

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 1



A Thought for the Year

Just to be tender, just to be true,
Just to be glad the whole day through,
Just to be merciful, just to be mild,
Just to be trustful as a child,
Just to be gentle and kind and sweet,
Just to be helpful with willing feet,
Just to be cheery when things go wrong,
Just to drive sadness away with a song;
Whether the hour is dark or bright,
Just to be loyal to God and right,
Just to believe that God knows best,
Just in His promise ever to rest,
Just to let love be our daily key —
This is God's will for you and for me.

January Reflections

Another twelvemonth has passed away, and we are still living.

If we give this a serious thought, we must consider it very remarkable.

Some think death strange, but is not life stranger?

It surely is no more singular that our existence should cease than that we should live at all?

How strange that a human being should live but one hour! How marvelous, then, that it should continue to live to the age of seventy and over.

When we consider the shocks of life our body must endure, are we not compelled to marvel how the Lord keeps his promise that: "Even to your old age I am He; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you. I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and I will deliver you"? Is. 46:4.



The New Year

With the end of December another year has passed into eternity. Has it been a year of spiritual progress, happiness, and success to you, or has it been one of failure and defeat? Perhaps you have trusted in your own strength rather than in that of your God and Savior. Have you learned the chief and foremost lesson of your whole life in the past year? Your earthly triumphs and successes will mean nothing to you in the hour of death if you have not learned the one thing needful. Human opinions have no merit or worth in this most important matter. You must know and accept the true way to peace with God through the shed blood of Jesus.

The new year stretches before you like a fresh white sheet of paper. May it record your acts of repentance and faith. May you avoid all errors of self-righteousness and human reasoning in your dealing with God's teachings, rejecting all foolish ambitions, selfish desires, and unchristian conduct. Accept Jesus in your heart as your own personal Savior and live to His glory; then the new year will indeed be a year of happiness and success to you. May God grant it! O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE THIRD ARTICLE

"I believe in the Holy Ghost"

The Holy Ghost calls the sinner and brings him to Christ. And what has happened? Our Catechism teaches the believer to say: "By the Gospel the Holy Ghost has enlightened me with His gifts."

The Holy Ghost Leads from Darkness to Light

The sinner is in darkness; he sees no light; he knows not God nor the way to God; he is without hope in this darkness; the Word of Jesus and His blood is foolishness unto him. The Holy Ghost then comes and shines in his heart to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ, 2 Cor. 4:6. The Holy Ghost thus calls him out of darkness into His marvelous (wonderful) light, 1 Pet. 2:9. Now the sinner sees the glory of God in Christ Jesus; he knows the true God and His wonderful love for sinners in Christ Jesus; to him the Word of Jesus is better than all the wisdom of men. Have you this light? Then blessed are you. Joyfully you can begin the new year. Or are you still in darkness? May the Holy Spirit work in your heart so that the new year will not be all darkness unto you, but full of light.

The Holy Ghost Brings to This Light by the Gospel

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is the light by which the Holy Spirit brings light to the sinner's darkness. By it the Spirit puts Jesus into the heart. And this Jesus is the Light of the World, and he that follows Him shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life, John 8:12. Oh, come, despise not the Gospel of Jesus! By it the Holy Ghost wants to bring every one out of the darkness of sin to the glorious light in Jesus. Believe it, and it will be a happy new year.

The Holy Ghost Brings Light with His Gifts

Wonderful gifts the Holy Ghost brings to the sinner by the Gospel and thus brings more and greater light to the sinner's heart. Of these gifts Paul writes in Rom. 14:17: "The kingdom of God . . . is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost." And Gal. 5:22 he says: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith." Do you want these gifts, which will fill the new year with light? Then accept the Gospel of Christ.

Bring the Gospel of Light to Others

Yes, during the new year let us bring this Gospel of light to people who still sit in darkness and the shadow of death. By it the Holy Spirit will call many more "out of darkness

into His marvelous light" and fill them with faith, joy, peace, comfort, His precious gifts. And daily let us pray:

O Spirit of the living God,
Convert the nations; far and nigh
The triumphs of the cross record;
The name of Jesus glorify
Till every people call Him Lord.

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for January

"Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall," 1 Cor. 10:12

Bible-Lesson: Acts 1:15-26

"And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,) Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus. For he was numbered with us and had obtained part of this ministry. Now, this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out. And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem, insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, *Aceldama*, that is to say, the field of blood. For it is written in the Book of Psalms, *Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein; and his bishopric let another take.*"

After Jesus had ascended into heaven, the disciples returned to Jerusalem. The Savior had commanded them to wait there for the promise of the Holy Spirit from heaven. Daily they met in the upper room of a house, which probably belonged to one of the disciples, there to pray and worship. They were obeying the Lord's command.

