

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 11



"We Give Thee Thanks"

For daily grace through daily prayer,
For daily aid in daily strife,
That we have been allowed to share
The Wine of Heaven, the Bread of Life,
We give Thee Thanks, O Lord!

For every wise and holy thought,
For all of worth that we have won,
For every kindness we have wrought,
For every kindness to us done,
We give Thee thanks, O Lord!

For faith—of all Thy gifts the best—
The vanquisher of worldly care,
For peace amid the world's unrest,
For hope amid the world's despair,
We give Thee thanks, O Lord!

Ours is the pilgrim's changeful lot;
Let light or gloom fall on our way,
May we press on and falter not
Till in the land of fadeless day
We give Thee thanks, O Lord!

JOHN POWERS

Paid in Advance

Luther was walking on the street with a man, when a beggar approached them. Both gave the beggar a coin.

"Who knows," spoke Luther's companion, "God may pay it back to me some day with interest."

"Why some day?" asked Luther. "Has not God paid you in advance long ago?"

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Prayer, What Is It?

Prayer is speaking to God. God speaks to us in His Word; we speak to Him in prayer. Jesus calls it asking, seeking, knocking, in Matt. 7:7. The ten lepers came to Jesus and asked; the father who had a son with an unclean spirit came and sought; and Jairus, whose daughter was at the point of death, knocked. Do you often speak to God in prayer? Do you often ask, seek, knock?

God Promises to Hear Prayer

Take your Bible and read Matt. 7:7, 8. In these two verses you will find six promises. And in our Bible there are many more. It would be an interesting study if you would take your Bible and put down all the promises God gives to those who pray. You would be surprised, for you would find very many. And still we pray so very little! James is right when he writes: "Ye have not because ye ask not." James 4:2. Surely we would see still greater blessings also in our work among the deaf if we would pray more. God has so many blessings He wants to give and is only waiting for us to ask Him. Come, these many promises ought to urge you and me to be much in prayer.

Pray to God in Everything

You perhaps ask: "May I go to our heavenly Father for anything and in everything?" Indeed, for our Lord Jesus says: "If ye shall ask *anything* in My name, I will do it," John 14:14. And His Apostle Paul writes: "Be careful for nothing; but in *everything* by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests

be made known unto God," Phil. 4:6. Go to your Lord and Savior in prayer for everything, be it small or great, be it for your body or for your soul. Mary, His mother, came to Him at the wedding of Cana when they had no wine; the Syrophenician woman asked Him for her daughter who was greatly troubled by the devil; the disciples came to Him in the storm, praying: "Lord, save us; we perish"; and they also came to Him with this prayer: "Increase our faith."

Pray, Pray, Pray!

Do you believe that Jesus died for you on the cross? Do you believe that God is your Father in Christ and forgives all your sins? Then pray to your heavenly Father; pray! Great blessings will come upon you. Pray!

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible Study for November

Bible Lesson: Acts 3:13-16

"The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate when He was determined to let Him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; and killed the Prince of Life, whom God hath raised from the dead, whereof we are witnesses. And His name through faith in His name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know; yea, the faith which is by Him hath given Him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all."

In our lesson we are, in spirit, standing with the Apostles in that beautiful section of the Temple called the porch of Solomon. The healed man continued to speak words of praise to God for his health. The large audience standing around curiously, however, is of the opinion that the man was healed by the power of the Apostles. In the lesson of this month Peter now continues to explain to the people that this man was healed *by the almighty power of Jesus*.

The healing miracle was not done by any power of the Apostles. It was not done by them as if they had any special merit or worthiness. Peter makes it clear that the Apostles were not perfect, but were sinners. The disciples were human, and in the words of the lesson all credit is given to Jesus. Certainly they give us a fine example that we should at

all times be humble and give credit to our Lord for everything.

Let us notice how forcefully Peter in the opening verse preaches Christ Jesus as the promised Messiah to the Jews who were present. "The God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob hath glorified His Son Jesus." The people are told that God sent Jesus into the world according to the promises given to the patriarchs mentioned. Furthermore, Peter says He is "the one God of *our* fathers." In this way the people were to know that the Gospel of Jesus now being preached to them was really the will and revelation of the God of Abraham. The Gospel about this Jesus is that God glorified Jesus in His life and death and resurrection. And yet, while the God of Abraham sent this His Son, Jesus, how shamefully did you people treat Him! You delivered Him up, denied Him, desired a murderer, killed the Prince of Peace. What a disgraceful answer that was for God's kindness! What a lesson for us to be more appreciative of God's kindness to us!

