

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 1



The New Year

Be Thou with me!

The path I do not know,
Which lies before me still,
Of valleys and of hill

Where I must go.

O Christ, Thou art Thyself the *Way*;

Who follows Thee shall never stray.

My Way to be,

Be Thou with me!

Be Thou with me!

The truth I cannot find;

I grope about in vain

Salvation to attain;

My eye is blind.

But Thou, dear Savior, art the *Truth*;

Who learns of Thee shall know forsooth.

My Truth to be,

Be Thou with me!

Be Thou with me!

My heart in sin is dead;

The good I cannot do

And evil not eschew

Though wrath I dread.

But Thou art *Life*, my God and Lord;

All, all, shall live who trust Thy Word.

My Lord to be,

Be Thou with me!

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER, D. D.



Future Judgment

The passing of the old year should remind us that death is unavoidable. You cannot escape it. The hour when death lays its icy hand upon your shoulder will certainly come. Of all the people who have lived in the past centuries, not one has remained upon the earth. Your friends and relatives cannot help

you in the presence of death. By death you are led to the judgment-seat of your Maker. Heb. 9:27 we read, "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment." How can you face the New Year and this judgment without fear? Only if you have received the forgiveness of your sins. If you are not sorry for your sins and refuse the help of our Savior Jesus in this life, you shall hear the words of your Judge, "Depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity," Luke 13:27. How very foolish of you to spend all of your time seeking earthly goods and pleasures! Jesus says: "For what is a man profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Matt. 16:26. It is the business of the Christian Church to show you from God's own Word how to face death and the future Judgment of your Maker fearlessly and joyfully. Resolve, therefore, in the new year to go to church regularly and to learn to speak with David: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me," Ps. 23:4. O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE SECOND ARTICLE

"Jesus Christ, My King"

In that well-known Easter hymn "I Know that My Redeemer Lives" we sing: "He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King." From the Word of God we have learned that Christ is our Prophet, who teaches us the Word of God and the way to life; our High Priest, who gave Himself an offering for sin and still prays for us; and in this study we shall learn to know Him as our King.

Jesus Christ Is King

The Bible teaches this already in the Old Testament when it speaks of His coming. In Ps. 2:6 the Father says of Him: "Yet have I set My King upon My holy hill of Zion." During Advent we again and again heard the words of the prophet Zechariah "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee," chap. 9:9. When He was born in Bethlehem, wise men came from the East to Jerusalem and asked: "Where is He that is born King of the Jews?" Matt. 3:2. And Jesus Himself confessed this before Pilate. When the Roman governor asked Him: "Art Thou a king, then?" He answered, "Thou sayest that I am a King," John 18:37. My Jesus, a King!

Jesus Christ, an Almighty King

He is not like the kings of this world, who are only weak men. He is greater than all kings. In his letter to Timothy, chap. 6:15, Paul calls Him "the King of kings and Lord of lords." And before Jesus went up into heaven, He said for the comfort of His Christians: "All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth," Matt. 28:18. And of the ascended King, Paul writes: "God hath set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, . . . and hath put all things under His feet and gave Him to be head over all things," Eph. 1:20-22. Surely, sweet comfort for us Christians in these days of trouble and sorrow, of wars and rumors of war. We need not fear: God gave Him to be Head over all things "to the Church," as Paul says in v. 22. He rules also over kings and dictators and rulers for the good of His Church. And therefore we can begin the new year without fear and trembling.

This Almighty King Is an Everlasting King

No other king can take His crown and throne, as it happens among the kings and rulers of this world. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. Other kings die and must leave their kingdom, but not our King. He died once, then arose again, and now lives forever. The prophet Isaiah says of His kingdom: "Of the increase of His government there shall be no end . . . from henceforth even forever," Is. 9:7. And in Daniel 7:14 we read: "His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away." Oh, rejoice! Our

King, who has defeated all our enemies and saved us from sin and death and devil, reigns forever and ever.

Jesus Christ, My King

Yes, accept Him as your King, and then, as Luther says in the explanation of the Second Article, "serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for January

"The Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me," Gal. 2:20

Bible-Lesson: Mark 14:26-31

"And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives. And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of Me this night; for it is written, I will smite the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. But Peter said unto Him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny Me thrice. But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with Thee, I will not deny Thee in any wise. Likewise said they all."

