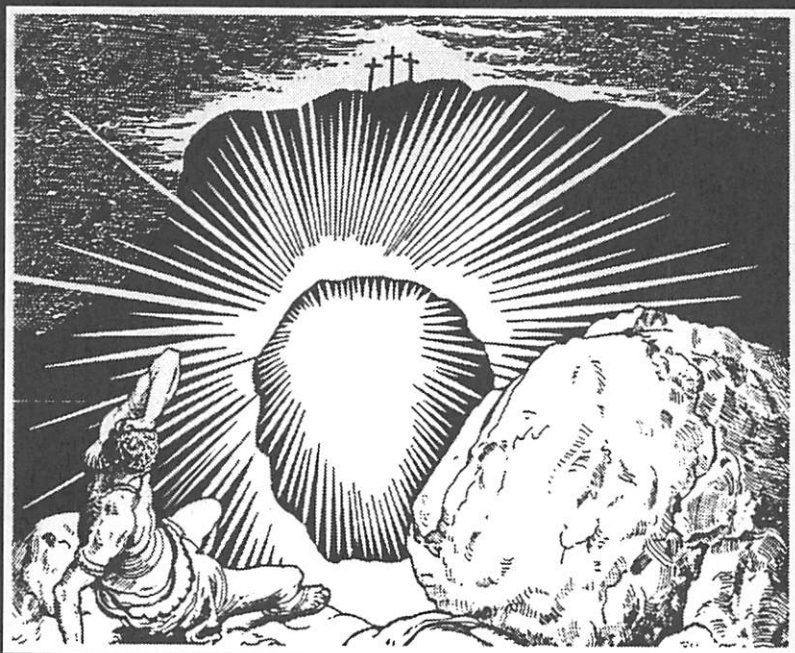


# Lutheran Spokesman

April 1994,  
Vol. 36, No. 10  
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## CHRIST IS RISEN!

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**CLC**

Church of the Lutheran Confession

# NO BROKEN-DOWN EVIDENCE

John Singleton Copley was a renowned painter of the late 16th century. He is also remembered as one of the greatest legal minds in British history, and three times Lord High Chancellor of England. He was once asked to review the Biblical account of Easter from a legal perspective. His conclusion: "I know pretty well what evidence is, and I tell you, **such evidence as that for the resurrection of Jesus Christ has never broken down yet.**"

His words ring true to this day. Even when examined from a solely human standpoint, the forensic evidence for the resurrection is compelling.

Consider the absence of Jesus' body. It was never discovered in the garden tomb nor, indeed, in any tomb. Had it been there to find, His enemies would surely have found it. To "produce the body" would have been the simplest way for first century authorities to quash this rising sect

known as "The Way." After all, here was a group whose central beliefs depended on the idea that their Leader **had risen from the dead.** They could not produce the body, however, since there was no body to produce.

The absence of evidence, of course, is merely circumstantial. An eyewitness account, on the other hand, is direct evidence of the strongest kind. In an American courtroom, one eyewitness to an event is powerful; two constitute absolute proof that something took place. In other words, even if the two Emmaus disciples had been the only ones to see the risen Christ, that would have been proof enough in any court we're familiar with!

In point of fact, however, the eyewitnesses to the resurrection numbered in the **hundreds**, as Paul says: "*He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to*

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*the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also" (1 Cor. 15:5-8).* Could over 500 people have been lying? Could that many people have been involved in an elaborate conspiracy to fabricate the Easter story? Today's unbelieving historians may stick stubbornly to their "disciples-stole-the-body" theory...but they'd never win their case in a court of law!

### Faith Convinces Us

The evidence for the resurrection can never be broken down, even from the perspective of human reason. Of course, that is **not** our perspective on Easter. We Christians need no forensic evidence to convince us of the truth of the resurrection, any more than we need photographs of the ark to convince us of the truth of the Flood. The Holy Spirit Himself has convinced us, by giving us **faith**. And faith is no broken-down evidence! As the writer to the Hebrews said: "*Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (11:1).*

Faith convinces us not only of the truth of the resurrection, but also of its significance. Easter proves to us, in the clearest of terms, that Jesus Christ is also true God, just as He said all along; if He were just a man, could He have predicted His resurrection and carried through with it? Easter proves to us that Jesus' death really was the atoning sacrifice that paid for **all** the sins of the world; consider: if even one of your sins remained to be paid for, could He have risen in triumph the third day? Finally Easter proves

that death will not be the end for us Christians, any more than it was for Christ. His triumph over death and the devil is our triumph. Through His blood and righteousness, each of us may look forward to a glorious rising on the Last Day!

