

# COLUMBIA LUTHERAN



OF THE AL ORGAN OF THE LUTHERAN COLUMBIA CONFERENCE

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NO. 5

## "He Humbled Himself"

St. Paul admonishes us thus: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, who made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant. He humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Jesus advises us: "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Never was there a greater pattern of humility than Christ and never was there a greater preacher of humility than Christ. He used every opportunity to command and commend it. "Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart." And again: "He that exalteth himself shall be abased but he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." St. Augustine once asked us to what he considered to be the first three steps to heaven. He replied: "Humility, humility, humility." Old Herrick sings: "Humble we must be, if to heaven we go; High is the roof there, but the gate is low."

When Jesus and His disciples were on their way to Capernaum, the latter were quarreling on the basis of the question: "Who is going to be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" They had heard much about this Kingdom but still they were viewing it from a secular standpoint. Jesus had foretold His suffering and death and also the coming glory of His Kingdom. The disciples focused all their attention on the glory of the Kingdom and they felt that it was high time for them to put in "their ticket" for choice positions in the Kingdom. These men were not struck with the grandeur of the idea of the heavenly Kingdom. They were plagued with the vexatious question as to which of them should cut a figure in it. They were like two criminals who, having been released from prison and granted the privilege of living in the king's palace and enjoy a life of freedom, were arguing about which one was to have precedence over the other. But the case of the disciples outclassed even this. "The Kingdom of Heaven" — should not the glory and splendor of that scene dazzle our minds? That scene transcends the loftiest range of human thought. As we enter that

Kingdom, shall we claim a place on the right or left hand of the King? We, dust and ashes, sinners saved by grace, shall we not prostrate ourselves and give all the glory to God? "Who is the greatest?"— Shall not our hearts leap with joy that we even have the least place in the King's palace? As man receives a glimpse of the Kingdom of Heaven and its glory, shall he begin to speculate on the bigness of the place he shall fill? A drop in the ocean, a grain of sand on the seashore, more than measures man in the infinitude of that Kingdom.

"Who is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" Consider the following and then ask—dare we ask such a question? 700 years before the first Good Friday, the prophet could say: "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities." We look back 20 centuries and we can say the same. We must realize that WE nailed Him to the accursed tree. If we could build up 20 centuries between us and the Cross, then we could rightfully ask, who is the greatest. But when we realize that it is WE who are driving the nails through His hands and thrusting the spear into His side—those facts overwhelm us, and therefore all that we can do is humbly and contritely to plead His grace. How can man with such an experience ask—who is the greatest? We must say with Jacob: "I am not worthy of all Thy lovingkindness and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto Thy servant." This is an important lesson in Christ's school of humility.

Luther wrote: "Do not think about becoming great but about becoming small." Humility is a difficult lesson for the human heart. The man of the world sees no greatness in lowliness and humility. Neither did the disciples. But were they not great? Peter, to whom the keys of heaven were given—Simon and Jude, who were related to Jesus in the flesh—John, the beloved and favorite disciple—Andrew, the senior member in the service—and we—are we not great—we, who are members and leaders in the church? But listen to the simple and clear words of the Master Pedagogue: "And Jesus called a little child unto Him and set him in the midst of them and said: 'Verily I say unto you, except ye become converted and

become as little children, ye shall not enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." "What a sublime view of the church idea! Its representative is a little child! A little child, scarcely looking up, abashed at Jesus' presence. A little child gazing about with sweet innocence and wonderment. A little child with no proud self-seeking in its little breast, not looking for applause. What an object lesson for us and for those ambitious disciples!

Nota bene these characteristics of Christ-like humility:

- 1) It is childlike but NOT childish.
- 2) It is not a hypocritical depreciation of your powers. A truly humble man puts true valuation on his powers and abilities, but he does not pride self and despise others.
- 3) It is spontaneous and not a studied virtue. When a man says: "You do not know how humble I am," he is proud of his humility and by that same token he proves clearly that he has no humility.
- 4) Humility is not a weakness, nor an unmanly fear to shoulder responsibility, nor is it a cowardly hesitancy to stand up for principle. Luther is truly an example of humility at the Diet of Worms when he declared: "here I stand, I cannot do otherwise."
- 5) A truly humble Christian is a fruit-bearing Christian. "The empty bough stands up straight, the bough full of fruit bends down to the earth."

Who then is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven? He who humbles himself as a little child. Montgomery sings:

The bird that soars on highest wing  
Builds on the ground her lowly nest;  
And she that doth most sweetly sing  
Sings in the shade when all things rest:  
In lark and nightingale we see  
What honor hath humility.

The saint that wears heaven's brightest crown  
In deepest adoration bends;  
The weight of glory bows him down  
The most when most his soul ascends;  
Nearest the throne itself must be  
The footstool of humility.

Elmer M. Johnson.

## COLUMBIA LUTHERAN

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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 Conference Meeting

The Columbia Conference held its meeting this year on historic ground. The Immanuel congregation was the first of the Augustana Synod to be organized on the west coast, in Immanuel the first district organization took place, and here also the Columbia Conference was organized 38 years ago. The meeting was therefore a real home coming for the members of the Conference.

