



The DEAF LUTHERAN

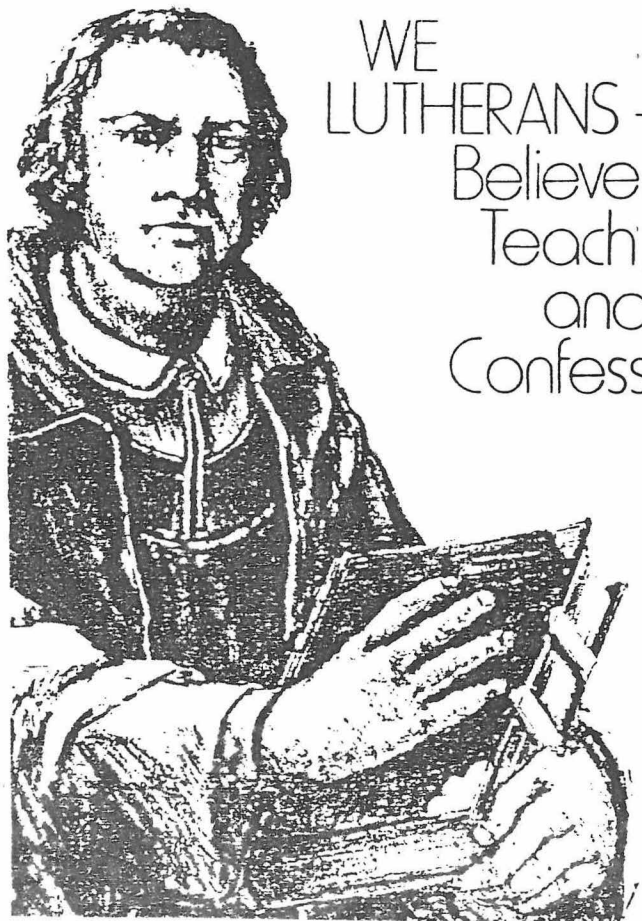


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Volume 84, No.5



WE
LUTHERANS -
Believe,
Teach,
and
Confess

DR. MARTIN LUTHER

Nov. 10, 1483-Feb. 18, 1546

WE LUTHERANS BELIEVE, TEACH AND CONFESS:

- that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, yet one God.
- that God is Creator of all things, the Preserver and Sovereign.
- that the Bible is God's Word to call people to Jesus Christ and to correction in righteousness.
- that the Spirit of God stirs people to believe in God.

THUS, WE LUTHERANS

BELIEVE, TEACH AND CONFESS:

- that all men, good and bad, are debtors

Please see WE LUTHERANS: Page 2

A NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE LCMS

PITTSBURGH--The 58th regular convention of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod took place in Pittsburgh the week of July 10-17 under a theme, "With Great Boldness . . . Tell Everyone What HE Has Done." Approximately 1,100 voting delegates were in attendance to vote on several issues in addition to choosing a new slate of officers.



Rev. Alvin L. Barry

The Rev. Alvin L. Barry, 61, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa was elected president on a fourth ballot vote of 580-568. Dr. Barry, who is president of the Iowa District East of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, was the 1987 keynote speaker at the ILDA convention in Cedar Rapids and is considered a good friend of ministry to the deaf.

Dr. Barry will begin his three-year term in September and will succeed Dr. Ralph Bohlmann who has served as president since 1981.

HARPER ELECTED BY MIDWEST REGION

Meeting at Mahoney State Park, a nearly new facility about 30 miles west of Omaha on the dates of June 19-21, the Midwest Region of the ILDA enjoyed a greatly improved attendance over the previous two years with about 115 present from six states present.

It was noted that the region would be los-

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

WE LUTHERANS

to and "beggars before God," that man cannot make himself right with God by better behavior because no human behavior is ever perfect in thought, word and deed.

--that God by grace, in mercy, and moved by His perfect love created a plan to save His separated creatures.

--that all who repent and believe that Jesus Christ by His perfect life and His sacrificial death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead restored them completely to God's good favor and automatically are God's people.

--that the lines of this one and only true church cannot be drawn clearly because "the just shall live by his faith," and only the individual knows his faith.

AS TO FAITH REALLY WORKING WE
LUTHERANS BELIEVE, TEACH AND CONFESS:

--that faith permeates the whole person
and is therefore active in love toward
others especially the poor, the needy,
and my neighbor.

--that faith delights in God's Ten Commandments as a way of life.

--that faith has a built-in urge to multiply itself.

