

COLUMBIA LUTHERAN



OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LUTHERAN COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

VOL. XX

TACOMA, WASH., MARCH, 1928

NO. 3

Devotional

Smärtornas man

Text: Es. 53: 3

Vår text är hämtad ur det kapitel hos gamla testamentets evangelist, som i gripande ordalag målar för oss vår dyre Frälsares djupaste förnedring, då "Herren kastade allas våra synder uppå honom."

Jesus var inte endast en smärtornas man i ortagården Getsemane eller då han gisslades, törnekröntes och korsfästes. Nej! Över hela hans liv kan man sätta: "Smärtornas man," ty nog var han föraktad, hånad och begäddad från vaggan till graven. Här om kan du läsa i de fyra evangelierna; likaså huru han var av andra övergiven, t. o. m. av sina egna lärjungar, ja, utav Gud själv, då han på korset utropar: "Min Gud, min Gud, varföre har du övergivit mig?" Nog var han "förtrogen med lidandet," ty lidande består inte bara uti kroppsliga smärtor, utan förnämligast i själssmärta. Han kom hit ned från himmelens rena värld till oss i denna av synd besuddlade värld, som ropar om hämnd från en rättfärdig Gud och skapare. Se, t. ex. Jona 1: 2. Omgiven av denna ondskas levde han, Gudamänniskan, ibland oss i tre och trettio år. Vi ha ofta undrat varföre han ej dröjde länge ibland Adams fallna barn. Ja, varföre? Kunde han ej utvärda världssmärta något längre? Vi bara fråga och fortsätta stapplande vår pilgrimsfärd. Varföre har Han inte kommit tillbaka; ej i förnedring utan i härlighet? Så länge själar för varje dag vinnas för hans rike kommer han att dröja med domen, ty han vill frälsa så många som ske kan. Hans stora mission var att frälsa, ej att döma. Detta, att vi äro otåliga emedan han dröjer att komma, tillför Honom smärta. Det höves oss att stå ödmjuka och med tand för tunga inför skriftens djupaste mysterier.

Huru har inte smärtornas man blivit övergiven, icke bara av enskilda utan av hela kyrkosamfund, icke endast uti ett ovärdigt leverne utan uti det som är lika vederstyggligt inför Gud och med ännu svårare följder: falsk lära, som utgått på att förneka vad Kristus utfört till vår försoning, som så tydligt och så värtaligt framställs i detta juvelställe i den heliga

skrift, där vår text är tagen.

Den som bortförklarar Kristi ställföreträdande lidande inför Gud, har stulit den ädlaste juvelen ur kronan på dens huvud, som heter "Konungarnas Konung och herrars Herre." Jesus övergives också, när det yttre i verksamheten blir det centrala och icke den andliga uppbyggelsen. Men därför få vi inte säga, att det yttre är av ondo och i skenheligt fromleri bekämpa detta. Nej! Det ena skall man göra och det andra icke låta. Ja, Jesus var en smärtornas man, förtrogen med lidandet som ingen annan. Sannt sjunger Qvirsfeld: "Så, som Jesu smärta var, aldrig någons varit har."

Tänk bara på törnekronan på hans heliga hjässa! Han var förtrogen med lidandet, men först efter sin mandomsanammelse erfor han detta. Efter sin upphöjelse är Han ju skild från syndare och högre än himmelen, ännu en gång, men genom att stå i andegemenskap med sina troende får han genom dem vara fortfarande förtrogen med lidandet, om vi fatta detta rätt. Tänk huru de kristna i allt varit förtrogna med lidandet. Jag behöver bara nämna apostlarna. Läs t. ex. Pauli självförsvar i 2 Kor. 11 kap. Läs sedan martyrhistorien, icke endast under de tre första århundradena, utan även vad som timat i detta stycke upp till vårt eget tidevarv. Att vara en kristen har stor vinning med sig, mera än vi äro mäktiga att uppskatta, men vilken kristen kan säga, att han ej erfarit något av vad det vill säga att vara förtrogen med lidandet i Jesu efterföljd? Slå upp brevet til hebreerna, det 12 kap.

Ja, Jesu historia visar oss, att han var "lik en för vilken man gömmer sitt ansigte, föraktad, och vi aktade honom icke." Ändå var han Guds enfödde son, den däjligaste bland jordens söner och högre än himmelen. Vem är då här på jorden så stor och härlig som en kristen, fastän så föraktad? Fjellsted säger följande bevingade ord över vår underbara text: "Herrens tjenare Job, som var rättfärdig och from, men blev utsatt för obegripliga lidanden genom Guds underbara tillståndjelse, och misskänd av sina egna vänner, var en lärorik förebild av den lidande, föraktade och misskände Messias, och av Jobs lidande använde profeten många drag för att beskriva Messias förnedringstillstånd. (Se Job 2: 7, 8). Job blev föraktad av sina vänner; Kristus föraktades av sitt eget folk (Joh. 7: 48), och genomgick alla li-

danden och prövningar såsom en, för vilken man bortgömmar ansigtet (Ps. 31: 12). Den otrogna världen föraktar honom nu, likasom de otrogna judarna korsfäste honom såsom en missgärningsman och ristade sina huvuden emot honom."

Vad det nu än må kosta, "lätom oss gå utanför lägret med honom för att lida hans smälek," ty sent omsider skola vi få regera med honom. Vad allt detta innebär få vi kännedom om i de rättfärdigas uppståndelse.

Herre Jesus Kristus, du smärtornas man, hjälp mig att under denna fastlagstid innerligare blicka upp till dig än någonsin före, att jag må, av hjärtat tacka dig för vad du gjort för min frälsning. Hjälp mig att villigt tjäna dig såsom ett tacksamhetsoffer vad det än månne kosta av smälek, förakt och smärta. Min frälsare! Mätte du under denna heliga fastlagstid vinna många själar genom vittnesbördet om din försoningsdöd, du Guds lamm, som borttager världens synder.

När jag skall gå över dödens mörka flod, måtte då glansen från de sår, som törnekronan, gisselslagen, spikarna och lansstynget vållade dig, lysa mig tills jag hunnit fram till perleportarna till det nya Jerusalems härliga stad. Men käre Frälsare! Jag behöver ock ljus på törnbestrodd mörk levnadsstig. Amen.

