

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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May God send you strength for trials
And peace and courage, too,
And at this blessed Christmastide
Make all your prayers come true!

Christmas

When Christ was born in Bethlehem, the matchless love of God streamed down from heaven upon sinful mankind. God's infinite love cannot be separated from Christmas. It is the basis of this happy and blessed season. Without it there is no meaning to the celebra-

tion of Christ's birthday. Behind the birth of Jesus was God's love, purpose, and plan of man's salvation.

Christ's birthday is now celebrated throughout the civilized world. We reckon our time and date our letters by the number of years that have passed since His birth. The whole history of the world has been changed as a result of Christ's teachings and works. He was more than a mere man, He was the Son of the living God. His beloved disciple declared this in his Gospel, saying, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God," John 1:1.

If you accept this great truth, Christmas will be a time for you to look back upon with pleasure, and the New Year will be a period for you to look forward to with confidence that God is in the heavens and that all will be well with you.

O. C. S.

God's Gift — My Gift

God's Christmas Gift of long ago
Has lasted through the years
And still is keeping hearts aglow,
Dispelling doubts and fears.

And with this Gift of gifts in mind,
How can I show my love?
How can my heart expression find
To Him who reigns above?

I have no frankincense, no gold,
No myrrh, no costly gift,
To use as password to the fold,
From earth my soul to lift.

By grace through faith my soul is free
To love this Gift Divine,
There is no question, for we'll say,
"Lord, all I have is Thine."

M. E. DETTERLINE

New Oklahoma and Texas Missionary Installed

In the presence of a large audience of deaf Christians and many hearing friends, representing every congregation of Oklahoma City, and surrounded by the friendly members of the entire pastoral conference of that city, the Rev. John Streit was installed on Sunday afternoon, November 1.

Rev. John Schulz of Oklahoma City and the writer were in charge of the service, the undersigned preaching the sermon.

The Lord's promise has been fulfilled in this comparatively new field. His Word has not been preached in vain. The first Lutheran service in Oklahoma was conducted in the sign language by the undersigned on Feb. 24, 1929. As the field grew in the course of time, the Rev. M. E. Mueller and the Rev. Floyd Possehl served the various preaching stations. In this time hundreds upon hundreds of friends have been led to their Savior.

The new missionary, the Rev. John Streit, now assumes the duties of the large field. Rev. Streit graduated two years ago from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. As a student of this theological school, Rev. Streit also studied the manual sign language under the Rev. N. P. Uhlig. He did not enter the Missions to the Deaf immediately, however, but served as junior pastor in one of our large Chicago congregations, that of the Rev. K. G. Schlerf. Much practical experience in the ministry was thus obtained. Furthermore, Rev. Streit had earlier in his youth acquired valuable instructions in mission work from his father, who is one of Chicago's outstanding laymen. The young missionary now will have many an opportunity to bring the Gospel to many as he has been trained to do.

For many years an auxiliary organization in Oklahoma City has worked hand in hand with us, so that the activity might be expanded. This same ladies' circle assisted our deaf Christians in arranging a reception after the installation service. The occasion made it possible for the new missionary and his bride of two weeks to become acquainted with all members and friends of the mission. May "our Lord preserve their going out and their coming in from this time forth and even forevermore." Ps. 121:8.

A. E. FERBER

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE THIRD ARTICLE

"I believe in the Holy Ghost"

In the Third Article we confess: "I believe in the forgiveness of sins," and in Luther's explanation: "The Holy Ghost richly and daily forgives all sins to me and all believers." What has man done that God richly and daily forgives him? Nothing, my friend.

Forgiveness by Grace Alone

The king did not forgive his servant the great debt because he had deserved it. He had deserved only punishment. So not one of us has deserved God's forgiveness, but only punishment. As pity moved the king to forgive the servant's debt, so grace and mercy urged God to forgive our sins. Paul therefore writes: "*By grace* are ye saved," Eph. 2:8. Blessed is that dying man who said: "I am throwing my good works away and lashing myself to the plank of free grace, for I hope to swim to glory on it."

Forgiveness by Grace in Christ

How can the just and holy God forgive by grace? Paul answers: "*In Christ* we have redemption (salvation) through His blood, the forgiveness of sins," Eph. 1:7. The Lord has laid upon Him the sin of us all; He was wounded for our transgressions. Is. 53:5,6. Man is saved "freely by His grace through the redemption that is *in Christ Jesus*," Rom. 3:24.

Forgiveness by Grace through Faith in Christ

There is forgiveness for all. Christ paid not only for our sins, "but for the sins of the whole world," 1 John 2:2. And still there are so many yet in their sin. Why this? Because so many believe not. Paul writes: "*By grace* are ye saved *through faith*," Eph. 2:8. Again, Paul says: "Man is justified *by faith*," Rom. 3:28. Therefore Luther writes: "The Holy Ghost forgives all sins to me and *all believers*."

Believe in Jesus Christ, and Forgiveness Is Yours

Only believe and say: "Christ was born for me," and you will have the most precious Christmas gift, the forgiveness of all sin!

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for December

Bible-Lesson: Acts 2:30-32

"Therefore, being a prophet and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him (David) that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, He would raise up Christ to sit on his throne, he, seeing this before, spake of the resurrection of Christ, that His soul was not left in hell, neither His flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses."

One of the very important points of the Bible is the *simplicity* of its words. Especially the stories about Jesus are told so plainly that all open-minded persons can understand them. It is so with our lesson of this month.

In the opening statement of the lesson the inspired writer of this chapter of Acts means David when he speaks about a prophet. We learned in the last lesson that, when Peter speaks to his audience, he addresses them as "men and brethren." He is trying to preach to them in such a way that they will be able to understand. Peter wishes to tell them: "You are intelligent people. You are my 'brethren,' and for this reason should receive the message from one of your relatives in a friendly manner.

