural Lutheran Church and extend to it the hand of fellowship.*

**Resolution No. 7: Fellowship Request**

**WHEREAS,** *Faith Evangelical Lutheran Parish of Grace Lutheran Church—Australia, desires to establish direct fellowship ties with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and*

**WHEREAS,** *It already is indirectly in fellowship through its ties with Grace Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, Oregon, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *It has declared its agreement with the constitution and doctrinal position of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and has submitted the constitution of the GLCA in additional testimony thereof, therefore,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod recognize the fellowship that exists with Faith Lutheran parish and extend to it the hand of fellowship.*

# ESSAY FOR THE 69TH CONVENTION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD



## PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

The Rev. Erwin John Ekhoﬀ

### I. INTRODUCTION

### II. THE "PARTNERSHIP LETTER"

- A. A general overview of the letter
- B. The reason for writing
  - 1. thanks, how he is (1:3-26)
  - 2. plans of Timothy and Epaphroditus (2:19-30)
  - 3. warnings (3:1-21)
  - 4. thanks for the gift (4:10-20)

### III. THE "PARTNERSHIP TEXT"

- A. Thank
- B. Prayers
- C. Fellowship/partnership
- D. Gospel

### IV. THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE PHILIPPIANS

- A. Heard and believed
- B. Suffered
- C. Lived and witnessed
- D. Supported its proclamation
- E. This was a consistent partnership, in spite of the persecution and poverty
- F. Some special partners
  - 1. Lydia (Acts 16:11-15)
  - 2. the jailor (Acts 16:27-34)



## V. THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

- A. The foundation of our partnership
- B. The expression of our partnership
  - 1. in worship
  - 2. in teaching
  - 3. in witness
  - 4. in publications
  - 5. in charities
  - 6. in prayer
  - 7. in the special offering

## VI. CONCLUSION

### INTRODUCTION

1. "Partners in the Gospel"—that is the theme of our 69th Evangelical Lutheran Synod Convention. The members of our Synod, scattered throughout the United States and South America, have been called into a partnership by God. We express that we are "partakers of His grace" as we spread the good news of Jesus Christ to others. In our convention essay we will speak to the issue of our partnership in the Gospel. We want to explore its meaning and its demonstration. We also want to examine our past partnership. Finally we will draw attention specifically to the home mission offering which our Synod mandated.

### PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

2. In order for us to better understand our partnership in the Gospel, let us first examine the entire letter to the Philippians from which our theme is taken. I have called the letter to the Philippians the "partnership letter."

### THE PARTNERSHIP LETTER

3. The letter to the Philippians is an "outpouring of happy love and confidence" and from beginning to end is a personal "gush of love."<sup>1</sup> Prisoner Paul had a personal bond and attachment to his first church in Europe. Seventeen times this short epistle mentions the words "joy" and "rejoice" which reflect this bond and great love that Paul had for these people, his partners in the Gospel. This is a bond where partners—"shepherd and sheep," men and women, boys and girls—work for the common cause of the church. As Alexander Maclaren so aptly says,

The church is a workshop, not a dormitory, and every Christian man and woman is bound to help in the common cause. These Philippians help Paul by sympathy and gifts, indeed, but by their own direct work as well, and things are not right with us unless leaders can say, 'Ye are all partakers of my grace.' There are other real and sweet bonds of love and friendship, but the most real and sweetest is to be found in our common relation to Jesus Christ and in our co-operation in the work which is ours because it is His and we are His. The relation of pastor and people is so delicate and

spiritual, the purpose of it so different from that of mere teaching, the laws of it so informal and elastic, the whole power of it, therefore, so dependent on sympathy and mutual kindness that, unless there be something like the bond which united Paul and the Philippians, there will be no prosperity or blessing. The thinnest film of cloud prevents deposition of dew. If all men in pulpits could say what Paul said of the Philippians, and all men in pews could deserve to have it said of them, the world would feel the power of a quickened Church.<sup>2</sup>

4. It also might be helpful to contrast the letter to the Philippians with some of the other letters of Paul. Since we often study the rhetoric and logic of Paul, it is also good for us to see the emotions of Paul. R. C. H. Lenski writes,

Ephesians is filled with lofty serenity as it contemplates the *Una Sancta* through a prisoner's eyes. Romans is filled with apostolic dignity as it unfolds the blessedness of justification by faith alone and rises to exalted admiration in the presence of the wisdom and the unsearchable judgments of God (Rom. 11:33-36). Galatians throbs with intensity in its battle for Christian liberty. It ranges from restrained calmness (1:11-2:21) to indignation, from cold and crushing logic to unquestioned victory. Second Corinthians is also an interesting study in emotions: depression of spirit so deep, triumphant joy so high, a fool compelled to use what he deems folly, a victor who scorns his despicable enemies. And now Philippians, which shows us a prisoner whose appeal to the emperor is finally in the process of being heard, and this prisoner ringing all joy bells in the cathedral! So we might go on. These emotions are not manifested by an emotionalist. Paul is not an emotional reed that is swayed by the wind. Sound, sane, balanced, solid to the core, Paul is nevertheless alive with a human heart capacity beyond most men. Add to this the spiritual world in which this heart lives, moves, and has its being. No unspiritual man is capable of emotions that exhibit the quality, the purity, and the range of these manifested in Paul. . . . Yet no emotion ever runs away with Paul.<sup>3</sup>

5. Why does Paul write this letter? It goes without saying that the Holy Spirit commanded him to. That aside, some experts suggest that he wrote because Epaphroditus was on his way home and thus would serve as a good messenger. Others say that he wrote to update the Philippians about his prison experiences and term. Yet it seems possible that several other factors played into his decision to write to the Philippians at this time. He wanted to say "thank you" for all that God had done in and through the Philippians. He desired to share with them the plans of Timothy, their resident pastor, and Epaphroditus, their messenger. He felt compelled to warn them about the "Judaizing Dogs." Then lastly, he wanted to thank them for their many gifts to him.

### THE PARTNERSHIP TEXT

6. Our convention and essay theme, as well as the theme for our special offering for Home Missions, is taken from Philippians 1:3-6. "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (NIV)

7. Paul thanked God for the memories. As he thought about

the Philippians, perhaps he recalled the first convert Lydia, the baptism of her household, the "singing jail break," the baptism of the jailor and his family, the kindness showed to him by Lydia and by others at Philippi. Paul recognized that God had blessed his ministry among the Philippians, so he thanked God through joyful prayer. The more Paul remembered, the more joyful he was. The more joy he had, the more he prayed. He was also grateful for their partnership in the Gospel. Paul thanked God that He began the good work in them, bringing them to faith, forgiving their sins, washing them clean, bringing them into the family of God, making them partners, people who partake of His grace. It is God who kept them in this faith "until now" according to Paul. Some ten years had passed since Paul made contact with Lydia and the others at Philippi. They continued in the faith and showed it in their testimony and confession, in their generosity, and in their prayers for him.

8. As we take a closer look at these inspired verses (Philippians 1:3-6), certain words and phrases should receive our attention. Specifically, we want to look at "thank" (eucharisto), "prayers" (denaisi), "fellowship/partnership" (koinonia), and "gospel" (euangelion).

## THANK

9. While we are unworthy sinners, unable to merit God's grace and favor, nevertheless He gives us all good things for our body and life. Thus our life should be spent in giving thanks. In Luther's sermon on Philippians 1:3-11, he has this to say about "the duty of gratitude":

Now, the first thing in which Paul is here an example to us is his gratitude. It behooves the Christian who recognizes the grace and goodness of God expressed in Gospel, first of all to manifest his thankfulness therefore; toward God—his highest duty—and toward men. As Christians who have abandoned the false services and sacrifices that in our past heathenish blindness we zealously practiced, let us remember our obligation henceforth to be the more fervent in offering true service and right sacrifice to God. We can render him no better—in fact, none better—service, or outward work, than the thank-offering, as the Scriptures term it. That is, receiving and honoring the grace of God and the preaching and hearing of his Word, and furthering their operation, not only in word, but sincerely in our hearts and with our physical and spiritual powers. This is the truest gratitude.<sup>4</sup>

Along with this, we have many accounts in the inspired Book which urge us to be thankful. Perhaps the one which looms the largest among us is the account which is read for Thanksgiving, the cleansing of the ten lepers (Luke 17:11-19). You will recall from these words that only one returned to give thanks.

10. Prisoner Paul, whom we might suspect had little reason to be thankful, not only begins this letter with thanks, but expresses it throughout. As we consider our station in life, our congregational membership, and our synodical membership, it is meet and right to join Paul and thank our God.

## PRAYER

11. The Scriptures do not leave us in the dark when it comes to prayer. Prayer is spoken about at length, and numerous examples are given to us of people who petitioned God fervently (Abraham, Moses, David, Mary, Simeon). Our Lord Jesus Christ truly serves as our best example when it comes to prayer. As Luther unfolds the truths of this Philippians text, he instructs us concerning the “duty of prayer.”

The other Christian duty named by Paul in this passage is that of prayer. The two obligations—gratitude for benefits received, and prayer for the preservation and growth of God’s work begun in us—are properly related. Prayer is of supreme importance, for the devil and the world assail us and delight in turning us aside; we have continually to resist wickedness. So the conflict is a sore one for our feeble flesh and blood, and we cannot stand unvanquished unless there be constant, earnest invocation of divine aid. Gratitude and prayer are essential and must accompany each other, according to the requirements of the daily sacrifice of the Old Testament; the offering of praise, or thankoffering, thanks to God for blessings received; and the sacrifice of prayer, or the Lord’s prayer—the petition against the wickedness and the evil from which we would be released. Our life has not yet reached the heights it is destined to attain. We know here only its incipient first-fruits. Desire is not satisfied; we have but a foretaste. As yet we only realize by faith what is bestowed upon us; full and tangible occupancy is to come. Therefore we need to pray because of the limitations that bind our earthly life, until we go yonder where prayer is unnecessary, and all is happiness, purity of life and one eternal song of thanks and praise to God. But heavenly praise and joy is to have its inception and a measure of growth here on earth through the encouragement of prayer—prayer for ourselves and the Church as a whole; that is, for them who have accepted and believe the Gospel and are thus mutually helpful. For the Gospel will receive greater exaltation and will inspire more joy with the individual because of its acceptance by the many. So Paul says he thanks God for the fellowship of the Philippians in the Gospel, and offers prayer in their behalf.<sup>5</sup>

Luther refers to prayer as “earnest invocation.” He clearly shows our need to petition our great God and gently reminds us that those in heaven occupy themselves with thanking and praising God. Following the command of our God as well as His promise concerning prayer, let us “lift up holy hands without doubting” (I Timothy 2:8).

## FELLOWSHIP

12. Koinonia is translated as loosely as “your cooperation in missionary work” to as tightly as “faith-fellowship.” The first definition emphasizes external unity in a certain aspect of the Christian life, while the second focuses on that which God alone is able to see, the heart. Another way to look at this is to see the first as a horizontal relationship between people, and the latter as a relationship that is vertical, between God and a sinner. Let us explore the richness of this word “koinonia.”

13. Fellowship is a word that is pregnant with meaning. It denotes participation in something, or having part in a common thing. A 1981 CTRC (Missouri Synod’s Commission on Theology

and Church Relations) document shares with us the complexity and diversity of this word, *koinonia*.

In the New Testament the word *koinonia* (and its cognates), the Greek term for fellowship, appears in a number of places. This is the word which St. Paul uses to refer to the offering which the churches of Macedonia collected for the saints in Jerusalem (Rom. 15:26; 2 Cor. 9:13; cf. also 2 Cor. 8:4). The apostle also employs it with reference to the relationship existing between the wine and the blood and the bread and body of Christ received by the participants in the Sacrament of the Altar, who, though many, are one body in Christ (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Not only does St. Paul speak of the Philippian Christians as "partakers (*synkoinoneo*, *koinoneo*) in the sins of others is to be avoided (Eph. 5:11; 1 Tim. 5:22). Luke calls James and John partners (*koinonoi*) with Simon in the fishing business (Luke 5:10). The New Testament describes Christians as partners who share in the Gospel (1 Cor. 9:23), in faith (Philemon 6), in suffering and comfort (Phil. 3:10; 2 Cor. 1:7; Rev. 1:9), in the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1), and in eternal glory (1 Peter 5:1). St. Paul tells the Corinthians that they have been called "into the fellowship (*koinonia*) of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Cor. 1:9), and St. John writes that he proclaims that which he has seen and heard "so that you may have fellowship (*koinonia*) with us; and our fellowship (*koinonia*) is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ" (1 John 1:3). St. Luke reports (Acts 2:42) that the early Christians "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship" (*koinonia*), and St. Paul writes that when James, Cephas, and John "perceived the grace that was given to me," they gave to him and Barnabas "the right hand of fellowship" (*koinonia*) (Gal. 2:9). Without referring to every place where *koinonia* (and its cognates) appears in the New Testament, it can be concluded that this is a term which has as its root meaning "having part in a common thing." It is with this meaning in mind that the New Testament writers use it to refer to a variety of relationships.

The popular idea that fellowship is simply sharing breakfast with another person in a friendly atmosphere, implies human initiative and creativity. Such a definition cuts the very heart and source out of the meaning of the word by merely externalizing the concept.

14. Werner Elert in his study of *Eucharist and Church Fellowship in the First Four Centuries* traces this popular understanding of fellowship back to the days of 19th century theologian Friedrich Schleiermacher. Schleiermacher writes, "The church at all events is a fellowship created by the voluntary actions of men and only through these does it continue to exist."<sup>6</sup> Dr. Elert criticizes that remark when he says, "The concept of fellowship which is here said to characterize the Church does not derive from the nature of the Church, but the nature of the Church is derived from the concept of fellowship."<sup>7</sup> The consequence of such a view results in a view of fellowship as "a matter about which men are free to make their own arrangements depending on the good or ill will of those concerned."<sup>8</sup> Elert spells out how Luther insisted that fellowship means "using, enjoying, or having part in a common thing."<sup>9</sup> Fellowship is not a matter of human arrangement, nor do people have fellowship with each other simply because they want to. Fellowship is a gift of God and comes into existence solely as a result of His initiative and

activity through the Means of Grace. Those people who are brought into the fellowship of the Triune God also become partners with all the other saints, as the letter to Ephesians so aptly states, "This mystery is that through the Gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 3:6 NIV). While fellowship or partnership is primarily a vertical relationship created and nourished by God Himself, nevertheless those united with Christ will manifest the unity which has already been given them by the Spirit and join hands in proclaiming and preserving the Gospel. Ralph P. Martin in the Tyndale Commentary Series, quoting J. Muller, says that the "Philippians indicated the reality of their partnership in the Gospel not by 'a quiet enjoyment of it, but (by) a keen activity in the interest of it.'<sup>10</sup> These words share the twofold meaning of *koinonia*. There is the unity which Christians have with Jesus Christ by faith in Him. There is also a desire from these same people to express this unity with others and to join their hands in work "before the night comes when no man can work" (John 9:4).

## GOSPEL

15. The word "Gospel" is used in a twofold way in the Holy Scripture and by ancient and modern theologians. In the one sense the word is used "in such a way that we may understand by it the entire teaching of Christ, our Lord, which in his public ministry on earth and in the New Testament he ordered observed."<sup>11</sup> This then includes the exposition of law as well as the announcement of the grace and mercy of God in Christ Jesus. In the other sense, the Gospel simply means the proclamation of God's grace. "Gospel," as used in our Philippian text, refers to the whole word of God, to the entire teaching of Christ, and especially repentance unto God and faith in Christ.

16. Having made a quick survey of the more important words used by Paul in our verses, let's move on to see the entire partnership of the Philippians, including its creation and its manifestation.

## THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE PHILIPPIANS

17. As we study the letter to the Philippians, their partnership with the Lord, with Paul, and with other Christians, can be easily traced.

18. Their partnership was created by God. We read in Philippians 1:29, "For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him." Here Christ stands as sacrifice and priest. God reached out to the world through his beloved Son and said, "No condemnation to those of you who are in Christ Jesus." Faith, that gift granted through the Word, clings to Christ, God's greatest gift. Faith brought the

Philippians into the fellowship of the one true God and caused them to rejoice. This Gospel was shared by Paul when he visited the Philippians. They heard the word and believed.

19. Their partnership also involved suffering and persecution. The faith that brought forgiveness was also the faith that gave strength and patience under persecution. Paul was aware of their affliction when he wrote, "You are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have" (Philippians 1:30). When Paul first visited the city of Philippi, he was jailed, unjustly treated and left for dead, not because of something he had done wrong, but because he had preached the word of the resurrected Christ. The Philippians were now also being persecuted, perhaps some of them jailed, not because of things they had done wrong, but because they had been granted on behalf of Christ the power to believe. They were suffering for doing what was right and that was praiseworthy (I Peter 3:13). Even as Paul suffered, they suffered. That is how the body of Christ works. When one part suffers, the body suffers. When one member rejoices, the body rejoices (I Corinthians 12:26).

20. The Philippians lived the life to which they had been called and testified for the sake of the Gospel. They were witnesses of those things spoken by the apostle. Paul encourages his partners when he says, "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the Gospel without being frightened in anyway by those who oppose you" (Philippians 1:27-28 NIV). Again he says, "Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold forth the word of life" (Philippians 2:14-16 NIV). Furthermore he says, "Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put into practice. And the God of peace will be with you" (Philippians 4:9 NIV). The Philippian's lifestyle reflected their partnership with the Lord. Their partnership was not hidden.

21. Their partnership was not only one of words but one of action. They supported the proclamation by sending Epaphroditus and by sending gifts to Paul, not one time, but several times. The congregation supported his mission work in Thessalonica (4:16) and Corinth (2 Corinthians 11:8-9). They also begged to participate in the collection that Paul was gathering for the impoverished Christians in Jerusalem (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). It is interesting that these people of Philippi became so involved in this partnership that the sending of monetary gifts was not enough. They wanted a personal hand in the work and so they sent their man, Epaphroditus. After Epaphroditus had been with Paul for some time, he wrote, "But I think it necessary to send back to

you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. . . . because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me" (Philippians 2:25, 30 NIV). Here was a committed partner, one who almost died for the cause. Paul was also grateful for the gifts they sent, which showed him the deeper relationship he had with them. He writes, "For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need (Philippians 4:16 NIV). He is well supplied because of their partnership and he assures them that "God will meet all their needs according to the glorious riches in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:19 NIV).

22. Before we march on, we need to spend a moment reflecting on the consistency of this partnership. In spite of the persecution and in spite of their extreme poverty, they remained steadfast in their unity and fellowship with Paul and with one another. Why? Because God "was at work in them to will and to act according to his good purpose" (Philippians 2:13). The Lord Jesus kept their hearts steadfast and as a result they expressed their partnership even as they suffered. This is why Paul had such joy and gratitude in his heart. Obviously Paul continued to pray that God would continue this work in his partners.

23. Even though the letter to the Philippians does not mention Lydia, the first Christian convert in Europe and the charter member of the church at Philippi, nor the remarkable story of the jailor at Philippi, I would like to reflect briefly on these special partners. In both cases they demonstrate the twofold meaning of fellowship. Both of them heard the word, believed, and were baptized. Lydia and the jailor immediately wanted to share this partnership with others and thus brought their households to be baptized. They also invited Paul into their homes and aided him in whatever way they could. I would think that when Paul remembered the Philippians, his fondest memories included these two people, even though the one experience caused him great physical grief.

### **THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**

24. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod partnership has its roots in the "old Norwegian Synod." Theodore A. Aaberg describes this synod as "a fine, vigorous Christian church body which sought to serve the Savior in love and faithfulness, truly 'A City Set on a Hill.'" <sup>12</sup> However, we know that this church body forsook its first love and formed another partnership on sinking sand. After much debate and doctrinal struggle, and after the few faithful partners had smelled the winds of compromise long enough, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod came into existence in June 1918. Aaberg states that it was "nothing spectacular, but a start had been made, and that, for the moment was the important thing." <sup>13</sup>



The direction of this new partnership was well described by a Pastor I. Blaekkan who was unable to attend the historic meeting, but sent a greeting. He spoke of building on the foundation of the old truths, and not being troubled over whether or not any influential men were left among them. What was important, he noted, was that truth and God were on their side, and that God would provide. The persecution felt by some of the pastors was good for it made the partnership strong, according to Blaekkan. Finally he predicted that the lay people would respond to the task at hand, giving generously of their time and money. In a "nut-shell," this was the early partnership of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

25. What was the foundation of our partnership back then? What is it now? Has it changed?

We believe, teach, and confess that it is sufficient for the true unity of the Christian church that the Gospel be preached in conformity with a pure understanding of it and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with the divine Word. It is not necessary for the true unity of the Christian church that ceremonies, instituted by men, should be observed uniformly in all places.<sup>14</sup>

26. The Gospel, understood here in the wide sense, is the total Word of God, and not just the proclamation of God's mercy for Jesus' sake. The foundation for true unity is the total Word of God. The contrast made in the above quotation is between the Gospel and church ceremonies or man-made rites.

27. Inseparably connected to this foundation are the marks of the church. Through the Gospel and the sacraments God makes His unconditioned love known to us sinners and works faith in our hearts to believe. Our 1961 Synod Report referring to the Overseas Brethren Theses on Church Fellowship states,

The marks of the church are all-decisive. Everything must be referred to them. This duty is hindered by presumptuous judgments or statements concerning the faith or lack of it in individuals. It is Enthusiasm to build on subjective faith (*fides qua*) and love, for faith is hidden and love is variable. Both are in man. The Means of Grace are objective, solid, apprehensible. Since these are God's own means, we must attend entirely upon them and draw from them the distinction between the orthodox church and the heterodox churches.<sup>15</sup>

28. Before we examine some of the ways in which the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has expressed its partnership, let me quickly summarize. God creates and sustains the church through His gracious Word and sacraments. Christians seeking to express this partnership look for the pure Gospel and the sacraments, the marks of the church and share the Gospel with others. It is on this basis that a true fellowship and partnership is formed. We long for that "bond which united Paul and the Philippians" according to Maclaren.<sup>16</sup>

29. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod expresses its Gospel partnership through corporate worship, education, testifying to the truth and proclaiming the truth to the nations, publications,

charitable works, prayer, and special undertakings such as the special offering for home missions.

## WORSHIP

30. Our worship has two dimensions. First God comes to us through His Word and sacraments. God is at work as the Scriptures are preached and read. Absolution, baptism and the Holy Supper are His consoling voice to us sinners. Through these means our partnership is created with him and with the Holy Christian Church and is strengthened and nourished throughout our life. The second part of our worship is our response to God. As we sing, make confession of our sin, declare our faith, pray, give our offerings and kneel at the altar of our Lord to receive His true body and blood, our partnership is being expressed to one another and shown to the world. Our corporate worship, whether in our local congregation or here at Synod convention, surely reflects our partnership in the Gospel.

## TEACHING

31. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod has had a partnership in education since its establishment. We express our partnership as we teach students at various levels all that Jesus has taught us. Aaberg gives us a synopsis of our partnership in education when he writes,

Once we are convinced that school is a necessity, we will also discover that we can afford it. We can do a lot of things that we think are absolutely impossible once they have become a matter of life or death to us (Report . . . ELS, 1927, p. 81). These words, addressed to the 1927 Lime Creek Convention by the Bethany College Association, might well be written over the entire fifty-year effort of the ELS for the cause of Christian education in the Day School, High School, College, and Seminary. Such a statement illustrates "the mind to work" which the ELS has displayed for Christian education throughout its history.<sup>17</sup>

32. After the "storm of 1917" had passed, the Synod took steps to train its pastors and teachers. Aaberg speaks of the partners who helped in our cause.

It was a stirring demonstration of Christian love and fellowship that the ELS did not hesitate to seek help from the Missouri and Wisconsin brethren, and that these noble brethren themselves were quick to offer their services, and to respond to every need. The gracious and solicitous care which these synods showed to their little brother, the ELS, is unsurpassed in the annals of church fellowship. . . . Indeed, the ELS had a "mind to work," but there were "brothers on either side" to lighten the load.<sup>18</sup>

It was not until September 24, 1946 that the ELS began training its own pastors. Our present partnership makes it possible for us, without the partnership of other synods, to train and instruct men for the public ministry. Your prayers, personal attention and commitment, regular offerings and special offerings, and encouragement given to young men to enter the full-time ministry make

it possible to keep this important work a top priority. Not all of us are able to stand before the students in the classroom. But we are partners just the same, willing not by flesh, but by grace, to do our part in this work. In 1968 Julian Anderson spoke to this aspect of our partnership when he wrote,

Although our seminary is very small with regard to both faculty and student body, it is a most vital part of our educational program as a synod. In recent years modernism, liberalism and neo-orthodoxy have made heavy inroads in the seminaries of all of the larger Lutheran church bodies, with the sole exception of our sister Wisconsin Synod; and with tragic results so far as the Lutheran ministry is concerned. We have real cause to rejoice, therefore, that, by the grace of God, we have been able to establish and maintain our own theological school in which to train our pastors in the traditional Lutheran faith, which is founded squarely on the Scriptures. It should be our united aim, as members of the E.L.S., to encourage our gifted young men to attend our seminary with an eye to preparing themselves for the full-time service in the Lord's Kingdom.<sup>19</sup>

33. Our partnership in educating young people at the day school level has been obvious since the beginning. Our founding partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, even though faced with devastating circumstances, took the time to create a school committee because they believed that Christian schools were essential to the life and the work of the Synod. One of the largest items salvaged by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod from the storm of 1917 were the Christian Day Schools. There were only fourteen Day Schools in the Old Norwegian Synod in 1917, and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod claimed three of these when it reorganized. After the merger, the number of schools in the merger decreased while the number in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod increased to the point of having thirteen schools with only 35 parishes. This partnership has been "rocky" over the years. The reasons were numerous. Today, our Synod numbers 116 congregations with 14 schools. As we look at these numbers, we should remember that many churches without schools have many concerned parents who do send their children to nearby Christian Day Schools.

34. We are also partners in our Bethany Lutheran College. An entire essay could be written on the desire for a college, the purchase of our college, the financial difficulties it has weathered over the years, its purpose, and the thousands of partners that have supported it and that have come from it. But let me, using the words of Professor Carl S. Meyer, share the partnership. The year was 1944 and Bethany had paid off its debt.

That Bethany College is free from debt and has an unprecedented high enrollment is due to the grace of God. He made His people willing to give liberally for this cause. He filled the hearts of men, who dared with Him, with faith and courage to venture on this undertaking, gave them strength to weather the storms, to face the problems. Now He permits us to see the indisputable blessings which He has showered upon them. It [Bethany] stands there as a monument of faith to the men of 1911 . . . the men of 1926 and 1927, the rank and file of the Norwegian Synod as well as its leaders

... the men of 1944 and the intervening years, who in calm trust in God met the trials as they arose and never found God wanting. Bethany stands there as a monument of faith, in this respect also. The parents who sent or are sending their children there are doing so in the firm faith that God will bless their children, that seeking God and His kingdom first, in accordance with God's promise, surpasses every other consideration and brings with it the rewards of faith.<sup>20</sup>

These words tell us about the various partners. They include the leaders of the Synod, the staff, the parents who sent their children, the students themselves, and all of those other partners who supported this work. This thriving partnership is still evident today.

35. How important is our partnership in education? Synod President A. M. Harstad, speaking at the seminary opening in 1946, said,

If you would want to know how a certain family is going to fare, whether it will be Christian in the future or not, then note how that family is being trained. If you ask concerning a certain congregation what its prospects for the future are, the answer is to be found to a great extent in what kind of a school that congregation has for the instruction of its children and young people. And if you ask concerning the future of a certain synod, again the answer is that under God it depends largely on the kind of institutions of learning that synod conducts.<sup>21</sup>

## WITNESS

36. We express our partnership through corporate worship, through joining our hands to educate children and adults at all levels, and through our witness to testify to the truth and proclaim the truth. Our Synod has a rich heritage in "speaking the truth in love" (Ephesians 4:15 NIV). This too is part of our partnership. Let Aaberg's stirring words speak.

If the Synod's membership can be characterized in the future, as it has been in the past, by a people who continue in Jesus' Word, labor to do His will, and commit all their cause to Him in confident trust, the Evangelical Lutheran Synod will, under God, continue to be what it has been in the past, "A City Set On A Hill" . . . Truth, as a body of doctrine, can indeed be set before a people by a preceding generation, but each succeeding generation must, through the Holy Spirit, make this truth its own as a part of its very faith and life before it can actually be said to possess it. There is in this sense no continuity to synodical history. Each succeeding generation must start all over again. In this way alone is a synod spared from offensive pride, dead orthodoxy, and liberalism. In this way alone is a new generation enabled to sing: "God's Word is our great heritage."<sup>22</sup>

37. There always must be a balance between our partnership in testifying to the truth and spreading or proclaiming that truth. God has called us partners to do both. Is not the hymnwriter correct when he says that our chief endeavor is to spread the light of the Word from age to age? (TLH #283) We Christians often experience tension as we seek to express our unity with other Christians, while at the same time remaining faithful to what God says. The President's Message and Report to the 1952 Conven-

tion stressed the one side so much that the committee reviewing it made the following recommendation.

Your committee calls attention to the President's counsel to the Synod to be on guard against the persisting temptation to give up the truth through unionistic practices or tendencies; and at the same time your committee urges the Synod to consider that it is also our God-given mission to make use of every opportunity to publish and spread the truth of the Word—to use the trowel as well as the sword.<sup>23</sup>

## MISSIONS

38. With that in mind, let us talk about our partnership in mission work, our joint work of proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations, beginning at home and then to the uttermost parts of the earth. Julian Anderson shares with us the early years of this partnership in our Synod.

The "founding fathers" of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod were well aware of the vital importance of such "home" mission work. Back in 1918, when they were forced to reorganize, they gave immediate attention to this work of preaching the gospel beyond the limits of their own congregations and towns. Despite the fact that there were only 11 congregations left in the "synod," this handful of Christians immediately took two important steps. In 1918 they resolved to take over the support of a new mission in the western suburbs of Chicago; and they called two pastors to serve as "missionaries-at-large" over the whole upper midwest area.<sup>24</sup>

39. The history of our partnership in home missions must be viewed in the light of the circumstances which occurred in 1917 and 1918. The basic history of many of our Synod congregations is that of the members who were few in number remaining faithful to the Word. Because the congregations were small, great financial burdens came upon these people. The partners of the Synod came to their aid, not only with money, but also with fellowship, personal encouragement and prayer.

40. The earlier Synod Reports demonstrate a keen interest in missions. Repeated requests were made to reach out to others, to be more mission-minded, to see the fields white unto harvest and send workers into them. One such overture from Fairview Lutheran reads,

The Lord of the Church has seen fit to bless our Synod with a college and a theological seminary for training men for the Gospel ministry. He has answered the prayers for more workers in the Vineyard by a present enrollment of 16 young men in our seminary. The petition "THY KINGDOM COME" must not be considered merely a plea for more workers, but also a pledge, assuming a moral obligation to put these young men into service. Large sections of our country are still untouched by the Lutheran Church and many areas have no established churches of any kind. The spiritual welfare of our membership demands that our Synod lift up its eyes and expand the horizons.<sup>25</sup>

The later Synod Reports continued the same plea. Some saw how rapidly the country was expanding but the church population was not keeping pace. Our mission effort here at home over the years has numbered about one new mission per year. The pleas to

spread the Word, to raise up new workers, to "come over and help us" (Acts 16:9) are still being heard. Today partners in the Gospel are needed who heed those pleas, who take seriously the command of our Lord Jesus Christ to disciple the nations, who realize the lost condition of mankind, who believe that there is but one way to heaven, and who are willing with prayers and offerings to support this vital work.

41. Over 40 of the present congregations in our Synod have experienced the financial partnership of our home mission board at some point in their history. Currently, our mission efforts do not focus exclusively on smaller groups of Christians who have remained faithful to the Word and removed themselves from a former partnership that was built on sinking sand. Our partnership in missions has now moved into the larger metropolitan areas where many residents are not only unchurched, but do not profess a saving faith in Christ Jesus. There is much that we partners still need to do.

42. Our partnership in independent foreign mission work is much more recent. It was in 1950 that we began a small venture in England. After nine years we let this work go because we saw little fruit. It was in 1968 that we began work in South America. Since that time our work in Peru has been blessed, especially in these recent years. Many souls in that land have come to faith and are now our partners. A group of young men are being trained for public ministry. Some of our Latin American brothers and sisters in that land have suffered for the truth's sake and for their testimony. Through our prayers and offerings the partnership continues to be blessed.

## PUBLICATIONS

43. Our partnership is also expressed through the printed page. The *Tidende* and the *Sentinel*, the official papers of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, served to bind and unite the partners who were scattered here and there in the early years. Already in 1917 the *Tidende* was being published and to this day our *Sentinel* still comes off the press on a regular basis. The Synod has published many books and tracts over the years, expressing its partnership. Aaberg comments,

While the ELS has not flooded the market with publications, it has printed material which is true to the Scripture, and edifying to the soul, and thus also with the printed page has served as "A City Set on a Hill."<sup>26</sup>

## CHARITIES

44. The Scriptures tell us that "as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family believers" (Galatians 6:10 NIV). When charitable works are done by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, our partnership is also being expressed. As a student in our seminary, I can still remember preaching at the Kasota Home. For a number of years the part-

nership of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod included the work being done at this home for the elderly. Today, our partnership is being expressed through the world needs offerings, and the pension that is provided for retired pastors and pastors' widows.

## **PRAYER**

45. We are also partners in prayer. There are clear commands in Scripture concerning prayer. (Psalm 50:15, Matthew 7:7-8, I Thessalonians 5:17, I Timothy 2:8) We are to pray for our partners, to pray that we reach more partners, and to pray that those who are not partners become partners. One of the bulletin inserts for our special offering has this prayer on it. "Oh, give me Lord, thy love for souls, for lost and wandering sheep, that I may see the multitudes and weep as thou did'st weep. From off the altar of thy heart take thou some flaming coals, then touch my life, and give me, Lord, a heart that burns for souls." Partners pray for each other as we join our hearts in the Lord's Prayer. How encouraging it is to hear that people are praying for you and me. The Apostle Paul was spurred on and uplifted as his partners prayed for him. In the letter to the Ephesians we hear him say, "Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly, make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should" (Ephesians 6:19-20). We who are partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod are to pray with boldness and confidence, remembering that we speak to our Father, Who is not only almighty, but Who alone does what is right and good for us, His children. Prayer is part of the armor of God that we are to put on. Let us not only talk about prayer, or lecture on how it is used or abused, but let us on bended knee spend more time praying, and teaching our men to be models in this act of faith (I Timothy 2:8). The fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes a great deal (James 5:16).