"Hastigt tidens ström förrinner,
Livets eld så snabbt förbeinner,
Våra dagar äro få;
Håll oss, Herre, vid det ena:
Dig att älska, dig att tjäna,
Hur än allting växla må!"

J. A. Edlund.

Herrens ljuvlighets ström

Av din ljuvlighets ström giver du dem att dricka. (Ps. 36: 9.)

Det är av Guds dyrbara nåd psalmisten fått njuta, och därför sjunger han i helig hänförelse om Guds ljuvlighets ström. Han ser den rinna fram i Herrens gårdar. Han talar nämligen i detta sammanhang om templet, ty om dem, som taga sin tillflykt under Herrens vingars skugga, säger han, att de varda mättade av Guds hus' rika hävor.

Passionstidens huvudämne är Kristus i sitt bittra lidande och död till vår frälsning. Med detta vilja vi sammanställa det ämne och det bibelord, inför vilket vi nu önska att stanna. Herrens ljuvlighets

COLUMBIA LUTHERAN

Official Organ of the Columbia Conference of the Lutheran Augustana Synod.

Published at
1125 Tacoma Avenue South, Tacoma, Wash.

Entered as second class matter January 14, 1910
at the Post Office at Tacoma, Washington.

RATES:

Subscription for one year50c
For one year to foreign country.....75c
Advertising, per inch per single column.....50c

Columbia Lutheran circulates mainly in the states of Washington, Oregon, northern Idaho, and the province of British Columbia. It is therefore a good advertising medium to reach our people in the great Pacific Northwest. For advertising information and rates communicate with the Manager of this paper.

All communications with reference to subscriptions and advertising should be addressed to the Manager.

All manuscripts, articles, and contributions should be in the hands of the Editor not later than the 15th of each month.

REV. G. A. HERBERT, Editor
2043 West 64th Street Seattle, Wash.
REV. B. T. ERHOLM, Manager
165 West 65th Street Seattle, Wash.

ström blir då det blod, som, till försoning för våra synder, rann ned för korssets träd. Det var visserligen icke en ljuvlighetsström av vilken Jesus drack. Nej, det var en bitter kalk han tömde. Den var så bitter, att han i örtagården i den förfärligaste ängslan och vända bad: "Abba Fader! Allt är möjligt för dig: om det är möjligt, gånge denna kalk ifrån mig. Dock icke såsom jag vill utan som du." Den var så bitter, den kalken, att Jesus på korset fick erfara den förfärliga hemskheten utav att vara av Gud övergiven: "Min Gud, min Gud, varför har du övergivit mig?" ropar han därför under de svåraste kval. Ja, tänk vilken bitterhetens ström det var av vilken Jesus fick dricka. Han var en smärtornas man och lik en för vilken man gömmer sitt ansikte. "Såsom Jesu smärta var, aldrig någons varit har."

Jesus drack lidandets bittra kalk, på det att vi i honom måtte hava återlösningen genom hans blod, syndernas förlåtelse genom hans nåds rikedom. (Ef. 1: 7.) Han frambar uti sitt lidande och genom sin död ett försoningsoffer, det evinnerligen gällar. Han gjorde allt på det att vi måtte finna nåd hos Gud. Han drack korssets bittra galla, att vi evigt måtte undslippa fördörelsens hemska dryck.

Av Herrens ljuvlighetsström få vi nu dricka. Det är Herren som räcker oss den drycken. Den räcktes oss genom den nåd, som vederfors oss i dopet. Vilken ljuvlighetsström vi drucko av, då Herren Gud gjorde oss till sina barn. Huru rikt nådens källa framvällade för vår späda invärtes människa, som vi i dopets bad blevo rentvagna. Ja, om dopstunden sjunga vi ju i psalmen: "Då blev hjärtat rikt begåvat av en himmelsk far och vän." Men vad var det för nåd, som oss i dopet så härligt vederfors? Jo, det var "nåden i Guds hjärta, den Jesus bragt oss fram, då han för oss i smärta blev död på korssets stam."

Av Herrens ljuvlighetsström få vi dricka vid nattvardsbordet. Där äta vi ju och dricka till Jesu döds åminnelse. Där skänker han oss sin egen på korset brutna lekamen och sitt eget på förbannelsens träd utgjutna blod. Vilken ljuvlighetsström vi här finna! Det är ljuvligt för den efter rättfärdighet hungrande och törstande själen att vid Jesu bord bliva bespisad och vederkvickt med hans himmelska rätter. Det är ljuvligt att inför Jesus få knäfalla för att av honom bliva vederkvickt till själen, stärkt till den invärtes människan. Det är saligt att komma inför Jesus vid hans bord för att där bliva stärkt till tro och för att där få mottaga förnyad förvisning om syndernas förlåtelse. Saligt är det att få göra allt till Jesu åminnelse: att få besinna, att det icke är för egna dygders skull, som jag får se himlavägen öppen framför mig, utan att det är för Jesu lidandes och döds skull, som jag får vänta att till sist ärva evigt liv. Saligt det är för den syndbelastade att på Golgatha höjd få finna på de "fem källor små, som giva liv och hälsa."

I Guds ord rinner Herrens ljuvlighetsström fram. Här ha vi nämligen det evangelium, som har såsom sin grundton, att Jesus har köpt oss åt Gud med sitt blod. Ja, här ha vi förkunnelsen om den rika och överflödande nåden. Guds ord var ljuvligt för psalmisten; "Din muns lag är mig bättre än mång tusen stycken guld och silver." "Huru ljuvt för min mun är icke ditt tal! Det är ljuvligare än honung för min mun." Och vidare säger han: "Din nåd vare min tröst, såsom du talat till din tjänare." (Ps. 119: 76.) För vems skull vederfors honom då denna nåd? Jo, för Jesu skull. Korset höjer sig, fast ännu profetiskt, i det lilla ordet nåd, såsom det i gamla testamentet brukas. Även för Psalmistens synd led Jesus. Ja, t. o. m. Israels folk fick under ökenvandringen dricka av nådens ljuvlighetsström, som framväller i Jesus. I det nytestamentliga ordet heter det nämligen, att en andlig klippa medföljde Israel, ur vilken detta folk fick dricka, och klippan var Kristus.

