



# Oak Leaves

Newsletter of the ELS Historical Society

Volume 12

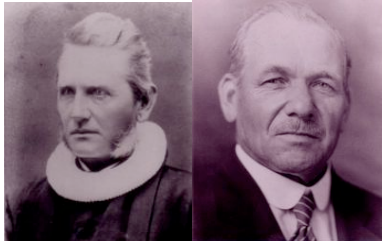
Spring (May) 2008

Issue 1

## The Word of the Lord Grows (Annual Meeting Preview) Successful mission work forms a congregation, strengthens a congregation, and flows from it throughout the world

The Saude and Jerico parish has a unique history in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Pioneer pastor U. V. Koren gathered and organized the congregations as mission work among the Norwegian immigrants. The parish was later served by H. M. Tjernagel who had served as missionary to Native Americans in Alaska and Wisconsin.

Pastor Timothy Erickson was called from the Jerico-Saude parish and has served as missionary in Peru and Chile.



The Saude congregation is commemorating its sesquicentennial this year (1857-2007), giving us an opportunity to visit the Saude congregation for our annual meeting and to reflect on the theme: *The Word of the Lord Grows*. The day will explore how a Christian congregation and mission work are intricately connected and interrelated. We will hear some history of the congregation and the work of pioneer and missionary pastors.



**Saturday, June 14, 2008**

**at Saude Lutheran Church, Lawler, Iowa**

6:15 am Charter bus loads in Mankato, MN

9:30 am Registration and Coffee

10:00 am Opening Devotion

*The Founding of Saude Lutheran Church*

10:15 am Mission work of Dr. U. V. Koren

11:15 am Mission work of H. M. Tjernagel

Noon Lunch. (*Reservation required.*) Visit the

Strandebarm school and the church cemetery

1:30 pm Business Meeting

*Spreading the Gospel in South America*

1:45 pm Mission work in South America

2:45 pm Closing hymn and announcements

3:00 pm Afternoon coffee

3:30 pm Bus departs, with a stop at Jerico Lutheran Church

**Registration is required!** Forms are on page 11. We hope you can join us for an interesting and edifying day of history and gratitude to God for His continued blessings on His church.

— Check our website: [www.evangelicallutheransynod.org/history](http://www.evangelicallutheransynod.org/history) —

## Helge Mathias Tjernagel, 1871-1940

Reprinted from *The Assistant Pastor* (1940), newsletter of the Jerico-Saude parish

The Rev. Helge Mathias Tjernagel was born at Follinglo Farm near Story City, Iowa, May 23, 1871, a son of Ole Andreas Tjernagel and Martha Karine Anderson Follinglo. He was baptized by Rev. Nils Amlund and confirmed by Rev. L. Sherven.

He worked on the home farm and attended public school at the Sheldall school, after which he enrolled at Luther College, Decorah, remaining there as a student from 1888 to 1894. He taught at Luther Academy, Albert Lea, Minn., during 1898-99, then attended Luther Seminary, Hamline, from 1899 to 1902. Since then he held pastorates as follows: At Stanwood, Wash., 1902-10, the first year as assistant to Rev. L. C. Foss, the rest of the time as regular pastor of the congregation. From 1910 to 1913 he served as a missionary in the Mrs. T. L. Brevig Eskimo Mission, Teller, Alaska. From here he went to Santa Barbara, Calif., where he served as pastor during 1913 and up to 1916. His next call was at Crookston, Minn., 1917-18. While here he was called as missionary to the Indian Mission of the Missouri Synod at Gresham, Wis., 1918-23. In 1923 he moved to his last pastorate, the Saude and Jerico congregations of the Norwegian Synod near Lawler, Iowa, which he served until his death. He died in faith at Lutheran Hospital at Hampton, Iowa, February 13, 1940.

June 27, 1904, he was married to Miss Anna Brue at Stanwood, Wash. To them were born twelve children, four of whom died in early infancy. The children who survive are Neelak, Olivia (Mrs. T. N. Teigen), Rolf, Lars, Elna (Mrs. B. W. Teigen), Helga, Bertha, and Borghild. There are six grandchildren.

November 24, 1924, his wife died. Since that time his sister, Miss Bertha C. Tjernagel, has been his constant companion and

helper. Besides his sister he is survived by four brothers: Lewis, Nehemias, Martin and Gustav.