To be vindicated — proven right — that is the heartfelt goal of every lawyer who has ever argued a case in court. While we may not savor the thought of ourselves as lawyers, nevertheless . . . let us keep arguing the case for the resurrection. Let's witness this saving truth to our friends, our relatives, our neighbors, and to anyone who is willing to sit still for a moment and listen to the Good News of a risen Savior. Because as surely as you are reading these words you **will be vindicated** in your argument. For this is evidence that can't be broken down. The dawn of eternity will prove the truth of Christ's promise to His believers: "*Because I live, you shall live also!*"

—Pastor Paul Naumann



**The Doctor on Easter**

"My sin and death hung around Jesus' neck on Good Friday, but on the day of Easter they had completely disappeared."

—Dr. Martin Luther, Easter sermon, 1510

## ***From The Editor:***

We call your attention to a couple of special features in this issue.

1) You will notice the four center pages constitute a (removeable) set of devotions "*For Those Who Mourn*," written by Pastor Paul Naumann for his congregations in South Dakota. They were submitted to us by his brother, Pastor Bruce Naumann, of San Francisco. The material will surely be a blessing to any who make use of it. Rights to reproduce this pamphlet (or anything else appearing in the *Spokesman*) are freely given.

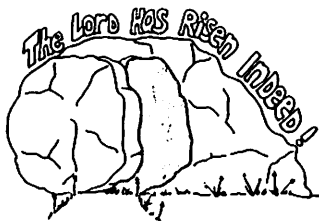
2) Some thirty years ago Pastor Norbert Reim wrote a series on Christian witnessing for the *Spokesman*. The series was based on the risen Savior's Great Commission, and was entitled simply: "GO!" All the writings were short and pithy, faith provoking and faith inspiring. The article which

appeared in the April 1964 Easter issue and subtitled *Easter Faith and Mission Zeal* was particularly so. It consisted of but five brief paragraphs, which you will find in this issue on five different pages, in sequence (boxed).

By the grace of God, and the health and strength He supplies, Pastor Reim continues to give personal witness to the Savior. He and his wife Celeste reside in their Sun City, Arizona home. Though he retired a few years ago, Pastor Reim serves the CLC preaching station in Albuquerque, New Mexico, flying there to conduct worship services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.

**Prayer:** *Oh risen and living Lord, Jesus Christ, inspire and invigorate us anew with a faith which cannot but speak of the victory You have won for all sinners on the cross of Calvary — a victory that is evidenced and guaranteed by the empty tomb! May the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, the Enabler, the Encourager, loose our tongues to proclaim boldly to all the world that You have conquered sin, death, Satan, and hell for us! May both the lives we live as well as the words we speak reflect our sincere desire to carry out Your Great Commission. Yes, may our joyful, triumphant Easter faith show itself, as it did in Your first disciples, in ardent mission zeal — to the honor of Your holy and saving Name and to the salvation of many other blood-bought souls. Amen.*

### Looking Back in the *Lutheran Spokesman*



# “...bringing the spices which they had prepared.”

*Luke 24:1*

**W**hen we celebrate another Easter this year, it will be the culmination of much preparation. Every such event obviously needs preparation in order to accomplish all the things that make it special. The children can't have an egg hunt unless someone procures and hides the eggs. If you celebrate with colored Easter eggs, someone has to color them. A special Easter meal will not take place unless someone fixes the food. Other preparations often include making or buying special clothing for a festival, or Spring cleaning at home and church. Special choir rehearsals may be held to get ready for the celebration.

These last-mentioned preparations point to the spiritual preparations that take place before the event. For six weeks before Easter most of our congregations conduct special mid-week services to review in heart and mind the path our Savior walked to gain our deliverance from sin, death, and the devil. In our Lenten Vespers we remember every year that it was

all for us, to atone for our sin, that Jesus suffered so. Of course, these special gatherings themselves would not take place without planning and preparation. At the very least, people need to know when and where to gather before they can meet for anything.

