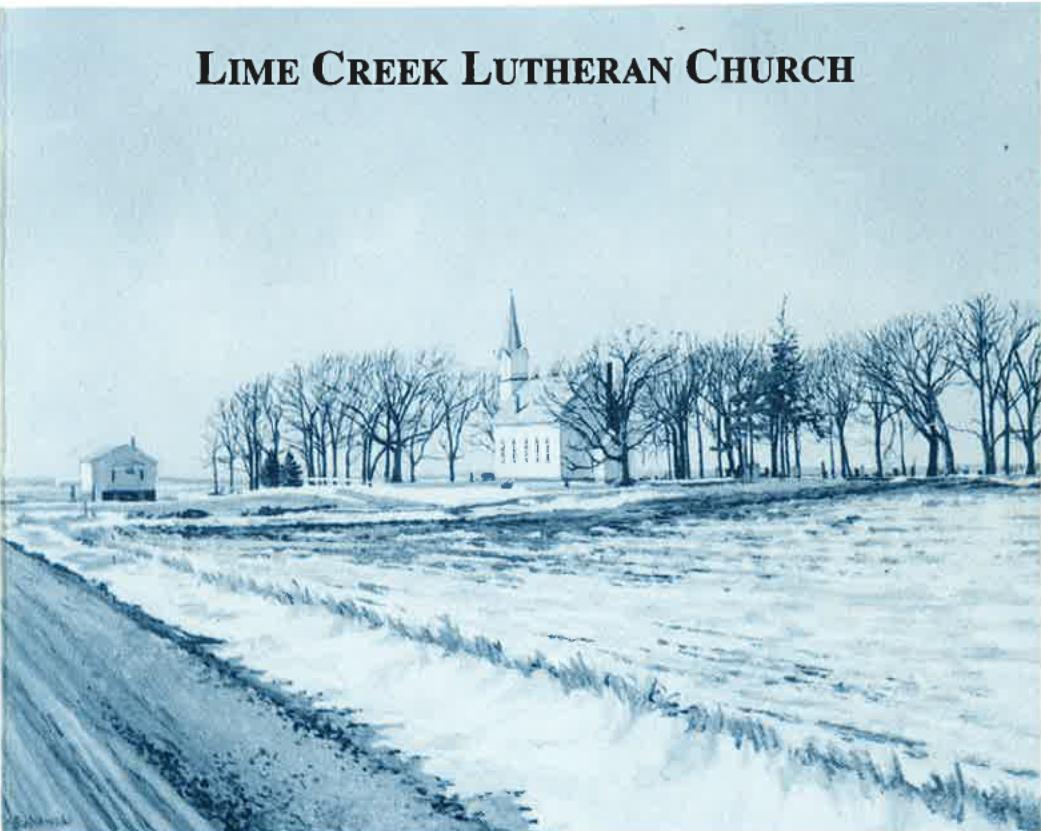


76th Annual Convention of the E.L.S.



Evangelical
Lutheran Synod

LIME CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH



ESSAY:

"Our Great Heritage"

ESSAYIST:

Dr. Wilhelm Petersen

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MANKATO, MINNESOTA
JUNE 20-24, 1993

76th REPORT REGULAR CONVENTION

of the

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

**and the
37th Annual Meeting of the**

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE CORPORATION

**Convention Theme:
“HIS TRUTH ENDURES TO ALL GENERATIONS”**

**Essay:
Our Great Heritage**

**Essayist:
Dr. W. W. Petersen**

**Compiled by
Alf Merseth, Secretary**

**Held at
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE
BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Mankato, Minnesota 56001
June 20-24, 1993**

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75th Anniversary Theme

His Truth Endures To All Generations

75th Anniversary Ode

1. Across Atlantic waves they came —
Those dauntless Norsemen, sons and daughters,
Their course like that of Bible fame —
Of Israel at the Red Sea waters.
2. They left behind them kith and kin
To face in distant haunts unknown
The prospect of a better life
Than that which their own land had shown.
3. Among their few possessions brought
Upon their voyage 'cross the sea —
Their Bibles they would treasure most,
And truths they held in memory.
4. Their glimpse of that other world
Brought gasps of awe and shouts of glee —
The "Stars and Stripes" to them unfurled,
And towering o'er them: "Liberty."
5. Some stayed close by Atlantic's shore
While others onward westward pressed.
They came each year 'til more and more
Had staked their claims throughout the West.
6. One thing they lacked, these pious folk —
Some pastors who their souls would feed.
God's answer to their prayer was given,
And from their homeland filled this need.
7. Their public worship now returned
In Word and Sacrament, and song,
No matter what the place — a barn,
Or 'neath the oaks at Koshkonong.
8. Each cleared a place so they could build
Log cabins or mere huts of sod,
And soon within their midst would rise
A special house to worship God.
9. As time progressed, they settled in,
They took up trades, they tilled the soil.
They toiled at life, they battled sin,
They found the Christian life worthwhile.
10. By grace they lived, by grace they died —
The grace which they had known in Christ —
And as descendants multiplied,
To them these blessings likewise passed.
11. But as "the devil a castle builds
Beside a church that's built for God,"
False teachers did some pulpits fill
And earned the name of "Ichabod."
12. We call attention — here we pause —
There was a period now of strife,
Divisions right and left it caused,
Twixt brother, sister, man and wife.
13. Whose is the glory, man's or God's?
Is what in essence they debated.
And other doctrines thus were touched,
For all of Scripture is related.
14. Our fathers did this faith bestow:
That for salvation full and free
The credit not to man should go,
But to our God all glory be.
15. Rock-ribbed they stood against the tide
Of popularity and ease.
their conscience could not compromise
For sake of error to appease.
16. Those noble warriors who thus fought
Shall make no earthly hall of fame.
But one thing's certain: What they taught
Brought honor to the Savior's name.
17. As years now passed the "Synod" grew
Through varied times, some good, some lean;
But ever to the Scriptures true
It stood "foursquare," not in-between.
18. When gathered in convention hall
To do God's work with one consent,
They asked not whether duty called,
But straightway to the task were bent.

19. They had a zeal to bring the news
Of heaven's Gospel to the world,
And sacrificed for Christian schools
To educate their boys and girls.
20. A landmark in the history
Of heaven's Gospel to the world,
And sacrificed from Christian schools
To educate their boys and girls.
21. A landmark in the history
Of Synod's education zeal
Was when a college, "Bethany,"
Was purchased in a landmark deal.
22. But face adversity they did,
With trust that God would see it through.
So still today it stands amid
Mankato's trees, still guiding true.
23. In all these years, 'mid toil and strife,
The outcome they need not have feared;
For they had something more than life:
Their heritage was God's pure Word.
24. This heritage must be passed on;
So missions countrywide did rise,
That souls, for kingdom heirship won,
Might one day enter Paradise.
25. Their thoughts now turned to distant lands,
That these should hear the Gospel too.
With willing hearts and helping hands
They brought God's kingdom to Peru.
26. "Lime Creek to Linia" soon became
A partnership in Christian love,
And souls were won in Jesus' name —
Profound the blessings from above!
27. With "Thoughts of Faith" the mission arm
Extended back across the sea,
To Eastern Europe where much harm
Had once been caused by tyranny.
28. Their world left shattered, torn and bare,
Ukraine, East German, Czech and Slav
Embrace the Word we with them share —
Salvation by the Grace of God.
29. There's much we to our fathers owe
For blessings we enjoy today.
But most of all, the God we know
Deserves our highest praise for aye.
30. Howe'er, 'tis more than *words* alone
Should praise our God for His great love;
May we in life *live* as His own,
And heartfelt gratitude thus prove.
31. The work our fathers once began
Is now our work to carry on —
To teach, to preach salvation's plan,
Win souls for Christ 'til Kingdom come.
32. And so we celebrate this day
The legacy of God's pure Word.
With days of yore in memory,
We still can sing with one accord:

"God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations."

— The Rev. Paul Madson

75th Anniversary Song

We Praise You, O God — a song of praise written especially for the seventy-fifth anniversary of our synod
Music by Lynne Kessel Words by the Rev. Paul Madson

The musical score consists of five staves of music for a piano-vocal piece. The music is in common time (indicated by 'C') and uses a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The vocal part is in soprano range, and the piano accompaniment is in basso continuo range. The lyrics are integrated into the musical lines, appearing below the notes where appropriate. The score is divided into two sections by a brace, with each section containing three staves.

1. We praise You, O God, for Your care through the years, For
2. All glo - ry and hon - or to You, Lord, a - bove, Thank-
help-ing in trou - bles and calm-ing our fears. Your Word has sus - tained us in
giv - ing from hearts that have taat - ed Your love. Now bless us, we pray You, with
toll and in strife, But dear-est of all it has brought us new Life. Your
grace on our way, To love and to serve You un - til that great Day. O
Son is our Life! Your Son is our Life! Through Him we have hope and sal -
bless us we pray! O bless us we pray! To You may we ev - er be
va - tion, We praise You with glad a - dor - a - tion!
faith ful, We praise You with hearts e - ver - gra - te - full!

THE CONVENTION DAY BY DAY

SYNOD SUNDAY June 20, 1993



Sunday Morning Service

The 76th Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the synod at the Lime Creek Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, Iowa, June 14-19, 1918, and the 37th Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation opened on Sunday, June 20, 1993 with a special Festival Service in the gymnasium-auditorium on the Bethany Lutheran College campus at 10:30. An assembly of more than 900 worshippers gathered for this special service.

For this special service the Rev. David Lillegard, Sebastian, Florida served as the liturgist, the Rev. W. C. Gullixson, Mankato, Minnesota was the lector and the message was brought by President George Orvick, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Prof. Dennis Marzolf was at the organ and also directed the Bethany College Choir as they sang "Alleluia" by J. S. Bach. A children's group under the direction of Mrs. Amanda Madson sang a medley of songs focusing on the Means of Grace and the Christian way of life and death.

Using as his text Romans 3:24, President Orvick addressed himself to the theme: "The Synod's Chief Treasure." After reviewing some of the history surrounding the merger of three

Lutheran bodies in 1917, based on a document which permitted truth and falsehood to stand side by side as acceptable doctrine, President Orvick spoke of the importance of the truth in every doctrine of our Christian faith but focused the main part of his message on the "Chief Treasure," the unconditioned Gospel of a free grace from God, prepared in Christ, given "freely" to unworthy sinful man who merits nothing but eternal condemnation. As our fathers defended this doctrine in 1918, though it meant giving up everything earthly, so we too must defend this doctrine in thanksgiving to our God so that we will be able to pass on this wonderful truth to our children and children's children for generations to come.

At 2:30 p.m. about 600 people assembled in the gymnasium-auditorium for the CHORAL FESTIVAL celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Participants in the CHORAL FESTIVAL were: lectors, Pastor Raymond Branstad and Dr. Thomas Kuster; organist, Prof. Laura Whitney; choirs, Bethany Lutheran College Choir, Dennis Marzolf, director, Holy Cross Lutheran Church Choir, Lana Stulken, director and King of Grace Lutheran Church Choir, Krystal Nolan, director. The assembly sang many of the hymns which have been a part of the heritage of our synod and the choirs, individually and in mass choir form, rendered many beautiful and appropriate numbers. Interspersed with the music were readings by the lectors pertaining to the history of the synod.

At 7:00 p.m. the assembly gathered in Trinity Chapel at Bethany Lutheran College for the RITE OF GRADUATION FOR BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY.

Prof. J. B. Madson served as the liturgist, the Rev. Daniel Sabrowsky, Windsor, California brought the message, Prof. Dennis Marzolf was at the organ and the Rev. Jeff Carter, Yelm, Washington was the trumpeter.

Pastor Sabrowsky's text was Isaiah 6:1-8. On the basis of those words of Isaiah he addressed the theme: "Preparation for the Pastorate." He pointed out to the graduates that three things were required in their preparation, namely, 1) Conviction of their own sinfulness and inadequacy, 2) Their own cleansing of their sinfulness through the grace of God provided through the work of the Savior, and 3) Their calling from God's people to serve them through the bringing of that message of the Gospel.

President W. Petersen addressed the graduates briefly and presented them to the Board of Regents. The Rev. Raymond Branstad, chairman of the Board of Regents presented diplomas to Kent Dethlefson who has been assigned to serve at Richland Lutheran Church, Thornton, Iowa and to Mark Tuffin who has

been assigned to serve at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kallangur, Queensland, Australia.

Following the service a reception was held for the graduates in the college cafeteria.

MONDAY June 21, 1993

The first working day of the 76th convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod opened with a devotion by the Chaplain, the Rev. Herbert Larson, Portage, Wisconsin.

Using Psalm 126:3 as his text the chaplain addressed the theme "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad." Christians are like the writer of Psalm 126 when they say "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." He has sent His Son, Jesus, to earth to save sinful mankind. We know about it because the Lord has inspired the writing of the Bible. He has done great things for and through the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the 75 years which we celebrate. We can only praise and thank Him and ask His continuing blessings upon us.

To open the devotion the assembly sang "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation." After the chaplain's message the assembly joined in the singing of the song written especially for the 75th anniversary of our synod, music composed by Mrs. Lynne Kessel and words written by the Rev. Paul Madson, "We Praise You, O God."

After President Orvick welcomed the pastors, delegates and visitors to the convention Secretary Merseth called the roll to which 83 permanent voting members and 37 permanent advisory members either responded or were present by the end of the first working day.

The Credentials Committee represented by D. Moldstad recommended the seating of 120 delegates who had been certified by their congregations. The assembly resolved that these be seated as voting members of this convention and President Orvick declared the 76th convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 37th 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. Amen.

President Orvick began his message to the convention with the words "The anniversary convention has arrived!" He used Psalm 105:1-6 as the basis for his message. He said that our anniversary celebration should be like arriving on the mountain top and looking back to where we have been and looking forward to where we are going. Looking back he traced the history of our



Convention in Session

church body from the time the Restoration slipped out of the Stavanger harbor in 1825, taking the assembly through the various steps of that history which indicates the blessings of God in good and trying days, up to the present. Looking forward he indicated that we should approach the future with the attitude of aggressiveness that was indicated already at the synod's second convention in 1919, an attitude of "Full Steam Ahead." In all this he led the assembly to look at the blessings of God that have been so evident, the greatest of these blessings being the retaining of the pure and unconditioned Gospel of free grace.

President Orvick made some additions to his report. Greetings were read.

President Orvick introduced Mr. & Mrs. Birger Kvilaugsvik and Mr. & Mrs. Olav Utvik who brought greetings from the Lutheran congregation at Avaldsness, Norway and from the Lutheran Confessional Church and its pastors. They were acknowledged by the applause of the assembly.

The convention began the process of electing its working committees and the morning session was closed by the Chaplain reading selections from Psalm 103.

The Monday afternoon devotion was conducted by the Rev. Timothy Bartels. The assembly sang the hymn "O Word of God Incarnate." Pastor Bartels read Psalm 119:1-16, led the assembly in prayer and pronounced the blessing.

The convention completed the election of its working committees, assigned the work and recessed until Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

TUESDAY June 22, 1993

The Rev. Martin Teigen, Colorado Springs, Colorado conducted the Tuesday morning devotion. The assembly sang "Thy Word, O Lord, Like Gentle Dews." Using Psalm 119:140 as his text Pastor Teigen addressed the theme: "The Lord Has Given Us His Word." God's Word is pure in its source, purpose and means. The pure Word does not deceive. It is the power of God unto salvation. It creates servants of God who love the Word and speak it. Even though they must do so from a position of weakness. God's Word is certainly pure in itself, but we pray that it may be pure among us also.

The convention considered the report of the Synodical Membership Committee. Four pastors and one congregation were received into membership.

Candidate of Theology Mark Tuffin and his family were ready to leave for Australia. Candidate Tuffin addressed the convention. He thanked for the opportunity to study at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and for the blessings of the fellowship with the many Christian friends he had learned to know. He expressed the wish that the close contact and fellowship may continue between the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia.

Five different groups of pastors and professors were invited to the stage for special acknowledgment and were presented with a copy of the anniversary publication "This Generation of Grace."

The report of the Committee on Publications was considered.

The Chaplain closed the morning session by reading 2 paragraphs from President George Gullixson's address to the synod convention in 1924.

The Tuesday afternoon devotion was conducted by the Rev. Jerrold Dalke. The assembly sang the hymn "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name." Pastor Dalke read John 1:1-18, led the assembly in prayer and pronounced the blessing.

During the afternoon presentations were made by LACE, the Board for Home Missions, the Board for Foreign Mission and Higher Education.

The convention considered the reports of its Committee on Christian Service and its Committee on Higher Education.

The Chaplain closed the session with a reading from John 3.

In the evening a pageant written by Mrs. Amanda Madson entitled "It's Somewhere, in the Third Article" and directed by Prof. Sigurd K. Lee was presented in the theater in the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Facility at 7:00 and 9:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY June 23, 1993

The Wednesday morning devotion began with the assembly singing two stanzas of the hymn "Crown Him With Many Crowns."

The Rev. Glenn Obenberger conducted the devotion and used Matthew 16:15-16 as his text. He addressed the theme "The Lord Has Given Us His Son." We join the Apostle Peter, our fellow sinner, who boldly confessed his faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Jesus was anointed by God to be our Sacrifice of atonement, our Redeemer, Reconciler and Savior. This is our boast—the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ! We gather annually as a synod based on this confession. This is His truth which endures to all generations. Our beloved synod was formed so that the people of God might confess in word and deed that Jesus is the Christ. He is our righteousness and we are His sin. The Son of God, our brother, in the flesh has made us brothers. By the power of His great love for us we are healed.

After he led the assembly in prayer the assembly sang stanzas 3 & 4 of the hymn "Crown Him With Many Crowns."

President Orwick introduced President Carl Mischke who brought greetings from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We must always cherish and defend that Word, he said, not only for ourselves but for future generations. We are here for that purpose. Names will change as time goes on, but there is one constant, namely, His truth, and we must "keep its teachings pure throughout all generations."

Dr. W. W. Petersen was introduced and began reading his convention essay entitled "Our Great Heritage." He read Part I: "A Heritage Received." Time was allowed for discussion.

The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, chairman of the Thankoffering Committee announced that the offering is \$322,295.42 in pledges and cash. He encouraged the assembly to continue their support of this offering until October 1994. Various members of the Board for Education and Youth spoke of the ways in which the proceeds from the investment of this offering will be used.

The Miscellaneous Committee presented a Majority Report. A Minority report was also presented. Resolution #1 A of the Majority Report was read and discussed until time was called and the Chaplain closed the morning session.

The afternoon session was opened with the assembly singing "Brightest and Best of the Sons of the Morning."

The discussion of Resolution #1 A of the report of the Miscellaneous Committee continued until it was time for the Anniversary service. The honorees were: the Rev. Raymond Branstad, 50 years; the Rev Paul Lehenbauer, 40 years; the Rev.



The Rev. Raymond M. Branstad



The Rev. Paul M. Lehenbauer



The Rev. Paul G. Madson



The Rev. George M. Orvick



The Rev. Wilhelm W. Petersen



The Rev. Glenn E. Reichwald

Paul Madson, 40 years; the Rev. George Orwick, 40 years; the Rev. Wilhelm Petersen, 40 years; and Prof. Glenn Reichwald, 40 years.

The assembly sang the hymn "Pour Out Thy Spirit from on High." The Rev. Paul Petersen used as his text 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 and addressed the theme: "The Glory of the New Testament Ministry."

After recess discussion continued on Resolution #1 A of the report of the Miscellaneous Committee. The time was extended until 6:00 p.m. and Resolution #1 A was adopted shortly before time was called.

The Chaplain closed the session with the reading of Psalm 62:7-8.

The Convention Communion Service was held at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church on Wednesday evening. Pastor R. Newgard served as liturgist and Pastor Fredrick Theiste brought the message.

THURSDAY June 24, 1993

The Thursday morning devotion was conducted by the Rev. Paul Madson. The Honor Choir, under the direction of Prof. Dennis Marzolf, sang two numbers and the assembly sang the hymn "Lord, Help us ever to Retain."

Using as his text 2 Timothy 3:16, Pastor Madson addressed the theme "Continue in the Things we have Learned." During this 75th Anniversary we have been looking back and remembering our spiritual heritage. We are indeed grateful to those forefathers who left us a clear and certain path, a path that has as its light the unconditioned Gospel. Yet, though it has been good to relive the past, we can't live in the past. The thrust of our ministry for the future is the message we have received from the past, that we continue in the things which we have learned and have been assured of (2 Timothy 3:14). God be thanked that our fathers left us a legacy of utter confidence in the Holy Scriptures. This is a legacy we can be confident to take home and proclaim to our waiting congregations and to a dying world.

Pastor Madson led the assembly in prayer and pronounced the blessing.

The Rev. Dan Schroeder was introduced to bring greetings to the convention from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia.

The essayist, Dr. W. Petersen, completed the reading of his essay "Our Great Heritage." He read Part II "A Heritage to Preserve," and Part III "A Heritage to Share."

The assembly sang "God's Word is Our Great Heritage."

The Rev. Paul Anderson is leaving for a 6-month tour of service in Australia. He was wished the Lord's blessings by the assembly.

Discussion of Resolution #1 B of the report of the Miscellaneous Committee continued until recess and after recess until #1 B was adopted. Resolutions #1 C, D, E and F were considered and adopted at one time. The consideration of the entire report of the Miscellaneous Committee was completed.

The consideration of the Report of the Doctrine Committee was also completed.

The Thursday afternoon session began with the singing of the Anniversary Hymn "Ye Lands to the Lord Make a Jubilant Noise." The Anniversary Ode written by the Rev. Paul Madson was read responsively by Prof. J. B. Madson and the assembly.

The convention considered and adopted the report of its Committee on Finances; elected its Nominations Committee for the 1994 convention; completed consideration of the following reports: Publications, Missions, Education and Youth, Pastoral Conference Records, Resolutions, President's Message and Report, Minutes and Credentials.

The convention resolved to adjourn at 5:25 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 1993.

The president declared the 76th Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 37th Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation to be adjourned in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

Pastor Paul Madson conducted the closing devotion. The assembly sang the 75th Anniversary song "We Praise You, O God." Pastor Madson read Acts 20:17-32. The assembly sang "On My Heart Imprint Thine Image." Pastor Madson led the assembly in prayer and pronounced the Benediction.

Alf Merseth, secretary

ROLL CALL

A. PERMANENT MEMBERS (pastors serving member congregations, eligible to vote)

Present at this convention:

H. Abrahamson, K. Anderson, H. Bartels, M. Bartels, T. Bartels,
J. Braun, K. Brumble, E. Bryant, J. Burkhardt, J. Carter, R. Dale,
J. Dahlke, M. DeGarmeaux, M. Doepel, J. Dukleth, E. Ekhoff, M. Ernst,
D. Faugstad, R. Fehr, C. Ferkenstad, F. Fiedler, T. Fox, W. Frick, R. Fyffe,
H. Gieschen, G. Guldberg, T. Gullixson, W. Halvorson, N. Harstad,
G. Haugen, B. Homan, D. Hoyord, H. Huhnerkoch, C. Keeler, N. Krause,
M. Krentz, D. Larson, H. Larson, R. Lawson, P. Lehmann, D. Lillegard,
J. Madson, M. Madson, N. Madson, P. Madson, M. Marozick, K. Mellon,
A. Merseth, D. Meyer, D. Moldstad, J. Moldstad, Jr., J. Moldstad, Sr.,
H. Mosley, D. Nelson, R. Nepsund, R. Newgard, G. Obenberger, John
Petersen, S. Petersen, T. Rank, G. Reichwald, A. Ring, J. Ruppel,
D. Sabrowsky, S. Scheiderer, D. Schlicht, G. Schmeling, D. Schmidt,
J. Schmidt, K. Schmidt, P. Schneider, V. Settje, T. Skaaland, John Smith,
J. Kincaid Smith, K. Smith, M. Smith, Frederick Stubenvoll, F. Theiste,
R. Tragasz, K. Uhlenbrauck, H. Vetter, R. Waldschmidt, D. Webber,
J. Willitz, M. Wold, C. Wosje, P. Zager.

Absent:

D. Bakke, H. Behrens, G. Bork, P. Jecklin, J. Larson, T. Mutterer,
W. Neumann.

PERMANENT MEMBERS ACCEPTED AT THIS CONVENTION:



The Rev. David L. Meyer



The Rev. Alexander Ring



The Rev. Karl Anderson

**The Rev. Arthur Schmitt
No Photo Available**

Present:

David Meyer, Alexander Ring, Karl Anderson.

Absent:

Arthur Schmitt

B. PERMANENT ADVISORY MEMBERS (Not eligible to vote)

1. PASTORS SERVING NON-MEMBER CONGREGATIONS:

Present: Daniel Basel, W. Mack, D. Schroeder, L. Vinton

Absent: T. Erickson, D. Haeuser

2. PASTORS NOT SERVING CONGREGATIONS AT THIS TIME:

Present: P. Anderson, R. Carter, B. Huehn, J. Krikava, M. Luttman,
G. Orwick, P. Petersen, J. Shep, M. Teigen

Absent: T. Aaberg, R. Becker, R. Halvorson, J. Krueger, W. Larson,
D. McMILLER, N. Merseth, J. Olsen, C. Sieloff, S. Sparley

3. PASTORS AND PROFESSORS EMERITI:

Present: R. Branstad, W. Gullixson, N. Holte, P. Lehenbauer,
W. McMurdie, J. Petersen, F. Schmugge, Emil Stubenvoll, B. Teigen,
M. Tweit, O. Trebelhorn

Absent: E. Buhr, L. Gerbhardt, A. Kuster, D. McElwain, C. Rusch,
A. Schmitt, Neelak Tjernagel, A. Wagner

4. PROFESSORS:

Present: A. Harstad, M. Harstad, R. Honsey, T. Kuster, S. Lee, J. B.
Madson, D. Marzolf, M. Meyer, W. Petersen, E. Teigen, D. Thompson,
R. Wiechmann

Absent: W. Kessel, D. Metzger, S. Reagles

5. TEACHERS:

Present: Steven Beilke, Donald Hahnke, Curtis Mantey, Larry Rude,
Douglas Stellick

Absent: Silas Born, David Doelger, Leonard Engel, Daniel Madson,
Timothy Pietsch, James Schneck

CONGREGATION ADMITTED INTO MEMBERSHIP:

Peace Evangelical Lutheran, South Lakeland, FL

1993 REPRESENTATIVES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
H. Abrahamson	Ulen, MN	Calvary	Loren Larson Lyle Manthe
H. Bartels	Hawley, MN	Our Savior's	
T. Bartels	Brownsville, IN	Good Shepherd	Robert F. Schneider
	Eau Claire, WI	Pinehurst	Daniel Jacobson,Sr.
H. Behrens	Chicago, IL	St. Mark's	Neil Leatherberry
G. Bork	Irvine, CA	Faith	
J. Braun	Klamath Falls, OR	Christ	
K. Brumble	Richardson, TX	Good Shepherd	W. McMurdie
E. Bryant	Port Orchard, WA	Bethany	Paul Gallon
J. Burkhardt	Hillsboro	Grace	Dale Hauck
			Virgil Teigland
			Charles Fiedler
J. Carter	Yelm, WA	Redeemer	Curtis J. Mantey
R. Dale	Naples, FL	Our Savior	Stanton E.
J. Dalke	Mt. Vernon, WA	St. Luke	Kohlmeyer
M. DeGarmeaux	Lawler, IA	Saudé	Lavern Martin
			John Anderson
			Doug Stellick
	New Hampton, IA	Jerico	Harold Meyer
			Gary H. Meyer
	Waterville, IA	East Paint Creek	Odell Natvig
M. Doepel	Waukon, Ia	West Paint Creek	John Anderson
	Audubon, MN	Immanuel	John Costello
J. Dukleth	Luverne, MN	Bethany	Lawrence Olson
E. Ekhoff	Golden Valley, MN	King of Grace	Lester Busness
			Willard Leiran
M. Ernst	Jefferson City, MO	Peace	Gordon Gilbertson
D. Faugstad	Trail, MN	Mt. Olive	Leslie Just
	Oklee, MN	Oak Park	Paul Miller
R. Fehr	Warroad, MN	Bethlehem	Arthur Anderson
C. Ferkenstad	Bloomer, WI	Good Shepherd	Jurgen Oeding
			Norm Werner
F. Fiedler	Sutherlin, OR	Christ	Channing Handberg
	Myrtle Creek	St. Matthew	
T. Fox	Burlington, MA	Pinewood	
W. Frick	Litchfield, IL	Faith	
			Thomas Jackson
R. Fyffe	Weston, OH	Grace	Lonny Burrack
H. Gieschen	Alpena, MI	Faith	Galen Anderson
	Hillman, MI	Faith	Gary Bergstrom
G. Guldberg	Thornton, IA	Richland	Eugene Lueck
T. Gullixson	Escondido, CA	St. Paul	Dale Pospisil
W. Halvorson	Albert Lea, MN	Our Savior's	Robert Scharf
			George Wyckhuysen
			Harvey Ringen
			Leslie Brakenhoff
			Steve Alwart
			John Gobrogge
			Marlin Goebel
			William Discher
			Alton Krikava
			Ben Anderson

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
N. Harstad	Ashland, WI	First English	
G. Haugen	Crookston, MN	Grace	
	Fertile, MN	First Evanger	
B. Homan	Madison, WI	Our Saviour's	Truman Opheim Kenneth Bolstad Donald Heiliger Robert Edwards
D. Hoyord	Apple Valley, MN	Heritage	Emmett Norell Wayne Karlsrud William Overn (Alt.)
H. Huhnerkoch	Lake Havasu City, AZ	Our Saviour	Art Holm Omar Huebner
P. Jecklin	Savannah, GA	Christ	
C. Keeler	Port St. Lucie, FL	Christ	Keith Krueger
N. Krause	Gresham, OR	Saved by Grace	Bill Gustafson
M. Krentz	Holton	Holton	Art Haeussler Jeff Tillman
D. Larson	Parkersburg, IA	Faith	Henry Johnson
H. Larson	Wisconsin Dells, WI	Newport	
	Portage, WI	St. Paul's	
J. Larson	Hood River, OR	Concordia	Victor A. Settje, Sr.
R. Lawson	Princeton, MN	Bethany	Glen Hansen Gordon Scharping
P. Lehman	Bell Gardens, CA	Christ the King	
D. Lillegard	Sebastian, FL	Trinity	Bruno Bova
Jeff Longren (WELS)	E. Jordan, MI	Faith	Robert Carter George Melke
W. Mack	Lakeland, FL	Peace	Ed Morris
Jonathan Madson	Kissimmee, FL	Peace	Roger Lloyd Dan Barger
M. Madson	Belview, MN	Our Savior's	
	Belview, MN	Rock Dell	
N. Madson	Gaylord, MN	Norwegian Grove	Willard Johnson Lloyd Tollefson
	St. Peter, MN	Norseland	Allen Quist Howard Swenson
P. Madson	Sioux Falls, SD	Bethel	
M. Marozick	Calmar, IA	Trinity	
	New Hampton, IA	Redeemer	
K. Mellon	Lakeland, FL	Our Savior	Phil Griffith Roger M. Mielke
A. Merseth	Lake Mills, IA	Lake Mills	Leighton Humphrey Robert Oakland
		Lime Creek	Paul Dahle Lars Petersen
	Northwood, IA	First Shell Rock	Dale Songstad Douglas Carnes
		Somber	Morris Levorson Reuben Holt
	Riceville, IA	Immanuel	Albin Levorson (Alt.) Marvin
D. Meyer	Ames, IA	Bethany	Gronwoldt, Sr.
J. Moldstad, Jr	Oregon, WI	Faith	Steve Levorson Sherman Orwick

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
J. Moldstad, Sr.	Cottage Grove, WI	W. Koshkonong	Jeff Knickmeier (Alt.) John Shep
H. Mosley D. Nelson	Tacoma, WA Mayville, ND	Lakewood First American	Norwin Hanson Earl Aasen Jerome Gerander
R. Nepsund W. Newmann	San Antonio, TX Amherst Junction, WI	Faith	
R. Newgard	Mankato, MN	Our Savior Mt. Olive	Roger Holtz Steven Beilke Odell Iverson Matthew Daniels
G. Obenberger	Tacoma, WA	Parkland	Edward Schneider Donald Peterson
John Petersen	Madison, WI	Grace	John Haugen Norman Marozick
S. Petereen	Madison, WI	Holy Cross	Clemens Bredeson Gordon Anderson
T. Rank	Scarville, IA	Center	Ron Pederson Erling Brudvig
	Scarville, IA	Scarville	
J. Rupple D. Sabrowsky S. Scheiderer	Grants Pass Windsor, CA Bishop, CA	Our Savior Christ Our Savior	Arlen Dethlefsen
D. Schlicht	Forest City, IA Thompson, IA	Forest Zion	
G. Schmeling	Okauchee, WI	Holy Trinity	Robert Brown John Bruss
D. Schmidt	Hartland, MN	Hartland	Ed Hendrickson Don Jordahl (Alt.) Corley Hendrickson Kent Olmanson (Alt.)
J. Schmidt K. Schmldt	Manchester, MN Ventura, CA West Bend, WI	Manchester Wayfarers' Lutheran Trinity	Ellsworth Butt Ralph Seidensticker
P. Schneider	Midland, MI	Holy Scripture	William Doughty Gregory Bovid
V. Settje	E. Grand Forks, MN	River Heights	Ed Beiswinger Al Homan
T. Skaaland J. Smith	Elderon, Clintonville, WI Shawano, WI	Our Savior's St. Paul St. Martin	
J.K. Smith K. Smith	Saginaw, MI Vero Beach, FL	Gloria Dei Grace	Donald Haas Richard Prange Mike Holmes
M.K. Smith F. Stubenvoll F. Theiste	Ft. Mohave, AZ Marinette, WI Eau Claire, WI	Family of God First Trinity Concordia	David Fisk Emil Stubenvoll Gary Peterson Clifford Raether
R. Tragasz	Cape Girardeau	Scriptural	
K. Uhlenbrauck	Piedmont Suttons' Bay, MI	Grace First Lutheran	Albert Allington Leroy Allington

Pastor	Address	Congregation	Delegates
H. Vetter	Iola, WI	Redeemer	John Mikels Lenwick Hoyord
R. Waldschmidt D. Jay Webber	Cedar Ridge, CA Brewster, MA	Shepherd of the Hills Trinity	Paul Chamberlin Clifford Lloyd
J. Willitz M. Wold	Sebring, FL Bagley, MN	New Life Our Savior's	Vern Williams George Sickmann
	Lengby, MN	St. Paul	John Merseth Luverne Lomen
C. Wosje	Chicago, IL	Emmaus	Walt Wandschneider David White (Alt.)
P. Zager	Lombard, IL	St. Timothy	John Dean Norman Fritz Jeff Punzel
Vacancies:			
	Princeton, MN	Our Savior's	Jeff Nelson
	Waterloo, IA	Pilgrim	Lambert Beckers Glen Frederick
	Tracy, MN Cottonwood, MN	Zion English	Marlow Bergeson David Mix Burton Mauland Dwayne Boerner

CREENTIALS COMMITTEE ACTION OF THE SYNOD

RESOLUTIONS REGARDING ABSENCE FROM THE CONVENTION:

Resolution No. 1: EXCUSES

WHEREAS, Excuses for absence from the 1993 Synod Convention have been received from the following:

*D. Bakke, H. Behrens, W. Neumann, R. Rurup, K. Deboy, D. Leavitt, E. Horton, delegates from Pinewood Lutheran Church,
BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.*

Resolution No. 2: EXCUSES

WHEREAS, Excuses for early departure have been received from the following:

*L. Vinton, T. Skaaland, B. Homan, H. Larsen, G. Lucke, D. Heiliger, B. Edwards, S. Scheiderer,
BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.*

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND REPORT

Pastors—R. Branstad, M. Marozick, S. Petersen,

Delegates—Howard Swenson (Norseland), Norman Werner (King of Grace),
Harvey Ringen (St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek)

2. NOMINATIONS—(Elected at the 1992 Convention)

Pastors—G. Obenberger, M. Tweit, R. Fehr, M. Bartels

Delegates—P. Chamberlin, G. Hansen, A. Dethlefsen, J. Tillman

3. CREDENTIALS

Pastors—A. Harstad, D. Moldstad

Delegates—Curtis Mantey (Bethany, Port Orchard), Paul Chamberlin
(Trinity, Brewster), Roger Holtz (Mt. Olive, Mankato)

4. PROGRAM

Pastors—D. Basel, J. Braun

5. PUBLIC PRESS AND CONVENTION SENTINEL

Pastors—Jon Madson, John Petersen

6. DOCTRINE

Pastors—G. Obenberger, J. Dukleth, W. Frick, T. Gullixson, P. Lehenbauer,
D. Lillegard, Jon Madson, Joseph Petersen, S. Petersen, M. Smith, E.
Teigen, P. Madson

Delegates—Vern Williams (New Life), Clemens Bredeson (Center), Al
Holman (River Heights), Lambert Beckers (Our Savior's, Princeton), John
Costello (Jerico), Odell Natvig (Saude), Ben Anderson (Albert Lea), Wm
Doughty (Holy Scripture), Leslie Just (Immanuel, Audubon), Steve
Levorson (Bethany, Ames), Robert Brown (Holy Trinity, Okawchee), Dale
Songstad (First Shell Rock), Matthew Daniels (Parkland), Keith Kruger
(Christ, Port St. Lucie), Norman Fritz (St. Timothy, Lombard), Virgil
Teigland (Christ, Klamath Falls), William Overn (Heritage), L. Meyer (St.
Timothy, Lombard)

7. MISSIONS

Pastors—E. Bryant, T. Bartels, K. Brumble, M. DeGarmeaux, M. Doepel, M.
Harstad, B. Homan, M. Krentz, D. Moldstad, John Petersen, S.
Scheiderer, K. Smith, F. Theiste, R. Wiechmann , K. Anderson.

Delegates—Leighton Humphrey (Lake Mills), Walt Wandschneider (St.
Paul, Lengby), Lawrence Olson (Jerico), John Haugen (Holy Cross), Lloyd
Tollefson (Norwegian Grove), Paul Miller (Immanuel, Audubon), George
Lawson (Emmaus, Chicago), Donald Heiliger (Our Saviour's, Madison),
Odell Iverson (Parkland), Richard Prange (Grace, Vero Beach), Art
Anderson (Bethany, Luverne), Clifford Lloyd (Trinity, Brewster), Cliff
Raether (Concordia, Eau Claire), Bruno Bova (Trinity, Sebastian), Jerome
Gernander (Faith, San Antonio), George Melke (Faith, East Jordan),
Lonnie Burrack (Oak Park, Oklee), Truman Opheim (First Evanger)

8. HIGHER EDUCATION

Pastors—W. Halvorson, H. Bartels, H. Abrahamson, D. Basel, J. Burkhardt,
G. Haugen, H. Huhnerkoch, N. Madson, P. Petersen, D. Schlicht, J.
Schmidt, P. Schneider, M. Teigen, L. Vinton, J. Shep, C. Keeler

Delegates—Paul Dahle (Lime Creek), Luverne Lomen (St. Paul, Lengby),
John Mikels (Redeemer, Iola), Steven Bielke (Mt. Olive, Mankato) John
Anderson (Saude), Alton Krikava (Our Savior's, Albert Lea), Eugene
Lueck (Good Shepherd, Bloomer), Roger Lloyd (Peace, Kissimmee), John
Gobrogge (Grace, Weston), John Bruss (Holy Trinity, Okawchee), Wayne
Karlsrud (Heritage), Jorgen Oeding (Bethany, Luverne), Gary Meyer (St.
Luke, Mt. Vernon), Larry Allington (First, Suttons Bay), George
Sickmann (Our Savior's, Bagley), Donald Hanke (Trinity, West Bend)

9. EDUCATION AND YOUTH

Pastors—T. Kuster, M. Ernst, R. Fehr, F. Fiedler, R. Fyffe, D. Larson, R. Neplund, J. Ruppel, D. Schroeder, E.C.F. Stubenvoll, Jr., J. Krikava, A. Ring

Delegates—Ed Beiswenger (River Heights), Roger Holtz (Mt. Olive, Mankato), Curt Mantey (Bethany, Port Orchard), Dale Pospisil (Christ, Sutherlin), Arlen Dethlefsen (Christ, Windsor), Dan Barger (Peace, Kissimmee) Steve Alwardt (Faith, Litchfield), Omar Huebner (Our Saviour, Lake Havasu City), Jeff Punzel (St. Timothy, Lombard), Art Haeussler (Holton), Kenneth Bolstad, (First Evanger)

10. PUBLICATIONS

Pastors—A. Harstad, J. Braun, J. Dahlke, H. Gieshen, G. Guldberg, N. Harstad, P. Lehmann, M. Madson, T. Skaaland, R. Newgard, E. Stubenvoll

Delegates—Reuben Holt (Somber), John Merseth (Our Savior's, Bagley), Jeff Nelson (Our Savior's, Princeton), Willard Leiran (East Paint Creek), David Fisk (Family of God), Ed Hendrickson (Hartland), Bob Scharf (Christ, Sutherlin), Harvey Ringen (St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek), Glenn Frederick (Pilgrim, Waterloo), Burt Mauland (English, Cottonwood), Phil Griffith (Our Savior, Lakeland), Paul Chamberlin (Trinity, Brewster), Gordon Scharping (Bethany, Princeton), Paul Gallon (Faith Irvine), Tom Jackson (Mt. Olive, Trail), Bill Discher (St. Paul, Escondido)

11. FINANCES

Pastors—H. Larson, P. Anderson, J. Carter, E. Ekhoff, D. Faugstad, R. Lawson, W. Mack, K. Mellon, J. Moldstad, Sr., J. Smith, D. Webber, D. Meyer

Delegates—Morris Levorson (Somber), Norwin Hanson (First American, Mayville), Lenwick Hoyord (Redeemer, Iola), Channing Handberg (King of Grace), Willard Johnson (Norwegian Grove), Marlin Goebel (Faith, Hillman), John Dean (Emmaus, Chicago), Dan Jacobson (Pinehurst), Douglas Carnes (First Shell Rock), Doug Stellick (Our Redeemer, Yelm), Robert Schneider (Good Shepherd, Brownsburg), Sherman Orwick (Faith, Oregon), Art Holm (Our Saviour, Lake Havasu City), Glen Hansen (Bethany, Princeton), Gordon Anderson (Center), Lyle Manthe (Calvary, Ulen), Galen Anderson (Bethlehem, Warroad), Larry Rude (Parkland)

12. CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Pastors—M. Bartels, R. Carter, B. Huehn, J. Krueger, W. McMurdie, H. Mosley, D. Nelson, F. Schmugge, R. Tragasz, K. Uhlenbrauck, H. Vetter

Delegates—Robert Okland (Lake Mills), Henry Johnson (Faith, Parkersburg) Gordon Gilbertson (West Paint Creek), Lester Business (East Paint Creek), Howard Swenson (Norseland), Corley Hendrickson (Hartland), George Wyckhuyse (St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek), Bill Gustafson (Saved by Grace), John Anderson (Our Redeemer, Yelm), Emmett Norell (Heritage), Leslie Brakenhoff (Faith, Litchfield), Roger Mielke (Our Savior, Lakeland), Ron Pederson (Scarville), Gary Peterson (Concordia), Victor Settje, Sr., (Concordia, Hood River), Neil Leatherberry (Pinehurst)

13. MISCELLANEOUS

Pastors—J. Moldstad, Jr., P. Zager, D. Hoyord, J. Willitz, T. Rank, C. Ferkenstad, J. K. Smith, K. Schmidt, R. Dale, N. Krause, G. Reichwald, V. Settje, C. Wosje, G. Schmeling, M. Wold, T. Fox

Delegates—Lars Petersen (Lime Creek), Earl Aasen (First American, Mayville), Greg Boved (Holy Scripture), Norman Marozick (Holy Cross), Gary Bergstrom (Good Shepherd, Bloomer), Edward Schneider (Grace, Madison), Robert Edwards (Our Savior's, Madison) Marvin Gronwoldt Sr. (Immanuel, Riceville), Mike Holmes (Grace, Vero Beach), Erling Brudvig (Scarville), Ellsworth Butt (Trinity, West Bend), Charles Fiedler

(Good Shepherd, Richardson), Al Allington (First, Suttons Bay), Loren Larson (Calvary, Ulen), Dale Hauck (Christ, Klamath Falls), Dave Mix (Zion, Tracy)

14. SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

Pastors—W. Gullixson, J.B. Madson, D. Schmidt, D. Thompson, M. Tweit
Delegates—Norman Werner (King of Grace), Allen Quist (Norseland), Donald Peterson (Grace, Madison), Donald Haas (Gloria Dei, Saginaw), Dwayne Boerner (English, Cottonwood), Marlowe Bergeson (Pilgrim, Waterloo), Otto Houg (Rose Dell, Trinity), Ralph Seidensticker (Trinity, West Bend)

15. MINUTES

Pastors—M. Wold, J. Carter
Delegates—Bob Scharf (Christ, Sutherlin), Steven Bielke (Mt. Olive, Mankato)

16. PASTORAL CONFERENCE RECORDS

Pastors—P. Madson, O. Trebelhorn, B. Teigen

17. RESOLUTIONS

Pastors—W. Petersen, D. Sabrowsky, R. Waldschmidt

18. TELLERS

Pastors—D. Meyer, A. Ring, V. Settje, R. Fyffe

Candidates—K. Dethlefsen, M. Tuffin

19. CHAPLAIN

Pastor—Herbert Larson

20. HEAD USHER

Pastor—V. Settje

21. PARLIAMENTARIAN

Pastor—M. E. Tweit

22. ORGANIST

Pastor—Paul Zager

President's Message

DEAR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF OUR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD: GRACE AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND FROM THE LORD AND SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST. AMEN.

THE ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION HAS ARRIVED! Celebrations have been held throughout the synod. Our history has been set forth in publications and paintings. An offering has been gathered. Numerous lessons have been drawn from the theology and the courage of our forefathers. And now we gather here to thank and praise the Lord for all of his goodness towards us. The Psalmist in Psalm 105 sets before us the attitude of heart and mind which ought to inspire us to a joyful celebration. "O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon his name: make known his deeds among the people. Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him: talk ye of all his wondrous works. Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord. Seek the Lord, and his strength: seek his face evermore. Remember his marvelous works that he hath done; his wonders, ;and the judgments of his mouth." Ps. 105,1-6.

Celebrating an anniversary is like arriving at a mountaintop on one's journey. From that vantage point we can look back and see where we have been, and also look forward to see where we are going. Oh, what intriguing sights we behold as we gaze into our history. There is the Restoration slipping out of the Stavanger harbor on the 4th of July, 1825. There are the settlers fleeing the plague-ridden Fox River Valley in Illinois, and moving northward to Koskconong. We see J. W. C. Dietrichson assuring the settlers gathered under the oak trees on September 2, 1844, that God can indeed "furnish a table in the wilderness." Our three well-known forefathers come on the scene. They are the pillars of Norwegian Lutheranism in America - Koren, Otteson and Preus. In 1853 the Norwegian Synod comes into being, built upon the sound theology of the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. It grows and brings blessing to many souls through the Means of Grace. Trouble comes aplenty as it will in the church militant Attacks occur from within and without. The Schmidtianers. (the followers of F. A. Schmidt), work their havoc trying to give credit to sinful man in some measure for his election, instead of giving all glory to God and His grace. A devastating split occurs. But the synod goes forward experiencing growth and progress. But not for long. It is the old evil foe who will give the church no rest. Now the fervor of nationalism and the spirit of compromise bring about the merger of 1917 so that three bodies of Norwegian Lutherans, the Norwegian Synod, the Hauge Synod, and the United Church, come together for the formation of the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America. A great victory celebration takes place. Except for a few. This handful, gathered together in the Aberdeen Hotel in St. Paul, Minnesota, issues the statement "We cannot for conscience sake join the new church body on the present basis. We continue to stand on the old confession and organizations, which we as Christians have the liberty to defend and under which we may work from now on as heretofore." Yes, from our mountaintop view we can see the Model T Fords, the horse and buggies, converging on a small white country church. It is a place called "Lime Creek Lutheran Church." About thirteen pastors and 200 souls gather. They have lost everything. But they have not lost the Word of God with its gracious promises. They came to Lime Creek in response to the invitation, "Pastors and members of the congregations who desire to continue in the old doctrine and practice of the Norwegian Synod, will, God willing, hold their annual meeting in the Lime Creek congregation, Pastor H. Ingebritson's charge, June 14th and following days." In spite of their small number they are not ready to fall into despair.

Their president encourages them saying, "Let us not be dismayed or discouraged. Just as great calamities have befallen the church of God in the past, and yet it has not been destroyed. Let us remember and follow these words of Jeremiah the prophet: "Thus saith the Lord, stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." Jer. 6,16.

They went to work at once and established a new church body, the Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church. Actually it was not a new body but a reorganization of the old Synod on the old principles. They moved forward to begin work on a constitution. They continued the publication of their church paper, the *Luthersk Tidende*. They elected officers and made plans for the training of their pastors. Thus began what we call today the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. They rejoined the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America together with their brethren of the Missouri Synod and the Wisconsin Synod. Plans were made for opening home missions and joining with the Synodical Conference in foreign mission work. Nine years later they purchased Bethany Lutheran College. Twenty-eight years later they opened their own seminary.

Our forefathers were encouraged in their desire to get on with the Lord's work by their leaders who spoke to them the Word of God. It was the sainted Rev. G. A. Gullixson who opened the 1919 convention preaching on Exodus 14,15: "Then the Lord said to Moses at the Red Sea, Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to move on." And he went on to say, "Therefore the purpose of our convention should be to make common this response to our heavenly Saviour: With you we want to go forward; with you and in the strength of your grace we desire to labor prayerfully and believably. For you we will offer our whole life. We will depend on your grace and the guidance of the Holy Spirit."

When they faced real challenges such as the purchase of Bethany College, which was an enormous undertaking for such a small group, they showed their determination. I have in hand a small book in which one of those present there took some notes. One expression written down was a quotation from Pastor John Moldstad of Chicago in which he said, "Vi kan hvis vi vil." "We can if we want to." And we can see the fruit of that determination as we gather on the Bethany campus today.

Yes, the way was difficult. The road was hard. The depression of the thirties struck in all its fury. But the Lord was with them and brought them through. Their president in 1937 encouraged them saying, "We are often tempted to despair because of the work, the expense, and the opposition encountered in the work of the church. But my friends, the Lord has called us and sent us to carry out His orders, and promised to be with us and carry through to victory, even though we must die in battle. Let us ever remember that to be a co-worker with Christ is the greatest privilege and the greatest blessing, and the more we do, the more the Lord of Harvest will give us to do. The fields are white for harvest, the opportunities are unlimited. We cannot therefore do too much. We need men and money, but above all we need faith and love, because without faith it is impossible to please God."

Thus from our mountain-top view of our 75th anniversary we can look back and see many events, many difficulties, many blessings all of which are part of the history of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. As we do this we cannot help but come to the conclusion that the Lord was leading and guiding us all through the years. Our forefathers trusted in His gracious promises. He had assured them, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; Yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." Is. 41,10. He had promised that His word would not return void but would accomplish that for which it was sent. Is. 55,11.

What is it that has given strength to our Evangelical Lutheran Synod throughout the years. Surely it is this that our forefathers were totally commit-

ted to the Holy Scriptures as the verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God, and secondly, that they held firmly to the central doctrine of the Scriptures that a man is justified and saved by grace alone by faith without the deeds of the Law. Dr. Koren summarizes these truths in these words, "The first principle is the truth that the 'Holy Scripture is the only sure and perfect rule of our faith and life.' The second is 'the great truth that Jesus Christ is the way to salvation for all believing souls;' in other words, 'that a man is justified and saved for Christ's sake by faith alone without the works of the Law.' (*Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 50) These truths have continued to be the flag under which the ship our synod sails, the banner which sets forth the heart and center of our faith. Luther writes concerning the doctrine of justification by faith alone as follows: "Of this article nothing can be yielded (nor can anything be granted or permitted contrary to the same) even though heaven and earth and whatever will not abide should sink to ruin....And upon this article all things depend which we teach and practice in opposition to the pope, the devil, and the world." (*Faith of Our Fathers*, p. 63)

With these convictions firmly in mind it is easier to understand why our forefathers in 1918 gathered at Lime Creek to reorganize the synod on the old principles.

From our mountaintop vantage point we continue to look back over the more recent years. We see how, under the Lord's blessing, those 10 congregations grew to some 125 congregations, and how those 13 pastors grew to over 150. We can only praise the Lord when we see now He has enabled us to reach out with the Gospel to foreign lands as well. We have, as it were, gone from Lime Creek to Lima, from the banks of the Rimac River in Peru to the bastions of atheism in Eastern Europe, from the chilly climes of Northern Minnesota to the land of Chile itself; and even all the way down under to help our brethren in the region of the koala and the kangaroo. We also see how the Lord has prospered our Bethany College and Seminary so that they are institutions which, together with our Christian Day Schools carry out the Lord's command to "teach all things whatsoever I have commanded you." Matt. 28, 20.

The Lord not only made use of His called workers but provided laymen and women who had an equal commitment and whose sound judgment and common sense gave direction to our church body. It has always been thus in church history. The Lutheran Reformation itself has been called the greatest of all laymen's movements. The men who submitted the Augsburg Confession to the national convention at Augsburg in 1530 were not the theologians but the laymen. A layman read the document to the assembly. Laymen risked their lives and fortunes in adopting this confession as their own. Theodore Graebner writes in his little book, the *Story of the Augsburg Confession*, that "the presentation of the confession was the climax of the greatest laymen's movement which the Christian Church has ever known. No movement of the last four hundred years can even be distantly compared with it. Laymen of all future ages may draw enthusiasm for the cause of the Gospel and inspiration for the public confession of their faith from the stand which the Lutheran laymen took in 1530." (Graebner, the *Story of the Augsburg Confession*, p 67).

It was also thus at Lime Creek 75 years ago. Larson writes in *Built On The Rock* that "The significance of the church's lay people in the reorganization of the synod is reflected in the fact that the lead article of the first issue of Volume II of the *Evangelisk Luthersk Tidende* was contributed by a layman who was present at the 1918 constituting convention. His opening paragraph gives evidence of the good sense of balance that characterized many of these devout and earnest children of God:

We have recently returned home from the synod convention in Lime Creek where we laid the foundation to rebuild the Norwegian Synod on God's revealed Word, and on it alone, as our forefathers did for us, and as we in all simplicity and faithfulness have sought to imitate. We have done this out of

all respect because God through His Word has commanded us to do so, and we believe, therefore, that we shall in this way succeed in furthering on earth the kingdom of God. (Larson, *Built On The Rock*. D. 68)

It is of striking significance that our forefathers so developed the synod's organizational structure that there were to be two lay delegates from each congregation and one pastor. This has been one of the strengths of our synod and one that we have perpetuated to this day.

Our Anniversary celebration, however, would not be complete if we stood on our mountaintop and only looked backward. Our forefathers looked ahead and so should we. There is a danger of "glorying" too much in the past and failing to act upon the future. We read in *Built On The Rock* as follows: "A glance at the Dagsprotokol (daily agenda) of this 1919 convention reveals that in its second year the synod was minded to proceed full steam ahead." (D. 71) As we celebrate at this convention we would do well to share that same outlook "Full Steam Ahead" It is interesting to note that at the 1953 synod meeting, which marked the 100th anniversary of the founding of the old synod, the Rev. Erling Ylvisaker chose as his text for Synod Sunday the words of the Prophet 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." (Is. 43,18-1~. The prophet Isaiah is speaking about the glorious time in the future when the promised Saviour would come whose gospel would make a way in the wilderness of men's hearts and would water the barren spiritual desert. So we continue to spread that Gospel today so that men may say, "I came to Jesus and I drank of that life-giving stream. My thirst was quenched, my soul revived and now I live in Him." *Lutheran Hymnary*, 395)

What shall be our agenda, then, as we proceed into the next 25 years? We know for certain that all will be lost unless we preserve our spiritual heritage. This, then must be our first objective. The Apostle Paul writes to Titus, "Hold fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers." (Titus 1, 9.) Doctrinal aberrations abound. In the April 17, 1993 issue of the *Capital Times* of Madison, Wisconsin, a Missouri Synod church advertises an interfaith concert of sacred music, saying "There will also be presentations by Christians, the Vedanta Society (Hindu), a Jewish temple, Buddhists, Baha'is, Tibetans, American Indians and Unitarians." Oh, how we need to preach and teach and warn our people about the dangers of unionism and syncretism.

We likewise need to live so that we may be the "salt of the earth and the light of the world." Our society is decaying. People are starting to cry out against the portrayal of violence and pornography on television. They are desperately seeking some kind of way to return to better values. Ex-Education secretary William Bennett recently unveiled his Index of Leading Cultural Indicators. It finds that since 1960—while population, wealth and welfare benefits climbed—U.S. "values" have deteriorated: Violent crime increased by 560%; illegitimate births climbed by 419%; Divorce rates quadrupled; and teenage suicide jumped by 200%. Pouring money on the problems won't solve them, Bennett says. "To turn around these numbers, we must engage in the time -honored task of the moral education of our young (and the teaching) of values such as selfrestraint, respect for other people, the importance of family and self-control. (USA Today, Mar. 16, 1993)

How desperately our society needs the Word of God taught in Christian homes, schools and churches. Our Christian Day Schools and our Bethany College must have our full support. Let us earnestly examine our congregational makeup and our resources to see if the establishment of a Christian Day School is a possibility. Let us work for Bethany as J. A. Otteson worked for Luther College. The first year of its existence it had 32 students, 16 of which came from Otteson's parish.

There is a lovely cathedral in Copenhagen, Denmark, which contains a number of fantastic sculptures by Thorvaldsen. The famous "Come Unto Me" statue of the Lord Jesus with arms outstretched is at the forefront, reminding us of the Saviour's gracious invitation. As you go out the door there is a bronze plaque by the entry which says, "glømme ikke å gjøre vel." "Don't forget to do good." Heb. 13,16. So, in our lives, after we have heard the sweet message of the Saviour's love let us go forth into this dying world and as far as possible do good to all the poor souls who are suffering both spiritually and physically. One day we will hear the Lord Jesus say to us "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matt. 25,40.

