



Oak Leaves

Newsletter of the ELS Historical Society

Volume 18

November 2014

Issue 3

¡ Feliz Navidad !
4th Annual Christmas Open House



Ottesen Museum
Tuesday, December 9, 2014
2:30-5:30 pm

Christmas Customs from Peru and Chile
A Browns Court Menketo MN

4th Annual Christmas Open House

by Becky DeGarmeaux

Christmas in Summer? Yes, that's when some of our Lutheran brothers and sisters celebrate Christmas — in Summer! "Feliz Navidad — Christmas Customs from Peru and Chile" is the theme for this year's Christmas Open House at the Ottesen Museum.

Come to the Ottesen Museum for a taste of Christmas in the southern hemisphere. Learn what "La Noche Buena" means. Find out what a *pesebre* is. Sing Christmas carols in Spanish. Try some traditional Peruvian and Chilean Christmas treats. Hear natives talk about how they celebrate Christmas in their own words.

Along with the Christmas festivities and displays, the Open House is also a great opportunity to reacquaint yourself with the Museum's regular displays, see what's new, and maybe even see if you can figure out what the director has moved around.

So make plans now to attend the Open House at the Ottesen Museum on Tuesday, December 9, 2014. We can't promise summer-like weather, but hopefully the hot drinking chocolate will help to keep you warm!▪

Also in this issue:

- Convention Message/Service Message 1966, by Rev. Joseph N. Petersen
- BLC Presidents 1911-2015, by Erling T. Teigen
- Chairman of the ELSHS, Mark Harstad, Resigns

Mark O. Harstad Resigns Chairmanship of ELSHS

by The Editors

Mark O. Harstad was appointed to the board of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Historical Society by ELS President John Moldstad in 2003. The constitution designates one board position an appointive position. Harstad became chairman in 2006. He was recently diagnosed with cancer and his ongoing treatment necessitated taking a year leave of absence from his teaching responsibilities at Bethany Lutheran College. He also informed President Moldstad that he is resigning his position on the ELSHS board.

During his tenure the board has taken on some challenging projects including a play titled *The Oak Trees Still Stand*. The play was written by former board member Michael Lilienthal and was performed in connection with the 2013 annual ELSHS meeting. Harstad took the role of Rev. U. V. Koren and helped bring synod history to life.

Harstad's knowledge of synod history as well as his desire to pass on the knowledge of the people, events, and issues of the past has been invaluable to the board and the society. His contributions are much appreciated and we wish him well in whatever roles and responsibilities the Lord has in mind for him in the future. ■



Mark Harstad posed with a photo of his grandfather, Rev. Bjug Harstad, for an article in the *Mankato Free Press* that ran July 14, 2014. Mark, three local relatives, and five others were preparing to hike the Chilkoot Trail, retracing the steps of Bjug Harstad and other Yukon Territory gold seekers. Further details in the next issue of *Oak Leaves*.

BLC Ladies Auxiliary Chapter hosts teas for graduating senior women since 2004

Ten-years of hosting teas for graduating senior women by the Mankato Area BLC Ladies Auxiliary was noted in the **May 1, 2014 Bethany Scroll**. Below are excerpts from **Jenna Cornish's article, *Tea party celebrates upcoming graduation***:

...Kathy Bruss said, "Our first Auxiliary Tea ... was held in April of 2004 and was in connection with Bethany's transition to offering the B.A. degree. The Auxiliary wanted to do something to celebrate this milestone event for the graduating women and at the same time introduce them to the Auxiliary ... The event has always been hosted at the BLC President's home... The 'program' is more of an opportunity for the students to share information regarding their plans, hopes and dreams for their future, and for the Auxiliary women to offer words of wisdom and encouragement. It is a relaxing event and we hope that the students leave feeling more relaxed and confident about their future."

There was a time for socializing ...and...refreshments. After a devotion by an Auxiliary member, graduates said who they were, where they were from, their majors, and plans for after school. In turn, the Auxiliary members gave their backgrounds and added pieces of wisdom. "Wear comfortable shoes!" was one statement that made the whole room break out in laughter.

