

# The Deaf Lutheran

## A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

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No. 6

### The Tree of Life

My Savior bore His cross  
And would not lay it down;  
To Him it was the tree of life,  
His glory, and His crown.

He watered all its roots  
With tender care and tears,  
Foreseeing that its precious fruit  
Would ripen through the years.

He knew its leaves would heal  
The wounds that sin had made  
And draw the nations from afar  
To seek its cooling shade.

Dear Savior, at Thy cross  
I lay my burden down;  
To me it is the tree of life,  
My glory, and my crown.

W. M. CZAMANSKE

### Jesus

When Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do men say that I am?" Peter, the spokesman of the group, answering for the Twelve, confessed: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," Matt. 16:16. Though Jesus was born in poverty, the angels sang a happy song of rejoicing at His birth; though His first home was a stable, a star in the heavens led wise men to seek His humble abode; though He controlled no large tracts of land or acres of green fields, He fed thousands with a few loaves of bread; though He owned no large fisheries, he supplied the hungry and needy with fish; though he attended no university to study medicine, He healed all manner of diseases by His mere command; though He never studied human laws, He gave to the world a model and the sum of all laws: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind," Matt. 22:37, and:

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," Matt. 22:40. Though He was mocked and ridiculed by men at His shameful death on the cross, the sun lost its brilliance and the earth trembled at His death; though the earth received His shed blood, it could not hold His body in decay and corruption; though He commanded no large armies of soldiers, millions throughout the centuries have loved, served, and willingly died for Him, and would do so today; though He never sat on an earthly throne, He ascended visibly into the heavens to rule all things at the right hand of God. He declares, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me," John 14:16. And again He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," Matt. 11:28. May we, then, accept Him as our own personal Savior and serve Him in love all the days of our life!

O. C. S.

### Studies in Luther's Catechism

#### THE THIRD ARTICLE

*"I believe in the Holy Ghost"*

In the Third Article we confess: "I believe in the holy Christian Church." Only believers belong to the Church of Jesus Christ. And because we cannot see faith in the heart of man, we call the Church invisible (not seen). You ask: "Where, then, can the Church be found?"

#### The Holy Ghost Works Only by the Gospel

We have learned the Holy Ghost calls, enlightens, sanctifies, and keeps the believer in the true faith, and all this only by the Gospel. Therefore our Lord Jesus in His last command

to His Church said: "Preach the Gospel to every creature; he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned," Mark 16:16. And always the Holy Ghost works and brings sinners to faith wherever the Gospel is preached. That is God's promise. By His prophet Isaiah He says: "My Word shall not return unto Me void [empty], but it shall accomplish [do] that which I please, and it shall prosper [succeed] in the thing whereto I sent it." Is. 55:11.

### **Preach Not the Gospel, and the Church Is Not There**

If you wish to find the Church of Jesus Christ, do not think that you must look for it in a large, beautiful church building, or in a church where the wise and mighty and noble men of this world gather, or in a church where you can hear a deep thinker and great speaker. Chances are that there you will not hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ, but a Gospel without the cross and blood of Christ. In every church where the good news of salvation by faith in Christ Jesus and His blood is not preached, there you will not find believers, just as you cannot gather grapes of thorns nor figs of thistles.

### **Preach the Gospel, and There Is the Church**

If you want to find the holy Christian Church, look for the Gospel. Wherever you hear the Word of Christ and His blood, be it in a large, beautiful church or in a lowly hut, there you will find believers. Whenever you enter a church and you hear the minister preaching of Him who died for us and the people singing of Him who saved us, there is the holy Christian Church. Wherever you hear the plain preaching of sin and the wrath to come and then of the Lamb of God that takes away sin, there sit down and listen. There the Holy Ghost is working and calling sinners to repentance. There is the Church of Jesus Christ.

