

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

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No. 3

The Christ of Galilee

The Christ who walked in Galilee
On mercy's errands bent,
Is very close to you and me
These blessed days of Lent.

The Christ who walked in Galilee,
To His disciples dear,
An ever-present Friend is He
And makes our pathway clear.

The Christ who walked in Galilee
Knows everything we do —
In view of His omniscience we
At all times would be true.

The Christ who walked in Galilee
Is just the same today;
And though His form we cannot see,
He hears all that we say.

The Christ who died on Calvary,
By jealous hatred slain,
Now daily intercedes that we
Eternal life may gain.

IVY HEILMAN HARMON

Lent

Lent and Easter with their earnest appeal and vivid story of the Savior's love and sacrifice are again before us. Both the suffering of our Lord and His empty tomb show us the greatest love ever witnessed on this earth. Truly our souls should respond to this appeal in gratitude and loving service to Him who first loved us.

The Gospel of God's redeeming grace is not a man-made theory or speculation, but it is God's eternal truth and power unto salvation. God's own Word teaches, and our experience proves, that our good works are all as an unclean thing, that all our righteousness is but as filthy rags, and that the heart of man is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. God offers you in the Lenten message salvation and a new life. "For He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin,

that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him," 2 Cor. 5:21. This salvation, which contains His righteousness and new and eternal life, is the gift of God to every sinner who repents and believes, St. Paul teaches. "For by grace are ye saved, through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the Gift of God; not of works, lest any man should boast," Eph. 2:8, 9.

This is the lesson of Lent, which you cannot hear too often nor afford to neglect; "for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life." Rom. 6:23. O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Every Christian should be a praying Christian. He should pray alone in his room, with his friends and relatives at home, with other Christians in church. But, now, when may we go to our heavenly Father in prayer?

Pray Always!

The Christian's whole life should be a life of prayer. Paul writes 1 Thess. 5:17: "Pray without ceasing" (stopping). You ask: "How can a Christian pray always? Must he not eat and work and sleep?" Indeed, but all this he should do with prayer. He should pray always. He should pray when he goes to work, while he works, and when he has finished his work. He should pray when he sits down to eat and when he gets up. He should pray when he goes to bed in the evening and also when he rises in the morning. He should pray when he sits down by day and when he lies awake by night. He should pray when he reads his Bible, when he goes to church, while

he is in church, and when he goes home from church. Everything he does he should begin with prayer, and when it is done, he should go to his heavenly Father with thanksgiving. Always—morning, noon, and night—our heavenly Father is ready to hear us.

O Lord, Forgive!

Thus we must say when we remember how little we pray. We should pray always, and we pray so very little; often we pray carelessly; often we do not pray. And that is sin. Our Bible tells us: "He that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin," James 4:17. We know we should pray always, and we do it not. Every day we must ask: "O Lord, forgive!" and: "Lord, teach us to pray!"

Learn to Pray from Your Bible

Many prayers we find in our Bible, long and short prayers. Our prayers need not always be long. Often it may be just a sigh or just a few words, like the prayer of the publican: "God, be merciful to me a sinner," Luke 18:13, or the prayer of that woman of Canaan: "Lord, help me," Matt. 15:25. Many of these short prayers you will find in the Book of Psalms, the most beautiful book of prayer. It teaches you to pray, saying: "O Lord, I beseech Thee, send now prosperity!" or: "Teach me, O Lord," or: "Give me understanding."

Pray Always Also During Lent

We now are in the Lenten season and are standing at the cross. We behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. Pray for your pastor that God may fill him with His Holy Spirit, pray that He may richly bless every Lenten service, pray that many will learn to know the crucified Lord Jesus as their only Savior.

J. L. S.

The Fiftieth Anniversary

The month of March brings the fiftieth anniversary of the first Lutheran sermon in the sign language. March 4, 1894, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the Rev. Augustus Reinke preached a sermon to 16 deaf people in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, McReynolds and Paulina Streets, Chicago. It behooves us to remember this noteworthy event. It came about as follows.

Rev. Reinke had been ministering to a number of deaf persons who had been instructed at the Deaf Institute of Detroit. These persons had been instructed in, and were served by him, through the medium of the German oral speech. One of the deaf leaders was Mr. Ed. Pahl, living at Michigan City, Ind., at that time, but in close touch with the Chicago deaf.

Mr. Pahl in the summer of 1892 paid a visit to the Detroit school and at that time had a thorough discussion with Director D. H. Uhlig on the situation in which the Lutheran deaf found themselves. Even at that time it was agreed by these two men that the best way of serving the deaf would be through the medium of the sign language.

The following summer, 1893, Mr. Uhlig visited Chicago but could not meet with Rev. Reinke, who was away on official duties. In the late fall Mr. Edward Pahl wrote a strong letter to Director Uhlig, urgently pleading for some action in behalf of the deaf. The latter presented it to the Board of Directors of the institution and was asked by them to take up with Pastor Reinke the plea of Mr. Pahl and to urge him to help the deaf.

