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LUKE 3:1-22

ADVENT I

## "...PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD..."

A significant portion of human life is lived in expectation. The child cannot wait to grow up. The student wants to graduate. The suitor hopes for a positive answer. The expectant mother longs to deliver. The soldier prays for his last mission. The Church awaits its Lord.

The state of expectation means nothing apart from that which fulfills it - adulthood, commencement, yes, a baby, returning home safely, and CHRIST COMING. That's why John preached as he did, with the focal point on the One Who was to follow.

His preaching put him in jail because the future hope he declared was appended to the Now. Preparation, a style of life, goes with and precedes the Coming.

That is still true. We are not to be idle in our state of expectation. Though God is quite capable of making His own preparation, the Good News is that we are called to join with John the Baptist in making ready. In this now we are called to repentance. It is not time-bound.

The forgiveness promised by the coming of Christ is end-less. The way of life for men of faith is thus boldness in declaring our hope, faithfulness in effecting justice and loving concern for all men, our neighbors, and humility before our Lord.

Thus we pray with Christian men of all ages: Come, Lord Jesus.

...Andrew J. White

### KIGGINS RESIGNS

To The Student Body:

It is with much regret and disappointment in myself that I am unable to continue with my responsibilities as President. In suffering what might be termed a mental block, I find it necessary to strip myself of extra responsibilities, all of which I have enjoyed assuming, at least until I am able to pull myself together a little better. Therefore in all honesty to myself and you, and I hope with true faith in God, I have decided to resign as the Student Body President.

With much gratitude, I have, on the whole, felt your firm support, and I am certainly very pleased and encouraged by your growing community consciousness. It makes my present decision all the more difficult, a decision that has been coming to a head for some time. The fact remains that I have increasingly lost interest for most of my studies, to the

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### PLAYERS PRESENT FIRST PLAY ON FRI. & SAT.

HEINRICH MULLER - You've read about him, you've seen his picture on TV and in the newspapers - comes to Mt. Airy straight from his Gestapo past. You can see him live this Friday or Saturday night at 8:15 PM in the Seminary Chapel. Muller is played by George Brunjes in The Cup of Trembling by Elizabeth Berryhill which is a play based upon the life of Bonhoeffer.

Bonhoeffer whose name has been changed to that of Erich Friedhoffer in the play is portrayed by David Newhart. We watch Friedhoffer as he struggles with the decision of whether or not to join with the rest of his family in a plot to kill Adolf Hitler. The resolution of the conflict for this Christian and the path which led to his death are the major concerns of

(Continued on pg. 3)

STUDENT BODY MTG TODAY 11:45 AM

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

Although the response on the part of Main Dorm residents to contribute a dollar as a sponsor has not been great, it is felt that the Christmas Fellowship Party planned for "A" Hall can be held as announced in the last issue of THE SEMINARIAN.

Due to the fact that the choir will have a concert on December 12th, and a rehearsal the preceding day; it will be necessary to move the Christmas Fellowship to WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13th - from 7 until 10 PM.

The list to sign-up as a \$1 sponsor will remain up on the TV Lounge Bulletin Board until December 1st. At that time the list will be removed and serious planning will start - along with the collection of the \$1.00

Lists are presently posted on the Hag-an Hall Bulletin Board, the TV Lounge Bulletin Board, and in the Main Office (for Faculty) for those who wish to attend to indicate their intentions. Please do so before Friday, December 8th.

The sponsors wish to extend the invitation again for all students, wives, and children; and faculty, wives and children. Basically we will have one hr. (7-8) of fun for the children and general getting acquainted. Then we will have a brief hymn-sing service in the candle-lite Hoh Lounge (8-8:30). The rest of the evening will be flexible. Four rooms plus the Hoh Lounge will be open for discussion, refreshments, listening to Christmas music, etc. We hope all will consider coming, even for a short time.

...George Summers

## WHERE THE ACTION IS

by Jim Sneddon

(Ed. Note: This is another in our continuing series of articles written by the interns.)

