

COLUMBIA LUTHERAN



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WHAT should be our chief concern in life? This is one of the questions in our Catechism. It is also the one great question that confronts all young people. What shall I be? What is the thing that I desire of life and for the possession of which I shall be willing to pay whatever price in discipline, study, sacrifice, labor and patience demanded of me? Having discovered this desirable thing one's soul's ambition will be to achieve it. That will become one's chief concern. The problem of youth has ever been, is, and will ever be the discovery of this one thing. This is the great quest, the adventure in life. How bewildering! It is not merely to grasp the first appealing object as the goal to achieve, but to ascertain that it is worthy of our life's pursuit and that in the end we shall be rewarded with the great satisfaction of a life well spent. It is our life at stake. Nothing less than the full, rich life we seek.

Success, this so glorified and equally misunderstood word might be written in letters of fire over turrets and bastions of the castle that glints and glimmers in the play of the beams of the rising sun in the

Life's Chief Concern

land of "tomorrow"—the castle that youth sets out to conquer and to possess. To achieve one's ambition, to realize dreams, that is to succeed, that is success cries youth.

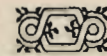
First then let us inquire as to what ambition is worthy of a whole life's devotion and what dreams, when realized will meet with our expectations. Because the value of a life's struggle will be measured, in the end, by the satisfaction it yields. It is a terrible discovery and, oh, so common, to wake up to the realization when youth is gone, strength spent and little remains of life that all was vanity, our days spent in chase of a phantom, a shadow without substance: to look into a future without hope and to behold the past as a dismal failure. That is disaster and not success.

Whence then do young people derive their ideal? (An ideal is, at least should be, the sum total of a heart's ambition, the inner picture of the best, the loveliest conceivable to us.) From the world about them. In our world and day of technical and mechanical progress and material prosperity, it lies near at hand that WEALTH

becomes the all desirable goal. The trade will be valued in what it pays, the professions of law, medicine, engineering, etc. offer their appeal as means to an end and that end financial return. Business, as a matter of course, is chosen for the purpose of MAKING money and politics not infrequently for the opportunities offered for personal enrichment. This is natural since the worth of a man is often rated in terms of his possessions—so many dollars—and the conveniences, comforts and security of existence in this artificial world are bought with money.

The falseness of this ideal is discovered, however, when we inquire as to whether this outward and economic success brings happiness. After all, youth is not concerned about money for its own sake. It is no miser who revels in and gloats over the mere possession of things. That is a sin acquired with age. Youth hungers after happiness and seeks in the outward success to find happiness, only to realize when the head is thatched with silver and the shoulders stooped under the burden of years that happiness can not be bought

(Continued on Page Eight)



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Warren, Ore.

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165 W. 65th Street Seattle, Wash.

The Study of God's Word

We are glad to dedicate this issue to the
Bible Institutes within our Conference. The
reason for these assemblies is the desire on
the part of the young people to have the
opportunity to come together and study
consecutively and uninterruptedly some
portion of God's word. The Institutes do
not take the place of Bible study in the
Sunday School and the Luther League. The
purpose is rather that these days spent at
the Bible assembly may stimulate all to a
more thoro and serious study of the word
both at home and in the organizations of
the church.

The word of God is a means of grace. The
Holy Spirit uses the Word to enlighten and
instruct souls in regard to the way of
salvation. It is the Word of Truth. It
deals with the great subjects of life, death,
and immortality. Anyone who wants to
know the truth about these, must go to the
word of God. This truth cannot be found
in the literature that man produces, not
in the decrees of assemblies and councils,
not in alleged communications with
mysterious spirits; but only in the pure
and holy Word of God. There the truth
about man is stated, there the truth about
the Triune God is revealed, and there the
way of salvation by faith in Jesus Christ
is taught. To neglect the Word of Truth
means that we become slaves of ignorance
and falsehood. Only truth can set us free.

It is therefore with thankfulness to God
that we see the growing interest and the
increasing numbers of those who attend
the Bible Institutes during the summer. As
they study the Word of Truth, may they
find Him who is the Way, the Truth

and the Life. For that is the answer to
all life's problems, to know the only true
God and Him, whom He has sent, even
Jesus Christ.

