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Unification of Lutheran Social Agencies in Nebraska

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UNIFICATION OF LUTHERAN
SOCIAL AGENCIES
IN
NEBRASKA

by

WALTER A. JUERGENSEN, B. S.

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts
in the
Department of Sociology
of the
Municipal University of Omaha
1947

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PREFACE

The author would like to express his appreciation to O. T. Doerr, attorney-at-law and Chairman of the Board of Christian Education, Cross Lutheran School, Omaha, Nebraska, who gave the writer the original idea for the theme of this study. Special thanks are also due to the following: Rev. A. H. Bringewatt, Executive Secretary of the Lutheran Children's Home Society, Omaha, Nebraska, for supplying helpful materials and reading the script; Rev. Walter Wilkens, Institutional Missionary, Omaha, Nebraska, for his friendly encouragement and suggestions; Rev. H. F. Wind, Chairman of Associated Lutheran Charities, Buffalo, New York, Rev. V. T. Matson, Chaplain at the Deaconess Institute, Omaha, Nebraska, and Rev. Edgar F. Witte, Executive Director of Lutheran Charities of Chicago, for time given for personal interviews and materials furnished; numerous representatives of the Lutheran Welfare Agencies who so graciously took the time to furnish needed information concerning their respective institutions; and last, but not least, to Dr. T. Earl Sullenger, Chairman of the Department of Sociology, Omaha University, for the helpful suggestions received through consultation.

It goes without saying that the writer also gratefully acknowledges the many hours of work rendered by his wife, Frieda, in the typing of this thesis.

W. A. J.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
INTRODUCTION.....	iv
The Problem.....	v
Limitations.....	vi
Aim.....	vii
Sources Used.....	vii
Plan of Procedure.....	vii
 CHAPTER I. DEFINITION, HISTORY, AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF LUTHERAN WELFARE WORK... 	 1
1. Definition of Lutheran Welfare Work.....	2
2. History of Lutheran Welfare.....	4
3. National Organizations of Lutheran Welfare... a. Associated Lutheran Charities.....	7 7
b. Department of Welfare of the National Lutheran Council.....	9
c. Lutheran Welfare Conference in America..	9
4. A Typical Lutheran Synodical Welfare Program Organization.....	10
 CHAPTER II. HISTORY OF EACH LUTHERAN WELFARE AGENCY IN NEBRASKA..... 	 13
1. Bethany Old People's Home, Minden, Nebraska..	14
2. Bethesda Memorial Home, Kearney, Nebraska....	15
3. Bethphage Mission, Axtell, Nebraska.....	17
4. Immanuel Deaconess Institute, Omaha, Nebraska..	20
5. Institutional Mission Societies in Nebraska.. (Omaha - Norfolk - Lincoln)	23
6. Lutheran Children's Home Society of Nebraska. (Home: Fremont - Office: Omaha)	25
7. Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society of Nebraska..... (Home: Fremont - Office: Fargo, North Dakota)	29
8. Lutheran Old People's Home, Omaha, Nebraska..	32
9. Martin Luther Home Society, Sterling, Nebraska.....	34
10. Tabitha Lutheran Home, Lincoln, Nebraska.....	36

CHAPTER III. ANALYSIS OF THE LUTHERAN WELFARE SERVICES OF NEBRASKA, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND BENEFITS OF UNIFICATION.....	40
1. Family and Child Welfare.....	45
2. Care of the Aged.....	49
3. Health Services.....	51
4. Chaplaincy Services.....	51
5. Financial Support.....	53
6. Benefits and Examples of Unification.....	55
CHAPTER IV. PROPOSED LUTHERAN WELFARE COUNCIL OF NEBRASKA.....	64
CHAPTER V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS.....	68a
APPENDIX.....	73a
1. The Lutheran Church and Its Major Divisions.....	73c
a. The Lutheran Church in North America at a Glance.....	73c
b. National Lutheran Church Bodies.....	74a
c. Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America.....	74b
d. National Lutheran Council.....	74c
e. American Lutheran Conference.....	75a
f. An Over-All View of Lutheranism in Nebraska.....	75b
2. Charts.....	75c
A - America's Lutheran Family Connection.....	76
B - Lutheran Church Bodies in Nebraska.....	77
3. Other Lutheran Institutions in Nebraska not Included in this Study.....	78
4. Associated Lutheran Welfare of the State of Washington.....	80
5. Constitution and By-Laws of the Associated Lutheran Welfare of the State of Washington.....	82
6. Lutheran Welfare Council of Ohio.....	92
7. Constitution of the Lutheran Welfare Council of Ohio.....	93

8. Lutheran Charities of Chicago.....	98
9. Lutheran Church Charities Fund of Chicago.....	101
10. Articles of Incorporation of the Lutheran Mission Society of Greater Omaha.....	106
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	109

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The Problem

The Lutheran Church is becoming more aware of its responsibility over against social welfare work. However, the very fact that there are so many divisions, also known as synods or conferences, within the Lutheran Church itself, immediately proves a hindrance in carrying out its ministry of mercy. What is the past record of the Lutheran Church in welfare work? Which organizations are in existence which help carry on this work as a whole? What is meant by Lutheran social welfare work? What is the history of each of the Lutheran welfare agencies found in Nebraska? Is it not possible to co-ordinate and integrate along inter-synodical lines a program of Lutheran welfare?

It would be a relatively simple matter to develop a sound Lutheran welfare program in Nebraska if there were a single Lutheran district or synod whose territory coincided with the geographical boundaries of this state, but that is not the case. Not only are there six or seven general Lutheran Church bodies represented, but each of these is again broken down into districts, synods, or conferences, whose geographical territories vary considerable, some even overlapping into other states. It can, therefore, readily be

seen that to build a co-ordinated Lutheran social welfare program for Nebraska, with such divisions in the Lutheran constituency, presents difficulties. The autonomy and rights of these synodical groups must be respected. The problem of church unity, so far as doctrinal matters is concerned, will not be treated in this thesis, but the problem before us is set forth in the title of this study, "Unification of Lutheran Social Agencies in Nebraska", or in other words, the problem is to present a plan for the unification of the social agencies in Nebraska. "Unification" will be used in this study to mean the co-ordination, concentration, and integration of existing welfare programs.

Limitations

No attempt will be made to give the reason for, or doctrinal differences of, the various Lutheran Church groups, but an effort will be made to show the structural set-up of the Lutheran Church as a whole, and also as it pertains to the study in Nebraska. Information regarding the welfare agencies which exist, and their fields of activity, will be presented, and sources given for a more exhaustive study wherever such are available.

It should be furthermore mentioned that Lutheran hospitals, Lutheran educational institutions, and other similar institutions, are not included in this study, but for the

sake of reference have been listed in the appendix, pages 78 and 79.

Aim

It is the purpose of this study to provide a plan of unification of Lutheran social welfare agencies in Nebraska, and in general encourage Lutheran groups interested in welfare work to co-ordinate their efforts and offer welfare services in fields not as yet covered by any agency.

Sources Used

The data for this study were provided by materials sent directly from the welfare agencies, such as booklets, pamphlets, Articles of Incorporation, official publications and periodicals of the institutions and societies, Social Work Yearbooks, Statistical Bulletins, All Lutheran Directory published by the National Lutheran Council, proceedings of various conferences, surveys, and personal correspondence and interviews. The Bibliography contains an exact list of all materials used in the writing of the thesis.

Plan of Procedure

Chapter one gives a definition of Lutheran welfare, a brief history of Lutheran welfare work in America and how this is being carried out by a number of national Lutheran welfare organizations. Chapters two and three give the history and analysis of the welfare agencies in Nebraska, together with the necessary recommendations, while chapter

four presents the proposed plan of unification through a Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska. Chapter five summarizes the material in the four preceding chapters and sets forth the conclusions drawn from the study. The plan of the Associated Lutheran Welfare of the State of Washington in operation there is being used as a "control" group for the plan of unification proposed for Nebraska, and is included in the appendix, page 80. Several other co-ordinated plans of Lutheran welfare work and constitutions are also included for the sake of comparison, pages 92-108.

CHAPTER I
DEFINITION, HISTORY, AND NATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS OF LUTHERAN WELFARE WORK

1. Definition of Lutheran Welfare Work
2. History of Lutheran Welfare
3. National Organizations of Lutheran Welfare
 - a. Associated Lutheran Charities
 - b. Department of Welfare of the National Lutheran Council
 - c. Lutheran Welfare Conference in America
4. A Typical Lutheran Synodical Welfare Program Organization

CHAPTER I
DEFINITION, HISTORY, AND NATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS OF LUTHERAN WELFARE WORK

The Lutheran Church, when considered as a whole, is one of the major Protestant bodies in America. Its distinct weakness lies in this, that it has sixteen subdivisions, which in turn can be grouped into three larger parts, namely, the United Lutheran Church, the American Lutheran Conference, and the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America. Since this study deals with Nebraska, it should be stated that at least 11% of the people living in Nebraska are Lutheran. It would, therefore, seem logical that if all Lutheran church divisions were united in a welfare program, they could make their influence felt alongside of other Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish agencies in the state.¹

1. Definition of Lutheran Welfare Work

Each Christian congregation serves the poor, the lonely, the sick, and other unfortunate people among its own members.

Social work, especially in the Christian sense, is the

1. Refer to appendix, page 73c The Lutheran Church and Its Major Divisions, and Chart "A" in the appendix, page 76, America's Lutheran Family Connection.

fine art of helping people out of trouble and who cannot be helped adequately unless they receive help spiritually also. This gives social work its eternal value.

The Lutheran concept of charity includes the following eight propositions:

1. The Scriptures, both in the Old Testament and the New, urge the individual to engage in works of charity.
2. The Old Testament prescribed to the Old Testament Church how it was to practice charity and how much.
3. The New Testament does not prescribe the amount of charity to be practiced, nor rules and regulations by which it is to be governed.
4. The Scriptures make it the duty of every local congregation to practice charity, but neither command nor forbid the creation of a special office or the use of a special method for the discharging of this duty.
5. The Scriptures, in the New Testament, record an instance of a program of charity carried on by the church officially by way of an office auxiliary to the office of the preaching of the Word.
6. The Scriptures teach that charity work is not expiatory and meritorious in nature, but a natural result and necessary outgrowth of faith, which alone justifies.
7. The Scriptures teach that Christian charity should not be an end in itself, as is the charity practiced by the state, but an activity whereby the doer exercises his faith and the recipient is brought into contact with Gospel, which alone is the means by which the Holy Ghost begets spiritual life.

8. The Scriptures do not obligate the church as such to join the state or any other group in the practicing of charity. They forbid any co-operation which infringes upon the peculiar rights and powers of either the church or the state.²

The slogan adopted by the Associated Lutheran Charities on its official publication, "The Soul of Charity is Charity for the Soul", aptly describes Lutheran Social Welfare.

Another angle of Lutheran welfare is indicated in the following quotation:

Welfare or social service work has become a skilled profession, as specialized as nursing, or teaching, or law. The trained social service worker is skilled at learning the real, not only the imagined needs, of a person. She is trained in the art of helping people help themselves. In the Lutheran circles it is being recognized that it is not enough to give help, but must accept the idea that the services should help also people to find themselves, that they must be helped up to the point where they can take over for themselves. When people are helped to the extent that they get on their feet again, that is real Christian love, the truly helping hand of Christian fellowship.³

2. History of Lutheran Welfare

The Christian Church gave the hospital to the world. The state learned from the church and began to build hospitals, supported by taxation.

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2. Associated Lutheran Charities, proceedings of the Fortieth Annual Convention, October 7-10, 1941, pages 19 and 20.
3. Carl F. Reuss, Ph. D., "Love for our Neighbor", Study of Martin Luther Home Society, Sterling, Nebraska.

Hospitals in general were first established in the United States in connection with alms houses, or during epidemics as "pest houses", as a matter of necessity to protect the public. The first hospital for the care of the sick in general was established in Philadelphia in 1755 as the Pennsylvania Hospital, Benjamin Franklin being interested in the project. Then followed in 1770 the New York Hospital and in 1821 the Massachusetts General Hospital at Boston...The first Protestant hospital was founded in 1849 by Dr. William Passavant in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. This hospital was soon followed by St. Luke's Hospital, New York, which was founded by Rev. Muhlenberg of the Episcopal Church. You will notice that the first Protestant hospitals in the United States were founded by a Lutheran pastor, and by the descendent of the patriarch of the Lutheran Church in America, though not a Lutheran himself.⁴

The hospital established by William Passavant of Pittsburgh in 1849 was a Lutheran Hospital. The Lutheran Church has maintained the leadership in this field. Other Lutheran pioneer hospitals of the middle west are the hospitals established by Dr. Passavant in Milwaukee in 1863 and in Chicago in 1865.

The first Deaconess Home was started by Theodore Fliedner on October 13, 1836, preceded by the Female Diaconate in September 1833, the cradle of the Deaconess cause.

Dr. Rudolph P. Decker writes concerning the welfare work of the American Lutheran Church:

4. Herm. L. Fritschel, "History of Hospitals", Addresses at the Inner Mission Conference, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, published by the Augustana Foreign Missionary Society, November 16-18, 1928, pages 1-4.

In order to understand the welfare work of the A. L. C. one must consider the background of this work in the former joint Synod of Ohio and in the former Synod of Iowa. In the former, Ohio Synod, practically all these institutions of welfare, were directly owned and operated by the Church. In the Iowa Synod none of these welfare agencies were directly owned by the Church, but were operated by independent societies, but actively supported by the Church. The American Lutheran Church has given this whole problem of welfare work, as it existed in the two merging bodies, considerable study but has still not arrived at a definite conclusion as to whether all these agencies should be operated by the Church as such or whether they should all be operated by societies. A satisfactory solution is not easy to be found. History, background, sentiment, all play into the question.⁵

The first welfare work of the Missouri Synod was started in St. Louis when a Lutheran hospital was founded in 1858. An Orphan home was started in the same city in 1868. The first Child Welfare Society was organized in 1896.

Another early welfare institution was the Detroit Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, which had its beginning in 1871. Several welfare missions were started, namely the Immigrant Mission in New York, begun in 1869, and the Immigrant Mission in Baltimore, begun in 1879.

Today the Missouri Synod has 19 hospitals and sanatoria, 13 homes for the aged, 12 orphan homes, an immigrant

5. Dr. Rudolph F. Decker, M. D., personal letter dated January 20, 1947, Byron, Nebraska.

mission, a school for the deaf, and a home and school for the feeble-minded. In addition there are numerous chaplain services in county and city hospitals, sanatoria, prisons, schools for the deaf and blind, and other institutions. Books and periodicals are published in Braille for the blind.

3. National Organizations of Lutheran Welfare

a. Associated Lutheran Charities

A group of three men, namely August Schlecht, Frederick T. Ruhland, and Frederick W. Herzberger, from the Synodical Conference, met in Chicago, Illinois, in 1901, for the purpose of helping those interested in social welfare work. They wished to form an association which would serve as a medium of exchange of ideas and in general serve as a source of encouragement. Thus the Associated Lutheran Charities became an association of numerous agencies and societies. In 1939 there were 108 agencies and societies, including 20 hospitals, 18 child welfare agencies, 12 homes for the aged, 3 educational institutions, 27 city mission societies, 8 hospice homes, 1 deaconess association, 19 affiliated women's organizations. "These agencies and societies employ about 1,500 men and women, minister to about 500,000 persons, and have a property valuation of over \$9,000,000.00."⁶

6. Associated Lutheran Charities, proceedings of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Convention, 1939, page 118.

In the Proceedings of the 1935 Annual Convention of the Associated Lutheran Charities, resolutions were included which named two classes of memberships, active and associate.

1. All agencies and institutions within the Synodical Conference engaged in, or fostering charitable or inner mission work, in its various phases, may become active members in this Association.
2. Any communicant member of the Synodical Conference who is actively engaged in or interested in fostering charitable or inner mission work in its various phases may become an associate member of this Association.

Furthermore, these agencies and institutions which are active members are entitled to two voting delegates at all meetings and any number of other delegates with the privilege of the floor committee appointment, but without the privilege of voting. Individuals who are associate members are to be supplied with the literature of the Associated Charities and may attend all meetings and serve on committees, but may not vote nor be committee chairmen. Active dues are \$10.00 each year, and associate dues \$2.00. Non-payment of dues for two consecutive years forfeits membership.

The Association issues three publications, "Good News", "Associated Lutheran Charities Review", and the "Proceedings". "Good News" is published for "shut-ins" as a missionary paper. The "Associated Lutheran Charities Review" is a bi-monthly publication and the only publication of its kind within the church. It deals with the manifold problems that come to the worker in the field of

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7. Associated Lutheran Charities, proceedings of the Thirty-Fourth Annual Convention, September 10-13, 1935, pages 16 and 17.

charities and missions. The "Proceedings" furnish a printed copy of all the essays and reports read at the annual convention.

The organization of the Associated Lutheran Charities includes at present (1944), an Honorary President (the only charter member living), a President, two Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Treasurer, Statistician, two members-at-large, and a Business Manager. There are four Standing Committees for Public Relations, Membership, Program, and Child Welfare. The Association is entirely voluntary and has no official connection with the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference.⁸

b. Department of Welfare of the National Lutheran Council

The National Lutheran Council set up in 1938 a Department of Welfare which is a noteworthy development in Protestant social work. The Department promotes Lutheran welfare agencies and coordinates their activities. It conducts research and surveys as an aid to the establishment and improvement of standards of work, mainly in the child welfare field. The Department operates a biennial welfare conference whose proceedings are published and holds four regional conferences in the alternate years.⁹

c. Lutheran Welfare Conference in America

The Lutheran Welfare Conference came into being on June 5, 1940, and is an affiliate of the Department of Welfare of the National Lutheran Council. The administration of its affairs is a part of the work of the Department of Welfare of

8. Annie Lee Crowell, A Study of the Protestant Denominational Agencies for Social Work in the United States of America, pages 92 and 93.

9. "Protestant Social Work", Social Work Yearbook, 1943, page 208.

the National Lutheran Council, with headquarters in the office of the Department of Welfare. It was organized:

In order to perpetuate the inspiration of Christian fellowship of the workers engaged in our common cause, the mutual benefit derived from free exchange of ideas, and the maintenance of progressive standards of service, as hitherto effected by the National Lutheran Inner Mission Conference, and in order to assure adequate recognition of our recommendations and conclusions...¹⁰

In 1944 there were 119 organizations and 414 individual members, belonging to the Lutheran bodies in the National Lutheran Council. The Conference meets in a national convention and in regional conventions in alternate years.¹¹

4. A Typical Lutheran Synodical Welfare Program Organization¹²

The American Lutheran Church at a regular convention elects a Board of Charities. This Board is composed of seven men, four pastors and three laymen, men who know and are trained in social welfare work. This Board of Charities has charge of eight institutions, two homes for children, three homes for children and old folks, one for old folks only, one

10. That They May Have Life, proceedings of the Nineteenth Annual Meeting, Lutheran Welfare Conference in America, June 3-5, 1940, page 15.

11. A Statistical Bulletin for the Lutheran Church in North America, published by the National Lutheran Council, 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York, 1945.