He was active in Synodical and Inter-Synodical Affairs. He served as President of the Norwegian Synod in the years 1930 to 1934. ...

### A Tribute

As to a fuller survey of the events in the life of the departed, some brief mention thereof may be appropriate. As a young man at home on the farm he was a member of the old Riverside Band and Orchestra. Later he taught music at Roland and elsewhere, and, as a student at Luther College was a prime mover in the earlier musical development there. He played in the band and acted as student-leader before Professor Haldor Hanson was called as its permanent director. He was a leader in the promotion of the Luther Band Concerts, and took part in the first memorable tour. Later his interest in musical uplift centered largely on the proper employment of music and song in his home and congregations. He had the pleasure as a theological seminary student of introducing his old friend, Prof. John Dahle, to his subsequent work as song director at Luther Seminary, Hamline. Also of encouraging as well as recommending his brother pastor on the west coast, Carlo A. Sperati, a warm friend of the family, as successor of Haldor Hanson, who had resigned as music director at Luther College.

During his pastorate at Stanwood, Wash., he figured prominently in the building and establishment of the Josephine Old People's Home.

At Crookston, Minn., he formed a partnership with Prof. P. H. P. Rydning to publish "Organ Library," a collection of selections for reed organ, intended for use in church and home.

Speaking of his stay on the west coast, it may be mentioned that he was instrumental in bringing to light the history of pioneer Toftezen, the first Norwegian settler in those parts. He was invited to be the principal speaker at the dedication, May, 1939, of the memorial commemorating the advent of the Toftezens in that section of the nation (Washington) close to 100 years ago. Crown Prince Olav of Norway, among others, participating in the exercises. To him the occasion held peculiar interest, but pressure of work hindered his going.

The unusual bodily strength and vigor of the deceased enabled him to withstand the rigors of climate in the Arctic, and his dog-teams took him over the snowy wastes from one mission-post to another, undaunted in spite of the hardships encountered. He had many interesting as well as spiritually uplifting experiences, of which, among his other writings, he has graphically told in various church periodicals and magazines. He lectured on Alaska in Chicago, St. Louis and many other places. His visits in the far north with Captain Bartlett, the explorer, formed a most happy memory. To lead benighted souls to Christ, be it Eskimo or others, meant to our friend the greatest privilege bestowed on him or any other person here below.

As Missionary at Gresham, Wis., the departed designed and superintended the construction of the large Indian Mission school building near there. Indians were hired as helpers in its erection, but were often undependable, and the missionary himself, in order to keep the work going, frequently had to step in and do the work of several, a back-breaking job that nearly undermined his rugged system. The structure rears itself loftily at the edge of a pretty lake, where the reflection causes it to show its beauty two-fold. Here were trained in Christian faith and living the remnant of Stockbridge Indians, originally from Massachusetts, The Last of

the Mohicans in very truth. They occupied one township of territory, owned their land and could vote. Here came Sam Miller, the noted Mohican Indian lecturer — he had been largely instrumental in having Rev. Tjernagel take over the call to this work — for divine services, or for confabs and relaxation. The missionary brought the message of salvation to hungering hearts at Morgan Siding and Neopit (the latter place in the great Menominee Indian Reservation) as well as at Gresham, the home field.

He early recognized the great value of the Christian Day School in providing daily religious instruction for the young in conjunction with the other required branches of school work. He established such schools and often helped with the teaching himself. The religious training thus obtained by the young helped both him and them in the work in the congregation, and in life generally. In his last pastorate he prepared as well as distributed among old and young in the congregation his parish paper, "The Assistant Pastor." It became a much valued visitor in the homes of his parishioners.

His bent for landscape-gardening found expression in improving the general appearance of the spacious parsonage grounds. Here he and the children obtained exercise and healthy spirits through useful as well as ornamental work. The result of the occupation thus enjoyed now inspires others through its picturesqueness and restful appeal, a lovely retreat where nature-lovers delight to linger. A homey-looking log house, not far from the parsonage itself, was built in the midst of this setting by his brother Peter and himself, which was dedicated to his wife and named "Strandebarm" in remembrance of her family's original home in Hardanger, Norway. Now both rest in Saude cemetery nearby, awaiting the call on Resurrection Day. When the blessed of the Lord shall join the Great White Host and praise His name forever.