Even Jesus' disciples had to prepare the upper room in order to celebrate the Passover. Early Christians also recognized that preparation did much to help the celebration of Easter. As early as the second century a fast was sometimes held for a period of two or three days before Easter. By the fourth century the time had been lengthened to forty days, although even then the fast was either modified, or held only during Holy Week. Such preparations certainly might help one set aside normal activities, and concentrate on the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, our crucified and risen Lord.

But on that first Easter morning neither Jesus' followers nor His enemies had really made any preparations for Easter. The enemies

## **GO!**

### **Easter Faith and Mission Zeal**

The Church now revels in the 40 day period between the Lord's resurrection and His ascension. Particularly in contrast to the somber 40 days of Lent, this season after Easter has a heart-warming, faith-invigorating glow that fills the believer with new joy, and a corresponding desire for mission work.

had made preparations for a body-snatching attempt by posting guards and sealing the stone. Jesus' followers had prepared spices to embalm the body of the Master, spices which they would not be able to use. They made preparations to gather around the body, and then could not find the body because the tomb was empty. He was risen.

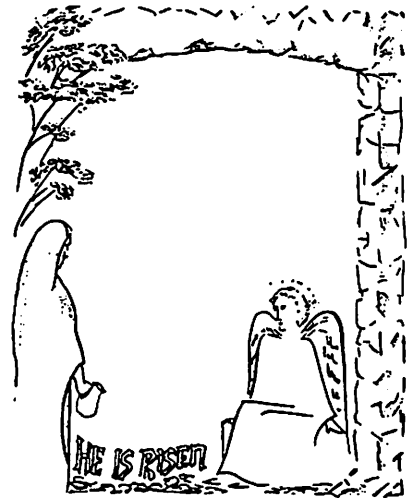
When Jesus had spoken to them about His suffering and death and resurrection during the previous Lenten weeks, they had not understood. When Jesus began to tell them how He would suffer at the hands of the chief priests and leaders of the people, Peter tried to rebuke Him. And when He told Peter, James, and John not to tell anyone about his transfiguration until the Son of Man had risen from the dead, they kept discussing what "rising from the dead" meant. (Mark 8 & 9)

Oh, there was much preparation all right! The Father had planned from eternity to send His Son. The Son had come, had preached and prepared, had lived and died in our name, as it had

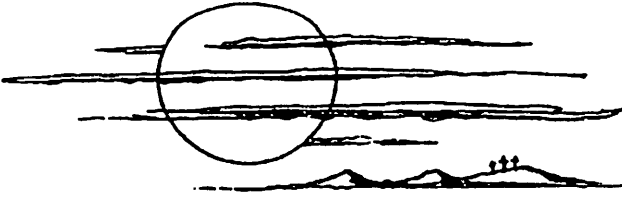
been foretold by the Spirit. There was much preparation for the first Easter, but it was made by God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. No wonder the multitude of the saved in John's vision were crying out: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb" (Rev. 7:19).

"This is the day *the LORD has made*; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24).

—Pastor Paul Schaller



... Remember what this 40 day period meant for the disciples! The Lord's death had dealt such a shattering blow to their faith that the first reports of the women concerning an empty tomb "seemed to them as idle tales," and fell on unbelieving ears. Faith in the resurrection was slow in coming. The eyewitness report of ten brethren was not enough to convince Thomas. Even those who saw the risen Lord standing before them "believed not for joy." Faith was first trembling and hesitant. When these men woke to another new day, they would wonder again whether they had perhaps just dreamt all these glorious things. *Could* it possibly be true? Can such a mangled corpse actually rise from the dead? During the 40 days the Lord appeared unto them again, and again, and yet again, until finally all doubts were forever laid to rest, and their exultant hearts burned within them. Their faith grew during this period to an unshakable conviction of an incontestable TRUTH; the Lord is risen, He is risen indeed!



## ***Devotions in God's Word For Those Who Mourn***

The time immediately following the death of a close friend or family member is always difficult, no matter who you are. For a Christian, however, the sadness of such a time can be tempered with comfort, hope, and (believe it or not) even joy! Even in the most distressing circumstances, we don't have to give in to despair—God has not left us without comfort. His Word offers many passages specifically designed to help the sorrowing believer cope with grief. Maybe you already knew that, but you just didn't know where to look in Scripture. Here are fourteen brief devotions from the Bible, chosen especially for their power to comfort you in your loss.

You might find that it helps a lot to begin each day with one of these short Scripture readings. Try to remember the message of each devotion and carry it with you throughout the day. . . turning over God's words of promise in your mind will help you in those moments when despair tries to take control!



