

Valentine Bridge

Circle 6 of the Women's Fellowship at Birmingham Congregation at church are sponsoring a Valentine

dessert bridge next Thursday at 12:45 p.m. Tickets can be obtained by phoning Mrs. Robert H. Sims, of 1511 Witherbee, or the church office.

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How He Writes His Sermons:

Looks for New Ideas In 25-Year Ministry

"When you've been preaching from the same pulpit for over 25 years," says the Rev. Theodore Wuggazer, minister of Lutheran church of the Redeemer, "you find it difficult to keep coming up with a fresh approach."

Mr. Wuggazer is like the husband and wife, after many years of marriage, has to be alert to avoid opening the same old stories to his wife.

The tall, bespectacled minister finds new ideas and approaches for his sermons in his constant reading. But most important of all, he says, a fresh approach comes from contact with people.

"NOT THAT PEOPLE are having new problems," he adds. "They're having the same old problems they had when I started 25 years ago. But with a new slant to them."

Contact with people, he continues, help him to keep his sermons down to earth, applying them to his parishioners' lives. Ideas and notes for his sermons go into what he calls his "gold mine." This ministerial treasure is in a file drawer. Its location is the desk in the large study whose furnishings blend with the beautiful Maple avenue church's colonial architecture.

In the drawer he keeps a folder for each of the 52 Sundays. He knows approximately what the general theme for each week will be, because the Lutheran church's calendar year provides it in scripture readings prescribed.

WHEN HE COMES across material he would like to use in a sermon, he notes it in the proper "gold mine" folder.

He removes that particular nugget on the Monday before he intends to preach on it. By that day he has already selected the exact scripture passage and title for the sermon. Sometimes he chooses these months ahead.

Monday's task is to go over the folder's notes and ideas, set them in order then write a first draft in a sketchy style that's almost an outline. He uses large sheets of typing paper, sets the margins of his desk typewriter so it types only halfway across the left of the page.

HE WORKS ON the first draft for an hour or so each succeeding morning of the week. "That's when I pace the floor," he says. "I walk

back and forth across the study, then out into the corridor."

He notes at the right of the sermon draft the new ideas that come to him then.

"Sometimes you wake up at 3 a.m. with an idea," he says. "That's because the sermon is on your mind through the week."

A BRIEF OUTLINE is all he takes to the pulpit on Sunday morning.

But after he preaches his 15-minute sermon at 9 a.m. Sunday services, his work has only begun. Because his church holds three services to accommodate the swelling congregation until further construction is completed, he repeats the sermon again at 9:45 and 11 a.m. services.

"By the time room comes on Sunday," he says, "I'm ready for a rest." And he does so.

At least an hour of time to dig into the gold mine again Monday morning.



REV. THEODORE WUGGAZER does a little prospecting in what he calls his "gold mine," a file of sermon ideas and material. Digging into the desk drawer is the first step in readying his sermons at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer.

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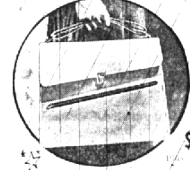
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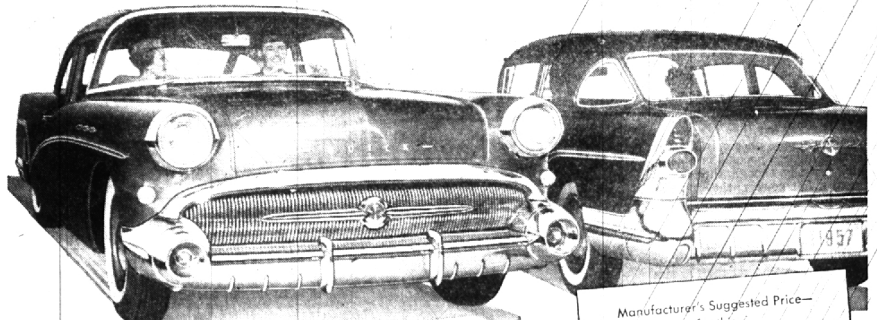
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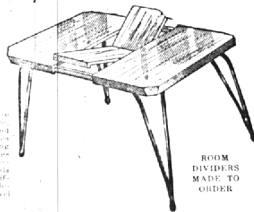
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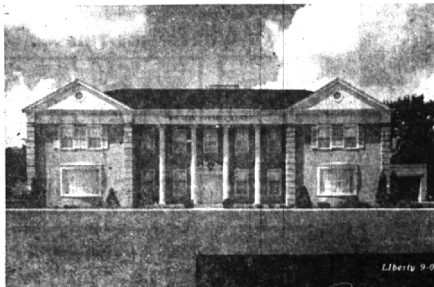
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