

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., December, 1937

No. 12

Christmas

Christmas! Oh, how sweet and holy
Rings thy message gently mild
For all men, both old and child!
Now rejoice in Him who lowly
Came to earth from heaven's throne,
Mary's child and God's own Son.

The Greatest Gift that All may Have

Of all the holidays that come to us but once a year Christmas is by far the happiest. It is such a joyful, blessed holiday because it is the anniversary of that great day when God gave the world a Savior.

This Savior was given to a lost world as a gift. God so *loved* the world — God *gave* His Son. Jesus is God's love-gift to us.

Since that first Christmas night this holiday has become the world's supreme gift-day. God's world-redeeming gift was a true, genuine gift. It was not a gift such as one friend exchanges with another for favors received. No, the Savior was a Gift to people who had *not* earned it. The holy writer says: "Every good gift and every *perfect* gift is from above," Jas. 1, 17. Yes, "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord," Rom. 6, 23.

In this happy season let us in spirit go to Bethlehem and see the Christ-child resting in a manger. Read about it in your Bible. You can see something that kings and prophets of old longed to see, but did not see. Truly, this is the greatest gift that ever was, or ever will be, given to a sinful world. "His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace," Is. 9, 6.

If this Prince of Peace, Jesus, had not come,

there would be no forgiveness, no hope, no peace, for those who face death. If Christ had not come and the preaching of His Gospel had not reached America, our country would not be the civilized nation it is today.

However, one more important step remains



— do you *accept* this kind Gift, the Savior? This Christ-child, Jesus, the Savior, says: "No man cometh unto the Father *but by Me*," John 14, 6. If we accept gifts of earthly, passing values, we should all the more for the sake of our soul's salvation, accept this Gift of God, which has values that reach into all eternity.

You can do two things with God's gift, accept it in faith or reject it. May the Holy Spirit give *you* this saving faith to believe in Jesus as *your* Savior. Then, finally, your Christmas joy will continue and "merge" into the joy of an eternal Christmas.

He, the mighty King, has come,
 Making this poor earth His home;
 Come to bear our sin's sad load,
 Son of David, Son of God.
 He has come whose name of grace
 Speaks deliv'rance to our race;
 Left for us His home above,
 Son of Mary, Son of God. A. E. F.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE CREED

"I believe in God the Father Almighty"

In our last studies we learned to say, "I believe in God." But now our Bible teaches that there are three distinct persons in God, namely, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Therefore our Creed teaches us to confess first: "I believe in God the Father," then: "I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son," and finally: "I believe in the Holy Ghost." In this study let us learn what it means to confess, "I believe in God the Father Almighty."

God Is the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Again and again Jesus calls God His Father. In John 5, 17 He says: "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." When Jesus was baptized, "lo, a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Therefore Peter in his first epistle, chap. 1, 3, says: "Blessed be the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

God Is the Father of All

In Eph. 3, 14, 15 St. Paul writes: "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named." How He is the Father of all we learn from Mal. 2, 10: "Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us?" To Him all people owe their life. He is the Father of all because He created all.

God Is the Father of All Believers in Christ Jesus

All people have fallen into sin and turned away from God, who made them. "All have sinned," Rom. 3, 23. But the Father had mercy

upon all sinners and gave His only-begotten Son to die for all. In Christ, God again accepts us as His dear children. In Gal. 3, 26 St. Paul writes: "Ye are the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Therefore Jesus also teaches us to pray: "Our Father who art in heaven." Do you believe in Jesus Christ? Is God your dear Father through faith in Jesus Christ? May God grant it!

God Is the Father Almighty

An earthly father often finds it too hard, indeed impossible, to do as his children desire. Not so our Father in heaven. He is almighty. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed: "Abba, Father, all things are possible unto Thee." He is "able to save from death," Heb. 5, 7. Paul writes Rom. 6, 4: "Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father," and Rom. 8, 11: "He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies." Of this Father, Jesus tells us: "He is greater than all," John 10, 29. And therefore He gives this beautiful promise: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, *Whatsoever* ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you," John 16, 23. Indeed, He is the Father Almighty.