Tacoma-Mt. Baker Luther League Convention

The 25th Annual Convention of the Ta-
coma-Mt. Baker district Luther League
was held in the Gethsemane Lutheran
church, Seattle, Dr. C. R. Swanson, pastor,
on May 16-17. The convention opened
with a banquet held in the church parlors
of the Gethsemane church on Saturday
evening. About 200 guests were present.
Mr. Bertil Johnson, president of the Dis-
trict League, acted as toastmaster. The
program consisted of an address of wel-
come by Mr. Thorild Swanson, and two
vocal solos by Miss Arleatha Johnson of
Mt. Vernon. Miss Margaretta Grant,
publicity secretary, awarded the prizes for
the poster contest. Mr. George Hill of
Everett won first prize in the poster
contest, and a silver loving cup was
awarded to the Gethsemane Luther League
for having submitted the largest number
of posters. Dr. C. R. Swanson greeted
the delegates and visitors on behalf of the
Gethsemane church, and also touched
briefly on the history of the League, com-
paring the meeting of today with the
organization meeting 25 years ago.

The annual business session was held in
the church auditorium following the ban-
quet. Rev. Carl A. V. Lund, vice-president
of the district, conducted the opening
devotionals. There were about 65 delegates
and in all about 175 persons present. The
president, Mr. Bertil Johnson, read his
annual report. The report of the treasurer
was read and accepted. The following
officers were elected: Pres., Rev. Carl A.
V. Lund, Mt. Vernon; Vice-pres., Mr.
Arthur Linn, Tacoma; Rec. Sec'y, Miss
Esther Hogdahl, Tacoma; Cor. Sec'y,
Miss Lydia Stenborg, Emaus, Seattle;
Treas., Mr. Martin Johnson, Auburn; Dean
of the Bible Institute, Dr. C. R. Swanson;
Supt of grounds at the Bible Inst., Rev.
Elmer Johnson; Dean of Women, Mrs.
Elmer Johnson; Publicity Sec'y., Miss
Margaretta Grant, Seattle.

The budget for 1931 was left to the
Executive Committee. Last year's budget
according to the report by the treasurer
was as follows:

Conference Luther League.....	\$25.00
Publicity	50.00
Student Aid Fund	100.00
Home Missions	100.00
Foreign Mission	50.00
Columbia Hospital	75.00
Toward Property purchase	450.00

The question of purchasing a permanent
site for the Bible Institute was discussed

at some length. It was decided to refer
the matter again to the Ex. Committee
to continue investigating the possibilities
of a permanent site. It was decided to ask
the president to appoint the delegates to
the Conference Luther League convention
in Spokane, Sept. 5-7. The Bethesda
League of Olympia was admitted to mem-
bership in the district league. Resolutions
expressing thanks and appreciation to the
outgoing officers for their splendid and
faithful work were adopted. The business
meeting closed with prayer and bene-
diction by Dr. C. R. Swanson.

On Sunday the Gethsemane church was
filled to capacity at all the services. A
Swedish service was held at 9 o'clock.
Rev. Enoch Sandeen preached the sermon
on the text of the day. The Sunday School
assembly was held at 10 o'clock. Rev.
Ernest G. Svenson delivered an address
on the subject: "The Importance of Divine
Worship." A sextette from the Mary and
Martha Bible Class sang two songs. Holy
Communion was celebrated at 11 o'clock.
Rev. Carl A. V. Lund delivered the pre-
paratory address. A very great number
came forward to kneel at the altar and
receive the body and blood of our Lord
Jesus Christ. The greater number of
these were young people, delegates and
visitors. The Gethsemane choir sang two
anthems during this service.

In the afternoon a Young Peoples' Rally
was held. Mr. Bertil Johnson delivered
an address on the subject: "The Signs of
Life," and Rev. Erik H. Wahlstrom
spoke on the subject: "The High Calling
of God." The choir from the Bethany
church, Seattle, sang an anthem, and a
vocal solo was sung by Mr. Fred Ohman
of Auburn. Rev. Ernest G. Svenson, dean
of the Bible Institute, presented the plans
and the program for the Institute at Lake
Sammamish and urged all to attend.