The meeting was in many respects the most interesting and enjoyable that we have had the privilege to attend in the Columbia Conference. Questions of vital interest to the congregations and the church were discussed with frankness, seriousness, and sincerity. A desire to find out the truth and to face facts frankly seemed to pervade the meeting. But throughout the discussions all personal animosities and selfish sectional interests were entirely absent. All who took part in the discussions seemed to us in an admirable way to address themselves to the question at issue and forget all personal references. This spirit augurs well for the future of our Conference. The problems now facing the Conference cannot be solved at once, nor are they made easier by simply ignoring them. Only by unselfish co-operation, infinite patience, and complete dependence upon God will the problems of the church be solved. If the difficulties which the Conference has experienced in the last few years have taught us this lesson, and the recent meeting indicates that they have,

at least to some extent, then we believe that the work of the Conference will go forward in the might and the power of God. For this we earnestly pray in the name of Jesus.

### On Leaving the Editorship

As the undersigned has for obvious reasons discontinued his office as editor of the Columbia Lutheran, he wishes hereby to extend his hearty thanks for all support and co-operation received during the years he edited said paper.

The present issue is edited by Rev. Eric H. Wahlstrom. He is now the editor of Columbia Lutheran having been elected to that position by the Conference board. We wish him abundant success in his new work. Let us boost for the Columbia Lutheran and do all we can to increase its number of subscribers. Send your subscriptions to the business manager, Rev. Carl A. Bengtson, 165 W. 65th Street, Seattle, Wash.

Yours for a bright future for the Columbia Lutheran,

Henry P. Johnson.



REV. ERIC H. WAHLSTROM  
Warren, Ore.  
Editor of Columbia Lutheran.

### The Columbia Lutheran

We are assuming the duties of editing the Columbia Lutheran with misgivings and hesitancy. To the former editor, Rev. H. P. Johnson, we desire to express our thanks and our appreciation. He has made the Columbia Lutheran a real Conference paper. We shall endeavor to follow the policies of the former editor to the best of our ability.

We need, however, the kind forbearance of every one for the mistakes that will be made and for the shortcomings that will appear. We need also the active co-operation of every congregation in the Conference to make the Columbia Lutheran

truly representative of the whole. Send in the news of your special meetings or any other events that are of interest. We would appreciate to receive the weekly bulletins and other local church publications. The columns of the Columbia Lutheran are always open for the publication of news and for the discussion of the problems that confront the church. May God bless the issuing of this paper that it may serve in some measure to extend and establish the kingdom of God among us.

## Contributed

### Columbia Conference Meeting

The Columbia Conference convened for its thirty-ninth annual convention in the Immanuel Lutheran Church, Portland, Oregon, Rev. H. P. Johnson, pastor, on April 15-19. A pastoral convention was held at 2:30 in the afternoon at which time Rev. John Bilddt read a paper on the subject, "How Can We Best Serve the Newly Confirmed?", and Rev. C. A. V. Lund read a paper on the subject, "A Pastor's Personal Work as a Soul Physician." A general discussion followed the introduction of these subjects.

The formal opening of the Conference occurred at 7:45 in the evening with Divine service and the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Rev. P. H. Nordlander gave the communion address and Rev. G. K. Andeen gave the conference sermon. Rev. H. P. Johnson at this time extended a greeting of welcome to all pastors, delegates and visitors.

Business sessions were held both forenoon and afternoon on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. These sessions were preceded by forty-five minute periods of devotion led by some of the pastors. The subjects for these devotional periods all dealt with "The Risen Saviour," as "Revealing Himself," "Interpreting the Scriptures," as the "Fountain of Life," "His Commission," and "His Peace."

The election of officers, committees, etc. resulted as follows: President, Rev. H. P. Johnson; vice president, Rev. N. Wm. Anderson; secretary, C. G. Bloomquist; treasurer, Rev. P. H. Nordlander. Members on the Board of Trustees for a period of three years: Rev. H. P. Johnson, Rev. N. Wm. Anderson, Mr. Carl Moberg and Mr. Sherman Nelson. Members of the Emanuel Charity Board: Rev. E. H. Wahlstrom, Messrs. D. E. Lofgren, Arthur Linn and Oscar Nelson.

Synodical delegation—Pastors: Luther Cornay, Roger P. Oliver, N. Wm. Anderson and C. R. Swanson. Lay delegates:



REV. HENRY P. JOHNSON  
Immanuel, Portland.  
President.

to be made in the grouping of congregations to form pastorates.

That the Conference Board be authorized to arrange for radio programs as a part of the Conference home mission work if the board finds it advisable to do so. That a committee of two members be appointed to meet and confer with representatives of Pacific Lutheran College on the possibility of united effort in Lutheran educational work in the Northwest. That the work of collecting material for a Conference history be continued, but that this history shall not be printed until further decision by the Conference. That the Conference accepts the invitation from Grace Lutheran Church, Spokane, to hold the next annual convention at that place.

Divine service was held on Thursday evening, when sermons were delivered by Rev. Luther Cornay on "The Importance of Family Worship," and Rev. E. G. Sven-



REV. N. WM. ANDERSON  
Salem, Spokane.  
Vice-President.

Sherman Nelson, Axel Johnson, Martin Johnson and Gust Holst.

Alternates—Pastors: C. J. Renhard, Joseph A. Anderson, E. H. Wahlstrom and C. G. Bloomquist. Lay delegates: Herman Chindgren, Carl Anderson, M. M. Lindfors and Emil Wersen.

Synodical Council, Dr. J. W. Unis; alternate, Dr. Julius Sture.

Budget Committee: Pastors E. H. Wahlstrom, P. H. Nordlander, Roger P. Oliver and C. A. V. Lund, and Messrs. John A. Nordin, Bertil Johnson, E. A. Scone and W. R. Svenson.