### ***Day #1—Read I Thessalonians 4:13-18***

The apostle Paul was speaking to the Christians at Thessalonica. None of them had been believers for very long, and some of them were confused about what happens to a Christian after death. We believers are not like “those who have no hope,” Paul says. On the Day of Judgment, those who have died as Christians will rise to enjoy everlasting life with those believers who are still alive on the earth.



### ***Day #2—Read II Corinthians 4:7-18***

We have the treasure of the Christian faith “in earthen vessels.” That means that what we believe in is eternal, but our bodies, in which that faith resides, are mortal. We constantly meet up with sin, sorrow, and death in this world. That fact doesn't destroy us, though, because we know (v. 14) that the same almighty God who raised Jesus from death has promised to raise up us and all who believe in Christ for salvation.



***Day #3—Read Philippians 1:19-23***

The way a Christian looks at death is very different from the way the world looks at it. When a loved one dies, the world sees it as a pure loss: final, irrevocable, and tragic. Faith in Christ gives the believer a different outlook, however. In these verses, Paul is a prisoner and facing possible death at the hands of the Romans. Yet he doesn't tremble with terror at the thought; in fact, the prospect of leaving this earth to join his Savior he views not as a loss, but as a tremendous gain that he actually looks forward to!



***Day #4—Read Romans 8:31-39***

Paul was writing to some Christians in Rome who were just starting to feel the heat of government persecution. They saw their loved ones thrown into jail, beaten and even killed for what they believed. Yet Paul has cheerful words for them—"Nothing shall separate us from the love of God." Not even death! Verse 32 is a question you might ask yourself: "If God gave His only Son for me, won't He also grant me relief for my suffering, and comfort in my sorrow?"



***Day #5—Read John 11:1-44***

The account of how Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead has many comforting aspects to it. For one thing, vv. 33-35 show how Jesus sympathized and shared in the sorrow of Mary and Martha. We have a Savior who knows how it feels to lose someone close, and who pities us in our sorrow! Also, we hear Jesus' wonderful promise, in vv. 25-26, that those who believe in Him will "never die." That is, when this earthly life is over, they will enter eternal life with Christ in heaven.



***Day #6—Read John 16:16-22***

In this section Jesus was preparing His disciples for the fact that He would be departing the earth, and they would not see Him for a time. He gives them a promise, though—that they would see Him again one day, and their tears of sorrow would be turned to tears of joy. The same promise applies to us, too. We can rejoice that our loved one who has died in the Lord is already with the Savior, and that we, too, will one day meet them both in the paradise of God's heavenly kingdom!





***Day #7—Read Psalm 30:1-5***

With the Psalmist, we can give thanks to God that He “has kept us alive, that we should not go down to the pit” of eternal destruction. For Jesus’ sake, we are certain of receiving the heavenly reward that He earned for us with His perfect life and sacrificial death. In this world we struggle with sorrow and pain, but we look forward to the dawning of the eternal day, when all sorrow will be a forgotten memory. “Weeping may endure for a night,” says the Psalmist, “but joy comes in the morning!”



***Day #8—Read Matthew 14:22-32***

This account, of Christ walking out on the Sea of Galilee to save His disciples, is comforting in many ways. For one thing, notice in v. 22 that Jesus sent His disciples over the water, knowing that they would run into trouble, but also knowing that He would save them. Likewise, sometimes God actually allows us to go through trials that will test and strengthen our faith. . . like the trial of losing a loved one. Also, God wants us (unlike Peter) to keep the eyes of our faith fixed confidently on Him, trusting that He will help us!



***Day #9—Read Isaiah 61:1-3***

In these passages we hear the Son of God speaking through the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. One reason Jesus came to earth was “to heal the broken-hearted.” We have a Savior who knows about our hurt, and who cares! He promises not only to comfort you in your sorrow, but to actually change it into joy, giving you beauty instead of ashes, and the oil of joy instead of mourning. And we find our greatest joy of all . . . in the hope of eternal life that Jesus earned for us on the cross!



***Day #10—Read John 14:1-4***

Again we hear some of the words that Jesus comforted His disciples with while He was still with them on the earth. One reason Jesus returned to the Father in heaven was to prepare a place for all the believers who would follow Him into everlasting life. “In My Father’s house are many mansions,” Jesus says. Because of our faith in Him, we will share those glorious mansions with our Savior, and with those loved ones of ours who have died in the Lord.