The evening service began at 7 o'clock.
Rev. Luther Cornay preached on the sub-
ject: "Christian Preparedness," and Rev.
Elmer Johnson closed the convention
with a sermon on the evening hymn:
"Abide with Me." The choir of the
Bethel church, Seattle, sang two anthems,
and Mr. Eugene Koll, Emaus, Seattle,
sang a vocal solo. Rev. Carl A. V. Lund
expressed the thanks of the district to the
Gethsemane Luther League and to Dr. and
Mrs. C. R. Swanson for the hospitality
and favors shown to all delegates and
visitors.

It was a very edifying and interesting
convention. The district has a great num-
ber of consecrated and capable young
people who possess enthusiasm and vigor.
We are grateful for the opportunity to
attend this convention, and we wish the
Tacoma-Mt. Baker Luther League God's
richest blessing in the future.

Friday, July 17

- 9:00-9:30—Morning Devotion, Rev. E. J. Sakrison.
- 9:45-10:45—Bible Study, Rev. J. P. Milton.
- 11:00-11:45—Lecture, Rev. Wm. Siegel.
- 7:45—8:00—Congregational Singing.
- 8:00—Address, "Food in the way," Ps. 73: 24, Rev. J. P. Milton.

Saturday, July 18

- 9:00-9:30—Morning Devotion, Harold Bjorklund.
- 9:45—Informal Discussion and Answers to questions.
- 7:45—8:00—Congregational Singing.
- 8:00—Possibly a Pageant.

Sunday, July 19

- 9:45-10:15—Sunday School.
- 10:30—Communion Services, Preparatory, Rev. H. P. Johnson. Sermon, Rev. Eric H. Wahlstrom.
- 3:00—Institute Mass Meeting. Address, "Glory Ahead," Rev. J. P. Milton.

Notice!

All who plan to attend the Bible Institute in Colton July 12-19, for the entire week or just for a few hours, are kindly asked to fill out the following information blank and mail to the undersigned as soon as possible. You will thereby render us in Colton as well as every one who attends the Bible Institute a kind service. It will be to your own benefit especially.

- 1—I (we) will arrive in Colton
- 2—In addition to myself there will be..... more in our party.
- 3—Will attend Bible Institute the following days
- 4—Wish to stay in private homes and not bring blankets and linen. (\$1.50 and \$2.00 a week.)
Answer yes or no.....
- 5—Prefer to stay in vacant house and bring own blankets and linen. (\$1.00 a week.) Answer yes or no..... (Includes L. L. cottage. Indicate if it is desired to stay in Luther League Cottage.).....
- 6—Wish to be provided with tent and cots. (\$1.00 a week, cot 25c.)
- 7—Will bring own tent, but wish to be provided with cots. (25c a cot for the week.)
- 8—Will bring own tent and equipment, only camping space is needed. (Free.).....
- 9—Wish to take meals at church. (Eight days \$7.00. Breakfast and supper 35c each, dinner 50c.).....
- 10—Wish to do own cooking. Answer yes or no.....

Name

Address

For sending us the above information we thank you even now. And on behalf of the people of Colton we extend to you a sincere WELCOME!

ERNST J. SAKRISON,
(Clackamas Co.) Colton Ore.

Festivities at Augustana, Portland

The Augustana Lutheran church, Portland, Ore., celebrated a number of happy events on Sunday, May 24. It was the 25th Anniversary of the congregation; the birthday of the pastor, Rev. Samuel E. Johnson; the 50th Wedding Anniversary of a couple of its members; and a confirmation reunion. The golden wedding anniversary was celebrated by Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Johnson, who on the 24th of May 50 years ago were united in holy wedlock.

The festivities began in the morning with a communion service, when this year's confirmation class also went to their first communion. Rev. A. M. Green delivered the preparatory address, and Rev. C. G. Bloomquist, former pastor of the church, preached the sermon. Rev. Bloomquist also spoke to the Sunday School before the service.