Editor of Columbia Lutheran and Publicity Secretary, Rev. E. H. Wahlstrom.

Some of the decisions passed were as follows: That the Conference Board be empowered to act for the Conference in dealing with congregations receiving mission aid, and in any changes that need



MRS. SAMUEL E. JOHNSON  
Portland, Ore.  
President W. M. S.

Dr. John W. Unis; vice president, Mr. Sherman Nelson; secretary, Dr. G. A. Magnuson; treasurer, Mr. Adolph Benson. Then followed a lengthy program which in reality appeared short, due to the interesting way in which the speakers handled their subjects. The Fourfold Brotherhood Plan was presented by Rev. C. A. V. Lund, Rev. Roger P. Oliver, Rev. G. K. Andersen and Dr. C. R. Swanson. Short discussions on the various departments were given by Messrs. Carl Blade of LaConner, Thorne Grimmer of Spokane and Adolph Benson of Portland.

Sunday was the big day of the Conference. Rev. O. W. Westling and Rev. E. A. Larson spoke to the Sunday school in the morning, and Rev. C. J. Renhard delivered the sermon at the forenoon service. The most impressive part of this service was perhaps the singing of the

son on "The Importance of Faithfully Attending Divine Worship." A mission festival under the auspices of the Woman's Missionary Society was held Friday evening. Mrs. S. E. Johnson, president of the Woman's Missionary Society led the meeting. Rev. William Siegel spoke on "The Spiritual Life of the Church and Missions," and Miss Louise Godfrey of Portland, and missionary to India, gave an address on India.

Saturday afternoon a sight-seeing tour was sponsored by the local Lutheran Brotherhood when the visitors were taken to Council Crest, to Mount Tabor and through various parts of the city. The Saturday evening program was under the auspices of the Columbia Conference Lutheran Brotherhood. A sumptuous turkey banquet was arranged for some 250 or 300 people. A short business session was held at which all the old officers were re-elected. They are as follows: President,



REV. P. H. NORDLANDER  
Yakima, Wash.  
Treasurer.



JOHN W. UNIS, M. D.  
Seattle, Wash.  
President Conference Brotherhood.

white-robed junior chorus that preceded the adult choir in the processional and took part in the singing of the anthem, "All Hail the Risen King."

Sunday afternoon a Luther League rally was held. Rev. Carl A. Bengtson spoke on "The Purpose of Our Luther League," and Rev. Elmer Johnson spoke of "The Need in the Church of a Consecrated Youth."

The Conference closed with the Sunday evening service, with sermons on the subjects "God's Wish That We Now May Continue In the Footsteps of Jesus," and "The Reward That Those Shall Receive, Who Follow Jesus," by Dr. C. R. Swanson and Rev. N. Wm. Anderson respectively.

Thus ended this enjoyable convention. Several of the older members of the Conference expressed the opinion that this had been one of the most pleasant and profitable conventions attended for some time. And why should not a church convention be pleasant—especially for the visitors? The Immanuel Congregation spared no effort in making our stay in Portland enjoyable. Generous hospitality was extended to the visitors in the homes, and delicious meals were served at the church. A hearty Thank You for your cordiality! To Rev. and Mrs. H. P. Johnson especially do we say a sincere Thank You for your "open house" and general concern for the well being of the many visitors. We enjoyed the musical numbers in the form of choir selections, choruses, quartettes and solos at the services as provided by Professor Charles Swenson and others. May God bless the Columbia Conference and direct its activities according to His own good pleasure to the glory of His name and to the extension of His kingdom.

Rev. Carl A. Bengtson.

### President's Report

Seventeenth Annual Convention, W. M. S.  
Columbia Conference, April 16-18,

To the Woman's Missionary Society of the Columbia Conference, Grace and Peace!  
Dear Co-Workers:

"Come unto me all ye that labor,"  
Mt. 11: 28.

"Tarry ye in the city, until ye be clothed with power from on high." Lk. 24: 29.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel." Mk. 16: 15.

"Come!" The invitation is from the Saviour Himself, and is extended to all. Tarry! To meditate upon the teachings of Christ; to keep the silent hour and commune with the Father in the fellowship of prayer. This is tarrying with the Lord. "Go!" To come to Jesus is not

enough. To tarry with Him is not all. The parting command to His disciples, and the command to all who become His disciples is, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation."

Oh, that we would all heed these loving commands of Jesus. The first Christians took it as a matter of fact that every one was to be Christ's witness, which meant, His missionary. It is no wonder that "His word grew mightily and prevailed." Today we surely need an awakening to the great duty and privilege, of every believer, as a witness to Christ. The destiny of God's kingdom depends upon your witness and mine. Are you and I living witnesses to our Lord? Have we looked unto Jesus for help and guidance and thanked Him for considering us worthy to do His work?

### Organization and Membership

That we have many willing workers in our W. M. S. is shown in the reports for the year just gone by. The young women in Warren, Oregon, Vancouver, B. C., and St. Helens, Oregon, have organized during the past year, also the Juniors in Astoria, Oregon. We welcome these new organizations into our Conference. May God's blessing be on their work.

We now have 37 adult societies, 10 Young Women's societies, and 29 Junior Mission Bands. A report on membership will be given by the secretary in that branch. We are happy over the increase, and especially so in the sustaining members, which were almost doubled in one district, compared to last year. Twenty-nine members have qualified in the Fortieth Anniversary work. The time left is short, next year is our Jubilee year. Let us all pull together so we may reach our fifty per cent.