Now Trust in This Father Almighty at All Times

Blessed are you if you trust in Him. Then you will not worry. He is greater than all, greater than death and hell, greater than death and the grave, greater than all your sins. *Whatsoever* you ask of Him He can give you, be it deliverance from pain and sickness, from sorrow and trouble, from hatred and enmity, or whatever it may be. Let this Father Almighty be your song by day and by night. And tell others of this Father. Help to send out men into all parts of the world, among all peoples and nations, also among the deaf, so that many more will bow their knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ and of all those who trust in His Son.

With joy let us always confess: "I believe in God the Father Almighty." J. L. S.

"THE devil may surround a praying man with stone walls and iron bars, but he has no way to roof him in."

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for December

"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world," 1 John 2, 15

Bible-Lesson: Mark 10, 17—22

"And when He was gone forth into the way, there came one running and kneeled to Him and asked Him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou Me good? There is none good but One, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto Him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus, beholding him, loved him and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me. And he was sad at that saying and went away grieved; for he had great possessions."

After blessing the little children who had been brought to Him, Jesus went forth "into the way" and continued His journey. There He was met by a young man, a ruler of a synagog, a wealthy and prominent man, who knelt down before Him and said, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" He was much concerned about his salvation and came to Jesus to find peace for his troubled soul. He had been taught by the Jewish teachers of his day that by keeping the Law, by doing the good works demanded in the commandments, he could find peace with God and inherit (receive) eternal life. From the time of his youth therefore he had tried to keep the commandments and to lead an upright life, that by his "good" life he might enter the kingdom of heaven. He was like so many people today who are much concerned about their salvation but want to be saved by their own good works.

See what Jesus tells this young man. He wants to show him, first of all, that he cannot hope to be saved by his good works, because "there is none good but One, that is, God." All men are sinners and therefore all need a Savior; also this young man needed Him. Although he claimed to have kept all the commandments from his youth, Jesus pointed out to him that he did not understand the commandments and had not kept them at all. "One thing thou lackest," He said to him, namely, perfect love to God and to his neighbor. For when Jesus said to him, "Go thy way, sell whatever thou hast, and give to the poor, and

thou shalt have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me," he plainly showed that he loved his money more than he loved God. He was not willing to give up his earthly treasures and possessions, for "he was sad at that saying and went away grieved [sorrowful]."

Before we can become disciples of Jesus, we must come to a knowledge of the fact that we are sinners in the sight of the holy God and can be saved not by our so-called good works, but only by Him who has borne, and atoned for, our sins, Jesus Christ, our only Redeemer. Then, out of gratitude to our Savior, we shall be willing to give up everything we have in this world if need be and to serve Him and our fellow-men according to His will.

E. EN.

IN THE MORNING MAIL

Indianapolis Mission.—The missionary who has been serving the Indianapolis field since November, 1935, transferred his residence from Detroit to Indianapolis in September and the deaf here are very much pleased to have him live with them. The Lutheran deaf of the city and a fine number of others who have been attending the services quite faithfully tendered the missionary and his wife a reception in the home of Mrs. Anna Struve, who was confirmed by Pastor Arthur Reinke almost forty years ago and is now living in Indianapolis. They delighted the missionary's wife with the gift of a fine bouquet of roses and the missionary himself with the gift of a very beautiful Telechron electric clock. Often the missionary thinks he stands alone, and no one cares whether he is there or not. But a reception of this kind, opened by one of the members reciting a hymn bidding the missionary welcome as their shepherd, and the happy faces of those present raise the spirit to a higher level and to a resolve to do faithful and consecrated work for the saving of immortal souls. May the Lord bless these deaf for this kindness to the missionary and his wife, and let their hearts be knitted together in love that the Word of God may grow strong in the hearts of all those present and of many more yet to be brought into the fold!

The attendance at services throughout the field, with one exception, has been very steady and gratifying, the average being just sixty a month, with monthly services in every place but three; where they are held bimonthly. Six have been added to the Communion list by confirmation, of whom one was called home by the Lord last March, and four were added by letter from other fields. Three adults and a number of children were baptized. Nine are preparing for Communion and one for Baptism and Communion. The total number of communicants at present is thirty-two. The stations served by your missionary are: Indianapolis, Fort Wayne, Anderson, Richmond, Columbus, Evansville, Vincennes, Terre Haute, Ind., Farina, Ill., and Louisville, Ky. W. G.

