



# EDITORIAL



## To Pastors and Subscribers

\* We are not unmindful of the serious-  
 \* ness of the days through which we are  
 \* passing. Many of our homes are under  
 \* the strain of sickness and death, and  
 \* these things are making large drafts  
 \* upon the time and sympathies of our  
 \* pastors. The prevalence of Spanish in-  
 \* fluenza, and of pneumonia following it,  
 \* necessarily divert the attention of the  
 \* people from other matters. But even in  
 \* such times as this there are other mat-  
 \* ters that must be attended to. The  
 \* work of the Church and the agencies  
 \* which it employs must be kept going as  
 \* far as possible. The manifest presence  
 \* of death only emphasizes the importance  
 \* of that for which the Church stands—  
 \* the bringing of the world to Christ for  
 \* the salvation of each individual. This  
 \* work is having to be carried on these  
 \* weeks without the advantages of the as-  
 \* sembled congregations and the regular  
 \* preaching of the Word. It has to be  
 \* done by house to house visitations and  
 \* personal contact with one another.

\* Among these agencies of the Church  
 \* is the Church paper, and these crucial  
 \* times have come at a trying time to us.  
 \* We are face to face with a serious cur-  
 \* tailment of our work. Our field is lim-  
 \* ited by our circulation, and at normal  
 \* times this is all too limited; but these  
 \* are abnormal times. The War Industries  
 \* Board, owing to the scarcity of paper,  
 \* has made regulations that will force us  
 \* to a cash-in-advance basis. Our people  
 \* for generations have been accustomed to  
 \* pay at their convenience and the pastors  
 \* have been accustomed to collect at any  
 \* time during the year. This practice will  
 \* not meet present conditions. We must  
 \* get our subscribers paid in advance  
 \* and keep them there. The fact that many  
 \* are too distressed just at this time to  
 \* think of these things makes it all the  
 \* more imperative that those who are not  
 \* so pressed pay special attention to it.  
 \* This appeal is to both pastors and people.  
 \* There are about three hundred who  
 \* have been getting the Advocate, some  
 \* of them for years, who will not get an-  
 \* other copy after this week unless we  
 \* hear from them. There are many others  
 \* who will soon have to go the same way.  
 \* We do not wish to lose a name. For the  
 \* sake of the Church we love we do not  
 \* wish to lose them. For their own sakes,  
 \* and for the religious life of their homes,  
 \* we do not wish to lose them. For the  
 \* sake of the work into which we are put-  
 \* ting our life we do not wish to lose them.  
 \* Is it nothing to you that we lose them?

## Notes and Comments

Homes for the Returning Soldiers is the pur-  
 port of some legislation that is now pending at  
 Washington. The general idea is to utilize  
 some government land for the purpose. The  
 Committee on Public Lands of the Senate has  
 unanimously reported in favor of a bill appro-  
 priating a million dollars to make surveys of  
 farms on these lands to furnish homes for the  
 soldiers when they return from France and for  
 thousands of workers now employed in mun-  
 itions factories who will be thrown out of their  
 present employment at the close of the war.  
 Such a provision will be an important item in  
 an economic program in the re-adjustment that  
 must necessarily take place at that time. It  
 will be a great blessing to these soldiers and  
 to the country to get them located in the coun-  
 try and in rural pursuits, rather than allowing  
 them to become congested in the cities where  
 they will have no suitable employment and  
 with whose life they are unaccustomed.

The Unification Movement has struck the  
 Lutheran Churches of this country and seems  
 to be making more rapid progress with them  
 than with some of the rest. A great conven-  
 tion is to be held in New York November 12-19  
 to effect the organization of the United Lutheran  
 Church. The new organization will be formed  
 by the merging of the General Synod, the Gen-  
 eral Council, and the United Synod South. It  
 will have a membership of about 800,000, its  
 property value well over \$53,000,000.00, it will  
 have higher educational institutions valued at  
 \$5,250,000.00, and more than 5,000 students.  
 The first steps toward the merging of these  
 bodies were taken in the early part of last year,  
 and the occasion was a gathering for the cele-  
 bration of the four hundredth anniversary of  
 the Reformation. The idea of unification was  
 in the air, and events developed rapidly. Spec-  
 ulation is now rife as to who will be the first  
 president of the United Lutheran Church.

Zionists All Over the World are preparing to  
 celebrate the first anniversary of the signing by  
 Rt. Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, British Foreign Sec-  
 retary, of a document which they regard as their  
 magna-charta, and the pledge by the Allied Pow-  
 ers that the aspiration for a Jewish National  
 Homeland in Palestine will be realized at the  
 end of the war. The declaration which Mr. Bal-  
 four signed on November 2, 1917, is as follows:  
 "His Majesty's Government views with favor the  
 establishment in Palestine of a National Home  
 for the Jewish people and will use its best en-  
 deavors to facilitate the achievement of this ob-  
 ject, it being clearly understood that nothing  
 shall be done which may prejudice the civil and  
 religious rights of the non-Jewish communities  
 in Palestine, or the rights and political status  
 enjoyed by Jews in any other country." This  
 declaration has since been concurred in by the  
 French, Italian, Serbian and Montenegrin Gov-  
 ernments. It is expected that this celebration  
 will largely promote the return of the Jews to  
 Palestine and hasten the time when they shall  
 be established in the land of their fathers.