## Foreign Mission Report: Peru 1969

*Reprinted from the ELS Convention Report 1969*

In keeping with Synodical resolutions, The Rev. and Mrs. Theodore F. Kuster with their four children, and Mr. and Mrs. Orlin Myrlie arrived in Lima, Peru on July 16, 1968 in order to begin missionary work. The first objective was to improve their knowledge of the Spanish language and the customs of the country and then to gather together groups of people willing to hear the saving Gospel. There was no way to judge the degree of success that the Holy Spirit would grant to their teaching and preaching efforts.

Beginning in November attempts were made to gather small groups in Sunday School type sessions in various *barriadas* of shanty towns.

The Lord has granted tremendous success to our efforts. After ten months in the field there are 900 children, plus many parents and youth attending many weekly sessions. Thousands of tracts and Bibles, which are treasured by the people, have been distributed. In the Reynoso *barriada*, where we have rented quarters, regular Sunday church serviced were instituted on Easter Sunday. In the *barriadas* of Mariano Melgar, Villa Maria, Pomplona, we have six straw-mat structures on property which our people have claimed for themselves. Weekly meetings have also been set up at two spots in Santa Rosa. A *Catechism* for our own special use is in preparation.

It goes without saying that our missionary staff is all wrapped up in its work and tremendously enthused. We are sure that this God-given enthusiasm is penetrating into all areas of the Synod and causing us all to rejoice that we are lifting our sights to greater tasks for our Saviour's sake.

At this writing it appears to the Board of Missions that the foreign mission has been operated within the amounts allocated by the

1968 convention for the fiscal year. The outlay includes expenses of salaries house and utilities, air fares, moving and shipping expenses, fees and "paper work," language study, household furnishings and appliances, office equipment and supplies, 4-wheel drive car, insurance and upkeep, thousands of tracts and Bibles, film strips, screen camera, P.A. system, etc.

Our first objective has been reached, and that much sooner than we had expected. The time is ripe now to go on with the second objective, namely, the training of native workers and the beginning of native congregations. This work calls for an additional theologically trained missionary on the field, perhaps by 1971. If the calling of such a man is delayed the time of his expected activity would need to be postponed accordingly, and our present staff would then be forced to mark time for months or years. The Board of Mission urges the Synod to provide for this additional man as soon as possible.

Another reason for the addition of the second theologically trained man on the field is this, that all the work which has been blessed by the Lord thus far will come to naught if something untoward should happen to the one theologically trained man on the field. There should be two such men in order to give the proper depth to the staff. The likelihood of such mishap was brought sharply to our attention very recently with the news that Missionary Kuster's wife, Helga, had contracted hepatitis and, though recovering, will be able to carry on any activity for some months.

The Board of Missions, therefore, petitions the Synod to approve its requests for foreign mission budget appropriations as follows:

The Rev. Theodore Kuster to continue his work    \$ 9,600

Mr. and Mrs. Orlin Merlie to continue their work. 5,120  
 A second theologically trained man to be called into the  
 work, with a second small 4-wheel drive car 10,970  
 Sending Mr. David Skogen into the work 2,250  
 Emergency fund for the safety of our workers 1,000

We herewith thank the Lutheran Collegians, the organization of college students of The Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod in which students of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod also participate, for paying the air fare of the Myrllies to Lima. Through a cooperative program with the Lutheran Col-

legians we hope to have one or more additional lay co-workers on the field within the coming year. Under the projected arrangements the Lutheran Collegians will bear the co-worker costs.

The foreign mission appeal has brought many contributions from sources outside of Synod, for which we are grateful.

The Rev. A. V. Kuster,  
 Field Secretary of the Foreign Mission

## **“Gig and Aggie”: An Interview with Gerhard and Agnes Solli**

**By Ted Petersen**



*Note: Gig and Agnes Solli were well known on the Bethany campus for decades. For many years they were the oldest living alumni. God blessed them both with long life. Gerhard lived to age 91. He died in 2002. Agnes died in February 2008 at age 99.*

*Ted Petersen, their grandson, interviewed them in April 2000 about their recollections about campus life at Bethany from the 1920s.*

Not many people make it to their Seventy-Year College Reunion. Gerhard “Gig” and Agnes Solli did. Because both of them are over ninety, they certainly had a lot to offer as far as the history of Bethany goes. Since they are my grandparents, on Saturday, April 8th, 2000, I had the chance to have a conversation with them. I sat on the couch where I had sat hundreds of times and just chatted. The following is the result of our conversation.