The confirmation reunion program was held in the afternoon at 3 o'clock. Representatives from the various classes gave short greetings to the congregation. The Emanuel Hospital chorus sang two anthems. The address was delivered by Dr. Wm. Schoeler, Lutheran student pastor of Oregon. He spoke on the subject: "I need Thee every hour." Mrs. A. Chalmstrom and Mr. John N. Nicholls each rendered a vocal solo. At the close of the program the local pastor announced that a birthday gift had been received for the church. This was in the form of a check on \$1000.00 which was given by Mr. John Johnson, a member of the church now residing in the Home for the Aged in Seattle. Rev. Green now took the platform and informed the audience that this day also marked the anniversary of the pastor, Rev. S. E. Johnson. After a few remarks of appreciation and esteem on behalf of the congregation, Rev. Green presented a lovely gift to Rev. Johnson from the auxiliary organizations of the church. Rev. Johnson expressed his thanks to the congregation in a few well-chosen words.

After the program all were invited to the parlors of the church for refreshments. Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Johnson were present and occupied a place of honor at the table. Rev. S. E. Johnson presented a beautiful bouquet of golden roses to the bridal couple and Rev. Green extended congratulations and well wishes on behalf of those present. A little girl, Karin Holmgren, who recently came from Sweden,

read a poem in Swedish in honor of the bridal pair.

The commemoration program was held in the evening at 8 o'clock. Rev. H. P. Johnson, president of the Columbia Conference, delivered the commemoration address on the subject: "The Church, its Origin and Purpose." Rev. Eric H. Wahlstrom, president of the district, extended greetings to the congregation on behalf of the churches of the Portland district. Rev. S. E. Johnson read greetings from the former pastors: Rev. C. A. Tolin, Rev. H. E. Sandstedt, and Rev. V. G. Ogren. The Augustana church choir rendered two beautiful anthems.

The day was surely full of festivities and joy for the members of the Augustana church and its friends. The congregation has enjoyed a steady growth during these 25 years. During these years 322 children have been confirmed, and a great number of them are now active and faithful members of the church. We wish to congratulate Augustana on having reached the 25th anniversary of its life and on the beautiful anniversary program arranged for the occasion, and we pray that God's richest blessings may rest upon the congregation and its pastors. We also want to congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Johnson and wish them peace and joy as they face the declining years of their life together.

E. H. W.

Spokane District Luther League Convention

Salem, Spokane, June 27-28.

Saturday, June 27:

- 8:00, Devotional meeting led by Rev. Wm. Siegel.
- 8:30, Business Session.

Sunday, June 28:

- 10:30 Communion Service.
- 3:00 Luther League Rally. Subject: "The Young People and the Church." Papers by the Young People of the District. Convention Address by Rev. Wm. Siegel.

Rev. and Mrs. G. K. Andeen have sold their house in Astoria and also the greater part of their furniture, and are soon ready to start on their trip across the continent. They will drive in their new Chevrolet sedan by way of California, Arizona, Colorado, Rock Island and east. It will mean a trip of over 5,000 miles. During the month of June Rev. and Mrs. Andeen and their family will visit the congregations in Mt. Vernon, June 10-11, and Spokane, June 14, where Rev. Andeen has been pastor. He plans to enter upon his duties as pastor of the Gloria Dei church in Providence, R. I., about August first.

The Conference Treasury

This is the 22nd day of May. In ten days the salaries to our Home Missionaries are due. The treasury is practically empty. Remember, we cannot borrow any large amount as we have done before. This means that we are not going to be able to pay the salaries on time. It isn't pleasant to tell you this, so you must not think that I am just "saying" this. We have not been able to pay our full quota to the Synod for 1930 yet. However, we can do what we have promised if every congregation remembers the treasury now. Please send me what you have. "Många bäckar små göra en stor å."

P. H. Nordlander,
Conference Treasurer.

Luther League Calendar

Spokane District Convention—June 27-28, Salem, Spokane.

Tacoma-Mt. Baker Bible Institute, Lake Sammamish, July 19-27.

Portland Bible Institute, Colton, July 12-19.

Conference Convention, Salem, Spokane, Sept. 5-7.