## **OFFERINGS**

46. We are a most privileged people. Sinners though we are, God through the blood of His Son, has set us free to serve Him. We have become partners in the gospel, people who believe and express that faith in a variety of ways. Perhaps the easiest and most effective way to express our partnership is to give from the financial blessings that God has given to us. Through our regular offerings we are able to do this. We are also able to express our partnership through the special home mission offering.

47. What is this special offering all about? It is a three year offering which is to be used to establish a capital fund to subsidize home missionaries, to purchase land for church sites, to build and/or acquire church buildings and parsonages and to help mission congregations expand their worship facilities. Is there a better place to invest a portion of the money that God has given to

us, a place that will return more interest and benefits? People in heaven will still be thanking us for the money that was given, the money that was used to help spread the message, a message that brought them to salvation.

48. As we think about home missions, the special offering to expand our home mission effort, and the many facets of our partnership, I dare say that the very heart of the partnership is to be found in missions, in the local church. It is in the local church where we worship regularly, teach, testify to the truth and learn to share that truth. It is in the local congregation where our prayer life is developed and comes to maturity. It is in the local congregation where we are taught to do good unto all people. It is in the local church where we are taught to manage our master's money. As we express our partnership through this special home mission offering, the partnership is multiplying. Will you be a partner in this work?

49. The apostle Paul thanked God for the partnership of the Philippians. I hope that we are thankful for our partnership, that we pray with joy to our God and thank Him for all He does for us, and for all that He does through the partnership of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and will do in the future.

50. I want to thank you, my partners, for listening, for "making" me write this essay, and for the discussion that came from it. A special thank you to those who helped me sort through things in this essay. Above all, a special thanks to God Who "began the good work in us" (Philippians 1:6), Who brought us into the partnership, and Who "promises to bring His work to completion in the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6).

## NOTES

1. Alexander Maclaren, *Expositions of Holy Scripture 2 Corinthians-Philippians* (Hodder and Stoughton, George H. Doran Company, New York, 1910), p. 201.

2. Maclaren, *op. cit.*, pp. 204, 205.

3. R. C. H. Lenski, *Interpretation of St. Paul's Epistle to the Galatians to the Ephesians and to the Philippians* (The Wartburg Press, Columbus, Ohio, 1946), p. 691.

4. John Nicholas Lenker, *Sermons of Martin Luther*, Volume VIII (Baker Book House, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1983), pp. 331, 322.

5. *Ibid.*, pp. 339, 340.

6. Werner Elert, *Eucharist and Church Fellowship in the First Four Centuries*, (Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, 1966), p. 2.

7. *Ibid.*, p. 2.

8. *Ibid.*, p. 3.

9. *Ibid.*, p. 4.

10. R. P. Martin, *The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians*, (William B. Eerdmann Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1976), p. 47.

11. Theodore G. Tappert, *The Book of Concord*, (Fortress Press, Philadelphia, 1959), pp. 558, 559.

12. Theodore A. Aaberg, *A City Set on a Hill*, (Graphic Publishing Company, Inc., Lake Mills, Iowa, 1968), p. 10.

13. *Ibid.*, p. 79.



14. Tappert, *op. cit.*, p. 32.
15. Evangelical Lutheran Synod Report, 1961, p. 41.
16. Maclaren, *op. cit.*, p. 205.
17. Aaberg, *op. cit.*, p. 91.
18. *Ibid.*, p. 92.
19. Julian G. Anderson, *Let's Look at our Synod*, (Graphic Publishing Co., Inc., Lake Mills, Iowa, 1967), pp. 7, 8.
20. Aaberg, *op. cit.*, pp. 117, 118.
21. *Ibid.*, p. 121.
22. *Ibid.*, p. 265.
23. Evangelical Lutheran Synod Report, 1952, p. 18.
24. Anderson, *op. cit.*, pp. 7, 8.
25. Evangelical Lutheran Synod Report, 1953, p. 44.
26. Aaberg, *op. cit.*, p. 126.

## REPORT OF THE DOCTRINE COMMITTEE OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

New members of the Doctrine Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod during the past year have been the Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, elected at the 1985 convention for a term of three years, and the Rev. Herbert Larson, appointed by President Orvick in late summer to replace Dr. William Kessel, who had resigned his position because of the press of duties. Since the presidential appointment holds good only until the following convention, and since the term of the position to which Pastor Larson was appointed extends to 1987, it will be necessary for the convention to elect someone to fill this position for one year. In addition, those whose three-year terms come to an end at this convention are Prof. Juul Madson and the Rev. Gary Faleide.

The committee again met during the year in its regular quarterly meetings, usually for two days. Because the synodical president and vice-president are present for almost all the sessions, and because much of the work of the committee is implemented through the office of the president, we refer you to the president's convention report for additional information.

Throughout the year the members of the committee have had occasion to study various matters that have been brought to their attention by the president or other individuals, and have continued to study matters that are of special concern to the church at this time. Its continuing study of the Lord's Supper, especially the aspects of it about which there has been considerable discussion in our midst, resulted in the recommendation for publication in the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* of an article basically produced by committee member Pastor Gaylin Schmeling and entitled: Chemnitz and the Lord's Supper. (See LSQ, March 1986, Vol. XXVI, No. 1, pp. 65ff.) The committee's continuing study of the role of men and women in the church has resulted in committee member Pastor Herbert Larson's preparation of a series of articles intended for publication in the *Lutheran Sentinel*. Ongoing studies of humanism, pietism, and the theological basis of the forthcoming merger of Lutheran churches, as well as consideration of questions that have been raised in regard to previous convention presentations and/or resolutions, have occupied the committee's time and effort. The committee intends to study additional topics, including the doctrine of the ministry.

ELS President George Orvick and Chairman Wilhelm Petersen of the Doctrine Committee attended a meeting of the Committee on Interchurch Relations of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod in January. They reported from this meeting a proposal by the CICR to its own synod of the organization of an international synodical conference of confessional and conservative Lutheran church bodies. (See president's report for details.) Because your Doctrine Committee is of the opinion that implementation of such a plan may help to clarify our fellowship relations with various overseas church bodies (see 1985, Synod Report, pp. 73ff), and that such a proposal would be an encouragement to confessional Lutherans throughout the world, it recommends synodical endorsement of such a proposal.

The Lord's injunction to His people is to hold fast to and to teach all things which He had commanded them. Let us therefore continue to pray to our God that His Holy Spirit may lead us into His Word and Truth and preserve us therein.

Oh, make Thy Church, dear Savior, A lamp of burnished gold,

To bear before the nations Thy true light as of old;

Oh, teach Thy wandering pilgrims By this their path to trace,

Till, clouds and darkness ended, They see Thee face to face.

(Lutheran Hymnary 134, 4)

W. W. Petersen, chairman  
J. B. Madson, secretary

## MEMORIAL: BOY SCOUTS

The Voters' Assembly of St. Timothy Evangelical Lutheran Church submits the following memorial to the 1986 Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

**WHEREAS**, Scouting is an important issue in the life of the church, and,  
**WHEREAS**, Questions have arisen concerning our doctrine and practice in regard to this matter, and,

**WHEREAS**, An incident in our own congregation has made clear the seriousness of this matter, and,

**WHEREAS**, The current synodical policy on scouting does not respond to the serious doctrinal issues involved with scouting,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Doctrine Committee be instructed to answer the following questions for the mutual benefit of the congregation and members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

1. Do the major tenets of scouting conflict with the word of God?
2. If so, how can we reconcile them with the Word of God?
3. Can we, with a clear conscience, permit those who participate in scouts to be communicant members of the congregation?

## MEMORIAL: WORLD NEEDS FUND

The Rev. Alf Merseth  
Secretary, Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
106 13th Street South  
Northwood, Iowa 50459

Dear Rev. Merseth:

The voting members of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon, Washington, hereby submit the following memorial to the 1986 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

**WHEREAS**, St. Luke Lutheran Church brought the following memorial to the 1985 ELS Synod Convention:

March 18, 1985  
Revised  
April 21, 1985

Rev. Alf Merseth  
Secretary, Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
106 13th Street South  
Northwood, Iowa 50459

Dear Rev. Merseth:

The voting members of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon, Washington, hereby submit the following memorial to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

**WHEREAS**, The ELS Board for Christian Service has given offerings from the World Needs Fund (\$12,000 from 1980 to 1981) to Oxfam, a front for the promotion of Marxism and Liberation Theology. (References: MacLean's magazine, Dec. 29, 1980 and Fortune, Dec. 12, 1983.)

**WHEREAS**, The ELS Board for Christian Service has given offerings from the World Needs Fund (\$13,000 from 1982 to 1984) to Lutheran World Relief, an intermediary group that supports Marxist Revolutionary groups in various parts of the world such as CEPED.

(References: EWNS—News Service, Sept. 6, 1982, Forward, Aug. 1983 and Oct. 1981, Farmland News, Jan. 15, 1985, the Wanderer, Feb. 28, 1985 and Christian News Encyclopedia Etc.)

**WHEREAS**, Lutheran World Relief is also a social agency of other Synods (LCA, ALC, AELC, LC-MS) which no longer adhere to true teaching of God's Word, and with which we are not in fellowship.

**WHEREAS**, Participation in such an organization is contrary to the Scriptural teaching on Church Fellowship (ELS Catechism Question #204, definition of Unionism given in the ELS Catechism: "Joint church work or worship by those not agreed in doctrine," Romans 16:17) and makes us guilty of the same sins and errors.

**WHEREAS,** When these funds are administered through such organizations that promote anti-Christian philosophies (Marxism and Liberation Theology) and through such religious organizations that no longer adhere to the true teaching of God's Word (Lutheran World Relief), it's not possible for such help to "heap coals of fire" or "to overcome evil with good" (1984 Synod Report, page 86, Resolution 2) because they are being administered by those who do not promote "good," but evil by their doctrinal errors and communistic philosophy.

**WHEREAS,** All this information was brought to the attention of the ELS Board for Christian Service (1981, 1984) through presentation to the floor committee at the 1981 Synod Convention, and through letter written to the Board of Christian Service in 1984.

**WHEREAS,** When this information was brought to the attention of the floor committee of the 1981 Convention, the following resolution was drafted by the floor committee and adopted by the Convention: "RESOLVED, that the Board for Christian Service consider finding avenues in our fellowship through which the World Emergency Funds may be administered" (see Synod Report, 1981, p. 105).

**WHEREAS,** In spite of all this information and documentation being presented, and in spite of the Synod's Resolution, this unscriptural use of these funds (\$25,000 since 1981) is still continuing.

**BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Board for Christian Service be reprimanded for their unscriptural use of these funds in the past.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this board administer these funds from now on in a way that agrees with Holy Scripture (through agencies in our own Synod or in fellowship with our Synod, who can oversee their use and distribution to promote the work of Christ, instead of using it to oppose His work). Our own foreign mission field or that of the WELS, for example.

Sincerely in Christ,  
In behalf of the Voting Members of  
St. Luke Lutheran Church, Mt. Vernon, Washington  
Gary Meyer, Chairman  
Brett Meyer, Secretary  
Jerrold R. Dalke, Pastor

**WHEREAS,** Jerrold Dalke, Pastor of St. Luke Lutheran Church, withdrew the memorial after much discussion and debate on the floor of the convention with the understanding that the doctrine committee would study the questions our memorial raises and report back both to the Synod and to St. Luke Lutheran Church.

**WHEREAS,** This memorial was withdrawn not because it was wrong in what it says, but because of a lack of understanding and study on the issues involved by those present, and because the resulting vote could have put the Synod in a position that might have been contrary to Holy Scripture.

**WHEREAS,** When the 1985 Synod reports were printed the resolution directed St. Luke Lutheran Church to "express its concerns regarding the use of the World Needs Fund to the Doctrine Committee of the Synod" instead of directing the Doctrine Committee to study this matter which has been brought to the attention and consideration of the Synod on three different occasions.

**WHEREAS,** When St. Luke Lutheran Church wrote President Orvick expressing our concerns about how the matter was handled we were told "the matter was referred to the Doctrine Committee for study and also the Board for Christian Service was instructed to draft policy guidelines to help in the selection of groups or agencies to which money might be dispersed. On page 97 of the 1985 Synod Report we read under Resolution No. 4, entitled "World Needs Guidelines":

**WHEREAS,** One of the fruits of the Spirit is the desire of God's people to contribute toward the relief of suffering people throughout the world, and,

**WHEREAS,** The ELS, through the Board for Christian Service, solicits from its membership and disburses funds for that purpose, and,

WHEREAS, Concerns have been raised regarding the dispersal by the Board for Christian Services of some of the monies given to the World Needs Fund,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service be instructed to draft policy guidelines that address these concerns, specifically with respect to:

- a) the selection of groups to receive these monies, and,
- b) the selection of the agency to disburse these monies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service report on these guidelines to the 1986 convention.

WHEREAS, We to date have not heard back from the Doctrine Committee concerning the questions we raised in the 1985 memorial.

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service has put together their guidelines as requested by the Synod, printed on p. 18 of the "Report and Memorials for the 69th Convention."

WHEREAS, These guidelines do not deal at all with the matter of unionism in using a religious organization like LWR (confer. "Whereases" #2, #3, and #4 of our 1985 Memorial; The Lutheran, July 1985, p. 14).

WHEREAS, The ELS Catechism defines unionism as "joint church work or worship by those not agreed in doctrine" (The ELS Catechism).

WHEREAS, LWR channels money it receives into LWF, right in Ethiopia, (Lutheran Standard, April 5, 1985) a group that our Synod in past years has taken a definite stand against supporting: "Since the National Council of Churches, as well as Lutheran World Federation, was organized to promote cooperation in church work between all Lutherans, without regard to doctrinal differences, we object to them as unionistic organizations and refuse to take any part in their activities" (Cooperation in Externals—ELS Synod Report, 1949)

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service according to their guidelines intends to continue using such organizations by defining this work as "allowable cooperation in externals" and not as "church work" (point 4 of guidelines, p. 18, Reports and Memorials, 1986).

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service is reluctant to identify "loving thy neighbor" and "feeding the poor of the world" (the thought of the passages quoted under point 2 of the "Principles" on p. 18 of the Report and Memorials, 1986), as "church work," even though so many passages are quoted by them in defense of their position that the Synod is to be involved in this work.

WHEREAS, If this is not "church work" then why is the Synod involved in it?

WHEREAS, These guidelines also do not deal with our concerns about supporting organizations that are fronts for Communism, that promote Marxism and Liberation Theology, which are atheistic in their belief, and which stand in opposition to the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone (confer. "Whereas" #5, 1985 Memorial from St. Luke Congregation).

WHEREAS, Is giving money to groups that promote Marxism, Communism, and Liberation Theology, and who in turn support communist governments, is this really "loving thy neighbor" when this money is used to strengthen their hold on the people, to relocate them, to break up families, to enslave them, and even to take away access to the Word and Sacraments? Especially when Romans 13:10 says this about loving thy neighbor—"Love worketh no ill to his neighbor" (confer. "Whereas" #2, 1985 Memorial; The Lutheran Standard, April 19, 1985).

WHEREAS, LWR openly admits "giving money to all sides of a conflict regardless of politics," (The Lutheran Standard, Feb. 1, 1985, p. 16).

WHEREAS, Giving money to such an organization involves the ELS not only in Unionism but also in the sphere of politics (a confusion of the Doctrine of the Two Kingdoms) because LWR and Oxfam America

give money to communist governments, and because such groups spend money to lobby in Congress (confer. "Whereas" #1 and #2, 1985 Memorial; The Lutheran, April 17, 1985; The Lutheran Standard, May 3, 1985).

- WHEREAS,** These guidelines also have not dealt with our concerns about Oxfam America which openly supports lobbying in Congress against government and in favor of communism, and which our Board for Christian Service still maintains is a "dependable relief foundation," (Bulletin Insert "The Board for Christian Service," 1985, Lutheran Sentinel, Feb. 14, 1980; confer. "Whereas" #1 and #5 of our 1985 Memorial).
- WHEREAS,** According to the guidelines published by the Board for Christian Service, apparently Scripture puts no restriction on how they can use the World Needs Fund and it doesn't matter what organization is used. (This seems to be the meaning of Guideline #4 and the word "etc." that it contains.)
- WHEREAS,** The Board for Christian Service in the past held that none of these groups are accountable to the ELS for how they use the money. "There is no way that we can be sure of all of the activities of any of the organizations that we use for distribution of our funds. They don't have to answer to us, but if they misuse our funds they are the ones who will be responsible before God. It is the opinion of the board that we do something to fight hunger in the world and it seems that others are also interested by the way they contribute to the World Needs Fund each year. We have always let the people of our Synod know how we spend their gift of money and we on the Board for Christian Service have no regrets," (Letter of March 12, 1984).
- WHEREAS,** "Loving thy neighbor" also means, working no ill to our neighbor, (Romans 13:10), and Scripture also teaches to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil." (1 Thess. 5:21, 22).
- WHEREAS,** The Bible says "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind—This is the 1st and great commandment" (Matthew 23:37, 38).
- WHEREAS,** Our duty to be faithful to God and His Word precedes our duty to our neighbor.
- WHEREAS,** We know that at no time does the "end justify the means," but that all that we do (including "feeding the poor" and "loving thy neighbor") is to be done in accordance with all of God's Word, not placing one portion of Scripture in opposition to another.
- WHEREAS,** If we put "loving thy neighbor" in opposition to our love for God and being faithful to His Word, we are not loving God above all things, and then we are also not truly loving our neighbor.
- WHEREAS,** "Loving thy neighbor" is to be done without compromising any other part of Scripture.
- WHEREAS,** Are we really "loving our neighbor" if we separate the work of spreading the Gospel from feeding the poor? Have we really helped him if he only gets bread to live a few days and we neglect to bring the bread of life through which he can live forever?
- WHEREAS,** The passages quoted in the Board for Christian Service's guidelines, point #2, are more properly applied to the individual believer rather than to the Synod.
- WHEREAS,** It's possible for the individual member of the ELS to "love his neighbor" without involving the Synod in unionism and politics.
- WHEREAS,** When it is left to the individual believer to investigate and use an organization, he does so without involving all other members of the ELS in his particular political point of view.
- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** That the Synod instruct the Board for Christian Service to stop distributing money to all groups outside our fellowship (like LWR, CARE, OXFAM AMERICA, Direct

Relief International, and etc.), until all these doctrinal concerns are studied and answered by the ELS Doctrinal Committee.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That this whole subject be referred to the Doctrine Committee for study and report back to the 1987 ELS Synod Convention.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, That until this matter is Scripturally resolved, the Board for Christian Service direct individuals to find their own organization that is acceptable to their political persuasion and Christian beliefs to channel their gifts to feed the poor.

Sincerely in Christ,  
The Voting Members of St. Luke Lutheran Church

## **DOCTRINE COMMITTEE ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

### **Resolution No. 1: Studies of the Doctrine Committee**

A. **BE IT RESOLVED**, *That the Doctrine Committee be commended for its study in various areas as illustrated by its report on the Lord's Supper, (see Lutheran Synod Quarterly, March 1986), and,*

B. **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, *That reports of a similar nature be prepared in the near future by the Doctrine Committee concerning "the role of men and women in the church," humanism, pietism, and the theological basis of the forthcoming merger of Lutheran churches, and the doctrine of the ministry.*

### **Resolution No. 2: A New Synodical Conference**

**WHEREAS**, *There exists a need for a conservative Lutheran conference, which would include confessional Lutherans throughout the world, and,*

**WHEREAS**, *Such a conference would permit mutual strengthening and encouragement for Lutheran confessionalism, and,*

**WHEREAS**, *Such a fellowship would prove helpful in solving the problem of "triangular fellowship" church relations, and,*

**WHEREAS**, *The WELS has proposed possible guidelines for such a new fellowship of confessional Lutherans, and,*

**WHEREAS**, *The president and the Doctrine Committee have concurred with the proposal, therefore,*

**BE IT RESOLVED**, *That the Synod support the creation of such a new confessional Lutheran conference.*

### **Resolution No. 3: The Lutheran Confessional Church (Sweden and Norway)**

**WHEREAS**, *The Lutheran Confessional Church (Sweden and Norway) is meeting in convention in July, therefore,*

A. **BE IT RESOLVED**, *That the Synod express its joy over the continued faithfulness and the fellowship of faith with the Lutheran Confessional Church, and,*

B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *That the Resolutions Committee prepare a letter of greeting for the president and secretary to sign.*

**Resolution No. 4: The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (East Germany)**

WHEREAS, *The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of East Germany continues to remain steadfast in its profession and application of the truth of Scripture in its suspension of fellowship with the Old Lutheran Church in East Germany, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That we encourage them to remain steadfast in their confessional stand.*

**Resolution No. 5: St. Timothy Church, Lombard, Illinois, Memorial**

WHEREAS, *The memorial from St. Timothy Lutheran Church concerns a congregational situation that calls for counselling,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Memorial be referred to the Standing Doctrine Committee for study of the matter.*

**Resolution No. 6: The Memorial of St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Mt. Vernon, Washington, June 16, 1986**

WHEREAS, *The Board for Christian Service has complied with the request of the 1985 Synod convention to present "World Needs Guidelines" to this convention (see Synod Report 1985, page 97, Res. #4), and,*

WHEREAS, *The Doctrine Committee indicates that it still has under consideration "the concern regarding the use of World Needs Fund" (Synod Report 1985, p. 97, Res. #5) from St. Luke's congregation (see Doctrine Committee Report to the 1986 Convention), therefore,*

A. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the "World Needs Guidelines" of the Board for Christian Service and the present Memorial from St. Luke's congregation be directed to the Doctrine Committee for further study; and that the Doctrine Committee be asked to come with a report to the 1987 Synod Convention.*

B. BE IT RESOLVED, *That monies from the World Needs Fund not be given to groups outside our fellowship until all the doctrinal concerns expressed in the memorial are studied and answered by the Doctrine Committee.*



# REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

The Board for Home Missions met twice since the last Synod convention. The members of the board are: the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, chairman; the Rev. Steven Quist, vice-chairman; the Rev. Glenn Obenberger, recording secretary; Mr. Edwin Gibson, chaplain; Mr. Albert Holman, treasurer; the Rev. Frederick Theiste, field secretary; and Mr. Albert Rovey. The Rev. William Kessel attended the meetings as Area Missions Developer.

We are pleased to report on the progress the Lord has granted our Synod in the area of home missions.

## MISSION GROWTH

Christ Lutheran, Pt. St. Lucie, Florida, is our Synod's newest home mission. The congregation has organized since the last Synod convention and is looking forward to calling its first full-time pastor. The average Sunday attendance has been around 30. Pt. St. Lucie is one of the fastest growing communities in South Central Florida.

Resurrection Lutheran, Marietta, Georgia, has been receiving subsidy through the Lutheran Brotherhood Program Subsidy Grant. The congregation is studying relocation to one of the faster growing areas, the Kennesaw-Acworth area, in Northwest Atlanta. The Resurrection congregation has 100 members and averages 53 people per Sunday. The first week of March the congregation made use of a canvassing team from our Bethany Lutheran College.

Christ the Cornerstone, Phoenix, Arizona, called Pastor Robert McMiller to be its first full-time pastor. He has accepted. The congregation has 39 members and an average Sunday attendance of 40.

Our other home missions in Oregon, WI (Faith); Lake Havasu City, AZ (Our Saviour); Richardson, TX (Good Shepherd); Sebastian, FL (Trinity); and the Dallas, OR (Bethany) also continue progressing well under the Lord's guidance.

Our ten home missions received subsidies amounting to \$58,518.00 in 1985. In turn, they contributed \$33,039.00 to the Synod budget. In effect, that is over 50% of the subsidy returned to the Synod. Good stewardship attitudes are being developed in our home missions.

## BI-VOCATIONAL MINISTRIES

The bi-vocational ministry in Lakeland, Florida, has been a successful experiment in church planting. The progress of the mission has been good! Average Sunday attendance in 1985 was 47 people. During the first three months of 1986, however, the average attendance has been well over 100 per Sunday. At present there are over 40 souls in the congregation. The congregation will be moving into different rented facilities for the remainder of 1986. Ken Mellon was installed as pastor of Our Savior on March 9, 1986, and 142 people were in attendance.

The board is presently assisting with bi-vocational ministries in Grants Pass, Oregon (Our Savior); and Yuba City, California (Bethel). The bi-vocational ministry is a cost effective way for expanding our home mission program.

## HOME MISSIONS SEMINAR

The board conducted a successful Home Missions Seminar at King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota, on October 28-29, 1985. Twenty-eight pastors and lay people were in attendance. Topics included: The Church Growth Pastor and Congregation; The Bi-Vocational Missionary; Developing a Philosophy of Ministry; and a presentation by the Synod's Evangelism Committee. The seminar was made possible through a generous grant from the Aid Association for Lutherans.

## AREA MISSIONS DEVELOPER

The Rev. William Kessel has accepted the call to be Academic Dean at our Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota. The board expresses its thanks for his faithful service as Area Missions Developer. He has been explor-

ing mission expansion in the South and Southwest and organized Christ the Cornerstone congregation in Phoenix, Arizona. The board wishes him the Lord's richest blessings in his new calling.

## HOME MISSIONS POLICY HANDBOOK

The board will soon be publishing a new Home Missions Policy Handbook. The handbook project was made possible through a grant from Aid Association for Lutherans.

## SPECIAL HOME MISSIONS OFFERING

The board is excited about the three-year Home Missions Offering, "Partners In The Gospel," which will be launched at this convention. This special Synod-wide offering will be used for mission development and expansion. We pray that the Lord will abundantly bless the efforts of this offering and each of us as "Partners In The Gospel"—sharing a common faith in Christ Jesus, our risen and living Savior!

## 1986 HOME MISSIONS BUDGET

The board has adopted the following budget for 1986:

### SUBSIDIES

Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX	\$12,000.00	
Our Saviour, Lake Havasu City, AZ	6,000.00	
Faith, Oregon, WI	13,200.00	
Trinity, Sebastian, FL	10,200.00	
Resurrection, Marietta, GA	10,831.00	
Bethany, The Dalles, OR	2,100.00	
St. Andrew, Colorado Springs, CO	2,700.00	
Christ the Cornerstone, Phoenix, AZ	9,000.00	
Christ, Pt. St. Lucie, FL	<u>7,000.00</u>	
		\$73,031.00

### OTHER EXPENSES

Mission Expansion	\$10,000.00	
Area Missions Developer	15,000.00	
Area Missions Developer Travel	1,600.00	
Bi-Vocational Ministries	13,000.00	
Advertising/Printing	2,000.00	
Board Expenses	6,000.00	
Moving Expenses	8,000.00	
Vicar Program	<u>3,000.00</u>	
		\$58,600.00
SUBTOTAL:		\$131,631.00
LUTHERAN BROTHERHOOD GRANTS:		(-) 22,831.00
TOTAL BUDGET:		\$108,800.00

## SALARY PACKAGE FOR HOME MISSIONARIES

The board has adopted the following salary package for home missionaries for 1987, in accordance with the Evangelical Synod Handbook (p. 27, L.):

Base Salary:	\$15,435.00
Car Allowance:	3,000.00
Yearly Increment (up to twenty years of ministry):	100.00
Pension:	6% of base salary, car allowance and yearly increment
Health Insurance:	Premium to be paid in full (The Synod plan is Blue Cross-Blue Shield)
Housing	To be provided.
Utilities	To be paid in full.

## THANK YOU

The board expresses its gratitude to all of those individuals, congregations, organizations, and mission societies, who contributed special gifts toward our home mission ministry and expansion. May the Lord continue to bless your interest, your prayers, and your support of home missions! Thanks also to Aid Association for Lutherans for the grants which funded our Home Missions Seminar and the Home Missions Policy Handbook. Thanks also to the Lutheran Brotherhood for the generous Program Subsidy Grants which have been made available to many of our home missions.

A special thanks to Mr. Norman Werner, Coon Rapids, Minnesota, who has retired from the board after many, many years of faithful service to the Lord and the Synod. Most of those years were spent as board treasurer. His dedication and service have been a source of inspiration to those who have served with him on the board. We hope that his commitment to the cause of missions in our Synod will continue for years to come!

Your Board for Home Missions continues to explore mission potential and expansion in our country. May the Lord continue to bless our efforts as together we reach out with the life-saving Gospel of Christ to lost mankind. TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY!

Frederick W. Theiste, field secretary  
Erwin J. Ekhoﬀ, chairman

## REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS

As this report is being written we are approaching Good Friday and Easter, those two spring time festivals of the church year when the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ shines forth so beautifully. The Apostle Paul has compacted the wonderful news of these two festivals in these few words: "*(Christ) was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*" Romans 4:25 This is the message that sinners need to know and to believe. It is the message that our Evangelical Lutheran Synod is committed to proclaiming in a fallen world. It is the message that our missionaries in far off Peru have been able to preach and teach to the people in Peru again this past year. How thankful we ought to be to have the opportunity as a Synod to proclaim the unconditioned Gospel not only to those in our own nation, but to those of other nations also, thus helping to fulfill that command of our Lord to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. (Mark 16:15)

This year of 1986 is a very special year for our Peru mission since it is the year in which the Lord made it possible for us to add the 4th missionary pastor to our staff. This is a goal that our Synod had set in previous conventions and for which the Board for Foreign Missions had hoped and prayed for for a long time. And now by the grace of God and the helping hands of many dedicated contributors the goal has been reached. With four men on the field even more souls can be reached in South America with the wonderful message of the cross and the open tomb, and will hear the good news that Jesus Christ was delivered also for their offences and was raised for their justification. May God continue to bless our Synod's outreach in South America.

1. **THE FOURTH MISSIONARY.** The Rev. Daniel McMiller and his wife Lisa left for Peru on March 11th. Prior to their departure both Missionary McMiller and his wife attended classes at the University of Wisconsin that would better prepare them for the language and culture of Peru. They also visited many, many parishes in our Synod during the fall and winter months, including those in

Georgia, Florida, Washington and California. Much of the first year for a new missionary is spent in language study and in becoming adjusted to the culture of the people. Needless to say, the three missionaries already on the field were happy to have Missionary McMiller join the team.

2. **THE "HELPING HANDS" PROGRAM.** What made it possible for us to send the fourth missionary to Peru was the "Helping Hands" program that was established by the Board for Foreign Missions a year ago. It is a subscription type plan whereby people are given the opportunity to support our foreign mission work above and beyond their regular giving to the Lord's work. A very generous gift to the program by Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Schwann, a \$300,000 endowment fund, got it off to a good start. Only the interest monies from this endowment may be used, and only as much of the interest monies as is matched by the gifts of other contributors in a given year. The board is very grateful and wishes publicly to express its thanks to the Marvin Schwanns and to all who are supporting the "Helping Hands" endeavor. The \$300,000 endowment gift has been turned over to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation for investment.

Here is a brief financial accounting of the "Helping Hands" program from June through December of 1985:

Gifts for "Helping Hands" —	\$44,260.15
Interest from the Endowment—	9,150.09
Total Income	— \$53,410.24*

\*Nearly half of the amount received to date has come from people outside of our Synod.

Note: Anticipated costs for the 4th missionary in 1986 is \$55,630.

3. **MISSIONARY CONFERENCE IN LIMA.** As this report is being written plans are proceeding for a missionary conference to be held in Lima, April 7th to the 14th. Representing the Synod will be President George Orvick and pastors Jim Olsen and Norman Madson. Most of the funding for this conference is being provided by a generous grant from Aid Association for Lutherans. Topics to be presented and discussed at the meeting are: "The Pastor Training Program," "A Salaried Peruvian Public Ministry vs. An Unsalaries One," "How to Form House Churches Into Congregations," "The New Testament Church Under Persecution—Lessons for Today," "A Practical Plan for Re-location to Ecuador If Need Be," "An Overview of the Peruvian Political Scene." The Synod representatives will also seek to ascertain what progress the national student-pastors have made in their theological studies and how close to ordination some may be. We are grateful to Aid Association for Lutherans for the grant that is making this important conference possible.

4. **TERRORISM IN PERU.** The terrorism carried on by certain groups in Peru has become a great concern during the past year. To date most of it has been carried out in the mountain villages, though signs of it have appeared also in and around Lima. On Christmas Day terrorists attacked the little village of Pacclon where we have one of our congregations. Four villagers were killed that day, one of them being Abelardo Duran, a member of our church there. Visits by our missionaries to the Pacclon area have been curtailed until it is judged safe to make visits again.

5. **DISABILITY INSURANCE.** The board is presently looking into the matter of providing disability insurance for our foreign missionaries. We think this would be a wise investment to make if the costs are not prohibitive.

6. **PLANNED FURLOUGHS IN 1986.** The board is still experimenting with the 1-month a year furlough for each missionary instead of the 3-month furlough every three years. In 1986 it is presently planned that the Rev. Lillegard will be on furlough in July, the Rev. Erickson in October, and the Rev. Teigen in December. These are tentative times.

7. **A THANK YOU TO BETHANY COLLEGE.** When the Board of Trustees found it necessary to reduce the 1986 budget that had been set by the convention, it meant cutting \$17,000 out of the foreign mission budget. This would have seriously crippled our program in 1986. To help, the administration and regents of Bethany Lutheran College directed \$2,000 per month for the first six months

of 1986 to the foreign mission program. The Board for Foreign Missions is truly grateful to the college for this magnanimous gesture.

8. *A REQUEST FOR THE 1986 CONVENTION.* The Board for Foreign Missions requests the 1986 Synod Convention to reinstate \$5,000 to its 1986 budget so that the work that is presently being done in the field may be continued.