"...being done with school and going out on one's own for the first time is scary and hearing these statements made that process feel a little bit easier. Senior Janessa Beyer said, 'I appreciated being able to meet the women that empower and support the Bethany community.' "■



(Editor's Note: The mission of the Auxiliary is to support scholarships and special projects.)

BLC Presidents 1911-2015 Including called Presidents, Interim Presidents

by Erling T. Teigen,
Bethany Lutheran College Archives



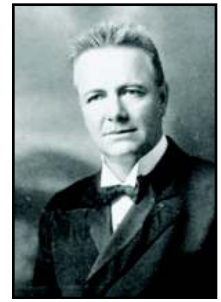
Erling T. Teigen graduated from Bethany Lutheran Seminary in 1966, served congregations in Minnesota from 1966 to 1977, and has been at Bethany Lutheran College since 1977, teaching Religion and Philosophy. He is

a past editor of the *Lutheran Sentinel* and *Logia*, and has presented papers and published articles on Lutheran Church history, especially Norwegian American history, and the theology of Martin Luther. He was on the founding board of the ELS Historical Society and served as Chairman for several years. Currently College Archivist, he is retiring from the faculty at the end of the school year 2014-2015. He received a Concordia Historical Society award for his article on J. A. Ottesen.

In February 2014, the President of Bethany Lutheran College, Dr. Dan R. Bruss, announced his intention to retire from the presidency at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. Depending on how one counts, Bruss has been the ninth president of the college (called and interim presidents since 1925); the seventh, (not counting the interim presidents); or the thirteenth, (beginning the count from 1911 and the Bethany Ladies College, predecessor institution of Bethany Lutheran College). In a time of transition, eyes are on the future, but a backward glance is instructive as well.

A. F. Winter, President of the founding Board of Directors and ELEA 1910-1912 Though A. F. Winter was not president of Bethany Ladies College until 1923-1924, he shepherded the college through its organization and served nearly all its existence

as president of the Evangelical Lutheran Educational Association. In 1902, Winter was called to be pastor of Immanuel congregation in Mankato. Soon after his arrival, he was hard at work. In 1902-1903, a new school was built at the corner of Washington and Broad Streets. The next project was the construction of Immanuel Hospital at Fourth and Washington. During his early years in Mankato, Winter also led construction of a new church building for Immanuel. So it became clear that Pastor Winter was a builder. In 1909, Winter led the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Educational Association (ELEA). This group, with Winter as president, appointed a Board of Directors which began to raise money, negotiate with local businessmen and plan the ladies college which, it was hoped, would become the Vassar of Midwestern Lutheranism. The Bethany Ladies College grew for awhile but then encountered financial problems, no doubt related to the economy of the day and to World War I. At one point the ELEA was re-organized with a one-hundred-member, nationwide board, and survived an attempted takeover by a newer organization. The college foundered for a few years with shrinking enrollments, until after one year as president, Winter resigned both his positions—with the Bethany corporation and the Immanuel congregation. He spent the last years of his life in St. Paul, no doubt disappointed in the failure of his dream. He died May 20, 1930, and was buried from Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Paul. There were brief mentions of his death in the *Northwestern Lutheran* and the *Lutheran Sentinel*.



W. F. Georg 1912-1917 W. F. Georg served as president of the college from 1912 until 1917. Georg was born in Maryland in 1874 and entered Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois in 1892. After graduating from the seminary, he served congregations in Rockwell City and Webster City, Iowa. He was elected secretary of the board of the ELEA in June of 1912, and continued



in that office for a time after he became president of the college. After 1918, he continued as a fund raiser for the National Lutheran Education Association (NLEA) an outgrowth of the ELEA. The rest of his career he spent as Superintendent for Missions for the Washington District of the Missouri Synod, and died in 1950. Under Georg's presidency, the enrollment of the college grew to 136 by 1914, after which enrollment declined. The association and the board of directors seem to have recognized that the college was in serious difficulty and in 1916 revised its bylaws to expand the board of trustees to include one hundred well-to-do men from the Synodical Conference in order to put the college on a more solid financial footing by retiring a debt of \$150,000. By that time, a serious rift occurred between some of the founders and others of the newer men. In 1917, the ELEA's new board changed the articles of incorporation and bylaws to make the organization national and they would meet in places other than Mankato, hence the NLEA. It appears that Georg was a part of that move and served for two years as a fund raiser. The President of the NLEA was Bernhart P. Holst of Iowa. The NLEA assumed some importance for Bethany during the 1930s and contributed significantly to saving the college during the depression (see the bronze plaque in the lobby of present day Old Main).

