

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. 33

St. Louis, Mo., November, 1941

No. 11



Thanksgiving

"The fatherhood of God" is, a correct and comforting phrase, but it is too often misunderstood by the slave of sin and the rejecter of Jesus. God is indeed a loving Father to all men. He is also a mighty Father to help His children, not only in bodily troubles but also in those of the soul. Our earthly parents love us dearly, but they are weak and unable to help us in many of our sorrows. God is our Father, the Giver of life and Helper in all troubles; but He is not a Father who closes His eyes to sin and error. He is a just and holy God. Therefore He is our loving Father only through the blood of Jesus, His Son, which cleanses us from all sin.

Even the wealthiest or the most highly honored and praised man who stands before God without the dress of Jesus blood and righteousness will find God to be his angry Judge. St. Paul says: Rom. 5:1: "Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

God's gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, therefore, is our greatest reason for giving thanks. Let us acknowledge this gift especially on Thanksgiving Day and also all the days of our life. St. Paul exclaims: "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift!" 2 Cor. 9:15. Jesus has not only saved us from the punishments of our sins, he saves us also from the power of sin and has heavenly blessings in store for those who love and follow Him. In all their troubles He supports them with the everlasting arms of His love. May we ever be mindful of these great blessings and thank God for them! O. C. S.

The Psalmist Exhorts to Praise

"Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in His sanctuary; praise Him in the firmament of His power. Praise Him for His mighty acts; praise Him according to His excellent greatness. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals; praise Him upon the high-sounding cymbals. Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." Ps. 150:1-6.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE THIRD ARTICLE

"I believe in the Holy Ghost"

The work of the Holy Ghost is to sanctify us, or to make us holy before God. Man himself cannot do this.

Man is Saved only by Faith in Christ Jesus

Man is born in sin, Ps. 51:5. Out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, thefts, etc., Mark 7:21, 22. And because of sin man cannot stand before God. David writes: "Thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness, neither shall evil dwell with Thee," Ps. 5:4. Therefore God in His great mercy sent His only Son to die for the sins of the whole world and so to make all clean and holy before God. Man only need believe. Jesus says: "He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life," John 6:47.

Man Cannot Believe by His Own Reason

Salvation is ready for every one, but he cannot accept it. The way to life is opened, but man cannot arise and walk on this way.

In our Catechism we therefore say: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him." Men like to boast of their great minds and wisdom and understanding, but these never will bring man to Christ. Man is like a blind man. The blind man has eyes, but he cannot see; the wise man of this world has a mind and reason, but he cannot see and understand the way of life.

Salvation by Faith in Christ Crucified Is Foolishness unto Man

God says in His Word: "The natural man (man as he is born) receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him," 1 Cor. 2:14. Again, we read: "The preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness," 1 Cor. 1:18. Perhaps some one already has called you foolish for going to church, for reading the old Bible, for trusting in the blood of Jesus Christ for forgiveness. Never can man come to Christ by his own reason.

Man Cannot Believe by His Own Strength

Men like to boast of their strength and will-power to do things. It is true, men are doing great things, but one thing they can never do, and that is, to believe in Jesus Christ unto salvation. And why not? Paul writes to the Ephesians: "Ye were dead in trespasses and sins," Eph. 2:1. Man is dead in sin and can do nothing good, but only evil. A dead man cannot arise and come to you; so a man dead in sin cannot arise and go to Jesus.

Man Does Not Want to Believe in Jesus

You can move a dead man from place to place; he can do nothing to stop you. But a man dead in sin works against God. Paul says: "The carnal mind (the mind of man as he is born) is enmity against God," Rom. 8:7. Man does not want to be saved. Of the Jews, Jesus said: "Ye would [wanted] not." Matt. 23:37. Never can man come to Jesus by his own strength, as we also confess in our Catechism.

The Holy Ghost Must Work Faith in Man

Paul writes: "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but [excepting] by the Holy Ghost," 1 Cor. 12:3. And our Catechism says:

"The Holy Ghost has called me." Of this blessed work of the Holy Ghost in the hearts of men we shall learn in the following studies. May God bless them! J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for November

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature," Mark 16:15

Bible-Lesson: Acts 1:6-8

"When they, therefore, were come together, they asked of Him, saying, Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And He said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father hath put in His own power. But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Jesus had commanded His disciples to remain in Jerusalem and to wait for the gift of the Holy Spirit, whom He had promised to send upon them. The Holy Spirit was to bless them with special gifts and powers for the work they were to perform in His kingdom. The disciples, however, still had false notions concerning this kingdom. They hoped that Jesus would establish an earthly kingdom for the Jews, a glorious visible kingdom. Therefore they asked Him, "Lord, wilt Thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" Not until the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them on the day of Pentecost, did they understand that the kingdom of Jesus was not a temporal, earthly kingdom but a spiritual kingdom.