As we look into the future from our anniversary mountaintop we see great opportunities for home and foreign mission work. Last Sunday, June 13, Mr. Abraham Rosario was ordained into the holy ministry in our congregation in Ano Nuevo and will serve as pastor there and also at Puente Piedra. We rejoice over the fact that another national pastor will go out to preach the Gospel. We hope that additional missionaries from our synod will soon be on the field in South America. From Plzen comes the story of a little girl, a pupil in our Christian Day School there, who said one day to her mother, "Mama, kneel down and pray with me." Mama answered, "But I'm an atheist I can't do that." But in six months she was in adult instruction class. A valuable helper in the school, certifying that all Czech standards are met, is Mr. Milos Vrsechy, a former member of the communist party, now a confirmed Lutheran working with Mr. Silas Born in the Christian Day School.

If there is any doubt in anyone's mind about the projects which our elected board members have in mind to be undertaken in the years ahead one has only to look into the *Book of Reports and Memorials* on page 46. There we read the GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF OUR SYNOD'S WORK. It sets forth an ambitious program on all fronts. We have a special opportunity to meet these challenges in the years 1994 and 1995, because of the offer of Schwan's Sales Enterprises, Inc. to match our total budgetary giving in those years. When the Lord sends such blessings our way we surely ought to make the most of them.

In the coming years we will want to continue to encourage and strengthen our Christian brethren around the world. The formation of the new Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference provides an excellent opportunity for this. We should not allow this to become merely a dry resolution in the synod report, but rather take a deep interest in the other 12 church bodies with which we are in fellowship. We hope that soon our church in Peru may be one of the members. The CELC needs to be a "living" organization in which we become acquainted with Lutherans of the same confessional conviction as we have and that we show our love and concern for them. In addition to our own participants, how thrilling it was to hear Prof. Salimo Hachibamba of the seminary of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa, Pastor Egil Edvardsen of the Lutheran Confessional Church of Scandinavia, and President Gerhard Wilde of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Germany give their lectures. The world has become so much smaller in our modern day and those of us who confess the same doctrine need to support and uphold each other in the face of mounting biblical criticism.

I am certain that the special foreign mission conference held in Santiago, Chile, in the month of January was a similar experience for our missionaries in South America, members of the Board for Foreign Missions, and their counterparts from the WELS. Our increasing involvement there, as well as our outreach to Eastern Europe, are opportunities for us to use all of the talents, gifts and resources that the Lord has so graciously bestowed upon our little synod.

Let it be our fervent prayer, then, that as we look from our anniversary mountain top into the future we will be filled with determination to do the Lord's work. Let us say with Caleb in the Old Testament as he reported to Moses con-

cerning the promised land which lay ahead of them, "Let us go up and possess the land." May the Lord give us the courage of our forefathers who said in days of old "Vi Kan hvis vi vil," (We can if we want to.), taking as our motto for the challenges that confront us, "Full Steam Ahead."

All of this we humbly confess can only be done under the guidance and blessing of the Lord, but we listen to the promise the Lord made to the children of Israel as they entered into the promised land, "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." Joshua 1,9.

Soli Deo Gloria

George M. Orwick. President

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

INSTALLATIONS AND ORDINATIONS

Candidate of Theology David Meyer was ordained and installed as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa, on July 12, 1992. The Rev. Matthew Luttmann preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Wayne Halvorson, performed the rites of ordination and installation. He was also installed as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church (WELS), Newton, Iowa, on July 19, 1992. The Rev. Paul Zager was the guest preacher for this service and the Rev. Roger Neumann, former pastor of the congregation, performed the rite of installation.

Candidate of Theology Alexander Ring was ordained and installed as assistant pastor of Parkland Lutheran Church, Parkland, Washington, on July 12, 1992. The Rev. Joseph Burkhardt preached the sermon, Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Glenn Obenberger, performed the rites of ordination and installation, and the Rev. James Braun was the liturgist.

The Rev. Mark Bartels was installed as associate pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin, on July 12, 1992. The Rev. Steven Petersen preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation.

Thoughts of Faith commissioned its first missionary to Ukraine, the Rev. Roger Kovaciny, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin, on July 19, 1992. Mr. Silas Born was commissioned as principal and teacher of our mission school in Plzen, Czech Republic, at the same service. The Rev. Mark Bartels preached the sermon and Synod President George Orvick performed the rite of commissioning. The Rev. Steven Petersen served as liturgist.

Miss Diana Gobrogge, Miss Kris Oelhafen and Mrs. Judy Larabell were installed as teachers in Trinity Lutheran Elementary School, West Bend, Wisconsin, on August 23, 1992. The Rev. Kenneth V. Schmidt, resident pastor, preached and performed the rite of installation.

Mrs. Barbara Mantey was installed as the 1st and 2nd grade teacher at Bethany Lutheran School, Port Orchard, Washington, on August 30, 1992.

Miss Ellyn Wilkens was installed as teacher of Scarville Lutheran School, Scarville, Iowa, on August 30, 1992.

The following were installed as teachers of Holy Cross Lutheran School, Madison, Wisconsin, on August 20, 1992: Pamela Berndt, Michelle Schoenherr, Elizabeth Krause, Lana Stulken, and Sharon Treder.

The Rev. Donald Moldstad was installed as associate pastor of King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota, on September 27, 1992. The Rev. Erwin Ekhoff preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Norman Madson, performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Jeffrey Londgren (WELS) was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, East Jordan, Michigan, on October 4, 1992. The Rev. Frederick Adrian, WELS, preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Paul Schneider, circuit visitor, served as liturgist.

The Rev. Timothy Mutterer was commissioned to be missionary in the Tacoma, Washington, area on October 25, 1992. The Rev. Homer Mosley preached the sermon, the Rev. Alex Ring was the liturgist, and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Glenn Obenberger, performed the rite of commissioning.

The Rev. William Mack was commissioned to serve as missionary in South Lakeland, Florida, on Sunday, November 1, 1992. The Rev. Steven Petersen, Field Secretary of the Board for Home Missions, preached the sermon and also performed the rite of commissioning. Area WELS and ELS pastors also participated in the service.

The Rev. Daniel Basel was installed as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Deshler, Ohio, on November 22, 1992. The Rev. Richard Fyffe preached the sermon, and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Paul Schneider, performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Larry Vinton was the liturgist. Others participating in the service as lectors were the Rev. J. Kincaid Smith and former pastor of the congregation, the Rev. Paul Lehenbauer.

The Rev. Frank Fiedler was installed as pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Myrtle Creek, and Christ Lutheran, Sutherlin, Oregon, on December 6, 1992. The Reverend Joseph Burkhardt preached the sermon, the Rev. James Braun performed the rite of installation, and the Rev. Nathan Krause served as liturgist.

The Rev. Rodger Dale was installed as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Naples, Florida, on Sunday, January 10, 1993. The Rev. Raymond Branstad, vacancy pastor, preached the sermon and served as liturgist. The Rev. Charles Keeler, circuit visitor, performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Thomas Rank was installed as pastor of the Scarville/Center parish on February 7, 1993. The installation service took place at Center Lutheran Church, rural Lake Mills, Iowa. The Rev. Markos DeGarmeaux preached the sermon and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Wayne Halvorson performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. David Hoyord was installed as pastor of Heritage Lutheran Church, Apple Valley, Minnesota, on April 18, 1993. The Rev. Erwin Ekhoff preached the sermon and also performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Terry Laabs, WELS, served as liturgist.

The Rev. Richard Tragasz was installed as pastor of Scriptural Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, and Grace Lutheran, Piedmont, Missouri, on April 18, 1993. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Klebe Brumble preached the sermon and also performed the rite of installation. The Rev. Frederick Schmugge also assisted in the service.

The Rev. Karl Anderson was installed as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, The Dalles, Oregon, on June 2, 1993. Alternate visitor, the Rev. James Braun, preached the sermon and also performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Daniel Larson was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Parkersburg, Iowa, on June 13, 1993. The Rev. Frederick Theiste preached the sermon and circuit visitor, the Rev. Wayne Halvorson performed the rite of installation.

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

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

David Meyer, pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa.

Alexander Ring, assistant pastor of Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Washington.

The Rev. Arthur E. Schmitt, retired pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Escondido, California.

The Rev. Karl Anderson, pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, The Dalles, Oregon, by recommendation of the Colloquy Committee.

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

Peace Lutheran Church, South Lakeland, Florida.

SCHOOLS

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Yelm, Washington, began operating a preschool for the 1992-93 school year in addition to grades 1-8.

CONGREGATION CLOSING

Peace Lutheran Church, Colorado Springs, is in the process of dissolving. The church building has been sold. The members have joined neighboring WELS congregations.

ANNIVERSARIES



JERICO (New Hampton, Iowa)

Jerico Lutheran Church, rural New Hampton, Iowa, celebrated its 125th anniversary on Saturday and Sunday, June 27 & 28, 1992. The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, a son of the congregation, preached the Sunday morning festival sermon. The afternoon program included an organ and violin recital by Pastor Mark DeGarmeaux and Mrs. Caroline Ring; also greetings on behalf of the synod by President Orwick, and greetings from Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Wayne Halvorson.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Lombard, Illinois, celebrated its 35th anniversary on September 20, 1992. The Rev. David Meyer, a son of the congregation, was guest preacher for this festive occasion.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clintonville, Wisconsin, celebrated its 25th anniversary on September 20, 1992. Guest speaker was synodical president, the Rev. George Orwick.



ST. TIMOTHY (Lombard, Illinois)



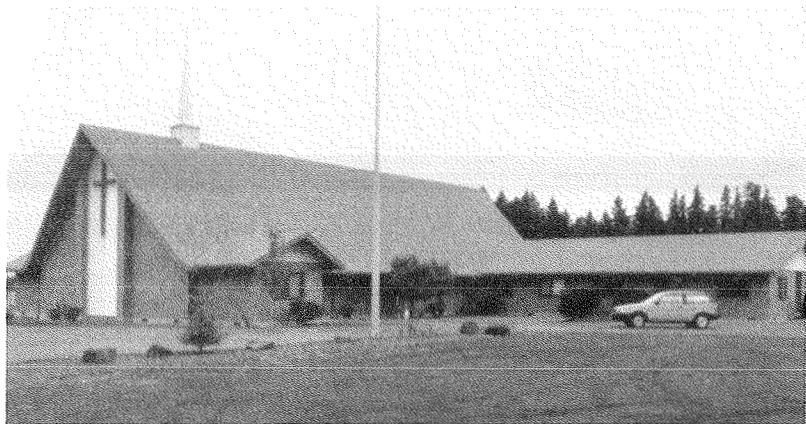
ST. PAUL (Clintonville, Wisconsin)

Grace Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, Oregon, celebrated twenty years of God's blessings bestowed upon them on September 20, 1992.

Newport Lutheran Church, Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin, celebrated the 100th anniversary of its church building on September 27, 1992. President George Orwick was guest speaker.

Grace Lutheran Church, Piedmont, Missouri, observed the 20th anniversary of the founding of the congregation at the morning service on November 8, 1992.

Saint Matthew Lutheran Church, Detroit, Michigan, celebrated the congregation's founding on March 15, 1993, and more importantly 90 years of the ministration of God's grace through His Word and Sacraments. The Rev. Charles



GRACE (Hillsboro, Oregon)



NEWPORT (Wisconsin Dells, Wisconsin)

Bonow of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod was guest speaker for the festive occasion.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Sebastian, Florida, observed the tenth anniversary of its first worship service on Sunday, May 9, 1993.

On May 16, 1993, Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, observed the 65th anniversary of its organization as a congregation. Pastor Frederick W. Theiste preached the anniversary sermon.

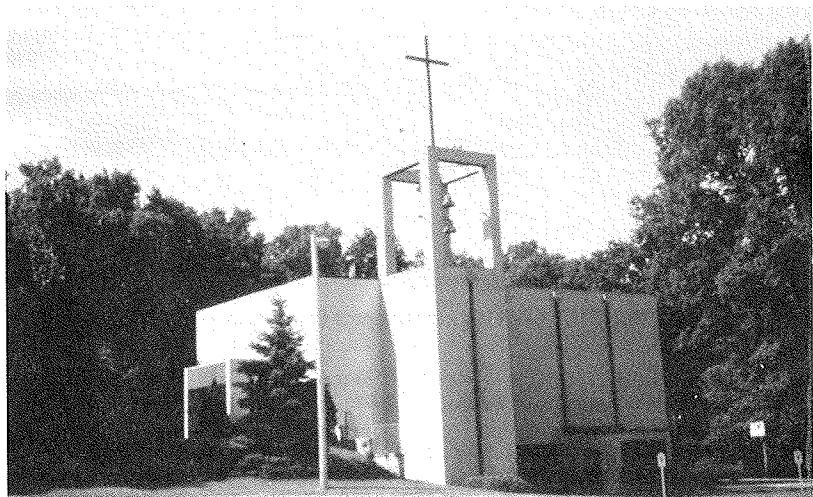
On June 6, 1993, Norseland Evangelical Lutheran Church observed its 135th anniversary. President G. Orvick was the guest speaker for the occasion.



ST. MATTHEW (Detroit, Michigan)



TRINITY (Sebastian, Florida)



CONCORDIA (Eau Claire, Wisconsin)



NORSELAND (St. Peter, Minnesota)

DEDICATIONS

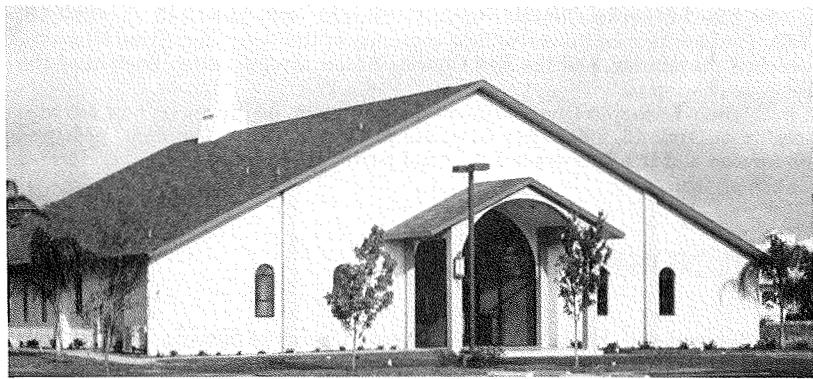
On Sunday, November 15, 1992, Family of God Lutheran Church of Bullhead City, Arizona, dedicated its new church building. The Rev. Glenn Obenberger was preacher for the morning service, and Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Theodore Gullixson, preached the afternoon dedication service. The Rev. Glenn Obenberger performed the rite of dedication. The Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch and the Rev. Michael Smith served as lectors.



FAMILY OF GOD (Bullhead City, Arizona)

On November 29, 1992, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lakeland, Florida, dedicated its Sunday School and fellowship hall addition. Pastor Ken Mellon performed the rite of dedication.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Naples, Florida, dedicated its new house of worship on April 4, 1993. Synod President George Orvick was the guest preacher and the Rev. Rodger Dale, pastor of the congregation, performed the rite of dedication.



OUR SAVIOR (Naples, Florida)



NEW LIFE (Sebring, Florida)



BETHLEHEM (Warroad, Minnesota)

New Life Lutheran Church, Sebring, Florida, was dedicated on April 18, 1993. The Rev. Steven Petersen, field secretary of the Board for Home Missions, preached the sermon, and the Rev. Charles Keeler, circuit visitor, performed the rite of dedication.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Warroad, Minnesota, dedicated its new house of worship on May 16, 1993. The Rev. George Orvick, synod president, preached the sermon and the Rev. Roger Fehr, local pastor of the congregation, performed the rite of dedication.

GROUNDBREAKING

On September 6, 1992, New Life Lutheran Church of Sebring, Florida, broke ground for their new parsonage.

On October 25, 1992, the members of New Life Lutheran Church, Sebring, Florida, gathered on the site for their new church building and broke ground in a ceremony following the Sunday morning service.

Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Weston, Ohio, broke ground for a new parsonage on July 19, 1992.

JOINT PARISH

Grace Lutheran Church, Piedmont, Missouri, and Scriptural Lutheran, Cape Girardeau, Missouri, have agreed to become a joint parish.

ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION OR OF SERVICE

The Rev. Raymond Branstad	50 years
The Rev. Paul Lehenbauer	40 years
The Rev. Paul Madson	40 years
The Rev. George Orvick	40 years
The Rev. Wilhelm Petersen	40 years
The Rev. Glenn Reichwald	40 years

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

The Rev. John Schmidt resigned as Visitor of Circuit 10. Alternate Visitor, the Rev. T. Gullixson was appointed Visitor and the Rev. D. Sabrowsky was appointed Alternate Visitor.

Mr. Tim Peterson has been appointed to the Board for Stewardship to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Leslie Enter.

The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad has resigned from the Office of Circuit Visitor of Circuit #5. The Rev. Timothy Bartels, alternate visitor, was appointed to take his place.

The Rev. John Krueger resigned as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Piedmont, Missouri, as of March 1, 1993.

The Rev. Nile Merseth resigned as pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, Yuba City, California as of June 13.

The Rev. Fred Faughn has resigned from the ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

RETIREMENTS

The Rev. Paul Lehenbauer retired from the active ministry in 1992.

DEATHS

The Rev. Eivind F. Unseth passed away on December 24, 1992. Christian burial services were held on Dec. 26, 1992, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (WELS) West Bend, Wisconsin. The sermon was preached by the Rev. J. Ziesmer, pastor of the congregation; the Rev. Kenneth Schmidt conducted the liturgy and President George Orvick spoke on behalf of the synod.

Mr. Leslie Enter, long-time member of the ELS Board for Stewardship passed away on October 2, 1992. Burial services were held at Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church, with the Rev. Norman A. Madson officiating. President George Orvick spoke on behalf of the synod.

INTERCHURCH RELATIONS

THE WISCONSIN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

The 53rd biennial convention of our sister synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, will be held August 2-6 at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan. Your president and other representatives will attend the convention.

The Doctrine Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod met with the WELS Commission on Interchurch Relations on January 29th. The main subject of discussion was the establishment of the "Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference." Various other topics of mutual concern were discussed.

The joint parish formed by an ELS congregation and a WELS congregation consisting of Bethany Lutheran Church of Ames, Iowa, (ELS) and Grace Lutheran Church of Newton, Iowa, (WELS) seems to be working out well. In another instance our congregation at East Jordan, Michigan, Faith Lutheran, is being served by the Rev. Jeffrey Londgren of Petoskey, Michigan, of the WELS. Where both synods have small congregations which are unable to support a pastor on their own it is helpful if we can work together in such a manner.

A third joint parish has been formed. First English Lutheran Church, Ashland (ELS) and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hurley, Wisconsin (WELS) have combined and will be served by the Rev. Burgess Huehn.

May the Lord continue to bless the relationship that we have with our sister synod and may He keep us united in the confession of the one true faith.

THE LUTHERAN CONFESSITIONAL CHURCH (SWEDEN AND NORWAY)

The annual convention of the Lutheran Confessional Church of Sweden and Norway was held July 9-12, 1992, at a folk high school located near Göteborg, Sweden. It was hosted by Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, the Rev. Christer Hugo, pastor. The following essays were presented: *Thy Kingdom Come—Christ's Ruling in our Hearts*, by Pastor Alvar Svenson; *Thy Kingdom Come—So That We Grow in Faith and Life*, by Pastor Martin Andersson; *Thy Kingdom Come—So That Others May Come to Faith*, by Prof. John F. Brug (WELS); and also *Thy Kingdom Come—Prayer and Spiritual Growth*, by the Rev. Jukka Söderström. It was my privilege to attend the convention representing our ELS. I took the opportunity to distribute a number of our anniversary booklets *In Remembrance of His Mercy* and to thus explain the history of our synod. I was also invited to deliver the synod Sunday sermon. The church body experienced some growth with the addition of a congregation located in northern Sweden and its pastor, the Rev. Martin Andersson.

The convention voted to participate in the formation of the new synodical conference, the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference. The present chairman of the LBK is the Rev. Christer Hugo of Göteborg. We thank God for the fellowship which we enjoy with this small church body. We need to remember them in our prayers that they may be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to continue steadfast in their battle for the preservation of confessional Lutheranism in the land of our forefathers. Undoubtedly membership in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference will be very meaningful to them. No representative from the ELS will be attending their convention this summer but written greetings will be extended.

Doctrinal discussions were held in Greifswald, Germany, on January 29 between the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Germany and the LBK. We are pleased to report that the church bodies found themselves in doctrinal agreement.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN FREE CHURCH (GERMANY)

The 79th convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Germany met October 9-11 at Zion Lutheran Church in Hartenstein. Hartenstein is a small village a few miles outside of Zwickau in what was formerly East Germany. Your synodical president attended the convention and spoke on behalf of our ELS. An important decision on the part of the convention was to sever fellowship relations with church bodies with whom they were not in doctrinal agreement. By clarifying these fellowship situations and thus not being involved in any triangular relationships the Free Church became eligible for membership in the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference and became a member at the constituting convention held in April 1993. The officers of the ELFK are President Gerhard Wilde; Vice President Guenter Meinhold; Dr. Herbert Hogk, secretary; and Pastor Martin Blechschmidt, assistant secretary. ELS visitors at the convention were Mr. and Mrs. Silas Born, Pastor Paul Schneider, Pastor Steven Sparley, Miss Joyce Eisberg, and Pastor Raymond Branstad. The Borns, Pastor Sparley and Miss Eisberg are from our mission in Plzen, Czech Republic, which is not far from Hartenstein.

The members of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church are our dear brethren in the faith. Let us remember them in our prayers that the Lord may continue to strengthen and bless them as they endeavor to preach the pure gospel in Germany. It is encouraging to see the fine relationship that is developing between the EFK pastors and our missionaries in the Czech Republic. They are within a few hours driving distance of each other and are thus able to get together for occasional conferences, etc.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD OF AUSTRALIA

We are very pleased that we have had the privilege of training a young man from Australia for the ministry in this homeland. Mr. Mark Tuffin and his wife, Sue, came to the United States four years ago from Brisbane. He has now graduated from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and has been assigned the call to Our Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kallangur, Queensland, Australia. It was a real privilege for our synod to be able to provide pastoral training for a candidate from our sister synod. We wish him, his wife, Sue, and their two children the Lord's richest blessings as they return to their homeland and begin the work of serving the Lord.

A generous grant of \$100,000 from Schwan's Sales Enterprises, Inc. for the work in Australia made it possible for Mark to return to his homeland and to take up the work there together with Pastor Daniel Schroeder who also serves a congregation in Maryborough. There will now be two ELS graduates serving in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia.

In March the Rev. Paul Anderson, chairman of our Board for Foreign Missions, and Mr. Robert Soule, a member of the board, together with the Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, chairman of our synod's Doctrine Committee, made a visit to Australia to discuss plans for the ministry of Pastor Tuffin. Our Board for Foreign Missions will work in close contact with the church body there and will make funds available from the grant for the work of the church. While the ELS delegation was there doctrinal discussion were held with another small church body known as the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches. This group recently left the Lutheran Church of Australia because of its doctrinal aberrations. Three pastors and three laymen from the AELC took part in the discussions as well as one pastor and one layman from another church body known as the Orthodox Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pastor Schroeder and delegates from ELSA also participated. It is our prayer that if doctrinal agreement exists the day will come when these church bodies may enter into fellowship with ELSA.

Pastor Paul Anderson is planning to go to Australia where he will serve Prince of Peace Congregation near Adelaide in South Australia for a period of six months.

We are very pleased that we have this bond of fellowship with our brothers and sisters in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia. Our synod is surely eager and willing to help small church bodies throughout the world who are struggling to uphold confessional Lutheranism. A representative from the Australian synod was present at the convening convention of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference and the church body became one of the founding members. "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Psalm 133, v. 1.

THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFESSITIONAL FORUM

The 22nd meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum was hosted by our ELS at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary here in Mankato on October 19-20, 1992. Those representing the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod were Pres. Carl Mischke, the Rev. Harold Hagedorn, the Rev. Duane Tomhave, Mr. Alfons Woldt, Prof. Wilbert Gawrisch, Dr. Wayne Borgwardt, Dr. Daniel Schmeling, Prof. Armin Panning, the Rev. Robert Zink, the Rev. Richard Lauersdorf, Prof. Lyle Lange, and the Rev. Wayne Mueller. Those representing the ELS were Pres. George Orwick, the Rev. Alf Merseth, the Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, Pres. Wilhelm Petersen, the Rev. Juul Madson, the Rev. Erwin Ekhoff, the Rev. Steven Petersen, the Rev. Paul Anderson, Prof. Marvin Meyer, Prof. Mark Wiechmann, the Rev. Milton Tweit, and the Rev. Walther Gullixson. The Rev. Juul Madson was elected chairman of the Forum. The divisions of the Forum are administration, doctrine, missions, education, and worship. Each division presented its report in order to share information about the work of each respective church body. The Rev. Harold Hagedorn of the WELS presented a paper entitled *Our Ministry of Christian Fellowship*. Papers presented at ELS and WELS conventions were then distributed for review and discussion.

During the business meeting resolutions were adopted which redesignated the divisions of the Forum into administration, doctrine, missions, education, and parish services. Another resolution authorized a study of further cooperation in the health and retirement benefits, especially as these pertain to persons called across synodical lines. A third motion was adopted that the matter of calling teachers across synodical lines be referred to a committee consisting of the ELS secretary of schools and the WELS administrator and associate administrator of parish schools and that this committee's recommendations be forwarded to the presidiums of the two synods.

The next meeting of the Forum will be held October 17-18, 1994, at Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Rev. Duane Tomhave was elected chairman for the next Forum and the Rev. Steven Petersen was elected as the ELS representative to the program committee.

The Forum has been a real blessing to our church bodies in providing an opportunity for the two synods to discuss the work of each respective church body and share any concerns which each church body might have. Our fellowship is strengthened and blessed by our participation in the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum.

THE CONFESSITIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

An historic event took place April 27-29, 1993, at Oberwesel, Germany. It was in this beautiful place overlooking the Rhine River that the new Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference was officially established. This conference takes the place of the old Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America which was established in 1872 and dissolved in 1963. Delegates from 11 church bodies gathered there on the Rhine to take part in the official constituting convention. There were 13 church bodies that had signified their intention of being along in this establishment but two were unable to be present. They will nevertheless be considered as members. The church bodies are as follows:

1. Christ the King Lutheran Church of Nigeria
2. Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (Mexico)
3. Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (Finland)
4. Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (Puerto Rico)
5. Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (Germany)
6. Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)
7. Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia
8. Lutheran Church of Cameroon
9. Lutheran Church of Central Africa (Malawi Conference)
10. Lutheran Church of Central Africa (Zambia Conference)
11. Lutheran Confessional Church (Scandinavia)
12. Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church (Japan)
13. Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)

The official delegates from the Evangelical Lutheran Synod were your president and the Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, chairman of the synod's Doctrine Committee. Advisory delegates were Pres. W. Petersen, and Prof. J. B. Madson. Many guests and visitors attended the convention so that there were approximately 80 people present. Our missionaries from the Czech Republic and Ukraine were also present as were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Teigland, and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hougan. Mr. Brown is a member of our synod's Board of Trustees and Mr. Hougan a member of our synod's Board for Stewardship. (Only the expenses of the four delegates were paid for by the synod.) The program for the constituting convention was as follows:

The Opening Service with Holy Communion

Sermon: President Carl H. Mischke, Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod (USA)
Convention Theme:

GOD'S WORD IS OUR GREAT HERITAGE

I. It is ours to share.

- A. We have a common mission: to make disciples of Jesus Christ.
Essayist: Pastor Duane Tomhave, Administrator, Board for World Missions, Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod (USA)
- B. We have a common message: sins are forgiven through Jesus Christ.
Essayist: Prof. Salimo Hachibamba, President, Seminary of the Lutheran Church of Central Africa
- C. We have a common means: The Gospel in Word and Sacrament.
Essayist: Pastor Gaylin Schmeling, Chairman, Doctrine Committee, Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)

II. It is ours to preserve.

- A. We have a common foundation: God's pure Word.
Essayist: Pastor Egil Edvardsen, Lutheran Confessional Church (Sweden and Norway)
- B. We have a common confession: unity in the Spirit.
Essayist: President Gerhard Wilde, Evangelisch Lutherische Freikirche (Germany)
- C. We have a common concern: to divide Law and Gospel properly.
Essayist: Prof. Wilhelm Petersen, President, Bethany Lutheran Seminary, Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)

III. Lessons for the Future from the Past: Highlights from the History of the Synodical Conference

Essayist: Pastor Richard Lauersdorf, First Vice President, Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod (USA)

The Closing Service

Sermon: President George Orwick, Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)
Conference Chairman: Prof. Wilbert Gawrisch, Chairman, Commission on Inter-Church Relations, Wisconsin Ev. Lutheran Synod (USA)

The conference was a most uplifting and strengthening experience. Here were delegates from around the world gathered together, speaking with one voice as to their confession to the truth of God's Word, to the pure marks of the church, the Word and Sacraments. Doctrinal unity is truly a wonderful blessing and we give all praise and thanks to the Holy Spirit for so leading these church bodies that they could together confess the same truth and hold fast steadfastly to the pure teachings of God's Word. The constituting convention will help each of the member church bodies by way of encouragement and support. The smaller church bodies scattered throughout Europe, Australia, and other parts of the world will benefit especially from their relationship with other member churches. Fellowship carries with it the responsibility of seeking out those who confess the same truth and entering into the bonds of fellowship with them. We are not only to avoid false teachers but we are especially urged in the Scriptures to strengthen and show Christian concern and love for our true brethren in the faith. If one reads the Epistles of Peter and Paul to the mission congregations and scattered churches in the New Testament world one will find both apostles continually urging the members to strengthen each other, to greet each other, and to help one another in holding fast to the true faith. In Malachi 3:16 we read "Then they that feared the Lord spoke often one to another: and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that fear the Lord, and that thought upon his name." The apostle writes to his beloved Philippians "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now." Phil. 1:3

The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference will meet every three years. In the meantime regional meetings will be held in between each regular conference so that more people may be able to attend and derive blessings from this new arrangement.

SYNODICAL AFFAIRS

CIRCUIT VISITORS WORKSHOP

The annual Circuit Visitors Conference was held on November 5th and 6th at the synodical headquarters in Mankato. Discussion was held on various synodical matters affecting the doctrine and life of the pastors and the congregations. A good deal of time was devoted to discussion of the situation in Christ the Cornerstone Congregation at Scottsdale, Arizona. The report of the Ad Hoc Committee was thoroughly discussed and a motion was unanimously adopted accepting the truthfulness of the committee's report. The conference was funded by a generous grant from Aid Association for Lutherans.

The role of the circuit visitor is becoming increasingly important as our synod gets larger. The visitors are called upon much more frequently for official functions such as dedications, installations, etc., and also are called upon a great deal in matters which require counseling.

I wish to express my sincere appreciation, therefore, to each visitor for his faithful help in caring for the needs of pastors and congregations.

SEMINARS

During the past synodical year the two-year series of seminars entitled "Strengthening Parish and Parsonage" was completed. This series was conduct-

ed by Dr. Thomas Kuster of our Bethany College. The seminar dealt with the importance of effective communication in preaching and also the important task of leadership. The pastors' wives also appreciated very much the workshop conducted simultaneously with the seminar by Mrs. Judy Kuster. Mrs. Kuster led a discussion on topics pertaining to family life. It is thus possible for both pastors and wives to be included in these refreshing opportunities for fellowship and professional growth. The seminars were funded by a generous grant from Lutheran Brotherhood.

PASTORAL CONFERENCE

It is of extreme important that our pastors gather regularly for circuit pastoral conferences, local or "winkel" conferences, and for the general pastoral conference. It strengthens our fellowship and binds us together more closely in the doctrine and work of our synod. In each conference there is a serious study of the Word of God and a thorough discussion of doctrine and practical matters. At the various conferences the synod president or the circuit visitor takes the opportunity to promote and publicize the work of the synod.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETIES

During the past year an AAL grant of \$2000 was received for Women's Missionary Society program development. This grant was divided amongst the nine women's missionary and church-related societies across the country. Though the amount which each society received was only slightly over \$200 it did help the leadership of the societies to meet together to plan their immediate and long-range goals. We are confident that the program served a good purpose in strengthening the role of women's missionary societies in the life of our church body.

Our Women's Missionary Societies, Bethany Auxiliaries, and other area societies perform a valuable service for the work of home and foreign missions, our college and seminary, and other areas of our synod's work. We extend our heartfelt thanks to these faithful members of our women's societies for this service that they render to the Lord and to our synod.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH WORK

Our synod's Board for Education and Youth is very active in carrying out its responsibilities in the three areas that have been assigned to it. The subcommittee on parish education is helpful to our Sunday Schools by providing teachers with a convenient method of understanding the law and gospel contained in each Sunday School lesson. The "Law and Gospel Statements" were prepared by the Rev. John A. Krueger for use by our teachers. Since this is at the very essence of teaching the Sunday School lesson we encourage all of our Sunday School teachers to make use of the statements produced by our Board for Education and Youth. The board encourages Sunday School institutes, reviews Vacation Bible School material, distributes Lenten devotions and other bulletin inserts, helps to give recognition to Sunday School teachers and is working on producing special children's services.

The subcommittee on youth, a division of the Board for Education and Youth, is very active in promoting youth work in our synod. One of its chief projects is to arrange for and to conduct the annual LYA Convention. The 1993 convention will be held at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota. Mr. Rob Pipal and Pastor Don Moldstad will be the directors. The theme will be "Faith of Our Fathers." The dates are July 30-August 1. Our young people are enjoying a rich experience of Christian fellowship and at the same time are being led to appreciate the faith of our fathers in this anniversary year. Youth Bible studies, the youth paper, *Young Branches*, and the operation of summer camps are all projects of the subcommittee on youth.

The subcommittee on Christian Day Schools has a serious responsibility of supervising and promoting Christian Day Schools throughout our church body. The board makes an attempt to visit the Christian Day Schools, to counsel with teachers, to provide subsidies for special needs and to supervise the teacher certification program. I would like to take this opportunity to urge all of our teachers to cooperate with the Board for Education and Youth in becoming certified by our synod. It is important that we all cooperation in this endeavor so that our schools can be assured that the teachers are all properly qualified.

On account of all the work that is necessary in these three divisions—parish education—youth—Christian Day Schools, the board has requested that two additional people be added to the board. This request has been approved by the synod Self-Study Committee and is recommended for adoption at this convention. Since this board deals in three special areas the added board members would fill a real need and help carry out the heavy responsibilities of the board.

The Board for Education and Youth is anticipating that it will be in a much better position to carry out its responsibilities once it is able to make use of the proceeds of the synod anniversary offering. At the present time total cash given for the offering is \$137,134.30. The amount of the pledge and cash gifts together comes to \$314,571.10. We hope that the total continues to grow and that the income will continue to increase so that the important work of spreading "His Truth to all Generations" will go on with full vigor. By aiding and assisting in the work of training and guiding our young people we are helping to preserve God's church in the years ahead and to insure also the strength and continuation of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

SPECIAL OFFERING

Our 75th anniversary thankoffering got off to a good start at our convention a year ago. Since that time most of the congregations of our synod have cooperated in promoting this important undertaking. There were, unfortunately, some who did not participate. It is still not too late and we would urge pastors and congregations who did not take part a year ago to join us now in the last year of this important offering.

The Thankoffering Committee continues to monitor the offering and to send regular reports to the congregations. Members of the committee are: C. Ferkenstad, chairman; S. Jaeger, secretary; P. Zager; J. Moldstad, Jr.; M. Tweit; R. Brown; and R. Wiechmann. Once again I would like to express our sincere appreciation to these members of the committee who have worked so faithfully in carrying out this undertaking.

We also wish to express our thanks to Aid Association for Lutherans which has assisted with much of the funding necessary for carrying out the offering.

ASSIGNMENT COMMITTEE

The Assignment Committee assigned vicars and candidates as follows: Candidate of Theology Mark Tuffin to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kallangur, Queensland, Australia; Candidate of Theology Kent Dethlefsen was assigned to Richland Lutheran Church, Thornton, Iowa. Vicars were assigned as follows: James Krueger to Ascension Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, Wisconsin; John Hoh to the Waterville, Iowa, Parish and John Bruss to the Norseland-Norwegian Grove Parish. He will also do some teaching at Bethany Lutheran College. We wish these young men the Lord's richest blessings as they prepare for and enter the office of the holy ministry.

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE AND BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

A church body in order to be assured of its own future and its potential for carrying out the great commission of our Lord must have its own college and seminary. We will soon be seeing dramatic changes on the college campus. New construction will begin this fall on the recreation-athletic facility and also on the expansion and remodeling of the Old Main to include a new entrance and student union. What exciting days these will be. It will provide much needed space for our growing student body. Reports this year from the administration indicate steady advancement in academic achievement. Bethany students rank among the top students of the state and nation in various academic disciplines. This is due in part to the dedicated and gifted faculty and staff which is rendering such a valuable service to the church at large and to our young people. We need to express our gratitude to the Lord for all of the blessings which he has bestowed upon our Bethany Lutheran College.

Our seminary, likewise, continues to prepare young men to be faithful pastors. For several years we have been praying for an increase in seminary enrollment. We have asked the Lord of the harvest to provide laborers for his harvest. This year he especially answered our prayers in providing a junior class of nine seminary students. This will surely provide us with an adequate supply of pastors three years from now and will also provide us with a challenge that we may have the necessary expansion of our home and foreign mission program so that we can put all of these laborers to work. We ask our mission boards, our circuit visitors and our congregations to bear in mind this wonderful answer to prayer that the Lord has given to us. In two years we will need places for nine candidates to have a fruitful vicarage. We urge pastors and congregations and perhaps combinations of congregations to plan ahead to see if it would be possible to provide the opportunity for one of these young men to vicar in their congregations. Congregations which have the potential of providing for a vicar should give attention to this matter now so that we may be prepared when these nine young men have finished their classroom training. A special effort should be made so that they may be given the final year of vicarage and therefore complete their seminary training.

Our seminary faculty has served our synod very well in instructing our future pastors in the theology which is designed to preserve the truth of God's Word in our midst and also in the art of being faithful shepherds of the flocks to which they are called.

We commend the administration of the college and the seminary, the faculties, and also the Board of Regents for their dedication to the important task of training our future leaders, teachers, and pastors.

HOME MISSIONS

If one studies the record of the Board for Home Missions in establishing new congregations one cannot help but be greatly impressed. A total of 14 new mission stations have been opened since 1980. This has been made possible by the generous offerings of the people of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The Partners in the Gospel offering generous gifts from Schwan's Sales Enterprises, Inc. of Marshall, Minnesota, and the proceeds of the Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fett estate of Storm Lake, Iowa, have also helped to enable the board to carry out this work. The board has made long-range plans and has skillfully managed the funds available to the best advantage of establishing so many mission congregations. They have a difficult task assigned to them. They must be very careful in selecting mission sites and making certain that they have the funds available to continue the operations, purchasing land and building buildings so that after the mission is started its continuity is assured. The board is very solicitous of the welfare of the home missionaries. It annually conducts a home mission seminar in which there is ample time for the exchange of ideas and communication between board members and missionaries. We commend the board for its zeal in carrying out the great commission of our Lord in spreading the Gospel. Our synod has grown dramatically over the past 25 years and a large measure of this growth is due to the establishment of new home mission congregations. May the Lord continue to bless our efforts in this regard.

FOREIGN MISSIONS

It is truly something for which we give praise and honor to the Lord that a small synod like ours can have such a far-flung mission endeavor. For us to have missionaries in Peru, Chile, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and also workers serving a church body in Australia is truly remarkable. It is now 25 years since we began mission work in Lima, Peru. Perhaps many of you can remember when we started with one pastor and a lay worker in an effort to become established in Lima and surrounding areas. Over the past 25 years a seminary has been well established and our church there numbers over 600 souls. It is a real blessing that three national pastors have been ordained into the holy ministry and that the fourth one is soon to be ordained also. Having these national workers enables us to work very effectively in winning souls in the area of Lima and its surrounding barrios. The expansion in Chile has proven to be a very wise move by the Board for Foreign Missions. Pastors Olsen and McMiller are winning souls for the Lord. They both have instruction classes and are confirming and baptizing children and adults in Santiago. Property has been purchased and the mission is making great strides forward. Our missionaries need our prayers and our support. Let us not forget them in our prayers and in our contributions for mission work through our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Political conditions in Lima continue to be unstable, but our missionaries, trusting in the gracious providence of God, continue to labor for the Lord. A foreign mission conference was sponsored by our Board for Foreign Missions in January of 1993 to which all our South American Missionaries, a number of our board members and also WELS missionaries and board members were invited. It proved to be very pro-

ductive and inspirational for all the workers on the foreign field. A generous gift from Schwan's Sales Enterprises, Inc. made the conference possible.

We commend our Board for Foreign Missions for the administration of the work which our synod is doing in South America, and we commend our missionaries for their faithfulness as they labor in love for precious souls in those needy regions.

OUTREACH TO EASTERN EUROPE

It has been my privilege in the past year to be able to visit our Thoughts of Faith Mission in the Czech Republic on two occasions. After attending the convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Germany it was possible to drive down to Plzen to visit the mission there. I had occasion to have a meeting with the staff and to address the children in their morning chapel service. It surely is an inspiring scene to behold the little children who were raised under atheistic Communism receiving the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ from their capable teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Silas Born, Miss Joyce Eisberg, and Mrs. Jan Sparley as well, of course, as the pastors. The school has provided a wonderful vehicle for outreach into the Czech community and is growing more and more popular with the Czech people so that enrollment for the fall is expected to increase greatly. It has been reported that about 185 people attended the children's Christmas program.

After attending the conference in Oberwesel, Germany, April 27-29, 1993, our ELS delegation again visited Plzen. On Saturday, May 1st, Professors Wilhelm Petersen and J. B. Madson, the Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. Howard Hougan and I had an all-day session with the staff there. We provided reports on synodical activities which they were pleased to hear and the staff there gave reports on the work and progress of the mission. On Sunday, May 2nd, we were privileged to attend the Sunday morning service which was attended by about 115 persons. It was an inspiring service with Pastor Sparley preaching the sermon in the Czech language. Pastor Krikava then officiated with the baptism and confirmation of about 5 persons who were received into membership and also celebrated the Sacrament of the Altar. Once again we could see the powerful influence of the Christian Day School as more and more persons are being attracted to the mission through the fact that their children attend the school. We give thanks to the Lord for the wonderful way in which he is blessing the mission there.

We also had the privilege of visiting with Pastor John Shep and Pastor Roger Kovaciny who are serving as missionaries in Ukraine. They informed us of the challenges that they are meeting there and of the great opportunities to reach out with the Gospel. Pastor Shep is conducting services in the Ukrainian language in a church there and the first service was attended by some 93 people. The medical mission continues to provide medical and dental care to the people in the villages around Ternopil. This also is a wonderful means of helping the poor and the sick and at the same time opening doors for the spreading of the Gospel.

Let us continue to remember our missionaries in the Czech Republic and Ukraine in our prayers before the throne of God.

MARVIN SCHWAN CALLED HOME BY THE LORD

A good and faithful friend of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod was called to his eternal rest on May 9, 1993. Mr. Marvin M. Schwan was born January 11, 1929, at Marshall, Minnesota, and passed away on May 9, 1993, at San Diego, California. He was baptized and confirmed at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS) of Marshall, Minnesota. At the present time he was a member of a WELS church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He graduated from Marshall High School in 1947 and entered a program of general studies for two years at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota. Mr. Schwan had been richly blessed by the Lord and he generously shared those blessings with his church and other community projects. He had been a generous benefactor of our Bethany Lutheran College and of our home and foreign mission programs. All of this he did in a spirit of deep humility without any desire for publicity or praise. Marvin was survived by his wife, Delores, of Sioux Falls; his mother, Mrs. Alma Schwan of Marshall; and his four children. Christian burial services were conducted on Thursday, May 13, 1993, at Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church in Marshall, with the Rev. Ziebell officiating. Pres. Meyer of our college, your synodical president and the Rev. John Moldstad, Jr., chairman of the Board for Thoughts of Faith, attended the funeral as representatives of the ELS.

We are very grateful to the Lord for the gift to his church of Mr. Marvin Schwan. We are also grateful for his generosity towards our Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

A GENEROUS OFFER ACCEPTED

Before the passing of Mr. Schwan a generous offer was received from Schwan's Sales Enterprises, Inc. that the company would match the synod's total budgetary giving during the years 1994 and 1995. This offer was placed before the Board of Trustees at their May meeting and was accepted with real gratitude. The board passed a resolution of acceptance and then indicated, according to the request of Mr. Schwan, that the first \$550,000 of each year's matching gift would be used to start one new mission in 1994 and another in 1995. The money over and above the \$550,000 would be used as follows: \$50,000 for the capital budget, \$50,000 for debt retirement; what was over and above the \$650,000 figure would then be divided up on a percentage basis for all other items in our synodical budget. This is also reported in the report of the Board of Trustees.

This generous offer places a real opportunity before our synod. We have been assured that in spite of the passing of Mr. Schwan that arrangements are in place for the continuation of the support of the various projects in our synod. The challenge before us now and the opportunity which we have is to give generously to our synodical budget in 1994 and 1995 so that we may take advantage of the matching funds available from Schwan's Sales Enterprises, Inc. This is surely in keeping with the spirit of the Apostle Paul who in his second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 8, urged the Corinthians to follow the example of the Macedonian churches who were so liberal and generous in their giving to the Lord.

BUDGETARY MATTERS

While the year 1991 was an outstanding year as far as the amount of contributions to our synodical budget is concerned, the year 1992 was not very good. The 1991 amount contributed to the budget was \$762,961.82. We thus exceeded our budget of \$736,000. Income in 1992, however, was \$712, 867.96 towards a budget of \$735,000. You can thus see that we failed to reach our budgetary goal of last year. We are pleased to report, however, that we are doing much better in the current year. At the end of April we were \$24,007.84 ahead of the previous year. Considering the income shortage last year the Board of Trustees is proposing a revised budget to this year's convention.

We surely hope that every congregation takes the work of synod serious. We urge pastors and delegates who are in attendance at this convention to place the subject of synodical support on the agenda of church council meetings and congregational meetings. We urge congregations to make a commitment for the Lord's work in the fall of each year so that they have a goal to aim for in doing the work of the Lord away from home. At the present time our Board for Stewardship is printing the goals which have been established by each congregation and the progress that is being made towards reaching that goal. We need to have a systematic procedure of raising money to carry out the great commission. The leadership of the pastors and laymen who are at this convention and those faithful people back home is so vitally important in keeping up the enthusiasm and zeal for the work of spreading the Gospel. May the Lord bless our labors in this regard.

SYNOD INFORMATION PROGRAM

We hope that the synod information program which we began two years is meeting with approval and that it is helping to inform the members of the congregations more thoroughly. We have been sending out approximately four letters each year from my office to the contact men. We have had reports that the letters are appreciated and the hope that they will continue. Bulletin inserts also are sent out together with letters to the clergy so that the synod may be fully informed about what we are doing together in our Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

OUR 75TH ANNIVERSARY

The climax of our year-long celebration has arrived! The theme of this convention, "His Truth Endures to all Generations," expresses the desire of all of us that the blessed truths handed to us by our forefathers may be passed on to the next generation.

Your Anniversary Committee has been working very hard during the year to produce materials that would truly set forth our heritage and would inspire our people to continue confessing the faith for which our synod stands. We began displaying the material at our last convention when the nine paintings by Prof. Bukowski were unveiled. They will be displayed again this year in the Fine Arts Center. They provide a lasting memorial of the blessings of the Lord upon our synod. If you have not used the booklet, *In Remembrance of His Mercy*, which contains the beautiful colored reproductions of the paintings we urge you to do

so. They are available here in the bookstore and at the bookstore desk at a cost of \$3 apiece.

In October of the past year the anniversary offering was carried out in the congregations for the work amongst our young people. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to all who have participated in the offering. Your gifts which are to continue until the offering is completed in another year are much appreciated and will help to carry on the work of our synod.

At the first of the year the major production of the committee was available for use. This is the book entitled *Built On The Rock*, which details the history of our synod from the early immigration of the people from Norway in 1825 down to the present day with special emphasis upon the last 25 years. Pastor Herbert Larson and Professor J. B. Madson have done excellent work in recording our history. They have captured the spirit and the flavor of our forefathers and have made them "live" so that we can understand what kind of men they were. The book is excellently well bound and contains also the copies of the ten paintings in full color. By reading this book you will be able to appreciate more fully the hard labor, the firm doctrinal position and the mission-minded, far-sighted spirit of our forefathers. We urge you to obtain a copy while you are here at this convention. Pass it on to your children and grandchildren so that they too may learn to know what sacrifices have gone into the upbuilding of our dear church body and how precious it is in the sight of the Lord and in the hearts and minds of many people.

The next project of our Anniversary Committee was the children's program. Copies of the program have been mailed to each pastor and we hope they have been used in the congregations. The program was very nicely written by the Rev. David Nelson and will help our children to grasp our heritage and blessings that we have received from the Lord throughout the past 75 years.

Our final production is available at this convention. This is a book entitled *This Generation of Grace*. It contains pictures of every pastor and professor in our church body and pictures of the interior and exterior of each church building in our synod. We know that this will be of great interest to you. It is available at the cost of five dollars at this convention. We express our sincere thanks to the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad for his work in compiling and editing this book. In generations to come people will be able to look back at these pictures and see who those pastors were who were active in the Lord's service at the time of the convention. As the years go by the book will become more and more valuable as an historical document showing the actual people and the churches that were carrying on the work as we celebrated our 75th anniversary.

At this convention we will have our services of celebration and thanksgiving. A festival service has already been held at Lime Creek Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, Iowa, the site of the organization. This was a joyful day as members from the circuit and the area gathered to commemorate the founding of our church body.

On Synod Sunday, June 20th, a festival service will be held in the morning at 10:30 a.m. Your president will be the anniversary speaker and the choir of our Bethany Lutheran College will sing. In the afternoon at 2:30 p.m. a choral festival will be presented by three choirs, the Bethany Lutheran College Choir; the choir of King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota; and the choir of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin. The festival will also contain scripture readings and historical readings which are appropriate for the occasion. In the evening at 7 p.m. the graduation service for our seminary will be held.

Another anniversary treat awaits us on Tuesday evening. An anniversary pageant will be presented by the members of various congregations in the synod. Mrs. Norman Madson has written the pageant detailing the history of our synod from its founding through 1927. The most pertinent and interesting events that took place in those years such as the early meetings, the struggles

that were endured and the great steps forward such as the brave purchase of Bethany Lutheran College will be presented in pageant form. Prof. Sigurd Lee is the director of the pageant and has been working diligently in bringing together the final production. We express our sincere appreciation to Mrs. Madson and Prof. Lee and to all the participants for their willing effort and cooperation.

The members of the Anniversary Committee are as follows: G. Orvick, chairman; D. Nelson, secretary; Alf Merseth; M. Tweit; R. M. Branstad; R. Newgard; and Harvey Roberson. I wish herewith to express my sincere appreciation to my co-workers who have served so faithfully for approximately three years in carrying out all of the projects which we have described. They have approached their work with a real love for the synod and with a joyful renewal of their own personal recollections as well as an appreciation for the dedication and spirituality of our forefathers.

We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to Aid Association for Lutherans for the generous grants which have been provided to assist us in carrying out all of these goals in observance of this special event in the life of the synod. We also thank Schwan's Sales Enterprises, Inc. of Marshall, Minnesota, for a generous gift to help with the production of materials and the expenses involved in carrying out the project.

CONGRATULATIONS

We extend our sincere congratulations to all those who are celebrating anniversaries of ordination at this convention: They are as follows: Raymond Branstad, 50 years; Paul Lehenbauer, 40 years; Paul Madson, 40 years; Wilhelm Peterson, 40 years; Glenn Reichwald, 40 years; and your synodical president who was also ordained 40 years ago on June 21. May the Lord give us all strength and zeal to continue to serve him to the best of our ability.

OUR THANKS TO ALL GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANTS

This is the one opportunity during the year on which I am able to express thanks to all who labor for our church body and for the flocks to which they have been called. We thank our pastors, professors, administrators, board members, teachers and every layman and woman in the synod who once again have worked so hard this year to help promote the advancement of His kingdom. Our officers are deserving of special thanks: The Rev. Paul Petersen, vice president; the Rev. Alf Merseth, secretary; and Mr. Leroy Meyer, treasurer. We express thanks and appreciation to Pastor Paul Madson for his faithful and capable editing of our synod's church paper, *The Lutheran Sentinel*. Once again we express appreciation to Pres. Meyer of the college and Pres. Petersen of the seminary for their valuable service in our synod. We ask the Lord to bless each faithful pastor who cares for his flock, our home and foreign missionaries who labor far from home and all the members of our synodical boards and committees who are very diligent in the tasks assigned to them. May God bless each and every one of our faithful co-workers.

PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES

The Lord has given me another year of opportunity to serve in the office of president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. I am very grateful to our Saviour for His mercy and grace which He extends to me and for His love and forgiveness which gives me the courage to go on with my work. I thank Him also for health and strength which is necessary to do the work required by my office. This year I have had the opportunity to preach or speak at the following congregations: Jerico, New Hampton, Iowa; Holy Cross, Madison, Wisconsin; Clintonville, Wisconsin; Shawano, Wisconsin; St. Paul's and Newport, Portage, Wisconsin; Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Piedmont, Missouri; Naples, Florida; Plzen, Czech Republic; Steeden, Germany; Warroad, Minnesota; Norseland, Minnesota; Lime Creek, Lake Mills, Iowa; and Synod Sunday. I have attended a number of pastoral conferences throughout the year as well as the general conference and nearly all of the board and committee meetings during the year as well as intersynodical meetings.

There have been many opportunities to serve the Lord in this past year which I have undertaken with joy. There have also been times of difficulty and stress which are to be expected as we labor in the church militant. I appreciate very much the support that I have received from brother pastors and pray that we may work together for the promotion of the Lord's kingdom and of our dear synod. I ask for your prayers that the Lord would grant me health and strength in order to carry on my work.

CONCLUSION

It is now 75 years since our forefathers gathered at Lime Creek and founded our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. How rich has been His mercy towards us; how great and wonderful have been the blessings that He has bestowed upon us; the chief blessing is, of course, the precious Gospel of free salvation through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The precious doctrine of justification by grace alone through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ must always be preserved as the banner under which our ELS continues to labor. We must live up to our name. We are to be truly EVANGELICAL, that is proclaiming the one saving message of Jesus Christ and him crucified and the free forgiveness of sins through faith alone in our Saviour. We are to be truly LUTHERAN, that is, holding fast to the doctrines of Holy Scripture and to the Lutheran Confessions, emphasizing the three great principles: THE WORD ALONE, GRACE ALONE, AND FAITH ALONE. And finally we must be a SYNOD, that is a people "walking together" agreeing in doctrine and practice and having a common goal of carrying out the Lord's great commission. May our dear Saviour hear our prayer and grant our petitions as we proceed into the years ahead.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

George M. Orvick, president

ADDENDUM

Report Concerning Christ the Cornerstone Congregation Scottsdale, Arizona

A year ago in March an unfortunate controversy arose in Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, Arizona. You have already read about the matter in the report of the Board for Home Missions. It is with deep regret that I find it necessary to bring the following information to your attention. It would have been far better if the matter could have been settled elsewhere. Since our synod has no clearly defined process for adjudication in such matters I have no other choice but to bring it before the convention. I am further compelled to do so for the following reasons: 1) an appeal to the convention has been received from five men who were placed under discipline and then removed from the congregation; 2) a protest has been received from the pastor and part of the congregation against the disciplinary action taken against them; 3) several memorials pertaining to the matter have been received; 4) the welfare of precious souls is at stake; and finally 5) because the pastor and part of the congregation steadfastly have refused to meet with the appointed committee because they preferred a committee with a different makeup. It is for these reasons, then, that I had no other choice but to lay before you the actions that have been taken and the grounds for such actions as contained in the report of the special committee appointed to investigate. I would plead with all the members of the synod to discuss the matter in a calm and Christian manner so that a God-pleasing resolution to the problem may be found and so that the welfare of precious souls and the welfare of the synod may be upheld.

The By-Laws of the synod (Chapter III) state that "The synod shall through its elected boards and committees under the supervision and coordination of its president:

- i) exercise supervision over the synod's institutions and the pastoral work and practice of its members.
- k) in accordance with scriptures (Gal. 6:1-2) serve to mediate in controversies which may arise in the synod or within its membership.

I take these By-Laws very seriously because in our day one of the chief criticisms that we have had of other church bodies is that they failed to exercise discipline. This is one of our complaints over against the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that synod officials have failed to discipline erring members. It is much easier, of course, to point this out in other church bodies than to face up to such matters in our own midst. Perhaps the Lord is testing us in order to chasten us and strengthen us.

What shall the synod president do when a dispute arises in a congregation? In the case of a mission congregation the jurisdiction lies with the Board for Home Missions and the circuit visitor. Our guidelines say that a mission congregation is "under the full jurisdiction of the Board for Home Missions." In the case before us you can read the report of the Board for Home Missions to this convention.

Numerous efforts were made at mediation. On June 1st I offered to come down to Scottsdale to work for a peaceful solution. The pastor, however, refused to meet unless his attorney was present. During the synod convention in June the pastor was urged to meet with me, with the BHM and with the BOT. All

attempts to mediate failed because the pastor and the congregation refused to meet.

On July 2nd, while the BHM and the BOT were meeting to consider some way of restoring peace, the lawyer, a Mr. Fred Davidson, called and spoke to the entire group. We were given three options: 1) exonerate Pastor McMiller and reprimand the dissenters, or 2) offer Pastor McMiller a monetary settlement for resigning, or 3) be prepared to face a legal action. He followed this with a letter containing the same demands.

With the synod facing the threat of a lawsuit and with accusations of unchristian conduct being disseminated far and wide against the president and the BHM I came to the conclusion that the entire matter should be investigated in order to carry out the By-Laws which direct the president to "supervise the pastoral work and practice of its members." Such an investigation was also requested by the BHM, the BOT and part of the Scottsdale Congregation.