*Ted: When did you attend Bethany?*

*Gig: I attended in '28 and '29 years.*

*Agnes: And I attended in '29 and '30.*

*Ted: So you were there for '29 together?*

*Both: Yes.*

*Ted: Did you go to high school at Bethany?*

*Gig: I went in Tacoma.*

*Ted: Did Bethany have a high school back then?*

*Gig: Yes, but I went to the school in Tacoma.*

*Agnes: I went to high school in Boone, Iowa.*

*Ted: How many kids do you think were in your class?*

*G: In the graduating class in 1930 there*

were 18 and that included both the high school and junior college.

A: At the time I went there they had a commercial course, and it was just a one-year college course. It was just typing, short hand, and bookkeeping. So I was really there only one year, but I graduated with the kids that were there for 2 years.

*T: So you graduated in the same year?*

A: Same year. I graduated in '30 and that's when he graduated.

*T: What were the classes like?*

G: Do you mean the things they offered?

*T: Sure.*

G: Well, of course the languages, it was kind of slim then. We all had English, and I took the languages, German and Latin the first year, and I continued in Latin and took first year Greek in the second year.

*T: I suppose they had classes like History.*

G: Yes, I took a history course.

A: He was studying, intending to be a minister and changed later on. So that's why he was taking so many of the languages. But I was intending only to be working as a secretary in the office, so I took subjects like that. And we were only two in that class.

*T: Were a lot of the guys that went there intending to go into the ministry?*

G: Several of them. I think the total was four.

*T: How does the college seem different to you now?*

G: Well, it's modernized in many ways, of course, and there are almost ten times as many students. We were in the forties and now it's in the 400's.

A: And of course we were all in one building. The boys' dorm was connected with a closed door, of course, to the girls' dorm.

*T: How recognizable is the Old Main and that classroom building?*

G: Part of it has changed, the dormitory rooms have all been modernized, but the old

entryway is just like it was.

*T: Is that where there's Bethany on the floor?*

G: Yes, I used to mop that as a student.

*T: What were the dorms like and the living conditions?*

G: Well the boys all had roommates. They were paired off; there were some double rooms. Two boys would live together.

A: I understand they are much more liberal with what you can do or not do these days. We were under strict rules. And if we wanted to leave the campus, we had to sign out. We would get to go downtown if we wanted to, but we had to let them know about when we would be coming back. There was one girl that they didn't trust too much. My roommate and I got permission to walk downtown and they said, "Will you take her along and keep watch over her because she'll try to get away?" Well, we said we'd try it, we didn't know if it was a good idea. But we got down to the business district and she disappeared, and we didn't know what we were supposed to do. But we shopped as much as we wanted to and we started back toward the college, and here she showed up. So we got her back with us. She was always in trouble. And she was a pastor's daughter!

*T: What kind of rules did they have?*

G: The lights went out at 10 o'clock. Study hours were from after suppertime until 9:30. Then we were free from 9:30 until 10, and at 10 the lights went out. I was over 20 years old! I worked a while after I graduated from high school.

*T: Was there any policy about guys visiting the girls in the dorms?*

G: Yes, there were very strict rules separating them.

A: Oh that would be terrible [if the boys went into the girls' rooms]. There was a reception room at the top of the steps and at certain times on a weekend, they would allow the boys to come up and visit the girls in

that reception room, but it was through supervision. And there were times when they'd have to wait.

*T: Prof. Teigen told me to ask you about the NitWit's Club, what was that all about?*

G: Well that was all the boys in the dorm. I don't remember that they had many meetings. I think it was more after I left. But there is a picture of the bunch; they just dressed crazy. As far as the activities were concerned, I don't even remember. It was really after my time.

*T: What was student life like with chapel and the strict schedule?*

G: Well, you were supposed to go to chapel. They had chapel in the morning at a certain hour everyday like they do now. But they also had chapel at night after the evening meal. And then the study hours started right after chapel.

A: If you didn't go to chapel, they would come up to the dorms to find why. Were you sick? Or there had to be some reason if you weren't there. So everybody had to go. And they counted, they knew if you were there. So they get by pretty easy now a days.

The bell would ring for mealtime; it was time to go and eat. And everybody came at the same time, just one certain time for meals to be served. We would sit around tables; we had certain tables to sit at. There were six at each table. And you were to keep that same place for, was it two weeks? Or something like that. Then they would change them again. And we would often have one of the faculty members at our table to keep things going right.