12. Cf. E. G. Ihrig, Study of Program of Martin Luther Home Society and Plans for Program of Martin Luther Home Society, Sterling, Nebraska, 1945, appendix pages 13 and 14.

a home for old folks and a general hospital, and one a sanatorium for tuberculosis patients. This Board is directly responsible for overseeing the operations of these institutions. It sets the programs and policies within which each institution must operate. Actual details of managing the institutions are left to local boards of directors. Society-owned institutions have at least three members of their board officially representing the American Lutheran Church. The boards of the church-owned institutions are elected at the church conventions. These local boards each year give reports on their stewardship to the Board of Charities for the information of the Church. The Board of Charities has as its big task the dissemination of "social education" among its own church membership, which in turn must be translated into "social action". To assist the Board of Charities a full time executive secretary has been employed who takes active and continuous charge of the many and varied responsibilities of the Board of Charities. Perhaps a more accurate name for the Board of Charities would be, "Board of Welfare and Social Action". The American Lutheran Church stands ready to work out a co-ordinated plan of welfare work with other Lutheran synodical bodies.

Summary of Chapter One

Lutheran welfare work not only helps a person who is in physical trouble, but above all gives him spiritual care, which has eternal value. The Lutheran Church has not emphasized its ministry of mercy as it has carried out its other phases of work, namely its preaching and teaching ministry. At first as a church body nothing was done in the line of welfare. Either the individual family took care of its own handicapped, or they were turned over to the state. The Lutheran Church has within the present century, however, realized its obligation to care for the less fortunate and has established welfare institutions. There are only three national Lutheran welfare organizations and these are mainly of advisory nature. Each synod is now organized to carry out its welfare work through a welfare or charity board.

CHAPTER II
HISTORY OF EACH LUTHERAN WELFARE AGENCY
IN NEBRASKA

1. Bethany Old People's Home, Minden, Nebraska
2. Bethesda Memorial Home, Kearney, Nebraska
3. Bethphage Mission, Axtell, Nebraska
4. Immanuel Deaconess Institute, Omaha, Nebraska
5. Institutional Mission Societies in Nebraska
(Omaha - Norfolk - Lincoln)
6. Lutheran Children's Home Society of Nebraska
(Home: Fremont - Office: Omaha)
7. Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society of
Nebraska
(Home: Fremont - Office: Fargo, N. D.)
8. Lutheran Old People's Home, Omaha, Nebraska
9. Martin Luther Home Society, Sterling, Nebraska
10. Tabitha Lutheran Home, Lincoln, Nebraska

CHAPTER II
HISTORY OF EACH LUTHERAN WELFARE AGENCY
IN NEBRASKA

This chapter will be devoted to a brief history of each Lutheran Welfare Agency in Nebraska, together with information regarding its administration, means of support, and its major fields of activity.

1. Bethany Old People's Home, Minden, Nebraska¹³

The Rev. J. P. Jensen, now of Denmark, became pastor of the Bethany Lutheran Church in Minden in 1917. Before he came to Minden he had been for sometime at the Eben-Ezer Mercy Institute at Brush, Colorado. He there saw what an institution was doing for old people. As he worked in his pastorate he met many old people who were living alone and who needed some one to care for them. In 1920 he decided to build a Home for the aged in Minden.

Mrs. Mary Borggaard, who lived in Minden, made an offer to help in starting an Old People's Home. A suitable piece of property was purchased for \$3,000.00, and an equal amount was used for remodeling. On November 9, 1920, Bethany Old People's Home was dedicated. Mrs. Mary Borggaard donated

13. Cf. Rev. A. Hofgaard, Bethany Old People's Home, Minden Nebraska.

Rev. A. Hofgaard, "An Historical Sketch of Bethany Old People's Home", Bethany Home Messenger, Vol. XIX, No.12, October, 1945.

\$1,000.00 to help pay off the first debt, and when she passed away in 1924, the Home received from the residue of her estate the sum of \$16,805.00 which was used to build a new building in 1926.

The first guest to come to the Home was Mr. Christian Hansen of Wauneta, Nebraska. The founder and first superintendent of the Home, Pastor J. P. Jensen, resigned and left for Denmark on June 23, 1926, and Pastor A. Hofgaard succeeded him, and is the present incumbent. The Home is governed by a Board of Trustees comprised of nine members. It has been the recipient of many bequests and gifts which made Bethany Old People's Home a reality. The guests in the Home also aid in the upkeep and operation of the Home. For its first twenty-five years of existence, 201 guests have entered the Home. There are forty-five guests at the present time and the demand for rooms has been greater than the supply available. Bethany Old People's Home was incorporated July 30, 1921.

2. Bethesda Memorial Home, Kearney, Nebraska¹⁴

The Bethesda Memorial Home is the newest welfare agency sponsored by the Augustana Lutheran Church. The association is non-profit and incorporated under the laws of the state of

14. Cf. Minutes of the Sixtieth Annual Convention of the Nebraska Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, held at Kearney, Nebraska, April 28 to May 1, 1946, pages 70 and 71.

Nebraska for the purpose of maintaining a Christian home for aged persons, providing for their spiritual and physical needs. The Home and grounds were willed by Minnie Swanson of Kearney for a home providing care to aged needy women. Her will granted this right to the First Lutheran Church, but since it provided no additional funds for operation, the local congregation did not feel that it was in a position to direct such a Home. The trustees, therefore, asked that the Kearney District of the Augustana Lutheran Conference be invited to help direct and organize a Home. After several meetings of Lutheran laymen and pastors in the district, it was decided to establish an association and elect a board of directors. Such was the procedure of starting the Home into operation.

The final incorporation papers were completed on April 27, 1945.

Under the plan of organization there is a membership of all who have made financial contributions to the corporation during the fiscal year, preceding any annual meeting. The annual meeting is held on the first Tuesday in October of each year. At this meeting a president of the association is elected from the membership. He need not be a member of the Augustana Lutheran Synod, but the six members which make up the board of directors must be members of the Augustana Lutheran Church. Terms for board members are arranged so that

trustees are elected for a term of one year, two year, and three year terms. All business of the corporation is handled by the board of directors. The superintendent and directing matron are elected by the Board.

The Home has been arranged to provide individual, furnished rooms. Guests receive board and room at a rate of forty and fifty dollars per month, depending upon the room selected. General nursing care is provided by the Home unless the guest is in need of special care.

Financial records show that the Home is capable of operating and meeting its general needs from the income received from the guests. However, should any expansion program be undertaken, it would be necessary to solicit from interested friends.

3. Bethphage Mission, Axtell, Nebraska¹⁵

The Bethphage Inner Mission Association was organized February 19, 1913, at Axtell, Nebraska, and incorporated March 23, 1914. The objects of this Association as taken from the Articles of Incorporation and revised February 22,

15. Cf. A. A. Christenson, Glimpses of the Bethphage Mission, Axtell, Nebraska, 1944.

A. A. Christenson, A Miracle of the Prairies, Axtell, Nebraska, first edition, December, 1944.

1928, are to conduct and maintain:

- a.
 - 1. Homes for epileptics and insane
 - 2. Destitute and aged
 - 3. Incurables
 - 4. Enfeebled and convalescent
- b.
 - 1. An institution for the training of Sisters (Deaconesses)
- c.
 - 1. Any other institution or institutions in connection with any of the above, or all of them, as may be necessary or convenient for carrying out the above objects.¹⁶

Bethphage Mission is controlled by an association whose membership is made up of persons who are members of the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod of North America.

The Association is managed by a Board of Trustees composed of a President and nine members, aside of the Director and Directing Sister who are ex-officio members. The Director and Directing Sister are elected by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees annually elects an executive committee of not less than three members with the Director as Chairman, and Directing Sister an ex-officio member. An annual meeting is held. The Board of Trustees also elects the Treasurer, while the other officers of the Association, namely a president, vice-president, and secretary, are elected by the Association at its annual meeting.

16. Articles of Incorporation of the Bethphage Inner Mission Association, Axtell, Nebraska.

The founder of Bethphage Mission was the Rev. K. G. Wm. Dahl who felt that a separate Home for the epileptic and feeble minded was a necessity. Immediately he set out to organize an Inner Mission Society which was especially for the feeble-minded and epileptics. On January 6, 1914, forty acres of land were bought as a site for the institution. By summer the first cottage, "Tabor", was dedicated with the first "guest" arriving June 29th. By 1915 the institution had grown to twenty guests, with twelve workers. Dahl stressed the fact that no applicant was to be denied admittance because of lack of funds. In 1916 the buildings, "Mizpah" and "Gilgal" were erected. In 1917 Rev. Dahl passed away, and C. A. Lonnquist took his place. More buildings were added, namely "Sarepta", "Emmaus", and "Shiloam". By 1921 the family of guests had grown to eighty-seven and twenty-eight workers. An 80 acre tract of land was purchased to help furnish produce for the Institution. A separate home, "Kidron", the first up-to-date building, was erected for tubercular women and children in 1928, and in 1929, "Bethel", the Home for defective children was erected. A beautiful church was dedicated in 1931 as a gift of the Women's Missionary Society of the Augustana Synod. Dr. Carl A. Lonnquist passed away on June 15, 1937, and the present Director, the Rev. Arthur A. Christenson, succeeded him in office. The Directing Sister for many years was Sister

Aurora Swanberg. Sister Julianne Holt is the present incumbent. At present 163 guests are being cared for. A full time chaplain is employed in the person of the Rev. G. A. Peterson. Bethphage is a growing institution. It receives its funds from free will gifts, and the guests pay a fee according to their ability to pay. A monthly periodical is issued, namely the, "Bethphage Messenger". There are two splendid booklets which describe the work of Bethphage in detail, "Glimpses of the Bethphage Mission", and "A Miracle of the Prairies". The Institution has the services of a competent doctors' staff, at least 16 consecrated sisters, a regular attorney, and many interested laymen and women.

4. Immanuel Deaconess Institute, Omaha, Nebraska¹⁷

On October 8, 1887, a small group of pastors and laymen met in the sacristy of the Immanuel Church, 19th and Cass Streets, to deliberate concerning a Lutheran association for benevolent and charitable work in the city. The Rev. E. A. Fogelstrom was pastor of Immanuel Church and it was upon his invitation that the meeting was held. It was unanimously decided to form an organization, and the name, "The Evangelical Lutheran Immanuel Association for Works of Mercy", was adopted.

17. Cf. The Deaconess Banner, Vol. XVII, No. 1, June, 1937, Omaha, Nebraska, pages 33 and 34.

After Seventy-five Years, 1860-1935, a Jubilee publication, Augustana Book Concern, Rock Island, Illinois, pages 169-171.

On January 30, 1889, this Association was reorganized and the name was changed to "The Evangelical Immanuel Association for Works of Mercy".

The Rev. Fogelstrom had the evangelical diaconate in mind from the very beginning, because even before October 8, 1887, or to be accurate, on July 12th of that year, a young woman from his church, Miss Bothilda Swensson, left for Philadelphia to be trained there as a deaconess, with the idea that she was to return to Omaha to work at the Institution which was in the forming. In August, 1888, four other young women also left for Philadelphia. Therefore, on April 20 and 21, 1892, a Deaconess Association was organized, a constitution adopted, and Articles of Incorporation secured. There were, therefore, two organizations working side by side from that time.

Seven years later, or April 27, 1899, the Evangelical Association for Workers of Mercy decided to merge with the Deaconess Association, which merger was consummated January 17, 1900.

This Deaconess Association, which after the above merger was the sole owner of the property, continued in this capacity until June, 1904, when the Synod at Lindsborg, Kansas, took over the Institution and elected the Director and the governing Board of Trustees. The Deaconess Association deeded the

property to the Synod, and was reorganized as an auxiliary society to work in the interest of the Diaconate and the Institution in every possible way.

Immanuel Institute had Rev. E. A. Fogelstrom as its first Director, from 1889 to 1906, Dr. Lundberg from 1907 to 1918, Dr. E. G. Chinlund from 1920 to 1945, and Dr. Samuel Miller, its present incumbent, from 1945 to the present time.

The work of the Institution is now carried on in 21 separate buildings on 64 city lots, or about five square blocks of ground, with a total value of grounds, buildings, equipment and supplies, totaling over \$1,000,000.00.

In addition to the care of the sick in its hospital, the orphaned, the physically and mentally handicapped, the aged, and the training of deaconesses and parish workers, the Immanuel Deaconess Institute conducts two training schools for nurses. Another type of work has also been added, namely occupational therapy, or industrial work for invalids, the aged, and convalescents, intended to improve their condition.

The official publication of the Institute is entitled, "The Deaconess Banner".

Immanuel Deaconess Institute is administered by a board elected by the Augustana Synod. It receives its financial

support from individuals, societies, patients and inmates, and also from the Augustana Synod as a whole.

5. Institutional Mission Societies in Nebraska¹⁸
(Omaha - Norfolk - Lincoln)

At the present time there are three Institutional Mission Societies in Nebraska, one at Omaha organized in 1941, one at Norfolk organized in 1945, and a third at Lincoln organized in 1946. These three are under the supervision of the Mission Boards of the Northern and Southern Districts of the Missouri Synod. A typical Institutional Mission Society is organized somewhat along the same lines, so only the one at Omaha will be presented. From the Articles of Incorporation we find that the name of the Society is, "The Lutheran Mission Society of Greater Omaha", with its principal place of business in the city of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska, and that its objects and purposes are, "To conduct and support mission work in the public institutions of Omaha and vicinity".¹⁹

The membership of this Society is any organized congregation which is in unity of faith with the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America. The management of the corporation is vested in a Board of Directors com-

18. Cf. Articles of Incorporation of the Lutheran Mission Society of Greater Omaha, found in the appendix, pages 106-108.

19. Ibid.

posed of three members of each congregation, namely its pastor and two lay delegates. The lay delegates must be voting members of the congregation and are elected for a term of two years. The officers of the corporation consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer, elected at the annual meeting, and serve for one year. These officers constitute the Executive Board who are to carry out the resolutions and directions of the Board of Directors. A Governing Body consists of the two district presidents, one member of each Mission Board, and three members selected by the Board of Directors. The Governing Body defines and sets the policies of the Society, engages missionaries, sets the amount of salaries, and approves the budget.

The Lutheran Mission Society has at the present time two full time Institutional Missionaries serving 15 institutions. The first full time Institutional Missionary and pioneer in this type of work is the Rev. Walter Wilkens, the present incumbent, and now also the Rev. W. C. Ollenburg who was installed as Institutional Missionary on February 9, 1947.

The official publication of this Society is, "My Mission", edited by the Rev. Walter Wilkens, the Rev. B. Wittröck, and Oscar T. Doerr.

6. Lutheran Children's Home Society of Nebraska²⁰
 (Home at Fremont - Office, 408 Karbach Block, Omaha)

The founder of the Lutheran Children's Home, at first called Lutheran Orphanage, is the sainted pastor Peter Graef, who was pastor of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church at Fremont, Nebraska, 1891 to 1897. Because of urgent requests, Pastor Graef presented the idea of starting an Orphanage to his congregation on March 7, 1892. The response was favorable. A temporary orphanage was started in the parsonage, located in the second story of the school of Trinity Church, housing ten orphans.

Early in 1892 Trinity appointed a building committee. Lots were purchased on East Military Avenue and a solid brick building erected. The following year, "The Evangelical Lutheran Orphan Home Society of Nebraska" was organized. During that year other congregations joined until the number reached fourteen.

The following served as superintendents from time to time: Pastor Graef, Rev. Nammacher, Mr. W. Hamann who filled in a number of times between vacancies, Pastor Leuthaeuser, the Rev. L. A. Mueller, Rev. G. W. Wolter, Mr. J. F. Gnuse, and the present incumbent, the Rev. A. H. Bringewatt.

20. Cf. G. W. Wolter, Lutheran Children's Home, Fiftieth Anniversary, 1892-1942, Fremont, Nebraska.

Originally the Society passed the resolution not to take in children under two years of age. However, as early as 1905 the Society changed its policy in this respect and decided to call a special nurse for babies, and to take in as many of such little ones as possible. At first the intention was to have only an Orphanage, in which the children had to remain until their confirmation, but in 1897 it was resolved that a secondary purpose should be to place orphan children in Christian homes, and by 1901 the Board of Directors was empowered to place all orphans in Christian homes for adoption wherever legally possible.

Since that time the care of children has become more specialized and standards of child care and child placement have been raised. Therefore, it was necessary that this institution become licensed for child care and placement by the State Department of Child Welfare of Nebraska, and open to inspection by a representative of this department at any time, which is its present status.

The Home is managed by a Board of Directors, consisting of seven members (now increased to fifteen), who are elected every year at the annual meeting of the Society. It receives its support by the contributions of the members of the Missouri Synod in the two Nebraska Districts, through its Christmas and semi-annual collections, parents and relatives of

children under care, counties on court order committing children to the agency, and just recently the Omaha Community Chest. Very few larger bequests have been received.

Ever since the Children's Home became a child placing agency involving statewide field work, both intake and placement of children, it became very evident that the offices for the Children's Home Society should be set up in Omaha. Through the efforts of the present executive secretary, the Rev. A. H. Bringewatt, who must be "commended for his fine Christian spirit, warmth, understanding and administrative skills"²¹, this was accomplished in 1944. The position of Rev. Bringewatt was changed to Executive Secretary of the Lutheran Children's Home Society. His office was set up in Omaha with the necessary facilities for his work, clerical help, and case workers. A superintendent was then engaged to take care of the children kept in the Home at Fremont.

During the past four years the Board of Directors, through its executive secretary, has accomplished the following:

1. Raised high the standards of our work to meet the standards of our State.
2. Inaugurated case work service through employment of case work staff.

21. H. J. Whiting, Lutheran Health and Welfare Needs and Resources in Nebraska, March, 1946, published by the National Lutheran Council, 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York.

3. Regained our State child care and placing license.
4. Established working relationships with other welfare agencies, public and private.
5. Joined the Nebraska Welfare Association.
6. Gained acceptance by the Community Welfare Council of Omaha.
7. Began counseling with other Lutheran agencies in Nebraska.
8. Set up the goal of "Lutheran children for Lutheran agencies".
9. More than doubled the congregational membership, now 35, secured the adoption of a new constitution, doubled the Board membership, now 15.
10. Sent out appeals for greater financial support.
11. Set up its office and field work headquarters in Omaha.
12. Inaugurated new building plans in keeping with an improved and expanding service, namely the cottage home type, which houses from eight to eleven children each.²²

The official publication of the Society is, "The Nebraska Lutheran Children's Friend", published quarterly, and edited by the Rev. A. H. Bringewatt, Executive Secretary, 408 Karbach Block, Omaha 2, Nebraska.

The work of the Society is now carried on by four standing committees, the Personnel Committee which serves in an

22. A Running View of the Work of the Society, presented to the Nebraska District Convention held at Seward, Nebraska, August, 1946.

advisory capacity to the Executive Secretary in matters pertaining to staff employment, staff relationship and boarding home care, the Finance Committee, Institutional Management Committee, and the Case Committee which reviews the applications for adoption and acts in an advisory capacity in difficult problems of the case work department.²³

During the year 1946 a total number of 141 children were under the care of the Society.

7. Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society of Nebraska²⁴
(Home at Fremont - Office at Fargo, North Dakota)

The Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society of America, Inc., was organized and incorporated under the laws of North Dakota by a group of Lutheran laymen and pastors. It operates institutions in six other states also. It is inter-synodical in the sense that various Lutheran synods are represented on its board. Members of the Lutheran church become voting members upon paying the annual dues of one dollar, or by contributing twenty-five dollars or more, which entitles them to a Life Membership. A board of directors, limited to a minimum of nine and a maximum of fifteen members, is responsible for the work of the Society. An execu-

23. Cf. Report of the Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Children's Home Society, Fremont, Nebraska, January 28, 1947.

24. Cf. Who - What - Where - Why, Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society, Fargo, North Dakota.

tive board is elected from the membership of the board of directors. The Society meets once a year, the Board of Directors every three months, and the Executive Board every month.