9. *A THANK YOU.* Again this past year many gifts were received for the Peru mission to fund necessary items that are not included in the regular budget. Most of these gifts are channeled through the Faith Mission Society. We sincerely thank each and everyone of the donors. Our thanks is extended also to the Board for Christian Service of the Synod for sending monies from the "World Needs Fund" to assist TB patients in the Peru mission. A special thanks goes to the several Women's Missionary Societies in our Synod who generously support the work in Peru. A sincere thanks is also in order to Aid Association for Lutherans for providing grants for language study by our missionaries, and which this year was especially helpful in paying for the classes that the McMillers took at the University of Wisconsin.

#### 10. *THE 1987 FOREIGN MISSION BUDGET*

	Lillegard	Teigen	Erickson
Base Salary	\$16,978.00	\$16,978.00	\$16,978.00
Increments	2,000.00	1,600.00	900.00
Rent	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00
Utilities/Maintenance	1,700.00	1,700.00	1,700.00
Children's Schooling	1,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Car Allowance	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,000.00
Health Insurance	2,035.00	2,035.00	2,035.00
Term Life Insurance	108.00	108.00	108.00
Pension Plan	1,319.00	1,295.00	1,253.00
Furlough	2,100.00	2,900.00	2,900.00
	<u>\$37,240.00</u>	<u>\$39,616.00</u>	<u>\$38,874.00</u>

#### *OTHER EXPENSES*

Seminary Operation	\$ 1,000.00	
Furnishing Replacement	1,750.00	
Board Expense	6,500.00	
Peru Accountant	900.00	
Field Travel	1,200.00	
Printing & Literature	1,250.00	
Office Supplies	1,250.00	
Visa Expense	1,500.00	
Vehicle Replacement	7,000.00	
Field Visit	4,000.00	
Disability Insurance	1,500.00	
Initial School Entrance Fee	3,500.00	
Language Study	5,000.00	
Utilities for the MSEL P Bldg.	1,200.00	
	<u>\$37,500.00</u>	
Repayment to Synod for Bldg.	4,020.00	
	<u>\$41,520.00</u>	
Less AAL grant for Lang. Study	-5,000.00	
TOTAL "Other Expenses"	<u>\$36,520.00</u>	\$36,520.00
Costs for three missionaries		<u>\$115,730.00</u>
TOTAL COSTS		<u>\$152,250.00</u>

Norman A. Madson, field secretary

## REPORT OF THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE

The Evangelism Committee met twice during the past year, on September 23 and October 30, at the times of the General Pastoral Conference and the Home Mission Seminar so as to minimize expenses.

The thrust of the committee's discussion was directed at more clearly defining how it can best serve the congregations of the Synod. We see ourselves primarily as a resource upon which congregations ought to be able to draw for information and support in the whole area of outreach.

Five areas of support have been identified:

1. MOTIVATION—explaining and keeping before us the reasons for and theology of outreach
2. PREPARATION—noting addition factors (personal and church-wide) which serve to "foster" effective outreach
3. ORGANIZATION—helping the congregation to organize for outreach through the recognition of varying individual gifts
4. EDUCATION—providing materials which aid in instructing in the "how-to" or mechanics of evangelism
5. FACILITATION—providing or suggesting materials to employ in outreach itself, conducting workshops, and working with canvass teams

It is our desire to draw together materials relative to each of these areas in the form of an outreach "resource manual."

A presentation along these lines was made by the committee at the October 28-29 Home Missions Seminar at King of Grace Lutheran, Golden Valley, MN.

The committee has also given some thought to aiding the promotion of canvassing teams in conjunction with Bethany and the Board for Home Missions. We had the first such team of thirteen students in north Cobb County, Georgia, during March 9-14, 1986, on behalf of Resurrection Lutheran of Marietta, GA. The benefits and blessings to the local congregation, the community, and to the team members have been tremendous.

Finally, the committee continues to promote "Operation Outreach" (as described in the March 1986 *Lutheran Sentinel*) as one effective way to organize the local congregation for outreach.

Committee members during the year were Pastor Rodger Dale, Mr. Paul Madison, and Pastor Richard Long.

Richard C. Long, secretary

## MISSIONS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

### Resolution No. 1: Mission Growth

WHEREAS, *The Board for Home Missions, pursuant to its goal of opening one new home mission each year, has reported the organization of Christ Lutheran Mission in Pt. St. Lucie, Florida, and Our Savior's Mission in Grant's Pass, Oregon, and,*

WHEREAS, *The board also reports that our ten home missions are contributing over 50% of the amount of their subsidies back to the Synod, illustrating the exemplary stewardship attitudes which are being developed in our mission congregations, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod thank God for these encouraging evidences of mission growth in our Synod.*

**Resolution No. 2: Home Mission Seminar**

WHEREAS, *The Home Mission Board conducted a successful Home Mission Seminar in Golden Valley, Minnesota, October 28-29, 1985, using funds from an AAL grant, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod commend the Board for Home Missions for its efforts in organizing and seeking funding for home missions seminars.*

**Resolution No. 3: Salary Package for Home Missionaries**

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod approve the salary package for home missionaries proposed by the Board for Home Missions.*

**Resolution No. 4: Revision of Salary Package for Home Missionaries**

WHEREAS, *One intent of setting a salary package for home missionaries is to encourage experienced pastors to accept calls to mission congregations, and,*

WHEREAS, *The present salary structure includes a yearly increment of only \$100 up to twenty years experience, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Board for Home Missions consider for next year a restructuring of the salary package for home missionaries that would include a higher yearly increment with no maximum cut off.*

**Resolution No. 5: Retirement of Norman Werner**

WHEREAS, *Mr. Norman Werner has faithfully served on the Board for Home Missions for 26 years, and,*

WHEREAS, *His dedication and commitment to the cause of missions in our Synod have been a source of inspiration to those who have served with him on the board, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod commend Norman Werner for his many years of faithful and dedicated service to the Synod's mission program.*

**Resolution No. 6: Special Home Missions Offering**

WHEREAS, *God has blessed us with many great and wonderful gifts, and,*

WHEREAS, *God has commanded us to spread the news of salvation to all the world, and,*

WHEREAS, *Our land has a great need to hear the news of salvation in its truth and purity, and,*

WHEREAS, *We have not had any special offerings for this purpose, and,*

WHEREAS, *God has promised to be with us in doing such work, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That each congregation and each member of the Synod joyfully join in spreading the good news of salvation*

*through their gifts to the Partners in the Gospel Home Mission Offering.*

**Resolution No. 7: The Fourth Missionary to Peru**

*WHEREAS, The Rev. Daniel McMiller and his wife, Lisa, have now arrived in Peru, and,*

*WHEREAS, The sending of a fourth missionary to Peru was made possible by the "Helping Hands" Program, and,*

*WHEREAS, Mr. Marvin Schwann, a member of the WELS and a Bethany College alumnus has established a \$300,000 endowment in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation for extra budgetary foreign mission work,*

*A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Synod thank the Lord of the Church for making it possible to send a much needed fourth missionary to Peru, and,*

*B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Synod extend its thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Schwann for their generous gift for extra budgetary foreign mission work in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.*

**Resolution No. 8: Missionary Conference in Lima**

*WHEREAS, A Foreign Missionary Conference was held in Lima, Peru, April 7-14, 1986, funded by a grant from AAL, and,*

*WHEREAS, Our Synod President was able to conduct a colloquy with one of our Lima Seminary students and reports that the student demonstrated a complete and thorough knowledge of the doctrines of our Lutheran faith, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the Synod commend our missionaries in Peru for the excellent job they are doing in training students for the ministry.*

**Resolution No. 9: Mission Assistance from Bethany Lutheran College**

*WHEREAS, The President and Regents of Bethany Lutheran College directed \$2000 per month for the first six months of 1986 to the Foreign Missions Program, and,*

*WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions has reported the successful work accomplished by a canvassing team of students from our Bethany College in the Resurrection Congregation, Marietta, Georgia, in March of 1986, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the Synod commend the Administration and students of our Bethany College for their interest and assistance in the mission work of our Synod.*

**Resolution No. 10: Gifts to Foreign Missions**

*WHEREAS, Many extra-budgetary gifts were received to help fund the work of our Peru mission, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the Synod thank the Faith Missionary Society, The Board for Christian Service, The Women's Missionary Societies, and the AAL for their generous support of foreign missions.*



#### **Resolution No. 11: Full Disclosure of Funds**

WHEREAS, *The Board for Foreign Missions receives and disburses nonbudgetary funds, and,*

WHEREAS, *These funds are important for the operation of this board, and,*

WHEREAS, *The mission boards are not required to give an account of these funds to the floor committee on missions at the Synod convention, and,*

WHEREAS, *A full disclosure of these funds would make it easier for the floor committee on missions to review the work and needs of the Boards for Home and Foreign Missions, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That in the future the Board for Home Missions and the Board for Foreign Missions be required to submit to each convention a financial statement including receipts and disbursements of all funds, both budgetary and non-budgetary.*

#### **Resolution No. 12: Foreign Mission Planning**

WHEREAS, *The Board for Foreign Missions was directed to study the possibilities for work along the coast of Peru and in Ecuador, and the possibilities for a radio ministry, and,*

WHEREAS, *It has been noted that results of such a study are not included in the report of the Board for Foreign Missions, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Board for Foreign Missions report on its study of these matters to the next convention.*

#### **Resolution No. 13: Evangelism Committee**

WHEREAS, *The Evangelism Committee is more clearly defining how it can best serve the congregations of the Synod, and,*

WHEREAS, *The Committee is considering both the publication of an Evangelism Resource Manual and the promotion of canvassing teams in conjunction with Bethany Lutheran College, therefore,*

A. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod encourage the Evangelism Committee to complete its Evangelism Resource Manual, and,*

B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *That the Evangelism Committee take the initiative in organizing canvassing teams from Bethany Lutheran College to work in home mission congregations.*

#### **Resolution No. 14: Terrorism in Peru**

WHEREAS, *During Christmas Day, 1985, in a terrorist attack on the village of Pacllon, Abelardo Duran, a member of our Peruvian congregation was martyred, and,*

WHEREAS, *The future of our mission in Pacllon was placed in serious jeopardy, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Board for Foreign Missions communicate to our brethren in Pacllon our deepest sympathy, concern, and prayers for the future work in that mountain village.*

# **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND PRESIDENT OF BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE**

The Board of Regents held its four regularly scheduled meetings, with the Executive Committee and other committees functioning between each regular meeting.

## **THE BOARD OF REGENTS**

Members of the board during the past year: the Rev. John Moldstad, chairman, Vero Beach, FL; Mr. William Overn, vice-chairman, St. Paul, MN; the Rev. Raymond Branstad, secretary, Mayville, ND; Mr. Holger Ausen, Jasper, MN; the Rev. Ed Bryant, Port Orchard, WA; Mr. Paul Chamberlin, So. Chatham, MA; the Rev. Warren Granke, Madison, WI; Dr. Donald Peterson, Madison, WI; Mr. Harold Theiste, Wayzata, MN; the Rev. Milton E. Tweit, advisory member, Lawler, IA.

## **THE FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

These persons have served on the faculty and staff during the past year:

Rachel Anthony, Home Economics

Louella Balcziaik, Business

Jean Benson, English

William Bukowski, Art

Greg Costello, Comptroller, Wrestling Coach

Tom Engquist, Instrumental Music

Ernest Geistfeld, Deferred Giving Counselor, Director of Development

Al Hattis, Economics

Mark Harstad, Religion, History, German

Arlene Hilding, Music, Organ, Piano

Norman S. Holte, Acting Dean of Academic Affairs, Political Science,  
Sociology

Rudolph Honsey, Hebrew, Religion, Norse

Steve Jaeger, Admissions, Soccer Coach

Calvin K. Johnson, Financial Aid Director, Registrar

Craig Krueger, Physics

Richard Lammert, Librarian

Sigurd Lee, English, Humanities, Drama

Karen Leigh, Vocal Music

Ernest Lillo, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds

Juul Madson, Greek, Religion

Dennis Marzolf, Music, Choral Groups, Voice

John McKay, Music, Piano

Daniel Metzger, English, Religion, German, Greek, Latin

Marvin G. Meyer, President, Mathematics

Irene Mickelson, Mathematics, Computer Science

Dennis Natvig, Treasurer, Business Manager

Ruth Nyhus, Physical Education, Volleyball and Tennis

Wilhelm Petersen, Religion

Oren P. Quist, Physics, Mathematics, Director of Computer Sciences

Steven L. Reagles, Dean of Students, English, Religion

Glenn Reichwald, Geography, Greek, Religion

Susan Rosoff, Instrumental Music

Nina Runck, English

Dean Shoop, Business

Shannon Stuckey, Vocal Music

Erling T. Teigen, Philosophy, English, Religion, Chaplain

Paul B. Tweit, Development, Administrative Assistant

Cynthia Weberg, Chemistry

Art Westphal, Admissions, Baseball Coach  
 David Wiechmann, Bookstore Manager, Women's Basketball Coach  
 Mark Wiechmann, Psychology, Vocational Counseling  
 Richard L. Wiechmann, Director of Admissions  
 Ronald J. Younge, Biology, Basketball Coach

## STAFF

Professor Paul Helland resigned his position as Academic Dean and professor to actively pursue private business interests. Professor Helland has been a member of the college faculty for twenty years. Following his resignation Professor Norman Holte came out of partial retirement to temporarily assume the responsibilities of Academic Dean. Professor Holte plans to retire permanently July 1, 1986. Both of these men served Bethany well and we wish them God's blessings. A special thanks should be sounded for Professor Holte's 41 years of service.

Professor Mark Harstad, Mr. Steve Jaeger, and the Rev. Richard Wiechmann joined our staff this past fall. Professor Harstad teaches history, German, and religion. Mr. Jaeger works in our Admissions Department and coaches soccer. The Rev. Wiechmann heads up our admissions efforts. A number of new part-time faculty have been serving Bethany since September. They are: Irene Mickelson, mathematics and computer science; Craig Krueger, physics; Karen Leigh, vocal music; John McKay, music and piano; Nina Runck, English; Shannon Stuckey, vocal music; Tom Engquist, instrumental music.

Dr. William Kessel has accepted a call to the college to be the Academic Dean and teach social studies and religion. Miss Barbara Schoenbaum has agreed to join our staff and work in the areas of Spanish and English. We are pleased to have these individuals join the Bethany staff.

Our college faculty continues to grow professionally through additional formal education as well as attending regional and national seminars and conferences. It is important to the development of the staff that we allocate ample resources to this area so that the faculty continues to grow. Professor Arlene Hilding has applied for a sabbatical during the spring semester of the 1986-87 school year. She plans to write a text for beginning organ students. Professor Sig Lee is on sabbatical leave this semester.

During a special chapel service on February 4, the college observed the following anniversaries:

15 years	Jean Benson	Professor of English
15 years	Clarice Madson	Library Assistant
10 years	Melvina Aaeberg	Secretary to Seminary President

The board and administration greatly appreciate the faithful and dedicated service of the entire staff and faculty. We thank our Lord and Savior for supplying Bethany Lutheran College with such workers.

## ENROLLMENT

The 1985-86 enrollment was as follows:

	1st Semester	2nd Semester
Freshmen	155	138
Sophomores	104	107
Specials	6	6
Part-time	12	14
	<u>277</u>	<u>265</u>

The enrollment figures show a considerable gain over last year. We are hopeful that this level of enrollment can be maintained.

From the staff report it is apparent that we have two new individuals in admissions. These are not in addition to the individuals we had last year but replace those who are no longer working in that area. It has been difficult for the relatively new staff but the administration is pleased at the prospective enrollment figures for next fall.

It is worth noting the increase of twenty ELS students on campus this year. This is due partly from the efforts here on campus, but we must note that much of the effort came from local pastors and friends of Bethany.

## **CURRICULUM AND OTHER ACADEMIC PROJECTS**

Throughout the year the faculty has been involved in developing a faculty evaluation program. One of the main goals of the program is improved instruction. Much of the cost was underwritten through a grant from Aid Association for Lutherans.

We are happy to once again offer Spanish in our curriculum. The administration feels this is another way to meet some of our needs synodically as well as demands within our general student body. Miss Schoenbaum will bring a great deal of experience in this field to our campus.

Professor Holte continues to work with Doctor Martin Luther College in hopes of developing a transfer program for elementary education. It is our desire to work out a curriculum so an Evangelical Lutheran Synod student will attend Bethany for two years and complete his/her training with two years at Doctor Martin Luther College.

## **PHYSICAL PLANT**

The chapel renovation project was completed last summer. It has served us well during this school year as a chapel and recital hall. We are most grateful for the opportunity to enhance this area of our campus. There was a special service held on September 23, 1985, to dedicate the renovated chapel. The date corresponded with our annual Women's Auxiliary Day. Secretary Merseeth was the speaker.

During the year our custodial staff renovated the business office to allow for a more efficient operation. The college administration has worked extensively with a local architectural firm to plan the renovation of our classroom building. This project is being made possible through a gift of \$100,000 from an alumnus. We rejoice that our Lord has opened the heart of this individual.

The Women's Auxiliary has allocated approximately \$10,000 for a walk-in refrigerator-freezer for the college cafeteria. This equipment will allow for better storage, which should save money and give the opportunity for larger selection and variety of foods. Once again thanks to these lovely women for their support.

## **GRANTS**

Two grants, totaling \$15,000, were received from Aid Association for Lutherans during the school year. The proposals which were awarded are "More Effectively Serving Non-Traditional Students" and "Recruitment/Public Relations Video." The college is most grateful to Aid Association for Lutherans for these grants as they give Bethany the means to undertake programs that would not be possible otherwise.

## **FINANCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES**

The bookstore has made some changes which increases the volume of business substantially and makes it possible to project a profit. Many thanks to those churches and individuals that have made use of our bookstore.

Bethany, for the first time in the last three years, will not run a deficit for the present school year. In fact, we are hopeful of taking care of the majority of the accumulated deficit of the past years. The year has been an excellent one from a financial standpoint. The college needs to shore up its financial strength for the years which lie ahead in which projections are for at least a 25 percent decrease in student numbers.

The administration has been actively soliciting gifts for the Bethany Field Fund. It is hoped that at least half of the purchase price of \$250,000 will be raised by May 1, 1986, to reduce the size of the long-term indebtedness of the field. The president of the college is grateful to those individuals and companies willing to help in his efforts to raise these monies.

The following is a summary statement of receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1985.

## REVENUES

Tuition & Fees	\$ 792,253
Synod Subsidy	171,000
Private Gifts and Grants	158,355
Other Sources	69,161
Auxiliary	583,332
	<u>\$1,774,101</u>

## EXPENDITURES

Educational & General	\$1,157,052
Maintenance of	
Buildings and Grounds	128,431
Scholarships & Grants	106,543
Auxiliary	427,755
	<u>\$1,819,781</u>

Deficit	(\$ 45,680)
Prior Deficits	(\$ 61,856)
Total Accumulated Deficit	<u>(\$107,536)</u>

## CONCLUSION

It takes many individuals who are willing to sacrifice, in worldly measures, to make Bethany a quality Christian institution. To them we say "Thank you"; to Him "we give thanks" for giving us the service of these dedicated men and women who serve the Evangelical Lutheran Synod so well as administrators, professors, secretaries, and custodians. We must pray that the Lord of our Church will continue to give us dedicated individuals to serve in these capacities.

As we close the fifty-ninth year of the operation of Bethany Lutheran College by our Synod, let us all give thanks for a year filled with many blessings. May our Lord give us the opportunity to continue to offer quality Christian education to the youth of our church and others in the years and decades ahead.

Marvin G. Meyer, president  
John A. Moldstad, Sr., chairman  
Raymond M. Branstad, secretary

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND PRESIDENT OF BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Our gracious Lord in his grace and wisdom has instituted the office of the ministry in order that his Word might be regularly and publicly proclaimed and that the sacraments be administered in accordance with Christ's institution. It is through these means that God the Holy Ghost creates, nourishes, and strengthens saving faith. St. Paul reminds us that God has given us "the ministry of reconciliation" and our confessions state: "To obtain such faith God instituted the office of the ministry, that is, provided the Gospel and sacraments. Through these, as through means, the Holy Spirit works faith when and where he pleases in those who hear the Gospel." (A.C. Art. V) "The church has the command to appoint ministers; to this we must subscribe wholeheartedly, for we know that God approves this ministry and is present in it." (Ap. Art. XII, par. 12)

For the past thirty-nine years Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary has been training pastors for the office of the public ministry. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of this work. Someone has observed: A church that is not concerned about training pastors does not have to worry about the future; it has

none. It must also be reassuring to our congregations to know that when vacancies occur we have a training school which is preparing men to fill those vacancies. We thank and praise our gracious God for the blessings of our seminary and we beseech His continued benediction on our school in the future.

## **BOARD OF REGENTS**

The Board of Regents is responsible for the operation of the seminary. It met quarterly and the seminary president submitted a report at each meeting. He also met with the Executive Committee of the board to discuss matters pertaining to the seminary. Members of the board are: Mr. Holger Aussen, Jasper, MN; the Rev. Raymond Branstad, Mayville, ND; the Rev. Ed. Bryant, Port Orchard, WA; the Rev. Warren Granke, Madison, WI; the Rev. John Moldstad, Vero Beach, FL; Mr. William Overn, St. Paul, MN; Mr. Paul Chamberlin, Brewster, MA; Dr. Donald Peterson, Madison, WI; Mr. Harold Theiste, Wayzata, MN; and the Rev. M. E. Tweit, advisory member, Lawler, IA.

## **FACULTY**

The following professors taught in the seminary during the 1985-86 school year: J. B. Madson, W. Petersen, M. Harstad, E. Teigen, and N. A. Madson, Jr.

## **ENROLLMENT**

The enrollment at the seminary this past school year was twelve, which included the four vicars. The vicars who served their vicarage were: Harvey Abrahamson, Holy Scripture Lutheran Church, Midland, MI under the supervision of Pastor Paul Schneider; David Hoyord, Northwood Parish under the direction of Pastor Alf Merseeth; Robert Lawson, Norseland-Norwegian Grove, MN under the Rev. Norman Madson, Jr.; and Jonathan Madson, Vero Beach-Port St. Lucie, FL under the Rev. John Moldstad.

In our report to the Synod last year we called attention to a declining enrollment. During this past year the seminary president has written to all of our pastors encouraging them to speak with promising men in their congregations about studying for the ministry. He has also accepted several invitations to preach in our congregations about the work of our seminary. The result is that he has been in contact with several young men who have indicated interest in coming to the seminary.

There are also several older men with families who have expressed interest in studying theology. One of the hindrances for them is the lack of funds. It would be unfortunate if a gifted prospective student is unable to attend the seminary for financial reasons. Congregations within our circuits would do well to consider setting up a special fund to help students who desire to study for the ministry. Perhaps the seminary could work together with congregations in setting up such a fund.

Once again we would encourage our pastors and laity to be recruiters for our seminary. Until our Lord returns there will continue to be a shortage of laborers in the Lord's harvest. Let us pray that "he would send forth laborers into his harvest."

## **ACTIVITIES**

The annual vicar workshop was held at the end of the school year. The returning vicars shared reports of certain phases of their vicarages with the seminary students and particularly the seniors who were about to begin their vicarages. Pastor Norman A. Madson, Jr. delivered a longer paper on "Organizing Your Ministry."

A Workshop on Alcoholism was held at the seminary July 15-17. The Rev. Don Busboom, Director of de Paul Rehabilitation Hospital in Milwaukee, WI, a treatment center for the chemically addicted, was the workshop leader. His presentation was very helpful in setting forth the clergy's role in dealing with the alcoholic and his family. A total of 26 attended this workshop.

A summer institute was held at First American Lutheran Church, Mayville, ND August 12-15 for the pastors of the Northern Circuit. Pastor Gary Faleide

lectured on modern theology and Pastor Charles Keeler on youth work. All of the pastors in the circuit attended the institute. We are grateful to Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood for funding these activities.

The seminary, together with Bethany College, sponsored the annual Reformation lectures October 30-31. The lectures this year were in commemoration of Martin Chemnitz who more than anyone else was responsible for restoring true Lutheranism after Luther's death. The lectures focused on the writings of Chemnitz on *Authority* and *Justification*. Two Chemnitz scholars, Dr. Eugene Klug and Dr. J. A. O. Preus of Garfield, Arkansas were the lecturers. Professor Arnold Koelpin of Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, MN was the reactor.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Again this year we were able to provide our students with a generous scholarship, thanks to the Scholarship Endowment Funds which have been set up in memory of Prof. George Lillegard, Dr. Norman A. Madson, Sr., Ernest Larsen, Albin and Hannah Levorson, and Merle Aasen. In addition to the dividends from these funds the seminary also receives gifts to the General Scholarship Fund from individuals and organizations throughout our Synod. The recipients of these scholarships are very grateful for this financial assistance.

## FINANCES

The following is a summary of budget receipts and expenditures for the past fiscal year, July 1, 1984 to June 30, 1985:

REVENUES	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 17,580
Synod Subsidy	56,000
Gifts and Grants	52,439*
Miscellaneous	6,962
Restricted Scholarships & Grants	18,453
	<hr/> \$151,434
*Includes Agnes Nygaard Estate	
EXPENDITURES	
Education and General	\$114,713
Maintenance	8,798
Restricted Scholarships & Grants	15,644
	<hr/> \$139,155
Excess Towards Past Deficit	\$12,279

The current projection is that the seminary will show a balance in the 1985-86 school year. With one less full-time professor the financial situation has improved considerably. We are indeed fortunate to be able to draw upon the theologically trained men at the college to teach certain courses at the seminary. In this way we are able to provide quality education and at the same time keep operational expenditures within our income.

We are also grateful for the special gifts which members and friends of our Synod have given to the seminary. These gifts help so much in carrying out our work. May the Lord bless both gift and donor!



## CONCLUSION

We continue to solicit the prayers of our people as we seek to carry out our Lord's command to train pastors to go forth to preach the gospel to every creature. This command is in effect until our Lord returns. As we await this return may our prayer be,

"Preserve this ministry  
While harvest-days are keeping;  
And since the fields are white  
And hands are few for reaping,  
Send workers forth, O Lord,  
The sheaves to gather in  
That not a soul be lost  
Which Thou art come to win."

Hymnal 485 v. 4

Wilhelm W. Petersen, president  
John A. Moldstad, Sr., chairman  
Raymond M. Branstad, secretary

## HIGHER EDUCATION ACTION OF THE SYNOD

### Resolution No. 1: Grants

WHEREAS, *Two grants were received last year by Bethany Lutheran College from Aid Association for Lutherans, and,*

WHEREAS, *Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood again have provided funds for the "summer institute for pastors," and,*

WHEREAS, *Several other companies have provided matching gifts which benefit our college, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod express its gratitude to these organizations for their financial support.*

### Resolution No. 2: Physical Plant

WHEREAS, *The Bethany Women's Auxiliary has allocated approximately \$10,000 for a walk-in freezer for the cafeteria, and,*

WHEREAS, *An alumnus has contributed \$150,000 for classroom renovation and annual need, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That we thank God for providing these donors the means and motivation to give these gifts and that we thank the donors for their generous support of our college.*

### Resolution No. 3: Staff

WHEREAS, *Professor Norman Holte came out of partial retirement to assist the college in a time of need as its academic dean, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That he be thanked for this special service.*

**Resolution No. 4: Finances**

WHEREAS, *Both Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in recent years have experienced substantial deficits, and,*

WHEREAS, *Both institutions now find themselves in greatly improved financial condition, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That we thank and praise our providential Lord for this blessing.*

**Resolution No. 5: Enrollment**

WHEREAS, *We note a substantial increase in enrollment at Bethany Lutheran College, and,*

WHEREAS, *Part of this increase is due to greater numbers of Evangelical Lutheran Synod students on campus, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That we commend the college and the Synod's pastors and parents for their continuing recruitment efforts.*

**Resolution No. 6: Staff**

WHEREAS, *The opportunity for sabbatical leave is being utilized by Bethany Lutheran College faculty, and,*

WHEREAS, *The faculty evaluation program has been developed and is compatible with the goal of improved instruction, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod commend the Bethany Lutheran College faculty for again demonstrating its commitment to Christ-centered, quality liberal arts education.*

**Resolution No. 7: Curriculum**

WHEREAS, *The opportunities are increasing for reaching out to Spanish-speaking peoples both at home and abroad, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That we commend Bethany Lutheran College for re-instituting the teaching of Spanish.*

**Resolution No. 8: Curriculum and other Academic Projects**

WHEREAS, *There has long been a desire for students of Bethany Lutheran College to be able to complete their training as Christian Day School teachers at Dr. Martin Luther College in the normal four-year span, and,*

WHEREAS, *An agreement has now been reached between the two schools to make this possible, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That we commend the administration of Bethany Lutheran College and Dr. Martin Luther College for their successful efforts in completing this arrangement.*

**Resolution No. 9: Evangelical Lutheran Synod Pastors/Principals Survey**

WHEREAS, *The college administration has completed the survey of Evangelical Lutheran Synod pastors and principals, and,*

WHEREAS, *The results of the survey indicate a need for improved communication between the college and the individual congregations, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the administration continue its work on improving communication with the individual congregations of the Synod so that more students may further their Christian Education at Bethany.*

**Resolution No. 10: Seminary Enrollment**

WHEREAS, *The seminary is experiencing a declining enrollment, and,*

WHEREAS, *The Synod anticipates broadening home mission efforts through the Partners in the Gospel Home Mission Offering, and,*

WHEREAS, *Such expanded efforts will require more theologically trained workers for the home mission field, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Seminary Administration and pastors and lay people of our Synod intensify their efforts to recruit more men to train for the ministry.*

**Resolution No. 11: Congregation Scholarship Funds**

WHEREAS, *The 1985 Synod Report, p. 89, urges congregations to establish scholarship funds, and further urges Bethany Lutheran College to develop guidelines to help congregations in this endeavor, and,*

WHEREAS, *This resolution has not yet been implemented or developed, and,*

WHEREAS, *The 1985 Synod Report, p. 89, reminds our congregations to include Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary when establishing scholarship funds, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod encourage the college and seminary administrations to develop and disseminate guidelines for such scholarship funds.*

## REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH

The Board for Education and Youth deals with three different concerns. It is, therefore, divided into three subcommittees. Raymond Branstad serves as chairman. Craig Ferkenstad serves as recording secretary. The board is divided into the following subcommittees: Youth—Gary Carlson, Charles Keeler, and Donald Moldstad. Parish Education—Joseph Burkhardt, Craig Ferkenstad and Ronald Mathison. Christian Day Schools—Elroy Bartsch, Dale Dahlke, Ray Diepenbrock and Larry Rude. The board met twice during the year.

### YOUTH WORK

The committee for youth work once again sponsored Camp Indianhead which was held at Camp JIM near Brainerd, MN. Eighty campers were in attendance under the direction of the Rev. Roger Fehr. The 1986 camp is scheduled for July 20-26. No other reports of camps throughout the Synod were available.

Two committee members participated in training seminars for youth work.

The 1985 LYA Convention was held in Montello, WI under the direction of Dale Dahlke. All congregations were invited. Attendance was eighty.

The 1986 LYA Convention will be held in the Twin Cities under the direction of the Rev. Donald Moldstad. We encourage the pastors and youth leaders to promote the various camps and conventions offered by our Synod's youth committee.

## PARISH EDUCATION

The parish education sub-committee continued to aid our congregations in their tasks of religious instruction.

A video-cassette-recording (VCR), entitled "Questions of a Sunday School Teacher," was produced and distributed to aid in the training of Sunday School teachers. The tape was used at Sunday School Teachers' Institutes and in individual congregations. The board urges neighboring congregations to conduct Sunday School Teachers' Institutes/Workshops for training and mutual encouragement. An additional video tape is being made available for such institutes in the coming school year.

Assistance was provided for the Vacation Bible School through the distribution of some practical suggestions. Congregations also were directed to the VBS manual "Step by Step through VBS" available through Northwestern Publishing House.

Encouragement is also being provided to the entire congregation through a planned bulletin insert on family devotions.

## CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

The congregations of our Synod presently operate twelve Christian Day Schools, providing their children with a Christian education. Other congregations are sending children to schools of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. A total of forty-five teachers staffed our Christian Day Schools. Nine teachers requested continuing education grants. Eight of these were approved.

The teachers of our Synod meet annually at district conferences. The Midwest Conference was held on October 24 and 25 at Holy Cross Lutheran School, Madison, WI. The Pacific Northwest Conference was held on January 24 at Parkland Lutheran School, Tacoma, WA. The teachers of the West Coast also meet in joint teachers' conferences with the teachers of the Wisconsin Synod.

The guidelines for teacher certification found in the Synod resolution of the 1983 convention were carefully studied. The resolution has been up-dated and clarified to reflect minor changes due to current conditions. The board has finalized the application forms and have implemented their distribution and evaluation.

Since teacher turn-over has been steadily decreasing, only one Synod graduate was placed in our schools this past year. Due to positive results of our school visitation program, we will continue our efforts in visiting all our schools on an every-other-year basis.