***Day #11—Read Job 1:13-22***

Almost every sorrow that can be imagined happened to the believer Job in a single day. Satan wanted to afflict Job and see whether he would end up by cursing God in his pain. But even after all those terrible trials had fallen on him, what did Job do? He worshiped God. As Christians, we might well ask God to give us the kind of faith that can say, when trouble strikes, "The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord!" (P.S., see chapter 42:12-17 to find out how Job finally ended up).



***Day #12—II Timothy 1:8-11***

As Paul says here, to the young pastor Timothy, the Good News of the Gospel is something we can be proud of and rejoice in. God's mercy and forgiveness toward us is based (v. 9) not on our good works, but rather on His grace—the undeserved love that He had for us from the very beginning of time. Temporal death is not something of which we should be afraid: since Jesus has abolished eternal death, we can look beyond the grave to the eternal life we'll spend with Him in heaven!



***Day #13—Read II Corinthians 12:7-9***

The apostle Paul was the first great missionary to the non-Jews of the world, and the temptation to be proud of "his" accomplishments must have been very strong. To prevent this from happening, God gave Paul a painful "thorn in the flesh" (perhaps some sort of disease, or a speech impediment). Even though God sent this trial into his life, Paul was promised strength to endure it. In fact, God tells him that, "My strength is made perfect in weakness"—Paul could do God's work better when the strength was God's and not his own! When we feel troubled and weak, we too can find comfort in the promise that "God's grace will be sufficient for us."



***Day #14—Read Matthew 11:28-30***

For many Christians, especially those who have seen a great deal of sorrow in life, this is an especially favorite passage of Scripture. Jesus promises that He will be for us a source of comfort that will never be used up. We can come to Him again and again whenever the sorrows and troubles of the world seem like they're too much for us to bear. Jesus invites us to lay our whole load of sorrow upon Him, and to take upon ourselves the easy burden of His undying love for us!

## Mission Visitation 1994



Pastor Bohde (fourth from left) and Pres. Fleischer at one of the churches in Nigeria. Pastor Essien at far right.

*I recently returned from a mission visitation to our brethren in the Nigerian Church of the Lutheran Confession, the Church of the Lutheran Confession in India, and the Bharath Lutheran Church, also in India. It was indeed a privilege to represent the CLC on this visitation. I thank the brethren of the CLC for the privilege that Mark Bohde and I had to visit in your behalf, and above all I thank the Lord for the wonderful opportunity that I was given both to encourage our overseas brethren, as well as for the blessing of being encouraged by them.*

I also convey to all of you the greetings of Pastors Essien and Udo in Nigeria, Pastors V. S. Benjamin and Jyothi Benjamin of the CLCI, as well as those of Pastor Mohan Bas of the Bharath Lutheran Church. They deeply appreciate the interest shown in them by you, through sending the visitation team, as well as the financial and spiritual support you have given to them over the years.

On this trip I learned little if anything new, which is not to say that the trip was without purpose. Indeed, what I learned is found already in the Scriptures. From Scripture we know the need for encouragement and

strengthening the brethren (which by the way results in a reciprocal blessing). It is no less necessary today that at home and abroad we exercise ourselves as Paul did when we are told: "He departed and went over all the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples" (Acts 18:23).

The brethren overseas are confronted with the same kind of trials that confront us, and with some which we cannot imagine. They are working lands where material poverty is surpassed only by the depth of spiritual poverty, not unlike the circumstances in our own country.

And even though there are many Christian churches in parts of Nigeria and India, it is also similar to here — the message of many is beclouded by human additions, and the message of Christ is not spoken with clarity and faithfulness to the Word of God.

Yet we found on the part of the brethren a strong desire and commitment to remain faithful to the Word and to the Lutheran confessions. Our presence encouraged them to this commitment. Indeed, we told them that we would pray for continuation of such faithfulness, and we *asked them to pray that we of the CLC in America will also remain faithful.*

Personally a trip was not necessary to determine that the witness of the Gospel is sorely needed in India and Nigeria, but also most certainly in Thailand. This too we know from the Scriptures. We did not learn anything new. For spiritual darkness is the natural condition of men, be it in America or in countries overseas. They sit “in darkness and in the shadow of death, bound in affliction and irons, because they rebelled against the words of God...” (Ps. 107:10-11). Indeed some are in the shadow of death because they have not heard of Christ in their generation. So what purpose was served? The urgency of the matter was impressed upon me, the urgency to “work while



**Baptizing A Child In India.**

it is day, before the night comes when no man can work.”

