

# 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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### The Unchurched Deaf

Statistics show that about 60 million of the 130 million citizens in the United States are church members. The others are unchurched. The percentage among the deaf must be still higher. Our Lutheran missions among the deaf serve perhaps 6,500, and the other denominations together—Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians—serve perhaps another 12,000. The balance of 80,000 deaf in the United States appears to be without any church connections. We are wondering what is in the hearts and minds of these unchurched people. Perhaps they do not believe in God and therefore feel no personal responsibility toward Him. The Bible tells us that God is not merely a force of nature but that He has personality. He declares: "I am the Lord," Is. 42:8.

Nature teaches (see Rom. 1:19, 20), and the history of the world confirms the fact, that there is a God; also that this Maker of heaven and earth is wise and powerful. Your conscience tells you that God hates sin. From the Bible you learn that for the sake of His Son Jesus Christ, the Redeemer of all mankind, God is your loving Father and your Friend.

The living Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—has personality. He is not only an idea of men or a law of nature. God has a mind and a will. The psalmist says: "From everlasting to everlasting Thou are God," Ps. 90:2. God sees and knows everything; He rewards the good and punishes the evil; He is patient and loving.

God created man holy and happy, but through sin man lost these blessings. Jesus, the Son of God, became man and suffered and died to save fallen man from hell. He says, Matt. 18:11: "The Son of Man is come to save that which was lost."

The Christian Church preaches the Gospel. Come to church, therefore, and learn the way to happiness in life and death through Jesus Christ. Yes, there is a personal God, and you owe Him your love and service. O. C. S.

### Studies in Luther's Catechism

#### THE THIRD ARTICLE

*"I believe in the Holy Ghost"*

The Holy Ghost works in the hearts of men only by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Wherever this Gospel is preached, there the Holy Spirit works and there you will find the Holy Christian Church.

#### A Believer Will Join a Christian Congregation

Believers, members of the one holy Christian Church, will form a Christian congregation to keep the preaching of the Gospel in their midst and to help in bringing this word of salvation to others. Therefore we read in our Bible of the church at Corinth, at Ephesus, at Colossae, and in other cities. So today we have Christian congregations which gather around the preaching of the Gospel of forgiveness by faith in Christ Jesus. Join a Christian church, a church that preaches the Gospel, and so help in this blessed work of bringing this Gospel of salvation to poor lost sinners.

#### Do Not Say, "I May Join Any Church"

You perhaps will say: "There are so many Christian churches, as the Methodist, the Episcopalian, the Catholic, the Lutheran Church, and others. Which church shall I join?" Some quickly will answer: "Join any church. Send your children to any Sunday school. It does not make any difference." But these same

people will not give the same advice in other things. Suppose there are three wells in a city: one has very good water, the other fairly good, and the third very poor water. Now you are thirsty and you ask the people of that city: "From which well shall I take water to drink?" Will people perhaps say: "Go to any well. It makes no difference"? No, they will tell you to take water from the well that has very good water. And the same advice they will give you in regard to food. But why this advice when food and drink for the body is concerned, and then an altogether different advice when food and drink for the soul is concerned? Perhaps there are three churches in a city: one teaches the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible; the other has the Bible, but with it teaches man's word and wisdom; and the third has very little of the Bible but chiefly man's word. And now it should make no difference in which church I become a member? Indeed it does, as we shall see.

#### **Join a Christian Church that Continues in the Word of Jesus**

Our Lord and Savior Jesus tells us: "If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed," John 8:31. From these words we learn that we should join a church which continues in the Word of Jesus, and that not only in one doctrine (teaching) or in two, but in every doctrine. We should not be satisfied if a church has the Bible, has a Baptism and a Lord's Supper. No; we should join a church that has the Word and the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) as Jesus gave them. "Continue in My Word," the Master says. Join a Christian church that stays in the word of Jesus in all its teachings.

#### **Our Dear Lutheran Church Continues in the Word of Jesus**

"Continue in My Word," the Lord Jesus says. And our Lutheran Church does that, and therefore we love it. In a truly Lutheran church not man's thoughts and words should rule, but God's Word, and that alone. If any church, yes, also a Lutheran church, does not teach the Word of God in all its truth and purity, it is not a truly Lutheran church. Therefore, join a truly Lutheran church. May God keep our Lutheran Church in His Word to the end.