Craig A. Ferkenstad, secretary

## EDUCATION AND YOUTH ACTION OF THE SYNOD

### Resolution No. 1: Information Aids for Congregations

WHEREAS, *The Board for Education and Youth has produced material for congregations in the area of youth work, Sunday School and Christian Day Schools, and,*

WHEREAS, *There is a need for this information to be better communicated and more readily available to the congregations, and,*

WHEREAS, *Specific information is needed to assist congregations with the starting of new schools, therefore,*

A. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Board for Education and Youth establish a central clearing house for material available to congregations, and,*

B. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the board counsel and assist congregations in establishing and improving their programs, and,*

C. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Board for Education and Youth determine the best way to publish where this information is available. (For example, by a permanent boxed notice in the Lutheran Sentinel, by means of a convention report and/or letters to pastors and teachers.)*

#### **Resolution No. 2: Teacher Certification and Applications**

WHEREAS, *The Synod approved a teacher certification program at the 1983 convention, and,*

WHEREAS, *The guidelines for teacher certification found in the 1983 resolution were carefully studied, updated and clarified to reflect minor changes due to current conditions, and,*

WHEREAS, *The board has finalized the application forms for teacher certification and has implemented their distribution and evaluation, therefore,*

A. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Board for Education and Youth encourage all teachers of our Synod to apply for Synod certification, and,*

B. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the information on these applications be compiled and made available in a summary form to those congregations who request such information in their calling process, and,*

C. BE IT RESOLVED, *That those teachers meeting Synod certification requirements be issued a certificate by the board, and,*

D. BE IT RESOLVED, *That those teachers meeting the certification requirements be specifically identified as such in the Directory of Christian Day School Teachers in the annual Synod Report.*

#### **Resolution No. 3: Crisis in Youth Work**

WHEREAS, *The future of the Church is its youth, and,*

WHEREAS, *The annual budget of the Board for Education and Youth has in recent years been decreased, and,*

WHEREAS, *This decrease in budget is indicative of a waning interest in youth work, parish education and Christian education, therefore,*

A. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Board for Education and*

*Youth undertake a one-year study commencing in the fall of 1986 to analyze this trend, and,*

**B. BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Board for Education and Youth implement a two-year plan to reverse this trend on the basis of the aforementioned analysis.*

**Resolution No. 4: Shared Goals of BEY and Other Boards**

**WHEREAS,** *Our Lord has commanded us to make disciples of all nations, "teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," (Matthew 28:20), and,*

**WHEREAS,** *Our congregational schools are an excellent means of assisting parents in the task of rearing their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and an excellent means of thoroughly training them in the Holy Scriptures and in the application of God's Word to life, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *Our congregational schools give our children the opportunity to grow and learn in circumstances in which the law and the gospel are rightly divided, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *Our congregational schools can be a positive support to the overall ministry and outreach of the congregation, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *Support of congregational schools should be fostered whenever possible, particularly when congregations are founded, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *A good base of support for a congregational school is laid when the ground-level planning of a mission includes provisions for a school, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *Familiarity with Christian education is an asset to pastors and congregations desiring to start a congregational school and otherwise pursue work with the youth, therefore,*

**A. BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Board for Education and Youth approach the Board for Home Missions to encourage provisions for a congregational school as part of the ground level planning of any mission, and to encourage the inclusion of the future option of a school when property is purchased, and,*

**B. BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Board for Education and Youth approach the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran College and Seminary to suggest the inclusion of a course on Christian education in the seminary or pre-seminary curriculum in order to foster greater interest in Christian education, youth work and parish education.*

**Resolution No. 5: Information on Christian Education**

**WHEREAS,** *There is a need for general pamphlet(s) for all congregations to encourage Christian education and youth work, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *Information in the pamphlet(s) should be pertinent to all members of a congregation, not just parents with*

*school age children, and should promote all different kinds of Christian education in a congregation, and,*

*WHEREAS, This information on Christian education should include the following: Christian Day Schools, Youth Camps, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Education have such pamphlet(s) available to the congregations at the next convention.*

#### **Resolution No. 6: Funding for the Board for Education and Youth**

*WHEREAS, The Word of God gives us the instruction for training our youth in Proverbs 22:6, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it," and,*

*WHEREAS, The future partners in the Gospel are the youth of our Synod and with the help of God they will carry out the great commission, and,*

*WHEREAS, The youth of our congregations are a part of our Home Mission work, and,*

*WHEREAS, The needs of the youth of our congregations have not been included in the Home Mission Offering, and,*

*WHEREAS, The funding of the Board for Education and Youth's work has been decreasing instead of increasing in the past years, and,*

*WHEREAS, The difficulties in accomplishing youth work has been ever increasing, and,*

*WHEREAS, This has tended to break down the morale of the board members elected to this work, therefore,*

*A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Planning and Coordinating Committee give a higher priority to the needs of our youth ministries, and provide significantly greater funding in future budgets.*

*B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the matter of greater funding for the youth work in our Synod be referred to the Planning and Coordinating Committee for study.*

#### **Resolution No. 7: Visitation and Certification Programs**

*WHEREAS, There have been positive results in the school visitation and teacher certification programs, and,*

*WHEREAS, The board is continuing its effort to visit all schools on an every other year basis and is also updating the teacher certification program, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That we commend the Board for Education and Youth for its visitation and teacher certification programs and encourage their continuation.*

#### **Resolution No. 8: Family Life in ELS Congregations**

*WHEREAS, Shifts in priorities among our members with regard to families seems to have resulted in less broad-based support for Christian education, less involvement in church spon-*

sored youth activities, and less emphasis upon parish education in general, and,

WHEREAS, *The family life of our congregation members seems to have suffered from these shifts in priorities, as indicated by less family cohesiveness, less family time together, poorer family discipline, and deterioration of family values, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Board for Education and Youth assist our pastors in meeting the needs of our families by the following:*

1. *A program of Scripture-based family-support education for pastors and congregations, similar in format to the recent stewardship seminars.*

2. *A regular, quarterly mailing to the Sentinel mailing list, presenting helpful and supportive information to families and others, focusing on family issues, values, and concerns of our day. (Topics could include encouragement and support for congregational schools on the part of people without children, skills and guideline in setting and carrying out priorities, encouraging lay youth leadership, proper emphasis on sports activities, and so on.)*

## REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Two meetings of the Board for Christian Service have been held since the last report to the Synod.

The board was organized by re-electing the Rev. Gottfred Guldberg as chairman. The Rev. John Smith was re-elected secretary. Mr. Paul Tweit was re-elected insurance manager. (He cares for pastors' and teachers' Term Life Insurance.) Prof. Norman Holte was re-elected pension fund officer. Mr. Bill Curtis is the other member of the board.

The following actions were taken by the board during the past year:

1. Re: Needs of Retired Pastors and Pastors' Widows. The Board for Christian Service granted a \$10.00 increase in subsidies January 1, 1986. Those receiving monthly payments from the Retirement Fund are guaranteed a maximum of \$150.00 per month.

2. Re: The Pastors and Christian Day School Teachers Term Life Insurance. It was resolved at the 1983 convention of our Synod to raise this coverage from \$15,000 to \$30,000 beginning January 1, 1985. The board carried out this resolution. The new coverage went into effect January 1, 1985. This raises the individual premium for each policy from \$52.20 to \$108.00 per year. Will each congregation please take note of this increase in premium and help meet the cost of the increased coverage by paying the premium for its pastor and Christian day school teachers.

3. Re: The World Needs Fund. This year \$5,000.00 of the World Needs Fund was set aside to help some of our students in our Peruvian mission who have T.B. This money is allocated for medication and nutrition. \$3,500.00 of the fund was sent through Lutheran World Relief to help the starving people of



Ethiopia. \$500.00 was sent through Direct Relief International for Mexican Relief. \$3,500.00 was sent through Red Cross to be used in Mexico City after the earthquake. \$3,000.00 was sent to help Evangelical Lutheran Synod families in Washington and Oregon. At the present time, there is about \$2,000.00 in the fund.

4. Re: World Needs Fund Guidelines. In compliance with the Synod's instruction (Synod Report, 1985, p. 97, Res. #4), the board has drawn up guidelines for the World Needs Fund. They are as follows:

#### GUIDELINES FOR THE WORLD NEEDS FUND

##### —PRINCIPLES—

1. "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Galatians 6:10
2. "We must love our neighbor" (e.g. Matthew 5:43-44; Matthew 19:19; Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27; Romans 13:9; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8).
3. "For I was hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: Naked and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me." (Matthew 25:35-36)

How does the Board for Christian Service normally disperse the World Needs Fund?

1. Upon request the board will consider aid for individuals or families that have suffered particular tragedies from such causes as fires, floods, tornadoes, etc.
2. The board will consider giving aid to those in disaster areas stricken by such natural disasters such as famines, floods, earthquakes, etc.
3. The board does not normally render aid to help in individual poverty situations.
4. The board may use the services of such agencies which deal with the problems of concern (e.g. Lutheran World Relief, Care, Direct Relief International, etc.). Our relationship with these agencies is an example of allowable cooperation in externals.
5. Re: Proposed Budget for 1987. The following budget was prepared and sent to the Planning and Coordinating Committee for its consideration:

Subsidies for pastors and pastors' widows	\$ 8,511.60
Support Fund or Retirement Fund	\$15,715.20
Group Life Insurance	\$ 2,500.00
Board expenses	\$ 500.00
	<hr/>
	\$27,226.80

John E. Smith, secretary

## CHRISTIAN SERVICE ACTION OF THE SYNOD

### Resolution No. 1: Term Life Insurance

WHEREAS, *The cost of the \$30,000 Term Life Insurance for the workers of the Synod comes out of the General Fund, and,*

WHEREAS, *The Board for Christian Service reported that the premium is \$108.00, and,*

WHEREAS, *The Board for Christian Service requests each congregation to pay the annual premium,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That each parish be asked to remit to the treasurer of the Synod the annual premium for its pastor and Christian day school teachers.*

**Resolution No. 2: Guidelines for the World Needs Fund**

WHEREAS, *The standing Doctrine Committee has not conducted a study of the guidelines of the World Needs Fund,*

A. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Doctrine Committee study the guidelines of the World Needs Fund, and,*

B. BE IT RESOLVED, *That when this study is completed, the results be reflected in the World Needs Fund guidelines.*

**Resolution No. 3: The World Needs Fund**

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod command the Board for Christian Service for its efforts in looking for the most efficient way to distribute the World Needs Fund.*

## REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR PUBLICATIONS

The responsibilities of the board include the publication of the *Lutheran Sentinel*, the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, Christian literature and synodical promotional materials.

Members of the board are the Rev. W. C. Gullixson, chairman; Daniel Browning, secretary; Howard Siewert, Robert Deering, and the Rev. Arnold Kuster. The Rev. Nile Merseth served as a board member until December 1985.

### LUTHERAN SENTINEL

At its regular September 1985 meeting the board reappointed the Rev. Paul Madson as editor of the *Lutheran Sentinel*, and the Rev. John Dukleth to serve another term as managing editor. The talented leadership of these men along with the valuable assistance of Business Manager, Mrs. Louise Lien brings the *Lutheran Sentinel* into the homes of 5,500 families twelve times a year. The *Lutheran Sentinel* is considered to be one of the finest publications of its type in the country. The board continues to regard the balance of historical/instructional articles with timely/contemporary materials to be a significant accomplishment of Editor Madson and his contributing editors each year. *Lutheran Sentinel* articles and Editor Madson editorials have been reprinted in Christian publications both in the United States and abroad. Once again the board commends the volunteer efforts of Editor Madson and his staff for their consistently excellent publication of the Christ-centered *Lutheran Sentinel*. Special thanks go out to Louise Lien, business manager, for her work in computerizing the Sentinel subscription mailing list. The venerable addressograph machine has been retired and is free to anyone willing to remove it from the Graphic Publishing Company in Lake Mills, Iowa.

The board continues to concentrate on ways of increasing the total subscription count of the *Lutheran Sentinel*. Another 1,500 subscriptions are necessary to balance income to the expense of publication and distribution. The board found it necessary to raise the subscription price of the *Lutheran Sentinel* for the first time since the introduction of the new format. Effective January 1986, the individual rate is \$4.50 and the blanket rate is \$4.00 annually. The board continues to grant one year free subscriptions to mission congregations, after which they are encouraged to take advantage of the blanket rate plan for their membership.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

No new publications were produced by the board in the past year. Several projects are under study, but the board has adopted a careful approach in choosing what to publish by paying special attention to marketability and the financial subsidy/investment necessary from the Synod funds. The board feels this is the appropriate policy in consideration of the pressures on the Synod budget and the high costs associated with publishing and storage of printed materials. However, the board does not wish to stifle submission of materials or suggestions for publication, but welcomes and encourages the same.

The board is moving forward with plans to reprint the Walther book "Word of His Grace," and to publish a companion workbook to the latest Catechism. Also under study is the publication of a book of children's Bible stories complete with illustrations and audio cassette.

They *Synod Report* appears annually edited by the Synod secretary, and the consistently excellent effort in this regard is much appreciated by the board. Likewise, the board thanks Dr. Thomas Kuster for his prompt publication of the *Convention Echo* newspaper after each Synod convention.

Seminary President W. Petersen acts as editor of the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*. The board is grateful to President Petersen and his contributors for their devotion in publishing this periodical for the benefit of its 200 subscribers.

Bulletin inserts on behalf of other Synod boards and projects are produced and distributed six times a year to Synod congregations.

Daniel E. Browning, secretary

## THE REPORT OF THE BIBLE STUDY COMMITTEE

During the past year a second volume of CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE Bible studies was made available. This one, called "The Living Church," gives an overview of the four Gospels in the first two chapters, and then in the last eight chapters covers the Book of Acts and Epistles. The author again is Dr. William Kessel, who has done a very excellent piece of work in this second volume, as he did in the first. We are very grateful to him for the time and energy put into this project. The Synod Book Company is taking care of the publicity and sales for this second volume. The Board for Publications also is involved. Twenty-two hundred copies were printed. To date about 800 copies have been sold. There were many congregations who had not finished the first volume when the 2nd volume went on sale last fall. We encourage our congregations to make use of these excellent Bible study guides.

Norman A. Madson, secretary

## PUBLICATIONS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

### Resolution No. 1: Lutheran Sentinel

WHEREAS, *The Lutheran Sentinel* is now brought into the homes of 5,500 families twelve times a year, and,

WHEREAS, *The cost of this excellent periodical is only \$4.50 per year for individual subscription and \$4.00 per year for blanket subscription, and,*

WHEREAS, *Many more families in the Synod could benefit from reading the Lutheran Sentinel,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That again the Synod encourage all pastors and laymen at this convention to familiarize themselves with the Lutheran Sentinel and to promote individual and blanket subscriptions in their home congregations.*

**Resolution No. 2: Christ the Cornerstone Bible Study Series**

WHEREAS, *Most of our congregations have finished the first volume of our Synod's "Christ the Cornerstone" Bible Study Series, and,*

WHEREAS, *We are concerned that the interest in Bible study generated by the first volume not be allowed to diminish, but that the very helpful second volume entitled, "The Living Church," be a natural follow-up to volume one, and,*

WHEREAS, *The real strength of a church body lies in the faithful use of the Means of Grace including the regular study of God's Word, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod encourage the congregations of the Synod to make good use of this fine material.*

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN WORSHIP**

The Worship Committee met three times this past year. On two other occasions two of the three members met with the WELS Commission on Worship. The WELS Commission now has its preliminary work on a new hymnbook well under way, as it seeks to draw together and assess the many factors that go into the making of a good hymnal.

Since the WELS Commission has welcomed the interest and suggestions of your ELS Worship Committee, we have devoted our time this past year to an evaluation of the hymns in the Lutheran Hymnary.

The committee attended a joint meeting of the WELS Commission on Worship and their hymnal committee at Milwaukee in January of this year. Our committee chairman presented two lists of hymns which we had prepared for consideration by the WELS men. One was a list of 20 "most urgently desired" hymns from the Lutheran Hymnary which do not appear in the Lutheran Hymnal and another list of 25 "desirable" hymns.

A field test of 20 hymns in booklet form is being planned by the WELS Commission to appear during Advent of 1986. Our chairman asked that the ELS be included in the field testing materials.

Paul G. Madson, secretary

# REPORT OF THE SELF-STUDY COMMITTEE

The Self-Study Committee has been composed of the Rev. Alf Merseth, the Rev. Nile Merseth, the Rev. Milton Tweit and the Rev. Richard Newgard. During the year the Rev. David Nelson was appointed to fill the position vacated by the Rev. Nile Merseth's resignation. The committee has completed its work on Guidelines for the Boards for Home and Foreign Missions and for Pastor's and Laymen's Equalization and presents its recommendations for your consideration and adoption. The committee was unable to complete its study on the relationship between the Synod and Thoughts of Faith, Cristo Rey and Faith Mission Society (cf. Synod Report 1985, p. 80, Res. 6 & 7). The committee therefore requests an extension of time and hopes to complete this assignment by the next convention.

The following recommendations are presented to this convention:

**WHEREAS**, The Synod requested the Self-Study Committee to examine the Guidelines for the Board for Missions and recommend necessary revision (cf. Synod Report 1984, p. 140. Res. 2), therefore

**RESOLVED**, That the following be adopted as Guidelines for the Board for Home Missions:

## GUIDELINES FOR THE BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

### 1. PERSONNEL

- A. This board shall consist of seven members, at least three of whom must be clergy and three laymen. The term of office shall be three years. Two members shall be elected each year and three members each third year.
- B. The board shall elect from its members a chairman, vice-chairman, recording secretary, recording treasurer, field secretary, and other officers or assistants as deemed necessary.
  1. The chairman shall call and preside over all the meetings of the board. He shall prepare the agenda for each meeting. He shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie (see also 2I).
  2. The vice-chairman shall preside in the absence of the chairman.
  3. The recording secretary shall record all resolutions of the board and make such notes as may be pertinent to the business of the board. He shall supply copies of the minutes to all board members, Synod officers, and others authorized by board resolution. He shall have the minutes available at the convention of the Synod for study by the convention committee (see also 2I).
  4. The recording treasurer shall secure from the treasurer of the Synod and have ready for the meetings of the board a report on all home mission monies received and expended. He shall prepare a financial statement of the home mission funds, and any other funds under the jurisdiction of the board and have it available for the convention committee. He, together with the field secretary, shall prepare an estimate of the financial needs of home missions for the fiscal year under consideration and present it to the board for ratification or correction.
  5. Under the direction of the board the field secretary shall be responsible for all field work in connection with the establishment and maintenance of home missions. He shall be responsible for all correspondence and serve as a liaison between missionaries and the board. He shall have executive powers as may be given him by the board. He shall provide proper forms for and receive missionary statistical reports, subsidy and congregational financial reports from each missionary, and report pertinent data to the mission board. He shall visit each subsidized preaching station, mission congregation/parish when necessary or as directed by the board and report his findings to the board. He shall regularly supply the editor of the Lutheran Sentinel

with information of general interest regarding the home mission program and shall seek to publicize and promote the work of home missions in the Synod. He shall prepare the report of this board for the synodical convention and submit it to the board for ratification and correction. Finally, he shall report to the trustees of the Synod as deemed necessary (see also 1B4 and 2B&D).

## 2. DUTIES

- A. In general it shall be the duty of the board to locate promising mission fields and establish congregations in agreement with the confession of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and to support such congregations and/or parishes with such assistance and guidance as the board can render.
- B. In keeping with the Great Commission, the board shall have the right to call qualified men of our fellowship to serve mission congregations or stations. When a mission congregation issues a call, it also must be signed by the field secretary of the Board for Home Missions.
- C. The board shall counsel with, support and pray for the workers under its jurisdiction and encourage them to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God.
- D. In the event of a vacancy in a mission congregation, the board shall be consulted as to possible candidates. The field secretary along with the circuit visitor shall make all arrangements for the mission congregation to be served during such vacancies.
- E. The board shall arrange for financial aid from synodically budgeted home mission funds to subsidize congregations, parishes or mission stations that the Gospel ministry in their midst may be properly maintained. It shall encourage good stewardship in these congregations that they may strive to become self-supporting.
- F. The board shall work in close cooperation with other boards and committees of the Synod, especially with the Board of Trustees according to the Mission/Trustee Guidelines (see 3 & 4).
- G. The board shall prepare and present a budget for each fiscal year and present it to the Planning and Coordinating Committee for its budget meeting.
- H. The board shall recommend a salary scale and benefit package for its missionaries in keeping with the current economy and include its recommendation in its report to the Synod.
- I. All expenditures resolved upon by the board shall be duly authorized by the chairman and recording or field secretary of the board and presented in voucher form for payment by the treasurer of the Synod.

## 3. RELATION BETWEEN THE BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

- A. The Board for Home Missions, at the earliest possible time, shall make known to the Board of Trustees any planning or progress in mission establishment where the Synod's resources for capital expenditures may be needed. The Board for Home Missions shall include this in its quarterly report to the Board of Trustees.
- B. The Board for Home Missions shall inform the Board of Trustees at such time as it feels a new mission is progressed to the point where property is needed for its future growth. The Board of Trustees shall review the report and approve further study of such possible property purchase.
- C. The Board for Home Missions shall pursue investigation of such possible property purchase, always keeping the Board of Trustees informed, and shall make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees at such time as it is ready to do so.
- D. The report and recommendation from the Board for Home Missions to the Board of Trustees shall include:
  1. The present and projected membership of the congregation.

2. The plan: lots, church building, parsonage.
  3. The cost.
  4. The timing.
  5. The sources of financing available: from the congregation, from mission resources and from other avenues.
  6. The potential repayment plan.
- E. Inherent in the responsibility of the Board of Trustees is the fact that it has the authority to make the final decision in all matters involving financial obligations.
- F. When these points have been discussed and agreed upon, a plan of implementation shall be agreed upon between the two boards in each individual project. This plan shall include an outline of the responsibilities of each board in each case.
4. LOANS TO MISSION CONGREGATIONS FROM THE SYNOD
- When the plan for the development of a mission includes a loan from the Synod, the following shall apply:
- A. Loans shall be secured by a note written at the floating prime rate prevailing at the First National Bank of Chicago at the time of the loan. The rate shall be adjusted semi-annually. Loans made to mission congregations through the personal loan program shall be administered by the Synod's Board of Trustees.
  - B. During the period that the Synod holds title to the property, the congregation shall make principal and interest payments toward the purchase of the property at a mutually agreeable schedule. This schedule shall be reviewed at the time of the interest subsidy adjustment as shown in paragraph 4D of these guidelines.
  - C. If local financing would be available, the Board for Home Missions would explore that possibility with the congregation and report to the Board of Trustees for review and approval. The Board of Trustees may consider an interest subsidy in each individual case.
  - D. For mission congregations the Synod will provide an interest subsidy
    - 1-3 years at 90%
    - 4-5 years at 75%
    - 6-10 years at 50%
    - after 10 years—0%

Exceptional circumstances in each individual case may bring about negotiations between the congregation and the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Board for Home Missions, which could bring about a change in the payment schedule or the interest rate. The availability of other funds may also alter the above figures (Lutheran Brotherhood Program Subsidy Grants and others).
  - E. As long as the Synod holds title to the property, the following requirements shall apply regarding property improvements:
    1. If improvements are necessary or desirable, such improvements shall be undertaken in consultation with the Board for Home Missions and the Board of Trustees, who will make the decision. No change in structure, exterior or interior, shall be made without the approval of the Board for Home Missions and the Board of Trustees. An exception will be made to the foregoing requirements when immediate action is required to protect or preserve the property.
    2. If the congregation proceeds with an expenditure without the approval of the Board for Home Missions and the Board of Trustees (except for emergency action as mentioned in paragraph 1 above) the congregation is responsible for payment for the improvement.
  - F. The congregation will be responsible to provide adequate insurance coverage on the property, and will provide the Synod's Board of Trustees with verification of such adequate insurance. It will also be responsible to pursue and obtain tax exempt status as soon as the property is purchased.

- G. No more than five years after property purchase, and sooner if conditions so indicate, the Board of Trustees, the Board for Home Missions and the congregation (or their representatives) shall review the progress of the congregation and discuss a possible plan, timetable and appropriate legal vehicle for the transfer of the title of the property to the congregation.
  - H. If in the meantime there has been wide fluctuation in the value of the real estate thus purchased, proper regard shall be shown by both the Board of Trustees and the congregation for each other and such loss or gain shared by both parties equally.
5. **DEFINITIONS**
- A. A target area is seen as a future location for mission development and a mission congregation. Work done in such an area is under the supervision and control of the board.
  - B. A preaching station is comprised of a group of concerned Christians established and supported entirely by themselves or a nearby congregation, in which the full range of pastoral activities is not required or possible.
  - C. A subsidized non-mission congregation is an established congregation which for special reasons requires financial aid from the Board for Home Missions for a period of time.
  - D. A subsidized mission congregation is a congregation under the full jurisdiction of the Board for Home Missions receiving mission support as stated in the guidelines (see 2E).
  - E. A bi-vocational mission is a target area or partially subsidized congregation where a portion of the missionary's salary is procured through his secular occupation.
6. **MEETINGS**  
 Ordinarily the Board for Home Missions shall meet quarterly. Special meetings as well as conference calls shall be arranged by the chairman.
7. **RIGHT OF APPEAL**  
 The board remains responsible to the Synod for any actions taken during the year. Should a mission congregation be dissatisfied with any board decision or action, it has the right to appeal to the Synod. A pastor has the same right.
8. **CHANGING OF THE GUIDELINES**  
 These guidelines shall take precedence over any or all previous resolutions pertaining to the work of the board. They may be enlarged or changed by resolution of the Synod.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the following be adopted as Guidelines for the Board for Foreign Missions:

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS**

#### **1. PERSONNEL**

- A. This board shall consist of seven members, at least three of whom must be clergy and three laymen. The term of office shall be three years. Two members shall be elected each year and three members each third year.
- B. The board shall elect from its members a chairman, vice-chairman, recording secretary, recording treasurer, foreign field secretary, and information officer
  - 1. The chairman shall call and preside over all the meetings of the board. He shall prepare the agenda for each meeting. He shall cast the deciding vote in the event of a tie (see also 2F).
  - 2. The vice-chairman shall preside in the absence of the chairman.
  - 3. The recording secretary shall record all resolutions of the board and make such notes as may be pertinent to the business of the board. He shall supply copies of the minutes to all members of the board, the officers of the Synod and such others authorized by board resolution.



He shall have the minutes available at the convention of the Synod for study by the convention committee (see also 2F).

4. The recording treasurer shall secure from the treasurer of the Synod and have ready for the meetings of this board a report on all foreign mission monies received and expended. He shall prepare a financial statement of the foreign mission funds and any other funds under the jurisdiction of the board and have it available for the convention committee.
5. The foreign field secretary shall be responsible for all correspondence between missionaries and the Board for Foreign Missions. He shall have executive powers as may be given him by the board. He shall provide proper forms for the missionary reports and receive and report pertinent data to the board. He shall be responsible for all field work in connection with the establishment and maintenance of foreign missions. He shall prepare an estimate of the financial needs of foreign missions for the fiscal year under consideration and present it to the board for ratification or correction. He shall prepare reports for the Board of Trustees when deemed necessary (see 3). He shall prepare the report of this board for the synodical convention and submit it to the board for ratification or correction. He shall visit foreign mission fields when deemed necessary by the board (see also 1B6).
6. The information officer shall be responsible for the promotion of foreign mission work. He shall regularly gather and disburse information of general interest regarding the foreign missions program through the Lutheran Sentinel, Mission News, etc. He shall work in consultation with the foreign field secretary (see also 1B5).

## 2. DUTIES

- A. In general it shall be the duty of this board to locate promising mission fields and, with the authorization of the Synod, establish foreign missions according to the confession of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
- B. In keeping with the Great Commission the board shall have the right to call qualified men of our fellowship to fill positions created by vacancies, and, subject to Synod's authorization, to make necessary additions to the missionary staff.
- C. The board shall counsel with, support and pray for the missionaries under its jurisdiction and shall encourage them to be faithful stewards of the mysteries of God.
- D. The board shall keep accurate records and render account of the funds needed and used for such mission work. It shall also prepare and present an estimate of the needs of foreign missions for each fiscal year under consideration and present it to the Planning and Coordinating Committee for its budget meeting.
- E. The board shall recommend a salary scale and benefit package for its missionaries in keeping with the current economy and include its recommendation in its report to the Synod.
- F. All expenditures resolved upon by the board shall be duly authorized by the chairman and recording or field secretary of the board and presented in voucher form for payment by the treasurer of the Synod.
- G. Should the board find a given field to show little or no progress, it shall make careful survey of the situation and report to the Synod before any action is taken to abandon the field.

## 3. PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

- A. When the board finds its interests to be best served by the purchase of real estate property, it shall proceed in the following manner:
  1. The Board for Foreign Missions, at the earliest possible time, shall make known to the Board of Trustees any need or plan for the purchase of real estate property. The Board of Trustees shall review the report and approve further study of such possible property purchase.

2. The Board for Foreign Missions shall pursue investigation of such possible property purchase, always keeping the Board of Trustees informed, and shall make recommendations to the Board of Trustees when it has completed such investigation.
  3. The report and recommendations from the Board for Foreign Missions to the Board of Trustees shall include:
    - a. The projected need and use of such property.
    - b. The description and location of property.
    - c. The cost.
    - d. The timing.
    - e. The sources of financing available.
    - f. The potential repayment plan.
  - B. When these points have been considered and agreed upon, a plan of implementation shall be established between the two boards in each individual project. This plan shall include an outline of the responsibilities of each board in each case.
  - C. Inherent in the responsibility of the Board of Trustees is the fact that it has the authority to make the final decision in all matters involving financial obligations.
  - D. All items purchased by the Board for Foreign Missions are the property of the Synod.
4. MEETINGS
- Ordinarily the Board for Foreign Missions shall meet on the fourth Monday and Tuesday of January, April, July and October of each year. Special meetings as well as conference calls shall be arranged by the chairman. The place and time of all regular meetings shall be determined by the board itself at each meeting.
5. CHANGING OF THE GUIDELINES
- These guidelines shall take precedence over any or all previous resolutions pertaining to the work of the board. They may be enlarged or changed by the Synod.

### **PASTORS' EQUALIZATION**

**WHEREAS**, Attention has been called to inadequacies in the present Guidelines for Pastors' Equalization, therefore,  
**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the present rules (Synod Handbook, p. 59) be revised as follows:

#### **RULES FOR EQUALIZATION FOR THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD ANNUAL CONVENTION AND GENERAL PASTORAL CONFERENCE**

1. The following shall be included in equalization for both the convention and conference whether present or not:
  - a. Pastors serving member congregations.
  - b. Pastors serving non-member congregations.
  - c. Theologically trained professors.
2. If present, male teachers serving schools of member congregations shall be included in equalization for the convention only.
3. If they request, the following may be included in equalization for both the convention and the conference:
  - a. Vicars.
  - b. Pastors Emeriti.
  - c. Professors Emeriti.
  - d. Clergy not in the active ministry.
  - e. Clergy active in a ministry outside the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

4. The Synod shall pay the equalization for all theologically trained professors.
5. Foreign missionaries on furlough shall be included in equalization when in attendance at either the convention or conference. Their equalization expenses shall be paid out of the Foreign Mission Fund of the Synod.
6. Clergy serving as delegates shall be included under laymens' equalization.
7. Each congregation is asked to pay the equalization for
  - a. Its pastor(s).
  - b. Its male teacher(s).
8. The Synod shall pay registration, equalization and lodging and meals figured according to the convention handbook charges, for retired Evangelical Lutheran Synod pastors to both the convention and the conference.
9. The equalizer shall write to all pastors not in attendance requesting equalization payment from them.
10. Subscription fees for the Lutheran Synod Quarterly shall be included in the pastoral conference equalization.
11. The clergy are reminded to be in attendance at conventions and conferences and to be included in the equalization unless exempted by number 3 above, or by a valid excuse submitted in writing to the Synod's president.
12. The clergy are also reminded to carpool or travel in the most economical way.

### GUIDELINES FOR THE BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

**RESOLVED**, That the following be adopted as Guidelines for the Board for Stewardship.

- I. Personnel
  - a. The board shall consist of two (2) clergy and three (3) laymen elected at the annual convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The term of office shall be three years; election to be staggered.
  - b. The officers of this board shall consist of a chairman and secretary.
  - c. The Synod treasurer shall be an ex officio member.
- II. Duties
  - a. The Board for Stewardship shall promote Christian stewardship on the basis of biblical principles.
  - b. The Board for Stewardship shall submit to the Planning and Coordinating Committee an estimate of anticipated income from regular synodical contributions including data used in making this estimate. (November 1)
  - c. The Board for Stewardship shall coordinate and approve all appeals for fund-raising within the Synod.
- III. Meetings
 

The board shall have an annual meeting soon after the Synod convention and, when necessary, shall meet at the call of its chairman.

### CONSTITUTION

**WHEREAS**, A revised Constitution and By-laws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod was adopted at the 1985 convention, and,  
**WHEREAS**, Article VII requires that it be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote at the next regular convention, therefore,  
**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Constitution adopted at the 1985 convention be ratified by this convention (cf. Synod Report 1985, pp. 102-103).

# THE REVISED CONSTITUTION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

## CHAPTER I—Name and Confession

### Paragraph 1

The name of this organization shall be: Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

### Paragraph 2

The only source and rule of the Synod's faith and doctrine is the Word of God, revealed in the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments.

### Paragraph 3

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod subscribes to all the symbolical books, or confessions, of the Lutheran Church, contained in the Book of Concord, because they are a correct statement of the teachings of Scripture, namely:

- a) The three ecumenical creeds: the Apostolic, the Nicene and the Athanasian;
- b) The Unaltered Augsburg Confession;
- c) The Apology of the Augsburg Confession;
- d) The Smalcald Articles;
- e) Luther's Small Catechism;
- f) Luther's Large Catechism;
- g) The Formula of Concord, Epitome;
- h) The Formula of Concord, Thorough Declaration

## CHAPTER II—Membership (cf. By-laws Chapter II)

The Synod consists of those congregations and individuals who subscribe to this constitution and have been accepted into membership.

## CHAPTER III—Purpose (cf. By-laws Chapter III)

The Synod exists to carry out the command of Jesus Christ to preach the Gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:19-20), to contend for the faith (Jude 3), and to promote the development of Christian life (Galatians 5:22-25) within its membership.

## CHAPTER IV—Conventions (cf. By-laws Chapter IV)

In accordance with the apostolic example in Acts 15, the affairs of the Synod are to be organized and directed by conventions called for that purpose.

## CHAPTER V—Governance between Conventions

The activities of the Synod between conventions shall be conducted by its officers, boards and committees.

### Paragraph 1

The governance of the Synod shall be vested in a board of nine (9) trustees, who shall have jurisdiction over all secular business and temporal affairs of the Synod. They shall conduct these affairs in accordance with the constitution, by-laws, rules and resolutions of the Synod.

### Paragraph 2

This board shall consist of nine (9) trustees, three (3) of whom shall be the president, secretary, and treasurer of the Synod. There shall not at any one time be more than five (5) or less than three (3) pastors on this board. The president, secretary and treasurer of the Synod shall also be the president, secretary and treasurer of the Board of Trustees. The vice-president of the Synod shall be an advisory member to the Board of Trustees.

### Paragraph 3

Other areas of the Synod's work shall be assigned to its various boards and

committees and shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations established by the Synod.

