

# COLUMBIA

FEBRUARY  
1936

# LUTHERAN

## LENTEN THOUGHTS



"Surely He hath borne our griefs  
and carried our sorrows.

He was wounded for our trans-  
gressions, He was bruised for our  
iniquities.

All we like sheep have gone a-  
stray: and the Lord hath laid on  
Him the iniquity of us all."

"Unto Thee, O Lord, do I lift up  
my soul: O my God, I trust in  
Thee; let me not be ashamed."

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ENOCH N. SANDEEN, B.D.  
2048 W. 64th St., Seattle, Wash.

Editor and Manager

### Editorially

Here is a hearty handshake for First, Tacoma. This congregation has always been fortunate in having energetic and sympathetic pastors. Again it has been granted such grace from the Good Shepherd in the person of the Reverend Carl E. Rydell. Well at home in Scripture, a student of prophecy and a man of prayer this young shepherd of souls promises to be a tool of the right kind in the hand of the Holy Spirit. A great opportunity has been given him. He will fill his position with honor.

Rev. Rydell was born in Minneapolis, Minn., and was graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1919. Two years after graduation was spent in business. At this time the voice of God was clearly heard in the life of the young man and the decision to enter the ministry was made. After graduation from the Seminary in Rock Island and ordination in St. Paul's church, Minneapolis, in 1925, he accepted a call to the Frederic Siren pastorate, Wisconsin, and in 1930 to Bethesda, San Diego, Calif. In California he has served as president of the conference Luther League, as a teacher at young people institutes and in other ways shown his ability to serve. Mrs. Rydell was formerly Miss Agnes Nelson, also of Minneapolis. They have a rosy little girl, Elaine, nine years old.

The Tacoma district meeting in First Church, Tacoma, was an inspiring event. The installation of Rev. Carl E. Rydell by our beloved conference president was in itself an occasion of festivity. There seemed such a serious

but happy atmosphere everywhere in the beautiful church. After all a good organ and an artist organist does pay. There is something sublime in good music. Anyone hearing such a presentation as the choir's rendition of Mendelsohn's "Hear My Prayer" could not help but go home happy filled with beautiful thoughts. Rev. E. Arthur Larson, vice pastor, had done a good job of arrangements. The new officers for the year are: Rev. Elmer M. Johnson, president; Rev. C. Arthur Johnson, vice president; Rev. E. Arthur Larson, secretary, and Rev. Carl A. Bengtson, treasurer.

The congregations in Aberdeen and Hoquiam have issued a call to Rev. Joseph Elmer of Strandsburg, N. D. If Rev. Elmer accepts, the conference will again have one of its own boys as pastor in its congregations. Rev. Elmer was, before his ordination, a member of the First church, Tacoma, and the Elmer family belongs to that congregation's nobility.

Rev. Elmer M. Johnson of Olympia had the misfortune of breaking his leg in an automobile accident while on the way to the pastoral retreat at Parkland last week. According to word from the hospital in Olympia, Rev. Johnson was spared any serious complications and is well on the way to recovery.

The new financial system proposed by the conference last year was found unsuitable to the conditions of our conference. This decision was made recently by the Budget committee. The system has many merits, but the demerits are also evident. Its greatest drawback consists in its heavy increase in conference dues in the smaller congregations.

A new organ is the long cherished dream fulfilled. We are speaking of the Bethany Lutheran of Seattle, Rev. Roger P. Oliver, pastor. The instrument was secured at a considerable reduction, but is, nevertheless, one of the finest in the northwest. Mrs. Oliver is the organist.

Many have asked the name of the photographer who was responsible for

the cover picture last month. The picture was taken at home by Mr. Roy Johnson of Bethel, Seattle. Mr. Johnson, who is an amateur, has taken several prizes in photography and has received special mention because of his artistic attainments.

### A PASTORAL GREETING

Dear Members of the Columbia Conference—

Grace and Peace Through Our Lord Jesus Christ!

"Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world."—John 1:29.

The spirit of the approaching Lenten Season prompts me to address this brief message to the members of the Columbia Conference. In your congregation you will in a special way hear the message of the Suffering Savior and what He has done for you and the whole world. As Christians we can not conceive of a more wonderful theme than the one referred to above. Upon this message our faith rests as well as our hope for a blessed eternity. It is therefore of great importance that we make the best possible use of the special opportunities offered us during the Lenten Season for the strengthening of our faith.

The world has ever had its difficult problems as well as momentous decisions to make. It seems that we today are standing at the cross-roads. Our generation is called upon to make its choice of God or mammon. Which will it be? The church of Jesus Christ has a great responsibility in helping the world make the right choice, for it has God's message of redemption to a fallen world. This message is the central theme of the Lenten Season. This message the greater part of mankind has not heard, or has rejected it. The result of man's rejection of Christ has brought the disfavor of Almighty God. This we have vividly experienced during the unrest and economic chaos of the past half decade and more. The people of the world must not continue thus despise God's pleadings with men, if we are not to experience the greatest travail of woe and misery that the world has ever known.



It therefore behoves us in our respective congregations and communities to be faithful to our trust of making the Savior known to as many as possible. Many congregations make special efforts of evangelization during the Lenten Season, and especially during Holy Week. Special messages with a strong appeal that men surrender to Christ, are made. It is my sincere hope that our members will attend these services faithfully and that they bring their families and friends with them. Especially are we anxious to have you young people with at these services. Thus together we would ponder again the two great contrasts: The depravity of man and the redemption of God. This should have the beneficial effect of drawing us all closer to our Savior and our lives be more wholly dedicated to God.

Nor must we forget the great lost throng of men round about us, for whom the Savior has also shed His blood. The Lenten Season should in a special sense be an appropriate time for bringing these lost souls to the Savior. To that end let us all work and pray, that God's holy will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Sincere greetings and prayers for a spirit filled Lenten Observance within your congregation. I remain,

Yours In Christ Jesus,

N. William Anderson

Pres. Columbia Conference of the  
Lutheran Augustana Synod

### SPOKANE DISTRICT MEETS

The Spokane District of the Columbia Conference held its annual meeting at Troy, Idaho, January 28-29 in connection with W. M. S. of the district.

The sessions opened Tuesday evening, January 28, pastors Wm. Siegel and N. Wm. Anderson, speakers.

At the business session the following officers were elected: President, Rev. Wm. Siegel; Vice President, Rev. N. Wm. Anderson; Secretary, Rev. Axel E. Berg; Treasurer, Rev. Reuben E. Norling.

The president, Rev. Siegel, read a very optimistic report, and made note of marked progress in church activities. Reference was also made to the

Bible Institute to be held in the Grace church, Spokane, from April 19 to May 17. The instructors are Dr. S. M. Miller and Rev. H. G. Randolph of the Lutheran Bible Institute, Minneapolis, Minn.

A decision was made to make investigations as to new fields within the "Inland Empire." According to reports, there are "within the borders of the Columbia Conference about 450,000 Lutherans, but only about five per cent are listed as church members."

Wednesday afternoon a discussion was held on the topic: "The Lord's Supper" when the pastors of the district took part. Rev. Verner Fritzt of Pullman, Washington, Student Pastor of Washington State College, was also present and brought a greeting.

The program Wednesday evening was conducted under the auspices of the district W. M. S. with Pastor Reuben E. Norling as speaker.

A splendid attendance marked all the sessions, and all were agreed they had attended an inspiring district meet.

### SWEDISH BROADCAST

The editor will speak in Swedish over KJR, Seattle, the fourth Saturday of each month at 6:15 P. M. Mrs. Sandeen will sing.

