



OFFICE ORGAN OF THE LUTHERAN COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

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Jesus As Miracle Performer

THE Epiphany Season is to speak to us of light. The very name implies this. It is to speak to us not of physical light, but of the light that Jesus sheds abroad as His gospel is proclaimed and as the Holy Spirit enlightens and sanctifies in us the true faith.

The miracles of Jesus brought spiritual light. He performed them in order that people might be brought from darkness to light. The purpose with His miracles was not that the curiosity of the people might be satisfied but rather that the people might believe in Him. Faith is light. The one who believes in Jesus shall not walk in darkness, for Jesus is the Sun of Righteousness. Wherever He is darkness must flee, if the heart is willing to open itself to Him and to His marvelous truths.

Yea, the miracles of Jesus brought light. Just think of the blind that Jesus healed. Just think what it meant to them to have their eyes opened! What a precious endowment we have in the eyesight with which God has blessed us! How the blind must have rejoiced, as they received their sight at the hands of Jesus. Many praised God because of these miracles, as they through these had learnt to believe in Jesus. Think of the sick that Jesus cured. No one had been able to perform such miracles before. Do you not suppose it meant light to these suffering ones, when Jesus proved Himself the Great Physician that was able to restore even their health; yea, as they found that He was even able to cure lepers. Think of those possessed with demons, that came to Jesus. The demons had to flee at His word. Those possessed were loosed from their bonds, as the Master only spoke a word. And think of those whom He raised from the dead! How floods of light must have just poured themselves out over sorrowing souls, as they received back their near and dear ones!

Jesus is the same today. He is still performing miracles, and miracles mean still light to those who witness them. He wants us to enjoy Epiphany all our days. Yea, He wants to appear constantly to the soul. Often our hearts are filled with darkness, but He is able to fill them with light. It is even in our day a common thing that people are sick. Jesus is still the Great Physician that is willing and able to help. That people get well even after having suffered with extremely



Jesus Spreading Light and Joy Through His Miracles

dangerous diseases is a very common thing. It is Jesus that does this healing. Let us not give the doctor all the credit for the cures that are effected. Give Jesus most especially the honor. He is the one that heals our diseases, even when earthly means and human intellect and hands are used to serve Him. He said "I am with

you always." He is not with us as an idler. He is our Shepherd that He might protect us and lead us out of any difficulty into which we may come. He is the light in the sickroom, and who can count the many miracles He has performed there.

Jesus is the only light in which we might rejoice in the hour of death. He is our only hope in the midst of death's shadows. He shall in the moment of the believer's departure from this earth perform a most wonderful miracle: save the soul, bring it Himself home to the eternal mansions of God. "I shall come again and take you unto myself," were His loving words to His disciples. They are his loving words to His followers today.

The very gospel of Jesus is a performer of miracles, as the Holy Spirit works through this means of grace. It can transform a heart like nothing else can. It is God's power unto salvation for all who believe. Faith is a miracle-worker. It is the power that overcometh the world. Wherever Jesus and His gospel are there we have life, light, salvation.

Try always to be as much of an encouragements as possible in the work of your church. — Boost your church. Ask non-members to come and join it.

In the midst of sorrow lift always your eyes toward your heavenly home. Nothing can so wipe the tears as the faith-vision of the heavenly mansions.

Be never afraid of "extra work," when it is a question of the interests of the Kingdom of God. Just think of the "extra work" Jesus had to do for you and me.

Let us not be "sour" in our Christian behaviour. A long face does not belong to a life in sanctification. Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say: Rejoice!

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REV. H. P. JOHNSON, Editor
150 N. 19th Street Portland, Ore.

REV. CARL A. BENGTON, Manager
165 W. 65th Street Seattle, Wash.

Editorial

The New Year

A new year has gotten well on its way. May it be crowned with an abundance of blessing. Times have been stringent. Those that are in a measure animated by a bit of optimism, prophesy better times for the ensuing year. We hope their prophesies will come true. Employment is a blessing. It not only means bread and butter and everything else that is essential to bodily comfort, but it also means a better condition of mind, body and soul. We hope that the multitudes, that used to murmur because of the work they had had to do during the days of an oversupply of jobs, have learnt to appreciate at least in a measure the blessedness of employment, as the country has during the last few months been gripped almost to an unendurable degree by the curse of unemployment. Let us thank God that we can work, and for every day that He has made it possible for us to go about our regular task. Yes, it is a great privilege to enjoy strength to work. It is a great blessing to have work in abundance to do. Refreshing slumbers sweeten the rest on our pillows usually only when our days are in a substantial proportion taken up with labor. May God bless us during 1931 with an abundance of employment.

It is a blessing to be able to work in the Kingdom of God. Let us therefore never complain when we are called upon to labor there. This year God wants us

to be His co-laborers, both young and old. His Kingdom never is lacking in employment. Neither does anyone there ever have to work without receiving reward. No, God rewards abundantly every one who stands in His employ. He even says He shall give a hundred-fold here in this world and in the world to come eternal life. May 1931 therefore be rich in labor in God's Kingdom, and may He bless us all abundantly throughout all the days of this new year. May an abundance of souls be won for Christ finally to enter upon the eternal year with Him.

Laboring Together

We have a great task before us as a Lutheran church on the coast. A tremendous proportion of those who were born and raised Lutherans are still outside of our fold. Let us pray God not only for laborers, but that He also might give an abundance of grace and wisdom to the workers He has on the field, that His cause might go forward to the upbuilding of the Kingdom and to the salvation of dearly bought immortal souls.