Tremendous! (In Bill Sloan terminology)

My internship at St. James in Pottstown has surpassed all expectations and imaginations.

On the other hand it is exciting out in this wilderness frontier to receive the word of the Seminarian. Mail call is often missed here at Apt. B, 538 High St. (It has taken the local "rain or

snow,..." boys up to nine days to deliver a letter deposited an astronomical 23 miles away. What they say about zip code speeding up the mails is true though. With the magic number the mail service has picked up to seven days per 23 miles) All kidding aside -- who's kidding! -- the Seminarian is a welcome bit of news, even if they sometimes take 13 days to get here, e.g. Oct. 27 sent, Nov. 9 received.

(\*Personal note: When are you guys coming up? Bring your own beer.)

At the moment my internship is but 2½ months old. (Un?) Fortunately my experiences have been extremely varied. For all you men who remember my continual bitching about last year's assignment, you would be amazed this year at my continual non-bitching. Maybe a woman in my life has mellowed the old body, but I rather think it is that I have found, stumbled upon, been guided by the Holy Spirit, you name it, into a congregation that is filled with needs.

At the moment my most personal excitement has come from the members of this congregation accepting me and my ideas. It is so different from last year. Here they look to me to provide what help I can. It is not like last year where they were teaching me and I supposedly had nothing to give, e.g. "This is our student, we're teaching him how (NOT) to be a minister." (parenthesis mine)

Here at St. James I have found a congregation just filled with variety. Its members are wealthy and poor, young and old, conservative and liberal. It has a pastor who is a spiritual leader and who is extremely easy to cooperate with.

St. James like most churches has areas of weakness. At the present I have been placed into some of these areas to attempt to bring them back to strength.

In terms of duties, I am at the moment chairman of the Manifesto committee, working directly with the Christian Education committee to revise the entire Sunday School organization, doing the usual Pastoral chores, and working with the youth of St. James.

Meetings and preparation devour huge chunks of my time. The meetings are of all kinds, shapes, and sizes. The preparation has been centered around my catechetical class (writing my own material), the Luther Leagues (beginning a

(cont. on pg. 5)

## ERB TAKES NEW JOB DAY AFTER RETIRING

Dr. Earl S. Erb, executive secretary of the LCA's Board of World Missions will retire on December 31. The following day, Jan. 1, 1968, he will begin serving the LCA's Eastern Pennsylvania Synod as part-time employee of the synod's Board of Christian Education. He will be responsible for ministry to students on college campuses located on synod territory. He will also counsel students training for the ministry or considering entering the ministry of the LCA.

Dr. Erb will return to the same territory he left in 1953 when he went to New York to assume the direction of the Foreign Missions Board of the then ULCA. He had been secretary of the Board of Christian Education of the Ministerium of Pennsylvania from 1941-44. He subsequently became secretary of benevolence and synod secretary of the same Ministerium of Pa.

His successor in the top administrative position of the Board of World Missions will be the Rev. Dr. Arne B. Sovik. He will take office in mid-December.

KIGGINS RESIGNS (Cont.).....

point that I can barely justify to myself my presence at the Seminary now.

I hereby submit my resignation as the Student Body President and turn over full authority to the Vice President to make appropriate disposition of the situation.

William R. Kiggins, Jr.  
November 6, 1967

PLAYERS (Cont.).....  
of this play.

The rest of the cast includes Joann Zindle as Karla Friedhoffer, Erich's mother; Dave Shaheen as Erich's father; Barbara Grunden as Erich's sister; Bob Busch as Erich's brother; Elton Grunden as Erich's brother-in-law, and George Summers as Erich's close friend.

Technical assistance is being rendered by Ed Bommer, Ken Zindle and Bob Busch. The production is under the direction of Robert Sonnenberg.

The Mt. Airy Players extend a cordial invitation to all students, faculty, staff, and friends. We feel that the message of Bonhoeffer's struggle is as relevant today as it was thirty years ago.