Jesus and His disciples had finished eating the passover meal, at the close of which Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper. After singing a hymn they left the upper room where they had eaten the passover and walked over to a place called Gethsemane, on the Mount of Olives. Jesus knew that the hour of His suffering and death was near at hand. He also knew that His disciples would be filled with fear and terror at the things that should happen to Him and would all forsake and leave Him. Therefore He said to them, "All ye shall be offended because of Me this night." And He called their attention to the words which God had spoken through His prophet Zechariah: "I will smite the Shepherd [Jesus], and the sheep [the disciples] will be scattered." These words plainly show that it was God who laid the punishment and suffering for the sins of the world upon His own Son. And the suffering and shame brought upon the Savior would cause His own disciples to be offended at Him, to lose all hope and confidence in Him,

and to flee from Him. But Jesus looks beyond His suffering and death and sees the victory which He will gain in the end. Though He must go into death and the grave, He will not remain there. He will rise again and go before them into Galilee.

Peter was the first to answer the Lord, saying, "Although all shall be offended, yet will not I." It is perhaps true, he meant to say, that the other disciples will leave Thee, but it is different with me. It was sinful for Peter to speak thus. He trusted in his own power and strength when he should have begged the Lord to guard and help him in the hour of temptation, so that he would not fall into sin.

Jesus knew that Peter was only a weak and sinful man. Therefore He warned him again with very emphatic words, telling him that in that same night he would deny Him thrice before the cock would crow twice. Peter did not heed the second warning but boasted so much more; "If I should die with Thee, I will not deny Thee in any wise." And the other disciples spoke likewise.

Peter was very self-confident, but he forgot that he was a weak and sinful man, and when the hour of temptation came, he was not able to stand firm. We, too, are weak and sinful beings, even as Peter and the other disciples were. Therefore Jesus tells us again and again to watch and pray lest we fall into temptation. Let us not trust in our own power and strength but with fear and trembling humble ourselves before Jesus, our Savior, and ask Him to keep us with Him on the way to life everlasting. It is only by the almighty power of His grace that we are kept through faith unto salvation.

E. EN.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

New York Mission.—It was the first class from the new New York School for the Deaf, located in beautiful Westchester County and housed in imposing buildings on Knollwood Road, near White Plains, New York. Eagerly the day was looked forward to at the close of the school year. For good reasons it had to be deferred till the fall of the year. It was the culmination of a period of study of the way of salvation, of which the beginning, the middle, and the end is Jesus, the Savior. On the 22d of October five of the boys were ready to make a confession and a vow. One of them comes from a far-away village near Hudson, N. Y.; two come from Freeport, L. I., and two from different boroughs of New York City. Associated with them was an adult, who after careful consideration resolved

to join them. The boys who could go home came with their parents, relatives, and friends; the others were gotten from the institution by the pastor. In St. Luke's Church, in the heart of Manhattan, near Times Square, they were confirmed after confessing their faith and vowing steadfastness. After confirmation the newly confirmed went to the Lord's Table, strengthening their faith in the forgiving love of the Savior. The day of confirmation is a memorable one. It is a day of decision. May it be held sacred! May the vow, made in the presence of Him who loved them and gave himself for them, be kept sacred! This wish was expressed in a fervent prayer. The service was a combined one for the deaf and their hearing friends. After the service all the boys returned to the school on the hills in Greenburgh, passing on Riverside Drive the site of their former school and saluting the place of their former sorrows and joys.—The members of the Lutheran Mission for the Deaf also participated in the Centennial Thank-offering. At this writing they have sent \$34.15 to the Treasurer of the Atlantic District of synod. Any one desiring to make a contribution to clear the slate of Synod of all debts still has an opportunity till the middle of January, when the first century will come to a close. A. B.

Seattle, Wash.—It is a long time since any news has come from this corner of the world. There are many things we could talk and write about, such as our wonderful climate, etc. However, we shall content ourselves with a few remarks concerning our work.

The Word of God is sown here, and according to God's promise it does bring results. Here, there, at this station another sheep has been added to Christ's flock. May God keep all the new members in His fold here until He calls them to the eternal home.

We sing:

Who knows how near my end may be!
Time speeds away, and death comes on;
How swiftly, ah, how suddenly,
May death be here and life be gone!
My God, for Jesus' sake I pray
Thy peace may bless my dying day.

The truth of these words was brought home to us a few weeks ago when our faithful friend and member John H. Adams was called home. On Sunday, October 8, he attended church apparently in normal health. On Wednesday night God suddenly called him home. We do not know the exact hour of his death. In the morning his wife found him lying on the floor, cold in death. Although we do not know the time of his passing, of one thing we are sure, we know where his soul is now. Mr. Adams was a man of faith, and lived his faith, and he is now forever with the Lord. He sees what here he hoped for; he is in blissful possession of that which in this life he saw by faith.

