



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



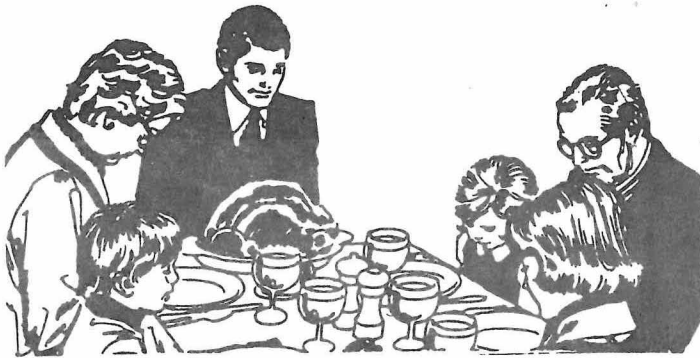
Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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St. Louis, MO

Volume 85, No. 6

## THANKSGIVING



**COME, YE THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME**

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies;

Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed.

He made know His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel.

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

He will not always chide: neither will He keep His anger forever.

He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities.

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.

Psalm 103:1-13

### THE TREASURE OF HIS WORD

Once there was a farmer who had four sons. When he became severely ill, he called his sons to his bedside as he neared death. "I am leaving the farm to you in four equal parts, as I have very little ready cash. You will find the greater part of my wealth buried somewhere in the ground about a foot and a half from the surface. I have forgotten precisely where."



Each of the four sons dug up every inch of the fields, searching for the treasure referred to by their father, but they found nothing. However, they decided that, so long as they had already dug up all the ground, they might as well sow a crop and reap a good harvest.

Each year, after an abundant harvest, the boys continued to dig in search of the buried treasure. As a consequence, their farm land was turned over more thoroughly than any other farm in the area. And, of course, each year they again reaped a fine harvest. After they had gone through this process for several years, they finally realized what their father had meant when he told them that his wealth was buried in the ground.

Jesus reveals our treasure in John 17:14, where we read, "I have given them Thy Word. . . ." The treasure is there for all of us, but the responsibility to begin digging into it belongs to each of us individually.

This year as we approach Thanksgiving and the holidays, let us not only give thanks for the traditional things that come to mind, but give thanks to God for the treasure of His Word!

That treasure may be found in our Bibles, in church, in Bible class and in fellowship

Please see THANKSGIVING: Page 2

# REV. FRANK P. WAGENKNECHT

We were saddened by the announcement of the passing of Rev. Frank Wagenknecht, 59, of Charlotte, NC on Sept. 14.

Death was attributed to a heart attack. Pastor 'W' as he was affectionately known



REV. FRANK P. WAGENKNECHT

by his parishioners was a 1960 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and began his work at Trinity, Pittsburgh, where he ministered for eight years before accepting a call to Rogate in Clearwater, Fla. In Clearwater, a growing ministry among the deaf resulted in

a separate chapel being built for the deaf, a testimony to the evangelism that Pastor 'W' loved so well.

He was called as a missionary-at-large by the Southeastern District in 1985 and served also as a resource specialist for North and South Carolina. A chapel was constructed from a donated building much in need of repair by the deaf under the pastor's leadership and the first service was held there on Feb. 23, 1986. This chapel was quickly outgrown by the fast growing church and another project was begun to accommodate the congregation.

## SPECIAL LEARNING AIDS AVAILABLE

Lutheran Special Education Ministries (formerly Lutheran School for the Deaf) is offering a service to every congregation. If your congregation has a child with special learning needs in Sunday school or confirmation class, and you need some help on using appropriate material, or need to ask questions on teaching techniques, please call the Ephphatha Center c/o Lutheran Special Education Ministries at (313) 368-1220 or write to: Ephphatha Center, LSEM, 6861 East Nevada Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48234.

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

## THANKSGIVING

with other Christians who belong to the priesthood of believers.

"For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:21

Let us make Jesus and His Word our greatest treasure. A happy Thanksgiving to all.

Pastor Wagenknecht and his wife, Karen of 34 years are parents of three children, Lynn of Winston-Salem, NC; Ruth of Denver, CO and Paul of Fort Collins, CO.