#### CHAPTER VI—Officers (cf. By-laws Chapters VI and VII)

The officers of the Synod are its president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer.

#### CHAPTER VII—Amendments

With the exception of Chapter I, paragraphs 2 and 3 (the contents of which must not be changed), amendments to this constitution may be made in the following manner:

Resolutions for amendments are to be presented to a regular convention, and if adopted by a two-thirds majority vote, be published, so that the congregations may review such amendments and respond to the president of the Synod prior to the next regular synodical convention, which convention shall consider the proposed amendment(s) again, and if ratified by a two-thirds majority vote, shall become amendments to the constitution.

### BY-LAWS OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

#### CHAPTER I—Liturgical Forms and Ceremonies

In order to preserve unity in liturgical forms and ceremonies, the Synod recommends to its congregations that they use the Order of Worship based on the Danish-Norwegian liturgy of 1685 and agenda of 1688, or the Common Order of Worship, as each congregation may decide.

#### CHAPTER II—Application for Membership

##### Paragraph 1

A congregation wishing to join the Synod shall make application to the president. Its application shall be accompanied by:

a) a copy of the congregation's constitution and by-laws, which must require:

- 1) acceptance of the Holy Scriptures as the inspired and inerrant Word of God, revealed in the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments; Testaments;
- 2) acceptance of all the symbolical books of the Lutheran Church, because they are a correct statement of the teaching of Scripture;
- 3) that only male members be given the right to speak and vote in formal congregational meetings;
- 4) that only those shall be called to preach and teach who subscribe to the confessions and teachings of the Synod;
- 5) that members of unchristian and false teaching organizations shall not be admitted as members of the congregation;

these, as evidences of the fact that its doctrine, confessions, rites and practices are truly scriptural and evangelical Lutheran;

b) a properly certified declaration that the congregation has subscribed to the constitution and by-laws of the Synod at a legally called meeting of the congregation.

These documents shall be presented to the Synod for action at its convention.

##### Paragraph 2

An individual wishing to join the Synod shall make application to the president. This application shall be accompanied by a declaration of unconditional subscription to the Synod's confessions and teachings, and to its constitution and by-laws.

a) Such application may be made by:

- 1) pastors who are serving member congregations;
- 2) pastors who are serving non-member Lutheran congregations;
- 3) pastors who are serving independent congregations, the confessions and teachings of which are in agreement with those of the Synod;

- 4) male teachers who serve schools of member congregations;
- 5) male professors who serve educational institutions of the Synod;
- b) The Synod recognizes that there are men and women in special circumstances. These may also make applications.

Such applications shall be reviewed and acted on by the Synod on an individual basis.

### CHAPTER III—Activities

The Synod shall through its elected boards, and committees under the supervision and coordination of its president:

- a ) promote an ongoing study of the Holy Scriptures (John 5:39);
- b ) promote the distribution and use of the Holy Scriptures, orthodox books, devotional literature and hymn books;
- c ) be watchful concerning purity and unity of doctrine (Ephesians 4:3-16; 1 Corinthians 1:10) by studying doctrinal questions which are in special need of study and discussion, trying the spirits (1 John 4:1), and warning against encroaching sects, as well as against errors and unchristian trends (1 Timothy 4:1-6), in accordance with the Holy Scriptures;
- d ) establish and promote home and foreign missions;
- e ) establish, manage and maintain institutions of learning for the training of pastors and teachers and for the general Christian education of its people;
- f ) promote and support the establishment of Christian Day Schools for the instruction of the young;
- g ) promote works of charity;
- h ) establish, gather and administer the funds required for the Synod's operation;
- i ) exercise supervision over the Synod's institutions and the pastoral work and practice of its members (cf. paragraph c above)
- j ) promote one General Pastoral Conference to be held annually and at least one pastoral conference in each circuit, and,
- k ) in accordance with the Scriptures (Galatians 6:1-2) serve to mediate in controversies which may arise in the Synod or within its membership.

### CHAPTER IV—Conventions

#### Paragraph 1

Synodical conventions are to be held annually.

Special conventions shall be called by the president when at least one-third of the congregations so request, or when a regular convention so decides. Normally, the delegates and committees of the previous regular convention shall serve at such special conventions.

#### Paragraph 2

Member congregations should make every effort to be represented at the synodical conventions by their pastor(s) and by two duly elected delegates. These delegates shall be elected by their congregations and shall present their credentials to the convention for action. The pastors serving member congregations who are in attendance at the convention and the properly seated delegates constitute the voting membership of the convention. A quorum, a majority of the voting members, shall be necessary for the conducting of business. The president shall have the right to vote only to break a tie vote.

#### Paragraph 3

Male members holding individual membership in the Synod are advisory members to the convention and may serve on its committees. The convention shall decide who, in addition to the voting and advisory members, shall be given the right to speak.

### CHAPTER V—Sphere of Jurisdiction of the Convention

#### Paragraph 1

The synodical conventions shall work to attain the purposes outlined in Chapter III of the constitution and to that end shall:

- a) review the activities of the Synod as conducted by its officers, boards and committees during the previous year;

- b) by careful planning and proper resolutions arrange for the future work of the Synod;
- c) elect a president, a vice-president, a secretary and a treasurer of the Synod;
- d) elect such boards and committees as the Synod may determine. Only those may serve on its boards and committees who are members of the Synod, and men of good repute; and,
- e) decide the time and place of the next synodical convention.

#### Paragraph 2

Convention business shall be conducted according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.

#### Paragraph 3

With relation to the several congregations, the above-mentioned conventions are but advisory assemblies. Therefore, if a congregation believes that a (Synod) decision is in conflict with the Word of God, or finds that it does not serve its interests under the circumstances peculiar to it, the congregation should announce this to the presiding officer of the respective convention, and give its reasons for its opinion. If it does not make such announcement within six months after the secretary has published the decision of the Synod, the decision shall be considered accepted by the congregation, and it shall strive to implement it.

### CHAPTER VI—Election of Officers and Trustees

#### Paragraph 1

The president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer of the Synod shall be nominated and elected by ballot for a term of four years and shall enter upon the duties of their respective offices on the first day of the second month following the conclusion of the convention at which they are elected. At the regular convention at which these by-laws are ratified the president and vice-president shall be elected for terms of four years and the secretary and treasurer shall be elected for terms of two years. Thereafter all officers shall be elected to four year terms as their terms expire. To the office of president and vice president only such men who are ordained members of the clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and who have served in the parish ministry of the Synod may be elected and may serve. To the office of secretary and treasurer only such men may be elected and may serve as are members of a congregation holding membership in the Synod.

#### Paragraph 2

In electing the other trustees, the normal procedure for nominations shall be followed and the vote shall be by ballot. These shall be elected for a term of three (3) years; two (2) being elected at each annual convention of the Synod.

#### Paragraph 3

For the election of officers and trustees a majority of votes cast is required.

#### Paragraph 4

In the event of the president's death, resignation or inability to fulfill the duties of his office, as certified by resolution of two-thirds of the Board of Trustees, the vice-president shall succeed to the office of president until the Synod's next regular convention, when any unexpired portion of the president's term shall be filled by election.

Other vacancies on the Board of Trustees, including those of the synodical vice-president, secretary and treasurer, shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Trustees, and shall serve until the Synod's next regular convention when a successor shall be elected for any unexpired portion of the term. The president, secretary and treasurer thus appointed shall be president, secretary and treasurer of the Board of Trustees also.

### CHAPTER VII—Jurisdiction and Duties of the Officers

#### Paragraph 1—President

The duties of the president shall be:

- a) to call the conventions of the Synod in accordance with the provisions of Chapter IV, paragraph 2 of the constitution;

- b) to preside at the conventions of the Synod;
- c) to select the theme and essayist for the convention;
- d) to present a slate of nominations for the convention committees;
- e) to report to each regular convention on his work, as well as on the condition of the Synod in general;
- f) to supervise the work of the Synod and of its elected boards and committees (cf. Chapter III of these by-laws) (of which boards and committees he is *Ex Officio* an advisory member);
- g) to appoint replacements to the Synod's boards and committees when vacancies occur; such appointees shall serve until the next regular convention;
- h) to ascertain that candidates for the office of the ministry have been properly examined;
- i) to arrange for the colloquies of pastors and teachers who desire to join the Synod;
- j) to be present at least at the regular pastoral conferences;
- k) to represent the Synod in all other areas of its concern.

In performing his duties, the president of the Synod shall seek the counsel and assistance of his brethren.

#### Paragraph 2—Vice-president

The duties of the vice-president shall be:

- a) to serve as an advisory member to the Board of Trustees;
- b) to perform such functions as the president may assign to him; and,
- c) to serve as president when the president is unable to fulfill the duties of his office.

#### Paragraph 3—Secretary

The duties of the secretary shall be:

- a) to keep the minutes of the synodical conventions and provide for publication of the proceedings;
- b) to prepare such communications from the Synod as it or its president may direct;
- c) to announce time and place of synodical conventions together with the subjects for discussion which have been decided upon;
- d) to keep a record of all transactions of the Board of Trustees and have the custody of the Corporate Seal; and,
- e) to serve as statistician for the Synod and compile a Parochial Report based on data annually submitted by the congregations.

#### Paragraph 4—Treasurer

The duties of the treasurer shall be:

- a) to receive and disburse the funds of the Synod according to its direction and the direction of its Board of Trustees;
- b) to keep a record of all funds received and disbursed;
- c) to make a full report to the Board of Trustees at such times as the board may request; and,
- d) to present, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, a statement of the Synod's accounts to each regular convention.

### CHAPTER VIII—Amendments

Amendments to these by-laws may be made in the following manner: Resolutions for amendments are to be presented to a regular convention, and if adopted by a two-thirds majority vote, shall become amendments to the by-laws.



## LAYMEN'S EQUALIZATION

WHEREAS, The Synod requested the Self-Study Committee to analyze the present rules and method of funding for the Laymen's Equalization Fund "with a view of possibly assessing congregations according to communicant membership" and bring its recommendations, (cf. Synod Report, 1985, p. 146, Res. 1), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following "Guidelines for the Equalization Committee" as well as the "Laymen's Equalization Rules" and "Assessment Formula" be adopted.

### GUIDELINES FOR THE EQUALIZATION COMMITTEE

The purpose of this committee is to solicit and administer the Pastors' and Laymen's Equalization Funds. These funds are to help defray expenses of lay delegates, pastors, and qualifying persons who attend the Synod convention and the General Pastoral Conference.

#### I. Personnel

- A. The committee shall consist of three (3) members, one clergy (who shall be the equalizer for the clergy) and two (2) laymen, (who shall be in charge of the Laymen's Equalization Fund).
- B. The members shall be elected by the Synod for three year terms in a staggered one year sequence. Elections are held according to the rules established for elected offices in the Synod.

#### II. Organization

- A. The operation of the Equalization Committee is two-fold:
  1. To request funds and disburse them to qualifying persons who attend the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Annual Synod Convention and the General Pastoral Conference. (See Pastors' Equalization Rules)
  2. To solicit funds from congregations and disburse them to the Synod lay delegates for their travel expense. (See Laymen's Equalization Rules)

#### III. Administration of Funds

- A. See Pastors' Equalization Rules
- B. Laymen's Equalization Rules

##### 1. Duties

- a. One layman shall serve as chairman, and the second layman as vice-chairman.
- b. The chairman is responsible for handling receipts and disbursements of the fund.
- c. The vice-chairman will act as advisor and administer the funds only in the absence of the chairman.
- d. The chairman and the vice-chairman have the authority and responsibility to make expenditures from the fund for necessary operating expenses.
- e. An annual report of the fund listing receipts and disbursements shall be submitted to the Synod convention, this report to be prepared by the chairman and reviewed by the vice-chairman.
- f. If needed, meetings are scheduled at the discretion of the chairman.

##### 2. Remittance

- a. These contributions shall be submitted to the chairman by May 15th, or sooner, if possible.
- b. All Evangelical Lutheran Synod congregations are requested to send in their remittance according to the assessment determined by the chairman of this committee.

### 3. Disbursements

- a. Mileage payments will be at the rate of 15¢ per mile up to 600 miles and 10¢ per mile over 600 miles (round trip) to a layman delegate who drives his own car. (Home to convention site.)
- b. Air travel and bus fares are also accepted. These will be reimbursed in full if funds permit. Otherwise a pro ration of available funds will be made.
- c. Only those delegates whose congregations remit to this fund will receive equalization from it.
- d. Delegates must register at the convention showing name, congregation, round-trip mileage, and/or travel expenses in order to receive reimbursement.
- e. Delegates are encouraged to ride together, whenever possible. This stewardship of money will enable the Equalization Fund to cover more of the expenses.
- f. The chairman will receive 15¢ per mile or actual expenses, whichever is less, out of the fund to cover his costs of attending convention. (Note: If the chairman is a delegate he shall be reimbursed according to rules for delegates set forth.)

## ASSESSMENT FORMULA

### LAYMEN'S EQUALIZATION ASSESSMENTS ACCORDING TO BREAKDOWN OF AMOUNT NEEDED INTO NINE CATEGORIES

If the amount needed is \$17,000, then divide this amount by the number of congregations in the Synod, 112 in the 1985 Synod Report. The amount is \$152. This amount would be what those congregations in the middle category would pay.

Then divide 152 by 8 (from the other categories). This figure is \$19. To figure the four category amounts less than \$152, subtract \$19 from \$152 four times. Then add \$19 four times to \$152 to find the four category amounts above this middle figure.

The following schedule will result:

76	95	114	133	152	171	190	209	228
<u>× 13</u>	<u>× 13</u>	<u>× 13</u>	<u>× 13</u>	<u>× 12</u>	<u>× 12</u>	<u>× 12</u>	<u>× 12</u>	<u>× 12</u>
\$988	\$1,235	\$1,482	\$1,729	\$1,824	\$2,052	\$2,280	\$2,508	\$2,736
Total Amount: \$16,834								

Each category amount is then multiplied by 12 or 13. These numbers come from 112 congregations divided by the 9 categories. The result is 12.44444. So, some are 12 and some 13.

The congregations in each category are found by listing the congregations according to communicant membership, from the smallest to the largest. Congregations 1 to 13 (the smallest ones) will be in the first category, and will each pay \$76 equalization. The next 13 will pay \$95. And so on.

So in general, the smaller congregations will pay as little as \$76, and the largest will pay \$228. This is more equitable than having all congregations pay the same, \$140 or \$170.

If more funds were needed to pay equalization amounts, a larger amount would be split up. For example, if \$20,000 was needed, the figures would be:

91	113	135	157	179	201	223	245	267
<u>× 13</u>	<u>× 13</u>	<u>× 13</u>	<u>× 13</u>	<u>× 12</u>	<u>× 12</u>	<u>× 12</u>	<u>× 12</u>	<u>× 12</u>
\$1,183	\$1,469	\$1,755	\$2,041	\$2,148	\$2,412	\$2,676	\$2,940	\$3,204
Total Amount: \$19,828								

Richard Newgard, secretary

## MEMORIALS: BIENNIAL CONVENTION

TO THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD  
FROM FIRST TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF MARINETTE, WISCONSIN

**WHEREAS,** The cost of the Synodical Conventions and the General Pastoral Conferences has greatly increased in the past several years; and  
**WHEREAS,** These annual incurred expenses are becoming burdensome to many congregations, and added expense to Synod; and  
**WHEREAS,** Much larger synods manage well on a biennial plan for their synodical conventions;  
**RESOLVED,** That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod meet in biennial conventions beginning in 1988, with the General Pastoral Conference meeting in alternate years.

First Trinity Lutheran Church  
of Marinette, Wisconsin  
Dennis Wahoske, president  
William Spiering, secretary  
E. C. F. Stubenvoll, pastor

The Office of the Secretary  
The Rev. Alf Merseth  
106 13th St. S.  
Northwood, Iowa 50459

Dear Pastor Merseth:

Immanuel Lutheran Church would like to submit the following memorial for consideration at this year's annual convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

**WHEREAS,** All synodical business could be taken care of every other year, and  
**WHEREAS,** Travel to conventions and conferences is expensive and difficult for both layman and pastor, and

**WHEREAS,** This expense paid by the congregations could be used in other ways,

**RESOLVED,** That the general Synod convention and General Pastoral Conferences meet on alternate years, and

**RESOLVED,** That the Synod encourage each circuit to hold circuit pastor-lay conferences on the alternate year of the general synodical convention.

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

Sincerely, in Christ  
Robert Wellman  
Secretary  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
Audubon, MN 56511

Rev. Alf E. Merseth  
Secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
106 13th St. South  
Northwood, Iowa 50459

Dear Rev. Merseth:

The following memorial was considered and discussed at the annual joint voters meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church, Calmar, Iowa, and Redeemer Lutheran Church, New Hampton, Iowa, held on November 17, 1985.

**WHEREAS**, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod is continually expanding in the geographical distribution of its member congregations; and,

**WHEREAS**, The expenses incurred by each congregation for the synodical convention and the General Pastoral Conference are increasing;

**WHEREAS**, Such expenses have been difficult burdens for some congregations, as illustrated in the following example:

Expenses of pastor for convention	250—incl. equalization
Expenses of pastor for conference	\$250—incl. equalization
Trinity lay equalization	\$140
Redeemer lay equalization	\$140
Convention expense of one delegate	\$100—for Trinity
Convention expense of one delegate	\$100—for Redeemer
Conference and convention expense	\$980—Total for 1985

Summary: Assuming an average \$250 expense per pastor to attend the General Pastoral Conference, the cost to the Synod and to its member congregations for the 123 pastors on the 1985 clergy roster was \$30,750.

Summary: Assuming an average \$250 expense per pastor and an average \$240 expense per delegate to attend the annual synod convention, the cost to the Synod and to member congregations for the 123 pastors and for 1 delegate from each of the 116 congregations in the Synod was \$58,590.

Summary: The total expense for the Synod and its member congregations in 1985 for the Synod convention and the General Pastoral Conference was \$89,340. This figure does not include any administrative expenses or other incidental expenses of the pastors or delegates. and,

**WHEREAS**, Having a biennial synod convention with the General Pastoral Conference in the alternating years would save the Synod and its member congregations an average of at least \$44,670 per year; and,

**WHEREAS**, The advent of a full time President can facilitate the smooth operation and continuity of the synodical programs on a biennial basis; and,

**WHEREAS**, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod has perpetual difficulty in meeting its budget, the convention and conference expenses incurred by the Synod and its member congregations perhaps being a contributing factor,

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod meet in biennial Synod conventions beginning in 1990 with the General Pastoral Conference meeting in the alternating years; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Self-Study Committee submit the necessary revisions of the constitution and by-laws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for consideration at the 1987 Synod convention; and,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That each circuit be encouraged to meet in circuit meetings in the alternating years, without remuneration, for the purpose of discussing, keeping current, and making suggestions on synodical issues, and that the Synod President be encouraged to attend the circuit meetings to inform the people about the progress and status of the Synod; and,

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, That the Synod pastors be encouraged to meet regularly within their circuits for continued study and fellowship.

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
New Hampton, Iowa

E. C. F. Stubenvoll  
Lee M. Miller  
George N. Braham  
Carl Roberson  
Randy Kellogg  
Marvin D. Njus  
Dennis Volker  
Willmer D. Broer  
Arthur N. Borlaug  
Wallace Knutson  
Robert V. Willms  
Wilmer Broer

Trinity Lutheran Church  
Calmar, Iowa

E. C. F. Stubenvoll, pastor  
Howard R. Benzing  
Dennis M. Benzing, trustee  
Erwin C. Glock  
August H. Schultz, trustee  
C. C. Lowry  
Waldon S. Johnson, secretary  
Howard Wangsness, treasurer

Reverend Alf Merseth  
106 13th Street S.  
Northwood, Iowa 50459

RE: General ELS Synodical Conventions and Pastoral Conferences.

**WHEREAS**, All synodical business could be taken care of every other year and,  
**WHEREAS**, Travel to conventions and conferences is expensive and difficult especially for those congregations and pastors on the East and West Coasts, and,

**WHEREAS**, More and more East and West Coast congregations are being added to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod which markedly increases the equalization cost of going to the conventions and conferences every year,

**RESOLVED**, That the General Synod Conventions and General Pastors Conferences meet on alternate years, and,

**RESOLVED**, That the Synod encourage each circuit to hold circuit pastor-lay conferences on the alternate year of the general synodical convention.

Glenn Tasa, Secretary  
Nazareth Lutheran Church  
Gully, MN

## MEMORIAL: PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

The Rev. Alf Merseth  
Secretary, Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
106 13th Street South  
Northwood, Iowa 50459

Dear Rev. Merseth:

The voting members of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon, WA, hereby submit the following memorial to the 1986 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

**WHEREAS**, It was necessary to cut the budget for 1986 by \$54,900 (letter from president 2-8-86).

**WHEREAS**, This entailed cutting the budget for the Board for Foreign Missions by \$17,000.

**WHEREAS**, Such a cut will necessitate having to cut back on the number of missionaries in Peru (Letter from president 2-8-86 & stewardship chairman).

**WHEREAS**, The estimated cost of establishing a full-time presidency over and above present cost will be about \$18,000 (1985 S.R. p. 125).

**WHEREAS**, This money could cover cost of the budget cut for the Board for Foreign Mission.

**WHEREAS**, This would make it possible to keep all the missionaries in the field.

**WHEREAS**, The sending of missionaries into all the world is required of us by God (Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:15, ELS Constitution Chapter IV d.).

**WHEREAS**, The new budget process has as its purpose to cut the deficit and not designate funds to begin new projects until money is available (p. 148 S.R., p. 121, S.R. Stewardship Chairman's letter 2/23/86).

**WHEREAS**, The establishing of a full-time presidency is a new project not necessary to the carrying out of the synodical work.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That establishing a full-time presidency be postponed until funds are available without cutting back the work of the Synod in other areas.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That money designated for the full-time presidency be put into the foreign mission budget, so that all the missionaries in Peru can be kept in the mission field.

The members of St. Luke Lutheran Church  
Jerrold R. Dalke, pastor  
Gary Meyer, chairman  
Kurt Meyer, secretary

# LAYMEN'S DELEGATES EQUALIZATION FUND COMMITTEE

Dear Brethren:

As chairman of the LAYMEN'S DELEGATES EQUALIZATION FUND COMMITTEE it is my privilege and responsibility to contact the congregations of our Synod for funds to carry on the work of this committee for the annual convention of the Synod. The convention will be held at Mankato, Minnesota in June. It is a *must* that your congregation respond with a check to the fund so that our committee may render the best possible service to the laymen delegates as well as pay back funds advanced from the Synod in the prior year. The purpose of the fund is to defray transportation costs of the delegates.

We are submitting a statement of cash receipts and disbursements for the 1985 convention period. The fund still owes the Synod general fund \$1,500.00 at this time for funds advanced to pay delegates in full at the 1984 convention.

## Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Balance on Hand 4/1/85		\$ 985.31
Receipts:		
Church Assessments—		
48 @ \$140.00	\$ 6,720.00	
44 @ \$170.00	7,480.00	
Interest Income	<u>174.00</u>	
Total Receipts		14,374.00
Disbursements:		
Delegates		
Air Fares	(\$ 7,455.36)	
Mileage	( 5,748.60)	
Printing, Postage & Expenses	( 31.59)	
Synod Repayment	<u>( 500.00)</u>	
Total Disbursements		(13,735.55)
Balance on Hand 3/31/86		<u>\$ 1,623.76</u>

For the 1986 Convention we will pay the following rates. Mileage payments will be at the rate of 15 ¢ per mile up to 600 miles and 10 ¢ per mile over 600 miles (round trip) to a layman delegate who drives his own car. Air travel and bus fares are also accepted. These will be reimbursed in full if funds permit. Otherwise a pro ration of available funds will be made. We expect delegates to ride together where possible.

We are asking each congregation to contribute to the fund as follows: Send \$150 for one delegate *or no delegates*, and \$190 from each congregation which sends two delegates and who submit separate mileage expense statements.

Please send the remittance from your congregation as soon as possible using the enclosed remittance form. It is necessary to have the funds from all congregations by convention time if we are to pay the delegates at the convention.

Yours in Christ,  
Stan Reinholtz, chairman  
5026 Bayfield Terrace  
Madison, WI 53705 (608)-238-1184

## REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

The Board for Stewardship was able to accomplish its business by conducting two meetings, one on August 4-5, 1985, and the other on January 17-18, 1986. All other goals were achieved by individual members through personal assignment.

The members of the board are the Rev. Paul Schneider, chairman; Mr. Howard Hougan, secretary; the Rev. David Nelson; Mr. Leslie Enter; Mr. A. T. Bliss, Jr. The Rev. M. Tweit has also served the board as a resource-consultant.

In an attempt to carry out the Synod Handbook guidelines to promote good, biblical stewardship throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the following has been done by the board since the last convention:

- 1) Regular letters were sent to all the pastors of the Synod providing stewardship encouragement along with a monthly listing of contributions from the congregations. Since January of 1986 this monthly mailing goes to all pastors, teachers, board members and convention delegates.
- 2) Coin folders and special offering envelopes were provided for each congregation for both the Advent and Lenten seasons.
- 3) The Rev. David Nelson has been responsible for providing articles to the LUTHERAN SENTINEL and also for producing bulletin inserts.
- 4) Leslie Enter is the "contact" man with LACE (Lutheran Association for Church Extension—WELS). He met with this committee and is responsible to promote this program within the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
- 5) Mr. A. T. Bliss, Jr. continues his fine work of compiling the statistics relating to the contributions from the congregations. Not only does he provide the chairman with monthly listings, together with an accumulated total for the year, but also a listing for the past six years. A copy of this information is included with this report.
- 6) A special offering was called for October 6 or 13 in 1985 because of the budget deficit. Special envelopes were provided together with a letter from the chairman. Although it is impossible to determine how much extra money was received, it would appear that this offering helped to "catch-up" so that our deficit for the year was only \$24,043.42.
- 7) The Rev. David Nelson made a study of an analysis of the stewardship board as was requested by the Planning & Coordinating Committee. With the help of M. Tweit working with the Norwegian Synodical Reports he presented a summary of the work of this board since the Synod was reorganized in 1918. Chairman P. Schneider worked on future planning and submitted this report to the subcommittee of the Planning and Coordinating Committee of the Synod.
- 8) Chairman P. Schneider attended a WELS Stewardship Seminar held in Lansing, Michigan, January 30-31, 1986. It is the desire of this board to learn as much as possible about matters relating to stewardship and also to keep in communication with our sister synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
- 9) No requests were made of this board for "special offerings" taken within the Evangelical Lutheran Synod so no official "permission" was given to anyone for special fund appeals.
- 10) In keeping with the new requirements of the Planning-Budgeting Operations, a request was made of all congregations to estimate the budget contributions for 1987. In response to this request, seventy-three congregations submitted "estimates" totaling \$559,640. Thirty-seven did not reply and two did not feel it possible to give an estimate. Using past giving records, an estimate of \$167,684 was made for these thirty-nine congregations. Thus the total projected estimate of synodical income for 1987 amounted to \$727,324.
- 11) The Stewardship Educational Program planned for this year is a booklet produced by Chairman Schneider entitled "MANAGING MY MASTER'S MONEY." Eight special seminars were conducted during the month of April at which time the pastors were "taught" how to use this material within their parish. These seminars were conducted in conjunction with the



Special Home Mission Offering. Dr. William Kessel presented the information relating to the offering. The cost of the stewardship booklet was covered through a generous gift from Mrs. Dorothy Arbury. This stewardship presentation has been made available in video tape, made possible through a generous gift from Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Bliss.

- 12) A two-day Stewardship Seminar was conducted by Chairman P. Schneider November 7-8, 1985, at Holy Scripture Lutheran Church, Midland, Michigan. This was funded by a grant from AAL. Nine pastors together with the synodical president attended. The purpose was to train these "area" pastors so they can assist with the stewardship training and promotion throughout the entire synod. These pastors will also be the "area captains" for the special home mission offering.
- 13) Due to the fact that the Synod has now changed its budgeting process, the present HANDBOOK needs to be changed regarding the duties of the Board for Stewardship. This matter has been brought to the attention of the Self Study Committee.

The Board for Stewardship spent a great deal of time studying the basic principles of stewardship together with such ideas as subscription giving, special offerings, giving *from* blessings vs. *to* need & budget, etc. The members continue to grow in knowledge and understanding and especially in the appreciation of God's directives as outlined in His holy Word. In addition to this stewardship study much thought has gone into future planning and programs of stewardship education. The need continues to exist to help out the various congregations. It has been noted that in 1985, 59 congregations gave *less* than in 1984 while 58 congregations gave *more*.

The board continues to study the possibility of conducting seminars or conferences for the lay people of the Synod as well as more seminars for the pastors. It remains the goal of this board to use the Word of God to instruct the people so that they, by God's grace, give like the Macedonians, "*as much as they were able and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will.*" (II Corinthians 8:3-5)

May God's will be done and may He receive all the glory!

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD—1985

	1985-Accumulated	
	Budget	Non-Budget
Ascension, Eau Claire, WI	\$ 37	\$ 17
Bethany, Ames, IA	40	—
Bethany, Luverne, MN	17,018	150
Bethany, Port Orchard, WA	9,199	177
Bethany, Princeton, MN	12,412	—
Bethany, The Dalles, OR	1,695	—
Bethel, Yuba City, CA	684	48
Bethel, Sioux Falls, SD	3,405	297
Calvary, Ulen, MN	3,935	63
Center, Scarville, IA	3,665	—
Christ, Port St. Lucie, FL	1,246	—
Christ, Savannah, GA	2,800	—
Christ, Santa Rosa, CA	1,787	—
Christ, Sutherlin, OR	810	—
Christ the Cornerstone, Phoenix, AZ	5,224	15
Christ the King, Bell Gardens, CA	3,123	341
Clearwater, Oklee, MN	150	—

Concordia, Clearbrook, MN	967	80
Concordia, Eau Claire, WI	1,607	11
East Paint Creek, Waterville, IA	7,429	107
English, Cottonwood, MN	13,118	55
Faith, Alpena, MI	197	—
Faith, Camarillo, CA	—	—
Faith, East Jordan, MI	783	—
Faith, Hillman, MI	713	40
Faith, Oregon, WI	3,738	111
Faith, Orange Co., CA	1,735	—
Faith, Parkersburg, IA	2,316	—
Faith, San Antonio, TX	4,890	—
First, Suttons Bay, MI	1,759	260
First American, Mayville, ND	5,564	197
First English, Ashland, WI	215	—
First Evanger, Fertile, MN	2,093	5
First Shell Rock, Northwood, IA	6,592	—
First Trinity, Marinette, WI	3,956	—
Forest, Forest City, IA	3,049	583
Good Shepherd, Bloomer, WI	3,774	176
Good Shepherd, Blythe, CA	—	—
Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX	3,830	—
Grace, Crookston, MN	1,505	17
Grace, Madison, WI	19,860	302
Grace, Piedmont, MO	3,659	100
Grace, Vero Beach, FL	38,722	1,835
Hartland, Hartland, MN	3,490	—
Heritage, Apple Valley, MN	5,062	52
Hesperia, Hesperia, MI	330	—
Hiawatha, Minneapolis, MN	3,168	300
Holton, Holton, MI	5,703	72
Holy Cross, Madison, WI	33,610	311
Holy Scripture, Midland, MI	15,320	—
Holy Trinity, Okauchee, WI	15,186	493
Immanuel, Audubon, MN	5,776	98
Immanuel, Riceville, IA	1,261	15
Indian Landing, Rochester, NY	1,822	65
Jerico, New Hampton, IA	19,716	364
King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN	49,590	377
King of Grace, Worthington, MN	—	—
Lake Mills, Lake Mills, IA	2,183	—
Lakewood, Tacoma, WA	3,260	—
Lime Creek, Lake Mills, IA	3,541	—
Manchester, Manchester, MN	1,528	120
Mt. Olive, Mankato, MN	25,674	2,306
Mt. Olive, Trail, MN	1,817	52
Nazareth, Trail, MN	3,794	109
Newport, Wisconsin Dells, WI	1,969	—
Norseland, St. Peter, MN	17,975	250
Norwegian Grove, Gaylord, MN	6,231	307
Oak Park, Oklee, MN	3,805	81
Our Redeemer, Yelm, WA	1,061	43
Our Savior's, Albert Lea, MN	21,478	35
Our Savior's, Amherst Junction, WI	1,882	118
Our Savior's, Bagley, MN	458	25
Our Savior's, Belview, MN	1,881	97
Our Savior, Bishop, CA	2,974	35
Our Savior's, Elderon, WI	1,840	—
Our Savior's, Hawley, MN	2,885	28
Our Saviour, Lake Havasu City, AZ	9,213	318
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL	1,234	—

Our Saviour's, Madison, WI	760	1,160
Our Savior, Naples, FL	7,737	55
Our Savior's, Princeton, MN	15,946	1,076
Parkland, Tacoma, WA	6,402	675
Peace, Deshler, OH	2,337	—
Pilgrim, Waterloo, IA	5,497	—
Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI	4,910	324
Pinewood, Burlington, MA	8,931	140
Redeemer, Iola, WI	756	80
Redeemer, New Hampton, IA	2,946	37
Redeemer, Scottsville, NY	1,100	—
Resurrection, Marietta, GA	2,265	—
Richland, Thornton, IA	17,517	461
River Heights, East Grand Forks, MN	21,863	5,660
Rock Dell, Belview, MN	4,045	—
Rose Dell Trinity, Jasper, MN	972	—
Saude, Lawler, IA	10,509	5
Somber, Northwood, IA	3,354	39
St. Andrew, Colorado Springs, CO	650	152
St. Luke, Mount Vernon, WA	33	—
St. Mark's, Chicago, IL	1,462	98
St. Martin, Shawano, WI	20,246	402
St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek, OR	416	180
St. Paul, Clintonville, WI	2,411	204
St. Paul, Escondido, CA	1,082	31
St. Paul's, Lengby, MN	2,654	—
St. Paul's, Portage, WI	2,309	—
St. Petri, Grygla, MN	719	95
St. Timothy, Lombard, IL	15,064	503
Synod, Scarville, IA	14,901	326
Trinity, Brewster, MA	4,434	396
Trinity, Calmar, IA	1,373	8
Trinity, Sebastian, FL	3,093	25
Trinity, West Bend, WI	23,427	316
Wayfarer's Chapel, Ventura, CA	2,945	—
West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA	1,036	—
Western Koshkonong, Cottage Grove, WI	4,010	60
Zion, Thompson, IA	922	—
Zion, Tracy, MN	11,064	522
Miscellaneous	10,908	388,472
Totals	<u>\$719,357</u>	<u>\$412,560</u>

