

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

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St. Louis, Mo., July, 1944

No. 7

Rev. J. L. Salvner Honored



On May 26 the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., bestowed upon our fellow worker the title of Doctor of Divinity. The deaf and their ministers heartily congratulate him upon this well-deserved recognition. Pastor

Salvner has faithfully served the deaf since 1901. He was born Oct. 17, 1876, in Saginaw, Mich.

O. C. S.

Through Pain to Blessing

God will do His part to increase our faith, but the means He uses we oftentimes do not like. Trials, difficulties, disappointments, losses, bereavements, sickness — all these are employed by our heavenly Father for the exercise and increase of our faith. If an infant never used his limbs, they would remain weak, but they are strengthened and invigorated by exercise.

So it is with faith, and God delights to exercise our faith — first, for blessing in our souls; then, for blessing in the church at large, and also for those without. — *George Mueller.*

Assurance

Humanity needs a redeeming power that will stand the test of life and death and eternity. All men are in need of God's help every day, but especially in times of adversity, sickness, and death. At such times men fully realize that their best works are unable to afford peace to their troubled hearts.

The life of Christ, from its humble begin-

ning in Bethlehem of Judea through His years of ministry to His betrayal and crucifixion, was for our salvation and eternal happiness. For us He lived, died, and rose again. May we ever be mindful of this great love and accept it with grateful hearts. By despising such mercy, men heap the wrath of God upon themselves. Christians need to pray daily with the disciples of Jesus: "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life," John 6:68.

O. C. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible Study for July

Acts 4:12, 13

"Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. Now, when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned men . . . they marveled; and they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus."

Peter and John in our Bible Lesson are still standing before the Jewish Council, faced by that "searching" question (v. 7), "By what power or by what name have ye done this?" With words of courage the answer has been given in previous verses, that it is by the name of Jesus Christ. Now the Apostles explain this important truth further and state that this (Jesus) is the only name by which people can be saved. From sin, from everlasting death, from Satan and damnation, Jesus is the *only* salvation, or help. Luther says: "In all the world or under the sun there can be found no person nor human work or deed whereby precious souls can be saved." May these words impress upon all of us very clearly and definitely that our salvation cannot be obtained

by any merit or strength of our own, but only by the name and merit of our Lord Jesus.

This word is important. Some of us may sometimes feel inclined to think in the war effort in which we are at present engaged that our human strength is supreme. We may think that the help of God for victory is not so important or that the work of redemption performed by Jesus on the cross is not so necessary for us to be saved from sin. Reports show that on the "home front" too many people neglect church and prayer in this dark "invasion" hour. Are there not signs that some people are beginning to place all their trust in military equipment and forgetting the Lord? David warned against overconfidence, Ps. 20:7, saying: "Some trust in chariots and horses; but we will trust in the name of the Lord." Forever and ever the name of the Lord will mean unlimited power, great wisdom, and an abiding presence with His people. Above all, the name of the Lord is *full of love*. Go to Gethsemane or Calvary to see the full measure of God's love to us in His crucified Son, Jesus. And then let us humbly accept the salvation He alone has prepared for us. Then, filled with faith in Him, let us confess it to others.

The Apostles did this in our Bible lesson. Says the text (v. 13): "They marveled, and they took knowledge of them that they had been with Jesus." While the following Lessons will show that the Jews did not believe, nevertheless the courage of the disciples to confess their faith in Jesus made it impossible for the men to deny the wonderful works of God.

A. E. F.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father Who Art in Heaven"

The Lord's Prayer is as a letter. Jesus first gives us the address of Him to whom we should send this letter, to whom we should pray.

Pray to God Our Father

Jesus teaches us to pray: "Our Father." Should we pray only to the Father, and not to the Son, and not to the Holy Ghost? Oh, no, the word "Father" is the name of the true God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. With these words we pray to the Triune (Three-in-One)

God. So often the Bible calls God "Father." In Ephesians 4:6 Paul speaks of "One God and Father of all," and Phil. 4:20 he writes: "Now unto God and our Father be glory forever and ever. Amen."

