

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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A Christmas Hymn

Sing, Christmas Bells!
Say to the earth this is the morn
Whereon our Savior-King is born;
Sing to all men — the bond, the free,
The rich, the poor, the high, the low,
The little child that sports in glee,
The aged folks that tottering go —
Proclaim the morn
That Christ is born,
That saveth them and saveth me!

JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

A Christmas Legend

An old legend says that Joseph of Arimathea established a church at Glastonbury, England, and that from his staff, which he stuck in the ground, there sprang up a miraculous hawthorn bush, which ever afterwards blossomed on Christmas in memory of his sanctity and labors. Our homes have Christmas trees laden for the pleasure of our children;

but should not we as "trees of righteousness" produce at this season blossoms of praise, thanksgiving, benevolence, and love in adoration of our blessed Savior, who loved us and gave Himself for us? Jesus says in the Gospel of St. John, "Herein is My Father glorified that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples," John 15:8.

Let us, then, make this our Christmas prayer: "Come thou, dear Prince, oh, come to us this holy Christmas time! Come to the busy marts of earth, the quiet homes, the noisy streets, the humble lanes; come to us all, and with Thy love touch every human heart that we may know that love and in its blessed peace bear charity to all mankind." O. C. S.

Former Pastor of the Deaf Celebrates 25th Anniversary in the Ministry

On Sunday, November 7, St. James's Lutheran Congregation in Chicago, Ill., celebrated the 25th anniversary of their pastor, the Rev. A. C. Dahms, a former pastor for the deaf.

The anniversary sermon was preached by a classmate of Pastor Dahms, the Rev. Henry Blanke of Chicago. The members of Our Savior Deaf Congregation of that city were also invited and their present pastor, the Rev. E. J. Scheibert, interpreted the entire service for his members.

Pastor Dahms served the Chicago deaf congregation for 18 years, from 1918 to 1936. Besides preaching to the deaf in Chicago and suburbs, he also served the deaf of various other cities of Illinois, Indiana, and Michigan. For several years he was chairman of the Ephphatha Conference of Lutheran Mission-

aries to the Deaf and served on various committees of this conference.

In November, 1936, Pastor Dahms came to St. James's Lutheran Church as associate pastor to the sainted Rev. Louis Seidel, and when the Lord called Pastor Seidel to his eternal rest in January, 1937, Pastor Dahms was called as regular pastor of that congregation. He also has since that time rendered valuable assistance to other activities in the church at large.

For twenty-five years he has faithfully served his Lord and Master in His vineyard, bringing to Christ's flock the precious truths of God's Word, giving comfort and encouragement to the weak, guiding and leading fallen sinners to the crucified Savior.

May the Lord's richest blessings rest upon him in his future labors in St. James's Congregation.

E. M.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE LORD'S PRAYER

In everything we may go to our heavenly Father in prayer. The great Apostle Paul writes: "In everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God." Phil. 4:6.

God Hears Every Christian's Prayer

We have already learned of many promises that God hears prayers. David therefore calls Him: "O Thou that hearest prayer," Ps. 65:2. Someone perhaps will say: "I have asked God for so many things, and often I have not received the things I asked for." That may be true, but still we must say that God hears every Christian's prayer.

God Hears Every Christian's Prayer, but Gives Only Good Things

God hears every Christian's prayer, but that does not mean that He will give everything for which a Christian prays. Father and mother love their children, and often they will not give their children the things they ask for. And why not? Because children often ask for harmful things. So we often ask for things that are not good for us. Let us thank God that He does not give them to us. He wants to give only good gifts. With Jesus we, therefore, pray, "Not my will, but Thine, be

done." Ask Him for good things, and He never will say, "No." Ask Him for mercy and forgiveness, for peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, for wisdom and understanding for the study of His Word, or any other good gift, and you shall have it. Jesus says: "If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask Him!" Matt. 7:11.