A faithful pastor, who loved deaf ministry, he also loved the mountains and his family built a log cabin there as a retreat. It could probably be said that his love of the mountains could also be the inspiration for one of his favorite hymns:

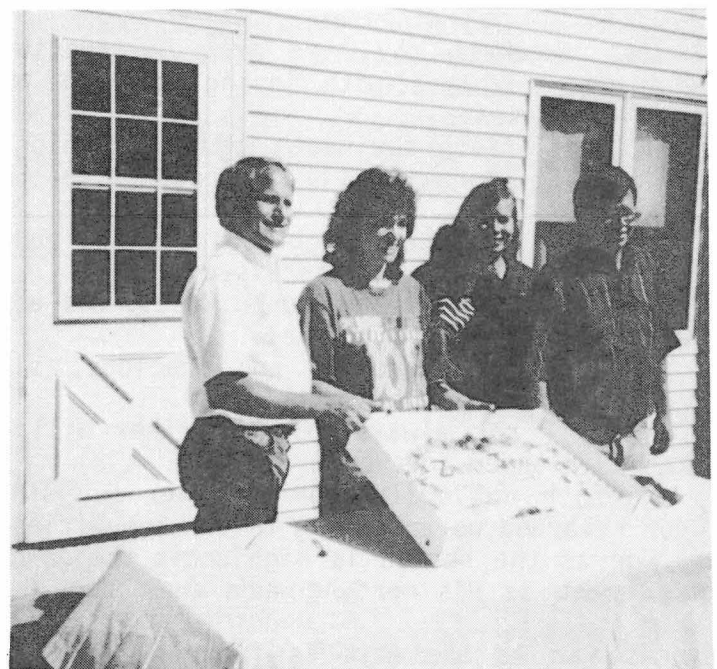
"Go tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere;  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born."

## ZACHARY ANDERSON BAPTIZED SEPT. 6

Little Zachary Jamal Anderson, 18 months, was welcomed into God's family through the rite of Holy Baptism amid perfect fall weather at the home of his parents, Rev. Mark and Pam Anderson on Sept. 6. Sponsoring Zachary were his god parents, Rev. Darrel and Deb Kois of Des Moines, Iowa. Adopted through Catholic Social Services of Cary, Ill., he joins siblings Seth, Michael and Mikalah.

Numerous friends joined the family in the outdoor ceremony and shared a festive board of delicious treats.

Welcome to the new life in Christ, Zachary!



AFTER THE CEREMONY--Zachary's baptismal cake is displayed by his sponsors and parents. Left to right, Rev. Darrel Kois; Zach's mom, Pam; Deb Kois holding him and dad, Rev. Mark Anderson.

# "NO ROOM"



By Rev. Steven R. Schlund  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
Delavan, Wis.

"Mary gave birth to her first son (Jesus). There were no rooms left in the hotel."

Luke 2:7

We are getting ready to celebrate Christmas and there are many happy things:

Jesus, God's Son is born; an angel announces the story to the shepherds; an angel choir sings praises to God; and the shepherds see the baby Jesus and tell many people.



How could a hotel manager do that? Bethlehem was full because there were many people there for the census. The hotel was full, too. But how could someone refuse a room to Mary who was pregnant? How could someone refuse to let baby

Jesus into his hotel? We would probably feel angry because someone would say, "No room for you."

But do we Christians do the same thing ourselves? Do we tell Jesus, "I have no room for you in my life?" When Jesus says, "Repent your sins. Change your hearts and lives," many people say, "I have no room for that in my life." Some people refuse to admit that they are sinners. Others refuse to change. They want to continue in their sins--drunkenness, sexual sins, gossiping, lying, cheating, hurting people. They enjoy that. Are you like that?

When Jesus says, "Come to church. Let Me forgive your sins and take away your guilt. Let Me comfort you and give you true peace. Let Me give you strength for every day life," many people say, "I have no room for that in my life." Many people do not worship Jesus regularly. They do not have room for worship in their busy schedules. Do you?

When Jesus says, "I want you to serve Me

in church. I want you to serve and help other people. I will help you and give you great joy in service," many people say, "I have no room for that in my life. My schedule is full. I must do so many things." Is your schedule full with no room?

All of us do those things sometimes. We are stubborn sinners. We are born with sin and naturally selfish. All of us "think myself" first. That selfish feeling rejects God and His ways and says, "No room." That selfish feeling is itself sin and the beginning of all other sins.

