



PROCEEDINGS OF THE THIRTY-SEVENTH CONVENTION OF THE NORTHWEST DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Portland, Oregon, June 14—18, 1954

LIBRARY

SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Pastors:

- R. W. Rimbach to the California and Nevada District
- Fred T. Schoen to the Kansas District
- F. Ritthamel to the Western District
- Edw. Bartell to the North Dakota District
- A. J. Maas to the California and Nevada District
- A. Rubin to the California and Nevada District
- A. D. Lautenschlager to the Southern California District
- Sieg. H. Schroeder to the Iowa District West
- M. Duchow to the Northern Nebraska District
- B. T. Bauer to the Southern California District
- Wm. H. Albach to the Iowa District West

Teachers:

- Eugene Kruse to the Southern California District
- L. W. Meissner to the English District
- Wm. Kamprath to the Kansas District
- Paul L. Germeroth to the Michigan District
- Bernard J. Callies to the California and Nevada District
- Martin Juergensen to the California and Nevada District

Resignations

- A. John Maas, pastor at Hood River
- Reuel R. Winkelmann, pastor at Buhl
- Werner H. Heidtbrink, teacher at Kirkland
- L. W. Meissner, teacher at Sherwood
- E. W. Cohrs, pastor at Twin Falls
- R. J. Mathwich, teacher at Corvallis
- Elmer Kosche, teacher at Tacoma
- O. Isenberg, teacher at Snohomish
- Wm. Lohmann, pastor at Sweet Home

Death

- Martin C. Kauth, pastor at Kennewick

Ordained

- Harold Steinke, June 8, 1952, by E. G. Kleidon
- Charles Reichert, July 12, 1953, by Herbert Mayer
- Fred Bartling, July 26, 1953, by Victor Bartling

Ordained and Commissioned or Installed

- Albert Carow to Japan, January 11, 1953, by E. H. Becker
- Herbert Schiefelbein, Grand Coulee-Hartline, Wash., July 27, 1952, by O. H. Grabow

Ministerial Candidates: Albert Carow, Japan; Herbert Schiefelbein, Grand Coulee-Hartline, Wash.; Robert Kunz, Cottage Grove, Oreg.; Paul Pfotenbauer, Portland, Oreg.; Kenneth Heinitz, Twin Falls, Idaho; Mervin Kellermann, Boise, Idaho; Gilbert Moore, Wendell-Gooding, Idaho; Henry Friedrich, Westfir-Oakridge, Oreg.

Teacher Candidates: Lee Roy Holtzen, Buhl, Idaho; George Shoemaker, Tacoma, Wash.; E. Duensing, Twin Falls, Idaho.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

On the basis of John 17:17, Pastor Carl H. Bensene of Zion Congregation, Seattle, delivered a moving and inspiring address, setting forth the sanctifying power of the Word of God and the firm basis of the truth given by the Lord Himself. President Bensene encouraged the members of the Church of Christ that being enlightened by His grace and sanctified by His truth, they strive to do His work in the kingdom of God as He would have us to do it.



President Carl Bensene calls the thirty-seventh convention to order

All of the conventions of the Northwest District are now held on the campus of Concordia College, Portland. The thirty-seventh convention was held there from June 14 to 18, with Dr. Thomas Coates, president of Concordia College, and St. Michael's Congregation and its pastor, the Rev. F. H. Krinke, the hosts. Members from the various congregations of Portland assisted with the arrangements and housing and in serving the delegates and guests with well-prepared meals in the new Guild Hall.

The convention proper was officially opened with a solemn Communion service in the Chapel of the Upper Room of Concordia College on Monday evening, June 14, 8 o'clock. The Rev. A. C. Kratzke of Lebanon, Oreg., preached the confessional sermon. The Rev. F. A. Krinke served as officiant. The Rev. H. Harms, D.D., First Vice-President of Synod, preached the principal sermon on the theme: "The Great Commission," presented as the First Convention Sermon of Christ to the New Testament Church, Matt. 28:16-20.

The status of the church at large, the progress being made in the work of the various mission fields, the training of ministers and teachers for work in the Church, various problems confronting us in our intersynodical relationships, and other matters of general synodical interest were discussed each day by Dr. Harms.

Pastors W. Janssen, N. E. Dey, E. E. Hellwege, and R. C. Muhly delivered brief sermons in the morning devotional periods.

ROLL CALL SUMMARY

	Present
Voting Pastors	112
Lay Delegates	101
Advisory Pastors	14
Teachers	14
Total	241

RECEIVED INTO MEMBERSHIP

Congregations: Northgate Lutheran Church, Seattle, Wash.; Anchorage Lutheran Church, Anchorage, Alaska; Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bingen, Wash.; Grace Lutheran Church, Port Townsend, Wash.; Faith Lutheran Church, The Dalles, Oreg.; St. John's Lutheran Church, Palmer, Alaska.

Robert E. Kunz, Cottage Grove, Oreg., August 31, 1952, by E. D. Busch
Paul Pfothenhauer, Portland, Oreg., October 5, 1952, by Amos A. Schmidt
Kenneth Heinitz, Twin Falls, Idaho, July 19, 1953, by R. C. Muhly
Mervin Kellermann, Boise, Idaho, August 16, 1953, by W. F. Kellermann
Gilbert C. Moore, Wendell-Gooding, Idaho, August 16, 1953, by Edwin H. Wiebel
Henry W. A. Friedrich, Westfir-Oakridge, Oreg., August 23, 1953, by E. D. Busch

Pastors: Installed

Omar Stuenkel, Portland, Oreg., June 15, 1952, by Carl F. Nitz
E. W. Cohrs, Twin Falls, Idaho, June 22, 1952, by R. C. Muhly
Harold Steinke, Port Townsend, Wash., July 13, 1952, by W. Janssen
Walter Wendland, Richland, Wash., August 10, 1952, by P. Harting, from Northern Nebraska District
Walter A. Moose, Enterprise, Oreg., August 24, 1952, by Amos A. Schmidt, from Kansas District
William G. Houser, Veradale, Wash., September 14, 1952, by E. E. Hellwege, from Iowa District West
Henry Treit, Beaverton, Oreg., September 14, 1952, by Richard Aumann, from Alberta and British Columbia District
William Naatz, Oak Grove, Oreg., September 14, 1952, by Paul Harms
K. J. Durdal, Molalla, Oreg., October 12, 1952, by R. G. Messerli, from North Dakota District
E. Paul Riedel, Ashland, Oreg., October 12, 1952, by Amos A. Schmidt
Arthur G. Wahlers, Portland, Oreg., Nov. 2, 1952, by Carl F. Nitz
Karl W. Keller, Portland, Oreg., November 2, 1952, by Carl F. Nitz
John E. Simon, Hood River, Oreg., November 16, 1952, by Elmer Muhly
Ralph A. Wegener, Port Angeles, Wash., November 30, 1952, by E. R. Schramm, from South Dakota District
Frederick W. Behrmann, Gresham, Oreg., December 7, 1952, by N. E. Dey
Theodore Gieschen, Ashton, Idaho, February 1, 1953, by Waldo H. Rist, from North Wisconsin District
Donald Roehl, Seattle, Wash., February 15, 1953, by R. Spannaus, from Montana District
Martin Russert, Seaside, Oreg., March 8, 1953, by O. J. Wendling
Luther E. Russert, St. Helens, Oreg., April 19, 1953, by Martin Russert, from Montana District
Carl V. Losser, Buhl, Idaho, April 24, 1953, by R. C. Muhly, from South Dakota District
Walter F. Kellermann, Shelton, Wash., April 26, 1953, by R. A. Frantz
Norbert G. Heins, Myrtle Point, Oreg., May 3, 1953, by Richard Gross
Carl R. Eggers, Bellingham, Wash., May 10, 1953, by Alfred E. Eichmann
Paul J. Schulze, Bellevue, Wash., May 24, 1953, by John F. Merz, from English District
B. T. Bauer, Toledo, Oreg., June 7, 1953, by A. H. Teyler
John H. Werth, Emmett, Idaho, July 5, 1953, by Harry H. Young
Edwin C. Zschoche, Portland, Oreg., July 19, 1953, by Karl Keller, from Iowa District West
Paul W. Harting, Philomath, Oreg., August 23, 1953, by Harold Gieseke
Fred Bartling, Spokane, Wash., September 13, 1953, by Donald H. Larsen
Charles Reichert, Spokane, Wash., September 13, 1953, by T. E. Dorpat
Vincent Larson, Prosser, Wash., September 20, 1953, by A. Beawer
Joseph Mann, Mt. Angel, Oreg., October 4, 1953, by K. J. Durdal
O. Winterstein, New Plymouth, Idaho, November 1, 1953, by Theo. Brackmann
Herbert Schiefelbein, Portland, Oreg., November 22, 1953, by P. Pfothenhauer
Edwin Wiebel, Seattle, Wash., December 6, 1953, by R. Spannaus