--that faith accepts government as God's ordained representative, and that obedience and taxes are God pleasing and vital to civility, but that none of these may encroach on obedience to God.

FINALLY, WE LUTHERANS
BELIEVE, TEACH AND CONFESS

--that the world will come to an end.

--that Jesus Christ is coming again to judge the living and the dead, and that those who did not believe in Jesus Christ for whatever reasons will perish in hell eternally.

--that those that did believe will live
"life after life" forever with God in
heaven.

ing one of its pastors shortly with the departure of Lay Minister Paul Consoer of Sioux Falls, S.D., who would be preaching his last service on July 13 before moving to Arizona. It was also noted that North Dakota has been vacant eight years.

A motion to meet biennially instead of each year was defeated. The conference also decided that its president will represent the region at the 1993 ILDA convention in Austin, Texas. A donation of \$200 to THE DEAF LUTHERAN was approved.

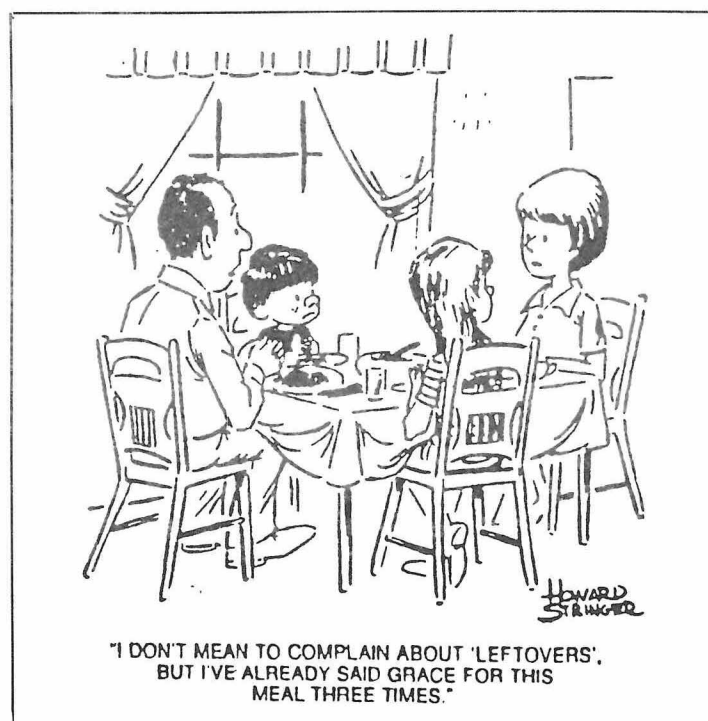
In other business, the need for a regional handbook came up for discussion and was approved, also, with a committee to be formed to handle the project.

The Sunday offering was earmarked for the new nations in eastern Europe where a need assistance in re-starting christianity is much needed.

New officers elected for the 1992-1994 biennium are: President, Arthur Harper, Lincoln, Neb.; vice president, Linda Desrosiers, Council Bluffs, Iowa; secretary, John Krause, Minneapolis, Minn.; treasurer, Glenda Haefner, Blaine, Kan., and pastoral adviser, Rev. Darrell Kois, Des Moines, Iowa.

The 1993 meeting will be in Colorado Springs and in 1994, at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Words to live by . . . "Be kind and tenderhearted to one another, and forgive each other, as God has forgiven you in Christ."--Ephesians 4:32



SOME LUTHER FACTS . . .

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Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany on Nov. 10, 1483. His father was a miner.

The Great Reformer, as he is remembered throughout the Lutheran Church and many other denominations, studied many long hours and endured much spiritual struggle in rediscovering truths of the Bible, which for many centuries, had been distorted from the Words spoken by Christ.



The statue of Martin Luther at the market square in Eisleben. In his left hand he is holding the Bible with its Holy Scripture. In his right hand is the papal bull threatening him with the ban.

On Oct. 31, 1517, Luther nailed 95 theses, or statements, to the church door in the university town of Wittenberg, Germany for debate. Luther's work in rediscovering New Testament christianity which had long been forgotten, quickly spread and was accepted throughout much of the western world and northern Europe.

One of the most amazing things about the man, Martin Luther, is the amount of work he was able to finish in his short lifetime, which was only 63 years. The complete works of the Great Reformer would fill more than 100 ponderous volumes on a library shelf and encompass the works of Shakespeare by more than one hundred times. Perhaps the greatest of his many works was the **Small Catechism** which has proved to be one of the most effective instruments of Christian education ever written and has been in use for more than 464 years.