## LCA POET SPEAKS OUT ON VIETNAM

America's military organization is practicing overt and continuous violation of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of war prisoners, it was charged by a poet who is an LCA layman. In an article strongly documented by on-the-scene reports published in the American press, Robert Bly accused the U.S. forces of torturing and murdering prisoners and also of handing such POW's over to the South Vietnamese military for even more wholesale atrocities against them. He pointed out that the 1949 Geneva Convention, which the U.S. signed and ratified, specifies that not only soldiers of regular national armies, but also "insurgents and revolutionaries" in armed conflicts like that of Vietnam, when captured, must be treated by signatories in humane ways that are spelled out.

Under another provision of the convention, when a signatory transfers war prisoners to another power, the capturing power remains responsible for insuring that the protection guaranteed under the convention is still provided, he stated. Citing the "habit of American commanders... to turn over almost all live prisoners to the South Vietnamese army," Mr. Bly noted that "from the beginning of war, the South Vietnam government...has simply ignored the Geneva Convention altogether. There are well documented cases of serious and crippling tortures (as well as) horrifying and sadistic mutilations carried out by South Vietnamese authorities, "in addition to the instances of cold-blooded murder of POW's, he said.

Mr. Bly recalled that "several high officials of the S. Vietnamese government have stated flatly that they consider captured Vietcong political prisoners, not prisoners of war," despite the contrary provisions of the Geneva Constitution. The author added that television coverage and "hundreds of reports by newspaper correspondents" make clear that American troops themselves are also torturing or shooting without trial persons entitled to POW status.

The article appeared in the fall issue of "SALT" the discussion quarterly which the LCA Board of Parish Education edits for adult and student groups throughout the church. Mr. Bly, a midwestern poet who has held read-ins in protest against the war in Vietnam, commented that he was disturbed by "the moral cowardice of the Lutheran Church, of which I am a member,

# HAVE YOU....

- been involved in experimental ministries to youth in your community?
- developed and carried out new types of ecumenical encounter among youth?
- discovered ways to involve youth in the total life of the church?
- heard of any ministers, churches, or laymen who have done any of these things?

If so, you can help the Department of Youth Ministry of the NCCUSA. They are trying to develop a collection of reports on new forms of youth ministry into what we are calling a "Data Bank". They need a general description of the project and an evaluation and some conclusions about what the ministry has achieved. The collection of data will be classified and evaluated by the Department and made available as a resource to others interested in similar new forms.

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## DATA BANK ON NEW FORMS OF YOUTH MINISTRY

To refer to our age as a revolutionary time is no longer a pious theological cliché. Significant change is occurring, both at home and around the world, change which forces us to ask what is happening with youth and how this affects the church's ministry. An important result of this questioning is that more and more, churches are moving outside their formal and traditional structures to experiment in new and creative ways of ministry with youth. Although many churches and/or their ministers cannot be helpful to others of like mind, simply because the existence of the project is unknown outside of the neighborhood in which it is carried out. From any such experiment there will be valuable conclusions and suggestions for new directions to be followed, even when the project is a "failure" in the eyes of its creator.

What we are attempting to do is bridge the "communications gap" between those involved in experimental ministries. To do this, we are developing a collection of reports and reflections on experiments in youth ministry which can provide a base for communication between these persons. The idea of this "data Bank" is basically simple. First, we encourage all those who have in the past or are at present working in some experimental ministry to contribute a short essay describing their project. Such an essay would give a general idea of what is involved in the experiment through (a) a paragraph on the environment or context in which the ministry takes place, e.g., suburb, rural, innercity, and perhaps a designation of this area as e.g. a high school district, number of city blocks, entire town, etc.; (b) one or more paragraphs describing the essential activities of the ministry together with the reason why this particular form was selected; and (c) an evaluation of the project giving the insights of the person(s) who initiated and carried out the ministry, including an indication of the response from groups in the community, the hidden problems which arose, and the extent to which the ministry seemed meaningful. Since it is part of the nature of an experiment that it may fail, reports of both "successes" and "failures" will be helpful. The essay may be of any length. If we feel that additional information would make the report more useful, we will ask you for it.

