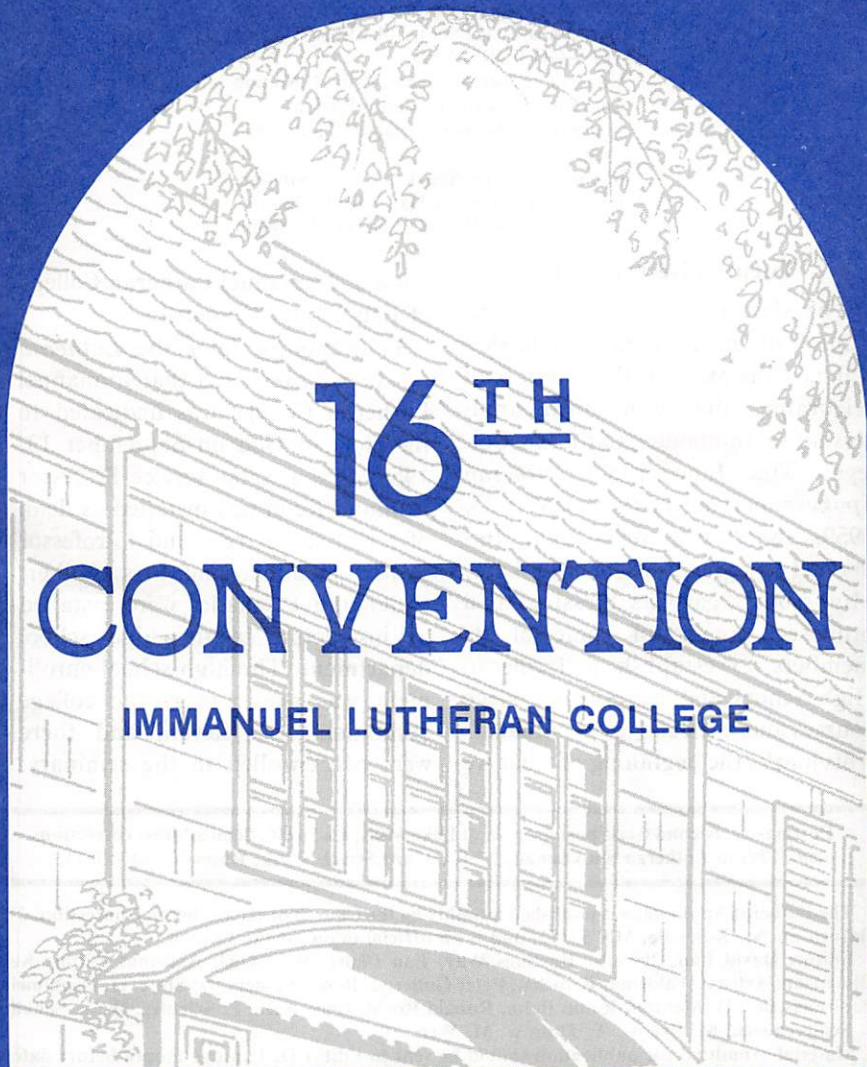


# lutheran spokesman

June 1984  
Vol. 26, No. 12  
(ISSN 0024-7537)



## 16<sup>TH</sup> CONVENTION

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COLLEGE

CHURCH OF THE LUTHERAN CONFESSION

# THE SIXTEENTH CONVENTION

## The Sixteenth Convention

The Sixteenth Convention of the Church of the Lutheran Confession will be held at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on July 9-13, 1984. The first session begins at 1:00 p.m. The theme of the convention is from Exodus 14:13-15: STAND STILL—GO FORWARD.

Essayists: Egbert Albrecht, Paul D. Nolting  
Convention Chaplain: Vance Fossum  
Communion Service Speaker: Paul Fleischer

Memorial Service Speaker: James Sandeen  
Editor of Convention Daily: Rollin Reim

—Daniel Fleischer, President

## Twenty-Five Years Old

The sixteenth convention of the Church of the Lutheran Confession will have the privilege this summer of celebrating the twenty-fifth anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran College. The June 1959 *Lutheran Spokesman* reported that on May 25, 1959, twenty-five years ago, Immanuel congregation of Mankato, Minnesota, "gave its blessing to a proposed project of some of its members to establish a Lutheran High School and to provide college courses and a theological seminary." This marks the beginning of what we

know as Immanuel Lutheran College of Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Four months later the *Lutheran Spokesman* reported that Immanuel Lutheran College was dedicated to the glory of God on September 13, 1959. At that same service Professor Edmund Reim was installed as dean of the seminary, and Professor Robert Dommer and Mrs. Hilbert (Adelgunde) Schaller were installed as instructors in the high school department. The high school enrollment was twenty-four, the college enrollment was eleven, and there were two enrolled in the seminary.