Cooperation is of great importance in the work for the church of Christ. We therefore hear in our day a great deal about the importance of our getting closer and closer together as different synods of the Lutheran denomination. It would indeed be a blessing if there could be a better understanding and cooperation among us than has been the case in the past.

What we need in the first place is the best possible cooperation within the individual churches. Above everything else we need to come to the point where the congregation one hundred per cent assists the pastor in every way in which he can be assisted. To build up the church is not a one man's job in any place. It is a very difficult thing, especially out here on the coast, to gain new members for the local church even in a number that will not be outdone by the shrinkage-list that each congregation must report every year. It is as a general rule extremely difficult for the different organizations to function as they should. In many cases the Sunday school gives the pastor, superintendent and teachers great concern in that it does not grow or is not able even to keep up its list of pupils. At times the choir fails entirely or in part to serve. And so there is discontent and murmuring here and there among the people. What pastor has not had at least some experiences along the lines here described? Yea, what pastor has not worried more or less because the congregation cannot grow.

All the causes for worry and concern here described only emphasize the great need of cooperation in our local churches.

Talk therefore that kind of system of laboring together, before you devote all your energies talking a coming together on the part of different synods, commendable as latter might be. Take pride first and last in your own congregation. Have your interests centered in her first and last. See that she does her part for her own support. Labor that she might do her full share at the right time for conference and synod. Labor that she might occupy the honor place on every roll where her name appears. Get by all means away from the characteristics of the cattle that browse in the pasture: that the grass appears greenest on the outside of the fence.

Yes, often the grass seems to appear greenest on the meadow of someone else. A closer investigation will however often reveal that one's own meadow compares favorably with any other, all things considered. Be that as it may, the everlasting talk about that they are doing so much better in the X or in the Y church never got anything for any church. Often they become very annoying to the pastor. Labor with the pastor, pray for and with him, assist him, boost your church, do everything possible to get all the members to work with the pastor in every way possible for the upbuilding of your local work. Be patient and long suffering. The work of the church requires this kind of quality of mind and disposition. Above everything, pray! The prayer of a righteous man availeth much, says the word of God.

Will the Church Survive?

The church of Jesus Christ has always been attacked. The strongest forces of the entire world have at times made their onslaughts against her. The apostles together with other "first Christians" were severely persecuted. For three hundred years the persecutions raged, at times in the most terrible fierceness conceivable. The Christians were compelled to worship in secret. They dug themselves down into ground that they there might pour out their hearts before God and worship Him according to the cravings of their souls. Behind the fiercely raging persecutions was the greatest worldly power of the time, the Roman emperor. But the church weathered every storm. It lived through every baptism of blood. Yea, the blood of the martyrs became the "seed of the church."

In our time the devil is making his new attempts at breaking down God's institution of grace, the church. The greatest power of all the world is gradually to be summoned, that is the clever plan. That great power is no longer a king or an emperor. It is everywhere in our day recog-

nized as being the people. The devil always adapts himself according to the times in which he acts. He is now making every attempt at converting the people to atheism. He is doing this through the concerted efforts of the atheists. He seems to have one immensely large realm won for his cause, namely Russia. That vast country now serves as his base of operation. Never before was a vast country so thoroughly won for the cause of unbelief. By direct and indirect means the people have been driven away from their churches. The Sunday has been taken away from them. Everything possible has been done to take God and religion out of the consciousness of the people, and success has attended all these nefarious efforts.

From Russia have gone out waves of atheistic influences all over the world. The "Society of the Godless" and other atheistic unions have in a very definite and well organized way labored in our country and in Canada, and they have found a very fruitful field especially in the large centers of population. They have made every attempt to make science their cohort. And what an awe-inspiring power the populus and science evidence, as they appear as yoke-brothers in the realm of unbelief. Yea, the greatest power is called upon today by satan, as he makes his attempts at destroying the Christian church. The most fruitful soil for the atheistic propaganda is found in the indifference and the sluggishness that characterizes such a large percentage of our people of today. We have now in mind those who never give their children any religious instruction whatsoever. Thousands of children in our land never go to any Sunday school, never hear one word from out of the Bible. What a field for atheistic propaganda and for atheistic Sunday schools. The picture is indeed dark that we here are painting, but it is a true picture of conditions as they prevail.

Shall the church of God continue to stand in spite of all this? One thing that tends to prove that she shall weather all storms, no matter how strong, we find in the fact that more Bibles were printed and sold last year than ever before, according to the report of the American Bible Society. The church has weathered the storms in the past, even when the greatest powers of their times in their fiercest onslaughts hurled themselves against her. She shall stand till the end of time, no matter what powers launch their attacks on her. Jesus said that He would found her on Himself. He is the "Rock of Ages" that never shall be moved. The promise of her Founder is that the gates of hell shall not prevail against her.

"Thy scepter, Jesus, shall extend, As far as day prevaieth; Thy glorious kingdom,

without end, shall stand, when all else faileth; Thy blessed Name shall be confessed, And round Thy cross, forever blest, Shall kings and people gather."

Contributed

To the Congregations and Pastors of the Columbia Conference

Grace and Peace: "Hitherto hath Jehovah helped us." 1 Sam. 7:12.

When you receive this greeting the year 1930 will have finished its course and given place to the new year of 1931.

As we look back over the past year we find that, as a conference, we have ample reasons for sincere gratitude because of the bountiful providence of God. Seldom, if ever, has it happened in the history of this Conference that a year closed without any vacant pastorates. The Lord has answered the prayers for laborers in His harvest. And since He has supplied the laborers we also trust that He will provide the means necessary for our treasurer to take care of our increased responsibilities. It is indeed encouraging to note that in spite of the general economic depression and much unemployment, the work in Christ's kingdom has proceeded as usual, and our people have responded nobly to the need of the Church. The congregations and pastors have all labored faithfully to retain their enviable record of past years in meeting their obligations to Conference and Synod for missions and other benevolences. We are confident, too, that every congregation will be successful in their earnest endeavors to meet the entire budget for last year before the 1st of February, when the books are closed.