In a number of previous cases the synod president had appointed such committees. Those who know our synod's history can recount them. I therefore felt that I should choose five well-qualified, experienced men who were recognized for good judgment and assign them the task of investigating. These men were to be independent, not parties to the dispute, not favoring either side. This is common practice, for example, the WELS district constitution says of such a review commission that "No member of the commission shall be an interested party in the disciplinary action." (By-Laws, Art. XXII, section 2.) I therefore appointed the following men to serve on the review committee:

1. The Rev. M. E. Tweit, pastor of over 50 years experience, former synod president, member of previous review committees.
2. Prof. Juul B. Madson, professor at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary for more than 20 years, former synod president.
3. Mr. Allen Quist, farmer, professor at Bethany College, graduate of Bethany Seminary, former Minnesota State legislator, member of the Doctrine Committee.
4. Dr. Donald Peterson, professor University of Wisconsin (retired), former chairman of the UW Athletic Board, member of the Board of Regents.
5. The Rev. Daniel Sabrowsky, experienced pastor (former WELS), member of Circuit #10.

The committee pursued its task in a very thorough manner. They met for a number of days during the months of August, September and October. They traveled to Scottsdale for the purpose of interviewing the members and pastor there. They deeply regret the fact that Pastor McMiller and many of the members of Christ the Cornerstone refused to meet with the committee and even refused to allow them to meet in the church building. (In fact, the locks on the church doors were changed so that the five men under discipline were unable to enter.) I met with the committee only once at the beginning of their investigation.

The committee continued to plead for a meeting with Pastor McMiller. On October 8, 1992, the chairman of the committee, the Rev. M. E. Tweit, addressed the following letter to the pastor:

Lawler, Ia.
Oct. 8, 1992

From the Ad Hoc Committee appointed by President G. Orvick to review the situation in Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, Arizona, to:

Rev. Robert J. McMiller

Dear Pastor McMiller

We, your fellow Christians and members together of the Body of Christ, fervently hope that we can be helpful in bringing about a peaceful and God-pleasing resolution of the troubles that have come upon you and the members of Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Congregation. We greatly desire to discuss all matters in connection with the situation. We need to hear from you in person regarding these matters. Therefore we urge you to attend our next meeting which will be held at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary on October 8, 1992, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The Synod will pay your fare and costs. We hope and pray for an affirmative answer from you.

Yours in the Service of Christ,

Rev. Milton E. Tweit, chairman

In spite, therefore, of numerous attempts to convince the pastor to meet with the committee all attempts failed. The charge was made that the committee was not impartial and that it should have been composed of two men representing Pastor McMiller and two men representing the Board for Home Missions. In fact at the last synod meeting I agreed to take part in such a meeting. The attempt to schedule such a meeting, however, failed because Pastor McMiller did not respond to the BHM in its efforts to set dates for the meeting and on June 30 the five men were placed under discipline. Perhaps in the month of June such a committee could have been helpful, but after the suspension of the five members, the demand for compensation and the threat of a lawsuit, I was of the conviction that an investigating committee composed of men who were not connected with the case should be appointed. I therefore did not accede to the request to appoint two from each side for there were now three sides: the BHM, the portion served by Pastor McMiller, and the group under discipline. Instead, I chose five independent and honorable men who had the experience and ability to form a scriptural and independent conclusion. The charge that this was unfair is a direct attack upon these men and upon the president. We have no guidelines as to how such a committee was to be formed. Previous history indicates that they should be men of respected ability and reputation in our synod. Constitutions of other church bodies verify this procedure with direct instructions that no member of a review committee should be an interested party in the disciplinary action. (See WEILS By-Laws quoted above.) The contention that the Ad Hoc Committee appointed in the Scottsdale case should have been composed of "interested parties on both sides" runs counter to all the information that I have concerning the makeup of such committees.

The charge has also been made that the committee could not truly "mediate" since it was judged to be unfair from the beginning. In my opinion, the judgment that the committee favored one side and not the other is untrue. They were urged to mediate to try to bring peace to the congregation. But when one side steadfastly refuses to meet it is difficult to accomplish the goals of the mediator. It is likewise unjust to accuse the committee of hearing only one side of the case when the other side will not talk to the committee.

To accuse the committee of being partial, unfair, biased and unable to make a scriptural judgment is to attack the integrity of five of our faithful pastors and members who have given freely of their time and effort to investigate a difficult and distressing situation. (This is not even to mention the enormous cost to the synod for meetings, etc.) Such accusations are an attack upon the very trust on which our synod is built. Those who take part in such ventures conveniently forget the plight of the five men and their families that were banned from the Lord's Supper, disenfranchised, placed under the threat of excommunication and then summarily dismissed from the congregation. Sympathy is aroused for the

pastor, but the spiritual damage inflicted upon the laymen is dismissed as irrelevant. It is not mentioned in any of the memorials or accusatory letters that are being disseminated in our synod. Our forefathers held the laymen in high regard. They arranged that our conventions should have two lay delegates and only one pastor from each congregation. It was an indication that the rights of lay people should not be ignored.

After spending many hours and many meetings over the months of August, September and October during which the committee interviewed the president, the BHM, and the members that had been placed under discipline, the Ad Hoc Committee issued its first report.

The documentation on this matter fills a notebook five inches thick. It is therefore impossible to present all the material. I therefore set before you the following documents for your consideration:

1. A Declaration of Pastoral Admonition and Warning to Those Who Would Come to the Lord's Table Without Expressed Repentance. (Addressed to Messrs: A. T. Bliss, Richard Brekken, Robert Burgess, Bert Songstad, and Robert Stohlman from Rev. R. J. McMiller.)
2. A letter of October 14, 1992, written by Pastor McMiller to Mr. Richard Brekken, Mr. Bert Songstad, Mr. A. T. Bliss, Mr. Robert Stohlman and Mr. Robert Burgess. In this letter these men are informed that they will be excommunicated on October 1, 1992, unless they appear before the congregation and express their repentance.
3. The minutes of the voters' assembly of that portion of the congregation served by Pastor McMiller in which it is recorded that the five men (who were all present at the meeting together with their families) were "removed from the membership roll of Christ the Cornerstone."
4. The appeal addressed to me as president from the five men asking that their case be reviewed.
5. The first report of the Ad Hoc Committee dated October 21, 1992, presenting the results of their investigation.
6. The president's letter of October 26, 1992, to the congregation. The letter is based entirely upon the report of the Ad Hoc Committee.
7. The resolution of the Circuit Visitors Conference.
8. The response of Pastor McMiller.
9. The second report of the Ad Hoc Committee.
10. The action of the synod president based upon the Ad Hoc Committee report.
11. President's Addendum

Document #1

A DECLARATION OF PASTORAL ADMONITION
AND WARNING TO THOSE WHO WOULD COME TO
THE LORD'S TABLE WITHOUT EXPRESSED REPENTANCE

JUNE 30, 1992

MR. (Bliss, Brekken, Burgess, Songstad, and Stohlman)

MY DEEP CONCERN IS THAT YOU MAY ATTEMPT TO COME TO THE LORD'S ALTAR WITHOUT ANY EXPRESSED REPENTANCE FOR YOUR PUBLIC SINS:

#1. Against the 8th Commandment, which forbids creating suspicions and evil reports by innuendo or rumor, directing them against the public ministry of this congregation.

#2. For your public sin of seeking to terminate, by loveless and improper means, the Divine Call I have received from my Lord Jesus Christ to serve as

Pastor of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church, and by your words and actions bringing great harm and pain to a loyal and dedicated Christian congregation.

One cannot persist in sinful behavior, refuse to express any penitence, and then come to the Lord's Table to receive forgiveness. As the writer to the Hebrews teaches us: "IF WE WILLFULLY GO ON SINNING AFTER WE HAVE LEARNED THE TRUTH, THERE IS NO LONGER A SACRIFICE WHICH REMAINS TO BE MADE FOR SIN." (10:26)

This is why Scripture urgently warns us:

"But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment (condemnation) to himself." (Cor. 11:28)

This is why our ELS CATECHISM DECLARIES:

"Q. 323 WHOM THEN SHOULD WE NOT ADMIT TO THE LORD'S SUPPER?"

We should not admit to the Lord's Supper:

Those who are known to be ungodly and IMPENITENT;

Those who have given offense and have not removed it.

Your persistent sinful activity is a great heartache to me, and to the loyal and dedicated members of this congregation, therefore, as the Called Pastor of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church I am deeply concerned that you have expressed no repentance for your actions.

As a Lutheran Pastor I am also bound to the Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions in my practice, as well as in my teaching. Thus, in the light of the vows spoken by me at the time of my ordination, I cannot permit individuals who persist in sinful behavior, and continue in a state of impenitence, to partake of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

Therefore, this is to formally advise you that because of the clear teaching of the Holy Scripture, and also because of the clear mandate of our ELS Catechism, as the Called Pastor of this congregation I cannot treat you as communicant members at the Lord's Table UNTIL YOU HAVE MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT OF REPENTANCE FOR YOUR SINFUL ACTIONS.

Robert J. McMiller, Pastor

Document #2

October 14, 1992

Mr. Richard Brekken
5621 E. Nisbet Road
Scottsdale, AZ 85254-3431

Mr. Brekken, (Bliss, Burgess, Songstad, Stohlman)

You have already received a previous communication from Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation stating the sinful behavior for which you have been placed under church discipline.

You are also aware of the truth that if an individual does not express repentance to those against whom he has sinned, and refuses to even meet with the congregation in order to arrive at a God pleasing resolution, then the congregation is bound to follow the 3rd step prescribed by our Lord in Matthew 18:15-17.

You have also been previously advised that this 3rd step, which is excommunication, will be acted upon by Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation at a meeting of the Voters Assembly on Friday, October 16th.

This letter is to now further advise you that since you have refused the invitation to meet with representatives of the congregation and express any repentance for your actions, that the congregation is bound to act upon your excommunication on Friday, October 16th.

This is to finally advise you that it is your prerogative to appear before the Voting Assembly and express your repentance, and promise to provide sincere evidence of such repentance by your life and actions. However, if you choose not to appear at this meeting; or if you choose to appear and yet refuse to express repentance for your sinful behavior, then the congregation shall be bound to follow the directive of our Lord Jesus Christ: "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector." (Mt. 15:17)

This voters meeting shall be held in the west meeting room of Christ the Cornerstone at 7:30 PM on Friday, October 16, 1992.

Sincerely,
Robert J. McMiller, Pastor

Document #3

Voters Assembly Mtg.
Oct. 16, 1992

1. Opening Prayer
2. Resolving the Question of those who by their words and action have demonstrated that they wish to be separate from us.

WHEREAS, MSRS. A. T. BLISS, RICHARD BREKKEN, ROBERT BURGESS, BERT SONGSTAD AND ROBERT STOHLMAN for the past five and one half months have not participated in the worship life of Christ the Cornerstone, nor in any fashion supported the work and ministry of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation; and in addition, by their verbal communications with the congregation have stated that they do not wish to worship or work with the pastor or members of our congregation, and have manifestly walked away from all of the required responsibilities of membership,

THEREFORE, I move that, in accord with their words and actions, these five men named above, be removed from the membership roll of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation on the basis of I John 2:19: "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us."

Document #4

APPEAL FROM LAY PERSONS

The Reverend George Orvick, President
Evangelical Lutheran Synod
447 North Division Street
Mankato, Minn. 56001

October 13, 1992

Dear Pastor Orvick,

Messrs. A. T. Bliss, Richard Brekken, Robert Burgess, Bert Songstad and Robert Stohlm, all members of Christ The Cornerstone Evangelical Lutheran Church do now give this account and make this appeal.

By letter dated June 30, 1992, we were placed under Church discipline by Robert McMiller, Pastor, for the following stated reasons designated as public sins:

1. "Against the 8th Commandment, which forbids creating suspicious and evil reports by innuendo or rumor, directing them against the public ministry of this congregation."

2. "For your public sin of seeking to terminate by loveless and improper means, the Divine Call I have received from my Lord Jesus Christ to serve as Pastor of Christ The Cornerstone Evangelical Lutheran Church, and by your words and actions bringing great harm and pain to a loyal and dedicated Christian Congregation."

We have individually and collectively prayerfully reviewed the events leading to these grave charges, examined our hearts and actions and diligently searched the Scriptures. We have not sinned against the 8th Commandment as charged, nor did we seek to terminate by loveless or improper means the Divine Call of Robert McMiller as charged.

Nevertheless, those who have assumed for themselves the mantle of authority for Christ The Cornerstone have persisted in these charges and would not hear us in a God-pleasing manner. The presently constituted Voters Assembly did resolve to separate themselves from us without removal of discipline at the Quarterly Voters Meeting, October 16, 1992.

We appeal this action as an improper use of the Office Of The Keys for the stated reason that we have not committed these sins with which we have been charged. This abuse of the office has been the source of continual anguish for ourselves, our family members and our Christian friends since its imposition. Therefore we pray you will act with dispatch upon our appeal and remove this burden from us.

In our Savior's name,

Signed: Robert S. Stohlman, Bert Songstad, Robert Burgess, Richard Brekken,
A. T. Bliss

Document #5

Oct. 21, 1992

**Report to President George Orvick from the Special Ad Hoc Committee
Concerning the Crisis at Christ the Cornerstone
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Scottsdale, Arizona**

Background History

Since Pastor Robert McMiller's arrival in Scottsdale, Arizona as pastor of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church, a series of disputes and conflicts has arisen between the pastor and various members of the congregation regarding doctrinal matters and/or administrative practices. The Board for Home Missions and the president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have frequently become involved in these matters at the request of the pastor and the congregation. The difficulties that have arisen have often found Pastor McMiller and some of the congregation's lay leaders "at odds." Over the years the Board for Home Missions and the president of the synod were generally very supportive of Pastor McMiller's ministry at Christ the Cornerstone, but in light of the number and nature of the increasing problems, the question of the pastor's suitability for this mission arose.

In any congregation, and perhaps especially in young mission congregations struggling to grow in a difficult environment, some membership turnover is to be expected. However, the pattern of such turnover at Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church during the past six years appears to be unusual—even extreme. Of the congregation's members at the time of Pastor McMiller's arrival, only Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Bliss and Richard and Nathan Brekken are still theoretically members.

Because of the mounting turmoil which was threatening the survival of the congregation, President George Orvick of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) in July appointed a special Ad Hoc Committee to review the critical situation

that had arisen in Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church. The Committee has sought to carry out its assignment with prayer and concern for the welfare of those who are involved, and in the light of and under the guidance of Scriptural teaching regarding love for souls and the concern of Christians for one another in their various relationships.

The Committee had at its disposal a voluminous amount of letters and other documents spanning the six years of Pastor McMiller's tenure at the Scottsdale Mission. In addition, the Committee conducted extensive interviews with Pres. Orwick, representatives from the Board for Home Missions, and members of the congregation at Scottsdale. It is with regret, however, that the Committee must report that the pastor of the mission and many of the members of the congregation refused to meet with the appointed committee in its search for a God-pleasing Christian resolution of this difficult problem.

After prayerful and careful study of the pertinent information available from documents and interviews, the Committee identified several issues that it concluded were in need of being addressed.

I. The Retirement of Pastor McMiller

In his April pastoral report to the voters' assembly of Christ The Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church on April 21, 1992, Pastor McMiller stated:

I see myself having the strength and energy to be part of the growing congregation for only a few more months, a year at the most . . . I have repeatedly said to others in these past few weeks that no one person is more important than this church, and should the day come when it appears that my ministry might be a hindrance, rather than a blessing, to the ministry of Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church, I would have to retire . . .

In the light of the information shared with me as recently as today, I therefore will use this meeting to announce my early retirement from my service as pastor to Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church.

The minutes of the voters' meeting to which this report was addressed contain the following entry: "A motion was made and seconded to accept Pastor's Report, including reference to his retirement, and for the congregation to assist Pastor in every way possible to effect a smooth transition. A closed vote was taken on the motion which passed with a count of seven for, four against. The report is recorded as part of these minutes."

Although no specific date is mentioned in either the pastor's report or the motion above, the understanding of a majority of the voters, as well as of others in attendance, was that the retirement be on or about June 30, 1992. In addition the minutes of a special meeting of the church council on May 6, 1992, specified the retirement date as follows: "Here followed Pastor McMiller's statement that he, Pastor Bob, due to the attitude of a few dissident members of the congregation and in the interest of unity would take early retirement on or before June 30, 1992."

In a letter addressed to "Members and Friends of Christ the Cornerstone," and dated May 3, 1992, Pastor McMiller stated, ". . . I have decided to . . . announce the fact that my early retirement shall take place on, or about, July 15, 1995." However, at the above-cited May 6, 1992 meeting of the church council, Pastor McMiller reestablished the fact that this retirement would be effective on June 30, 1992.

On the basis of the factual information available, the Committee concludes that the resignation of Pastor McMiller, first presented to the congregation on April 21 and accepted by the voters' assembly, is a valid resignation, and that the office of pastor at the ELS mission known as Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church of Scottsdale, Maricopa Co., Arizona, is therefore vacant as of July 1, 1992.

II. Church Offices and Voting Rights

In early May Richard Brekken, vice-chairman, and Robert Stohlman, secretary, had resigned their positions on the church council. But at the May 12 meeting the council properly and unanimously elected these men to new pro tem positions on the council: Richard Brekken as chairman pro tem and Robert Stohlman as treasurer pro tem. The congregation's Bylaws, Art. III, Sect. 5, par. C, state: "the Church Council shall . . . act for the congregation between assembly meetings, especially in matters that require immediate attention and do not justify a special Voters' Assembly meeting."

At the next council meeting on May 19, Pastor McMiller and council secretary Al Ireland ruled that the new chairman pro tem and treasurer pro tem were no longer members of the council in view of their written resignations, in spite of their having been properly and unanimously elected to new pro tem positions on the church council. Because of this arbitrary and incorrect ruling, all subsequent actions of the church council are null and void.

III. Church Discipline

Under date of June 30, 1992, Pastor McMiller sent an identical document entitled "A Declaration of Pastoral Admonition and Warning to Those Who Would Come to the Lord's Table without Expressed Repentance" to the following members of the congregation: A. T. Bliss, Richard Brekken, Robert Burgess, Bert Songstad, and Robert Stohlman. The document charged each of these men with the same sins against the Eighth Commandment and with attempting "to terminate, by loveless and improper means, the Divine Call" of Pastor McMiller. It closed with this statement ". . . I cannot treat you as communicant members at the Lord's Table until you have made a public statement of repentance for your sinful actions."

On the basis of the facts and testimony received it is evident that the charges made against the five men by Pastor McMiller in his June 30th letter of discipline were neither clearly specified nor substantiated. Furthermore, the procedures which were followed were not in accordance with the Scriptural injunctions regarding dealing with those who have been guilty of sin (Matthew 18:15-18, I Corinthians 5:5, Galatians 6:1-5) or the congregation's own constitution, which states: "If any member (including the pastor or officers) of this congregation leads an offensive life, no one shall bring before the congregation a complaint against said member unless he has personally admonished him in Christian love, as outlined by Scriptures cited above in this article." (Constitution: Article IX, Par. 1)

The imposition of discipline upon the five men listed above is therefore invalid, the subsequent disenfranchisement of the five men is also invalid, and all actions of the voters' assembly, subsequent to June 30, 1992, the date of the imposition of discipline, are null and void.

The Committee recommends that the discipline be rescinded, that apology be made to the five men in question, and that they be recognized as still retaining full membership and voting rights in the congregation.

IV. Removal from Congregational Membership

At a voters' assembly meeting on October 16, 1992, the five men who had been placed under discipline were removed from membership in Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church. The reason given for their removal was lack of participation in the activities of the congregation for five and one half months, and the sin referred to in I John 2:19.

However, the imposition of church discipline upon the five men mentioned above has been invalid from the beginning, as noted above in section III of this report. In addition, the congregation's constitution states that such removal is to take place only after a member's continued absence for a period of one year (Article X, Par. 3).

The citation of I John 2:19 as basis for the removal of the five men from membership is an improper and false use of Scripture. (This passage has reference to false teachers and antichrists.)

The removal of the five men was in accord with neither Scripture nor the congregation's constitution and therefore is null and void. A. T. Bliss, Richard Brekken, Robert Burgess, Bert Songstad, and Robert Stohlman still hold their membership in Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church, and continue to hold any offices to which they had been elected.

V. Relationship of Home Mission Board to the Scottsdale Mission

The synodical guidelines for the Board for Home Missions state that "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." (ELS Handbook, p. 31, 5, D) The By-Laws of the ELS state in chapter III: "The Synod shall through its elected boards and committees under the supervision and coordination of its president

- i) exercise supervision over the Synod's institutions and the pastoral work and practice of its members. (cf. par. c)
- k) in accordance with the Scriptures (Galatians 6:1-2) serve to mediate in controversies which may arise within the Synod or within its membership."

Because of its assignment from the synod the Board for Home Missions is responsible for supervision of the subsidized mission as long as the mission remains such. It was therefore not out of place for the Mission Board to respond to several earlier requests for assistance in dealing with internal affairs of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church, nor was it out of place for the Board to exercise its duty and responsibility in relation to the problem this congregation is experiencing.

Concerns have been raised within the synod concerning resolutions of the board at its meeting of May 4 & 5, 1992. The five resolutions adopted at that meeting were not all formally delivered to the congregation. Only resolution #1 dealing with the Mission Board's lack of confidence in the present pastorate at Christ the Cornerstone, and resolution #2 encouraging the church council to bring a resolution of no confidence in the Pastorate of Pastor McMiller to the voters' assembly, were later, on May 14th, formally presented to the congregation. Because resolutions #3 & 4 were rescinded and are therefore no longer in effect, they are not being addressed in this document.

VI. Charges against the Board for Home Missions and President Orvick

In a letter of June 8, 1992, addressed to the Rev. George M. Orvick (with copies to the Board for Home Missions, the Board of Trustees, the Rev. John Schmidt [circuit visitor] the pastors of circuit #10, and other concerned individuals), Pastor McMiller charges the president and the board with "high handed and sinful action in encouraging the dissidents to ask for my immediate retirement/resignation."

An open letter of May 11 from Al Ireland, Trustee/Financial Secretary of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church, to Pres. George Orvick (and also widely disseminated) charges that the action of the Board for Home Missions constitutes "a sin against the congregation," and suggests that the synod is "guilty of compromise by trading blessed souls for dollars."

On May 12 Attorney Frederick E. Davidson, retained by Pastor McMiller, addressed a letter to the Rev. George Orvick, in which, after having briefly reviewed the case, he charges the Home Mission Board with "immoral, unethical, illegal and unsubstantiated actions" over against Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church and its pastor. (This letter likewise received wide circulation, though the letter itself carries the notation that it was copied only to Rev.

McMiller and the Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church voters' assembly and Church Council.)

The Committee after thorough investigation, as reflected in this document, determines that these charges are false and without basis, and grossly slanderous. Furthermore, their wide dissemination has had an obviously divisive effect within the Synod.

The Committee therefore in the interest of achieving God pleasing unity and peace urges that these charges be withdrawn, apology made to those so charged, and copies of the apologies sent to all who received the original letters so that the cloud may be removed from the reputations of synod officials, and healing might begin within the synod.

Conclusion

It is the hope and prayer of the Committee that a unity of spirit may be restored to this troubled congregation at Scottsdale and to the Synod at large. To that end it pleads for and encourages a serious consideration of this report, implementation of its recommendations, and a continued practice of love, patience and forbearance in times of such internal conflict, that the cause of God's church may be furthered here on earth. "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace." Ephesians 4:1-3.

Respectfully Submitted
The Special Ad-hoc Committee

Milton Tweit, Chairman
Juul Madson, Secretary
Al Quist
Donald Peterson
Daniel Sabrowsky

Document #6

October 26, 1992

Christ the Cornerstone Congregation
Scottsdale, Arizona

Dear Members of Christ the Cornerstone:

In the month of July I appointed a special Ad Hoc Committee to review the situation which had arisen at Christ the Cornerstone. The committee has held extensive meetings for three months. They have now submitted their report to me and I have accepted it as sound scriptural judgment in the matter. I deeply regret that Pastor McMiller and a number of the members refused to meet with the committee. I have asked the committee to serve in a mediating capacity just in case such a meeting should now be desired.

On the basis of the report of the committee I am now taking the following actions:

1. Because the resignation of Pastor McMiller on April 21st was valid *I am informing* the Board for Home Missions that a *pastoral vacancy* exists at Christ the Cornerstone. It is now in the hands of the Board to make arrangements for the future of the mission.
2. Mr. Richard Brekken and Mr. Robert Stohlman are being informed that they still are considered to be the chairman pro tem and treasurer pro tem of the congregation, until such time as regular elections can properly be held.

3. The appeal of the five men who were dismissed from the congregation has been heard and the committee has ruled in their favor. They are therefore restored to full membership.
4. Those responsible for the disciplinary action against the five men should rescind their action and apologize to those men.
5. I am *asking* Pastor McMiller to *apologize* for charges made against the Board for Home Missions and the president and to withdraw those charges whether made by him or his attorney. I am asking that copies of the letter of apology be mailed to all those who received the original letter of accusation.

In order to repair the harm done in the congregation and in the synod it is necessary that these actions be carried out by December 1st.

It is my fervent prayer that all may humbly accept these decisions so that peace may again prevail in the congregation and in the synod and that precious souls may not be placed in danger.

Sincerely in Christ,

George M. Orvick

GMO:ma

cc: Board for Home Missions
Trustees
Circuit Visitors

Document #7

The Resolution of the Circuit Visitors Conference November 5-6, 1992

RESOLVED, that the circuit visitors thank the Ad Hoc Committee for its weeks of hard work in investigating the Christ the Cornerstone matter and that the visitors are in unanimous agreement with the truthfulness of the committee's findings. The visitors support the president's actions and pray for Pastor McMiller and the members of Christ the Cornerstone with the hope that they will meet with the Ad Hoc Committee for a God-pleasing solution.

RESOLVED, that President Orvick be encouraged to send the committee report and his recommendations to the pastors of the synod.

Document #8

RESPONSE TO "AD HOC COMMITTEE"

INTRODUCTION

In teaching others the Biblical prohibitions of the 8th Commandment I am certain that many of my fellow pastors have used the illustration of the pastor who took the congregation gossip up into the church tower on a windy day, tore open a feather pillow, and then asked this gossip to please try to retrieve every feather the wind had blown across the countryside. I realize that it is virtually futile to respond to all of the innuendo and untruths in the report an Ad Hoc Committee has created for the use of President Orvick. The innuendo and half truths and untruths contained in this report can never fully be dealt with because my congregation and I shall never have the opportunity to confront each individual who has read, or heard of this report, and advise them of the truth of these matters.

Nevertheless, so that I might at least tell my flock that I have attempted to respond to this report of the Ad Hoc Committee, I am going to briefly respond to each area of their report. (I attempted to do so in detail, but ended up with a book which I am confident no one would read.)

However, before entering into this endeavor of pointing to truth, over against fiction, I must state at the onset that neither Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation, nor its Pastor, find any support in Holy Scripture, the Lutheran Confessions, or even the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the President of a synod, or an elected Board of our synod, to create an "investigating team" in order to compel a congregation to do the bidding of synodical officers. We wish to make it very clear, therefore, that we reject the report of the Ad Hoc Committee! It has neither Scriptural, or constitutional authority over the congregation or its called Pastor. We must further reject their report on the basis that is has sadly distorted the facts.

Another matter must be addressed here: In this entire sad affair a serious problem has come to light, and that is, evidently some of the elected synodical officers of our ELS have a view of the doctrines of Church and Ministry which differs greatly from those expressed so beautifully in the Scriptures and expounded so clearly by Dr. C. F. W. Walther. In my own heart and mind, as a Lutheran Pastor, I find this to be the most serious concern of all at this time. Does the ELS intend to remain a Confessional Lutheran Church?

Finally, the direction of our Lord in Matthew 18 must be briefly noted before proceeding. For eight (8) months the Pastor of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation has been told, both by former dissident members of the congregation, and officers of the Board for Home Missions, that there are "charges" against him. Both my congregation and I have repeatedly asked what those charges are. After eight months of innuendo these so-called "charges" have not been forthcoming. I hope my brethren in the ministry are going to at least ask themselves, if they cannot bring themselves to speak up publicly, "Why wasn't Matthew 18 followed with Pastor McMiller? If there are valid charges against this pastor, do not our Lord's words in Matthew 18 require that, in love, a fellow Christian is to be approached with the supposed problem?" (I have repeatedly spoken with the former dissident members and not once did they come to me, let alone identify a charge, even when my Church Council and I pleaded with them to do so!)

NOVEMBER 15, 1992

Now, President Orvick has chosen to present the report of this Ad Hoc Committee to all the Visitors, as well as to all of the pastors of my circuit, Circuit 10, even though no one would be present to speak in my behalf. WHAT IS INTERESTING TO ME, IS THAT WHEN I ASKED MY BRETHREN IN CIRCUIT 10, AT OUR ANNUAL ARIZONA/CALIFORNIA CONFERENCE, to discuss a "generic casuistry question" related to this matter, to obtain the counsel of my brethren, President George Orvick vociferously and vehemently objected to any discussion of my generic question. BY CONTRAST, President Orvick felt it was perfectly proper for him (through his representative) to openly discuss, not a "generic question," but the detailed and erroneous report of his Ad Hoc Committee—making it the major presentation of the Visitor's Conference, in fact, devoting an entire day and one half to this matter! (Since this was written yesterday, President Orvick's letter arrived with the information that he has now shared the Ad Hoc Committee's report with all pastors of our ELS—this is why you have received this response.)

BACKGROUND HISTORY

When it became evident to my congregation and myself back on 21 April that the Board for Home Missions, and the President of the Synod, had set an agenda for Christ the Cornerstone which shocked most of our members, we still hoped that we could sit down and discuss these matters as fellow Christians.

Instead, a telephone call came to the Secretary of the congregation informing him that if he did not try to persuade "Pastor McMiller" to announce his retirement that evening at the Quarterly Voters Meeting, Pastor McMiller would "be

fired." As a new adult convert to Lutheranism Al Ireland was in shock, first at the prospect of this threat being fulfilled, and then with the thought that without due cause, a pastor could just be "eliminated" in this fashion. It was at Al Ireland's insistence that I did not announce any date for retirement at that meeting—although by this time I myself was in a state of shock.

Instead, that evening the congregation asked me to review the goals that I wanted to accomplish before "retiring" and then announce a reasonable date. I did so. However, it did not fit the agenda of five (5) men in the congregation, and the Board for Home Missions and the President of the Synod. In the May meeting of the Board for Home Missions, therefore, a resolution was passed with at least the tacit approval of the President of the Synod, that "all subsidies," both operating subsidy and the newly established mortgage subsidy on our new church, would be withheld by the synod if I did not retire quickly. A SIMPLE QUESTION: Is this the way in which we deal with a member congregation of the synod? Do we attempt to force them into submission to our will by threatening them with the denial of the very funds necessary for their survival, AND PROMISED BY THE SYNOD!

I decided to attend the Synod Convention, despite the painful burden I carried on my heart because of the actions of the synodical leadership. At the Synod Convention I proposed to President Orvick and to Rev. Ekhoff that in an effort to settle the misunderstandings and divisions which were growing, that a committee be established by having Christ the Cornerstone select two pastors to represent its concerns, and the synodical leadership select two men for this committee. I was told that BOTH PRESIDENT ORVICK AND REV. ERV EKHOFF HAD AGREED TO THIS. However, before I ever left the Convention, I was approached by Erv Ekhoff and told, "About that meeting—I won't bring any men if I come," and then he walked away. This, of course, subverted the whole process of having other brethren objectively and openly examine what was going on. I still hoped, however, that the balanced committee of brethren was still acceptable to President Orvick, since I had not been told otherwise. Then the day after I returned to my parish (Friday of Convention Week) I received a phone call from Rev. Ekhoff in which he announced that he would be out to Phoenix "This coming Monday or Tuesday for that meeting." I told him that I had not even had an opportunity to speak with my church leaders, and therefore we obviously had not even selected our two representatives for this meeting. It soon became apparent to my congregation and myself that this pledge to me of a balanced committee of my brethren would not be kept.

Within a very short time I was informed, together with all the pastors of the ELS, that an "Ad Hoc Committee" had been formed to "investigate" these matters. The President of the Synod hand-picked the men he wanted for this committee, and Christ the Cornerstone was not allowed to even suggest the name of a single pastor.

I received a phone call shortly thereafter from a concerned fellow pastor who informed me that a member of the Ad Hoc Committee had already reached a conclusion—even before the committee had been fully formed. This member of the committee expressed his judgment to my concerned brother in this fashion: "There are times when the shepherd must be sacrificed to save the sheep."

WHY WE DID NOT MEET WITH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

My people and I now realized that we would never receive a balanced or fair hearing from such a committee, however soon another development arose which confirmed our conclusions. The Ad Hoc Committee arbitrarily picked a specific week to come out to Scottsdale to meet with my congregation and myself without asking whether the officers of the congregation would be available. In fact, when we received the "announcement" as to when the committee would be in town, *and we should make ourselves available*, the Chairman of my congregation immediately informed the Secretary of the committee that two of the main

principals would be out of town for that entire week because of business commitments and other responsibilities. The committee made no offer to adjust its schedule by a few days to allow these men to participate, especially these two men, who had first-hand knowledge of events that needed to be shared with everyone for a balanced hearing.

What then disturbed me considerably, is that when the committee arrived in Phoenix, the secretary of the committee called and said he wanted to meet with these men, as though he had not accepted their statements of absence as truthful. In fact, the committee called the home of my Chairman, again implying that he had perhaps lied about not being in town.

The last written invitation I received from the committee arrived in my mail on 13 October assuming me to be present at a meeting on 8 October in Mankato. I made several phone calls, since according to the notice received the meeting had already been held five days earlier. I never received a follow-up clarification communication, as I expected.

LASTLY, if you will read the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod you will readily see that our ELS has not given authority to the President of our Synod to create such "Ad Hoc Committee" to "investigate" pastors or their congregations. MUCH LESS TO MAKE JUDGMENTS UPON THE LEGITIMATE, INTERNAL DECISIONS OF A CONGREGATION. I now know, from phone calls and letters from other pastors who have been "investigated," that this technique has been used before, however, such activities HAVE NEITHER SCRIPTURAL nor CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY. I finally concluded that it would be wrong for me to legitimize an illegitimate procedure, and a committee with at least one prominent member who had already arrived at a predetermined conclusion. (FURTHER EVIDENCE: Not once, during the past months, did the Ad Hoc Committee formally contact the Circuit Counselor at that time, the Rev. John K. Schmidt [of Ventura, CA], to inquire of him as to what he knew, and what HE HAD OBSERVED AT THE MEETINGS WHICH HE HAD ATTENDED AS CIRCUIT COUNSELOR! Bear in mind also, that President Orvick, upset over the fact that the Circuit Counselor fully supported my congregation and me, asked John Schmidt to step down as Circuit Counselor. Indeed, in the presence of my congregation Chairman, Mark Hansen, who had flown to Minneapolis at his expense, President Orvick stated that he was going to "get rid of him as Circuit Counselor because he was not supporting the President.")

I am only sharing SOME of what has gone on, but I pray that now you, my brethren, can understand why the leaders of my flock, and I, did not meet with this Ad Hoc Committee. HOWEVER, PERHAPS MY STRONGEST REASON FOR NOT MEETING WITH THIS AD HOC COMMITTEE will be found in the "Addendum" of this response, in which I will permit a Patriarch of the Norwegian Lutheran Church, THE REV. HERMAN AMBERG PREUS, to speak in my behalf through one of his essays found in VIVACIOUS DAUGHTER, a book recommended to the pastors of our ELS at the last General Pastoral Conference.

THE ACCURACY (TRUTHFULNESS) OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE

I could spend pages in dealing with the countless errors and untruths contained in their report, but I shall only deal with a few examples of false information in the report to demonstrate how credible this report is:

1. The Committee's "Background History"

The committee completely disregards the truth that when I arrived in Scottsdale I found five (5) families of the small nucleus very much in support of Woman Suffrage. They do not report that the Chairman of the Board for Home Missions addressed this problem that these people then left because they were not in doctrinal agreement with our doctrine in this area. (According to their own testimony to me, they had been led to believe by another ELS pastor that

the ELS, at the time discussing Woman Suffrage, was about to take a "new position" favoring such a practice.)

It was because of our ELS doctrinal position ON WOMAN SUFFRAGE, which was stated to those families back in 1986 by the Chairman of the Board for Home Missions, that those families then left. With that departure, the original nucleus was already virtually gone. The statements found in the "Background History" of the committee's report create a terrible innuendo by totally distorting the true facts, and then actually extrapolating worse conclusions from their misinformation.

2. The "Retirement of Pastor McMiller"

The 6 May meeting, was attended by Rev. Ekhoff and Rev. Petersen, who came with a formal resolution from the Board for Home Missions stating that all subsidies would be withheld from the congregation if I did not retire. (They showed this resolution to the Circuit Visitor, Rev. John Schmidt. They had read it to me over the telephone.) AT THAT MEETING I STATED THAT I DID NOT WANT TO SEE THE CONGREGATION DESTROYED BECAUSE OF SUCH THREATENED ACTIONS, AND THEN STATED THAT PERHAPS I SHOULD STEP DOWN. HOWEVER, the majority of my congregation came to me following that meeting and asked me to remain and continue my work, even though the Board for Home Missions was threatening to withhold all financial support from them. That very evening members of my congregation spoke directly to Rev. Ekhoff and Rev. Petersen, telling them our congregation would survive in spite of their threats to withhold funds. They also told the men that they ought to be ashamed of themselves for their conduct! Does this sound like the congregation wanted its Pastor to step down?

Returning to the formal resolution of the Voters Assembly at their Quarterly Meeting on 21 April. IT DID NOT SET ANY DATE. The implications and statements of the committee's report to the effect that a date was set are entirely FALSE. Mr. Robert Burgess, the leader of the dissidents, kept bringing up a June 30 date, however, finally in response to his repeated mentioning of this date, the Secretary of the Voters turned to him and said, "There is no date attached to this resolution! Do you understand that?"

This fact was also repeatedly relayed to both Rev. Erv Ekhoff, Rev. Steve Petersen and President George Orwick at that time by telephone by the Secretary, Mr. Ireland, however, his information was totally disregarded (as it apparently still is today). To clarify this fact, that NO DATE WAS ADOPTED BY THE VOTERS, on 16 September, at the Ontario, California Pastoral Conference I placed into President Orwick's hands a copy of the minutes to verify this fact. Apparently he, and his committee, still prefer to disregard THE ACTUAL MINUTES OF THE MEETING.

AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT: While attending Synod Convention this past June I approached two members of the Board for Home Missions and inquired whether this important fact had been conveyed to them, as it had been conveyed by phone to Ekhoff, Petersen and Orwick. They replied that they had not been told this! It is apparent that the information which my congregation's secretary, and I, tried to convey to the entire Board for Home Missions during their May meeting was "filtered."

Thus, to state that I presented my "resignation" to my congregation on 21 April, and that it was accepted by the Voters Assembly, is an absolute falsehood.

4. Church Offices and Voting Rights

This portion of the committee's report is filled with such preposterous statements that it is impossible to deal with them individually. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Robert Stohlman and Mr. Richard Brekken resigned from their offices formally and officially. When it was realized that their votes were needed to force me out of the congregation, they attempted to "reclaim" their offices. An

attorney has already clearly pointed out that this is legally impossible, however, the committee apparently claims a greater knowledge of Arizona State Corporate Law than an experienced attorney.

5. Church Discipline

On 21 April the five dissident men attempted to circumvent the requirement of the Constitution of the congregation which applies to removing a pastor. This was prevented by the congregation, as stated above, by passing a resolution with no date, encouraging the Pastor to review the goals of his remaining ministry at Christ the Cornerstone, and then to set a date. At this meeting the dissidents brought up the accusation that "many people had left because of Pastor McMiller." One of the voters, Brad Kapellusch, the HEAD ELDER at that time, and a man who had been with the congregation from its inception, spoke up and specifically addressed this accusation that "so many people had left" because of the Pastor's ministry. He said: "That is an outright lie!"

Not only did these five dissidents sinfully attempt to force the Pastor from his office by their machinations, but on 6 May, in the presence of about 25 witnesses (including the Circuit Visitor) they *PUBLICLY* made the most vicious verbal attacks against the Pastor, attacks which were filled with innuendo.

6. Removal from Congregational Membership

On 14 July, AFTER the dissidents had refused to express any sorrow or repentance over the false and cruel PUBLIC STATEMENTS they had made concerning the Pastor; AFTER three months of continuing to try to terminate the Pastor's ministry at Christ the Cornerstone; AFTER HAVING NOT ATTENDED ANY WORSHIP SERVICES FOR THREE (3) MONTHS, the congregation very properly placed these men under discipline.

For the NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS the congregation made every attempt to deal with these men in an evangelical fashion. They received a very evangelical letter from the Elder of the congregation asking them to meet with himself and the Chairman and the Pastor to privately discuss these matters. They were told that THEY COULD SELECT THE DAY, THE TIME, AND BRING A WITNESS OF THEIR CHOICE to this meeting. They refused!

The congregation EXTENDED THE FINAL DEADLINE from August to September, and then once again extended it to October (a total of approximately 3 months).

On 16 October the congregation had Scriptural grounds to pronounce excommunication against these men, however, once again, in an effort to wake these men up to the seriousness of their actions without taking that final step, the congregation voted to remove them from membership.

The committee's reference to I John 2:19 as inappropriate is similar to concluding that it would be inappropriate for Christians to admonish some union member to be content with his wages on the basis of John the Baptist's admonition to Roman soldiers, because union members are "not soldiers." The congregation was not stating that these five dissidents were "false teachers," but they were saying very simply that, as in the example St. John cites in I John 2, these men had publicly walked away from all responsibility and fellowship with the congregation—in some cases for over half a year, and therefore the congregation was finally accepting the public declaration of their actions: that they had no desire to be in fellowship with us.

7. Relationship of Home Mission Board to Scottsdale Mission

The committee's inappropriate applications of the guidelines of the ELS Handbook and the Synod's Constitution are really extraordinary.

As President Orwick did in his letter, so the committee does in this report. They ignore the qualifying and clarifying parenthetical reference at the end of "5.D" which is "(see 2E)," which reads: "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."

The above clarifying and limiting reference in the Handbook emphasizes THE SUPPORTIVE ROLE which the Board for Home Missions is to take in relationship to its missions, subsidized congregations, and mission stations. By no stretch of the imagination does the Handbook give the Board for Home Missions control over a congregation so that they can change, or subvert, the decisions reached by a Christian congregation through its voters! AND EVEN IF THE HANDBOOK WOULD MAKE SUCH FOOLISH CLAIMS, THEY WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE CONTRARY TO WHAT WE BELIEVE AND TEACH AS LUTHERANS REGARDING THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH! This is a sad example of the committee trying to make the Handbook "A WAX NOSE" to support the actions of the Board for Home Missions.

The same technique is used in reference to the supervision of the President of the Synod when the By-Laws of our ELS Constitution are quoted. Let us examine "i)" where it declares: "i) exercise supervision over Synod's institutions and the pastoral work and practice of its members. (cf. par. c)"

Let us now examine "PARAGRAPH c." "Be watchful concerning purity and unity of doctrine (Ephesians 4:3-16; I Corinthians 1:10) by studying doctrinal questions which are in special need of discussion, trying the spirits (I John 4:1), and warning against encroaching sects, as well as against errors and unchristian trends (I Tim. 4:1-5), in accordance with Holy Scripture."

WHERE DO THESE BY-LAWS GIVE AUTHORITY TO THE PRESIDENT OF OUR SYNOD, OR A COMMITTEE HE MAY HAND-PICK, to tell a congregation (which is not teaching false doctrine) that their pastor (who is not teaching false doctrine) must "retire," or remove himself?

Such machinations, as those now taking place, have been employed before to remove several other pastors of our ELS from their *CALLED MINISTRIES*, and therefore I am persuaded that this entire matter cries for a thorough examination by the pastors of our ELS to determine whether we intend to practice what we say we believe as Confessional Lutherans as regarding the doctrines of Church and Ministry.

It is with prayer and hope that such an examination of the doctrines of Church and Ministry will be the end result of this painful episode, that I have agreed to heed the encouragement of many of my fellow pastors, as well as the members of my flock, to "stand firm on the truth," and not allow these terrible pressures being brought by synod officers and "committees" to silence my voice, and terminate my ministry to Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation.

8. Charges against the Board for Home Missions and President Orvick

A. The letter of 8 June '92. I believe the foregoing clearly reveals that the Board for Home Missions and the President of the Synod did exactly what is stated in that letter. In phone conversations these men made it clear that they were going to try to force my "retirement/resignation" by withholding funds. How else can that be interpreted? Is WITHHOLDING PROMISED SUBSIDIES, SUBSIDIES GRANTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SYNONDICAL POLICY, not high handed and sinful?

B. I do not believe that President Orvick or the Committee has ever addressed Mr. Al Ireland personally about the matters referred to in Mr. Ireland's 11 May letter. To my knowledge that letter was *not* widely disseminated, and the inclusion of this in the committee's report is actually providing the widest dissemination thus far.

C. In Attorney Davidson's letter of 12 May he made an observation of the activity and actions of the Board for Home Missions and the President of the Synod.

Again, to my knowledge, his observations have not been shown to be incorrect or inaccurate.

CONCLUSION:

When a congregation has been unjustly threatened with the withholding of all APPROVED SYNODICAL SUBSIDIES; when a congregation has been told that it cannot keep the pastor whom they have called to serve them; when a congregation has been told that its very proper and official actions, carried out in accordance with Holy Scripture, are not valid, HOW CAN ANY COMMITTEE SAY THAT A CONGREGATION'S DEFENSE OF ITSELF, by making these terrible actions of synodical leaders public, is "slanderous?"

When President Orvick initiated his "investigation" (NOTE: The By-Laws allow only for "mediation!"), he implied that there would be an investigation of the Home Mission Board's actions in its relationship to Christ the Cornerstone, and my ministry. It is interesting to note that the actions of the leaders of the Board for Home Missions, and the resolutions of the Board for Home Missions, are now carefully passed over by the Ad Hoc Committee.

Finally, I was told by President Orvick at the Arizona/California Pastoral Conference, on 15 September, 1992 that it was inappropriate for me to bring "a generic question" relating to the doctrines of Church and Ministry, and ask my brethren in conference to discuss my question as a matter of casuistry, so I could seek and receive their counsel! The President of the Synod vehemently insisted that this was wrong—AND VIRTUALLY REFUSED TO ALLOW IT. HOWEVER, he obviously felt that it was totally appropriate for Pastor Paul Schneider, the Chairman of the Visitors, and all the other Circuit Visitors, to spend a day and a half on the Ad Hoc Committee's one-sided report, and then to publicly discuss countless items relating to my ministry. I have heard of people having "Roast Preacher," but this must have been quite "A BARBECUE." "He who planted the ear, shall He not hear? He who formed the eye, shall He not see?" Psalm 94:8-9

And lastly, what strikes me at this moment, is that THE CHAIRMAN OF THE VISITORS CONFERENCE, who according to the notice I received through the mail conducted that meeting, raised an extraordinary question when he was A GUEST IN MY HOME BACK IN APRIL. Remember, *this was before I knew what was happening* behind the scenes. Rev. Paul Schneider attended a Lenten service in our church the evening before as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Bliss. I invited Paul and his wife to join Joanne and myself for breakfast the next morning, and to enjoy some fellowship. To my surprise, during our visit Paul suddenly turned the conversation to my "retirement," even though, up to that point, it had not been a subject of our conversation. He then also proceeded to observe that he was certain the two of us could get along very well together, if he were the Pastor of the congregation, and I would continue to hold membership in the congregation after my retirement. At that time I thought his remarks were rather strange. Now, in retrospect, that conversation appears to be particularly significant and revealing.

My congregational Chairman, in his most recent correspondence to the pastors of our ELS is still asking for a review of all of these matters by a balanced group of pastors, in which the congregation would have the right of selecting at least half of that group. As I pointed out earlier, such an arrangement was originally agreed upon by synodical leaders, but about one week after that agreement, it was conveniently forgotten. We would still welcome the opportunity to present the whole truth, that is, if anyone is really interested—and not afraid of the political consequences of speaking up and asking some searching questions.

I believe it was Edmund Burke who first spoke the words which I have inscribed above the desk in my home study:

"All That Is Needed For Triumph Of Evil Is That Good Men Do Nothing."

ADDENDUM

Many of you brethren may recall that at the 1992 General Pastoral Conference a newly published book was highly recommended to us by President Orwick, *VIVACIOUS DAUGHTER*, which includes some very excellent theological essays by one of the Patriarchs of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod, The Rev. Herman Amberg Preus.

When I fled from a liberal Missouri Synod and sought a place of refuge for myself and my flock, I was so happy when at last I found the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. As I came to know the heritage of our church body I was thrilled to learn of such men as Koren and Preus.

We gratefully claim these men as our forefathers in the faith! I think it is time for us to seriously review, first in our own hearts, and then in our church at large, whether we are still holding to the precious heritage of Christian doctrine which they entrusted to us.

In *VIVACIOUS DAUGHTER* the Rev. Herman Amberg Preus makes some insightful statements regarding the responsibilities of the synod, and the responsibilities and freedoms of the individual congregations. My dear brethren, would you please take a moment to listen to this faithful voice of one of our revered forefathers:

QUOTED FROM VIVACIOUS DAUGHTER, LECTURE #1

“Relation of the Congregations to the Synod” PP. 50 ff

“It might perhaps seem incomprehensible to many a person not acquainted with our situation that a church body could cohere and reap blessings when the congregations retain so much freedom and independence and are without any external authority to coerce obedience from the unruly and the unwilling. We are, however, completely convinced that only this kind of church body has a future, if it otherwise abides by the Word of the Lord. Nor are we entirely without experience in this matter. While the Missouri Synod, guided by these basic principles, has shown an amazing vitality in its external and internal development, other synods built upon more strictly hierarchical lines but with looser confessional moorings are already on the path to dissolution. What binds us together is God’s Word, the common faith expressed in these words: “Unity of spirit in the bond of peace.” (21) This is what is essential and it is sufficient. We consider a church body held together in what seems to be a bond of peace but without unity of spirit, without a common faith, to be a nonentity, a falsehood, a Babel bearing within it the germ of its own disintegration and fostering not the edification but the destruction of God’s congregation and the Christian faith. (22)

“The Synod manifests itself and executes its work chiefly during the synodical meetings held every year or every other year. . . . The Synod does not do all its work in the meetings of the Synod; it has its own functionaries through whom to carry on its tasks. Chapter III of the synodical constitution names the president and the church council among the officers of the Synod.”

(Rev. Preus then proceeds to draw a comparison between the ecclesiastical government in our church body and that which existed in the State Church in Norway, saying . . .)

“. . . A comparison of this distribution in the two church bodies will perhaps put the contrast between the forms of governance in its proper light.

“In the state church ecclesiastical government in its most extended sense is divided between the Storting (parliament), the king and his ministers, the bishops, and to some degree the supreme court. As you know, the Storting possesses legislative and decision-making authority even in ecclesiastical matters. It is charged with promulgating laws of all sorts with regard to the external organization of the church, establishing seminaries and faculty posts, and providing for their maintenance. It can, indeed, alter the confession of the church through

constitutional amendment, and, by virtue of the Fourth Commandment, all members of the state church would in this case have either to obey or to depart. And yet the members of this parliament to which is entrusted such extraordinary power over the church do not, in fact, have to belong to the Lutheran Church. Among us, the synodical assembly corresponds most closely to the Storting, although it does not ultimately possess any legislative authority. It can propose liturgical changes and make arrangements for our schools and their faculties, but everything depends on the congregations and whether they accept the proposals offered and the arrangements made. Actually, there can be no talk of obedience by the congregations to the Synod on the basis of the Fourth Commandment, but only of humble and charitable service. (23) The question of whether the congregations find proper and beneficial the proposals offered and the provisions and arrangements made is decided by their acceptance and implementation. Even when the majority of the congregations have agreed to proposals or arrangements by the Synod one can—except in cases when something is indicated by God's Word—speak only of an obligation of the minority to follow along with the majority for the sake of charity and love alone. The Synod possesses absolutely no authority to impose assessments; this is left entirely in the hands of the congregations.

"Here in the state church the king's government possesses the executive authority . . . Among us, the duties of the church council most closely answer to this description. It prepares matters for the attention of the Synod, attends to the execution of approved recommendations, exercises oversight, makes recommendations to the congregations concerning changes in the 'RITUAL'. IN CONTRAST, THE CONGREGATION RETAINS THE RIGHT OF CALL; IT ALONE DECIDES ON THE PARTITION OF PASTORAL CHARGES AND ON THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW TEXTBOOKS AND LITURGICAL USAGES.

"The office of oversight is essentially entrusted to the president of our synod, just as here in the state church it is to the bishops. He conducts ordinations, visitations, and other such functions. Indeed in some respects the president exercises the leadership which in the state church is in the hands of the government. IN CONTRAST, THE PRESIDENT, UNLIKE THE BISHOPS OF THE STATE CHURCH, HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE EXERCISE OF DISCIPLINE. THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CONGREGATION, AND HE ONLY GIVES ADVICE ON REQUEST. NOR CAN WE SPEAK OF ANY OBEDIENCE DUE HIM BY VIRTUE OF SYNODICAL LAW. While the bishops of the state church rule according to the stipulations of the canons and require obedience according to the Fourth Commandment, THE PRESIDENT OF OUR SYNOD—AND THE PASTORS OF INDIVIDUAL CONGREGATIONS—RULE BY THE WORD OF GOD. IT IS THUS THIS WORD AND NOT THE PRESIDENT WHO RULES, IT IS THE WORD AND NOT THE PERSON THAT COMMANDS OBEDIENCE.

"Finally, in the state church the supreme court possesses judicial authority in church affairs. In the final instance it must decide what is the proper interpretation of the law and also what is the right understanding of God's Word in the confessions. The supreme court also has the power to judge pastors and dismiss them from office. AMONG OURSELVES WE SAY: "SCRIPTURE INTERPRETS SCRIPTURE," AND ACCORDING TO THAT SAME PRINCIPLE THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITY—SYNOD, CHURCH COUNCIL, OR CONGREGATION ITSELF—CAN CONSTRUE THE AUTHENTIC INTERPRETATIONS OF ITS OWN ORDINANCES. (25) *THE RIGHT TO DISMISS A PASTOR BELONGS ONLY TO THE CONGREGATION HAVING THE RIGHT OF CALL.*

"... In our church body, in contrast, CHRIST ALONE IS ACKNOWLEDGED AS LORD AND KING. HE GOVERNS THROUGH HIS WORD. THIS IS THE ONLY LAW TO WHICH THE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OWE UNCONDITIONAL OBEDIENCE. THOSE WHO HOLD OFFICE OR POSITIONS OF

AUTHORITY IN THE SYNOD GOVERN WITH THE WORD ALONE AND WITHOUT COERCION OR FORCE."

(The capitalization of phrases and sentences is my emphasis!"

(I am grateful to my sainted brother, the Rev. Herman Amberg Preus, for his clear and comforting testimony to our Evangelical Lutheran Synod in these later days of the 20th Century! As I have read this clear and forthright testimony to the doctrines of the church and Ministry I have been reminded of the inspired words of the writer of Hebrews, chapter 11, verse 4.)

Document #9

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE RE: THE SCOTTSDALE MATTER.

DECEMBER 21, 1992

On November 15, 1992, the Rev. Robert McMiller issued a response to the Ad Hoc Committee's October 21 report. The Committee has received this response, and has found it to be unsupported by the evidence and documents at hand. The Committee therefore stands by and re-affirms its initial report.

At an October 16th meeting of the Voters' Assembly of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church five members who had previously been placed under discipline were removed from the membership roll of the congregation by the adoption of the following motion:

WHEREAS, MSRS. A. T. BLISS, RICHARD BREKKEN, ROBERT BURGESS, BERT SONGSTAD, AND ROBERT STOHLMAN for the past five and one half months have not participated in the worship life of Christ the Cornerstone, nor in any fashion supported the work and ministry of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation; and in addition, by their verbal communications with the congregation have stated that they do not wish to worship or work with the pastor or members of our congregation, and have manifestly walked away from all of the required responsibilities of membership,

THEREFORE, I move that, in accord with their words and actions, these five men named above, be removed from the membership roll of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation on the basis of I John 2:19; "They went out from us but were not of us; for if they had been of us they would have continued with us: but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us."

On October 18, 1992, following their October 16th removal from membership, Messrs. Robert Stohlman, Bert Songstad, Robert Burgess, Richard Brekken and A. T. Bliss formally appealed to the Rev. George Orvick, the President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, to determine the validity of their having been placed under church discipline and their removal from membership in Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church.

The Committee has reviewed their appeal and the circumstances surrounding both the imposition of discipline against them and their subsequent removal from membership and has found the following:

1. In the charges made against the five men by Rev. McMiller and the congregation, no specific sin was clearly specified nor substantiated.
2. There is no clear evidence that proper Scriptural procedures were followed in dealing with the five men so charged, in that apparently neither personal nor corporate admonition was carried out other than the issuance of Rev. McMiller's June 30th letter of discipline, and subsequent letters summoning the five to appear before the Voters' Assembly. (Congregation's constitution Article IV Par. 1 says "If any member [including the pastor or officers] of this congregation leads an offensive

life, no one shall bring before the congregation a complaint against said member unless he has personally admonished him in Christian love, as outlined by the Scriptures cited above in this article.”)

3. The imposition of discipline against the five members was not brought before the Board of Elders as required in the congregation's By-laws, (Article IV, Par. A, Sec. g.)

4. The discipline process was improperly served. Such discipline, according to Scripture, requires that the final result be either a lifting of the discipline itself or that it be carried through to excommunication. In the Scottsdale case neither was done making the entire process improper. (Matthew 18:15-17, I Cor. 5:5)

In light of its previous report and the above findings, and with brotherly and Christian concern for the spiritual welfare of Pastor McMiller and the members of the Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church, the Committee recommends that:

1. The Rev. Robert McMiller be immediately suspended from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

2. Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church, of Scottsdale, Arizona, as currently constituted be suspended from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

3. That these suspensions be in force until the discipline instituted against Robert Stohlman, Bert Songstad, Robert Burgess, Richard Brekken, and A. T. Bliss is withdrawn and they are restored to full membership in Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church.