The young women have encouraged us greatly this past year with new organizations, (two more at the beginning of the year). We thank God for these added recruits, who are willing to take up the torch that is laid down when the Master calls the old faithful workers, one by one to come home. During the year, twelve loyal members were called to be with Him whom they so willingly served in our W. M. S. May He comfort the near and dear ones who suffered the loss.

### Mission Tidings

A report from Miss Clara Anderson, manager for Mission Tidings, gives us credit for 123 new subscribers, with 90 dropped leaving a net gain of 23. Total number of subscribers 938, making an average of 26 per cent, for the Conference. This wonderful little messenger should be in every member's home. How about our bouquet of subscribers to the Mission Tidings this year? Are we all doing what we can?

### Meetings

How often should our societies meet? If possible meet once a month. Greater inspiration for Mission is created by getting together as a society and studying our work. It is in this work as in every other work, the more often we can come together, the greater will our interest be. Seventeen societies have used the Mission studies, some partly. We recommend "A Cloud of Witnesses" for a study book. It can be purchased from our literature secretary. Prayer day was observed by 29 societies. Surely this can be made one of the greatest powers in the hands of the Lord. Just think what it means to have over 60,000 women of our Synod join in prayer on the first Sunday in Advent, to ask the Lord's blessings on our efforts in the cause of Missions!

Most of the societies have held Home Mission festivals, and contributions have been generous. But oh, the need is so great and we must do more. In the words of our former president "Only in the measure that our Home Mission work is taken care of, will we succeed in our fields." Let us go on and help our neighbors.

The various causes, Dime Books, Christmas Cheer, Boxes of Blessings, China, Africa and India Missions, the Jewish Mission, Deaconess work, Bethphage, Seamen's Mission, Girls' homes and the Jerusalem school have been liberally supported. Our protegee, Miss Anna Olson, we have supported this past year also. In a letter to her sister some time ago, we are informed that she was recuperating from a siege of typhoid fever. Dear members, pray for her that God may give her strength and health to continue His work of mercy in China. An dlet us all work to reach our quota for her salary. Remember, she is doing our work, for us out there.

### Building Specials

Our Juniors have given \$125.00 for a window in the Bethphage chapel. The Conference Woman's Missionary society pledges \$200.00 to furnish a room in the New York home for girls, in memory of Rev. and Mrs. A. G. Anderson, pioneer workers in our Conference. At the Synodical convention our Conference was apportioned \$2,000.00 of the \$80,000.00 to be raised for the New York and Vancouver girls' homes. This to be raised in three years. Life and Honorary Life memberships to be applied on our quota. Later we were given a help to reach our sum, namely: the Brick Books. We hope you will do your best to support this work. To help build a wall of defense to safeguard our daughters. "In as much as ye do it unto one of the least, ye do unto Me." Let us support the homes with our gifts and our prayers. If we look unto Jesus

in faith, nothing shall be impossible.

We have had noted visitors in our Conference this past year. Mrs. Frank Olson was present at our Conference meeting in Seattle a year ago. Her wise counsel and inspiring message will long be remembered. In August Miss Alta Samuelson, Synodical field secretary, visited all our districts. Likewise Miss Agnes Christensen, Missionary from India. In September, Rev. and Mrs. Geo. N. Anderson, our Missionaries from Africa, visited a few of our churches in this conference on their return to St. Paul from the California conference. We thank these guests for their messages and the inspiration to renewed interest in Missions, that they left with us. May God bless them in their respective fields of labor.

In conclusion the undersigned wishes to extend heartfelt gratitude to the District presidents, who have been so prompt in sending reports, and assisting in other ways, and to all the board members and others who have given their willing service and co-operation. We are thankful for the privilege of visiting a number of the societies in the conference during the year. It was a great help in becoming more familiar with the field. We count it a joy to have had this privilege to serve in our Dear Columbia Conference, and whatever may have been done to help some soul come nearer to Christ, all honor and glory is due Him. Do you hear the Master calling: "Come," "Tarry," "Go?" Let us look unto Jesus on the cross and say, "Master, here am I, send Me."

Your in the Master's Service,

Mrs. Samuel E. Johnson,  
President, Columbia Conference, W.M.S.  
Portland, Oregon, April 16, 1931.

### Columbia Conference W. M. S. Convention

The seventeenth annual convention of the W. M. S. was held April 16-18 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Portland, Ore., Rev. H. P. Johnson, pastor. The business sessions were held at the Swedish Tabernacle near by.

The convention, with the pres. Mrs. S. E. Johnson presiding, was opened with a devotional and prayer service led by Mrs. C. R. Swanson. The convention theme was: "Look unto Jesus." A large number of delegates and visitors representing local societies from all over the conference were present.

After the usual preliminaries, short talks on the different branches of "Our Work" were given by conference and district Department secretaries.

The afternoon session was opened with devotional service led by Mrs. E. J. Sakrison. Mrs. Ludwig, president of the

Lutheran Women's league of Portland, brought a greeting from the organization.

The various reports showed gains in all departments. Especially gratifying was the report of the Jubilee Secretary which showed good work done by our local workers. Posters were displayed from the different districts, showing the percentages of each society. After the business session a reception given by Mrs. H. P. Johnson and local W. M. S. was held at the parsonage. Friday morning session was opened with devotional and prayer service led by Mrs. W. J. Olsen.

Mrs. Bruland of the Norwegian Lutheran Church gave a greeting from their Women's Federation. The recommendations prepared by the Executive Board were adopted.