Postmaster: Second Class postage paid at Lake Mills, IA 50450. Send address corrections (Form 3579) to *Lutheran Spokesman*, 2750 Oxford Street North, Roseville, MN 55113.

The *Lutheran Spokesman* is published monthly by the Church of the Lutheran Confession, 2750 Oxford St. N., Roseville, MN 55113, and is an official organ of the Church.

Editor: David Lau, 2015 N. Hastings Way, Eau Claire, WI 54703; Assistant Editor: Keith Olmanson; Artists: Waldemar Bernthal, Peter Gullerud, Randi Pomerantz; Staff: H. Duehlmeier, Paul Fleischer, D. Menton, Rollin Reim, Ronald Roehl, Gene Rutz, P. Schaller, W. V. Schaller, J. Schierenbeck, M. Sydow, T. Thurow, M. Weis.

Material submitted for publication should be sent to Editor D. Lau one month before date of publication. Announcements and other short notices should also be sent directly to Editor D. Lau.

Business Manager: Benno Sydow, 2750 Oxford St. N., Roseville, MN 55113. Individual subscriptions: \$5.00 for one year; \$9.00 for two years; \$13.00 for three years. Subscriptions sent in bulk to congregations: \$4.00.

The college department offered only seven courses in the first year, taught by Professors Reim and Dommer and other pastors living in the Mankato area.

Twenty-five years later Professor Dommer and Mrs. Schaller are still teaching at Immanuel Lutheran College, although the setting and circumstances are now greatly altered. Nevertheless, we trust that the basic spirit and intention of the school have not changed. At the opening service of the high school department in September of 1959 Principal Dommer "emphasized that

our school would be blessed only if it were founded solely on the rock of God's Word." Likewise Professor Reim pointed out that the purpose of the college and seminary was "intensive study of this Word."

May He who is Immanuel—God With Us—continue to bless Immanuel by preserving His Word in its midst and by leading both teachers and students to honor that Word and continue in it. For it is this Word which is able to make us wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

—D. Lau

## THE UNEARTHED TREASURE

**"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; and for the joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field." (Matthew 13:44—NKJV)**

The setting for this parable is really fascinating. A man, perhaps a common laborer, was out digging in a field when he accidentally uncovered a treasure of tremendous worth. This is not at all that uncommon, though we hear about it today more on the ocean than on land. It is not unusual to hear of people coming upon sunken vessels with cargoes of gold or silver or precious metals worth millions of dollars. The treasure in this parable was worth a good deal more than the man who discovered it ever dreamed. It was so valuable that he kept his discovery a secret until he could sell everything he had just to buy that field and then claim the treasure for

himself.

With this picture of the unearthed treasure Jesus would have us learn something about the kingdom of heaven. The first truth is this, that as possessors of the kingdom of heaven we have a treasure more valuable than any treasure that a man might possibly discover, on land or sea. Having Jesus as your Savior is worth more than all the gold in the world, for you can never buy the forgiveness of your sins. "None can by any means redeem his brother, . . . for the redemption of their soul is precious," writes the Psalmist David (Ps. 49:7-8). You can buy material things—computers, cars, telephones, houses—but you cannot buy

the things of the Spirit. You can't buy love, you can't buy happiness, you can't buy contentment, and you certainly can't buy forgiveness of sins. These are all gifts of the Spirit, but gifts that you and I already possess, thanks to the unlimited grace of our God.

Now the point of the parable is that you and I should be reminded to appreciate these gifts as treasures, that we should not take them for granted, that we should cling to them as the most valuable treasure in all the world. We won't appreciate these gifts, however, until we realize how much we need them.

You won't appreciate the forgiveness of sins until you realize how much we need it, until we realize, for example, that showing disrespect to parents and teachers and supervisors is sin, that not loving God completely is sin, that neglecting to cherish the Word of God in chapel or church is sin, that stealing or cursing or coveting is sin, sin that won't go away by itself, sin that condemns us to damnation on the day of judgment. When we think of the terrible nature of our daily sins, what a tremendous treasure is the forgiveness of sins, the announcement that for Jesus' sake we can have a clean conscience and no more guilt!