May God's richest blessing crown your mutual labor of love during the ensuing year to the upbuilding and strengthening of His kingdom, and may He grant you all a most Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Your humble servant in Christ,

G. K. ANDEEN, President.

Astoria, Oregon, Dec. 30, 1930.

Annual Meeting of Portland District

Augustana Lutheran Church

January 27-28, 1931

Tuesday, 7:45 P. M.—Holy communion: Preparatory, Rev. H. P. Johnson; sermon, Rev. Eric H. Wahlstrom, "God's Determination to Evangelize the World," Mt. 24: 12.

Wednesday, 9 to 9:30 A. M.—Devotion, Rev. A. G. Anderson; business session, 9:30 to 12; Bible discussion, 2 P. M.,

ämne. "Vårt enda hopp i världens evangelisation," Apg. 4:12. Introduced by Rev. E. J. Sakrison. Other pastors take part in discussion.

Service, 7:45 P. M.—Sermon, Rev. J. A. Edlund, Swedish; sermon, Rev. G. K. Andeen, English.

Choose free text where subject is not designated.

Supper will be served Tuesday at 6 P. M. in the church parlors, also dinner at noon and lunch at 5:30 P. M. You are all welcome. Plenty of room for those who want lodging, please inform the undersigned.

Welcome to Augustana.

SAMUEL P. JOHNSON.

The Fourth Christian Conference St. Peter, Minn.

By E. W. H.

The Fourth Christian Conference of the young people of the Augustana Synod under the auspices of the Synodical Luther League Council will be held at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter, Minn., February 11-15. Three similar conferences have been held in the past, two at Augustana College, Rock Island, and one at Bethany College, Lindsborg, Kansas. The attendance has been nationwide on each occasion.

The conference at St. Peter promises to be both interesting and instructive. The program has been planned by the executive committee under the leadership of Dr. Joshua Oden, president, and Rev. P. N. Sjogren, executive secretary of the Synodical League. Each morning will be devoted to departmental groups that will study and discuss various phases of young peoples' work and problems. The program includes addresses delivered by such outstanding leaders as Dr. S. J. Sebelius, Dr. Conrad Bergendoff, Rev. C. O. Granlund, Dr. Mary Markley, Dr. Gustave Andreen, and Dr. O. J. Johnson, president of Gustavus Adolphus College. Bible studies will be conducted by Dr. S. M. Miller, Dr. Paul Andreen and Rev. Malvin Lundeen. The closing address on Sunday afternoon will be delivered by Dr. N. M. Ylvisaker, executive secretary of the Luther League of the Norwegian church.

A large representation from the various parts of the synod is expected. From the East and Middle West special trains will carry the delegates to St. Peter. From the far West there will naturally not be so many. The Columbia Conference will be represented by the president of the Conference League, Rev. Eric H. Wahlstrom, and by Mr. Arthur Linn of Tacoma. The California Conference will also be represented. Follow the papers, especially the Companion, for news of the Conference.

There will also be published later a report of the conference which will contain the message and addresses delivered. This book should be valuable for all who are interested in Luther League work.

Emanuel Hospital Staff Banquet

On the evening of January 18, 1931, the fifth annual banquet of the Emanuel Hospital Staff was held in the dining room of the Hospital. This is an annual affair, given jointly by the Executive Committee of the Hospital Staff and the Hospital, with the entire medical staff, and the supervisors of the Hospital as guests. It is the one occasion during the year when the members of the Staff, and the Trustees, and all interested in the welfare of the Hospital meet together for a purely social time.

Credit for the arrangement of the program goes to Dr. Roger Holcomb, who acted as chairman of the committee. After the singing of "America" and the Invocation by Rev. H. P. Johnson, the Staff was further entertained by an octet of Emanuel Hospital Nurses, under the direction of Mrs. Fred L. Olson, who furnished several musical numbers. A group of the Staff doctors, led by Dr. Schauffler, contributed a comic review. Mr. B. F. Irvine, editor of the Oregon Journal, was the speaker of the evening, and in his address, after paying tribute to the medical profession, and to the ideals of those who founded and maintained such institutions as the Emanuel Hospital, he emphasized first the importance of accurate scientific knowledge in the proper care of patients, and secondly the great service which the physician unstintingly gives in helping to care for suffering humanity, and restore them to usefulness, and to the enjoyment of those things which are considered priceless.

Various pertinent facts regarding the records of the Hospital were brought out in the reports of Dr. H. H. Foskett, secretary of the Staff, and Rev. A. M. Green superintendent of the Hospital. From the former report it appears that the Hospital had a total number of 104 members on the Staff for the past year, an average attendance at Staff meetings of 38, and a total of 216 doctors using the hospital, taking care of 5,227 patients. As an index of the Scientific attitude of the members of the Hospital Staff, 32.6 per cent of all the patients who passed away in the Hospital had careful postmortem examinations made in order to ascertain with certainty the causes of the patients' decease. This was done in the interest of medical science in order that new facts might be obtained so that better care of patients will result, and also for the sake of the

family of the deceased, so that definite facts may be available to them regarding the case. New records have been established by the Hospital which will also tend to promote a higher scientific attainment. Twenty-one doctors delivered papers before the meetings of the Staff during the year.