J. L. S.

## **THE BREAD OF LIFE**

### **Bible Study for July**

**Bible Lesson: Acts 2:5, 6, 7a, 9-12**

"And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marveled. . . ."

When we study these words in the present war days, it strikes us that people from so many nations could meet peacefully in one single city.

From the Eastern countries had come the descendants of Shem—the Parthians, the Medes, the Elamites, and the dwellers of Mesopotamia. From the west came the descendants of Japheth—from Phrygia and Pamphylia. There were some from Libya and Egypt, some from the island of Crete and some from the deserts of Arabia. The people of Judaea are mentioned also, and it is well to remember that these spoke nearly the same language as the disciples.

When the reference is made that they were Jews or such as had been converted to the Jewish religion, we see the results of the Babylonian Captivity, when the people were scattered. It also was evidence how the Word of the Lord was fulfilled as stated in Deut. 28:64. Many peoples, indeed, but they were peaceful and happy because they were religious-minded, devout people.

Our text makes it clear that these Jews were not just visiting in Jerusalem. They had established a place to live there. Without a doubt they were some of those who were earnestly expecting the Messiah to come just at this time, Luke 19:11: "They thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear." Therefore the most religious people of that time came to Jerusalem to dwell there that they might receive some of the first blessings of the Messiah's kingdom.

But our almighty Lord had more inspiring things in mind for these people: He desired to have them learn that Jesus was the Savior and *how* he had saved us from sin. Thus we learned in the previous verses how the Holy Spirit gave the disciples ability and wisdom to tell the people God's message in the language

they understood. "It was noised abroad" — many came to hear and were surprised at the great miracle. Just like at the birth of Christ the Wise Men from far away were more interested in God's doings than the people of Jerusalem, so now also the out-of-town strangers seem to be most interested.

The Lord had Bread of Life for everyone of these persons about their Savior. Next month we shall study just what the subject, or contents, of that message was. (Do you know what the subject was, verses 14 to 39?)

In connection with our June lesson, let us ask ourselves, are we very anxious and interested to learn from the Lord what is good for our soul? Oh, let us never do like some of the people of Jerusalem who were *not* interested.

In summer many show much enthusiasm to travel far. Let us always show just as much enthusiasm to *assemble* ourselves with Christians to worship. God the Holy Spirit has food there for your soul. "Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ," 2 Pet. 3:18. A. E. F.

### Use of Affliction

In iron foundries where Bessemer steel is made, the process of the purification of the metal is watched through a spectroscope. The spectroscope shows the changing colors of the flames, and the workmen can tell by these colors when the metal is ready for its intended use. When the flame shows a certain definite shade of color, the great crucible is tilted and the metal poured into molds.

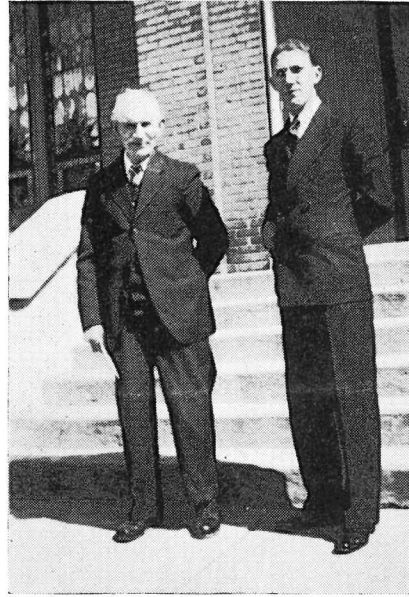
So the great Divine Refiner, the loving Christ, sits by the crucible of our discipline and chastening, and He watches intently to see when the fire of affliction has done its work. When this happens, the affliction stops. Our gracious Savior will not permit one pain or sorrow that is not necessary to our purifying.

### IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

*Minneapolis Mission.* — Nancy Rose, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Sand, born May 14, was brought to Christ in Holy Baptism May 31. May our Lord Jesus keep her in His grace to the end!

J. L. S.

*Milwaukee Field.* — The oldest deaf person on record to be confirmed in this field is Mr. Charles Tetzlaff



Chas. Tetzlaff      Rev. Mueller

shown on the picture. Mr. Tetzlaff will be 86 years old on August 11. After having been instructed by the undersigned, Charles Tetzlaff confessed his faith in the Triune God and was confirmed in services for the deaf conducted in Trinity Lutheran Church, Neenah, Wis., on April 19.

