

# The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

*Published by the Board of Missions for the Deaf of the Lutheran Synod  
of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. Subscription price, 25 cts. per annum anywhere in the world, payable strictly in advance. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 14, 1935.

Vol. 29

St. Louis, Mo., October, 1937

No. 10

## A Bold Confession

All truly converted, believing Christians confess their faith. Every faithful believer cheerfully confesses his or her faith in any circumstances and to all people, be they friends



or enemies of the Savior. It always has been thus. When King Darius gave orders that all believers should take a thirty-day vacation from praying to the true God and "should ask petition only of the king," Dan. 6, 7, faithful Daniel continued to pray to the Lord unafraid. His actions showed a courageous faith.

Through all ages of history we find true Christians everywhere making public and formal confession of their faith in Jesus. The three thousand on the day of Pentecost whose hearts the Lord opened when Peter was preaching made known their faith in Jesus as their only Hope of eternal salvation. From the lips of all disciples there came the confession, Acts 4, 20: "We cannot but *speake* the things which we have seen and heard." Paul boldly confessed his faith, saying in his Epistle to the Romans: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ."

On October 31, 1517, in Wittenberg, Germany, one of the most courageous confessions of faith in Jesus Christ was made when Martin Luther nailed a bulletin to the door of the Castle Church. The summary of the ninety-five theses which this bulletin contained was the saving truth: Man is saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

This Gospel truth had been hidden for selfish reasons by religious leaders. It has been said correctly: "Luther gave Christ back to Christianity and the Gospel to the world." May the anniversary of the Reformation encourage us to confess our faith in Jesus as *our* Savior!

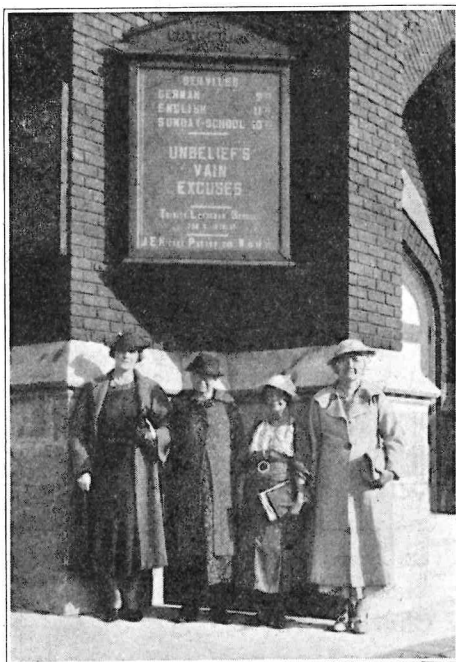
Times have changed, but God's command stands today: "Be ready *always* to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the *hope* that is in you," 1 Pet. 3, 15; but also His promise: "Whosoever shall confess Me [Jesus] before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven," Matt. 10, 32.

A. E. F.

## Southern California Mission

"Services for the deaf will be held at Lutheran Hall, corner W. 18th and Cherry Sts., at 3.30 P. M., Sunday, May 19. You are welcome. Take Washington or Sixteenth Street car to Cherry Street.—Cordially yours, Arthur L. Reinke, Lutheran missionary to the deaf,—Los Angeles, May 14, 1912."

The above invitation to attend the first Lutheran church services in the signs in California was received by many deaf of Los Angeles and vicinity twenty-five years ago.



These Four Ladies Attended the First Service in Los Angeles, May 19, 1912, and the Anniversary Services on June 6, 1937

Left to right: Miss E. Roy, Mrs. H. Dahl, Miss A. Rogers, Miss Z. King

During the years which have passed the words of Isaiah, chap. 55, 11, have again been fulfilled. Therefore Pilgrim Church of Los Angeles set aside June 6 as a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving to God. In the morning, at 11.15, in the very room in which these first services took place, the members of our congregation met with many friends to see Pastor G. Gaertner of Oakland preach a very encouraging and inspiring sermon. The services were made even more impressive by the beautiful signing of hymns by Mrs. Maria Schlanser and Miss Dorothy Stephens. At 3.15 in the afternoon an-