This report of the secretary also indicated that a fund of about \$300 was on hand in the treasury of the Staff, for the purchase of new photographic and projection apparatus for use in the scientific work of the Hospital.

Rev. Green's report included not only the 5,227 patients mentioned above, but also the babies born in the Hospital, and all emergency cases unassigned to a particular doctor, making a total of 6,342 patients admitted during 1930. Of these patients admitted, male patients total 1,470, female 3,445, boys under 14 years of age 277, and girls 210; 3,551 recovered, 2,179 improved and 73 were discharged as unimproved. The total number of days' care given was 72,459; radiographs 3,476, and laboratory examinations 44,106. The above number of patients admitted represent 33 different nationalities, and give 28 different Church preferences.

A few words of greeting were brought to the Staff by the President of the Board of Trustees, Mr. David E. Lofgren; and the Staff adopted a resolution extending to Mr. J. A. Nordeen their sympathy in his illness, and its sincerest wish for his speedy recovery.

The evening program closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

H. H. FOSKETT, M. D.

Secretary, Emanuel Hospital Staff.

Stewardship and Church Finance

Otto Leonardson

Secretary of Stewardship

628 Security Bldg., Minneapolis, Minn.

Did He Shut Christ Out?

It was Sunday afternoon. Mr. Every Member Canvasser had called at the home of Mr. Average Church Member and was seeking to secure his pledge to the church budget for the ensuing year. Mr. Average Church Member listened thoughtfully to the statement of the church's needs, and glanced uneasily at the pledge card which had been handed to him. Finally he turned to the visitor and said:

"I am going to say some things that may shock you, but for once I am going to be perfectly frank. Why should I give to the church? Times are hard. I am in debt. I have lost money steadily for the past twelve months. I have my children to feed and clothe and educate. As an honest man I must pay my debts. No-

body knows what the future holds in store. It may be that conditions will get even worse than they are now. The church doesn't need so much money. I wouldn't mind paying something to support our preacher, but I object to all this list of expenses, benevolence, orphanage, hospital, Home Missions, Foreign Missions, Christian Education, Pension and Aid Fund, and miscellaneous. It looks as if our church is trying to carry the world on its shoulders. Why not cut all this out, and just raise enough money to pay the preacher and keep the church up?

"Wait a minute. While I'm talking let me have my say. What has the church done for me? When my wife was so sick last year the preacher didn't find out about it until she was nearly well, and I don't see that his little visit did much good when he came. There are plenty of members who are better off than I am—let them pay. My mind is made up. When I come to church I will put something in the collection, but I am not going to sign any pledge to give every week.

"You may think I'm wrong, but it's no worse to say these things than to think them, and I hope you'll take my decision in good spirit. If you don't—well, I can't help it!"

Mr. Every Member Canvasser sat silently listening, praying for guidance that he might say the right thing. Earnestly he began:

"My brother, you are wrong—dead wrong. I know how to sympathize with you, because I once went through this very experience, and I am not going to criticize or condemn you. But I do want to share with you my lesson and my conviction, and then I will leave it with you to decide.

"You are in danger of making two or three grave mistakes.

"In the first place, you talk as if you were giving to the church as a mere human institution. Our church is Christ's agency for carrying on his work in the world, and what you do for the church is in a very deep and real sense your expression of love to the Savior. Do you really love him? Have you forgotten what he has done for you? Do you recall how utterly miserable you were before you were converted, and what a burden rolled away when you accepted him and experienced the forgiveness of your sins. Take your eyes off the church for a moment, and look into the face of Jesus. Quit thinking about hard times and debts, and think about the cross of Calvary. Remember that Jesus said, 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.' Do you expect Jesus to bear the cross alone, and let you go entirely free?

It may be that the burdens you are bearing are for the very purpose of bringing you closer to the Savior, whom you have been following afar off.

"You remarked that our church is undertaking too much—that it is trying to carry the world on its shoulders. Well, is not God bearing the burden of the world on his heart? Is not Jesus concerned for the lost, the sick, the helpless, the needy? If we are truly his representatives, can we shut up our compassion, and live just for ourselves? What sort of church would it be that just paid a preacher to edify and entertain its own members, but did nothing for the rest of the world? Certainly it would not be a Christian church, for Christ said, 'As the Father hath sent me, even so send I you.' Which one of these items would you leave off? Surely not the preacher's salary—we pay him little enough; nor the maintenance of the church on an efficient and self-respecting basis. Which one of these great causes would you reject? Surely not the care of the orphans, the sick, the needy; nor the evangelization of the lost at home and abroad; nor the education of our boys and girls and the training of our missionaries and ministers. Don't you see that we could not be true to Jesus and his program if we ran our church in petty, selfish, incompetent fashion? Down in your heart you would be ashamed of such a church.

"May I venture to call attention to another mistaken viewpoint? You raise the question as to what the church has done for you that you should give to its support. Are you not missing the very heart of what it means to be a Christian? Jesus declared that he came not to be served, but to serve. He said if any man would come after him, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow him. He made loving service of others the test of one's love to him. The really important matter is not what the church does for you, though of course it should surround you with its love and help in time of distress; the main thing is your deep desire to serve Christ and his church is the chief means through which you can do this. The church is not primarily an organization that gives you back a certain amount of service for a given price; it is your agent through which you work for Christ.

"Do you really love the Lord Jesus? Of course you do. You are depending on him for victory over sin in this life, and for eternal life. How else will you express your love if not through loyal and devoted service to his church? Money represents your life. If you refuse to give of your money, do you not see that you are

refusing to give Christ your life? To talk of consecration to God and then withhold one's gifts for the carrying on of his work in the world is little less than mockery.