The Society was organized to do welfare work in the name of Lutheranism through institutions. A paragraph from the constitution states:

To lease, purchase, erect or acquire by device or bequest real and personal property essential for the operation and maintenance of Christian Hospitals and Homes, to be used and needed in caring for the sick, the infirm, the aged, and the handicapped; and to do and perform charitable acts incidental to such tasks and other works of mercy.²⁵

It is, therefore, a charitable, non-profit sharing organization. In its work it has a community approach and its service is a community service.

A central office is maintained in Fargo, North Dakota, which serves as a clearing house for all the work of the society. Monthly reports of work and finances are submitted to this office by every institution. To this office heads of institutions turn for counsel and guidance. A general manager is employed who has general supervision of all the institutions. Besides the general manager there are district managers assigned to definite areas and who are directly responsible to

25. The Constitution of the Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society, Fargo, North Dakota.

the general manager. Each hospital has a registered nurse in charge, while matrons are in charge of the Homes for the aged. In order that the Society can function, each institution pays to the central office a monthly fee based upon the production ability of the institution. All surplus funds are retained by the institution, but may be withdrawn by the central office to assist another institution in need of funds at a low rate of interest and which is to be refunded later.

The Society owns and operates, or takes over to operate by lease agreement, Hospitals and Homes for Aged in communities having such institutions, or it assists communities in securing for themselves needed facilities. Wherever possible the community should provide the physical equipment, while the Society provides the service in communities where the organized church has not entered. The Society believes that in a ministry of mercy Christians of all faiths can unite. Nevertheless, it also believes that it is in the interest of good service that an institution be operated by a specific Church, be that Lutheran or otherwise. In 1944 the Society operated one school for crippled children, twelve hospitals, and five homes for the aged.

The Lutheran Home for the Aged of Fremont is one of the institutions served by the Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society, Fargo, North Dakota. Esther Persons, its superin-

tendent, writes:

This Home was originally a hospital, later an Old People's Invalid Home, and finally a Home for the Aged only. I hold the position of Superintendent. There is a District Manager who has under his care six institutions, including this one in Fremont... This institution is financed entirely by funds collected for care of guests. In addition of operating expenses, improvements necessary must be taken care of out of these funds, besides paying a certain sum each month to the General Office at Fargo, North Dakota... Aged people must depend on Old Age Assistance to meet their needs. Therefore, our income is not as great as we might feel we would like to have it. There has been in the past rather a mixed group, some total invalids, others afflicted in various ways. We are working towards a Home made up of people who are still able to be up and live a normal life. We still have some who are bed ridden, but do not accept invalid cases now. We feel that it is not an ideal situation to mix invalids with others. We have though, and are planning, more homes for invalids.²⁶

The Society publishes a bulletin on a bi-monthly basis entitled, "Advocate", edited by the Rev. O. E. Clauson, Grover Annex, Roberts Street, Fargo, North Dakota, P. O. Box 1587.

8. Lutheran Old People's Home, Omaha, Nebraska²⁷

In March, 1928, Dr. Louis E. Hanish, told the Rev. E. T. Otto, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 25th and Evans,

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26. Personal letter from Esther Persons, Superintendent of the Lutheran Home for Aged, Fremont, Nebraska, dated January 20, 1947.
27. Cf. E. T. Otto, "The First Beginnings of Our Omaha Lutheran Hospital and Old People's Home", Lutheran Missions and Charities, Omaha and Vicinity, Fall, 1944, Vol. 6, No. 4, page 4.

Omaha, that the old Presbyterian Hospital on South 10th Street, operated by a doctor, was for sale for \$20,000.00. Dr. Hanish was interested in forming a Lutheran Hospital Association, and the Rev. M. T. Otto, a Lutheran Old People's Home. Finally, the two men agreed on a proposition whereby both institutions would be proposed as a joint venture to the Lutheran Pastoral Conference of Omaha to be held April 30, 1928. It was decided that an association of churches for this Lutheran Hospital and Old People's Home be organized. Later the various Lutheran congregations elected representatives from whom a board of twelve directors was chosen, who legally incorporated the Lutheran Hospital Association of Omaha in January, 1929. While the Old People's Home idea lay dormant and the Hospital was growing by leaps and bounds, it was soon realized that two institutions in one building was too much. The Hospital outgrew its facilities at 1240 South 10th Street. The Wise Memorial Hospital was purchased by the Hospital Association and moved into its quarters at 24th Avenue and Harney Street in May, 1929. The Old People's Home Association was organized with the consent of the congregations and took over the vacated Hospital at 1240 South 10th Street, September 28, 1929. In August, 1930, the Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Ditzen were called to serve as first Superintendent and Matron. On March 17, 1931, the Lutheran Old People's

Home officially came into life.

The Lutheran Old People's Home is supervised by a Board of Directors elected by the Old People's Home Association. The Home is supported by both the Northern and Southern Nebraska districts of the Missouri Synod and by voluntary contributions by interested societies and individual members.

9. Martin Luther Home Society, Sterling, Nebraska²⁸

Martin Luther Home Society was incorporated on October 26, 1925. The Articles of Incorporation of the Martin Luther Home Society state: "The purpose of this organization shall be to care for and train feeble-minded persons; to establish and maintain a school for the training of such persons, and to engage in other works of charity and benevolence".²⁹ The membership is limited to persons in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Iowa and Other States, or in the Joint Synod of Ohio, or of such synods which are in Church fellowship. The affairs of the organization are administered by a board of trustees consisting of nine members who are elected to hold office for a term of three years, and who are elected by the corporation at regular annual meetings. The Board of Trustees elects from its own membership a president, a vice-presi-

28. Cf. E. G. Ihrig, Study of Program of Martin Luther Home Society and Plans for Program of Martin Luther Home Society, Sterling, Nebraska, 1945.

29. The Articles of Incorporation of the Martin Luther Home Society, Sterling, Nebraska.

dent, a secretary, and a treasurer, who hold the same offices for the entire corporation. The principal place of business is Sterling, Nebraska. The Home at the present time is ministering to 44 guests, ranging in ages from 14 to over 45 years, so it serves mainly grown people who are mentally deficient in some form or other. The Home receives its financial support for the services rendered to some of the residents, while others receive their services as charity cases and so depend on contributions from fellow Lutherans. It was the original intention of the founders of the society to establish a Home and School for the training of feeble-minded children and receive only those capable of being instructed, yet as time passed there has been a departure in both policies. The Executive Board meets monthly, while the General Board and Society meet annually. The present staff consists of a part time superintendent, a matron, a cook, a laundress, two attendants, and an assistant farmer. There is one main building, which serves as quarters for residents and staff, office, heating plant, and laundry. It is a three story brick structure erected in 1909. The Rev. Rudolph F. Decker, M. D., writes:

The building in which the Home is located was originally an educational institution. The Martin Luther Academy was located there. This was operated by the Western District of the former Iowa Synod. When the school was closed

in 1923 or 1924, a society acquired it for its present purpose. This Society is an independent organization and not an integral part of the American Lutheran Church, although almost exclusively supported by the Central District of the American Lutheran Church.³⁰

It might be stated here that this Home will rework its entire set-up in the near future.³¹

10. Tabitha Lutheran Home, Lincoln, Nebraska³²

Tabitha Lutheran Home was founded in 1886 by the Rev. H. Heiner of the Evangelical Reformed Church, to care for the aged and dependent children. In 1906 it was taken over by the United Lutheran Church. At first Tabitha conducted a Hospital, together with its other work, but the hospital services were discontinued in 1916.

Tabitha Home is under the control of the United Lutheran Church, through the respective synods of Nebraska, Midwest, Kansas, Wartburg, Rocky Mountain, and Iowa. Each of these synods is allowed one director on the board for each 20 parishes. Besides this the Western and Central Conferences of the Northwest Synod also elect a director. This creates a

30. Personal letter from Dr. Rudolph F. Decker, M. D., Byron, Nebraska, dated January 20, 1947.

31. Cf. E. G. Ihrig, Study of Program of Martin Luther Home Society and Plans for Program of Martin Luther Home Society, Sterling, Nebraska, 1945.

32. Cf. H. J. Whiting, Lutheran Health and Welfare Needs and Resources in Nebraska, March, 1946, pages 16 to 20. Personal letter received from Louis Heider, University of Nebraska, dated April 19, 1947. O. W. EBRICHT, D. D., Tabitha Home Messenger, Vol. XXIX, No. 1, February, 1947, Lincoln, Nebraska

Board of 14, of which three at the present time are residents of Nebraska. Of the 45 children in the Children's Home, according to 1945 statistics, all are residents of Nebraska.

Tabitha has been expanding, especially since 1925 when a building for boys was dedicated. In 1937 a building for girls was built at a cost of \$37,000.00. In 1940 a new heating plant was constructed. A new home for the aged will soon replace the present building, which will accommodate at least 125 people. At the present time the facilities can serve about 75 guests.

Tabitha, as a child-caring institution, is considered by the city ordinance as a Nursing Home licensed by the State of Nebraska. The Home is able to care for 20 boys in the home called "Nazareth", and 20 girls in the home called "Bethel", ranging in ages from about three to 12 years.

Members of the Lutheran Church are given priority when it comes to entrance requirements. However, individuals of different faiths are accepted in both the Home for the Aged and the Children's Home.

The staff of 23 persons includes a superintendent who administers both the Children's Home and Home for the Aged; a secretary-case worker; a matron in each of the two buildings for boys and girls; an engineer; a pastor serving as "general assistant"; a cook; and an assistant. Tabitha re-

ceives its funds for both the Children's Home and Home for the Aged from contributions from those served, income from investments, appropriations from synods, voluntary contributions, and from the community chest of Lincoln.

The official publication is the "Tabitha Home Messenger", published on a quarterly basis by the Superintendent, O. W. Ebright, D. D.

The chart on the following page indicates the name, place, and synodical affiliation of the Lutheran Welfare Agencies in Nebraska.

LUTHERAN WELFARE
AGENCIES IN NEBRASKA

Tabitha Lutheran Home
(U)
Lincoln

Norfolk Institutional
Mission Society (SMo)
Norfolk

Lutheran Hospitals and
Home Society (Ex)
Fremont

Lutheran Old People's Home
(SMo)
Omaha

Bethany Old People's Home
(ADU)
Minden

Lutheran Children's
Home Society (SMo)
Home: Fremont - Office: Omaha

Immanuel Deaconess Institute
(AAug)
Omaha

Martin Luther Home Society
(Ext) A
Sterling

Bethphage Mission
(AAug)
Axtell

Bethesda Memorial Home
(AAug)
Kearney

Lutheran Institutional
Missions Society (SMo)
Omaha

Key to Chart

- U - United Lutheran Church
- SMo - Missouri Synod
- Ex - Extra Synodical
- ADU - United Danish Church
- A - American Lutheran Church
- AAug - Augustana Synod

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS OF THE LUTHERAN WELFARE SERVICES OF NEBRASKA, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND BENEFITS OF UNIFICATION

1. Family and Child Welfare
2. Care of the Aged
3. Health Services
4. Chaplaincy Services
5. Financial Support
6. Benefits and Examples of
Unification

CHAPTER III
ANALYSIS OF THE LUTHERAN WELFARE SERVICES
OF NEBRASKA, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND BENEFITS OF
UNIFICATION

There are eight different Lutheran synodical bodies represented in Nebraska. It could then be expected that a rather complete welfare program be carried on by the larger synodical groups, and a more modified one by the smaller bodies. However, this is not the case, for the most extensive welfare program is being operated by the 4th largest synod, while some church bodies, because of their small memberships, do not independently operate any welfare program or agency.

The Augustana Lutheran Church, representing 12,968 members, has the following welfare agencies: Immanuel Deaconess Institute, Omaha, with its Home for the Aged, Home for Invalids, and its Home for Children, Bethphage Mission at Axtell, Home for mental defectives, and the Bethesda Memorial Home for the Aged at Kearney. The Missouri Synod, representing 61,714 members, has a Home for the Aged, Omaha, Home for children, Fremont, program of Institutional Missions, Omaha, Lincoln, and Norfolk, and a Children's Home Society, Omaha. The United Lutheran Church, representing 36,170 members, has Tabitha Old

People's Home and Children's Home in Lincoln. The American Lutheran Church, representing 19,422 members, has the Martin Luther Home for mental defectives at Sterling. The United Danish Church, representing 3,673 members, has Bethany Old People's Home at Minden. The remaining three synods have no welfare agencies of their own. For the 138,665 Lutherans of Nebraska, there are four Child welfare agencies, six Homes for the aged, four offering health services, and five with institutional chaplains.

In order that all Lutherans in Nebraska would have access to any welfare agency, a plan for the unification of all Lutheran welfare programs should be established. There is indeed merit in a unified and integrated program of welfare. This has been proven by the Community Chest movement.

The Federation of Charity and Philanthropy which was created in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1913, is commonly regarded as the first Community Chest. The federation idea as applied to joint fund raising, however, antedates this development. There were early experiments along such lines in Liverpool, England, in 1873; Denver, Colorado, devised a plan for financing federated charitable agencies in 1887; Elmira, New York, adopted a federated plan in 1910; and federations of Jewish agencies were in existence in several of the larger cities of the country starting with Boston, in 1895.³³

Since 1913, the year the Community Chests started, a growth of chest campaigns is shown so that by 1920 there were

33. Russell H. Kurtz, Social Work Year Book, 1947, 9th issue, Russell Sage Foundation, page 103.

39 campaigns.³⁴ In 1925 the number had increased to 240. It has steadily increased since that time and by 1946 there were 798.³⁵

A variety of circumstances may explain the substantial growth of the chest movement. The basic idea of federation is simple and easily understood. There is evidence that more money is raised and more people contribute under the federated plan than under competitive financing.³⁶

The Associated Lutheran Welfare of the State of Washington can also be used to verify that federation results in progress.³⁷ In the annual report the case worker states the following:

The annual report of our Case Work Supervisor, Miss Jeanne Myrthen, shows that our agency made real progress in its work of helping people in 1946. It shows that a total of 130 people received long time care from our agency, and 28 received short time assistance. In addition many were given help on smaller problems by telephone interviews or by letters answering their inquiries.³⁸

In Minnesota there is also a joint welfare organization which substantiates the merit of unification as compared to an individual program as carried on in Nebraska. In

34. Cf. Yesterday and Today with Community Chests, a record of History and Growth, Community Chests and Councils, Inc. 155 E. 44th St., New York, New York, 1937, page 17.

35. Cf. Russell H. Kurtz, Social Work Year Book, 1947, 9th issue, Russell Sage Foundation, page 105

36. Ibid.

37. Cf. Telegram received from Rev. R. Spannaus, executive secretary, Associated Lutheran Welfare, Seattle, Washington, dated May 9, 1947.

38. "Service Statistics Show Progress", Inasmuch, Vol. 2, No. 7, January, 1947, Seattle, Washington.

Minnesota the statistics show that there has been rapid increase in the number of children cared for in the years of 1945 and 1946. In 1945 only 323 received care, while in 1946, the number stands at 516, or an increase of 59.7% in the two year period. These figures refer to child care of all Lutheran synods outside of the Synodical Conference. During the same period the children under the Lutheran agencies in Nebraska, other than those of the Synodical Conference, showed an increase from 157 cases in 1945 to only 166 cases in 1946, or an increase of only 5.7%.³⁹

Nebraska is in need of a unified program of welfare, as can again be shown from figures in connection with the State of Iowa. In Iowa there were 137,000 confirmed members belonging to the National Lutheran Council according to the Annual Report of the Lutheran Welfare Council, while in Nebraska there are 62,000 Lutherans of the National Lutheran Council. While 137,000 Lutherans in Iowa were caring for a total of 549 children, the 62,000 Lutherans in Nebraska were caring for only 157. Under the joint welfare program in Iowa one child was cared for by 250 Lutherans in 1945, while in Nebraska the same year it took 395 to care for one

39. Cf. Lutheran Welfare, Report of 1946 Contributions, together with Complete Directory of National Lutheran Council Churches, State of Minnesota, 1947, page 2.

Tenth Annual Report, Department of Assistance and Child Welfare, State of Nebraska, Year ending June 30, 1946, Lincoln, Nebraska.

child. This indeed points to inefficiency in the present way as carried on in Nebraska when comparing the results accomplished in a joint children's welfare program.⁴⁰

An illustration of the Lutheran Charities of Chicago also proves merit of unification, for under that joint welfare program a total of 908 cases were handled in 1945, while 1244 cases in 1946, or an increase of 37.0%, while in Nebraska where there is individual agency service, in 1945 there were 216 cases of child care given, while in 1946, there were 250, an increase of only 15.7%.⁴¹

1. Family and Child Welfare

There are four institutions which devote their services to child welfare, namely Immanuel Children's Home sponsored by the Augustana Lutheran Church, Lutheran Children's Home Society by the Missouri Synod, Tabitha Children's Home by the United Lutheran Church, and Martin Luther Home Society by the American Lutheran Church, which means that only four out of the 8 Lutheran bodies represented in Nebraska carry on this phase of welfare work.

40. Cf. Annual Report, Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa, 1945, "Branch Office Reports, 1945".

41. Cf. Tenth Annual Report, Department of Assistance and Child Welfare, State of Nebraska, Year ending June 30, 1946, Lincoln, Nebraska.

Telegram received from Rev. Edgar Witte, executive director of Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, dated May 9, 1947.

These institutions do not adequately serve the Lutheran constituency since "only a limited few of these agencies were able to meet all requests for their services and with others it ranged from a comparatively few cases rejected to more than the total served".⁴²

The Lutheran children of Nebraska, therefore, are not being cared for only in Lutheran institutions since it has been found that the percentage of Lutheran children in non-Lutheran agencies has been as high as 43%.⁴³

So far as Family welfare is concerned, Nebraska has merely begun, and that through the Lutheran Children's Home Society, Omaha. In checking the reports of Lutheran welfare in Minnesota, which is a joint referral service, it is found that the number of services rendered to unmarried mothers during the years 1944 to 1946 has increased from 63 to 179, while in the annual report of the Lutheran Charities of Chicago, which again is a joint service, it was stated that during the first year, 1945, service was rendered to 150 unwed mothers, and again in Iowa, another joint referral service, in 1946, 59 cases of unmarried mothers were taken care of. These instances show that this type of work can be

42. E. G. Ihrig, Study of Program of Martin Luther Home Society and Plans for Program of Martin Luther Home Society, Sterling, Nebraska, 1945.

43. Ibid.

effectively carried out through joint planning.⁴⁴

Nebraska could also tie its child care work together through a Welfare Council, as has been done in Iowa. In the address given by the Rev. Arthur J. Seegers, he stated:

I submit furthermore that the vision of things to be should enclose all Lutherans in the State. This, of course, is touching upon community organization embracing all the institutions and agencies of the State engaged in works of mercy on behalf of the child of Lutheran background. Here in Iowa we have the chance to tie together the various child-caring agencies into an integrated whole as probably that chance offers itself nowhere else in the land over which the Stars and Stripes are flown. For the sake of the child in need the service forces of the Church ought to be pulled together, for where ranks are broken, work is apt to be neglected.⁴⁵

The present child care program in Nebraska is not as efficient as it should be. The following comparisons establish this point.

In the State of Iowa there is a Lutheran Welfare Society consisting of eight different Lutheran synods, namely, the United Lutheran Church, American Lutheran Church, Danish

44. Cf. Lutheran Welfare, Report of 1946 Contributions, together with Complete Directory of National Lutheran Council Churches, 1947, State of Minnesota.

Annual Report, Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, September, 1946.