As this collection of "data" grows, it will be classified and evaluated and in some cases developed into full "case study" form. Persons interested in a particular approach to youth ministry would be able to draw learnings and resources from the experiences and reflection recorded in the Data Bank, and be enabled to make contact with others who have attempted similar efforts. National denominational youth staffs and publications will be enabled to keep in touch with a wider variety of new forms of youth ministry.

Hopefully, this collection of information will enable those involved in youth ministries to pool their efforts in a limited way, and by providing directions and help, stimulate further experimentation in ministry to youth.

If you have contributions for, or questions about, the "data bank", please see Mr. White. He has additional information available.

THE ACTION IS, cont....)

league and putting out a newsletter once a month to all Jr. High leaguers), Sunday School worship (a continual variation in 15 minutes of worship for third through twelfth grades), sermons, and various presentations to the groups I meet with. In any event the hours are often long, but already one feels the rewards that don't seem to be evident before you actually get out here.

At the moment I am extremely happy because here I am doing what Bill Kiggins is looking for at Seminary. For the first time I've had a chance to be creative, to practice, to do, and yet still to learn. It is unfortunate that it will all end in nine months and I have to return to the stone buildings and long lectures. (Sorry about that profs, cause I love you all as men, but sitting through lectures seems terribly inadequate to me.)

Anyhow there are some things about seminary I dearly miss. Some are (and I know this wasn't necessarily to be included, but I'm bubbling over with words at the moment):

The wholesome, clean enlivening atmosphere of the "animal" table. You know, the beautiful rhetoric, the quiet calm as the boys devoured the delicious meals placed in front of them, enveloped in the fragrant body odors flowing from the clean, well kept, well-dressed boys following the refreshing volley ball games.

The quiet pasttime playing of cards with Buck, Craf, Rich and sometimes Yersey, who never raised their voices in victory or defeat?

The late night fellowship and the "golden nectar" that went with it.

The trips to Burger King for the delicious 2,000 calorie "Woo Burger".

Roaming around the campus at four in the morning.

Basketball in room #5 north dorm at midnight to the accompanying screams of Bob Hawk across the hall.

Dottie making my bed.

Missplacing volumes from the bookstore that accidentally seemed to reappear on my "roomie's desk".

The comments about my defensive driving.

Bob Linders talking on the phone.

Sleeping late.

The discussions with Bill Kiggins when neither of us would budge an inch

from our positions.

Writing sports for the Seminarian.

The raunchiest jokes in the world.

Bucky's gun shop (and pantry).

Football.

Philadelphia air (and water).

The meals at Rich's house (in place of the refectory's luscious liver! ).

And countless other things. Anyhow keep the home fires burning and before you know it my time will be up and the "midnight skulker" will be back on campus hunting down and destroying the forces of good! (Or something like that)

(LCA Poet, cont....)

and for which several of my family have been missionaries and ministers."

"Some ministers," he said, "are afraid to apply Christian teaching to the war for fear of offending their rich parishioners; others do not apply it because of their own moral laziness." Reading over the material available on the subject of POW treatment, he reported that he was "struck at how little of it was written by ministers or concerned Christian laymen."

## THE WIVES' CLUB

Wive's Club meets Dec. 6 to make decorations for the Christmas dance.

Time: 7:30

Place: Graduate Hall

Bring needles, thread, thimbles, scissors, and a list of decorations you would be willing to loan. Please come. Desperate social chairman needs help. (Boy, does she need help) If anyone knows of any shrubbery that needs trimming, we'll need greens for some of the decorations.

The dance itself will be December 15 at 9:00 in Graduate Hall. Festivities will start with an open house at the Albert's from 8:00 - 9:00. The faculty and entire student body are invited to both events.