Now Peter goes to the next point and shows that David was as much as a prophet from among their midst. David is called a prophet. David believed that the Messiah (Jesus) would come to save the people. God had made it clear to David that Jesus was to be one of his descendants. He promised him a Son (v. 30 — with an oath) whose kingdom should be established forever (2 Sam. 7:12). Peter desires his Hebrew audience to know that David was thinking of Christ while he wrote the psalms. All the Jews in Jerusalem knew that Pentecost Day that David was dead. They knew where his tomb was. Therefore, when in the Psalms it is spoken of his rising from the dead, it means JESUS.

Furthermore, to show that their own relative David had spoken of Jesus, Peter explains what was meant in Ps. 110:1. Christ, sitting at the right hand of God the Father, now has the rulership of the Lord's kingdom. Verse 31 is a close reference to the past verse 27, and then the sermon gives the audience another

CONVINCING point, or argument. . . . "This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are WITNESSES."

The audience is told . . . "We not only *saw* Jesus after He came out of the grave, but we also were present when He left the earth near Bethany." Thereby the audience is encouraged to believe that this Jesus IS the Messiah. He LIVES AND IS the Savior of all. Any-one who wishes to go to heaven must believe in Him! Question: How many times was Jesus seen after Easter? A. E. F.

Rules for Killing a Church

1. Don't come. (Ps. 42:4.)
2. If you do come, come late. (Ps. 84:100.)
3. If it is too wet or too dry, too hot or too cold, don't think of coming. (Ps. 122:1.)
4. Don't imagine the front seats are for you; people might think you conceited.
5. Come bound to find fault. (Ps. 100:1, 2.)
6. Don't for the world ever think of praying for your minister or the church. (2 Thess. 3:1.)
7. Do not attend the voters' or ladies' aid meetings, because others can do the work.
8. Always fall behind in your contributions for the church or give nothing. (Acts 20:35; 2 Cor. 9:7.)
9. Don't encourage the minister but tell his faults to others. (Gal. 6:1.) If his sermon helps you, don't tell him; it might make him vain.
10. If you see a stranger in the audience, don't offer to shake hands or invite him to come again; people might think you are bold. (Heb. 13:2.)

Remember, the above are all don'ts. *Don't* be guilty of following these rules and thereby helping to kill your Church, but please read the Scripture verses given and find out what God wants you to do.

Why Not Sooner?

In China a man who had lost his money gambling and who had smoked opium until he was nearly wrecked, heard the good news of Jesus, the Savior. In his great trouble he

came to Jesus, believed in Him, and put his sins upon Jesus, and found peace for his soul. But he said: "Oh, why did I not hear the Gospel sooner? My life would then not have been worth so little, and I would not have wrecked myself with sin."

Was it perhaps your or my fault that he did not hear sooner about Jesus? Let us think of those who are living without Christ and help them find peace and joy in God's Word. We can give for missions.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Minneapolis Mission.—October 10, in Grace Chapel, John Artes, a member of Calvary Church, St. Paul, and Rosella Smith, a member of Grace Church, were united in holy wedlock. May Jesus abide with them and they in Him! Then all shall be well for time and eternity. J. L. S.

Omaha, Nebr.—The marriage of Mr. Ross Wyckoff and Miss Emma Spreng, both of Council Bluffs, Iowa, took place at the parsonage in Omaha on the evening of October 31. We wish them many happy years together and God's rich blessings in their new home.

In September our Omaha ladies' aid society, consisting of 26 members, again showed their willingness to do things. They paid for the wallpaper and labor to decorate the parsonage. The cost was \$60. It is surely an improvement over the plain white walls which were there since the building was completed almost five years ago.

On October 2 Eugene Joe Goodin, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Goodin, formerly of Fairbury, Nebr., and lately of Conway, Ark., was baptized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Engel in Omaha. Mrs. Engel and Mrs. Elmer Petersen, both aunts of the baby, were sponsors. May the Savior keep this child and its parents in His care and in His grace. E. M.

Detroit, Mich.—On August 30 Mrs. Eunice Peard and Mrs. Esther Hohl were received into membership of Our Savior Congregation through confirmation. It is our wish and prayer that they may remain active and faithful members of the Lutheran Church. May the Lord give them strength and love to do so.

Alfred Harder of Utica, Mich., and Loretta Kling of Otsego, Mich., were married in Allegan, Mich., where the home church of the bride is located, on October 3. Many friends of the bride and groom were present.—On October 10 Howard Young and Viola Scott were united in marriage in the Gloria Dei Chapel in Detroit. May the Lord graciously grant both of these couples a long and happy married life.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—In the past weeks we have had several meetings with former Red Cross Braille transcribers. After we explained to them the purpose of our work, which is to make "men wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus," 2 Tim. 3:15, they decided that it is a privilege for them to

donate their future services to the Lutheran Library for the Blind. They are thereby helping to magnify the name of the Lord Jesus, to edify the saints, and to save precious blood-bought souls.

A *Herald* reader recently sent us this message: "I want to express to you and to all who make the *Herald* possible my sincere thanks; your magazine is a product born of Christian thought, prayer, and devotion. May the Lord reward all of you for this Christian service." O. C. S.

Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

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 Rev. E. Scheibert, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Rev. A. E. Ferber, 3807 Gillham Road, Kansas City, Mo.
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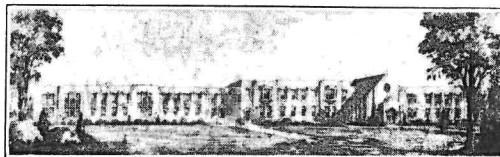
Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.
 Rev. C. Bremer, 6056 S. Harper Ave., 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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