The afternoon session was opened with devotional service led by Mrs. O. R. Karlstrom. The following officers were elected: Pres., Mrs. S. E. Johnson; vice-pres., Mrs. C. I. Renhard; Recording-sec., Mrs. David Engberg; corres.sec., Mrs. Julius Sture; treas., Mrs. C. F. Carlborg; historian, Mrs. C. R. Swanson; statistician, Mrs. C. A. Bengtson.

The church was filled to capacity Friday evening when the missionary festival was held. Rev. William Siegel gave an inspiring address on "The Spiritual Life of the Church and Missions" and a very interesting talk on "India" was given by Miss Louise Godfrey, returned missionary from India. Beautiful and appropriate songs were rendered by a Women's chorus of the Immanuel and Augustana churches and Mrs. William Skans soloist.

Saturday afternoon was given over to the Young Women and the Juniors. Interesting programs were rendered by both of these organizations. Especially significant was the Young Womens meeting as this was the first time in the history of our conference that the young women as an organization had a part in the convention program and it was indeed gratifying to see such a large and interested group of young women present. Several Y. W. M. S. were organized last year, so our W. M. S. is looking forward to the time when our young women will take an important part in the work of the organization.

Altogether it was a most enjoyable and profitable convention inspiring all those who attend with new hope and zeal to go home and labor with greater faith in the Master's Vineyard.

To Rev. and Mrs. Johnson, the members of the Immanuel W. M. S. and all others who helped make our stay so pleasant we extend most hearty thanks.

May the blessing of God rest upon us all as we enter upon another year's work.  
Mrs. Carl J. Renhard.

### Augustana to Celebrate Twenty-fifth Anniversary

Augustana has reached its first quarter of a century, and preparations are now under way to recall the history of these 25 years. It has been an unusual custom to celebrate its birthday once a year, but at the last annual meeting a decision was made to observe this year in a special way. Sunday, May 24th, which marks the day of organization, will be set aside as a festive day, and Augustana will then be dressed in "Birthday Attire." The committee in charge, hopes to make this an outstanding event, and with the co-operation of all concerned this goal will be reached.

Holy communion will be celebrated at the morning service, when Rev. A. M. Green, who for a number of times has served as vice pastor, will give the preparatory address, and Rev. C. G. Bloomquist, pastor of Augustana for a period of five years, will preach the sermon. In the afternoon a Confirmand reunion will be held. An invitation is being sent to every one of the confirmands who are now living, and whose addresses can be obtained. Should any one who reads these lines be a member of one of the classes, we want you to consider this an invitation to be present or send a greeting. The Anniversary program will take place in the evening at 8:00 o'clock. A social hour will take place in the church parlors after the afternoon program, where refreshments will be served and an opportunity given to renew memories of the past. The Portland district pastors and their families and all who desire are invited to come out and rejoice with us in our festivities.

Samuel E. Johnson.

### Salem Lutheran Church Mount Vernon, Wash. Carl A. V. Lund, pastor.

During the Lenten season the pastor preached a series of doctrinal sermons on the doctrines of the Lutheran church. On Easter morning the congregation took part in the sunrise service arranged by the pastors of the city. Our church was filled twice at the two morning services, and again in the evening when the choir gave the Easter cantata "Jesus Lives" by Chas. H. Gabriel.

Sunday after Easter was confirmation and reception of members. The children were "heard" the previous Thursday evening, and gave very satisfactory evidence of their knowledge of the way of salvation.

It was made clear to the congregation that confirmation is not mainly dependent on such knowledge, but rather on the

heart's relation to the Saviour. The children had received their Bibles last year, at the beginning of the instruction, and had read a chapter each day in connection with their daily devotion.

At the morning service the following were confirmed: Ruth Gustafson, Jean Lundberg, Wilma Rudeen, Astrid Johnson, Mildred Lillquist, Ellen Mattson, Miriam Olin, Leonard Peterson, Rupert Kulin, William Sawyer, Kenneth Nelson, Clarence Nelson, Marjorie Leaf and Elsie Yaeger.

At the evening service the children took Holy Communion together with the greater part of the congregation. At this occasion eight new members were received: Miss Edith Yaeger (by adult confirmation.) Miss Irene Yeager, Wm. E. Sawyer (father of one of the confirmation children. Received by baptism and confirmation.) Mr. and Mrs. August Johnson with two children, Myrtle and Mildred, Miss Bernice Johnson and Mr. and Mrs. Rickard Lundberg.

At a special meeting of the congregation, held Wednesday, April 22, the congregation authorized the trustees to refinance the indebtedness. The debt was reduced some last year. But some ten thousand dollars still remain in notes. These notes will now be taken up and transferred into bonds, handled by the bank at six per cent interest.

Three of our older members have passed away this year. Mrs. Hanna Miller died January 19, at an age of 85 years and 4 months. Mr. John Olin breathed his last, after much suffering, March 27; aged 71 years, 9 months and 22 days. Mr. John Earm, after having suffered for years, slept away quietly April 19, at an age of 76 years, 2 months and 28 days.

As this congregation is almost entirely dependent on agriculture for its material maintenance it may be of interest to state that the prospects for good crops are at present very bright. We thank God for this and look to Him, in faith, for all blessings.

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Outstanding among affairs of the Salem Lutheran church for the past several months was the annual banquet of the Altar League given Monday evening, April 13, in the church dining room. Honor guests at the affair were the members of this year's confirmation class and those of last year. There were representatives also from classes of 1890 to 1931.

The banquet tables presented a charming picture adorned with Easter lilies, yellow daisies and streamers of gay yellow crepe paper.