On one of these days, when the disciples, about one hundred and twenty men and women, were assembled for prayer, Peter stood up in their midst and spoke to them about Judas Iscariot, the disciple who had betrayed Jesus into the hands of His enemies. No doubt all of the disciples were filled with deepest sorrow over Judas's great sin and over his horrible death. Judas had been a disciple of Jesus. The Lord had even chosen him to be one of His twelve apostles. The Lord had been gracious to him and had highly favored him. But in the end Judas spurned the Savior's grace and mercy and turned against Him, be-

traying Him into the hands of His enemies, being a guide to them that took Jesus.

The betrayal of Jesus was foretold in the Old Testament. Therefore Peter points out to the disciples that by the act of Judas this prophecy was fulfilled. God's Word is true.

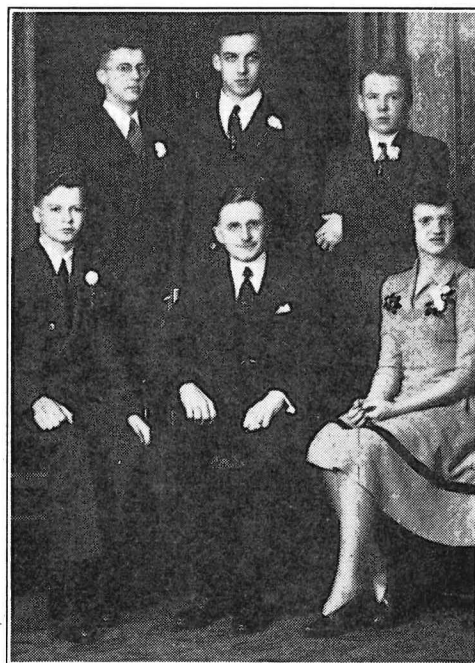
Judas had received thirty pieces of silver from the high priests for betraying Jesus into their hands. But when he saw that Jesus was condemned to death, he was filled with sorrow and fear on account of his horrible deed and brought back the money to the high priests. When they refused to accept it, he threw it into the Temple. Then he went out and hanged himself, and his body, falling headlong to the ground, burst open and all his bowels gushed out. God's judgment came upon Judas. The end of the traitor was most terrible.

With "the reward of iniquity," that is, the thirty pieces of silver which Judas had received for his wicked deed, the Jewish leaders bought a plot of ground for the burial of strangers. This burial-ground was called "Aceldama," which means, "the field of blood," because it had been bought with Judas's "blood money."

Let us, my friends, who love the Lord Jesus and are His disciples, earnestly heed the warning contained in the story of Judas and pray the Lord to keep us ever faithful and true to Jesus, our Savior, lest the same condemnation and judgment also come upon us. E. EN.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

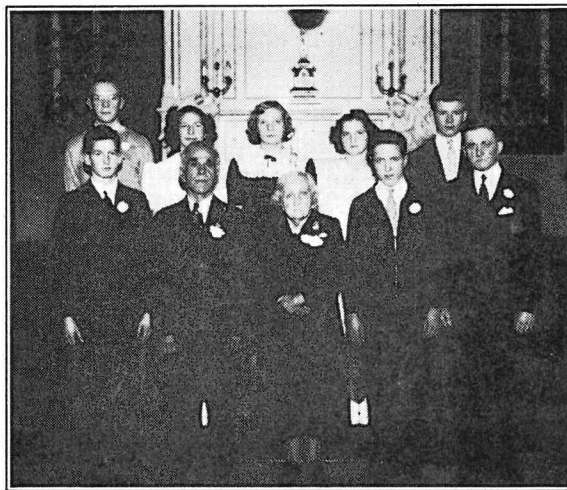
Minneapolis Mission.—With thanks and praise to God we can record several baptisms and confirmations. November 16 an oral class of five promised faithfulness unto death to their Lord and Savior. Elise Oberman was baptized, and Clarence Broecker, Robert Carlson, Elmer Loeffler, and Warren Nascene renewed their baptismal vow. Two of these attended, and three still attend, the Minneapolis School for the Deaf, where at the present time we have thirteen under instruction. The baptism and confirmation took place in our oral service. The five new members then came to the Lord's Table with eight others.—November 23 Vern Antonsen, who attends the Allen School in Faribault, was confirmed in his home congregation at Cedar Mills. A large gathering attended the confirmation, and a collection for our mission was taken up.—And November 30 a class of nine made a good confession of their faith in Trinity Church, seven from the school and two adults. Betty Bowman and Alan Keehr were baptized, and Jack Guyette, Betty Hauge, Kenneth Lene, Eldora and Leslie



Confirmation Class in Minneapolis, November 16, 1941
Warren Nascene, Elmer Loeffler, Robert Carlson, Clarence Broecker, Rev. J. L. Salvner, Elise Oberman

Lux, were confirmed. The two adults are Mr. and Mrs. John Yanok. These nine new members and also Vern Antonsen from the Allen School partook of the Lord's Supper with fourteen others.—May God the Holy Spirit keep them all in Christ Jesus unto the end!