Furthermore, in order to bring about a peaceful and God-pleasing resolution to this entire matter, the Committee recommends that Rev. Robert McMiller and Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church should be urged to meet with the Ad Hoc Committee at a mutually agreeable time and place to continue to discuss all pertinent matters and seek to resolve them in a scriptural and Christian manner.

Document #10

December 29, 1992

The Rev. R. J. McMiller
4655 E. Emile Zola Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85032

Dear Pastor McMiller and Members of Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church:

It is with deep regret that I inform you that you, Pastor McMiller, and that portion of the congregation which you serve are hereby suspended from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod as of January 1, 1993. I do this upon the basis of the recommendation of the Ad Hoc Committee which was appointed to investigate conditions in the congregation.

The five men who were placed under church discipline and then summarily expelled from the congregation have appealed this action to me. I directed the appeal to the Ad Hoc Committee for their study and recommendation. The committee holds that the disciplinary action which was instituted against the five men and their summary dismissal was not in accordance with Holy Scriptures.

The Ad Hoc Committee report reads as follows:

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE AD-HOC COMMITTEE RE: THE SCOTTSDALE MATTER.
DECEMBER 21, 1992

On November 15, 1992, the Rev. Robert McMiller issued a response to the Ad Hoc Committee's October 21 report. The Committee has reviewed this response, and has found it to be unsupported by the evidence and documents at hand. The Committee therefore stands by and re-affirms its initial report.

At an October 16th meeting of the Voters' Assembly of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church five members who had previously been placed under discipline were removed from the membership roll of the congregation by the adoption of the following motion:

WHEREAS, MESSRS. A. T. BLISS, RICHARD BREKKEN, ROBERT BURGESS, BERT SONGSTAD, AND ROBERT STOHLMAN for the past five and one half months have not participated in the worship life of Christ the Cornerstone, nor in any fashion supported the work and ministry of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation; and in addition, by their verbal communications with the congregation have stated that they do not wish to worship or work with the pastor or members of our congregation, and have manifestly walked away from all of the required responsibilities of membership,

THEREFORE, I move that, in accord with their words and actions, these five men named above, be removed from the membership roll of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation on the basis of I John 2:19; "They went out from us but were not of us; for if they had been of us they would have continued with us: but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us."

On October 18, 1992, following their October 16th removal from membership, Messrs. Robert Stohlman, Bert Songstad, Robert Burgess, Richard Brekken and A. T. Bliss formally appealed to the Rev. George Orwick, the President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, to determine the validity of their having been placed under church discipline and their removal from membership in Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church.

The Committee has reviewed their appeal and the circumstances surrounding both the imposition of discipline against them and their subsequent removal from membership and has found the following:

1. In the charges made against the five men by Rev. McMiller and the congregation, no specific sin was clearly specified nor substantiated.
2. There is no clear evidence that proper Scriptural procedures were followed in dealing with the five men so charged, in that apparently neither personal nor corporate admonition was carried out other than the issuance of Rev. McMiller's June 30th letter of discipline, and subsequent letters summoning the five to appear before the Voters' Assembly. (Congregation's constitution Article IV Par. 1 says "If any member [including the pastor or officers] of this congregation leads an offensive life, no one shall bring before the congregation a complaint against said member unless he has personally admonished him in Christian love, as outlined by the Scriptures cited above in this article.")
3. The imposition of discipline against the five members was not brought before the Board of Elders as required in the congregation's By-laws, (Article IV, Par. A, Sec. g.)
4. The discipline process was improperly resolved. Such discipline, according to Scripture, requires that the final result be either a lift-

ing of the discipline itself or that it be carried through to excommunication. In the Scottsdale case neither was done making the entire process improper. (Matthew 18:15-17, I Cor. 5:5)

In light of its previous report and the above findings, and with brotherly and Christian concern for the spiritual welfare of Pastor McMiller and the members of the Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church, the Committee recommends that:

1. The Rev. Robert McMiller be immediately suspended from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
2. Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church, of Scottsdale, Arizona, as currently constituted be suspended from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.
3. That these suspensions be in force until the discipline instituted against Robert Stohlman, Bert Songstad, Robert Burgess, Richard Brekken, and A. T. Bliss is withdrawn and they are restored to full membership in Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church.

Furthermore, in order to bring about a peaceful and God-pleasing resolution to this entire matter, the Committee recommends that Rev. Robert McMiller and Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church should be urged to meet with the Ad Hoc Committee at a mutually agreeable time and place to continue to discuss all pertinent matters and seek to resolve them in a scriptural and Christian manner.

Please note that the synod is *not* overturning the action of discipline and dismissal of the congregation. It is judging whether the process used was in accordance with God's Word. It came to the conclusion that the action was unscriptural and therefore not to be tolerated. This determination of the committee is in accordance with the by-laws of the synod which read, "Chapter III, c) be watchful concerning purity and unity of doctrine (Ephesians 4:3-16; I Corinthians 1:10 by studying doctrinal questions which are in special need of study and discussion, trying the spirits (I John 4:1), and warning against encroaching sects, as well as against errors and unchristian trends (I Timothy 4:1-6), in accordance with the Holy Scriptures."

Your suspension from membership in the synod is in effect until that action is withdrawn. The committee continues to urge you to come together with it for a joint meeting so that the entire matter may be discussed. It deeply regrets the fact that you have continually refused to meet. It would seem to me that if you are convinced that your cause is just you would earnestly welcome such a meeting.

After studying the documents relating to the suspension of the five members and their subsequent dismissal from the congregation the committee came to the conviction that such an unscriptural action could not be allowed to stand. It therefore recommended that both pastor and congregation be suspended from membership in the synod. I concur with their recommendation and herewith inform you of the suspension.

I deeply regret the harm that has been done to our synod and the division that has been caused. Suspension means that you lose the right to speak and vote at our synod convention and that you are not to commune at our altars since you are no longer in fellowship with our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. This entire matter will be reported to the annual convention of our synod in June.

If you would rescind the action taken against the five men and restore them to membership the suspension would be lifted. The door would then be open towards the resolution of other matters that have stood between us. You could then be reinstated as members of our synod. If you disagree with the recommendation of the committee and of my action you may appeal the case to the next convention of our church body. The whole matter is also on the agenda of the

General Pastoral Conference which meets January 5-7. At the conference the committee will report and answer questions. The conference may also grant you the right to speak if you so desire.

Please be assured that I am willing to do whatever I can to help resolve this sad situation. I would hope that we could all proceed according to the Apostle's word, "with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." (Eph. 4:2-3) If you have a desire to work towards such a goal I invite you to contact me. We could, perhaps, begin a process that would lead towards the healing of this wound.

Sincerely in Christ,
George M. Orvick
GMO:ma

Document #11

ADDENDUM

There may be questions in the minds of some of our pastors concerning the relationship of the synod and the congregations. I will try to provide a few answers here which may clarify some of them.

1. Does the synod have the right to enter into a congregation and depose a properly called pastor?

Answer: No. Only the original calling body has the right to terminate the call. "The right to dismiss a pastor belongs only to the congregation having the right to call." (Preus, *Vivacious Daughter*, p. 53)

2. What about a situation where the pastor is called by both a Board of the Synod and a congregation.

Answer: Here the right to terminate belongs to both bodies. The termination of such a call should be done by means of consultation and agreement between the two bodies.

3. Does the synod have the right to enter into a congregation to overrule an official act of the congregation?

Answer: No. The synod may give advice to the congregation. "With relation to the several congregations, the above mentioned conventions are but advisory assemblies." (ELS By-laws, Chapter 5, par. 3)

4. Does the synod have the right to overturn an excommunication or disciplinary proceedings of a congregation?

Answer: No. "In contrast the president, unlike the bishops of the state church, has nothing to do with the exercise of church discipline." (*Vivacious Daughter*, p. 42.)

5. But what if the disciplined or excommunicated members feel that they have been dealt with in an unscriptural manner?

Answer: They may appeal their case to the synod. The synod exists for the protection of pastors and lay people alike.

6. What is to be done with their appeal?

Answer: The synod shall judge whether the action of the congregation was in accordance with Scripture. If it was, the members shall be informed that their appeal was denied. If the action of the congregation was not in accordance with Scripture, the appeal shall be upheld. The congregation shall then be informed that it has acted contrary to the Word of God. The Word of God must rule and not the pastor or the congregation or the synod. If the congregation refuses to acknowledge that the Word of God has been violated it may be suspended from the synod.

7. Does the synod president have the right to appoint committees to assist in carrying out his functions under the constitution?

Answer: Obviously the president may appoint committees where necessary to assist in carrying out the duties prescribed by the constitution such as supervising doctrine and practice and mediating in controversies as well as other committees necessary to promote the interests of the synod. (Cf. also WELS and LCMS handbooks) Historically in the ELS such committees have been appointed from time to time.

8. Does the president have the power to suspend a pastor or congregation from membership in the synod?

Answer: Yes. "In special and urgent cases the president shall exercise the power of suspension from synodical membership." (*Handbook, Guidelines For Synodical Discipline*, E. p. 52.)

9. What does such suspension mean?

Answer: It means that the pastor and/or congregation is no longer a member of the synod, thus losing the right to speak and vote at conventions and to commune at our altars.

10. What shall a pastor or congregation do under such circumstances?

Answer: They may, if they so desire, do one of the following:

- a. rescind the action which led to their suspension, in which case they would be reinstated.
- b. appeal to the convention for a ruling on the suspension.

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 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,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Rev. David Meyer, pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Ames, Iowa be received into permanent membership in The Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Rev. Alexander Ring, assistant pastor of Parkland Lutheran Church, Tacoma, Washington be received into permanent membership in The Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution No. 2: Membership Application of Pastor

WHEREAS, The Colloquy Committee of The Evangelical Lutheran Synod has approved the following pastor for synodical membership, and,

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Rev. Karl Anderson, pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church of The Dalles, Oregon be received into permanent membership in The Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution No. 3: Permanent Advisory Membership

Application of Pastor

WHEREAS, The Rev. Arthur E. Schmitt, retired pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Escondido, California has applied for permanent advisory membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

WHEREAS, The Rev. Schmitt has been found to be in doctrinal agreement with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Rev. Arthur E. Schmitt be received into permanent advisory membership in The Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution No. 4: Membership Application of Congregation

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church, South Lakeland, Florida be received into membership in The Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND REPORT ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Anniversary Celebration

WHEREAS, The ELS is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year, and,

WHEREAS, The president's message has again reminded us of the rich spiritual heritage that has been handed down to us by our Spiritual forefathers,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks and praises the Lord for these blessings which He has so graciously bestowed upon us and prays that He gives us the strength, ability and zeal to pass them on to others.

Resolution No. 2: President's Activities

WHEREAS, President Orvick has performed the duties of his office faithfully,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks him for his dedicated service, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod prays that the Lord will grant President Orvick continued health and blessing in his work.

Resolution No. 3: President's Message and Report

BE IT RESOLVED, That the president's message and report be printed in the 1993 Synod Report.

**ESSAY DELIVERED TO THE
76TH ANNUAL SYNOD CONVENTION
COMMEMORATING
THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD**

**OUR GREAT
HERITAGE**



The Rev. Wilhelm Walther Petersen
President, Bethany Lutheran
Theological Seminary

We are gathered here at our annual synodical convention to celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the reorganization of our synod. By "celebrate" we mean that we rejoice over and give thanks to our gracious God for the precious heritage which has been handed down to us. It is a time to reflect on the blessings of the past and project into the future as we continue to treasure, defend and spread what we have received.

The heritage which has been bequeathed to us can be summed up in two inscriptions on the tombstone of Dr. U. V. Koren, a theological leader of the old Norwegian Synod. Those inscriptions are gepraptai, a Greek word which means "it is written" and "alt av naade" a Norwegian expression which means "all by grace." These two inscriptions summarize what Dr. Koren wrote in an article in 1890 entitled "What the Norwegian Synod has Wanted and Still Wants" where he writes of the two main pillars of truth, namely the two fundamental principles upon which our teachings are based, the first one being that "Holy Scripture is the only sure and perfect rule of our faith and life" and the second is

"the great truth that Jesus Christ is the way to salvation for all believing souls"; in other words, that a man is justified and saved for Christ's sake by faith alone without the works of the Law." (*F O F*, p. 50).

Koren goes on to say: "These were the truths which founded the Lutheran Reformation, and where the Lutheran Church has remained true to its mission, it was by faithful adherence to these principles. For it is these principles which keep us from becoming as reeds swayed hither and thither by the many changing winds of doctrine. These alone lay the true and firm foundation for a right conversion and a sincere repentance. These alone preserve us from every temptation to labor for the Kingdom of God by new inventions, self-chosen worship and ecclesiastico-political schemes. These truths alone establish the heart and make the conscience clear and at the same time teach a man to work out his own salvation with fear and trembling and to have the assurance of faith regarding eternal salvation. These were the truths which were our light in the days when zeal and activity were most marked in the Norwegian Synod, and it was these truths for which we contended." (*F O F*, p. 50).

Commenting on these two principles as the mighty pillars of our teaching Dr. S. C. Ylvisaker, a theological leader in the reorganized Synod, in a tribute to Dr. Koren, writes: "Where the Bible is recognized as the inspired Word of God and the sole norm of faith life, there man with his own opinion and logic and reason cannot play the master. There pride must go. There doubtings and questionings and fears must give place to the sure promises of the clear Word" and again "where the second principle of the Reformation, the justification of a sinner before God by grace through faith, is permitted to stand, there, too, pride must go. There all boasting must cease. There fear gives way to peace, despair to hope, and sadness to joy. There the false comfort of a salvation through works or good conduct or prayers or any effort that is of man is banished before the shining brightness of the eternal message from the Cross of the gracious forgiveness of sin, all sins, through the all-sufficient merit of Christ." (*F O F*, p. 40-41)

This, then, is our great heritage. It is a heritage of "grace and truth," a heritage whose "truth endures to all generations." (*Ps. 100:5*) A hymn which we cherish in our midst well expresses what this blessed heritage is and what it entails, namely *God's Word Is Our Great Heritage*. Let us focus on Our Great Heritage pointing out that it is a heritage received, it is a heritage to preserve, and a heritage to share.

I. A Heritage Received **"GOD'S WORD IS OUR GREAT HERITAGE AND** **SHALL BE OURS FOREVER"**

October 5, 1853, and June 14, 1918, are two important dates in the history of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our synod was organized on October 5, 1853, at Luther Valley Church in Rock Prairie Settlement near Orfordville, Wisconsin. It was reorganized on June 14, 1918, at Lime Creek Lutheran Church, located about 60 miles southeast of here. The history of our synod is well documented in the following books: *Grace for Grace*, written in commemoration of the 90th anniversary of the old Norwegian Synod and the 25th anniversary of the reorganized Synod; *Faith of Our Fathers*, written in 1953 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the original Norwegian Synod and the thirty-fifth of the reorganized synod; *A City Set on a Hill*, a history of the reorganized synod from 1918-1968, written by Theodore A. Aaberg; and *Built On The Rock*, commemorating our seventy-fifth anniversary and co-authored by Pastor Herbert Larson and Professor Juul Madson.

Our Outward Roots

We will not appreciate our heritage unless we know something about our history. The outward roots of our synod go back to Norway. A summary of the religious situation in Norway is as follows: Paganism reigned in Norway until Christianity, in the form of Roman Catholicism, came to Norway about 1000 A.D. Lutheranism came to Norway via Denmark in the 1500s. Johannes Bugenhagen brought the Reformation from Wittenberg to Denmark. From there the Reformation spread to "the land of the midnight sun" where in due time it became the state religion.

The connection with Germany brought the following theological movements to Norway. First of all, *Orthodoxy*, the movement which characterized the church's development in the 17th century. It established the theology of the church of Norway on a solid foundation and built up a reverence for the Word among clergy and laity. Along with it went an emphasis on catechetical instruction. Orthodoxy, however, followed the pattern of German development. Eventually preaching became "stiffly correct in doctrinal content, but devoid of Gospel warmth" as it has been described. Christianity was intellectualized and Christian life became cold and sterile in large sections of the church. This set the stage for *Pietism*, which was considered by many to be the answer to "dead orthodoxy." Pietism stressed the importance of

personal piety at the expense of orthodox teaching. In all of this emphasis on a "living Christianity" as opposed to the insincerity, the corruption, and dead formalism of clergy and laity in the established State Church, the preaching by lay members came to be regarded more and more as a sign of true spirituality, while the means of grace and the divine office of the ministry were neglected and even despised.

Pietism was followed by *Rationalism*, where revelation gave way to reason. Rationalism pretty much ruled out the supernatural. Science, culture, and art became the main concern even of the clergy. U. V. Koren who would later become a confessional Lutheran theologian tells about his catechization for confirmation in these words: "At my confirmation I was instructed by an otherwise well-meaning rationalist pastor. I was asked what kind of blood was to be found in a fish. That it was 'red and cold' was to be considered a testimony to the wisdom of God. And then the next boy was called."

The strongest voice against rationalism in Norway was that of John Nordal Brun, Bishop of Bergen. He, in turn, was followed by Hans Nielsen Hauge, a layman who sought to combine Orthodoxy's reverence for the Word with a deep personal piety. Conditions in the State Church were horrible, with a clergy which had departed not only from the plain teachings of Scripture but from its moral precepts as well. Hauge's denunciation of sin and his call to repentance struck a responsive chord in the hearts of many. His ringing preaching of repentance "set the whole church on fire." In *Grace for Grace* Dr. S. C. Ylvisaker describes the situation in these words: "No one will deny that the deplorable conditions in the State Church of Norway at this time called with a loud voice for a revival of sound preaching and pious living. And we can only admire the layman Hauge, who in burning zeal undertook to do what he could in this emergency for the cause of Christ. He traveled to the far corners of Norway, trudging tirelessly over these vast and difficult miles on foot, to awaken his people to sincere repentance." Ylvisaker goes on to say, though, that "a closer study of Hauge's preaching will show a peculiar uncleanness whereby he mixed law and gospel, confused the teaching of justification with that of sanctification, and overemphasized personal piety at the expense of faith in the all-sufficient merit of Christ." (p. 7)

It was out of this theological morass in Norway that by the grace of God there came a new confessional Lutheran awakening led by two professors at the University of Christiania (now Oslo), namely Gisle Johnson and Paul Caspari. Their theology reflected the old healthy orthodoxy with the spiritual warmth of Hauge. Students of theology Herman Amberg Preus, Jacob Aal Otteson,

and Ulrik Vilhelm Koren, later to become theological leaders in the New World, received their theological training at the feet of these confessional theologians, and thus by God's grace preserved and perpetuated Our Great Heritage.

Migration To The New World

Norwegian Lutheranism was translated to American soil in the middle of the 19th century when the heavy immigration began. The two streams of religious thought which dominated Norway characterized Norwegian Lutheranism in America. There was the Haugean spirit of personal piety and lay activity on the one hand, and sound Biblical theology on the other hand, which the students of Caspari and Johnson brought to the New World.

The Haugean spirit of personal piety and lay activity was perpetuated by a lay preacher, Elling Eielsen, who came to America in 1839, five years before an ordained pastor arrived from Norway. Eielsen began his work among the immigrants. He pretty much had the field to himself and he made the most of it. Bjug Harstad in his booklet *Pioneer Days* quotes a friend of Elling as saying that "Eielsen knew of no parish boundaries." (p. 13) Harstad also describes Eielsen's ministry as follows: "His singleness of purpose was evidently only to preach revivalism." His theology is also reflected in the second paragraph of his constitution which reads, "According to the order and manner which the holy Scripture teaches, that nothing common or unclean can enter into the new Jerusalem (Rev. 21:27, etc.) so no one can be received as a member in our denomination (Samfund) without having gone through a sincere conversion, or is on the way to conversion. (emphasis mine) (*Pioneer Days*, p. 10)

President Herman Amberg Preus in his *Syv Foredrag* (Seven Lectures) which he delivered in Norway in 1867 describes the lay preacher as follows: "Eielsen's activities in the first period could have been justified, if he had taught pure, sound Lutheran doctrine. But it is his greatest sin that he never has done this but much rather has opposed and persecuted orthodox teachers and congregations." Instead "it was his desire to form a faction. He tried by errors, slanders to keep his followers from our Synod, yes, to make the gulf between us greater and greater. He sought continually to gain more followers by forcing himself into our congregations. For a long time he laid claim to an inner call; but later he found that it might be good for his work to have something to rely on. So he asserted that he was ordained. We do not attach much importance to whether Elling was ordained or not;

the principal thing to us is that he is a false teacher and the founder of an erroristic sect." (Quoted in *GFG*, p. 137)

Eielsen's activities led to a controversy on Lay Preaching in the Norwegian Synod. This issue was thoroughly discussed at pastoral conferences in which some "Missourians," including Dr. Walther, also took part. It was also discussed at two synodical conventions which resulted in the adoption of seven theses and this marked the end of the controversy on lay-preaching within the Norwegian Synod.

The Norwegian Synod was involved in several other controversies, in fact it had to deal with one doctrinal problem before it was formally organized in 1853, namely the "Grundtvigian error" which had been smuggled into the first draft of the constitution that had been prepared in 1852, one year before its organization. This error was attributed to Nicolai Grundtvig, the Danish hymnwriter, who wrote the hymn upon which our essay is based, "God's Word is Our Great Heritage." He also wrote several other hymns which are included in the *Hymnary* and *Hymnal*. Pastor Larson in *Built On The Rock* observes that "his theology was not always as good as his hymns" and then goes on to describe his theological error as "modern theology which began making inroads into the teachings of the church of Norway early in the 1800s. It included the belief that the Apostle's Creed was of divine origin in the same way that the Holy Scriptures are. Antigrundtvigians in America charged Grundtvig's followers with teaching such things as the possibility of the conversion of the soul after death and with rejecting the infallibility of the Bible, views which Grundtvigian clergy men did not deny having. The doctrinal paragraph, and therefore one of the unalterable articles of that first synod's constitution was Grundtvigian. It placed the word 'in our baptismal covenant' on equal footing with the inspired Scriptures." (*Built On The Rock*, pp. 7-8) It was Herman Amberg Preus who made the motion to strike the words "in our baptismal covenant" from the constitution and since it was one of the unalterable articles the first synod dissolved itself and a new constitution was written which did not include the Grundtvigian error. This constitution was adopted at the constituting convention in 1853.

The fact that this error was detected and subsequently purged from the constitution shows how earnestly our synodical fathers were in upholding the Lutheran, Scriptural principle in making the Scriptures the only source, rule, and guide for faith and life. President Preus, reflecting on this, said that "this strict adherence of the Synod to the Scripture principle soon brought it into conflict with pseudo-Lutheran bodies which, indeed, formally confessed the same principle but did not in practice take the

matter of carrying it out seriously. But thereby it also received grace from God to abide by the truth revealed by God, not only in the controversies about Lay Preaching, Slavery, and the Sunday, but especially in the controversy about the Gospel, Absolution, and Justification." (*GFG*, p. 201)

For a summary of these controversies we direct your attention to the anniversary book *Built On The Rock*, pages 29-32. But we would like to comment briefly on the controversies on Absolution, and the Gospel and Justification which get to the very heart of our Christian faith. These controversies can be traced to Pietism, for Pietism with its emphasis on subjectivism explains why controversies arose on these fundamental doctrines. The Synod taught an unconditional absolution, that is, it is not conditioned on man's faith; whereas the opponents taught just the opposite. While both agreed as to the effects of absolution, namely that only believers received the forgiveness of sins by it, yet they disagreed over the essence or nature of absolution. This controversy led to differences over the question: What is the Gospel? The opponents made the Gospel conditioned on man's faith in such a way "that without faith there was in reality no Gospel either—as if without the seeing eye there could be no sun," as our fathers expressed it. (*GFG*, p. 161)

The Synod drew up twelve theses in which it sought to clarify its position on these controverted doctrines. We would share two of these theses with you, namely theses 7 and 11.

Theses 7 reads:

The Gospel is not a mere historical account of the completed work of redemption, but much more a powerful declaration of peace and promise of grace by God to the world redeemed by Christ. Thus it is always a powerful means of grace, in which God on His part brings, offers, distributes, gives and presents the forgiveness of sins and the righteousness earned by Christ, although not all to whom God lets His earnest call of grace go out accept this invitation of the reconciled God and thus do not either become partakers of the benefits following with it. (*GFG*, p. 161)

Theses 11 reads:

The faith of the individual does not by its own power effect this that the Gospel promise of grace, which God expressed in the word of the Gospel or in Absolution, actually becomes valid, powerful and true; but it clings simply to the promise of grace and forgiveness as a divinely true and effective promise, and in that it thus accepts God's promise, it grasps therein also the gift of righteousness and salvation and possesses that which the words say and express." (*Ibid.* p. 163)

In brief, the Gospel is always the same whether a person believes it or not. Luther used this illustration: "A king gives you a castle; if you do not accept it, then it is not the king's fault, nor is he guilty of a lie. But you have deceived yourself and the fault is yours. The king certainly gave it to you." (*LW* 40, p. 367)

Similarly God has declared us forgiven, whether we believe it or not. However, this forgiveness does not benefit one unless he believes it.

It is not strange, then, that those who emphasize man's faith at the expense of the objective reality of Christ's Gospel and his words of justification should go astray in the doctrines of Election and Conversion, so as to give man's faith there also an entirely unscriptural importance.

Election-Conversion Controversy

First of all let us briefly explain the doctrine of eternal election or predestination. We will describe it as follows: The life of a Christian begins long before he was born; it goes back to eternity, before time began, when God out of pure grace, chose him to be his child, yes, he elected him unto faith and then in time brought him to faith by the power of the Gospel. The doctrine of election is brought out in passages, such as I Timothy 1:9 where the Apostle Paul writes to Timothy: "Who (God) hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began." Acts 13:48 says, "As many as were ordained to eternal life believed," and Jesus says, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you." (John 15:16) There are many other clear passages of Scripture which teach the doctrine of election, such as Ephesians 1:37; II Thessalonians 2:13; John 10:27-28; Matthew 24:21-24; and Romans 8:28-30.

About 30 years after its organization a controversy broke out over this doctrine, which also affected the doctrine of conversion. This controversy began as a result of an essay delivered by Dr. C. F. W. Walther to the 1883 convention of the Western District of the Missouri Synod. In this paper Walther emphasized the Scriptural truth that our election unto faith is due to God's grace alone and that man has nothing to do with it. Walther gave all glory to God.

A man by the name of Fredrick August Schmidt who had been raised in the Missouri Synod and had been confirmed by Walther and studied under him, but who was now teaching at the Norwegian Synod Seminary, attacked Walther's essay and went so far as to call him a Calvinist. Schmidt went public with his views in the Synod, and stirred up all kinds of trouble, charging Walther and his followers with heresies. Finally, the Church Council of the Norwegian Synod in a pamphlet listed the errors which Schmidt claimed the Missouri Synod and Norwegian Synod sympathizers taught. Schmidt responded by calling upon the people to help him rid the church of "un-Lutheran errorists"

that controlled the Norwegian Synod as well as the Missouri Synod. He didn't have much success with the Missouri Synod, but in the Norwegian Synod civil war broke out. Brother was pitted against brother—congregations were divided, one party locking church doors against the other—communities were torn—pastors were deposed and lawsuits filed. Schmidt stirred up the student body at the seminary; his colleagues H. G. Stub and Johannes Ylvisaker answered him in their lectures. Theodore Aaberg summed up the point of controversy as follows: "The Synod's pastors put faith *after* election, bestowed upon the individual as a *result* of his election. Prof. Schmidt put faith *before* election, making it the *cause* of the individual's election." (*C S H*, p. 27)

The Synod pastors began to discuss the problem at conferences. B. Muus, president of the Minnesota District, in his report to the convention in 1880 went out of his way to attach the doctrine that a man may and shall be certain of his salvation. At the General Pastoral Conference of the Synod in Decorah, Iowa, in January 1881 Dr. Koren responded with an essay, entitled, "Can and Should a Christian be Certain of His Salvation?" Some time later Schmidt responded with a pamphlet in which he stated why he had started this controversy. In December of that year (1881) six pastors of the Synod published a "Declaration" in the church paper repudiating his accusations. In January 1882 Schmidt published a Norwegian paper in which he continued his attacks upon the Missouri Synod and Norwegian Synod sympathizers. At the Synodical Conference in October Schmidt, who had been elected as a delegate from the Minnesota District, was denied a seat because of false charges against the brethren. The resolution said "that we can no longer recognize Prof. Schmidt as our brother in Christ and grant him a seat and voice in this group, so long as he does not penitently recognize these his sins and make public apology." (*C S H*, p. 31)

This aroused a storm in the "anti-Missouri Camp," as it was called. Civil war had broken out. Schmidt was even instrumental in deposing President H. A. Preus and his son from their congregation at Norway Grove on Good Friday 1883. Incredible, yet true! The Synod president bodily carried out of his own church! Bjug Harstad describes this sad event in these words: "The world's greatest and saddest tragedy, perpetrated on Good Friday by the enemies of the truth, is here reflected. Norway Grove congregation, too, chose the passion season in which to depose of its spiritual advisors. They were condemned and deposed, after having been given a sham trial." (*Pioneer Days*, p. 45)

In the fall of 1884 the Synod pastors met in Decorah. Here they discussed a thorough statement of the doctrines at issue prepared by Dr. Koren entitled "En Redegjørelse" which translated means "An Accounting." This was an important document which presented the teachings of the Norwegian Synod clearly and summed up all the arguments on both sides. It rejected both the Calvinizing errors of which the Synod had been falsely accused and synergistic errors of Schmidt and his followers.

"An Accounting" is found on pages 173-188 in *Grace for Grace* and it is summarized in *A City Set on a Hill* by Theodore Aaberg on pages 33-37. Permit me to share with you the introduction of "An Accounting":

It is well known to you that we now for several years have been attacked and accused of teaching false doctrines regarding election or the election of grace. Our teaching has been called Calvinistic. The teachings with which we have been charged are of two kinds: some, which we have never believed and never taught; these we have publicly repudiated, but we have continued to be accused of them anyway; others, which we actually have taught, because they are expressly taught in God's Word and confessed by the Lutheran Church in its public confessions. Therefore we cling to these in spite of all attacks. We do not accept as our own a single doctrine which is not clearly based on the Word of God and which cannot be shown to be in the Confessions of the Lutheran Church. We owe our congregations an accounting for what we teach and confess; and although we dare to believe that our hearers both know our testimony and will judge it by what they hear of us and not by what others say, we have still considered it our duty to present to you now this our common complete accounting, in which we hope no essential question that concerned the disputed doctrines has been unanswered. We present this accounting to you, then, in the name of the Lord, for testing by the Word of God (*G F G*, p. 173)

"An Accounting" was in part directed against Schmidt who taught that "salvation in a certain sense does not depend on God alone." In answer he stated: "I believe and teach now that it is not synergistic error, but a clear teaching of God's Word and our Lutheran Confessions that 'salvation in a certain sense does not depend on God alone.'" In what sense he claimed that salvation depends on man is brought out in these statements which appeared in his periodical: *Lutherske Vidnesbyrd*

When only one of two ungodly men is converted, there must have been a difference in their resistance; for, if not, they would both have been converted.

Whether a man comes to a determination in the one way or in the other, he always keeps his full freedom and his own power of choice to come to some other determination. All have their free, personal, independent choice between two usable possibilities: either to follow the drawing of grace or to resist it.

It is the called person himself who here must make a certain choice between the two possibilities, whereby it is decided whether he will him-

self be helped and saved or he will refuse to let himself be helped. (Quoted in *G F G*, pp. 172-173)

The Synod responded in its church paper *Kirketidende*: "He (Schmidt) does not bring any proof from God's Word or the Lutheran Confessions; on the contrary, he applies his customary rationalistic logic and argues that if salvation depends on God alone, then condemnation must also depend on God alone, and so his grace must be irresistible. Since it is truly ungodly to teach an irresistible grace and to give God the blame for the condemnation of the lost, therefore it is said to be an ungodly doctrine also to assert that, when a man is saved, this is the work of God alone. For what do we mean when we say that salvation depends on God alone? We mean that it is God alone who effects a man's salvation and that he who is saved has God alone and not in the slightest respect himself to thank for it. Prof. Schmidt now condemns this as an ungodly doctrine.

The die was cast. Schmidt's followers held a meeting on October 1885, in Red Wing, Minnesota. At this meeting they passed a resolution stating that all pastors who had signed the "Accounting" should be removed from office. This meant that Ejug Harstad, now president of the Minnesota District, and Dr. Koren, president of the Iowa District must go, as well as H. G Stub and Johannes Ylvisaker, professors at the seminary.

The district conventions of the Synod devoted much time to a discussion of the doctrine at issue. In 1887 Dr. Koren delivered an essay entitled "Does the Confession of the Lutheran Church Teach That Any Man before his Conversion has the Ability to Decide in Favor of Grace? Our answer is 'NO'." The conventions also had to decide what to do about the seminary which the "Anti-Missourians" had opened in Northfield. The answer from them was that as long as the Missourian doctrine of Election and Conversion is taught at the Synod's schools they could not consider closing. This marked the final break between the two factions. In the next year and a half about one-third of the pastors and congregations of the Synod withdrew and formed their own church body named "Anti-Missourian Brotherhood." This group joined hands with two other groups, also opponents of the Synod, namely the Norwegian-Danish Conference and the Norwegian Augustana Synod and formed the United Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church, commonly called the United Church. It was really their common hatred of the Norwegian Synod that brought them together. It is ironic that Schmidt, while he was in the Synod, was a leader in the controversies on Absolution, the Gospel and Justification over against these very church bodies with whom he now joined in a fraternal brotherhood, even though the doctrinal differences remained. Professor Laur

Larson in an address to the Synod on its fiftieth anniversary summed it up as follows: "But when the great split came in our Synod, then there came agreement between the others, an agreement to unite in spite of their disagreements, an agreement not to settle the old doctrinal controversies thoroughly and earnestly according to God's Word, but to bury them twenty fathoms deep under the ground." (*G F G*, p. 190) Whoever said that politics and religion make strange bed-fellows certainly described this situation. How often Herod and Pilate become friends in church controversies and personal squabbling!

Now the Norwegian Synod was left with but a minority of the Norwegian Lutherans in America, but it had saved the Gospel of salvation by grace alone, and on our 75th anniversary observance we thank God for this heritage. The whole controversy can be summed up as follows: Schmidt tried to explain the mystery why one is saved and the other lost, but God desires the salvation of all with equal earnestness. He attempted to solve that mystery by claiming that some men manifested a better conduct over towards grace than others in that they ceased to offer willful resistance to it and by ascribing to unconverted man the responsibility for choosing between accepting the grace offered them by God or rejecting it. He said that there is no other solution of the mystery than the Calvinistic one which explains everything by referring both the salvation and damnation of men to God's eternal decree of election. Schmidt never changed his position.

The Synod, on the other hand, rejected both the synergistic and Calvinistic answers to the question why one is saved and the other lost. The Synod simply said with the Bible, that a man's salvation is to be ascribed to God alone, that man has no power at any time to choose salvation, but it is God who chooses. A man's condemnation is the fault of man alone and that God in no way is to be blamed, since he with equal earnestness desires the salvation of all. The attempt to solve this mystery makes one a Calvinist or a synergist.

By the time the Synod celebrated its fiftieth anniversary it had pretty well recouped the numerical losses. Large mission fields opened in Northern Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and the Pacific Coast. Home mission work was also done in some of our larger cities.

An Attempt For Reunion

In 1905 H. G. Stub was elected vice president of the Synod. Koren succeeded H. A. Preus as president in 1894 and now in 1905 Stub was elected vice-president. That same year the Hauge

Synod extended an invitation to the Norwegian Synod and the United Church to enter into joint doctrinal discussions. Several meetings of the committees were held but they failed to come to agreement, particularly on the doctrine of election and conversion. Because of illness, President Koren was unable to attend the 1910 district conventions. Vice-President Stub, in reading Koren's presidential message to the convention, omitted a significant paragraph dealing with the union question. In his message Koren reported that he was of the conviction that no progress had been made in the union discussions. The fact that some theses had been drawn up did not assure Koren that there was agreement. What Stub deliberately withheld were these words: "If only insignificant things were at stake, then it would not be right to separate; but when the question is raised whether God alone is our Savior, then we cannot be too careful. Perhaps the necessary antitheses may yet be submitted. If agreement concerning such things could be attained, then there would be real rejoicing." (*G F G*, p. 98) Dr. Koren died later that year. Vice-President Stub now became President Stub. This was a bad omen for the Synod's future.

In 1911 the United Church elected a new committee. The Norwegian Synod followed suit. These committees met in St. Paul of that year. Papers were read which revealed widespread disagreement. Sub-committees of two from each committee were appointed to prepare some theses. The sub-committees reported to the plenary committee in Madison, Wisconsin, in February of 1912. And, lo and behold! agreement was reached. A document known as *Opgjør* which means *Settlement* was drawn up. Many pastors and lay people objected. President Stub defended it. The Minnesota District accepted it. In 1913 the Synod called a general convention. President Stub promoted the Settlement. A minority group was organized. All efforts to stop the steamroller failed. The report of the Union Committee passed by a vote of 360-170. In 1916 another convention was held. Efforts to forestall the merger failed. By a vote of 520-203 the Synod accepted the proposed constitution of the new merger. All efforts on the part of the minority failed. A committee of the Minority published a pamphlet which for the most part fell on deaf ears. Minority pastors and laity now found the situation to be intolerable. A meeting was held at Austin, Minnesota, where the so-called "Austin Agreement" was drawn up. At that meeting representatives of the majority invited the minority to join on the basis of their own doctrine, that is Synod doctrine, but with the condition that there be "mutual fraternal recognition." A majority of the minority took the bait. They agreed to go into the merger.

The last conventions of the three merging churches were held in 1917. Resolutions were passed to make the legal transfer of property possible. Officers were elected. Members of the newly-merged church marched in jubilant procession to the auditorium where the union exercises were held. This marked the end of the old Norwegian Synod. ICHABOD, which means “its glory is departed.”

What was the reason for the objection of the minority that refused to enter the merger? It was their conviction that the union document did not settle the controversies raised by Schmidt in the 1880s. The merger document was a compromise; it allowed both views to stand. One could hold the Synod’s view that man’s conversion is due entirely to God’s grace alone, or to the other view that there is something in man that is partly responsible for his conversion.

Paragraph one of the SETTLEMENT allows for two forms of election and paragraph four ascribes to natural man a sense or feeling of responsibility in relation to the acceptance or rejection of grace. (cf. Wolf, *Documents of Lutheran Unity in America*, pp. 232-234) However, the Bible teaches that natural man is “dead in trespasses and sins.” (Eph. 2:1) “The Settlement” in paragraph four teaches synergism, Prof. Schmidt’s old error, and contradicts the truth taught in the Small Catechism, prepared for children, namely the explanation of the Third Article: “I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith.” We have also learned to sing:

“All our knowledge, sense and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded,
Till Thy Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded
Thou alone to God canst win us,
Thou must work all good within us.

Hymnary 34, v. 2

“The Settlement” is, in brief, a unionistic document, containing both true and false doctrine. The newly-merged church was a heterodox church body, allowing truth and error to co-exist. In obedience to Romans 16:17 which forbids fellowship with those who teach, or allow, false doctrine to be taught and following the Lutheran Confessions which state that “false doctrine cannot be tolerated in the church of God, much less be excused and defended,” (Tappert, p. 503) the minority could not, for conscience sake, enter this merger. (For an analysis of “The Settlement” see *C S H* by Aaberg, pp. 49-70)

While the hoopla of the new merger was going on in the St. Paul Auditorium, a small group of pastors and laymen sitting in

the Aberdeen Hotel in that same city was left alone to deliberate on the question of what to do in the future. All were agreed that they could not, for conscience sake, join the Merger and so the following declaration was agreed upon:

1. We cannot for conscience sake join the new church body on the present basis.

2. We continue to stand on the old confession and organization, which we as Christians have the liberty to defend and under which we may work from now on as heretofore.

It was resolved to effect a temporary organization, to elect officers, and to arrange for publication of a church paper. The name chosen for the paper was *Lutherske Tidende*. In the issue of that paper dated April 1, 1918, the following announcement was printed:

"Pastors and members of congregations who desire to continue in the old doctrine and practice of the old Norwegian Synod will, God willing, hold their annual meeting in Lime Creek congregation, Pastor H. Ingebritson's charge, June 14 and following days."

This minority was the true spiritual successor of the old Norwegian Synod and thus possessed the doctrinal heritage which the old Synod had compromised for the sake of external union. The minority was determined to continue in "the old paths where is the good way" for only in those paths could they find rest for their souls (Cf. Jeremiah 6:16)

II. A Heritage to Preserve

"Lord grant while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations."

When the Synod reorganized in 1918 it did not entertain grandiose illusions that from now on there would only be peace and harmony. No, our synodical fathers realized that they were still in the church militant and that Satan was alive and well and that he would continue to attack God's truth and foment unrest and disunity. But for the time being the Lord granted our Synod some time to rebuild and chart its course.

The "little Synod," as it was commonly referred to, was not alone in the world. It had brethren in the Synodical Conference, consisting of the Missouri, Wisconsin and Slovak synods. The Norwegian Synod was a charter member of the Synodical Conference when it was organized in 1872, but then left it in 1883, not for doctrinal reasons, but because it hoped to settle the Election-Conversion Controversy by itself, without involving the entire Synodical Conference. However, the old Synod remained

in fellowship with the Synodical Conference and now after the merger the reorganized Synod rejoined it.

Because of historical ties there was a special bond between the Missouri Synod and the reorganized Synod. The old Norwegian Synod had sent its ministerial students to St. Louis and also supplied a professor until it established its own seminary in 1876. Dr. Walther came to the defense of the old Synod in the Election Controversy. There was also a close bond of fellowship among the leaders of the synods. And now after the Merger, Missouri again opened her schools to the reorganized Synod for the training of its pastors. The Synod continued to enjoy its fellowship with the Missouri Synod, and in our anniversary year we count among our blessings the fellowship that we enjoyed with her those years.

But time moves on. Who would have thought that some years down the road there would be a disruption of the fellowship between the two synods! But that is what happened in the year 1955. What caused this rupture? It didn't happen overnight but evolved over a twenty-year span from 1935-1955. We will briefly summarize what transpired those years which led to a severance of fellowship.

The first noticeable rift appeared in the peaceful fraternal relations with Missouri in 1935 when Missouri accepted an invitation from the American Lutheran Church to enter into doctrinal discussions, with a view to establishing fellowship. Our Synod declined this invitation and responded with a document entitled Unity, Union, and Unionism, which set forth principles that must guide us in seeking to effect fellowship. Then in 1938, three years later, the St. Louis Articles of Union were drawn up and accepted as the doctrinal basis for union with the A.L.C. The Synod could not approve of these Articles because they contained the old error of the Iowa and Ohio synods on justification, namely "that God purposed to justify those who have come to faith," and also unscriptural principles on church fellowship by the A.L.C. In 1944 at the Saginaw convention of the Missouri Synod it adopted a resolution which attempted to draw a distinction between "joint prayer" and "prayer fellowship," something which Missouri had not made in the past. Our Synod protested this resolution on the grounds that this distinction cannot be supported on the basis of Scripture and that it opens the door to further unionistic practices. The answer of the Missouri Synod to such protests was the reaffirmation of its 1944 resolution.

In 1945 the Chicago Statement appeared, signed by forty-four Missouri Synod pastors and professors. This was a document which further weakened the bulwarks against unionism and laid down unscriptural principles of church fellowship. Then came

the agreement with the National Lutheran Council, a federation of liberal and heterodox Lutheran synods, by which Missouri entered into joint work with these erroristic groups. This was contrary to all the principles of the Synodical Conference and the "old" Missouri Synod. To these acts of unionism, as well as other instances, the Synod had protested, but to no avail. Then in 1950 came the Common Confession which was purported to be a settlement of past differences between the Missouri Synod and the A.L.C. Our Synod found it to be a document of compromise which did not settle the differences and therefore was inadequate as a settlement of past doctrinal differences as a basis for union.

Finally, at the convention of the Synodical Conference in 1954 the Synod sent a plea to that body as a court of last appeal, to take some action to remedy these offenses. Briefly the Synod asked the Synodical Conference to vote on five resolutions dealing with Objective Justification, Unionism, Prayer Fellowship, the "1938" Resolutions and the Common Confession. However, this proved fruitless. The Synod, therefore, felt that further negotiations by committees would be fruitless, that an impasse had been reached in our fraternal relations with the Missouri Synod, and that further negotiations would result in indifferentism and in compromise of Scriptural doctrine and practice.

At this point, the Synod said, we can only say that we have testified to the Missouri Synod as best we know how and have tried in many ways for many years to preserve the unity in confession and practice which we enjoyed with her for so many years. In the paragraph leading up to the suspension resolution the Synod said: "The time has come when we must testify by action against the unionism which has become so common in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in recent years. To continue the arguments by word and pen will be more likely to further aggravate than to resolve our difference." The suspension resolution, then, reads as follows:

THEREFORE WE HEREBY DECLARE with deepest regret that fellowship relations with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are suspended on the basis of Romans 16:17, and that the exercise of such relations cannot be resumed until the offenses contrary to the doctrine which we have learned have been removed by them in a proper manner. (SR. 1955, p. 46)

While the Synod had severed fellowship with Missouri it was still a member of the Synodical Conference. This was an awkward situation in that the Synod had broken fellowship with Missouri, but was still in fellowship with the Wisconsin and Slovak synods. In fact, several pastors and congregations of the ELS and WELS left their respective synods in 1959, charging

them with sinful unionism for remaining in the Synodical Conference, and formed the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC). The Wisconsin Synod had also been protesting the errors of Missouri and severed fellowship in 1961. The Slovak Synod, in the meantime, was drawing closer to Missouri. On the basis of the report and recommendation of the ELS Doctrinal Committee and delegates to the 1962 Synodical Conference, the ELS resolved to withdraw its membership from the Synodical Conference at the next meeting in 1963. The Wisconsin Synod also withdrew in 1963.

The report of the ELS Doctrinal Committee leading up to the resolutions of withdrawal of membership from the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America stated that when the Conference was organized in 1872 it was a venture which was unique in the visible church. The organization was closely knit together, not by the merging of different bodies into one organic union, but by a genuine oneness in doctrine and spirit, while the member synods retained their sovereignty and preserved their individual heritage. Loosely knit, though it was, it became a bulwark for conservative Lutheranism that was a marvel throughout the Christian world. The report went on to speak of the close and warm relationship that existed between Missouri and ELS and that many benefits had been derived from this fellowship. However, a new spirit began to be discernible when Missouri entered into doctrinal discussion with the American Lutheran Church in 1935. At the same time it was noted that doctrinal discipline over against some errant pastors and theological leaders was on the wane . . . By 1955 it had become clear that there would be no veering from the more liberal course Missouri had embarked upon . . . Missouri contended for a position on fellowship which was entirely out of harmony with the historic stand of both the Missouri Synod and the Synodical Conference on this doctrine. At the same time it was evident that no disciplinary action was being taken against those in Missouri who spoke and acted in a manner that was contrary to her own clearly expressed principle of an earlier day . . . Since the Lutheran Synodical Conference was no longer an organization that expressed a unity of spirit, which was its main purpose and glory throughout its history, our Synod and Wisconsin presented separate memorials to the Synodical Conference's 1962 convention asking that said organization dissolve itself.

On the basis of this report from the Doctrine Committee the ELS passed the following resolution at its 1963 synodical convention:

RESOLVED that with the deepest regret, but in obedience to the divine injunction given in I Corinthians 1:10 ("Now I beseech you, brethren, by

the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment") and Romans 16:17 ("Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned and avoid them.") we solemnly declare the immediate withdrawal of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod from the Lutheran Synodical Conference." (SR 1963, p. 43)

Ironically, it was the Scriptural doctrine of fellowship, namely unity in doctrine and practice, that brought the Synodical Conference into existence and it was a departure from that Scriptural principle that brought about its demise.

The Wisconsin Synod proved to be a true brother during those trying years, fighting shoulder to shoulder with us over the same issues. And since the break-up of the Synodical Conference the two synods have been drawn closer together and have given expression to their fellowship in various ways, the latest being the formation of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) in Oberwesel, Germany, April 27-29, 1993. This Conference, international in scope, consists of lonely confessional Lutherans scattered throughout the world. A true unity of spirit was certainly evident at this constituting convention and it was only right and proper to give expression to this unity. As the reorganized Synod was the spiritual heir of the old Norwegian Synod, so the CELC is a true successor to the Synodical Conference, because it is built on the same scriptural principles.

The ELS has been in fellowship with the WELS since 1872. We have passed many synodical resolutions over the years expressing gratitude for this fellowship and imploring the Holy Spirit to strengthen the bonds of this fellowship. On our anniversary year we thank God again for the blessing of this fellowship over the years and pray that the Lord will continue to pour out his blessing on this fellowship.

The Importance of the Doctrine of Church Fellowship

In order for a church body to remain confessional, and thus preserve its doctrinal heritage, it is important that it have a firm position on church fellowship. A strong position on Scripture and church fellowship go hand in hand; they are interlocking. Conversely, a firm position on Scripture without a firm position on church fellowship will eventually lead to a demise of the Scripture principle. We need to clearly distinguish between true and false doctrine and maintain doctrinal discipline when necessary. As we confess the truth we must also expose error. No church can remain confessional if it does not make this distinc-

tion and admonish errorists and remove them if they persist in their error. God means what he says in passages such as Romans 16:17, Titus 3:10 and Matthew 7:15. Failure to heed what he says can result in the loss of the truth. Our Lutheran fathers have left us an example in the way they dealt with controversies in their day. They did not vacillate or waffle when it came to exposing false doctrine. We read in the Solid Declaration, Rule and Norm: "These controversies are not, as some may think, mere misunderstandings or contentions about words, with one party talking past the other, so that the strife reflects a mere semantic problem of little or no consequence. On the contrary, these controversies deal with weighty and important matters, and they are of such a nature that the opinions of the erring party cannot be tolerated in the church of God, much less be excused and defended." (Tappert, p. 503)

Over against the Sacramentarians and Schwarmer of his day who denied the true presence of Christ's body and blood in the Sacrament Luther said, "Whoever, I say, will not believe this, will please leave me alone and expect no fellowship from me. This is final." (Tappert, p. 575) We also recall what Luther says about those who demonstrate that whoever regards his doctrine, faith, and confession as true cannot remain in the same stall with those who teach or adhere to false doctrine.

The Reverend Henry Ingebritson, one-time president of the reorganized Synod, in his message to the reorganized Synod in 1939 emphasized the importance of preserving the truth by quoting from Dr. Pieper's treatise on *Unionism* which says, "if we grant error a place alongside of the truth, we thereby take back our confession of truth because the truth has this characteristic: it claims exclusive right and shuts every error out. The truth is always 'exclusive' over against error. We deceive ourselves when we imagine that we embrace the truth, if at the same time, we grant error a place alongside of the truth."

Ingebritson then refers to "the last sad chapter of the old Synod, an example of how the members of the church suddenly may fall away from confessionalism to indifferentism. In spite of doctrinal differences between the conferring bodies, a forced unnatural union was brought about with Opgjør as its basis. From 1910 and on, the spirit of unionism and indifferentism began to silence the confessionalism which had prevailed in the Synod. The flood gates of unionism and indifferentism were wide open."

The old Norwegian Synod in entering the merger of 1917 is a tragic example of what happens when error and truth are allowed to exist side by side. The leaven of false doctrine continued to work until eventually the very source of doctrine, Holy

Scripture, was affected. In 1930 the Merger church joined the erroristic and unionistic American Lutheran Conference. In 1960 it became a part of The American Lutheran Church (TALC) and in 1988 TALC became a part of ELCA. In the seminaries of this new church body a textbook on Christian Doctrine by Braaten and Jenson is used which clearly shows the doctrinal deterioration in that church body. We submit some samplings:

On Scripture: Today it is impossible to assume the literal historicity of all things recorded. What the Biblical authors report is not accepted a literal transcript of the factual course of events. Therefore, critical scholars inquire behind the text and attempt to reconstruct the real history that took place. (Vol. I, pp. 76-77)

On Genesis: It is now almost universally held among theologians that the stories and concepts we have of Adam and Eve in paradise are legends and myths. The idea of human living in a blessed primeval stage before the Fall is looked on as poetical speculation, not history. It is sometimes argued that faithfulness requires our belief in a primeval condition of blessedness. Such an argument confuses faithfulness with the imposition of a mythical speculation on a modern historical outlook of human life. To hold to the primeval condition in Eden as a matter of history would be an intellectual impossibility and to misunderstand faith." (Vol. I, p. 328)

On Christ's Death: Jesus himself, though he might have and quite possibly did reckon with a violent death at the hands of his adversaries, seems not to have understood or interpreted his own death as a sacrifice for others or ransom for sin." (Vol. II, p. 12)

On the Trinity: The trinity is simply the Father and the man Jesus and their Spirit as the Spirit of the believing community. (Vol. I, p. 155)

In order to understand this radical departure from historic Lutheranism we need to understand that lurking behind this departure is the use of the Historical Critical Method of Interpretation. This method of interpretation approaches the Bible with the presupposition that it is like any other book, that its writers are fallible, that there are possible errors in it, and that it is up to the trained theologian to determine what is truth and what is error. For example, practitioners of this method regard the Gospels as stories that circulated in the early New Testament community which may or may not be factual, and that it is up to the trained theologian to decide what is the real truth. That kind of interpretation undermines Biblical authority making it difficult to distinguish between true and false doctrine. It is really an assault on the source of doctrine, the Holy Bible. Instead of clearly stating "this we believe, teach, and confess" adherents of this view go their own way doctrinally, and consequently anything goes. The end result is that we have no final determinate of truth. In brief, it is a real danger to Our Great Heritage.

Reformed Influence

Another threat to OUR GREAT HERITAGE is Reformed influence on Lutheran theology. Lutheran theology is rooted and grounded in the doctrine of the means of grace, namely that the benefits of Christ's redemptive work are brought to us through the Word and Sacraments and are made our own. The means of grace are powerful, not only bringing these blessings to us, but also working the faith to accept what God offers.

Reformed theology does not really have a doctrine of the means of grace. It regards the Gospel as an *offer* of grace rather than an *application* of grace and that it (the Gospel) has no power of itself but the power is in one's decision or commitment he makes. This is a gross commingling of justification and sanctification. Commitment is not a part of the essence of faith itself; it is rather a result or fruit of faith which belongs in the sphere of sanctification.

Reformed books are flooding the book markets and Lutheran people are buying them and in many cases swallowing Reformed doctrine hook, line, and sinker. As a result there are many Lutheran sheep dressed in Reformed theology. Lutherans have been napping while the Reformed have been reaping and exerting a strong influence. We are therefore grateful for a recent book entitled *Sanctification: Christ in Action*, written by Harold Senkbeil, which is now on the Lutheran market. This book clearly shows how the theology of today's Evangelicals, which are really Reformed, and the theology of the Lutheran Confessions differ in their approach to theology. It explains how the two theologies answer the question: "Where in the World is God?" Reformed theology answers that he is to be found in the subjective feelings of the heart; whereas Lutheran theology answers that he is to be found in the means of grace. Senkbeil convincingly shows the inseparable connection between justification and sanctification, pointing out that the Christian life is the fruit of faith based on the objective truth of the Gospel. This is a book that should alert us to the pitfalls of Reformed theology and show us what a danger it is to our Lutheran heritage.

Properly Divide Law and Gospel

If we are to preserve Our Great Heritage we must continue to emphasize the importance of properly dividing Law and Gospel in our preaching and teaching. The risen Savior gave the command "that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations." (Luke 24:26) And the apostolic injunction is: "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a work-

man that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (II Tim. 2:15) Our Confessions sum up the importance of Law and Gospel preaching in these words: "We believe and confess that these two doctrines must be urged constantly in the church of God until the end of the world, but with due distinction." (Tappert, p. 562) If the proper distinction between these two doctrines is not maintained, the results are disastrous for the Christian. The Gospel is made into a new Law, the merits of Christ are obscured, and troubled consciences are robbed of the comfort of the Gospel promises.

Real Law and Gospel preaching is becoming more of a rarity in our day. Instead of law preaching we hear much moralizing and tirading against the evils of the day, which fuels the *opinion legis* in a person and makes hypocrites out of people. The law is spiritual and it must be preached in such a way that "every mouth is stopped and all the world becomes guilty before God" as Paul says in Romans. Dr. Koren emphasized the importance of law preaching in these words: "If we preached only concerning the forgiveness of sins but not concerning repentance, then that doctrine would neither be understood, nor would it bear fruit. For without repentance there is no faith and consequently no justification by faith." However, law preaching, important as it is, is as our Confessions say, "a foreign work" and its preaching is to lead to Christ's "proper work," which is the preaching of the good news of forgiveness and eternal life in Christ. This is the message that is to predominate in our preaching. Dr. Walther said it well: "So preach the law that it drives the greatest saint to despair, so preach the gospel that it gives the greatest sinner hope." True law and gospel preaching must always be a priority in our preaching if we are to preserve Our Great Heritage.

A Caution

In our zeal for preserving our heritage we need to be careful not to start unnecessary controversies. Our same Confessions that warn "that false doctrine cannot be tolerated in the church of God" also caution against starting unnecessary controversies. The Solid Declaration, Rule and Norm says: "We shall at all times make a sharp distinction between needless and unprofitable contentions (which since they destroy rather than edify, should never be allowed to disturb the Church) and necessary controversy (dissension concerning articles of the Creed or the chief parts of our own Christian doctrine, when the contrary error must be refuted in order to preserve the truth.)" (Tappert, p. 507) And Martin Chemnitz says that a minister of the Word "is not to stir up all kinds of unnecessary disputes and strifes

about words . . . , and arouse his hearers with untimely clamoring, but only fight against adversaries in necessary conflicts, without which purity of doctrine cannot be retained." (MWS, p. 47)

It is incumbent upon us, as we seek to preserve our heritage, that we do not get caught up in unnecessary controversies that "destroy rather than edify" and given our old Adam this is a real danger. And when it comes to necessary controversy where our heritage is at stake, then we are to "speak the truth in love." In the heat of controversy it is so easy to give way to the works of the flesh which include "hate, bickering, jealousy, anger, selfishness, quarreling, divisions." (Gal. 5:20 GWN) Our Confessions also warn that "many heresies have arisen in the church simply from the hatred of the clergy." (Tappert, p. 141) How we need to heed those words in our synodical and intersynodical relations!