"Please don't misunderstand me. I am not lecturing to you, or trying to tell you what is your duty. I myself am just a member of the church like you. I have thought it through, and come to the conclusion that, for my part, I am going to support my church as liberally as possible, not only because of duty, but because of my love for Christ. What is your decision? Are you willing to clasp hands with me in a sacred covenant to stand by our church and give to it not only a pledge of financial support, but of renewed devotion and service?"

What was the result? Did Mr. Average Church Member sign the pledge card, or did he make some more or less polite excuses, and bow his visitor out, closing the door not only to him, but to Christ and his church?

We know that his heart was touched, and that he not only promised to give his money, but rededicated his life to the Saviour.

Annual Meetings

Carlsborg, Colton, Ore.

Rev. E. J. Sakrison, Pastor

At the annual meeting of the Carlsborg Church, Colton, held January 2, 1931, Mr. E. A. Swanson was re-elected deacon for a term of three years, Mr. Andrew Johnson was also elected deacon for a term of three years. Messrs. M. C. Lundstrom and Valdemar Hill were re-elected trustees, each for a term of three years. Mr. Alfred Danielson was elected delegate to the Conference meeting and Mr. M. C. Lundstrom alternate. Mr. J. E. Sandall was chosen to represent the congregation at the District meeting and Mr. E. A. Swanson alternate. Auditors elected for 1931 are Mr. C. A. Branland, Mrs. Philip Putz and Mr. J. E. Sandall.

Emmaus, Seattle

Rev. Carl A. Bengtson, Pastor

The Emmaus Lutheran Congregation in Seattle held its annual business meeting Tuesday evening, January 13, and elected the following officers and delegates: Deacons, J. T. Hornberg and Hilding Engstrom; trustees, Frank Lillquist and Wm. Anderson, re-elected; organist, Mrs. Carl Soderman, re-elected; auditors, Karl Bjorklund, J. T. Hornberg and Alex Koll; del-

egate to district meeting, Conrad Haggblom; alternate to district meeting, Alfred Bjorklund; delegate to conference meeting, Alfred Wicks; alternate to conference meeting, Carl Soderman.

Westdala, Troy, Idaho

Rev. David E. Engberg, Pastor

Elections at the annual meeting of Westdala Lutheran church, Troy, Idaho, held January 2, 1931, resulted as follows: Deacon, re-elected for three years, Alfred Ekholm; trustee, also re-elected for three years, Clarence Johnson; secretary, re-elected, Elmer J. Johnson; auditors, Alfred Sandall, Sven Sampson, Swante Anderson; Sunday School superintendent, Elmer J. Johnson; organist, Mrs. Mrs. Oscar Kellberg; delegate to district meeting in Spokane, Lawrence Johnson, Alternate, Ole Nelson; delegate to conference, Alfred Kellberg, alternate, Elmer J. Johnson.

The treasurer's Report showed that all obligations to Conference and Synod, and local as well, had been taken care of, with a small surplus remaining in the treasury. The people of Westdala are showing fine interest in the church work; they are loyal to their church and we hope that in time, with God's help, the membership will be built up again. Perhaps it should be added that the fine financial showing was made by a contributing membership of only sixty-four.

Bethany, Warren, Ore.

Rev. Eric H. Wahlstrom, Pastor

The annual meeting of the Bethany Congregation was held on Tuesday, Jan. 6. The reports presented to the meeting were encouraging. All obligations, including the budget to the Conference, had been met in full without borrowing. Lately the congregation installed an automatic electric watersystem in the church and parsonage. Two acres of land bought last year to be used for additional cemetery ground were reported paid for and will be consecrated for cemetery purposes some time this summer.

The officers were elected as follows: Deacons, O. W. Swanson and Elmer Dahlgren; trustees, Leroy Larson and Harold Carlson; Sunday School superintendent, C. J. Larson; delegate to district meeting, Chas. Johnson; delegate to Conference meeting, Leroy Larson. Last fall a new arrangement of the services was started so that the pastor holds two services every Sunday morning, one in St. Helens at 10 o'clock, and one in Warren at 11:15. In this way both of these churches have regular services. It was decided to continue this arrangement.

First, St. Helens, Ore.

Rev. Eric H. Wahlstrom, Pastor.

The annual meeting of the First English Lutheran church of St. Helens, Eric H. Wahlstrom pastor, was held on Friday evening, January 9. The reports presented were favorable. An increase of seven communicants was reported. All the financial obligations had been paid. During the last three months of the year the congregation has had services regularly every Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. The Sunday School has a short session first and then all remain for service. The attendance has therefore increased considerably. During the year a lot adjoining the church property was purchased, and it is hoped that the congregation will be able to build a parish hall on this lot in the near future.

The officers were elected as follows: Deacon, Fred Loken; trustee, Nels Welinder; Sunday School superintendent, Mrs. Fred Jensen; organist, Miss Esther Welinder; delegate to district meeting, Mrs. Nels Welinder; delegate to Conference, Fred Loken. St. Helens is a growing city. Several new industries have been located here lately. There are quite a number of people of Lutheran faith living here, and many of them are beginning to attend the services.