Luther became a Catholic priest on April 3, 1507 and said his first mass on May 2, a month later. He taught theology at the University of Wittenberg in 1508 and was called back to the monastery a year later to give theological lectures. Dr. Luther's discovery of the Biblical truth of justification by faith and his subsequent refusal 'to recant' as demanded by the church resulted in a papal bull of excommunication as a heretic. Thus was born the Reformation and today, Lutherans are numbered in the millions in every race and language and are found on every continent.

On June 1, 1525, Luther was married to Katharine Von Bora, a former nun, and their union produced six children. Luther's generosity sometimes got him in trouble with his wife, as he could never say 'no' to anyone who asked to borrow from him.

On Feb. 14, 1546, Dr. Luther preached for the last time, although he was seriously ill. It was in St. Andreas Church in Eisleben. He could not finish as he was too weak. Four days later, during the night of Feb. 18, he passed away shortly before 3 a.m. His body was taken to St. Andreas Church where the funeral was held on Feb. 20 with mourners overflowing the church and the square in front of the church. Burial was at Wittenberg in the Castle Church next to his friend and benefactor, the elector of Saxony, Frederick the Wise.

Addendum: Near the end of World War II, the cathedral at Erfurt, Germany where Luther was ordained a priest was bombed during an air raid resulting in the death of 260 civilians taking shelter in the basement. It has been largely rebuilt since. The pulpit at the church where Luther preached for the last time at Eisleben still stands there today.

GOD AND THE CHURCH VS. THE DEVIL

This summer would be an excellent time for you to come back to church if you have been away for a while. Why not consider being a 'vacationing worshipper' instead of a worshipper on vacation? Remember, during the summer, the devil does **NOT** take a vacation. He continues to work hard to tear you away from God and His church. He is always busy making up excuses for you not to go to church. **DO NOT LISTEN TO THE DEVIL!** All of us need God and His church. All of our congregations will welcome you to their services, wherever your travels may take you.

NEWS FROM HIT

Our pastors known to have attended the just ended LCMS convention at Pittsburgh included Bill Ludwig, Seattle; Kenneth Schnepf, Baltimore; Daryl Gehlbach, Minneapolis and Dave Carstens of Portland and Mike MacDonald of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Were there others?

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Charles Doering and Cathy Peterson of Omaha were among the 800+ seniors who attended the first annual convention of the Deaf Senior Citizens in Austin, Texas on May 28-30. They reported 27 workshops available . . . far more than they had time for. The next meeting will be held in Columbus, Ohio in 1994.

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The Western Washington field celebrated its 80th anniversary with a special service May 3 with Rev. Martin Hewitt of Spokane as guest speaker. It was followed with a big potluck dinner and program in the afternoon.

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Mr. Victor Lyons, Seattle, newly elected as president-elect of the Northwest Region underwent a 14-hour operation to remove a cancerous bladder and re-create a new one from the upper part of the lower intestine. The surgery took place on March 2 and Vic and Evelyn were in attendance at the Northwest Region meeting in Portland, so it look like he is making a good recovery.

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The Oregon District of the LWML approved a \$2,000 grant to Hope Lutheran Church of Portland for the purchase of computer hard-



NONAGENARIANS MOVE TO FLORIDA--Alvin Heinz, who celebrated his 99th birthday Aug. 18 and his wife, Clara, who became 98 on Oct. 21 observed their 75th wedding anniversary Aug. 1 at Tampa, Fla. They live in a condominium near their son who looks in on them; and take Communion at home from their pastor. They are former members of Alpha, Rochester, N.Y.

ware and software at its recent conference at Clackamas April 24-26.

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The annual Deaf Week was held at Holden Village, Chelan, Wash. July 12-18. On the staff this year was Beth Lockard, former ILDA secretary, of West Chester, Pa., Mark Schoepp, a former DCE at Hope Lutheran Church in Portland and Grace Jewett-Baranski.

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Mrs. Hilma Zuhn, LaGrange, Texas, the mother of Rev. Donald Zuhn of Houston, passed away suddenly June 7 following a heart attack. She had just under gone open heart surgery a short time earlier and seemed to be doing well when the end came. We extend sincere sympathy to the family.

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Gallaudet University conferred 360 degrees at its 123rd commencement in Washington, D.C. on May 8, the most ever in its long history during a single commencement.

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Mark Fredrich, son of Pastor and Mrs. Ron Friedrich of Dallas, Texas underwent surgery recently and is reported to be improving. Mark is three years old and weighs 17 pounds. Keep the family in your prayers.