Presiding over the activities of the evening was Ted Semell, president of the

society. — The following program was presented.

Musical selections by Johnson Brothers orchestra, accompanied by Miss Arletha Johnson; greeting by Rev. Carl A. V. Lund; vocal solo, Miss Hazel Brown, accompanied by Mrs. Charles E. T. Olson; violin solos, Miss Eloise Bernhoft, accompanied by Miss Freda Berger; address, Rev. Luther Conway of Bellingham; violin solo, Miss Eloise Bernhoft, accompanied by Miss Freda Berger; benediction, Rev. Lund.

During the evening an election of officers was held, with the following officers being chosen: Mrs. Charles E. T. Olson, president; Harold Johnson, vice-president; Miss Alice Lund, secretary; Daniel Sundquist, treasurer.

Greetings were sent to the league from David Wersen of Culver City, California; Mrs. Elsa McPerson, Snoqualmie Falls, and Miss Phyllis Rose, Lewiston, Idaho.

### Tacoma District Meeting, May 26-27, Yakima, Wash.

General Topic: "God's Redeeming Grace" Tuesday evening May 26. Service at 7.30.

Invocation, Rev. E. Arthur Larson, Pres. Tacoma District.

Sermon, "God's Gift of Love," Rev. Elmer M. Johnson, Olympia.

Wednesday May 27:

Pastor's Discussion Hour 10:00 A. M. Paper: "The Lutheran Pastor and the Confessional,"—Rev. Enoch Sandeen, Seattle.

Discussion.

Missionary Society Meeting at 2:30 P.M. Address, "The Missionary Charge and its Problems"—Rev. Ernest G. Svenson, Tacoma.

Vocal Solo, Rev. Elmer M. Johnson, Olympia.

Greetings by visiting members of the W. M. S.

Service at 7:30 P. M.

Invocation, Rev. C. A. Bengtson, Seattle. Sermon, "The Ministry of the Word," Rev. C. G. Blomquist, Seattle.

### Bible Institute at Colton, Oregon July 12-19, 1931

Ether League Rallies have been held, and announcements are being made to call your attention to the Bible Institute. We hope many have made up their mind by this time, to attend. We cannot tell you anything new about our Institute, but we do want to impress on your mind the great opportunity for real Bible study, and to hear addresses given by our leaders. Many of you have heard Rev. Wm. Siegel, and you know that he has a message for the heart. God has endowed him with the gift

of an Evangelist, and he is consecrating this gift to the salvation of souls. You will have an opportunity to hear him. Rev. John P. Milton, was picked out from among the ministers of our synod, almost like a David of old, and placed on our Seminary faculty. He is proving equal to the task. Clear in his presentation, thoroughly grounded in our Lutheran doctrine, and sympathetic in personality, he is meeting with much success, and you will all benefit by his instruction in the Bible study.

Mothers and fathers, if you can send your son or daughter that have recently been confirmed, to our Institute, we are sure you can make no better investment in their life. The board is very reasonable, scarcely more than it costs at home, and practically no other expenses. They will enjoy the outing, the social contact is fine, and the spiritual atmosphere is such that helps to build up character in our young people. The program for the week will be given in the next issue of the Columbia Lutheran. Look it over, and come for the whole week if you can, otherwise come to as many of the meetings as you can.

Samuel E. Johnson.

### Westdala, Troy, Idaho

Easter Sunday saw a large and attentive audience at the Swedish Morning Service. The offering for Missions amounted to over \$20.00; this was in addition to a special Easter offering, also over twenty dollars, taken for the organist the same morning. We are happy that our people show such a generous spirit in giving of their means to the work of saving souls.

Westdala has a very active Junior Choir. On Sunday May 10th, Mother's Day, the Junior Choir will give a special program of songs and readings appropriate to the occasion. The program will be given at three o'clock in the afternoon, and we anticipate a large attendance.

Westdala is active in other respects also. This spring extensive improvements have been made on the parsonage grounds. A new drive-way from the street in to the garage has been built, the lawn filled in and levelled and a number of shade trees have been set out. At the church a choir-pit has been built for the Choir which sings every Sunday at our regular services.

Rev. David Engberg.

### Golden Wedding

A golden wedding anniversary was celebrated at the Bethel Lutheran church, Tacoma, Wash., Thursday evening, April 9. The happy occasion was the 50th wedding day of our members Mr. and Mrs. Andrew

Nelson. Mr. Nelson is at present and has been for many years a faithful deacon.

The church organist playing Lohengrin's wedding march was the signal to bring in the couple. Mr. J. T. Johnson and Mr. Carl Berglund preceded the couple who were ushered in accompanied by the pastor and his wife. Then followed a short program. Hymn, "He leadeth me," by congregation. Scripture reading, Ps. 103, and prayer by Rev. Larson. Song by choir, "All the Way My Savior Leads Me." Violin duet by Chester and Alfred Johnson. Address by Rev. Larson. Song by the choir, "Just a Song at Twilight." A gift of Abrahamson's "Herrens behagliga ar" (3 volumes), and a gift in gold and silver, as well as beautiful bouquets were presented the honored couple. Mr. Andrew Nelson responded and the song "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" was sung, closing with the benediction. Refreshments were served by the ladies, Mrs. A. V. Johnson having made a beautiful cake for the occasion. The church was appropriately decorated in flowers and greens and many candles.

