

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. 32

St. Louis, Mo., February, 1940

No. 2

Lent

Far, far away is Bethlehem,
And years are long and dim
Since Mary held the holy Child
And angels sang to Him;
But still to hearts where love and faith
Make room for Christ in them,
He comes again, the Child from God,
To find His Bethlehem.

Beyond the sea is Galilee
And ways which Jesus trod,
And hidden there are those high hills
Where He communed with God;
Yet on the plains of common life,
Through all the world of men,
The voice that once said, "Follow Me,"
Speaks to our hearts again.

Gethsemane and Calvary,
And death and bitter loss,
Are these but echoes drifting down
From a forgotten cross?
Nay, Lord, for all our living sins
Thy cross is lifted up,
And as of old we hear Thee say,
"Can ye, too, drink My cup?"

O Life that seems so long ago
And yet is ever new,
The fellowship of love with Thee
Through all the years is true.
O Master over death and time,
Reveal Thyself, we pray,
And as before amongst Thine own,
So dwell with us today.

W. RUSSELL BOWIE

The Fiery Serpent

The Bible tells us: "And the Israelites journeyed from Mount Hor, by the way of the Red Sea, to compass the land of Edom; and the soul of the people was much discouraged because of the way. And the people spake against God and against Moses, Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light bread. And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people, and much people of Israel died.

Therefore the people came to Moses and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord and against thee; pray unto the Lord that He take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. And Moses made a serpent of brass and put it on a pole; and it came to pass that, if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived," Num. 21:4-9.

Jesus, speaking to Nicodemus, referred to the fiery serpent with the following words: "As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up," John 3:14. The people of Israel had sinned against their God by murmuring against Him and His servant Moses. They said, "Wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness?" For years Israel had been in slavery under Egyptian rulers, praying for deliverance. God heard their prayer and sent His servant Moses to lead them to the Promised Land. They were now on their way, yet they murmured against God. God in His wrath sent serpents among them. Israel then saw its error and pleaded for help. God granted it and commanded Moses to raise the fiery serpent on a pole with the promise that those who looked at it in faith should live. Thus Israel was saved.

Here is a picture of all humanity groaning and suffering under sin and its consequences, death and eternal damnation. In the midst of this misery God has raised Jesus, His Son, on the cross and given the promise that he who looks in faith to Jesus shall live.

Let us not listen to the doubts of our hearts and the temptations of Satan to disregard this promise, but let us look to Him whom God has put on the cross for us and live eternally and happily. _____ O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE SECOND ARTICLE

"Jesus Christ, My King"

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the almighty and everlasting King of kings and Lord of lords. He rules with power over all. All people are in this Kingdom of Power. But there is another kingdom of our Lord Jesus, and not all people are in this kingdom.

This Kingdom Not of This World

When Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, on Good Friday morning asked Jesus, "Art Thou the King of the Jews?" He answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight that I should not be delivered to the Jews. But now is My kingdom not from hence." Then He told him that He is the King of Truth, adding: "Every one that is of the truth heareth My voice," John 18:36, 37. Those that are "of the truth" are such as accept, believe, the truth, the Word of Jesus. These believers the Bible calls the Church of Jesus Christ, or the holy Christian Church, as we say in the Third Article of the Creed. Friend, are you of the truth? Are you in this kingdom? If not, then you are in the kingdom of another king, that is, the devil. O come, the Lord Jesus wants you in His kingdom!

Christ Rules in This Kingdom by Grace

To this Church the prophet says: "Tell ye the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee meek and sitting upon an ass," Matt. 21:5. As a humble, gracious King He comes. He comes to rule with love and grace. His kingdom is a kingdom of grace and forgiveness. In it His Word of forgiveness, the sweet Gospel, is heard, which tells us of His love and mercy, of His bitter suffering and death on the cross for the sins of the world, of His glorious victory on Easter Day, and by it He offers and gives forgiveness of all sins, peace with God, joy in the Holy Ghost, and the hope of ever-

lasting life to every one who believes. Blessed are all they who are in this kingdom. Does this King dwell in your heart by faith in His grace? May God grant it!

Christ Keeps His Church against All Enemies

Christ and His Church have mighty enemies. The devil and the world seek to destroy it. Read the Book of Acts, and you will see how mightily the devil and his followers fought against Christ and His Church. Yes, the whole history of the Church will show this. Today again we see mighty forces coming against our King and His kingdom: Communism, atheistic societies, unbelief. But we need not fear. Our King says: "Fear not, little flock," Luke 12:32. And again He says of His Church: "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it," Matt. 16:18. Many enemies have fallen, and they are still falling; but the Church of Jesus Christ stands to this day and will stand forever. O rejoice, you followers of His!