In the season of Easter we sense, and indeed experience, a spirit of exhilaration. The message of Christ’s resurrection and the assurance of our salvation in the risen Christ does that to the Christian. How can it not be when the penitential season of Lent in which we have been confronted with the reality of what our sin cost the Savior, we hear that He has been “raised again for our justification” (Rom. 4:25). But that blessed truth begs the question. Why can we not maintain that spirit of exhilaration beyond the season of Easter? Living so soon returns to a manner that suggests that Christ is not risen from the dead.

In fact, on the mission trip I was reminded of how blessed we are in our own country and in our church to be able to hear the Word of life, and

... During this same period the tremendous significance of The Event (of the Resurrection—Ed.) had time to sink in. Each new day brought a new awareness of what it all meant. Satan has *had* it! Our sin has been forever removed! Death is truly swallowed up in victory! A head of steam was building up within the apostles. This news *had* to be told. When finally Jesus told them “Go . . . and preach,” it was not so much a pushing or even a sending as a releasing. He *let* them go!

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**On the mission trip I was reminded of how blessed we are in our own country and in our church to be able to hear the Word of life, and worship the risen Lord regularly, and to draw deeply of the wells of salvation.**

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worship the risen Lord regularly, and to draw deeply of the wells of salvation. As I shared the Word of God with people who came at 9:30 in the evening to sing and worship till well after midnight, as I visited with some Christians not of our fellowship whose eyes grew large with a spirit of appreciation as we shared the Truth with them, as I witnessed the nameless and countless faces of people who have no hope in this world and for that which is to come, I was ashamed for ourselves and our church that we so often fail to appreciate the richness of the grace of God in Christ Jesus; ashamed that so often we do not appreciate the opportunity to study and worship. Possibly that is the reason why living so soon returns to a manner that suggests that Christ is not risen from the dead; and yes, ashamed that we often do not seize the moment to share the blessed Gospel with our neighbor, be it at home or overseas.

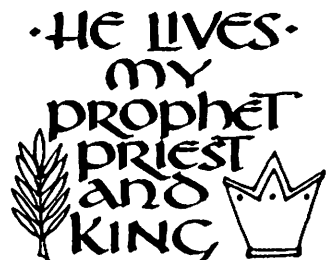
While I did not learn anything new, the stark reminders that I was given gave the trip purpose — the reminder of the blessing of fellowship, of need for mutual encouragement in Gospel proclamation, of the depth of spiritual darkness in which people are

enshrouded, and of the richness of the blessings that we enjoy who are able to gather with relative ease regularly around Word and Sacrament. Yes, also the reminder that we dare not leave the proclamation of the Gospel to others. For we are under the compulsion of the divine commission which we all know and have heard: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mk. 16:15).

Particularly this Easter season, for our personal lives and for our mission as a Church, we draw on the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ to say with the apostle: "But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 15:57). We implore the Lord to renew our faith and commitment, and that the resurrection of the Lord Jesus will dictate our whole purpose and focus in life, so that our Easter joy will remain, and our desire to spread the Gospel *at home and abroad* will increase. For where God by His grace works the will, He will by His grace also show the way. And many people, if not here on earth, then in heaven, will join us in thanking the Father in Christ Jesus for His magnificent grace.

A blessed and lasting Easter joy to all of you.

—Daniel Fleischer, President





Principal Scott Theneman, Teachers Donna McCoul and Marlys Gerth.  
**Gethsemane Lutheran School**  
Spokane, Washington



## **Luther Memorial School** **Fond du Lac, Wisconsin**

Luther Memorial School was born on February 18, 1960 when nearly 100 men who had left their former affiliation met in a room of a local hotel and

passed a resolution to "...provide educational facilities for the children." That fall the school opened with 64 students and two teachers, Dorothy Schmolesky and Gerhardt Mueller. In six years the enrollment reached 101 students. As families became smaller, the student body declined to a low of 21. The present enrollment is 30 and growing once again. Over the years the school has been manned by four male teachers and 14 lady teachers. Twelve of the school's graduates became teachers in CLC schools and four became pastors. Four other graduates, who are students at ILC, have expressed their intention to enter the full-time ministry in the CLC. The present faculty includes Miss Deborah Johannes, Mrs. Rhoda Eserhut (half-time), Mr. Gerhardt Mueller (Prin.), and Pastor John Johannes (8th grade confirmation class). During the last 34 years the staff, the students, their parents, and congregation members have experienced and recognized the blessings of the Lord in this school. The congregation continues to be prayerfully and financially supportive of the school and expects further blessing in the years to come.