Walter Bartling, Seattle, Wash., December 13, 1953, by C. R. Mueller, from Colorado District
John H. Werth, Auburn, Wash., January 3, 1954, by Erwin Gerken
Paul L. Frank, Moses Lake, Wash., January 17, 1954, by A. H. Grabow, from Kansas District
Alwin Reimnitz, Buhl, Idaho, February 28, 1954, by R. Koch, from South Dakota District
D. C. Schroeder, Kennewick, Wash., April 19, 1953, by A. Beawer
H. Gurney, Grants Pass, Oreg., June 6, 1954, by E. Paul Riedel

Teachers:

Lee Roy Holtzen, Buhl, Idaho, August 10, 1952, by Edwin H. Wiebel
George F. Shoemaker, Yakima, Wash., August 31, 1952, by E. W. Hinrichs
Elden Duensing, Twin Falls, Idaho, July 19, 1953, by R. C. Muhly



The chapel at Concordia College, where the opening service and the morning services were held

Merle L. Radke, Twin Falls, Idaho, August 23, 1953, by R. C. Muhly, from Michigan District
Robert Sylwester, Portland, Oreg., August 30, 1953, by Carl F. Nitz
George F. Shoemaker, Tacoma, Wash., September 6, 1953, by A. J. Bueltmann

Called to Chaplaincy

M. W. Heinicke, 1952
Alton Donsbach, 1953
O. O. Sylwester, 1953

PRESIDENT'S REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE VISITORS

The Visitors who assisted the District President in their various areas the past two years are as follows:

Circuit 1, W. Sylwester (Paul W. F. Harms); Circuit 2, W. B. Maier; Circuit 3, H. J. Gieseke; Circuit 4, C. Wildermuth; Circuit 5, N. Dey; Circuit 6, O. J. Wendling*; Circuit 7, H. H. Young; Circuit 8, R. A. Koch; Circuit 9, A. Beawer (M. C. Kauth); Circuit 10, T. E. Dorpat; Circuit 11, H. A. Kriefall*; Circuit 12, Paul Schaus; Circuit 13, H. Warneck; Circuit 14, R. Frantz (O. Winterstein).

All visitors conducted circuit meetings,

* Indicates pastor visited all congregations in the circuit

not only in connection with finances, but also with "Bible Study Advance" and in other matters concerned with the welfare of the Synod or District.

Seventy-five meetings were held with pastors.

Fifty-seven meetings were held with congregations. We have more than 150 congregations; however, only a few more than one third of them were visited. We believe here there might be some improvement.

Forty-five meetings were held with congregational officers and committees.

The Visitors together with one layman from each circuit make up the District Fiscal Conference, which meets each fall. There is also a one-day meeting of the Visitors each fall in which specific phases of their office are discussed.

CARL H. BENSENE, *President*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Since the last convention of the Northwest District in June, 1952, there was no change in the personnel of the Board except for the addition ordered by the 1952 convention. Acting upon the resolution of that convention the First Vice-President of the District by virtue of his office became a member of the Board and served on the Mission Committee.

During the past two years the Board has carried out its work on the basis of the following organization.

- Chairman: President Carl Bensen
- Secretary: Pastor Amos Schmidt
- Mission Committee: Pastor Emil Jaech, chairman; Pastor Friebert Krinke, secretary; Mr. P. W. Carlson, treasurer; Pastor Theodore Brackmann
- Stewardship-Finance Committee: Pastor R. C. Muhly, chairman; Dr. Earl C. Muck; Mr. A. K. Engel
- Trustees-Church Extension Committee: Pastor E. W. Hinrichs, chairman; Mr. Paul Neils, secretary of the Trustees; Mr. G. C. Hilken, secretary of Church Extension
- Parish Education Committee: Pastor E. R. Schramm, chairman; Mr. W. R. Kamp-rath; Mr. George Nickles
- Youth Committee: Pastor Emil Hellwege, chairman; Dr. Earl C. Muck

The Board has held fourteen meetings since the convention of 1952.

The members of the Board have given many hours to the work of the District and have shown a genuine concern and an earnest willingness in the work of the District.

The various conferences of the District were represented on the Board with the following personnel.

- Puget Sound: Pastor Eugene Schramm
- Oregon: Pastor Friebert Krinke
- Eastern Washington: Pastor Emil Hellwege
- Idaho: Pastor R. C. Muhly
- Teachers: Mr. W. R. Kamp-rath
- Members at Large: Pastors: Emil Jaech, E. W. Hinrichs
- Laymen: G. C. Hilken, Paul Neils, E. C. Muck, George Nickles, P. W. Carlson
- Ex Officio: President Carl Bensen, Vice-President; Theodore Brackmann, A. K. Engel, Treasurer

The various committees of the Board will present individual reports. Suffice it to say that during the past two years the Board has conducted District-wide evang-

elism conferences attended by almost 1,000 people and a series of Stewardship schools.

The harmonious operation of the Board, the willingness of the members to serve in many capacities, the serious consideration given to all requests, are some of the factors which make it a privilege and a joy to work on and with the Board.

Action of the Convention: The report was adopted with a commendation to the members of the Board of Directors for their many hours of labor.

CONVENTION ESSAY

"The Doctrine of the Last Things" was the subject of the essay presented by the Rev. A. H. Schwermann, D.D., Ed-



The Rev. A. H. Schwermann, D.D., of Edmonton, Canada, who presented the essay on "The Doctrine of the Last Things"

monton, Canada. The divisions of his paper were:

- I. The Second Coming of Christ
- II. Signs Preceding His Advent
- III. The Resurrection of the Dead
- IV. The Judgment
- V. The End of the world
- VI. Eternal Damnation and Eternal Salvation
- VII. Purpose of This Doctrine Is to Give Warning and Encouragement

Action of the Convention: It was resolved to thank Dr. A. H. Schwermann for his splendid presentation of the essay on the doctrine of the Last Things; and it was further resolved that the essay of Dr. A. H. Schwermann be mimeographed at District expense and that one copy be sent to the delegate and pastor of each congregation.

THE MISSION COMMITTEE

Since the last report given by this Committee to the District convention the Lord of the Church has again given rich blessings to the mission efforts of the District. The following facts will bear out that truth.

Ten Congregations Became Self-Sustaining. Anchorage, Alaska; St. Paul's, Boise, Idaho; Grants Pass, Oreg.; Holy Cross, Portland; St. Michael's, Portland; Port Orchard, Wash.; Atonement, Seattle; Messiah, Seattle; Mount Olive, Seattle; and Washougal, Wash., became self-sustaining. It is true that two of these stations will receive school subsidy, but they are no longer in the group with our regular subsidized stations. We believe that these congregations and their pastors should be commended by this convention as we wel-

come them into the ranks of self-sustaining congregations.

Fifteen Stations Were Opened. During the past two years fifteen stations were opened or became the concern of our Board: Boise Bench Mission, Idaho; New Plymouth, Idaho; Wendell, Idaho; Portland, Holy Sacraments; Portland, Beautiful Savior; Westfir-Oakridge, Oreg.; Bellevue, Wash.; Port Townsend, Wash.; Moscow, Idaho; Veradale, Wash.; The Dalles, Oreg.; White Salmon, Wash.

New Fields. Plans are presently under way to enter two additional fields by the end of 1954: Pasco, Wash.; and Seattle, Gregory Heights, and/or the Edmunds area and the Eastgate area. We are also making plans to open a mission at Juneau, Alaska. Working with the Inter parish Council of Portland, we hope to open a mission in East Portland between Calvary and Gresham, and thought is being given to the establishment of work at Tigard, Oreg. Under the sponsorship of the Spokane Mission Council we will begin work at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. At the suggestion of our Board the Magic Valley Pastoral Conference in Idaho is making a survey of a number of towns and communities in central and southern Idaho. The Yellowstone Pastoral Conference in southeastern Idaho has been asked to investigate mission opportunities in a number of towns and communities in that section of the State.

We would like to encourage the smaller pastoral conferences to seek to develop mission committees composed of pastors and laymen in their areas to develop mission opportunities. We believe that the Inter-Parish Council of Portland and the Mission Council of Spokane are rendering excellent service to the Kingdom in planning the work of the Church in their respective areas. We commend their example and plans to the consideration of groups in other sections of the District.

Building Program. With the aid of funds from the District and the General Church Extension Fund and from the "Conquest for Christ" offering, we were privileged, under God, to complete eleven chapels, and with loans from banks in addition to the above-mentioned financial assistance we were able to purchase or

build eight parsonages. We are also purchasing four church sites.

Circuit Riders. In addition to the above expansion, our two circuit riders serve a number of places. Pastor Henry Schulte, our veteran circuit rider, has been living at Hermiston, Oreg., for about one year. He serves Lutherans living at Boardman, Hermiston, Irrigon, Umatilla, McNary, and several other places. Services are held regularly at Hermiston and Boardman. A parsonage is being purchased at Hermiston. The group there has purchased lots adjoining the parsonage property on which they would like to build a church. Much of Pastor Schulte's time is also taken with the Sunday School by mail. At the present time 1,084 children are enrolled in the mission.

Pastor Norbert Heins has been circuit rider in southwestern Oregon for a bit more than a year. He lives at Myrtle Point and serves Lutherans living at Myrtle Point, Reedsport, Gold Beach, Coquille, Bandon, and so forth. Regular services are held at Reedsport, Myrtle Point, and Gold Beach. In the heart of a great lumbering area, the town of Reedsport will soon require the services of a resident pastor.