A small synod, such as ours, is especially vulnerable. Someone has observed that "the bane of a small synod is envy and gossip." As a small synod we have the potential for self-destruction. Jesus said "that a house divided against itself shall not stand." (Matt. 12:25) No, if we are to preserve our heritage we need to be and remain a "synod," that is, a group of people walking together and working together in peace and harmony. We need to encourage one another and put away all rancor and bitterness. We cannot afford "a synod within a synod," each with its own agenda. Wouldn't it be a tragedy if we who have been blessed with such a precious doctrinal heritage should self-destruct! Nothing would please Satan more and no one is working harder to achieve that end. God forbid that we should assist him.

As we seek to preserve our heritage, may we heed the words of these hymns found in our *Hymnary*, the first one of Thomas Kingo entitled "How Fair The Church of Christ Shall Stand," the first verse concluding with these words,

To be as brothers, and agree
To live in peace and harmony.

The hymn goes on,

Resentment, hate, and cruel jest,
Must not be harbored in the breast
Where love and charity should dwell;
Then think and speak of others well,
Refrain from all that causes strife.
And mars a truly Christian life. (*Hymnary* 406, v. 3)

Another hymnist, C. J. P. Spitta, has written,

Let us shun all vain contention
Touching words and outward things,
Whence, alas! so much dissension
And such bitter rancor springs;

Rather Let it be our chief endeavor,
 That we may the Lord obey,
 Then shall envy cease forever,
 And all hate be done away. (*Hymnary* 407, v. 3 & 5)

One more word of caution: Let us also remember in our synodical and intersynodical relations that one of the things the Lord hates is “a false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.” (Proverbs 6:19) How easy and dangerous it is to get caught up in such mischievous behavior! With hi-tech equipment such as Fax machines and copiers a blizzard of letters can be hurriedly sent out that often “destroy rather than edify.” May we heed what one of our synodical fathers said on the occasion of the Commemoration of the Saxon Immigration, when he spoke of the debt which our synod owed to the Missouri Synod, and this at a time when some problems in Missouri were beginning to surface which had caused some tensions between the two synods. He wrote:

We shall be quick to praise, and slow to find fault. We shall not act like little dogs that constantly bark and rant at every shadow. We should look for the bright and not the shady side. Our very position as members of the Synodical Conference and especially the Norwegian Synod makes it so easy to develop the holier-than-thou attitude. We should shun suspicion and carping criticism as the devil himself and ever be mindful also in synodical relations of the Eighth Commandment, which admonishes us to excuse our neighbor, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything.

This does not mean, of course, that we must never criticize, admonish, and if need be, rebuke. Such spirit is not evidence of true love . . . God bless the Missouri Synod! May no strange fires ever burn on her sacred altars! (S.R. 1938, p. 57)

We would also be well-advised to heed what Robert Kolb says in his recent book *Confessing the Faith*:

Confessing the faith opposes whatever subverts the faith. It never does so for the sake of defending our own persons but rather for the sake of bringing others to Christ and preserving them in the faith. Confessors thus must listen to themselves through the ears of their hearers to make certain their condemnation is clearly understood as an agent of God's truth, not of the confessor's defensiveness or private agenda . . . In the 20th-century West, condemnation almost always will have to be more gentle and respectful than it frequently was in the 16th century. It dare not be less clear and direct, but must be motivated more obviously by love for the confused or erring. For only when it sounds a loving call for repentance will our condemnation please God. Only when it is not done as our own good work, to make us look good in His sight, but to win the erring brother or sister, will it fulfill God's purposes. (p. 137)

May God give us the grace to preserve Our Great Heritage with wholesome and salutary words, to His glory and the welfare of precious, blood-bought souls!

III. A Heritage to Share

To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor

Our history has shown that our Synod has been a doctrine-minded synod from day one and it demonstrated that by contending for the truth whenever necessary. But our synod has also been a mission-minded synod. Both the old Synod and the reorganized Synod took the Lord's Great Commission seriously and sought to carry it out as best they could; they understood that this calls for mission-mindedness as well as doctrine-mindedness. As they carried out the Great Commission they used the sword and the trowel, on the one hand defending the truth against error and, on the other hand, building the Kingdom by spreading the truth.

When our Synod was organized in 1853 there were thirty-eight congregations, consisting of approximately 11,400 souls, and served by six pastors. At its first convention in 1885 the matter of home missions was the chief topic of discussion. The Synod regarded it as a duty to reach out as far as possible, and its leaders set the example by starting many congregations among the immigrants. As a result the Synod enjoyed a healthy growth. In 1886, just before the rupture occasioned by the Election Controversy, there were 193 pastors serving 723 congregations with 143,885 souls. In 1869, after the division, the number had decreased to 138 pastors, 512 congregations and 93,891 souls. When the Synod observed its 50th anniversary in 1903 the membership was estimated at 280 pastors, 900 congregations and 140,000 souls. At the time of the Merger in 1917 the reports for the Synod show a total of 351 pastors, 986 congregations, and 150,552 souls.

On the 50th anniversary of the old Norwegian Synod, the author of *Festskrift* (the Jubilee Book) expressed the Synod's attitude toward missions.

And just as the newly organized Synod at that time was united for the sole purpose of promoting the glory of God and the salvation of souls, so there is today in the larger Synod a unity of purpose to carry out this same program. It is our hope and prayer that the Lord God Who in His unmerited grace has preserved the Synod despite all human weaknesses through all its conflicts and tribulations from deserting the sure and unfailing rule of God's Word, will also in the future hold His protecting hand over our church body, help and preserve it, so that in the days to come it may in a small way continue to be an instrument in His hands to comfort and save, and to bring rest and refreshment to "the fowls of heaven" who still want to "build their nests in the branches of this tree." Grant it for Jesus' sake! (*G F G*, p. 53)

And in his last synodical address to the convention of the Norwegian Synod in 1893, President H. A. Preus began by saying,

"A true witness delivereth souls," says the Holy Spirit. (Prov. 14:25)
When our orthodox Lutheran congregations in this country joined together forty years ago in a Synod, the chief purpose of this church organization was to "deliver souls," to the glory of God. By all its teachings and practice, by its resolutions, measures and institutions, *it was to have the salvation of souls in mind and thus to be a "true witness."* (Emphasis mine)

At the reorganization of the Synod in 1918 there were 13 pastors and a few laymen gathered at Lime Creek for the purpose of making plans for the future. In reading the reports we note a wholesome interest in missions. At its second convention, held at Albert Lea, Minnesota, the first order of the day was home missions. It should also be noted that the Synod took part in foreign mission work through the Synodical Conference. The Synod therefore demonstrated that it not only wanted to preserve its heritage, but also to spread it and share it.

We should also mention at this point that in 1927 the Synod resolved to purchase Bethany Lutheran College (which was no small undertaking) and on June 14, 1928, the reorganized Norwegian Synod gathered for the first time in its own "spacious and commodious quarters at Bethany Lutheran College." And what a blessing Bethany has been to our Synod! ONE THING NEEDFUL has been its motto over the years. Just think of all the students who have received a Christian liberal arts education from Christian instructors. And the physical blessings! Consider the many improvements over the years: a library, gymnasium, dormitory and of late the new fine arts center. If someone had prophesied to the faithful few at Lime Creek when the decision was made to purchase Bethany College that 66 years later there would be these physical improvements and that we would now be planning a thirteen million expansion program that includes a new chapel, a student union, expansion of the gymnasium facilities plus large scholarship and endowment funds they would have questioned that person's sanity! On the other hand, maybe they wouldn't be too surprised! They had faith in the Lord's grace to do humanly impossible things too, as is evidenced by President Christian Anderson's message to the 1927 Convention when he made a stirring appeal on behalf of the Synod's acceptance of the school and explaining the great need of a synodical school, he exhorted the Synod: "Let us not be afraid to 'draw large drafts on Our Father,' when they are needed to solve the problems which He in His grace entrusts to us, and to whose solution He has promised to donate His rich blessings." (S.R. 1927, pp. 30-31)

On this 75th anniversary, as we thank our gracious God for these blessings on our school and the financial support from our Synod and alumni we also thank him for opening the heart of an alumnus (recently deceased) to make such generous contributions to his alma mater which has helped to make all of this possible. Certainly this should be a motivation to all of us to see to it that this ambitious program is carried through to completion.

In 1946 Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary was opened. For almost thirty years the seminary classes were held at the college. In 1977 a new seminary building was erected which continues to serve our needs. The seminary has played a vital role in the life of our synod, in training men for the office of the public ministry. Graduates of the seminary are serving established congregations, home mission congregations, and foreign missions. Certainly, it is fair to say—and with gratitude to God—that both Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary have been instrumental in helping us to preserve Our Great Heritage and to “spread its light from age to age.”

As we consider how the Lord has blessed our home and foreign mission programs so that today we have congregations in eighteen states—and with plans to start more home missions—and a foreign mission program that includes work in Peru, Chile, Czech Republic, Ukraine, and Australia, how our hearts should be filled with gratitude to our gracious Lord for blessing the work which we are doing in his name! May this inspire us to continue “to spread its light from age to age.”

There is much emphasis in our day on church growth due, in part, to what is known as the Church Growth Movement. This Movement boasts great numbers. However, our examination of its theology shows that it is basically Reformed. From a document *Brief Notes on the Church Growth Movement*, put out by our Evangelism Committee, it is described as “characteristically Reformed from its roots in decision theology, its failure to give prominence to the Means of Grace, and its substitution of an appeal to sociological concerns for the centrality of Law and Gospel.” For this reason we cannot take part in that kind of mission outreach. However, our opposition to the Church Growth Movement must not be an excuse for our doing nothing. No, as Christians we should indeed be interested in the right kind of church growth, namely the growth that comes from the proclamation of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments. It is only through these means of grace that the Holy Ghost builds Christ’s Church here on earth, creating and sustaining true faith. As we have been brought to faith by the power of the Gospel, so our concern should be that many others also be brought to a saving faith in Christ.

Secondly, we should be interested in church growth because God is concerned about church growth. His Word says that he "desires all men to be saved and come unto the knowledge of the truth." (I Tim. 2:14) He has given us the Great Commission which bids us to go into the world "and make disciples of all nations." He has given us the command "to preach the Gospel to every creature." (Mark 16:15) Our Saviour has taught us to pray "Thy Kingdom Come" and we pray in our General Prayer, "Send forth laborers into thy harvest, and open the door of faith unto all the heathen and unto the people of Israel." The saving of souls is the most important work there is and from God's perspective this is where the real action is in the world. "There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents." (Luke 15:10) We also learn from Scripture that God permits the world to stand for the sake of the Gospel. Cf. Matthew 24:14. Certainly this should impress upon us the importance of church growth and inspire us to be participants in it.

We conclude this section with the reminder that mission-mindedness and doctrine-mindedness go hand in hand. The Great Commission demands that we be faithful *with* the Word and faithful *to* the Word. Both are important and we cannot pit the one against the other and say that the one is more important. There is the danger, though, of being so concerned about winning souls that we overlook, or underestimate the importance of purity of doctrine. Not only does that dishonor Christ, but it also threatens the loss of the Gospel. On the other hand, we can be so concerned about doctrinal purity that we hide our light under a bushel instead of putting it on a lamp stand "where it gives light to everyone in the house." (Matthew 5:15)

May we, then, continue to be a mission-minded and a doctrine-minded Synod. Then we will truly glorify God and carry out the Great Commission in accordance with his will. The same Savior who gave the command to preach the Gospel to every creature, will some day return in glory accompanied by his holy angels. In the meantime, we have his marching orders and he has given us the means whereby he will accomplish what he has commanded. Let us be about his work with dedication and zeal, realizing that the time is short and the task is great, but that his Word is powerful and will accomplish whatever he pleases.

The Inestimable Value of Our Great Heritage

In conclusion we want to call attention to the inestimable value of Our Great Heritage. It is one thing to talk about our heritage and to guard and preserve it, but it is another thing to see and treasure its inestimable, personal value. The hymn verse

which has served as an outline for our essay expresses that value in these words, "Through life it guides our way, in death it is our stay."

The psalmist says, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105) That Word is a sure and reliable guide. It will not deceive, mislead or destroy. George Morris in his poem *My Mother's Bible* gives expression to this value when he writes: "In teaching me the way to live, It taught me how to die." To learn how to live and to die is worth more than all the wealth in the world. St. Paul puts it in clear perspective when he writes, "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." (Rom. 14:8)

In perusing some Synod reports I came across an essay entitled *Sola Scriptura* by the sainted Justin A. Petersen, on the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the old Norwegian Synod. He writes about the importance of the Word in our lives as follows: "Our greatest danger is not this that the Word shall be falsified among us—though that danger is indeed great and ever-present, but rather that we shall grow negligent in our use of the Word. In either case Satan is well pleased. For he cares little that we have the pure Word, if he can keep us from using it." And commenting on the practical value of using the Word he says, "With the Word the weakest Christian is strong, but without the Word the strongest is as a feather before the hurricane. It is the Word alone in Word and Sacrament that can give the alarmed sinner certainty of his state of grace." (S.R. 1943, p. 24)

The inestimable value of the Word is also expressed in these words: "In death it is our stay." When the time comes for us to leave this world—as it most certainly will—the important thing will not be how successful or knowledgeable or wealthy we have become—as important as those blessings may be—but whether we are in possession of a saving faith in the Savior who died for us in order that we might live eternally with him. Then we can confidently say with the psalmist, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." (Psalm 23:4)

In closing we call attention to the concluding words of *Grace for Grace* which are as applicable today as when they were written:

The Norwegian Synod (now ELS) regards with concern the inroads of indifferentism, of unionism, and of error in the Lutheran churches generally, and it finds its sole justification for existence as a separate synod in the confident assurance, based on clear passages of Scripture, that it still owns the blessed heritage of the Reformation, the Gospel message of pure grace, to be acknowledged with thanksgiving, professed with sincerity, believed with confidence, preached with zeal and faithfulness, and deliv-

ered to succeeding generations without spot or blemish, the Gospel of a Christ Who is able to save to the uttermost and a hope that maketh not ashamed. (p. 211)

Let us give expression to the joy of Our Great Heritage by rising and singing the time-honored hymn which has served as the theme of our anniversary celebration

God's word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours for ever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor;
Through life it guides our way,
In death it is our stay;
Lord grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations.

Hymnary 137

SOLI DEO GLORIA

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- Abbreviations:
- F O F*—*Faith of Our Fathers*
- G F G*—*Grace for Grace*
- C S H*—*City Set on a Hill*
- M W S*—*Ministry, Word, and Sacrament*

DOCTRINE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE 1993 ELS CONVENTION

The Doctrine Committee in the past year has sought to carry out its duties in accordance with the synodical guidelines. It has lent its counsel to the president as well as to others who have sought advice from the committee. It may be of interest to note that the president meets regularly with the committee; his regular report to the committee is of significance to its work. The vice-president has also been able to attend the meetings quite regularly. In addition to its four annually scheduled meetings, the Doctrine Committee met in January with the (CICR) Commission on Inter Church Relations of WELS in what has become an annual one-day meeting of these corresponding synodical units.

STATEMENT ON ORDINATION

The matter of ordination of male teachers has arisen in connection with discussion concerning the status of male teachers. Because the 1992 convention instructed the Doctrine Committee, as well as the pastors and people of the synod, "to study the propriety and advisability of the ordination of male teachers" (1992 S.R., Res. No. 2, p. 80) the Doctrine Committee has prepared a study document, which has been sent to all the clergymen in the synod. In its preliminary findings, though the committee notes no essential difference between the terms ordination and installation, it still prefers the term *ordination* for the rite of officially inducting pastors into the preaching ministry, and *installation* for the official induction of instructors into the teaching ministry.

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Following the directive of the 1992 synodical convention (1992 S.R., Res. No. 3, p. 80) the committee has again been studying the issue of the Lord's Supper, particularly the questions raised regarding the 1989 addendum to Thesis Nine. (See 1989 S.R., p. 74.) Several communications on this matter have been directed to the Doctrine Committee. The committee intends to continue the study and promises to report to a future convention.

THE CELC

As this report is being prepared, the Constituting Convention of the proposed Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference will, God willing, be held in Oberwesel, Germany, April 27-29, 1993. This conference is intended to be a replacement for, as well as an expansion to international status of, the former Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America, which had existed from 1872 to 1967, although the Evangelical Lutheran Synod had withdrawn from membership in 1963. At least an oral report of this likely historic meeting should be available to the June convention. The following church bodies have accepted invitations to this constituting convention: Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (Germany), Lutheran Confessional Church (Scandinavia), Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (Finland), Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (Puerto Rico), Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (Mexico), Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church (Japan), Lutheran Church of Central Africa (Zambia Conference), Lutheran Church of Central Africa (Malawi Conference), Lutheran Church of Cameroon, and Christ the King Lutheran Church of Nigeria, and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia.

Twenty-one members of the ELS have registered to attend the meeting, including voting delegates Pres. G. Orwick and the Rev. G. Schmeling, and advisory delegates Pres. W. Petersen and Prof. J. Madson. (For other early information see 1992 S.R., p. 74.) A proposed constitution is being presented to the assembly for consideration. Any constitution adopted by the delegates to the constituting convention will be subject to ratification by the individual church bodies seeking to form this international conference.

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE CLC

The past two conventions have been apprised of the fact that the earlier promising discussions between the Church of the Lutheran Confession on the one hand and the WELS and ELS on the other had finally reached an impasse. In a letter to Pres. Carl Mischke dated November 30, 1992, Pres. Daniel Fleischer of the CLC acknowledges the same result. He writes: "We recognize that the discussions have ended after a hopeful beginning," and then he quickly adds: "We also are confident that the Lord will use them in his own way in the interest of His Church."

The letter also reveals that the joint statement prepared by and agreed to by the committees of the three synods had not been presented to the CLC convention because of the WELS—ELS committee's unwillingness to adopt a preamble that at least implied earlier false doctrine and/or practice on the part of WELS and ELS. Nevertheless the letter concludes with the prayer "that one day a unity of confession and practice established upon the Word of God may exist between us." We also pray such a prayer, acknowledging that only the Holy Spirit can bring about the desired restoration of the fellowship that once existed among us before the formation of the CLC in protest to the WELS's and ELS's delay in severing fellowship with the LCMS about mid-century.

DOCTRINAL DISCUSSIONS IN AUSTRALIA

On March 12, 1993, doctrinal discussions were held at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Kallangur, QLD, Australia. The participants in the discussions included representatives from the Orthodox Evangelical Lutheran Church, Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia (our sister Synod), and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The participants at the meeting were:

FROM THE AELC:

Rev. Clarence R. Priebebenow, Kingsthorpe, QLD
Rev. Vernon S. Grieger, Marburg, QLD
Rev. Melvin J. Grieger, Gympie, QLD
Mr. Lloyd Priebebenow, Kumbia, QLD
Mr. Eric Richards, QLD
Mr. Clem Grieger, QLD

FROM THE OELC:

Rev. Audley D. Grieger, Maryborough, QLD
Mr. John Grieger, Maryborough, QLD

FROM THE ELSA:

Rev. Daniel K. Schroeder, Maryborough
Vicar Michael J. Borgwardt, Brisbane

Mr. Noel H. Priebbenow, Maryborough
Mr. John C. Lederhose Brisbane

FROM THE ELS:

Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, Okauchee, Wisconsin
Rev. Paul Anderson, Eau Claire, Wisconsin
Mr. Robert Soule, Princeton, Minnesota

The AELC and the OELC, even as the ELS and the ELSA, confess the inerrancy of the Holy Scripture; they maintain a "quia" subscription to the Lutheran Confessions, i.e., they accept the Lutheran Confessions because they are a true and proper exposition of the doctrines of the Word of God; and they are in agreement with the Brief Statement of 1932.

The discussions centered on the doctrine of the church, the ministry, and church fellowship. These discussions, open and cordial, were also fruitful in these areas of doctrine and will continue between the AELC, OELC and ELSA.

The AELC is the newest of the above named bodies, having been formed in a breakaway from the Lutheran Church of Australia on February 14, 1993, because of the LCA's practice of open communion, its involvement in unacceptable ecumenical endeavors and its unscriptural liberalizing of the role of women in the church. It is to be hoped that further discussions with the AELC may reveal a clear confessional agreement between these bodies that can be translated into church fellowship.

THE ELF

The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Germany has for some time been in fellowship with the ELS and WELS. It had also been in what is termed triangular fellowship relation with other one-time orthodox Lutheran church bodies that have lost their full confessional integrity. At its October 1992 convention the ELF in a series of resolutions sadly terminated its fellowship relations with the LCMS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England, the Evangelical Lutheran Church—Synod of France and Belgium, the Confessional Lutheran Church of Finland and the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Denmark. This action was a necessary prelude to its resolution to be along in establishing the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference to be constituted at Oberwesel, Germany, April 27-29, 1993. Our synod has previously encouraged the ELF in its courageous confessional stance, and now again commends its willingness to remain faithful to the Word of our God.

CONCLUSION

As we this year mark the 75th anniversary of the reorganization of the Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church (now the ELS) let us not forget the cost at which our great heritage was preserved to us by our valiant and faithful church fathers—*eternal vigilance*. Had they by the grace of God not been alert to the enticing charms of error we might not have been in position readily to sing: "God's word is our great heritage, and shall be ours forever." That second phrase is more accurately rendered: "And shall be (the heritage) of our offspring." In order to make that come true we are under the obligation of love to bequeath it to our children. That can be done only at the same price our fathers paid—*eternal vigilance*. Therefore we pray simply: "Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word."

Gaylin Schmeling, chairman
Juul Madson, secretary

DOCTRINE ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Ordination and the Lord's Supper

WHEREAS, The Doctrine Committee is studying the matter of ordination of male teachers and has disseminated a preliminary report to the clergy for study and consideration, and,

WHEREAS, The committee is also studying the issue of the Lord's Supper, particularly the questions raised regarding the 1989 addendum to Thesis Nine,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee be commended for its work thus far, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the committee be encouraged to continue its study and continue to keep the clergy informed of its progression in these two areas.

Resolution No. 2: Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC)

WHEREAS, Discussions with the aim of restoring fellowship between the Church of the Lutheran Confession (CLC) on the one hand and the WELS and ELS on the other have reached an impasse, and,

WHEREAS, The Doctrine Committee has displayed in this matter both an evangelical spirit and doctrinal steadfastness, and,

WHEREAS, We firmly believe that the Holy Spirit is able to unite Christians around His Word,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod expresses regret that such discussions have ceased at this time, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee continues to stand ready to renew discussions with the CLC to the end that true unity might be achieved.

Resolution No. 3: Doctrinal Discussions in Australia

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia and the ELS have conducted doctrinal discussions with the Australian Evangelical Lutheran Church (AELC) and the Orthodox Evangelical Lutheran Church (OELC), and,

WHEREAS, These discussions have indicated that doctrinal unity may exist among these church bodies,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourages them to engage in further discussion.

Resolution No. 4: Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Germany (ELF)

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Germany (ELF) has taken the difficult step of terminating its fellowship with the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England, the Evangelical

Lutheran Church—Synod of France and Belgium, the Confessional Lutheran Church of Finland and the Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Denmark,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commends the ELF for its courageous confessional stance and its determination to remain faithful to the Word of God, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks the Spirit of the Church for upholding such God-pleasing unity in our midst.

Resolution No. 5: Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WHEREAS, We appreciate our close fellowship with the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, as it has most recently manifested itself in the creation of joint ELS/WELS parishes, and as it has been demonstrated through the working relationship found in the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks God for blessing the relationship that the ELS has with the WELS and pray that He would keep us united in the confession of the one true faith.

Resolution No. 6: Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference

WHEREAS, The constituting convention of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference was held April 27-29, 1993, at Oberwesel, Germany, and,

WHEREAS, This conference is international in scope and reflects the spirit of the old Synodical Conference, and,

WHEREAS, The constituting church bodies are speaking with one voice in their confession of the truth of God's Word,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod gives all praise and thanks to the Holy Spirit for leading these church bodies to confess the same truth and hold steadfastly to the pure teachings of God's Word, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks its members who participated in the formation of this new confessional body.

Resolution No. 7: Report of the Self-Study Committee—Memorial Concerning Teachers Voting at Synod Convention,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod concurs with the resolutions of the Self-Study Committee in response to the "Memorial Concerning Teachers at Synod Convention."

Resolution No. 8: Term Limit of Board Members

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod concur with the resolution of the Self-Study Committee concerning "Term Limit of Board Members."

Resolution No. 9: Number of Members on the Board for Education and Youth

WHEREAS, There is an immediate need to increase the number of members serving on the Board for Education and Youth, and,

WHEREAS, It may be advisable to separate the BEY into multiple boards with distinct areas of responsibilities,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod concur with the resolutions of the Self-Study Committee regarding "Number of Members on the Board for Education and Youth," and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Self-Study Committee, in consultation with the BEY, be directed to investigate the feasibility of carrying out an appropriate division of the board.

Resolution No. 10: Court of Appeals

WHEREAS, The Self-Study Committee has not been able to complete its study of this important matter,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Self-Study Committee be granted another year to complete its assignment.

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

BOARD OF REGENTS

Members of the board during the past year: The Rev. Raymond Branstad, chairman, Elk River, MN; Mr. William Overn, vice chairman, St. Paul, MN; The Rev. Ed. Bryant, secretary, Port Orchard, WA; The Rev. John A. Moldstad, Sr., Cottage Grove, WI; Mr. Roland Reinholtz, Avon, CO; Mr. Paul Chamberlin, South Chatham, MA; The Rev. Kenneth Schmidt, West Bend, WI; Dr. Donald Peterson, Madison, WI; Mr. Harold Theiste, Plymouth, MN; The Rev. Milton E. Tweit, advisory member, Lawler, IA.

THE FACULTY AND STAFF

The following persons have served on the faculty and administrative and professional staff during the 1992-93 school year:

Kristine Bruss, Admissions Counselor
William Bukowski, Art
Gregory Costello, Comptroller
Mark Harstad, Hebrew, History, Religion
Arlene Hilding, Music, Organ
Steve Jaeger, Director of Admissions
Calvin Johnson, Financial Aid Director
Lyle Jones, Athletic Director, Physical Education, Women's Basketball Coach, and Soccer Coach
William Kessel, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography, Religion
Julie Kjeer, Mathematics
Tom Kuster, Chair of Speech/English Communications
Sigurd Lee, English, Humanities, Theater
Dennis Marzolf, Music, Choral Groups, Voice
Daniel Metzger, English, German
Marvin Meyer, President
Dennis Natvig, Treasurer, Business Manager
Andrew Overn, Art, Technical Theater
Jerral Parrish, Director of Library Media Services
Steve Reagles, English, Religion
Jay Roth, Associate Director of Admissions
Lance Schwartz, Bookstore Manager
John Sehloff, Biology, Computer Science
Dean Shoop, Business, Accounting, Economics
Erling Teigen, Philosophy, English, Religion
David Thompson, Dean of Student Services, Religion
Paul Tweit, Director of Development
Cynthia Weberg, Chemistry
Art Westphal, Associate Dir. of Admissions, Basketball and Baseball Coach
Jean Wiechmann, Registrar, Learning Specialist, Sociology
Mark Wiechmann, Psychology, Education, Vocational Counseling
Richard Wiechmann, Development Officer, Deferred Giving
Ronald Younge, Dean of Academic Affairs, Biology

PART-TIME

Vivian Bombach, Piano
John Bruss, Greek
Tatjana Durand, Spanish
Bryan Ehret, Physics and Mathematics
Ernie Geistfeld, Fine Arts Administrator
Shirley Grundmeier, Voice
Rudolph Honsey, Hebrew
Fred Inman, Physics
Lynette Jones, Physical Education, Volleyball and Softball Coach
Mary Kelley, Institutional Computer Science
Peter Kjeer, Mathematics
Patty Lussky, Health
Juul Madson, Chaplain
Allen Quist, Political Science
Glenn Reichwald, Greek
Laura Whitney, Organ, Piano
Nancy Wiechmann, Business, Economics
Scott Winters, Instrumental Music

EMERITI

Sophia Anderson
Louella Balcziak
Edna Busekist
Norman S. Holte
Bjarne W. Teigen

STAFF

Professor Sigurd Lee will step down as director of theatre after some 32 years. He has been the individual mainly responsible for the development of Bethany's theatre program. We are obviously grateful for Prof. Lee's leadership and look forward to his continued involvement as a valuable member of our faculty.

Mr. Orville Sampson has semi-retired after 29 years as a member of the maintenance staff. He will continue at about half time. Mrs. Kristine Bruss has resigned as an admissions counselor in order to continue her education. To both of these dedicated individuals many thanks.

Dr. William Kessel has been granted a sabbatical for the fall semester of the '93-'94 year. He plans to spend the summer gathering information at the Fort Apache Indian Reservation near Whiteriver, Arizona. In the fall he plans to go over all the information he collects and ready it for publication.

It should be noted that two members of the faculty were granted leaves during the past year to work on doctoral programs. Prof. Daniel Metzger was away from the campus spring semester and Mr. Jerral Parrish, director of Library Media Services, was gone the entire year. We hope the time provides these individuals the opportunity to move forward in their educational goals.

During a special service on February 9, the college observed the following anniversaries:

35 Years	Glenn Reichwald	Professor of Greek
25 Years	Arlene Hilding	Professor of Music, and Head of the Department
10 Years	Steven Reagles	Professor of Religion and English
10 Years	Joni Wiederhoeft	Assistant to the Financial Aid Director

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 1992-93 enrollment was as follows:

	1st Semester	2nd Semester
Freshmen	184	158
Sophomores	96	101
Specials*	14	13
Part-time*	<u>23</u>	<u>23</u>
	317	295
FTE	304	282

*Includes PEOP students

At the time of the writing of this report, we are extremely optimistic for the fall term in regard to student numbers. Applications are at an all-time high.

CURRICULUM AND OTHER ACADEMIC PROJECTS

The college faculty continues to grow professionally through additional formal education, as well as attending regional and national seminars and conferences. The end of the '92-'93 academic year brings to a close the second of a three-year faculty development program funded by The Bush Foundation. The program was developed to help improve student learning. Next year's emphasis will be on Writing as Thinking.

The college continues to evaluate and study its curriculum. An ad hoc committee is presently involved in studying our General Education requirements and offerings. The ongoing analysis of the curriculum is necessary to assure that the mission of Bethany as a Christian liberal arts institution is being met.

The board has directed the administration to study the possibility of developing one four-year program. The program that seems most feasible is a degree that would satisfy the entrance requirements for the seminary.

PHYSICAL PLANT

Last summer we completed several small renovation and redecorating projects. Most notable was an extensive upgrading of our dormitories.

We are happy to report that the tunnel plan was completed. This project allows the heating system and other mechanical requirements of the institution to be enclosed in a tunnel to allow for repair, inspection and further development as needed.

Plans are being developed to meet the needs of residential space for the fall semester of 1993. If the enrollment projections continue as they are at the present time, a decision will have to be made to move forward with a four-plex that will house an additional twenty students. The cost of the project (\$250,000-\$300,000) will be funded through the college budget.

GRANTS

AAL continues to assist the college through direct grants for faculty and institutional development, as well as student scholarships. The local branches of AAL also provide funds for the college in matching programs. During this academic year in excess of \$30,000 was received in these programs. Included in those dollars was a grant that allowed the entire staff to attend a three-day retreat in central Minnesota.

Lutheran Brotherhood remains committed to challenge its members through matching programs which direct funds into an endowment for operation. These dollars assist in planning for Bethany's future. As was mentioned a couple of years ago, we continue to be challenged through a matching program to develop the resources to endow the position of College Chaplain.

Many corporations are matching their employees' contributions to colleges through their foundations. Each year the number and amount is growing. We are thankful for this added support.

The Bethany Lutheran College Women's Auxiliary is committed to the welfare of Bethany through its support and prayers. This year the auxiliary has once again supported the scholarship funds as well as a five-year commitment to our program, "Preparing for the 21st Century." The total support will exceed \$13,000 per year. Many, many thanks to these wonderful ladies.

PREPARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

At the 1992 convention there was much discussion about Bethany's program, "Preparing for the 21st Century." At the convention approval was given to move ahead with the capital campaign to raise \$13 million over a five-year period. The Lord has surely blessed our efforts, and at this point in our campaign we are closing in on the \$10 million level.

Much planning has taken place, as we have thoroughly evaluated the needs of the institution with reference to our recreation center and student union. Part of the plan looked at the best location to build these facilities.

It was recommended and further approved to house the student union within the first two floors of Old Main. That decision forced another decision regarding the college chapel. At the August board meeting a recommendation was made that a new chapel should be built. A recommendation by the Board of Regents and Board of Trustees regarding Trinity Chapel will come to the 1993 convention.

It is our hope to be in the ground with some of our construction needs late in the fall. We are looking at the next 24 to 30 months to complete all of our capital improvements.

FINANCES AND AUXILIARY SERVICES

The 1991-92 school year ended with a \$52,000 surplus, which will help to offset the accumulated \$75,000 deficit. The total accumulated Current Fund deficit is at \$26,695. We are happy and thrilled with the reduction in the Current Fund balance and hope and pray that the total deficit can be removed within a year or two.

Gifts continue to assist in Bethany's effort to deliver a quality program and to maintain her commitments to develop the campus. The president and Board of Regents are grateful to the members of our synod, individuals, corporations and foundations so willing to support the programs at Bethany.

The following is a summary of the revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1992:

REVENUES

Tuition and Fees	\$1,808,693
Government Grants	6,943
Synod Subsidy	154,750
Housing Assistance	84,000
Maintenance Assistance	21,510
Capital Improvements	22,221
Private Gifts and Grants	366,409
Endowment Income	57,581
Sales and Services of Student Activities	15,196
Other Sources	110,474
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>1,006,792</u>
	\$3,654,569

EXPENDITURES

Educational and General	\$2,162,656
Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds	274,405
Scholarships and Grants	402,715
Auxiliary Enterprises	<u>762,948</u>
	\$3,602,724
Fund Balance	51,845
Prior Year's Fund Balance	(74,601)
Transfer to Funds Functioning as Endowments	<u>(3,939)</u>
Current Fund Balance	(26,695)

CONCLUSION

The next few years will be exciting ones on our campus. The ongoing planning for our program, "Preparing for the 21st Century," will focus on the direction the institution will take as we look to a new decade and another century. There is no question that this program will help make Bethany a better and a stronger institution. But we must all remember that Bethany Lutheran College exists only through the blessings that the Lord has showered on our Church and this institution. We pray for His continued blessings and leadership as we plan for tomorrow and at the same time extend our heartfelt thanks for the bountiful blessings of the past.

Raymond M. Branstad, chairman
Ed Bryant, secretary
Marvin G. Meyer, president

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

Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary has played an important role in the life of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. As we celebrate the 75th anniversary of the reorganization of our synod we thank and praise our gracious God for the blessings which He has showered upon our seminary. Established in the fall of 1946 the seminary has been training men for the office of the public ministry, and it is through the ministry of Word and Sacrament that our Lord serves the spiritual needs of His people and prepares them for a blessed eternity. As we reflect upon the blessing of our seminary, may we continue to heed the words of the sainted Adolph Harstad, then president of our synod, which he spoke at the opening service of the establishment of our seminary, "Theology, then, must be both didactic and polemical. We must by the Word both feed the sheep and ward off the wolves. The future pastors of our church will be trained here for both activities."

BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Regents, which is responsible for the operation of the seminary, met quarterly during the year and the president of the seminary submitted a report to each meeting. The board members are: the Rev. Raymond Branstad, Elk River, MN; the Rev. Edward Bryant, Port Orchard, WA; the Rev. John Moldstad, Sr., Cottage Grove, WI; the Rev. Kenneth Schmidt, West Bend, WI; Dr. Donald Peterson, Madison, WI; Mr. William Overn, St. Paul, MN; Mr. Paul Chamberlin, South Chatham, MA; Mr. Roland Reinholtz, Avon, CO; Mr. Harold Theiste, Plymouth, MN; and the Rev. Milton Tweit, advisory member, Lawler, IA.

ENROLLMENT

The enrollment at the seminary this school year was seventeen, a substantial increase over the previous year. The enrollment breaks down as follows: 9 juniors, 3 middlers, 3 seniors, and 2 vicars. The vicars who served their vicarages were: Kent Dethlefsen at East and West Paint Creek Lutheran parish, the Rev. Markos DeGarmeaux, pastor and Mark Tuffin at Ascension Lutheran Church, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, supervising pastor. Enrollment prospects for the future look quite promising at this point which bodes well for an ample supply of future pastors. Our enrollment next year should be about the same as this year. It is interesting to note that the seminary has taken on an international flavor with students from Australia, Latvia and Ukraine. All three plan to return to their respective countries when they have finished their theological education at the seminary. We are truly grateful to the Lord for opening the hearts of all of our seminarians to study for the ministry and for leading them to our seminary.

ACTIVITIES

A recognition dinner for the seniors was held on April 21st. This is an annual recognition for the seniors who have completed their classroom work at the seminary.

Our 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. Pastor Norman Madson, Jr. delivered a paper on "Organizing Your Ministry," pointing out the importance of good organization in the pastoral ministry and also sharing some practical suggestions to that end.

The evening before the workshop a fellowship dinner was served at the semi-

nary for the students, staff and families. Following the supper a financial workshop was held for the seminarians and their wives. The workshop centered around the importance of day-to-day budgeting in family life, information concerning Social Security, having adequate insurance during working year and the advisability of financial planning for retirement. Presenters at the workshops were: Rachel Anthony, Wilbur Lieske, Joel Petersen and Joel Glade.

Two summer institutes were held during the summer. The first one was held for our Florida pastors at Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, Florida, June 1-3 and the second one at the seminary, July 6-8. Professor Adolph Harstad led in "Studies in Joshua" and President Petersen delivered a paper on "Effective Law and Gospel Preaching." Both institutes were well attended.

The seminary, together with the college, sponsored the annual Reformation Lectures on October 28-29 at the theater in the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center. The lecturer was Dr. Robert Preus, president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. His topic was, SCRIPTURE, DOCTRINE, AND CONFES-
SION. Serving as reactors to the lectures were Professor Richard Strobel, professor of German at Northwestern College, Watertown, WI; and Professor Adolph Harstad, professor of Old Testament at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. The lectures and the reactions were presented in the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*. We are grateful to Aid Association for Lutherans for their generous financial assistance in helping to carry out some of the seminary activities.

An invitation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin, was again extended to our seminary to attend a mission seminar on February 3-4, at Mequon. The invitation was gratefully accepted and the seminar was appreciated by the students.

COMPUTERS

Two new computers were purchased for the seminary this school year, the one an IBM compatible 486 and the other a Macintosh LC III. In addition to these computers the seminary also has a Macintosh II si RAM 80 mb hard disk. Dr. Thomas Kuster is in charge of the computer program at the seminary. He is assisted by seminarians Joseph Abrahamson and Philip Lepak. In this hi-tech age it is important that seminary students have access to computers and that they learn how to use them for parish work.

SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND

We continue to call to your attention the seminary endowment fund. Our goal is \$500,000 and we have approximately \$150,000 in this fund at the present time. The purpose of this fund is to lend financial stability to the seminary. We also view this fund as possibly assisting congregations in our vicarage program. It will no doubt become increasingly difficult for parishes to afford a vicar. Financial assistance to a congregation from an endowment fund would perhaps make it possible to afford a vicar. With an increasing enrollment we may be faced with the difficulty of placing all of our students in our vicarage program. A bequest would certainly be an appropriate way to remember the seminary as it carries out its important task of training pastors.

FINANCES

The following is a summary of budget receipts and expenditures for the past fiscal year July 1, 1991–June 30, 1992.

REVENUES

Tuition and Fees	\$ 21,040.00
Synod Subsidy	57,500.00
Gifts and Grants	39,578.00
Endowment Income	12,716.00
Other Sources	<u>5,699.00</u>
TOTAL	\$136,533.00

EXPENDITURES

Educational & General	\$128,249.00
Maintenance & Utilities	9,097.00
TOTAL	<u>\$137,346.00</u>
Decrease	(813)

Wilhelm W. Petersen, president
Raymond M. Branstad, chairman
Edward L. Bryant, secretary

HIGHER EDUCATION ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: College Staff

WHEREAS, Professor Sigurd Lee will step down as director of theatre after some 32 years, and,

WHEREAS, Professor Lee has been the individual mainly responsible for the development of Bethany's theatre program, and,

WHEREAS, He will continue to serve as a valuable member of the faculty,

BE IT RESOLVED, That out of thankfulness to our gracious God, the synod expresses its deep gratitude for Professor Lee's many years of faithful service as director of theatre.

Resolution No. 2: College Staff

WHEREAS, Mr. Orville Sampson has semi-retired after 29 years as a member of the maintenance staff, and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Kristine Bruss has resigned as an admission counselor to continue her education,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks both of these individuals for their years of faithful service at Bethany Lutheran College.

Resolution No. 3: Anniversaries

WHEREAS, The following anniversaries have been observed,

35 years: Glenn Reichwald, Professor of Greek

25 years: Arlene Hilding, Professor of Music & Head of the Department

10 years: Steven Reagles, Professor of Religion & English

10 years: Joni Wiederhoeft, Assistant to the Financial Aid Director

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks the Lord of the church for supplying such faithful workers, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod asks the Lord to continue to bless them in their continued service in His kingdom.

Resolution No. 4: College Enrollment

WHEREAS, Enrollment and applications at Bethany are at an all-time high,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks God for blessing the college with students, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod also thanks the admissions staff of the college and the pastors, teachers and members of the synod for their efforts to recruit students for Bethany, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourages all pastors, teachers and members of the synod to continue their efforts recruiting ELS students to attend Bethany.

Resolution No. 5: Four-year program

WHEREAS, The Board of Regents has directed the administration to study the possibility of developing one four-year program at Bethany, and,

WHEREAS, Such a program has been the topic of discussion for many years,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourages the administration to pursue this study with vigor.

Resolution No. 6: Grants

WHEREAS, Aid Association for Lutherans continues to assist the college through direct grants and local branch programs,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks Aid Association for Lutheran for these generous gifts.

Resolution No. 7: Grants

WHEREAS, Lutheran Brotherhood remains committed to challenging its members through matching programs which assist the college,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks Lutheran Brotherhood for these generous gifts and programs.

Resolution No. 8: College Chaplain

WHEREAS, The position of full-time College Chaplain remains a need at Bethany, and,

WHEREAS, The challenge continues for an endowment to fund this position.

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the members of the synod be encouraged to bring this matter before the Lord in prayer, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That members of the synod be encouraged to offer their financial support so that this position may be filled.

Resolution No. 9: Bethany College Women's Auxiliary

WHEREAS, The Bethany Lutheran College Women's Auxiliary has by its prayer and support aided the college through scholarship funds as well as a planned five-year commitment to the program, "Preparing for the 21st Century,"

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks these wonderful ladies.

Resolution No. 10: Preparing for the 21st Century

WHEREAS, The Lord has surely blessed the efforts of the campaign "Preparing for the 21st Century," with gifts and commitments totaling over \$10 million at this time,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod acknowledges this blessing and works toward the fulfillment of the goal.

Resolution No. 11: Seminary Enrollment

WHEREAS, The seminary has experienced a substantial increase in enrollment, and,

WHEREAS, Enrollment prospects for the future look promising,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod expresses gratitude to the Lord for leading students to study for the holy ministry.

Resolution No. 12: Seminary Summer Institutes

WHEREAS, The seminary continues to conduct summer institutes for the pastors, and,

WHEREAS, These institutes are well attended and most beneficial for the Church,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commends the seminary president and faculty for their efforts, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourages future institutes in the various circuits of the synod.

Resolution No. 13: Seminary Endowment Fund

WHEREAS, An endowment fund has been established to provide financial stability for our seminary, and,

WHEREAS, This fund could also be used to assist congregations in the support of the vicarage program, and,

WHEREAS, Our goal for this fund is \$500,000, but at present there is only \$150,000 in the fund,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the pastors, teachers, and delegates be encouraged to make members and organizations of their congregations aware of the importance of and need to support this fund.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH

The familiar words of Proverbs 22:6 provide direction for the three subcommittees of the Board for Education and Youth: "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." The board's function is to help God's people fulfill this God-given task by encouraging and assisting congregations in training Christ's redeemed flock from our young children to our senior citizens.

The board met twice since the last synod convention. Pastor Charles Keeler serves as chairman of the board, Mr. Ron O'Neill as treasurer and Pastor Jonathan Madson as recording secretary.

The work of the board covers three major concerns of training in the faith. Therefore, it is divided into three subcommittees:

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PARISH EDUCATION

The Subcommittee on Parish Education seeks to assist all part-time educational agencies in our synod's congregations which train God's people. Members of the subcommittee are the following: Pastor Joseph Burkhardt, chairman; Pastor Craig Ferkenstad; Pastor Jonathan Madson, secretary.

Four mailings have been made to pastors and Sunday School superintendents. These mailings especially provide information for Sunday School and Adult Bible Classes. Vacation Bible School materials from Concordia and Northwestern publishing houses were reviewed. Included with these mailings have been statements of Law/Gospel which correspond with the Sunday School curriculum "God So Loved the World." The Law/Gospel statements were prepared by Pastor John Krueger. The last of these statements has been sent out.

The program recognizing Sunday School teachers' years of service (10, 15, 20, ... years) continues. Last year 33 teachers were recognized.

Advent Devotions for the Family was produced and distributed. The author for 1992 was Pastor Craig Ferkenstad. *Lenten Devotions for the Family* for 1993 was produced and distributed. These devotions were written by Pastor Tosten Skaaland.

Along with the Advent and Lenten devotions, a third bulletin insert was produced for the beginning of Sunday School in the fall. The subcommittee is working on the possible production of three more inserts. Some of these inserts may be produced by the other two subcommittees.

A pilot Vacation Bible School program will be used in the summer of 1993. The rough draft was developed by Pastor Craig Ferkenstad and his wife Teresa. The subcommittee's hope is that it can be produced and distributed throughout the synod as another alternative for a VBS curriculum.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON YOUTH WORK

The Subcommittee on Youth Work deals specifically with the training of the young people in our churches. Members of the subcommittee are: The Rev. Mark Bartels, chairman; Mr. Ron O'Neill, Mr. Rob. Pipal, and the Rev. Donald Moldstad, secretary.

The 1992 Lutheran Youth Association Convention was held at Carroll College, Waukesha, WI. The turnout was rather poor with less than 100 youth attending. The convention theme was: "Nothing Beyond Forgiveness." The devotions and studies focused on how Scripture addresses child/parent relationships.

The 1993 LYA Convention will be held in Rapid City, SD. The theme will be "Faith of Our Fathers," looking at the history of our ELS. The dates are July 29-August 1st.

The 1994 LYA Convention will be held in Seattle, WA. Bethany College will again serve as the Youth Convention site in 1995.

In the last 12 months the subcommittee has provided grants to sponsor area Youth Retreats in the following places: Arizona (2), Washington (2), Southern Minnesota (2), Florida (2). One congregation in California was also granted some funds to begin youth work.

Mr. Ron O'Neill, our camp coordinator, reports: Six camps reported to the BEY. They were held at Camp Indianhead, Brainerd, MN; Camp Indianhead, Montello, WI; Camp Lo-Ray, Michigan; Camp Lutherhaven, Port Orchard, WA; Camp Four Star, Olympia, WA; and a new camp started in Florida with financial assistance from the youth subcommittee. A total of 144 staff volunteered to serve the 550 total campers in attendance. AAL funded a gathering of camp administrators and staff from ELS & WELS in Wisconsin.

The quarterly youth magazine, "Young Branches," was produced only 3 times in 1992 due to a move by the editor, Pastor Moldstad. Four issues are planned for 1993.

A new youth library of resources has been organized. Seminary student, Dan Johnson and his wife Emily will serve as librarians. Lists of available materials, book & video, have been distributed to all churches and youth leaders.

A number of youth Bible Studies were published and mailed out to all pastors. The subcommittee hopes to produce a minimum of 12 per year. Work is presently being done on a Leader's Manual for youth work which will include meeting formats and helps on setting up retreats, etc.

In conjunction with the Subcommittee on Parish Education work has begun on a youth songbook for use in Christian Day Schools, Sunday Schools, youth meetings, camps, conventions and so on.

A member of the subcommittee addressed the seminary students regarding youth work. It is our hope to include a more extensive instruction in ministering to young people through the seminary curriculum.

Work has also begun on a Teen Devotional book.

Preliminary plans are being drawn up to develop a commission in the synod which would deal with the Christian family, since so many of the issues which affect a teenager's spiritual life begin in the home.

A present lack of manpower on the subcommittee restricts the amount of work we are able to accomplish. We continue to look for as many ways as possible to help our pastors, youth leaders and congregations to serve the young sheep in their care during the especially tenuous years of adolescence.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

The Subcommittee on Christian Day Schools assists congregations which endeavor to train their children through a Christian Day School. Members of the subcommittee are: Mr. Larry Rude, Mr. James Schneck, and Professor Mark Wiechmann.

All teachers were encouraged in their calling at several local teacher's conferences. The Midwest ELS Teacher's Conference met at Holy Trinity in Okauchee, Wisconsin on October 29 and 30. The teachers in the Pacific Northwest Conference met jointly with the WELS at Canon Beach, Oregon on October 8th and 9th and at Salem Lutheran in Edmonds, Washington on March 11 and 12. They met with the ELS schools alone at Bethany, Port Orchard on January 18th. Our teachers continue to be edified through their attendance at these conferences and we, as a board, encourage all teachers to actively participate in their local conferences.

School visitation continues to be edifying to the schools of our synod. The visitors are trying to make more personal contacts with the teachers of our synod, developing rapport and getting a feel for the supervision challenges associated with each teacher's position. In addition to supervision of instruction and encouragement of the teachers, the visitors continue to encourage individual

school boards to stand behind their teachers with both moral and financial support.

Seven teachers took advantage of the financial assistance offered for continued education and we, as a board, encourage teachers to make use of these funds.

The board encourages the establishment of Christian educational agencies within all the churches of the synod. Subsidy grants reflect our encouragement for the growth of day schools and starter programs as an important part of the church's complete education program, as well as a mission outreach to the Good Shepherd's lambs. Information on schools is available to congregations wishing to survey the possibilities of starting schools. Also reviewed was a new publication on starting Christian preschools. This booklet offers many helpful materials and planning aids for the congregation looking into starting such a program, either alone or as a starter program leading into a Christian Day School. Copies are available from the Secretary of Schools.

Certification Rules for the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

- I. Those wishing to prepare for service as a Christian Day School teacher in the synod may do so by pursuing either of the following courses of study:
 - A. Earn an Associate of Arts degree at Bethany including the Christian Day School curriculum with specified religion courses; earn a Bachelor's degree in Education and present credentials which, by a record of preparation and experience, demonstrate the candidate's ability to teach effectively in the schools of the synod.
 - B. Earn the Bachelor's degree in elementary education from Dr. Martin Luther College.
 - C. By colloquy, specifically by
 1. Holding a Bachelor's degree from a four-year college, or university, and
 2. By demonstrating familiarity with and loyalty to the principals of Christian education which would be the equivalent of successfully completing the Bethany Teacher Preparation Program for the Lutheran Elementary School, and
 3. By demonstrating understanding and commitment to the confessional statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. (See "We Believe, Teach, and Confess.")
 - D. Automatically by those teachers certified and transferring in from the WELS.
- II. The Synod Teacher Certification program will be overseen and administered by two people, one of whom will be appointed by the president of the college and one of whom will be appointed by the president of the synod from the Board for Education and Youth. These men will evaluate all applications for synod certification.
- III. Teachers will be colloquized by a Committee for Colloquy. This committee will include the administrators of the Synod Teacher Certification Program and other individuals appointed by the synod president.

(The course listings and colloquy procedure will be published with these rules in the new CDS Handbook.)

Our subcommittee looks forward with great anticipation to the coming offering. It will make possible a large number of projects that are waiting for funding. We, as a board, thank you for supporting our work among the lambs of Christ.

As we continue to seek ways of greater assistance to congregations trying to begin a Christian Day School, the board will be available for resource material, planning assistance, practical advice and financial aid. Those wishing information should contact the Secretary of Schools, James Schneck.

One request for school subsidy is, at this writing, being processed. One of the schools of our synod, Grace in Hillsboro, is currently transforming its school to a traditional CDS curriculum. Your gifts from the offering have made the funding of special projects such as this possible. We thank you for having made these funds available to help schools in need of assistance.

We are currently in the planning stages of assembling two major projects. One is the writing of a curriculum for our ELS synod history. This project will provide resources such as objectives, sequence and evaluation materials along with learning aids. A team is currently being assembled for this project.

Our second project is also in the planning stages. A teacher newsletter, addressing specifically the ELS teacher, will be published by our subcommittee. While there are many teaching publications available our board felt the need to provide teachers with their own special publication, bringing together the valuable resources our own teachers have to offer along with giving our teachers a sense of unity. We feel this will be an especially important publication as our teaching staff is so rapidly expanding.

One of our members was privileged to attend the professional forum this last year. Professor Wiechmann enjoyed the chance to meet with members of the forum and many important topics were addressed. As a result, our Secretary of Schools will be meeting with members of the appropriate WELS boards concerning worker benefits, calling across synod lines, certification and teacher training.

In our meetings over the past year three teachers were certified under the previous certification rules. At the 1992 Synod Convention the floor committee requested a revision of the RULES FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION. The CDS Subcommittee has rewritten the rules themselves as recorded here and would ask approval. These rules list the basic structure and process for certification but are not intended as a complete listing of course requirements and certification procedure. Those procedures and listings mentioned therein are currently being rewritten, in consultation with President Orvick and the Doctrine Committee. They will be published, upon completion, and mailed to all parties involved in the ELS CDS system, including all teachers, schools and CDS boards of education in local parishes.

The board would recommend the following teacher salary schedule for the 1993-94 school year based on a twelve-month call:

Teachers who hold a Bachelor's Degree:

Base Salary	\$16,000
Yearly Increment	\$225*

Teachers who hold a Master's Degree:

Base Salary	\$17,000
Yearly Increment	\$250

*Continued yearly salary increments may be made contingent upon the teacher obtaining additional credit hours of graduate or undergraduate work. Congregations may establish a maximum range for automatic increments, such as 25 years.

To both of the above add the following:

Pension to be figured at 6% of the above.

Paid health insurance, synod plan or the equivalent.

Housing is to be furnished, either a home or cash allowance based on the average costs in the area.

Additional Recommendations:

1. Other duties assigned to a teacher, but not those expected because of regular congregational membership, such as principalship, should be adequately remunerated.

2. Congregations are encouraged to provide financial support for the teacher's continuing education and teachers should be encouraged to take a minimum of three credit hours of graduate or undergraduate work during each three-year period. Congregations may also wish to establish a salary incentive program to encourage teachers to take additional course work by providing incremental increases based on additional credits, such as after 12, 24, etc.
3. The congregation should insist that the teachers attend the annual teacher's conference and should provide ways and means to do so.
4. The congregation should encourage all male teachers to attend the synod convention and become permanent advisory members to the synod. Congregations should assist these teachers by providing ways and means to attend.
5. A sick leave of ten days shall be granted each year, these shall be accumulated to a maximum of fifty days. For any sick leave beyond the accumulated amount the cost of substitute teaching may be deducted from the salary of the teacher who is absent.
6. Personal emergency leaves are not to exceed five days each year. The cost of substitute teaching is to be deducted from the teacher's salary for all days over five days. In the event of a death or serious illness in the immediate family an additional leave shall be granted, its extent to be determined by the Board of Christian Education.
7. Each substitute teacher shall be paid a minimum of \$50 per day.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOL STATISTICS 1992-93

Teachers:

Full Time Men:	15
Full Time Women:	31
Part Time Women:	21
Total:	67

Schools: (does not include those with Kindergarten/Pre-school Nursery only)

Total Number: 15

Enrollment by Grade:

Pre-S	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
232	140	103	109	115	90	106	92	78	84

Total Enrollment: 1,149 Pre-K through 8

(1,000 in 1992)

917 K through 8

(802 in 1992)

JOINT CONCERNS

Preliminary work is beginning in the area of identifying ways that the Board for Education and Youth can assist in strengthening the families of the synod.

The board certainly rejoices over the two-year anniversary thankoffering that kicked off at the 1992 Synod Convention. Through this offering, by God's grace, we will be able to expand vital work in the area of Christian training. Through the years the board has been hampered by a lack of funds necessary to do the work of training and equipping all age groups of our synod. It is our prayer that through this synod-wide thankoffering, funds will be available to carry out work in God's kingdom which in years past has been postponed because of lack of funds.

Jonathan N. Madson, secretary

EDUCATION AND YOUTH ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Subcommittee on Parish Education

WHEREAS, The Subcommittee on Parish Education seeks to assist all part-time educational agencies of our synod's congregations, and,

WHEREAS, They have produced excellent materials for the benefit of the individual congregations, and,

WHEREAS, Feedback concerning the effectiveness of these publications is important for the subcommittee's work, and,

WHEREAS, The names of board members occupying the positions of Secretary for Sunday Schools and Secretary of Christian Day Schools need to be published for effective input concerning these publications,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the pastors and congregation members be encouraged to use the materials and provide feedback to the subcommittee concerning their effectiveness, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board publicizes the names of the Secretary for Sunday Schools and the Secretary of Christian Day Schools through the Convention Report and various other synodical publications.

Resolution No. 2: Subcommittee on Youth Work

WHEREAS, The Subcommittee on Youth Work deals specifically with the training of the young people in our synod, and,

WHEREAS, The subcommittee has held Lutheran Youth Association Conventions the past few years, and,

WHEREAS, The subcommittee has provided grants to sponsor area youth retreats and camps, and,

WHEREAS, There is great spiritual benefit to the youth who attend these excellent conventions,

BE IT RESOLVED, That pastors and youth leaders encourage their young people to make use of the spiritual opportunities through these conventions, retreats, and camps.