Vi ha denna andliga klippa uti Guds ord, i korssets evangelium. Ur denna få vi dricka under ökenvandringen. Genom sitt evangelium talar Jesus så trösterikt till alla fattiga syndare. Till den samaritiska kvinnan talade han om det levandet vattnet. I passionshistoriens ord, i korssets evangelium talar han ännu till frälsnings-sökandes vederkvickelse. Här giver han oss ännu av sin ljuvlighetsström att dricka. Med sångaren böra vi därför i helig hänförelse särskilt under fastlagstiden kunna sjunga: "Den klippa som följer med springkällans våg, Är Kristus, hans renande blod. Där lever vårt hjärta, Där lever vårt hjärta, Där fröjdas vårt hjärta, Där livas vårt mod."

H. P. Johnson.

Editorial

Women's Missionary Society

In this issue we publish some of the annual reports of the Women's Missionary Society of the various districts. This gives an insight into the work of this society in our Conference. We note that the women have their difficulties also. The past year has not been a year of any notable increase for the W. M. S. either, but we must nevertheless be thankful to retain what we have and able to continue to function year after year. There would be much to say with reference to the W. M. S., but space does not permit this time. This society endeavors to keep alive the missionary fires in our various congregations. The women of this organization should not only be intent upon raising certain sums of money but also to be missionaries in their own home congregations, not only to recruit members for their society but also for their church. No doubt this is the primary purpose of the W. M. S. and may the women of our Conference live up to that purpose. It is our sincere hope that the W. M. S. may some day adopt a unified and simplified system of gathering funds. As it is now it seems very confusing. Here's wishing all success and God's richest blessings upon our W. M. S.

Reports and Reports

A number of annual reports have been published in this and the previous issue of our paper. They have taken up much space but they have not been inserted just to fill in. This is the official Conference paper and it is therefore proper to publish official reports in it although they may take up much valuable room. But if I am editor next year I shall not print the reports in full as has been the case this year but insert only excerpts and data that may be of general interest to our readers and which will further God's Kingdom among us. That's what I'll do next time. So much space has been taken by these reports that there is hardly anything left for the editor to express his views. We are indeed thankful, however, to those who were instrumental in getting these reports together for publication. After this there will be more room for more news, more articles, and more editorials. The April number will be designated "Columbia Conference Number." The Conference meets in that month and it is our plan to publish the official call, the official program, and also articles about the various institutions of the Conference together with some things concerning the convention church and city. We hope that these plans will be realized.

Contributed

Annual Report of the President of Mt. Baker District

(Cont'd from January issue)

Thus effective evangelistic work on Lutheran principles might be carried on and greater results obtained. As it has been the pastors and the local congregations have received great blessings through these meetings of the district, but it is questionable whether the district has sought to enlarge its borders as it should and gather in the unchurched who can often be reached only by special efforts. The problem is one well worthy of our serious and prayerful consideration and should receive this consideration at our annual meeting today.

The district is not without its difficult problems that call for a satisfactory solution. There are old fields in need of better care and new fields calling for help. The Anacortes field is one of the former. What to do with it has been a troublesome question through the year. As it is, it must be served by a non-resident pastor who can hold services only in the afternoon. This is very unsatisfactory. It is a mooted question whether the field will justify placing a permanent man there. Discouraged by the uncertainty of their status, the congregation at Anacortes decided at its annual meeting to discontinue all its services for the present but to continue its organization, also the Ladies' Aid. Perhaps this was the only thing to do. If not, the District should today take definite action to remedy a situation which can not long continue with blessing to our work.

The Immanuel congregation at Edgecomb presents another difficult problem. Upon the completion of the Marysville cut-off last fall, a highway improvement which brings Edgecomb within a distance of 12 miles from Everett and some of the members still nearer, the district recommended to the Immanuel congregation to merge its work with that of Zion church of Everett. This recommendation was passed also for the reason that the membership of the Immanuel congregation is very small and it is doubtful that the field will justify continued effort there in the future unless a renewed interest on the part of the present members and the people of the community is manifested. Even then the field is very limited. The recommendation was presented to the Immanuel congregation but no action was taken until at the annual meeting. The sentiment there was strongly against merging with Everett. A very marked sentiment to abandon the work was also evident. Upon a suggestion from the pastor it was finally

decided to ask the president of the Conference and a representative from the Conference board to meet with the Immanuel congregation with a view to ascertaining the course to be followed. There the matter rests at present.

The past year has witnessed the removal of one brother from the ranks of the pastors and the coming of another. The brother who left us and whose splendid gifts we hope are being used in the service of the Lord on the field in Alberta, Canada, left a great void not only in our midst but in our hearts. Truly we miss the inspiration of the sanctified and consecrated brother, Rev. Otto Eklund. With the mother of Jesus we say, "Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us?" But we are grateful to God who in His mercy has already filled the ranks left open by brother Eklund's departure. As a district we consider ourselves fortunate in having been permitted to welcome to our midst the Rev. Dr. Joseph A. Anderson from Boxholm, Iowa, and brother of the sainted Dr. G. A. Anderson, also for many years secretary of the Augustana Synod, past president of the Iowa Conference and member of the Board of Directors of Augustana College and Theological Seminary. With his wealth of experience gathered through long years of service in these various capacities we feel that our ranks have been strengthened with no small reinforcement, by the coming of Dr. Anderson. Again we bid him welcome and wish him much joy and blessing in the work of the Mt. Baker district.

The work at Vancouver, B. C., has been cared for by brother A. G. Anderson since the removal of Rev. Eklund. On account of this the work on the field in B. C. has been greatly neglected the past half year. It is hoped that a pastor will soon be had for the Vancouver congregation so that Rev. Anderson can again devote his time to his regular work on the difficult field in the camps and mining towns of British Columbia. The Rev. J. E. Rydback of Cadillac, Mich., has been called to Vancouver charge and it is the sincere prayer and hope of the district that this brother will accept the care for the work in this important place. Brother O. W. Westling now in charge at Lynden and Clearbrook has been called to the field in New Westminster, B. C., and near-lying points. What this good brother will do is unknown as yet.