Karl Koehler 1917-1918 Karl Koehler was the son of the well-known Wisconsin Synod theologian, J. P. Koehler, president of the Wisconsin Synod's Wauwatosa seminary. Born in 1885, Karl



Koehler had graduated from the seminary in 1908, taught at Milwaukee Lutheran High School from 1904 to 1906, and later at Michigan Lutheran Seminary and Dr. Martin Luther College. He also audited courses at Concordia Seminary and visited several other Lutheran Seminaries in the U. S. When

the ELEA reorganized by forming a larger board of trustees in order to raise funds, W. F. Georg resigned in order to give the new board a free hand in

choosing a new president. They called several Lutheran notables; William Dallman, George Romoser, and W. H. T. Dau, all of whom declined. Koehler was called as a teacher and was appointed to an executive committee which would govern the school until a full time president was called. Koehler was to be the chairman. Koehler set out to reform the curriculum and gather a competent faculty. But the enrollment did not improve in that year. The following year, 1918-1919, there was insufficient enrollment, and the board called off school and sent the students who had enrolled to New Ulm for the year, accompanied by Prof. Laukandt. During that year, the school was used for a couple of months by the city as a hospital during the influenza epidemic. During this time, Koehler was listed as president. During the year, Koehler and Pastor Winter fell into some sharp disagreements. When the board of trustees of the college and the voters' assembly of Immanuel congregation supported Pastor Winter against charges made by Koehler, Koehler departed and joined the faculty of Northwestern College.

B. F. Laukandt 1920-1922 B. F. Laukandt is also listed as president in the college catalogs. Though he graduated from Concordia College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana and from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, and State University of New York, no dates given, he is listed in *Who's Who Among Pastors in all the Norwegian Lutheran Synods of America, 1843-1927* since he taught for twelve years at Red Wing Ladies Seminary, an institution of the Norwegian Synod, with both academy and college departments. Bethany Ladies College closed its doors for the school year 1919-1920, and during that year reorganized itself. Formerly, the corporation was Evangelical Lutheran Educational Association, and it was reorganized as Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. "The new Bethany," as they billed themselves in the 1920-1921 catalog, lists B. F. Laukandt as Dean, and teaching Christianity, piano, composition, and chorus. In the 1922-1923 Catalog Laukandt is listed as "Pres. And Dean of Conserva-



tory of Music,” but does not appear in the 1923-1924 catalog, when A. F. Winter is listed as President. After serving at Bethany, Laukandt returned to Red Wing and was issued several patents, including a piece of piano action hardware.

Holden Olsen 1925-1929 After Winter’s resignation, Holden M. Olsen, a pastor of the “Little Norwegian Synod” became president. Olsen was one



of the original thirteen founding pastors of the Norwegian Synod (now ELS). He had been pastor of Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin, from 1906 to 1922. When Olsen resigned his call in Madison, he was succeeded by Dr. S. C. Ylvisaker. After a three-year period selling insurance, he was

called to Bethany, and it was his presence there that opened the possibility for the Norwegian Synod to acquire the school. Also on the faculty at the time was O. C. Torgerson from the Norwegian Synod. Torgerson was opposed to turning the school over to the Norwegian Synod though, since it had been established by German Lutherans to serve their people. Olsen became president in 1925 and served until 1929. Born in 1875, Olsen was not without academic credentials. He attended Luther College (1890-96), received a second B.A. from the University of Chicago (1896-1901) and an M.A. from Harvard University. He taught in Peoria, Illinois, from 1902-03, attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and was a Candidate of Theology in 1906. After his tenure at Bethany, he returned to Madison where he died in 1942. There can be no doubt that it was Olsen’s presence at Bethany that led to the synod’s acquisition of the college. From an enrollment of twenty-four in 1924, it rose to sixty-three at the time the synod took over the operation of the college.