In unfinished business; the zoo of stuffed animals never showed up in Paul Hrdlika's mailbox. Please finish them and turn them in on or before December 6 so they can be sent to the hospital.

(Most of this report was prepared and submitted by Kathe Zepernick under the tolerant, but always wary, supervision of her chief student.)

# REUMAN TOPS FORECASTERS

Professor Reumann after 8 weeks of football emerged victorious in The Seminarian's Fearless Forecast picks of the week. The New Testament professor ended the season with 7 winners out of 10 games over a 2 week period to boost his final totals to 44 winners and 26 losses resulting in a .629 percentage. Fred Crawford came in a close second with a 42-28 record for a .600 percentage.

Dr. Reumann no doubt attributes his fantastic forecasting to a diligent study of the text (last week's scores, that is) and a careful exegesis of the Dunkle ratings. His knowledge of the smallest details concerning forthcoming games also played a big factor in his predicting. Rumor has it that Fortress Press is asking him to write a book for laymen entitled Football Forecasting in First Corinthians.

For his hard work, Professor Reumann will receive the 1967 Seminarian Grab-bag. The award will be made in the near future, probably at a student body function.

The standings at the conclusion of our contest are:

	Won	Lost	Pct.
1. Dr. Reumann	44	26	.629
2. Fred Crawford	42	28	.600
3. Al Douglass	41	29	.586
4. Dr. Lee	40	30	.571
5. Lynn Rothrock	39	31	.557
6. Mrs. Prigge	38	32	.543
7. Rhett Simmonds	36	34	.514
The Seminarian	36	34	.514
9. JoAnn Knicely	33	37	.471
10. Dr. Aden	24	46	.343

THE SEMINARIAN is published each week during the school year except during those awful and frustrating exam periods. The main office is located in F Hall, opposite the defunct canteen. Editor: Dave Shaheen. This week's staff was Roger Zepernick, who typed most of the stencils while practicing his jump shot. Articles were submitted by George Summers, Bob Sonnerberg, Betty Hrdlicka and Kathe Zepernick, Jim Sneddon. Ron Yergey stopped by the office on Tuesday but didn't do anything constructive!

# CALENDAR

- Dec. 1 Junior Field Education: Visit to Juvenile Court.  
8:00 PM The Cup of Trembling presented by the Mt. Airy Players, Ascension Church.
- Dec. 2 8:15 PM The Cup of Trembling presented by the Mt. Airy Players, Ascension Church.
- Dec. 5 Western Penna. Synod Seniors Retreat
- Dec. 6 Western Penna. Synod Seniors Retreat  
7:30 PM Wives Club Meeting in Grad Hall.
- Dec. 7 Junior Field Education: Visit to Juvenile Court.
- Dec. 8 Blue Cross/Blue Shield due.

## AROUND CAMP

The Senior class lost its first student at the end of the first quarter when Bill Sloan graduated. Bill has been called to the Virginia Synod.....In the latest issue of the Lutheran Quarterly, Mr. White has an article.....The Choir did a splendid job singing to Joann on her birthday.....Mt Airy will lose its champion punter when Rocky graduates this spring. Let's recruit another football player to fill his shoes.....Basketball begins this Friday at 1:00 PM at the Presbyterian Church. Will the juniors show up?.....Sign-ups for the Christmas party sponsored by Main Dorn ends today.....Advent Vespers will present something special this year. Mark your calendar on Dec. 14. More in next week's Seminarian.....Wives Club dance will be held on Dec. 15th in Grad Hall. Preceding the dance will be an open house for everyone at the Albert's.....Free kittens are yours for the asking from Ruth Meierdierks. Call her animal shelter at CH 2-0313.....Bill Kiggins is taking bets on the Army-Navy game. Go Army!.....Your attention is called to Mr. White's notice above the newspaper ad on the bulletin board in Hagan Hall.....A sign-up sheet has been posted if you'd like to supply at Split Rock Lodge during the months of December, March or June. It's a nice way to spend a Sunday. Ask someone who's been there