Kansas City Mission.—Miss Winifred Easley and Raymond Walz were united in holy matrimony October 3 at Wichita, Kansas. Immanuel Lutheran Church very kindly offered us the use of its beautiful new house of worship. Thus it was possible for us to solemnize the marriage at God's altar. More than forty deaf and one hundred and fifty speaking friends attended.

It was the privilege of the writer to conduct a service with all members and friends who attended the Mid-Central Kansas Association of the Deaf, at Salina on October 24. Fifty-seven friends attended the service. The collection, \$12.20, was given for the Kansas City Lutheran Chapel Fund. The West Missouri Pastoral Conference designated the collection of \$34.05 at its communion service on October 19 to this cause. At Craig, Mo., also a fine gift was given us.

A. E. FERBER

Minneapolis Mission.—At the end of September and beginning of October the pastor spent a two week's vacation in Saginaw, Michigan, especially to be with Grandma Steltzriede, the mother of the pastor's sainted wife, at the celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of her birth, September 30. In the afternoon a short service was conducted by her pastor at the home, at which her six daughters, two brothers, and three sisters were present. Upon her request we signed several hymns for her. In fact, we often were called upon to render hymns in the sign-language. In the evening there was a reception. One hundred and sixty registered and tendered their well-wishes to Grandma. Among them were her 18 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren, all of whom are members of our Church, which above all fills her heart with joy and which surely is noteworthy. A box was placed at the exit for offerings for the Church Extension Fund, which should be used especially for building chapels for the deaf. It amounted to \$19.50. Her sister, Mrs. Barbara List, eighty-five years of age, also sent us a dollar for our mission upon the occasion of her birthday, October 14.

The pastors of Saginaw kept your missionary on Sundays. October 3 he spoke a few words in behalf of our work among the deaf and signed a hymn in Rev. Zeile's church. On October 10 he did the same in Rev. Bernthal's church and the same morning also in Rev. Voss's church, Holy Cross, where your missionary was baptized and confirmed. May God grant that thereby we have aroused interest for missions in general and for our work among the deaf in particular unto the glory of Christ's holy name and the salvation of many souls!

J. L. S.

Omaha Mission.—The Omaha deaf congregation is happy to announce that its new house of worship is rapidly nearing completion. Work on the new church and parsonage was begun on September 17 and under the Lord's gracious blessing has progressed rapidly. On Sunday, November 7, the corner-stone for the new edifice was laid. Rev. H. A. Gamber, chairman of the Board, was the speaker at this service, and the local pastor had charge of the corner-stone-laying ceremony.

The church will seat approximately a hundred people. Both church and parsonage are of brick-veneer con-

struction. Dedication services are being planned for about the middle of January, the date depending much upon the weather during the next two months.

The Omaha congregation wishes to thank the Board for Deaf Missions and the General Church Extension Board for their cooperation in making it possible for us to secure this much-needed building. We pray God to continue His mercy and goodness among us and to grant His continued blessings on all our undertakings that will redound unto His glory and unto the salvation of many souls. We hope to be able to add more concerning our new building in one of the future issues of the DEAF LUTHERAN.

Miss Doris Wood of Marion, S. Dak., was united with the Lutheran Church by the rite of confirmation at Sioux Falls on October 31. Miss Wood is at present attending the Sioux Falls State School for the Deaf.

On August 8 the two children of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Darst of Dayton, Iowa, Doloris Virginia and Joan Ann, received Holy Baptism during the regular services at Fort Dodge, Iowa.

On September 26 Larry Dean, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lamont Brush of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., was baptized, and on October 27 Bruce Elliott, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Neujahr, Omaha, also received Holy Baptism.

May the Lord keep these children in His grace unto eternal life!

Instruction classes at both the Omaha and Council Bluffs State schools have been continued this fall, with an increase in attendance at both schools. The combined attendance now reaches over one hundred.
E. M.

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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.