Walter Buszin (Acting) 1929-1930 After the Norwegian synod had acquired the college the newly established Board of Regents was to nominate a president. Rather than nominating Olsen, they nominated S. C. Ylvisaker who had been the chairman of the Bethany Association which had

first taken on responsibility for the school. The Synod did elect Ylvisaker, but he declined the call since conditions at the Madison congregation would not permit him to leave at that time. The regents then appointed Walter Buszin who had



joined the faculty the year before to serve as acting president for that year. Buszin went on to become a noted church musician in Synodical Conference circles, especially in publishing Bach chorales. Buszin’s chief legacy to the college is the founding of the Bethany Choir, the history of which is recorded in *With Hearts and Lips Forever We Shall in God Rejoice!* by Prof. Dennis Marzolf.

S. C. Ylvisaker 1930-1950 In 1930, Ylvisaker was called again, and this time, he accepted the call.

Ylvisaker’s years are chronicled in *Sigurd Christian Ylvisaker, 1884-1959: a commemorative volume at the centennial of his birth*. Ylvisaker began his tenure as president in the shadow of the 1929 stock market crash. It was a struggle to keep the college alive during the depression. The small school faced equally dark days during World War II, when there were few men attending college. But in the last years of his tenure, Ylvisaker faced something of a boom, when the returning soldiers began to take advantage of the G.I. Bill. In the dark days in



the 1930s, Ylvisaker is reported to have gone from business to business in Mankato to pay the bills and to get some patience on the balance. A *Mankato Free Press* picture shows “Doc,” as he has been affectionately called, standing with a *Mankato Free Press* mail bag hanging on his shoulder, reading the paper. Lest anyone think he was supporting the college with a *Free Press* route, it was noted that the bag belonged to one of his boys. Ylvisaker was probably more comfortable moving among other college and university leaders than most of his predecessors, and succeeded in securing academic recognition by the University of Minnesota, which kept Bethany accredited until it became necessary for the college

to join the North Central Accreditation Association. Ylvisaker did have dreams and he wrote some of them down, but he was also a realist, and had his eyes a little closer to the horizon than did the drivers of Bethany Ladies College. As he worked hard to build up a good faculty, his friends in the Missouri Synod and Concordia Seminary became a ready resource. With their help, Ylvisaker acquired some young theologians and scholars who went on to achieve recognition in other places, among them Alfred Fremder, Carl Meyer, Paul Zimmerman, Robert Hoerber, and Oswald Hoffman. He also acquired some very competent lay faculty, who often could not stay long because they had families to support. In many ways, the formation of the college into what it is today came through the leadership of Sigurd Ylvisaker. But by 1950, his health began to weaken and he spoke of stepping down. Unfortunately, the college had not worked out a serious plan of transition, and so not all went smoothly. The original provision that the college president was to be elected every four years by the synod in convention after a nomination from the Board of Regents contributed to the lack of a smooth transition.

B. W. Teigen 1950-1970 “B.W.” arrived on campus in 1945 after serving parishes in Iowa, Northern Minnesota and Chicago for the Norwegian Synod.



Born in 1909, he began his study for the ministry at a time when the Norwegian Synod did not yet operate Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, so his seminary preparation was at Concordia High School and College in St. Paul, Minnesota. (Some of his contemporaries at Concordia were

synod boys Neelak Tjernagel, Erling Teigen, and Milton Tweit.) From there he went to Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, graduating in 1935. His call to Bethany was to teach English and religion, and he spent the next year at the University of Minnesota and received an M.A. in English in 1946. He continued his doctoral studies until they were interrupted by his election to the presidency of the college. There were serious challenges during Teigen’s tenure, as