The Lenten Call

This month we again enter upon the holy season of Lent. We see the King in His suffering and death upon the cross for the sins of all men. Again we see Him holding forth His bleeding hands to every one and saying: "Fear not, for I have redeemed thee," Is. 43:1. Come, let Him be your King! Believe in Him and say, "My King, who loved me and gave Himself for me." J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for February

"I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will but the will of Him that sent Me,"
John 6:38

Bible-Lesson: Mark 14:32-42

"And they came to a place which was called Gethsemane; and He saith to His disciples, Sit ye here while I shall pray. And He taketh with Him Peter and James and John and began to be sore amazed and very heavy; and saith unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death; tarry ye here and watch. And He went forward a little and fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from Him. And He said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto Thee; take away this cup from Me; nevertheless, not what I will but what Thou wilt. And He cometh and findeth them sleeping and saith unto Peter, Simon, sleepest thou? Couldst not thou watch one hour? Watch ye and pray lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak.

And again He went away and prayed and spake the same words. And when He returned, He found them asleep again, (for their eyes were heavy,) neither wist they what to answer Him. And He cometh the third time and saith unto them, Sleep on now and take your rest; it is enough, the hour is come. Behold, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise up, let us go; lo, he that betrayeth Me is at hand."

When Jesus arrived at the Garden of Gethsemane with His disciples He told eight of them to remain at the entrance while He went into the Garden to pray. Three of His disciples, Peter, James, and John, He took with Him into the Garden. The hour of His suffering was now at hand, and these three disciples were to be near Him, watching and praying with Him.

And now see what sorrow and suffering Jesus, the Son of God, had to endure for the sins of the world that were laid upon Him. He "began to be sore amazed and to be very heavy" (filled with fear and trembling). So great was His agony, so heavily did the guilt of sin weigh upon Him, that it brought His soul to the very point of death. In this great anguish He dreaded to be left alone and appealed to His disciples for help and comfort, begging them to remain with Him and to watch and pray with Him.

Then He went forward a little and fell upon the ground and prayed to His Father in heaven to take away the suffering from Him if such a thing were possible. But He added, "Not what I will but what Thou wilt." Suffering such agony of body and soul that we cannot find words to describe it, He was nevertheless willing to endure God's curse and punishment for sin that mankind might be saved.

And the three disciples, did they watch and pray? While Jesus prayed, they fell asleep. When Jesus came to them and found them sleeping, He said to Peter, who had but a short time before, on the way to the Garden, spoken so boastfully of his loyalty to Jesus, "Simon, sleepest thou? Coudest not thou watch one hour?" And then He warned them all, saying, "Watch ye and pray lest ye enter into temptation." The "spirit" (the new man, the believing heart) is willing; it wants to do what Jesus asks. But the "flesh" (the Old Adam, the sinful nature that still clings to us) is weak and constantly opposes the Lord's will. Therefore the disciples are to be on their guard, they are to watch and pray so that temptations will not overpower them. But the

Lord, returning from praying a second and a third time, found them sleeping each time.

How often are we not like these disciples, unmindful of the Lord's admonition to watch and pray! Only by constant prayer, by seeking help and strength from our Father in heaven, can we remain faithful to our Savior, endure suffering with Him, and overcome the temptations that threaten to overpower us. God help us all to watch and pray.

E. EN.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Omaha Mission.—During the past few months the following were brought to the Lord Jesus in Holy Baptism: Darrel John Peterson and Milton Adam Revers of Omaha; Carolyn Mae Schenemann of Hastings, Nebr.; Sharon Mae Hagen of Boone, Iowa; and Eleanor Marie Jump, Norma Jean Jump, and Erna Mae Jump of Fort Dodge, Iowa. May the Lord keep them in His grace!

Miss Mina Andrews, after faithful application to the study of the Catechism, the chief doctrines of the Bible, was received into communion with Bethlehem Lutheran Deaf Church at Omaha through Baptism. May the Lord, whom she publicly confessed on that day, give her strength to remain in the true faith unto life everlasting!

On September 5 Mr. Ed. J. Humphreys of Sioux City, Iowa, and Miss Catherine Peterson of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., were united in marriage in the church for the deaf in Omaha.

On December 9, in the evening, the wedding of Mr. Thomas Auxier and Miss Hazel Germer took place in Omaha at the parsonage. Our congratulations and best wishes go with the two couples. The Lord grant them many blessings and make their homes happy homes, where Jesus is their constant companion.

E. M.

Minneapolis Mission.—It was a merry Christmas for our boys and girls at the schools. December 10 was the day of our Christmas program in Trinity Church at Faribault, Rev. O. Volz, pastor. Christmas carols were sung and signed, recitations were signed to the glory of our Savior, and the pastor made an address on 2 Cor. 9:5. After the service all went over to Trinity School, where the young people of Trinity had arranged games for the fifty boys and girls whom we instruct every Saturday in God's Word and Luther's doctrine pure. Then a dainty meal was served, and again games were played. As a gift each boy and girl received five pencils of different colors; and what a surprise it was for every one to find his or her name printed on each pencil! The young people of Trinity Church furnished cars to bring all the deaf boys and girls to church and brought all back to school. May God richly reward the young people for their interest in our work!