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Mrs Lola Horgen, Madison, Wis., has been chosen as the Hearing Impaired Person of 1992 by the Quota Club of Madison. Congratulations!

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Anatolie and Margareta Manzarescu, immigrants from Romania sponsored by Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio became American citizen May 1 in a ceremony at the Ohio Historical Center. Both have fine jobs. In other special event, the couple's daughter, Claudia, was wed to Steve Weatherby July 11. She is working towards a degree in medical technology. Congratulations to the family.

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The 1992 meeting of the Great Lakes Regional Conference (GLRC) will take place at Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Rochester, N.Y. on the dates of Oct. 2, 3 and 4.

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The Southern Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod has been asked to call a "Missionary at Large." Since Rev. Wayne Schwanke left his pastorate at Silent Lutheran Church in Madison, there has been a vacancy that has not been filled. A MAC

HER AND YON . . .

(missionary at large) does not serve a single church, but rather in different places. The District Mission board is now discussing this situation with another meeting planned for Aug. 8, 1992.

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Facts concerning **Jewish Ministry**: There are an estimated 16 million Jewish people living today, with 6.5 million living in North America. Less than one tenth of 1% of the Jewish people who live in the United States--no more than 75,000--are Christians, although exact numbers are not known. There does not seem to be any figures available on how many of these people are deaf, nor how many are Christians.

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The Bauers take a trip "down under" ... Pastor Robert A. Bauer and his wife, Eleanor of Edmonton, Alta. took a trip Australia, New Zealand and Hong Kong, leaving on May 20 and returning home on June 16. They were guests of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Jasper who has founded two Lutheran Schools for the Deaf in Hong Kong and is busy on another in Macau with the hope of getting it running well before 1997 when the country reverts back to China.

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The couple were also guests of **Pastor and Mrs. John Hoopmann** for five days in Adelaide, Australia. Rev. Bauer reports that Pastor Hoopmann is busy with his studies at the Seminary while pastoring for the deaf congregation at St. James Lutheran Church.

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In **New Zealand**, they visited their son, Chris and family and met their new grandson born May 8.

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One of the highlights of their trip was to be invited to a **Canadian Night Bible Study** and tea time (supper) in the home of one of the members with about 30 deaf serving as hosts.

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An item of special interest reported by **Rev. Bauer** is that Dr. Jasper has been asked by the China Education Department to train teachers for the deaf in mainland China.

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A report from **southern California** says that none of our churches in Los Angeles suffered any damage during the riots sparked by the Rodney King verdict. Pilgrim, which is closest to the area where most of the trouble

brewed was not harmed for which we are thankful.

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The Pacific region of the ILDA will meet at beautiful Arrowhead Springs Conference Center at San Bernardino, Calif. on the dates of Sept. 11-13 under a theme of "Faith, Hope and Love" based on I Cor. 13:13.

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This year, **AAL (Aid Association for Lutherans)** is supporting the Youth Gathering in New Orleans with over \$600,000 in addition to approximately \$30,000 for materials. Other fund raising events have netted more than \$364,000 to help bring more than 20,000 youngsters to the gathering.

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In a 4-phase master building program in place since the late 1970's, **Peace Lutheran Church**, Indianapolis, Ind. will see the completion of its ambitious building project late this year when a new parish hall seating 80 to 100 people with a separate storage room and kitchen is finished. The 4-phase project has included a worship area with office and Bible class room done in 1982; doubling the parking lot in 1983 and the erection of a mini-barn for storage.

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The church expects a late fall completion date. In a related development, the **Indiana District of the LWML** has acted favorably on a request for assistance to outfit the new kitchen during its convention in Louisville, Ky. which was attended by delegates Ms Medora James and Ms. Linda Reeves.

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In a look at the world situation, we are reminded by the **Lutheran World Relief Organization** that we cannot under estimate the severity of the drought on the eastern half of the African continent. Excessive and continuous dry conditions, civil unrest, tribal clashes and war has taken its toll. In some cases, relief vehicles have been prevented from getting through with food to where it is needed.

IRS (phoning a pastor): Do you have a member by the name of Archibald Normanski?

Pastor: Yes, we do.

IRS: Did he make a gift of two thousand dollars to your church last year?

Pastor: No, but call me tomorrow and he will have.

NORTHWEST ILDA REGION MEETS

The Northwest Region of the ILDA held its regular conference meeting at Concordia College, Portland, Ore. on the dates of June 19-21.