Institutional Missionaries. The mission offerings of the District also support the Gospel ministry to the sick and infirm at a number of institutions in Washington and Oregon. Our two institutional missionaries make many bedside visits and instruct patients in the truths of Christianity regularly. We would like to express our thanks to the Seattle Ladies' Missionary Society for the generous support they are giving to the Seattle institutional mission and to the Lutheran ladies of Salem for their assistance to the institutional mission at Salem.

Parish Workers. Our District also has in its employ parish workers. At the present time only Miss Janet Tews is on the staff. She plans to leave our District this summer and move to St. Louis. Miss Lois Nelson, who was with us at the time of the last convention, found other work. We are in need of additional parish workers. These ladies serve excellently in the opening of new missions, making canvasses, doing follow-up work, and assist-

Summary

At the present time 44 congregations, 17 preaching places, two institutional missionaries, two circuit riders, one Estonian worker, and two vicars are supported by our Board.

Alaska	1 congregation	We are opening a mission in Juneau		1 pastor
Idaho	8 congregations	2 preaching places	6 pastors	1 vicar
Oregon	19 congregations	2 preaching places	16 pastors	1 vacancy
Washington	16 congregations	4 preaching places	14 pastors	1 vicar 1 vacancy
Circuit Rider		5 preaching places	2 pastors	
Institutional Work			2 pastors	
Estonian		2 preaching places	1 pastor	
Parish Workers:				
	1			
Totals	44 congregations	17 preaching places	42 pastors	2 vicars
Total Workers:	45	Total Stations:	61	

ing with the Sunday school program. We would like to report that the parish worker program has been supported financially by the generous gifts of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of the District. We would like to express our thanks to that group for this generous support toward the maintenance of this program.

During the two-year period the mission stations noted in the 1952 report which continued to receive subsidy up to the convention have had a net gain, in approximately eighteen months, of 525 communicants and 1,157 souls. Your mission offerings have enabled us to bring the Gospel to these people and to lead them to Jesus. May our Lord strengthen our hands and give us willing hearts to bring Him generous gifts, and endow us with foresight and vision so that we may be able to bring the Gospel to an increasing number of people in our District.

Action of the convention: The report was adopted with a hearty recommendation to the Committee for its awareness of the responsibilities and its zeal for expansion of God's kingdom here on earth.

Those congregations which with God's help have become self-sustaining were commended; those congregations still subsidized by the Northwest District were encouraged to continue their efforts to become self-sustaining.

The attention of the circuits, pastoral conferences, and congregations was drawn to the fine suggestion of the Mission Committee for the development of mission committees, and it was urged that their organizations seek out mission opportunities in their own areas.

The circuit riders were commended for their labors in the Lord's kingdom, and it was asked that they be remembered in the prayers of our people everywhere.

The Seattle Ladies' Mission Society and the Lutheran Ladies of Salem were commended for their generous support of the institutional missionaries.

The institutional missionaries and the parish workers were commended for their diligent and faithful work, and it was urged that our congregations pray for their welfare and the continuance of the fine work which has begun.

The Mission Committee and Executive Secretary were urged to maintain as much personal contact with our missionaries as possible in order to give them the assistance needed in their work.

REGARDING OUR MINIMUM FAIR SHARE FOR MISSIONS AND SYNOD

RESOLVED, That this convention

1. Suggest that all congregations which have not remitted their "fare share" to date do so right after this convention;
2. Suggest that if the necessary funds for this purpose are not available, congregations

- a. personally contact all members who have given little or nothing for missions to date, and ask them for a generous mission offering, or
- b. plan a special congregation-wide mission offering at once to make up the arrears, or
- c. borrow the money from balances in other congregational treasuries, or from the bank;

3. Suggest that all congregations consider seriously the plan of asking their members from now on to give liberally and regularly for missions at least every month;

4. Suggest that the Circuit Visitors, as soon as possible after this convention, personally contact all pastors and congregations which have fallen behind in their mission offering, and urge them to act upon points one and two of this resolution.



The Rev. H. Harms, D.D., First Vice-President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, who preached the sermon at the opening service and reported on matters of general synodical interest

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

The work of the Executive Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Northwest District is closely tied in with the work of that Board and its various committees. The directives of the call state that the assignments of this office are given by the Board for the promotion of the Lord's work, especially in the Northwest District.

Since the last convention efforts have again been directed toward the fulfillment of this assignment. The Executive Secretary serves as secretary of the Board, keeping the minutes of the meetings and handling the bulk of the correspondence. The various records of the Board, the legal documents of the District, including scores of insurance policies, and other valuable

papers are kept at the District office and become his care.

In the interest of the work of the various committees and projects of the Board, the four pastoral conferences and a number of the smaller conferences were attended several times. Articles have been submitted to the District LUTHERAN WITNESS from time to time, and a special bulletin has been sent to the pastors, teachers, and parish workers eight times each year, to give information and to increase interest in the Lord's work in the District.

Missions

The chief emphasis of the work of the Executive Secretary has been in the area of missions and stewardship. The report of the Mission Committee as well as charts which will be presented to the convention indicate the blessings of God in this particular phase of Kingdom work. The mission fields and the workers have been visited from time to time. Since the last convention more than 100 conferences have been held with the workers in the office and in the field. In January and February of 1953 ten Missions Conferences were held throughout the District. To foster a more direct and aggressive mission expansion policy on the local level, mission councils were organized in Portland and Spokane. The telemission program has also been handled through the District office. We are grateful to a group of ladies in the Portland area, members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, who have made the District telemission program their project. Up to the end of March 2,705 cards have been sorted and mailed to the pastors. Unfortunately, thus far only 799 have been returned. We submit for your earnest consideration the possibility of making the telemission program a project of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League or other ladies' groups also on the parish level. This suggestion is being followed in a number of congregations. We would urge a more general response to this program.

We would also encourage the congregations to a greater emphasis on evangelism. If it is true, as statistics seem to indicate, that our section of the nation is one of the largest mission fields in the United States, there certainly ought to be a constant and continuing program and training in evangelism. During 1953 thirty-three congregations of the District, or more than 20 per cent, confirmed and/or baptized no adults. A large number of congregations confirmed only one or two adults. In an area where fields are white unto harvest we should strive to engage more of our people to lead others to Jesus, and we should bend every effort to "compel them to come in."

Stewardship

The area of stewardship work has also been developed, as the report of the Stewardship Committee will indicate. Since the 1952 convention a Stewardship Bulletin has been sent out regularly from



Convention business sessions were held in the spacious gymnasium of Concordia College

the office. At the present time the bulletin is being sent to almost 500 addresses. Plans call for an enlargement and embellishment of the bulletin. We would urge an even more widespread reading of the *Stewardship Bulletin*, so that a growing number of our people may receive information regularly on the latest development in the District and Synod. The office is ready to mail the bulletin to all officers and leaders of the congregations throughout the District.

In conclusion, as our District grows, the responsibility and service of the office increases. It is interesting to note that during the past five years, while the communicant membership of the District increased by approximately 20 per cent, the increase in mail handled in the District office since the last convention is 33 per cent. The LUTHERAN WITNESS congregation-wide subscription, the management of which is also handled through the District office, has grown by more than 1,000 subscriptions since the last convention. Many hours are spent in the preparation of the mailing lists, changes of address, etc.

We are deeply grateful to our heavenly Father for these evidences of His blessings among us. We would extend a sincere "Thank you" to our pastors, teachers, Board members, the Stewardship leaders in the circuits and congregations, for their prayers and their fine co-operation. May the Lord our God continue to grant unto your Executive Secretary the joy of serving Him and you to the glory of our precious Savior, Jesus Christ.

Action of the Convention: The report was adopted with a commendation to the Executive Secretary for his competent and efficient work.

It was resolved to thank the L. W. M. L. for its distribution of the telemission cards and to encourage them to continue to work on this project. It was urged that the pastor or some responsible organization in each congregation be made responsible for calling upon the people whose names are made available to them through this means.

Note was taken of the fact as reported by our Executive Secretary that more than 20 per cent of the congregations in our District have confirmed and or baptized no adults during 1953. It was urged that these congregations re-examine their activity in the field of evangelism with a view toward remedying this situation.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

A

It seems that with each passing year, our District budget goes higher and higher. These are some factors that will help us to understand:

- a) The dollar buys less, we need more of them to do the job.
- b) The Church has greater opportunities than ever before.
- c) The other 31 Districts have also had soaring budgets.
- d) Synod has sharply increased its annual budget, we "go along."
- e) We are operating in more areas of activity than ever before.