### CONFERENCE HISTORY

By Rev. J. A. Edlund

Cont. from last issue

The same month, June, 1860, that the Augustana Synod was organized, Abraham Lincoln was nominated for President by the Republican party at Chicago. And he was elected in the fall, as we know. These were stirring times and hard times. The civil war was begun the following year and almost put a stop to immigration. Many of the Scandinavian people in U. S. were willing to take up arms to quell the rebellion and many never returned. They fell on the battlefields a willing sacrifice for the land of their adoption. They had received much; they gave more. The Scandinavian people have been loyal citizens in this land

and they have done much toward the making of this great and glorious nation: glorious even in its dire distress today.

The Norwegian pastors and their congregations withdrew from the synod 10 years later, or in 1870, and afterwards they wrangled among themselves, so that they, by 1890, had 5-6 church bodies with a shading from the most high churchly to the most low churchly. Yet all Lutherans.

Our synod forged ahead East and West, North and South, so that we have today congregations in 33 states and 6 provinces in Canada with a communicant membership of 245,000, or more than 400,000 souls. We should have been 5-6 times as many.

Now we turn our attention to the missionary problem among the Swedes on the West Coast. Even since the goldrush in California in 1849, a few Swedes trekked out here, but not until after the Civil War were there any great numbers out here. Many of these were lost sheep to the house of Israel—the Lutheran Church.

As time went on and, a Macedonian cry reached the ears of those at the headquarters of the synod, especially from San Francisco. As early as 1874 one of our pastors, Rev. Oslund, came to that city and remained four months. But things looked so hopeless, that he left for the East, never to return, though a few, with tears in their eyes, begged him to remain. The following year Rev. C. P. Rydholm came out to San Francisco, and even he staid no longer than four months. Was there no man in the Augustana synod, who was willing to sacrifice himself on the missionary field in the far West? Yes there was! He was found in the person of Peter Carlson at Carver, Minn. He was up in years, then 59 years old. His health was not the best. He procured a leave of absence for one year, and went out West to remain — 20 years! The last few years he was unable to carry on. Rev. Carlson was, however, called for the North West, and not the South West. There was no railroad to Portland in those days, so he had to go via San Francisco and Astoria by water to reach Portland which he did in the fall of 1879.

(To be continued)



## LORD OF THE HARVEST

O, Gracious Lord, we bow to Thee,  
 Thou giver of great gain:  
 The orchards rich, the gardens fair,  
 The fields of golden grain,  
 O, Lord of the harvest bountiful,  
 Thy treasured name we laud;  
 Thou Master great, Thou King of  
 Kings,  
 Thou perfect Son of God.

On Hundred Hills the Cattle Graze,  
 They rest in peaceful dell.  
 The season's flower and foliage  
 Of coming harvest tell.  
 Proclaim to men the reaping time!  
 The golden sheaves bring in!  
 Another ripened feild remains.  
 A Harvest yet to win.

More precious than the thousand fields  
 Of cattle, flowers and grain—  
 The God made living soul of man,  
 Redeemed by Saviour Slain,  
 O, Lord of harvest Labors send  
 To save the million souls  
 Upon the bring of doom and fall, —  
 Before the Deathbell tolls.

Rev. Gust Rehnstrom.

## STEWARDSHIP SERMONS

Each generation makes some transforming discovery in God's book; what is "Stewardship" but God's word for this generation?

Jesus teaches that a man's attitude to the kingdom of God is revealed by his attitude to his property.

Stewardship puts the Golden Rule in business in place of the Rule of Gold.

When a man gets rich God gets a partner or the man loses his soul.

Not how much of my money must I give to God, but how much need I use for myself.

Give, not from the top of your purse but from the bottom of your heart.

The kingdom of God can never be established by raising money; but it can never be extended without raising money.

To have is to owe, not to own.

Truth is more eloquent lived than spoken.

## The Missionary Society

"Go ye therefore,  
 and teach all nations  
 baptizing them in the

name of the Father,  
 and of the Son, and  
 of the Holy Ghost."