*T: Would there be guys and girls sitting at one table?*

Both: Yes.

A: They were mixed

G: We drew numbers.

*T: I suppose that was kind of fun?*

G: Oh yeah.

A: We didn't mind it, but they would object now. It was a rule. And you were there

to get an education.

*T: How were the meals?*

A: They were very good.

G: Especially on Sunday!

A: We had a very good cook. Every dinner had some kind of meat and potatoes, a vegetable, a salad, and a dessert. Of course, you had no choice; you would just get what they served. It was always very good, but you found there are kids who would complain, no matter what they served. But most of them liked the meals and gained weight on them. I know I and my sisters came home for Christmas vacation. My mother had been sending us boxes of food throughout the year.

G: And candy.

A: Oh yeah, and she said, "Well I'm not going to send any more food, your getting too much as it is!" It was really delicious meals.

*T: What did they serve on Sunday?*

G: It was the Sunday meal. On Sunday we had ice cream.

A: Yeah that's right. We would get a dish of ice cream.

G: Sunday noon, the evening meal was standard. The same thing all the time, but very good.

A: The noon meal was the dinner, where you would get roast beef, mashed potatoes, salad, and dessert.

*T: Did they serve breakfast?*

G: Yes.

*T: Would it be a hot meal or was it cereal?*

G: It was I think cereal. Sometimes we had oatmeal.

A: It was the same thing for everyone. If they were serving oatmeal or some other kind of hot cereal, everybody got the same thing. That's what they'd do with the rest of the meals too. You ate what was served.

G: You came in a sat with your table. And then students were appointed to serve, and you'd serve for a week waiting tables.

You'd wait on the table at which you sat. If you ran out of something, you'd go to the kitchen have the bowl replenished.

*T: So you wouldn't go through a line?*

A: No, we had a certain place to sit; that was your place. And you stood by your chair, until everyone was there, and then you all said grace together. Then everyone could sit down at the same time.

*T: Did they have student jobs, like work-study job that you could do?*

G: I guess some of them did. There was one fellow, he was a pastor's son, and he got his tuition and everything free, because he was supposed to do certain housecleaning jobs, and if he didn't do it, then the rest of us would have to pitch in and do his work for him. And he got a free load.

*T: I bet the guys didn't like him so much.*

G: He was kind of a lazy bum, I won't give his name.

*T: That's another thing that I wanted to ask. Who are some of your fellow students that become pastors and such?*

G: Martin Galstad, was in our class. Llyod Mommsen, he was a pastor's son. He became a pastor, but he didn't serve very long. He went back to business.

A: Torald Teigen.

G: Yes, and Eivind Unseth. He was in my class. So really four pastors from the group.

*T: Who were your roommates?*

G: I roomed with my brother and Eivind Unseth. We called him "Spud." The three of us roomed together.

A: I roomed with Amanda Jacobson. She came from Belview, MN. She later taught the commercial subjects at Bethany for two or three years, I guess.

G: I was going to say that my brother was in the same class, and he was a budding artist. He designed the banner for the Bethany Scroll, the school paper. And he had his initials very small in one spot, and they had been using it for years.

A: They don't use that anymore.

G: Oh no, they've changed that like everything else, you know. And once in a while he'd draw something for the paper.

A: They'd have it in there, in the paper.

*T: I supposed they didn't have many pictures in the paper?*

G: Oh yeah, not too often.

A: And we were the very first Bethany college choir?

*T: Tell me about that, did you guys tour?*

G: Oh yeah, we toured in 1930. We even went to Chicago and several places in Iowa, Wisconsin, and Minnesota.

A: It was on one of those choir tours that Gig and I became engaged. But as soon as school was out, I found a job in an office in Boone, IA. And Gig went on to school. So we were engaged, but we were going to wait a while. He finally decided he didn't want to go into the ministry so we were married and he worked at Bethany for quite a while.

*T: What did you do at Bethany?*

G: I worked as an engineer. I took care of the boilers, repaired things that needed fixing.

*T: Maintenance man, kind of?*

G: Yeah, the janitor work was done by the students. If the equipment broke, I'd have to fix it. I had to work off my school debt. It wasn't very big, but neither was the pay! I worked about a year or so.

*T: Do you remember how much it did cost to go there?*

G: About \$300 a year. That included tuition and board and room.