God Hears Every Christian's Prayer Offered in the Name of Jesus

Our Lord Jesus tells us that again and again. John 16:23 He says: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you." Only prayers in Jesus' name are pleasing to our heavenly Father. So many people ask in their own name, as did the proud Pharisee, saying: "God, I thank Thee, that I am not as other men are; I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess," Luke 18:11. This prayer did not please God. We are sinners, and therefore our name, or any other man's name, cannot unlock the heart of God and His treasures of love and mercy. Only the name of Jesus can do this. Pray to your heavenly Father, saying: "This I ask in Jesus' name. Grant it for Jesus' sake, who died for me," and He will give you every good thing you ask for.

Pray, God Hears Every Christian's Prayer

James tells us, "Ye have not because ye ask not," James 4:2. Therefore pray, pray, pray! God hears you and will give you rich blessings now and forever.

J. L. S.

Loyalty in New Surroundings

The migration of workers, due to the demands for war supplies by our Government, has affected many churches; some have grown, and others have declined. The deaf also have been affected by these unusual circumstances. Many have changed the place of their residence from one city to another.

The President of our Synod has appointed a special committee to handle this problem so that no Lutheran souls may be lost because of these disruptions caused by the war; therefore Lutheran deaf should at once seek out the

local Lutheran church or mission for the deaf when they change their place of residence. All Lutheran ministers to the deaf preach the same truths of the Bible and give plain and definite directions to Jesus, our Savior, in whom alone is our hope of salvation.

If our migrating Lutheran deaf neglect to go to church or to affiliate with the local congregation or mission in the new place of residence, they are disloyal, not only to their former church and pastor at home, but to Christ Himself; they become an offense to all confirmed Lutheran deaf and may even lose their soul through neglect of the means of grace, God's Word and the Sacrament. Therefore, Lutheran deaf, if you move, seek out the Lutheran deaf church or mission in your new home town and support it with your presence and gifts to the glory of Christ and your own everlasting welfare. You will never be ashamed of, nor regret, such action.

O. C. S.

The Gospel According to Wray

Some years ago a man named Wray went to be a missionary among the heathen. But he could not learn the language of those people. He was not bright enough. They could not understand his talk.

But they could understand his walk. They could see how he lived.

One day another missionary was trying to explain to the people what a Christian is. For review he asked them: "Who is a Christian?"

Imagine his surprise, when one of them answered: "Somebody who lives like Mr. Wray is a Christian."

Surely Mr. Wray had learned a good language by which to teach of Jesus.

Could the same be said of YOU?

A CHRISTIAN should live so that it will be hard for people to believe anything bad about him.

THE ONE who is ashamed of his religion has a religion to be ashamed of.

RIGHT living is both better and cheaper than high living.

Do good with what you have or it will do you no good.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Minneapolis Mission.—A sincere friend of the deaf, the Rev. E. G. Nachtsheim, pastor of Immanuel Church for thirty-four years, was laid to rest October 26. He had been ill since November 29, 1942, when he preached his last sermon. During this time he repeatedly went to the hospital. The last time he went there was June 3, and there he fell asleep in Jesus October 21, and thus his prayer and wish for a blessed departure out of this vale of tears was granted him. He was a friend of the deaf indeed, especially of our Grace Church for the Deaf. He served as chairman of the Board of Missions to the Deaf for a number of years, and often he addressed a few words to the members of Grace Church in the sign language. The last time he did this was during the twenty-fifth anniversary of the dedication of our chapel. Grace Church gave a memorial wreath of \$5.50 for the Board of Support and Pensions. "If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him," 1 Thess. 4:14.

J. L. S.

Fargo, N. Dak., Field.—Beginning with January 1 of this year, the Duluth-Superior field was transferred to another missionary. Pastor Arnold Lutz of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., is now making regular trips to Duluth-Superior and its surrounding territory, and it is to be hoped that the deaf of that section will show also their new pastor that they are very thankful for the privilege of having divine services.