45. Arthur J. Seegers, Address Delivered at Annual Meeting of Lutheran Welfare Society, Des Moines, Iowa, March 4, 1947, "Visions of Things to Be".

Lutheran Church, Lutheran Free Church, United Danish Lutheran Church, Finnish Suomi Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church, and the Lutheran Augustana Synod. This federation of Lutheran synods was started in 1939 as a voluntary non-profit organization. As a federation it is making good progress as the figures for 1945 and 1946 show in the matter of intake of children alone. In 1945 there were taken into care 203 children, while in 1946 there were 276, an increase of 35.9%. During the same period the children under care of Lutheran agencies in Nebraska other than those of the Synodical Conference as is also the case in the Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa, showed an increase from 157 cases in 1945 to only 166 cases in 1946, or an increase of only 5.7%. In Minnesota a similar comparison exists. In that state there is a joint referral service in child care also of all Lutheran synods outside of the Synodical Conference. In 1945 only 323 received care, while 1946 figures show that 516 were taken care of, or an increase of 59.7% in the two year period.⁴⁶

The tendency for institutions to be recognized as the specialized agency in the field is beginning to take hold in

46. Cf. Annual Report, 1946, Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa, 448 Insurance Exchange Building, Des Moines, Iowa.

Lutheran Welfare, Report of 1946 Contributions together with Complete Directory of National Lutheran Council Churches, State of Minnesota, 1947, page 2.

Nebraska now, for a committee was recently chosen from all synods in Nebraska carrying on child welfare work, and it proposed that the Lutheran Children's Home Society, Omaha, be asked to extend its child welfare service to all Lutheran synods in Nebraska. This proposition is now being considered by the Board of Directors of that Society. This shows the general tendency in all welfare work, that is, to have one agency which has specialized in a certain field carry on the work for all, and the others in turn specialize in other phases of welfare work. The Lutheran Children's Home Society is rapidly expanding its services, as comparative statistics covering the years 1940 to 1946 show that the total number of children under care during the year 1940 was 61 and in 1946, 141.⁴⁷

2. Care of the Aged

There are at the present time six Lutheran homes for the aged in Nebraska, namely, the Lutheran Old People's Home, Omaha; Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society, Fremont; Immanuel Deaconess Institute, Omaha; Bethany Old People's Home, Minden; Bethesda Memorial Home, Kearney; and Tabitha Home, Lincoln, which means that only 4 of the 8 Church bodies

47. Cf. Report of the Special committee appointed by the Board at the February 6th meeting to consider the possibility of the Society extending its services to all synods, to the Board, March 4, 1947.

Report of the Annual Meeting, Lutheran Children's Home Society, January 28, 1947.

represented in the state operate Homes for the aged. Even-though in the field of the care for the aged there are six institutions, the number is yet too small to adequately provide for the needs. Each Home reports overcrowded conditions and waiting lists for access to a Lutheran Home. It would be possible through a Lutheran Welfare organization to consider a plan whereby the applicants for admission into the Homes for the aged, now on the waiting list, make use of temporary foster home placements, until admission is made possible in one of the present homes for the aged, and also aid synodical groups in working out plans for the establishment of more and better homes for the aged. These will be needed more in the future because the population trends indicate there will be more and more folks living past the 65 year mark due to advances in hygiene and medical care. Because of the breakdown of family solidarity, smaller housing units, and greater economic stresses, more aged people will look outside of the family group for service and care.

Therefore, the Lutheran Church as a whole must develop stronger and more adequate programs for the aged and shelter and care for the Lutheran aged in their declining years, thus providing also companionship with contemporaries who share their faith and ideals in a Lutheran environment.

3. Health Services

There are four institutions which provide health services, namely, Lutheran Hospitals and Homes Society, Fremont, but only insofar that some of the guests are invalid; Immanuel Deaconess Institute Home for feeble-minded and physically handicapped; Martin Luther Home Society for people who are mentally deficient in varying degrees; and Bethphage Mission which provides homes for epileptics and insane, incurables, enfeebled and convalescent. Only two of the 8 Church bodies represented in Nebraska carry on health services. Aside of these agencies, there are eight Lutheran Hospitals.⁴⁸ Here again the Lutherans must realize that throughout the country an increasing interest in health programs is being shown. Congress recently passed some legislation which exercised considerable influence on health and hospital services. Therefore, through a Welfare Council in Nebraska the Lutherans would be able to evaluate the adequacy of their health resources.

4. Chaplaincy Services⁴⁹

This phase of welfare work has as its objective the bringing of a Christian spiritual ministry to those who for one reason or another are to be found in institutions, pub-

48. See "Other Lutheran Institutions in Nebraska", appendix page 78.

49. Cf. H. J. Whiting, Lutheran Health and Welfare Needs and Resources in Nebraska, March, 1946.

lic and private, penal and correctional, general and mental hospitals and sanatoria, and who are denied the opportunity to participate in normal congregational life. There are three Institutional Mission Societies in Nebraska, namely in Omaha, Norfolk, and Lincoln. Besides these three, Immanuel Deaconess Institute and Bethphage Mission have full-time chaplains for their respective institutions. Here again only 2 of 8 Church bodies represented in Nebraska carry on this type of welfare work. All the Lutheran hospitals, however, have the services of a local pastor who serves as chaplain wherever a regular full-time chaplain is not engaged. Many local pastors also serve other than Lutheran institutions whenever that is requested.

There is a renewed interest today in the field of Lutheran chaplaincy service. There is developing a broader concept of the function and role of the chaplain. People are still concerned with spiritual ministrations, which include preaching, private devotions, and the administration of the sacraments. However, this traditional role of the chaplain should be related to other elements and professional services rendered in the institution, for the patient is treated by the medical doctor, interviewed by the social worker, and cared for by the nurse or attendant. Professional teamwork is being more and more widely accepted. A chaplaincy ser-

vice, if properly co-ordinated by a Welfare Council, would send pastors to public and private non-Lutheran institutions such as the institutions for the criminal, the delinquent, the tubercular, the blind, the mentally ill, and others. A complete list of all public and private institutions can be found in the "Handbook of Social Agencies in Nebraska", published in 1959. A joint-state-wide Lutheran chaplaincy service would co-ordinate the work of the full-time institutional missionary, the resident chaplains of individual institutions, contact pastors and local pastors, into a state-wide program.

5. Financial Support.

All Lutheran welfare agencies have practically the same channels for the raising of funds to carry on their work, namely the remuneration received from the patient or guest cared for in the institution, individual contributions of interested friends and societies, budget allowance from the respective synod, district or conference, bequests, payments by court order, and recently allowances made by community chests. The existing arrangement of each institution for itself may, however, have to be continued because of the local sentiment and interest in the work built up in the past. It would seem logical and in keeping with the idea of co-ordination, however, if each synodical body would have a

unified system of contributions for all of its welfare work and then divide the dollar percentagewise among its several institutions. Such a plan is carried out by 135 Missouri Synod congregations in Chicago according to a plan included in the appendix page 101. The chart as found on page 105 of the appendix illustrates how one synodical body collects a welfare dollar which is then redivided percentagewise among its own welfare agencies. That would eliminate solicitation by each welfare agency every year, and all welfare agencies would receive a portion of the contribution made, whereas otherwise only one or the other institution would receive the donor's support.⁵⁰

That other joint organizations are finding co-ordinated fund raising to their advantage can be seen from the following quotation:

In Chicago a group of 135 Missouri Synod congregations have set up the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Charities Fund. Their first year's operation has been highly successful in raising through congregational channels a central fund which has been budgeted and distributed by a central committee. In Wisconsin on a state-wide basis the Wisconsin Lutheran Welfare Society has a similar set up embracing congregations of all of the National Lutheran Council synods. And in the State of Washington the Associated Lutheran Welfare,

50. Cf. An excellent plan for a joint financial program can be found in the appendix, page 101.

representing all Lutheran synods, has in operation a state-wide central fund raising project for all Lutheran welfare activities in that area. A combined, or at least co-ordinated, central fund raising effort for the Lutheran charitable programs of the Chicago area, fitted to local conditions and interests will be of inestimable value to the cause.⁵¹

In 1940, before the Lutheran Charities of Chicago, was organized, the Lutheran agencies raised \$490,240.00, while in 1946, since unification of Lutheran welfare, the amount raised was \$903,518.00.⁵²

6. Benefits and Examples of Unification

A Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska would be in keeping with a similar federation of Lutheran agencies of Chicago. That organization, known as the Lutheran Charities of Chicago, is a federation of twenty-five Lutheran health and welfare agencies in Illinois, embracing the organizations of all synodical groups. It maintains a central office, which represents Lutheran Welfare interests in the community, conducts central planning and co-ordination of Lutheran agencies and welfare programs, acts as fiscal agents for Lutheran agencies receiving aid from the Com-

51. "Address of the Executive Director", Lutheran Charities of Chicago Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. II, No. 2, May, 1946.

52. Cf. Telegram received from the Rev. Edgar F. Witte, executive director of Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, dated May 9, 1947.

munity Fund, gives supervisory case work services to member agencies, and is the application, information, and referral center.⁵³

It is more effective to have a Lutheran Welfare Council serve as an official representative in dealing with other agencies, than to have the various Lutheran church bodies seek recognition. The following example indicates such to be the case:

The Juvenile Court in Chicago formerly classified its cases under three heads--Catholic, Jewish, Protestant. The first two groups cared for the dependent children of their respective faiths, but the Protestant children, including Lutherans, were referred to whatever sectarian or non-sectarian agency would agree to receive them, with the result that many Lutheran children were referred to non-Lutheran agencies. Through the efforts of a representative of Lutheran Charities, a fourth category, "Lutheran", was set up...In 1945 the court referred 132 children to us. Arrangements were made with our Lutheran agencies or Lutheran families to care for 121 of these.⁵⁴

As soon as a Lutheran Welfare Council would become a reality in Nebraska it would, through its planning, aid welfare agencies in the exchange of services, as was done

53. Cf. "Chicagoland Federates Lutheran Charities", The Lutheran Witness, Official Organ of the Sv. Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, St. Louis, Missouri, Vol. LXVI, No. 9, May 6, 1947.

54. Annual Report, Lutheran Charities of Chicago, September, 1946, "Juvenile Court Representation", page 10.

in the Lutheran Welfare Agency of Iowa.

Miss Marie Haefner, Case Worker, Children's Home, Waverly, and Mr. George Westby and the Rev. Louis Sagert of the Lutheran Welfare Society, met in conference at the Lutheran Welfare Office, Des Moines, May 6th, to discuss the possibility of these two Lutheran agencies working more closely together so that their services in the same areas will not be duplicated. As a result of this meeting plans were made for these two agencies to exchange services as far as home studies and evaluations are concerned, and for the Lutheran Welfare Society to provide approved homes for a number of children from the Waverly Children's Home who are available for adoption. On June 3 the staff members from all the branches of the Lutheran Welfare Society met at Waverly and continued the plans for the placement of 20 children from Waverly. By thus pooling the resources of both agencies, we hope to better serve Lutheran children in Iowa who need our help.⁵⁵

A further statement regarding exchange of services is quoted from the Annual Report of the Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa:

A steady growth of progress in co-operation and exchange of services marked our relationship with the Lutheran Children's Homes in Iowa during 1946. Our social workers in their contacts over the State often see children in need of institutional care. Many of these children were referred to our Lutheran Children's Homes. Our staff also has offered its foster homes and homefinding and supervisory services to the Children's Homes.

55. "Not By Bread Alone", Lutheran Welfare Bulletin, official publication of the Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa, Vol. II, June, 1946, No. 1, 448 Insurance Exchange Building, Des Moines, Iowa

This steady growth of co-operation will not only save the Lutherans in Iowa money, but will also offer a more complete and co-ordinated Christian service.⁵⁶

Such exchanges must grow out of the desires and wishes of the individual agencies since in the Lutheran Church democratic principles are to prevail, but these agencies would nevertheless find it helpful to have an overall organization assist in its planning for the future.

Through a joint effort of publicity a Lutheran Welfare Council would be able to find young people who would be willing to enter the field of social work and in turn would suggest institutions for graduate training and keep them informed regarding scholarships set up by the various synodical bodies.

While attempting to recruit new staff members and encourage students to enter the field of Christian social service, the Executive Director visited several colleges and universities during the past year...In addition to these visits, countless letters and personal contacts again reestablished the fact that there are very few social workers who are really trained and qualified who seek admission now to this field.⁵⁷

The Lutheran Welfare Council would also reach out to the unchurched and serve them as part of its overall mission

56. Annual Report, 1946, Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa, 448 Insurance Exchange Building, Des Moines, Iowa, page 34.

57. Ibid., page 14.

program. Primarily, of course, the Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska would serve Lutheran children, but it would stand ready to aid non-Lutherans in need of help also as resources became available. The Lutheran Welfare Society of Iowa served 80 non-Lutheran children in 1946 who came to their attention for care out of a total of 276, or 28.9%.⁵⁸

During 1946, seventeen children came to us from non-Lutheran receiving or juvenile homes and work was done with 63 other children while they were in maternity homes, convalescent homes, and various hospitals.⁵⁹

The Lutheran Charities of Chicago reports similar data. During the first six months of the year, January 1st to June 30, 1945, 170 cases involving 310 children were referred to the office for service. Of the 310 children, 262 or 84.5% were Lutheran children from the seven Lutheran bodies represented in the Chicago area. 25.5% of the children served were from non-Lutheran families.⁶⁰

Another example to show that the idea of federation is on the increase can be shown by Jewish Social work.

The primary purpose of the Jewish federations has been to combine into one campaign the appeals of worthy local charitable agencies and to introduce central budgeting so that

Cf.

58. Ibid.

59. Ibid.

Cf.

60. Annual Report, Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, September, 1945.

each agency may receive support in proportion to the effectiveness of its solicitors. Today most local Jewish welfare agencies are included in federations, and the small majority still outside is constantly shrinking.⁶¹

The general program of the Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska would be in harmony with the functions of a great majority of councils of social agencies, which functions are defined as follows:

1. Development of interagency co-operative activities; 2. raising of standards; 3. joint action on community social problems; 4. co-ordination of services; 5. development of community leadership in social planning and promotion.⁶²

Summary of Chapter Three

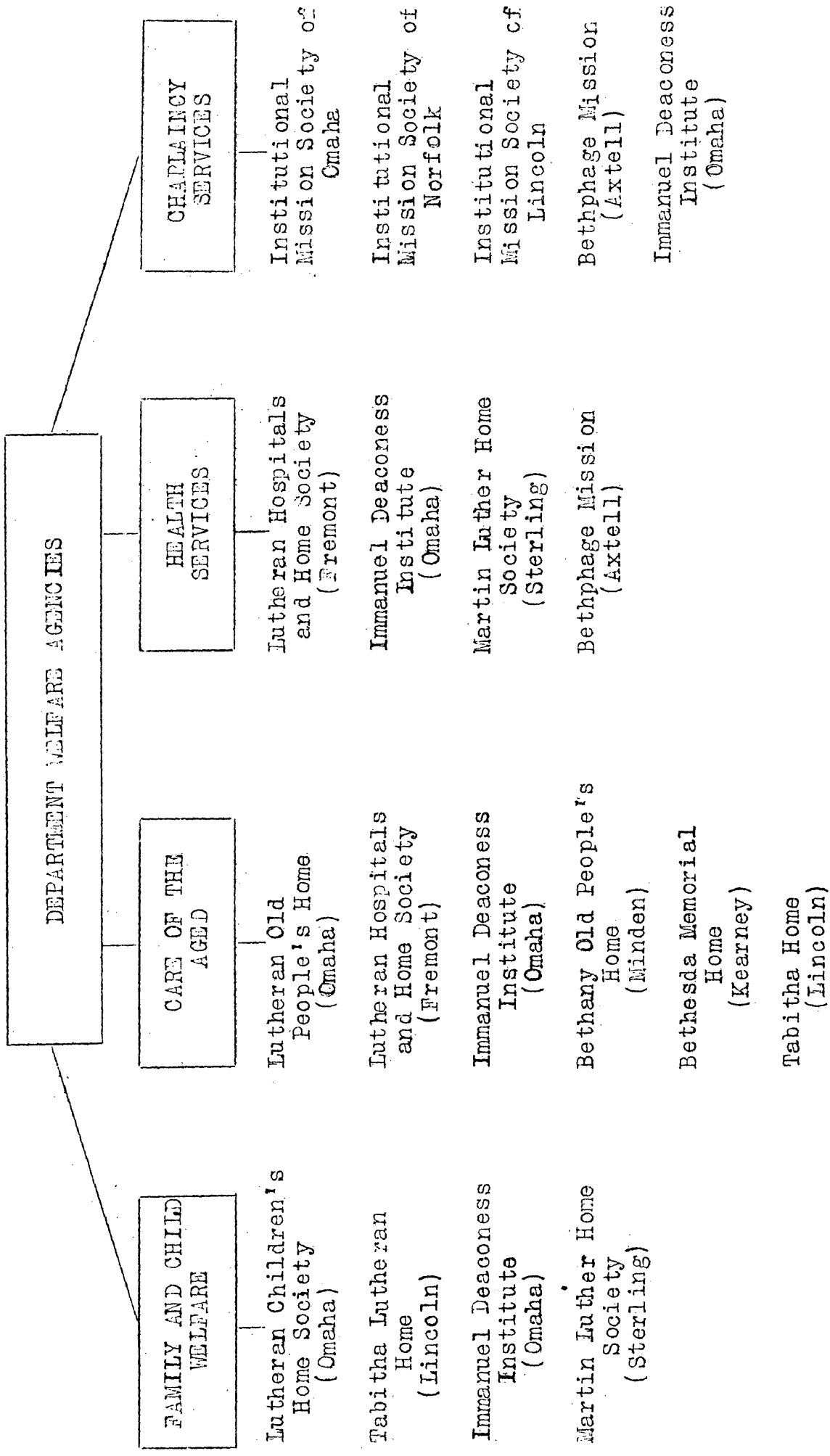
The foregoing analysis indeed indicates that the Lutheran Church simply does not have sufficient facilities to carry on a well-balanced welfare program, and also is not making use of the existing resources to the fullest extent to meet the needs of its own constituency. Not much improvement can be expected by following the practice of continued decentralization, with each agency going its own way. The Lutheran Church would make her best contribution by the development of an inter-synodical co-ordinated program of

1. Russell H. Kurtz, Social Work Year Book, 1947, Ninth issue, Russell Sage Foundation, page 249

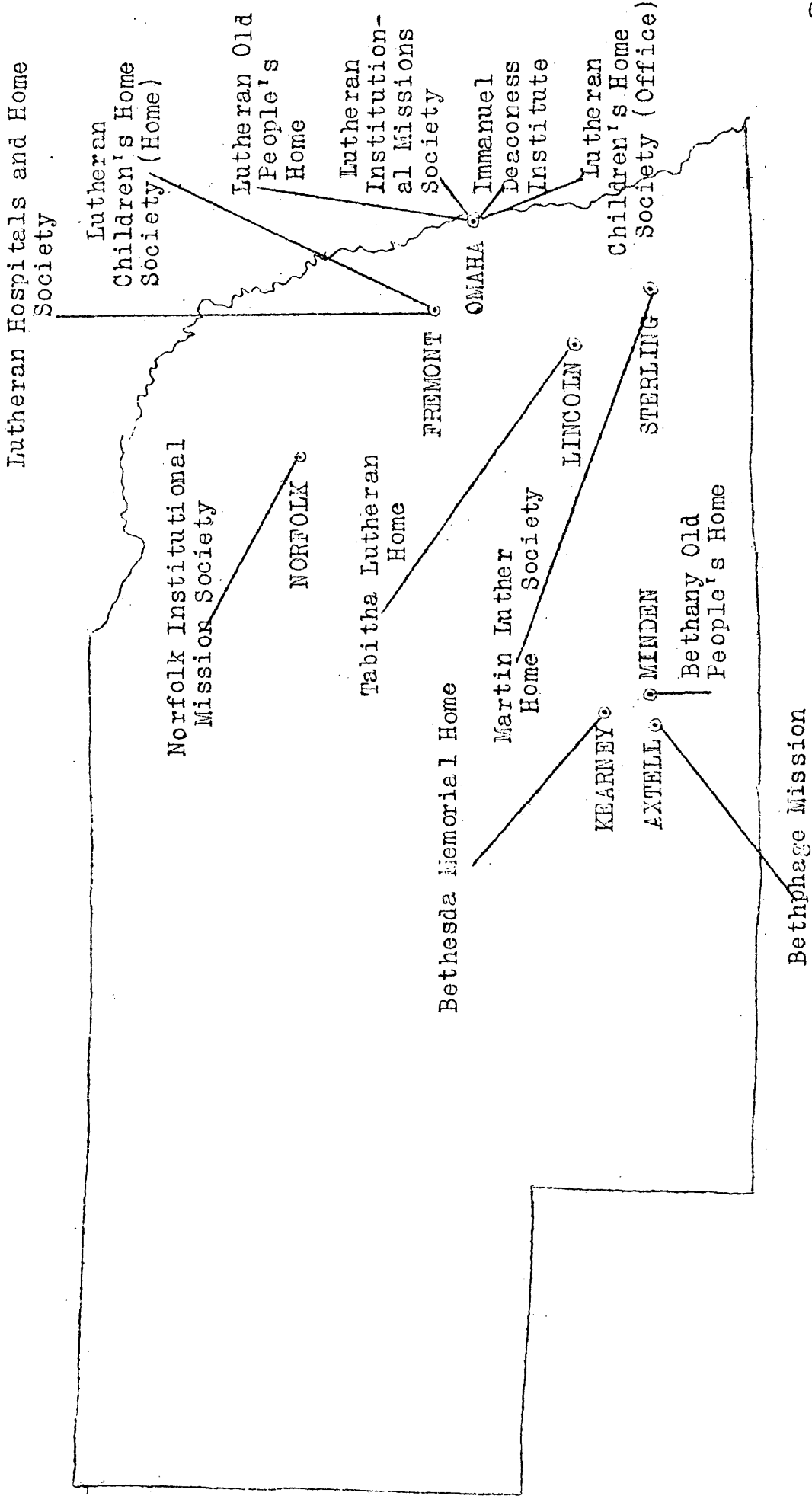
2. Wayne McMillen, Community Organization for Social Welfare, page 417.