Or consider the other treasures of our Lord, who not only forgives, but guides and protects and gives strength to His children to serve Him with a willing heart. If Jesus is truly our "Priceless Treasure," if nothing means more to us than the comfort and contentment that forgiveness

brings, then we will want to make every effort at school and at home and off the campus to show what we treasure most by Christian and God-pleasing behavior.

### **Selling All We Have to Get It**

And now the second point—if having Christ rule in our hearts with His Word is truly our greatest treasure, then, like the man in the parable, we will be willing to do anything in the world to keep this treasure as our own. The man in the parable sold all that he had, he gave up everything to buy the field. Moreover, we don't detect the slightest doubt or uncertainty in his action; we don't hear him say, "Maybe I should or maybe I shouldn't; perhaps this isn't a good investment, or perhaps I shouldn't go all out for this treasure." He had one concern, to keep this treasure at all costs.

We have so much to learn from him, namely, that our salvation is so precious that with a willing heart we should want to give up anything to keep it. Doesn't this suggest a serious self-evaluation on our part?

Your parents are giving up much to establish and maintain Christian schools all over our church body to root their children in the treasure of the Word. Many of them give up much so that you might go to high school and college at Immanuel. But what about you? Is the Word of God, which permeates all classroom instruction, which is reflected in the lives of all our professors, and which is demonstrated on a Christian campus, important to you? Is

rooting in this Word such a treasure to you that you are willing to give up tempting secular programs that other schools seem to offer—a large band, a ballet class, a comprehensive drama or sports program, home economics, manual arts—I say, does the treasure of the Word mean more to you than these things? Is the Word of God the chief factor in deciding where you want to go to school?

Or you young people of college age! Does the lure of specialized training, or accreditation, or ultimate financial gain mean more than the foundation in the Word that our Christian college has to offer? Think about it.

May we pray God's Holy Spirit to lead us to treasure our salvation and the rooting in His Word so much

that we are willing to give up all to possess it. May that same Spirit inspire us to heed the example of the apostle Paul when he laid out the whole matter so clearly: "I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord; for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Phil. 3:8).

What to me may seem a treasure,  
But displeasing is to Thee,  
Oh, remove such harmful pleasure;  
Give instead what profits me.  
Let my heart by Thee be stilled;  
Make me Thine, Lord, as Thou wilt.

(LH #348:3)

—Robert Dommer

Note: The above was presented as a chapel talk at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, on May 4, 1984, Visitors' Day.

## **“NO ONE ELSE”**

**“so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else!” (First Kings 8:60—NASB)**

Remembrances and celebrations for various occasions are usually joyous times. This is especially true when we are looking back to the beginning of something that has had an impact on the world, or on the country, or at least on your life. We are looking this year on just such an occasion. Immanuel Lutheran College has just graduated its 25th group of graduates. These twenty-five years can be viewed and remembered in different ways because

of the different impacts on people's lives.

The Scripture above was spoken by Solomon at the dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem. The words are part of the benediction after the prayer of dedication. Solomon has asked the Lord to be with the people and maintain the cause of Israel. Then follow the words: “so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else.”

The Temple, the use of the Temple, the teaching there, the actions there, the following of the statutes there, were all for one reason: "so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God."

### **Thanking God for Twenty-Five Years of Blessings**

What better theme could one find for a celebration of twenty-five years of graduates! What better yardstick could we find to measure the value of the twenty-five years of graduates! What better guide could we have for planning a God-pleasing celebration of twenty-five years of graduates!

Let us not be satisfied with saying that God has been great and God has been good. God is always great, and God is always good. But what about our twenty-five years? Do we measure up? Will our celebration measure up?

Immanuel Lutheran College has taught and imparted the Word of God to many graduates over the past twenty-five years. It has sought to bring the living Word to each and every student in its halls for two reasons. First, that each of these students would know their God more fully and grow daily in Christ. Secondly, that the Word imparted to them may be spread to others as these students go to their various professions in life.

Through the diligent use of God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit many have been strengthened in the faith. Because of their faith as shown

by word and deed, many of the earth have heard that the Lord is God. For this wonderful blessing we thank our God.

But how? How can we possibly thank God or repay God for His saving work, for the great gift of His Son, or even for the things He has done through Immanuel College in twenty-five years of graduates?

Each of us may do this in a different way. Some may have very special, personal reasons to thank God for Immanuel. Some will think of the ministers of the Gospel who have graduated. Others will see dedicated mothers, fathers, or church members working for the kingdom.

When we decide for ourselves how to thank our God, let us remember the words of Solomon and thank Him in a way that all may know "there is no one else."