Regarding the external achievements of the congregation little need be said in this report since the report of the statistician will cover that. Reference should however be made to the completion of the splendid new edifice in which we meet today. We as a district rejoice over this outstanding achievement in our midst. While this and other improvements may not always be the

measure of real saving faith and genuine Christian love in the hearts of the people, they are indications that the seed of such faith and love has been sown and that the sowing has not been altogether in vain. We congratulate the Salem congregation upon the completion of their new church home during the past year and wish them God's richest blessing in the work of completing the task of eradicating the remaining debt. Dr. Anderson reports the purchase of a commodious parsonage by the Bethlehem congregation of Sedro-Woolley which has also been very much improved since it was acquired. This too is a very commendable step. The Bellingham congregation has renovated its parsonage and important changes have been made in the church kitchen. The Zion congregation of Everett has reshingled the roof of its parsonage and installed a new furnace in the church at a cost of \$500. As far as we are able to ascertain all congregations have met their obligations to the Conference and Synod.

As to the spiritual condition in our churches much might be said but perhaps it can be briefly summarized in the statement, "there is room for improvement." We live in a materialistic age and materialistic influences and viewpoints wedge in here and there even in the church. Worldliness, formalism, machinery! Of this we have plenty, but of fellowship with God in prayer, praise and thanksgiving and of burning self-sacrificing love that gives of time, talents and effort that souls might be won for Christ—what a dearth. God have mercy, God forgive. Oh that there might be a revival of faith and love in our hearts, an outpouring of the Spirit of God in Pentecostal power, a revival that will bring men and women to their knees in true contrition and repentance and bring about a consecration of the whole being to the Lord and the work of His glorious church. For that we should pray. To that end we should preach. With that in view we should start the work of the new year in our district and continue to pray, preach and labor until a revival comes. Pastors and laymen, let us not fear that word. It is biblical. It is our great need, and it must begin with the people of God.

The undersigned begs to be pardoned for all inefficiency and short-comings in his work as chairman of the district since the departure of the duly-elected chairman, Rev. Otto Eklund, and also to express his thanks for the confidence reposed in him and for the privilege of serving in this capacity. May "now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever.

Amen." Heb. 13: 20-21.

Respectfully submitted,
G. Ahnquist.

The Mount Baker District

The annual meeting of the Mt. Baker district was held in the Salem Lutheran Church of Mount Vernon, Wash., Jan. 24-25, 1928. A full delegation of pastors and laymen were present. Our good brother, who was our host, had returned from North Easton, Mass., the evening before, where he had been on the sad mission of laying his sainted mother to rest under the sod "in God's acre." The Mount Baker district tenders its sincere and heart felt sympathy to Rev. M. L. Swanson in his bereavement. We know that his mother, Mrs. Swanson, was a warm-hearted Christian, who reared her son in the "fear and admonition of the Lord." This noble mother gave us this splendid pastor, who so faithfully serves Christ and His church, and our Columbia Conference as well. We thank God for this mother in Christ for what she was in her home and in His church. Now she is at home waiting for her dear ones, just like other sainted ones, in their "mansions" are waiting for us.

Our meeting in Salem was profitable to us. The sermons were freighted with divine messages. They quickened us to more whole-hearted service of Christ and His Church. The sacred word of God is "the green pastures and still waters" where the flocks are fed and refreshed together with their undershepherds in Christ.

At the business session Wednesday morning Rev. C. G. H. Ahnquist was elected president, Rev. Luther Cornay vice president, Dr. Joseph Anderson secretary and statistician, Rev. M. L. Swanson treasurer, Mr. Leonard Loreen archivist. It was decided to conduct Lenten services in each pastorate. The services are arranged that they begin on February 20, and continue one week in each place until Holy week. Each local pastor prepares the program jointly with the visiting pastor.

Among reports rendered the news came that we discontinue our work in Anacortes. The congregation there elected officers for the year 1928, and will continue as an organization.

The discussion in the afternoon was inspirational. Dr. Joseph Anderson introduced the subject so ably that there did not seem to be room for addenda. "The Dangers, Temptations, and Advantages of the Christian Home" was the theme for the afternoon based on the story of Jesus visit in the home of Zaccheus. Every member of our Conference should have heard that discussion.

Now we have written our first page for the Mount Baker District for 1928. We

began in Jesus name and concluded it around His Cross at the Holy Communion table together. Here the delegates to the Women's Missionary Society's annual meeting together with the lay delegates and pastors of the district knelt at the same holy table. There grace and forgiveness were given for transgression and sin. We received added strength to continue our work as a district and individual congregations.

Our district meetings are spiritual retreats. We value them beyond measure. There is something divinely attractive about the Lutheran parsonage. The atmosphere in the Salem parsonage is invigorating. We experienced this at our meeting. There is co-operation of pastor and members. This came home to us with renewed meaning, when we sat down to the tables filled with palatable food. On behalf of the Mount Baker district we thank Rev. M. L. Swanson and wife for their kindness to us during our third annual meeting. We also thank those who housed us; and grateful thanks to those women who fed us. Lastly, hearty thanks to the pastor again and to the members of Salem.

Luther Cornay.

Portland District W. M. S.

To the Women's Missionary Society of the Portland District:

Dear fellow members, grace and peace! Another year has passed and we have again gathered together as a district to summarize the work of the past year of the Women's Missionary Society to see what we have gained, where we have failed and study together the problems which confront us during the coming year.

It was truly interesting and a joy to read the letter which came with the various reports from the local societies. In so many cases the writer said, "We have done as much as we could" or "Next year perhaps we can do better." It proves to us that the Lord is blessing them in their work and inspiring them to bigger and better things from year to year.

May He ever lead us on to greater endeavor, so we can serve Him and His kingdom in larger ways. Let us not only serve Him, but truly follow Him as well, that others may catch our inspiration and join us in our activities and with us reap the joys and privileges of such a service under such a leader as our Savior.