Lutheran welfare. It seems then that the desirable method of procedure lies not in the creation of more Lutheran welfare agencies at present, but in the co-ordination, concentration, and integration of existing programs.

On the following page is a chart listing the various agencies under the four major departments of welfare, and followed by a map of the State of Nebraska showing the location of the welfare agencies.



MAP OF NEBRASKA SHOWING LOCATION OF AGENCIES



CHAPTER IV

PROPOSED LUTHERAN WELFARE COUNCIL OF NEBRASKA

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The proposed Lutheran Welfare Council of this state shall consist of each Lutheran health and welfare agency in Nebraska which is directly owned by a Lutheran synodical body, or whose constitution provides that at least a majority of its board of directors be Lutheran. The affairs of the Welfare Council shall be administered by a Board of Directors, consisting of two representatives of each Lutheran welfare agency and one representative from each of the Lutheran church bodies found in Nebraska. The agencies shall elect their own two representatives, while the synodical representative shall be elected at a regular convention. The members of the Board of Directors shall hold office for a term of three years. The Board of Directors shall elect the following officers: a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer, at an annual meeting held in the month of February, and shall serve for a term of one year. Other regular meetings of the Board shall be held in May, August, and November. The Board of Directors shall be empowered to accept Lutheran welfare agencies into membership and to enter into agreement with the same. The Board of Directors shall use the contributions made to the Welfare Council as designated by the donor, and

undesigned funds shall be used to further the interests of the Council as the Board may decide.

Co-operation in the Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska shall not affect distinctive principles of participants, nor pre-suppose, nor involve church fellowship. As an inter-synodical agency in which all Lutherans may participate, the Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska shall serve any Lutheran church body, synod, district, conference, congregation or organization in such manner and to such extent as may be mutually agreed upon by the Board of Directors.

The officers of the Board of Directors, namely the president, the vice-president, the secretary, and the treasurer, shall constitute the Executive Committee and perform the duties usually pertaining to the office to which they have been elected. It shall act in any and all matters requiring action between meetings of the Board of Directors. All actions of the Executive Committee are subject to ratification by the Board at the next succeeding regular or special meeting.

The Board of Directors shall establish a properly equipped central office so that the business of the Council can be carried on efficiently. It shall provide for an office staff, namely an Executive Secretary, Office Manager,

one or more stenographers, and any others necessary to carry on the work of the Welfare Council. The Board of Directors shall employ or discharge any staff member, prescribe their duties, and determine their salaries.

The following standing committees shall be elected by the Board of Directors from its membership for a term of one year:

The Finance Committee shall consist of three members, whose duty it shall be to recommend for payment all bills of the Welfare Council, prepare and submit to the Board of Directors the annual budget, to co-operate with the treasurer in providing the necessary funds to meet the financial obligations of the Council, and to perform other specific duties which may from time to time be delegated to the Committee by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be one member of this Committee.

The Publicity Committee shall consist of three members, whose duty it shall be to publicize the work of the Council and to interpret the activities of the Council to the Lutherans of the State of Nebraska, to the general public, and to the other social agencies within the state. It shall assume the responsibility of providing the Council with an official publication.

The Membership Committee shall consist of three members, whose duty it shall be to encourage membership in the Council

and to pass on and recommend new societies and agencies to the Board of Directors.

Special Committees may from time to time be appointed by the Board of Directors as may be needed. Every standing committee shall elect a chairman, who shall preside at all meetings of the committee, and a secretary who shall keep the minutes of every committee meeting and send a copy to the Executive Secretary, and by him be submitted to the Board of Directors at the next succeeding regular meeting. The Executive Secretary, by virtue of his office, is an advisory member of every committee. Any action taken by a committee shall not be legally binding upon the Council unless approved by the Board of Directors at the next regular meeting of the Board.

The Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska shall carry out its work through the following departments: Family and Child Welfare, Care of the Aged, Health Services, and Chaplaincy services. Each department shall be directed by a committee consisting of two members of the Board of Directors, the Executive Secretary, and a representative of each agency participating in the work of the department. The department of Family and Child Welfare shall provide counseling, information and referral service for neglected, dependent, orphaned and destitute children, aiding fathers and

mothers of these children with advice, and making use of the existing social resources of the state. The Department for the Care of the Aged shall study the needs of old people, assist Lutheran institutions and agencies in the field, and suggest or initiate definite policies as related to state and federal laws. The Department of Health Services shall evaluate the existing health resources, extending these wherever possible, and suggest or initiate definite policies as related to state and federal laws. The Department of Chaplaincy Services shall act as a co-ordinating agency for institutional chaplains in the State. It shall endeavor to supply all public institutions with Lutheran chaplains, either through full-time institutional missionaries, resident chaplains in institutions, or by means of contact and local pastors of neighboring congregations.

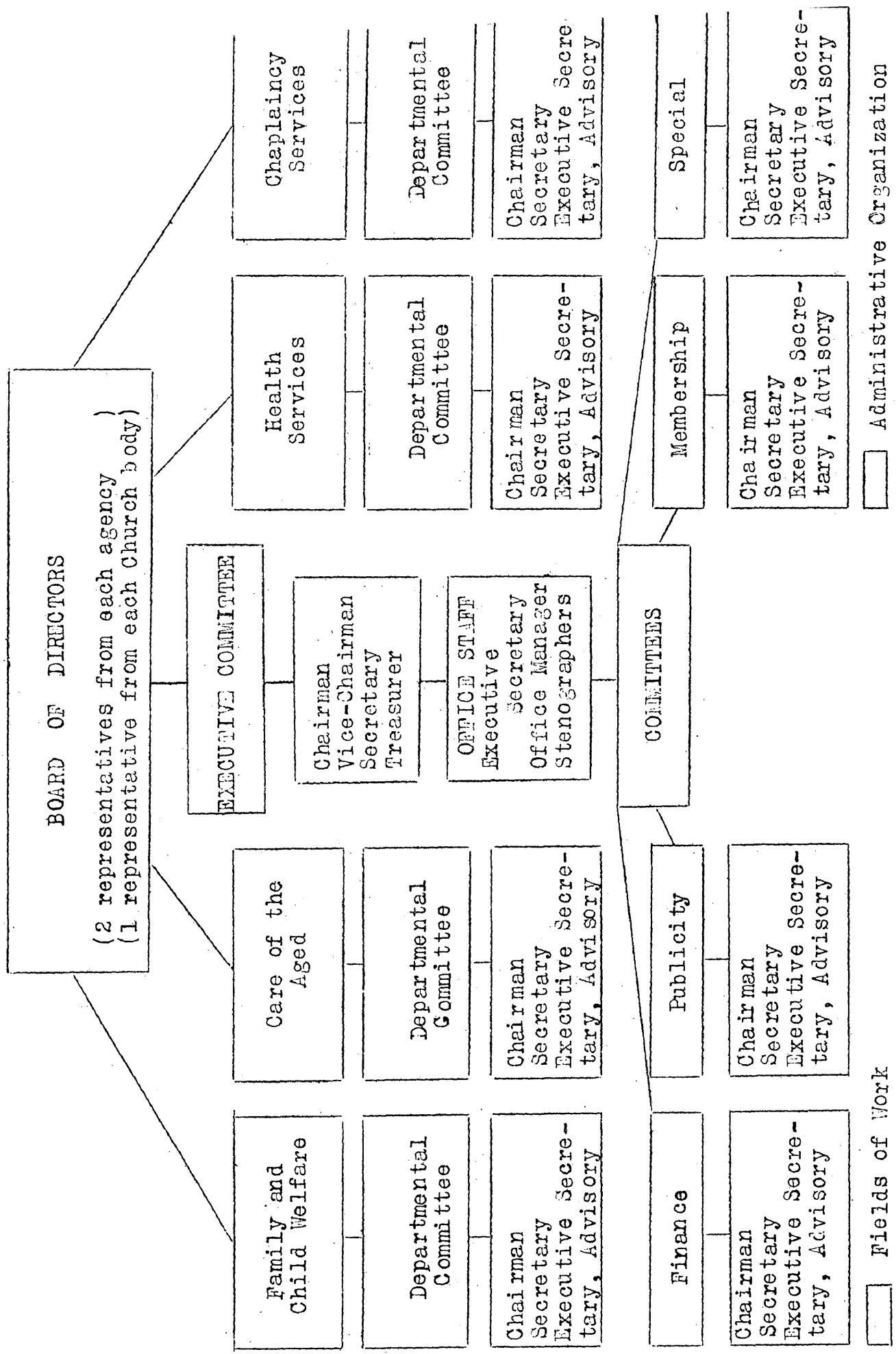
Every departmental committee shall elect a chairman, who shall preside at all meetings of the committee, and a secretary who shall keep the minutes of every committee meeting, a copy of which shall be sent to the Executive Secretary and by him be submitted to the Board of Directors at a succeeding regular meeting of the Board.

The source of support for the Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska shall be a proportionate budget allowance from each synodical group, annual dues from each participating

welfare agency, and by the gifts and memorials of the Lutheran people of Nebraska.

Summary of Chapter Four

The summary of this chapter can be demonstrated by the proposed organizational chart as found on the following page. Anyone desiring to proceed in the drafting of a constitution for this proposed Welfare Council would find the constitution of the Associated Lutheran Welfare Corporation of the State of Washington, page 82 in the appendix, helpful.



Fields of Work

Administrative Organization

CHAPTER V
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

CHAPTER V
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Summary

The Lutheran Church in general learned its lesson during World War II so far as united action is concerned. When it became necessary to do work among the Prisoners of War, the Government was not inclined to deal with individual groups, say one division of the Lutheran Church alone, but with the Lutheran Church as a whole. Steps were taken immediately to present a united front, and favorable results followed. In Nebraska the same dilemma presents itself. No public or private agencies and courts are inclined to deal with, for example four separate Lutheran child welfare agencies representing the same number of Lutheran bodies, when the Lutheran request comes that Lutheran cases be referred to Lutheran agencies. Therefore, it has become exceedingly evident that Lutherans must get together to form a Nebraska Lutheran Welfare Council in order that each Lutheran body may fulfill its welfare responsibilities to its own people.

Eleven per cent of the total population of Nebraska is Lutheran. It, therefore, becomes an obligation of the Lutheran Church to make better use of its existing welfare resources so that its influence may be felt alongside of other

welfare agencies of the state. By looking at chart "A" on page 76 of the appendix, it becomes very evident that the Lutheran Church is a maze of divisions and subdivisions. This naturally produces much lost motion because of overlapping and over-organization. Co-ordination along inter-synodical lines in welfare work would solve this problem.

Of the sixteen major divisions of the Lutheran Church in America, eight are represented in Nebraska, as seen from chart "B" on page 77 of the appendix. The Lutheran Church is grouped in three major bodies, the United Lutheran Church, the American Lutheran Conference, and the Synodical Conference of North America, with a number of smaller independent bodies.

Lutheran welfare is in line with the many deeds of mercy recorded in the Bible. A large number of the miracles which Jesus performed not only relieved the person of some physical malady, but also gave spiritual uplift, and so gave His ministry of mercy eternal value. Social welfare work has become a specialized profession. Its workers must be able to detect the real and not only the imagined needs of a person. In Lutheran circles it is realized that it is not only enough to give "immediate relief", but that through these services people should "find" themselves. It is truly Christian love to extend the helping hand to people so that

they may get back on their feet, and then have the satisfaction that they can continue to help themselves.

The very fact that there are so few Lutheran welfare organizations of national importance, namely the Associated Lutheran Charities, the Department of Welfare of the National Lutheran Council, and the Lutheran Welfare Conference in America, indicates that the Lutheran Church has much to learn when it comes to a systematic program of social service.

These three national groups are organized and have conventions for mutual encouragement and are making progress in the right direction for more efficiency and system in welfare work. Centralization, co-ordination, and integration are trends of the times, and the Lutheran Church is now beginning to fall in line, as reported at the annual conference of the Lutheran Charities of Chicago held in that city on February 25, 1947, by Dr. Clarence Krumbholz, executive secretary of the Welfare Division, National Lutheran Council. While speaking on "Lutheran Welfare from Coast to Coast", he traced the development of Lutheran welfare councils, which are coming into being in many sections of our country and in which the welfare agencies of all Lutheran synodical groups are participating. He stated:

This form of co-operation has become necessary not only to serve our Lutheran people more efficiently, but in order to relate our Lutheran welfare effect-

ively to State welfare departments and community councils of social agencies. Bitter experience has proved again and again that community recognition is given only when Lutheran agencies can present a co-ordinated program and a common front.⁶³

The ten Lutheran welfare agencies studied and as indicated on charts on pages 62 and 63, all show a similar development, from local to a more general interest in the work carried on. There has been no particular planning of welfare services, and so the results indicate just that, each institution operating independently from the rest. Four of these ten agencies are engaged in family and child care, yet there are fields of child care untouched, such as an institution for handling "unadjusted" pre-delinquent boys and girls, one for a child-study and guidance program which would include central psychological counseling service for testing and treatment of emotionally disturbed children, a temporary receiving home before foster-home placements, and Juvenile court services. The present programs of child care are too general, not strictly defined and specialized. There are six homes for the aged and these do not adequately take care of existing needs, for in all cases there are waiting lists for entry. There are only four institutions which pro-

3. "Chicagoland Federates Lutheran Charities", The Lutheran Witness, Official Organ of the Ev. Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, Vol. LXVI, No. 9, May 6, 1947, St. Louis, Missouri.

vide health services and eight Lutheran hospitals. These must be ready to cope with forthcoming legislation in order to raise the standards and adequacy of health resources. In the field of chaplaincy services there is a broader concept as to the function and role of the chaplain. The patient no longer is treated by a medical doctor alone, but by the combined services of a doctor, social worker, nurse, attendant, and the chaplain. Professional team-work, in both private and public institutions, is becoming more and more common. A number of institutions have full-time chaplains and just recently societies have been organized to place full-time institutional missionaries to minister in all public and private institutions in the larger centers of population. A joint state-wide chaplaincy program could be worked out to co-ordinate the work of the full-time institutional missionaries, resident chaplains, contact and local pastors, so that all institutions have pastoral services.

The Lutheran welfare agencies receive their financial support from the moneys paid by the guests or immediate families, contributions from individuals interested in Lutheran charity, from benevolent societies, budget allowances of the various synods, districts or conferences, by bequests, payments made to the institutions by court order, and in some instances a portion of the community chests. Each Lutheran

church body would do well to introduce a unified system of contributions for its welfare work and divide the dollar percentagewise among its several institutions as illustrated on a chart on page 105 of the appendix.

The logical conclusion appears to be to organize a Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska to co-ordinate, concentrate, and integrate the existing programs of welfare in the State. This leads to the following conclusions:

Conclusions

1. A Lutheran Welfare Council will be officially recognized by other private and public welfare organizations of city, county, and state. This was the experience of the Lutheran Charities of Chicago as stated in its Annual Report:

The first and most obvious result of forming an organization representing all of the Lutheran charitable and welfare agencies in the area was the recognition accorded us by the community on all levels by public and private social work, city, county, and state welfare organizations. As a result all Lutheran cases are referred automatically to us. Both public and private agencies clear all Lutheran cases through our office and do not become active on them except at our request. Moreover, doors that have been closed to individual agencies or to groups representing only sections of the Lutheran church are now open to us. Thus our objective to represent Lutheran interests in external relations and government contacts has been achieved.⁶⁴

64. Annual Report, Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 545 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, September, 1945.

2. National organizations, public agencies, private agencies, and courts are not inclined to think in terms of, nor deal with, the different Lutheran groups, but will do so with the Lutheran Church as a whole. The Rev. Edgar F. Witte, executive director of the Lutheran Charities of Chicago in his report to the annual Conference of the Lutheran Charities of Chicago, held February 25, 1947, states:

Throughout the welfare field, particularly in the Juvenile Court, welfare cases are now divided into four categories, Catholic, Jewish, Lutheran, and other Protestant.⁶⁵

In this case the Juvenile Court would not call in representatives of the various respective groups, but one who would represent all Lutherans.