well as some significant advances. In the early 1950s, the GI boom was still in effect. In the mid 1950s, it was not an economic depression, but an ecclesiastical depression that troubled the waters. Bethany, both as a ladies’ college, and as an ELS co-ed high school and college, considered its primary constituency to be the Synodical Conference – the Missouri, Norwegian, Slovak, and Wisconsin synods. But as the fellowship ties became strained, the pool of students also was affected and the mid 1950s were some uncertain times. Contrary to expectations, many from the Missouri Synod continued to send their young people to Bethany, and in the 1960s enrollment began to accelerate. There was some expansion and building during those years. In the early 1950s, the student body embarked on a “Million Penny” campaign to provide for some critical projects, including “tuck-pointing” loosening joints in the building’s brick veneer. In 1959, a new gymnasium-auditorium was built. A new boiler house, while not much to look at, contributed much to the wellbeing and happiness of faculty and students. At the end of the 1960s, there was a new library, and then a new dorm (used first for women, but later for men. It is now Teigen Hall). The new buildings were related to the move toward full accreditation. When the University no longer accredited colleges in Minnesota, Bethany had to look elsewhere. However, to be an accredited institution there were certain requirements to demonstrate institutional stability and the ability to carry out the college’s mission. The housing of a high school and college in the same quarters also caused some problems as well as a decreasing interest in boarding high schools. As a result, in 1969, the high school was closed, which was a very difficult decision for the synod, and not without some serious disagreements and hard feelings. In 1970, Teigen announced his intention to retire from the presidency, but he continued to teach and serve the synod. As a mark of his service to the theology of the Lutheran church, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree by Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Raymond Branstad 1970-1977 By 1969, the president of the college was no longer elected by the synod every four years, but was instead chosen



by the Board of Regents. Raymond Branstad was the first president to be a graduate of the college. It was required then that the president be an ordained pastor of the synod. Branstad had graduated from the college in 1937, and had gone on to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He served

parishes in Duluth, Minnesota, Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and Minneapolis, Minnesota. It was during his tenure that having achieved Candidate Status with the North Central Accreditation Association, the college went on to complete the studies necessary for full accreditation. No new buildings were erected during Branstad's tenure, but the recruiting of students and faculty development were intensified. No one spoke very loudly in those days of becoming a four-year college, but in many ways, the preparations were underway.

Theodore A. Aaberg (Acting) 1977-1978

Theodore Aaberg was called to be the first president of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in

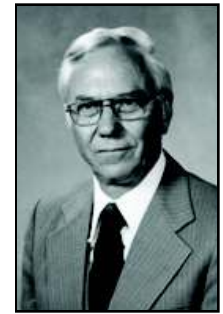


1976. While not a graduate of the college, Aaberg was an early graduate of Bethany Seminary. Until 1976, the seminary had been a department of the college, like the high school, but had its own dean. The college and seminary became separate entities, governed by the Board of Regents, but with separate

administrations. When President Raymond Branstad resigned as college president, Aaberg was appointed interim president. That year, the seminary president had his office in Old Main while the new seminary was under construction. Aaberg only served for a few months, resigning because of failing health in the spring of 1978.

Norman S. Holte (Acting) 1978-1979; (Elected) 1979-1983 Norman Holte, who had served on the college faculty and held many different positions over the years, was a 1942 graduate of the college. He joined the college faculty after completing his

work at the University of Minnesota in 1946. Over the years he served as Dean of Students, high school principal, registrar, and a few other things. His teaching area was the social sciences. When the Board of Regents called for nominations for the office of president of the college in 1978, Holte, though near-



ing retirement, was included on the list of nominees and was elected by the board. Holte's tenure was significant in that it marked the beginning of considerable financial and enrollment growth for the college. One part of that growth was the support of the Marvin Schwan Foundation; Schwan, a 1949 graduate of the college had gone on to grow a small ice cream company in Marshall, Minnesota, to a large corporation, and had for many years supported his alma mater. Holte had been one of his teachers, and on one occasion, when the Schwan company had an appreciation banquet for their leader, Holte was invited to participate. Some significant gifts came to the college through that connection. Another important event during Holte's tenure was the recognition of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Sigurd Christian Ylvisaker who had been so significant in the development of the college. One part of that anniversary was the production of a commemorative book written by a committee consisting of Peter Harstad as editor, and Holte, Juul Madson, and Erling T. Teigen. A large celebration was held in 1984 with all of Ylvisaker's children present, which began the development of a significant scholarship fund that offers several large academic scholarships each year. Also an outgrowth of that drive was the S. C. Ylvisaker Fine Arts center. Equally important during this period was the continued self-study of the college, the beginning of intensive faculty development programs encouraging faculty members to continue working on terminal degrees, and some serious campus planning.