Bethany, Seattle

Rev. C. G. Bloomquist, Pastor

We have had a very happy Christmas season. The church was beautifully decorated for the various festive occasions. Our music directors gave well rendered and appropriate music in abundance. Large audiences were present at the various services. The old gospel message came to us with new power and help. The annual business meeting was held on Thursday evening, January 8. The same was peaceful and all that was done and said breathed the spirit of harmony. Thorild Swanson was re-elected for this third year as organist and accompanist and Miss Mildred Johnson was retained as director of music and soloist. John Olson, Gustav Ahlson and John G. Johanson were chosen deacons for a three-year term. As new trustees we will have E. S. Hindrum, Gottfried Nordwall and Albin Johnson. The trustees have selected the former treasurer, Robert Carlson, and chosen Carl J. Nelson as financial secretary and Arthur Johnson, president. Arthur Hillman was chosen Sunday school superintendent and Miss Mary Stevens was placed in charge of the primary department, while Mrs. Carl W. Johnson was given the Cradle Roll and Miss Esther Hulteen the Home Department. Gust Olson will represent

us at the annual meeting of the Conference with Anton Swanson as alternate. Either Henry Johanson or Victor Gustafson will be our representative at the annual meeting of the District.

Grace, Spokane

Rev. William Siegel, Pastor

The Annual meeting of the Grace Lutheran Congregation of Spokane, Washington, was held Tuesday, January 13. The pastor's report showed a fine increase in attendance during the past year. There has been an increased growth in spiritual things. A fine interest in Bible study. The church debt was reduced a thousand dollars, with the hope of it being completely wiped out this year. A total of \$7,500 was raised this past year. The Sunday envelopes showed an increase of nearly a thousand dollars. The pastor, Rev. William Siegel, was voted a month's vacation with salary. He was also in spite of his strong objection voted the Christmas morning offering.

New officers were elected or re-elected as follows: M. A. Johnson, Arthur Halverson, Adolph Swanson and Matt Jensen, deacons; W. T. Grimmer, F. D. Page, Harold Swenson and Alden Westland, trustees; Edward Florine, choir director; Professor N. E. Olson, organist; Mrs. W. J. Olson, Sunday school superintendent; E. A. Oslund, assistant; Gottfred Olson and Mr. Grimmer, delegate and alternate to Columbia conference at Portland in April; C. W. Erickson, delegate to district meeting this month at Salem church.

More honors have come to the Grace congregation. Clyde Bergdahl, one of the young men, has received the Harmon Foundation Scholarship award for the State of Washington. This award is given to the young man connected with the Boy Scouts who is judged highest as to character, ability, etc. The cash gift is to be used to help complete the college course. Clyde will graduate from the North Central High school this spring. He will attend Washington State college, where he will major in chemistry.

Augustana, Portland

Rev. Samuel E. Johnson, Pastor

The Augustana church held its annual business meeting Tuesday evening, January 13. From the reports we find that the membership, with receptions and losses, remains about the same; six members have passed into eternity by death, ten children were confirmed; ten couple were united in marriage. All obligations to conference and Synod are met. At the election of officers, Aruthur Lind was chosen

secretary. The following deacons were elected: Oscar Nelson, Sherman Nelson, Gust Froude and N. M. Larson. Trustees elected were, Arthur Lind, C. V. Lindquist, Emil Axelson and J. E. Wallin; Sunday school superintendent, Ray Wider; J. E. Wallin was chosen delegate to the annual district meeting and Albin Morland to the Conference. John Nicholls will continue as organist and David Anderson as musical director. The auditors are: J. A. Nordeen, C. H. Earl and Ernest S. Olson.

The organizations have now chosen their leaders for the ensuing year. For those who may be interested we give the names herewith: Ladies' Aid, president, Mrs. M. Enberg; secretary, Mrs. A. S. Paulson; treasurer, Mrs. Wm. Nelson. Ladies' Guild, president, Mrs. K. J. Swenson; vice president, Mrs. R. R. Wilkenson; secretary, Mrs. Elmer Anderson; financial secretary, Mrs. C. M. Franklin; treasurer, Mrs. O. O. Johuson. Woman's Missionary Society, president, Mrs. S. E. Johnson; vice president, Mrs. F. Axelson; secretary, Mrs. C. H. Earl; treasurer, Mrs. K. J. Swenson; M. T. secretary, Mrs. C. O. Larson. Mizpah Missionary Society, president, Mrs. E. Dahlberg; vice president, Esther Eckberg; secretary, Marina Johnson; treasurer, Virginia Ingman. Junior Mission Band, president, Alice Carlson; vice president, Samuel Johnson Jr.; secretary, Helen Axelson; treasurer, Alice Morland. Luther League, president, Virginia Ingman; vice president, Agnes Olson; secretary, Anna Carlson; treasurer, Clarence Nelson; financial secretary, Guhli Olson.

Salem Lutheran Church, Spokane

Rev. N. Wm. Anderson, Pastor

The outstanding activity of the Salem Lutheran Church in Spokane (not speaking from the spiritual point of view) was the building and dedication of the new educational unit. Mr. J. A. Anderberg, church treasurer, reported that he had handled over \$11,000 for the year, of which \$5,200 went for congregational expenses, \$1,200 for missions and the balance was applied on the building fund. The New Building cost \$13,500, according to the report of the building committee.

The report of the treasurer did not include \$550 raised by the Woman's Missionary Society and the Junior Missionary Society. Incidentally, Mr. Anderberg stated that he had served as treasurer of the congregation for 20 years and in that time he had handled the sum of \$102,000 of church money.

The Sunday School has shown a fine growth since the new building was completed, having increased over 50 during the

year and now numbers 160 pupils. It has therefore already proved to be a good investment for the congregation.

Deacons for the year: Mr. K. J. Berggren, Mr. Olof Lindgren, Mr. Helmer F. Sandstrom; trustees to be elected were J. S. Anderberg, Elmer Carlson and Victor Olson. Francis Edlund was elected secretary of the congregation and also superintendent of the Sunday school. Mr. C. A. Peterson, the former superintendent, was elected assistant superintendent; Mr. Peterson had served as superintendent for 12 years. Mr. John Erickson was elected delegate to the Spokane District Convention held at Salem Church, on January 27-28. Mr. K. J. Berggren was elected delegate to the Columbia Conference meeting to be held this spring.