# **BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD** **Total for Years Indicated**

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985
Ascension, Eau Claire, WI	\$ 70	\$ 513	\$ 320	\$ 241	115	37
Bethany, Ames, IA	968	1,298	775	117	—	40
Bethany, Luverne, MN	13,601	20,650	17,771	20,485	18,003	17,018
Bethany, Port Orchard, WA	13,115	14,952	17,205	18,020	18,535	9,199
Bethany, Princeton, MN	7,727	12,043	11,029	11,891	12,366	12,412
Bethany, The Dallas, OR	—	—	—	—	—	1,695
Bethel, Yuba City, CA	—	—	—	405	676	684
Bethel, Sioux Falls, SD	4,692	4,856	5,600	5,467	3,110	3,405
Calvary, Ulen, MN	1,545	5,714	2,548	3,987	3,465	3,935
Center, Scarville, IA	3,676	3,835	3,961	4,342	3,407	3,665
Christ, Port St. Lucie, FL	—	—	—	—	—	1,246
Christ, Savannah, GA	390	840	800	3,000	3,000	2,800
Christ, Santa Rosa, CA	—	—	—	—	—	1,787
Christ, Sutherlin, OR	902	1,023	842	1,538	1,334	810
Christ the Cornerstone, Phoenix, AZ	—	—	—	—	1,865	5,224
Christ the King, Bell Gardens, CA	3,040	2,688	2,683	2,627	3,387	3,123
Clearwater, Oklee, MN	741	807	880	1,170	805	150
Concordia, Clearbrook, MN	1,962	1,296	743	1,625	1,305	967
Concordia, Eau Claire, WI	6,497	5,147	768	2,225	3,247	1,607
East Paint Creek, Waterville, IA	8,813	8,307	8,543	7,880	6,565	7,429
English, Cottonwood, MN	13,288	14,288	14,836	15,783	13,671	13,118
Faith, Alpena, MI	359	1,204	300	160	150	197
Faith, Camarillo, CA	700	600	747	455	30	—
Faith, East Jordan, MI	852	1,139	1,122	1,094	535	783
Faith, Hillman, MI	1,947	2,275	1,081	531	—	713
Faith, Oregon, WI	1,211	1,899	2,189	2,758	2,269	3,738
Faith, Orange Co., CA	—	160	827	1,070	1,225	1,735
Faith, Parkersburg, IA	1,985	2,171	2,254	2,140	2,383	2,316
Faith, San Antonio, TX	1,204	2,308	2,774	3,265	3,483	4,890
First, Suttons Bay, MI	3,363	2,949	3,067	1,579	1,622	1,759

**BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD—continued**  
**Total for Years Indicated**

First American, Mayville, ND	5,268	5,636	4,211	6,132	6,786	5,564
First English, Ashland, WI	3,064	1,633	766	575	622	215
First Evanger, Fertile, MN	1,708	2,682	2,714	2,483	2,218	2,093
First Shell Rock, Northwood, IA	3,854	3,266	4,289	2,454	6,603	6,592
First Trinity, Marinette, WI	2,028	5,080	4,507	6,078	5,365	3,956
Forest, Forest City, IA	3,487	783	539	812	4,661	3,049
Good Shepherd, Bloomer, WI	3,904	5,705	3,771	6,251	4,588	3,774
Good Shepherd, Blythe, CA	—	—	—	902	1,225	—
Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX	2,904	4,839	4,493	3,554	4,058	3,830
Grace, Crookston, MN	3,678	5,849	5,228	5,927	4,405	1,505
Grace, Madison, WI	7,400	7,700	9,975	11,267	13,660	19,860
Grace, Piedmont, MO	598	542	1,242	2,345	3,196	3,659
Grace, Vero Beach, FL	29,002	28,090	49,403	34,572	32,611	38,722
Hartland, Hartland, MN	5,296	4,746	6,201	4,237	3,924	3,490
Heritage, Apple Valley, MN	1,142	4,101	4,075	4,641	6,405	5,062
Hesperia, Hesperia, MI	—	—	—	56	240	330
Hiawatha, Minneapolis, MN	4,027	1,240	3,557	1,783	3,206	3,168
Holton, Holton, MI	4,210	4,697	4,456	3,727	6,675	5,703
Holy Cross, Madison, WI	30,025	31,024	33,500	28,961	28,514	33,610
Holy Scripture, Midland, MI	4,155	6,617	8,951	14,664	26,679	15,320
Holy Trinity, Okauchee, WI	10,183	12,867	14,332	15,982	19,355	15,186
Immanuel, Audubon, MN	4,025	3,345	4,673	3,941	6,872	5,776
Immanuel, Riceville, IA	968	1,243	1,225	715	944	1,261
Indian Landing, Rochester, NY	2,438	2,870	3,344	3,106	2,317	1,822
Jerico, New Hampton, IA	16,461	16,148	20,440	19,476	20,663	19,716
King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN	33,193	42,628	49,426	46,071	42,216	49,590
King of Grace, Worthington, MN	—	—	—	—	20	—
Lake Mills, Lake Mills, IA	3,226	3,115	2,817	3,343	2,901	2,183
Lakewood, Tacoma, WA	3,227	2,964	2,996	1,731	3,625	3,260
Lime Creek, Lake Mills, IA	1,642	2,462	2,032	2,664	2,778	3,541

**BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD—continued**  
**Total for Years Indicated**

Manchester, Manchester, MN	1,392	1,480	1,682	1,152	1,329	1,528
Mt. Olive, Mankato, MN	26,989	29,881	31,428	30,517	35,326	25,674
Mt. Olive, Trail, MN	2,174	3,288	3,032	2,423	1,857	1,817
Nazareth, Trail, MN	3,321	3,902	2,831	100	300	3,794
Newport, Wisconsin Dells, WI	1,488	2,530	1,958	2,007	1,869	1,969
Norseland, St. Peter, MN	12,657	11,859	10,078	20,172	20,093	17,975
Norwegian Grove, Gaylord, MN	4,573	5,716	5,477	6,051	6,043	6,231
Oak Park, Oklee, MN	1,711	4,383	3,600	3,510	1,413	3,805
Our Redeemer, Yelm, WA	1,267	1,342	1,712	1,322	833	1,061
Our Savior's, Albert Lea, MN	18,957	19,554	22,366	22,023	19,006	21,478
Our Savior's, Amherst Junction, WI	3,096	3,324	3,105	2,699	2,673	1,882
Our Savior's, Bagley, MN	557	729	1,989	520	700	458
Our Savior's, Belview, MN	3,042	2,049	5,264	3,220	2,995	1,881
Our Savior, Bishop, CA	2,884	2,730	2,672	3,111	3,610	2,974
Our Savior's, Elderon, WI	1,285	1,420	1,250	1,650	2,204	1,840
Our Savior's, Hawley, MN	3,371	2,592	2,985	2,958	2,879	2,885
Our Saviour, Lake Havasu City, AZ	3,264	4,398	4,479	6,237	5,830	9,213
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL	—	—	—	—	158	1,234
Our Saviour's, Madison, WI	2,814	2,471	507	900	997	760
Our Savior, Naples, FL	7,424	7,058	6,735	5,047	6,000	7,737
Our Savior's, Princeton, MN	11,526	10,297	15,683	14,084	11,820	15,946
Parkland, Tacoma, WA	9,201	11,763	7,654	7,980	10,882	6,402
Peace, Deshler, OH	—	—	—	3,002	1,685	2,337
Pilgrim, Waterloo, IA	6,097	6,030	6,999	7,045	6,232	5,497
Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI	3,235	3,400	4,180	5,435	6,338	4,910
Pinewood, Burlington, MA	4,879	5,483	5,858	6,656	6,950	8,931
Redeemer, Iola, WI	737	1,015	735	500	564	756
Redeemer, New Hampton, IA	2,646	2,673	2,345	2,581	2,298	2,946
Redeemer, Scottsville, NY	211	591	819	1,105	1,290	1,100
Resurrection, Marietta, GA	—	626	1,141	1,619	878	2,265

# BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD—continued

## Total for Years Indicated

Richland, Thornton, IA	12,497	15,024	17,639	21,072	15,890	17,517
River Heights, East Grand Forks, MN	49,012	24,321	38,613	22,825	29,419	21,863
Rock Dell, Belview, MN	4,753	5,120	4,864	4,349	4,241	4,045
Rose Dell Trinity, Jasper, MN	1,540	3,950	1,661	2,579	1,242	972
Saude, Lawler, IA	3,908	6,369	9,521	11,951	12,572	10,509
Somber, Northwood, IA	4,226	6,106	3,864	3,579	2,545	3,354
St. Andrews, Colorado Springs, CO	1,422	1,440	1,136	1,448	1,431	640
St. Luke, Mount Vernon, WA	50	778	610	442	—	33
St. Mark's, Chicago, IL	2,059	3,668	3,512	3,213	2,879	1,462
St. Martin, Shawano, WI	11,959	15,024	15,862	15,895	15,828	20,246
St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek, OR	202	258	712	1,970	1,192	416
St. Paul, Clintonville, WI	4,990	4,456	3,320	3,139	5,081	2,411
St. Paul, Escondido, CA	405	333	458	621	891	1,082
St. Paul's, Lengby, MN	1,555	2,533	2,339	780	3,289	2,654
St. Paul's, Portage, WI	4,866	3,401	4,902	2,312	851	2,309
St. Petri, Grygla, MN	50	922	575	373	498	719
St. Timothy, Lombard, IL	17,660	20,328	19,433	13,605	9,420	15,064
Synod, Scarville, IA	9,538	12,074	16,154	13,720	14,628	14,901
Trinity, Brewster, MA	2,820	3,504	3,664	4,871	3,551	4,434
Trinity, Calmar, IA	2,079	2,171	1,338	1,881	1,872	1,373
Trinity, Sebastian, FL	—	—	—	—	1,983	3,093
Trinity, West Bend, WI	12,289	16,904	18,990	20,586	21,648	23,427
Wayfarers' Chapel, Ventura, CA	325	1,225	1,230	1,398	2,712	2,945
West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA	2,752	2,832	2,136	1,675	1,425	1,036
Western Koshkonong, Cottage Grove, WI	7,620	7,285	3,610	1,220	3,765	4,010
Zion, Thompson, IA	2,292	1,185	1,857	2,080	1,211	922
Zion, Tracy, MN	5,984	6,633	7,139	7,680	10,244	11,064
*Miscellaneous	9,795	13,864	13,110	8,821	8,977	10,908
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$601,209</b>	<b>\$659,126</b>	<b>\$710,689</b>	<b>\$692,012</b>	<b>\$718,222</b>	<b>\$719,357</b>

\*includes previous churches

Paul Schneider, chairman

# REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Coordinating Committee met on December 9-10, 1985, and on March 3, 1986.

The members of the committee are: The officers of the Synod, George Orvick, president; Norman Madson, vice president; Alf Merseth, secretary; Leroy Meyer, treasurer. Chairmen of each board of the Synod: Raymond Branstad, Education and Youth; Erwin Ekhoft, Home Missions; G. Guldberg, Christian Service; W. Gullixson, Publications; Loyd Miller, Foreign Missions; John Moldstad, Regents; William Overn, Regents; Paul Schneider, Stewardship. Laymen: Julian Olsen, Harvey Roberson, Everett Schumacher.

## BUDGET 1987

In accordance with the new guideline, "Planning—Budgeting—Operations" (Synod Report 1985, p. 146-148) the committee received budget requests for the 1987 budget from all the boards and at its December 1985 meeting discussed these and presented a tentative budget to the boards of the Synod for discussion and response. At its March 1986 meeting the tentative budget, together with the comments of the various boards, was considered again and the Planning and Coordinating Committee recommends the following budget for 1987 to the Synod for consideration and adoption.

## BUDGET FOR 1987

<b>BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE</b>		
Operations	\$159,000	
Interest on residences and improvements	51,000	
Maintenance on residences	21,500	
Improvements—on college facilities	21,500	
Faculty housing rental	23,000	\$276,000
<b>SEMINARY</b>		
Operations	44,000	
Maintenance on residences	2,000	46,000
<b>CHRISTIAN SERVICE</b>		27,000
<b>EDUCATION AND YOUTH</b>		13,000
<b>FOREIGN MISSIONS</b>		137,000
<b>HOME MISSIONS</b>		
Operations	100,200	
Interest on mission properties	27,800	128,000
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>		12,000
<b>SYNOD FUND</b>		
Interest on loans	15,000	
Deferred Giving Counselor	14,800	
Administration expenses		
\$72,000—less \$25,700		
from President's Office		
Endowment Fund	46,300	
Boards, committees and convention	30,700	106,800
Total		745,800
Debt reduction		0
Grand Total		745,800

## PRIORITIZING PROJECTS

The committee is fully aware that the guidelines also state that contemplated future projects should be prioritized. The committee has done some work on this,



but since not all the boards of the Synod have presented the committee with their list of contemplated projects and since the committee has not had enough time for such a study, it is not ready to report at this time, but will surely continue its work on this assignment.

### **SUBSCRIPTION OFFERING**

The committee is fully aware of this assignment and asks the Synod to consider the following:

**WHEREAS,** The Planning and Coordinating Committee has not had time to make an in-depth study of the pros and cons of subscription offerings,

**RESOLVED,** That the Synod grant the Planning and Coordinating Committee until the 1987 convention to prepare its report.

### **75TH ANNIVERSARY OFFERING**

The committee is fully aware of the assignment and has instructed its chairman to appoint a committee which will bring preliminary plans to its next meeting.

Alf Merseth, secretary

## **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod held its regular quarterly meetings in 1985 on the following dates: February 12-13 and March 25; May 14-15; August 12-13 and November 12-13. The board also had special meetings on May 30 and June 20 and met via telephone conference call on April 1 and December 7. The board also has two Ad Hoc Committees that meet from time to time to study matters that are assigned to them by the board. This report will also include any business conducted by the board at a special meeting on January 10, 1986, and its regular quarterly meeting on February 10-11, 1986.

The Trustee-Regents Subcommittee consisting of three members from each of these boards met quarterly on the following dates: January 31, April 29, July 29 and October 28, 1985, and on January 27, 1986. This subcommittee discusses matters of common concern referred to it and makes recommendations to the two boards that it serves. M. E. Tveit or R. M. Branstad have served as chairman of the committee and the undersigned serves as its secretary.

The Trustees-Home Missions Subcommittee consisting of three members from each of these boards met two times, February 5, 1985, and January 17, 1986. This committee concerns itself with mission congregations in which both are involved and mutual understanding and cooperation of efforts is helpful. E. Ekhoft serves as chairman of this subcommittee and the undersigned serves as secretary.

Just recently a Trustee-Foreign Mission Subcommittee has been established consisting of three members from each of these boards. This subcommittee will meet as necessary to coordinate the work of these two boards.

The Trustees-Regents-Publications Subcommittee consisting of representatives from these three boards and the administration of Bethany Lutheran College, meet as necessary, usually at a dinner meeting on the first day of the regular quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees. They meet to discuss the relationship between these boards in the areas of publishing, storage and marketing of the Synod's publications. President Orvick serves as chairman of this subcommittee and W. C. Gullixson of the Board for Publications is its secretary.

The work of these subcommittees is very vital in promoting a better understanding between these boards; this in turn leads to a smoother operation in these phases of the Synod's work.

## AMORTIZATION OF DEFICIT

The loan from the Bethany Lutheran College Reserve Fund is being amortized at \$10,000 per year plus interest.

One third of all undesignated legacies is used for debt reduction.

## ARCHIVES

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Department of Archives and History serves also the college and seminary. The Trustees re-appointed the following: Prof. R. Honsey, chairman; W. C. Gullixson p.e.m., secretary; Prof. S. Lee; Prof. J. B. Madson and Dr. B. W. Teigen.

### Accessions

The sainted Rev. George O. Lillegard correspondence files (Term Question)

The sainted Rev. George A. Gullixson correspondence, sermons and materials from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Chicago Ill.

Norwegian Book of Morning and Evening Prayers and Psalms (1754) from Philip Nordlie

Evangelical Lutheran Synod General Pastoral Conference Minutes (1929-1957; 1960-1966)

Publication Board chairman's correspondence and files, Sig Lee

Tapes of Evangelical Lutheran Synod conventions

Pictures of Synod conventions (1948-1954)

Pictures of college faculty and student body (1941-1959)

Tapes of musicals and plays presented at the college

Minutes of the Bethany Lutheran College Faculty Women's Club (1941-)

Phonograph records from Minnie Hubbard, a former Bethany Ladies College faculty member

Bethany College scrolls (1981-1982)

The archivist, W. C. Gullixson, attended an Archives Conference in St. Louis, Mo., where some 80 archivists and historians gathered. Some 25 presentations were made in the three day conference.

"Preserving Our Heritage," a brochure prepared, edited and published by R. Honsey and S. Lee, and a letter were distributed to congregations throughout the Synod. The purpose is to promote interest, material gathering and financial support for the Department of Archives and History. Some congregations have requested a presentation of pictures and information regarding the Archives.

Some pictures of Synod conventions and college faculty and students have been mounted on panels for display.

The committee seeks to serve the Synod, the college and the seminary by preserving official records, minutes, correspondence and publications of officers, boards, and committees; also biographical and subject files for each congregation (anniversary and historical publications) and official church records (restricted use to guard confidentiality).

A Gullixson Memorial Fund received an additional \$770.00 from Mrs. Valborg Natvig, Mrs. Esther Jackson, the Rev. G. A. R. Gullixson and the Rev. W. C. Gullixson. The fund was established at the dedication of the college library to be used for archival equipment. Interest and principal are used as equipment is needed.

The artifacts from the museum are to be photographed and identified for posterity.

Efforts are being made to encourage congregations to consider having their official records copied (microfiche) for posterity. The danger of fire, theft or vandalism is a good reason to have this done and a copy should also be sent to the Synod's Archives (restricted use to guard confidentiality). Then, too, the committee wishes to gather information from older people of the Synod who remember the early history of the Synod and how it may have affected their home congregation, families and communities. This could be done by oral tape or cassette recordings or transcriptions.

W. C. Gullixson, secretary

## ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

The Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, as amended by the 1985 Synod Convention, were recorded with the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota on August 29, 1985.

## BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE AND SEMINARY PROPERTIES

The renovation project in the college chapel was completed. The major portion of the cost of the renovation was borne by the Agnes Nygaard Estate. The new seating equipment was an undertaking of the Bethany Lutheran College Women's Auxiliary.

## BUDGET 1986

At a special meeting on January 10, 1986, the Board of Trustees took action to reduce and reallocate the 1986 Synod Budget as follows:

Bethany Lutheran College		
Operations	\$159,000	
Interest on residences and improvements	56,700	
Maintenance	21,000	
Improvements—college facilities	21,000	
Faculty housing rental	20,000	\$277,700
Seminary		
Operations	48,000	
Maintenance on residences	2,000	50,000
Christian Service		28,000
Education and Youth		11,500
Foreign Missions		110,000
Home Missions		
Operations	95,000	
Interest on mission properties	25,100	120,100
Publications		11,500
Synod Fund		
Interest on loans	17,400	
Deferred Giving Counselor	14,800	
Administration expenses		
\$50,000—less \$11,375 from President's Office		
Endowment Fund	38,625	
Boards, committees and convention	33,000	103,825
Debt reduction		12,000
Grand Total		724,625

The chairmen of all the Synod's boards were informed of this action of the Board of Trustees by correspondence under date of January 14, 1986.

## GENERAL

The Board of Trustees authorized expenditures to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin, and to the Northwood-Lake Mills Lutheran Parish, Northwood, Iowa, to help these congregations provide assistance for the president and secretary of the Synod.

The Board of Trustees granted additional loans to Ascension Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, amounting to a total of \$8,100.

The Board of Trustees authorized the president and the secretary to co-sign, on behalf of the Synod, a mortgage of \$345,000 with Lutheran Brotherhood, for

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota, and a mortgage of \$140,000 with Aid Association for Lutherans for Grace Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin.

The Board of Trustees applied for a Lutheran Brotherhood Program Subsidy Grant to be received over a five-year period and used for mission work in the Port St. Lucie, Florida, area.

The Board of Trustees authorized expenditures for necessary office equipment for the editor of the *Sentinel*.

The Board of Trustees authorized the Board for Publications to proceed with a reprint of 500 copies of the Walther Sermon Book, "The Word of His Grace."

The Board of Trustees authorized the Board for Publications to proceed with a revision of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Catechism Workbook and to print 2000 copies.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The president of the Synod, the Rev. G. Orvick and the secretary of the Synod, the Rev. Alf Merseth serve as chairman and secretary of the Board of Trustees respectively.

Serving one year terms on the Committee on Archives and History are the Rev. W. C. Gullixson, Prof. R. E. Honsey, Prof. Sig Lee, Prof. J. B. Madson and Dr. B. W. Teigen.

The members of the board who serve on the Trustee-Regents Subcommittee are W. Lieske, A. Merseth and R. Olson.

The members of the board who serve on the Trustee-Home Missions Subcommittee are A. Levorson, A. Merseth and R. Olson.

The members of the board who serve on the Trustee-Foreign Missions Subcommittee are L. Meyer, A. Merseth and G. Orvick.

The president, secretary and treasurer of the Synod represent the board on the Trustee-Regents-Publications Subcommittee.

W. Lieske serves on the board's Housing Committee together with D. Natvig, who also serves the board as Housing Administrator.

## SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HOME MISSIONS

The following "Guidelines for the Use and Management of the Proceeds of the Special Offering for Home Missions" are presented for the Synod's consideration and adoption. These have been considered and adopted by the Board for Home Missions.

## GUIDELINES FOR THE USE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HOME MISSIONS

### I. Use of the Special Offering for Home Missions

- A. The proceeds of the Special Offering for Home Missions will be deposited in a special account in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation, designated for use in home missions.
- B. It is to be a self-perpetuating fund.
  1. Funds from the principal and or interest amount may be used for capital loans to mission congregations.
  2. Funds earned from the investment of the principal amount may be used for mission development and expansion.

### II. Management of the Fund

- A. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation will hold and manage the proceeds of the Special Offering for Home Missions on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
- B. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation Committee shall, each November, make recommendation to the foundation regarding the investment of these funds and the amount of allocation available for use in the following year in order to insure the solvency of the fund.
- C. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation Committee will make reports on the status of the fund to the foundation at its regular quarterly meetings.

### III. Disbursements of Funds

- A. The foundation will report the anticipated funds available from the principal and the interest for use in the following year, to the Board for Home Missions every November.
- B. The Board for Home Missions will make recommendations to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation regarding the disbursement (loans and grants) of these funds.
- C. Loans to mission congregations will be made in accordance with the Synod guidelines entitled "Loans to Mission Congregations of the Synod."

The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Mr. Wilbur Lieske as treasurer of the Special Offering for Home Missions.

### SYNOD PROPERTIES

As custodians of the Synod's properties, the Board of Trustees receives reports from its Housing Committee and from the administration of Bethany Lutheran College at each of its quarterly meetings. Necessary maintenance items are discussed and allowed within the maintenance budgets determined by the Synod.

As those who have the general management of the Synod's secular business the Board of Trustees requests quarterly financial and progress reports from all the congregations where the Synod owns the property, to which the Synod has made loans, where the Synod has co-signed on behalf of the congregation or where the Synod has recommended the congregation for financial assistance. These reports are analyzed and discussed by the board. The board keeps in contact with these congregations through correspondence by its secretary.

Since the St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado, had completed payment of its loan from the Synod, the title to the church property at 2215 Paseo Road and the parsonage property at 2006 Snyder Ave., Colorado Springs, Colorado, was transferred to the St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

The Synod purchased 904 Marsh St. as a faculty residence for \$56,765.

The Synod purchased 1105 Plum St. as a faculty residence for \$60,000.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### Summary of Income and Expenditures and Changes in General Fund Balance (Deficit)

Year ended December 31, 1985

Budget contributions			\$719,356.58
Operating expenditures		\$845,839.28	
Less:			
Income from publications	\$26,965.32		
Home missions special contributions for operating expenditures	11,499.00		
Home missions excess expenditures funded from reserves	216.73		
Christian service excess expenditures funded from reserves	7,675.82	46,356.87	
Net expenditures			799,482.41
Excess of expenditures over budget contributions			(80,125.83)
Other income for operating purposes:			
Interest	29,426.17		
Dividends	2,769.72		
Estates and trusts	3,675.00		
Other	2,379.14		38,250.03
Net operating (deficit)			(41,875.80)

**Other changes in General Fund balance:**

**Increases:**

Estates for debt reduction	3,675.00	
Mortgage proceeds in excess of Bethany		
College improvements	<u>3,459.00</u>	7,134.00

**Decreases:**

Residences improvements and purchase	78,840.33	
Payments on mortgage	<u>27,809.15</u>	<u>106,649.48</u>

Net decreases—other changes (99,515.48)

Total decrease (141,391.28)

General Fund (deficit)—December 31, 1984 (389,924.55)

General Fund (deficit)—December 31, 1985 \$531,315.83)

**TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITY FOR SYNOD'S "SECULAR BUSINESS AND TEMPORAL AFFAIRS."**

To reaffirm the position of its Board of Trustees it is recommended that the Synod adopt the following:

WHEREAS, Article VII of the Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod says "The Trustees shall have the general management and control of all the secular business and temporal affairs of said corporation." and,

WHEREAS, Article VIII of the Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod says "The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the corporation under the direction of the Synod and its Board of Trustees." and,

WHEREAS, Chapter V, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod says "The governance of the Synod shall be vested in a board of nine (9) Trustees, who shall have jurisdiction over all secular business and temporal affairs of the Synod."

RESOLVED, That the Synod reaffirm the position of its Board of Trustees as the recipients, caretakers and managers of its funds and properties.

**WILLS**

\$11,025 was received from the Martin Robinson Trust.

Alf Merseth, secretary

**ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF  
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**MARTIN ROBINSON ESTATE**

Clifford Ferkenstad, who served as the Synod's trustee for the Martin Robinson Estate, passed away on Thursday, February 6, 1986.

In consultation with Attorney Demro and Mrs. Ferkenstad the board suggested and the court appointed Mr. Jack Anderson as trustee of the Martin Robinson Estate.

**DEFICIT REDUCTION PLAN**

Pursuant to the Synod's instructions "That the trustees submit a deficit reduction plan to the next Synod convention" (cf. Synod Report, 1985, p. 150, Res. #7) the Board of Trustees recommends the following for the Synod's consideration and adoption.

## A PLAN FOR DEBT REDUCTION

The Lord has truly blessed our Evangelical Lutheran Synod financially over the years. During the past decade alone our total assets have increased from 3.9 million to nearly 7 million dollars. During that same period of time our yearly income for budgetary purposes has gone from \$349,000 in 1975 to \$719,000 in 1985. Each year our Synod's per capita giving ranks near the top of the list of all Lutheran bodies in the United States. Financially we are a solvent organization.

However, an area of our financial structure that remains a concern is the continued growth of the operating fund deficit. Ten years ago this deficit was only \$73,000. At the end of 1985 it had increased to \$531,000. Good stewardship demands that we pay our debts. Of even greater concern is the simple fact that the huge amount of interest now being paid on our debt takes away monies from our synodical programs.

The Synod, taking note of this increasing operating fund deficit at its 1985 convention, instructed the Board of Trustees to submit a deficit reduction plan to this convention (cf. Synod Report, 1985, p. 150, Res. #7). Therefore the Board of Trustees presents to the 1986 convention the following plan for reducing the Synod's operating fund deficit.

1. In the future the convention shall be careful not to adopt budgets higher than the total amount recommended by the Planning and Coordinating Committee. And if a higher budget is adopted it should be done only if additional funding has been assured. (cf. Synod Report, 1985, pp. 146-149)
2. A minimum of 2% of the total budget each year shall be included as part of the budget for debt reduction. This shall not be removed.
3. At least one-half of the special offering that will be gathered in recognition of the Synod's 75th anniversary in 1993 shall be allocated for debt retirement.
4. Two-thirds of all undesignated legacies shall be used for debt retirement until the debt is below \$100,000.

Alf Merseth, secretary

## REPORT OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation meets concurrently with the quarterly meetings of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Board of Trustees.

At its annual meeting in August 1985 officers were elected as follows: President, the Rev. George Orvick; Secretary, the Rev. Alf Merseth; Treasurer, Mr. Leroy W. Meyer.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation Committee is made up of four members elected for two-year terms. Mr. Leroy Meyer and Mr. Lars Petersen were elected in 1984 and Mr. Bernard Bogeskov and Mr. Glenn Annexstad were elected in 1985.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation was the recipient of a 38-acre tract of land in the outskirts of Midland, Michigan, from Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Bliss for the President's Office Endowment Fund. The land is listed for sale.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation was the recipient of a \$110,000 gift from Dorothy Arbury for the President's Office Endowment Fund. This has been invested and the income will be used for that purpose.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation was the recipient of a \$300,000 Trust Fund from Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Schwan. The income from this Trust Fund is designated for use "for extra budgetary mission workers on the Evangelical Lutheran Synod foreign fields." In consultation with the Board for Foreign Missions, guidelines for the investment and use of this Trust Fund were prepared and signed by Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Schwan and by the president and secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation.

The balance of the Agnes Nygaard Estate was allocated toward the chapel renovation at Bethany Lutheran College. This is according to the authorization of the will.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## BALANCE SHEET AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation

Year ended December 31, 1985

	RESTRICTED						UNRESTRICTED			TOTAL - ALL FUNDS
	MERLE R. AASEN ESTATE	MERLE R. AASEN SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIP FUND	PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ENDOWMENT FUND	AGNES NYGAARD ESTATE	MARVIN AND DELORES SCHWAN FOREIGN MISSION TRUST FUND	TOTAL	DONATED	BOARD OF TRUSTEES DESIGNATED	TOTAL	
<b>ASSETS</b>										
Accounts receivable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ -	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 101,800.00
Investments:										
Certificate of deposit	-	-	-	-	100,000.00	100,000.00	-	-	-	100,000.00
Savings account - allocated	-	-	-	-	100,000.00	100,000.00	-	4,867.52	4,867.52	104,867.52
Money market fund - allocated	10,000.00	5,352.00	14,278.84	-	-	29,630.84	760.56	9,852.42	10,612.98	40,243.82
Stock	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000.00	-	30,000.00	30,000.00
U. S. Treasury notes:										
Specific	-	-	97,050.00	-	-	97,050.00	-	-	-	97,050.00
Allocated	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,000.00	38,968.75	98,968.75	98,968.75
Land	-	-	46,800.00	-	-	46,800.00	-	-	-	46,800.00
Due from other funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,120.15	6,120.15	6,120.15
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,352.00</u>	<u>\$ 158,128.84</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 300,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 473,480.84</u>	<u>\$ 92,560.56</u>	<u>\$ 59,808.84</u>	<u>\$ 152,369.40</u>	<u>\$ 623,850.24</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>										
Liabilities:										
Investment program	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ -	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Fund balances:										
Balances - January 1, 1985	10,000.00	5,232.00	100,000.00	89,869.56	-	205,101.56	61,723.44	43,993.08	105,716.52	310,818.08
Add:										
Retained income on investments	-	-	11,328.84	3,034.04	-	14,362.88	1,800.00	-	1,800.00	16,162.88
Contributions	-	120.00	46,800.00	-	300,000.00	346,920.00	8,229.00	-	8,229.00	355,149.00
Estates appropriated by	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Board of Trustees	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,675.00	3,675.00	3,675.00
Gains on sales of stocks	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,808.12	12,140.76	29,948.88	29,948.88
	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>5,352.00</u>	<u>158,128.84</u>	<u>92,903.60</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>	<u>566,384.44</u>	<u>89,560.56</u>	<u>59,808.84</u>	<u>149,369.40</u>	<u>715,753.84</u>
Deduct distributions to Bethany College and Bethany Seminary (beneficiaries of estate)	-	-	-	92,903.60	-	92,903.60	-	-	-	92,903.60
Balances - December 31, 1985	<u>10,000.00</u>	<u>5,352.00</u>	<u>158,128.84</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>300,000.00</u>	<u>473,480.84</u>	<u>89,560.56</u>	<u>59,808.84</u>	<u>149,369.40</u>	<u>622,850.24</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES</b>	<u>\$ 10,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 5,352.00</u>	<u>\$ 158,128.84</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 300,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 473,480.84</u>	<u>\$ 92,560.56</u>	<u>\$ 59,808.84</u>	<u>\$ 152,369.40</u>	<u>\$ 623,850.24</u>

Alf Merseth, secretary



## MEMORIAL: BUDGET REVISION

Memorial to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
1986 Convention—June 15-20  
Mankato, Minnesota

- WHEREAS,** In January, 1986 the Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod revised the 1986 Synod budget so that our Synod was faced with serious cut-backs especially in the areas of Home Missions, Foreign Missions and the Seminary program, and
- WHEREAS,** The President of the Synod in his letter to the pastors of our Synod indicated that in the case of Foreign Missions, particularly, this could conceivably lead to the call-back of one of our three (3) missionaries on the field at that time, and,
- WHEREAS,** This projected cut-back led to deep concern on the part of many in our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, but especially our missionaries, who are laboring in the foreign field, and
- WHEREAS,** The primary purpose for the existence of the Christian Church, and of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, is to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ (Jn 17:18; Jn. 20:21-23; Mrk. 16:15-16; Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 1:8), and
- WHEREAS,** It is obvious that, while the Board of Trustees must oversee the financial affairs of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, nevertheless it is also obvious that in a time of anticipated budget shortfall the individuals who have the potential of dealing with a budget shortfall, under God's blessing, are the members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and
- WHEREAS,** It is only prudent to provide the members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod with the opportunity to address such an important matter with their Christian counsel, with their prayers and with their gifts, therefore
- BE IT RESOLVED,** That should our Evangelical Lutheran Synod again be faced with the necessity of dealing with an anticipated budget shortfall, that the Board of Trustees share their concerns with all of the member congregations of our Synod through a letter from the office of the President of the Synod, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That this letter document as clearly as possible the apparent cause(s) which is (are) contributing to this anticipated shortfall, and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That in this letter the Board of Trustees also outline what they consider, in their judgment, to be the wisest possible options, and then solicit the response of all the member congregations of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod by calling for each congregation to vote on these several options through their three (3) official delegates from the previous Synod Convention (two [2] lay delegates, and one [1] pastoral delegate), and
- BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** That each congregation be requested to return the record of their three (3) votes to the President of the Synod no later than 5 weeks from the date of their initial notification, and
- BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED,** That the option selected by this voting procedure of the member congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, be ratified by the next regular convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Congregation  
Okauchee, Wisconsin

## REPORT OF COMMITTEE FOR SPECIAL OFFERING FOR HOME MISSIONS

The Home Mission Offering Committee consists of the Rev. Milton Tweit, chairman; the Rev. William Kessel, executive secretary; Mr. Wilbur Lieske, treasurer; the Rev. Steven Petersen, recording secretary; Mr. A. T. Bliss, Mr. Bob Deering, the Rev. Erwin Ekhoft, Pres. George Orvick, and the Rev. Paul Schneider.