1951 — for budget — \$163,703
1952 — for budget — 182,613
1953 — for budget — 218,366

Just above this, you see what our Christians gave for missions in three years. Here we will show what our Christians gave for the work of Jesus, not only for missions, but for all home purposes as well. See how God opened their hearts —

1951 — for all purposes — \$1,471,931
1952 — for all purposes — 1,866,898
1953 — for all purposes — 1,836,327

WE MISSED OUR GOALS. Yes, in 1952 we missed reaching our District budget by \$14,947. Again, in 1953 we missed reaching our goal by \$16,684. These two deficits were absorbed when Synod

Here is a table showing the District budgets, 1950—1954:

	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
1. We sent to Synod	\$ 44,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 80,000	\$102,000	\$140,000
2. District home missions	71,000	71,000	75,000	80,000	90,000
3. Administration	13,700	13,700	15,000	17,750	19,000
4. "Witness, Lutheraner"	12,800	13,000	13,250	15,000	16,500
5. Church Extension	2,000	2,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
6. Aid to Students	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,250	2,250
7. Concordia College	500	500	500	500	2,500
8. Stewardship Education	700	700	250	—	—
9. Teachers' Conference	300	300	300	300	—
10. Car Fund Capital	—	—	3,000	3,000	3,000
11. Scholastic Research	—	—	250	250	—
12. Contingent Reserve	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	2,750
TOTAL BUDGETS	\$149,500	\$176,200	\$197,550	\$235,050	\$281,000

WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED OF THE LORD! Our communicant membership has more than doubled since the year 1940. Look at these figures.

Communicants — 1940 — 12,503
Communicants — 1945 — 17,002
Communicants — 1950 — 22,933
Communicants — 1953 — 26,104

Then, see how God has opened the hands and hearts of our people in the District

B

"CONQUEST FOR CHRIST." The LUTHERAN WITNESS brought an official report of the offering called the "Conquest for Christ," as of January 31, 1954. Share it with us:

Balance on hand, February 1, 1952 \$ 60,735.33

ADD

Receipts, Districts, 1952, 1953	\$13,716,563.35
Receipts, sundry	24,949.55
Receipts, interest, investments	230,575.14
	\$13,972,088.04

Total receipts, 1952, 1953, Synod-wide \$14,032,823.37

DEDUCT (Disbursements and appropriations, itemized:)

Collection expense	\$ 342,171.21
Mission fund grants, foreign and national	4,654,269.00
Educational grants in buildings	8,461,650.18
Educational grants in equipment	65,500.00

Total in disbursements or appropriations \$13,523,590.39

Balance on hand January 31, 1954 509,232.98

\$14,032,823.37

Our Northwest District, in 1952 and 1953, took a very active part in this "Conquest for Christ" offering, exceeding the expectations of many.

Offerings, "Conquest for Christ," 1952	\$ 309,642.96
Offerings, "Conquest for Christ," 1953	8,475.23

Total offering, Northwest District \$ 318,118.19

For this we thank our Lord! It was a privilege to share in the offering. May our heavenly Father place His full blessing on these our gifts.

Your Northwest District Committee for "Conquest for Christ" had as its honorary chairman, President Carl H. Bensene; its committee chairman, Mr. George Nickles; its committee secretary, Rev. Amos A. Schmidt; and its teacher member, Mr. Arthur Buescher; and its pastor member, Rev. R. C. Muhly.

C

THE 1954 BUDGETS BEFORE US. The work of the Lord never stands still. Only in heaven will our work be done. Meanwhile, let's look at the 1954 picture.

SYNOD (1954 budget)

Missions, national and foreign	\$3,223,000
Higher education: pastors, teachers	2,365,000
Capital investments	250,000
Support and pensions	1,200,000
Parish education	115,000
Young people's work	14,000
Stewardship, promotion	165,000
Administration	363,295
Committees	81,875
Committee reserve	322,830

Total budget, 1954 \$8,100,000

This national budget is an increase over 1953 of \$1,600,000, by far the highest budget ever established. It indicates how the Lord is opening doors. Our Northwest District will send to Synod \$140,000 toward that 1954 goal.

DISTRICT

On a previous page, the itemized budget for 1954 was given. Our 1954 Northwest District budget is \$281,000. This is an increase over last year of \$45,950, but so it was set by our District Fiscal Conference last September.

To reach that \$281,000 budget this year, we shall have to average \$11.25 per communicant member, in every congregation. That is the MINIMUM, to reach our goal. On the basis of pledges made by our congregations, and average performance of non-pledging congregations we may expect \$251,000. It seems we may anticipate a shortage at year's end of some \$30,000.

This calls for serious thought, intelligent study of the problem, earnest Christian prayer, and a maximum effort on the part of every Christian in the District. We believe the 1954 budget to be an attainable budget, but to reach it will require real effort. It CAN be done. God move us to reach the goal!

D

At the 1952 District convention, here in Portland, Overture No. 2 was passed: "Resolved, that in the fall of the year, if possible, after the synodical Fiscal Conference, the District Board of Directors, the Visitors of the circuits, and one layman from each circuit elected by the respective circuit, meet as a District Fiscal

Conference . . . to establish the budget for the following year, and devise ways and means to raise the budget."

This resolution of the 1952 convention has been carried out. In September of 1952, and again in September of 1953, such District Fiscal Conferences were held here in Portland, with some forty pastors and laymen in attendance each year. Your Committee wishes to report to the convention that in its opinion these District Fiscal Conferences have brought much good to the District:

- Greater lay participation in District fiscal operations;
- The respective circuit feels its responsibilities;
- Better analysis of our problems and opportunities;
- Better understanding of Synod's over-all program and needs;
- Better channeling of the fiscal program to the congregations.

The next Fiscal Conference is scheduled for late September of this year, probably the 29th.

E

THE KINGDOM PLAN. In August, 1953, a group of six pastors met with Dr. August Brustat of Scarsdale, N. Y., for several days of intensive training in parish stewardship work. These six men, with the assistance of Board members and Dr. Brustat, established a program called the Kingdom Plan. These men are now prepared to go into any of the District congregations, wherever invited, and in a series of evening meetings assist the local congregation in shaping up a parish plan for greater participation and better co-ordination in the general work of the Church. The Kingdom Plan leaders in our District are:

Rev. Theo. Dorpat of Spokane, Wash.
Rev. N. E. Dey of Sandy, Ore.
Rev. Roland A. Koch of Pocatello, Idaho
Rev. Harold Johnson of Tacoma, Wash.
Rev. Donald Larsen of Spokane, Wash.
Rev. Edwin H. Wiebel of Seattle, Wash.

At this time, seven of our District congregations have availed themselves of the services of these men: Port Orchard, Wash.; St. John's, Vancouver; St. John's, Spokane; Dayton, Wash.; Milton-Free-water, Ore.; Veradale, Wash.; and Burley, Idaho. Plans are presently under way to bring the services of the Kingdom Plan to a half dozen other congregations in the District. We earnestly petition ever more of our congregations to use the services of this Kingdom Plan and its District workers!

F

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

Your District Committee on Stewardship has arranged for Stewardship schools in the fourteen circuits of the Northwest District. Each circuit had one such school in 1952 or 1953, under the direction of the Circuit Stewardship Committee, of which the Visitor is chairman. Attendance at

these schools has been quite good, with representation from almost every congregation in the District. This delegation from the congregation is then asked to carry out the program there received into the local parish. It is a little too early to determine just how extensively this has been done at this time.

Each congregation has been asked to name a Stewardship Committee in its midst. The names and addresses of these parish stewardship leaders are to be filed with our District Executive Secretary in Portland, so that pertinent information may be channeled through them into the homes of the parish. It is the plea of your Committee that these names and addresses be sent to the Portland office (your pastor has the address), with prompt reports of any changes in personnel or addresses of such committeemen.

Your District was represented at the first national Stewardship School, held at Lake Okoboji in Iowa in August, 1952. Synod absorbed the cost of this school. The purpose of the school was to formulate a more uniform program on the national, District, circuit, and congregational level. It was five days well spent. The second Stewardship School was to be held at Lake Okoboji August 4-8, 1954. Synod again intended to bring two men to this school from each District, and your Committee hoped that one or several men would attend at District expense, so that we would have more men who will carry the full program into the congregations by way of workshops, conferences with parish leaders; help the L. L. L., the L. W. M. L., and the Walther League to bring the full stewardship story into their meetings; and missionary education and motivation may become an important part of the curriculum of our schools and other educational agencies in our congregations. The 1954 school at Okoboji probably determined what progress has been made since 1952, and prepared to enter ever more deeply into the work, with particular emphasis on the success of stewardship education and promotion on the parish level.

Your District was also represented at the annual Fiscal Conference of Synod, in September of 1952 and 1953, where the various agencies of Synod present their fiscal needs. In this two-day meeting, an intelligent and attainable budget is drawn up for the coming year, satisfying the needs of the Church in missions, education, pensions, committees, and the like. While some of the work at this national meeting is of a fiscal nature, one can also see the growth and outreach of the Church on its far-flung mission frontiers in the 27 lands beyond the United States and Canada, sense the vital work being done in our fourteen American campuses, and see how the Church, two million strong, is operating efficiently and effectively. A delegation from this District will again attend the Fiscal Conference in St. Louis in September, 1954.

Action: The report was adopted. The diligent efforts of the Stewardship-Finance Committee and the Treasurer were acknowledged.

Commendation was expressed to those congregations which reached or exceeded their fair share. Thanks were expressed to God for the success of the "Conquest for Christ" effort, and the District committee was commended for its part in making this offering successful.