Young People of the Columbia Conference! You are invited to avail yourselves of the opportunities here presented to find the way in Christ as presented at these meetings. Make use of them. At the Conference meeting in Spokane we will have the pleasure to hold a union service with the young people of the American Lutheran Church, who hold their convention in Spokane at the same time. Plan now to attend the Conference Convention.

E. H. W.

Life's Chief Concern

(Continued from Page One)

in the public market with money; security and peace can not be found in the world of things, and that ruin may overtake one in the midst of luxury, while in possession of untold wealth.

Our chief concern in life then, if it is not to be successful, prosperous, rich, what can it be? It is true that happiness is what we under and above all desire. It is the warp and the woof in our dreams and hopes and labor. The yearning for happiness lies as a background consciously or unconsciously to all we do, and it is equally true that though we succeed in accumulating this world's goods we may fail in achieving our main desire. Mere wealth does not assure peace of soul and happiness of heart. Our very success may prove our failure.

Then, it is established that success is not our chief concern in life. However, let

us not leap into conclusions too quickly. We have so far not established or intended to prove that success is not our chief concern. Rather we would maintain that it is. We have not said that prosperity and even riches are not worthy of striving for, but they can not be allowed to be our chief concern, the main object of our desire.

To succeed means the fulfillment of our ambition, the realization of our dreams. It was not possession of outward things, wealth or position, we desired except as by means of these we could secure what we had all the time sought and hungered for, peace and happiness. These are life's greatest possessions, the inner spiritual qualities. They are the wealth that enriches the soul, that fills the heart with treasure and makes one truly rich even though the outward condition of one's life may be marked by poverty. It is, therefore, not on the outside and in the getting of things we find our life's success but in the inner world of the heart. All these things in the world are not to be despised. They are valuable, tho not intrinsically, in the use to which we put them, as tools or as media through which the soul's ambition finds expression. "All these things shall be added unto you," says Christ, but first He admonishes all those who are bewildered and doubtful as to what should constitute life's chief concern, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness," Matthew 6: 33. "The Kingdom of God," to quote Christ, is neither here nor there, "The Kingdom of God is within you." The greatest possession man has is his soul. So great a value is represented in one's soul that all the wealth of the world is not sufficient to equal it. "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his soul?"

Our chief concern then in life should be, as the catechism so concisely puts it, "That we should be saved." And salvation what does that really mean? It means simply this, that we have made the great discovery that the wealth worthy of our interest and of our ambition is not found in the world of things about us but in the world within. There is found our greatest treasure. To lose this treasure in the search of something else, even tho we may be rewarded by all the world as our possession, will be to fail. To find our inner self, the soul, is to set our feet on the road that leads to the truly great adventure where dangers lurk, where we must battle our way every inch, where our strength will be tested to the breaking point and beyond; where we may experience the bitterness of defeat in the sense that our own strength is insufficient for the struggle and that we will lose out, be lost, lose all unless some other resource of power can be tapped. The sense of sin, like a heavy threatening

cloud, hangs over us shutting out the blue sky, the golden sun of hope, pressing down upon us. Despair overtakes us. We have discovered our life's great treasure in comparison with which all else is dust and ashes and yet we do not possess it nor realize its richness. Then may the teaching of our Confirmation Class come to our memory and the words of Jesus from many a promise He made us be heard—"Come unto me ye who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest." "Whosoever believeth on me shall not perish." "Lo, I am with you even to the end of the world." The clouds lift, the sun again shines forth. I have discovered only then my greatest treasure, what is truly worthy of my all. I have also found God, personal, real in the person of Jesus who is also my friend. In fellowship with Him, success is an assurance.

Life is a continuous series of opportunities, forever increasing wealth in cheer, happiness, supreme confidence and peace. Our job, profession, trade no longer will be estimated in terms of money. Our life occupation will be considered from the point of view of opportunities for self expression and of service, whereby we can enrich the world in which we live by making it better than it was and our own inner lives with a sense of worthwhileness, of quiet happiness and a deep peace that none else can experience than he who is conscious that the Kingdom of God is within him, that God rules his life in love and that "it is well with his soul." This is success. This is the crowning achievement in life. The attainment of this should be our Great Concern.

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