

# 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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No. 5

### Prayer for the Day of Pentecost

O Holy Ghost, eternal God,  
Blest Comfort for life's rugged road,  
With all my heart I pray to Thee;  
Hear my entreaty graciously.

O Lord, be Thou my Comforter  
Lest in my sins I might despair;  
Protect me from the snares of hell,  
Grant that in Jesus Christ I dwell;

That always I may ready be  
To serve this Master faithfully  
And own Him in true, living faith  
My Lord and Savior unto death.

O lead me in the narrow way  
And from the fold let me not stray,  
That, when this mortal frame I leave,  
The crown of life I may receive.

B. HELDER; A. Crull, tr.

### Ascension Day

While they beheld, He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them



in white apparel, which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven, this same Jesus which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven. Acts 1:9-11.

When Jesus, forty days after Easter, visibly ascended into heaven, He did this for several purposes. One purpose was to ascend as our King, to sit at the right hand of God, to rule all things in heaven and earth, especially to rule and guide the Church as its King and Head.

### Studies in Luther's Catechism

#### THE THIRD ARTICLE

*"I believe in the Holy Ghost"*

The Holy Ghost wants to bring all people to faith in the crucified and risen Savior. Many do not want to be saved. But God's Word shall not return unto Him void (empty). Always some will believe. These believers are the "Church." The Church therefore is not a church building, nor a church group, as the Lutheran, the Methodist, or the Catholic Church.

#### Believers Are the Christian Church

This name Christian is from the name Christ. As we call the people of America Americans, so we call believers Christians. And we call them thus because they believe that Christ died for them on the cross and rose again. They believe that He was delivered (given unto death) for their offenses (sins), and was raised again for their justification (forgiveness), Rom. 4:25.

And because we cannot see faith in man's heart, we say the Church is invisible (not seen). We cannot tell whether this or that man is a true believer. Man can deceive us; but he cannot deceive the Lord, for "He knoweth them that are His," 2 Tim. 2:19. A man may belong to our Lutheran Church and still not belong to Christ's Church, which is the case if he does not believe in the blood of Jesus Christ. They who do not believe in this Christ and His all-cleansing blood but build their salvation on their works or on someone else do not belong to the Church. And a minister who does not preach this Jesus who died to save sinners is not a Christian minister,

for "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ," 1 Cor. 3:11. Does your minister preach Christ, and Him crucified? Do you believe in Him who died for all? May God grant it!

We cannot see the Church, but we know it is and always will be on earth unto the end of the world. The devil and his angels and the wicked world can never destroy it. Jesus says: "The gates of hell shall not prevail against My Church." Therefore we confess: "I believe in the Christian Church."

### **Believers Are the Holy Church**

Jesus Christ is the Holy One of God, for He knew no sin and did no sin. And now we call His Church the Holy Church. That does not mean that believers sin no more. They still have the Old Adam and must confess: "We daily sin much and indeed deserve nothing but punishment." Nevertheless they are holy, and our Creed calls them "the communion (union) of saints," of holy people. The Holy Ghost has clothed the believer in Jesus' blood and righteousness and leads him upon the way of holiness. Believers "have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb," hate to do evil, and love to do good. Are you a saint?

### **Help in Building This Holy Christian Church**

Let us go out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, for only thereby the Holy Ghost will call, gather, enlighten, and sanctify poor sinners and keep them with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. Let us gladly and willingly support our missions, among which there is also our Mission for the Deaf and Blind, and thus help to bring many more into this Holy Christian Church and at last into the communion of saints in heaven!

J. L. S.

### **Installation of the Rev. Floyd Possehl in Brooklyn, N. Y.**

On March 22, the Rev. Floyd Possehl was formally installed as the pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Brooklyn, N. Y., about 100 deaf attending the inspiring service. The Rev. Theo. Frederking officiated and preached on John 9:4, while Dr. A. Brunn, Pastor M. Steege, and Pastor Ewald Mueller

assisted in the ceremonies. The service was beautified by the "singing" of two hymns by six ladies of St. Matthew's Church.

The new pastor comes to Brooklyn as successor to the late Rev. Arthur Boll, who last December suddenly was called by the Lord. The Rev. Floyd Possehl completed his studies in Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., and in Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., and was ordained January 13, 1941, in Oklahoma City, Okla. He has had six years of training and experience in the sign language and in work for the deaf. He has shown much interest and love for the deaf, and we now look up to God through our Savior Jesus to bless his work in the new field, that Christ's Gospel of love might spread among the deaf and many deaf may be garnered for the eternal kingdom of God.

T. F.

### **Board of Lutheran Missions to Deaf and Blind**

Because church work among the deaf and blind is considered a very important part of our Synod's program, which needs careful and special attention for its promotion, a number of men, both pastors and laymen, have been selected by Synod as a Board to govern the affairs pertaining to this very necessary and God-pleasing work.