Resolution No. 3: "Young Branches"

WHEREAS, "Young Branches" is greatly enjoyed by the youth in our synod, and,

WHEREAS, Its continued publication is an invaluable aid to reaching our youth,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the subcommittee make every effort to continue the publication of four issues according to its plan for 1993, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the subcommittee, through the magazine "Young Branches," along with parents, youth leaders and pastors, encourage feedback and contributions of articles from our synod's youth.

Resolution No. 4: Aid Association for Lutherans

WHEREAS, Aid Association for Lutherans has funded a gathering in Wisconsin of ELS/WELS camp administrators and staff,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks Aid Association for Lutherans for its generous gift.

Resolution No. 5: Certification for Christian Day School Teachers

WHEREAS, There continues to be a need for a process to assure the qualifications of individuals in the teaching ministry, and,

WHEREAS, The subcommittee is in the process of revising the certification rules, and,

WHEREAS, They are in the process of creating the new Christian Day School Handbook,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourages the completion of the new certification rules and the new CDS Handbook, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Subcommittee on Christian Day Schools submit the certification rules to the 1994 Synod Convention for adoption.

Resolution No. 6: Adoption of Salary Scale for Teachers

WHEREAS, The recommended salary scale is a realistic minimum, and,

WHEREAS, The housing, health insurance and pension benefits are also of crucial importance, and,

WHEREAS, We have the Scriptural injunction that the laborer is worthy of his hire, (Luke 10:7), and,

WHEREAS, Our congregations should constantly be aware of the needs of their teachers,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod urges congregations to use this salary schedule as a minimum for its teachers.

Resolution No. 7: Board of Education and Youth

WHEREAS, Without God's grace all our efforts are in vain, and,

WHEREAS, It is only right and proper to give thanks to God for all His blessings upon our synod,

BE IT RESOLVED, That all thanks, glory and honor be given to God for the blessings He has showered upon our synod and its people through this board, and we ask His blessings upon their future efforts in His name.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS

As usual it is exciting and a privilege to give an annual reporting to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod on what it has been doing through its Board for Home Missions. It is similar to Paul and Barnabas returning to Antioch, their mother church, after their first missionary journey: "On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them, and how He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles." (Acts 14:27) No doubt they also reported about the persecution, the plottings and stoning they had to endure, which contributed to the Judaziers' attacks upon their work which resulted in and was settled through the council called at Jerusalem. There was also a disagreement which arose between these two great missionaries over the work of John Mark. This disagreement was so severe it prevented Paul and Barnabas from working together on a second journey. Therefore, on occasion, reports such as this also must include an accounting of difficult times and circumstances. Just as there were substantive and personal obstacles that had to be faced in the work of the early Church, so we find it to be no different today. So with the same excitement, fear and trembling, we humbly submit the following report.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The Board for Home Missions is composed of the following members: the Rev. Erwin Ekhoff*, chairman; Mr. Robert Smith*, vice chairman; Mr. Albert Holman, treasurer; the Rev. Glenn Obenberger, recording secretary; the Rev. Steven Petersen, field secretary; Mr. Leslie Just, chaplain; and Dr. William Kessel*, researcher and developer. Those members marked with an asterisk (*) also serve on the Trustee/Home Mission Subcommittee.

MEETINGS AND VISITATIONS

The board met for its regular quarterly meetings in July, November, February, and May. It also met in special sessions: twice during the 1992 convention and twice with the Board of Trustees (once at convention and again on July 2).

Board members have made regular visits to current mission fields for such things as installations, dedications, etc. Also trips were made by some members to investigate prospective mission fields.

HOME MISSION SEMINAR

On December 28 and 29, the board along with the home missionaries met at Grace Lutheran Church, Vero Beach, FL. The first day was devoted to a presentation given by Mr. Frederick Matzke from Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Service on the topic: "Resolving Inter-Personal Conflicts in the Parish with Sensitivity." The second day was led by the chairman and field secretary as many practical matters were discussed in regard to home missions.

The seminar was funded through a grant from Aid Association for Lutherans. It was appreciated and considered very worthwhile by board members and missionaries alike.

MISSION PROPERTIES

- Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lakeland, FL expanded its social hall/educational wing.
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Warroad, MN expanded its building to accommodate its growing congregation.
- Family of God Lutheran Church, Bullhead City, AZ constructed a permanent structure on its property for worship, education, office and social functions.
- New Life Lutheran Church, Sebring, FL purchased property, and constructed

a parsonage and church building.

- Saved by Grace Lutheran Church, Gresham, OR has purchased Forest Lawn Mortuary and is converting it over for its use for worship, office, education and social functions.
- Peace Lutheran Church, Kissimmee, FL has made an offer to purchase property.
- Peace Lutheran Church, Lakeland, FL has purchased property as a future church site.

NEW WORK BEGUN AND PROPOSED

- Peace Lutheran congregation has been organizing in South Lakeland, FL, the Rev. William Mack serving as missionary.
- Good Shepherd Lutheran congregation is being organized in East Pierce County, WA, the Rev. Timothy Mutterer serving as mission explorer.
- The board has chosen to start work in Vacaville, CA and the calling process for a missionary has begun.

CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCOTTSDALE, AZ

In April, 1992, five families (of the 12 family units of the congregation) were very distressed over their membership at Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church. For a variety of reasons, pastoral rapport between themselves and the Rev. McMiller had been lost. The departure of this group would have had a devastating effect on the mission because among them were a major part of the congregation's voters and most of its officers and board members; two of the families were charter members of the mission; indeed three of these five families had transferred to the congregation from other ELS congregations.

The Board for Home Missions had intervened before in interpersonal conflict at Christ the Cornerstone. However, this incident of disharmony was the most serious, threatening the very existence of the mission. In an effort to diffuse the volatile situation, the Board for Home Missions encouraged Pastor McMiller to announce an early retirement. He reported his intention to do so to the voters on April 21, 1992. His report was accepted by a seven to four vote, with one abstension. It appeared that a crippling crisis had been averted and the mission would continue in peace.

A few days later Pastor McMiller changed his mind and announced that he intended to stay on for three more years. Again, turmoil erupted among the membership. The Board for Home Missions concluded that it had lost confidence in Pastor McMiller's ability to serve the mission and encouraged the voters of Christ the Cornerstone to ask for his resignation.

At a meeting of the Church Council on May 6, the Circuit Visitor asked each council member to state publicly his feelings about Pastor McMiller, his ministry and the current problem. Frank evaluations were offered. Pastor McMiller announced for the second time that he would step down as pastor.

Through an attorney, Pastor McMiller began an effort to regain his pastorate. Threats of lawsuit were directed toward the synod, individual members of the Board for Home Missions and members of the congregation. One particularly distasteful ultimatum from Pastor McMiller's lawyer demanded that the synod 1) recognize Pastor McMiller as legitimate pastor and end its involvement in the affair, or 2) compensate Pastor McMiller for resigning, or 3) be prepared to be sued for damages. The synod did not respond.

About this time, Pastor McMiller began church discipline proceedings against those who had expressed criticism of him during the May 6 council meeting. The imposition of this discipline meant that those members were now ineligible to vote. In effect they had been stripped of their privileges as voting and communicant members. Eventually these members were unscripturally and unconstitutionally removed from the congregation.

An Ad Hoc committee to investigate the situation was appointed by the synod president. It concluded that Pastor McMiller had indeed resigned from his pastorate, and furthermore that he had wronged those members of his congregation against whom he unjustly had directed church discipline. At the recommendation of the Ad Hoc committee, Pastor McMiller was suspended from the clergy of the synod by its president.

The members who were improperly put out of the congregation still consider themselves to be the rightful ELS mission congregation in Scottsdale. The Board for Home Missions concurs that this is so. Pastor McMiller and a small group continue to occupy the church building in Scottsdale. Because this pastor and this group have been suspended, the Board for Home Missions resolved to recommend to the Board of Trustees that it discontinue using synod funds to subsidize the monthly mortgage payments.

EVANGELISM OUTREACH

During this past year the board has also met with two representatives from the synod's Board for Evangelism to discuss ways in which these two boards might be of assistance to each other in their work for the synod. In this regard the following churches have received monies to help in their local evangelism efforts: Lakewood Lutheran, Lakewood, WA; Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX; and Grace, Hillsboro, OR.

SALARY PACKAGE FOR HOME MISSIONARIES

The board recommends the following salary package for home missionaries for 1994 in accordance with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Handbook (p. 29, H):

Base Salary	\$18,200
Car Allowance	3,000
Yearly Increment	250 (based on years of experience in the Holy Ministry up to 20 years)
Pension	6% of base salary, car allowance & yearly increment
Health Insurance (Synod Plan)	Premium to be paid in full
Housing	To be provided
Utilities	To be paid in full
Continuing Ed. Allowance	\$150 (seminars, tuition, books, etc.)
Vacation Time	1-5 years—2 Sundays & 20 days 6-15 years—3 Sundays & 25 days 16+ years—4 Sundays & 30 days

BOARD FOR HOME MISSIONS FINANCIAL REPORT

	<u>1992 Expenditures</u>	<u>1993 Budget</u>	<u>1994 Proposed</u>
Faith, Oregon, WI	\$ 6,499.92	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 3,000.00
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL	4,750.00		
Christ the Cornerstone, Phoenix, AZ	4,606.27	2,500.00	
Christ, Port St. Lucie, FL	11,222.95	8,500.00	6,000.00
Family of God, Riviera, AZ	29,093.00	23,000.00	18,000.00
Good Shepherd, Brownsburg, IN	8,250.00	7,000.00	5,000.00
Bethlehem, Warroad, MN	22,500.00	18,000.00	15,000.00
Peace, Kissimmee, FL	32,032.09	26,500.00	20,000.00
New Life, Sebring, FL	19,500.00	14,500.00	9,500.00

Saved by Grace, Gresham, OR	17,333.34	14,000.00	8,000.00
Lakewood Lutheran, Tacoma, WA	3,904.15		
Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX	700.00		
Grace, Hillsboro, OR	2,000.00		
New start mission		40,000.00	45,000.00
New mission			38,000.00
Advertising/Printing	2,265.11	6,000.00	6,000.00
Board expenses	12,629.25	12,000.00	12,000.00
Moving expenses	<u>0</u>	<u>12,000.00</u>	<u>12,000.00</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$177,286.08	\$188,800.00	\$197,500.00
South Lakeland, FL		Schwan Sales Enterprises, Inc.	
Pierce County, WA		Schwan Sales Enterprises, Inc.	

THANK YOU

During the past year, various individuals, congregations and other organizations have contributed special gifts toward our home mission efforts. We gratefully acknowledge these special gifts. Again we continue to appreciate Lutheran Brotherhood's generous Program Subsidy Grants which have been made available to many of our home mission congregations. We also acknowledge with gratitude Aid Association for Lutherans for its grant which made our Home Mission seminar a possibility.

As Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch, they revisited many of the congregations they had started and we read: "they returned . . . strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. 'We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God.' they said. Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they have put their trust." (Acts 14:22 & 23)

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod by the gracious working of God our Savior has a similar relationship with the home mission congregations under its care and supervision. May we continue eagerly to strengthen their members and encourage them to remain faithful and diligent in their work for the Lord. We confidently commit pastors and members alike to the Lord Jesus in whom we have all put our trust.

Glenn Obenberger, recording secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR EVANGELISM

The board met three times since the 1992 ELS Synod Convention. The board members are: The Rev. Joseph Burkhardt, chairman, The Rev. Thomas L. Rank, secretary, The Rev. J. Kincaid Smith, Mr. Harvey Ringen and Mr. John Dale. Last year the board reported that it was working on the development of a workshop on evangelism as well as a brochure for use in evangelizing. The synod resolved that the board finish and implement its projects. In keeping with this resolution the board saw to completion two major undertakings. The first was the publishing and distribution of "A Question to Consider." This small booklet is designed as an aid in the presentation of Law and Gospel to the lost soul. Approximately 5,000 copies of this have been distributed throughout the synod. Another 7,000 copies are available.

The other major work of the board was the writing and publishing of an evangelism presentation. This was completed and titled "Evangelism and You." An initial presentation was made in January 1992 to pastors representing each circuit of the synod. The plan is that these pastors will present the program to their circuit pastoral conferences or to a meeting of pastors and lay people (e.g. spring or fall circuit conferences). The pastors may then present the program to their congregations and use it as they see fit. The presentation has been made to two circuits, as well as at the vicar workshop at the seminary, as of this writing.

2,000 copies of "Evangelism and You" are available for distribution in the synod. Extra copies will sell in the Bethany Lutheran College Bookstore (as well as copies of "A Question to Consider").

The extra cost involved in the printing of the above materials (6,000 copies of "A Question to Consider" and 2,000 copies of "Evangelism and You") as well as the added expenses for presentation in January has caused the board to use up its budget allowance for 1993 (\$6000). At this time the board plans no more activities which require the spending of money for 1993. The ELS Evangelism Notes will resume publishing in 1994.

The board continues to study materials used for evangelism in America today. The board hopes to continue to publish its own materials as much as is possible.

Thomas L. Rank, secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS—1993

During the past year the Lord has again blessed our work of spreading the Gospel in other lands. Two missionaries have carried on the work in Peru, which was begun in 1968—twenty five years ago. Two missionaries have begun new work in Santiago, Chile. One missionary has been in the States doing full-time translation work for our Latin American missions. Through the efforts of our missionaries and with the blessing of the Holy Spirit, new souls are being won for the kingdom and souls already in the fold are being strengthened in their faith. To God alone the glory!

BOARD PERSONNEL—The board is made up of four pastors and three laymen. The Rev. Paul Anderson is chairman; Mr. Marlin Goebel is vice-chairman; the Rev. Wayne Halvorson is secretary; the Rev. Norman A. Madson is the field-secretary; the Rev. Adolph Harstad is the information-officer; Mr. Robert Soule is custodian of the Princeton bank account, through which some of the monies for the work on the field flows. Mr. Ken Loomis is the consultant on mass media for our missionaries. The board had four two-day meetings during the past year—January, April, July and October. Board members were faithful in their attendance at these meetings and much good was accomplished through the meetings.

FIELD PERSONNEL—The Rev. Martin Teigen returned to the States with his family in July of last year. He took up residence in Colorado Springs, Colorado for a year. He and his wife, Albina, have been doing translation work for our board. There are many books and articles and sermons in English that our missionaries would like to have in Spanish and they have been supplying some of those during their first year back in the States. The Rev. Teigen will be available for a parish call at the end of his year of translation. The Rev. David Haeuser was appointed by the board to be head of the seminary in Peru, replacing missionary Teigen. The Rev. Timothy Erickson is in charge of the administration of the mission and also teaches in the seminary. Both men counsel and assist the four national pastors in their work and also do some of the preaching. The Rev. Jim Olsen arrived in Santiago, Chile in February 1992 to begin work

there. The Rev. Daniel McMiller joined him in May of that year. During the first year they have been busy getting established in a new country and culture and making contacts with mission prospects. Instruction classes have been begun. On Christmas Day six people were confirmed forming the nucleus of our first congregation in Chile.

PROPERTY PURCHASE IN SANTIAGO—Thanks to a generous gift from Schwan, Inc. our missionaries in Santiago, Chile were able to purchase some nice land and buildings about 6 miles from the center of the city. The buildings formerly housed a private school. One of the buildings has been made into a nice chapel and is the place where our missionaries and their early contacts meet regularly for Sunday worship. One of the buildings will be fixed up for offices for our missionaries. There is space for a couple of apartments, a bookstore and future classrooms. It is located in a nice area of the city and is easy to get to by various modes of transportation. The property ought to be a great blessing to our work there in Santiago.

STATISTICS FOR OUR PERU MISSION—At the end of 1992 there were 615 baptized members in the several small congregations in Peru, 316 communicants and 65 voting members. During 1992 20 children were baptized, 9 children and 20 adults were confirmed. Average attendance at the weekly services was 238. There were 159 children enrolled in Sunday Schools and 206 enrolled in Bible classes. During the summer 249 children attended VBS. These are the fruits of Gospel preaching and teaching after 25 years. We praise God for His blessings!

THE POLITICAL & ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN PERU—There has been some improvement in both of these areas during the past year. The terrorism has subsided somewhat since the leader of the SHINING PATH movement was captured and imprisoned; though it hasn't been rooted out all together. There are still areas where it is not safe for our missionaries to go. Because the strength of the dollar had fallen off dramatically our board found it necessary a couple of times during the year to make cost-of-living adjustments in the missionaries' salaries. The economy seems now to be on an upswing and we hope that continues.

THE FIRST ELS-WELS LATIN AMERICAN MISSIONARIES' CONFERENCE—Thanks to a generous gift from a friend of both of our synods we were able to hold the first Latin American Missions Conference involving our two synods. We met in Santiago, Chile the week of January 11th-17th. There were 15 WELS representatives and 8 ELS representatives. We met jointly part of the time and separately part of the time. It was a very profitable conference. If outside funding can be obtained we will hold a similar conference in 1996.

FIFTH & SIXTH MISSIONARIES—Since it is much better to have at least three missionaries on each field the board's goal over the next few years will be to work towards that. To have only two men on a field means that at furlough time for the one the other is left alone. The board hopes to be able financially to call a 5th missionary to replace Martin Teigen this year. Whether that person will be called to Peru or Chile has not been determined at this time. Because of the low interest rates our invested monies are not bearing the returns we had hope for leaving us in sort of a bind. But a minimum of three men per field must ever be our goal.

PERU NATIONAL PASTORS—Last year we reported the ordination of three national pastors. We are happy to report this year that they have been working out well. They have pretty much taken over the work in three areas—Chimbote, Chiquian-Pacillon, and Reynoso in Lima. A fourth student is in his vicarage year and will be ordained before the year is out. The national pastors still rely on our missionaries for advice and counsel and assistance in sermon preparation but more and more they are assuming full responsibility.

HELPING HANDS—During the past year the HH organization supported missionary McMiller in Chile and missionary Haeuser in Peru. Eight hundred and eight gifts were received, totaling \$65,161. The expenses for mailing out the newsletter were \$7,978. Interest gained from the Schwan Endowment was \$48,724. We had a total of \$105,907 for missionary support. We wish to thank all those who supported HH with their gifts and prayers during the past year. The organization is a tremendous help to our foreign mission program.

FAITH MISSION SOCIETY—Our synod's foreign mission outreach was in the past year greatly aided by the Faith Mission Society of Hillman, Michigan. A total of \$5,869 was received for the Peru Mission and \$1,713 for the Chile Mission. Most of these monies were designated for specific projects. Our board is most appreciative of all that FMS does for our foreign mission program.

AUSTRALIA—At the time this report was being written, the Rev. Paul Anderson and Mr. Robert Soule of our board were visiting Australia. There are three congregations over there that are in fellowship with our synod and being served by one of our pastors, Daniel Schroeder. A member of one of these churches, Mark Tuffin, has completed work in our seminary and vicarage program and is ready to go back to his homeland to do church work. Our board will assist these churches in whatever way we can.

The Lord has been gracious to us again this past year. We thank Him for opening doors for the Gospel and for giving us the manpower and financial means to carry out the task of bringing the Gospel into all the world.

THE 1993 REVISED BUDGET FOR ELS FOREIGN MISSIONS

	Martin (20 years) [1/2]	Tim (15 years) [1/2]	David (20 years) [1/2]	Jim (20 years) [1/2]	Dan (9 years) [1/2]	5th McMiller Missionary (10 years) [1/2]
Base salary	\$ 9,250	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$18,500	\$ 9,250
Increment (\$250)	2,500	3,750	5,000	5,000	2,250	1,250
Rent	2,500	10,000	10,000	8,400	8,400	5,000
Utilities	1,300	2,600	2,600	2,600	2,600	1,300
Children's Schooling	0	14,000	18,000	0	0	.6,000
*Pension	<u>720</u>	<u>1,515</u>	<u>1,590</u>	<u>1,590</u>	<u>1,425</u>	<u>750</u>
	\$16,270	\$50,365	\$55,690	\$36,090	\$33,175	\$23,550

*Pension is figured at 6% of Base, Increment & Car Allowance

OTHER EXPENSES	5 Miss.	SUMMARY	
Health Insurance	\$ 22,000	5th Miss.	\$ 23,550
Car Allowance	15,000	Teigen (1/2)	16,270
Vehicle Replacement	15,000	T. Erickson	50,365
Furlough (TE & ?)	9,500	D. Haeuser	55,690
Board Expense	7,000	Jim Olsen	36,090
Office Supplies	5,000	Dan McMiller	33,175
Printing & Literature	3,000	"Other" Exp.	101,700
Furnishings Replacement	2,500	Sem. & Schlsps.	27,000
Util. & Insur. for Build.	4,500	Sal. Nat. Pas.	<u>15,000</u>
Language Study	2,000	TOTAL	\$358,840
Field Travel	2,000		
Visa Expense	1,000	SOURCE OF FUNDING	
Personnel Change	10,000	Synod	\$108,000
Peru Accountant	1,500	Helping Hands	108,000
Term Insurance	700	Schwan Endow.	80,000
Field Visit	<u>1,000</u>	WCW Endow.	8,000
TOTAL	\$101,700	Spc. FM Funds	2,000
		Fett Funds	<u>52,840</u>
		TOTAL	\$358,840

Norman A. Madson, field-secretary

THOUGHTS OF FAITH
BALANCE SHEET
As of July, 1992

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Mem. Total
ASSETS				
Current Assets				
Cash - Checking	(64,395.80)	100,000.00	—	35,604.20
Total Current Assets	(64,395.80)	100,000.00	—	35,604.20
INVESTMENTS				
Self-reliance Credit				
Union	(50,628.85)	52,787.38	118,291.52	120,450.05
First Security Federal				
Savings	(49,103.35)	51,121.50	—	2,018.15
AAL Income Fund	—	—	56,654.81	56,654.81
Note Receivable—Meier	48,500.00	—	—	48,500.00
AAL Capital Growth Fund	—	—	—	—
Note Receivable—Luttmann	—	15,277.75	—	15,277.75
Accrued Interest	—	37,167.05	—	37,167.05
Investments—				
E.D. Jones	(258,408.50)	2,625,242.09	567,783.70	2,934,617.29
Total Investments	(309,640.70)	2,781,595.77	742,730.03	3,214,685.10
FURNITURE, FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT				
Furniture & Equipment	—	—	—	—
Automobiles and Equipment	—	—	—	—
Total Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment	—	—	—	—
INTERFUND RECEIVABLES				
Due from Unrestricted Fund	—	1,200,916.74	—	1,200,916.74
Due from Restricted Fund	1,486,429.47	—	—	1,486,429.47
Total Interfund Receivables	1,486,429.47	1,200,916.74	—	2,687,346.21
TOTAL ASSETS	1,112,392.97	4,082,512.51	742,730.03	5,937,635.21

LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE				
INTERFUND PAYABLES				
Due to Restricted Fund	1,200,916.74	—	—	1,200,916.74
Due to Unrestricted Fund	—	1,486,429.46	—	1,486,429.46
Due to Endowment Fund	—	—	—	—
Total Interfund Payables	<u>1,200,916.74</u>	<u>1,486,429.46</u>	—	<u>2,687,346.20</u>
FUND BALANCE				
Balance beginning of period	27,956.65	1,897,170.95	663,388.52	2,588,516.12
Current period increase (decrease)	(116,480.42)	<u>698,912.10</u>	<u>79,341.51</u>	<u>661,773.19</u>
Total Fund Balance	<u>(88,523.77)</u>	<u>2,596,083.05</u>	<u>742,730.03</u>	<u>3,250,289.31</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCE	<u>1,112,392.97</u>	<u>4,082,512.51</u>	<u>742,730.03</u>	<u>5,937,635.51</u>

**THOUGHTS OF FAITH
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENSES
For August, 1991 through July, 1992**

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	Mem. Total
REVENUE AND SUPPORT				
CONTRIBUTIONS				
Contributions	159,613.17	38,703.00	—	198,316.17
Schwan Contributions	—	<u>1,760,000.00</u>	—	<u>1,760,000.00</u>
Total Contributions	<u>159,613.17</u>	<u>1,798,703.00</u>	—	<u>1,958,316.17</u>
INVESTMENT INCOME				
Interest Income	115,211.36	62,694.38	20,901.98	198,807.72
Investment Gain (Loss)	—	<u>6,484.93</u>	<u>58,439.53</u>	<u>64,924.46</u>
Total Investment Income	<u>115,211.36</u>	<u>69,179.31</u>	<u>79,341.51</u>	<u>263,732.18</u>
TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT	<u>274,824.53</u>	<u>1,867,882.31</u>	<u>79,341.51</u>	<u>2,222,048.35</u>

EXPENSES**PROGRAM EXPENSES**

Production	11,469.37	138.45	—	11,607.82
Translation	400.00	13,051.26	—	13,451.26
Bibles	—	248,088.00	—	248,088.00
Literature	46,908.00	419,067.17	—	465,975.17
Computers	37,417.62	7,502.49	—	44,920.11
Travel Expense	104,281.17	137,229.28	—	241,510.45
Supplies	217,359.08	109,090.82	—	326,449.90
Education	8,918.14	15,163.16	—	24,081.30
Salaries	174,552.76	98,291.44	—	272,844.20
Housing Allowance	7,896.08	29,208.62	—	37,104.70
Hospitalization	6,561.43	34,053.34	—	40,614.77
Pension	2,163.07	3,233.20	—	5,396.27
Term Insurance	104.40	313.20	—	417.60
Total Program Expenses	<u>618,031.12</u>	<u>1,114,430.43</u>	—	<u>1,732,461.55</u>

ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL EXPENSES

Business Insurance	2,203.00	—	—	2,203.00
Dues and Subscriptions	843.33	550.00	—	1,393.33
Rent	6,085.00	9,580.00	—	15,665.00
Utilities	3,293.82	—	—	3,293.82
Telephone	14,208.43	5,269.43	—	19,477.86
Audit/Review	6,173.40	—	—	6,173.40
Office supplies and expense	<u>6,681.81</u>	<u>382.00</u>	—	<u>7,063.81</u>
Total Administrative & General Expenses	<u>39,488.79</u>	<u>15,781.43</u>	—	<u>55,270.22</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>657,519.91</u>	<u>1,130,211.86</u>	—	<u>1,787,731.77</u>

EXCESS (DEFICIT) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES

INTERFUND TRANSFERS				
Interfund transfer	<u>266,214.96</u>	<u>(38,758.35)</u>	—	<u>227,456.61</u>
Total Interfund Transfers	<u>266,214.96</u>	<u>(38,758.35)</u>	—	<u>227,456.61</u>
Net Change in Fund Balance	<u>(116,480.42)</u>	<u>698,912.10</u>	<u>79,341.51</u>	<u>661,773.19</u>
Beginning Fund Balance	<u>27,956.65</u>	<u>1,897,170.95</u>	<u>663,388.52</u>	<u>2,588,516.12</u>
ENDING FUND BALANCE	<u>(88,523.77)</u>	<u>2,596,083.05</u>	<u>742,730.03</u>	<u>3,250,289.31</u>

MISSIONS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Publication of Evangelism Materials

WHEREAS, The evangelism committee has completed two major publication undertakings, namely "A Question to Consider," an aid in the presentation of Law and Gospel to the lost, and "Evangelism and You," a seminar outline for instructing our members in evangelism, and,

WHEREAS, Publications of this nature are beneficial aids in passing on God's truth to all people, and,

WHEREAS, All of our congregations can benefit from the use of these materials,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Evangelism be commended for producing these publications and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That these materials be recommended to each of our congregations for their use.

Resolution No. 2: Direction for the Board for Evangelism

WHEREAS, The Board for Evangelism has asked for additional direction as to the services they are to provide,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod directs the Board for Evangelism to examine the feasibility of the following:

a) Providing additional seminars for the training of our lay people in the work of evangelism,

b) Consulting with congregations at their request to review and evaluate current work within the congregations, and to make recommendations for improvements in view of particular local circumstances,

c) Continue to publish evangelism materials, such as a brief pamphlet introducing our synod, with room for a congregational imprint.

Resolution No. 3: Evangelism/Home Mission Board Cooperation

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions has worked with the Board for Evangelism to provide assistance to existing congregations in their mission outreach, and,

WHEREAS, There may be significant mission opportunities where we already have local congregations, limited because of resources and/or pastoral staff available, and,

WHEREAS, These may provide opportunities for mission work comparable to establishing new congregations at considerably less expense, or may in fact establish "daughter" congregations, and,

WHEREAS, The boards already have reported some fruits from such endeavors,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Home Missions and the Board for Evangelism evaluate and continue to explore ways and

means to strengthen and expand evangelism outreach in established congregations where critical limitations in resources or staff impede the work.

Resolution No. 4: 25 Years of Mission Work in Peru

WHEREAS, The Lord has commissioned His Church to make disciples of all nations, and,

WHEREAS, The Holy Spirit opened the door in 1968 for our synod to begin preaching and teaching the Gospel in Peru, so that today there are 615 baptized members, 316 communicant members, and an average weekly attendance of 238 in the congregation in Peru, with four ordained national pastors,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod gives praise and thanks to the Lord of the Church for the years of His grace and blessing on our work in Peru, and that we pray that He continues to bless our missionaries and mission to His glory!

Resolution No. 5: Home Missionary Salary Package

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions has recommended a salary package for home missionaries, and,

WHEREAS, The cost of living can vary greatly from one area to another,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the recommended salary package be adopted, and that the Board for Home Missions investigate the necessity and/or feasibility of modifications to the salary package to reflect different costs of living in different areas.

Resolution No. 6: Thoughts of Faith

WHEREAS, Thoughts of Faith has submitted its financial statements to the Board for Foreign Missions, and,

WHEREAS, These statements reflect an increase in the work of Thoughts of Faith in preaching the Gospel in Ukraine and the Czech Republic,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod gives thanks and praise to God for the fruits of the work of Thoughts of Faith, and,

That the synod encourages them in this vital work of reaching out to the lost in Eastern Europe.

Resolution No. 7: Acknowledgment of and Thanks for Gifts

WHEREAS, Schwan Sales Enterprises, Inc., has generously contributed toward the efforts of the Board for Home Mission, the Board for Foreign Mission, and Thoughts of Faith, and,

WHEREAS, Aid Association for Lutherans has provided generous grants for Home Missionary Seminars this past year, and,

WHEREAS, Lutheran Brotherhood has provided generous Program Subsidy Grants to many of our home mission endeavors, and,

WHEREAS, Helping Hands has continued to provide financial support for our mission work in Peru, and,

WHEREAS, Faith Mission Society continues to support the work of our various mission fields, and,

WHEREAS, Many of the Women's Mission Societies throughout the synod have again provided financial assistance and support for many years of mission work in the synod,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod gives thanks and praise to God for moving the hearts of His people to give so generously to support the work of His Church, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod acknowledges with thanks the gifts of Schwan Sales Enterprises, Inc., Aid Association for Lutherans, Lutheran Brotherhood, Helping Hands, Faith Mission Societies, and the Women's Mission Societies.

Resolution No. 8: Organization of Floor Committee

WHEREAS, In the past the standing committees for Home and Foreign Missions were combined, and,

WHEREAS, We currently have standing committees for Evangelism, Home and Foreign Missions, and,

WHEREAS, There is one floor committee for three standing committees, and,

WHEREAS, This arrangement makes it difficult for the floor committee to adequately examine the work of all three standing committees,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Self-Study Committee examine the desirability and feasibility of establishing a separate floor committee for each standing committee, The Board for Evangelism, the Board for Home Mission, and the Board for Foreign Mission.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

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

The board was organized by re-electing the Rev. Gottfred Guldberg as chairman. The Rev. John E. Smith was re-elected secretary. Mr. Paul Tweit was re-elected Insurance Manager. (He cares for pastors' and teachers' Term Life Insurance.) Mr. Don Heiliger was re-elected Pension Fund Officer. Mr. Al Olson is to oversee the work being done in trying to set up an OWLS organization in our synod.

The following actions were taken by the board during this past year.

1. Re: Pastors' and Christian Day School Teachers' Term Life Insurance.
Just a reminder to each congregation that the cost per year for \$30,000 of Term Life Insurance is \$97.20 per called worker. We hope that each congregation will pay this premium for its called worker or workers.

2. Re: World Needs Fund. As a result of our Mother's Day offering and other gifts given throughout the year, the board was able to do the following with the World Needs Fund. Since our last report to synod, \$5,400 was sent through the WELS Committee on Relief, (\$2,700 for Florida Hurricane Andrew disaster and \$2,700 for Louisiana Hurricane Andrew disaster.) Another \$2,700 was sent through Direct Relief International to help the starving in Somalia. More funds than usual from the World Needs Fund were used to help pastors and other families in need in our synod.
3. Re: Retirement Survey. The Board for Christian Service is very concerned about our pastors and their retirement plans. The board surveyed our pastors this past year and those who were kind enough to respond to the survey gave us a good idea of some problems that exist concerning pastors' retirement in our synod.

Some of our findings: The board found two main items of concern. First was that there were still 12 pastors for whom the congregation or parish does not provide funds for retirement (see summary question #8). Thus congregations are either unwilling or unable to provide retirement funds for almost 14% of our ELS pastors.

The second concern was that 27 of the pastors included are not covered by the U.S. Social Security program (see summary question #9). That would be 28% of those surveyed. The board realizes that there was a time when social security was not particularly recommended by pastors or even the synod. In our 1988 survey, there were the same number (27) of pastors who had elected to pass up the Federal Social Security program. Since that time (1988) the Federal Government allowed reconsideration by pastors, allowing them to come into the program. Very few have taken advantage of this.

As for the first item (congregational funds for pastor's retirement) we can continue to stress the importance of this to our congregations. But with the second item (social security) there is very little the board can do. We, on the Board for Christian Service felt that by not electing to go along with social security program one might be considered negligent in providing for oneself or family. We can only suggest ways to help provide for retirement or emergencies (Social Security, tax shelter programs, insurance, etc.) but we cannot force any of these upon our pastors.

Note: As has been stated many times and in many ways by this board in the past, the synod does not have the extra funds to pay for a pastor's retirement and that it is up to the individual pastor and his congregation(s) to fund a retirement program.

SUMMARY OF RETIREMENT QUESTIONNAIRE Evangelical Lutheran Synod Spring 1992

Question	Pastors	Teachers
1. Number of pastors/teachers responding:	97	54
2. Enrolled in National Life of Vermont tax shelter program	26	10
3. Enrolled in AAL tax shelter program	41	18
4. Enrolled in other similar retirement program	29	9
5. Number which say they have other investments	30	9
6. Congregation provides funds directly to company	58	26
7. Congregation provides funds to pastor/teacher	17	8
8. Congregation provides no funds for retirement	12	7
9. Enrolled in U.S. Social Security program	70	42

4. Re: Counseling Program for Synod Employees. The Wisconsin Synod maintains a Helpline for Synod Workers, for our synod and theirs. They will refer the callers to a Christian counselor in their area. The toll free number is:

1-800-443-4220 for Wisconsin residents
1-800-262-9485 for out of state

We encourage pastors, teachers and their spouses to use these services.

5. Re: Resolution from the 1992 Synod Convention. Committee #12, Board for Christian Service, Resolution #1, 1992 Synod Report p. 114
Subject: Pastors' and Teachers' Term Life Insurance

WHEREAS, Retired pastors and teachers are not presently eligible for coverage under the synod's group term life insurance plan, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service explores the feasibility of including retired pastors and teachers under the synod's group term life insurance plan, and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service reports its findings to the 1993 Synod Convention.

A representative from our insurance carrier will make a presentation to the 1993 synod floor committee.

6. Re: Proposed Budget for 1994

Subsidy payments	\$12,846.72
Retirement payments	4,146.36
Group life insurance	2,500.00
Board expenses	<u>1,506.92</u>
	\$21,000.00 Total

John E. Smith, secretary

CHRISTIAN SERVICE ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: Pastors' and Teachers' Term Life Insurance

WHEREAS, The cost per year for \$30,000 of term life insurance is \$97.20 per called worker, and,

WHEREAS, The synod must pay the premiums of all called workers in the program, and,

WHEREAS, There still remain some congregations that do not reimburse the synod for the premium on their called workers, and,

WHEREAS, The synod has repeatedly encouraged all congregations to make this reimbursement,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service be commended for its efforts to encourage full participation, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service again encourages non-participating congregations to reimburse the synod.

Resolution No. 2: World Needs Fund

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service has distributed \$5,400 through the WELS Committee on Relief (\$2,700 for Florida Hurricane Andrew Disaster and \$2,700 for Louisiana Hurricane Andrew Disaster), and,

WHEREAS, \$2,700 of that same fund was distributed through Direct Relief International to help the starving in Somalia, and,

WHEREAS, A larger than normal amount of the World Needs Fund was used to help our pastors and other families in need, and,

WHEREAS, Scripture tells us to do good to all people, especially those who are of the family of believers (Galatians 6:10),

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service be commended for using this fund in a God-pleasing and charitable manner on behalf of the synod, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service especially be commended for its help to pastors and other families in need in our synod, and.

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That these funds be distributed in ways that whenever possible promote the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Resolution No. 3: Retirement Survey

WHEREAS, A number of our synod's congregations do not provide retirement funds for their pastors, and,

WHEREAS, Congregations are also responsible for the proper care of their called workers, and,

WHEREAS, A number of our synod's pastors are not enrolled in the U.S. Social Security Program, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service has stated repeatedly that the synod does not have the extra funds to pay for a pastor's retirement, and,

WHEREAS, It is up to the individual pastor and his congregation to fund a retirement program, and,

WHEREAS, It is proper stewardship to be prepared to provide for one's family in the case of emergency or retirement,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service encourages all congregations to provide retirement funds for their pastors, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service encourages all pastors to make provision for their retirement.

Resolution No. 4: Counseling Program for Synod Workers

WHEREAS, The Wisconsin Synod makes Christian counseling services available to our synodical workers and their families, and,

WHEREAS, Our synod's workers and their families may not be taking advantage of this counseling service,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Wisconsin Synod be thanked for making this valuable service available to the workers of our synod, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service continue its efforts to make all of our called workers and their families aware that this valuable service is available to them.

Resolution No. 5: Retired Pastor's and Teacher's Term Life Insurance

WHEREAS, Retired pastors and teachers are not presently eligible for coverage under the synod's group term life insurance plan, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service explored the feasibility of including retired pastors and teachers under the synod's group term life insurance, and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service was to report its findings to the 1993 Synod Convention, and,

WHEREAS, A representative from our insurance carrier was not available to make a presentation to the 1993 synod floor committee, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service continues its study and report its findings to the 1994 synod convention, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service explores the possibility of including retired pastors and teachers in some alternate term life insurance plan.

Resolution No. 6: Memorial or Retirement Policies

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service has on three occasions studied the feasibility of providing an alternative retirement plan for these pastors and teachers whose congregations have not paid into a private plan, and,

WHEREAS, The board is to be commended for its diligent efforts in seeking a solution to this issue, and,

WHEREAS, Christian love continuously compels us to see that our workers will be provided for in their retirements, and,

WHEREAS, There are pastors and teachers who will not have adequate income at retirement,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service be encouraged to continue seeking new methods of providing and soliciting a supplemental income fund for these workers including the possibility of establishing a fund (budgetary or non-budgetary), and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That our congregations be made aware of the need to provide adequate funding for our worker's retirements.

Resolution No. 7: Memorial on Aids HIV Virus

WHEREAS, The Aids HIV virus is becoming increasingly widespread, and,

WHEREAS, Our congregations are likely to be dealing with those infected by this virus,

BE IT RESOLVED, That our pastors and congregations continue dealing with those so infected in a sensitive and evangelical manner, properly applying Law and Gospel.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR PUBLICATIONS

This board is charged with the responsibility of determining the appropriateness of any proposed material for publication as well as the actual production of the accepted material.

Serving on this board are: Chrm. Walther Gullixson, Robert Deering, Lance Schwartz, Richard Wiechmann, Thomas Kuster and Howard Siewert. The Rev. A. V. Kuster retired from this board in 1992 after many years of dedicated and productive service.

Perhaps the board's highest priority is over-seeing the publication of the Sentinel which is published monthly and distributed to approximately 6700 faithful readers monthly.

More important to the success of the Sentinel than the board's activities is the faithful effort of the staff: Editor the Rev. Paul Madson, Managing Editor the Rev. Wayne Halvorson, Business Manager Mr. Leighton Humphrey and Associate Editor the Rev. David Nelson. This group has been together for several years and have done much to advance the quality and distribution of the Sentinel.

The Sentinel acquired a new masthead and several style changes recently.

The six bulletin inserts normally prepared by synod boards annually, are being replaced this year by bulletin inserts featuring the synod's 75th Anniversary.

No new books (other than the 75th Anniversary books produced by the Anniversary Committee) were published this past year.

Several small manuscripts are currently being evaluated by the board for possible future publication.

Howard L. Siewert, secretary

PUBLICATIONS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: E.L.S. Hymnary

WHEREAS, A significant number of congregations in the E.L.S. have been using the Lutheran Hymnary for nearly eight decades, and,

WHEREAS, For many years there has been no source of replacement copies, and,

WHEREAS, None of the recently produced Lutheran hymn books reflect the unique liturgical and hymnic heritage of the E.L.S., and,

WHEREAS, The synod has responded to this need for new hymnaries at the past two synod conventions by directing the Committee on Worship to examine the possibility of assembling and publishing a hymnal that "reflects the liturgical and hymnic heritage of the E.L.S.," and,

WHEREAS, The Committee on Worship has done exceptional work over the last two years in implementing these synod resolutions,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee on Worship thus be commended for its outstanding work thus far on the hymnary project.

Resolution No. 2: E.L.S. Hymnary

WHEREAS, The Committee on Worship has outlined in substantial detail the proposed contents of a new hymnary, and,

WHEREAS, Copies of their work have been distributed to the congregations of the synod through the pastors for suggestions and comments, and,

WHEREAS, The Committee on Worship has found many of the suggestions received from pastors and church musicians to be helpful,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee on Worship distributes copies of the revisions of the proposed hymnary contents to the congregations of the synod for final comments as soon as it is prepared to do so.

Resolution No. 3: E.L.S. Hymnary

WHEREAS, The Committee on Worship was directed by the synod to study the cost of and means of funding for a new hymnary, and,

WHEREAS, Such a cost study has been made which indicates that 5,000 copies can be produced for approximately \$50,000, and,

WHEREAS, The Committee on Worship believes that there are sufficient individuals and congregations willing to contribute all funds needed to produce 5,000 copies of the Hymnary,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee on Worship be authorized to solicit funds from interested congregations and individuals to support the Hymnary project.

Resolution No. 4: E.L.S. Hymnary

WHEREAS, The congregations at Christ Lutheran, Klamath Falls, Oregon and Parkland Lutheran, Tacoma, Washington have memorialized the synod to continue its support of the hymnary project and to explore means of funding the project which will not be a long term financial burden on the synod,

BE IT RESOLVED, That Resolutions 1, 2, and 3 be the synod's answer to this memorial.

Resolution No. 5: Worship Materials

WHEREAS, According to the Synod Handbook (Guidelines for the Committee on Worship II E) "the Committee on Worship shall seek to inform and lead the synod's members in their worship life," and,

WHEREAS, Synodical boards and committees from time to time distribute worship materials to congregations,

BE IT RESOLVED, That synodical boards and committees be encouraged to consult with the Committee on Worship when preparing such materials.

Resolution No. 6: The Lutheran Sentinel

WHEREAS, In the past year, the masthead and format of the Lutheran Sentinel have been revised, and,

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Sentinel continues to provide balanced doctrinal and informational articles,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commends the editor and support staff for their efforts.

Resolution No. 7: News Articles for the Lutheran Sentinel

WHEREAS, The Lutheran Sentinel is the primary method of communicating the news and views of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

WHEREAS, The editorial staff depends upon material submitted by pastors, laymen, and synodical boards and committees,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Publications encourages pastors, laymen, synodical boards and committees to submit such material for publication in a timely manner.

Resolution No. 8: Sentinel Subscriptions

WHEREAS, The Sentinel is a very important means of communicating God's Word in its truth and purity, and,

WHEREAS, The Sentinel is available at a reduced rate to entire congregations through a blanket subscription,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations making use of blanket subscriptions be commended, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Publications encourages all congregations of the synod to take advantage of this program.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

The initial impetus for compilation of a synodical worship resource came from congregations who have been using the LUTHERAN HYMNARY (HRY) for nearly eight decades. Their books are literally coming apart at the seams and they would like to use a resource that utilizes the rich tradition of the HRY (a tradition that traces a worthy lineage through Norway and Denmark to the roots of evangelical Lutheranism). This tradition has been forgotten by the mainstream of American Lutheranism and it is sad that the rich scriptural, sacramental piety so evident in the writings of Bugenhagen, Kingo, Brorson, Gruntvig, Landstad and others has been ignored.

An additional catalyst for this project came from the synod at both its 1991 and 1992 conventions at which the Committee on Worship was instructed by resolutions to make a study of the contents and cost of a professionally produced worship resource for use in congregations of the synod which would reflect the liturgical and hymnic heritage of the ELS. In keeping with these resolutions, following substantial study the committee has put together a table of contents based on worship resources presently used in the synod and has assembled and prepared projected materials accordingly, thus enabling a cost study to be done.

By way of its cost study the committee has determined that the projected worship resource could be produced for use in congregations according to the cost estimates described on the price list given following the next paragraph of this report. The production costs would be absorbed by the eventual purchase of the worship resource by congregations and individuals.

The committee suggests that such a worship resource would include the following:

- Foreword and Table of Contents
- Church Year Calendar
- Personal Prayers for the Divine Service
- Individual Confession and Absolution
- Corporate Confession and Absolution
- Four Forms of the Chief Service:
 - Hymnary p. 7 ff; Hymnal p. 15 ff; a "New" English setting; the Lutheran "Chorale Mass"
- The Daily Office
- Hymnal Matins and Vespers combined, p. 32 ff.
- The Litany and Bidding Prayer
- The Daily Devotional (Morning and Evening Suffrages)
- The Augsburg Confession and the Small Catechism
- Psalms and Readings for the Service
- A Three-Year Lectionary
- Approximately 500 Hymns
- Appropriate Indices and Acknowledgments

A packet of materials giving in detail much of the proposed contents listed above was distributed by the committee to the synod's pastors at the January ELS General Pastoral Conference with the expressed desire that the materials be studied and evaluated throughout the synod and that suggestions and comments be sent to the committee.

The price list now follows:

PROPOSED costs for the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN HYMNARY project,
supplied by Mr. Rodney Schrank, President,
Morning Star Music Publishers
2117 59th Street, St. Louis, MO

Format: 6" x 9"; 672 pages, Hardcove, "thin" paper pages.

Editing charges:

Engraving: ca. 25.00 per page

Editing: 18.00 per hour (approx. 30 min. per hymn, less for liturgy,
catechism, indices, etc.)

Approx. Cost per page:

25.00 (Engraving)
<u>.9.00</u> (30 min., editing)
34.00
+ 10% <u>(3.40)</u> per page, handling charge
37.40

Approximate total editing cost: $38.00 \times 650 = 22,750$
(round to 23,000.00)

Printing charges:

5,000	22,914.00
10,000	37,869.00
12,500	45,347.00
15,000	52,824.00

For approximate cost per book add editing cost and printing cost and divide by number of copies.

5,000	Total Cost: 45,914.00	per book: 9.18
10,000	60,869.00	6.09
12,500	68,347.00	5.47
15,000	75,824.00	5.05

Additional Considerations:

Expensive copyrights have NOT been figured into the cost. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod would own the royalties to the book which would amount to 80% of the retail cost. Morning Star Music Publishers would receive 20% of the retail cost per book and they would function as the sole distributor for the book. All quotes are based on 11/30/92 and will likely change.

The committee acknowledges a wealth of recently produced worship resources available for use in our congregations including LUTHERAN BOOK OF WORSHIP, LUTHERAN WORSHIP and the forthcoming CHRISTIAN WORSHIP produced by a committee of our sister synod.

The committee suggests that all of these resources contain elements that may be unnecessary to introduce into the worship practice of congregations of our synod. In addition, the committee maintains that certain aspects of these hymnals may be of questionable worth or value to our parishes, specifically in LBW the calendric commemorations and the revisions, the Prayer at the Eucharist and the prayers for Christian Burial; in LW and WELS:CW the language changes in the liturgical and hymn texts; and in WELS:CW the renovated text of the Nicene Creed and the replacement of the historic service proposed in the new rite for the Service of Holy Communion.

It is in light of these acknowledgments and suggestions that the committee proposes the production of a worship resource for use in congregations of our synod based on 1) the unique practices of our synodical forebears, 2) the general historic practice of Lutheranism and 3) the contemporary and future needs of the synod, with the result that we might be united in our worship practices and readily identifiable by our way of liturgical life to all the pastors and members of the synod. The proposed worship resource would also give us a clear identification and confession in the minds of the young people growing up in our churches and schools as well as the visitors and seekers who are drawn to our parishes.

The committee has encouraged discussion of this issue among all the members of our synod and moreover has encouraged inquiries and questions to the

committee and appropriate memorials to our Anniversary Festival Convention in June 1993.

As we celebrate and resolve our commitment to "His Truth for Our Youth," we bear in mind the clear admonition of our Lutheran Confessions that hymnody and ceremonies be retained so that the untaught may learn and the beautiful example of the youthful singer of Israel who by his music and poetry dispelled the spirit of the Evil One; and it is in that resolve, admonition and example that the Committee on Worship, consisting of Dennis Marzolf, chairman, Mark DeGarmeaux and the undersigned, proposes the publication of a resource that preserves and perpetuates the living way of worship that we have inherited from the saints, as well as a hymnal that encourages the propagation of the Gospel by which sins are forgiven, minds are given peace and God is reconciled to man.

Harry Bartels, secretary

REPORT OF THE SELF STUDY COMMITTEE

The Self Study Committee is appointed by the president of the synod and consists of the Rev. Alf Merseth, chairman, the Rev. David Nelson, secretary, the Rev. Raymond Branstad, the Rev. Richard Newgard and the Rev. Milton Tweit. The committee has met several times this past year and submits the following report and recommendations:

TEACHERS VOTING AT SYNOD CONVENTIONS

The following memorial was submitted to the 1991 synod convention (SR 1991, p. 157):

MEMORIAL

RE: Teachers Voting at Synod Convention

WHEREAS, The synod convention occurs every year, and,

WHEREAS, Principals and male teachers are requested to be in attendance at each convention, and,

WHEREAS, Principals and male teachers are requested to attend the convention in an advisory position, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That a memorial be presented at the 1991 Synod Convention requesting that the president of the synod appoint a committee to study and give consideration to the following:

- 1) That principals and male teachers receive voting rights in committees and at the general assembly on the convention floor, and,
- 2) That schools which have no male teachers be represented by an individual male member of the congregation with respect that this individual would have a voting position at the synod convention, and,
- 3) That the synod consider assisting those schools with a large number of male teachers in providing for expenses to the convention.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the committee present a memorial of its considerations to the synod at the 1992 convention.

The following action was taken by the 1991 synod convention (SR 1991, p. 173, #9):

Resolution No. 9: Memorial Concerning Teachers at Synod Convention

BE IT RESOLVED, That the memorial regarding teachers voting at convention be referred to the Self Study Committee.

After its study of the 1991 memorial concerning voting of male teachers at synod convention, the Self Study Committee submitted the following resolution to the 1992 convention (SR 1992, p. 119):

MEMORIAL CONCERNING TEACHERS AT SYNOD CONVENTION

WHEREAS, The synod resolved "that the memorial regarding teachers at convention be referred to the Self Study Committee," (1991 Synod Report, p. 157 and Res. #9, p. 173), and,

WHEREAS, Neither the Constitution nor the By-laws of the synod require principals and male teachers to be in attendance at conventions, and,

WHEREAS, Principals, male teachers and professors may be elected as delegates by their congregations, and,

WHEREAS, The enfranchising of male teachers, professors and missionaries would necessitate the changing of the synodical congregational representation structure (cf. By-laws, Chapter IV—Conventions, Paragraph 2), and,

WHEREAS, Principals, male teachers, professors and missionaries have the right to apply for permanent membership in the synod which

includes voting rights on convention committees and speaking rights in the convention assembly (cf. By-laws, Chapter IV—Conventions, paragraph 3, and Handbook, General Rules and Regulations, p. 47), and,

WHEREAS, These are all eligible to be elected to standing boards and committees of the synod,

A. RESOLVED, That the present congregational representation structure and permanent membership structure be retained, and,

B. RESOLVED, That all who are eligible be encouraged to apply for permanent membership in the synod.

The 1992 convention passed the following resolution since the topic came up late on the last day of the convention (SR 1992, p. 168, #11):

Resolution No. 11: Memorial Concerning Teachers at Synod Convention

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod concurs with the resolutions of the Self Study Committee in response to the "Memorial Concerning Teachers at Synod Convention." (Tabled until 1993 convention).

TERM LIMIT OF BOARD MEMBERS

WHEREAS, A memorial resolution was submitted to the 1992 synod convention that would limit consecutive terms of an individual on any synodical board to three (SR 1992, p. 153), and,

WHEREAS, The convention assigned this topic to the Self Study Committee for consideration (SR 1992, p. 167, #6), and,

WHEREAS, A review of the elections of the past 10 years reveals that a considerable change in board membership has taken place under the present system, (for example, of the 74 people serving on the 12 permanent boards and committees there have been 81 changes in 10 years, which is a 12% turnover), and,

WHEREAS, A certain amount of continuity is necessary and useful on the boards and committees of the synod,

BE IT RESOLVED, That no limits be set on the number of terms a given member can serve.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS ON THE BOARD FOR EDUCATION AND YOUTH

WHEREAS, The Board for Education and Youth has requested of the president of the synod that the membership of the board be increased by one or two, and,

WHEREAS, The president of synod has assigned the study of this request to the Self Study Committee, and,

WHEREAS, A review by the Self Study Committee reveals that work assigned to the Board for Education and Youth involves three areas, namely, Christian day schools, parish education and youth, and,

WHEREAS, Therefore, this board is organized into three subcommittees dealing with these areas, and,

WHEREAS, The work load of the board is constantly increasing,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the membership of the Board for Education and Youth be increased from 11 to 13, making it possible to have four members on each subcommittee plus the general chairman, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, That seven of the members be clergy and six be laymen, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, That in 1993 one additional clergy be elected for three years and one additional layman for one year, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the guidelines be amended to reflect this change.

COURT OF APPEALS

WHEREAS, A memorial resolution was submitted to the 1992 synod convention that would implement a "Court of Appeals" (SR 1992, p. 153), and,

WHEREAS, This topic was assigned to the Self Study Committee for consideration (SR 1992, p. 167, #7), and,
WHEREAS, The Self Study Committee has not been able to complete its study of this important matter,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the Self Study Committee be granted another year to complete its assignment.

David J. Nelson, secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

The Board for Stewardship accomplished its main business by conducting two meetings, one on August 26-27, 1992 and the other on February 4, 1993. All other goals were achieved by individual members through personal assignment and telephone conversation.

The members of the board are the Rev. Paul Schneider, chairman; Mr. Howard Hougan, vice chairman; the Rev. Rodger Dale, secretary; Timothy Peterson (appointed by President Orwick to fill the position of Mr. Leslie Enter who was called to his eternal home this past fall); Mr. Steven Jaeger. The Rev. M. E. Tweit continues to serve 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 and especially in an attempt to carry out the Lord's will to extend His Kingdom the following has been done by the board since the last convention:

- (1) Regular monthly letters have been sent to all pastors, board members and synod convention delegates providing stewardship encouragement and information, bulletin inserts and a monthly listing of synodical contributions from all the congregations. A new format has been approved by the board at the February meeting and will be in use at the time of this convention. Congregations will be asked to submit a goal for their yearly offering to the synod.
- (2) Articles and "Stewardship Sentences" have been provided for publication in the *LUTHERAN SENTINEL*.
- (3) A bulletin insert has been published in cooperation with the Board for Publications.
- (4) A special offering was conducted on December 6, 1992 to help reduce the large budget deficit. 1992 was not a good year for the budget, missing it by \$22,132.04. Excess of expenses over income was \$52,781.09. In 1992, 82 congregations gave less than in 1991 and 45 gave more. (See statistical sheet for comparison.)
- (5) The board continues to monitor the activity of LACE. Because of the benefit our synod is receiving from this loan program of the WELS, we need to encourage more individual members of our ELS to support this ministry by loaning money which will be used by our congregations for loans. Their work was put on hold this past year due to new rules and regulations from the government.
- (6) The board continues to be concerned about all members of the synod keeping informed on the work of the synod as well as on the message of stewardship. Church Councils should keep the work of our synod on their agenda.

- (7) The board is thankful for the many years of support given by its faithful servant, Mr. Leslie Enter. It rejoices in the blessings he now enjoys in the mansions of heaven. It also prays for his wife and family that the Lord comfort and strengthen them in their time of need.
- (8) The board continues to “attempt” to oversee the fund drive appeals within the synod as directed by the HANDBOOK. However, not one request came before the board this past year.
- (9) Advent and Lenten offering envelopes were provided for all congregations to be used to gather an extra offering for the synod during those special seasons.
- (10) The board is considering a “Synod Emphasis Sunday.” Final plans are yet to be made. Direction from the synod is certainly welcome. It would be a time for the board to provide appropriate information about the work of the synod and ask each congregation to review its past support and discuss goals for the coming year.
- (11) The total cost of the nine stewardship/youth offering seminars conducted by Pastors Schneider and Weichmann in the spring of 1992 was \$20,720.74. This amount was funded outside the synodical budget through a private gift of a generous member.
- (12) Work continues to be done on a mission statement as directed by the Planning & Coordinating Committee.
- (13) Pastor Rodger Dale is continuing his work on an in-depth Stewardship Training Bible Study utilizing various teaching methods, including visuals and learner involvement through discussion and specific actions to implement the principles. He was put behind schedule due to accepting a new call to Naples, Florida.
- (14) The board is striving to provide the archives with all minutes, etc., so that a permanent record of all activities will be maintained.
- (15) Pastor Tweit continues to study statistics from his past questionnaire/survey. He noted that 44 congregations use the “unified” system of gathering offerings and 31 use a “duplex” envelope. Of those using the unified system, from a total of 6,757 communicants, the average home offering was \$495 and synod was \$39. Of those using the duplex system, from a total of 5,261 communicants, the average home offering was \$381 and synod was \$44.