In Minneapolis we had our Christmas program on

the evening of December 27. Children of deaf parents and children of the Minneapolis School for the Deaf, where we instruct ten every Monday and eight every Tuesday, took part in the program. Christmas carols were sung by our hearing friends and the oral deaf and signed by the others, children of deaf parents who can both speak and sign gave their pieces in speech and signs at the same time. The Christmas carols were signed by older children. The boys and girls of the Minneapolis School gave their answers and recitations by word of mouth. Thus we glorified our Savior's name both through signs and the spoken word. Gifts were distributed to the children after the service. Pastor Beyer of St. Paul interpreted for the deaf, and an old friend of ours, Mrs. H. Kruschke, played the organ. Hearty thanks to both!

Pray for our work at the schools! J. L. S.

Golden Gate Mission.—The Golden Gate Mission enjoyed a blessed year. We closed it with a beautiful Christmas service, in which the lovely hymns of Christendom were rendered in the language dear to all the deaf. A splendid choir of thirteen vested ladies, led by Mrs. A. Patterson and Miss I. Lynch, brought out new features in hymn-singing which have not been thought of before. Every one was deeply impressed with the beauty of the plain signing in chorus according to this new arrangement. The attendance of 104 has been our regular holiday measure. Also last year we were able to draw from our continued confirmation classes such as had completed the year's course. The following made their confirmation vow and partook of their first Communion: Mr. and Mrs. J. Waxel, Mr. Manuel Cambra, Mr. E. Silva, Mr. P. R. Grainger, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Oxley, and Mr. C. Hawvichorst.

At San Francisco a similar service was held for the holidays in which Mr. P. Musladin and Mr. A. Campbell assisted the ladies' choir. Here at San Francisco Miss Y. Metzner and Mr. Wm. B. Stephens joined the church by the rite of confirmation. We have in this city a remarkable feature concerning attendance. Every service is attended by three fourths of the membership, and the Communion record is very good.

At San Jose Mr. O. Gilliam was confirmed and Katherine Mains baptized. Employment in the West is a serious problem, and though many deaf are finding it hard to make ends meet, they have been faithful to the Lord in the matter of churchgoing, so that we

could again conclude the year 1939 without asking for any expense money from the Board of Missions.

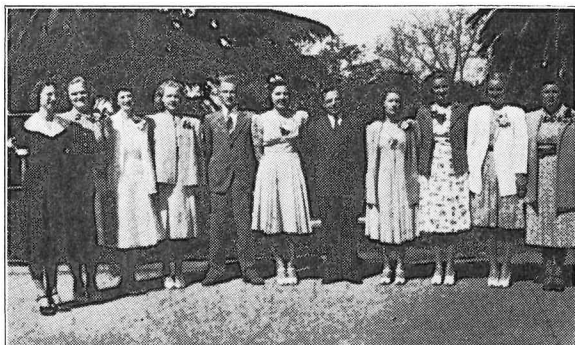
At the State School for the Deaf in Berkeley we have as convenient an arrangement for instruction as can be had anywhere. We have the full Saturday morning to instruct 45 children and one hour and fifteen minutes every Sunday morning for services. The children quite often visit the services at Oakland. It was this year that we were able to see a group of 11 graduates from this school after they had been in our confirmation classes for a period of three years. We regret that many lived in cities where we have no missions, but we are able to give this report that some of them even went to our hearing Lutheran churches when they could find no other. The happy faces on our picture will tell the rest of the story. In this connection a report may be made about the work at the School for the Blind, which is close to the other institution. Here we have a group of four, and of course our work there is not conducted in the sign-language but by speech and by the use of braille. During the December month we dropped our plans for instructions on account of much program work, but with January we shall take up this work again with eagerness; for the prospects which the Lord has provided are waiting to be served.

G. W. G.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—Mr. John Geary, a deaf-blind reader of the *Herald*, whom we have been visiting regularly since 1931, in December fractured his hip while bathing in his home. He is now at the Cook County Hospital. Mr. Geary is a former instructor of the New York Institute for the Deaf and the founder of the Cleveland Oral School for the Deaf. He has a keen mind and is a sincere Christian. Mr. Geary has frequently stated that his blindness and his deafness have been a blessing in disguise to him, since they were instrumental in leading him to the Savior, Jesus Christ. May the Christ-child be his comfort in his affliction!

A reader of the *Herald* yesterday sent us this message: "The old year is rapidly nearing its close, and I cannot let it pass without expressing my appreciation of the *Lutheran Herald*. For over a year I have copied the helpful poems and articles I found in the *Herald* and sent them to Christian societies, ministers, elders, trustees, and business men. One of the articles I sent was printed on the first page of the Hollywood newspaper. It is a joy to me to know that there is still something I can do in the Master's kingdom. May all who make the *Herald* possible have a merry Christmas!"

O. C. S.



Confirmation Class, June 4, 1939, Berkeley, Calif.

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.

Rev. O. C. Schroeder, B. D., Editor, 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill. Send all news items intended for publication in this monthly to Rev. E. Mappes, Associate Editor, 5070 Lake St., Omaha, Nebr.