### **Not All who Hear the Gospel Are Believers**

Not everyone who hears the Gospel is a member of Christ's Church. You will find hypocrites, or false Christians, among the believers, just as there was a Judas among the Twelve. Jesus makes this very plain in two parables: the parable of the Tares among the

Wheat (Matt. 13:24-30) and the parable of the Net Cast into the Sea (Matt. 13:47, 48). As there are tares (weeds) among the wheat and bad fishes among the good, so there are false Christians among the true. Be not surprised if you find a false Christian in the church!

### **Stay with the Church that Preaches the Gospel**

Beware of churches that do not preach Christ and Him crucified! There you will not find the Church of Jesus Christ. Always look for the preaching of the Gospel. Only there is the one holy Christian Church. J. L. S.

## **THE BREAD OF LIFE**

### **Bible Study for June**

Bible Lesson: Is. 55:1, 6, 7

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters! And he that hath no money, come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. . . . Seek ye the Lord while He may be found; call ye upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake His way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon."

### **"Seeking the Lord"**

Christians everywhere have observed Pentecost Sunday a few days ago. As we read in the second chapter of Acts about the sudden ability of the disciples to speak in different languages, languages other than that in which they were born, we understand again that this was for a purpose of God. This heavenly advertising was done by God Almighty to call the attention of all people to His wonderful grace, in that He did not cast sinners into everlasting punishment but sent His only-begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. The summary of the message of Pentecost is *salvation* for lost sinners by the redemption of Jesus Christ.

Unto this very day it is the duty of the Christian Church to repeat God's message of grace over and over. Our Lutheran Church and its pastors confess that this is our most important duty and task.

The text before us is one of the many in the Bible which emphasize the grace and lov-

ing-kindness of our Lord. Look at the world-wide invitation "Every one . . . come ye to the waters!" Not only the Jews, who first heard these words, but also the Gentiles; not only the wealthy, but also the poor and unfortunate. It is an offer of grace and mercy: "Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." The free invitation of the text shows that no money is charged for this free gift of God.

Let us notice the substances which Isaiah mentions—wine and milk. He does not say water, because this only quenches the thirst for a short time. But the wine and milk mentioned will nourish the body and quicken the spirit. Certainly that which we buy and eat is altogether made our own. It is more our own than the things which we buy and only use. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely," Rev. 22:17.

The question may still arise in the mind of some reader: "But what must be my personal qualification, or merit, to be included among those to whom this free salvation is offered?"

The inspired writer Isaiah again gives the answer: "Every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." All are welcome to the Gospel grace. Those that feel dissatisfied with themselves and feel lost, they are "thirsty" for the forgiveness which is in Christ alone.

Let us, then, go to church every time that we have an opportunity. Let us study the Bible, the Bread of Life, in our homes to learn more and more about our Savior, always remembering the Lord's promise "The Holy Scriptures are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus," 2 Tim. 3:15.

A. E. F.

### Notice

Beginning with this issue, Pastor A. E. Ferber of Kansas City, Mo., will write the Bible-study column "The Bread of Life." He takes the place of Pastor E. Eichmann of Portland, Oreg., who wrote this column for almost thirteen years. Herewith the Editors wish to extend their sincere gratitude to him for his diligent and successful work. We feel certain that many of our readers received much comfort and great blessings for their soul from the "Bread of Life" column, and we hope all our

deaf friends will continue to read and study it in the future. And the same holds good for the Catechism Study Article written by the Rev. J. L. Salvner of Minneapolis.

Since Pastor Eichmann has accepted a call to a hearing congregation in Portland, we know all our readers join the Editors and the Board in wishing him the Lord's continued blessing in his new field of labor.

With permission of his present hearing congregation, Pastor Eichmann will continue to preach for most of the deaf groups in that territory for several months, until another worker is called.

E. M.

### Rev. R. F. Cordes of Winnipeg Installed as Pastor of Calvary Church, St. Paul

April 12 was a day of rejoicing for the members of Calvary Church and their friends, for on that day their new pastor was installed. Calvary Church was crowded for the occasion. Many members of Grace Church, Minneapolis, had come to rejoice with their sister congregation. Also all the members of our Board of Missions were present.