## TACOMA DISTRICT

## W. M. S. Annual Meeting

The reports of the annual meeting gave us a feeling of having gone forward during 1935—but they also gave us a clearer vision of what remains to be done. We are happy to note that there has been an increase in membership in each division: W. M. S., Y. W. M. S., and J. M. S. But not only was there an increase in numbers, but also a renewed determination to build up the work of the Kingdom.

The election resulted as follows:

President, Mrs. Haggblom; vice president, Mrs. E. Arthur Larson; secretary, Miss Esther Lillquist; treasurer, Miss Effie Frisell. All were reelected.

Department secretaries: Junior, Mrs. Carl E. Rydell; Y. W. M. S., Miss Ruth Elmer; membership, Mrs. R. F. Engvall; Mission Tidings, Mrs. F. Hallgan.

Prayer Day, Mrs. Magnus Johnson.

Our Protege, Mrs. C. R. Swanson.

My Mission for a Day, Mrs. Alf Bjorklund.

Industrial, Mrs. Alfred Johnson.

In the afternoon the rally was held. After devotion by Rev. E. Arthur Larson, Miss Emmy Swanson of the host church sang "Come Ye Blessed." Dr. C. R. Swanson gave the missionary message, stressing that we should come, tarry, and then go. Pastor Rydell sang "Teach Me Thy Way, oh Lord!"

The afternoon collection was given to Home Missions.

May God bless our work in 1936!

Ruth Elmer.

A man says, "The world owes me a living." He should say, "I owe the world a life."

God will not refuse the poor offerings of the poor; but he will not accept the poor offerings of the rich.

## SPOKANE DISTRICT, W. M. S.

The Spokane District W. M. S. held its 15th annual meeting at the Westdala church, Troy, Idaho, Jan. 29, 1936.

The following officers were elected at the business session: Pres., Mrs. W. A. Malstrom; vice pres., Mrs. A. Berg; secretary, Mrs. W. Siegel; treasurer, Mrs. Frank Oberg; department sec. jr., Miss A. Peterson; Y. W., Mrs. Josephine Olson; Mission Tidings, Mrs. John Engdahl; membership, Mrs. Theodore Lundquist.

The various reports were both encouraging and inspiring. A greeting from our Conference president, Mrs. J. A. Martin, was read. A memorial service in commemoration of four departed members was also held.

It was decided to hold the next annual meeting later in the spring instead of in January.

In the evening a Home Mission Festival had been arranged by the District with Rev. R. E. Norling, Moscow, as speaker. The church was filled for this inspiring service. May the needs of our home field challenge us to more consecrated prayer and work. God blessed our meetings. May He continue to bless our lives, our homes and the entire mission cause.

Mrs. A. Berg.

## EMMAUS, SEATTLE

Thursday, February 27, the Y. W. M. S. of Emmaus are sponsoring a program to raise funds for the Vancouver Girls' Home. Miss Julia Finden, matron of the Home, will be the guest speaker.

At the January meeting of the Y. W. M. S. entertained at the parsonage, Miss Ruth Nystrom gave an impromptu travelogue on her trip to China. She also showed many snapshots taken while there and trophies collected.



# LUTHER LEAGUE

## COLUMBIA CONFERENCE LUTHER LEAGUE MISSIONARY

By Ruth Elmer

"Anywhere, provided it be forward."

This was the spirit with which David Livingstone went into Africa, and conquered almost unsurmountable difficulties.

We do not know yet where God would have us, as a Columbia Conference L. L., support some special work, but we do not know that our work in this line can be nothing but a step forward, toward Christ, for some who perhaps would otherwise not know Him, and for ourselves.

Let us all, each and every league, march together — FORWARD!

For the leagues not too far from Seattle, a splendid program is available. Mr. Milan von Lany is generously giving of his time and talent in presenting an illustrated lecture on Africa, and also piano and violin numbers. The whole evening's program is presented by a team and the offering taken in credited to the local league, toward its quota.

There are many ways in which this quota may be raised.