There may be decisions made concerning a thank offering at the convention this summer, and, if so, what to do with that offering. This is not a plea for or against any one thought or idea. It is a plea, however, to make decisions about our special thank offering in keeping with the wisdom of Solomon, "so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the Lord is God; there is no one else."

With this done, let us go forward in the spirit of the next words of Solomon: "Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the Lord, our God, to walk in His statutes and to keep His commandments, as at this day" (First Kings 8:61).

—Ron Roehl

# A BIBLE INSTITUTE

*"teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you"* — Mt. 28:20

Whereas once American and European missionaries went into foreign mission fields and carried out themselves the day-to-day preaching and teaching in the villages and cities, the times have changed. Today the chief purpose of the expatriate missionaries is to teach the native preachers, enabling them to carry on mission work among their own people.

So also the chief goal of our work with the Nigerian Church of the Lutheran Confession (NCLC) and the Church of the Lutheran Confession in India (CLCI) is to establish training schools for their preachers and church workers. "Bible Institute" is the common name for such a training school. To have a school for thorough indoctrination in the truths of the Word is not only in accord with true Lutheran tradition. Such a school follows our Lord's instruction to teach all that He has commanded.

## **In Nigeria**

During the visitation of 1984 in both Nigeria and India a Bible Institute was discussed. When it was discussed in Nigeria, one member of a congregation offered to help teach. Such an offer as this shows a keen interest in a Bible Institute. In several meetings with leaders of the NCLC the Bible Institute was stressed as a unifying factor as well as a great boon in the education of

the preachers.

There is no question that it is needed. What substitutes now for such a school is Pastor Essien's training of two men as evangelists. Pastor Essien's workload in the ministry is heavy with his serving his own large congregation as well as supervising the other NCLC churches. A Bible Institute would allow more teaching time for the training of men, as well as release Pastor Essien to work more with the congregations.

Ten years ago the CLC Board of Missions recommended to the Convention, and the Convention approved "that the Mission Board be authorized to call and to send a resident spiritual advisor to Nigeria as soon as possible; that this advisor be empowered to help establish a training school in Nigeria for Nigerian church workers" (1974 CLC Convention Proceedings, p. 50). This should still be implemented in some form.

During the recent visitation in the Nigerian village of Mbukpo Oduobo a written offer of the use of part of the secondary school building for a Bible Institute was given to the visitation team. This secondary school has not been started yet. The main building has been erected with others to follow. The local NCLC preacher, a pharmacist, is head of the village project to begin this secondary

school. The CLC Board of Missions and the Convention will have to consider and take action on this offer. While this could be the opportunity to establish a Bible Institute, several other factors will have to be weighed and assessed before final determination can be made.

### **In India**

In India the concentration of the CLCI congregations is in the Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh state with Nidubrolu as its headquarters. The high attendance of CLCI preachers (17 out of 21) at a recent seminar at the Mission House in Nidubrolu indicates good access of our people to this location. This location is ideal for a Bible Institute. One room of the Mission House could be used for a classroom. There is also ample room on the grounds for classes to be held outdoors. With Pastor Benjamin's dynamic leadership of his people, he would be valuable as head of the Institute.

Here as in Nigeria there is great need of a training school for

preachers. Pastor Benjamin has a fulltime job as headmaster in addition to heading up the church and supervising its work. This does not allow much time for training preachers. Here as in Nigeria an expatriate could serve to "teach them to observe all that I have commanded you."

During the recent visitation contact was made with several preachers in the Bharath Ev. Lutheran Church in Kanyakumari District on the southern tip of India. They expressed a willingness to send their men up to Nidubrolu for training.

The upcoming July Convention of our church body will have many exciting and important decisions to make on foreign mission work. May we all pray and work in preparation for the convention. May our God grant the NCLC and the CLCI a school of the prophets from which may go forth bold preachers who are strong in the Spirit. And let us remember: Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.

—David Koenig

## **The Wonder of Nidubrolu**

One of the more interesting aspects offered by a visitation such as that which Pastor David Koenig and the author were privileged to make to Nigeria and India is the opportunity to compare the effect which God's Word has on His people living in various cultures. Since we were visiting the congregations of the Nigerian Church of the Lutheran

Confession and the Church of the Lutheran Confession in India, it was not surprising that we felt at home in both, and were happily conscious of the common doctrinal positions we share and the faith we hold together in the Lord Jesus Christ as sinful mankind's only hope for salvation.