The members of this Board, whose duties and responsibilities are very exacting and take up much of their time, nevertheless do this work willingly and absolutely without any remuneration. The pastors on the Board all serve large hearing congregations; nevertheless, without slighting their own work, they spend time and energy to help carry on the work among the deaf and blind successfully. The laymen on this Board also are employed in business offices, and much of their spare time is used in giving attention to this blessed work of their Lord and Church.

To this Board, whose picture appears in this issue, your pastors are obligated to give regular monthly, quarterly, and annual reports concerning the work done in their particular field. Every Lutheran pastor for the deaf and blind in our Synod must therefore be conscientious and sincere in his work and is expected from time to time to show the fruits of his labors

in his various reports. Above all, a Lutheran pastor must love his work, love the deaf, and work honestly and earnestly for the Lord's cause. May we say that this love for the deaf and work among them stands out prominently especially when the pastors and board members gather for their annual conference, where each pastor and board member takes a vital part and interest in the discussions and in the furtherance of the Lord's kingdom among the deaf and blind.

Friends and readers of this short message, the Board of Missions as well as the pastors have your best interests at heart and solicit your earnest and devout prayers in their be-

more interesting. We are very thankful to the Lord and all our friends that have helped us to become better fitted for service.

Prof. J. T. Mueller of Concordia Seminary, who has been learning to use the sign language, has been preaching for us occasionally, as has Candidate Walter Uhlig, at present studying at Washington University. We thereby have been enabled to conduct services elsewhere on these Sundays, since the cities of the South called us away until January, when Rev. Westermann took over the work in the South, and we now have been asked to preach at Indianapolis, Evansville, and neighboring cities.

The work in these Indiana cities has indicated great opportunities. The Word of God never comes back void, and Rev. Gielow's efforts and those of the men preceding him have been bringing fruit. We hope that this large field may soon get a missionary again, for

#### Board of Missions to Deaf and Blind

From left:

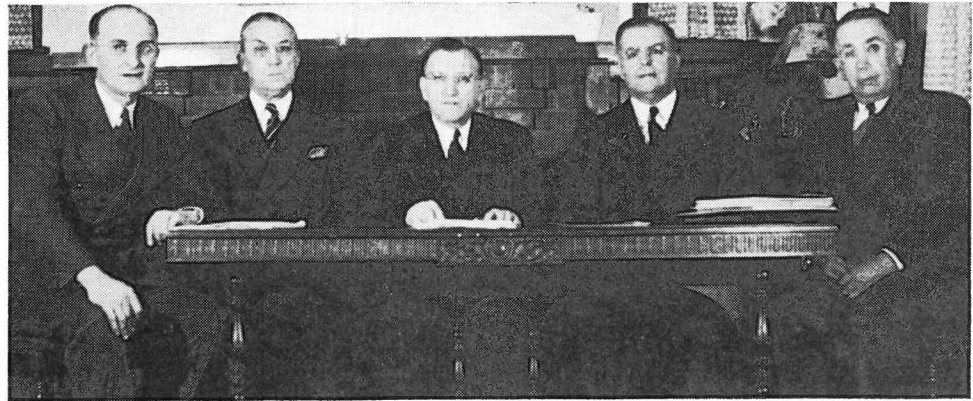
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half, even as they also constantly come before the Throne of Grace with their prayers for you.

May God's continued blessings rest upon our Lutheran Mission to the Deaf and Blind!

E. M.

### IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

*St. Louis Field.*—Our St. Louis deaf have now enjoyed the use of the chapel for three years, and the blessing of the Lord has been resting upon us in our location. The place is more and more becoming established among the St. Louis deaf as a friendly place, where it is well to dwell. During the years we have been working to complete the equipment; but there still remain many things to do. A rear brick dwelling, formerly a stable and carriage house, has been remodeled into a spacious hall and is serving many useful purposes.

Some time ago we received a gift of one hundred dollars from Mr. Herbert Waltke for equipping the assembly room as a classroom. This gave us tablet chairs, lighting fixtures, and Bible Picture Rolls, thus furnishing us a very much needed classroom. Through the generosity of the men's club and the ladies' aid society and the young people we obtained a blackboard and a stack of Bibles, making our Bible study

one can not do justice to a field if handicaps of distance and time interfere.

Twice a month we have been visiting Springfield, Ill., where a very much interested class of students of Concordia Seminary studies the sign language in order to become able to preach to the deaf about Jesus. These young men meet every day by themselves and devote some time to the study of signs and are making very good progress. At St. Louis, too, we have a class of earnest sign language students, and we hope that in the future many of these fine young men might be able to go out and preach to the deaf.

Every month we have a fine meeting with about twenty colored deaf that meet in St. Philip's Lutheran Church, St. Louis. With the blessing of the Lord we hope to be able to effect some class organization soon. Our colored deaf friends are happy to learn about Jesus.

Through the good will and co-operation of the authorities at both schools we have been able this year to address the pupils of the Illinois School for the Deaf at Jacksonville, Ill., twice every month, and the pupils of the Missouri school at Fulton, Mo., monthly, in addition to our work with the Lutheran children at these schools. We can report good co-operation on the part of the authorities of the Central Institute for the Deaf and the Gallaudet (public oral) School at St. Louis, where we have classes of Lutheran children.