A: I had two sisters going there at the same time. They were in high school and I was in college. So my father had to pay nine hundred for the three of us.

*T: I suppose back in that time that was a lot of money?*

A: They seemed to think it was plenty.

G: Two thousand a year was good pay for a teacher's salary. I think the president got 25 hundred.



*T: Did they have theatre or drama at Bethany?*

A: They did have some. Two other fellows and I put on a skit that I wrote called “Dr. Jeckyl and Mrs. Hyde.” And the doctor was a dentist. And my roommate, in fact I roomed with him more than I did with my brother, was the dentist. And then there was another fellow; he was a little older. He was my mother. I was the kid that was going to be taken to the dentist’s office. The one that played my mother had false teeth; he had an extra set of uppers. And after certain turmoil to get a kid to sit, I didn’t want to sit in the chair, and I fussed around. Acting like I kid, of course I was in my twenties. He would slip me the set of teeth while he was working on me. And he would come down and take them and hold them by my mouth. Wiggle around and all of a sudden, he has them in a pair of pliers and he shows the audience — a whole set of teeth, and they just roared. They had what they called Bethany Days. We had to put it on an extra time. So we showed it one evening three times. Yeah, monkey business.

*T: I’m sure it was fun though.*

G: Oh yeah, we enjoyed it. Getting the clothes you know. Of course the outfit of dentist was easy. A long white gown and a mustache made him look Mature. The one that was my mother, he really had a job getting a dress that fit. We had a lot of fun.

We had people that could play piano. Walter Buszin was an organist.

A: He was president back in the year that I was there. He was a good organist. He gave a concert one Sunday afternoon. We objected because we all had to sit and listen to that on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. But we sat there. We thought of other things to do on a Sunday afternoon. He was very good, we should have enjoyed it, but we had other things we wanted to do.

*T: Was there a band?*

G: Later.

A: Not while we were there.

G: Several years after that. I was through, but I played snare drum. Professor Julian Anderson played clarinet. And we had another professor that played bass horn, but we had about 15 people.

A: That was later on; we weren’t students then.

G: I was working.

A: The year we went there. There was no band, but there was a choir.

*T: Did they have sports?*

A: Yes, you’ve seen the baseball team, haven’t you?

*T: I have.*

G: Very first one. Uniforms were new. We just put them on and had the picture taken.

A: Lost every game though, didn’t you? As I remember.

G: Generally.

*T: I suppose you have some stories from playing on the baseball team.*

G: Oh boy, well I was the catcher. I went to Bethany a couple years after I graduated and took languages. I played on the team. Nobody said a word!

*T: So you were probably 21 or 22 playing on the junior college baseball team.*

A: Sure.

*T: Did they have basketball?*

G: Oh yeah, we had a basketball team. We didn’t win many games, I remember one game; we lost 7-6!

A: The gym was inside the building. What is it that’s there now?

G: I think it’s labs now. It’s on the first floor, the same floor as the dinning room. You walk down that classroom building. It was a gym on one side, and we had a swimming pool too. They filled that in or bridged over it and built in offices in the later years.

*T: What was the roof like on the gym? I suppose the ceiling was fairly low.*

G: Well, it was high. To begin with there

was a balcony on one end.

A: It was all in one building. This was inside the present building. I don't know just where it was?

G: When you go down the last step into the basement, you turn right and go as far as you can. It was on the right hand side.

T: *Yup, those are labs now, you were right.*

G: You know where the showers were, do you? As you come down the same stairway, you turn right and turn right again, to go to the mess hall, the dinning room. As you make that first and second turn. And about half way to the dinning room, to the left, there was a door and the showers right in side. We could lock it from the inside. When the girls were in the dorm, we had to lock it. It was kind of a mess. We'd dress for basketball, and after practice, we'd shower, and put our clothes back on and leave, and anybody could then go in there. The pool was right off the dressing room.

T: *Did they have showers in the dorm building?*

G: No.

T: *So those were the only showers?*

G: Yes.

T: *So guys and girls used the same showers?*

G: Yes, and in the toilet rooms, it was just bathtubs, sinks, and stools.

T: *What was the most memorable thing that you can remember from Bethany?*

G: I always thought the choir, the choir rehearsal. I thought more of that and enjoyed that more than athletics. He chose good music that we can sing. We actually sang hymns, and sang the parts.

T: *You would sing it in four parts?*

G: Yeah, in fact we had one that was eight.