November 2 Sharon Saleen, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Easthouse, was brought to Christ in Holy Baptism. "Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins," Acts 2:38.



Confirmation Class, Faribault, November 30
Back row: Leslie Lux, Betty Bowman, Eldora Lux, Betty Hauge, Jack Guyette.—Front row: Alan Keehr, Mr. John Yanok, Mrs. J. Yanok, Kenneth Lene, Rev. J. L. Salvner

Raymond Hafften and Thora Nelson were united in holy wedlock, December 6, in Grace Chapel. Mr. Hafften is taking instruction preparatory to Holy Baptism. May our good Lord bless and keep them! J. L. S.

Winnipeg, Canada.—July 13 was a day of great rejoicing for six deaf of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, for on that day they publicly promised faithfulness to their Savior and Lord. In his sermon the minister directed their attention to the Lord's words spoken in John 15:1-12, where He says among other things: "Abide in Me, and I in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit of itself except it abide in the vine, no more can ye except ye abide in Me." For the strengthening and stablishing of their faith all received the Lord's Supper. Mrs. Bretthauer, absent from Regina in July, joined on November 14. These seven are the beginning of the first Christian congregation of deaf in Saskatchewan. May our Lord Jesus, that good and faithful Shepherd,



Class Confirmed by Rev. R. Cordes at Regina, Sask., Can. Jacob Schum, Missionary R. F. Cordes, Mrs. Hy. Rothenberger, Henry Rothenberger. Mrs. Sylvia Bretthauer, Amanda Schum, Mrs. Jessie Calder. John Walton is not on the picture, being absent from Regina at the time the picture was taken

keep also these His sheep, that not one may be lost. He has promised it and always does His part. May He grant that none of us stray from Him, but ever remain in Him as fruitful branches in the Vine.

R. F. C.

Omaha, Nebraska.—Members of our Omaha Ladies' Aid have been sewing white robes to be used next spring at our confirmation service for children from the Omaha and Council Bluffs schools. The idea prompting the making of these robes is that all the children, both girls and boys, will be dressed alike at their confirmation and that those who perhaps could not afford new dresses or suits will be well supplied in this way.

Mr. Jack Campbell and Mr. James Wiegand of Lincoln, Nebr., were accepted into membership of the Lutheran Church on November 22 by confirmation. Mr. Campbell also received Baptism.

On December 7 Larry Lee, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Engel, was brought to Jesus in Holy Baptism.

May the Lord grant His grace to all these new members of His Church and keep them ever in the saving faith in Christ. E. M.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—Rev. C. Bremer has received and accepted the call from the Board of Missions to Deaf and Blind to assist Rev. M. E. A. Mueller in his work among the deaf in Wisconsin and to help with the work in the Library for the Blind in Chicago.

After a recent service at one of the institutions for the deaf a resident handed us a note which reads: "I told the deaf how good you are to come to preach for us. They wondered why we are so well fed and live so long. I said I thought it is because we are not God-forsaken and have a good Lutheran minister come to lecture to us." We are happy to know that the deaf find the Word of God a help in their perplexities.

Our work among the blind requires that we edit annually about 200,000 words, write more than 3,000 letters, and make visits in answer to telephone calls from many among the 2,000 blind in Chicago and Cook County.

A reader of the *Messenger* sent us this message: "I received the *Lutheran Messenger* which you so kindly sent, and have given it to a friend. Words seem to fail him to express his gratitude for all that you have done for him. He says he will spend the rest of his life studying the Word of God. It is truly a wonderful thing what the Word of God can do for the blind."

A *Herald* reader wrote: "Many thanks for the Moon type magazine! I have read it three times and wish it were ten times as large and that it would come every day."

From Illinois: "In gratitude for the *Messenger* I am sending you a donation. I cannot express to you in words my thanks for the great spiritual benefits derived from your editorials. They are so helpful and comforting, giving me great encouragement. Here is one hungry soul that is being fed with the Gospel through your magazine."

From Pennsylvania: "After I started reading the *Lutheran Herald* ten years ago, I became interested in religion. Last March I thought the time had come for me to give myself to God, and I was taken into the Church. I now have my Moon-type Bible and read it daily."

From England: "Please send us your magazines for the blind. There is a home for deaf-blind people, and we have many Moon type readers here." O. C. S.

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