It was resolved that the Board of Directors be encouraged to send two additional representatives from our District to the Stewardship School at Lake Okoboji in August of this year.

It was resolved that the congregations of the District be encouraged to include, at regular intervals, prayers for a more abundant measure of the Holy Ghost, a greater enthusiasm for the Lord's work, and His continued blessing upon this work in our District. It was further resolved that the District President be asked to provide the congregations of the District with such prayers, imploring the Lord's blessing upon specific areas of endeavor within our District.

CONCERNING STEWARDSHIP MATTERS

The following resolutions were adopted:

1. **RESOLVED**, That we strongly urge every congregation in our District to name an able and adequate Stewardship Committee; and to offer every assistance to such a committee in carrying the functions of its office on the congregational level; and that we urge this congregational Stewardship Committee to work in close harmony with its respective Circuit Stewardship Committee and with the District Committee on Stewardship and Finance.

2. **RESOLVED**, That the Circuit Stewardship Committee, under the leadership of the Circuit Visitor, have a layman to serve as co-chairman, draw in one or more other laymen to assist on the circuit level where needed; and that the Circuit Visitors use the privilege of asking a fellow pastor in his circuit to assist him in this stewardship work in local congregations where needed; and that this Circuit Committee meet with the representative of the District Stewardship and Finance Committee from time to time for better co-ordination, for the necessary follow-through and for an exchange of ideas for better circuit-level performance of a common task.

3. **RESOLVED**, That we urge all of our congregations to avail themselves of the assistance of District and Synod, invite leaders of clergy and laity who can impart much to their good people in this field, and not hesitate to invite these men to give them of their time; and that the local congregation work through its Circuit Committee to arrange and carry out these plans for stewardship education and promotion on the local parish level.

4. **RESOLVED**, That we strongly urge the continuance of the program of holding Stewardship schools on the circuit and congregational level in our entire District in the future.

SCHEDULING WORKSHOPS AND INSTITUTES, ETC.

WHEREAS, We are in favor of making the information and inspiration of specially qualified people available to many areas of our District under the most favorable circumstances possible; and

WHEREAS, The scheduling of workshops, institutes, rallies, and conferences in any area without the prior consent and co-operation of the congregations of the area does not make for such favorable circumstances; be it therefore

Resolved, That the District Board be instructed to secure favorable response from the congregations and/or the pastors in an area where a general meeting is to be called before arrangements for the speakers or meetings are made, or that the Board solicit one congregation to sponsor the occasions for itself and that this congregation then issue invitations for those who wish to attend from neighboring congregations.

DISTRICT COUNSELOR OF STEWARDSHIP AND PARISH EDUCATION

The following resolutions were adopted:

WHEREAS, Some better arrangement for stewardship promotion should be devised than is presently in effect in our District; and

WHEREAS, The District is in need of a better arrangement for systematic supervision and professional guidance and promotion of Christian education; and

WHEREAS, Financial considerations urge caution in the employment of more full-time men in our District, especially since we are a subsidized District; and

WHEREAS, We feel that under the circumstances which prevail in our District (such as, geographical area, total membership, proportion of missionaries and mission stations, lack of parochial schools, and abundant opportunities in missions, education, and stewardship) the solution cannot be found satisfactorily in existing arrangements, namely, of committees and one full-time worker; and

WHEREAS, We feel that the office of the Executive Secretary has brought blessings to our District, particularly in the field of missions; and

WHEREAS, Similar blessings seem to have accompanied the establishment of further full-time workers in other Districts, particularly in education and stewardship; and

WHEREAS, We believe that one additional salary load and expense account does not present an insurmountable financial problem; be it therefore

Resolved, That the Northwest District establish the full-time office of District Counselor of Stewardship and Parish Education; and be it further

Resolved, That the Counselor work with the Committees on Parish Education and Stewardship, respectively, and be directly responsible to the District Board of Directors as such, with status granted him equal to that of the Executive Secretary; and be it further

Resolved, That the District Board of Directors elect and call a man to this position as soon as possible and establish the salary and exact responsibilities of this office; and be it further

Resolved, that the Board of Directors call our new Counselor of Stewardship and Parish Education and that the Fiscal Conference make financial provisions in the 1955 budget.

THE PARISH EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Once again your District Parish Education Committee is called upon to bring to the Christians of the Northwest District a report of the state of parish education in the congregations of our District and of the efforts of the Committee to promote the various phases of Christian education in our midst. This is both a joyous and a sobering task. JOYOUS—because in preparing the report, we found much for which to praise the Lord of the Church. Once again He has proved our faith in His promise, "My Word shall not return unto Me void," Is. 55:11. Real progress has been made in almost every phase of Christian education. SOBERING—because in evaluating the report, it became poignantly evident that there is still much room for improvement.

The Committee regrets the resignation of Mr. Elmer Kosche, who so faithfully and efficiently served our District for a goodly number of years as an auxiliary member of our Committee. We are deeply grateful, however, that Mr. M. S. Pohl accepted the appointment of the District Board to fill the vacancy.

Your Committee has observed the following division of duties:

Rev. E. R. Schramm, Bremerton, Wash., chairman, adult education

Mr. W. R. Kamprath, Seattle, Wash., parish school teacher, secretary, parochial schools

Mr. George H. Nickles, layman, Oregon City, Oreg., adult education

Rev. Benj. Schuldheisz, Cornelius, Oreg., Sunday school

Mr. M. S. Pohl, parish school teacher, Kennewick, Wash., part-time agencies.

To portray the state of parish education in our District, we are including in our report a table of comparative statistics (1947 to 1953) as well as a series of charts depicting the strength and weakness of our educational program. We should like to comment briefly on various phases thereof.

Congregations and Members.—Knowing that it is Christian education which

initiates and undergirds the whole work of the Church, specifically its stewardship and missionary activity, it is significant also from an educational point of view that from 1947 to 1953 we experienced a gain of 26 congregations and mission stations and a growth in communicant membership of 6,189.

Parochial Schools.—It is to be regretted that in the past six years there has been no net gain in the number of parochial schools, though we thank God there has been an increase of enrollment from 1,183 to 1,413. It should be stated that a goodly number of fine, new school buildings have been erected and several of our existing schools have increased the number of classrooms.

In 1947 Synod adopted the goal of having 50 per cent of our children in our schools by 1972. Our District concurred in that resolution. If we are to achieve that goal, we must make a consecrated and determined effort. If we can truthfully and conscientiously say that Christian schools are not a luxury for a favored few, but a real need for the spiritual welfare of the individual, the home, the congregation, the church at large, and the State, then, to be consistent, we must maintain that every congregation needs a school. We realize that various factors may make the establishment of such a school impossible or inadvisable for the time being, but we urge each congregation to keep this objective in mind and to plan a systematic and steady program of school promotion in its midst.

Sunday Schools.—During the six-year period under consideration the number of Sunday schools increased by 36, the number of pupils by 9,743. This is a fine growth, and yet when one considers that the Sunday school can be an effective outreach agency for mission work in a community, your Committee believes that this increase could have been greater without too much difficulty. Furthermore, when you compare it with the increase in baptized membership—whether child or adult—and when you think of it in relation to the population increase in the Northwest District, then it appears that this is an area of church work which merits the study and consideration of our congregations with a view toward increased enrollments.

Other Part-Time Agencies.—Since only a little more than 13 per cent of our children in the Northwest District are enrolled in Lutheran parochial schools, and since the Sunday school alone does not provide enough time for an effective program of Christian education, it is imperative that congregations, particularly those having no parochial school, seriously consider the use of all part-time agencies.

Though there has been a steady increase in vacation Bible school enrollment since 1947 so that, here, last year there were 4,493 more pupils than in 1947, we believe that here, too, our congregations have not exhausted the full possibilities

of the vacation Bible school. When you consider the appeal which the vacation Bible school has to unchurched parents and children, it seems that the congregations of our District could take still greater advantage of its teaching and missionary potentialities. Forty-six congregations did not conduct a vacation Bible school in 1953. However valid the reasons may have been, every effort should be made to improve the situation as soon as possible.

Saturday schools and weekday classes, wherever possible, also deserve greater utilization.

Nursery Roll (Cradle Roll).—In 1952 (the latest statistics we have on cradle rolls) only 70 of the 158 Sunday schools in the District had a cradle roll, and only 2,419 of the 6,639 children baptized in 1950, 1951, and 1952 were enrolled. Every congregation should have a systematic program of contact and of Christian guidance by which it seeks to help parents of little children to begin bringing up their children in the nurture of the Lord. The nursery roll is an especially necessary and effective missionary medium in the case of children of unchurched parents.

Bible Classes.—The Lord has truly blessed the efforts of our pastors and congregations to increase the number of Bible classes and the enrollments therein. The Bible Study Advance program has proved a real help and blessing. We now have:

133 congregations with Sunday morning Bible classes. The enrollment is 4,408.

34 congregations have weekday Bible classes. The enrollment is 864.

Total number of Bible classes is 167.

Total number of enrollments in all Bible classes is 5,272.

24 congregations have no Bible class of any kind.