Some reports show a good gain and others a slight decrease in activity and accomplishment. But we should not allow this to discourage us. Sometimes these declines are caused by various local circumstances and conditions that cannot be controlled.

Sometimes the reports from the various societies were inconsistent and do not bal-

ance with previous reports, so it is impossible to render an entirely accurate account of statistics. We hope by another year, headquarters will devise a more simple report blank, so it will be possible for the local societies to send in an accurate and clear report.

There is a slight drop in membership during the past year in both the adult and junior societies. We now have a total of 259 adults and 143 juniors, making a grand total of 402.

We have 67 life members, 62 adult and 5 junior. Please remember the funds for life members are now divided between Bethphage and the Seamen's and Loggers' mission.

We are glad to report that we now have 168 Mission Tidings subscribers, which is a gain of 25 over last year. But this is still less than 50 per cent. of our membership. Let us continue to work for more Mission Tidings subscribers. It is only through studying and becoming informed, that we truly become interested in this great field of activity.

The financial totals are as follows:

Adult	\$1,146.90
Junior	238.62

Total.....\$1,385.52

We are very glad to report that Brush Prairie is again a contributing society during 1927.

Last fall we had a very interesting district meeting out at Warren. In the afternoon we held a short business session, when we discussed various small matters that could not wait until the annual meeting. In the evening we had a fine rally. Rev. Johnson of the Immanuel church gave a very splendid address and Rev. Bloomquist of Augustana gave us a very good talk as substitute for Mrs. Karlstrom of Seattle, who was unable to be with us at the last moment. The music of the evening was furnished by a missionary chorus composed of women from the various local societies.

We have had interesting visits during the past year from Anna Olson, Miss Anderson and Augusta Highland. The two missionaries visited some of the congregations several times and all brought a good deal of information and inspiration.

Please let us urge you to work for a much larger missionary membership during 1928. There are still 50 per cent. of our women and Sunday school children who are not yet engaged in this wonderful field of labor. Isn't it possible to make every local society 100 per cent. members during this year, and as a result double our district membership and help swell the Conference membership to 2,000 by 1929.

One member is offering a \$10 donation to the adult society in the district getting the greatest number of new members during February, March and April. Let us

accept this challenge and double our district membership.

Let us also organize young women's societies wherever feasible.

May God richly bless us during this coming year and help us to work with greater zeal and energy that His kingdom may be extended throughout the world.

Mrs. Melvin Hult, President.

W. M. S. of the Tacoma District President's Report

To the Woman's Missionary Society of the Tacoma District:

Peace! "I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and be thou a blessing." Gen. 12: 2.

When God blesses us with gifts of any kind, He wants us to be a blessing to others. Nothing He gives us is for ourselves alone; we receive that we may give again.

So far as we can see it is God's plan to convert the world through man's effort for men. Christ said, "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." Whatever gift God has bestowed upon us, He wants us to use it to bless others. Maybe you have been blessed with vigor and strength. He says, "I will bless thee with these; now be thou a blessing to others through these gifts."

Maybe God has blessed you with the possession of influence and the respect of your neighbors. These are gifts you may employ to bless the world. God may have blessed you as mothers. You have the love of your family as a rich gift; then be a blessing by using a parents' influence to lead your household to Christ. God may have blessed you with means. Then be a blessing in helping the poor, and in supporting and spreading the gospel. Yes God has blessed us. There is not one of us but has some talent, some opportunity, some way in which we have been blessed, that we may use, in turn, in blessing others. But our success depends upon our following it. What a blessing our Missionary society would be if all of our members become conscious of their personal opportunities and responsibilities. All Christian work succeeds largely in proportion as individual Christians become possessed with the sense of their personal duty.

Let us thank God for the blessings we have received and may His Spirit so fill the hearts of each and all of us that we may make use of the talents and opportunities that we have to the honor and glory of His name and to the furtherance of His kingdom here on earth.

We have no special achievements to report, yet we have been richly blessed and in some measure done something for the Master.

Organizing

Two new societies have been organized during the year. Messiah, Auburn, was organized on the 15th of February. They report twenty-two members and Central, Yakima, was organized on the 22nd of November, and have nineteen annual and four life members. This makes fourteen adult societies. Emmaus, Seattle, has organized the first young woman's society in our district with a membership of twenty-one girls. We welcome these new organizations and may God bless their work. Our membership has increased some over last year. The reports are as follows:

	Annuals	Life	Honorary	Total
Adult	423	84	3	510
Young	21	21
Juniors	396	24	420

Total membership 951

For the adult societies this makes a gain of 52 new annuals and nine new life members, but the actual gain over last year is only 47. We have no record of members dropped. According to reports there have been four deaths. The Junior secretary will give the Junior report in detail.

In Memoriam

We have ten In Memoriam, three more than was reported last year.

Mission Tidings

has 314 subscribers, 47 of these being new, but like in the membership report so many subscribers have been dropped that the actual gain is only 26 subscribers. If we should judge the missionary interest according to subscribers in most of our societies it would surely be very little. Think of it, only 47 new subscribers in a whole district and 38 of those have been gotten in two churches. Here is where some of our talents could be put to work and should be. May we not see an improvement by next year?

(To be Cont'd)

Columbia Hospital, Astoria

In compliance with the request of the editor the undersigned is happy to report the following news from our youngest institution of mercy, the Columbia Hospital, Astoria, Ore. The Conference Board of Trustees met at the hospital Wednesday, February 1. The afternoon was spent in considering matters of importance in the general work of the Conference. All the members of the board were present. We were pleased to receive communication from Rev. G. A. Herbert, accepting the call as editor of the Columbia Lutheran. Rev. Ben Erholm informed us that he will serve as manager of the paper until he moves to another field in June. Rev. E. A. Larson informed us of having accepted the call to the Tacoma-Auburn field, and that he was already on the field. Rev. O.

W. Westling formally accepted the call extended to him to serve in New Westminster and surrounding territory as missionary pastor. Dr. Albert Okerstrom was formally welcomed by the president of the board, Dr. C. R. Swanson. So much for the business session that might be of general interest.