But Jesus knew that. Jesus knew that He would be born in a manger. Jesus knew that the hotel manager would say, "No room." Jesus knew all those things and still He loved us! That is the miracle of Christmas--that Jesus loved us and all people, despite our selfish attitude. If people acted to us as we act to Jesus, we would probably be upset and give up. But Jesus showed His great love to us. He left His golden throne in heaven and all its glory and honor to be born in a dirty, cold stable. Why? For us! Jesus did not think of Himself first. He thought of us first. He came to earth for us. He lived a perfect life for us. And, finally, He died for us and rose from the dead for us. All of that for us who have no room for Him.

Jesus has plenty of room for you and me. Even though we are busy and tell Jesus, "I have no room for You," Jesus says, "I have room for you." Even though we think of ourselves first, Jesus says, "You are most important for Me." Even though our actions show that we don't want Jesus, Jesus said, "I want you." Even though people hated Jesus and killed Jesus on a cross (we share that guilt because of our sins), Jesus says, "I love you and will always love you."

Jesus never rejects us. Jesus never says, "No room for you." But Jesus always welcomes us. Jesus always accepts us with His love. That wonderful love allows us to open our lives and hearts to Jesus. His wonderful love helps us to repent and change our lives. His wonderful love helps us to worship Him regularly. His wonderful love helps us to serve Him and other people.

May you have a wonderful Christmas! And while you are busy shopping, baking, visiting and celebrating, may God help you always to have room for Jesus!



# ROAMIN' HITHER AND YON . . .

Don and Mary Mowl celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary recently with over 100 friends and relatives joining them at a surprise picnic arranged for them by their children, Marty and Nancy at the fire station adjacent to their home in Washington, Pa. Congratulations!!

o-0-o

Rev. Donald Leber, for many years the pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio, was installed as missionary-at-large for southern California at a service at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Los Angeles on Sept. 12. His new address is 6950 Center Ave., Altaloma, Calif. 91730.

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Tidbits of interest of note from California: since the sale of the church property on Mission Blvd. in Fremont, Memorial Lutheran Church for the Deaf has not been subsidized by the California, Nevada and Hawaii District of the LCMS since 1990.

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Rev. Richard Moody, St. Louis, was the guest speaker and choir leader at a special festival commemorating 90 years of grace to the congregation of Bethel Lutheran Church, Omaha Nov. 5 to 7.

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Memorial Lutheran Church, Fremont, Calif. will be enjoying the blessings of a new church van, thanks to the gift from the estate of the late Mrs. Augusta DeMartini who died in January, 1983. The vehicle will be used for transporting people to church

and other functions. "Gussie" as she was known, was a member of Memorial for many years.

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The members of Memorial also surprised their former pastor and his wife, Rev. Clark and Louise Bailey with a money gift on the occasion of their retirement from the ministry. The gift was presented during the ILDA convention at Austin. Pastor Bailey served Memorial for 10 years when it was in its former location in Oakland.

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Another surprise gift from the members of Memorial was to their host church, Our Savior Lutheran Church was plush new pew cushions in burgundy-crimson color in appreciation for use of the church facilities the past six years. Memorial, which is served by Rev. Roy Dahmann, meets at 858 Washington Blvd., Fremont.

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A belated announcement from the Lockard family of West Chester, Pa, heralds the arrival of little Aaron Harold Lockard, who was born at 4:50 p.m. on Jan. 1, 1993. He joins brothers, Jamie and Jesse. His mom, former ILDA secretary Beth Firnhaber, failed to make it to the ILDA convention in Texas due to the death of her grandmother, making it necessary to fly to Portland, Ore. instead.

## GOOD NEWS FOR TDD USERS

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has approved all long distance carriers, Sprint, AT&T, MCI, etc. to share the funds for out-of-state long distance service. The out-of-state surcharge of \$1.75 was to be discontinued as billings of July 26, 1993.

When placing out-of-state long distance calls, you will need to inform the agent which long distance carrier you want to use. The agent will automatically bill the call to the number the call is being placed from (send paid) if you do not tell the agent which carrier to use. If you want to make collect or third party calls and use MCI, AT&T or Sprint, there will be an operator assisted surcharge because the agent will have to access the carrier's long distance operator. You are reminded that it is the same charge as other hearing users (non-TTY) get if they were to make collect or third party calls. Therefore, it is not a special charge.



## Iowa: A Place to G(row)

# THE FLOODS OF 1993

Almost every one has heard of the devastating floods of 1993 in the Midwest by now. Especially hard hit were areas adjacent to the Mississippi River in Iowa, Missouri and Illinois. While we have not heard much concerning flood losses to deaf Lutherans (and others) we did hear from former ILDA Treasurer Russel Healey and his wife, Betty Jo, who just retired last April to a new life in extreme southern Illinois at a small town near Cairo. Betty Jo's account of the disaster in the area makes for some interesting reading. We are, however, grateful that their newly purchased home was spared from the ter-

rible destruction many others faced. Read on. . . .