With all that we have in common, however, there are also subtle dif-



ferences resulting from our varied cultural backgrounds. These are differences that ought rather intrigue than disturb us. They suggest that there may be mutual blessings advantageous to all concerned that can result from such cross-culture fellowship.

### **The Symbolism of Numbers**

Our western minds, for example, are not likely to find as much significance in the symbolism of numbers as does the eastern mind. Most of our members in the States are aware that there is such symbolism connected with numbers in the Scripture. We know, for example, that the number seven has been considered sacred from the time of creation, when "God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done" (Gen. 2:2—NIV). (Cf. also Gen. 4:24 and 21:28-29). We have been taught too that the number ten, on which our decimal system is based, symbolizes perfection and completeness. It is difficult for us to even imagine that our perfect God would have given us 9 or 11 commandments. We can understand too that 1000 years ( $10 \times 10 \times 10$ ) would have been chosen in Revelation 20 as the number to symbolize the entire New Testament period between the First and Second Advents of our Savior. Much of this symbolism can be traced to Babylon, and so we are not surprised to find that the Book of Daniel, written during the Jewish captivity in that city, is filled with

symbolic numbers.

But we in the west sometimes find the task of trying to interpret such sections tedious, even though our Lord does seem to tantalize us to seek the benefits of such study, as He does, for example, in Revelation 13:18: "This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is a man's number. His number is 666."

When we arrived in Nidubrolu in eastern India, we were, of course, eager to check out the Mission House that had been purchased a few months earlier. We examined the quality of construction, the number and size of the rooms, and mentally thought of the uses they might serve. We noted too that the building had apparently been built by a Christian, for crosses were worked into the design here and there. But it would not have occurred to us to count the windows and doors.

Such a detail, however, does not pass by our host, Benjamin. He led us around and pointed out with much satisfaction that there are exactly 12 windows and 12 doors. Were the people of God not divided into 12 tribes, and did not our Lord choose 12 disciples? Does not the Book of Revelation picture the total number of the sealed as 144,000? 12,000 from each of the 12 tribes of God's people.

Our eyes were pleased by the abundance of colorful flowers in the yard that showed what good care the place was receiving. But we had to be shown by our host the exceptional lily that came out with three buds on

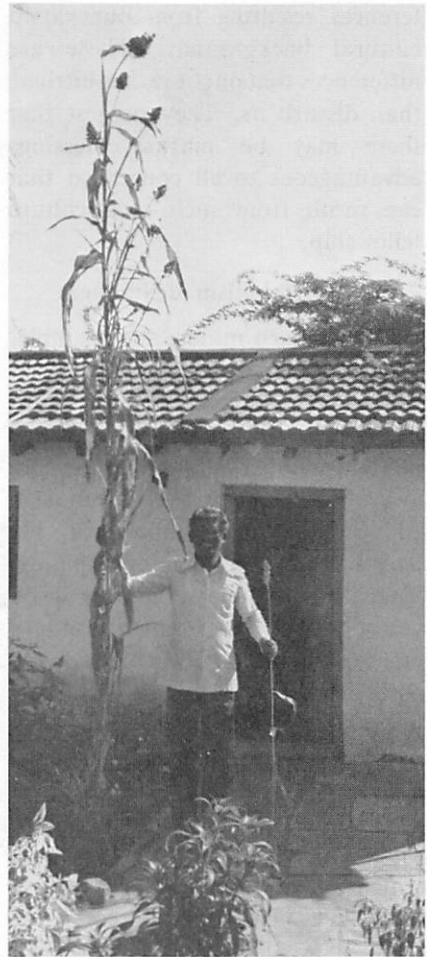
a single stem where otherwise that variety always has only one flower per stem. This was read as a sign that the Triune God is pleased with the purchase of this first property by the CLC in India.

### **The Sorghum Plant**

Benjamin's greatest pride and joy, however, was the sorghum plant. Who had ever seen such a specimen before? This small yard was not even the place where anyone would want to grow sorghum. It was apparently self-planted from chicken feed that had been scattered on the ground.

Normally this species has a life span of 3 to 5 months. But this particular stalk had already grown 9 months when we left. The tallest plant we could find in a nearby field to bring in for comparison measured 4 feet 6 inches. But this one had already reached 12 feet 6 inches in height. While an ordinary plant produces one head of grain, or at most two, this one already carried 8 heads and had enough sprouts down the side to suggest that it would eventually have 24 tassles. Double 12! Though some of the leaves were beginning to turn brown, down at the bottom there were a number of new green stalks developing from the roots that indicated that the plant might continue to produce new growth even after the original stalk dies.