Thanks and praise go to almighty God for moving the hearts of our people to support our Lord’s Work which we are doing together in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Many dollars were given by many generous believers, dollars flowing from hearts filled with dedicated faith in the Lord and Savior. This board continues to use God’s Word, both the Law and the Gospel, to reach the hearts, letting that heart filled with faith and love control the pocketbook. The board continues to be concerned over the fact that the synodical budget carries a deficit until the end of the year when a “final, special push” is necessary to catch up. All members and all congregations need to be encouraged to follow the scriptural advice to give regularly throughout the entire year. We should be able to fund our budget and thus do our Lord’s work without having to make such urgent pleas because of a deficit. Congregational treasurers should submit offerings on a monthly basis.

The board continues to study Biblical stewardship and how it might assist various pastors and congregations in teaching these principles to the people. It will only be the Holy Spirit working through the Means of Grace Who creates and strengthens faith, faith which moves cheerful givers to be generous with their offerings for the Lord’s Work. May God’s Will always be done and may He receive all the glory!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD—1992

	1992 Budget	1992 Non-Budget	1992 Total
Ascension, Eau Claire, WI	\$ 207.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 207.00
Bethany, Ames, IA	665.00	0.00	665.00
Bethany, The Dalles, OR	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bethany, Luverne, MN	8,884.25	180.00	9,064.25
Bethany, Port Orchard, WA	10,120.00	235.50	10,355.50
Bethany, Princeton, MN	11,702.75	73.00	11,775.75
Bethel, Sioux Falls, SD	2,538.00	609.00	3,147.00
Bethel, Yuba City, CA	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bethlehem, Warroad, MN	713.47	94.56	808.03
Calvary, Ulen, MN	3,021.21	62.00	3,083.21
Center, Scarville, IA	2,482.25	83.75	2,566.00
Chico Mission, Chico, CA	440.00	0.00	440.00
Christ, Klamath Falls, OR	1,185.00	57.00	1,242.00
Christ, Port St. Lucie, FL	1,090.00	0.00	1,090.00
Christ, Savannah, GA	250.00	250.00	500.00
Christ, Sutherlin, OR	2,172.97	335.00	2,507.97
Christ, Windsor, CA	9,550.00	0.00	9,550.00
Christ the Cornerstone, Phoenix, AZ	1,836.40	0.00	1,836.40
Christ the King, Bell Gardens, CA	4,134.34	261.00	4,395.34
Concordia, Eau Claire, WI	1,435.00	200.68	1,635.68
Concordia, Hood River, OR	0.00	0.00	0.00
East Paint Creek, Waterville, IA	4,109.50	402.00	4,511.50
Emmaus, Chicago, IL	1,880.50	75.00	1,955.50
English, Cottonwood, MN	11,442.12	0.00	11,442.12
Faith, Alpena, MI	0.00	0.00	0.00
Faith, East Jordan, MI	0.00	0.00	0.00
Faith, Hillman, MI	377.50	0.00	377.50
Faith, Litchfield, IL	2,022.00	25.00	2,047.00
Faith, Orange County, CA	2,800.00	500.00	3,300.00
Faith, Oregon, WI	3,908.00	53.25	3,961.25
Faith, Parkersburg, IA	1,100.00	248.05	1,348.05
Faith, San Antonio, TX	3,326.79	194.00	3,520.79
Family of God, Riviera, AZ	1,660.32	0.00	1,660.32
First, Suttons Bay, MI	2,152.00	688.00	2,840.00
First American, Mayville, ND	1,763.00	90.00	1,853.00
First English, Ashland, WI	300.00	610.00	910.00
First Evangel, Fertile, MN	1,364.50	155.00	1,519.50
First Shell Rock, Northwood, IA	4,046.00	110.00	4,156.00
First Trinity, Marinette, WI	5,911.95	139.80	6,051.75
Forest, Forest City, IA	1,140.00	70.00	1,210.00
Gloria Dei, Saginaw, MI	9,318.87	0.00	9,318.87
Good Shepherd, Bloomer, WI	2,003.43	0.00	2,003.43
Good Shepherd, Brownsburg, IN	4,525.48	281.13	4,806.61
Good Shepherd, Richardson, IA	1,099.13	553.30	1,652.43
Good Shepherd, Vallejo, CA	2,756.25	0.00	2,756.25
Grace, Crookston, MN	0.00	13.00	13.00
Grace, Madison, WI	12,840.00	125.00	12,965.00
Grace, Piedmont, MO	33.59	0.00	33.59
Grace, Vero Beach, FL	27,225.56	618.00	27,843.56
Grace, Weston, OH	3,125.11	256.00	3,381.11
Hartland, Hartland, MN	2,968.80	115.00	3,083.80
Heritage, Apple Valley, MN	9,141.41	0.00	9,141.41

	1992 Budget	1992 Non-Budget	1992 Total
Holton, Holton, MI	3,043.00	0.00	3,043.00
Holy Cross, Madison, WI	31,513.85	476.40	31,990.25
Holy Scripture, Midland, MI	23,118.27	35.00	23,153.27
Holy Trinity, Okauchee, WI	24,308.15	6,420.00	30,728.15
Immanuel, Audubon, MN	7,418.43	852.00	8,270.93
Immanuel, Riceville, IA	832.51	0.00	832.51
Jerico, New Hampton, IA	18,039.30	1,214.66	19,253.96
King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN	40,780.00	227.00	41,007.00
Lake Mills, Lake Mills, IA	1,388.00	39.00	1,427.00
Lakewood, Tacoma, WA	865.00	33.84	898.84
Lime Creek, Lake Mills, IA	2,243.13	0.00	2,243.13
Manchester, Manchester, MN	912.00	10.00	922.00
Mt. Olive, Mankato, MN	29,305.63	2,050.00	31,355.63
Mt. Olive, Trail, MN	1,286.20	5.00	1,291.20
Nazareth, Trail, MN	2,072.42	55.00	2,127.42
New Life, Sebring, FL	1,171.88	0.00	1,171.88
Newport, Wisconsin Dells, WI	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
Norseland, St. Peter, MN	10,480.73	215.00	10,695.73
Norwegian Grove, Gaylord, MN	6,131.00	0.00	6,131.00
Oak Park, Oklee, MN	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Our Redeemer, Yelm, WA	1,143.00	0.00	1,143.00
Our Savior's, Albert Lea, MN	19,335.01	1,121.50	20,456.51
Our Savior's, Amherst Junction, WI	1,056.75	0.00	1,056.75
Our Savior's, Bagley, MN	4,587.20	200.00	4,787.20
Our Savior's, Belview, MN	2,914.35	75.25	2,989.60
Our Savior, Bishop, CA	340.00	0.00	340.00
Our Savior's, Elderon, WI	1,600.00	0.00	1,600.00
Our Savior, Grants Pass, OR	1,000.00	105.00	1,105.00
Our Savior's, Hawley, MN	977.25	0.00	977.25
Our Saviour, Lake Havasu City, AZ	12,067.00	88.00	12,155.00
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL	6,173.80	15.53	6,189.33
Our Saviour's, Madison, WI	1,652.00	100.00	1,752.00
Our Savior, Naples, FL	5,531.00	0.00	5,531.00
Our Savior's, Princeton, MN	17,282.88	1,395.00	18,677.88
Parkland, Tacoma, WA	8,970.96	189.00	9,159.96
Peace, Colorado Springs, CO	6,895.00	518.30	7,413.30
Peace, Deshler, OH	9,594.30	255.00	9,849.30
Peace, Jefferson City, MO	436.11	190.91	627.02
Peace, Kissimmee, FL	6,096.35	0.00	6,096.35
Pilgrim, Waterloo, IA	1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00
Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI	100.00	0.00	100.00
Pinewood, Burlington, MA	5,193.10	1,079.00	6,272.10
Redeemer, Iola, WI	550.00	284.00	834.00
Redeemer, New Hampton, IA	2,514.10	250.00	2,764.10
Resurrection, Marietta, GA	0.00	0.00	0.00
Richland, Thornton, IA	15,662.49	410.00	16,072.49
River Heights, East Grand Forks, MN	43,767.53	592.00	44,359.53
Rock Dell, Belview, MN	5,347.95	62.00	5,409.95
Rose Dell Trinity, Jasper, MN	1,307.15	10.00	1,317.15
Saude, Lawler, IA	15,335.75	485.26	15,821.01
Saved by Grace, Gresham, OR	4,675.00	486.00	5,161.00
Scriptural, Cape Girardeau, MO	952.34	46.00	998.34
Shepherd of the Hills, Grass Valley, CA	837.00	105.00	942.00

	1992 Budget	1992 Non-Budget	1992 Total
Somber, Northwood, IA	2,211.30	0.00	2,211.30
St. Luke, Mount Vernon, IA	111.50	0.00	111.50
St. Mark's, Chicago, IL	2,018.00	0.00	2,018.00
St. Martin, Shawano, WI	11,383.32	414.00	11,797.32
St. Matthew, Detroit, MI	295.33	0.00	295.33
St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek, OR	2,551.00	22.00	2,573.00
St. Paul, Clintonville, WI	4,310.35	127.00	4,437.35
St. Paul, Escondido, CA	1,471.35	154.88	1,626.23
St. Paul, Lengby, MN	2,883.00	109.00	2,992.00
St. Paul's, Portage, WI	87.00	13.00	100.00
St. Petri, Grygla, MN	0.00	0.00	0.00
St. Timothy, Lombard, IL	15,643.08	944.00	16,587.08
Synod, Scarville, IA	9,463.06	1,382.74	10,845.80
Trinity, Brewster, MA	3,920.00	2,581.00	6,501.00
Trinity, Calmar, IA	715.00	45.00	760.00
Trinity, Sebastian, FL	4,604.00	858.85	5,462.85
Trinity, West Bend, WI	21,139.72	938.28	22,078.00
Wayfarers' Chapel, Ventura, CA	1,700.00	0.00	1,700.00
Western Koshkonong, Cottage Grove, WI	5,030.00	100.00	5,130.00
West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA	1,076.92	211.75	1,288.67
Zion, Thompson, IA	1,140.00	0.00	1,140.00
Zion, Tracy, MN	13,662.34	919.00	14,581.34
Miscellaneous:			
Aid Association for Lutherans	0.00	33,500.00	33,500.00
Helping Hands	0.00	60,721.65	60,721.65
Home Mission Offering	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lutheran Brotherhood	0.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
75th Anniversary Offering	0.00	55,000.00	55,000.00
Other	<u>6,027.57</u>	<u>1,515,655.26</u>	<u>1,521,682.83</u>
Totals	\$712,867.96	\$1,751,157.54	\$2,464,025.54

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD

Total for Years Indicated

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Ascension, Eau Claire, WI	\$ 15	—	\$ 530	\$ 99	\$ 186	\$ 1,030	\$ 207
Bethany, Ames, IA	42	97	286	279	318	420	665
Bethany, The Dalles, OR	1,604	105	—	116	—	—	—
Bethany, Luverne, MN	21,588	20,196	13,245	11,144	11,960	15,191	8,884
Bethany, Port Orchard, WA	12,684	11,026	13,340	12,000	13,220	10,170	10,120
Bethany, Princeton, MN	13,503	15,507	13,598	14,618	11,633	11,024	11,703
Bethel, Sioux Falls, SD	2,606	1,442	1,853	1,816	1,825	2,335	2,538
Bethel, Yuba City, CA	315	175	395	315	420	105	—
Bethlehem, Warroad, MN	—	—	731	1,495	2,040	1,285	713
Calvary, Ulen, MN	2,959	4,153	2,754	3,154	2,449	3,640	3,021
Center, Scarville, IA	8,399	3,225	3,307	3,288	4,316	3,191	2,482
Chico Mission, Chico, CA	625	440	505	561	425	520	440
Christ, Klamath Falls, OR	—	791	1,280	1,290	670	2,007	1,185
Christ, Port St. Lucie, FL	4,234	2,512	5,105	5,033	2,231	1,739	1,090
Christ, Savannah, GA	3,000	1,000	1,500	1,500	—	—	250
Christ, Sutherlin, OR	908	959	691	934	1,900	1,951	2,173
Christ, Windsor, CA	3,322	3,492	3,559	3,690	4,682	5,667	9,550
Christ the Cornerstone, Phoenix, AZ	7,062	5,181	6,608	5,506	5,992	4,793	1,836
Christ the King, Bell Gardens, CA	5,670	7,132	8,173	9,720	3,804	4,911	4,134
Concordia, Eau Claire, WI	4,647	1,068	1,070	946	1,578	775	1,435
Concordia, Hood River, OR	—	—	—	—	234	135	—
East Paint Creek, Waterville, IA	7,484	7,519	5,001	6,378	5,145	4,948	4,110
Emmaus, Chicago, IL	—	410	905	199	754	2,526	1,881
English, Cottonwood, MN	12,805	7,621	12,636	14,238	12,240	14,124	11,442
Faith, Alpena, MI	420	432	120	219	584	718	—
Faith, East Jordan, MI	1,239	1,090	973	632	95	1,000	—
Faith, Hillman, MI	422	426	704	835	277	1,247	378
Faith, Litchfield, IL	—	—	—	—	—	411	2,022
Faith, Orange County, CA	3,240	1,320	2,610	2,220	2,840	3,235	2,800

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD—continued
Total for Years Indicated

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Faith, Oregon, WI	1,705	3,000	3,210	2,405	3,210	4,333	3,908
Faith, Parkersburg, IA	1,800	2,150	2,028	2,256	1,770	1,435	1,100
Faith, San Antonio, TX	13,507	4,636	5,409	3,798	2,997	3,021	3,327
Family of God, Riviera, AZ	—	—	—	805	1,780	2,584	1,660
First, Suttons Bay, MI	1,900	3,044	2,690	2,129	2,280	2,373	2,152
First American, Mayville, ND	4,619	4,139	6,299	6,480	4,394	3,113	1,763
First English, Ashland, WI	743	620	620	150	300	100	300
First Evanger, Fertile, MN	1,113	1,059	1,618	1,652	1,536	1,614	1,365
First Shell Rock, Northwood, IA	5,886	4,925	5,782	5,539	6,490	4,990	4,046
First Trinity, Marinette, WI	3,338	8,271	5,800	5,909	5,583	8,029	5,912
Forest, Forest City, IA	4,069	2,411	7,908	2,533	1,855	1,718	1,140
Gloria Dei, Saginaw, MI	—	1,406	270	982	1,239	3,059	9,319
Good Shepherd, Bloomer, WI	3,963	3,093	1,771	2,060	2,167	1,982	2,003
Good Shepherd, Brownsburg, IN	—	—	—	4,338	5,827	6,333	4,525
Good Shepherd, Richardson, TX	1,600	2,984	1,243	284	2,634	167	1,099
Good Shepherd, Vallejo, CA	—	3,480	4,500	6,000	6,300	6,615	2,756
Grace, Crookston, MN	1,206	436	108	10	1,024	—	—
Grace, Madison, WI	16,120	14,479	15,800	26,650	9,510	15,975	12,840
Grace, Piedmont, MO	2,915	2,797	2,341	1,807	1,932	821	34
Grace, Vero Beach, FL	34,198	31,657	26,851	28,112	29,664	24,503	27,226
Grace, Weston, OH	—	1,250	1,166	1,462	2,579	3,642	3,125
Hartland, Hartland, MN	3,080	3,889	3,374	4,833	2,939	3,784	2,969
Heritage, Apple Valley, MN	4,649	4,598	6,295	5,512	1,413	8,292	9,141
Holton, Holton, MI	6,269	4,400	7,555	5,023	7,665	2,475	3,043
Holy Cross, Madison, WI	33,593	34,298	34,390	34,026	35,248	36,923	31,514
Holy Scripture, Midland, MI	14,274	19,057	17,570	18,572	19,459	20,090	23,118
Holy Trinity, Okauchee, WI	16,494	17,547	19,859	17,844	22,700	32,693	24,308
Immanuel, Audubon, MN	5,448	6,482	7,480	6,614	9,406	7,736	7,418
Immanuel, Riceville, IA	1,013	1,259	1,204	1,413	1,505	1,461	833

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD—continued

Total for Years Indicated

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Jerico, New Hampton, IA	17,667	16,903	18,394	20,107	20,174	22,786	18,039
King of Grace, Golden Valley, MN	44,947	57,415	50,590	50,719	46,770	55,250	40,780
Lake Mills, Lake Mills, IA	4,189	3,197	2,471	2,052	1,967	3,202	1,388
Lakewood, Tacoma, WA	1,622	1,845	2,441	3,220	2,869	1,727	865
Lime Creek, Lake Mills, IA	3,541	2,597	2,305	2,226	3,147	2,422	2,243
Manchester, Manchester, MN	1,369	1,132	1,242	1,080	494	1,112	912
Mt. Olive, Mankato, MN	27,076	29,304	25,653	26,108	30,851	27,500	29,306
Mt. Olive, Trail, MN	1,828	1,307	1,218	1,083	1,160	1,353	1,286
Nazareth, Trail, MN	2,976	2,102	1,469	1,183	3,047	1,742	2,072
New Life, Sebring, FL	—	—	—	—	—	5,101	1,172
Newport, Wisconsin Dells, WI	2,273	1,000	1,510	1,548	870	1,704	1,500
Norseland, St. Peter, MN	14,603	14,848	14,871	18,263	17,824	17,266	10,481
Norwegian Grove, Gaylord, MN	6,798	6,749	6,195	7,074	7,501	7,276	6,181
Oak Park, Oklee, MN	100	2,972	1,125	2,811	3,385	3,165	3,000
Our Redeemer, Yelm, WA	1,408	2,031	1,387	1,724	1,176	874	1,143
Our Savior's, Albert Lea, MN	23,149	25,630	23,206	22,356	22,096	25,218	19,335
Our Savior's, Amherst Junction, WI	1,480	1,344	1,447	1,370	2,003	1,703	1,057
Our Savior's, Bagley, MN	130	1,725	1,005	2,897	3,163	2,200	4,587
Our Savior's, Belview, MN	3,248	2,338	2,504	3,678	3,996	4,401	2,914
Our Savior, Bishop, CA	3,260	3,023	3,244	4,192	3,823	2,799	340
Our Savior's Elderon, WI	1,859	1,600	1,800	1,825	1,800	1,830	1,600
Our Savior, Grants Pass, OR	1,544	1,565	1,625	688	1,685	1,545	1,000
Our Savior's, Hawley, MN	2,728	2,986	2,060	1,535	1,406	1,071	977
Our Saviour, Lake Havasu City, AZ	7,800	9,110	10,444	12,478	11,378	11,927	12,067
Our Savior, Lakeland, FL	1,661	2,041	1,801	3,438	3,964	5,271	6,174
Our Saviour's, Madison, WI	1,591	1,120	925	1,215	830	1,230	1,652
Our Savior, Naples, FL	8,771	1,784	3,780	10,738	4,500	5,300	5,531
Our Savior's, Princeton, MN	14,395	15,066	13,805	16,094	18,574	18,365	17,283
Parkland, Tacoma, WA	4,485	5,101	5,074	3,191	4,629	6,042	8,971

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD—continued

Total for Years Indicated

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Peace, Colorado Springs, CO	—	—	15	544	430	682	6,895
Peace, Deshler, OH	2,705	12,509	14,364	12,737	11,034	10,966	9,594
Peace, Jefferson City, MO	—	3,081	3,384	3,233	1,323	403	436
Peace, Kissimmee, FL	—	—	—	—	2,783	4,926	6,096
Pilgrim, Waterloo, IA	5,967	4,755	2,257	2,026	432	800	1,350
Pinehurst, Eau Claire, WI	5,429	4,924	2,841	2,636	2,365	1,290	100
Pinewood, Burlington, MA	6,501	12,452	5,383	3,988	5,076	4,500	5,193
Redeemer, Iola, WI	940	907	786	1,138	585	790	550
Redeemer, New Hampton, IA	2,350	2,682	2,521	3,363	2,891	2,853	2,514
Resurrection, Marietta, GA	2,146	2,552	866	27	—	—	—
Richland, Thornton, IA	17,390	14,226	16,060	12,871	16,437	14,175	15,662
River Heights, East Grand Forks, MN	27,212	25,800	34,300	17,686	11,802	20,156	43,768
Rock Dell, Belview, MN	4,115	3,831	2,901	5,233	6,075	6,032	5,348
Rose Dell Trinity, Jasper, MN	529	435	1,376	1,060	2,106	1,066	1,307
Saude, Lawler, IA	11,711	13,797	13,214	14,439	14,695	15,698	15,336
Saved by Grace, Gresham, OR	—	—	—	—	2,453	4,139	4,675
Scriptural, Cape Girardeau, MO	—	230	180	21	45	1,263	952
Shepherd of the Hills, Grass Valley, CA	155	45	125	741	536	856	837
Somber, Northwood, IA	2,636	2,280	2,659	2,528	2,197	2,718	2,211
St. Luke, Mount Vernon, WA	—	96	—	—	30	72	112
St. Mark's, Chicago, IL	1,164	587	632	—	1,264	1,633	2,018
St. Martin, Shawano, WI	18,599	18,600	17,359	21,023	15,379	18,957	11,383
St. Matthew, Detroit, MI	—	—	303	1,191	794	745	295
St. Matthew, Myrtle Creek, OR	2,074	2,538	2,345	4,012	4,458	3,704	2,551
St. Paul, Clintonville, WI	5,268	3,844	9,830	8,638	7,440	6,862	4,310
St. Paul, Escondido, CA	575	648	1,096	1,098	606	1,340	1,471
St. Paul, Lengby, MN	2,000	712	3,128	1,825	1,947	2,396	2,883

BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO SYNOD—continued
Total for Years Indicated

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
St. Paul's, Portage, WI	1,067	1,025	1,612	2,164	161	50	87
St. Petri, Grygla, MN	317	649	312	305	602	405	—
St. Timothy, Lombard, IL	11,835	12,561	10,198	14,130	16,187	14,839	15,643
Synod, Scarville, IA	14,552	16,293	14,297	13,704	13,128	12,057	9,463
Trinity, Brewster, MA	4,587	4,146	4,528	4,368	4,018	5,361	3,920
Trinity, Calmar, IA	2,533	660	1,489	2,205	1,033	842	715
Trinity, Sebastian, FL	3,892	4,389	4,123	4,204	4,604	5,392	4,604
Trinity, West Bend, WI	16,227	14,814	33,369	19,532	21,223	18,872	21,140
Wayfarers' Chapel, Ventura, CA	3,274	3,276	2,640	2,460	2,410	2,425	1,700
Western Koshkonong, Cottage Grove, WI	610	6,015	6,135	7,030	6,270	3,040	5,030
West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA	1,212	876	988	990	—	2,927	1,077
Zion, Thompson, IA	1,782	1,228	1,298	1,843	1,266	2	1,140
Zion, Tracy, MN	<u>15,294</u>	<u>8,231</u>	<u>7,415</u>	<u>7,766</u>	<u>5,100</u>	<u>3,571</u>	<u>13,662</u>
Budget Totals for Year	<u>\$722,656</u>	<u>\$725,861</u>	<u>\$740,809</u>	<u>\$741,918</u>	<u>\$721,535</u>	<u>\$762,962</u>	<u>\$712,868</u>

Paul Schneider, chairman

REPORT OF THE LAYMEN'S DELEGATES EQUALIZATION FUND COMMITTEE

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, MN 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. 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 1992 convention period.

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Balance on Hand 4/1/92	\$ 9,096.71
Receipts:	
Church Assessments	\$15,333.00
Interest Income	<u>273.61</u>
Total Receipts	<u>15,606.61</u>
Total	\$24,703.32
Disbursements:	
Delegates:	
Air Fares and Mileage	(16,085.26)
Printing, Postage, and expenses	<u>(33.88)</u>
Total Disbursements	<u>(16,119.14)</u>
Balance on Hand 3/31/93	\$ 8,584.18

1. Mileage payments will be at the rate of \$.15 per mile (round trip) to a laymen delegate who drives his own car (home to convention site) and \$.20 per mile if accompanied by a second delegate.
2. 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. Only mileage to or from an airport will be reimbursed. Car rental costs will not be reimbursed.
3. Only those delegates whose congregations remit to this fund will receive equalization from it.
4. Delegates must register at the convention showing name, congregation, round-trip mileage and/or travel expenses in order to receive reimbursement.
5. Delegates are encouraged to ride together whenever possible. This stewardship of money will enable the Equalization Fund to cover more of the expenses.
6. 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 chairman is delegate he shall be reimbursed according to rules for delegates set forth.)

Greg Costello, chairman

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The Planning and Coordinating Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod met on September 28-29, 1992 and on January 18-19, 1993.

The committee is composed of the following people: The officers of the Synod: the Rev. George Orwick, president; the Rev. Paul Petersen, vice president; the Rev. Alf Merseth, secretary; and Mr. Leroy Meyer, treasurer. The representatives of the boards of the synod: the Rev. G. Guldberg, Board for Christian Service; the Rev. C. Keeler, Board for Education and Youth; the Rev. J. Burkhardt, Board for Evangelism (the Rev. J. K. Smith represented the Board for Evangelism at the January meeting); the Rev. W. C. Gullixson, Board for Publications; the Rev. E. Ekhoff, Board for Home Missions; the Rev. P. Anderson, Board for Foreign Missions; Mr. W. Overn, Board of Regents; the Doctrine Committee was not represented at these meetings; the Rev. P. Schneider, Board for Stewardship. Three laymen: Mr. Julian Olsen, Mr. Harvey Roberson and Mr. Norman Werner. Special committee members (advisory): the Rev. Norman Madson, the Rev. Milton Tweit, the Rev. Raymond Branstad and Prof. Paul Tweit.

1994 BUDGET

At its September 28-29, 1992 meeting the committee heard detailed reports from the representatives of each board which included tentative budget requests which were explained and discussed. At the January 1993 meeting the treasurer reported that the 1992 fiscal year had ended with a budget deficit of \$22,132.03. Expenses exceeded income in 1992 by \$52,781.09. After considerable discussion of the shortfall and much revision of figures the committee, herewith, presents to the synod a budget of \$750,000 for the 1994 fiscal year, allocated as follows:

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE		
Operations	\$157,000	
Maintenance on College	21,500	
Maintenance on residences	4,000	
Interest	10,300	
Faculty Housing Allowance (\$84,000 less \$16,000 interest applied)	68,000	260,800
BETHANY LUTHERAN SEMINARY		
Operations	51,000	
Maintenance on residence	2,000	53,000
CHRISTIAN SERVICE		
		22,200
EDUCATION AND YOUTH		
		23,000
EVANGELISM		
		7,000
FOREIGN MISSIONS		
		108,000
HOME MISSIONS		
		118,000
PUBLICATIONS		
		16,000
SYNOD FUND		
Interest	9,000	
Deferred Giving Counselor	23,000	
Boards, Committees, etc.	52,000	
Administration	43,000	
House Payment	15,000	142,000
TOTAL BUDGET		
		750,000

PLANNING

The committee continues to study ways of avoiding increased deficits in the General Fund. It always studies the expenses of each department in the synod with a continuous view toward their efficiency and spends much time discussing ways and means whereby the synod's constituency can be made better informed about the programs of the synod thus inspiring greater financial support for the synod's needs.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE SYNOD'S WORK

The synod is herewith informed of the goals and objectives of the various departments of the synod's work.

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE. Plans for the immediate future are as follows: Continue to increase the endowment funds, because of significant enrollment increases the college dormitories must be expanded or the enrollment limited, try to increase enrollment of ELS students, continue study of possible 3- and 4-year tracks in special areas, construct student union, physical fitness facility, chapel and renovate the heating system in Old Main and enhance the college staff for spiritual life, religious instruction and counseling.

BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. Call additional professor, plan for increasing enrollment which will mean additional facilities will be needed in the not too distant future.

BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE. The board continues to assist pastors and teachers in securing for themselves financial security through a retirement plan with National Life, AAL, etc., to encourage congregations to provide term life insurance for pastors and teachers, to provide assistance to those who have suffered loss due to disaster and to support the widows and retired pastors, who up to 1970 did not have adequate coverage with National Life or AAL, up to \$160 per month.

EDUCATION AND YOUTH. With the assistance of the funds generated from the thankoffering the Board for Education and Youth hopes to pursue the following projects: establishing new Christian Day Schools, high schools or high school subsidy, revise and reprint the Synod Handbook for beginning teachers, work with the Board for Home Missions to establish schools at the same time as new congregations are established and church buildings are constructed, taping Bethany College religious classes, book of children's sermons, Bible study materials, synod owned retreat center, teen group meeting outlines and teen devotion book, continue work on catechetical material, have conventions, camps and retreats for the synod's youth.

EVANGELISM. Continue circuit-wide seminars, print tracts, continue publishing Evangelism notes, promote Evangelism Sundays, provide evangelism information and materials at synod convention, provide 2-day evangelism seminar for seminary students.

HOME MISSIONS. The missions already in operation continue to be monitored by the board and given assistance as needed. The goal of the Board for Home Missions is to open one new mission each year.

FOREIGN MISSIONS. Continue assisting the native pastors in Peru with their continuing studies, ordain 2 more native pastors soon, call a 5th man to the South America field soon, expand seminary instruction. In Australia, with the help of M. Schwan, hope to support a man for 2 years.

BOARD FOR PUBLICATIONS. This board continues to monitor the publishing of the Lutheran Sentinel, the Lutheran Synod Quarterly and continues to publish bulletin inserts from time to time. Work continues on the preparing of model constitutions for small and larger congregations, on the indexing of the Lutheran Sentinel and on a pastor's agenda. The board also concerns itself with the marketing of the 75th anniversary books being prepared by the 75th Anniversary Committee.

BOARD FOR STEWARDSHIP. By means of future seminars, monthly letters, bulletin inserts and videos to promote more training for pastors and parishioners in all aspects of stewardship, to educate on the work being done in all areas of the synod, to inform regarding specific needs, to improve systems of fund raising and lead congregations to make commitments to the synod budget.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES. Manage financial affairs of the synod so as to stay solvent and yet be able to purchase church properties for missions.

SYNOD INFORMATION PROGRAM

Letters continue to be sent from the president's office to the "Synod Contact Man" in each congregation. A possible expanded use of this program was discussed.

Alf Merseth, secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod held its regular quarterly meetings in 1992 on the following dates: February 11-12, May 12-13, August 11-12 and November 10-11. The board had special meetings on June 23 and June 24 and on July 2 the board met with the Board for Home Missions. The board met via conference telephone call on March 30 and on December 20, 1992. Telephone surveys of the members of the board were conducted by the secretary on September 10-11, 1992 and on March 9-10, 1993. This report will also include business conducted by the board at its regular meeting on February 9-10, 1993.

The Trustee-Regents Subcommittee consisting of three members from each of those boards met quarterly on the following dates: January 27, April 27, and October 28, 1992 and on January 25, 1993. This subcommittee discusses matters that are referred to it and makes recommendations to the two boards that it serves. The Rev. M. E. Tweit serves as chairman of the subcommittee and the undersigned as its secretary.

The Trustee-Home Missions Subcommittee consisting of three members from each of those boards did not meet during 1992. The chairman of the Board for Home Missions reported to the Board of Trustees at each of its quarterly meetings. This subcommittee concerns itself with home mission matters in which both boards are involved and where mutual understanding and cooperation of effort is necessary. E. Ekhoff serves as chairman of this subcommittee and the undersigned as its secretary.

The Trustee-Foreign Missions Subcommittee consisting of three members from each of those boards meets as necessary to coordinate the work of those two boards in areas of common concern.

The Trustee-Regents-Publications Subcommittee consisting of representatives from those three boards and from the administration of Bethany Lutheran College meets as necessary. This subcommittee discusses 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 serves as its secretary.

The work of these subcommittees is very helpful in promoting a better understanding between these boards in the areas of their common concerns and in turn leads to smoother operation in these phases of the synod's work.

With a view toward construction of additional facilities at Bethany College a Trustee-Regents Building Committee was elected consisting of the following: Albin Levorson, Wilbur Lieske and Alf Merseth of the Board of Trustees and R. M. Branstad, William Overn and Milton Tweit of the Board of Regents. This committee met on February 11, 1992 and organized by electing R. M. Branstad as chairman and the undersigned as secretary.

The members of the board serve on other Ad Hoc Committees which are selected from time to time to study specific subjects assigned to them.

The board receives reports for its regular quarterly meetings from all the congregations where it has any financial responsibility. These reports are reviewed by the board and any required action is taken. The board keeps in contact with these congregations through correspondence by its secretary.

ARCHIVES

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Department of Archives and History meets at the call of its chairman, Prof. R. Honsey. Other members are: Prof. J. B. Madson, secretary, Prof. Sigurd Lee, Mr. Gerhard Lee, Mr. Gerhard Solli and the Rev. W. C. Gullixson, Archivist. The members are elected annually by the Board of Trustees of the synod.

ACCESSIONS TO THE ARCHIVES IN 1992

Evangelical Lutheran Synod

"Young Branches" 1991 & 1992; and Youth Bible Studies.
Vitas and bulletin of the first Peruvian graduates, 1991. N. Madson.
Foreign Mission Board Minutes 1986-88. W. Halvorson, Secr.
Education and Youth Board Minutes 1984-1986. Jonathan Madson
"Mission News" 1991-1992.
Stewardship Board Minutes 1983-1991. R. Dale.
Publications and Trustees Boards Subcommittee Minutes 1980-1985. W. C. G.
Southern Minnesota-Iowa Pastoral Conference Minutes and Papers.
R. Tragasz.

Bethany Lutheran College

Bethany Scrolls 1987 and 1991.
"Exasperation" literary magazine.
Choir and Handbell Concert Programs, 1991. And original recordings.
Newsclippings of \$6.5 million gift, 1991.
Recruitment brochures; Bulletins 1926-1963; Fidelis 1964, 1976, 1981.
S. C. Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center Dedication, 1990.
"Memos" 1988-1991.

Newspaper clippings of "Schwan's Empire" and "The Scoop on a Secret Tycoon" Sioux Falls, S.D. P. Madson.

"Der Bazar" Berlin magazine 1866; "Norsk Malerkunst Nationalgalleriet" presented by Dr. S. C. Ylvisaker; "L'Art de la Mode" 1911; Ladies Home Journal 1910 & 1911; Milton's "Paradise Lost" pictorial by Gust Dore. "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" by S. Coleridge, illustrated by G. Dore.

Photo of the John Silber Family 1990.
Four plat drawings of the College area.
Mr. Shawbut's four letters to his daughter, Bertha Shawbut Comstock, about Mankato, horses from France, harvesting, etc., 1884. Bethany Lutheran College is located on a farm he sold to Bethany Ladies College. Also two sterling silver spoons with monograms BSC, (museum). From Mrs. Gladys Weinholdt. (Copies shared with Blue Earth County Historical Association.)

Women's Fast Pitch Tournament, Hutchinson, Kansas, 1992.
Bethany Auxiliary photo, 1957. from S. Lee.
Commencement 1992
Bethany Catalogues (bound) 1926-1963.

CONGREGATIONS

Bethel Lutheran Church, Sioux Falls, S.D., 25th & 50th Anniversaries, P. Madson.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, New Hampton, IA, 50th Anniversary booklet. M. Marozick.

Faith Lutheran Church, Irvine, CA, directory. G. Bork.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Escondido, CA report. T. Gullixson

Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, WI, 60th Anniversary choir picture 1952 (S. Lee); history and 100th Anniversary 1991. J. Moldstad Sr.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Naples, FL, 15th Anniversary booklet.

Family of God Lutheran Church, Riviera, AZ, groundbreaking and dedication bulletins. M. Smith

Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, AZ, history, cornerstone laying and dedication bulletins. R. McMiller.

22nd Anniversary bulletins from congregations in the synod. A. Kuster.

Messiah Lutheran Church, Minot, N.D., record book, history (to 1974), Articles of Incorporation and By Laws.

Jerico Lutheran Church, New Hampton, IA, 125th Anniversary booklet, 1992.

Saude-Jerico Lutheran Churches pictorial booklet.

Lime Creek Ev. Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, IA, 2 page history. I. Johnson.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church, 35th Anniversary bulletins, pictorial booklet and a cup with the 5 pastors' names (museum).

PERSONS AND PICTURES

Nicaragua Mission photos, T. Kuster.

The Rev. George A. R. Gullixson's library and files: Installation of the Rev. Ahlert Strand; the Rev. H. A. Preus's bulletin "Lutheran Soldiers and Sailors" June 1918. Johann Ylvisaker's "Theologi og Videnskab" 1891. "Symbolik and the Lutheran Church" 1896. "Veien til Salighed" 1880. Skandinaven Newspapers 1911 and 1933. St. John's E. L. College, Winfield, Kansas, "The Booster" featuring commencement speaker, the Rev. G. A. Gullixson, 1928. "Half Century of Lutheranism Among Colored People" 1927. Report of Intersynodical Commission on Hymnology and Liturgies, the Lutheran Hymnal, 1939. Richland Lutheran Church, Thornton, IA, 100th Anniversary, 1983. Saude-Jerico Lamplighters 1973-1979. Theological papers on Psalm 1; Romans 1, 1942; "The Church Member" R. Branstad; 7th Commandment, 1949; James 1, 1944; Capital and Labor, 1946; Galatians 4, 12-20, 1944. St. Paul's Lutheran Church's Anniversary, Chicago, IL, 1933, Reports etc. 1924-1938. Valders Congregation, Manitowoc, WI, 75th Anniversary, 1925. "In Memory of the Rt. Rev. U. V. Koren" at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL, 1911. Rock Dell E. Lutheran Church, Belview, MN. Saude-Jerico Lutheran Churches, pictorial and reports. "Doctrine and Practice of the old Norwegian Synod," the President's Message in 1927. Concert Program of Lutheran College Band, Chicago, IL, 1914. Dr. Johann Ylvisaker's Exegesis on 1 Timothy, 1906.

The Rev. Emil Hansen's Seminary Notes on Hermeneutics. P. Madson.

The Rev. Ejug Harstad noted in 50th and 75th Anniversary booklets of Zion Lutheran Church, Tacoma, WA. W. C. G.

The Rev. A. V. Kuster and Mickelson's "Christmas Tableau."

The Rev. Charles Keeler "Serving Our Lutheran Youth."

Photo—First American Lutheran Church, Mayville, N.D.

The Rev. Kincaid Smith's "What's Going on Among Lutherans Today."

Photos of the 1925 Synod Convention. W. C. G.

Photos of present pastors of the E.L.S.—103. C. Ferkenstad.

The Rev. Michael Smith's ordination and installation folders, 1987.

The Rev. Arnold Kuster's files on model church constitutions.

The Rev. T. O. Aaberg sermons, Norwegian, 1872-1902. Joseph Aaberg.

The Rev. W. C. Gullixson "The Confessional Lutheran" Vol. 22-28, 1957-1963.

BOOKS

"To the Praise of the Glory of His Grace" Eph. 1, 6. Compilation of the Rev. Paul Ylvisaker's Lutheran Sentinel articles. Donald Moldstad.

"Fifty Years a Family" and "An Autobiography" by the Rev. Adolph Harstad, Mrs. Mary Moldstad.

"Harstad Heritage Update, 1984." Vol. VIII. Mrs. Julius Harstad.

"The Promise of America" & "The Bygdelag in America" Odd S. Lovell.

"Norwegian American Studies" 1985.

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE AND SEMINARY PROPERTIES

A tunnel was built from the boiler house to the men's dormitory, to the gymnasium and to the Fine Arts facility at a total cost of \$290,000. This will be billed over a two year period. The Board of Trustees committed the synod to pay one half of the cost of the first year billing not to exceed \$65,000. The billing for the second year has not been considered yet.

BUDGET 1993

Because of the budget deficit of \$22,132.03 for the 1992 fiscal year, the board felt constrained to adjust the adopted budget of \$770,000 for 1993. The board, herewith, reports that it adjusted the budget for 1993 to be \$741,400 to be allocated at follows:

PROPOSED REVISED BUDGET FOR 1993

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Operations	\$155,500	
Maintenance on college	21,500	
Maintenance on residences	4,000	
Interest	10,300	
Faculty Housing Allowance (\$84,000 less \$16,000 interest applied)	<u>68,000</u>	\$259,300

BETHANY LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Operations	54,500	
Maintenance on residences	<u>2,000</u>	56,500
CHRISTIAN SERVICE		21,000
EDUCATION AND YOUTH		21,000
EVANGELISM		6,000
FOREIGN MISSIONS		108,000
HOME MISSIONS		

Operations	116,000	
Interest	<u>2,000</u>	118,000

PUBLICATIONS

		16,000
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SYNOD FUND

Interest	9,100	
Deferred Giving Counselor	22,000	
Boards, committees, etc.	46,000	
Administration	41,000	
House Payment	<u>15,000</u>	<u>133,100</u>

CAPITAL BUDGET		2,500
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TOTAL BUDGET		\$741,400
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GENERAL

The synod received a \$40,000 Program Subsidy Grant from Lutheran Brotherhood for 1992. These funds are used as designated by the Board for Home Missions: \$15,000 for New Life Lutheran Church, Sebring, FL and \$25,000 for Peace Lutheran Church, Kissimmee, FL. The use of these funds is

reported to Lutheran Brotherhood at the end of the year. Definitive information on the program for 1993 is still awaited.

The Board of Trustees authorized a \$320.00 per month expenditure to the Northwood-Lake Mills Lutheran Parish as assistance for Sunday supply preaching for the secretary of the synod.

The Board of Trustees recommends that a \$5,000 Capital Budget item be added to the proposed budget for 1994.

On the basis of the recommendation of the Board for Home Missions a \$13,373.39 grant and an additional \$11,626.61 loan was provided to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Warroad, MN for the construction of a needed addition to its church building.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The president of the synod, the Rev. George Orvick, and the secretary of the synod, the Rev. Alf Merseth, also serve as the chairman and secretary of the Board of Trustees.

The Rev. W. C. Gullixson, Prof. R. Honsey, Prof. Sigurd Lee, Mr. Gerhard Lee, Prof. J. B. Madson and Mr. Gerhard Solli are serving one year terms on the Committee on Archives and History.

The trustees elected to serve on the Trustee-Regents Subcommittee are Albin Levorson, Wilbur Lieske and Alf Merseth.

The trustees elected to serve on the Trustee-Home Missions Subcommittee are Martin Doepl, Alf Merseth and Paul Petersen.

The trustees elected to serve on the Trustee-Foreign Missions Subcommittee are Alf Merseth, Leroy Meyer and George Orvick.

The trustees elected to serve on the Trustee-Regents-Publications Subcommittee are Alf Merseth, Leroy Meyer and George Orvick.

Wilbur Lieske serves on the board's Housing Committee together with Dennis Natvig who also serves the board as Housing Administrator.

Albin Levorson, Alf Merseth and Wilbur Lieske serve, together with three members elected by the Board of Regents, on a Building Committee for future construction projects at Bethany Lutheran College. This committee will serve until the project is completed.

SYNOD PROPERTIES

Because the Peace Lutheran Congregation, Colorado Springs, CO was experiencing a decline in membership and there was seemingly little prospect for growth, the Board of Trustees sold the church property on Oakwood Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO to Faith Evangelical Church for \$190,000. The closing date was March 30, 1993.

The parsonage property at 2006 Snyder Ave., Colorado Springs, CO was rented to the Board for Foreign Missions for one year at \$430.00 per month. The property is now listed for sale.

The synod purchased the Forest Lawn Mortuary property at 2010 N. E. Division Street in Gresham, OR for \$420,000 as a church home for the Saved By Grace Lutheran Church in Gresham, OR. The synod is financing this through loans from Aid Association for Lutherans and the Partners in the Gospel Fund.

The synod purchased 6.73 acres of property in South Lakeland, FL for a total of \$201,900 as a future church location for Peace Lutheran Church.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Summary of Income and Expenditures
and Changes in General Fund Balance (Deficit)

Year ended December 31, 1992

Budget contributions	\$712,867.96
Operating expenditures	\$1,499,572.28
Less:	
Income from publications	\$43,336.50
Foreign missions Helping Hands	
funds for operating expenditures	138,903.65
Foreign missions Seminary funds	
for operating expenditures	84,653.20
Foreign missions excess expenditures	
funded from reserves	197,040.89
Home missions special contributions	
for operating expenditures	40,000.00
Home missions excess expenditures	
funded from reserves	125,670.12

Net expenditures before	
interest income	869,967.92
Interest income	102,354.34
Net expenditures	767,613.58
Net operating income	(54,745.62)
Other changes in General Fund Balance:	
Increases:	
Estates appropriated for debt reduction	28,723.58
Decreases:	
Payments on mortgages and loans	80,049.49
Net (decrease) - other changes	(51,325.91)
Net decrease for year	(106,071.53)
General Fund (deficit) - December 31, 1991	(193,052.31)
General Fund (deficit) - December 31, 1992	(\$299,123.84)

WILLS AND GIFTS

The Olina Jordahl Estate was closed. The synod received the residue in the amount of \$8,626 which was equally divided between Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

Final payments were received from the Florence Fett Estate.

The Milton Robinson Estate: The Milton Robinson farm was sold for \$130,000. A partial distribution of \$481,903.63 has been received. A small residue remains.

After many years of litigation the Nels Loberg Estate is settled. The synod receives a small royalty check monthly.

The will of Alvin S. Hanson, Waukon, IA is in hand.

\$250,000 has been received from the George Nygard estate for various uses in the synod and in the foundation.

Alf Merseth, secretary

ADDENDUM TO THE REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

SCHWAN PROPOSAL

Schwan Sales Enterprises, Inc. has proposed to match the Evangelical Lutheran Synod's budget for the years 1994 and 1995. The Board of Trustees considered this proposal at its meeting on May 11, 1993 and took the following action:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees, on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, accept the generous offer of Schwan Sales Enterprises, Inc. to match the Evangelical Lutheran Synod's budget for the fiscal years 1994 and 1995.

RESOLVED, That the first \$550,000 of this matching money be used to start a new mission in each of those years, that \$50,000 be used for Capital Budget, that \$50,000 be used for debt retirement and the remainder be used for the other budgeted funds in the percentage the fund receives from the budget for that given year.

WILLS AND GIFTS

The synod received a distribution from the Martin Robinson Trust in the amount of \$10,000

The synod received a bequest of \$27,103.82 from the Inez Skogen Estate.

SYNOD PROPERTIES

The \$62,080.15 profit from the sale of the Peace Lutheran Church property in Colorado Springs, CO was applied to the General Fund deficit.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND THE BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents met jointly on November 10, 1992 and on February 10, 1993 to continue monitoring the progress of the "Preparing for the 21st Century" project which was approved by the 1992 convention. (cf. Synod Report 1992, p. 164, Res. 5)

The following is recommended to the 1993 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for its consideration and action.

WHEREAS, The student union will be located on the first and second floors of the east wing of Old Main, and,

WHEREAS, The space now occupied by Trinity Chapel will be preempted by the necessary renovations,

A. **RESOLVED**, That a new chapel be constructed in the area between the library and the president's residence at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000.

WHEREAS, The renovations and additions in Old Main will necessitate changes and additions to the heating system, and,

- WHEREAS, The present heating system is of such a vintage that replacement parts are not available,
- B. RESOLVED, That the heating system in Old Main be replaced at an estimated cost of \$500,000.
- C. RESOLVED, That this \$1,500,000 additional cost beyond the "Preparing for the 21st Century" funds be financed by Bethany Lutheran College in the best way possible.

Alf Merseth, secretary
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

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 on August 11-12, 1992 the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation elected the following officers: the Rev. George Orwick, president; the Rev. Alf Merseth, secretary; Mr. Leroy W. Meyer, treasurer. These officers serve one year terms.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation Committee is made up of four members elected to two year terms. Mr. Leroy Meyer and Mr. Richard Wiechmann were elected in 1992. Mr. Bernard Bogeskov and Mr. Glenn Annexstad were elected in 1991. Mr. Lars Peterson serves as an advisory member of the committee. The committee considers and makes recommendations to the foundation regarding the investment of its assets and the use of the income from those investments.

The foundation engages Roland Reinholtz as the investment manager of its assets. The Foundation Committee and Treasurer Meyer regularly review with Mr. Reinholtz the investment of the foundation's assets.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation approved a \$250,000 loan from the Partners in the Gospel Fund to the New Life Lutheran Church, Sebring, FL as a construction loan for the construction of a parsonage and a church edifice. The loan is at 6% and will be repaid when the congregation gets a loan from LACE. Meanwhile the synod has a mortgage on the property.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation is supplying a \$97,500 loan from the Partners in the Gospel Fund for the purchase of the Forest Lawn Mortuary property as a church home for Saved by Grace Lutheran Church, Gresham, OR.

The various funds maintained in the foundation and the total assets can be found in the treasurer's report which follows.

BALANCE SHEET AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
Year ended December 31, 1992

RESTRICTED

	MERLE R. AASEN ESTATE(07)	SCHOLARSHIP FUND(08)	PRESIDENT'S OFFICE ENDOWMENT FUND(09)	DELORES SCHWAN MISSION FUND(10)	MARVIN AND THE GOSPEL MISSION TRUST HOME MISSIONS PARTNERS IN FOREIGN MISSION FUND(11)	WHIPPLE - OLSON - WILSON ENDOWMENT FUND(12)	FOREIGN MISSION SEMINARY ENDOWMENT FUND(13)
ASSETS							
Investments:							
Investment management accounts	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 602,881.94	\$ 621,637.22	\$ 1,009,112.25	\$ 104,706.71	\$ 1,034,543.46
Savings accounts and CD's	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Money market funds	10,946.42	6,399.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	648,005.75	0.00	0.00
Notes receivable	0.00	0.00	86,840.69	0.00	184,000.00	0.00	0.00
U. S. Treasury Notes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,000.00	0.00	0.00
Due from (to) other funds	10,946.42 (946.42)	6,399.01 (390.01)	689,722.63 (13,403.23)	621,637.22 (18,655.75)	1,900,118.00 (194,131.14)	104,706.71 (3,657.51)	1,034,543.46 (34,142.71)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$10,000.00	\$6,009.00	\$676,319.40	\$602,981.47	\$1,705,986.86	\$101,049.20	\$1,000,400.75
LIABILITIES							
Notes payable	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
FUND BALANCES							
Balances - December 31, 1991	10,000.00	5,949.00	681,118.92	599,959.47	1,621,646.87	100,736.70	1,000,218.62
Add:							
Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	76,945.77	0.00	0.00
Contributions - net	0.00	60.00	0.00	3,000.00	7,394.22	0.00	0.00
Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Estates appropriated by Board of Trustees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	0.00	0.00	(4,799.52)	22.00	0.00	312.50	182.13
	0.00	60.00	(4,799.52)	3,022.00	84,339.99	312.50	182.13
Balances - end of period	10,000.00	6,009.00	676,319.40	602,981.47	1,705,986.86	101,049.20	1,000,400.75
	\$10,000.00	\$6,009.00	\$676,319.40	\$602,981.47	\$1,705,986.86	\$101,049.20	\$1,000,400.75

BALANCE SHEET AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

 Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
 Year ended December 31, 1992

RESTRICTED

	GENERAL FOREIGN MISSION FUND(14)	CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY FUND(15)	HOME MISSION RESERVE FUND(16)	GENERAL HOME MISSION FUND(17)	HOME MISSION EXPANSION FUND(18)	75TH ANNIVERSARY FUND(20)	TOTAL
ASSETS							

Investments:							
Investment management accounts	\$194,710.78	\$44,366.93	\$109,336.65	\$0.00	\$1,072,366.09	\$0.00	\$4,793,662.03
Savings accounts and CD's	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Money market funds	15,857.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,203.01
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	648,005.75
Notes receivable	0.00	11,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	281,840.69
U. S. Treasury Notes	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,000.00
	210,568.36	55,366.93	109,336.65	0.00	1,072,366.09	0.00	5,815,711.48
Due from (to) other funds	(62,366.93)	91,793.69	(112.00)	0.00	(41,801.56)	65,233.55	(212,580.02)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
TOTAL ASSETS	\$148,201.43	\$147,160.62	\$109,224.65	\$0.00	\$1,030,564.53	\$65,233.55	\$5,603,131.46
LIABILITIES							

Notes payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
FUND BALANCES							

Balances - December 31, 1991	209,280.53	126,800.57	103,225.00	13,273.39	541,873.00	0.00	5,014,082.07
Add:							
Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	76,945.77
Contributions - net	0.00	20,360.05	0.00	0.00	525,000.00	65,233.55	621,047.82
Income	0.00	0.00	5,999.65	0.00	40,301.59	0.00	46,301.24
Estates appropriated by Board of Trustees	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Distributions	(61,079.10)	0.00	0.00	(13,273.39)	(76,610.06)	0.00	(150,962.55)
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,282.89)
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
(61,079.10)	20,360.05	5,999.65	(13,273.39)	488,691.53	65,233.55	-----	589,049.39
Balances - end of period	148,201.43	147,160.62	109,224.65	0.00	\$1,030,564.53	65,233.55	\$5,603,131.46
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
\$148,201.43	\$147,160.62	\$109,224.65	\$0.00	\$1,030,564.53	\$65,233.55	\$5,603,131.46	-----

BALANCE SHEET AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
Year ended December 31, 1992

UNRESTRICTED

BOARD OF TRUSTEES		TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	
DONATED(30)	DESIGNATED(35)	TOTAL	

ASSETS

Investments:

Investment management accounts	\$41,881.38	\$107,179.08	\$149,060.46	\$4,942,722.49
Savings accounts and CD's	0.00	1,086.02	1,086.02	1,086.02
Money market funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,203.01
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	0.00	0.00	648,005.75
Notes receivable	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	291,840.69
U. S. Treasury Notes	98,968.75	0.00	98,968.75	98,968.75
Land	0.00	0.00	0.00	59,000.00

Due from (to) other funds

150,850.13	108,265.10	259,115.23	6,074,826.71
473,403.63	3,051.86	476,455.49	263,875.47

TOTAL ASSETS

\$624,253.76	\$111,316.96	\$735,570.72	\$6,338,702.18
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LIABILITIES

Notes payable

\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
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FUND BALANCES

Balances - December 31, 1991

152,350.13	96,942.67	249,292.80	5,263,374.87
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Add:

Requests	471,903.63	0.00	471,903.63	548,849.40
Contributions - net	0.00	0.00	0.00	621,047.82
Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	46,301.24
Estates appropriated by				
Board of Trustees	0.00	14,361.79	14,361.79	14,361.79
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	(150,962.55)
Gain (loss) on sale of securities	0.00	12.50	12.50	(4,270.39)

471,903.63	14,374.29	486,277.92	1,075,327.31
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Balances - end of period

624,253.76	111,316.96	735,570.72	\$6,338,702.18
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\$624,253.76	\$111,316.96	\$735,570.72	\$6,338,702.18
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75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 1993 SYNOD CONVENTION

The anniversary celebration year has begun! A two-year offering was started in October, with funds going into an endowment fund for use by the synod Board for Education and Youth. The historical book, **BUILT ON THE ROCK**, written by the Rev. Herbert Larson and Prof. Juul Madson, was printed and ready for sale in January. The Bible study, by the Rev. Herbert Larson, has been used in many congregations, following the booklet, "In Remembrance of His Mercy," featuring original paintings by artist, William Bukowski, professor at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota. The children's program, by the Rev. David Nelson, was distributed for presentation in the congregations in April. A special festival service was held on Sunday June 6th at Lime Creek Lutheran Church, Lake Mills, Iowa, site of the reorganization convention in 1918. The service was conducted by the Rev. Alf Merseth with President George Orvick delivering the sermon. On that same day celebrations took place in many of our congregations following a special liturgy prepared by the Rev. Raymond Branstad.

A pictorial directory of our synod churches and pastors entitled, **THIS GENERATION OF GRACE**, compiled by the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, is now available. An "Anniversary Festival Concert," featuring choirs from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Madison, Wisconsin, King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota, and Bethany Lutheran College, will be presented on Synod Sunday afternoon. This concert will be under the direction of the Rev. Raymond Branstad and Prof. Dennis Marzolf of Bethany Lutheran College.

Our celebration of thanks and praise has been planned and directed by the 75th Anniversary Committee. The members are: President George Orvick, chairman, the Rev. David Nelson, secretary, and the Rev. Raymond Branstad, the Rev. Alf Merseth, the Rev. Richard Newgard, Mr. Harvey Roberson and the Rev. Milton Tweit.

The committee wishes to thank all those who have worked so hard to make this truly a year of celebration, including the Rev. Paul Madson, who wrote the anniversary ode, "Their Legacy Was God's Pure Word" and those who have written articles for the *Lutheran Sentinel*. May God generously bless us in the future years as He has so graciously done in the past. To God alone the glory!

David J. Nelson, secretary

REPORT OF THE ANNIVERSARY THANKOFFERING COMMITTEE

"His Truth for Our Youth" is the theme of the anniversary thankoffering being gathered upon the 75th anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. We are pleased to report the activities, progress and prospects of this special offering.

At the 1992 Synod Convention, following a video presentation and the introduction of the "His Truth for Our Youth" campaign, the pastors and delegates pledged \$77,621.00 toward the offering. Promotional materials for the campaign include *Sentinel* articles, bulletin inserts, posters and brochures. Bulletin covers were provided by the Anniversary Committee.

Most ELS congregations began the thankoffering in October, 1992. By March 1, 1993, \$285,341.85 was collected or pledged.

The committee urges all congregations in their participation in the Thankoffering and urges the use of individual offering envelopes in addition to the pledges.

Gifts to the thankoffering are being placed into the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation and the annual proceeds will be administered by the Board for Education and Youth.