Many of the deaf of North Dakota have moved to the Pacific Coast, and some of the pastors serving our deaf with God's Word on the Pacific Coast, report that most of these deaf are coming to services regularly. We pray to Jesus that every deaf person who has attended services while in the old Duluth-Superior field, will also go to church when he finds a new home for himself.

Of course, when deaf leave the Fargo field, this is a great loss for the parish. But we are again instructing a large confirmation class in the Devils Lake, N. Dak., school. This class should be ready for confirmation next spring. In the Devils Lake school the group of new teachers, which had to be broken in, is making good progress, and we are looking forward to a blessed year's work in that school. None of these Sunday school teachers will graduate at the end of this school year; so we can hope to have them teach in their respective classes for two or more years.

During the summer months services were arranged for Bottineau and Milton, N. Dak. And in the western part of the State services were conducted in Killdeer, near Halliday, and in New England.

We had the pleasure of meeting two communicant members of this parish, who are now attending Gallaudet College. A private Communion service was held for Marjorie Case in her home near Delamere and for Lyle Wiltse in Knox. Let us hope and pray

that Jesus will keep these two college students constant in their faith in the Savior.

On Sunday, August 8, Mrs. Fred Snow was confirmed near Halliday. Mrs. Snow had studied the Catechism with the help of a correspondence course and had given a good account of her faith. After the confirmation she had the pleasure of receiving the Lord's Supper. After this short Communion service the youngest child of Mrs. Snow, Arlene Grace, was baptized and thus became a child of God. May God keep both Mrs. Snow and Arlene Grace in their faith throughout their entire life.

On August 6 Ferdinand Beierle, formerly of North Dakota, but now working in Michigan, and Miss Mary Jane Wasem, a 1943 graduate of the North Dakota school, were united in marriage in the chapel of our hearing sister congregation in Moorhead. They have moved to Michigan, and we wish them God's blessing for their married life. A few weeks earlier, on July 2, Edward Eiden of Wheaton, Minn., and Evelyn Olga Johansen were united in holy wedlock. They are making their home in Wheaton, where Mr. Eiden has a good position as a printer. We had the great pleasure this fall of visiting in Wheaton and made use of this opportunity to conduct a service for these two deaf in their apartment.

For many years we have had services in Grand Forks and in Fargo on a monthly basis. The deaf, however, decided they would like to have services twice a month hereafter. This seems to be one of the outstanding improvements in this field. Let us hope that these services twice a month will be well attended.

With the coming of the winter months it will not always be possible to reach so many different stations; but since the Devils Lake school is being served every week end, and since Fargo and Grand Forks are receiving services twice a month, the pastor will be kept busy taking care of the needs of this field. He intends to keep in touch by mail, as in former years, with those deaf who cannot be reached personally during the winter months, and we feel certain that this field will enjoy a blessed winter season, in which our members can improve in their faith even during these trying times.

W. F.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—In the past months three residents of the Illinois and Indiana homes for the deaf departed this life to be with Christ. Mr. Nelson Taylor of Momence, Ill., an aged deaf man also died recently. We thank God for having had the privilege of leading them to Christ in their old age; in His Gospel they found rest for their souls.

An air-mail letter from England just arrived in which a Braille *Messenger* reader states: "I am thankful that I lost no copy of the magazine by torpedoing. I also want to express my pleasure and joy at being able to receive your *Messenger*. I love it because it strikes the right note for all those who love our Lord Jesus in sincerity."

O. C. S.

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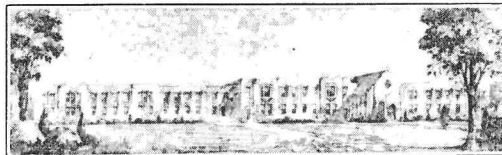
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Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.
 Rev. C. Bremer, 11251 S. Homewood Ave., Chicago 43, Ill.
 These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the deaf. You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

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