It is remarkable to note that whenever Jesus discoursed upon the theme of missions He always spoke as a master would address his disciples. At other times He suggested, exhorted, urged, but here without exception and without equivocation, He commanded. Not once did He ask if there were any arguments to be expressed in answer to His proposals; in full knowledge of the cost, without allowing any escape from the obligation imposed, He simply said "Go!"

Let us give our answer to this command of Jesus and grasp this new opportunity to spread the heavenly peace which comes with the knowledge and acceptance of Jesus as Savior.

"Pray with lifted hands does not suffice,  
When for fruits of earth you make



setitios:  
Plowman, pray, your hands in toil  
applied,  
Then the God of prayer will grant  
promiseion."

Let us pray and work, and God will  
give the increase.

### RETURNING THANKS

The morning dawns upon the plain—  
The balmy morn of summer day;  
While birds, in chorus, lift their praise,  
And children rise to romp and play;  
Exultant hour of jubilee,  
That thrills us with expectancy,  
For thee our hearts give thanks.

The hours pass on from morn till noon,  
And speed along to close of day,  
While hearts and hands their service  
lend

To lift, to cheer, to love, to pray,  
Oh time of toil, we welcome thee,  
And for each opportunity  
To God return our thanks.

The twilight hour upon the plain!  
Oh wondrous hour of peace and love  
And fellowship with God above,  
Oh perfect hour! When at the close  
Of happy day we find repose—  
For thee our hearts give thanks.

—Elna (Danielson) Ericson.

The Bethel Luther League, Seattle, has arranged a Lenten program the Second Sunday in March for the benefit of the Mission Project. A very interesting trip to the Holy Land was made last Friday thru the medium of stereoptican pictures and song.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

First L. L. of Tacoma has begun something new, which should prove very much worthwhile. On Sunday evenings at six o'clock they gather for a pot-luck lunch, and social hour. Theu Pastor Rydell conducts a study on the book of Acts. The first fireside group was very popular, and it is expected that these Sunday evening gatherings will play an important part in the

New plans have been put into effect for the monthly meeting of Ruston L. L. Pastor Rydell is conducting a study of I and II Thessalonians. The letter becomes vitally interesting under his able teaching.

A pot-luck lunch is served during a social hour, each month, and each leaguer brings his share of the refreshments.

The L. L. will sponsor the Holy Week service on Wednesday, April 8, giving an appropriate candle-light service. Plans are being begun to have a large group attend Bible Institute.

March 8 is the date set by Emmanus, Seattle for the Foreign Mission Project program. We are happy to see many of the Luther Leagues taking an active interest in our project.

A Luther League rally of the local churches is planned at Emmaus for March 15. Remember the date and come and be our guest.

Under the direction of George Halvar, the choir is working on an Easter cantata, "Hail the Victor." Well arranged programs are presented by the choir in the form of song service the fourth Sunday evening of every month. league program.

Geneva Gerth and Cecil Hall were married recently in St. Luke Lutheran Church of Reno, Nevada. Geneva is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Gerth of Yakima. The young couple will make their home in Roseville, California.



# PORTLAND DISTRICT NEWS

## Our League



The Elim Luther League of Hockinson confronts a situation with which other leagues probably do not have to contend—its smallness of size. Attending members who have been confirmed, but are still considered junior members of the congregation, number less than a dozen. But by means of those in the confirmation class and a few older members that actively help, have a small group, struggling along and doing what it can.

Judging by past history the odds are against us. Similar young people organizations have been started, lived a year or two or perhaps longer, and sputtered out. Inability of the church to support a pastor and lack of capable leadership have been the reasons for these failures. At present we have a pastor that has done a great deal for the league. If we are able to maintain a pastor long enough to give the league a feeling of permanency it is hoped that it will continue to live.