other service was held, in Trinity Church, which was signed and spoken throughout. The preacher was Rev. Reno Jeske of Whittier, Cal., and Pastor Gaertner acted as interpreter. The altar services were conducted by an old friend of our mission, Rev. Arthur Michel, pastor of Trinity Church, who attended the gathering twenty-five years ago. The song "The Holy City" was sung by Mr. Erwin Kollman and signed by Mrs. D. Ludwick and Mrs. I. Wittwer at the same time. The thank-offering of this afternoon service was put into the chapel fund of Pilgrim Congregation. Among those present were four women who had seen Pastor Reinke preach on May 19, 1912. They were Mrs. Henrietta Dahl, Miss Ella Roy, Miss Zadie King, and Miss Annie Rogers. The last two are now communicant members of Pilgrim Church. Though the day was a typical Southern California summer day, with beaches, mountains, and parks calling and tempting, fifty deaf were present in the morning and ninety-one in the afternoon, together with many hearing friends. Letters of well-wishing from our fellow-Lutherans in San Francisco and Oakland were read by Pastor Gaertner after the morning worship and did much to encourage us and to add to our joy.

During these twenty-five years our services have been held in various places: in a basement club-room down-town, in two up-stairs church halls, in a church seating about four hundred people; at the present time we meet in a classroom containing seats for eight- to ten-year-old children. It is now our very earnest hope and prayer that God, who has been with us these twenty-five years, will speed the day on which we may meet to dedicate a chapel of our own in Los Angeles, one of the largest and still fastest-growing cities in our country. G. H. F.

## Studies in Luther's Catechism

### THE CREED

*"I believe in God"*

The God of the Bible is the Triune (Three-in-One) God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Of this God the prophets say: "There is no God like Thee in heaven above or on earth beneath." A great God indeed!

### Our God the Everlasting God

David says in the Psalms: "From everlasting to everlasting Thou art God," Ps. 90, 2. Our God has no beginning; nobody made Him. He has no end; He cannot die. All this is true also of the Son of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. He Himself says: "Before Abraham was, I am," John 8, 58. And Heb. 13, 8 tells us: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday and today and forever." An everlasting Savior! Blessed are they that trust in Him! They shall abide forever.

### Our God the Almighty God

Our God is almighty; He has all power. He Himself says to Abraham: "I am the almighty God," Gen. 17, 1. Therefore David says, Ps. 115, 3: "Our God is in the heavens; He hath done whatsoever He hath pleased." This is true also of Jesus, the Son of God. He says: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth," Matt. 28, 18. A mighty Savior!

### Our God the Ever-Present God

God is everywhere. He says: "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" Therefore man cannot hide himself in secret places that God should not see him, Jer. 23, 23, 24. And this is true also of Jesus, the Son of God. Before He ascended into heaven He said: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world," Matt. 28, 20. Our God is with us wherever we go. What a comfort to know this, and how that ought to urge us to avoid the way of sin and to walk in the way of holiness!

### Our God the All-Knowing God

Of God, David says in Ps. 139: "Thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou art acquainted with all my ways." Therefore Peter said to Jesus: "Lord, Thou knowest all things," John 21, 15. God knows all our troubles. What a comfort! He knows all our thoughts. Nothing can we hide from Him.

### Our God the Holy and Just God

God is holy, pure, sinless. "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts," the angels sing in Is. 6, 3. Therefore our Lord Jesus is the Holy One, as Peter says, Acts 3, 14. Oh, where can we hide with our sins from this holy God? Or will God perhaps overlook sin? No, no; He says, Is. 45, 21: "There is no God else beside Me, a just God." He must punish sin.

### Our God the Gracious and Merciful God

The just and holy God says: "As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked," Ezek. 33, 11. And again we read: "The Lord passed by before Moses and proclaimed, The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious," Ex. 34, 6. This great mercy we see in the Lord Jesus, who died for sinners. Oh, rejoice in this gracious and merciful God!

### Our God the Faithful God

But are His promises true? God never has deceived any one. The Bible says: "God cannot lie," and: It is "impossible for God to lie," and: "He is faithful that promised." All the promises are yea and Amen in Christ, who is the Truth.

### Let Us Worship This Great God

There is no God like Him! Of this God the Creed tells us. Let us fall down before this God and cry out for His mercy in Christ Jesus.

J. L. S.

## THE BREAD OF LIFE

### Bible-Study for October

*"If ye love Me, keep My commandments"*  
John 14, 15

### Bible-Lesson: Mark 10, 1—12

"And He arose from thence and cometh into the coasts of Judea by the farther side of Jordan; and the people resort unto Him again; and, as He was wont, He taught them again. And the Pharisees came to Him and asked Him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife? tempting Him. And He answered and said unto them, What did Moses command you? And they said, Moses suffered to write a bill of divorcement and to put her away. And Jesus answered and said unto them, For the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, and they twain shall be one flesh; so, then, they are no more twain but one flesh. What, therefore, God hath joined together let not man put asunder. And in the house His disciples asked Him again of the same matter. And He saith unto them, Whosoever shall put away his wife and marry another, committeth adultery against her. And if a woman shall put away her husband and be married to another, she committeth adultery."