"Hello, our beloved friends:

We know that you are all wanting to know how we are in the worst flooding in history in maybe more than 500 years.

We are fine and have not gone under water so far since the Santa Fe Chute levee broke on the west side of Olive Branch and Miller City areas and caused Horseshoe Lake to rise almost eight feet and flow into our area. We, the residents of Olive Branch were worried and frightened.

Many volunteers from cities came down to help with sandbagging around houses along highway 3, several of which were flooded near our place. We had just three inches in the middle of our front yard, around the garage and 20 feet away in our back yard. Now it is beginning to recede fast. But we are still watching and praying for no more levees to break.

Many important people were here such as Harry Smith, Dan Rather of CBS News, Gov. Edgar and other politicians as well as TV crewmen from everywhere. Olive Branch and Miller City are becoming known all over the USA. Everything was taped on video from Des Moines to our town.

We have been busy volunteering at the Horseshoe Lake Community Center (Chamber of Commerce) serving, cooking for the inmates of the boot camps at Dixon Springs and DuQuoin as well as the National Guard, Coast Guard plus important people almost every day. The American Red Cross Disaster Services also delivered food and water to the Community Center and many people's homes.

My mother's old house was destroyed in the Miller City area. My brother Don's house was surrounded by high water. Luckily, he built his house on a high level area, but he has to go there by boat.

Boy! Never a dull moment since we moved to our house last April and getting to know the friendly people around here. Thanks be to God, no matter what's happened to all of us flood victims from Des Moines to here.

In Jesus' Name. We love you.  
 BETTY JO AND RUSSEL (HEALEY)  
 P.O. Box 223  
 Olive Branch, Ill. 62969-0223

## WHAT CAN DO ABOUT THE MANY REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS?

As the holiday season approaches, as we are almost certain to receive many requests to donate to this or that worth or unworthy cause. These request either by mail or telephone are usually accompanied by heart rending cries for immediate help that makes a person almost feel guilty in not complying with these pleas.

I realize that the Word of God tells us not to be "weary in welldoing." This we must keep in mind as we take action on these requests.

It is well for us to sift the worthy from the unworthy. An article the other day made mention of questioning of many requests e.g. for cancer research, some of which are debatable. The big salaries of some leaders of organizations pleading for help cause us to become wary.

However, there are many worthy causes that one cannot lightly throw in the waste basket. But even these become so numerous that it makes one ask: "What shall I do?"

This may not be a practical solution for you, but some people follow this procedure: I collect all requests for donations in a file and twice a year, cut put all the duplicates. Then my wife and I decide how much we can contribute and we make allocations to the various projects. This is probably not satisfactory to those who request an immediate donation, but it gives a certain amount to all that we consider worthy.

--The LUTHERAN JOURNAL

# SWALLEY DESIGNS PARISH HALL FOR PEACE LC, INDIANAPOLIS



Jim Swalley, right, poses with his pastor, Rev. Jerold D. Munz.

At a time when many facilities are scrambling to comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) North Manchester (Ind.) resident James G. Swalley has never thought of working on a building without considering anyone's disability.

Deaf since age 7, Jim Swalley has watched one of his designs reach completion last year. An architectural draftsman, has drew the plans for the new parish hall at Peace which was dedicated last Nov. 23.

Jim Swalley, who was elected secretary of the International Lutheran Deaf Association this past summer, says most hearing people do not realize how detrimental many rooms can be for the deaf. Designing a long narrow room, like the insides of many churches, does not allow the deaf the ability to "hear." Imagine listening to someone speak in a large church, in a soft voice, without a mike. It would be very frustrating for a hearing person. Well, he says, it is just as frustrating for a deaf person. My designs are different and allow visual access to hands.