The importance of such a group as the Luther League in a church should be fully realized. The life of any institution is dependent upon the influx of the younger people to replace the older. The Sunday school is never allowed to die out, and it is well that it is so. But it is just as important that the league also be kept functioning. After a person has been confirmed he is not old enough to feel at home with the older members of the church in discussion. Hence the tendency is for him to drop out of the church activities. Here is where the league plays its part in keeping the young people in the church, and upon the path on which they have been started. This should be one of the their purposes of any Luther league, and one which we at the Elim are striving to achieve.

All of the members of our league are totally inexperienced in Luther league work. Along with another member of our league it was my pleasure to attend the L. L. convention held in Portland last fall. The education and inspiration received there has been very valuable.

## Featuring

### ELIM LUTHER LEAGUE

Hockinson, Washington

The wide range of ages among so few members does not make for solidity in our Luther league. The differences of interest between the older and younger make it difficult to plan activities and programs for our league. We have not divided our meetings into separate social and devotional ones, but have tried to keep the two together in their proper proportions. It is our thought that Christian teaching should permeate our actions, and this can be done only by becoming accustomed to having the two together.

Our hope for the future lies in our large confirmation class. When they become fullfledged members of the league, they will be thoroughly familiar with it, and they should be faithful and interested in it. We at Elim will appreciate any advice or criticism that may be forthcoming from fellow leaguers.

Raymond Mattson, Pres.

## Our Church

The Elim Lutheran church is located in Clark county of the State of Washington, and in the village of Hockinson. The community around the Elim Lutheran church was settled about sixty years ago. It received its name from one of the oldest settlers, Mr. Ambrose Hockinson.

Our church is surrounded by a district producing lumber, paper and farm products, especially such as fruit, eggs, milk and cheese.

Having given you a brief view of the setting of our church, we would like to tell you something of the history of it. It was founded fifty-two years ago. Its first pastor was the Rev. B. Lindh. From it's humble beginning our church has continued to serve in the building of character in the community. The establishing char-

acter of the church is needed in the community.

Other men have left their imprint in the history of the church—but cannot all be mentioned. Another pastor who also served our church faithfully for a number of years was pastor B. S. Nystrom, who served until a year before his death in 1933. Since that time our church has been served by Mr. Samuel Edwins and Mr. Rudolph Anderson.

The increase of attendance and interest in the activities of the church in the latter years shows that our church has a place to fill in the community.

Gilbert Carlson.

## AUGUSTANA, PORTLAND, OREGON



The Portland Luther League Council, consisting of one member from each Luther League in Portland and vicinity, sponsored a Sacred concert Sunday, January 19. It was held at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church and each league took part in the program. A free will offering was taken and turned over to the Lutheran Welfare Society.

The Augustana Guild is entertaining at dinner the Luther League and Senior choirs next Friday evening. The Luther League Choir sings at the evening services and the Senior Choir sings at the morning services. Every sixth Sunday the Senior Choir sings on the Sunshine Hour over KEX. Pastor Randolph gives the address.

The new Luther League officers were installed into office on January 5, 1935 at the evening service. This is the first time that installation of Luther League officers has ever taken place. The new officers are as follows:

President, Carl Fronde.

Vice President, Clarence S. Nelson.

Secretary, Carol Johnson.

Treasurer, Wally Haglund.

Financial Secretary, Don Fronde.

Religious Chairman, Lyla Earl.

Educational Chairman, Lowell Anderson.

Athletic Chairman, Walt Carlson.



**IMMANUEL LUTHER LEAGUE  
PORTLAND**

At the December meeting of the Immanuel Luther League, the election of officers for 1936 was held. Re-elections included Myrtle Johnson, president, and Ssther Askim, treasurer. New officers are Charlotte Rasmussen, secretary; Donald Palmblad, first vice president; Sigfrid Nelson, second vice president; Elva Olson, editor.

The office of editor has just been created. It will be the duty of this officer to prepare a Luther League Bulletin once a month, which will be read at one of the regular meetings. Although such bulletins have been given before, the editor has not been an elected officer. The editor will also take care of Immanuel news items for other Lutheran publications.