Marvin G. Meyer 1983-2003 Marvin Meyer was another Bethany College graduate and long-time faculty member to become president. Holte stepped down after five years, as he had said he would when elected. So far, all of those elected president



after Ylvisaker had also come to the position after tenure on the faculty — with the exception of Branstad, who, however, had been a member of the Board of Regents prior to becoming president. A 1958 graduate of Bethany College, Marvin Meyer had taught Math at the college since his graduation from col-

lege, acquiring an M.A. along the way. He had served as Athletic Director and as Dean of Students. He had also successfully owned and operated a resort in northern Minnesota, so was at home in financing and construction. Meyer's tenure saw two major developments for the college. There had long been a pretty much unspoken assumption among many that sooner or later the college would have to move to four year programs if it were to survive, though the thought made many somewhat nervous, and faculty enthusiasm came only after some hesitation. With the advent of extensive support from the Schwan Foundation and by that time a well-established development program, the college embarked on extensive curricular and physical expansion. Meyer is still remembered for his warning that as the campus expanded and various departments moved to separate buildings, the campus would become like a field of balloons, each in their own isolated sphere. Meyer and the faculty devoted themselves to countering that tendency.

Dan R. Bruss 2003-2015 The current president, who will retire at the end of the 2014-2015 school year, follows the same tradition set by his predecessors of being a graduate of



Bethany College, having received his A.A. degree in 1973. He also served as an instructor in chemistry from 1975 to 1981. Prior to his return to Bethany, Bruss taught at the Albany College of Pharmacy (1985-90), and at Central College, Pella, Iowa, from 1990 to 2002. During his tenure, there

weren't so many dirt piles on campus, as the construction projects had often been called, but it did

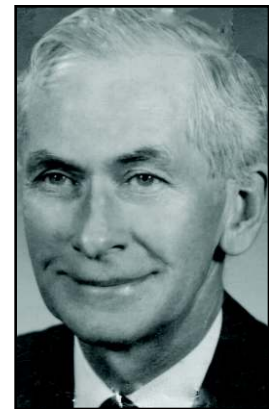
see the construction of Honsey Hall. This building has become the largest center of instruction and faculty offices on campus. The college B.A. curriculum continued to expand so that in 2014 there are 19 majors.

Having begun its second century on McMahan Hill in Mankato, Bethany is hardly the same institution it was in 1911. It has existed in several iterations, but has remained anchored to the aim expressed in the 1914 catalog: to provide a thorough education "based upon and permeated by the only true guide for all education and training, the infallible Word of God. Everything in the world can be correctly judged only in the light of the Holy Scriptures....It is our aim to train our students so that they may become intelligent and useful members both of the church and of the state." ■

SERVICE MESSAGE NO. 148 July, 1966

Published by the Armed Services Commission of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

This...message was written by Rev. Joseph Petersen, [who, in 1966, was] President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and Pastor of Norseland Lutheran Church and Norwegian Grove Lutheran Church, rural St. Peter, Minnesota. (Note: An obituary will follow the message.)



(Excerpts from the introduction that was in the Service Message bulletin)

The Annual Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod was held at Bethany College in Mankato, Minnesota the week of June 21st-26th [1966]...these pages will contain excerpts from the message from Synod's President, Rev. Joseph Petersen, ... delivered at the opening of the Convention. The theme of the Convention ... was: "WE ARE SAVED BY HOPE." (Romans 8:24) President Petersen's opening address centered in that theme.

Beloved Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod:

“Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the Lord His God.” Ps. 146:5 Truly a spirit of joy and happiness permeates the heart of the child of God “whose hope is in the Lord his God.”

The theme chosen for our Synod Convention this year, “For we are saved by hope,” does not contradict the assertion of the Apostle: “We walk by faith and not by sight.” II Cor. 5:7 Faith always carries hope with it. Already we are saved by faith and share in the wonder of salvation. Already we are “heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Titus 3:7 The inheritance of eternal salvation lies prepared for us in the future. When seeing begins, hope comes to an end. Our spiritual posture is one of “looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” Titus 2:13 Christian hope then is not a blind leap into empty space, not an aimless walk into the dark and starless night, not wishful thinking, but a God-given conviction, a child-like trust in the sure promises of God.