"His [Jesus'] name through faith in His name hath made this man strong . . . the faith which is by Him hath given him this perfect soundness." It impresses us that faith is mentioned twice in the closing verse. The name of Jesus and the power which is contained in His name had made this cripple strong. That was as far as the participation of the Apostles in the miracle was concerned. As for the lame man, the faith which is through Christ, which is given by Him, had given him perfect health again. In summary, the power, the majesty, of the glorified Christ had worked through the Apostles, and the sick man had accepted the gift by faith. A. E. F.

Do We Look Deaf?

In a private school for the deaf in New York City which I had the privilege of operating for several years, it was customary to hang pictures on the wall of all who had attended the school. A visitor offered the remark "Ah! Isn't it too bad? They look so deaf." This remark has always riled me a little. The lady was asked to look over all the pictures on the wall and then to point out the one that, to her, represented a typically "deaf face." After a careful study she pointed to one and said,

"Well, certainly that one looks deaf." To my joy and amazement this happened to be a picture of a hearing teacher.

The deaf are normal with the exception of their loss of hearing. They have bright children, average children, and slow children. All schools have the same three types. They have beautiful children, average looking children, and those not blessed with good looks; but so do all people. When you see a deaf child with a crooked nose, please remember that deafness and crooked noses do not usually go together. It is just a coincidence. — *Superintendent L. M. Elstad, Minnesota, in Oregon Outlook.*

How the Deaf Fare in the War Countries

The British *Deaf Quarterly News* gives some indication of how the deaf are faring in this war. Ninety per cent of the graduates of the schools for the deaf are employed in war work or in private industry; the women in fourteen varied occupations and the men in as many as twenty-nine callings. The home office suggests the following duties as suitable for the deaf: "Members of decontamination squads, repair gangs, domestic staff at first-aid posts, undressers for services depots, storemen at first-aid posts or clearing stations, hospital supply work, and gas mask assembly."

There are dangers for the deaf, however, in these times, as the following extract will show:

"Bombing, we are told, has in instances proved to be a cure for deafness. This may be so, but probably the deaf would prefer to be cured by less drastic means. In military areas the deaf run considerable danger. Several cases have already occurred of civilians being fired on who had not seen the sentry or heard his challenge." — *Silent Missionary.*

He Gave Thanks

Standing in the shadow of the cross, Jesus gave thanks. He no doubt was thinking of His holy life and redemptive work that would open the way to heaven for sinners. He knew that He had not as yet won the victory over death. He had come unto His own and had been rejected by them, but even in the face of Calvary and a borrowed tomb He could look down through the ages and see the unnumbered souls saved through His life and work.

Do we appreciate this great victory of our Lord? Do we make this Gospel of salvation known to others as we should? Are we reaching out to them? Are we drawing them into the Church? Grain does not reap itself. That requires effort.

On Thanksgiving Day let us resolve to show our gratitude to God by leading others to the Savior and bringing them to church with us. O. C. S.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Minneapolis Mission. — During the last months our DEAF LUTHERAN brought so many accounts and pictures of confirmations. So many have learned to know the only Savior Jesus Christ, have confessed His name, and thus, as we hope and pray, have become true members of the holy Christian Church. Surely, that ought to make the heart of every Christian rejoice.

But our hearts ought to rejoice still more when members of the Kingdom of Grace continue in the true faith to the end, close their eyes trusting in the Lord Jesus, and enter into the Kingdom of Glory. For to bring deaf to this heavenly kingdom is the aim of all our instructing and teaching and preaching. This month we can report of two who have joined the saints in heaven and have entered into glory and are now with Christ forever and ever. Thus we have this year laid to rest in their graves five of our members, and their souls are with Christ in glory as we most assuredly hope and believe.