Entitled "PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL," the offering campaign is based on the following:

**PRECEDENT:** St. Paul wrote to the Philippians (1:4-5): "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your PARTNERSHIP in the Gospel from the first day until now. . ."

**PURPOSE:** The members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod form a partnership, professing a common faith in Christ Jesus and proclaiming the Gospel to all people. The Home Mission Offering will result in even more souls being reached with this saving message.

**PLAN:** The love offerings for home missions given by our PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL will form a capital fund:

- to subsidize home missionaries
- to purchase land for church sites
- to build and/or acquire church buildings and parsonages
- to help mission congregations expand their worship facilities.

The campaign to gather a special offering in support of home missions will begin at the 1986 Synod Convention, where pastors and delegates will make personal financial commitments to the project. On October 12, 1986, Synod congregations are to conduct "every-member-visits" in order to solicit commitments from individual members. Training and organizational meetings were held with pastors during the month of April, 1986, in preparation for the three-year offering campaign.

Promotion of the project will consist of SENTINEL articles, bulletin inserts, posters, bulletin covers, a small brochure outlining the need for the offering and a larger brochure to be used in the "every-member-visit," as well as letters to Synod members, pastors, and Synod convention delegates.

The campaign is to be preceded in all parishes with instruction in the Christian principles of stewardship through Bible study material provided by the committee, in conjunction with the Board for Stewardship.

Proceeds from the offering will establish a capital fund, which, under the direction of the Board of Trustees and the Board for Home Missions, will provide monies in loan or grant for property acquisition, construction, renovation, salary support, etc. for home missions.

The committee is confident that God will bless this effort to spread the Gospel of Christ in the United States. If each family of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod will commit 1% of its income to the Home Mission Offering every year, it is estimated that we would receive in excess of \$1,000,000.00 annually for the advancement of our Lord's Kingdom! May God bless this much-needed endeavor, for the eternal welfare of many souls!

S. Petersen, recording secretary

# TREASURER'S REPORT

## MEYER, PLACEK & ASSOCIATES

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

1 SOUTH 450 SUMMIT AVENUE  
OAKBROOK TERRACE, ILLINOIS 60181  
(312) 629-4660

MEMBERS  
AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS  
ILLINOIS CPA SOCIETY

Board of Trustees  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod  
Mankato, Minnesota

The accompanying balance sheet of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod as of December 31, 1985 and the related summary of financial activities and statements of changes in fund balances and changes in financial position for the year then ended have been compiled by us.

A compilation is limited to presenting in the form of financial statements information that is the representation of the Trustees. We have not audited or reviewed the accompanying financial statements and, accordingly, do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on them.

We are not independent with respect to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

*Meyer, Placek + Associates*

Oakbrook Terrace, Illinois  
March 25, 1986

## BALANCE SHEET - COMPARATIVE

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

December 31, 1985

## A S S E T S

	GENERAL FUND	FUND FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	1985 TOTAL	1984 TOTAL
Cash	\$ 10,048.66	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,048.66	\$ 29,239.57
Accounts receivable - contributions and other income	81,327.38	-	-	-	-	-	101,800.00	183,127.38	57,915.04
Inventory of publications	32,199.03	-	-	-	-	-	-	32,199.03	31,305.03
Prepaid expenses	1,650.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,650.00	288.00
Investments:									
Certificate of deposit	-	-	-	-	-	-	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
Savings account	-	-	-	-	-	-	104,867.52	104,867.52	1,176.65
Money market funds	7,303.10	-	-	-	-	-	40,243.82	47,546.92	133,156.36
Contracts for deed	12,427.04	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,427.04	16,329.66
Loans receivable from congregations	-	-	867,169.26	-	-	-	-	867,169.26	937,793.27
Note receivable	-	-	14,582.73	-	-	-	-	14,582.73	14,382.73
Stocks - 600 shares Metro Machine & Engineering Corp. - pfd. - at par	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000.00	30,000.00	88,480.61
U. S. Treasury Notes (Note B)	-	-	-	-	-	-	196,018.75	196,018.75	98,100.95
Real estate and buildings	-	-	-	4,367,080.00	356,198.23	610,277.57	46,800.00	5,380,355.80	4,851,917.47
Due from (to) other funds	11,520.72	867.59	(18,508.46)	-	-	-	6,120.15	-	-
Total assets	\$ 156,475.93	\$ 867.59	\$ 863,243.53	\$ 4,367,080.00	\$ 356,198.23	\$ 610,277.57	\$ 625,850.24	\$ 6,979,993.09	\$ 6,262,333.34

## NOTES:

(A) The accompanying notes are an integral part of this balance sheet.

(B) See Accountants' Compilation Report.

BALANCE SHEET - COMPARATIVE - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

December 31, 1985

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

	GENERAL FUND	FUND FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	1985 TOTAL	1984 TOTAL
Liabilities:									
Notes payable: (Note E)									
Working capital	\$ 410,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 210,000.00
Bethany Lutheran College Reserve Fund	45,000.00	-	-	45,000.00	-	-	-	90,000.00	100,000.00
Investment program	-	-	127,992.74	-	-	18,000.00	3,000.00	148,992.74	207,284.90
Life Loan Plan	113,500.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	113,500.00	103,500.00
Accounts payable	27,932.20	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,932.20	10,603.76
Accrued interest payable	13,803.79	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,803.79	14,898.16
Unexpended restricted contributions (Note F)	77,555.77	-	-	-	-	-	-	77,555.77	77,164.87
Mortgages payable	-	-	456,075.54	141,267.31	-	146,545.72	-	743,888.57	804,099.15
Deferred income - future payments on donated contract for deed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,172.19
Total liabilities	687,791.76	-	584,068.28	186,267.31	-	164,545.72	3,000.00	1,625,673.07	1,530,723.03
Fund balances (deficit):									
Unrestricted:									
Designated for investment	-	-	279,175.25	-	-	-	149,369.40	428,544.65	384,757.09
Undesignated	(531,315.83)	867.59	-	-	-	-	-	(530,448.24)	(381,391.63)
	(531,315.83)	867.59	279,175.25	-	-	-	149,369.40	(101,903.59)	3,365.46
Restricted (Note G)	-	-	-	-	-	-	473,480.84	473,480.84	205,101.56
Net investment in real estate and buildings	-	-	-	4,180,812.69	356,198.23	445,731.85	-	4,982,742.77	4,523,295.29
Total fund balances (deficit)	(531,315.83)	867.59	279,175.25	4,180,812.69	356,198.23	445,731.85	622,850.24	5,354,320.02	4,731,762.31
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$ 156,475.93	\$ 867.59	\$ 863,243.53	\$ 4,367,080.00	\$ 356,198.23	\$ 610,277.57	\$ 625,850.24	\$ 6,979,993.09	\$ 6,262,485.34

## NOTES:

(A) The accompanying notes are an integral part of this balance sheet.

(B) See Accountants' Compilation Report.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1985

	GENERAL FUND	FUND FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL
BALANCES (Deficit) - December 31, 1984	\$ (389,924.55)	\$ 8,532.92	\$ 279,040.57	\$3,818,980.37	\$ 356,198.23	\$ 348,116.69	\$ 310,818.08	\$4,731,762.31
ADD:								
Dividends received	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,800.00	1,800.00
Interest earned	-	10.49	-	-	-	-	14,362.88	14,373.37
Contributions received	-	-	134.68	-	-	-	355,149.00	355,283.68
Portion of unrestricted estates appropriated for General								
Fund debt reduction and to ELS Foundation	3,675.00	-	-	-	-	-	3,675.00	7,350.00
Gains on sales of stocks	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,948.88	29,948.88
Bethany Lutheran College net value adjustment								
at 6-30-85 (Note C)	-	-	-	356,257.00	-	-	-	356,257.00
Payment on liabilities by General Fund	(27,809.15)	-	-	9,034.32	-	18,774.83	-	-
Additions to residences - purchases and improvements	(78,840.33)	-	-	-	-	78,840.33	-	-
Capital improvements - Bethany College	(46,541.00)	-	-	46,541.00	-	-	-	-
Proceeds of loan for Bethany College improvements	50,000.00	-	-	(50,000.00)	-	-	-	-
	99,515.48	10.49	134.68	361,832.32	-	97,615.16	404,935.76	765,012.93
	(489,440.03)	8,543.41	279,175.25	4,180,812.69	356,198.23	445,731.85	715,753.84	5,496,775.24
DEDUCT:								
Appropriations for excess Christian Service expenditures	-	7,675.82	-	-	-	-	-	7,675.82
Distributions from Nygaard Estate for								
College and Seminary	-	-	-	-	-	-	92,903.60	92,903.60
Excess of expenditures and appropriations over income for								
the year ended December 31, 1985	41,875.80	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,875.80
	41,875.80	7,675.82	-	-	-	-	92,903.60	142,455.22
BALANCES (Deficit) - December 31, 1985	\$ (531,315.83)	\$ 867.59	\$ 279,175.25	\$4,180,812.69	\$ 356,198.23	\$ 445,731.85	\$ 622,850.24	\$5,354,320.02

## NOTES:

(A) The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

(B) See Accountants' Compilation Report.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1985

INCOME

Contributions:

Budgetary:			
Restricted	\$ 26,211.19		
Unrestricted	<u>693,145.39</u>	\$ 719,356.58	
Reserves - undesignated special contribution		2,379.14	
Estate and trust income - unrestricted		<u>11,025.00</u>	
For special purposes:			
Bethany Lutheran College special	145.00		
Bethany Lutheran Seminary Scholarship Funds	212.50		
Bethany Lutheran Seminary special	312.00		
Bethesda Lutheran Home	1,972.00		
The Lutheran Home, Belle Plaine	174.00		
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation	355,149.00		
Faith Mission Society	480.45		
Foreign missions special	1,346.43		
Home missions special	<u>11,780.00</u>		
Aid Association for Lutherans grants:			
Visitors' conference	4,800.00		
Home missions seminar	8,000.00		
Stewardship seminar	7,500.00		
"World Needs"	18,422.40		
"Helping Hands"	40,677.05		
Church Extension Fund	134.68		
American Bible Society	7.00		
Ukraine radio - "Thoughts of Faith"	<u>465.00</u>	451,577.51	
Total contributions		<u>1,184,338.23</u>	
Income from investments:			
General Fund - interest	24,904.58		
E.L.S. Foundation:			
Interest	\$ 19,632.70		
Dividends	<u>4,569.72</u>	24,202.42	49,107.00
Total income from all sources			1,233,445.23
Less income for special purposes			<u>468,488.62</u>
Total income available for current purposes - carried forward			764,956.61

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CONTINUED  
Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota  
Year ended December 31, 1985

Total income available for current purposes - brought forward		\$ 764,956.61
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		
Bethany Lutheran College	\$ 171,000.00	
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	62,000.00	
Home missions	119,715.73	
Foreign missions	124,375.85	
Education and youth	12,817.54	
Christian service	29,175.82	
Publications	37,275.39	
Synod fund	289,478.95	
"World Needs"	22,819.50	
Bible study project	14,132.54	
"Helping Hands"	26,406.65	
Visitors' conference	3,651.24	
Christian service seminar	393.00	
Missions planning conference	1,314.08	
Home missions seminar	8,000.00	
Stewardship seminar	6,290.00	
Total expenditures	928,846.29	
Less expenditures financed by special funds:		
"Helping Hands"	\$ 26,406.65	
Publications	26,965.32	
"World Needs"	22,819.50	
Bible study project	14,132.54	
Stewardship seminar	6,290.00	
Home missions seminar	8,000.00	
Fund for Christian Service	7,675.82	
Home missions special	11,715.73	
Visitors' conference	3,651.24	
Christian service seminar	393.00	
Mission planning conference	1,314.08	129,363.88
Expenditures financed by income available for current purposes		799,482.41
Excess of expenditures over income		(34,525.80)
<u>APPROPRIATED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES</u>		
Portion of unrestricted estates:		
For General Fund debt reduction	3,675.00	
To Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation	3,675.00	7,350.00
Excess of expenditures and appropriations over income - decrease in General Fund balance		\$ (41,875.80)

NOTES:

- (A) The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.
- (B) See Accountants' Compilation Report.



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1985

	GENERAL FUND	FUND FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL
<u>SOURCES OF FUNDS</u>								
Decrease in savings account	\$ -	\$ 1,176.65	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,176.65
Income for year	-	10.49	134.68	-	-	-	358,135.76 (C)	358,280.93
Decrease in money market funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	88,774.96	88,774.96
Decrease in cash	19,190.91	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,190.91
Increase in due to General Fund	-	-	29,934.90	-	-	-	-	29,934.90
Contract for deed payments	730.43	-	-	-	-	-	-	730.43
Payments received on loans receivable from congregations	-	-	78,724.01	-	-	-	-	78,724.01
Increase in accounts payable	17,328.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	17,328.44
Increase in working capital notes payable	200,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	200,000.00
Increase in Life Loan Plan notes	40,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	40,000.00
Decrease in due from General Fund	-	6,488.68	-	-	-	-	-	6,488.68
Advances by General Fund	-	-	-	9,034.32	-	18,774.83	-	27,809.15
Proceeds from sales of stocks	-	-	-	-	-	-	58,680.61	58,680.61
Increase in unexpended restricted contributions	390.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	390.90
Bequests for debt reduction	3,675.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,675.00
Increase in due to Foundation	8,102.41	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,102.41
<b>TOTAL SOURCES OF FUNDS</b>	<u>\$ 289,418.09</u>	<u>\$ 7,675.82</u>	<u>\$ 108,793.59</u>	<u>\$ 9,034.32</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 18,774.83</u>	<u>\$ 505,591.33</u>	<u>\$ 939,287.98</u>

## NOTES:

- (A) The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.
- (B) See Accountants' Compilation Report.
- (C) Net of donated land valued at \$46,800.00.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FINANCIAL POSITION - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1985

	GENERAL FUND	FUND FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL
DISPOSITION OF FUNDS								
Excess of expenditures and appropriations over income	\$ 41,875.80	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 41,875.80
Appropriation for expenditures in excess of budget	-	7,675.82	-	-	-	-	-	7,675.82
Increase in savings account and certificate of deposit	-	-	-	-	-	-	204,867.52	204,867.52
Increase in U. S. Treasury notes	-	-	-	-	-	-	97,917.80	97,917.80
Increase in money market funds	1,165.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,165.52
New loans to congregations	-	-	8,100.00	-	-	-	-	8,100.00
Payments on notes payable	5,000.00	-	-	5,000.00	-	-	-	10,000.00
Decrease in due to Fund for Christian Service	6,488.68	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,488.68
Advances for other funds	27,809.15	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,809.15
Decrease in accrued interest payable	1,094.37	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,094.37
Decrease in mortgages payable	-	-	37,401.43	4,034.32	-	18,774.83	-	60,210.58
Additions to residences	78,840.33	-	-	-	-	-	-	78,840.33
Bethany College improvements	46,541.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	46,541.00
Distributions to Bethany College and Seminary -								
Agnes Nygaard estate	-	-	-	-	-	-	92,903.60	92,903.60
Increase in due from General Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,102.41	8,102.41
Decrease in investment program loans	25,000.00	-	33,292.16	-	-	-	-	58,292.16
Decrease in due to Church Extension and Loan Fund	29,934.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,934.90
Increase in prepaid expenses	1,362.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,362.00
Increase in accounts receivable	23,412.34	-	-	-	-	-	101,800.00	125,212.34
Increase in inventories	894.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	894.00
Decrease in Life Loan Plan notes	-	-	30,000.00	-	-	-	-	30,000.00
TOTAL DISPOSITION OF FUNDS	\$ 289,418.09	\$ 7,675.82	\$ 108,793.59	\$ 9,034.32	\$ -	\$ 18,774.83	\$ 505,591.33	\$ 939,287.98

NOTES:

(A) The accompanying notes are an integral part of this statement.

(B) See Accountants' Compilation Report.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

December 31, 1985

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(A) Summary of Significant Accounting Policies:

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis. The significant accounting policies followed are described below to improve the usefulness of the financial statements.

The statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod are presented in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. Resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds according to their nature and purpose.

The General Fund represents resources available for current operating purposes.

The Fund for Christian Service is the unexpended proceeds, plus accumulated earnings, from the sale, a number of years ago, of the Kasota Valley Home for the Aged. The funds were set aside for future use as the Synod directs. They are being used to fund operating deficits of the Board of Christian Services.

The Church Extension and Loan Fund represents resources used for loans to congregations for building and improvement programs.

The Bethany Lutheran College, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, and Residences and Real Estate funds represent the investment of the Synod in these physical properties.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation is an "endowment" fund established by the Synod's Board of Trustees. In addition to donations specified for the Foundation, one-third of undesignated trust and estate income is appropriated to the Foundation each year.

In accordance with accepted practice for non-profit organizations, no provision is made for depreciation of equipment and furniture. Expenditures for such items are charged to operations in the year incurred.

(B) U. S. Treasury Notes:

President's Office Endowment Fund -	
\$100,000 - 11-3/8% due February 15, 1989	\$ 97,050.00
Unrestricted -	
\$100,000 - 10-1/8% due May 15, 1993	<u>98,968.75</u>
	<u>\$ 196,018.75</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

December 31, 1985

- (C) The value shown for Bethany Lutheran College is based on the net investment in plant as shown for the plant fund in the College's Audit report as of June 30, 1985 as adjusted below. The current, endowment and reserve funds of the College are not included in the assets of the Synod. The amount of \$4,367,080.00 was determined as follows:

Per audit report of the College as of June 30, 1985:	
Total invested in plant	\$4,617,641.00
Less obligations of the plant fund	250,561.00
Total net investment in plant - June 30, 1985	<u>\$4,367,080.00</u>

The Bethany Lutheran College audit report indicates that \$1,172,680.00 of the "investment in plant" is attributable to an increase from a 1967 appraisal.

- (D) Residences and real estate have been stated at cost of acquisition in 1966 and subsequent years. Acquisitions prior to 1966 are recorded at appraisal values. The values may be summarized as follows:

VALUATION METHOD	NUMBER	AMOUNT
Cost	10	\$ 409,077.57
Appraisal:		
Outside	5	111,400.00
Internal	4	89,800.00
TOTALS	<u>19</u>	<u>\$ 610,277.57</u>

- (E) Notes Payable:
- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Working Capital:  |                      |
| Demand loan from a congregation at 8%                         | \$ 200,000.00        |
| Demand loan from a congregation at 5 points under prime rate; |                      |
| rate adjusted every six months                                | 60,000.00            |
| Loan from Bethany Lutheran College at 80% of prime rate;      |                      |
| rate adjusted every six months - minimum 8%                   | 150,000.00           |
|   | <u>\$ 410,000.00</u> |

Bethany Lutheran College Reserve Fund - Dated August 1, 1984 at prime interest rate less 2% with 10% minimum; \$10,000.00 principal due annually; interest rate adjusted January 1 and July 1.

Investment program notes are amounts loaned by individuals, congregations and organizations for varying periods at interest rates ranging principally from zero to 8%.

Life Loan Plan notes are amounts loaned by individuals at interest rates from 2% to 5-1/2%.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

December 31, 1985

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(F)	Unexpended Restricted Contributions:		
	"World Needs"	\$	3,759.53
	Home Missions funds		38,709.98
	Foreign Missions funds		7,533.26
	Anniversary Thankoffering - foreign missions		4,297.38
	Bible study project		4,130.79
	"Helping Hands"		14,270.40
	Other		4,854.43
			<u>\$ 77,555.77</u>
(C)	Fund Balances - Restricted:		
	Merle R. Aasen Estate (to be invested permanently with income used for missions)	\$	10,000.00
	Merle R. Aasen Seminary Scholarship Fund - original principal (to be invested permanently with income for scholarships)	\$	5,000.00
	Additions	<u>352.00</u>	5,352.00
	President's Office Endowment Fund		158,128.84
	Marvin and Delores Schwan Foreign Mission Trust Fund		300,000.00
			<u>\$ 473,480.84</u>
(H)	See Accountants' Compilation Report.		

SUPPLEMENTARY SCHEDULES

SEE ACCOUNTANTS' COMPILATION REPORT

EXPENDITURES AND INCOME

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1985

	TOTAL	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE	BETHANY LUTHERAN SEMINARY	HOME MISSIONS	FOREIGN MISSIONS	EDUCATION AND YOUTH	CHRISTIAN SERVICE	PUBLICATIONS	SYNOD FUND	OTHER
Direct subsidies	\$ 291,690.00	\$ 171,000.00	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 57,690.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Board meetings and officers' expenses - administrative	41,487.15	-	-	6,879.46	4,963.30	5,106.14	15.00	636.06	23,887.19	-
Other administrative expenses - Schedule B	79,317.51	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79,317.51	-
Area mission developer - salary and expenses	31,630.63	-	-	31,630.63	-	-	-	-	-	-
Travel and moving	16,223.27	-	-	13,442.41	2,780.86	-	-	-	-	-
Furlough expenses	8,312.05	-	-	-	8,312.05	-	-	-	-	-
Automobile allowances, etc.	8,657.74	-	-	-	8,657.74	-	-	-	-	-
Education allowances - children	10,540.23	-	-	-	10,540.23	-	-	-	-	-
Group insurance - net	4,199.32	-	-	-	324.00	-	3,875.32	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	2,475.43	-	-	-	2,444.73	-	-	30.70	-	-
Pension plan	19,387.20	-	-	-	3,672.00	-	15,715.20	-	-	-
Utilities - office	756.00	-	-	-	756.00	-	-	-	-	-
Printing or office expense	3,021.24	-	-	-	2,400.00	-	-	-	-	-
Salaries and allowances	95,898.17	-	-	10,073.23	79,524.94	-	-	621.24	6,300.00	-
Teacher rebates and education allowances	6,711.40	-	-	-	-	6,711.40	-	-	-	-
Support fund	9,570.30	-	-	-	-	-	9,570.30	-	-	-
Annual reports and "Convention Echo"	7,999.60	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,999.60	-	-
Lutheran Sentinel	26,950.34	-	-	-	-	-	-	26,950.34	-	-
Lutheran Synod Quarterly	1,037.45	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,037.45	-	-
Bethany College improvements	24,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	24,000.00	-
Residences and real estate expenses - Schedule B	41,785.81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	41,785.81	-
Interest expense - Schedule B	114,188.44	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	114,188.44	-
Other:										
Christian service seminar	393.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	393.00
Mission planning conference	1,314.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,314.08
Visitors' conference	3,651.24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,651.24
"World Needs"	22,819.50	-	-	-	8,000.00	-	-	-	-	14,819.50
Bible study project	14,132.54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,132.54
"Helping Hands"	26,406.65	-	-	-	26,406.65	-	-	-	-	-
Home missions seminar	8,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,000.00
Stewardship seminar	6,290.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,290.00
Total expenditures - carried forward	928,846.29	171,000.00	62,000.00	119,715.73	158,782.50	12,817.54	29,175.82	37,275.39	289,478.95	48,600.36

EXPENDITURES AND INCOME - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1985

	TOTAL	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE	BETHANY LUTHERAN SEMINARY	HOME MISSIONS	FOREIGN MISSIONS	EDUCATION AND YOUTH	CHRISTIAN SERVICE	PUBLICATIONS	SYNOD FUND	OTHER
Total expenditures - brought forward	\$ 928,846.29	\$ 171,000.00	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 119,715.73	\$ 158,782.50	\$ 12,817.54	\$ 29,175.82	\$ 37,275.39	\$ 289,478.95	\$ 48,600.36
Allocations:										
Bethany College improvements	-	24,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	(24,000.00)	-
Residences and real estate expenses	-	39,072.62	2,713.19	-	-	-	-	-	(41,785.81)	-
Interest expense	-	55,417.05	-	20,242.96	-	-	-	-	(75,660.01)	-
Total expenditures - after allocations	928,846.29	289,489.67	64,713.19	139,958.69	158,782.50	12,817.54	29,175.82	37,275.39	148,033.13	48,600.36
Restricted receipts applied:										
Reserves	7,892.55	-	-	216.73	-	-	7,675.82	-	-	-
Mission planning conference	1,314.08	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,314.08
Home missions special funds	11,499.00	-	-	11,499.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lutheran Sentinel	15,215.97	-	-	-	-	-	-	15,215.97	-	-
Publications - general	4,530.85	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,530.85	-	-
Annual report and "Echo"	7,218.50	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,218.50	-	-
Bible study project	14,132.54	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,132.54
"World Needs"	22,819.50	-	-	-	8,000.00	-	-	-	-	14,819.50
Christian service seminar	393.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	393.00
Visitors' conference	3,651.24	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,651.24
"Helping Hands"	26,406.65	-	-	-	26,406.65	-	-	-	-	-
Home missions seminar	8,000.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,000.00
Stewardship seminar	6,290.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,290.00
	129,363.88	-	-	11,715.73	34,406.65	-	7,675.82	26,965.32	-	48,600.36
Expenses to be financed by budgetary contributions - carried forward	799,482.41	289,489.67	64,713.19	128,242.96	124,375.85	12,817.54	21,500.00	10,310.07	148,033.13	



EXPENDITURES AND INCOME - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1985

	TOTAL	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE	BETHANY LUTHERAN SEMINARY	HOME MISSIONS	FOREIGN MISSIONS	EDUCATION AND YOUTH	CHRISTIAN SERVICE	PUBLICATIONS	SYNOD FUND	OTHER
Expenses to be financed by budgetary contributions - brought forward	\$ 799,482.41	\$ 289,489.67	\$ 64,713.19	\$ 128,242.96	\$ 124,375.85	\$ 12,817.54	\$ 21,500.00	\$ 10,310.07	\$ 148,033.13	\$ -
Budgetary contributions:										
Restricted	26,211.19	1,450.75	2,808.40	8,483.44	13,464.60	-	-	4.00	-	-
Unrestricted - allocated	693,145.39	262,049.25	61,691.60	119,759.52	110,911.25	12,000.00	21,500.00	7,996.00	97,237.77	-
	719,356.58	263,500.00	64,500.00	128,242.96	124,375.85	12,000.00	21,500.00	8,000.00	97,237.77	-
Excess or (deficiency) of budgetary contributions over expenditures	(80,125.83)	\$ (25,989.67)	\$ (213.19)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (817.54)	\$ -	\$ (2,310.07)	\$ (50,795.36)	\$ -
Other income available for current purposes:										
Reserves - undesignated	2,379.14									
Estates and trust income -										
unrestricted	11,025.00									
Income from investments	32,195.89									
	(34,525.80)									
Less appropriations	7,350.00									
Decrease in General Fund	\$ (41,875.80)									

NOTE: See Accountants' Compilation Report.

SCHEDULE B

OTHER EXPENDITURES - SYNOD FUND

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1985

Other administrative expenses:	
Archives committee	\$ 1,360.10
Audit and legal	2,176.30
Coin folders	4,246.59
Evangelical Lutheran Synod convention	1,708.00
Deferred giving counselor salary and expenses	16,768.92
Doctrine committee	3,452.05
Mission offering committee	7,472.33
Nominating committee	494.05
Officers' assistance	24,411.00
Other committees, etc.	2,123.53
Planning and coordinating committee	2,861.71
Professors' equalization	4,316.00
Self study committee	1,284.16
Stewardship expenses	3,431.17
Visitors' expenses	3,211.60
TOTAL - As shown on Schedule A	<u>\$ 79,317.51</u>
Residences and real estate expenses:	
Insurance	\$ 3,813.00
Rents	16,529.51
Repairs and improvements	20,543.30
Management	900.00
TOTAL - As shown on Schedule A	<u>\$ 41,785.81</u>
Interest expense:	
Working capital loans	\$ 22,273.08
Bethany Lutheran College Reserve Fund	9,583.33
Investment program	10,447.00
Life Loan Plan	3,813.27
Bank	990.14
Church property mortgages	34,696.51
Bethany Lutheran College improvements	15,746.82
Mortgages on residences	16,638.29
TOTAL - As shown on Schedule A	<u>\$ 114,188.44</u>

NOTE: See Accountants' Compilation Report.

## LOANS RECEIVABLE

Church Extension and Loan Fund

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota

Year ended December 31, 1985

CONGREGATION	TOTAL LOANS	BALANCE 12-31-84	NEW LOANS 1985	PAID 1985	TOTAL PAID	BALANCE 12-31-85
Ascension - Eau Claire, Wisconsin	\$ 15,700.00	\$ 5,826.50	\$ 8,100.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 1,998.50	\$ 13,701.50
Christ - Sutherlin, Oregon	22,799.55	18,278.29	-	972.34	5,493.60	17,305.95
Faith - Oregon, Wisconsin:						
Church	141,670.62	120,127.37	-	3,109.67	24,652.92	117,017.70
Parsonage	65,143.02	63,926.34	-	331.76	1,548.44	63,594.58
Faith - San Antonio, Texas	40,000.00	18,461.16	-	18,461.16	40,000.00	-
First - Suttons Bay, Michigan	10,000.00	343.65	-	343.65	10,000.00	-
First English - Ashland, Wisconsin	35,189.01	22,070.01	-	-	13,119.00	22,070.01
Good Shepherd - Richardson, Texas	383,677.59	209,529.78	-	50.00	174,197.81	209,479.78
Grace - Crookston, Minnesota	20,000.00	16,863.59	-	2,034.39	5,170.80	14,829.20
Heritage - Apple Valley, Minnesota	157,569.25	118,623.77	-	1,082.75	40,028.23	117,541.02
Mount Olive - Mankato, Minnesota	33,000.00	3,000.00	-	-	30,000.00	3,000.00
Our Saviour - Lake Havasu City, Arizona	85,954.50	62,923.46	-	10,266.72	33,297.76	52,656.74
Our Saviour - Naples, Florida	47,167.16	28,565.48	-	2,627.11	21,228.79	25,938.37
Pilgrim - Waterloo, Iowa	129,821.67	58,005.86	-	3,596.56	75,412.37	54,409.30
River Heights - East Grand Forks, Minnesota	30,000.00	30,000.00	-	30,000.00	30,000.00	-
St. Paul's - Chicago, Illinois	15,000.00	13,091.36	-	642.47	2,551.11	12,448.89
Trinity - Sebastian, Florida	161,225.00	148,156.65	-	4,980.43	18,048.78	143,176.22
	<u>\$1,393,917.37</u>	<u>\$ 937,793.27</u>	<u>\$ 8,100.00</u>	<u>\$ 78,724.01</u>	<u>\$ 526,748.11</u>	<u>\$ 867,169.26</u>

NOTE: See Accountants' Compilation Report.