The world’s panacea for the woes of the world lies in more and more education. To the world truth is merely a relative thing, so that it holds that man must search more and more for the truth. The world also depends upon science to deliver mankind from the throes of hopelessness and to translate it into the utopian realm of hope. Far be it from the child of God to cast aspersions on the value of education, of acquiring more knowledge, as long as that knowledge does not militate against the wisdom of God and the revealing Gospel of Grace.

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod believes in true knowledge, science and education, but only in that kind which “brings into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” II Cor. 10:5 This spirit or attitude may be called anti-intellectualism or dead-orthodoxy, but it does offer and impart a solid hope. Souls shall not be disillusioned “who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope

set before us, which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast.” Hebrews 6:18-19

The period of waiting for faith to give way to sight is a most glorious time, but it is also a time of testing and proving. The Apostle exhorts us to hope with patience, a steady and brave perseverance amid our groaning and present painful condition. “For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves, also, which have the first-fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption to wit, the redemption of our body.” Romans 8:22-23 Until the time of final deliverance and redemption, how easy it is for us to grow impatient! What a tangled web the church weaves for itself when it becomes impatient with the quiet working of the Spirit through the means of grace. How often we are tempted to build the kingdom of God through means other than the Lord has given us! In our busy efforts at times we fail or forget “to give an answer to every man that asketh, a reason of the hope that is in us, with meekness and fear.” I Peter 3:15 Amid our fears, perplexities and groanings, how often we need to be reminded that “tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope; and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.” Romans 5:3-5 In our feverish impatience at times to be of service, we do well to hear again John Milton’s bit of theology in his Ode to Blindness” “They also serve who only stand and wait.”

As pilgrims of hope — and that we are — let us hopefully fix our eyes of faith intently on the gracious promises of Scripture. Then we can run our race cheerfully and confidently. As we hopefully look for the Lord’s gracious guidance and merciful help in the years ahead, may this loving benediction rest upon all of us as individuals, as congregations, and as a Synod: “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” Romans 15:13

My hope is built on nothing less
 Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
 But wholly lean on Jesus' name.
 On Christ, the solid rock, I stand:
 All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, His covenant, & blood
 Support me in the whelming flood;
 When all around my soul gives way,
 He then is all my hope and stay.
 On Christ, the solid rock, I stand:
 All other ground is sinking sand.

Amen! ■

Obituary (from the ELS Archives);

Joseph Norman Petersen was born on April 1, 1919, in Rembrandt, IA, the son of Pastor Justin and Nettie Petersen nee Knutson.



He was born again to be God's own child in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. He was instructed in the Lutheran doctrine and then confirmed into the Lutheran Church.

He attended Bethany Lutheran High School and Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, MN. He graduated from Northwestern College in Watertown, WI, in 1942, and graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 1945.

He was united in marriage to Shirley Knudsen on May 12, 1946. This union was blessed with three children.

He served the following parishes during his ministry:

- Pinehurst Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI 1945-51
- A mission in Cornwall, England 1951-55
- English Lutheran Church, Cottonwood, MN 1955-58
- Norseland and Norwegian Grove Lutheran Churches 1958-68
- Syracuse, NY 1978-80
- Colorado Springs, CO 1980-86

He also served as President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod 1963-66, and as a recruiter of students for Bethany Lutheran College 1968-70

He is survived by his wife, Shirley
 Two daughters: Luanne of Syracuse, NY and Connie of Los Angeles, CA
 One son: David of Camillus, NY
 Five grandchildren
 Three brothers: Justin, Paul and Wilhelm
 Two sisters: Camilla and Esther

Our risen and ascended Lord Jesus came for Joseph to bring him into His heavenly home on Saturday, June 7, 1997 at the age of 78 years. His mortal remains will await the day of the resurrection of all flesh in the Norseland Lutheran Cemetery.

"Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the spirit, 'they will rest from their labor.'" (Revelation 14:13)

Blessed be his memory in our midst!

**Norway Celebrates
 200-year-old Constitution**
 (Articles in the May and August 2014 issues of
 "Oak Leaves" continue with Part 2 of:)

**"The Incredible Year," 1814
 and to the Present**



May 17, 2014, Oslo, Norway

Note: Compiled by Cheryl Harstad, Editor. All information is from the web site: www.Storinget.no.