The board went to Astoria this time to hear how the new hospital is functioning, and to welcome its new superintendent. From the reports given we have reasons to believe that the institution will be a success. Mr. J. A. Nordeen has served faithfully and well since the untimely demise of Rev. A. V. Anderson, as superintendent. There were at the time of this meeting about forty patients in the hospital. The institution enjoys the good will and interest of the citizens of Astoria and vicinity. It has made a good beginning in spite of difficulties. We feel that the future of the institution is safe in the hands of the new superintendent and the splendid men who constitute the hospital committee.

An informal reception in honor of Dr. Okerstrom and family was held in the evening. The medical staff of the hospital was present together with a number of other prominent citizens of Astoria. Dr. C. R. Swanson presided. In his address of welcome to the new superintendent and his family Dr. Swanson told the story of the hospital in brief, and expressed the hope that Dr. Okerstrom may see it develop in its great mission into an institution of which the Conference and the community may reap many blessings. Dr. Toivo Forsstrom, president of the medical staff, speaking in behalf of his colleagues, emphasized that the fact that Dr. Okerstrom is a medical man will mean much to the doctors in the solution of their problems from time to time. The next speaker on the program was Hon. David Lofgren of Portland. Giving some personal reminiscences from his association with the folks in Astoria he expressed the hope that the people of Astoria may rally to the support of the new superintendent and his good wife in their labor among them. State Senator A. W. Nordblad spoke very forcefully on the impression this hospital already has made on the community and pledged his support. He also said some very fine things about Mrs. Okerstrom, judging her from her appearance, in the light of twenty years of experience with people in the legal profession. Mr. J. S. Dellinger, publisher of the Morning Astorian, expressed his hope that the Doctor and his wife and son will find Astoria a pleasant and hospitable community in which to live and labor. There was a happy note in all these speeches, full of appreciation and hope for the new institution.

The responses of Dr. and Mrs. Okerstrom deserve a paragraph of their own. The Doctor spoke of his early experiences in the medical profession and of the church which during his service of seven years has grown to one of the strongest Lutheran churches in the great city of Detroit, Mich. He said that he had cherished the hope to come to the west, but had never thought that he would get here so soon. He was favorably impressed with the institutions and the people connected with it and promised to enter into the work wholeheartedly, with the hope of full cooperation and support of the Conference and of the people of Astoria. The last speaker on the program was Mrs. Okerstrom. She proved to be just the person prophesied by Senator Nordblad. They all said that she made the best speech. She told some very interesting things about her husband. She said that, inspired by the beautiful hair of our venerable Conference president, Dr. Okerstrom had come out here in the hope that he, too, might develop a new crop of hair. She said something about the rainy season and August for which Astoria is famous; but she hastened to add that she had already learned to like her new home and that she wanted to be an active member of the church and social family of the city.

A social hour followed during which refreshments were served by the nurses, under the supervision of Mrs. Okerstrom and Miss Nannie Munson, the superintendent of nurses.

P. H. N.

Central Lutheran Church, Yakima

The last two years have seen quite a change in our work on this field. Three former congregations have merged into one and affiliated with the Columbia Conference. This is of great significance in the solution of our home missionary problems. It proves that where there is a will and a larger vision on the part of our Lutheran people they will unite their forces into a common effort for a wiser distribution of men and means and for the creation of a Lutheran consciousness on the basis of the Augsburg Confession rather than along the line of nationalistic peculiarities and differences. We who are engaged in this work realize its difficulties. We may not live to see this new thing in its development after it has passed the stage of "getting started," and this stage may be long and knotty enough, but, knowing that we are on the right track, we do not mind being spent in the effort. There are other places where similar mergers could be made, but for the lack of vision and love for the kingdom on the part of our people. We know from bitter experience that this is true. As soon as this church had voted in favor of

affiliating with the Columbia Conference there were a number who lost interest in it. They said: Now it is a Swedish church, ergo we can't belong. On the basis of this sentiment, for it is a sentiment only, they dropped out, to our sincere regret. But the great majority said: Never mind, we are determined to sacrifice our own preferences, if such there be, and line up with this new church in which we see the only hope for success. They did, praise God! The Swedes ought to be satisfied. I think they are, as a rule. They certainly ought to be. The Norwegian brethren are satisfied. To the honor of these brethren we can truthfully say that they have never expressed any dissatisfaction with the decision, and they are heart and soul in this work. The same is true of many of the former Holy Trinity group. With the support and sympathy of the Columbia conference, and with the good will and confidence of the other two bodies making this church possible in the first place, the Central Lutheran Church has adopted the rules of conduct as advocated by the great apostle Paul in Phil. 3: 13-12, "But one thing I do, forgetting the things which are behind, and stretching forward to the things that are before, I press on toward the goal unto the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

Our services are generally well attended. This is true regarding the morning services. The evening services are a source of grief for poor attendance, as a rule. Our early service Christmas morning was well attended. The early service is very much favored also with those of our members who were not accustomed to it before. The Pastor received an offering of \$40. The children's program, held the day after Christmas, and the sacred concert, rendered by the choir under the efficient leadership of Miss Agnes Anderson and our organist Kenneth Wahlstrom on New Year's day in the evening, were well attended.

Our annual business meeting was held Friday evening, January 13. Among items of interest may be mentioned that according to the report \$1,755.61 had been paid during the year on the debt of our present church property. A lot adjoining the church was purchased during the year for the sum of \$600.00. Only part of this sum has been paid to date. The property of the former Immanuel congregation was sold during the year for the sum of \$1,500.00 cash. It was decided to remodel the basement of the church during the year and to make necessary repairs on the roof. The organist's salary was raised to \$240 for the year. The membership of the congregation is 168 communicants and 58 children. Fifteen children and two adults were baptized during the year. Four



HEADQUARTERS for best

Scandinavian Records.
Our stock of records
include the best of the
Scandinavian music. It
is a very complete se-
lection.

Listed are three new
records you should be
sure to hear.

