

The Rev. Gary Johnson, new pastor at Farmington Hills' Antioch Lutheran Church, discusses the challenges he faces in his parish. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

Minister welcomes challenge as pastor of Antioch Lutheran

By STEVE BARNABY
Farmington editor
Gary Johnson has an air of quiet inensity about him.

tensity about him.

The new pastor of Farmington Hills'
Antioch Lutheran Church, he sees a
challenge in this suburban community
which many ministers never experi-

challenge in this suburban community which many ministers never experience.

"This is a ministry to the affluent," says the 34-year-old east-side native. "There isn't a duel with survival here. Oftentimes young ministers spend their time dealing with remortgaging the church."

The Antioch challenge is garnering the wealth of talent which exists among the 600-member congregation. "I want to coordinate this talent. In my heart I think this parish can have a strong influence in the community," he says.

This Sunday, the challenge begins. Lutheran Church in America (LCA) Bishop Raymond Heine will conduct Johnson's installation service.

The Antioch congregation, he says, is much different from his former congregation in Battle Creek.

"In Battle Creek much emphasis was put on the social gathering, Here it isn't uncommon for a man to fly 6,000, or 7,000 miles to come home for the weekend," he says.

THIS TRANSIENT community per-sonality puts more emphasis on the worship service, he says.
This gives Johnson one of his biggest personal challenges.
"There inn't any schiepping the ser-mon," he says laughingly. "The congre-gation by having traveled and lived around the country has beard excellent SCHIEFT and the Country has beard excellent SCHIEFT and the Country has beard excellent SCHIEFT and the Country has beard excellent

Preparing and delivering a sermon to such an audience calls for special

Originally he planned a medical ca-reer but lost interest in that career and changed his mind.

As it was with many persons his age, the Vietnam war was a determining factor in his career choice.

"I felt there was a lot of hatred in our country at the time. I wanted to do something about it. I have an unbound-ed optimism in the country," he says. "It disturbed me that people were

Perkins chief heads group

William D. Winemaster, president of Perkins Engines, Inc., of Wayne, has been elected president of the Marine Engine Manufacturers Association (MEMA) for 1981.

He succeeds Jerry Søyder, president of Eska Corp., of Dubuyue, Iowa. MEMA, representing producers of inboard and outboard power units, is one is one of three membership groups united in the National Marine Manufacturers Association (MMAN) with headquarters in Chicago. Other groups represent boat builders and suppliers

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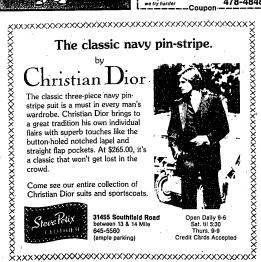




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