Jesus answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father hath put in His own power." The disciples thought of an earthly, visible kingdom. Jesus' kingdom, however, is a spiritual kingdom, the Kingdom of Grace here on earth and the Kingdom of Glory in heaven. Jesus would direct the thoughts of the disciples to this Kingdom of Glory, where all true believers will be with Jesus eternally. This kingdom will surely be established according to His promise. But it is not for the disciples to know the time when this kingdom of God shall be revealed, for this knowledge belongs to God

alone. He has determined the time of its coming and has not revealed it to any one. And Jesus would remind the disciples that they had far more important things to do than to trouble about times and seasons. They were to be His witnesses. They were to proclaim what they had seen and heard, the works and words of Jesus. They were to teach and to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They were to begin their work in Jerusalem and extend it from there to the uttermost part of the earth. They were to "go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." And again Jesus gives them the promise that the necessary power and strength and ability to do this work in the kingdom of God will be imparted to them by the Holy Ghost.

We, too, are to work in God's kingdom. We, too, are to be Jesus' witnesses, bringing the message of salvation by faith in Christ Jesus to all the world. That is our task. With the help of God's Holy Spirit let us perform that task diligently and faithfully. E. EN.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

New York Mission.—William Stupfer of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., a graduate of the New York school and confirmed member of our mission, recently took unto himself a wife, a charming hearing person. They were married at the home of the bride in a rustic setting near Hyde Park, N. Y. Among those present to witness the ceremony was Captain Altendoerfer, retired military instructor of the Fanwood boys. William is employed by Vassar College, a large school for young women at Poughkeepsie, as caretaker of the grounds. The couple and the captain use this means in paying their respects to their friends among the deaf. Living so far away, they seldom see their former schoolmates. — Katherine Giammateo was married to Louis Abrahamsen, a confirmed member of our church living in Brooklyn. On the morning of his wedding day Louis went to the Lord's Table, beginning his married life with his Savior. Louis is employed as a baker since he left school a few years ago. He has not the opportunity to attend divine services on Sundays. But frequently during the last years he came to a special service on Saturdays arranged for him. We wish both couples God's richest blessings for their married life. They will live a happy life if they heed God's precepts and strengthen themselves for their tasks by frequent attendance and worship in God's house. God will provide the strength to carry on even when the days are evil.

Martin Ziegler and Eleanor Lohr have completed

their instructions on the chief parts of the Bible and will be confirmed in Brooklyn on October 26. They have met twice a week for more than a year and have a knowledge of the way of salvation. That is a knowledge worth having. It is a knowledge which God alone gives to the deaf, when they use His precious Word, which we have in the Bible. The grandmother of Martin says that the confirmation of her grandchild is the happiest day of her life. She has been at the Sunday services with her grandchild every time in the last year. Eleanor's mother sighs and wishes that her sainted husband could be present at the confirmation of his deaf child. Though he cannot be with us now, we know that there will be a reunion in spite of the claim of some deaf that the dead will not live again. It will be a happy reunion for those clothed in the spotless dress of Jesus by faith in Him. May we be found in this faith, which has and holds fast to the merits and righteousness of Jesus.

Franklin Jones of Hudson, N. Y., William Fitzpatrick of Freeport, L. I., John Wilson Lang of the Bronx, and Wayne MacVeagh of Queens have graduated from school, and their school-days have now come to an end. All of them were confirmed by the pastor. They were confirmed into the Church, and we trust that they will be present often at the services where God speaks to them in love and mercy for their welfare here on earth and in eternity. Two of them have been at the services. He that is of God hears God's Word. Do not let it be said of you that you are not of God. The Lutheran church at Canarsie, Long Island, is having a joint mission-festival, at which representatives of the Inner Mission, the Chinese mission, the colored mission, and the deaf mission will speak. All of this is done to arouse the spirit of missions in obedience to the Savior, who says: Go, tell.

Newark, N. J.—The Lutheran deaf of Newark, N. J., are invited to hold their church service on October 19 in the church at Clifton, N. J., of which Rev. R. J. Keyl is pastor. The deaf have accepted this invitation and will confess before their hearing brethren their faith in the one Savior which unites them and the deaf. They may have more than the deaf of some things, but they have no more of that Savior. In this respect they are equal. The Newark Lutheran deaf have made a good contribution for the missions which Synod conducts all over the world. In this duty they also want to share and do their bit. God bless them. One time an old faithful deaf member came to me and asked for the meaning of the Bible-passage "I have been young and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread," Ps. 37:25. He said: "I have contributed to the church of which I was a member, but now I am old and cannot work. Who is going to take care of me?" He was taken care of. The pension bill of the State of New York became law. He was eligible. He applied with the help of the pastor and got the pension. You say that is just a happy coincidence; the deaf man was lucky. No; it was more than a happy coincidence. God shaped his life and brought it to a happy ending.