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Tacoma

On Tuesday, January 14th, the newly elected executive committee met with Rev. Odell, at the home of Myrtle John-on, to plan the program for the first half of the year. While this program has not been passed on at the time if this writing, several features have been incorporated which will no doubt be accepted. At one meeting a month Rev. Odell will present Bible studies covering one book of the Bible each time. Programs for alternate meetings include topics and book reviews by Leaguers, a musical program, and our annual Trip-Around-The-World.

We are fortunate in having a very fine new group of young people in our League, who are members of the Confirmation class which was confirmed in December. At the meeting in January 7th, this class furnished a very well presented program and these young people proved to be exceptionally talented. The class previous to this one provided refreshments, and a spirit of interest and good fellowship was very much in evidence.

Immanuel hopes to have a highly successful and beneficial year in 1936!  
Elva Olson.

**MT. BAKER ANNUAL MEETING**

The annual meeting of the Mount Baker District was held in the Zion Lutheran Church at Everett, January 26, 27 and 28. Rev. John Billdt, host pastor. The W. M. S. convened at the same time and sponsored the service on Tuesday afternoon. At this session Rev. C. A. V. Lund delivered the sermon and several musical numbers were contributed by members of the society.

District officers elected for 1936 are: Rev. H. W. Lundblad, president; Dr. Jos. A. Anderson, vice president; Rev. Carl A. Lund, secretary; Rev. John Billdt, treasurer.

Rev. Billdt announced that the Zion

congregation planned to commemorate their 35th anniversary in September and at the same time be host to the Columbia Conference Pastoral Retreat.

On Tuesday evening a memorial service was held for the late Dr. G. A. Brandelle. Dr. Jos. A. Anderson delivered a splendid memorial address based upon his personal friendship and association with the President Emeritus of our Synod. Pastor H. W. Lundblad preached the sermon. The solemnity and edification of this service was augmented by two Anthems sung by the Zion choir.

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### THE REGIONAL HOME MISSIONS COMMITTEE COMMENCES WORK

One of the most significant developments of recent times in Lutheranism in America was the formation in 1930 of the American Lutheran Conference. Five general Lutheran bodies: the Augustana Synod, the Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, the American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Free Church, and the United Danish Lutheran Church, joining hands and hearts for cooperative endeavors for the progress and strengthening of our Lutheran Zion in America.

One of the chief tasks confronting this Conference is the challenge of the home mission situation thruout the country. There is abundant duplication of effort with attendant inefficiency and grievance, as well as large unoccupied fields to be developed. This is especially true out here at the Pacific Coast. To study this situation and

make recommendations with regard thereto, the Executive Committee of the Conference has appointed several Regional Home Mission Committees. The North Pacific Region comprises the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. For the time being also British Columbia and Alaska are included in this region.

The purpose of these Regional Committees is set forth as follows in the Rules and Regulations issued by the Executive Committee of the American Lutheran Conference:

"The purpose of the Home Mission Regional Committees shall be to foster a spirit of cooperation in Home Mission Work, to make surveys and obtain information, to prevent friction and duplication, and to assist in adjustment of controversies that may arise between synodical mission agencies in regard to fields. It shall be the duty of these committees, not only to survey

fields in which the constituent bodies are working, but also fields in other states and districts where no mission work is done, or where it has been indifferently cared for."

The Regional Committee for the North Pacific Region met recently for organization and preliminary work. Its personnel and officers are as follows: Dr. C. R. Swanson (Augustana), Chairman, Seattle, Wash.; the Rev. O. K. Davidson (N. L. C. A.), Vice Chairman, Portland, Ore.; the Rev. J. A. Houkom (L. F. C.), Sec.-treasurer, Seattle, Wash.; the Rev. E. G. Wuest, Oregon City, Ore.; and the Rev. S. J. Hansen, Eugene, Ore.

It is hoped that this committee might become an instrument of usefulness, and under God, of helpfulness and blessing in the adjustment of the multifarious and tangled home mission problems in this region of the great Pacific Northwest.

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