No. 72892 — Björnebor-
garnes marsch (orke-
ster) och Finska Rytte-
riets Marsh (orkester)
No. 69,937 — "Verka, ty
natten kommer," (The
Brooklyn Swed. Male
Quartet) och "Hällen
fästet till jag kommer"
af samma kvartett.

75c stycket

Records post paid to
any point in Washing-
ton.

B. A. Almvig, Manager
RHODES BROS.
6th Floor Tacoma



Main 7314

LIEN'S PHARMACY

Lien & Selvig

Skandinaviskt apotek

Agenter för Salubrin och Hesselroths
Flussplåster

1102 Tacoma Ave.

Tacoma

TACOMA TITLE CO.

Abstracts of Title and Title Insurance

ALMIN L. SWANSON

Pres. and Mgr.

Main 2331

Bankers Trust Bldg.

C. O. LYNN CO.

Svensk Likbesörjare

717-719 Tacoma Ave.

Tacoma

HOTEL SAMSON

13de och E Streets

Tacoma

Steam-heated Rooms

Det största och bästa svenska hotell
i Tacoma

adults and twelve children were confirmed and sixteen communicants and twelve children were received on confession of faith.

On Friday evening, February 3, a Father and Son banquet was held. It was the first of its kind in the history of this church, and it was a wonderful success. About seventy men and boys were gathered around the tables. As we have no brotherhood as yet, the board of deacons, assisted by a committee of women, had charge of the affair. Rev. G. K. Andeen of Spokane was the speaker for the evening; and he did well. Our men were inspired and almost convinced that they are not fulfilling all righteousness as church members; and some of them indicated that they were thinking seriously of reform. An evening like that, facing the problems together, means much to our men.

P. H. N.

Twentieth Anniversary of Bethel Church of Seattle

Jan. 29—31, 1928

The twentieth anniversary of Bethel Church, Ballard, Seattle, was held Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 29—31. The first service was held on Sunday evening, Jan. 29, at which time the former pastors of the congregation were remembered and honored. Rev. Luther Cornay, a former pastor, was present and delivered a splendid sermon on the theme, "Bethel, the House of God and the Gate of Heaven." Greetings had been received from the other pastors which were read at this service. The following pastors have served this congregation during the past twenty years: Revs. Herman Lind, 1908—10; J. Gullans, 1910—11; C. E. Frisk, 1911—15; Axel M. Green, 1915—17; Albert Loreen, 1917—18; Luther Cornay, 1918—23; G. A. Herbert, 1923—.

On Monday evening an Old Timers Festival was held when the charter members and the pioneers were honored. It was a unique service but well worth while. An excellent program was given. Mrs. John Olson, for many years organist of this church, and her daughter Mrs. Blaine Petersen represented the pioneers on the program by singing a duett very effectively. Mrs. Ernst Swanson told of the early stages of the young peoples movement in the church. Rev. Cornay spoke on "What about the past and what about the future?" Rev. Karlstrom was present and greeted the old timers which was certainly well received. After the service all were invited to the church parlors where the old timers held a birthday party. In the center of the serving table was a birthday cake with twenty candles. This cake was cut and served by two of the old pioneers, Mrs. John E. Ostrom and Mrs. L. Lindholm. Refreshments were

served by the old timers. Truly it can be said of this festival: "A good time was had by all."

On Tuesday the church was host to the annual meeting of the Tacoma district and the district Women's Missionary society. The business sessions were held in the forenoon. The annual missionary festival was held in the afternoon and the big anniversary festival was held in the evening. Rev. C. Thunberg, Olympia, read appropriate Scripture selections and offered prayer. Rev. G. A. Herbert, the local pastor, read a history of the congregation. Rev. O. B. Hanson, a former vice pastor, spoke on the theme, "This Congregation at Present or The Necessity and Privileges of Church Membership." Rev. P. H. Nordlander of Yakima spoke on "This Congregation in the Future, or, Going Ahead." Felicitations and greetings were given by Rev. C. J. Renhard for the district, Rev. B. T. Erholm for the sister churches of Seattle, and Dr. C. R. Swanson of the mother church and the Conference. The resolutions of the Women's Missionary society were read by Mrs. J. W. Unis of Seattle. The benediction was pronounced by Rev. E. Arthur Larson, Tacoma.

Great were these festive days. The crowds were splendid and meetings were inspirational. May they have done much good. God prosper Bethel church in Ballard. This church has an important and almost critical field on account of competition from so many other denominations. But may our church go forward even in Ballard. Then will the rejoicing be still greater at the fortieth anniversary.

Items of Interest

"I Have Heard That—"

Rev. C. G. H. Ahnquist of Everett attended the annual meeting of the Luther League Council of the Augustana Synod held at Chicago Feb. 10—11. Dr. Hartelius and Rev. Erholm occupied his pulpit during his absence.

Rev. O. W. Westling has accepted the call to New Westminster, B. C., and Dr. J. E. Rydbeck has declined the call to Vancouver, B. C.

Rev. Hjalmar Olson has been called to Emmaus, Seattle, to succeed Rev. B. T. Erholm. Rev. Olson at one time served Emmaus church as student pastor.

Rev. C. G. Bloomquist of Portland was on February 15 called to succeed Rev. O. B. Hanson as pastor of Bethany, Green Lake, Seattle.

Evangelistic meetings were held at Spokane under the auspices of all the Lutheran churches of that city February 5—19. Rev. A. B. Anderson of the Lutheran Bible



Vid behof af

**Biblar
Psalmböcker
Sångböcker
Skolböcker
Uppbyggelseböcker**

eller hvad
som helst
i bokväg

tillskrif eller besök

Augustana Book Concern

Rock Island, Illinois

405 Fourth Street So., Minneapolis, Minn.

1110 South K Street
TACOMA
THE

NATIONAL BANK OF TACOMA

Member Federal Reserve System

En trygg plats
för edra besparingar
Twelfth and Pacific Avenue

I you want advice as to INSURANCE OF ALL KINDS

write or call

Dr. H. F. H. Hartelius

Address communications to him at
305 White Bldg., Seattle, or tele-
phone him at Elliott 4641.

Advice and estimates free of cost
for return postage

USE

GOLDEN ROD BUTTER

Miller Bros.