## FINANCES

### ACTION OF THE SYNOD

#### Resolution No. 1: Home Mission Offering

WHEREAS, *The Home Mission Offering Committee has worked zealously and diligently in the past year to give special instruction in stewardship and to organize the "Partners in the Gospel" program, and,*

WHEREAS, *The president of our Synod has urged the members and congregations of our Synod "to prove that we really are 'Partners in the Gospel' " by participating in the Home Mission Offering,*

A. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Home Mission Offering Committee be commended for working so hard to carry out this special endeavor, and,*

B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *That all congregations encourage full participation of their members in all aspects of the offering, including the use of the booklet "Managing My Master's Money," in order to spread the message of the Gospel further and expand home missions.*

#### Resolution No. 2: Home Mission Offering—Expenses of the Offering

WHEREAS, *The Synod has mandated a Special Home Mission Offering, and,*

WHEREAS, *The Synod had made no provision to pay for the expenses of promoting the Home Mission Offering, and,*

WHEREAS, *The trustees authorized the treasurer to pay the expenses of promoting the offering and to recover this from proceeds of the offering,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod approve the trustees' action in this matter.*

#### Resolution No. 3: Unified Synodical Budget and Estimated Synodical Contributions

WHEREAS, *The members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have agreed to become involved in various and diverse endeavors for the furtherance of the Lord's Kingdom, and,*

WHEREAS, *The entire work of the Synod is significant and worthwhile, and,*

WHEREAS, *Making careful financial decisions about future synodical work is Scriptural, and,*

WHEREAS, *The Synod has adopted specific guidelines for synodical budgeting, planning and organization, and,*

WHEREAS, *Approximately half of the congregations in the Synod gave less in 1985 than in 1984,*

A. BE IT RESOLVED, *That all congregations be encouraged to contribute generously to the unified budget, and,*

B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *That all the congregations provide estimates of anticipated synodical giving when asked to do so.*

**Resolution No. 4: The Priority of Projects**

WHEREAS, *The Planning and Coordinating Committee is required to put into their proper priority the future projects of the various boards, and,*

WHEREAS, *Not all the boards of the Synod have presented the committee with their list of contemplated projects, and,*

WHEREAS, *The committee has not had enough time for such study,*

A. BE IT RESOLVED, *That the boards cooperate in making known their contemplated projects to the Planning and Coordinating Committee as soon as possible, and,*

B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, *That the Planning and Coordinating Committee put into their proper priority the projects as soon as possible thereafter.*

**Resolution No. 5: Subscription Offering**

WHEREAS, *The Planning and Coordinating Committee has not had time to make an in-depth study of the pros and cons of subscription offering,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Planning and Coordinating Committee present its report to the 1987 convention.*

**Resolution No. 6: Trustees' Responsibility for Synod's "Secular Business and Temporal Affairs"**

WHEREAS, *Article VII of the Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod says "The Trustees shall have the general management and control of all the secular business and temporal affairs of said corporation," and,*

WHEREAS, *Article VIII of the Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod says "The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the corporation under the direction of the Synod and its Board of Trustees," and,*

WHEREAS, *Chapter V, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod says "The governance of the Synod shall be vested in a board of nine (9) Trustees, who shall have jurisdiction over all secular business and temporal affairs of the Synod."*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod reaffirm the position of its Board of Trustees as the recipients, caretakers and managers of its funds and properties.*

**Resolution No. 7: Guidelines for the Use and Management of the Proceeds of the Home Mission Offering**

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the guidelines for the use and management of the proceeds of the Home Mission Offerings as proposed by the Board of Trustees be adopted.*

**Resolution No. 8: Wills and Gifts**

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod thank and praise our gracious God for moving members and friends of our Synod to remember the Synod with these gifts and bequests.*

**Resolution No. 9: Debt Reduction Plan**

WHEREAS, *The deficit of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has risen from \$73,000 in 1975 to \$531,000 in 1985, and,*

WHEREAS, *Good stewardship demands that we pay our debts, and,*

WHEREAS, *Large amounts of interest are now being paid on our debt which are taking away monies from our synodical programs, and,*

WHEREAS, *The 68th Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod resolved that the Board of Trustees submit a deficit reduction plan to this convention,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod adopt the following Trustees' Debt Reduction Plan as amended:*

1. *The convention shall be careful not to adopt budgets higher than the total amount recommended by the Planning and Coordinating Committee. And if a higher budget is adopted it should be done only if additional funding has been assured (cf. Synod Report 1985, pp. 146-149).*

2. *The total budget each year shall include a minimum of 2% for debt reduction. This shall not be removed.*

3. *At least one-half of the special offering that will be gathered in recognition of the Synod's 75th anniversary in 1993 shall be allocated for debt retirement.*

4. *Two-thirds of all undesignated legacies shall be used for debt retirement until the debt is below \$100,000.*

**Resolution No. 10: Treasurer's Report**

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Treasurer's Report and the Treasurer's Report of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation be accepted.*

**Resolution No. 11: Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund Committee Report**

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund Committee Report be accepted.*

**Resolution No. 12: Memorial: Budget Revision**

WHEREAS, *The memorial is in conflict with the implied intent of Article VII of the Articles of Incorporation of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod which states, "The Trustees shall have the general management and control of all the secular business and temporal affairs of said corporation," Article VIII of the Articles of Incorporation which states, "The Treasurer shall receive and disburse the funds of the corporation under the direction of the Synod and its Board of Trustees," and Chapter V, Paragraph 1 of the Constitution of the ELS which states, "The*

*governance of the Synod shall be vested in a board of nine Trustees, who shall have jurisdiction over all secular business and temporal affairs of the Synod," and,*

*WHEREAS, The memorial is in conflict with the adopted Guidelines for Synodical Budgeting, Planning and Organization (Synod Report 1985, p. 148, III, B, 5),*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the memorial be declined.*

**Resolution No. 13: Budget for 1987**

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the Synod adopt the proposed budget for 1987.*

**Resolution No. 14: Report of the Board of Trustees**

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the remainder of the report of the Board of Trustees be adopted.*

**Resolution No. 15: Budget Reduction for Foreign Missions**

*WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees found it necessary to reduce the 1986 Synod budget, resulting in a \$17,000 cut in the Foreign Mission budget, and,*

*WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College was able, because of unexpected high student enrollment, to contribute \$12,000 to partially offset this cost, and,*

*WHEREAS, The Board for Foreign Missions will be unable to complete its work for 1986 without the remaining \$5,000 of this budget reduction, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the Synod reinstate \$5,000 to the budget of the Board for Foreign Missions for 1986.*

## **MISCELLANEOUS ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

**Resolution No. 1: Constitution**

*WHEREAS, A revised constitution and by-laws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod was adopted by the 1985 convention, and,*

*WHEREAS, Article VII requires that it be ratified by a two-thirds majority vote at the next regular convention, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the constitution and by-laws adopted at the 1985 convention be ratified.*

**Resolution No. 2: Memorial, President's Office**

*WHEREAS, The Synod has determined that a full-time president can be of significant value to the Synod and has provided for its establishment, (cf. Synod Report 1984, page 140, Res. #3 and Synod Report 1985, page 152, Res. #3), and,*

*WHEREAS, Provision for additional funding needed to sup-*

*port the office of a full-time president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has been made through an endowment fund designated for that purpose only, therefore,*

**A. BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Synod, hereby, reaffirm its decision to establish the office of president as a full-time position, and,*

**B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** *That this reaffirmation be the response to the memorial of St. Luke Lutheran Church.*

**Resolution No. 3: Use of Communion Service Offerings**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That offerings received at the communion service conducted at the 1986, 1987, and 1988 conventions be designated for the SPECIAL HOME MISSION OFFERING.*

**Resolution No. 4: Memorials, Biennial Convention**

**WHEREAS,** *Annual conventions of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod can be of value, in terms of lay involvement in Synod activities, flexibility of operations, fellowship of the people of Synod, and closer accountability of the standing boards to the Synod, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *To hold conventions on a biennial basis would require significant changes in existing Synod policies, guidelines, and constitution, but*

**WHEREAS,** *The concerns of potential savings in costs and time are worthy of study, therefore,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Planning and Coordinating Committee be asked to study the organizational and economic ramifications of biennial conventions and report its finding to the 1987 convention.*

**Resolution No. 5: Report of the Committee on Christian Worship**

**WHEREAS,** *The Committee on Christian Worship has reported on the continued activity with the WELS in the development of a "new/revised" Lutheran Hymnal, therefore,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *The Synod encourage it to continue with this work and to report on its progress.*

**Resolution No. 6: Guidelines for the Board for Home Missions**

**WHEREAS,** *The Synod requested the Self-Study Committee to examine the guidelines for the Board for Missions and recommend necessary revisions, and,*

**WHEREAS,** *The Self-Study Committee has completed its assignment and has proposed revised guidelines for the Board for Home Missions, therefore,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the proposed revised guidelines for the Board for Home Missions be adopted as recommended by the Self-Study Committee with the following amendment:*

*Section 4, H be amended to read,*

*"H. Until such time as the congregation takes title to the property or arranges its own financing and if it is found necessary to sell all or part of the property, and there has been a significant*



*fluctuation in the value of the property, proper regard will be shown by both the Board of Trustees and the congregation for each other, and any loss or gain will be shared by both parties equally."*

**Resolution No. 7: Guidelines for the Board for Foreign Missions**

*WHEREAS, The Synod requested the Self-Study Committee to examine the guidelines for the Board for Missions and to recommend necessary changes, and,*

*WHEREAS, The Self-Study Committee has completed its assignment and has proposed revised guidelines for the Board for Foreign Missions, and,*

*WHEREAS, It is understood by all boards and committees that all items purchased by them are the property of the Synod, so Section 3, D is unnecessary, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the proposed guidelines for the Board for Foreign Missions be adopted as recommended by the Self-Study Committee with the following amendment:*

*DELETE SECTION 3, D*

**Resolution No. 8: Pastors' Equalization Guidelines**

*WHEREAS, Attention has been called to inadequacies in the present guidelines for Pastors' Equalization, and,*

*WHEREAS, The Self-Study Committee has proposed revisions to these guidelines which address the inadequacies, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the proposed revised guidelines for Pastors' Equalization be adopted as proposed by the Self-Study Committee, with the following amendments:*

*SECTION 11, DELETE THE WORDS "REMINDED"*

*SECTION 12, DELETE THE ENTIRE SECTION*

**Resolution No. 9: Guidelines for the Board for Stewardship**

*WHEREAS, The guidelines for synodical budgeting, planning and organization adopted at the 1985 convention provided for a change of the responsibilities of the Board for Stewardship, and,*

*WHEREAS, The Self-Study Committee has examined these guidelines and has proposed revised guidelines to conform to the new budgeting process, therefore,*

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the proposed revised guidelines for the Board for Stewardship as submitted by the Self-Study Committee be adopted.*

**Resolution No. 10: Guidelines for the Equalization Committee**

*WHEREAS, The Synod requested the Self-Study Committee to analyze the present rules and method of funding for the Laymen's Equalization Fund "with a view of possibly assessing congregations according to communicant membership" and bring its recommendations, (cf. Synod Report, 1985, p. 146, Res. 1), therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the following "Guidelines for the Equalization Rules" and "Assessment Formula" be adopted.*

**Resolution No. 11: Work of the Self-Study Committee**

WHEREAS, *The Self-Study Committee was asked to study the relationship between the Synod and Thoughts of Faith, Cristo Rey, and the Faith Mission Society (cf. Synod Report 1985, p. 80, Res. 6 and 7), and,*

WHEREAS, *The Self-Study Committee reports it was unable to complete this study, therefore,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That their request for an extension of time be granted, and the committee be asked to complete this work in time to report to the 1987 convention.*

**Resolution No. 12: The Time of the 1987 Convention**

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the 70th annual convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 31st annual meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corp. be held June 14 through June 19, 1987 at Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Mankato, Minnesota.*

## MINUTES

### ACTION OF THE SYNOD

**Resolution No. 1: Secretary's Minutes**

WHEREAS, *The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for Synod Sunday, June 15, 1986, and found them to be correct,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod adopt the minutes as read.*

**Resolution No. 2: Secretary's Minutes**

WHEREAS, *The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Monday morning and afternoon sessions, June 16, 1986, and found them to be correct,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod adopt the minutes as read.*

**Resolution No. 3: Secretary's Minutes**

WHEREAS, *The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for Tuesday morning and afternoon sessions, June 17, 1986, and found them to be correct,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the Synod adopt the minutes as read.*

**Resolution No. 4: Secretary's Minutes**

WHEREAS, *The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the*

*Wednesday morning session, June 18, 1986, and found them to be correct, therefore,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Synod adopt the minutes as read.*

**Resolution No. 5: Secretary's Minutes**

*WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Wednesday afternoon session, June 18, 1986, and found them to be correct, therefore,*

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the Synod adopt the minutes as read.*

**Resolution No. 6: Secretary's Minutes**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That the president and vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod read and approve the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for Thursday, June 19, 1986.*

## **RESOLUTIONS**

### **ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** *That letters of fraternal greeting be dispatched*

*(1) to the Lutheran Confessional Church—Norway and Sweden, the Rev. William Mack, Queensland, Australia, and the Rev. Roger Falk and associates in Japan,*

*(2) to Mrs. Sigurd Ylvisaker upon the occasion of her 90th birthday,*

*(3) to the following upon the occasion of their service in the church:*

*The Rev. Adolph Harstad (60th)*

*The Rev. Bjarne W. Teigen, D.D. (50th)*

*The Rev. Carl Rusch (50th)*

*The Rev. Robert Waldschmidt (40th)*

*The Rev. Prof. Juul Madson (40th)*

*The Rev. Prof. Rudolph Honsey (40th)*

*The Rev. Gottfred F. Guldberg (40th)*

*Prof. Norman Holte (40th)*

*The Rev. Paul G. Anderson (40th)*

*(4) to the survivors of those memorialized, namely,*

*The Rev. H. A. Preus*

*Mrs. Erling Ylvisaker*

*Mrs. George Lillegard*

*(5) to wish God's blessings in illness*

*Mrs. Olivia Teigen*

# CHURCH LOCATIONS AND THE TIME OF SERVICES

(Not intended for mailing—use pastor's address)

## CIRCUIT NO. 1

STATE City-Church	Address	Services	Pastor
<b>FLORIDA</b>			
Lakeland—Our Savior	228 Azalea St.	9:30	K. Mellon
Naples—Our Savior	1961 Curling Ave.	8:00 & 10:30 S. 9:15	S. Quist
Port St. Lucie—Christ		10:00	
Sebastian—Trinity	611 Schumann Drive	10:00	J. Wilde
Vero Beach—Grace	2126 17th Ave.	10:00	J. Moldstad, Sr.
<b>GEORGIA</b>			
Marietta—Resurrection	1111 Braswell Rd.	10:30	R. Long
Savannah—Christ	316 Tibet Ave.	11:00	P. Jecklin

## CIRCUIT NO. 2

<b>MASSACHUSETTS</b>			
Brewster—Trinity	6A at Lower Road	10:30 S. 9:30	J. Krikava
Burlington—Pinewood	24 Wilmington Rd.	10:45 S. 10:00	M. Marozick
<b>NEW YORK</b>			
Rochester—Indian Landing	650 N. Landing Rd.	10:45	R. Gudgeon
Scottsville—Redeemer	Scottsville	8:45	R. Gudgeon

## CIRCUIT NO. 3

<b>ILLINOIS</b>			
Chicago—Emmaus	5440 West Gladys Ave.	10:45	C. Wosje
St. Mark's	1701 N. Tripp Ave.	10:30	H. Behrens
Lombard—St. Timothy	547 N. Main	10:15 S 9:00	M. Luttman
<b>MICHIGAN</b>			
Alpena—Faith	233 Cavanaugh	9:00	L. Vinton
E. Jordan—Faith	3 E. 1½ N. on Wilson Rd.	2:00 p.m. S 7:00 p.m.	
Hesperia—Hesperia	2 W., 2 N.	8:30	C. Ferkenstad
Hillman—Faith	R. 1, Box 218 M-32 East	11:00	L. Vinton
Holton—Holton	Marvin Road	10:00	C. Ferkenstad
Midland—Holy Scripture	4525 Cook Rd.	9:00	P. Schneider
Suttons Bay—First	325 St. Mary's Ave.	10:00	B. Homan

## CIRCUIT NO. 4

<b>WISCONSIN</b>			
Amherst Junction—Our Savior's	5 N.E.	10:30	
Ashland—First English	701 Vaughn Ave.	10:00	N. Harstad
Bloomer—Good Shepherd	1504 Vine St.	10:30 S 10:00	T. Petersen
Clintonville—St. Paul	N. Park & Anne	10:30	J. Smith
Cottage Grove—Western Koshkonong	8 S.W.	10:00 S 9:00	J. Olsen
Eau Claire—Ascension	1500 Peterson Ave., R. 1	9:00	O. Trebelhorn
Concordia	3715 London Rd.	8:00 & 10:30 S. 9:00 & Mon. 7:00 p.m.	F. Theiste

Pinehurst	3304 Fern Court	8:15 & 10:45	T. Bartels
Elderon—Our Savior's	Highway 49 N.	S. 9:00 & Mon. 7:00 p.m.	T. Skaaland
Iola—Redeemer	185 S. Washington	9:00	H. Vetter
Madison—Grace	5530 Englewood Drive	9:30	W. Granke
Holy Cross	2670 Milwaukee St.	8:45 & 11:00	G. Orvick
		S 8:30 & 10:00	S. Petersen
Our Saviour's	1201 Droster Rd.	8:00 & 10:15	P. Vangen
		S 9:00	
Marinette—First Trinity	920 Wells St.	8:00 & 10:00	E. Stubenvoll
Okauchee—Holy Trinity	N50W35181 Wisconsin Ave.	7:45 & 10:15	G. Schmeling
		S 7:45 & 9:30	
Oregon—Faith	143 Washington St.	9:00	P. Petersen
Portage—St. Paul's	5 miles West on Hwy. 127	9:00	D. Larson
Shawano—St. Martin	5 miles S.W.	9:00	J. Smith
West Bend—Trinity	1268 Pleasant Valley Rd.	8:00 & 10:00	K. Schmitt
Wisconsin Dells—			
Newport	4 miles S.E. on Hwy. 16	10:30	D. Larson

### CIRCUIT NO. 5

#### IOWA

Ames—Bethany	3109 Diamond	10:00	T. Fox
Calmar—Trinity	Charles St., Box 814	*	F. Stubenvoll
Forest City—Forest	546 West M St.	10:45	D. Schlicht
Lake Mills—Lake Mills	1st Ave. N. & Grant St.	8:30	A. Merseth
Lime Creek	4 N., 1 W.	9:45 or 11:00	A. Merseth
Lawler—Saude	10 N., 1 W, R. 2	*	G. Obenberger
New Hampton—Jerico	9 N., 3 E., Rt. 1	*	G. Obenberger
Redeemer	Sherman & Court	*	F. Stubenvoll
Northwood—First Shell Rock	Central & 15th	10:30	A. Merseth
Somber	10 W., 1 S.	9:45 or 11:00	A. Merseth
Parkersburg—Faith	608 6th St.,	10:15	W. Frick
Riceville—Immanuel	Riceville	8:30	A. Merseth
Scarville—Center	5 S., ¼ E.	*	J. Dukleth
Scarville	Scarville	*	J. Dukleth
Thompson—Zion	Thompson	9:00	D. Schlicht
Thornton—Richland	300 Elm St.	10:30 S 9:30	G. Guldberg
Waterloo—Pilgrim	3815 Ansborough	9:30	
Waterville—East Paint Creek	2 N.	10:00 S 9:30	M. DeGarmeaux
Waukon—West Paint Creek	6 E.	10:00 S 9:30	M. DeGarmeaux

#### MINNESOTA

Albert Lea—Our Savior's	320 W. College St.	8:00 & 10:45	D. Thompson
		S 9:00	
Hartland—Hartland	404 Broadway	10:45 S 9:00	M. Doepel
Manchester—Manchester		9:30 S 10:15	M. Doepel

#### MISSOURI

Piedmont—Grace	114 E. Green St.	10:30	J. Krueger
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### CIRCUIT NO. 6

#### MINNESOTA

Apple Valley—Heritage	13401 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd.	8:30 & 10:45	R. Dale
		S 9:30	
Gaylord—Norwegian Grove	8 S.	9:00 or 10:30	N. Madson
Golden Valley—King of Grace	6000 Duluth St.	8:15 & 10:45	E. Ekhooff
		S 8:15 10:00	
Mankato—Mt. Olive	1123 Marsh St.	8:30 & 10:45	R. Newgard
		S 8:30 & 10:00	

Minneapolis—Hiawatha	1420 E. 43rd St.	10:00	R. Mathison
Princeton—Bethany	801 S. 6th St.	8:15 & 10:45	D. Nelson
Our Savior's	10 W. and 4 S.	9:30	
St. Peter—Norseland	10 N.W.	9:00 or 10:30	N. Madson

### CIRCUIT NO. 7

#### MINNESOTA

Audubon—Immanuel	Highway 10 Audubon	9:30	C. Keeler
Bagley—Our Savior's	6 W. on #2	9:30	
Clearbrook—Concordia	8 S.W.	8:15	
Crookston—Grace	1221 Barrette St.	*	R. Smith
East Grand Forks—	2214 10th Ave. N.W.	10:15 S. 9:00	J. Petersen
River Heights			
Fertile—First Evanger	405 Washington, N.E.	*	R. Smith
Grygla—St. Petri	2 W.	*	R. Fehr
Hawley—Our Savior's	6th & Joseph	*	P. Madson
Lengby—St. Paul's		10:45	
Oklee—Clearwater	6 N., 4 E.	11:15	R. Fehr
Oak Park	9 N., 4 E.	10:00	T. Rank
Trail—Mt. Olive		8:15	T. Rank
Nazareth	13 N., 2 W.	*	R. Fehr
Ulen—Calvary		*	P. Madson

#### NORTH DAKOTA

Mayville—First American	224 2nd St. N.E.	11:00 S. 10:00	R. Branstad
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### CIRCUIT NO. 8

#### COLORADO

Colorado Springs—St. Andrew	2215 Paseo Rd.	9:30	S. Sparley
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#### MINNESOTA

Belview—Our Savior's	Belview	10:30 S 9:30	P. Haugen
Rock Dell	5 M. N.E.	9:00 S 10:30	P. Haugen
Cottonwood—English	1st and Main St.	9:00 S 8:30	
Jasper—Rose Dell Trinity	Jasper	9:00	W. Halvorson
Luverne—Bethany	720 N. Kniss Ave.	10:30	W. Halvorson
Tracy—Zion	2nd and Emory	11:00 S 10:15	

#### SOUTH DAKOTA

Sioux Falls—Bethel	1200 S. Covell	10:30 S 10:00	R. Halvorson
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#### TEXAS

Richardson—Good	650 W. Campbell Rd.	10:30	J. Burkhardt
Shepherd			
San Antonio—Faith	14819 Jones-Maltsberger	10:15	H. Larson

### CIRCUIT NO. 9

#### ARIZONA

Lake Havasu City—Our Saviour	3163 Maricopa	9:30	J. Moldstad, Jr.
Phoenix—Christ the	6724 E. Hearn	10:00	R. McMiller
Cornerstone			

#### CALIFORNIA

Bell Gardens—Christ	6541 So. Eastern Ave.	9:00 Sp. 11:30	D. Haeuser
the King			
Bishop—Our Savior	162 Sneden St.	11:00 S. 10:00	T. Gullixson

Blythe—Good Shepherd	7th St. & 8th Ave.	9:30	O. Wraalstad
Camarillo—Faith	575 Dawson Drive	9:00	
Chico	1046 Arbutus	9:30	W. Werling
Escondido—St. Paul	1418 Bear Valley Parkway	10:00	A. Schmitt
Santa Rosa—Christ	1205 Guernerville Rd. 152	10:30	J. Schmidt
Tustin—Faith	12712 Elizabeth Way, Room #2	10:00	W. McMurdie
Ventura—Wayfarers'	Holiday Inn	10:45	A. Wagner
Chapel	450 E. Harbor Blvd.		
Fillmore	Central Ave. & 3rd St.	8:45	R. Waldschmidt
Yuba City—Bethel	1480 Hayne	10:30	N. Merseth

## CIRCUIT NO. 10

### OREGON

Grants Pass—Our Savior	230 Buysman Way	11:00	H. Mosley
The Dalles—Bethany	1405 E. 19th St.	10:30	F. Fiedler
	St. Peter's Landmark Ch.		
Myrtle Creek—St. Matthew	436 N.E. Pacific Highway	11:00	G. Haugen
Sutherlin—Christ	161 W. 2nd Ave.	9:00	G. Haugen

### WASHINGTON

Mt. Vernon—St. Luke	1524 E. Blackburn Rd.	11:00	J. Dalke
Port Orchard—Bethany	719 Sidney Ave.	8:15 & 11:00	E. Bryant
Tacoma—Lakewood	10202 112th St. S.W.	11:00 S 9:30	M. Krentz
Parkland	12309 S. Pacific Ave.	10:30 S 9:30	H. Handberg
Yelm—Our Redeemer	10325 Hwy. 507 S.E.	10:30	P. Anderson

\*Consult pastor.

## CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

### **Bethany Lutheran Elementary School**

719 Sydney  
Port Orchard, WA 98366  
Tel. 206-876-1300

### **Christ Lutheran School**

161 W. 2nd St.  
Sutherlin, OR 97479  
Tel. 503-459-4505

### **Holy Cross Lutheran School**

2670 Milwaukee St.  
Madison, WI 53704  
Tel. 608-249-3101

### **Holy Trinity Lutheran School**

35181 Wisconsin Ave.  
Okauchee, WI 53069  
Tel. 414-567-0669

### **King of Grace Lutheran School**

6000 Duluth St.  
Golden Valley, MN 55427  
Tel. 612-546-3131

### **Lakewood Evangelical Lutheran School**

10202 112th St. S.W.  
Tacoma, WA 98498  
Tel. 206-584-6024

### **Mt. Olive Lutheran School**

1123 Marsh St.  
Mankato, MN 56001  
Tel. 507-345-7927

### **Our Redeemer Lutheran School**

10325 Hwy. 507 S.E.  
Yelm, WA 98597  
Tel. 206-458-7310

### **Parkland Lutheran School**

S. 123rd at Pacific  
P.O. Box 44006  
Tacoma, WA 98444  
Tel. 206-537-1901

### **River Heights Lutheran School**

2214 10th Ave. N.W.  
East Grand Forks, MN 56721  
Tel. 218-773-7101

### **Scarville Lutheran School**

Box 62  
Scarville, IA 50473  
Tel. 515-568-3646

### **Trinity Lutheran School**

1268 Pleasant Valley Rd.  
West Bend, WI 53095  
Tel. 414-675-6627

### **Western Koshkonong Lutheran School**

2646 Church Rd.  
Cottage Grove, WI 53527  
Tel. 608-873-9976



## **INDEPENDENT CONGREGATIONS IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE ELS**

**Grace Lutheran Church**  
4435 S.E. Tualatin Valley Hwy.  
Hillsboro, Oregon 97123  
(503) 648-1393

Time of Worship 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Pastor Thos. E. Dudley

Rt. 3, Box 178

Cornelius, Oregon 97113

(503) 640-2001

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
1030 Redwood St.  
Vallejo, California 94590  
(707) 691-0115

Time of Worship 8:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.

Pastor Edward W. Halvorson

149 Bret Harte Way

Vallejo, California 94590

(707) 642-7620

**Scriptural Lutheran Church**  
Rt. 1, Box 58

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Pastor Henry D. Gieschen

(314) 334-4096

**Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
Kallangur Maryborough,  
Queensland, Australia 4504  
(011) 617-204-2448

Time of Worship 10:00 a.m.

Pastor William C. Mack

37 Marsh St.

Narangba, Queensland, Australia 4504



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## **THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION**

"The EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION is established for the purpose of soliciting gifts, other than for current operating funds, for the Synod, its agencies, and as requested, for its congregations and for the theological seminary, college, and other institutions related to the Synod. The FOUNDATION is to encourage the making of wills, gift annuity agreements, trust agreements, insurance contracts, etc., under which the Synod or any of its parts or agencies may become an actual or contingent beneficiary."—(Adopted by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, 1969.)

### **IS GOD'S WILL INCLUDED IN YOUR WILL?**

The FOUNDATION is ready to serve those who are concerned about their responsibility to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as those who are concerned about the needs of our church. It stands ready to serve as no other agency can.

#### **A. GIFTS AND DONATIONS OF MONEY**

The EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION is ready to receive, administer, and distribute gifts of money designated for the general work of our church or any specific phase of its activities. Such gifts may be designated for any purpose the donor may desire, and they may be divided in any way.

In keeping with the donor's wishes, the principal may be used for the purpose designated, or the principal may be held intact while the income alone is used for the work of our church.

#### **B. GIFTS OF REAL ESTATE AND OTHER PROPERTY**

The FOUNDATION is ready to receive, administer and distribute gifts of real estate, securities, or other property designated for the general work of our church or for any specific phase of its activities (including local congregations). If desired the FOUNDATION is ready to make arrangements whereby the donor will receive a gift annuity agreement income for life or a life income agreement income.

#### **C. BEQUESTS THROUGH WILLS**

In a very real sense your will is a continuation of your own life and influence. It is an expression of your wishes, a document that acts as your representative in distributing the material things you leave behind. Only you know how you wish them distributed. Only you have the power and the right to make your own will. If you don't have a will, the state makes a will for you

through the laws that apply when a person leaves no will.

The E.L.S. FOUNDATION urgently appeals to you: Make a will, and make your will a "Christian" will by remembering the Lord Jesus Christ and His Church in it.

Gift Annuity Agreements, Life Income Gift Agreements, Life insurance Gifts, Gifts Through Trusts and Memorial Gifts, may be used; and the FOUNDATION is ready to serve you or counsel with you.

**LEGAL FORM FOR GIFTS TO THE SYNOD FOUNDATION  
THROUGH WILLS (check with your attorney).**

I give, devise and bequeath to the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION (a Minnesota and Wisconsin Corporation)

---

(Insert sum of money or description of property which sum, or property, or proceeds thereof)

to be used as directed by the donor or, if no direction as to use is stated, as its Board of Directors may determine.

Send inquiries to:

COUNSELOR FOR DEFERRED GIVING

Mr. Ernest Geistfeld  
1138 Anderson Drive  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001



PAROCHIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1985

Number	State	Location	Circuit	Congregation	Pastor	Members						Communed	Marriages	Burials	Services				Day Schools		Sunday Schools		Other Schools Enrollment		Students			Contributions		Value of Property	Debt on Property	Legacies				
						Baptized	Con-firmed	Voters	Children	Adults	Children				Adults	Special	Average Attendance	Sunday	Average Attendance	Enrollment	Teachers	Enrollment	Bible Class	Teachers	Vacation Bible School	Released Time	Summer Camp	Synodi-cal Institutions	Public H.S. Colleges				For Home Purposes	For All Other Purposes		
1	Ariz.	Lake Havasu City	9	Our Saviour	1	J. Moldstad, Jr.	111	92	28	3	1	3	3	893	3	1	12	69	52	96			15	20	3	36					37,472	9,530	95,000	55,000		
2	Ariz.	Phoenix	9	Christ the Cornerstone	1	W. Kessel	39	24	11	1		1	1	237	1	1	5	50	52	35				18	7	3						19,994	6,413			
3	Calif.	Bell Gardens	9	Christ the King	1	D. Haeuser	55	46	15	6	1			653		2	14	26	100	51			3	40	47	5	95					43,983	2,044	80,000	2,570	
4	Calif.	Bishop	9	Our Savior	1	T. Gullixson	50	42	11	2			1	234			16	15	52	22				5	10	3						30,035	3,519	170,000	60,000	
5	Calif.	Blythe	9	Good Shepherd	1	O. Wraalstad	19	19	5					168			6	13	52	13												13,103				
6	Calif.	Camarillo	9	Faith	1	M. Elliott	31	25	7					134					47	12												6,253		458,454		
7	Calif.	Escondido	9	St. Paul	1	A. Schmitt	196	140	47																							49,741	1,082			
8	Calif.	Santa Rosa	9	Christ	1	J. Schmidt	46	35	11	1		3		425			9	18	52	37				12	17	3						32,436	3,972			
9	Calif.	Tustin	9	Faith	1	W. McMurdie	39	31	12				1	210		1	13	20	52	24				3	15	2						22,866	14,530			
10	Calif.	Ventura-Fillmore	9	Wayfarers' Chapel	1	A. Wagner R. Waldschmidt	90	75	16	2				604	2	4	5	25	104	73				7	36	6	25					28,168	5,350	100,000	70,000	-26,000
11	Calif.	Yuba City	9	Bethel	1	N. Merseth	17	13	6	2							4	20	51	22				4	6	1	9					12,522	684	100,000	48,000	
12	Colo.	Colorado Springs	8	St. Andrew	1	S. Sparley	90	60	25	4		1		300	3		10	25	53	30				11	18	5						21,953	1,021	259,000	22,584	
13	Fla.	Lakeland	1	Our Saviour	1	K. Mellon	41	32	15	4			3	350			2	64	52	47				6	10	3	10					13,283	1,492			
14	Fla.	Naples	1	Our Savior	1	S. Quist	192	160	35	3			6		4	1				114			24	35	6	25					87,000	6,500	384,355	95,000	1,000	
15	Fla.	Port St. Lucie	1	Christ	3	J. Madson, Vicar	26	22	7	1				121			2	23	35	26				3		2						6,100	1,246			
16	Fla.	Vero Beach	1	Grace	1	J. Moldstad, Sr.	294	247	27	3			1	3,284	1	3	12	124	52	174				42	52		30					76,092	39,100	535,000	90,000	
17	Fla.	Sebastian	1	Trinity	1	J. Wilde	74	65	16	3		2	5	1,234	2	2	12	52	52	71				5	34	2						26,867	3,334	220,000	140,000	
18	Ga.	Marietta	1	Resurrection	1	R. Long	99	67	23	3			1	350			6	34	52	53				14	17	5	16					28,675	2,465	150,000	1,500	
19	Ga.	Savannah	1	Christ	1	P. Jecklin	51	39	13					513			4	31	52	47				10	15	4						40,800	4,000	225,000		
20	Ill.	Chicago	3	St. Mark's	1	H. Behrens	91	86	18				4	442	6	6	24	52	35				7	15	3						21,509	2,028	376,000			
21	Ill.	Lombard	3	St. Timothy	1	M. Luttmann	230	188	28	9		2		903	4	3	15	52	52	98				30	17	6	12					71,721	14,249	497,062	206,000	
22	Iowa	Ames	5	Bethany	1	T. Fox	65	49	13	3		1	1	658	2		11	36	50	51				13	21	6	15					22,154	22	225,000	99,994	
23	Iowa	Calmar	5	Trinity	1	F. Stubenvoll	78	67	15	1				346	1	1	9							13	10	5						18,085	1,045			
24	Iowa	Forest City	5	Forest	1	D. Schlicht	86	63	19	3		3		368	1	1	9	29	48	42				24		4	35					18,118	3,762	35,000		
25	Iowa	Lake Mills	5	Lake Mills	1	A. Merseth	130	101	30	5				367	1	4	11	59	50	48				17	14	4	22					14,163	3,441	65,500		
26	Iowa	Lake Mills	5	Lime Creek	1	A. Merseth	63	50	18	2			1	298	1		4	114	49	30				7	13	4						9,634	3,840	60,000		
27	Iowa	Lawler	5	Saunder	1	G. Obenberger	134	103	41	1		2		742	1		7	77	48	72				19	29	7	25					20,050	11,647	226,800		
28	Iowa	New Hampton	5	Jerico	1	G. Obenberger	195	163	67	3				974		5	13	55	48	84				17	18	6						31,146	21,445	243,000		
29	Iowa	New Hampton	5	Redeemer	1	F. Stubenvoll	166	131	20	1		5		529	1		9		51					22	15	5	22					27,346	2,985			
30	Iowa	Northwood	5	First Shell Rock	1	A. Merseth	130	100	34			3	1	457	1	1	12	49	50	44				20	16	5	24					13,313	6,338	110,000		
31	Iowa	Northwood	5	Somber	1	A. Merseth	43	31	14																											



# EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

## Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

447 N. Division St.

Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Wilhelm Petersen, President

FOR CATALOG: WRITE TO REGISTRAR

## Bethany Lutheran College

734 Marsh St.

Mankato, Minnesota 56001



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Marvin G. Meyer, President

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