When Jesus left Galilee and entered the coasts of Judea the people in this region resorted (went) to Him. And, "as He was wont"

(as was His custom), He taught them the Word of God.

While Jesus was teaching the people, the Pharisees came to tempt Him with a question about divorce. At every opportunity the Pharisees tried to hinder the work of Jesus and discredit Him in the eyes of the people so that they would no longer follow Him. So they asked Him: "Is it lawful [right] for a man to put away [divorce] his wife?" They hoped that Jesus' answer would prove that His teaching about divorce did not agree with that of Moses and that they could therefore accuse Him of being a false teacher.

Jesus, however, showed that His teaching agreed with that of Moses. He asked the Pharisees: "What did Moses command you?" They answered: "Moses suffered [permitted] to write a bill of divorcement and to put her away [to get a divorce]." But why did Moses permit the Jews to get a divorce? Surely not because it was right in the sight of God to get a divorce for every cause, but because of their hardness of heart. Jesus said: "What, therefore, God hath joined together let not man put asunder." God wants husband and wife to live together in holy wedlock until death parts them. That is God's Law since the beginning of creation. The Jews, however, did not want to obey God's law concerning marriage; they hardened their hearts against His Word and put away their wives. For this reason Moses permitted them to write a bill of divorcement. So also today the courts often grant divorces to the wicked who care not for God's commandments.

Christians, however, will not get a divorce contrary to God's Law. (Read Matt. 19, 9.) God made man and wife, and they twain (two) shall be one flesh. They are joined together by God, and no man should put them asunder (apart). Husband and wife who love God and His Word will live together until death parts them. If the wicked care not for God's Word and care not whether they sin against His commandment, then let them get a divorce; but Christians should not follow their wicked example.

Let us in these days of easy divorces remember the words of Jesus and please Him by keeping marriage holy and unbroken. E. EN.

## IN THE MORNING MAIL

*Kansas City Mission.*—"The fear [respect] of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom," Prov. 9, 10,—that seems to be the opinion of fourteen young men and young women students of Greater Kansas City. At home for the summer from the Olathe and Fulton State schools, the attendance of these young Christians at Bible class and church services was perfect for three months. Robert Gaunce and the Misses Benoit were the Gallaudet students who attended also. The fine cooperation of most of our members in making these friends feel at home in the Lutheran Church helped much in encouraging them to come.

A large group of 85 friends attended our Christian fellowship meeting on Aug. 14. In the ball game the Kansas group defeated Missouri with a score of 10 to 9. Rev. W. Ferber of Duluth, Minn., showed several films of our fellow-Christians in our northern States. All were delighted by the presentation.

A friendly Kansas City paper recently published in a Sunday edition a full-page story regarding "our deaf in religious life, in home and social activities, and in industry." Three large pictures appeared with the story.

In the past few months it has been the privilege of the undersigned to address mission-festival audiences at Herington, Kans., and Emma, Mo. A general outline of our work was given. Also the plans regarding a future Kansas City church for the deaf was discussed with a number of interested people. At each occasion more than five hundred people were in the audience. Such interest in our Gospel-preaching by means of the "silent language" is an encouragement to all concerned.

A. E. FERBER

*Minneapolis Mission.*—Before our service in Little Falls on August 15 Arthur Wm. Misbe and Eleanor Edith Bergstrom were united in holy marriage. May the Lord Jesus abide with them and make their home a happy one! Both are communicant members of our mission. After the ceremony a service was held with eleven deaf.

J. L. S.

*Mission for Blind and Deaf.*—The secretary of a State Commission for the Blind in a Western State recently sent us several requests for copies of our *Lutheran Herald for the Blind* and remarked with reference to one of the applicants: "He expressed the desire for Moon type periodicals as it is easier on his nerves to read than the Braille." Many elderly blind persons prefer the Moon system because it is more easily learned and does not require a very sensitive touch.

O. C. S.

## The Deaf Lutheran

Official Organ of Lutheran Church Missions for the Deaf  
Published Monthly

Twenty-five Cents per Annum in Advance

Send all subscriptions, changes of address, and cancellations to **Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis Mo.**

The DEAF LUTHERAN goes to press on the 12th of the month preceding month of issue.

Send all articles intended for publication in this monthly to Rev. O. C. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.