3. The present over-all Lutheran welfare program of Nebraska is inadequate since some phases of Lutheran welfare are totally lacking, such as the handling of "unadjusted" pre-delinquent boys and girls, child study and guidance programs, a temporary receiving home for children before placement in foster homes, and Juvenile court services. It is really unreasonable to expect each of the eight Lutheran synodical groups represented in Nebraska, two of which number less than 5,000 members, to set up a complete welfare program,

65. "Chicago Federates Lutheran Charities", The Lutheran Witness, Official Organ of the Ev. Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, St. Louis, Missouri, Vol. LXVI, No. 9, May 6, 1947.

yet it would be possible that such smaller synodical groups undertake one phase of welfare service now untouched and develop it, which would be a result of joint planning of a Welfare Council. In the Annual Report of the Lutheran Charities of Chicago the following is stated to substantiate the above:

The twelve month period ending May 31, 1945, constitutes the first year of operation of the Lutheran Charities of Chicago with professional staff... That the services of an organization such as this was sorely needed is attested to by the growing volume of work in our Central office, calls for information, appeals for service, requests for co-operative planning, appointments for counseling and advice, inquiries as to ways and means of meeting unmet needs and plugging gaps in services. These and other demands have fully occupied the members of the staff and have made the time and the means at hand inadequate to the tasks awaiting to be done.⁶⁶

4. Through a Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska the Lutheran welfare program would be unified and integrated so that it would be carried on as a unit. While a Lutheran Welfare Council would not act as a functioning agency, it would carry on those co-operative activities comparable in purpose to that of organizations with similar purposes in other fields. For example, an Association of Commerce does not manufacture or distribute commodities, but the business, commercial and industrial enterprises of the city need such a

6. Annual Report, Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, September, 1945.

central bureau of common service. The banking clearing house does not operate a banking business, but the banks find it indispensable that certain operations be performed centrally. A railroad union station carries no passengers, but a union terminal service, benefits the operations of all railroads in the rail transportation system. In like manner the Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska would not care for persons in need, but would provide channels through which both Lutheran and Community agencies, voluntary and governmental, could more effectively serve those who turn to it for help.

5. A Lutheran Welfare Council would set up a referral service so that cases would be referred to the institution best able to serve them. It would help develop the tendency for institutions to specialize in services rendered. This same tendency was experienced in the Lutheran Charities of Chicago. From its 1946 Annual Report the following statement is made:

Our agencies are co-operating in a master plan which concentrates foster home placement in two agencies, Lutheran Home Finding Society and Lutheran Child Welfare Association, and envisions the institutional agencies placing their major emphasis upon the type of care and the age group they are best equipped to serve. Thus through a co-ordinated program children receive the kind of care they need by the agency best equipped to give it.⁶⁷

67. "Services to Children", Annual Report, Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, September, 1946, page 11.

6. Definite policies as relating to state and federal laws would be suggested and initiated systematically and promptly in agencies and institutions. A central office would study the state and federal laws relating to welfare work which are becoming more numerous, and make the necessary recommendations to the various agencies and institutions affected by them, which would save each agency much time, effort, and expense.

7. Lutheran welfare is a supplement to public assistance programs, and not a needless duplication of similar public assistance programs. It seeks to meet unmet needs, provide services not elsewhere available, and carry on welfare work in those areas where spiritual nurture cannot be given without at the same time providing for material needs, care, and supervision. Lutherans prefer the services of Lutheran welfare agencies rather than the services of secular organizations simply because of their religious affiliation. Therefore, Lutheran welfare organizations through a central office would seek to refer Lutherans to their respective pastors who have the responsibility of the soul care of their own members. If they do not have a pastor of their own, then they would be referred to a chaplain or pastor of their own synodical group.

8. More Lutheran cases would be brought to the attention of and cared for through a Lutheran Welfare Council. This

can be demonstrated by the Lutheran Charities of Chicago. In 1946 there were 234 child care cases referred to Lutheran Charities for disposition out of a total of 873.

These are children who before the organization of the Lutheran Charities were not brought to the attention of our Lutheran agencies nor of our churches. In many cases this meant that they were lost to the Lutheran Church.⁶⁸

9. In a federated program of Lutheran welfare there would be more and more participation in city and state welfare programs. This can be demonstrated by the Lutheran Charities of Chicago which was organized in 1936, opening an office with a professional staff in June, 1944. It now is privileged not only to participate with other community welfare services, but at this time holds the chairmanship of the Advisory Board of the Cook County Welfare Bureau, and of the Chicago Division of the Illinois Public Welfare Association, is represented on the Board of Directors of the Community Fund and its important committees, serves on committees of the Council of Social Agencies, and its various divisions, as well as other organizations having to do with welfare services.⁶⁹

68. Annual Report, Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 543 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, September, 1946, page 8.

69. Cf. Annual Report, Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 543 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, September, 1946, "Community Participation", page 6.

An important function of the Lutheran Welfare Council of Nebraska would be to serve as a two way channel through which Lutheran wishes and desires could be made known to the community and the trends and developments in the social field could be brought to the attention of the Lutheran agencies and people. The Council would serve as the machinery to cooperate with public and private agencies, participate in community planning, and integrate a program to avoid overlapping. To show that this would be the case, however in a modified way, the executive director of the Lutheran Charities of Chicago, during the year 1945 attended:

Forty-six meetings of the Council of Social Agencies, Community Fund and County Welfare Board, 35 Planning conferences and meetings, 13 Divisional meetings (Child Care, Old Age, etc.) and 70 Group meetings sponsored by divisions.

10. A Welfare Council in Nebraska would be an advantage to all agencies affiliated therewith, both as to prestige and financial gains. From the Annual Report of the Lutheran Charities of Chicago it is noted that:

Under date of July 14, 1944, conditional approval was given to the Lutheran Charities by the Board of Directors of the Chicago Community Fund, thus according to the Lutherans of Chicago the same status given to the Catholic and Jewish

70. "Community Relations", Lutheran Charities of Chicago Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. II, No. 2, May, 1946, page 3.

charitable agencies. A year later recognition was made unconditionally and the Lutheran agencies receiving allocations from the Community Fund were listed by it in its annual report as agencies affiliated through the Lutheran Charities of Chicago...Nine Lutheran agencies, in addition to the central administrative office, received allocations in 1945. In 1944, before the federation was organized, the allocation was \$73,032 and in 1945 the amount jumped to \$83,693. In 1938, the year before the Lutheran Charities Committee was organized, the Community Fund allocation to the Lutheran agencies in Chicago was only \$28,862.60.⁷¹

11. A joint Welfare Council would be more efficient than welfare societies functioning separately. In Minnesota where there is a joint referral service in child care of all Lutheran synods outside of the Synodical Conference, the statistics show that there has been a rapid increase in the number of children cared for in the years of 1945 and 1946. In 1945 only 323 received care, while in 1946 the number stands at 516, or an increase of 59.7% in the two year period.⁷² During the same period the children under the Lutheran agencies in Nebraska other than those of the Synodical Conference showed an increase from 157 cases in 1945 to only 166 cases in 1946, or an increase of only 5.7%.⁷³ This

71. Annual Report, Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, September, 1945, p. 10.

72. Cf. Lutheran Welfare, Report of 1946 Contributions together with Complete Directory of National Lutheran Council Churches, State of Minnesota, 1947, page 2.

73. Cf. Tenth Annual Report, Department of Assistance and Child Welfare, State of Nebraska, Year ending June 30, 1946, Lincoln, Nebraska.

comparison indeed shows that a joint referral service is doing the same job far more efficiently.

Another illustration, although not quite so marked, also points to the efficiency of a joint Lutheran Welfare program over against the individual agency service as is carried on in Nebraska. The following comparison includes all Lutheran bodies. In 1945 there were in Nebraska 216 cases of child care given, while in 1946, 250 cases, an increase of 15.7%. In the Lutheran Charities of Chicago, which has a joint welfare program, a total of 908 cases were handled in 1945, while 1244 cases in 1946, or an increase of 37.0%.⁷⁴

74. Cf. Ibid

Telegram received from Rev. Edgar Witte, executive director of Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 345 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois, dated May 9, 1947.

APPENDIX

APPENDIX

1. The Lutheran Church and Its Major Divisions
 - a. The Lutheran Church in North America at a Glance
 - b. National Lutheran Church Bodies
 - c. Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America
 - d. National Lutheran Council
 - e. American Lutheran Conference
 - f. An Over-All View of Lutheranism in Nebraska
2. Charts
 - A - America's Lutheran Family Connection
 - B - Lutheran Church Bodies in Nebraska
3. Other Lutheran Institutions in Nebraska not Included in this Study
4. Associated Lutheran Welfare of the State of Washington
5. Constitution and By-Laws of the Associated Lutheran Welfare of the State of Washington
6. Lutheran Welfare Council of Ohio
7. Constitution of the Lutheran Welfare Council of Ohio
8. Lutheran Charities of Chicago
9. Lutheran Church Charities Fund of Chicago
10. Articles of Incorporation of the Lutheran Mission Society of Greater Omaha

1. THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND ITS MAJOR DIVISIONS⁷⁵

a. The Lutheran Church in North America at a Glance Size

Ministers 13,593; organized congregations 16,119; preaching places 1,020; baptized members 5,277,128; confirmed members, 3,713,102; 14,256 Sunday Schools with 1,466,660 pupils; 1,332 parochial day schools with 85,562 pupils; and 7,447 other weekday schools with 319,582 pupils.

Home Missions in North America

Organized congregations 3,897; 260 preaching places; served by 2,292 pastors, 316 lay workers; and 356,831 confirmed members.

Foreign Missions

Missionaries 732; 4,639 native workers; 357,265 baptized members; 152,668 confirmed members; 35,133 inquirers; 94,519 pupils in 1,943 primary and secondary schools; 1,330 students in 3 colleges; 404 students in 12 theological schools; 28 hospitals and 60 dispensaries staffed by 69 medical missionaries and 447 nationals.

Christian Higher Education

Theological seminaries, colleges, junior colleges,

75. Cf. A Statistical Bulletin for the Lutheran Church in North America, published by the National Lutheran Council, 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York, 1945.

academies and Bible schools, 95; 15,986 students; 1,451 faculty members, and 1,374,124 volumes in all libraries.

To Prepare Women for Special Christian Work

Deaconess motherhouses, 10; from which 399 deaconesses have already been consecrated, 55 are now probationers, and 30 in the training schools.

Inner Missions and Christian Welfare

Agencies, societies, institutions and special activities, 461; staffed by 12,521 paid workers and 1,955 volunteers; and more than one million persons served in some way.

b. National Lutheran Church Bodies⁷⁶

There are 16 Lutheran National Church bodies in the United States and Canada.

1. United Lutheran Church
2. American Lutheran Church
3. Augustana Lutheran Synod
4. Norwegian Lutheran Church of America
5. Lutheran Free Church
6. United Danish Church
7. Danish Lutheran Church
8. Suomi Synod

76. Cf. All Lutheran Directory of American Lutheran General Bodies, published by the National Lutheran Council, 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York, 1945.

9. Missouri Synod
10. Joint Synod of Wisconsin
11. Slovak Church (SCf)
12. Norwegian Synod (SCf)
13. Eielson Synod
14. Lutheran Brethern
15. Finnish National Church
16. Finnish Apostolic Church

These sixteen church bodies are grouped according to the following classifications:⁷⁷

- 1 - United Lutheran Church
- 2-6 - American Lutheran Conference
- 1-8 - National Lutheran Council
- 9-12 - Synodical Conference
- 13-16 - Others

c. Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America⁷⁸

The Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference was organized in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 10, 1872.

77. For America's Lutheran Family Connection, see chart "A", appendix page 76.

78. Cf. A Statistical Bulletin for the Lutheran Church in North America, published by the National Lutheran Council, 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York, 1945.

Aims

To give outward expression to the unity of spirit existing among the constituent synods; to encourage and strengthen one another in faith, and confession; to further unity in doctrine and practice, and to remove whatever might threaten to disturb this unity; to cooperate in matters of mutual interest; to strive for true unity in doctrine and practice among Lutheran church bodies.

Constituent Church Bodies

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and Other States; the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States; the Slovak Evangelical Lutheran Synod; and the Norwegian Synod of the American Evangelical Lutheran Church.⁷⁹

Jointly the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference carries on mission work among the Negroes in the United States and in Nigeria; operates Immanuel Lutheran College, Greensboro, North Carolina, and Alabama Lutheran Academy, Selma, Alabama.

d. National Lutheran Council⁸⁰

The National Lutheran Council was organized in 1918 to serve as a common agency for the following Lutheran bodies: The United Lutheran Church in America, the Norwegian Lutheran Church of America, the American Lutheran Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod, the Lutheran Free Church, the United Danish Lutheran Church, the Danish Luth-

79. Ibid

80. Cf. Ibid

eran Church, and the Suomi Synod. The National Lutheran Council was reorganized with a new constitution in January, 1945. The constitution, which has now been adopted by approval of all the participating bodies, provides for larger areas of co-operation and common endeavors. The Council now has a Division of Public Relations to which may also be added a Department of Radio and Visual Aids, a Division of Welfare, the Commission on American Missions, and the Service Commission for the men in the armed forces, established in 1941. The offices of the Council are located at 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York.

e. American Lutheran Conference⁸¹

The American Lutheran Conference was organized October 29-31, 1930, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Aims

Mutual counsel concerning the faith, life, and work of the Church, and co-operation in matters of common interest and responsibility. This program is promoted between conventions by various commissions and committees.

Constituent Church Bodies

American Lutheran Church, Augustana Synod, Lutheran Free Church, Norwegian Lutheran Church, and United Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church.⁸²

81. Cf. Ibid

82. Ibid

The chief publication of the American Lutheran Conference is, "The Lutheran Outlook".

f. An Over-All View of Lutheranism in Nebraska ⁸³

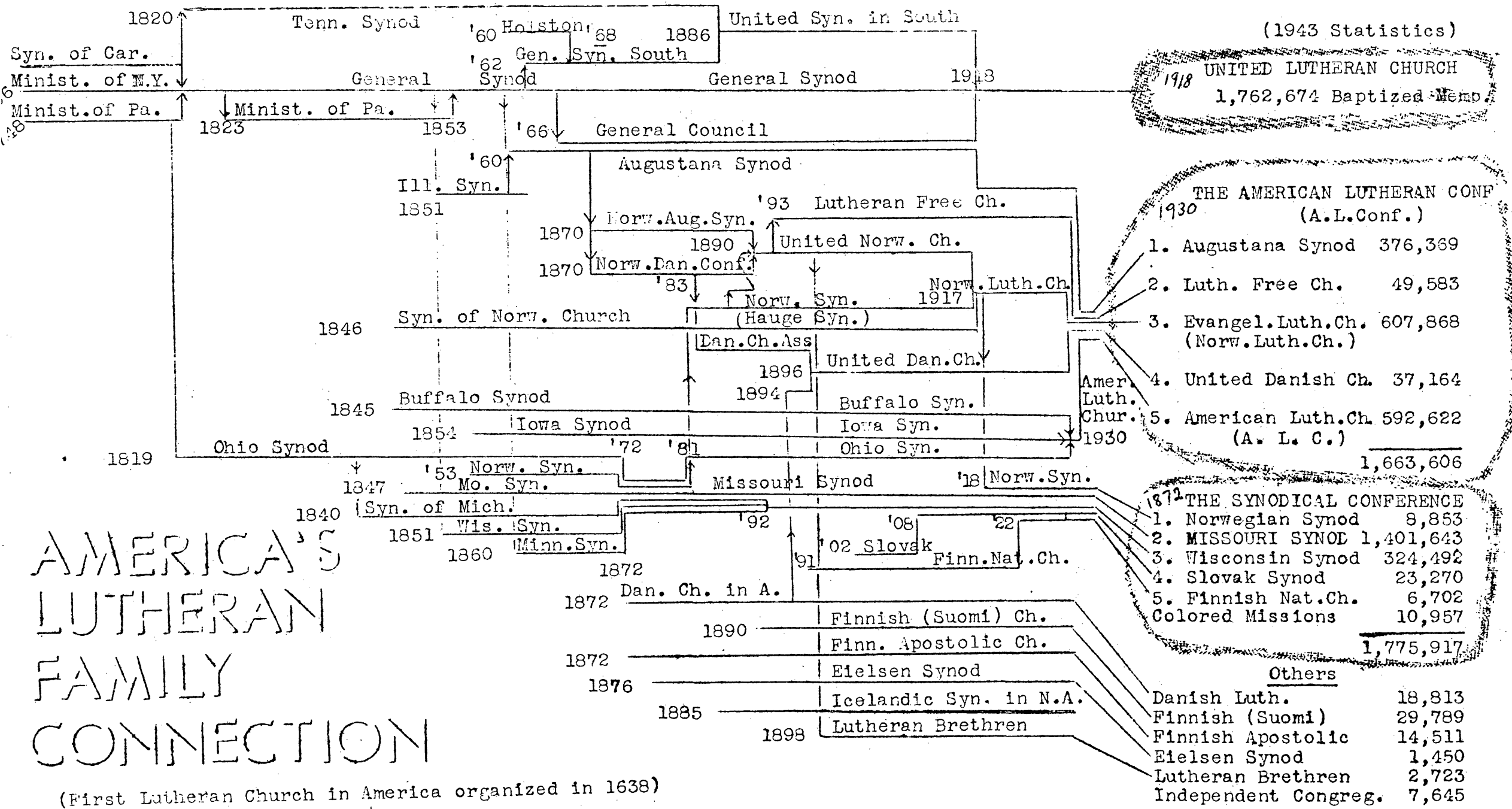
The Lutheran Church is to be found in 86 of the 93 counties of Nebraska, but Lutheranism is by no means spread uniformly over the state. As might be expected, there is a greater concentration in the Eastern half of the state, about 65%. All of the major Lutheran Church bodies are represented in Nebraska.⁸⁴ According to the National Lutheran Council statistics there were 152,038 Lutherans of the various synodical bodies living in Nebraska in 1942; the total population for Nebraska in 1940 was 1,315,834, so that the ratio is one Lutheran for each nine persons living in Nebraska.

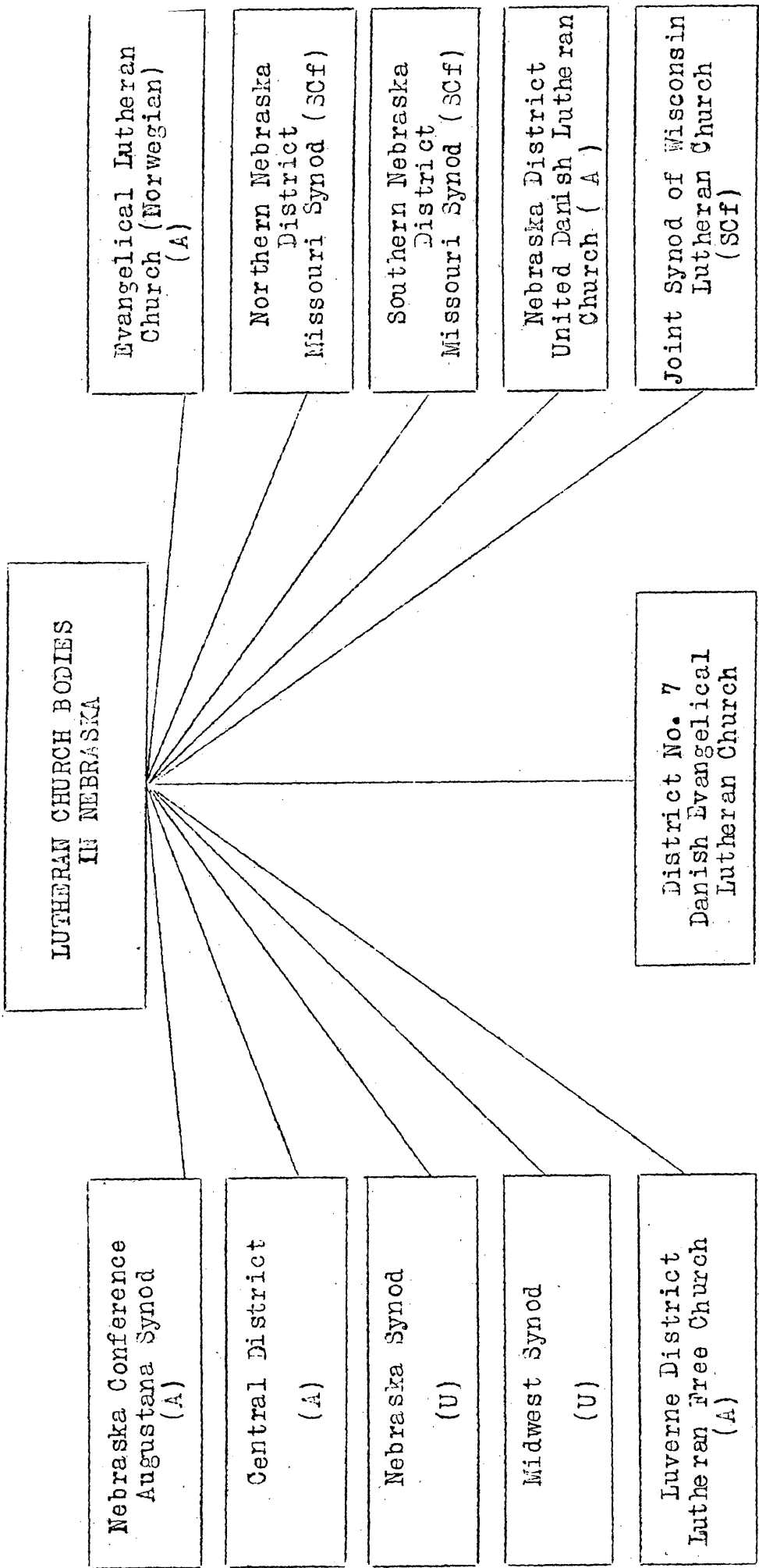
83. Cf. H. J. Whiting, Lutheran Health and Welfare Needs and Resources in Nebraska, March, 1946, published by the National Lutheran Council, 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York.