The Spiritual gains we hope are greater than the material. Yes, we know they are, for every Lord's Day we see large gatherings coming to hear the Word of God. His Word shall not return void of fruit, is His gracious promise.

Immanuel, Portland

Rev. H. P. Johnson, Pastor

The annual meeting was held January 9. Albert Anderson was chosen secretary of the congregation. Eric Ulin and Fred Olson were re-elected deacons for three years. Chester Johnson, L. F. Swan and John M. Nelson were elected trustees for three years. Hilmer Henrikson was elected trustee for one year. Adolph Benson was chosen Sunday school superintendent with Miss Edith Olson as assistant. A. C. Malmquist was chosen delegate to the district meeting with John Olson as alternate. Atty David E. Lofgren was chosen delegate to the conference meeting with E. M. Erickson as alternate. William Skans, Hilmer Henrikson, Adolph Benson, Rev. H. P. Johnson and A. C. Malmquist were chosen as members of the Emanuel Charity Board. The position of Prof. Charles Swenson as organist and choir director was made permanent. Decided to invite the conference to hold its next annual meeting in Immanuel church. The conference brotherhood and Woman's Missionary Society are to be included in that invitation.

The societies of the congregation elected officers as follows at their respective annual meetings: Ladies' Aid, Mrs. Ida Swanson, president; Mrs. Axel Peterson, vice president; Mrs. Martin Martinson, secretary; Mrs. August Elmquist, treasurer. Woman's Missionary Society, Mrs. H. P. Johnson, president; Mrs. August Elmquist, vice president; Mrs. Edward Liedberg, secretary; Mrs. Fred Olson, treasurer; Mrs. Clara Peterson, secretary for Mission Tidings. Luther League,

Miss Frideborg Peterson, president; Miss Dorothy Peterson, vice president; Miss Agnes Peterson, secretary; Clarence Benson, treasurer. "Syskonringen," Harold Benson, president; Miss Edith Olson, vice president; Miss Nordis Arneson, secretary; Miss Emma C. Olson, treasurer. Junior Mission Band, Miss Judith Bohlin, president; Miss Ethel Ulin, vice pres.; Miss Evelyn Ersckon, secretary; Miss Ruth Johnson, treasurer; Choir, Miss Esther Hendrickson, president; Miss Dorothy Peterson, secretary; Miss Ruth Swanson, treasurer. Lutheran Brotherhood has not had its annual meeting at this writing. L. F. Swan is the treasurer of the congregation; Arvid Carlson, financial secretary; Albert Anderson, president of trustees, and Fred Peterson, secretary.

Items of Interest

The Columbia Conference has been invited to hold its next annual meeting at Immanuel Church, Portland. The Lutheran Brotherhood and the Woman's Missionary Society of the Conference are included in the invitation. The president, Rev. Andeen, has suggested that we begin the convention Wednesday, April 15th.

For Our Next Issue we would like to receive some more reports from annual meetings held in the congregations of our conference. Such material makes interesting reading. We all, if we are interested in the work done by others in the Kingdom, like to read such reports. Send them to the editor at your earliest convenience, the latest February 10.

The Silver Wedding Anniversary for Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Helgren was pleasantly celebrated with a large attendance at the Emmaus Lutheran Church, Seattle, Friday evening, January 2. The whole celebration had been prepared as a surprise. Flowers and a gift in money were presented, and many speeches of congratulation were made.

Mrs. Ingeborg Olund Peterson, well known piano teacher in Portland and prominent soloist on said instrument, went through an operation at Emanuel Hospital Wednesday, Jan. 14. Her condition is rapidly improving.

The Columbia Hospital Board met at said institution Thursday, Jan. 15. Annual reports were read and accepted. The hospital seems to have income enough to take care of its running expenses not counting interest on loans. Payments on bonds and notes will also have to be met from other sources.

The Spokane District will hold its annual meeting at the Salem Lutheran Church, Spokane, Wash., on Jan. 27-28,

when the usual business of the district will be transacted, and also the edifying programs which characterize district meetings during the year. The District W. M. S. will meet at the same place on Jan. 28, and will give a fine Missionary Program in the evening of Jan. 28, at which time Rev. David E. Engberg of Troy, Idaho, will give the Missionary address.

J. A. Nordeen, Portland, well known throughout our conference, was taken suddenly sick on Saturday, Jan. 3, when he immediately was taken to Emanuel Hospital. His condition appeared quite serious for a long time. At this writing, Jan. 19, he is still in the hospital, his condition being reported as somewhat improved. Mr. Nordeen is known perhaps mostly because of his leadership in the hospital work within our conference. He has for many years been the secretary of the Board of Directors of Emanuel Hospital and the secretary of the Charity Board.

The Finance Committee of the Augustana Synod will meet in Chicago March 10-11 for the purpose of working out a budget for the synod for 1932. On the first named date the representatives from boards and institutions asking aid meet with the committee. All requests for aid must be sent in writing to the committee to be in possession of the secretary, Judge Eskil Carlson, Des Moines, not later than March 1. On March 11 said executive committee meets with the representatives from the different conferences to levy the different portions of the budget on the different conferences.