Mr. Nelson was born in Skåne, Sweden and came to Mason City, Iowa, 1874. Mrs. Nelson was born in Småland, Sweden, and came to America 1879. They were married at Canton, South Dakota, April 9, 1881, and came to Tacoma 1888, where they have been members of First Lutheran church 1889-1914, and of Bethel (charter members) since 1914. They have 6 sons, 1 daughter and 21 grandchildren.

### Zion, Everett, News

Rev. Billdt, Pastor

Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday were big days at Zion church, Everett. Palm Sunday morning ten new members and three children were taken into the church. We rejoice over these new members and hope and pray for more. In the evening the Luther League presented a pageant entitled "The Questioner." The church was well filled both morning and evening. The Luther League has been asked to repeat the pageant on May 8 at Bethel Lutheran Church, Seattle and also at Central Lutheran, Everett.

Easter Sunday the services were very well attended. In the morning a gift, a candelabra, was presented to the church by the Girls' Service League. In the evening an all Lutheran Choral Society of Everett, which was organized recently, composed of five Lutheran choirs, presented an Easter Cantata entitled "Christ Victorious" at the Junior High auditorium. A very large crowd witnessed the cantata. The choir was composed of 85 voices and was directed by Prof. Thomas Bergstrom. Both Sundays were blessed day for Zion.

E. A.

### Tacoma—Mt. Baker District L. L.

The annual convention of the Tacoma-Mt. Baker Luther League will be held in the Gethsemane church in Seattle, May 16-17. The program will be as follows:

#### Saturday, May 16

7:00 p. m.—Luther League Banquet.

Musical numbers from the Everett and Mt. Vernon Luther Leagues.

Business meeting.

#### Sunday, May 17

9:00 a. m.—Swedish Service.

Sermon, Rev. O. W. Westling.

Anthem, Gethsemane Choir.

10:00 a. m.—Sunday School Assembly.

Address, "The Importance of Divine Worship," Rev. Ernest G. Svenson.

Selection, Mary-Martha Sextette.

11:00 a. m.—Communion Service.

Preparatory Address, Rev. C. A. V. Lund.

Anthem, Gethsemane Choir.

3:00 p. m.—Luther League Rally.

Address, "Life's High Calling," Rev. Eric H. Wahlstrom, president

Conference League.

Address, Mr. Bertil Johnson, president District League.

Vocal numbers from Bellingham and Auburn leagues.

7:00 p. m.—Divine service.

Sermon, Rev. Luther Cornay.

Sermon, Rev. Elmer Johnson.

Selection, Bethany, Bethel and Emmaus choirs.

Vocal number from First Church, Tacoma.

### Some News Items from Seattle

The Board of Trustees of the Conference met in the Home for the aged yesterday. There are always a number of routine matters that must have attention, especially at the first meeting held after convention of the Conference. The Home Mission situation was given much attention. Committees were elected to take various fields into special consideration and for special study in order, if possible, to help our men on the field and our faithful people in the mission congregations gain more results from their investments of time, money and talents.

The Home for the Aged is filled to capacity and an ever increasing number of applications are received. The Gethsemane church has made a very fair proposition to the Conference and it is not at this time ascertained whether or not the offer can be accepted, as the city ordinances governing homes for the aged are very rigid. The offer was to lease its Girls' Hospice Home to the Conference on terms that bring no gain whatsoever to the church. The Gethsemane church has stood most loyally back of the Home for the Aged from its very

beginning. The Ladies' Aid of the St. John's Lutheran Church has donated a number of table cloths and other linen, dishes and other articles for which the Board is truly grateful. The members of the Home are real gardeners judging by the surroundings up there. Do not pass up the Home when you visit Seattle. It is worthy of your attention and your prayers and support.

Easter was as usual a great festive day in all our churches. The Bethel congregation arranged to have "Stabat Mater" rendered under its auspices. The Bethany choir with Thorild Swanson as organist and Miss Mildred Johnson as director rendered "King Triumphant" (Ashford) on Sunday after Easter and the same will be repeated in Bethel on Sunday evening, May 3rd. The other churches beautified their festive services with much well rendered and appropriate music.

Confirmation will take place on the 17th, in the morning, in the Bethany Church with communion on Trinity Sunday. There are 30 members in the class.

Rev. C. G. Bloomquist preaches at Upper Preston on the first Wednesday evening of each month. Some 75 people or more have attended these services of late. There is a confirmation class of 28 members being instructed by the pastor. These communities have suffered a great deal during this depression as the saw mills are not operating as formerly.

C. G. B.

### The Luther League Park in Colton

Considerable work has been done to improve this park during the winter. We are indeed ahead of our schedule, thanks to the enthusiastic support of officers and members of the different Luther Leagues and interested friends, and the willingness of the local people to help. We hope to get our park in such a shape that the meetings of the Bible Institute may be held there this summer. This is more than we dared to plan for from the beginning. An almost unbelievable amount of underbrush, century old windfalls, and logs by the hundreds have been removed and burned since last fall. The natural beauty of the park begins now to appear. It has the possibilities of becoming not only a beautiful and useful home for the Bible Institute but a beauty spot of wide attraction.

Three foot-bridges varying in length from 30 to 90 feet and in height above water from 10 to 20 feet are being built. When these bridges are completed one may make a complete loop on a path that runs along the wooded brinks and edges of two cool, clear mountain streams crossing the smaller once and the larger twice. Those who attend the Bible Institute may here enjoy

an ideal morning walk or an evening promenade through Linnea covered grounds among fir trees, cedars and pines. As one crosses the bridges one may pause and rest by the rustic railings and behold the leaping, laughing, dancing waters below. Our plans include also comfortable seats here and there along the paths, so that one may sit down and quietly enjoy the mysterious mumble and restless rumble of the friendly brooks.