God took care of him. When he died, there was no relative to mourn him. His burial was a poor one. But over the casket I saw these words written: "I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread." God pays interest much more than the banks. And he pays the interest when you need it most.

Baltimore, Md.; Frederick, Md.; and Washington, D. C. — To the Baltimore services came Chester Colton. At present he lives in Philadelphia and has taken a course in monotype. He applied with the pastor at a large printing concern in Baltimore and will be called as soon as there is an opening. To the church services also came Geo. Eminizer. He has become of age and cannot remain at school any longer. He was happy and told the deaf people that he had gotten work. G. E. Young of the Frederick school was confirmed at a session of the Sunday-school class before the close of the school-year. George is an orphan. But he has prospects of work at a general store near Frederick. During the summer vacation three of our Sunday-school pupils came to the church at Baltimore. They were Mildred Masek, Martha Sprainis, and Rose Beauchamp. These three live in Baltimore, and the Lutheran deaf were happy to see them at the church services. The adult deaf provide the Sunday-school literature for the pupils at the school in Frederick. The parents of three came with them at different times. That is a commendable interest in their children on the part of the parents. It will stimulate the interest of the deaf in these pupils of our Sunday-school. The deaf of Baltimore and the deaf of Brooklyn had the pleasure of having Rev. H. A. Gamber in their midst on evenings during the week. Unfortunately it was on extremely hot nights that they had this pleasure. Claxton E. Hess, a graduate of Gallaudet College, is now living in Annapolis, some thirty miles from Washington. He is working at a weekly newspaper of that city and is married. Several times he came to the Washington services held on the second Sunday of each month of the school-year at Trinity Lutheran Church, Fourth and E streets, N. W. These services for students at Gallaudet will reopen on the second Sunday of October. We herewith ask the brethren to notify their deaf members at college of these monthly services. Robert Lankenau of Indiana has acted as leader in the past year among the young men at Gallaudet, and Hazel Manahan as leader among the young women. A. B.

Cleveland, O. — During the time when 19 ministers for the deaf met in Detroit, the following marriage took place in Windsor, Ontario. On Sunday noon, August 3, Start MacPherson of our Detroit congregation was married to Miss Lillian Iris Pratley of Windsor in First Lutheran Church, the Rev. H. J. Storm officiating, while the undersigned interpreted the ceremony. Miss Kathleen Rose Pratley, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, while Mr. Gordon MacPherson, brother of the groom, was the best man.

Another marriage took place in Wolf Run, O., on Saturday afternoon, September 27, when Miss Elizabeth Bobby was married to Mr. William Alexander of Canton, O. The ceremony took place in the Lutheran

church, the local pastor officiating and the undersigned again interpreting. Miss Helen Bobby, sister of the bride, was maid of honor, and Mr. John Kuzemchak was the best man.

May the Lord bless these two marriages with the grace of Christ and the favor of God, so that these couples may enjoy a God-blessed life on earth and live and die in the true faith of our Savior Jesus!

Miss Dorothy Wenner, a graduate of our Detroit school, now attends the Oral School of Cleveland and resides with her father. We welcome her as a full member of our Cleveland deaf mission.

THEO. FREDERICKING

Minneapolis Mission. — Work in schools for the deaf again has begun. In the Faribault school we have 45 children under our care and in the Minneapolis school, fifteen. God willing, a class of five will be confirmed in Minneapolis on November 16 and a class of six or seven in Faribault on November 23. We also hope to confirm one from a private school in Faribault. Every Saturday instructions are given in Faribault and every Monday and Tuesday in the Minneapolis school. Besides we are instructing several adults in Faribault and one in Minneapolis. May God richly bless His Word in the hearts of all unto the glory of His name and the salvation of their beloved blood-bought souls! Remember them in your daily prayers. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much," Jas. 5:16. J. L. S.

Mission for Blind and Deaf. — Beginning in October, we shall again serve the Indiana Home for the Deaf. We are acquainted with the residents and shall be glad to greet our elderly friends.

Readers of our magazines for the blind in the past few weeks sent us these messages among many others:

From New Zealand: "While I have this opportunity, I wish to express my whole-hearted appreciation for the *Messenger*. It means so much to me because it is so full of enlightening reading-matter and also very edifying.

From Omaha, Nebr.: "I derive much spiritual comfort from the *Messenger* and look forward to its coming every month."

From Baltimore, Md.: "Words fail me when I try to tell you how much the *Herald* means to me."

From Cincinnati, O.: "I am sure that you are deeply interested in the cause of the blind and have their well-being at heart. I do like your editorials very much. I hope and pray that the Lord will continue to bless you." O. C. S.

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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.

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