N. P. U.

*Golden Gate Missions.*—In this part of the far West we have had many encouragements and blessings. Recently we confirmed Mrs. F. Aldersly, Mrs. F. Pankey, Mr. Geo. Daniels, Mr. R. Specht, Miss M. Donell, Mrs. J. McCabe, and Mr. H. Pale. At the same time Mrs. H. Pale and Mrs. L. Harmon were baptized. This group now brings the membership in Oakland over the 100 mark. Services are conducted every Sunday afternoon in order to serve this large territory, which reaches from the Carquinez Straits, or the city of Vallejo, in the north to Niles in the south. This is about fifty miles. We cannot expect regular attendance of all these people at services each Sunday, because transportation in many cases is not convenient and cost is also a problem. Yet we can say that our Communion services are regularly attended by 90 per cent of the membership. Anita Leichel and Katherine Mains, whom we instructed several years ago at the State School, are now employed there and are joined again with us.

It has been disappointing to us that our building program is stopped. Many friends, upon hearing that the Oakland deaf desired to build, sent in many fine contributions. Many of the pastor's former members of Seattle are included in the lists of contributors. The local members through a furnishing committee gathered enough money to equip the chapel and hall, and the pews could have been ordered for the money that was on hand. The war upset all this. However, our members are agreed that God's work must go on, and we will continue to work until the time comes that building materials can be released. We have conducted our work as before and up to date have not been interrupted seriously by the necessity of "blackouts."

In San Francisco Mr. E. Baldwin was united with the Church by the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, and Mr. C. Wheeler renewed his Baptism covenant in confirmation. Mr. Kenneth Norton of San Francisco, attending the State School, will complete his confirmation studies this spring and will join the church with his elder brother, Earl Norton. The pastor was called upon to conduct the funeral services for Mr. Isadore Selig. Although he was not a member of the Church, he had been one of its friends and supporters for ten years. The members of the family have lent much encouragement to our work in San Francisco.

At the State School for the Deaf in Berkeley the instruction classes are conducted on Wednesdays. Here we have two groups. The primary meets from 4 to 4:45 and the senior group to 6 P.M. We have 36 children this year. Sunday-school services are conducted each Sunday from 9 to 10:15. Regular instruction is also conducted at the State School for the Blind. We are fortunately located here in this Bay area. We are able to conduct three and four services each Sunday. It makes a busy and a hard day, but it is a joy to serve where there is a need and the attendance excellent, with members always on the alert to bring in others.

GEO. W. GAERTNER

*Minneapolis Mission.*—April 1 Clayton W. Keach of Eau Claire, Wis., and Esther Kuschel, of Shawano County, Wis., entered the bond of holy matrimony in the pastor's home. May God's richest blessings be with

them. They will live in Eau Claire, and therefore pastor Cordes of St. Paul will minister unto their spiritual needs.

J. L. S.

*Mission for Blind and Deaf.*—In the Chicago area and in the Calumet district in Indiana, adjoining the city, we minister to quite a number of deaf-blind. Several have expressed their desire to be instructed and confirmed.

While our Lutheran Library for the Blind is still young, it is growing steadily. We have twelve blind transcribers doing transcription work for us at present, and many young sighted Lutherans are studying Braille with the intention of donating their time to transcribing. We hope to make our library a real center for soundly Christian literature for the blind.

O. C. S.

### Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

Rev. N. E. Borchardt, 11719 Evanston Ave., Detroit, Mich.  
 Rev. E. Scheibert, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, Ill.  
 Rev. A. E. Ferber, 3807 Gillham St., Kansas City, Mo.  
 Rev. E. Mappes, 5070 Lake St., Omaha, Nebr.  
 Rev. J. Salvner, 1221 N. 22d Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.  
 Rev. W. Ferber, 617 14th St., S., Fargo, N. Dak.  
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 Rev. E. Eichmann, 4424 N. Kirby Ave., Portland, Oreg.  
 Rev. G. W. Gaertner, 3233 62d Ave., Oakland, Calif.  
 Rev. G. H. Ferber, 2058 W. 76th St., Los Angeles, Calif.  
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 Rev. R. F. Cordes, 1162 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, Minn.  
 Rev. Theo. Frederking, 12322 Phillips Ave., Cleveland, O.  
 Rev. A. T. Jonas, 1101 15th Ave., Seattle, Wash.  
 Rev. N. P. Uhlig, 4517 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.  
 Rev. Floyd Posschl, 87-49 95th St., Woodhaven, N. Y.

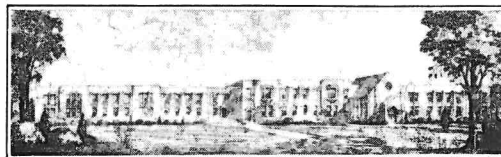
### Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.  
 Rev. C. Bremer, 8336 S. Green 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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