We note that since 1947 there has been an enrollment growth of 2,649 in Sunday morning Bible classes. In 1953, when the Bible Study Advance effort reached its climax, we enjoyed an addition of 23 in the total number of Bible classes and a total enrollment increase in both Sunday morning and weekday Bible classes of 670. For this blessing let us praise God!

However, when we compare the total number of Bible class enrollments (4,408) with the total number of communicants in our District (26,104), and when we compare the total increase of Sunday morning Bible class enrollments since 1947 (2,649) with the total number of junior and adult confirmations since 1947 (7,919), then we realize that, while we have made appreciable gains in Bible study during the past six years, there is still much room for improvement. Continued efforts must be made to enlist our people for group Bible study and particularly also to assimilate our newly confirmed, juniors as well as adults, through Bible study or we shall gradually lose

many, many of them—as statistics so sadly prove.

Your Committee, therefore, urges the congregations of our District to give serious and prayerful consideration to the resolution of Synod last summer at Houston, Tex.:

RESOLVED, That we encourage every congregation to awaken greater interest in Bible study, to personally enlist all members, both adults and young people, children, in Bible study, and to enter upon a constructive program for the advancement of existing Bible classes and the establishing of new Bible classes; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we appeal to all congregations of the Synod to put the Bible study program on a continuing basis so that as every church grows in communicant membership it provides for a corresponding growth in the number of classes and in Bible class enrollments.

Sunday School Teachers' Meetings.—Teachers' meetings are a basic necessity for effective Sunday school work. They are as vital to the local congregation as seminars are to Synod. A large percentage of our pastors and congregations are aware of the needs of their teachers and for that reason place the preparation and training of their teachers near the top of their docket of activities. In 1952 seventy-six congregations had weekly or bi-weekly teachers' meetings.

However, the fact still remains that this represents fewer than half of our parishes in the District. Efforts should be made to improve this situation. The quality of our Sunday schools depends more on the quality of our teachers and their teaching than on any other factor.

In this connection your Committee should like to urge more general and consistent use of the Concordia Teacher Training Program.

The Family Worship Project.—The Family Worship Project is well underway in our District. The manual *Building Family Altars in your Parish* was enthusiastically received, and many congregations have set up a positive program for cultivating family worship. Where this has not been done, we urge serious consideration of the Houston Convention resolution;

WHEREAS, The daily use of the Word of God and daily prayer are inculcated in Holy Scriptures as the normal expression of discipleship with Jesus Christ; and

WHEREAS, Daily family worship supplies a larger acquaintance with Scripture, permits the family to fulfill its educational function, develops the spirit of reverence, and elevates the whole life of the family; therefore be it

Resolved, a) That we encourage our congregations to give special attention to family worship during 1954; supply helps for meaningful and fruitful family worship to all families according to their several needs; and

b) That they in fulfilling this purpose make good use of the new family film "Faith of our Families," produced by our Church as an aid to the establishment and strengthening of the family altar; and

c) That our congregations encourage their women's groups, men's groups, and youth groups to help sponsor the Family Worship Project in 1954.

Congregational Boards of Education.—For the efficient planning and carrying out of the congregation's entire program of Christian education "from the cradle to the grave," your Committee would recommend the establishment of a Board of Christian Education in every parish. This board should be charged with the responsibility of encouraging parish education in all of its phases and conduct or otherwise supervise the various educational agencies of the congregation.

Sunday School Associations.—We have eight such associations in our District which meet twice a year or oftener. They are: Magic Valley, Idaho; Boise Valley, Idaho; Upper Williamette, Oreg.; Southern Oregon; Greater Seattle; Greater Tacoma; Inland Empire, East Washington; and Yakima Valley, Wash.

Lutheran Bible Institutes (Lutheran Adult Evening Schools).—Three such Bible institutes have been operating in our District (Portland, Seattle, Twin Falls).—There has always been a lamentable lack of means for laymen to obtain organized training in the Christian faith and in effective methods of putting that faith to work. The Lutheran Bible institute is intended to provide training for lay leaders which other existing facilities alone cannot supply.—The Bible institute is something rather new in our circles, but there has been a rapid, almost phenomenal growth and acceptance of this form of training.

Last summer a Bible Institute Workshop was held in River Forest, Ill., attended by representatives from the various Districts of Synod. Pastor E. R. Schramm represented our District at this workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to lay the groundwork for sound "Kingdom worker education" in the institutes of our Church. Tangible fruit of the workshop will be a manual including standards and guidelines for the developments of Bible institutes.

Your Committee hopes that a number of additional institutes may be started in our District, particularly in those areas where there are a number of congregations in proximity to one another.

Conclusion.—May the Lord of the Church continue to bless our efforts in the cause of Christian education, in all of its many phases, and to that end imbue your District Parish Education Committee as well as all pastors, teachers, and lay leaders with a full measure of the Spirit's wisdom and grace.

Christian education has a vital role to play in the work of our congregations. As

a matter of fact, the primary purpose of the Church is to teach, to educate. That this purpose may be carried out ever more effectively, your Committee would suggest to the congregations of our District this fourfold objective toward which to strive:

1. A program of Christian education which embraces the entire congregations, for Christian education must be a *lifelong* process—from the cradle to the grave, 2 Peter 3:18; 2 Tim. 3:14; 1 Peter 2:2; John 8:31, 32; Rev. 2:10.
2. A program which is *comprehensive*. Christ commands: "Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you," Matt. 28:19, 20.
3. A program which is *thorough*. God directs: "Teach them diligently," Deut. 6:7-9, and "be . . . thoroughly furnished," 2 Tim. 3:17.
4. A program which is *heaven-directed*. It must "make wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus," 2 Tim. 3:15.

Your District Parish Education Committee has carried on its work with a deep consciousness of the responsibility entrusted to it by the congregations of the Northwest District, and through them by the Lord of the Church. In all of its work, therefore, it has sought strength and guidance from on high. Where it has been an instrument of leadership and help, it gives all glory to God. Where it has failed—because of the lack of sufficient time, the want of mature and alert judgment, or the absence of stalwart Christian faith and initiative—it trusts in the forgiving grace of a merciful Savior.

Action: Adopted. Note was taken of the fact that there has been some internal growth in the field of parochial schools in the District by the opening of additional classrooms and an increased enrollment. It was pointed out, however, that the percentage of the children enrolled in our schools has declined from 17 per cent to 13 per cent since 1947. Since our District has resolved to enroll 50 per cent of its children in our schools by 1972, our congregations were called upon to redouble their efforts to enroll their children in parochial schools, and prayerfully and sincerely to explore every possibility to establish one where such is lacking.

Regarding our Sunday schools, it was urged that the enrollments be built up; and that at least two Sunday school teachers' meetings monthly be held, if possible. The work of the Sunday school associations was commended. It was recommended that those congregations not having a vacation Bible school strive to establish one.

CRADLE TO GRAVE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The following was adopted:

1. **RESOLVED**, That the congregations of our District be encouraged to develop

a program which stresses the fact that Christian education must be a continuous process from infancy through adulthood.

2. **RESOLVED**, That our congregations be encouraged to set up the necessary teaching agencies to facilitate the educative process of the lambs as well as the sheep, and the sheep as well as the lambs.

NURSERY ROLL

The following was adopted:

RESOLVED, That we encourage the congregations of our District to organize a nursery roll, and by a systematic and steady program of contact and instruction seek:

a) To awaken in parents a sense of responsibility for religious instruction and training of their little ones;

b) To establish and maintain a bond between the parents and the Sunday school;

c) To give the church access to the home of the unchurched; so that infants who have been brought to faith through the washing of regeneration in the baptismal grace may be faithfully brought up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of God's holy name and finally with all saints obtain the promised inheritance in heaven.

BIBLE STUDY ADVANCE

The following was adopted:

1. **RESOLVED**, That we thank the Lord of the Church for the progress He has accorded the congregations of our District in the Bible Study Advance.

2. **RESOLVED**, That we urge each congregation to place the Bible Study Advance program on a continuing basis so that its communicant membership increases. It provides a corresponding growth in the number of Bible classes and in Bible class enrollment.

3. **RESOLVED**, That we urge each congregation to provide for an alert, active, and aggressive enlistment committee for each Bible class, whose duty shall be (a) to enlist members of the congregation not yet enrolled in the Bible class through personal contact; (b) to enlist newly confirmed juniors and adults through personal contact; (c) to enlist members transferred from sister congregations upon their arrival in the community.

FAMILY WORSHIP

The following was adopted:

RESOLVED, That we encourage our congregations to give special attention to FAMILY WORSHIP during 1954; and that they supply helps for meaningful and fruitful family worship to all families according to their several needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That in fulfilling this purpose we make good use of the new family film, "Faith of Our Families," produced by

our Church as an aid to the establishment and strengthening of the family altar; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we ask our congregations to encourage their women's groups, men's groups, and youth groups to help sponsor the Family Worship Project in 1954.