An ideal site for an assembly has been cleared and surveyed. But a speaker's platform and seats for the audience have yet to be built. This must be done before the Bible Institute week, July 12-19. Some donations of material for platform and seats have already been promised by friends in the community. Also some road building and preparing for parking space for automobiles must be done during early summer. In order to get this work done we are planning a grand gathering of all Luther Leagues in the District and interested friends in the different congregations together with the people of Colton on Memorial Day, Saturday, May 30th. It would indeed be most fitting for the Luther Leagues of the Portland District to gather and beautify the monument to their friend Hilma Olson on Memorial Day. Luther Leaguers and other interested friends, please keep this in mind, and prepare to come to Colton as early as possible in the day, Saturday, May 30th. More detailed information concerning this meeting will be sent to the different Luther Leagues later.

Ernest J. Erikson.

## Items of Interest

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Erickson, Mabana, Wash., visited Portland over the week end during the Conference meeting. Mr. Erickson is a childhood friend of Rev. H. P. Johnson. They spent Monday after the Conference meeting visiting with Rev. and Mrs. Johnson.

Mr. Oscar Nelson, brother of Mrs. C. R. Swanson, submitted to a serious operation at the Coffey Hospital in Portland recently. Mrs. Swanson remained in Portland after the Conference meeting visiting with Rev. H. P. Johnson and attending to her brother.

Rev. J. Truedson of Seattle remained in Portland after the Conference meeting visiting with his daughter, Mrs. Hilma Bergstrom.

Mrs. Wm. Siegel's mother passes. Mrs. Hoff, mother of Mrs. Wm. Siegel, passed away recently in her home in Rockford, Ill. Mrs. Siegel has been in Rockford attending the funeral and will return in

company with Rev. Siegel, who left for Rock Island and Rockford after the Conference meeting. While in Rock Island Rev. Siegel took his examination for the S. T. M. degree at the Seminary.

Rev. E. Arthur Larson gave an address on the subject "Founders' Day" at the meeting of the Luther League in the Gethsemane church, Seattle, recently. Other numbers on the program were rendered by local members.

**Emanuel Charity Board.** The board of trustees of the Emanuel Charity Board met in the Nurses' Home at the Emanuel Hospital, Portland, on Monday evening, April 27. The new members elected by the Conference were present. They are David E. Lofgren, Arthur Linn, Rev. Eric H. Wahlstrom, all re-elected, and Oscar Nelson, newly elected member. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, David E. Lofgren; vice president, Rev. Samuel E. Johnson; secretary, J. A. Nordeen; treasurer, A. L. Morland, and member of the executive committee, Rev. H. P. Johnson. The members of the board of trustees serve without compensation of any kind. It was decided to accept the proposal of the building committee to build an addition to the east wing of the hospital to serve as a maternity department. This addition will be 75x46, four stories and basement. The plans also provide for an addition to the north end of the hospital, 85x43, four stories and a basement in which the laundry will be located. These new additions will increase the total capacity of the hospital to 315 beds.

**Assistant editor.** Almost simultaneously with receiving the appointment as editor we had the pleasure to greet an assistant editor welcome. He arrived April 20th, his weight was 8 pounds, and his name will be Carl David. So far he has not been of much help, for he sleeps most of the time and is very quiet. Both mother and the assistant are getting along fine.

Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Anderson visited Mrs. Anderson's aunt, Mrs. Elon Malmsten in Vernonia, Ore., after the Conference meeting. They also spent a day in Astoria as guests of Rev. and Mrs. Ardeen.

Rev. G. K. Andeen has accepted the call extended to him by the Gloria Dei church of Providence, R. I. Rev. Andeen will preach his farewell sermon in Astoria on Sunday morning, June 28th.

**Confirmation Reunion.** — The Luther League of the Bethany church in Warren is planning to hold a confirmation reunion on Sunday, June 28th. All those who have been confirmed in the church have been invited to return and spend the day in their childhood church home.

**Emanuel Hospital.** A new class of 19 students nurses started their training at the Emanuel Hospital on March 1. The next class will be admitted on Sept. 1. On the 12th day of May a class of 22 nurses will be graduated. The graduation exercises will be held in the Baptist Temple. The speakers will be Mr. B. F. Irvine, editor of the Oregon Journal, and Dr. A. E. Dudman.

Rev. Carl A. V. Lund attended the convention of the North Pacific District L. L. of the Norwegian church held in the Ballard First Lutheran church in Seattle, May 1-3. Rev. Lund represented the Columbia Conference L. L. and brought a greeting to the convention at the banquet program on Saturday evening.

Mrs. G. K. Andeen submitted to a tonsil operation at the Columbia Hospital in Astoria on Monday, April 27. Dr. R. W. Kullberg performed the operation. Mrs. Andeen is reported to be recovering rapidly.

**Fifth Anniversary, Yakima.** The Central Lutheran church of Yakima, Wash., Rev. P. H. Nordlander, pastor, is planning to celebrate its fifth anniversary on Sunday, May 31. This congregation was organized 5 years ago by a union of three Lutheran churches representing the U. L. C., the N. L. C., and the Aug. Synod. A service of Holy Communion will be held in the morning. In the afternoon a Confirmation Reunion will be held, and the anniversary program will be held in the evening. It is planned to have representatives from the three church bodies present and taking part in the program.

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