





Official periodical of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod through the Board for Communication Services, Rev. Paul Devantier, executive director; Rev John H. Framm, chairman.

Staff: Rev. David L. Mahsman, executive editor; David L. Strand, managing editor; Paula Schlueter Ross, news ed tor; Edward Q. Luhmann, art director; Mark G. Bernard, senior designer; Jane Schmotzer, product manager;Jim-Stange, product coordinator; Gerry Puglisi, advertising sales; Carla Dubbelde, coordinator, district editions; Charlesta R. Zekert, editorial assistant; Editorial Office: 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968. Subscription \$7.50 per year. With District edition, offered at reduced rate if submitted through local churches. Third-Class postage paid at St. Louis, MO. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE LUTHERAN WITNESS, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63118-3968

Member: Associated Church Press

Cover photo by L.O.L., Inc., FPG International

UTHERAN

A magazine for the laypeople of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod JUNE 1994 (ISSN: 0024-757X) VOL. 113, NO. 6

EATURES

THE FAMILY IS THE ISSUE

by Norbert C. Oesch

The American Family is under attack, but the church is not without the means to do something about it.

OUR FAMILY INITIATIVE

by Paula Schlueter Ross

It's not "the good ol' days" for families anymore. But even as families face dangerous issues, help has arrived.

IN GOD'S TIME

by Eunice Otte

As he faced death, Pastor Jerry Otte thought how wonderful it would be to have a phone link to someone for encouragement. Little did his wife know that she would help make that happen 15 years later.

IDEAS FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

by Roger R. Sonnenberg

Family ministry is a need every congregation can help meet. Here are some ways it's being done in one congregation.

HEROES, HEROINES AND VILLAINS 10

bu Dean O. Wenthe

Apocrypha: n., ancient books that offer drama, spiritual insight and a surprisingly "good read."

It's Still ME 14

Letters

by Joseph A. Morrison

People with handicaps or health problems may seem "different," but they are people like us. And like us, they need personal contact and acceptance.

D E P A R T M E N T S

National News Notices

People and Places/ In My Opinion John T. Pless **Family Counselor**

Lifeline Q & A/Shedding Some Light Marya McCrea

From the President Searching Scripture Charles S. Mueller Sr. A.L. Barry

THELUTHER VOL. 113, NO. 6 **JUNE 1994** MereMart.com® Gift Quality Vintage Magazis THE APOCRYPHA ISSUE GOOD SUMMER READING . PAGE 10 WHAT'S UP 3 HELP IS HERE 4 LINK TO ENCOURAGEMENT 6. IDEAS FOR YOUR CONGREGATION