Father a Precious Name for Our God

There are many other names of God in our Bible, as, the almighty God, the Lord of heaven and earth, God the Judge of all, etc. These names, however, make us afraid to go before Him in prayer. But Jesus takes the sweetest name He could find: "Father." This word fills children's hearts with joy. When Father comes home from work, they are happy and run to meet him. Surely, He could not have found a more beautiful name for our God. He intends to say: "Behold, God is your Father; you are His children." He wants to tenderly invite us, as Luther says, to believe that He is our true Father and we His true children."

Our God Is a True Father

This our God has created, or made, all things, also every one of us. He is the Maker, or Father, of all. But if He is our Father only as our Maker, then we must flee from Him as children flee from Father when they have done wrong and fear his anger and punishment. We have done wrong, we have broken our Father's commandments and deserve His wrath and punishment. We ought to hide from Him as Adam and Eve did when they had fallen into sin.

But, nevertheless, Jesus with this word "Father" urges us to go to our God. Thanks to our dear Lord Jesus, God is our Father not only because He made us, but, above all, because He saved us. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life," John 3:16. Now God is our dear Father in Christ Jesus, and we are His dear children by faith in His Son. Gal. 3:26. Every believer can joyfully cry out: "God is my Father; I am His child in Christ Jesus." Pray daily to God, your Father, in Jesus!

J. L. S.

THE words of a talebearer are as wounds. Prov. 26:22.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Minneapolis Mission.—Sunday, May 14, was a day of joy for our Faribault flock. On this day Margaret Jane Ferdon and Lucille Maxine Patten made a good confession of their faith and were confirmed in our service in Trinity Church (the Rev. O. Volz, pastor). For a long time they had been receiving instructions in the chief teachings of our Bible. With fourteen other members they came to the Lord's Table for the strengthening of their faith. May God, in His grace, keep them in the saving faith in Jesus and His cleansing blood unto the end.

June 3 Carman Richie and Birgit Benson, a member of our church, were united in holy wedlock. It was a double wedding. Birgit's sister also was married. First the pastor of the sister performed the wedding ceremony for the one couple; then Pastor Salvner read the ceremony for Carman Richie and Birgit, whom the pastor confirmed in Faribault several years ago. May Jesus be and abide with both couples unto the glory of His name and their present and everlasting happiness.

J. L. S.

Portland, Oreg.—Traveling in this section seems to become more complicated as time goes on, and very often it is with difficulty that we are able to get on a train or bus in order to fulfill our appointments at the various preaching stations. Where we must drop some services on account of gas rationing, which makes it impossible for the deaf to come from a distance, we shall do the best we can for them by mail.

A blind and deaf lady, Mrs. Eaton, now staying with her son at Toledo, Oreg. (address: Box 120), would appreciate it very much to receive letters from her friends, because she is very lonely. She cannot read Braille, but reads moon type only. Pastor J. H. Werth and his wife at Toledo have done much to help Mrs. Eaton, and she is overjoyed at this great interest on her behalf.

Our deaf in Spokane are as ambitious as ever in their work for their church. After conducting a canvass to increase church attendance, they are now doing the physical end of the work. The outside of the church building has been painted and the lawn improved, and now they are beginning on the inside. Surely, when the job is finished, they can all be justly proud of their church property.

Our members in Portland are showing their interest also in the activities of the Lutheran Laymen's League. A number of them attend the meetings of the Portland L. L. L. every month.

The Walther League of Calvary Lutheran Church in Vancouver came to our church and presented an evening's entertainment for our deaf, and also displayed a large library of books and many other religious items. The entire evening was so interesting to the deaf that we intend to have more of these. The president of Calvary Walther League was greatly pleased to find that the deaf had bought more religious books, etc., than they had ever anticipated.

As we attend other meetings with our fellow Lutherans, we become aware of the great things the Lord has done and is doing for His Church, but it also points

out to us that we have many things yet to do to aid our Lord, who first helped us. May the Lord bless our venture and ever help us to increase our knowledge in the work of the Church.