Elected president was Richard Sharp of Tacoma, Wash. Victor Lyon, who recently moved to Seattle from Bozeman, Mont., was voted in as president elect. Others elected during the three-day meeting were Mae Madding, Portland, secretary;

Ted Brighton, Seattle, treasurer and Rev. Bill Ludwig, pastoral adviser.

The 1994 meeting will take place in Seattle and in 1996, it will be in Vancouver, British Columbia.

All current national ILDA officers were

HOW MUCH IS A BILLION?

Except for Ross Perot, most of us have not got a billion dollars, let alone a billion of anything! I dare say most people haven't got the faintest idea how much a billion (dollars, that is) would amount to. When President Bush proposed a \$399 billion loan to pay for federal spending in fiscal 1992 . . . guess what? Most of the country just yawned.

Alright, so how much is a billion? If you packed President Bush's 1992 deficit in the form of \$1 bills into average size 50-foot-long boxcars, you could get about \$63.5 million into each car. That train would have 6,299 boxcars and be 66 miles long . . . and it would be quite a heavy load . . . 399 billion \$1 bills would weigh about 439,000 tons. Imagine trying to take that many one-dollar bills to deposit in your local bank!

Okay, now let's look at this from another angle . . . and imagine each unit as seconds of time. One million seconds will pass in just 11½ days. A billion seconds is a thousand times longer . . . 31.7 years. If you took that trainload of \$1 bills to your bank and the teller counted off one dollar a second, it would take 12,652 years to finish counting . . . oh, forget it!!

Instead of depositing all that money, let's get rid of the problem by giving it away to the poor people living below the official poverty level. There are 33.6 million Americans in the category and each one would receive a "windfall" of \$12,000 each.

nominated for re-election with the exception of the office of secretary for which it choose Ms. Alice Hagemeyer of Silver Springs, Md.

25 YEARS AGO

Lutheran pastors serving the deaf gathered at Mill Neck, N.Y. for a workshop on mental health during the Ephphatha Conference.

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Rev. Waldemar Ferber was presented with the John of Beverly medal during the LCMS Synodical convention on July 12.

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Rev. Charles Jones was ordained into the Holy Ministry at his home congregation at Walled Lake, Mich. on June 11.

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Rev. C. Roland Gerhold was the guest lecturer at the Great Lakes Regional Conference hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh June 16-18. He spoke on "450 Years of the Reformation."

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Rev. William F. Reinking left Hong Kong in August, 1966 and was succeeded by Rev. Louis Jasper who arrived Aug. 1, 1967 as the new director of deaf education.

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Ground was broken for the new **Pilgrim Tower Housing Project** in Los Angeles on May 21 and with an expected completion date of mid-April, 1968. Pilgrim Tower is the first project of its kind to be approved by the FHA for the deaf.

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St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Elmhurst, N.Y. held a special service of thanksgiving and for the commissioning of their former pastor, Rev. Louis Jasper, who has assumed the office of Director of Deaf Education in Hong Kong and consultant of deaf work in the Far East. He had served St. Matthew eight years.

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Rev. Daniel Hodgson was ordained and installed as pastor of St. Matthew less than two months later on July 9. Preaching at the service was Rev. Daniel Pokorny and the officiant was Rev. H. W. Rohe.

SAGE ADVICE: Where you have been is not important. It's where you are going that counts!

A PASTOR SPEAKS . . .

Sex has always been an important part of the human race. In the beginning, God created man and woman for the procreation of mankind. As a boy grows to manhood he is generally attracted to a girl and the opposite is true. This is as God intended. When a man chooses a certain girl and asks her to marry him and she accepts, that is the natural propagation of a generation.

However, human beings, as sinful as they are, often abuse this natural process. There have always been sex maniacs in the world, but in this current generation it seems that sex has almost become the God of many people. They want sex in or out of wedlock. If a girl becomes pregnant and is unmarried, she may decide on an abortion but will often continue her life-style just as it has been.

The morality of today has taken a frightening and negative grip on mankind, and as Billy Graham stated in a recent telecast, it may yet cause the downfall of America in just one generation.

New census reports tell us that the institution of marriage is rapid decline; only 60% of American adults are married. In 1970, over 70% were married. The same report indicates that over half of the country's black children live with only one parent. In 1970, nearly 70% lived in two-parent homes. We need to emphasize that the rapidly increasing decision of many couples to "live together" is definitely not an option for Christians.