In the summer of 1814, independent Norway was obliged to fight a war against Sweden. Carl Johan had returned from the war against Napoleon and was now determined to take quick possession of Norway. After negotiations failed, the Swedish

army attacked on July 26th. On August 14th at Moss, Norway and Sweden signed a cease-fire agreement which entailed Norwegian acceptance of a union with Sweden. King Christian Frederik succeeded in securing Sweden's agreement that Norway could retain its constitution more or less intact, but had to promise to renounce the Norwegian throne. This agreement has become known as the Moss Convention.

In the autumn of 1814, on October 7th, an extraordinary session of the national assembly was convened to negotiate with the Swedes the conditions for a union. Christian Frederik was ill and depressed, and on October 10th he formally renounced the Norwegian throne. He eventually inherited the Danish throne and reigned from 1839 to 1848 as King Christian VIII. The Swedes gave up trying to impose the provision of the Treaty of Kiel by force. The new union between Norway and Sweden was a loose one; though the two realms were to have a common king. Norway was to have full internal self-government.

On November 4th a slightly revised version of the May 17th Constitution was approved, the changes necessitated by the union, but their effect weakened the power of the monarchy. Since the newly elected king, Sweden's King Charles XIII (Carl II of Norway), resided in Stockholm, he would not, for instance, be able to keep the government in Christiania under continuous scrutiny. Negotiations were led on the Norwegian side by the President of the Storting, Wilhelm Frimann Koren Christie (1778-1849), a lawyer who proved to be of high international caliber. During the 1820s and 1830s, Carl Johan made several attempts to alter the Constitution, but the Storting refused point-blank. The king's moves were seen as being inappropriate pressure exerted by the monarchy and by Sweden. It did not take long for constitutional conservatism to become a principle in Norway: the Constitution was not to be tampered with.

Local self-government was introduced in the municipalities in 1837. In 1884, parliamentarianism was introduced, and the king could no longer appoint governments as he wished. After 1884, governments have been responsible to the Storting. In 1898, all adult men were enfranchised, and in 1913 all women.

In 1905, Norway broke away from Sweden, and chose a king of her own, Carl of Denmark, who was the second son of Frederick VIII of Denmark and Louise of Sweden. He began to reign on November 18, 1905 and he took the name Haakon VII. He died on September 21, 1957. In 1957, Olav V, the only son of Haakon VII and Maud of Wales began his reign. He died on January 17, 1991. In 1991, Harald V, the only son of Olav V and Märtha of Sweden began his reign, and he reigns to the present. He married a non-royal, Sonja Haraldsen. ■

(From Wikipedia) “[Sonja Haraldsen] got engaged to then Crown Prince Harald in March 1968. They had been dating for nine years, although this had been kept secret because of opposition to her non-royal status. The Crown Prince made it clear to his father, King Olav V, that he would remain unmarried for life unless he could marry her. This would in effect have put an end to the rule of his family and probably

to the monarchy in Norway, as he was the sole heir to the throne. Faced with having to choose one of his relatives from the Danish Royal Family, the Dukes of Schleswig-Holstein or even the Grand Dukes of Oldenburg as his new heir in place of his son, Olav V consulted the government for advice and the result was that the couple was wed on 29 August 1968, at Oslo Domkirke in Oslo. She thus acquired the style of *Royal Highness* and the title of Crown Princess of Norway.”

“**Haakon, Crown Prince of Norway** ... born 20 July 1973, with the full name *Haakon Magnus*, is the heir apparent to the Throne of Norway and the son of the reigning King, Harald V. He is also a Prince of Denmark and a member of the House of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg, which is a branch of the House of Oldenburg. The Crown Prince is married to Mette-Marit, Crown Princess of Norway, with whom he has two children. He has an older sister, Princess Märtha Louise. In accordance with Norway's agnatic primogeniture succession, Haakon became Crown Prince when his father ascended the throne in 1991. He is expected to succeed to the throne as Haakon VIII.”



Eric M. Harstad reads *Oak Leaves* while in China last May.

At home or away, review past issues of *Oak Leaves* at www.els-history.org.

No password is needed.



Mark O. Harstad leads the way on the Chilkoot Trail, July 2014; the same path Rev. Bjug Harstad took in 1898 to reach Yukon Territory and the gold fields. The next issue of *Oak Leaves* will tell it like it was.

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