On May 10, Mr. Robert Schneider was confirmed, and Miss Olive Blott was baptized in Emmanuel Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Milwaukee. On the following Saturday, Miss Blott was united in marriage with Mr. Omar Schmidt in Grace Lutheran Church, Waukesha. The young couple will live in Fox Lake and attend services for the deaf in Watertown or Portage.

On Pentecost Sunday a class of four deaf was confirmed in services for the deaf in Sheboygan, namely, Mr. and Mrs. John Orlebecke, Mrs. Olga Johst, and Miss Virginia Sohn.

When we recall that 45 deaf persons have vowed faithfulness to the Triune God in this field in less than three years, we have abundant reason to thank God for His blessings. To these and all our members we say, "Be thou faithful unto death."

A fine class of deaf in Milwaukee meets regularly with the pastor preparatory to confirmation in the near future.

M. E. A. MUELLER

*Southern California Field.* — In the State of Arizona, one of the smallest States according to population, May 20 became a day of importance for our Lutheran deaf church. On the evening of that day, in our regular bimonthly church service, Miss Ida Haddrill and Mr. Loren Lindsey were received into membership with our Church after they had confessed their faith in the Savior Jesus. These are the first people from that State to become members of our Church. After they had confessed their faith and promised lifelong faithfulness to the Lord, the two new members also for the first time partook of the Holy Supper. This was also the first Communion service ever to be conducted

in the signs by the Lutheran Church in this State. May God grant that many others be added to our Church in Arizona as time goes on! — On the previous evening the pastor spoke to about fifty of the older deaf and sightless, pupils at the State School in Tucson.

On April 19 five new members were received into Pilgrim Church, Los Angeles, by confirmation. They are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Degner, Mr. Grant Martin, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sandstrom. We hope that our church may be a great blessing to them in the future, and they also to the church. G. H. F.

**Golden Gate Mission.** — Once again the California State School for the Deaf prepares for commencement exercises. When this graduating class leaves, we part with some of our finest church workers, who for years have done much to interest others in the knowledge of the Savior. These girls have been with us a long time and take with them a fine understanding of the Holy Scriptures. They will be witnesses wherever they go.



Golden Gate Mission

Prepared now for confirmation, they will be confirmed in their respective home churches. The names may interest you. From left to right: Ruth Anderson, Gloria Millspaugh, Elaine Burkert, Elsie Paxton, Pauline Leichel, and Doris Shanks. From the School for the Blind, also at Berkeley, we shall in the future miss Alvin Meyer. Alvin was confirmed some years ago but continued in an advanced Bible class.

We report with regret the sudden death of Mrs. Maude Pankey. Once again the lesson was brought home to us how necessary and comforting it is to be prepared to leave this world. Upon her arrival here in Oakland she immediately took instruction, was confirmed, and was happy in her relationship with us. She was unconscious from her first attack of a brain disorder but, after all, did not need spiritual help, for she had the "one thing which is needful."

In addition to our mission work we are instructed by the city administration to take up first aid. It has been requested that first-aid courses be given a certain number of deaf in the east and west areas of the Bay District. The missionary was obliged to take the full

course and is now instructor for the deaf in this field. This is good experience for a missionary, as it keeps him on his toes as far as that sign language is concerned. I have found any number of fine signs and descriptions which will help me in future preaching. We have had our black-outs, but so far the Lord has spared us all inconvenience or fright. In San Francisco we run a chance with our evening services, but the deaf there are ever faithful, and we have not missed a service.

Pupils whom we instructed years ago at the State School and returned to their distant homes have now returned to the Bay area for defense work. They come to us immediately. Anita Leichel and Lorine Goldsmith are at Oakland, Yvonne Metzner at San Francisco. The last two have recently announced their weddings for June. G. W. G.

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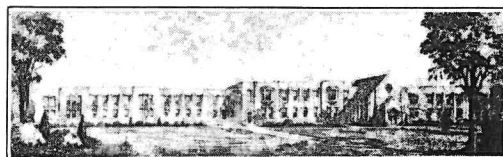
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Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.  
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These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the deaf. You will find them ready to serve you; call upon them or write to them. The deaf need God's Word.

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