Dr. Samuel M. Miller, dean of the Lutheran Bible Institute in Minneapolis, has surprised his many friends throughout our Synod by resigning from his position at said Institution and accepting a call to the First Lutheran Church, Jamestown, N. Y. Dr. Miller has been with said institute from the beginning of its history and has been its only dean. The institute was established about 12 years ago in St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. Miller has written several books which have gained an unusually wide circulation throughout the Lutheran church in America. He has a sister in our conference, Mrs. G. K. Andeen, Astoria.

The Executive Committee of American Luth. Conference will meet in Chicago Jan. 28-29. Said committee consists of the officers of said Conference, the respective presidents of the five synods comprising the Conference and a lay delegate from each of the synods. The Augustana Synod will be represented at that meeting by Dr. G. A. Brandelle, Dr. P. O. Bersell and Mr. Otto Leonardson of Minneapolis, the latter our Synod's Secretary of Stewardship. A plan is to be worked out at this meeting by which the five

synods may work together in the realm of home and foreign missions, of higher education, of student work at our universities and in the field of young people's work and of our hospitals. The plan will be submitted later to the synods represented.

The Board of Trustees of Pacific Lutheran College, Parkland, Wash., arranged for a joint meeting of the presidents and secretaries of the various synods of the American Lutheran Conference, which was held at the school on Wednesday, Jan. 14. The object of the meeting was to discuss the possibility of cooperative Christian education on the West Coast. The United Norwegian Lutheran Church and the American Lutheran Church are now associated in this work with Pacific Lutheran College as the common institution. It is felt that this college would serve our entire American Lutheran Conference very acceptably and also that we need its service. The meeting was in every respect a profitable one. Present at above meeting were, from our conference, Dr. C. R. Swanson, Rev. G. K. Andeen and Rev. C. G. Bloomquist.

The Portland Lutheran Pastors' Ass'n sponsored Jan. 18-23 a series of Evangelistic Meetings, which were held at Augustana Church. Rev. Samuel E. Johnson, pastor. Dr. S. C. Eastvold, pastor of Trinity Luth. Church, Madison, S. D., was the guest speaker. Meetings were held every evening of the above mentioned dates at 8:00 o'clock, each service being preceded by a half-hour prayer session in the basement of the church. The church was filled to capacity every evening. Dr. Eastvold spoke on the following themes in the order here given: "A Solemn Warning to All Churches," "The Value of the Soul," "Hastening Lot," "A Good Discovery," "Assurance of Salvation," "Lovely but Lacking." It meant a season of refreshing to those who attended the meetings. Dr. Eastvold is a pastor of the United Norwegian Luth. Church of America.

Rev. N. J. W. Nelson, secretary of our synod, has written an article on the rule recently adopted by our synod, which stipulates that a professor's term of service at Augustana College and Theological seminary expires when he is 67 years old. Rev. Nelson takes issue with that rule on the grounds that we have no adequate pension to offer. He quotes a letter which insists that Dr. C. E. Lindberg died of a broken heart, that Prof. Kjellstrand had worried on the above question, and so he died, and that Prof. Youngert, who never was a better teacher than now, resigned because he did not want to serve at our seminary on grace. The suggestion is made that our synod should again take up the question of mentioned rule. Many will concur in this. Rev. Nelson was for a period of

years pastor in the Columbia Conference.

Mrs. Anna Edwin, Moscow, Idaho, daughter of the late Rev. Peter Carlson, the sainted pioneer of our conference, has written a valued letter to the editor. She indulges in reminiscences of the life of her father in a very beautiful and edifying way. She expresses her joy in being a subscriber to Columbia Lutheran and adds: "May God give you strength and will to keep on working for our church paper of the Columbia Conference." In another letter received last February she expresses this wish: "I hope you will keep right on with that useful Columbia Lutheran." We thank Mrs. Edwin heartily for her encouragements.

Lutherans Highest in Membership Increase

In checking up on the editorial file the editor just came across a clipping he had taken from the Chicago Sunday Tribune of Sept. 21, 1930. The clipping discloses that the Methodists of Chicago spent the highest sum in building operations, while the Lutherans stood highest of all protestant denominations in membership gain. We quote the following: "Chicago Protestant churches spent \$12,539,222 on new church buildings and religious structures during the last year. This figure was given by Walter R. Mee, general secretary of the Chicago Church federation, in the federation's 1930 year book. The first copies of the year book were available yesterday. The Methodist Episcopal church led all others in building enterprises. The year book lists ten congregations of that denomination which have undertaken major building enterprises with a total outlay of \$1,841,000. The largest Methodist building developments have been at the First church of Evanston and at the Wilmette church. In each case the expenditure was \$400,000. The Roch River annual conference of the Methodist church will be held in the new Wilmette church beginning October 1.

"Lutherans of all synods, leaders in 1929, rank a close second to the Methodists with \$1,741,000 spent on new buildings during the same period.

The Lutherans first in membership

"The Lutheran bodies also show the largest membership gain of all Chicago Protestantism in the past year. Episcopalians rank third in building with \$1,267,000 and Baptists are fourth with \$605,000.

"Mr. Mee reported that the evangelism campaign conducted by the church, stimulated by federation activity, culminating at Easter added 65,000 to the church membership rolls. The entire Protestant church growth, including the campaign of evang-

elism, totals an estimated 100,000. The Kernahan Visitation campaign brought a total of 12,546, according to the 200 churches reporting.

"Definite cooperative expansion was pointed out in the federation secretary's report. Mr. Mee's statement declared that probably in no church federation in the country have so many denominations cooperated in as many major religious and welfare movements. The last year, he states, has added Lutheran and Episcopal cooperation to the federation's enterprises. Mr. Mee cited religious survey and Episcopal and Lutheran cooperation in evangelism. The survey has been going forward during the most of the last year and probably will not be completed for two years."

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