SUPPORT AND SUBSIDY FOR CHRISTIAN DAY SCHOOLS

RESOLVED, That the Northwest District recommend the establishing of Christian day schools in all of our congregations, and particularly to foster the central school plan in order to provide school facilities for those congregations that are unable to establish a school of their own; and be it further

RESOLVED, That self-supporting congregations, mission congregations, congregations which are members of a school association, shall be allowed subsidy for Christian day schools wherever at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Northwest District such subsidy is needed and feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, That we recognize that very often a Christian school affords the best and most economical thrust into a mission area, providing a preaching place as well as a teaching place; and be it further

RESOLVED, That when promoting the establishment of a day school in a given congregation or afore-mentioned association, if subsidy will be needed and requested, such activity shall be carried on only with the knowledge and approval of the Board of Directors of the Northwest District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That there must be reason to believe that the applicant, or applicants, will be willing and able gradually to assume the total cost of maintaining the school or the proportionate share in any school association, and that there be prospect of an annual reduction in subsidy; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Northwest District authorize and instruct its Board of Directors to make funds available for subsidizing Christian schools, whether established by congregations or school associations of the afore-mentioned type.

CONCERNING OUR YOUTH PROGRAM

Your District Youth Committee is happy to report that in spite of continuing tensions and pressures of our modern atomic day and amid an environment which is unfriendly and contrary to the Christian life and faith, yet by God's grace and blessing the work and development of our Lutheran youth program—that of the officially accepted synodical program, the Walther League—is going on apace and today is experiencing a wholesome revival in spirit and interest.

In general, the apathy of many of our

congregations over against the cause of our youth, so apparent a few years ago, is disappearing. The development and prosecution of an intensive youth program by the Walther League and the synodical Board of Young People's Work has awakened among our pastors and congregations an awareness of their responsibility toward their young people, especially the teen-agers. By means of literature and publications, by discussions of youth work at pastoral conferences and youth workers' conferences, a definite concern has been fostered in a majority of congregations for the welfare and proper guidance of our young people.

Yet we must report, as a recent survey of our synodical Young People's Board in regard to youth activities in our congregations clearly indicates, that there are yet any number of our congregations that have not adopted the Walther League program as their youth program and that many of our young boys and girls are not under the guidance and influence of the Walther League program.

Your Committee therefore would remind all pastors and congregations of their God-given obligations toward all of their young people, and to that end make concerted efforts to unite them with the Walther League and enlist them to active participation in the Walther League program.

We recommend that all congregations take advantage of the L. S. V. schools, which are designed for the training of youth for more active participation in the work of their local society and church and for the personal development of our young people in the areas of worship, Bible study, Christian social life and recreation.

We would especially recommend that every congregation utilize the youth workers' conferences for the special training of adult youth workers. The 1954 West Coast Regional Conference or School is scheduled for July 11—23 at Concordia College, Oakland, Calif.

In summary, your Committee earnestly solicits all congregations to continue and intensify their youth program. This includes a thorough study and the adoption of the full program of the Walther League. It will, above all, entail the setting aside of definite time for the consideration of youth problems and their solution, demanding also financial support wherever needed. Only then, when every congregation thus consecrates itself to the care of its youth, the Church of today and tomorrow, will it reap an abundant and fruitful harvest which will redound to the glory of Christ and its own advancement.

Action: Adopted, with a recommendation that all congregations support the youth program; encouraging members of the L. L. L. and the L. W. M. L. to sponsor sending candidates of the Walther League to the L. S. V. schools; and also urging the parents to give all possible moral support to the youth activities.

YOUTH WORK A BUDGET ITEM

The following resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, Synod's Board for Young People's Work and the International Walther League are working together in the matter of youth leadership training, jointly sponsoring conferences and schools in our land for District leaders; and

WHEREAS, Our Northwest District has within its geographical confines three Walther League districts which send their leaders to a district youth leaders' meeting in Portland annually, for co-ordination and study and general planning; and

WHEREAS, Other opportunities for youth work advancement have presented themselves in the past, and will, it would seem, again become possible in the future; and

WHEREAS, Such District youth leadership efforts require travel and incur other costs in the normal co-ordination of our District youth work and in leadership training and development; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That this convention ask the Fiscal Conference of the District to make proper provisions for such District youth work in setting up the annual budget of the District; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the District Board of Directors, through its Youth Committee, expedite efforts toward an expanding and co-ordinated youth program and youth leadership training in our District.

CHURCH EXTENSION AND TRUSTEES

"Spare not! Lengthen thy cords!
Strengthen thy stakes!" Is. 54:2.

"**LENGTHEN!**" During 1952 to 1953 we loaned to parishes for chapels and properties — \$304,514.86
We wrote or underwrote property contracts with financing firms extending liability

75,766.72

We expanded \$380,281.58

"**STRENGTHEN!**" God made possible the above performance through:

- a) conscientious repayment of loans by parishes — \$109,816.97
- b) generous bequests, donations, memorials for increasing the Fund's net worth by 54,908.70
- c) increased liabilities in borrowed money from Synod's Church Extension Fund, individuals, and congregations — 147,724.00
- d) increased liabilities in land and parsonage contracts — 75,766.72

\$388,316.39

"**SPARE NOT!**" Opportunity to build the Kingdom will continue unlimited for some time:

- a) Our District is large geographically, and our population is increasing rapidly.
- b) Some hundred million dollars of expansion in oil, aviation, shipping, manufacturing, and military is already either undertaken or being planned, assuring future opportunity for our work.
- c) Funds needed for new projects in our District contemplated by our Mission Committee as of January, 1954, amounted to a half million.

The problem of obtaining sufficient funds for chapels and parsonages to meet the needs has received much prayer and study. The District's financing is very conservative and sound. To keep it that way and to meet the present and future need will make a large increase in the Fund's net worth mandatory. It is our plea that the convention grant ample time for full presentation and discussion of a resolution for a District-wide effort to raise the net worth of the Fund.

Action: Adopted with the following resolutions:

1. **RESOLVED**, That congregations having received loans be encouraged to make repayments when due or before they are due, if possible.
2. **RESOLVED**, To extend a vote of appreciation to many of our members who have been moved to give larger gifts to the District Church Extension Fund.
3. **RESOLVED**, To extend a vote of commendation to the Trustees and Church Extension Committee for the many hours spent in committee.

BLANKET AND CO-INSURANCE ON DISTRICT PROPERTIES

The following resolutions were adopted on this matter:

1. **RESOLVED**, That the District adopt the Blanket and Co-insurance Plan as set forth in the overture submitted by the Board of Directors.
2. **RESOLVED**, That the District Board of Directors submit the matter to interested companies for bids.
3. **RESOLVED**, That the District Board of Directors be empowered to place such insurance with the company (or companies) which submit(s) the best offer.

DISTRICT CHURCH EXTENSION AND BUILDING FOR CHRIST DRIVE

The following enabling resolution was adopted:

WHEREAS, In our country the lowest percentage of church membership is in our States of Oregon and Washington; and WHEREAS, There is within this decade a predicted increase of population in our Northwest as high as 33 per cent; and WHEREAS, Even today, without this predicted increase of population, there are

more than twenty communities where we need a chapel, because God has opened doors, but we do not have the needed funds in Synod's Church Extension treasury nor in our District Church Extension treasury to lend these small mission congregations moneys to build these chapels; and

WHEREAS, In this our day we must accommodate ourselves to the fact that a young mission must have a chapel if it is to get into proper growth from the start; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That our District strive to increase the net worth of our District Church Extension Fund by \$200,000 at this time; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the "Building for Christ" offering of our Synod be combined with the offering for Church Extension; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the amount of the offering received be apportioned with one third flowing to the "Building for Christ" endeavor and two thirds for the District Church Extension Fund; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the District Board of Directors be charged with the responsibility of carrying out this campaign to a conclusion.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH ARCHITECTURE

Since the 1952 convention of the Northwest District the Committee on Church Architecture has continued to serve the congregations of the District, both subsidized and self-supporting. Fifteen regular meetings have been held by the committee during the period from June, 1952, to May, 1954. A total of 16 building projects have been and are being processed for subsidized congregations. These are Calvary of St. Helens, Oreg.; Zion of Burley, Idaho; Anchorage Lutheran of Anchorage, Alaska; Christ of Wendell, Idaho; Concordia of Portland (Oak Grove), Oreg.; Holy Sacraments of Portland, Oreg.; Redeemer of Gresham, Oreg.; Concordia of Tacoma, Wash.; Grace of Ashland, Oreg.; Pilgrim of Bellevue, Wash.; Beautiful Savior of Portland (Ardenwald), Oreg.; Grace of Port Townsend, Wash.; Trinity of Cottage Grove, Oreg.; Northgate Lutheran of Seattle, Wash.; South Hill Mission of Spokane, Wash.; and Messiah of Prosser, Wash. Moneys involved in these projects total some \$200,000 to \$250,000. Three self-supporting congregations also consulted the committee relative to local building problems.

The Committee on Church Architecture is composed of Pastor D. C. Schroeder, chairman, Mr. Kurt Schuette, A.I.A.,* and Mr. E. F. Balgemann. Though not assigned to extensive travel by the District Board, members of the committee have made some twenty trips in the interest of the committee's work.

Members of the committee would like to go on record as expressing their ap-

preciation to those building committees which sent personal delegations to the Architecture Committee's sessions. Much correspondence was eliminated; matters were expedited; projects moved ahead faster. Other building committees are urged to do likewise.