The two who passed from this world of trouble and sorrow to fulness of joy in heaven are Cyrus G. Fawcner and Erik K. Engh, the former departing this life September 23 and the latter September 26. Both had been active members of our church and again and again were elected as officers of our congregation, Mr. Engh being a trustee at the time of his death. Mr. Fawcner and his wife were baptized by the pastor in 1921, and Mr. Engh had been confirmed in Norway and became a member of our Church in 1914. Both partook of the Lord's Supper shortly before their death. Mr. Fawcner had reached the age of 74 years, and Mr. Engh died at the age of 63. Both were buried in Crystal Lake Cemetery, the former on September 27 and the latter on the 29th. They believed in Jesus and loved Him and now are with Him. May this be the comfort of their sorrowing widows and children! And let us all rejoice with thanksgiving unto our dear Lord Jesus. And may God grant that we all who know Jesus and His love continue in Him to the end and at last join them in heaven! J. L. S.

Omaha, Nebr. — When the schools opened this fall, we were again delighted to see such large classes at both the Council Bluffs and Omaha schools that were eager to continue their Bible instruction. At Council Bluffs 139 pupils attend the various classes and 57 at Omaha. We are anticipating a large class for confirmation next spring. May God graciously bless the study of His Word in the hearts of these children.

A unique "birthday party" was held in our Omaha Church basement on October 1. About 90 deaf attended, and all went home with expressions of having had a wonderful time.

We will gladly send any of our readers information about such a party if they will write us. It is worth trying.

Our annual mission festival was celebrated on October 17 with services in the morning and afternoon. The afternoon speaker was the Rev. H. Cattau of Louisville, Nebr. The undersigned interpreted. A large number of deaf friends attended both services.

E. M.

St. Louis, Mo.—The angel of death took Mr. Neval Spencer from us on September 17. Recently he had had severe headaches. Three days before his death these caused him to stop work, though no one suspected him to be dangerously ill. A few days later he lost consciousness, and several hours later he was dead. An autopsy showed a growth on the brain. He leaves a wife and a daughter. He was one of our elders, the second elder to pass away in a year. His death again teaches the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death and the need of constant preparedness. "Lord, teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." May God comfort the widow and the numerous other relatives of our beloved brother.

Mr. Helmuth Schauland, Parkers Prairie, Minn., who has completed his three years of the theological course of study at the St. Louis Seminary, has been assigned to the St. Louis field for this year to assist the pastor in the various duties. He has taken up his work and is fast becoming effective in the tasks assigned to him and is rapidly gaining many friends.

The students of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., are again hard at work studying the sign language, and soon we shall have many more young preachers able and anxious to preach Jesus to the deaf. Also at the St. Louis Seminary we have a number of active and energetic signers, among these Mr. Francis Guyle of San Francisco. He for a number of years worked at the Berkeley school. His wife is here with him and teaches in the Gallaudet day school for the deaf of this city.

N. P. U.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—In the past month we gathered nineteen Lutheran deaf in Northern Michigan for services; seven are graduates of our Lutheran school for the deaf in Detroit.

A blind graduate of Chicago University wrote to the editor of the *Messenger*: "We blind continue to need spiritual guidance of the same kind offered in the *Messenger*. I wish you God's richest blessing in your work."

O. C. S.

LET us give thanks. This is not so easy as it may appear. Most of us spend more time in lamenting our loss than in counting our gains. Our minds often run in channels of criticism and bitterness. But God has been good to us, and we should think of the blessings bestowed upon us and thank the almighty Giver of all good gifts.

To Our Subscribers

It has been our custom to retain the names of our subscribers on our lists for two numbers after the subscription has expired, so that the subscriptions could be continued without interruption in case a renewal came in late. We were very happy to follow this plan at extra expense, but we are now unable to continue this policy because of present conditions.

June, 1943

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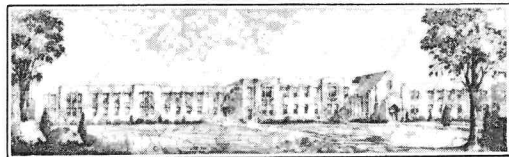
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Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.
 Rev. C. Bremer, 11251 S. Homewood Ave., Chicago 43, Ill.
 These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the deaf. You will find them ready to serve you; call upon them or write to them. The deaf need God's Word.

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