—Teacher Gerhardt Mueller



**Prince of Peace,  
Loveland, Bible  
Study camp last  
July: Some of 17  
campers on a  
nature hike in the  
Colorado State  
Forest. The pastor  
is Michael  
Sprengeler.**

. . . In an incredibly short time the known world was sprinkled with mission congregations. The zeal and boldness of the apostles was a direct result of the certainty of faith that they enjoyed as eyewitnesses of the resurrection. Did the authorities forbid preaching about the Christ? Their answer was automatic: "We *cannot but* speak the things which we have seen and heard." And so, "They spake the word of God with boldness . . . And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 4:20, 31, 33).

# Announcements

## Evangelism Training Program

The evangelism training program made available by the CLC Board of Missions for our synod's 25th anniversary has been revised and updated. For a copy master or 5 1/4" floppy disc in ASCII or Word Perfect format send \$5.00 to: Pastor Stephen Kurtzahn, Living Word Lutheran Church, 1518 Kanuga Road, Hendersonville, NC 28739.

## Great Lakes Pastoral Conference Coloma, Michigan April 19-20, 1994

Sessions begin at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday

### Agenda:

1. OT Exegesis, Ecclesiastes Ch. 6 - David Reim
  2. NT Exegesis, 2 Corinthians 6:11ff - Arthur Schulz
  3. Review of Walther's Theses on Law and Gospel (Part Three of a series) - Mark Bernthal
  4. A new Study of Veterans' Organizations - John Johannes
  5. Is there a Scriptural Directive to an "Offensive" Army Action in Our Own Christian Warfare? - Paul Tiefel
  6. Encouraging Parents of Young People (High School/College) to Help Them Combat Special Temptations of This Age - John Ude
  7. A "Mission Thrust" Bible Study - Theodore Barthels
- Conference Speaker - Egbert Albrecht  
Conference Chaplain - Gordon Radtke  
—Pastor David Reim, Secretary

### Clarification

In connection with his article on 1 Corinthians chapter 12 in the February Spokesman, Pastor Sydow used the "historic present" tense in a couple of verbs when, while talking about the gifts of the Spirit, he mentioned tongues-speaking. A reader felt that the article may have sounded like an endorsement of the charismatic movement. Pastor Sydow, in turn, responded: "My apologies that I left such a misunderstanding. . . I believe firmly. . . that our God reveals himself to us in the means of grace and communicates the blessings of Christ's atoning sacrifice through the 'foolishness' of the message preached—the message about Christ crucified to take away the sins of the world." —*The Editor*

## Pacific Coast Pastoral Conference Clarkston, Washington April 26-28, 1994

### Agenda:

1. A Review of the New WELS Hymnal, With Special Focus on the Liturgy - Paul Schaller
  2. The Proper Christian Attitude Toward Degrees in Heaven/Degrees in Hell - David Naumann
  3. The Social Responsibility of Individuals and of Congregations to Financially Help the Needy (provide food, housing, etc.) - Robert List
  4. Book Reviews: "Growing a Healthy Church," "Keeping the Servant's Spark," "Christian Esteem" - Michael Eichstadt
  5. Does the Expression "One will be taken..." (Lk. 17:23-37) Refer to the Lost or to the Saved? - Bruce Naumann
  6. Absolution — Compare Positions of Catholic, Reformed, and Lutheran (in Particular, Reformed Objection to the Lutheran View) - Jerome Barthels
  7. Isagogical Survey — Essayist's Choice - Bertram Naumann
  8. OT Exegesis, Hosea 1:1ff - Peter Reim
  9. NT Exegesis, 1 Thessalonians 3:6ff - Wayne Eichstadt
- Conference Chaplain - Norbert Reim  
Conference Speaker - Arvid Gullerud  
—Jerome Barthels, Secretary

. . . Such a sure faith must be our propelling force as well if we are to bear effective witness. But this of course is something any good sales manual would stress: You yourself have to be sold on your product before you can expect to sell it to others.