The Minneapolis missionary preached the installation sermon, basing his remarks on 1 Tim. 4:16: "Take heed unto thyself and unto the doctrine [teaching]; continue in them; for in doing this, thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee." These words of God were applied both to pastor and congregation, the theme being: "God's Word to a Pastor and His Congregation." The Minneapolis missionary also installed the new pastor, being assisted by Pastors Gamber, Bertram, and Schumacher. Miss Hendrickson and Mrs. Strasse signed appropriate hymns. Pastor Cordes closed the service with the benediction and the doxology.

After the service the members of Calvary Church had a reception for Pastor Cordes and his family. After dinner Pastors Hoffmann and Schumacher and Mr. J. P. Miller, the latter having been a member of our Board for many years, addressed the deaf and their new pastor. Pastor Schumacher, former pastor of Calvary Church, spoke in the sign language, which was enjoyed by all the deaf. Several members of Calvary Church and also of Grace Church said

a few words of best wishes and encouragement. In his closing remarks Pastor Cordes expressed his joy at seeing so many deaf who love Jesus. Yes, God has brought many deaf to the saving knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We well remember the day when often only two attended a divine service in St. Paul. "The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad." Ps. 126:3.

May the Chief Shepherd, Jesus Christ, be with Pastor Cordes and make him to be a blessing unto many deaf! We ask this unto the glory of our Savior's name among the deaf.

J. L. S.

### IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

*Detroit, Michigan.*—On January 8, 1942, Mrs. Minnie Russow was fatally injured in an automobile accident and died early on the next morning. She was hit as she was crossing the street near her home on the coldest night of the winter. We miss her presence and her assistance in our divine services. Her special delight was to sign hymns in church. The Lord had blessed her with great ability in that art.—About five weeks after the death of Mrs. Russow, the Lord called Mr. Fred Russow, her husband, to his eternal rest. He had been suffering from heart trouble for a long time. He, too, was a faithful attendant in divine services. "Their works do follow them."

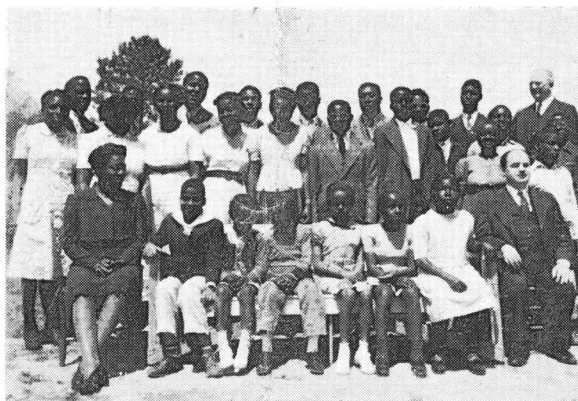
On Easter Sunday the following adults became members of our congregation through confirmation. George Takac, Thomas Sisk, Lewis Fayne, Clifton Weimer, and Mrs. Clifton Weimer. We pray that the Lord may give them strength to keep the vow they made to the almighty God on the day of their confirmation.

N. E. B.



Class of Adults confirmed by Pastor E. Mappes in Omaha on March 15

Front row: Mrs. Carl Jourdan, Mrs. Albert Barber, Mrs. Donald Dey. Second row: Rev. E. Mappes, Mr. Harry Stilen, Mrs. Arthur Laursen, Mrs. Loris Merrill. Back row: Mr. Harold Nord, Mr. Albert Barber, Mr. Preston Best



This group of colored blind pupils in Jackson, Miss., studies our Braille Catechism, Bible histories, and Lutheran periodicals for the blind

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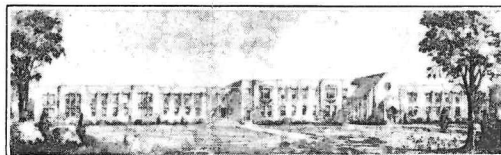
### Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

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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