The committee would also like to call the attention of the subsidized congregations contemplating building projects to the guidelines entitled "Method of Processing Request," found in the *Worker's Manual*. Such procedure, as there outlined, ought to be followed, especially these points: 1) Mission Committee approval of the building project. 2) Trustee's and Church Extension Committee approval of a loan and setting of a ceiling on construction costs. 3) After Architecture Committee and District Board approval getting competent architectural help. 4) Submitting of preliminary plans together with general information on property location, elevations, utility services, local building codes, schedule of moneys, materials, and volunteer labor donated locally to the Committee on Architecture. 5) Submitting to the committee of final, working drawings and specifications for final approval before any construction begins. Building committees are also reminded that the Architecture Committee is to be kept informed after final approval of a project is given and actual construction progresses. Correspondence for the committee may be mailed to the chairman or the District office by Monday before District Board meetings, the usual day of the committee meetings.

Action: Adopted.

RESOLUTIONS FROM THE LAYMEN

The following resolutions were adopted by the lay delegates of the convention:

1. **RESOLVED**, That we rededicate ourselves to Jesus and freely give of our time, talents, and money as God has prospered us; that we return to our congregations and urge our brethren to give of themselves, their time and talents, as God has prospered them; that we consider every possible means by which we can make the wealth which the Lord has given us work to the full glory and honor of God; that we pray diligently for the Holy Spirit to move each and every one of us to give a minimum of 10 per cent of our income to Church and charity, to spread the Word of God.
2. **RESOLVED**, That we will do our best in our home congregations to encourage our fellow Christians through our congregational treasurers to send regular monthly remittances to our District Treasurer for the work of missions in our District and Synod.
3. **RESOLVED**, That we wholeheartedly endorse and approve the program of Christian Training as it is presently stressed at our Portland Concordia; and as Christian laymen pray God's richest

* American Institute of Architects

blessing upon the president and faculty of our Portland Concordia; and that we further pray that He who is the Lord of the Church will continue to direct all activities and affairs of this our school.

BOARD OF SUPPORT AND PENSIONS

Synod's Pension Fund has been in operation since October 1, 1937. Eighty-seven per cent of all pastors, professors, and male teachers participate in the Fund. Workers' contributions are set at 4% of their salary (cash received plus 15% thereof if they are provided with rent-free dwelling). Employers are to contribute at the rate of 8%. Ninety-two and one-half per cent of all congregations as well as synodical boards and organizations within Synod are members.

The Pension plan is designed to provide the church worker with a pension of approximately 60% of his average cash salary after 40 years of participation, with 60% accruing to the widow upon the pensioner's death.

Last year a resolution of Synod increased the minimum Retirement or Disability Pension from \$60.00 per month to \$100.00 per month. Retiring members receive this pension provided they and their employing organization have participated in the Fund from the date of their eligibility until the date of their retirement.

At present Pension and Support Beneficiaries in our Northwest District total 16.

During the past year the St. Louis office sent out letters to a number of workers in our District informing them that their accounts were delinquent in one respect or another. We sincerely encourage these workers to give serious attention to this matter now because, upon retirement, delinquent members do not receive full benefits.

Your Committee is happy to inform you that the participation of workers and congregations in our District has increased in the last two years and stands at a high mark.

Action: Adopted with an encouragement to such as have not joined the Pension Plan to do so; and a further encouragement to such as have delinquent accounts to comply with Synod's wishes that delinquent accounts be brought up to date so that full benefit may be derived upon retirement.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

During the first year of the present Department's activity, it encouraged the securing of congregational representatives throughout the District and the joint meetings of these representatives with their respective circuit representatives, who outlined the possibilities and responsibilities to be taken care of locally. During the past biennium our Department more concretely set forth these suggested duties by publishing an 18-page manual

of guidelines and distributing it to all pastors and congregational representatives.

The circuit representatives were responsible for the showing of the two pilot films of our TV program "This Is the Life" during the summer and fall of 1952. Later they assisted in the promotion of the Martin Luther film, and it is said no other Synod had the advantage of such organized effort as did our Missouri Synod.

Because of the growing possibilities for our Church in the radio and TV field, another member was added to this Department, namely, Carl Downing of Olympia, manager of the Washington State Radio News Bureau. He thereafter made a comprehensive survey of our Church's activities in this field. He found that our Synod did more from the "top level down" than from the "bottom level up." Definite suggestions for utilizing radio time were made at that time, and again later after the Department had met with the program directors of Tacoma and Seattle TV and radio stations. There are already reports of panel discussions, interviews, and devotional periods being granted our Church as an outcome of the encouragement offered by this Department.

Our chairman attended a meeting of the national Department of Public Relations at the time of the Houston Convention and was appointed adviser to the United Press and Associated Press. Our secretary was asked to serve as press chairman for the international L. W. M. L. convention in Portland last July. Our Supplement editor attended a conference of all District editors in St. Louis last fall, and our new masthead (designed by Kurt Schuette) was one of three held up as a good example. Our social problems secretary is working in the field of civil defense, stressing that each pastor should register and get identification cards, and offer church buildings for local use when an emergency arises. Our newspaper secretary, in addition to preparing several press releases, has been interested in the promotion of booth displays at fairs.

This Department is responsible for the publishing of the daily convention paper, and for the printing of reports, resolutions, and news releases during the convention.

The Department held five official meetings since the last synodical convention. Its personnel consists of Edward C. May, chairman; Margaret Muck, secretary; A. J. Bueltmann, Supplement editor; Carl Downing, radio secretary; George Udy (assisted by Freda Froemke and Bernett Reils), archivist; Carl Nitz, social problems secretary; Otto Schneewind, newspaper secretary; Amos A. Schmidt, adviser.

Action: Adopted with a commendation for the fine work accomplished by the Department of Public Relations, and an encouragement to them to continue their excellent and aggressive program.

Send news and bulletins to Rev. A. J. Bueltmann, Editor, 5409 S. Lawrence St., Tacoma, Wash.

MISSIONARY FOR COLUMBIA BASIN TOWNS

In response to a request by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Wenatchee that the District call a missionary to look after our Church's interests in the rapidly developing towns of Ephrata, Quincy, Soap Lake, and other towns of the Basin in which we do not have the ministry of the Word provided for members of our Church already living there, and for those moving into the area, it was resolved that the District act favorably upon this request and instruct the Board of Directors of our District through its Mission Committee to take steps immediately after this convention to look after our Church's needs in this area. Attention was called to the fact that costs of such representation are already at least partially provided for by a bequest made for missionary work in this area.

DISTRICT HANDBOOK

RESOLVED, That the Board of Directors appoint a committee, composed in part from without itself, to consider the possibility and advisability of creating and/or compiling a District Handbook; and be it further

RESOLVED, That, in the event the committee compose a favorable report, said committee include pertinent guidelines for the compilation of such a handbook in its report indicating the items to be covered.

NOTE: The adoption of this resolution does not mean that the book is to be published by the committee; but rather, if the committee considers it advisable that such a book be published, it is to determine the areas to be covered by such a handbook, set up pertinent guidelines, and report these to the next convention.

ELECTIONS

President: Carl H. Bensene
First Vice-President: Emil G. Jaech
Second Vice-President: Theo. E. Brackmann
Secretary: Victor A. Schulze
Assistant Secretary: Arthur H. Schoenmayer
Treasurer: Mr. A. K. Engel
Board of Directors: Puget Sound: Eugene R. Schramm; Oregon: Harold Gieseke; Eastern Washington: Delbert Schroeder; Idaho: Roland Koch; Teacher: Waldemar Kamprath; Members at Large: Pastors Roland Frantz and E. W. Hinrichs; Laymen: P. W. Carlson, Pocatello; G. C. Hilken, Paul Lippold and Paul Neils, Portland; Carl Downing, Olympia.
Trustees: E. W. Hinrichs, Paul Neils, and G. C. Hilken.
Board of Appeals: F. Zehe, L. Westerkamp, and F. Schoknecht.
Mileage Secretary: Mr. Wm. B. Trappe.
Editor of District Edition: A. J. Bueltmann.
Board of Support and Pensions: R. Weiland, E. Dobberfuhl, and Wm. H. Fisher.
Visitors: Southern Oregon, Circuit 1: E. Paul Riedel; Upper Willamette, Circuit 2: Wm. B. Maier; Willamette, Circuit 3: A. C. Kratzke; Interstate, Circuit 4: F. Krinke; Rose City, Circuit 5: Carl Nitz; Pacific, Circuit 6: B. Schultheisz; Boise Valley, Circuit 7: Harry H. Young; Magic Valley, Circuit 8: J. Westendorf; Southeast Washington, Circuit 9: A. F. Beaver; Inland Empire, Circuit 10: Theo. Dorpat; Grand Coulee, Circuit 11: H. A. Kriefall; North Seattle, Circuit 12: Paul H. Schaus; South Seattle, Circuit 13: H. F. Warneck; Rainier, Circuit 14: A. W. Schelp.
Committee to Nominate the Nominating Committee: E. Hellwege, L. Rush, G. Westerkamp, Mr. W. Schleef, and Mr. A. Murphy.