## SEASONS GREETINGS

The joyous celebration of the birth of Jesus is once again before us. This time of the year reminds us in a special way of the tremendous love which our great God has for each of us. In love, mercy and grace, God became incarnate; God took on human flesh; God became one of us in order to meet our great need. The eternal Second Person of the Holy Trinity, God the Son, was miraculously conceived within the virgin Mary and humbly born in Bethlehem's stable. He laid all His glory and majesty aside in order to provide the most extreme sacrifice the universe could ever witness. In order to redeem us and win victory over our own sin, death and devil, God did what He knew from the beginning He would have to do if we were to be set free. What started in the womb and then in the stable--would eventually end on a torturesome cross. There on that cross, God the Son would actually become our sin and pay sin's price. Such an unparalleled act of love sustains and strengthens us through anything we may currently have or ever endure. God who loves us that much surely is with us always. He who has been there for us in the past is with

us still today and will certainly be the One to take us by the hand into the future of eternity.

May the reality of God's great love in a manger bring you whatever you need at this time in your life. In love of Jesus in our hearts we extend to you all our warm wishes and prayers for a most wonderful Christmas season.

**"FOR TO US A CHILD IS BORN,  
TO US A SON IS GIVEN,  
AND THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE  
ON HIS SHOULDERS.  
AND HE WILL BE CALLED  
WONDERFUL COUNSELOR,  
MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER,  
PRINCE OF PEACE."**

Isaiah 9:6



--THE DEAF  
LUTHERAN STAFF



## CELEBRATION TO COMMEMORATE 100 YEARS OF MINISTRY TO THE DEAF

Some 65 LCMS pastors and deaconesses have set in motion a plan to celebrate the 100th anniversary of deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

The six-pronged celebrate begins next March, when the Synod's congregations will be urged to recognize deaf ministry with a service of thanksgiving and rededication,

### CORRECTION!

To err is human, and to forgive is divine as the saying goes! We sincerely regret the error is the July/August issue which stated . . . "that the Northern Illinois District took second place in banner competition at the ILDA convention in Austin." It should have said that Northern Illinois took **FIRST PLACE** and that St. Matthew of Newark, NJ was second.

### DR. LOUIS FRILLMANN RETIRES

Oct. 15, 1993 marked the last day of work for veteran educator and project director of the Mill Neck Foundation, Dr. Louis Frillmann. Winding up a 42-year career, he joins another top educator, Dr. Henry Bjorlie, in retirement from the school at Mill Neck, NY. Dr. Frillmann and his wife of 42 years, Edna, plan to travel and "fish a lot" while maintaining an interest in deafness and computer technology and being active on the Lutheran Braille worker Board.

Congratulations, Lou! You have surely earned it



Frillmann was honored in May by the Lutheran Schools Association as "Educator of the Year."

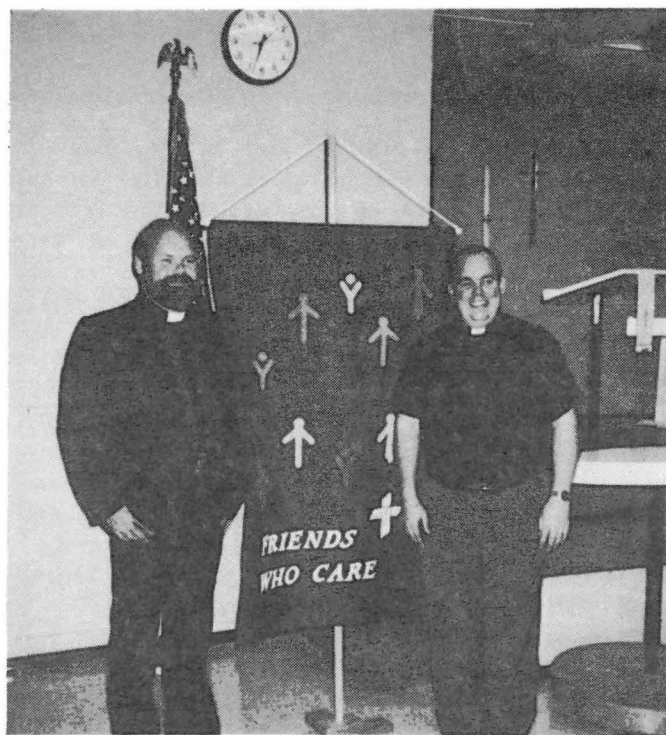
and ends with a celebration of deaf ministry at the synodical convention in July 1995 in St. Louis.

Other plans include a deaf "friendship Sunday" event, deaf ministry presentations at 1994 district conventions, the publication of a 60-page book on the history of deaf ministry in the synod and an anniversary celebration at the 1995 International Lutheran Deaf Association convention in Chicago.

The activities are supported by a \$25,000 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans. The celebration is an outgrowth of an Ephphatha conference held June 26-July 1 in Austin, Texas.