Among the letters found by the undersigned after the death of his mother in 1931 in his father's files was a copy of a letter bearing the notation "Origin of the Deaf Mission," sent to the Rev. A. Reinke on Feb. 14, 1894. Many of the details here recorded are taken from this letter, which has been turned over to the Concordia Historical Institute at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where it rests in the files.

Space forbids the reproduction of the letter, but it can be seen by any one interested. The writer appeals to Pastor Reinke to devote some time to the deaf and suggests that he use the assistance of some deaf, perhaps Mr. Pahl.

The letter brought swift response. Eighteen days later, March 4, at 2 P. M., as said before, the first sermon was delivered. It marked the beginning of a devoted effort, which, under God, resulted two years later in the formal establishment of the Mission to the Deaf which now has flourished forty-eight years.

Director Uhlig had asked that the letter of Mr. Pahl, which he enclosed to the Rev. Reinke, be returned to him, but search has not disclosed it. Pastor Reinke made extensive use of Mr. Pahl's letter, and it probably re-

mained in the possession of Rev. Reinke or was lost in the work of rousing the Lutherans to the realization of their duty towards the deaf. It is regrettable that we have not the exact copy; but the Rev. Enno Duemling, D. D., of Milwaukee, who was a student at Concordia Seminary at the time Rev. Reinke made one of his passionate appeals before that body and who was a member of the first class of students to take up the study of the sign language, has reproduced the letter from memory.

We are thankful to God that the prayer of many a deaf person and of many a parent of deaf children and of many a pastor who felt the duty and the difficulty of serving the deaf was answered by the Lord in His own good time. "He hath done all things well."

N. P. U.

Rev. Lutz Installed in Minneapolis

January 23 the Rev. Arnold J. Lutz was installed as associate pastor of Grace Chapel. The service was held in Immanuel Church across the street from our chapel. More than 80 deaf and quite a number of hearing attended. Pastor Gamber, chairman of our Board of Missions to the Deaf, preached the sermon, and the pastor of Grace Chapel interpreted for the deaf. The latter then installed Pastor Lutz, and Pastor Cordes, our St. Paul missionary, did the interpreting for the deaf. The hymns sung by the hearing congregation were rendered in signs by some of our deaf ladies. The collection for our Mission amounted to \$31.68. After the service a reception was given in the basement of Grace Chapel and our ladies served refreshments. May God richly bless the labors of Pastor Lutz in the Minneapolis Field.

Until a new worker can be placed into the South Dakota field, Pastor Lutz will still serve the South Dakota deaf as heretofore. He will be away the first and third Sundays of every month. On these Sundays services will be conducted by Pastor Salvner. The latter will make his first trip as field secretary February 8 in order to meet with our three Chicago missionaries for a day and then go on to Detroit to visit the pastor and congregation there, and also to spend two days at our Lutheran School for the Deaf. Remember this work in your prayers!

J. L. S.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Minneapolis Mission.—Another faithful member of Grace Church was laid to rest January 11, Mrs. Louise Benham. She was taken to the hospital a few weeks before her death and seemed to improve, but January 4 she suffered a stroke, and on the 8th our Lord Jesus took her to Himself in heaven. Before she lost consciousness, she told us that she would like to go to heaven and to be with Jesus. And her wish and prayer was granted. We shall miss her in our services, for she was a regular attendant and always occupied a seat in the second pew. But we rejoice that she knew her Lord and Savior and trusted in Him. She was born and baptized in Germany, lived in Indiana for some time, where she was confirmed, and then came to Minneapolis and remained a member of Grace Church to the end. She died at the age of 67 years, 11 months, and 14 days. One sister and three brothers survive her. Jesus says: "He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live," John 11:25.

Several lectures were already given this year to societies: to the Ladies' Aid and Young People's Society of Redeemer Church, St. Paul, and to the Aid of Mount Olive Church, Minneapolis. Several deaf ladies and our deaf-blind friend John Lauby went with the pastor in order to give a demonstration. Redeemer Aid gave us ten dollars for our Mission and Mount Olive Aid five dollars. A hearty "Thank you" to the ladies.

J. L. S.

New York City.—About six hundred worshippers gathered at old, historic St. John's Church in Brooklyn to witness the presentation of "Silent Night" as presented by the members of St. Matthew's Church for the Deaf. The Christmas story was presented in the form of a pageant. The scenes told the story of the coming of our Savior from the time of earliest prophecy to the actual birth in the manger at Bethlehem. The characters in each scene wore the proper costume for their day. All of the costumes were made by the deaf. The outstanding feature of the pageant was the fact that it was arranged for both the deaf and the hearing people. The Girls' Choir of St. John's interpreted each scene in song as it was acted out by the deaf. When the carols were sung, both the deaf choir and the hearing choir sang at the same time. The hearing people were so pleased with the talent of the deaf people that they requested that the pageant be given again next year.