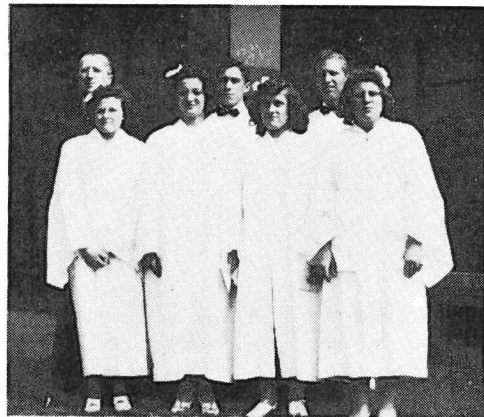
With regret we announce the loss of Mr. John P. Jack of Vancouver, Wash. The Lord called him into everlasting glory on May 10, 1944, at the age of 78 years. Funeral services were held on May 13. His wife, Daisy B. Jack, one brother, and one sister survive. Mr. Jack was a valuable member of our Vancouver group, a sincere and devout Christian, who was confirmed as an adult. He has always proved his faith in Jesus and his love to God. May the Lord console his bereaved widow and relatives with the knowledge that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Mr. and Mrs. T. Lindstrom of Salem, Oreg., will appreciate the prayers of all their friends, since they have received a notice from the U. S. Government that their son, a pilot, is missing in action. We have faith in God and know that His will is always best. He hears our prayers and answers them in His own good way.

N. W. Z.

Cleveland, O.—Three confirmations have taken place since our last report. Our first confirmation occurred on Easter Day in Cleveland, when the following seven persons were confirmed: Mr. and Mrs. Russel Escover, Mrs. Alfred Clauss, Joshua Fagnilli, Dolores Kuchta, Margaret Snyder, and Laverne Standish. About 50 deaf and some hearing people attended this service, in which \$100 were collected, mostly toward our new church.

Our second confirmation took place on Mother's Day, May 14, in Columbus, Ohio. There six persons became full members: Betty Burke, Laverne Jansen,



Confirmation Class in Columbus, Ohio

Back row: Rev. T. Frederking, John Kastner, Michael Moore.
Front row: Betty Burke, Marjorie McClain, Joanna Kastner, Laverne Jansen

Marjorie McClain, Michael Moore, Joanna and John Kastner, the last four also having been baptized in this service. Over 30 deaf and about 20 hearing friends witnessed this service.

Our third confirmation was held on Pentecost, May 28, in Pittsburgh, Pa., where our deaf class of seven and a class of five hearing were confirmed together in



Confirmation Class of Pastor E. Mappes from the Council Bluffs, Iowa School. Confirmed on May 7, 1944

From left to right, front row: Eva Hoult, Beverly Becker, Shirley Smith, Darlene Darrah, Eleanor Adams, Odessa Brown. Second row: Gerald Stevens, Delores Tuttle, Rev. Mappes, Emma Pope, Orval Harrison, Cletus Calta. Back row: Willis Tudor, Robert Kephart, Richard Pope, Marvin Milligan, Clifford Rieper

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, the Rev. Theo. Martens being the pastor. The undersigned interpreted the entire service and sermon for the deaf. The newly confirmed in Pittsburgh are: Mrs. H. Merwin Mowl, Gladys Shaulis, Birthan Kankula, George Foster, Herbert Johnson, Edward Hawkey, and Elery Smith.

All praise to God for our new members with their confession of faith and their promise to remain with Jesus unto death! We pray God to keep our new and also our other members in faith in Jesus, that none be lost, but all finally reach heaven.

THEO. FREDERKING

Mission for Deaf and Blind.—Mr. Harvey Conner has been studying the Catechism and the Bible with us for the past six months. In July he will be confirmed and attend our meetings in Hammond, Ind. His wife, who was confirmed some years ago by a pastor for the hearing, attends services with him. May they continue in the true faith unto life everlasting!

Following are a few excerpts from some recent letters sent to us by readers of our Lutheran magazines for the blind:

"If you serve all the blind as faithfully as you have served me, you would need two or three secretaries. I wish all the blind knew the kind of service you render."

Another wrote: "We blind need exactly the kind of knowledge and edification which you give us in the *Messenger*."

A Lutheran lady reports: "I took our *Messenger* to our mission society and read your editorials and poems to the group. I thank you for putting them into the magazine."

Another friend said: "It is a difficult matter for an editor to please every reader. I hope, therefore, that you will continue as the Lord leads you through his Holy Spirit and never become discouraged."

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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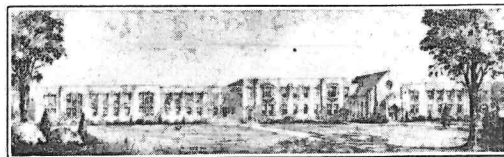
Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago 17, 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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