No one in Nidubrolu has ever seen the likes of this plant. It has become the wonder of the town. The district agricultural officer has come by to marvel and beg unsuccessfully for



**The Unusual Sorghum Plant**

some of the precious seeds. No chance! Benjamin thinks rather of baking the grain into some special loaves of bread to be sent to the congregations of the CLCI, so that they may share the joy of what is taken to be a clear sign that the Lord is smiling with favor on the establishment of the Church of the Lutheran Confession in India.

There has also been a parade of other preachers from various denominations in Nidubrolu, including a Lutheran pastor from the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church (an ALC Mission), that have come by to stare and take notes for a sermon on the subject. Comparisons were made to Pharaoh's dream about "seven heads of grain, full and good, growing on a single stalk" (Gen. 41:22). The blessing that Moses spoke over the descendants of Joseph was studied again: "May the Lord

bless His land with the precious dew from heaven above . . . with the best the sun brings forth . . . with the best gifts of the earth and its fullness and the favor of Him who dwelt in the burning bush" (Deut. 33:13-16).

One question lingers in the mind. One wonders what application (if any) these preachers made of the fact that the Lord was nurturing this remarkable stalk in the compound of the newest church body to be established in their midst?

—Norbert Reim

## THE CHOICE OF A MARRIAGE PARTNER — II

The Lord's apostle Paul says in his first letter to the Thessalonians: "Every one of you should know how to get a wife in a holy and honorable way and not in the way of passionate lust like the people of the world who don't know God" (1 Thess. 4:4—*An American Translation* here and throughout). On the basis of this passage and others we formulated Rule #1 in the choice of a marriage partner. Rule #1: *Do not let your choice be made only on the basis of physical attractiveness or the desire for earthly riches.* Now we go on to consider some of the other words of advice that God has given us on this subject.

### Asking for Wisdom

As Christians, we should "know how to get a wife in a holy and honorable way" (1 Thess. 4:4). The

choice of a marriage partner obviously requires wisdom. So the thing to do over and over again is to ask God to give you wisdom in the choice of your spouse. "If you lack wisdom, ask God, who gives to everyone with an open hand and doesn't scold, and He will give it to you. You should ask with faith and have no doubts" (Js. 1:5-6).

You see, faith is to be exercised not only in the spiritual matters of forgiveness of sins and eternal salvation but also in such earthly matters as the choice of a vocation, the choice of a home, and the choice of a marriage partner. Just as we believe God forgives our sins for Jesus' sake because that is what He says in His Word, so we are to believe Him when He says He will give us wisdom if we ask for it.

Every young man and young

woman ought to be presenting their requests for wisdom to their God on a daily basis. "O Lord God, I come before You as a sinner with a flesh that continually leads me astray. Yet I dare to come to You with my request because You have removed my sin by Your death on the cross. Therefore I ask You: Give me wisdom as I seek to know whether I should marry and whom I should marry. This is such an important decision, and it will affect my whole life from this time on. Guide me in some way so that I will not make a choice that is displeasing to You or harmful for my spiritual life."

How does God answer such a prayer? He "will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him" (Lk. 11:13). The Holy Spirit lives in every Christian, and the Holy Spirit helps us fight and win the daily battle against our flesh. The Holy Spirit does His work through God's Word, convicting us of our sinfulness, building up our confidence in Jesus as our Savior and our love for Him who loved us first, and then showing us in His Word how we can demonstrate our love for Him by the way we live and talk and think.

All of this is a gradual process. The more we live in God's Word, the more we think God's thoughts after Him. God's Word can guide us in many of the decisions we must make here on earth, if only we take the time to study His Word and ask the Holy Spirit to enlighten our understanding. In other words, God answers our request for wisdom by directing us to His Word, where the

Holy Spirit speaks to us.

### **Finding a Wife for Isaac**

In the Old Testament we have one very unusual example of how God answered prayer in connection with a marriage choice. Abraham sent his servant on a long trip to Haran to arrange a marriage for his son Isaac. Abraham's servant fully realized the seriousness of what he was doing and his own inability to make such a decision. So he took the matter to the Lord in prayer. "Lord, God of my master Abraham, please give me success today, and so be kind to my master Abraham. Here I'm standing by a spring of water, and the daughters of the men of the town are coming out to draw water. And now, when I say to a girl, 'Please hold your jar for me, and let me drink,' and she says, 'Drink and I'll water your camels too,' let her be the woman You have chosen as the right one for Your servant Isaac" (Gen. 24:12-14).