The United War Work Campaign for \$170,-  
 500,000.00 is soon to be inaugurated. The Y.  
 M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Red Cross, the  
 Knights of Columbus, the Salvation Army, an  
 organization of the Jews and one other—seven  
 in all—are to make a united campaign for the  
 above amount with which to do religious and  
 benevolent work for the soldiers. Some dissat-  
 isfaction has been felt and expressed about com-  
 bining this campaign into a single drive, since  
 there are such divergent and in fact conflicting  
 elements involved in it. In order to prevent so  
 many drives, however, President Wilson insisted  
 upon the merger and the plan has been adopted.  
 Of course, all contributions will be voluntary,  
 and the campaign will have to be conducted  
 mainly by press publicity and private solicita-  
 tions. The prevalence of Spanish influenza  
 will make impossible the speaking campaigns  
 that would otherwise have been carried out.  
 Many of us dislike to make a contribution in  
 which some of these organizations will share  
 because they represent views that are in abso-  
 lute conflict with our own. For instance, we  
 do not like to contribute to the Knights of Co-  
 lumbus because we do not believe in Roman  
 Catholicism. We are sending missionaries to  
 countries that have been dominated by Roman  
 Catholicism for generations because we do not  
 believe they present the true gospel of Jesus  
 Christ. We do not like to contribute to the  
 Jewish religion because they deny our Christ in

whom alone we believe any man has eternal  
 life. We do not believe that this attitude is a  
 product of prejudice, or narrowness, or provin-  
 cialism; because our objection roots itself in  
 convictions of truth to which we have come it  
 may be partly by inheritance, but also by expe-  
 rience and investigation. On the other hand  
 we are faced by the fact that we cannot make  
 a contribution to these other organizations—the  
 Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Red Cross, etc.  
 —who are doing an essential work in camp and  
 on the battle front, except by responding to this  
 campaign. True, we can designate the special  
 organization to which we wish our contribu-  
 tions applied, but that is discouraged and in  
 fact will be swallowed up in the pro rata distrib-  
 ution at last. It is simply one of those condi-  
 tions in which we cannot have things just as  
 we would like. We cannot afford to withhold  
 our support from a cause that is so urgent and  
 imperative. What we want to do, and must do,  
 must be done, even if we have to do some other  
 things that we do not wish to do in order to get  
 it accomplished. It is this sort of a dilemma  
 in which we find ourselves, and the necessity is  
 upon us to do what good we can do in this  
 crisis of the world's life.

The Course of the Great War has not  
 changed materially in the last week or two.  
 The armies of the Allies have been making  
 progress on all fronts. The progress is not so  
 rapid as it was for a time, but the resistance of  
 the enemy is gradually crumbling and the Cen-  
 tral Powers seem to realize that they are de-  
 feated. They are eagerly seeking peace, but at  
 the same time are trying to save what they can  
 out of the wreckage; and it is by no means cer-  
 tain yet that a great deal more fighting will not  
 be necessary before the war can be brought to  
 a conclusion. Germany claims to have made  
 great changes in her internal affairs in order  
 to meet the conditions for an armistice laid  
 down by President Wilson, but Germany's word  
 has too often proved false to accept it now. The  
 representatives of the Allied Powers are at this  
 writing (Tuesday) in conference in France over  
 the matter of an armistice which Germany is  
 seeking, and their answer is awaited by the  
 world with great interest. Nothing but abso-  
 lute surrender on the part of the Central Pow-  
 ers will satisfy the other peoples of the world  
 at the present time; and, when that issue is  
 squarely faced by Germany, it is uncertain what  
 course she will pursue. In the meantime the  
 war is still on, and no relaxation must be per-  
 mitted until the goal is definitely reached.

## In the Valley of the Shadow

It may be that the Psalmist had days similar  
 to these in mind when he wrote that Psalm  
 about "walking through the valley of the  
 shadow of death." He certainly knew what it  
 was to have his faith tried and his patience  
 tested. It is not surprising that he should  
 sometimes break out in one of those eruptions  
 of the heart in which he besought Jehovah to  
 visit retribution upon those who sought his  
 ruin. They were frequently people from whom  
 he had a right to expect better things. It was  
 his "own familiar friend" that "lifted up his  
 heel against" him. It was those who had  
 eaten of his bread that sought his ruin. His  
 heart became sore from such frequent jabbings,  
 and he looked through the leaden skies to dis-  
 cover, if he might, the hand of justice.

But it was not alone these things that put a  
 heavy burden upon the heart of David. It was