

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*

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Lutheran School and Chapel for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich.

Meeting of Ephphatha Conference

Twenty Lutheran ministers to the deaf of our Church met August 1—5 at the beautiful new Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, Mich., for their regular annual conference.

This school was founded in 1873. Originally it was intended as an orphanage, but then became a school for the deaf. To this day it is the only Protestant school for deaf children in our country. It prepares its pupils not only for success in this world but above all for God's kingdom by teaching them from the Bible God's holy will, His love and grace to sinners in Christ Jesus, and the means of grace by which they are led to, and kept in, Christian faith and service.

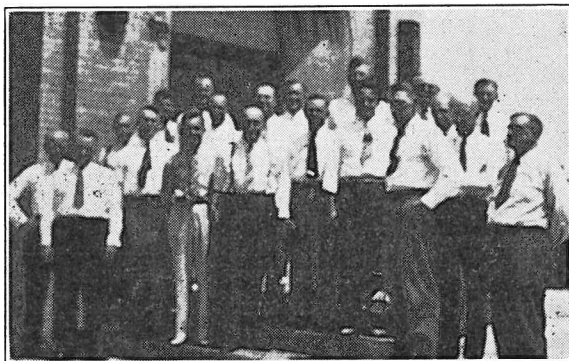
It is a former pupil of this school, Mr. Pahl, who deserves much credit for the establishment of Lutheran Gospel-preaching to the deaf in the sign-language. More than forty-five years ago, after graduating from this school, he wrote a letter to a Chicago Lutheran pastor urging church services for the deaf. His letter stated: "I have been reading the entire Gospel

according to St. Mark this Sunday afternoon. While reading the 16th chapter, a verse fastened itself upon my mind, and I have been thinking of it ever since. It is the great mission command of our Lord given to His disciples in verse 15: 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.' It is true, the Gospel of Jesus is preached to many creatures, and large numbers are won for Christ and His kingdom. But, dear pastor, how is it that the Gospel is not preached to us deaf people? Are we not also creatures and therefore included in this mission command of our Lord? We see our hearing relatives and friends go to their respective churches on a Sunday while we must remain at home because no one will preach the Gospel to us in a language which we are able to understand."

This letter opened the eyes of our Lutheran Church leaders to the necessity of public preaching among the deaf by Lutheran ministers. From the small beginning of one preacher, forty-five years ago, the work has grown steadily under the blessing of our

adored Savior Jesus Christ. Many missionaries are now engaged in soul-winning work among the deaf. Twenty full-time ministers serve the deaf in two hundred and forty cities in the United States and Canada. Eight deaf congregations have their own chapels.

These twenty workers met in Detroit at the above-named school for their annual conference. While the oral method of teaching the deaf received considerable attention, most of the essays delivered pertained to the uniformity, preservation, and development of the sign-language, which is the natural method of communication of the deaf. Epistle- and Gospel-lessons were signed by Pastors E. Eichmann, N. P. Uhlig, A. Jonas, and W. Westermann. The Rev. W. Gielow preached a sermon



Ministers of Ephphatha Conference, Detroit, Mich.
August 1—5

in the sign-language for criticism. Ministers F. Possehl and E. Scheibert rendered some hymns in the signs. Pastor G. Gaertner, N. P. Uhlig, and E. Mappes discussed and presented signs according to a manual of Lutheran usage. The oral work was demonstrated by Director Klein and Instructor Bellhorn of the Lutheran School for the Deaf.

When Lutheran ministers meet for a conference, the study of God's Word is always the chief purpose. Pastors J. Beyer and E. Mappes therefore read exegetical (explaining) papers on Rom. 2:5 ff. and 1 Cor. 8 ff., respectively. A lively discussion followed the excellent presentation of these essays.

The Rev. H. Gamber, chairman of Synod's Board of Missions to Deaf and Blind, was present at the conference. In his address he encouraged the missionaries and offered various suggestions for the development of the

work. Other matters also received proper attention. The members of the conference were urged by the editor and associate editor of the DEAF LUTHERAN to send in brief news items *regularly* to bring a true picture of the progress of our work for our readers.