The Lord answered this servant's prayer by having Rebekah appear on the scene at once, offering to water his camels. Now if Rebekah had turned out to be already married, or the daughter of a heathen, or undesirable for some other reason, then this servant would have known that God did not choose to use the method proposed by him for revealing Isaac's marriage partner. But everything fit together beautifully. Rebekah was an unmarried virgin. She was the granddaughter of Abraham's brother. Her relatives and she herself were convinced that God had directed the whole business. So the

servant also was convinced that God had answered his prayer, and that Rebekah was indeed God's choice to be Isaac's wife.

The Lord has all kinds of ways He can use to answer our prayers and convince us whether a certain person is His choice as our marriage partner. The important thing is that we keep on asking for wisdom and keep on studying His Word so that we are not misled by our flesh into thinking that a certain person is

God's choice when it should be clear to us that He is directing us in a different direction.

Let us then state this proposition as Rule #2: *Pray for God's guidance in your choice of a marriage partner.*

(to be continued)

—D. Lau

Note: This material was first presented at a Minnesota Delegate Conference in 1982, which requested that it be printed for a wider audience.

## Expansion Dedication in Spokane

"So they said, 'Let us rise up and build.' Then they set their hands to do this good work" (Nehemiah 2:18—NKJV). These words were spoken in connection with the rebuilding of the walls around Jerusalem. There was opposition to the work. We read, however, in Neh. 6:15-16: "So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month of Elul, in fifty-two days. And it happened, when all our enemies heard of it, and all the nations around us saw these things, that they were very disheartened in their own eyes; for they perceived that this work was done by our God."

Chapter 12 of Nehemiah reports on the dedication of the walls. "So the two thanksgiving choirs stood in the house of God. . . . Also that day they offered great sacrifices, and rejoiced, for God had made them rejoice with great joy; the women and the children also rejoiced, so that the joy of Jerusalem was heard afar off"

(Neh. 12:40, 43). The project undertaken to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem had been blessed. And it was the Lord who had put great joy in the hearts of the people concerning this blessing.

Such is the grace of our God. He not only blesses the work, but also gives us the joy and gladness which is an appropriate response to the prosperity which He has worked.

### A Needed Addition

On November 6, 1983, the members and friends of Gethsemane Lutheran Church and School of Spokane, Washington, gathered together and rejoiced with great joy on the occasion of the dedication of an addition to Gethsemane's facilities. The expansion project dedicated on that day had been in the planning stages for many years before ground was actually broken during a brief ceremony on March 13, 1983.



**Gethsemane Church and School**

The addition involved the incorporation of two portable classroom units of the type currently being used by many of the public school districts. It was brought to the attention of the Building Committee that units such as these were well suited to inclusion as a permanent part of Gethsemane's building. The Building Committee in consultation with the architect agreed. The resulting plan called for utilization of the two portable units together with some new construction as an addition to the existing structure. This plan provided approximately 4700 square feet of additional space at a cost estimate of \$85,000, should Gethsemane members provide most of the labor. Plan details included three new school classrooms, a teachers' office, a book storage room, a work

room, a library, an extension of the church fellowship hall, and a new janitor's closet.

The project was blessed with faithful and willing workers from the planning stages on through to completion. Some of the workers were involved with every phase of the project. Others contributed at various points and in various ways according to their God-given talents. The Lord provided. To God alone be the glory!

### **The Services**

Preceding the afternoon dedication service on November 6, Gethsemane's annual mission festival was held in the morning. Former Gethsemane pastor John Schierenbeck was the guest speaker for the morning service and also assisted with the

afternoon dedication service. The morning message, "Tell to the Generation to Come the Praises of the Lord," was based on Psalm 78:1-8 and reminded those present of the great blessing a Christian Day School is in carrying out this directive. At the same time the congregation was encouraged to continue to actively seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. The joy of this day was heightened for Gethsemane congregation because of the presence of Pastor and Mrs. Schierenbeck, who had been a part of the congregation for so many years.

The message for the afternoon dedication service, "The People

Whom I Formed for Myself Will Declare My Praise," was based on Isaiah 43:21. The hearers' thoughts were directed to the marvelous truth that the praises voiced in connection with the dedication of the building addition, as with all our praises to God, are prompted by the saving grace of God in reconciling us to Himself in Christ Jesus, and bringing us to faith in Jesus as our Savior through the power of His Holy Spirit working through the Word.

The work was worked by God. For this we thank Him! God has made us "rejoice with great joy." For this we thank Him also! To God alone be the glory!