TACOMA'S BEST

1531 Broadway

**Kungliga
Svenska Vicekonsulatet**
för

WASHINGTON, IDAHO, ALASKA

ERIC BRATTSTROM

Vice konsul

209 White Bldg.

Seattle

Institute of St. Paul was the evangelist. Concerning the campaign Rev. G. K. Andeen writes, "The spirit and power of Rev. Anderson's messages are simply remarkable and we all live in joyful anticipation of a deeper spiritual life among our own people. By the grace of God this campaign will undoubtedly prove to be a most blessed pre-Lenten preparation for our church work in general, creating a proper atmosphere for Bible study and devotional life, at the same time that it serves as an impetus to personal work for the winning of souls for the glory of Christ."

Rev. E. A. Larson Welcomed

Rev. E. Arthur Larson has moved to Tacoma from Astoria and assumed charge of the Messiah, Auburn—Bethel, Tacoma pastorate. For Wednesday evening, February 8, he announced a meeting in the church at Auburn for the organization of a choir. Instead of a choir he doubtless thought that he would organize a large chorus judging from the number of people who had assembled that evening. But they had not come to join the choir but to join in an anthem of praise for the privilege of having a new pastor. Rev. Larson was duly welcomed by the Messiah congregation that evening. Dr. C. R. Swanson spoke in behalf of the Conference and Mrs. C. R. Swanson in behalf of the Women's Missionary Society. Mrs. John W. Unis of Seattle directed words of welcome to Mrs. Larson. Mrs. Unis and Mrs. Larson are co-workers and chums from Augustana Hospital, Chicago, where both received training in nursing. Dr. John W. Unis also spoke during the course of the evening. Mayor Burtsch welcomed the pastor in behalf of the city of Auburn. Musical numbers were interspersed here and there in the evening program. Rev. Larson was presented with a purse of money and Mrs. Larson with a bouquet of flowers. (May the congregation always hand bouquets to this pastor's wife.) Rev. Larson responded. He was deeply affected by the welcome reception and the good spirit manifested.

Rev. and Mrs. Larson held open house for both congregations which they serve on Friday evening, February 10. They are now settled at 5015 South "M" street, Tacoma, Wash.

The Columbia Lutheran wishes Rev. Larson all success and the richest blessings of God in his new field.

Pick-Ups

Early on Saturday morning, Jan. 7, the mother of Rev. Martin L. Swanson, Mount Vernon, Wash., passed away at her home near Boston. Rev. Swanson had started for the east on the evening before. A tele-

SKOR
I stort urval för
MÄN, KVINNOR OCH BARN
HEDBERG BROS.
Main 3587 1306 Broadway

Main 7745
AUTO CONSTRUCTION
and REPAIRS
FAWCETT WAGON CO.
The Pioneer Auto Works
of the Northwest

gram reached him enroute announcing her death. This was a great loss to him; and sad because he failed to reach home before her death. Rev. Swanson arrived home on Tuesday, January 25, just in time for the opening of the Mount Baker District annual meeting which convened in the Salem church, Mount Vernon.

This paper extends sincerest sympathies to Rev. M. L. Swanson, our efficient Conference treasurer, in his present bereavement caused by the death of his mother.

The thirty-sixth annual convention of the Columbia Conference will be held in the First Lutheran Church, Vancouver, B. C., April 18—22. Rev. Andrew G. Anderson is the acting pastor of our church at Vancouver.

Saron Lutheran Church of Powell Valley, Oregon, Rev. Enoch Sandeen, pastor, has decided to build a new church. The present church was built twenty-nine years ago. We congratulate the congregation and pastor in taking such a progressive step. Such decisions are indications of growth in our Conference.

This paper hereby expresses sincerest sympathy to Mr. Carl W. Johnson, assistant at the Lutheran Mission in Seattle, who is mourning the loss of his father, F. O. Johnson, who passed away the latter part of January. Funeral services were held in Bethany Church, Green Lake, and burial took place at Tacoma.

At a recent congregational meeting held in Colton, Ore., this congregation decided to call Theol. Stud. Joseph Lonnquist after his ordination to take charge of this field. The congregation and the whole district hope that he will accept the call.

The second annual Bible institute of the Portland district will be held in Colton, Ore., July 28—August 5. Dr. S. J. Sebelius has accepted the invitation to come as our Bible teacher, and Rev. Nels Lundgren of Omaha has accepted the invitation to be here as speaker and lecturer. We hope to have a large attendance this summer.

THE BANK OF CALIFORNIA
A National Bank
Member Federal Reserve System
Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits
over \$18,000,000
The Bank of California, National Association, San Francisco, and its branches in Tacoma, Seattle and Portland, constitute one Association under one management and depositors at any one of the bank's offices have the protection of the entire capital, surplus and undivided profits of the association.
11th and Broadway
TACOMA

If the goods we sell you please you, tell your friends; if they do not, tell us. This has been our motto for years. We've got everything that a man or boy wears at a price that will please you.

DICKSON BROS. CO.
1120-22 Pacific Ave. Tacoma

**PASTORER OCH SÖNDAGS-
SKOLLÄRARE**
uppmärksammas vårt lager av Biblar och psalmböcker, svenska och engelska, skolböcker, attester och altarbröd (communion wafers)
J. F. VISELL
909½ Pacific Ave. Tacoma

VÄLJ ER VICTROLA NU!
Gör en liten kontant betalning och vi skola hålla maskinen för senare leverans. Resten månadsbetalningar. Ingen ränta.
Vi inbjuda till besök i vårt record departement och höra urval från de största SVENSKA artisterna såsom
C. WIDDEN
GUSTAF HOLMQUIST
JOSEPH LYSELL
OSCAR BERGSTROM
INGA BERRENTE
GRACE E. CARLSON
GUSTAF FONANDERN
och många andra. Vårt lager af skandinaviska skifvor är mest fullständigt, och vi passa upp eder personligen med erfarna biträden.
SHERMAN CLAY & CO.
928-930 Broadway
Mr. Ed. Lindquist, Mgr. Victor Dept.
TACOMA