Participants at the conference attended workshops on deaf culture and sign language designed to improve communication skills.

Ephphatha is an organization of professional church workers who serve LCMS ministries. "Ephphatha" which means "be opened," is taken from Jesus' words to the deaf man in Mark 7:34.--From **REPORTER**, Sept. 1993



**PASTOR WELCOMED BACK TO MINNEAPOLIS**--Rev. Mark Seeger, left, and his family of Austin, Texas, were guests at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church June 6 for "Friendship Celebration Open House." where Pastor Seeger was guest preacher. Host pastor Daryl Gehlbach is at right.--Photo courtesy Janet Gehlbach.

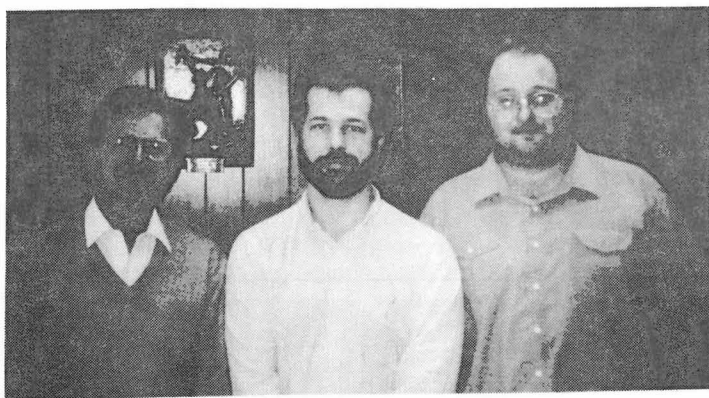
# NEW VICARS

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio will have the services of a new vicar to assist Pastor Shirrel Petzoldt starting in July.

Also receiving a vicar for the first time the editor can remember will be Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa where Vicar Smith began work on July 25.

## NEW PASTOR IN SIOUX FALLS

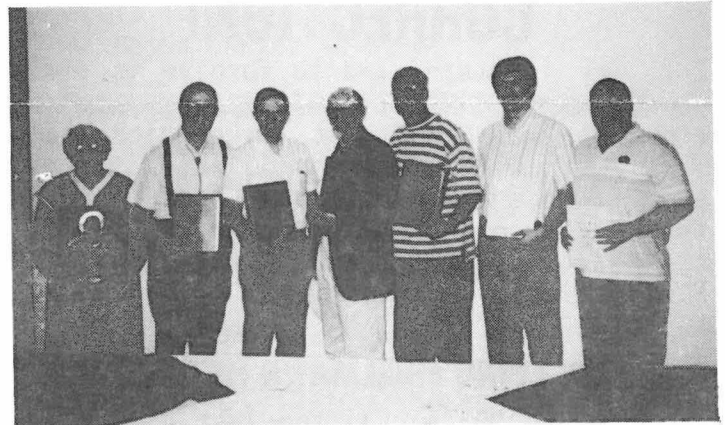
Installed in services at Sioux Falls, S.D., on July 18 was Rev. Matthew Nix who will serve the Siouxland area which includes southwestern Minnesota, northwest Iowa, northeast Nebraska as well as the south Dakota field.



**PREPARING FOR THE MINISTRY**—Man in the center is Matthews Nix, who was installed as pastor for the South Dakota field on July 18. At the left is Jessie Forrest, who began his vicarage at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio on the same day. At the right is Cory Eckstrom, first year student. Picture was taken at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

## FEELING TEMPTED BY SATAN?

Temptation is a necessary part of life, it seems, but we do not need to succumb to the devil's wiles! Try this prayer: "Get thee hence, Satan, in the Name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit." When we ask for help from the Lord in fighting temptations, you will be pleasantly surprised at how fast the devil departs!



**PASTORS HONORED FOR LONGEVITY**—Awards presented during Ephphatha Conference banquet at Lone Star Cafe, Austin, Texas on June 29, 1993: (left to right) Louise and Rev. Clark Bailey (Ephphatha Award and 40-year ministry award), Rev. Martin Hewitt (30 years), Rev. Don Leber (30 years), Rev. George Natonick (25 years), Rev. Steven Schlund (10 years) and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach (10 years). Also honored, but not present were: Rev. Walter Uhlig (55 years), Rev. Ken Schnepf (20 years) and Rev. David Bush (15 Years).—Photo courtesy Janet Gehlbach.

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October-December, 1993

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