—Douglas A. Libby

## Daily Devotions for July

### July Reading

### Theme

- |  |                   |   |
|--|-------------------|---|
| 1  | John 10:11-18     | <p><b>"What a Friend we have in Jesus"</b><br/>           Shepherd and Friend, He laid down His life for us. (John 15:13)<br/>           Jesus was our Friend, even though we were His enemies.<br/>           Jesus extends His loving forgiveness to <i>every</i> sort of sinner.<br/>           Jesus is our Friend in life's most extreme situations.</p> |
| 2  | Romans 5:6-11     |   |
| 3  | Luke 7:29-35      |   |
| 4  | John 11:1-15      |   |
| 5  | Isaiah 53:4-9     | <p><b>"All our sins and griefs to bear."</b><br/>           For our sins He was stricken, smitten, and afflicted.<br/>           He died because He bore our sin-guilt.</p>   |
| 6  | I Peter 2:18-25   |   |
| <b>"What a privilege to carry Ev'ry thing to God in prayer."</b> |                   |   |
| 7  | John 15:1-8       | <p>A privilege based on Jesus' commands and promises.<br/>           A privilege to be used with implicit faith.</p>  |
| 8  | Matthew 21:18-22  |   |
| <b>"Oh, what peace we often forfeit!"</b>                        |                   |   |
| 9  | Ephesians 2:13-22 | <p>Christ Himself is our Peace, for He reconciled us to God.<br/>           The peace Jesus gives is nothing like what the world calls peace.<br/>           Christ's peace guards our hearts from fear and our minds from worry.</p>   |
| 10   | John 14:15-27     |   |
| 11   | Philippians 4:4-9 |   |
| <b>"Oh, what needless pain we bear!"</b>                         |                   |   |
| 12   | Matthew 6:25-34   | <p>The pain of depression and discouragement.<br/>           The pain of anxious worry and fretting care.</p>   |
| 13   | Psalm 42          |   |
| <b>"Have you trials and temptations?"</b>                        |                   |   |
| 14   | I Peter 4:12-19   | <p>Of course we do. And it should not surprise us.<br/>           Jesus knows first-hand about our trials and temptations.<br/>           All the history of God's people shows that our Lord is well able to rescue us from trials.</p>  |
| 15   | Hebrews 2:14-18   |   |
| 16   | II Peter 2:4-10   |   |

### Appointment

Mr. Stephen Lentz of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, has been appointed auditor for the Church of the Lutheran Confession.

—Daniel Fleischer, President

### Green Pines Camp

A camp for adults will be held at Immanuel Lutheran College, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, from July 16 to 20, 1984. A fee schedule and other information will be sent upon request. Each pastor has received information and registration blanks.

For further information, comments, or registration contact:

Green Pines Camp  
Ronald L. Roehl  
501 Grover Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

---

#### **"Is there trouble anywhere?"**

**"We should never be discouraged,  
Take it to the Lord in prayer."**

17 Romans 8:28-39

God uses even troubles for our blessing.

18 John 16:25-33

Christ the Overcomer gives us victory in the midst of life's troubles.

**"Can we find a friend so faithful  
Who will all our sorrows share?"**

19 John 15:9-17

Christ has chosen to be our greatest Friend.

20 Isaiah 63:7-16

Jesus is THE faithful Friend because He is the faithful God.

**"Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness."**

21 Hebrews 4:14-5:10

He knows. He sympathizes. He helps.

22 Luke 5:17-26

Jesus is able to help in every weakness—of body or soul.

**"Are we weak and heavy laden  
Cumbered with a load of care?"**

23 Matthew 11:25-30

Jesus invites us to bring to Him our load of sins and anxieties.

24 John 6:28-40

Jesus assures He will turn none away, no matter what the burden they bring.

**"Precious Savior, still our Refuge."**

25 Luke 22:31-38

Our Refuge in the face of Satan's onslaughts.

26 John 10:22-30

In Christ we have eternal security.

**"Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?"**

27 John 15:18-25

What has happened to Christ will happen to Christians.

28 Psalm 41

This pain also Jesus understands firsthand. (v 9!)

**"In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there."**

29 Isaiah 66:10-14

In the arms of the Lord we have peace and comfort.

30 Deuteronomy 33:26-29

Jesus is Jehovah, our Shield and Helper. In His strong arms we are secure. . . . forever.

31 Isaiah 40:10-31

The Almighty Shepherd-God will take care of His lambs and sheep.

—W. V. Schaller