One hundred and ten of the 126 synod congregations are participating in the "His Truth for Our Youth" effort to a greater or lesser extent. In this anniversary year as we remember God's truth endures to all generations, it is fitting that we pass on His truth to our youth. As the inspired writer says: "Hold on to instruction, do not let it go; guard it well, for it is your life." (Proverbs 4:13)

Steven Jaeger, secretary

MEMORIAL

RE: Time of Synod Sunday Service

WHEREAS, The present practice of having a Synod Sunday Worship Service in Mankato on Sunday morning goes back for decades, and,

WHEREAS, There have been many changes in the highway system, as well as in the airplane and automobile transportation systems, and,

WHEREAS, A number of ELS congregations in Minnesota and Iowa have been canceling their Sunday services in hopes that their members would attend our synod services in Mankato, and,

WHEREAS, Some of these congregations report that very few of their members actually make the trip and attend worship in Mankato, and,

WHEREAS, This amounts to a lost day in the worship life of these congregations, and,

WHEREAS, The highway system has been improving over the decades to the point where our members could attend their own church in the morning and still be able to attend an afternoon service in Mankato (if they so desire), and,

WHEREAS, Moving this service from the morning to a mid-afternoon service would allow more of our synodical delegates and pastors to attend:

BE IT RESOLVED,

- A. That the 1993 Synod Convention be asked to consider holding the service on future Synod Sundays in the afternoon with a dinner to follow in the Bethany cafeteria, and
- B. That the 1993 Synod Convention consider holding future seminary graduation services either at 7 p.m. or to consider the possibility of a joint afternoon service which would combine Synod Sunday and the graduation of our seminary students.

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN

MEMORIAL

RE: Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary

WHEREAS, The 1991 Evangelical Lutheran Synod Convention resolved "that the Committee on Worship be encouraged to examine the possibility of assembling and publishing a hymnal that reflects the liturgical and hymnic heritage of the ELS," and,

WHEREAS, The Committee on Worship has done exceptional work over the last two years in implementing this resolution, and,

WHEREAS, This project is at a point where further support by the synod is desirable and necessary to produce a finished product for use in our congregations, and,

WHEREAS, This Anniversary Year of our synod's founding provides for us an opportunity to further an ongoing appreciation for our synod's heritage, both historically and with regards to our worship forms,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee on Worship be commended for its work thus far in discharging the 1991 synod resolution, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Evangelical Lutheran Synod continue its support of the production of the Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary so that, in this 75th Anniversary year of our synod, the "liturgical and hymnic heritage of the ELS" be both promoted and retained in our midst, and,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Committee on Worship be directed to seek out ways in which this project can be completed in a way that will not be a long-term financial burden on the synod.

Christ Lutheran Church
Klamath Falls, Oregon
Parkland Lutheran Church
Tacoma, Washington

MEMORIAL

Re: HIV Virus

WHEREAS, The Aids HIV virus is becoming increasingly widespread, and,
WHEREAS, Our congregations are becoming more likely to be dealing with those infected by this virus, and,
WHEREAS, Our Lord Jesus Christ has left us an example of great compassion towards those infected with highly contagious, life-threatening diseases like leprosy, and,
WHEREAS, We as congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod are following in His footsteps in how we live our faith, and,
WHEREAS, The Bible guides us to be of the "same mind and thought" (1 Cor. 1:10) in matters of practice as well as doctrine,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That a committee of 5 be appointed to produce guidelines concerning our response to any afflicted with the Aids HIV virus, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That this committee consist of 3 pastors and 2 laymen of the same circuit, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That they bring their recommendations to the next year's synod convention.

Our Savior Lutheran Church
Grants Pass, OR

A MEMORIAL

Re: Adjudication Board

WHEREAS, The Handbook of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod assigns to the president of the ELS the task of selecting a committee to handle such cases as require adjudication among members of the synod in a state of discord, and,
WHEREAS, Either a member of such appointed committee or more than one member or even the entire committee may not be agreeable or amenable to one or more of the members or persons or bodies in the dispute and thus, mediation is made difficult, if not impossible, and,
WHEREAS, This places an unnecessary burden on both the appointed committee members as well as on the president of the synod,

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT:

- A. This 1993 Convention of the Synod establish a permanent ADJUDICATION BOARD.
- B. This Board shall consist of six members to be elected by the synod in convention from a slate proposed by the Nominations Committee, with additional names to be either permitted or solicited from the floor of the convention.
- C. The six members of this Board of Adjudication consist of: two active pastors serving congregations, two active teachers who are either principals or are in the classroom and two active laymen who have not reached the 65 year age of retirement.
- D. That all six members of this Adjudication Board be elected at this 1993 convention on a staggered service basis; one pastor, one teacher, one layman be elected to a two year term and one pastor,

one teacher and one layman elected to a one year term. However, once the election has taken place, each member of the board is to serve a two year term, with the option of reelection after each term served. Once elected at this convention the six members select their own chairman and secretary.

- E. That the first seated board draw up guidelines for duties and responsibilities of said board based on the former LCMS guidelines for a Board of Adjudication, together with any other guidelines which appear to be appropriate.
- F. Said first board present these guidelines to the 1994 synod convention for adoption.
- G. That costs for meeting be borne by the synod's budgetary funds.
- H. That said board, elected at this 1993 convention, begin to function as an Adjudication Board immediately upon election and organization.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Glenn McCulloch, Secretary

MEMORIAL

Re: Ad Hoc Committee

WHEREAS, The ELS By-Laws Chapter III, k give the president the power of mediation; and the word mediate according to Scripture and common usage means to interpose between parties as the equal friend of each, with the hope of effecting a reconciliation; and the Ad Hoc Committee (AHC) as appointed by our president did not meet these qualifications; and,

WHEREAS, Christ the Cornerstone (C the C) and the Rev. R. McMiller refused to meet with the AHC because of the manner in which the committee was established and all their cries for a committee that would be "equal friend of each" were ignored and the judgments of the president and the AHC were made without hearing their personal testimony; and,

WHEREAS, In their correspondence to us neither our president nor the AHC told us that the reason why C the C would not meet with the AHC was because of the manner in which the committee was established; and,

WHEREAS, The coming 75th Anniversary of the ELS can hardly be celebrated with thanksgiving and joy if we have to deal with this controversy,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- A. The Synod president supervise the setting up of a 5 pastor committee, 2 selected by the HMB, 2 by C the C, and a 5th pastor be selected by these 4 men to be their chairman and to do this by September 15, 1993.
- B. The committee be charged with MEDIATION and that it investigate the action of all parties involved in this difficulty between the Home Mission Board and C the C and work out a reconciliation between all concerned if possible and we be informed as to this joyful result. If reconciliation can not be worked out, our 1994 synod convention be so informed and the committee give us suggestions as to the solution of our problem.
- C. The suspension of Rev. R. J. McMiller and the congregation he serves be immediately rescinded.

(It is to be understood that this resolution is considered withdrawn if President Orvick carries out our Petition.)

Memorial Submitted by:

Pastors: T. Bartels, G. Bork, D. Faugstad, R. Fehr, F. Fiedler, T. Fox, N. B. Harstad, G. Haugen, B. Homan, H. Huhnerkock, B. Huehn, D. Larson, R. Lawson, P. Lehmann, M. Madson, W. McMurdie, D. McMiller, J. Olsen, J. Schmidt, F. Stubenvoll Jr, F. Stubenvoll Sr, M. Teigen, T. Rank, A. Wagner, R. Waldschmidt, M. Wold, J. Larson, F. Theiste

Professors: M. Harstad, E. Teigen

Congregations: Christ Lutheran, Sutherlin, OR, St. Matthew Lutheran, Myrtle Creek, OR.

MEMORIAL

Re: Report of Board for Home Missions

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Missions has submitted a report to the 1993 ELS synod convention entitled, "CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCOTTSDALE, AZ", and,

WHEREAS, Much more has occurred than has been included in their report, and,

WHEREAS, Their report has omitted a substantial portion of the events which have occurred between Christ the Cornerstone, the Board for Home Missions, the Synodical President, the Board of Trustees and Pastor Robert McMiller, and,

WHEREAS, The report, as written, is inadequate to properly explain the actions of Christ the Cornerstone, the Board for Home Missions, the Synodical President, the Board of Trustees and Pastor Robert McMiller, as well as explaining the reasons why the events between all parties have occurred, and,

WHEREAS, An accurate picture of the situation at Scottsdale cannot be given without a complete and comprehensive presentation of all the events, and,

WHEREAS, The Ad Hoc Committee did not obtain nor consider information from Pastor McMiller, Christ the Cornerstone and the Circuit Visitor before rendering a judgment,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the portion of the Board for Home Mission's report entitled, "CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE LUTHERAN CHURCH, SCOTTSDALE, AZ" be stricken, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That any presentation or report given at the 1993 synod convention about the Scottsdale matter include a full accounting of events.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. E.C.F. Stubenvoll, Jr.
The Rev. E.C.F. Stubenvoll, Sr.
The Rev. Roger Fehr
The Rev. Robert A. Lawson

PROTEST
CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

7670 E. Jomax Road—Scottsdale, Arizona 85255

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

April 15, 1993

THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROTEST OF:

CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Scottsdale, Arizona
and
Robert J. McMiller, Pastor

(We formally request that this document be shared with the congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) prior to, and during, the 1993 Synod Convention in Mankato, MN).

TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ELS:

Greetings in the name of our risen and victorious Lord Jesus Christ, whose victory on that first Easter morning demonstrated not only His power over death and the grave, but also His full authority, now also according to His human nature, to rule over all things in the interest of His Church, The Communion of Saints! (Mt. 28:19,20; I Cor. 12:12ff)

In the confidence of His redeeming love and His gracious direction of His Church we, the members of Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation, and Pastor Robert McMiller, hereby announce our formal protest of the declarations of President George M. Orwick that Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation, and its pastor, the Rev. Robert J. McMiller, have been suspended from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS), as that decision is in conflict with the Word of God, and both the congregation and Pastor McMiller find that said decision does not serve their interests under the circumstances.

We reject President Orwick's public statements in his letters of 26 October, 1992 and 29 December, 1992 in which first he stated that a pastoral vacancy existed at Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Church and then subsequently proceeded to make an unprecedented announcement that both Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation, and its pastor, were suspended from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

According to the By-laws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, (Chapter V, Para. 3), we now exercise our right to publicly and formally declare to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, gathered for convention in Mankato, MN, June 20-24, 1993 that no Scriptural grounds have been cited by the president of the ELS for his actions against Christ the Cornerstone Lutheran Congregation and its pastor, Robert McMiller, in his public letters of 26 October, 1992 and 29 December, 1992.

Furthermore, no formal statement has yet been presented to the member congregations of the ELS to *demonstrate* that Christ the Cornerstone Ev. Lutheran Congregation, or its pastor, Robert McMiller, have acted contrary to the Holy Scriptures, the Lutheran Confessions or the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Furthermore, the special "investigative committee," called by some "The Ad Hoc Committee," has persistently refused to hear the testimony of the Circuit Counselor who was advising the congregation during its days of trial. This Circuit Visitor was also present at the very important meeting of 6 May 1992 and observed what was said and done by all parties. However, to this day the Circuit Visitor has not even been asked by the "committee" to meet with them to answer their questions or to give them his account of the events in question, even though he has repeatedly expressed his willingness to do so!

Finally, it has become evident that members of the "committee" have not taken a mediatorial position in this extremely important matter, as the Synod's By-laws call for, but are apparently satisfied to reach conclusions and judgments on the basis of partial information, indeed, already publishing such conclusions as early as October 21, 1992.

Therefore, in accord with both the intent and the spirit of the By-laws of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, (Chap. V, Para. 3), Christ the Cornerstone Evangelical Lutheran Congregation now presents its formal protest to the president of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and to the entire Evangelical Lutheran Synod through the office of the Synod's Secretary.

Jack Walberg, president
A. W. Ireland, secretary
Robert J. McMiller, pastor

MEMORIAL

Re: Retirement Policies

WHEREAS, At least \$6,066,927 was spent in the synod last year according to this year's report to this convention (See Exhibit A), and,

WHEREAS, Only \$4,146 was listed on page 28 as "retirement payments," and,

WHEREAS, One-fourth of our parishes reported \$30,000 or less as the total amount of local expense giving, indicating the probability that a local retirement program would be meager because all expenses of the parish would be made out of these funds (See Exhibit B), and,

WHEREAS, Our college, seminary and mission personnel are fully funded in a substantial retirement program,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod establish a "Future Fund" and embark on a realistic retirement policy for our church workers.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Norman B. Harstad

EXHIBIT A

Synod Expenditures in 1992

Bethany Lutheran College	\$3,602,724
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	137,346
Home Missions	177,286
Foreign Missions	358,840
"Thoughts of Faith" Project	1,787,731
<hr/>	
Total	\$6,063,927

EXHIBIT B

ELS CONGREGATIONS' 1991 INCOME:
1991 Financial Report, Local giving (insert) + subsidies (page 98)

\$ 505,093	49,116
371,615	46,351
334,000	46,306
296,513	45,342 incl. subsidy \$35,063
213,793	44,500
207,292	44,005 incl. subsidy \$25,209
155,335	43,739
150,000	42,728
145,000	42,669 (1991)
130,344	40,000
117,826	39,318
111,118	39,100 (1991)
102,916	38,581, Mult, \$13,192 + 25,389
102,476	38,165
101,208	37,824
92,666 incl. subsidy \$5,000	37,418 (1990)
90,957	36,614
89,909	36,538
89,265	36,290, Mult, \$13,205 + 23,085
79,188	36,156
79,000	35,500
73,545	34,433 (1991)
73,108	33,794
72,750, Mult, \$24,884 + 47,866	33,626 incl. subsidy \$900
69,775	33,400
68,790	32,416, Mult, \$16,778 + 15,638
68,744 incl. subsidy \$7,497	31,722 (1991)
68,389	30,648
68,357	30,000
64,811, Mult, \$30,580 + 34,231	29,714 (1991)
64,398	28,701
63,600, Mult, \$18,600 + 45,000	27,058
63,153	27,000
62,679	26,000
62,000, Mult, \$29,000 + 33,000	25,895
61,971 incl subsidy \$10,250	25,432
61,500, Mult, \$6,500 + 55,000	22,930
60,715	22,872
60,531, Mult, \$12,547 + 10,369	22,490
+ 15,340 + 5,724 + 16,551	22,806
56,184	21,564
55,873	20,750
53,600 incl. subsidy \$8,000	19,170, Mult, \$770 + 18,400
53,600	18,849
53,600 incl subsidy \$8,000	13,439
53,397, Mult, \$24,473 + 28,924	13,110
53,340 incl subsidy \$13,998	12,300
52,506	10,395 (1991)
52,245	9,421
51,653 incl. subsidy \$20,866	9,376
51,301 incl. subsidy \$34,859	9,052
50,414	8,921
50,367, Mult, \$23,283 + 27,084	8,287
49,286	6,004

TREASURER'S REPORT

BALANCE SHEET

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 1992

EXHIBIT I

Page 1 of 2

ASSETS	GENERAL FUND(01)	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND(02)	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE(03)	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY(04)	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE(05)	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL
Cash - checking account	\$668,282.28	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$668,282.28
Accounts receivable - contributions and other income	27,166.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,166.14
Inventory of publications	23,535.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23,535.90
Prepaid expenses	4,476.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,476.07
Accrued interest receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Investments:							
Investment management accounts	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,942,722.49	4,942,722.49
Savings accounts and CD's	1,360.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,086.02	2,446.54
Money market funds	907.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33,203.01	34,110.67
Contract for deed	5,884.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,884.95
Loans receivable from congregations	0.00	651,141.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	648,005.75	1,299,146.85
Notes receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	291,840.69	291,840.69
U. S. Treasury Notes (Note B)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	98,968.75	98,968.75
Real estate and buildings (Notes C and D)	0.00	0.00	5,593,073.00	356,198.23	427,109.87	59,000.00	6,435,381.10
Due from (to) other funds	731,613.52 (309,013.22)	651,141.10 45,137.75	5,593,073.00 0.00	356,198.23 0.00	427,109.87 0.00	6,074,826.71 263,875.47	13,833,962.43 (0.00)
Total assets	\$422,600.30	\$696,278.85	\$5,593,073.00	\$356,198.23	\$427,109.87	\$6,338,702.18	\$13,833,962.43

BALANCE SHEET

EXHIBIT I

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 1992

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LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES	GENERAL FUND(01)	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND(02)	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE(03)	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY(04)	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE(05)	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL
Liabilities:							
Notes payable: (Note E)							
Working capital	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00
Investment program	0.00	252,618.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	252,618.91
Life Loan Plan	48,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	48,500.00
Accounts payable	88,076.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88,076.03
Accrued interest payable	2,623.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,623.86
Unexpended restricted income (Note F)	382,524.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	382,524.25
Mortgages payable	0.00	164,469.69	0.00	0.00	90,424.65	0.00	254,894.34
Total liabilities	721,724.14	417,088.60	0.00	0.00	90,424.65	0.00	1,229,237.39
Fund balances (deficit):							
Unrestricted:							
Designated for investment	0.00	279,190.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	735,570.72	1,014,760.97
Undesignated	(299,123.84)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(299,123.84)
Restricted (Note G)	(299,123.84)	279,190.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	735,570.72	715,637.13
Net investment in real estate and buildings	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,603,131.46	5,603,131.46
Total fund balances (deficit)	(299,123.84)	279,190.25	5,593,073.00	356,198.23	336,685.22	0.00	6,285,956.45
Total liabilities and fund balances	\$422,600.30	\$696,278.85	\$5,593,073.00	\$356,198.23	\$427,109.87	\$6,338,702.18	\$13,833,962.43

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES

EXHIBIT II

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 Year ended December 31, 1992

	GENERAL FUND(01)	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND(02)	BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE(03)	BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY(04)	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE(05)	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL
BALANCES (Deficit) - December 31, 1991	(\$193,052.31)	\$279,190.25	\$5,724,104.00	\$356,198.23	\$329,938.83	\$5,263,374.87	\$11,759,753.87
ADD:							
Bequests	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	548,849.40	548,849.40
Contributions received - net	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	621,047.82	621,047.82
Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	46,301.24	46,301.24
Portion of unrestricted estates appropriated for General Fund debt reduction and to ELS Foundation	28,723.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,361.79	43,085.37
Gain/(loss) on sale of securities	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	(4,270.39)	(4,270.39)
Principal payments on President's house charged to budget	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,745.20	0.00	2,745.20
Payments on liabilities by General Fund	(80,049.49)	0.00	76,048.30	0.00	4,001.19	0.00	(0.00)
Bethany Lutheran College net value adjustment at June 30, 1992 (Note C)	0.00	0.00	(207,079.30)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(207,079.30)
Excess of income over expenditures and appropriations for the period	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	(51,325.91)	0.00	(131,031.00)	0.00	6,746.39	1,226,289.86	1,050,679.34
	(244,378.22)	279,190.25	5,593,073.00	356,198.23	336,685.22	6,489,664.73	12,810,433.21
DEDUCT:							
Excess of expenditures and appropriations over income for the period	54,745.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	54,745.62
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150,962.55	150,962.55
	54,745.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	150,962.55	205,708.17
BALANCES (Deficit) - end of period	(\$299,123.84)	\$279,190.25	\$5,593,073.00	\$356,198.23	\$336,685.22	\$6,338,702.18	\$12,604,725.04

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 Year ended December 31, 1992

EXHIBIT III

(Page 1 of 3)

INCOME

Contributions:	
Budgetary:	
Restricted	\$14,249.77
Unrestricted	698,618.19 \$712,867.96
<hr/>	
Estate and trust income:	
Restricted	548,849.40
Unrestricted	43,085.37
<hr/>	
For special purposes:	
Bethany Lutheran College special	2,555.00
Bethany Lutheran Seminary special	2,904.35
Bethesda Lutheran Home	489.11
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation	555,814.27
Faith Mission Society	1,369.65
Foreign missions special	264,352.34
Home missions special	6,091.40
Aid Association for Lutherans grants:	
Home missions conference	6,000.00
Youth leadership	2,500.00
75th Anniversary	21,000.00
Visitors' conference	4,000.00
Lutheran Brotherhood grants:	
Church growth	10,000.00
Home mission program subsidy(lump-sum)	40,000.00
"World Needs"	10,312.04
"Helping Hands"	62,761.18
Ukraine radio - "Thoughts of Faith"	8,456.65
75th Anniversary grant	50,000.00
75th Anniversary Offering - "Truth for Our Youth"	65,233.55
German church	141.00
Miscellaneous	169.00
Camp LorRay	60.00
WELS Lutherans for Life	368.00
Lutheran Heritage Hour	90.00
Australian parish	210.11 1,114,877.65
<hr/>	
Total contributions - carried forward	2,419,680.38

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
Year ended December 31, 1992

EXHIBIT III

(Page 2 of 3)

Total contributions - brought forward	\$2,419,680.38
Investment income:	
General Fund - interest - unrestricted	28,550.70
E.L.S. Foundation - interest - restricted	329,918.86
- unrestricted	23,118.07
Total investment income	381,587.63
Total income from all sources	2,801,268.01
Less income for special purposes	1,942,960.34
Total income available for current purposes - carried forward	858,307.67

EXPENDITURES

Bethany Lutheran College	\$155,500.00
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	58,000.00
Home missions	283,670.12
Foreign missions	151,551.67
Education and youth	18,335.49
Evangelism	6,633.40
Christian service	22,476.40
Publications	63,194.71
Synod fund	363,164.42
"Helping Hands"	138,903.65
Foreign missions Seminary Fund	84,653.20
Chilean set-up costs, etc.	153,489.22
"World Needs"	13,998.51
Youth ministry	722.86
Women's Missionary Society	1,720.00
Team building	281.16
Church growth	8,294.86
75th Anniversary planning, etc.	52,936.24
Home missions planning conference	7,631.71
Visitors' conference	5,047.47
Youth leadership training	169.00
Total expenditures - carried forward	1,590,374.09

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 Year ended December 31, 1992

EXHIBIT III

(Page 3 of 3)

Total income available for current purposes - brought forward	\$858,307.67
Total expenditures - brought forward	\$1,590,374.09
Less expenditures financed by special funds:	
Home missions grants and reserves	\$165,670.12
Foreign missions reserves	197,040.89
"World Needs" Fund	13,998.51
"Helping Hands" Fund	138,903.65
Foreign Mission Seminary	
Endowment Fund income	84,653.20
75th Anniversary planning, etc.	52,936.24
Evangelism	0.00
Women's Missionary Society	1,720.00
Team building grant	281.16
Youth ministry	722.86
Church growth grant	8,294.86
Financial planning grant	0.00
Home missions planning conference	7,631.71
Visitors' conference grant	5,047.47
Youth leadership training grant	169.00
Book publication grant	0.00

Publications income	677,069.67
	43,336.50
	720,406.17
Expenditures financed by income available for current purposes	
	869,967.92
Excess of income over expenditures	
	(11,660.25)
APPROPRIATED BY BOARD OF TRUSTEES	
Portion of unrestricted estates:	
For General Fund debt reduction	28,723.58
To Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation	14,361.79
	43,085.37
Excess of income over expenditures and appropriations - increase in General Fund balance	
	(\$54,745.62)
	=====

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EXHIBIT IV

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 1992

(Page 1 of 3)

(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.

These financial statements 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 Church Extension and Loan Fund represents resources used for loans to congregations for building and improvement programs.

The Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary and Residences and Real Estate funds represent the investment of the Synod in these physical properties. The Bethany Lutheran College fund is explained further in Note (C).

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:

Unrestricted Donated Fund - \$100,000 - 10 1/8% due May 15, 1993

(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, 1992. The current, endowment and reserve funds of the College are not included in the assets of the Synod. The amount of \$5,593,073.00 was determined as follows:

Per audit report of the College as of June 30, 1992:	
Total invested in plant	\$5,913,062.00
Less obligations of the plant fund	384,989.00

	5,528,073.00
Addition after June 30, 1992	65,000.00

Total net investment in plant - June 30, 1992	\$5,593,073.00
	=====

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

EXHIBIT IV

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 December 31, 1992

(Page 2 of 3)

- (D) Residences and real estate have been stated at cost or 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	8	\$377,909.87
Appraisal:		
Outside	1	19,900.00
Internal	1	29,300.00
Totals	10	\$427,109.87

(E) Notes Payable:

The working capital note is an 8% demand loan from a congregation.

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 zero to 6%.

(F) Unexpended Restricted Income:

Partners in the Gospel Fund income	\$197,142.27
Other home missions unexpended restricted income	1,554.78
Foreign Mission Seminary Endowment Fund income	0.00
"Helping Hands"	0.00
Foreign missions unexpended restricted income	110,559.73
Grants	23,331.28
"World Needs"	1,169.42
Other	48,766.77
	\$382,524.25

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 1992

EXHIBIT IV

(Page 3 of 3)

(G) Fund Balances - Restricted - Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation:

Merle R. Aasen Estate (to be invested permanently with income used for missions)	\$10,000.00
Merle R. Aasen Seminary Scholarship Fund (to be invested permanently with income for scholarships)	6,009.00
President's Office Endowment Fund	676,319.40
Marvin and Delores Schwan Foreign Mission Trust Fund	602,981.47
Partners in the Gospel Home Missions Fund	1,705,986.86
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment Fund	101,049.20
Foreign Mission Seminary Endowment Fund	1,000,400.75
General Foreign Mission Fund	148,201.43
Charitable Gift Annuity Fund	147,160.62
Home Mission Reserve Fund	109,224.65
Home Mission Expansion Fund	1,030,564.53
75th Anniversary Fund - "His Truth for Our Youth"	65,233.55

	\$5,603,131.46
	=====

- (H) The Evangelical Lutheran Synod is contingently liable as co-signor on mortgage loans for Ascension (Eau Claire, Wisconsin), Bethany (Port Orchard, Washington), Our Savior (Lakeland, Florida) and Christ (Windsor, California).

LOANS RECEIVABLE

SCHEDULE A

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
Year ended December 31, 1992

Church Extension and Loan Fund

	TOTAL LOANS	BALANCE 12-31-91	NEW LOANS 1992	PAID 1992	TOTAL PAID	BALANCE 12-31-92
CONGREGATION						
Ascension - Eau Claire, Wisconsin	\$19,300.00	\$10,962.75	\$0.00	\$4,340.12	\$12,677.37	\$6,622.63
Bethany - Ames, Iowa	2,162.21	1,662.21	0.00	500.00	1,000.00	1,162.21
Christ - Sutherlin, Oregon	22,799.55	8,779.88	0.00	2,160.80	16,180.47	6,619.08
Faith - Oregon, Wisconsin:						
Church	155,500.62	119,138.99	0.00	2,898.70	39,260.33	116,240.29
Parsonage	65,143.02	53,726.16	0.00	2,100.39	13,517.25	51,625.77
First English - Ashland, Wisconsin	37,119.84	7,710.09	0.00	590.09	29,999.84	7,120.00
Good Shepherd - Richardson, Texas	384,977.59	133,455.01	0.00	0.00	251,522.58	133,455.01
Grace - Crookston, Minnesota	63,946.76	53,508.75	0.00	2,868.20	13,306.21	50,640.55
Heritage - Apple Valley, Minnesota	163,728.05	93,262.48	0.00	7,825.42	78,290.99	85,437.06
Lakewood - Tacoma, Washington	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	1,114.56	1,114.56	8,885.44
Our Savior - Naples, Florida	47,167.16	5,780.82	0.00	4,153.04	45,539.38	1,627.78
Peace - Colorado Springs, Colorado	130,000.00	122,498.91	0.00	492.89	7,993.98	122,006.02
Pilgrim - Waterloo, Iowa	129,821.67	42,488.98	0.00	1,185.07	88,517.76	41,303.91
Trinity - Sebastian, Florida	161,225.00	25,583.53	0.00	7,188.18	142,829.65	18,395.35
	\$1,392,891.47	\$678,558.56	\$10,000.00	\$37,417.46	\$741,750.37	\$651,141.10

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation

Bethany - Port Orchard, Washington	\$645,000.00	\$478,000.00	\$0.00	\$478,000.00	\$645,000.00	\$0.00
Bethlehem - Warroad, Minnesota	49,220.48	36,501.16	9,221.08	1,423.63	4,921.87	44,298.61
Christ - Port St. Lucie, Florida	60,986.63	45,748.41	0.00	4,540.23	19,778.45	41,208.18
Christ the Cornerstone						
Scottsdale, Arizona	250,610.35	249,951.00	659.35	4,307.61	4,307.61	246,302.74
Family of God - Riviera, Arizona	127,800.00	75,945.79	49,800.00	0.00	2,054.21	125,745.79
Good Shepherd - Brownsburg, Indiana	68,000.00	58,963.08	0.00	3,146.95	12,183.87	55,816.13
New Life - Sebring, Florida	124,559.30	0.00	124,559.30	0.00	0.00	124,559.30
South Lakeland, Florida	10,075.00	0.00	10,075.00	0.00	0.00	10,075.00
	\$1,336,251.76	\$945,109.44	\$194,314.73	\$491,418.42	\$688,246.01	\$648,005.75

FINANCES **ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

Resolution No. 1: Board for Stewardship

WHEREAS, The Board for Stewardship continues to promote biblical stewardship principles throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Synod,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod commends the members of the Board for Stewardship for their work and encourages them in their continued efforts.

Resolution No. 2: Board for Stewardship

WHEREAS, Mr. Leslie Enter has given many years of faithful service on the Board for Stewardship even until the time of this death,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks the Lord for his work.

Resolution No. 3: Report of the Laymen's Delegates

Equalization Fund Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts the report of the Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund Committee.

Resolution No. 4: 1993 Budget

WHEREAS, Decreased synodical offerings have resulted in the need for the Board of Trustees to revise the 1993 budget to \$741,000,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts the revised budget.

Resolution No. 5: 1994 Budget

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees recommends that a \$5,000 Capital Budget item be added to the proposed budget for 1994 and since it is necessary to make such capital expenditures,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts this recommendation and add \$5,000 to the proposed budget for 1994 and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts the proposed 1994 budget at follows:

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Operations	\$157,000
Maintenance on College	21,500
Maintenance on residences	4,000
Interest	10,300
Faculty Housing Allowances (\$84,000 less \$16,000 interest applied)	68,000 260,800

BETHANY LUTHERAN SEMINARY

Operations	51,000
Maintenance on residence	2,000 53,000

CHRISTIAN SERVICE

EDUCATION AND YOUTH	22,200
	23,000

<i>EVANGELISM</i>	7,000
<i>FOREIGN MISSIONS</i>	108,000
<i>HOME MISSIONS</i>	118,000
<i>PUBLICATIONS</i>	16,000
<i>SYNOD FUND</i>	
Interest	9,000
Deferred Giving Counselor	23,000
Boards, Committees, etc.	52,000
Administration	43,000
House Payment	15,000
<i>CAPITAL BUDGET</i>	142,000
<i>TOTAL BUDGET</i>	5,000
	755,000

Resolution No. 6: Wills and Gifts

WHEREAS, The Lord has graciously blessed our synod through the receipt of various bequests and gifts, and,

WHEREAS, This is an important way in which individuals may help to ensure the fulfillment of the continuing mission of the synod,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks the Lord for providing these generous gifts and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourages more members of the synod to prayerfully consider this way of supporting the synod.

Resolution No. 7: Report of the Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents

WHEREAS, The student union will be located on the first and second floor of the east wing of Old Main, and,

WHEREAS, The space now occupied by Trinity Chapel will be preempted by the necessary renovations, and,

WHEREAS, A new chapel standing prominently amid the college and seminary buildings would serve as the focal point of our campus and a constant reminder of Bethany's spiritual purpose and bearing, and,

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees and the Board of Regents had seen fit to recommend this course of action,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That a new chapel be constructed in the area between the library and the president's residence at an estimated cost of \$1,000,000, and,

WHEREAS, The renovations and additions in Old Main will necessitate changes and additions to the heating system, and,

WHEREAS, The present heating system is of such a vintage that replacement parts are not available,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the heating system in Old Main be replaced at an estimated cost of \$500,000, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That this \$1,500,000 additional cost beyond the "Preparing for the 21st Century" funds be raised by

the Bethany Lutheran College administration under the direction of the Board of Regents.

Resolution No. 8: Report of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts the report of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation.

Resolution No. 9: Report of the 75th Anniversary Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts the report of the 75th Anniversary Committee.

Resolution No. 10: Report of the Anniversary Thankoffering Committee

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts the report of the Anniversary Thankoffering Committee.

Resolution No. 11: Report of the Treasurer

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts the report of the Treasurer.

Resolution No. 12: Addendum to the report of the Board of Trustees

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts the resolutions of the Board of Trustees concerning the Schwan Sale Enterprises, Inc. proposal to match the Evangelical Lutheran Synod's giving for the budget for the years 1994 and 1995.

Resolution No. 13: Proposed matching funds from Schwan Sales Enterprises, Inc.

WHEREAS, The synod has received and accepted the proposal to match the Evangelical Lutheran Synod's giving for the budget for the years 1994 and 1995 and,

WHEREAS, This generous offer places a real opportunity for our synod to begin new missions and further our work in the Lord's Kingdom,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thanks Schwan Sales Enterprises, Inc. for this special gift.

Resolution No. 14: The report of the Board of Trustees

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts the report of the Board of Trustees.

Resolution No. 15: Goals and Objectives of the Board for Education and Youth

WHEREAS, The synod is celebrating its 75th Anniversary with the theme "His Truth for Our Youth", and,

WHEREAS, The current proposed budget only allots 2.8% to the work of the Board for Education and Youth, and,

WHEREAS, The Finance Committee believes that a larger percentage of the synodical budget should be allocated to the work of the Board for Education and Youth,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourages the Planning and Coordinating Committee to increase the percentage of future synodical budgets designated for the work of the Board for Education and Youth.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution No. 1: The suspension of Rev. Robert McMiller and the portion of Christ the Cornerstone Congregation which is aligned with him.

WHEREAS, An unfortunate situation has arisen in Christ the Cornerstone Congregation, of Scottsdale, AZ, which has split the congregation and has resulted in the removal of five men from membership, and,

WHEREAS, These members who have been disciplined and removed have appealed to the synod, and,

WHEREAS, the Ad Hoc Committee has found the action taken against the five men to be unScriptural, and,

WHEREAS, The synod president, on the basis of the Ad Hoc Committee Report, has suspended the Rev. Robert McMiller and that portion of the congregation aligned with him,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accepts the Ad Hoc Committee Report, and,

Negative votes to Resolution A were registered by H. Vetter, G. Haugen, and R. Fehr.

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod urges that the un-Scriptural discipline of the five men be lifted by the Rev. Robert McMiller and the portion of the congregation which is aligned with him, and,

Negative vote to Resolution B was registered by H. Vetter.

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod upholds the suspension of the Rev. Robert McMiller and that portion of the congregation aligned with him until the five men be taken back into full membership, and,

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That, if the Rev. Robert McMiller and that portion of the congregation aligned with him, after lifting the suspension of the five men, be willing to meet with the Ad Hoc Committee or its representative (its choice) during the remainder of 1993 to attempt to resolve differences, then the above suspension be reconsidered, and,

E. BE IT RESOLVED, That if the Ad Hoc Committee can report to the synod president satisfactory progress in resolving the impasse, including the restoration to full membership of the five members who were improperly disciplined, the above suspension be lifted, and,

F. BE IT RESOLVED, That this resolution be the answer to memorials, the protest and the appeals regarding the Christ the Cornerstone Congregation, Scottsdale, Arizona matter sent to the 1993 convention.

Negative votes to Resolutions C, D, E and F were registered by H. Vetter and J. Ruppel. Abstained: R. Fehr.

**Resolution No. 2: Memorial from Shepherd of the Hills
Ev. Lutheran Church, Grass Valley, California**

WHEREAS, The question of establishing a mediatory/investigative committee has arisen in our synod, and,

WHEREAS, At present there are no guidelines for the establishment of such a committee,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Self-Study Committee produce the appropriate guidelines for implementing an Appeals Court and an adjudication process and submit them to the 1994 Synod Convention.

**Resolution No. 3: Date of the 1994 Evangelical Lutheran
Synod Convention**

BE IT RESOLVED, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod convene June 19-23, 1994, 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 20, 1993, and found them to be correct,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts 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 session, June 21, 1993, and found them to be correct,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopts 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 the Monday afternoon session, June 21, 1993, and found them to be correct,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the synod adopts 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 Tuesday morning session, June 22, 1993, and found them to be correct,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the synod adopts 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 Tuesday afternoon and evening sessions, June 22, 1993, and found them to be correct,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the synod adopts the minutes as read.*

Resolution No. 6: 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 23, 1993, and found them to be correct,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the synod adopts the minutes as read.*

Resolution No. 7: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, *The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Wednesday afternoon and evening sessions, June 23, 1993, and found them to be correct,*

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the synod adopts the minutes as read.*

Resolution No. 8: Secretary's Minutes

BE IT RESOLVED, *That the president and vice president of the synod be instructed to approve the minutes of the secretary for Thursday, June 24, 1993.*

**PASTORAL CONFERENCE RECORDS
ACTION OF THE SYNOD****Resolution No. 1: Pastoral Conference Records**

WHEREAS, *Records from the General Pastoral Conference and Circuit Conferences have been received and reviewed,*

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Circuit secretaries who have provided these records be commended for the same.

Resolution No. 2: Pastoral Conference Records

WHEREAS, Several Circuits failed to provide records of their conferences for review,

BE IT RESOLVED, That all Circuit secretaries here be reminded and encouraged to submit their Circuit minutes to the convention for review each year.

Resolution No. 3: Pastoral Conference Records

WHEREAS, The Circuit Conference minutes reflect the importance of continuing study in doctrinal and practical matters for the pastors in their ministry, and,

WHEREAS, These conferences also provide opportunity for spiritual growth and fraternal fellowship,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the pastors be urged to make every effort to attend these conferences wherever possible.

**RESOLUTIONS
ACTION OF THE SYNOD**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the following communications be approved:

Letters of acknowledgment of greetings have been sent to the following in the name of the assembled convention:

*Lutheran Confessional Church, Sweden and Norway,
Christer Hugo, Chairman*

*Evangelical Lutheran Free Church of Germany, Gerhard
Wilde, President*

*Centro Cristiano Luterano, Lima, Peru, Abraham Rosario
Carrera, Secretary*

*Minnesota District of the WELS, Larry Cross, President
Pastors David Haeuser and Timothy Erickson*

Letters of Congratulations have been sent to:

Pastor Raymond Branstad

Pastor Paul Madson

Pastor George Orvick

Pastor Wilhelm Petersen

Pastor Glenn Reichwald

Pastor Paul Lehenbauer

Letters of condolences have been sent to:

Mrs. Lorna Unseth

Mrs. Delores Schwan

Mrs. Leslie Enter

The Family of Dorothy Arbury

A letter of greeting was also sent to Miss Sophia Anderson.

CHURCH LOCATIONS AND THE TIME OF SERVICE

(Not intended for mailing—use pastor's address)

CIRCUIT NO. 1

STATE	City-Church	Address	Services	Pastor
FLORIDA				
Kissimmee-Peace		2915 Oaktree Drive	10:00	J. Madson
Lakeland-Our Savior		6920 N. Socrum Loop Road	9:30 (W 8:30 & 10:45)	K. Mellon
Lakeland-Peace		4508 South Laurel Pointe Drive	10:30 a.m.	W. Mack
Naples-Our Savior		1961 Curling Ave.	9:15 (*call to verify)	R. Dale
Port St. Lucie-Christ		1592 S.E. Floresta Dr.	10:00	C. Keeler
Sebastian-Trinity		611 Schumann Dr.	10:00	D. Lillegard
Sebring-New Life		3725 Hammock Rd.	10:00	J. Willitz
Vero Beach-Grace		1150 41st Ave.	10:00	K. Smith
GEORGIA				
Kennesaw, GA		Mark Grannemann, 2875 Stilesboro RD, Kennesaw, GA 30144		Vacant

CIRCUIT NO. 2

MASSACHUSETTS				
Brewster-Trinity		1883 Main Street (Route 6A)	9:30	D. Webber
Burlington-Pinewood		24 Wilmington Rd.	10:45 (S 10:00)	T. Fox

CIRCUIT NO. 3

INDIANA				
Brownstown-Good Shepherd		204 East Main	10:15	H. Bartels
MICHIGAN				
Alpena-Faith		233 Cavanaugh	9:00	H. Gieschen
Detroit-St. Matthew		4430 St. James	10:30 a.m. (S 9:30 a.m.)	L. Vinton
E. Jordan-Faith 02145		Wilson Rd.	11:30	J. Londgren
Hillman-Faith	Rt 1, Box 218, M-32 East		11:00	H. Gieschen
Holton-Holton Evangelical		6655 Marvin Road	10:00	M. Krentz
Midland-Holy Scripture		4525 Cook Road	9:00	P. Schneider
Saginaw-Gloria Dei		5250 Mackinaw Rd.	8:00 & 10:45	J. K. Smith
Suttons Bay-First	327 St. Mary's Ave. P.O. Box 189		10:00	K. Uhlenbrauck

OHIO				
Deshler-Peace		5-039 Rd. G	9:30	D. Basel
Weston-Grace	20425 Taylor St. P.O. Box 304		10:00	R. Fyffe

CIRCUIT NO. 4

ILLINOIS

Chicago-Emmaus	5440 West Gladys Ave.	10:45	C.Wosje
St. Mark's	3101 N. Parkside Ave.	9:30	H. Behrens
Litchfield-Faith	718 N. State St.	9:00	W. Frick
Lombard-St. Timothy	547 N. Main St.	10:15	P. Zager (S 9:00)

(Wed, Eve. Advent/Lent 7:30 p.m.)

WISCONSIN

Cottage Grove-	2642 Church St.	10:00	J. A. Moldstad
Western Koshkonong		(S 9:30)	Sr.
Madison-Grace	1 South Rosa Rd.	10:15	J. J. Petersen
		(S 9:30)	
Madison-Holy Cross	2670 Milwaukee St.	8:15 & 10:30	S. Petersen
		(S 8:15 & M. Bartels	
		& 10:00)	
Madison-Our Saviour's	1201 Droster Rd.	9:00	B. Homan
Okauchee-Holy Trinity	Box 146 35181 Wisconsin	7:45 &	G. Schmeling
		10:15 (S 7:45 & 9:30)	
Oregon-Faith	143 Washington St.	9:00	J. Moldstad, Jr.
Portage-St. Paul's	6 miles N.W. on Hwy. 127	9:00	H. Larson
West Bend	Trinity 1268 Pleasant Valley Rd.	8:00 &	K. Schmidt
		10:00	
Wisconsin Dells- Newport	5 miles S.E. on Hwy. 16	10:30	H. Larson
		S 7:00 p.m. Saturday.	

CIRCUIT NO. 5

WISCONSIN

Amherst Junction-Our Savior's	5 N.E.	9:30	W. Neumann
Ashland-First English	701 Vaughn Ave.	10:00	B. Huehn
		(S 9:00)	
Bloomer-Good Shepherd	1504 Vine Street	10:30	Vacant
		(S 10:00)	
Clintonville-St. Paul	31 Park St. Box 115	10:30	Vacant
		(S 9:45)	
Eau Claire-Ascension	1500 Peterson Ave.	9:00	Vicar Krueger
Eau Claire-Concordia	3715 London Road	8:00 & 10:30	F. Theiste
	7:00 p.m. Monday	S 9:00	
Eau Claire-Pinehurst	3304 Fern Ct.	9:00	T. Bartels
Elderon-Our Savior's	Hwy. 49 N.	9:00	T. Skaaland
Iola-Redeemer	125 North St.	9:00	H. Vetter
Marinette-First Trinity	920 Wells St.	8:00	F. Stubenvoll
		& 10:00 (S 9:00)	
Shawano-St. Martin	5 miles S.W.	9:00	Vacant
		(S 8:30)	

CIRCUIT NO. 6

IOWA

Ames-Bethany	3109 Diamond	11:00	D. Meyer
Calmar-Trinity	Clark & Charles	8:30 or	M. Marozick
		10:30 S.	8:00 Or 10:00
Forest City-Forest	546 West M. St.	9:00	D. Schlicht
Lake Mills-Lake Mills	1st Ave. N. & Grant St.	8:30	A. Merseth
Lake Mills-Lime Creek	4N, 1W Lake Mills, IA	9:45 or	A. Merseth
		11:00	
Lawler-Saude	10N 1W	*	M. DeGarmeaux
New Hampton-Jerico	9N 3E	*	M. DeGarmeaux
New Hampton-Redeemer	611 West Court	8:30 or	M. Marozick
		10:30 S.	8:00 or 10:00
Northwood-First Shell Rock	Central & 15th	10:30	A. Merseth
Northwood-Somber	10W 1S	9:45 or 11:00	A. Merseth
Parkersburg-Faith	608, 6th St. P.O. Box 279	10:15	D. Larson
		(S 9:30)	
Riceville-Immanuel	Riceville, IA	8:30	A. Merseth
Scarville-Center	5 miles S	*	T. Rank
Scarville-Scarville	County Rd. A-16 & Logan St.	*	T. Rank
Thompson-Zion	Box 42, Thompson	10:45	D. Schlicht
Thornton-Richland	300 Elm St.	10:30	K. Dethlefsen
		(S 9:30)	
Waterloo-Pilgrim	3815 Ansborough	9:30	G. Haugen
Waterville-East Paint Creek	2N	*	M. DeGarmeaux
Waukon-West Paint Creek	6E	*	M. DeGarmeaux

MINNESOTA

Albert Lea-Our Savior's	320 W. College St.	8:00	W. Halvorson
		& 10:45	
		(S 9:00 & Mon. 7:00 p.m.)	
Hartland-Hartland	404 Broadway	10:45	D. Schmidt
		S. 9:00	
Manchester-Manchester	Manchester	9:30	D. Schmidt
		S. 10:30	

CIRCUIT NO. 7

MINNESOTA

Audubon-Immanuel	Highway 10	9:30	M. Doepel
Bagley-Our Savior's	5 miles W on Highway 2	9:00	M. Wold
Crookston-Grace	1221 Barette St.	8:30	Vacant
East Grand Forks-	2214 Tenth Ave. N.W.	10:15	V. Settje
River Heights		(S. 9:00)	
Fertile-First Evanger	Washington & Elm Sts.	10:30	Vacant
Grygla-St. Petri	3W 1/2 N		D. Faugstad
Hawley-Our Savior's	6th & Joseph	9:00	H. Abrahamson
		or 11:00	
		(S 9:00 or 10:30)	
Lengby-St. Paul	Lengby	10:30	M. Wold
Oklee-Oak Park	8N 4E	11:00	T. Mutterer
		S. 10:00	
Trail-Mount Olive	Trail	8:45	T. Mutterer
		S. 8:30	
Trail-Nazareth	9 mi. N 1 mi. E	*	D. Faugstad
Ulen-Calvary	207 First St. NW	9:00	H. Abrahamson

Warroad-Bethlehem	1 mi. W of Warroad Hwy. 11	or 11:00 (S 9:00 or 10:30)
		10:30 M. Madson

NORTH DAKOTA

Mayville-First American	213 at 3rd Ave. NE	11:00 D. Nelson
		S. 10:00

CIRCUIT NO. 8

MINNESOTA

Apple Valley-Heritage	13401 Johnny Cake Ridge Rd.	10:30 S. 9:30 D. Hoyord
Belview-Our Savior's	Main Street	*
Belview-Rock Dell	4 miles NE	M. Teigen
Cottonwood-English	110 E. Main St.	*
Gaylord-Norwegian	Grove 8 S. of Gaylord	M. Teigen
Golden Valley-King of Grace	6000 Duluth St.	9:00 S. 8:30 J. Smith
Jasper-Rose Dell Trinity	Jasper	9:00 C. Ferkenstad
Luverne-Bethany	720 North Kniss	S.10:30
Mankato-Mt. Olive	1123 Marsh St.	8:15 & E. Ekhoff
Princeton-Bethany	(S 8:30) 801 So. 6th St.	10 45 a.m. D. Moldstad
Princeton-Our Saviour's	18977 17th St.	(S 8:15 & 10:00)
St. Peter-Norseland	10 NW of St. Peter, Hwy. #22	9:00 J. Dukleth
Tracy-Zion	2nd and Emory Sts.	10:30 J. Dukleth
		8:30 10:45 R. Newgard
		10:00 G. Reichwald
		8:15 10:45 R. Lawson
		(S 9:00)
		9:30 R. Fehr
		9:00 C. Ferkenstad
		& 10:30
		11:00 N.A. Madson
		(S 10:15)

SOUTH DAKOTA

Sioux Falls-Bethel	1801 Valley View Rd.	9:30 P. Madson
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CIRCUIT NO. 9

MISSOURI

Cape Girardeau-Scriptural	5 mi. N. of Cape Girardeau (County Rd. 635)	8:30 R. Tragasz
Jefferson City-Peace	Rt. 2, Hwy. 54S	9:00 M. Ernst
Piedmont-Grace	114 E. Green St.	11:30 R. Tragasz

TEXAS

Richardson-Good Shepherd	650 W. Campbell Rd.	10:30 K. Brumble
San Antonio-Faith	14819 Jones-Maltsberger Rd.	10:15 R. Nepsund

CIRCUIT NO. 10

ARIZONA

Lake Havasu City-Our Saviour	3163 Maricopa Avenue	9:00 H. Huhnerkoch
Bullhead City-Family of God	1863 Panadero Rd.	Jan-Mar. 8:00 & 10:30
	Ft. Mojave, AZ	8:30 & 11:00 M. Smith
		S. 8:30

CALIFORNIA

Bell Gardens-Christ the King	6541 Eastern Avenue	9:00	P. Lehmann
Bishop-Our Savior	162 Sneden St.	9:30	S. Scheiderer
Chico-Chico	1046 Arbutus	10:30 a.m.	R. Waldschmidt
Escondido-St. Paul	1418 Bear Valley Parkway	10:00	T. Gullixson
Grass Valley-Shepherd of the Hills	Hwy. 174	10:00	R. Waldschmidt
Irvine-Faith	Irvine	9:30	G. Bork
Ventura-Wayfarers' Lutheran Church		9:00 & 11:00	J. Schmidt
Windsor-Christ	125 Shiloh Road	10:20	D. Sabrowsky
Yuba City-Bethel	1480 Hayne Ave.	9:30	R. Waldschmidt

CIRCUIT NO. 11**OREGON**

Grants Pass-Our Savior	230 Buysman Way	10:00	J. Ruppel
Gresham-Saved by Grace	2010 NE Division St,	9:30	N. Krause
Hillsboro Grace	4435 S.E. Tualatin Valley Hwy.	10:00	J. Burkhardt
Hood River-Concordia	11th & Pine St.	10:30	J. Larson (S 9:30)
Klamath Falls-Christ	127 N. Spring St.	9:30	J. Braun
Myrtle Creek-St. Matthew	436 N. Old Pac Hwy.	11:00	F. Fiedler III
Sutherlin-Christ	161 W. Second St.	8:30	F. Fiedler III
The Dalles-Bethany	1405 E. 19th St.	10:45	K. Anderson

WASHINGTON

Mt. Vernon-St. Luke	1524 E. Blackburn Rd.	11:00 & 9:30	J. Dalke
Port Orchard-Bethany	151 Tremont W	8:15 & 11:00	E. Bryant
Tacoma-Lakewood	10202 112th St. S.W.	11:00	H. Mosley
Tacoma-Parkland	12309 Pacific Ave. P.O. Box 44006	8:00 & 10:30	G. Obenberger A. Ring
Yelm-Our Redeemer	805 Yelm Ave. E.	8:00 & 10:30	J. Carter (S 9:00 a.m. Thurs. 7:30 p.m.)

* Consult Pastor.

CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

Bethany Lutheran Elementary School
151 Tremont West
Port Orchard, WA 98366
Tel. 206-876-1300

Grace Lutheran School
4435 N. E. Tualatin Valley Hwy.
Hillsboro, OR 97123
Tel. 503-640-3243

Holton Evangelical Lutheran School
6655 Marvin Road
Holton, MI 49425
Tel. 616-821-0032

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
805 Yelm Avenue E.
Yelm, WA 98597
Tel. 206-458-7310

Parkland Lutheran School
12309 Pacific Avenue
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Tacoma, WA 98444
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River Heights Lutheran School
2214 10th Ave. N.W.
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Box 28
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St. Matthew Lutheran School
4430 Saint James
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Lay Worker

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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 GIFTS TO THE SYNOD FOUNDATION
THROUGH WILLS (check with your attorney).**

I give, devise and bequeath to the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION (a Minnesota 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:

DEFERRED GIVING COUNSELOR
734 Marsh Street
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

PAROCHIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1992

Number	State	Location	Circuit	Congregation	Membership	Pastor	Members			Baptized		Confirmed		Communion	Marriages	Burials	Services			Day Schools		Sunday Schools		Other Schools Enrolment		Students		Contributions		Value of Property	Debt on Property	Legacies		
							Baptized	Confirmed	Voters	Children	Adults	Children	Adults				Special	Average Attendance	Sunday	Average Attendance	Enrollment	Bible Class	Teachers	Enrollment	Bible Class	Teachers	Vacation Bible School	Released Time	Summer Camp	Synodical Institutions	Public H.S. College	For Home Purposes	For All Other Purposes	
1	Ariz.	Bullhead City	10	Family of God Luth.	1	M. Smith	61	30	9	7	1	3	199	2	3	9	38	52	32	20	11	6	1	1,541	125,000	125,000								
2	Ariz.	Lake Havasu City	10	Our Saviour's Bell Gardens	1	H. Hubnerkoch	187	165	58	5	1	1	1145	2	3	14	80	52	128	21	29	6	41	2	2	90,246	445,000	122,145						
3	Calif.	Bishop	10	Christ the King	1	P. Lehmann	38	29	9	1	1	1	518	2	2	16	10	52	29	11	14	3	6	3	1,698	150,000	7,049							
4	Calif.	Bishop	10	Our Savior	1	S. Scheiderer	50	42	12	1	1	2	150			12	12	52	22	8	21	3	8	2	2	36,340	145	200,000	32,000					
5	Calif.	Chico	10	Chico	1	N. Merseth	6	4	1				60			1	14			4	1			2	2	40,350	145	214,000	56,629					
6	Calif.	Escondido	10	St. Paul	1	T. Gullikson	176	121	48	1	2	1	4	720	3	12	42	52	66		8	7	4	12			5	52,252	3,299	250,000	611,941			
7	Calif.	Grass Valley	10	Shepherd of the Hills	1	R. Waldschmidt	29	5	4					196	1	12	14	52	26							14,675	1,467							
8	Calif.	Irvine	10	Faith	1	G. Bork	91	78	34	2	1	2	629	1	1	3	62	52	62		15	17	6	18			1	91,744	4,441					
9	Calif.	Ventura-Fillmore	10	Wayfarers' Chapel	1	J. Schmidt	72	62	18		1	1	420	4	3	28	104	46	52	10	19	4	4	3	39,381	4,125	225,000	45,000						
10	Calif.	Windsor	10	Christ	1	D. Sabowsky	59	48	11	3			227	1	4	13	52	35		8	15	4	20			4	60,568	9,550	450,000	214,000				
11	Calif.	Yuba City	10	Bethel	1	N. Merseth	28	13	3					120		8	19	52	20			2				4	16,219		140,000					
12	Fla.	Kissimmee	1	Peace	1	J. N. Madison	53	51	19	5		2	4	593		9	34	52	48			3	18	3	28	2	2	29,354	6,097	285,000	129,000			
13	Fla.	Lakeland	1	Our Savior	1	K. Melton	170	140	56	10		2	6	1,132	1	15	87	56	130		23	50	6	28	3	3	91,157	7,373						
14	Fla.	Naples	1	Our Savior	1	R. Dale	174	142	21	8	3	2	9	1,337	2	17	44	74	95		16	15	5	20	14	14	160,667	7,593	1,100,000	300,000				
15	Fla.	Port St. Lucie	1	Christ	1	C. Keeler	138	111	16	3	2	6	7	1,240	4	2	106	52	85		20	26	4				48,526	9,75	290,000	237,770				
16	Fla.	Sebring	1	Trinity	1	D. Lillegard	108	91	22		4	1	4	1,475	1	2	13	53	52	82		15	30	4			2	51,888	6,561	180,000	20,000			
17	Fla.	South Lakeland	1	New Life	1	J. Willitz	46	32	8	4	1	5	387		1	13	34	52	46		6	18	2	4			2	33,849	1,700	135,000	128,000			
18	Fla.	Vero Beach	1	Grace	1	K. Smith	326	247	35	4	1	3	6	2,740	5	7	12	106	52	186		56	67	11	38			20	177,691	36,208	1,500,000			
19	Fla.	Kennesaw	1	Resurrection	1	Vacant																												
20	Ga.																																	
21	Ga.	Savannah	1	Christ	1	P. Jecklin	50	44	10		1	1	4	1,011		15	33	52	51			24	23	7	23			9	47,496	5,810	150,000	55,521		
22	Ill.	Chicago	4	Emmaus	1	C. Wosje	117	69	15	7		2		941	1	15	18	52	38		12	17	4	14			11	54,980	960	125,000				
23	Ill.	Chicago	4	St. Mark's	1	H. Behrens	30	30	10					222		2	16	52	20			14	17	4	14			11	34,267	1,820	455,000			
24	Ill.	Litchfield	4	Faith	1	W. Frick	101	65	23	4		4	5	903	2	15	40	52	73		42	30	7	45			10	12,894	5,543					
25	Ill.	Lombard	4	St. Timothy	1	P. Zager	216	148	16	9	1	2	1	1,240	4	2	15	45	53	88		37	16	7	44	5	5	17	97,837	16,387	869,000	135,199	10,237	
26	In.	Brownsburg	3	Good Shepherd	1	H. Butels	78	53	17	1	1	4	1	1,011		15	33	52	51			25	15	4	14			9	47,496	5,810	150,000	55,521		
27	Iowa	Ames	6	Bethany	1	D. Meyer	54	43	11		1	1	1	562		16	22	51	34			9	9	4	4			7	28,750	1,285	193,000	77,670		
28	Iowa	Calmar	6	Trinity	1	M. Marozick	61	58	19	2		1	1	215		2	8	14	52	25			8	7	1	1			3	22,749	934	168,000	13,239	
29	Iowa	Forest City	6	Forest	1	D. Schlicht	77	65	15	1		1	1	324		1	8	26	52	33			17	4	4	21			6	20,330	1,275	35,000		
30	Iowa	Lake Mills	6	Lake Mills	1																													

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



LIBERAL ARTS JUNIOR COLLEGE

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LANCE SCHWARTZ, MANAGER

HOURS: Monday-Friday 9:00-5:00
Saturday 10:00-2:00

TEL: (507) 388-3674