On January 14, the Young People's Society of our congregation voted to join the Walther League. It was also decided to use the material of the Walther League for our regular meeting. The officers are: Mr. John Brakkes, president; Mr. Philip Topfer, vice-president; Miss Edith Allerup, secretary; and Mr. William Fitzpatrick, Jr., treasurer. The organization was formed with 23 charter members.

As is customary, several of the members of St. Matthew's again invited the students of Gallaudet who were unable to go home for the holidays to stay with them. The following were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Ulmer and Mr. and Mrs. Hjalmer Borgstrand:

the Misses Frances and Hestor Parsons, Mary Sladek, Clarice Petrick, and Messrs. Lyle Wiltse, Silas Hirte, and Frank Sladek. They all had an enjoyable vacation in New York. F. P.

Cleveland, O.—On December 9, Katie Mae Webb and Cleo Henderson, both of Cleveland, entered into holy matrimony. The marriage was performed in the home of the bride, and was witnessed by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Henderson. May the new couple stay true to Jesus and keep their marriage promises.

On December 15, in Rochester, N. Y., Mrs. Olive Sehm was baptized, and Arthur Geyer was confirmed. Both confessed their faith in their Savior and promised to remain true to God. May the Holy Spirit give all new members strength to keep their most holy vow. During the last month, two of our older members of Findlay, Ohio, passed on to their eternal reward. The one was Sam Arras, 68 years, who after a stroke had suffered a long illness and finally died on December 11. He was buried by the Rev. John Gauss at Jenera, O.—The other member who was called from this vale of tears was Mrs. Andrew Miller, age 90 years, who for about seven years was bedridden and died of old-age complications.

Looking back into the old year of 1943, we thank God most sincerely for every blessing received, for all new members, and for keeping so many of our deaf Christians with Jesus. But last year some also became backsliders, straying from God and neglecting the church and their souls. They are in danger of losing faith and heaven. For such we pray to God that they may return in 1944 as faithful members. Yes, may God bless all our parishes in the U. S. so that all our Christians will keep the faith of Jesus, serve God faithfully, and work with their ministers, trying to win others for Jesus and faithful service.

THEO. FREDERKING

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—Among the deaf whom we are instructing there are several deaf-blind. The latter applied for instruction after reading our literature. One of them had been a Christian, but went astray through reading the periodicals of errorists. This proves to us again the need for our literature among the blind.

Following are a few excerpts from recent letters received in our office:

From Philadelphia: "I have just read with great pleasure and enjoyment a copy of the *Lutheran Herald for the Blind*. I shall be very grateful to receive this magazine."

From Missouri: "Please send me the *Lutheran Messenger for the Blind*. It is a fine, interesting magazine to read. I always enjoy it."

From Iowa: "I want to thank you for the *Lutheran Messenger*. I enjoy reading it very much. Am enclosing a gift to help with the work."

From Boston, Mass.: "When my friend Mrs. Carrie Mitchel finished reading her *Lutheran Herald* she passed it on to Miss Barbour, who also enjoys it very much. Please place Miss Barbour's address on your

mailing list. I can assure you that you will have a devoted reader."

From a War-blinded Soldier: "I received the *Lutheran Messenger* in December and enjoyed it very much. Please send it to me regularly."

From the Free Library of Philadelphia: "We desire to thank you on behalf of the trustees for sending us your *Lutheran Herald*."

In the past three months we have been consulting with the Board of the Chicago Lutheran Child Welfare Association with a view toward arranging parochial-school training for Lutheran blind children. We have gathered the names and addresses of 115 Lutheran blind children living in the Central States. Seemingly the Board is considering the matter favorably.

O. C. S.

Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

Rev. N. E. Borchardt, 11719 Evanston Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Rev. E. Scheibert, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Rev. A. E. Ferber, 3807 Gillham Road, Kansas City, Mo.
 Rev. E. Mappes, 5070 Lake St., Omaha, Nebr.
 Rev. J. L. Salvner, 3320 Chowen Ave., N., Robbinsdale 12, Minn.
 Rev. W. Ferber, 617 14th St., S., Fargo, N. Dak.
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 Rev. G. W. Gaertner, Ph. D., 3233 62d Ave., Oakland, Calif.
 Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller, 1717a W. Meinecke Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Rev. R. F. Cordes, 1162 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
 Rev. Theo. Frederking, 12322 Phillips Ave., Cleveland, O.
 Rev. A. T. Jonas, 1101 15th Ave., Seattle, Wash.
 Rev. John C. Streitt, 1517 N. Western Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla.
 Rev. N. P. Uhlig, 4517 W. Pine Blvd., St. Louis, Mo.
 Rev. W. Uhlig, 1434 W. 65th St., Los Angeles, Calif.
 Rev. Floyd Possehl, 87-49 95th St., Woodhaven, N. Y.
 Rev. N. W. Zellmer, 3111 S. E. Alder Court, Portland, Oreg.
 Rev. Arnold Lutz, 1221 22nd Ave. No., Minneapolis, Minn.

Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

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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 Rev. John Schumacher, 1680 W. Minnehaha St., St. Paul, Minn.

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