The Sunday service was well attended. The Rev. G. Ferber of Los Angeles, Calif., delivered the sermon, and Pastor M. Mueller of Milwaukee, Wis., had the confessional address. All the ministers and many deaf members partook of the Lord's Supper.

After the service the Rev. N. P. Uhlig presented to the deaf the various ministers who had served in the mission from five to forty years. In the evening the Rev. J. Beyer again presented the missionaries in a humorous manner, and they responded in like manner.

The Detroit deaf, Director Klein, and Pastor Borchardt were very good hosts. Hearty resolutions of thanks were voted to them for their generous hospitality.

In closing this report, we wish to say that it was a special joy to the undersigned to greet his former members and to see their continued faithfulness and support of Our Savior's Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Detroit.

O. C. SCHROEDER

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE THIRD ARTICLE

"I believe in the Holy Ghost"

In the First Article we confess: "I believe in God the Father," in the Second Article: "And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord," and in the Third Article: "I believe in the Holy Ghost."

The Holy Ghost Is a Person

Some people want to tell us that the Holy Ghost is "only mind, power, or influence." But what does the Book of God say? On the Day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit came down from heaven, and the apostles were all filled with the Holy Ghost. And they began to speak with other tongues (languages), "as the Spirit gave them utterance," Acts 2:4. And 2 Pet. 1:21 we read: "The holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." When the disciples of Christ met to elect another in the place of

Judas, Peter said: "This scripture must needs have been fulfilled which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas," Acts 1:16. So our Lord and Savior Jesus speaks of the Holy Ghost as a person, saying, "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, . . . He shall teach you all things," John 14:26. The Holy Ghost gave utterance, He moved the holy writers, He spake by David, He teaches us all things. Indeed, the Holy Ghost is a person, the same as the Father and the Son.

The Holy Ghost Is the Third Person in the Godhead

Why do we call the Holy Ghost the Third Person? Is He perhaps lower than the Father and the Son? Indeed not. When we speak of the third house in a block, we do not intend to say that it is smaller than the first or second. We perhaps want to show that it is the third in the row. So the Father and the Son are not greater than the Spirit, but we shall see that He is like unto the Father and the Son. We call Him the Third Person because He is placed third in the words of Jesus: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost," Matt. 28:20. And also the work of the Holy Spirit follows that of the Father and that of the Son. Our Lord Jesus says: "The Father will send the Holy Ghost in My name; He shall teach you all things," John 14:26. The Father sent His Son for man's salvation on Christmas Day, Jesus, the Son of God, finished the work of the Father and won the victory over sin, death, and the devil for us on Easter Day, and on Pentecost Day the Holy Ghost came down upon the disciples and filled them with power and boldness to preach the word of forgiveness by faith in the blood of Jesus and brought many to faith in the only Savior.

"I Believe in the Holy Ghost"

Let us remember these things when we confess: "I believe in the Holy Ghost." Praise the Father, who gave His Son; praise the Son, who died for you; and also praise the Holy Ghost, who comes to you and works in you for your soul's salvation. Of this Holy Ghost and His blessed work in us we shall learn more in the following studies.

J. L. S.

Our Pilot

Jesus, Savior, pilot me
Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll,
Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee:
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,
Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boisterous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sovereign of the sea,
Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore
And the fearful breakers roar
"Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me,
"Fear not, I will pilot thee."

Faith of the Heart

There is a story of a Nova Scotia sailor who has the Lord's Prayer tattooed on his back. He says that his dying mother asked him never to part with the cover of a family Bible, on which the Lord's Prayer was printed in letters of gold. For many years he carried this cover with him on all his cruises; but one day he lost it. He thought that "hard luck" pursued him after that, since he met with a series of misfortunes. Finally a companion who had heard him lament the loss of the "charm" suggested that he have the prayer tattooed on his back. This was done, although the process was very painful.