His death was a shock to all of us. May God comfort his widow and family! Mr. Adams was laid to rest on Monday, October 16. His pastor based his remarks on Heb. 4:9-11. There was a very large attendance at the funeral service, and the wealth of flowers spoke of the esteem in which he was held. His going is a great loss to Our Redeemer Church

in Seattle. How we shall miss him! As we think of his sudden passing, let us pray: Lord, teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

The Church of Our Redeemer in Seattle had its face lifted this summer, and it also has a new bonnet. Through the kindness of Mr. Sidney Roison, whom God called home in February of last year, we were able to have a new roof laid of green crushed slate and to have the entire property painted. A new oil burner does away with dust and dirt and is a boon to the pastor's wife, when he is gone on his trips to Canada, Montana, etc. We can be, and justly are, elated over our beautiful church property.

W. A. W.

Indianapolis Field.—In September we laid to rest in God's acre two communicants of our Fort Wayne flock, Mrs. Emma Schroeder, born Kruse, at the age of 59 years and 5 months, and her husband, Charles Schroeder, aged 67 years and 4 months. Mrs. Schroeder was operated on for cancer on the morning of September 2, died that same afternoon, and was given a Christian burial on September 5. Two days after her burial the husband had a stroke, and he never regained consciousness. Later he had a second stroke, which affected his breathing muscles, from which pneumonia developed, and on September 19 he joined his sainted wife in death and was laid to rest on September 21. They left behind them three sons and other near and distant relatives. The Rev. F. Heidbrink, pastor of Immanuel Church in Fort Wayne and pastor of the three sons, conducted both funerals in conjunction with the missionary and pastor of the deceased.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord" can surely be said of Mr. and Mrs. Schroeder. Brought to Jesus by Baptism in early infancy, in fact, soon after their birth, they were kept in the faith in the Son of God by the Word of God, which is the power of God unto salvation. Both attended our Lutheran Institute for the Deaf at Detroit. Mr. Schroeder stayed in school until his confirmation, but Mrs. Schroeder was there only two years. Later she was instructed by Pastor Moll of Immanuel Church, Fort Wayne, and Missionary to the Deaf Arthur Reinke of Chicago, and confirmed by them. May 13, 1906, they were united in marriage by Missionary to the Deaf Arthur Boll, now in Greater New York.

Of our deceased friends we can truthfully say that they loved the Lord, His house, and His Word and proved it by faithful attendance at all services. They did not turn away when the Lord spoke to them through His Word but listened and obeyed. Their faith in their Savior and their love for Him and their children showed itself in this, that they brought up their sons in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. They had them baptized soon after their birth, taught them at home as well as they could, sent them to the Christian day-school of Immanuel Church, and always urged them to worship regularly in God's house and to read the Bible at home. They left behind them three sons who truly fear the Lord and love to dwell on the things that are above. One son writes this about his

parents: "By their simple, childlike faith in Jesus they inspired us more than many parents that can hear. By this faith they sacrificed much to give us a good education." Yes, they gave them a good education both for this life and for the life to come. What greater and better tribute can be paid to parents than that given his God-fearing deaf parents by one of their sons?

Verily, the Spirit says that they who die in the Lord rest from their labors and that their works follow them. May their dead bodies rest peacefully in their graves, and on that great resurrection day may they be placed at the right hand of their Savior! W. G.

St. Louis Field.—On September 3 John Stahl of St. Louis was confirmed at our mission, having witnessed a good confession. On November 5 a class of four was confirmed, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Rossell, Ramon Alexander, and Otto Krumm. May the Lord bless these members with strong faith, love, and hope!

Speaking engagements in hearing congregations brought us to Okawville, Centralia, and Decatur, Ill., the past summer. While thus bringing the cause of our mission to the special attention of these congregations, we had the joy of finding a group of fourteen deaf gathered in a service in Immanuel Church of Decatur. They had been invited by the mission-minded Pastor C. J. Pritz. From this group we received the invitation to come regularly, and so we hope to visit Decatur, a city of some 70,000 inhabitants, which has a strong deaf colony, every month.

Rev. Walter Uhlig, a graduate of the class of '38 at St. Louis, who worked in the far Northwest among the deaf last year, is helping in the St. Louis field, having been assigned to work the six stations of the Southland, Memphis, Little Rock and Blytheville, Ark., Jackson, Miss., and Baton Rouge and New Orleans, relieving the St. Louis missionary of the tiring trips and enabling him to work more intensively the St. Louis area.

About 45 students of the St. Louis Seminary are working in the sign-language classes this year and are showing great interest. It is gratifying to see the evident desire to serve the Lord and the deaf through acquiring the sign-language. Incidentally, the Lutheran Church is doing the deaf a real service by spreading the knowledge of the sign-language, since there are very few schools teaching the signs, though it still is employed as a medium of instruction in many schools. And if you remember that the Lutheran Church in America every year spends about \$45,000 to bring the Gospel to the deaf of our country through supporting twenty full-time workers, it becomes quite clear that it is indeed a good friend of the deaf. N. P. U.

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