A clergyman of another denomination and I recently discussed the problems of the campus pastor today. He said it has become an extremely difficult ministry. The students are not as interested in sports as they used to be; there seems to be little interest in the religious; sex, drugs, and drinking have

1992 JOHN OF BEVERLY AWARDS

On Monday evening, July 13, the 1992 John of Beverly Award was presented posthumously to both Dr. George Kraus and Dr. Daniel Pokorny at the 58th convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at Pittsburgh Pa.

Both pastors were deeply involved in deaf ministry for many years. Dr. Kraus was a professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., where he was instrumental in beginning classes for persons interested in learning sign language for serving in churches for the deaf.

Dr. Pokorny was the professor of the John of Beverly Chair of Deaf Ministry at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

captivated the interest of the students and there seems to be very little one can do about it. Recent surveys show alcohol use remains far higher than the rate of illicit drug use. More than twice as many adolescents (48%) have tried alcohol as compared with illicit drug use (23%). Also, more than three times were current users (25% to 8%).

This is not only true of the younger generation, but it has affected all ages. The general attitude seems to be: if you want to have sex, go ahead, but try not to get the girl pregnant. If it does happen, she can take care of herself. The commandment of God still stands: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." The answer, then, is abstinence not condoms.

However, a word of encouragement: there are many fine young Christian people growing up in America today who face a situation much like that in the days of Noah. Although most people rejected God, Noah and the family remained faithful in spite of the probable jibes of the other people. To these youngsters, who are facing such pressures, we say, "God bless you for your faithfulness and may He keep you in His grace."

Food for Thought . . .

DO WE GIVE OR DO WE PAY?

By Rev. Michael MacDonald
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

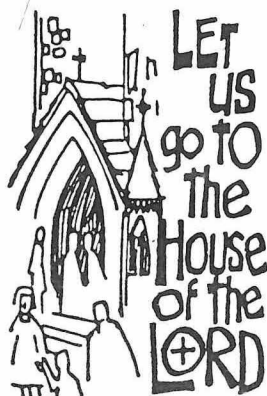
Every year, most of our churches go through what has been called "summer slump." There are certainly other times when offerings have dropped for one reason or another. Why does this happen?

It is easy for Christians to think that we are paying the church to pay bills. True, there are bills for the church building, paper for the newsletter, utility costs and many others. But our offerings are not to pay the bills. True Christians giving is not paying expenses. Who can pay God for Gospel preaching and teaching, for the work of the Holy Spirit in our hearts through the Word, through the Lord's Supper and for the forgiveness of sins? The answer is, we can't.

The money that you earn is a part if you and what you earn through your time, work and skills; it is you. In worshipping God with

THE IMPORTANCE OF WORSHIP

Psalm 122:1 reads "I was glad when they said unto me: Let us go into the house of the Lord."



A question asked many times is an old one: "Can't I be a Christian without going to church?" And the answer is, certainly! It is just as possible being:

- A soldier who won't join the army.
- A student who doesn't go to school.
- A citizen who won't vote or pay taxes.
- A salesman with nothing to sell.

- An explorer with no base camp.
- A ship captain with no crew.
- A business with no customers.
- An author with no readers.
- A tuba player with no orchestra.
- A politician who doesn't listen to his clientele."

Put into this context, isn't it a little easier to see how intertwined our faith is with our worship? It really is true: Regular worship in God's house cannot be divorced from our faith.

In other words, christianity is not a "spectator sport." Rather, it is a way of life. It is a daily relationship with our heavenly Father that looks to him, sees how He is vitally involved in every aspect of our lives and which depends on His strength given to us in our worship to make possible our faith involvement with His people everywhere. Sick or home-bound people receive spe-

cial pastoral care.

Put another way, Sunday or mid-week worship is not primarily something we do for God. Rather, it is what God does for us; it is how God comes to us in His Word and sacraments. It is God's primary way of strengthening our faith and our relationship to other members of the Body of Christ.

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 7

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

our lives, we must include what we have with what we are.

Because giving is a part of our worship of God, when we give our money, we give a part of ourselves. For what? To pay bills? NO!

We give our offerings to God to show our thanks and appreciation for all the wonderful things He has done for us.

Then how does the church use the offering? God in His love and mercy puts the offering given to Him in our hands. They are used to help preach and teach the Good News about Jesus. We do that with pastors, teachers, Bible classes, newsletters, sending the pastor to other areas and caring for the place where we worship. Our offerings in worship serve God to support God's ministry in our world.

God gives us the responsibility to use His money wisely. Think about this as you plan your offering.

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September-October, 1992

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