There are many who make the same mistake that this poor, ignorant, superstitious sailor made. There are many who are wearing their religion on the outside rather than on the inside. They observe the forms and customs and ceremonies of religion, but their hearts remain untouched. Such a religion has no value at all. It is rather an insult offered to God. Only genuine religion, religion founded on faith and love of God and of the Savior, has power with God and value for men.

Always

Whether the sky be blue or gray,
"Rejoice in the Lord," is the word, "always";
Whether the rain be much or less,
Whether a wild or a quiet sea
To sing in the calm is thankfulness,
To sing in the storm is victory.

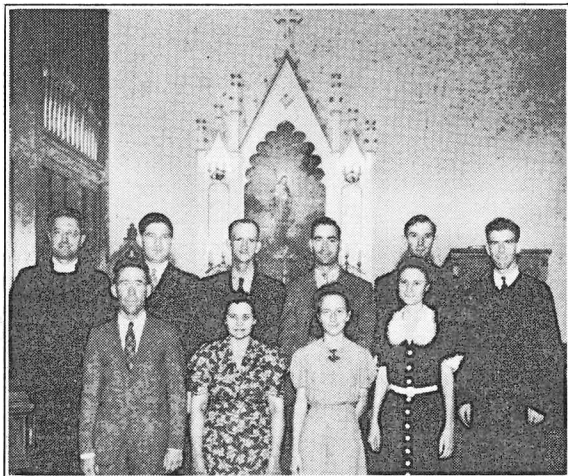
S. E. Sprouse

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Sunday, July 13, was a day of great rejoicing for the deaf and their many hearing friends, when eight deaf came before the altar of the Lord to pledge their faithfulness to their Lord and Savior. Of the eight confirmed, five were also baptized.

The confirmation service, conducted in Zion Lutheran Church, was a beautiful service. The entire service was interpreted, so that the many hearing friends could hear the sermon and also join in singing the hymns. The sermon was based on Rom. 12:1, 2, the theme being "The Christian's Reasonable Service toward His God." The Rev. John F. Schulz, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, delivered the sermon for the hearing people at the same time that it was being preached to the deaf.

After the service a fine reception was given for the



Oklahoma City, Okla., Confirmation, July 13

Rear row, l. to r.: Rev. John F. Schulz, Mr. William Ross, Mr. Archie Brown, Mr. Fred Smith, Mr. John Doss, Rev. Floyd Possehl

Front row, l. to r.: Mr. Edgar Chitwood, Mrs. Edgar Chitwood, Mrs. Woodrow Ellis, Mrs. John Doss

Baptized: Mr. Fred Smith, Mr. Edgar Chitwood, Mrs. Edgar Chitwood, Mr. John Doss, Mrs. John Doss

newly confirmed by the Dorcas Circle. This circle is an organization of Zion whose objective is to do all within its power to be of help and service to the deaf mission. Shortly after Christmas it presented to each deaf family a beautiful copy of Egermeier's *Bible Story Book*. Recently it beautified our place of worship by presenting to us a very attractive altar. The deaf and their pastor are very grateful for the wonderful co-operation which we have received from our many hearing friends.

Again we come before our loving heavenly Father to thank Him for His many mercies. We are grateful that He has given us the privilege of leading these new members to the knowledge of their Savior. We humbly beseech Him to continue to bless our deaf mission and to pour into the hearts of its members the soothing message of His sweet Gospel.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—The manager and editor of the *Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind* in New York City recently wrote to us as follows: "We hear many nice things said about your work. If at any time we can tell our readers anything about your mission, we will be more than glad to do so."

The *Matilda Ziegler Magazine for the Blind* is issued in Revised Braille, Moon type, and New York Point; it has the largest circulation of any magazine for the blind in America. O. C. S.

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Minister to the Deaf and the Blind

Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.

These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the deaf. You will find them ready to serve you; call upon them or write to them. The deaf need God's Word.

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