84. For the major Lutheran Church bodies represented in Nebraska, see chart "B" in the appendix, page 77.

2. CHARTS

- A - America's Lutheran Family Connection
- B - Lutheran Church Bodies in Nebraska





Key to Chart

- A - American Lutheran Church Conference
- U - United Lutheran Church
- SCF - Synodical Conference Lutheran Church

3. OTHER LUTHERAN INSTITUTIONS IN NEBRASKA NOT INCLUDED
IN THIS STUDY ⁸⁵

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Church Body</u>
<u>Theological Seminaries</u>		
1. Trinity Theological Seminary	Blair	ADU
2. Western Theological Seminary	Fremont	U
<u>Four-Year Colleges</u>		
1. Dana College	Blair	ADU
2. Midland College	Fremont	U
3. Concordia Teachers' College	Seward	SMo
<u>Junior Colleges and Academies</u>		
1. Concordia Teachers' High School	Seward	SMo
2. Luther College	Wahoo	AAug
<u>Deaconess Homes</u>		
1. Bethphage Mission	Axtell	Ex
2. Immanuel Deaconess Institute	Omaha	AAug
<u>City Missions and Institutional Work</u>		
1. Omaha City Mission Society	Omaha	SMo
2. Norfolk City Mission Society	Norfolk	SMo
3. Lincoln City Mission Society	Lincoln	SMo

85. Cf. A Statistical Bulletin for the Lutheran Church in North America, published by the National Lutheran Council, 231 Madison Avenue, New York 16, New York, 1945.

OTHER LUTHERAN INSTITUTIONS IN NEBRASKA NOT INCLUDED
IN THIS STUDY (CONTINUED)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Church Body</u>
<u>Hospice Homes</u>		
1. Augustana Lutheran Home	Omaha	AAug
<u>Hospitals</u>		
1. Lutheran Hospital	Beatrice	Ex
2. Lutheran Hospital	Columbus	Ex
3. Lutheran Hospital	Grand Island	Ex
4. Lutheran Hospital	Norfolk	Ex
5. Lutheran Hospital	North Platte	Ex
6. Immanuel Hospital*	Omaha	AAug
7. Lutheran Hospital	Omaha	SMo
8. Lutheran Hospital	York	SMo

* Has training school for nurses

Missions for Deaf or Blind

Deaf-Mute Mission	Columbus	SMo
Deaf-Mute Mission	Hastings	SMo
Deaf-Mute Mission	Lincoln	SMo
Deaf-Mute Mission	Omaha	SMo

Key

U - United Lutheran Church
 AAug - Augustana Synod
 ADU - United Danish Church
 SMo - Missouri Synod
 Ex - Extra-synodical

4. ASSOCIATED LUTHERAN WELFARE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Purpose

Its main function is to do Christian welfare work for the Lutherans of the State.

Membership

Any person who is a member of an Evangelical Lutheran Church may become a member.

Control

The affairs of the Corporation shall be administered by a Board of Directors chosen from the following Lutheran church bodies: Norwegian Lutheran Church in America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Missouri, Ohio and other States, the United Lutheran Church, the Augustana Synod, the Lutheran Free Church, the American Lutheran Church, and the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Board of Directors should consist of not less than twelve, nor more than twenty-one.

Officers

The officers of the Corporation shall be a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer--all elected by the Board of Directors--and shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Staff

The Board of Directors shall employ an Executive Secretary and directors or superintendents of the various departments. The following standing committees shall be elected by the Board from the membership of the Corporation for a term of one year; Finance Committee, Publicity Committee, Membership Committee, and Special Committees as may from time to time become necessary, with the Executive Secretary as an advisory member of every committee.

At present the staff consists of an Executive Secretary, four case workers, an office manager, a stenographer, and an accountant.

Its Scope of Work

The Corporation shall carry out its work through the following

departments: Child Welfare, Family Welfare, Care of the Aged, Homeless Men, and Institutional Missions.

Source of Support

Associated Lutheran Welfare is supported entirely by the gifts of Lutheran people, either from individuals or from organizations.

Official Publication

"Inasmuch" - is the publication of Associated Lutheran Welfare sent to all its members each month.

Endorsements:

The two national Lutheran welfare conferences which together include all Lutheran welfare work, namely Associated Lutheran Charities of the Synodical Conference, and the Department of Welfare of the National Lutheran Council, both endorse the work of the Associated Lutheran Welfare of the State of Washington.

5. CONSTITUTION

(BY-LAWS)

of

ASSOCIATED LUTHERAN WELFARE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Article I

Section 1

The name of this Corporation shall be the Associated Lutheran Welfare, and the principal place of business shall be in the city of Seattle, Washington.

Section 2

The general purpose of this Corporation shall be: to accomplish the purposes set forth in the Agreement of Association of this Corporation; to establish, maintain and conduct a home or homes for dependent and neglected children (who are orphans, homeless, abandoned or grossly ill treated); to receive, care for, supervise and accept legal guardianship of such children; to provide homes in private families by adoption or otherwise, for such children, and to exercise all powers relative to such children as are now or may be hereafter prescribed by the laws of Washington; to establish, maintain and conduct boarding homes and such other institutions as may be needed and to conduct in said buildings or elsewhere such activities or enterprises of a religious, educational, missionary and charitable nature as may be deemed necessary for the moral, social, physical, or spiritual uplift of the community, and to hold, own, use or sell any or all such property, real or personal, as may be conveyed, transferred, devised, or bequeathed to the Corporation for any of the purposes aforesaid.

Article II

Any person who is a member of an Evangelical Lutheran Church may become a member of this Corporation by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present at any regular or special meeting of said Board and shall make an annual contribution for the work of the Corporation.

Article III

There shall be no capital stock in the Corporation.

Article IV

Section 1

The affairs of the Corporation shall be administered by a Board of Directors of not less than twelve, nor more than twenty-one members, one-third of whom shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting each year for a term of three years and shall serve until their successors are elected and qualified, provided that at first meeting of this Corporation, one-third of the membership of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of one year; one-third of said membership for two years, and one-third of said membership for three years.

Section 2

The officers of the Corporation shall be a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer--all of whom shall be elected by the Board of Directors.

Section 3

The names of the persons constituting the first Board of Directors and who shall serve until the first annual meeting of the Corporation are: (Names to be determined at meeting on June 22)

Article V

Section 1

The annual meeting of the Corporation shall be held in February in each year at such time and place as may be designated by the Board of Directors. At least ten days' written notice, of the annual meeting shall be given to members, by mail.

Section 2

Special meetings shall be held upon the request of at least twenty-five members in good standing or by action of the Board of Directors. The business to be transacted at such special meetings shall be specified in the call and the usual notice given.

Section 3

Twenty-five members shall constitute a quorum.

Article VI

Section 1

Membership of societies associated with Associated Lutheran Welfare who meet qualifications of Article II of these by-laws shall be accepted as members of Associated Lutheran Welfare.

Section 2

The Board of Directors of Associated Lutheran Welfare shall be empowered to accept Lutheran Welfare Societies into membership in the Associated Lutheran Welfare and to enter into agreement with them.

Section 3

The membership roll shall be revised in February of each year by the Board of Directors, and all members who are no longer eligible shall be dropped from the roll unless reinstated by the Board of Directors.

Section 4

This Corporation shall encourage memorial contributions.

Section 5

All contributions shall be used for such purpose or purposes only as the contributors may designate, or in the case of undesignated contributions, for such purposes as the Board of Directors may decide.

Article VII

Section 1

The members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for a term of three years at the annual meeting by ballot. A majority vote shall govern the election.

Section 2

Candidates for election to membership on the Board of Directors shall be nominated by a committee, consisting of a representative from each participating church body or synodical group, elected at the preceding annual meeting.

The members of the committee shall confer with the proper officer or official board of each synodical group, and submit the name or names of the person or persons designated by the duly authorized officials as candidates of the respective groups for elective or appointive offices.

Section 3

Co-operation in the Associated Lutheran Welfare shall not affect distinctive principles of participants nor presuppose nor involve church fellowship.

As an inter-synodical agency in which all Lutherans may participate, the Associated Lutheran Welfare serves any Lutheran church body, synod, district, conference, congregation or organization in such manner and to such extent as may be mutually agreed upon, without involving either party in any obligation not expressly set forth in the agreement.

Section 4

Immediately after adjournment of the annual meeting, the Directors shall meet to elect the following officers: a president, a first vice-president, a second vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer, all of whom shall serve for a term of one year and until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 5

The officers of the Board of Directors shall constitute the Executive Committee. They shall perform the duties usually pertaining to the office to which they have been elected.

Section 6

The Treasurer shall furnish a surety bond in such amount as the Board of Directors may decide, the Corporation to pay the premium. The Treasurer shall pay out moneys only upon vouchers signed by the Executive Secretary, or in his absence, by the President, either Vice-President, or the Secretary.

Section 7

This Corporation may hold real and personal estate, and may hire, purchase or erect suitable buildings for its accommodation, to be devoted to the purposes set forth in its agreement of association, and may receive and hold in trust, or otherwise, funds

received by gift or bequest to be devoted by it to such purposes, and for the purposes of the Corporation shall have power to issue its promissory notes, bonds or other obligations, to be secured by mortgage on its real estate or other property in such manner as may be decided by the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors shall have power to sell or dispose of the whole or any part of the property, either real or personal which the Corporation may from time to time own, and to acquire other property including property for investment purposes.

Provided, that the property owned or to be acquired for operation purposes for which the Corporation is primarily formed as set forth in the Agreement of Association, shall not be sold or disposed of unless the Board of Directors is authorized so to do by the vote of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting called for that purpose, written notice of which shall be given to all members at least thirty days previous thereto, by mail (such notice shall set forth in full the matter or proposition to be considered at such meeting.) Voting by proxy shall be allowed at such meeting.

Section 8

The Board of Directors shall meet during the months of February, May, August and November of each year and at such times as may be deemed necessary, or at the call of the President. Notice of the time and place of every regular meeting, and of the time and place and the nature of the business to be transacted at every special meeting, shall be given to every member of the Board, by mail, at least seven days prior to the meeting, except in case of emergency when notice may be waived by the consent of the Board of Directors present at such meeting.

Section 9

Failure by anyone to accept the duties of the office of Director shall create a vacancy therein; and the Board may declare vacant the office of any director who shall fail to attend three consecutive regular meetings of the Board of Directors, unless such failure has been caused by illness or temporary absence from the state.

The Board of Directors may fill all vacancies in their own number by appointment until the next annual meeting of the Corporation.

Section 10

The Board of Directors shall employ an Executive Secretary. They shall have power to employ or discharge an executive secretary and directors or superintendents of the various departments, prescribe their duties and determine their salaries.

These officials shall have the right of appeal to the Corporation in the settlement of any difficulty or controversy with the Board.

Section 11

A brief annual report shall be prepared by the Board, submitted to the annual meeting, and if the Corporation so decides, be published.

Article VIII

Section 1

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Corporation, whose duty it shall be to act in any and all matters requiring action between meetings of the Board, subject to ratification by the Board at the next succeeding regular or special meeting of the Board.

Section 2

Nominating Committee

The Corporation shall elect at the annual meeting a Nominating Committee whose duty it shall be to submit to the next succeeding annual meeting names of candidates for the Board of Directors, in accordance with the provisions of Article VII, Section 2 of these by-laws. It shall also be the duty of this Committee to submit to the Board of Directors names of candidates for standing committees, and if so requested by the Board of Directors names of candidates for special committees.

Section 3

The following standing committees shall be elected by the Board from the membership of the Corporation for a term of one year and until their successors have been elected:

Finance Committee

Whose duty it shall be to recommend for payment all bills or accounts owing by the Corporation, to supervise the collection of all bills or accounts due the Corporation, to prepare and submit to the Board the annual budget, to co-operate with the Treasurer in providing the necessary funds to meet the financial obligations of the Corporation promptly when due, and to perform such other specific duties as may from time to time be delegated to the Committee by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall be member of this Committee.

Publicity Committee

Whose duty it shall be to publicize the work of the Corporation and to interpret the activities of the Corporation to the Lutherans of the State of Washington, to the general public, and to the other social agencies.

Membership Committee

Whose duty it shall be to encourage membership in the Corporation and to pass on and recommend new members, individual and society, to the Board of Directors. Specifically, it shall conduct the annual campaign.

Special Committees

The Board of Directors may from time to time appoint such other committees as may be needed.

Section 4

Every standing committee shall elect a chairman, who shall preside at all meetings of the committee, and a secretary who shall keep the minutes of every committee meeting. A copy or transcript of the minutes of every committee meeting, signed by the chairman or secretary of the committee shall be sent to the Executive Secretary and by him submitted to the Board of Directors at the next succeeding regular meeting.

Section 5

The Executive Secretary shall, by virtue of his office, be an advisory member of every committee.

Section 6

Except in matters delegated by the Board to a standing committee

with power to act, any action taken by a committee will not be legally binding upon the Corporation unless and until approved by the Board of Directors. In all cases where a committee has been authorized to act for the Board, a report of the action taken by the committee must be submitted to the Board and such report shall be made a part of the minutes of the next succeeding meeting of the Board.

Section 7

Regular meetings of all committees shall be held at such time as the committee may decide or upon the call of the Executive Secretary.

A majority of any committee shall constitute a quorum, but in the absence of a quorum at any regular meeting, the members present may act, and such action shall be considered the action of a majority of the committee, unless absent members shall submit a dissenting report to the Board at or before the next Directors' meeting.

Article IX

Section 1

The Corporation shall carry out its work through the following departments: Child Welfare, Family Welfare, Care of the Aged, Homeless Men, and Institutional Missions.

Section 2

The work of each department shall be directed by a committee consisting of two members of the Board of Directors, the Executive Secretary, and a representative of each agency participating in the work of the department.

Section 3

Any Lutheran social agency and institution may become a member of a department by applying to the Board of Directors of Associated Lutheran Welfare.

Section 4

Child Welfare

This Department shall care for neglected, dependent, orphaned,

destitute, delinquent and handicapped children. It shall be the officially designated child-placing agency for Lutherans in the state. It shall offer this child-placing and home-finding service to all the Lutheran children's institutions and agencies.

Section 5

Family Welfare

This Department shall provide a counseling, information, and referral service, utilizing existing social resources in city and state for the benefit of Lutheran and unchurched people. Its service shall be available to Lutheran pastors, church workers, business, and lay people who seek information and advice about social problems.

Section 6

Care of Aged

The Care of the Aged Department shall study the needs of old people and assist Lutheran institutions and agencies in the field and to suggest or to initiate definite policies as related to state and federal laws.

Section 7

Homeless Men

The Department of Homeless Men shall study the needs of homeless men in our midst and assist Lutheran institutions and agencies in the field and to suggest or to initiate definite policies as related to state and federal laws.

Section 8

Institutional Missions

The Institutional Missions Department shall act as a co-ordinating agency for institutional missions and institutional chaplains in the state. It shall endeavor to supply all public institutions with Lutheran chaplains and to give spiritual ministry to those who are in and those who are discharged from public institutions.

Section 9

Every departmental committee shall elect a chairman, who shall

preside at all meetings of the committee, and a secretary, who shall keep the minutes of every committee meeting. A copy or transcript of the minutes of every committee meeting, signed by the chairman or secretary of the committee shall be sent to the Executive Secretary and by him submitted to the Board of Directors at the next succeeding regular meeting.

Section 10

Except in matters delegated by the Board to a departmental committee with power to act, any action taken by a committee will not be legally binding upon the Corporation unless and until approved by the Board of Directors. In all cases where a committee has been authorized to act for the Board, a report of the action taken by the committee must be submitted to the Board and such report shall be made a part of the minutes of the next succeeding meeting of the Board.

Section 11

Regular meetings of all departmental committees shall be held at such time as the departmental committee may decide or upon the call of the Executive Secretary.

A majority of any committee shall constitute a quorum, but in the absence of a quorum at any regular meeting, the members present may act, and such action shall be considered the action of a majority of the committee, unless absent members shall submit a dissenting report to the Board at or before the next Directors' meeting.

Article X

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at any regular or special meeting of the Corporation, provided that a statement of the nature such amendment be included in the notice of such meeting.

6. LUTHERAN WELFARE COUNCIL OF OHIO

Purpose

It shall serve as a common agency in social planning and encourage participation of all member agencies in building an adequate church social welfare program.

Membership

All Lutheran charitable and welfare agencies and institutions in Ohio.

Control

A Council composed of two representatives of each member agency, an advisory representative of each Lutheran synod or district and associate members from Lutheran organizations on the state level shall be the governing body of the Lutheran Welfare Council of Ohio.

Officers

The officers of the Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary and a Treasurer. These officers plus two members at large, shall constitute the Executive Committee.

Divisions

Membership may include the following and others as needed: Family and Child-welfare services, Care of the Aged, Health Services, Institutional ministry and Group Work, including youth services, recreational activities, services to adolescents and prevention of delinquency.

Support

The Council shall receive its support from annual dues collected from each member agency.

Application

The Lutheran Welfare Council of Ohio holds membership with the Ohio Welfare Council.

7. CONSTITUTION

of

LUTHERAN WELFARE COUNCIL OF OHIO

Article I

Name

The name of this organization shall be "Lutheran Welfare Council of Ohio".

Article II

Purpose

1. It shall serve as a common agency in social planning and encourage participation of all member agencies in building an adequate church social welfare program based on needs as they arise.
2. It shall coordinate through conference and common agreement Lutheran welfare activities of member agencies.
3. It shall serve the Lutheran churches of Ohio as a central information bureau and clearing house on welfare work.
4. On authorization of member agencies it shall represent these agencies before public or private state or community wide agencies.
5. It shall by conference assist member agencies to develop standards and strengthen their services.
6. It shall stimulate the creation and development of new Lutheran agencies or services as may from time to time be necessary to meet new needs, but it shall not create or operate any agency or social welfare service.
7. It shall encourage recruiting among the churches of trained Christian workers in the field of welfare and social services.
8. It shall work in close cooperation with any national Lutheran welfare agency or agencies which officially represent Lutheran synodical groups on the territory of the Lutheran Welfare Council of Ohio.