T: *You were a tenor?*

G: No, I was a first bass.

A: The teachers joined the choir to make better sound. I sang first alto.

T: *Was choir an elective or were you required to join?*

G: You didn't get credit, no.

A: Some students didn't make it. We were all checked first to see if you had a voice that fit in.

T: *So it was like auditions?*

A: Yes. Choir was the most interesting thing about college. That's the part that I really enjoyed.

T: *Were the classes pretty tough?*

G: Oh yeah, Greek and Latin were tough. German I enjoyed. I would have liked to have taken more, but they didn't offer the course. I had two good years of German. Our teacher was Mrs. Freda Monich. She was born in Germany and spoke English very well – with an accent. She died during my second year, during Easter vacation. We helped carry her to her grave. There were six boys who stayed during Easter vacation. We had no place to going since we were 1500 miles from home.

T: *How often would you go home? I suppose you only went home during Christmas?*

G: Oh no, we'd go to somebody's home. They invited. They'd say, bring so and so along. And we stayed there during the vacation.

A: We went home. I lived down in Iowa, so we'd go home each vacation — Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter.

Bethany has gone through many changes and Gig and Agnes have been there for most of it. It's impossible for me to enter my grandparents' house without having hundreds of memories of working in the basement with my grandpa, or the smell of the food my grandma was cooking. Gig and Agnes Solli have a lot of offer, and I'm sure I only got a little bit of all their knowledge.

*Ted Petersen is a graduate of Bethany Lutheran College.*

# ELS Historical Society—Twelfth Annual Meeting

## Saturday, June 14, 2008

at Saude Lutheran Church, Lawler, Iowa



**THE WORD OF THE LORD GROWS:**  
*Successful mission work forms a congregation,  
 strengthens a congregation,  
 and flows from it throughout the world*

- 6:15 am Charter bus loads in Mankato, MN (Bus trip \$25, luncheon \$10)  
 (Bethany Lutheran College YFAC parking lot)  
 Bus will stop in Albert Lea to pick up attendees if any are interested.
- 9:30 am Registration and Coffee
- 10:00 am Opening Devotion
- The Founding of Saude Lutheran Church**
- 10:15-11:00 am *Session 1. Mission work of Dr. U. V. Koren*  
 Presented by Rev. Craig Ferkenstad and others
- 11:00-11:15 am Musical interlude and break
- 11:15-12:00 *Session 2. Mission work of H. M. Tjernagel*  
 Presented by Prof. Mark Harstad and others
- 12:00-1:30 pm Lunch. Visit the Strandebarm school and the church cemetery
- 1:30-1:45 pm Business Meeting
- Spreading the Gospel in South America**
- 1:45-2:45 pm *Session 3. Mission work in South America*  
 Presented by Missionary Tim Erickson (former pastor at Saude)
- 2:45 pm Closing hymn and announcements
- 3:00 pm Afternoon coffee
- 3:30 pm Bus departs, with a stop at Jerico Lutheran Church  
 (Supper on your own. Bring a sack lunch or eat after our expected arrival in Mankato:  
 7:30pm.)

For further information, contact Mark Harstad (Mark.Harstad@blc.edu)  
 or Elsa.Ferkenstad@blc.edu or 507-344-7354.

**Bus and  
 lunch  
 reservations  
 and  
 payment  
 must be  
 received by  
 June 1.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership dues (see chart on back page) = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_ number of people riding the bus x \$25 = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**\_\_\_\_\_ number of people attending luncheon x \$10 = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total = \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send payment for luncheon and membership by June 1 to:  
 ELS Historical Society - 6 Browns Court - Mankato, MN 56001**

**Oak Leaves**  
ELS Historical Society  
6 Browns Court  
Mankato, MN 56001

## Renew your membership!

ELS Historical Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form and check (see box below right  
for type of membership and correct amount) to:

ELS Historical Society

6 Browns Court — Mankato, MN 56001

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**Oak Leaves** welcomes articles of both Synodical and local significance  
for publication. Articles maybe edited for style, clarity, or length to al-  
low for publication. Submitted manuscripts will be deposited in the  
archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

### MEMBERSHIP

All membership  
renewals are due **June 1**

**Voting Membership:**  
\$10/year: individual  
\$15/year: husband & wife

**Associate Membership:**  
\$15/year: individual  
\$25/year: institutional  
\$5/year: student

**Lifetime Membership:**  
\$200