Article III

Membership

1. All Lutheran charitable, health, and welfare agencies and institutions in Ohio or which are directly affiliated with an Ohio Lutheran synodical body or whose constitution requires that at least a majority of its Board of Directors shall be members of the Lutheran Church, shall be eligible for membership upon written application and agreement to abide by and support the constitution and by-laws of this Council.
2. Each member agency shall be entitled to name for each calendar year two representatives to the Council.
3. Lutheran synods or districts most closely approximating the state of Ohio in territory served may each designate an advisory representative to the Council.
4. Lutheran church organizations on the state level, such as Women's Missionary Societies, Brotherhoods, etc., may be invited as associate members by the Council at such time and manner as the Council may determine.
5. Only the representatives of the agencies shall be the voting membership of the Council.

Article IV

Dues

1. Each Lutheran charitable, health or welfare agency accepted for membership shall agree to support the Council in the form of annual dues, the amount to be determined by the Council.

Article V

Officers

1. A President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected at an annual meeting from within the active membership of the Council.
2. The President shall preside at all meetings, appoint committees as authorized, and perform such other functions as usually pertain to the office.

3. The Vice President shall assume the duties of the President in his absence or inability to serve.
4. The Secretary shall maintain an accurate record of the official proceedings of the Council, send out all notices, and perform such other functions as usually pertain to the office.
5. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys, depositing the same in a manner approved by the Council, disburse funds on proper authorization and maintain accurate records of all transactions; Surety bond may be required of the Treasurer by the Council at such time and amount as the Council may determine.

Article VI

Meetings

1. The Council shall meet annually for the election of officers and to transact such business as may properly come before it. Other meetings may be held upon due notice as the Council or Executive Committee may determine.

Article VII

Divisions

1. The Council shall provide for the organization of divisions for various functional welfare activities which may be represented in its membership.
2. Each division shall function under a chairman elected by the Council. A member agency may be represented in one or more divisions according to its function or functions. Representation of each member agency in a division shall be by board and/or staff member.
3. Each division shall be responsible for at least one open meeting a year. Other meetings may be held as determined.
4. Divisions shall operate under the Council and are responsible to it.

Article VIII

Committees

1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the

Council and two members at large elected annually by the Council.

2. The Executive Committee shall carry out the policies and program of the Council. In periods between regular meetings of the Council the Executive Committee shall function as the representative of the Council. Its actions shall be reported to and reviewed by the Council.
3. The Executive Committee may appoint such other Committees as it may deem necessary from time to time.

Article IX

Amendment

1. This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of the Council provided that such amendment shall have been submitted in writing to all member agencies of the Council thirty days prior to the date of the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted upon.

By-Laws

1. Divisions

Divisions representative of the various functional activities within the Council membership may be organized, such as:

- a. Family and child-welfare services which shall include care of the unmarried mothers, family counseling service, institutional and foster home care of children.
- b. Care of the Aged which shall include institutional and other care of the aged and chronically ill.
- c. Health services which shall include hospitals and clinics for the care of physically and mentally handicapped.
- d. Institutional ministry which shall include chaplaincy services to general and special hospitals, penal institutions, and hospitals for rehabilitation of returned military service personnel.
- e. Group work including youth services, recreational activities, services to adolescents and prevention of delinquency.

- f. Publicity and Finance, including interpretation and promotion.

2. Terms of office

- a. The officers of the Council shall be elected at the annual meeting and shall serve for one year each. They may succeed themselves in office for one additional year.
- b. Vacancies in office shall be filled by the Executive Committee until the next Council meeting.

3. Annual Meeting

- a. The annual meeting shall be held at such time and place as may be set by the Executive Committee.

4. Annual Dues

- a. Each agency accepted for membership shall support the Council in the form of annual dues in an amount not less than \$10.00 per year.

5. Amendment

- a. The By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the Council provided that such amendment shall have been submitted in writing to all member agencies of the Council thirty days prior to the date of the meeting at which the amendment is to be voted upon.

8. LUTHERAN CHARITIES OF CHICAGO

The Lutheran Charities of Chicago is an organization of Lutheran Welfare within the city and serves well as a model for other metropolitan areas wishing to inaugurate a similar program.

The following are quotations from two official pamphlets published by the Lutheran Charities of Chicago:

In response to the desire of our Lutheran Agencies to have one central office represent our Lutheran welfare and charitable activity and at the request of the Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Council of Social Agencies, and the Community Fund, the Lutheran Church Charities Committee of Chicago was organized November 24, 1936, and incorporated in the State of Illinois, under date of March 4, 1939. The Committee carried on its work without an executive until it became apparent that its expanding field of operation required an office and full time staff. On October 12, 1943, the name of the corporation was changed to Lutheran Charities of Chicago, and an office opened at 343 South Dearborn Street, on June 1, 1944, with an executive in charge.⁸⁶

The Lutheran Charities of Chicago is a Federation of the 23 charitable and welfare agencies and institutions sponsored by the Lutheran Church or chiefly supported by Lutherans in Chicago and Illinois. Its membership includes all the charitable organizations of the Lutheran Church in this area embracing the agencies and institutions of the following bodies:

- The American Lutheran Church
- The Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church
- The Evangelical Lutheran Augustana Synod
- The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States
- The United Lutheran Church in America
- The Norwegian Lutheran Church in America

86. "What It Is - What It Does", Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Illinois.

The Lutheran Charities has been organized by our charitable and welfare agencies in order:

1. To present a common front in dealing with public and private agencies such as the Community Fund, the Council of Social Agencies, the Chamber of Commerce, the City, County, and State Welfare Departments.
2. To co-ordinate the services and programs of our various agencies and institutions to prevent overlapping of effort and duplication of services.
3. To provide common services at a saving of time and expense for our member agencies.
4. To make available and accessible to all Lutherans, pastors and parishioners, the services and resources of both Lutheran and community welfare agencies and institutions by opening a central information and referral office.

The Lutheran Charities of Chicago has been accepted and recognized on the same basis as the Catholic Charities and the Jewish Charities by the Community Fund, the Council of Social Agencies, and the Chamber of Commerce, as well as by the city, county, and state welfare departments.

Thus it is the POINT OF IMPACT where Lutheran influence may be exerted upon the welfare planning and program in the city of Chicago and the state of Illinois and the POINT OF CONTACT where Lutheran opinion will be consulted in welfare matters.

The plan of the Lutheran Charities is not untried. It applies to the Lutheran community the same principles of organization which have made possible the co-ordination of welfare programs and services in the larger cities throughout our nation. It was organized in 1919 by the Lutheran welfare agencies and institutions of Chicago under the name, "Lutheran Charities Committee". The improvement of program, the increase in support, the co-ordination of efforts, and the increased service given our people in the period following are ample testimony of the soundness of our organization.

The governing body of the Lutheran Charities is composed of the official delegates of its member agencies and of Synodical groups supporting our work. Member agencies consist of the

following:

- Child Care
- Homes for the Aged
- Hospices
- Hospitals
- Service Agencies
- Summer Camps

The administration is in the hands of a Board of Directors of 21 members elected by the corporation and representatives of all agencies and synodical groups.

The Executive Director and Staff carry on under the direction of the Board.

Sustaining Members

Supports of the work, individuals and groups, may become sustaining members with the privilege of participating in the work of the organization.⁸⁷

87. What...Who...How..., Lutheran Charities of Chicago, 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago 4, Illinois.

9. LUTHERAN CHURCH CHARITIES FUND⁸⁸

(Missouri Synod)

77 WEST WASHINGTON STREET

CHICAGO 2, ILLINOIS

The following is a summary of material used in organizing the Lutheran Church Charities Fund. Briefly, the steps taken to organize the Fund were as follows:

1. A general meeting of pastors and laymen, at which a Planning Committee was selected.
2. Planning Committee proposed a constitution.
3. Congregations elected delegates empowered to ratify constitution and organize association.
4. Ratification of constitution.
5. Incorporation of association under laws of State of Illinois.

The Fund gathers money only from the Northern Illinois congregations, but it does not restrict the distribution of funds to institutions within that same area, since it cares also for persons from other territories.

The congregations are given a choice of methods for the collection of charity funds as local collection methods vary a great deal. The budget committee estimated the percentage figures on distribution of the funds in the following manner: The total amount each of the eight agencies received from congregations of Northern Illinois was determined from District Office records, and agency budgets of the previous year. This figure

88. Cf. Letters, minutes of meetings, reports, of Lutheran Church Charities Fund, Missouri Synod, 77 West Washington St., Chicago 2, Illinois, sent to Children's Home Society, Omaha, Nebraska.

was corrected up or down upon reviewing the proposed budget of each institution, and this amount then represented the total each agency expected to receive from Northern Illinois congregations in the coming year.

The congregations affiliated with the association represented about 60% of the total communicant membership of this area. Therefore, the Fund assumed the obligation of raising only 60% of the money each institution expected from congregations in Northern Illinois. The other 40% must be raised by the institutions from the non-member congregations. As more congregations are received into the association, the Fund will assume a greater percentage. An additional allowance for General and Reserve Funds was added to the combined amounts, which the Fund expected to raise for the agencies, and the grand total figure became the goal for the year. Each agency was allotted a percentage of each dollar raised, in the same ratio that its anticipated receipts from the Fund bears to the grand total. At present, this association is interested in raising only operating and maintenance funds. The inclusion of capital funds is now under consideration.

At a meeting held June 25, 1943, attended by 42 pastors and 72 laymen, plans for organizing a Lutheran Charities Fund, to co-ordinate the support of the various Lutheran extra-synodical enterprises, was discussed at length, and the following resolutions adopted:

1. That the Committee be encouraged to proceed with its work, review the proposed Constitution and By-Laws, taking notice of the various points raised at this meeting, and then submit the revised Constitution and By-Laws to a future meeting to be called for the purpose of organizing the association.
2. In order to assist the Committee in its work, pastors, laymen, and congregations are requested to submit any suggestions or recommendations to the Committee.

Over sixty days intervened, during which time suggestions were received by the Committee, which were embodied in a revised Constitution and sent out to all congregations in this area prior to the meeting held at the Central Y. M. C. A. Auditorium, 19 South LaSalle Street, Wednesday, October 27, 1943, at 8:00 p. m. Eighty congregations had reported their readiness to form the organization, of which 47 were represented at this meeting. The revised Constitution was thoroughly discussed and it was decided to call a meeting for the purpose of ratifying the Constitution on January 26, 1944. The constitution was ratified and the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, Charities Fund was incorporated to begin its work officially, January 1, 1945.

The purpose of this organization is two-fold:

1. To co-ordinate the effort of all congregations in the Northern Illinois area in the support and maintenance of charitable and educational institutions and related agencies, committees, and activities affiliated with the Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America.
2. To arrange for an equitable distribution of funds raised, in accordance with the needs of such organizations.

This Fund will be a real advantage to all participating congregations. A single, co-ordinated fund-raising effort will be

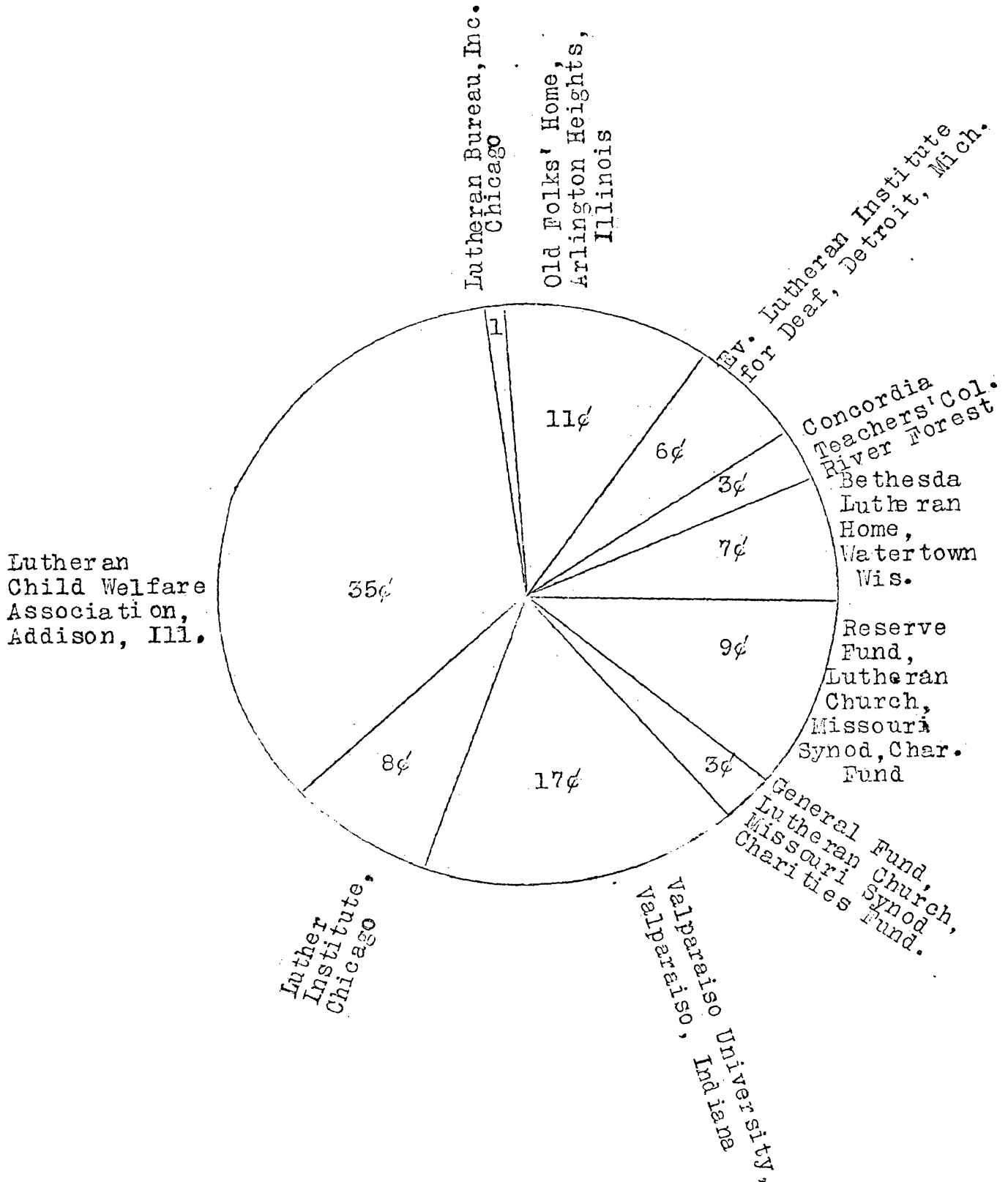
made through this Fund in the interest of all deserving claimant agencies. This will eliminate the many, many separate appeals. It will also be to the advantage for the institutions in which there will be more systematic and efficient solicitation, and a more equitable distribution of funds.

The following suggestions were presented to all congregations for the gathering of funds:

1. Enclose an appropriate quarterly, monthly or semi-annual envelope in the regular 1945 packet of envelopes.
2. Special envelopes mailed out periodically.
3. Canvass by collectors.
4. Periodical door collections.
5. Special services with guest speakers from our institutions or our Charities Fund Board.
6. Allocating a per cent of all receipts to non-budget fund.
7. Solicitations from individuals.
8. Establish a "Charity Sunday" similar to "Mission Sunday".
9. All moneys are to be sent to the District Treasurer, who in turn will remit all moneys to the treasurer of the Charities Fund.
10. The average contribution per communicant member should be One Dollar per year, plus a 2¢ per communicant contribution for operating expenses incurred by the Charities Fund Organization.

The chart on the next page indicates which institutions are included as participating agencies and the cents allowed out of each dollar contributed to the Charities Fund.

THE DIVISION OF THE DOLLAR



10. ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION OF
THE LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY OF GREATER OMAHA

I

The name of this corporation shall be THE LUTHERAN MISSION SOCIETY OF GREATER OMAHA.

II

The principal office and place of business of the corporation shall be in the city of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.

III

This corporation shall commence as soon as these Articles are filed as provided by law, and continue until dissolved as hereinafter provided.

IV

The objects and purposes of this corporation shall be to conduct and support mission work in the public institutions of Omaha and vicinity. It is also to conduct and supervise city mission work in the city of Omaha as requested by the Mission Board of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, Northern Nebraska District.

V

This corporation shall have power to acquire, hold, own, and convey all property, real or personal, which it may acquire by purchase, donation, or otherwise, which may be necessary or incident to the carrying out of the purposes for which this corporation is organized.

VI

The members of this corporation shall consist of organized congregations which are in unity of faith with the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America, which have expressed their intention of affiliating themselves with this corporation by pledging their moral and financial support to the work of the corporation, and to have elected representatives as herein provided.

VII

The corporate powers and management of this corporation shall

be vested in a Board of Directors composed of three members of each congregation interested in this work, namely, its pastor and two lay delegates, who must be voting members of the congregation. The lay delegates shall be elected by their congregations to take office at the time of the annual meeting of the corporation which shall be held on the Tuesday after the second Sunday in January of each year.

In the first year of a congregation's membership one delegate shall be elected for a term of one year, and one for a term of two years. Thereafter one lay delegate shall be elected each year for a term of two years.

The delegates heretofore elected under the constitution of the society shall serve as directors until their terms expire.

VIII

The Board of Directors shall meet regularly to transact the business of the society, at such intervals as the Board may determine. Special meetings may be called by the president with the consent of the majority of the officers of the corporation, or by petition in writing signed by any ten members of the Board of Directors stating the reason for calling such meeting.

IX

The officers of this corporation shall consist of a president, a vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of the corporation for a term of one year, and until their successors are elected and have taken office. These officers shall constitute an Executive Committee to carry out the resolutions and directions of the Board of Directors and to recommend action to the Board. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

X

The highest amount of indebtedness which this corporation shall be competent to contract at any time shall not exceed the sum of \$10,000.00. All contracts of this corporation shall be executed by the President and Secretary of the corporation, and these officers shall make all conveyance of real estate, and shall execute any instruments evidencing indebtedness or incumbrance upon the property owned by the corporation, pursuant to resolution of the Board of Directors.

XI

The Board of Directors shall elect annually from its membership three members to the Institutional Mission Governing Body,

which, in addition to these members, shall consist of one member selected by each of the Mission Boards of the Northern Nebraska District and the Southern Nebraska District, and the presidents of said districts. The right and power to call an institutional missionary shall be vested in the Governing Body. It shall be the duty of the Governing Body to define the policy and outline the work of the society for the coming year, approve the budget, and fix the salary of the missionary.

The Board of Directors shall authorize the three members elected to the Institutional Mission Governing Body to serve also as the City Mission Governing Body, which, in addition to these members, shall consist of a representative from the Mission Board of the Northern Nebraska District, and its district president. The right and power to call a city missionary and to fix his salary shall be vested in the Mission Board of the Northern Nebraska District in conjunction with the City Mission Governing Body. It shall be the duty of this Governing Body to define the policy and outline the work of the society for the coming year, and approve the budget.

XII

These articles may be altered or amended at any regular meeting of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote of all the members, provided notice of such amendment has been submitted to the previous meeting of the Board, and has been approved by the Institutional Mission Governing Body and the City Mission Governing Body, respectively.

XIII

This corporation shall not be dissolved as long as one member congregation opposes such action. In the event of dissolution, all property, real or personal, of the corporation shall be transferred to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States, Northern Nebraska District.

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