

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

*Published by the Board of Missions for the Deaf of the Lutheran Synod
of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo. Subscription price, 25 cts. per annum anywhere in the world, payable strictly in advance. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 14, 1935.

Vol. 36

St. Louis, Mo., September, 1944

No. 9

Prayer

Oh, that the Lord would guide my way
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will! Amen.

The Worldy-minded

Millions of our fellow men surrender their souls for earthly possessions and pleasures. The world is in their hearts, and their hearts are of the world. Some may have the outward form of godliness, going to church and contributing to its support, but in fact and in truth they deny the power thereof. Head knowledge of religion and outward profession are useless and powerless. Their love of money and their sinful pleasures are tyrants binding many hand and foot and throttling their spiritual life. By their deliberate sinning, their carelessness, and open neglect of heart service to Jesus, they show that they do not wish to give up anything nor endure suffering for Jesus. In their hearts they know nothing higher nor better than friends, good times, happy homes, and family ties. In reality they desire only social and material prosperity and success.

All this is a delusion of Satan and leads to destruction, to the eternal loss of soul, God, Christ, and heaven. Man has an immaterial, immortal spirit, created by and unto God. The loss of his soul is man's greatest and heaviest loss. Do not, therefore, bargain away your eternal happiness for earthly things; do not permit the pleasures of this earth to take up all your time and energy; do not neglect Jesus and His message of salvation, peace, and hope. He alone is the door of heaven and true joy.

This door is open now; some day it will be closed. Set your affections on the things above. It is sinfully foolish to love the things of this earth rather than the enduring promises of God. Jesus admonishes all men thus: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you," Matt. 6:33, and St. Paul warns: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap," Gal. 6:7. O. C. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible Study for September

Acts 4:14-16

"And beholding the man which was healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the Council, they conferred among themselves, saying, What shall we do to these men? For that indeed a notable miracle hath been done by them is manifest to them that dwell in Jerusalem; and we cannot deny it."

In calling His disciples, Jesus had given them the special power to do miracles. Matt. 10:8. Healing the sick was only one of their many miracles. Jesus had given His promise. There stood the healed man! Even the enemies of Jesus could not deny it. As many times in the past, so now it was proof that the Lord's word is just as powerful in the mouth of His disciples as it is in His own. The Lord's Word accomplishes that which He pleases. Is. 55:11. The Lord's kingdom goes forward. His enemies could neither deny nor stop it.

They asked themselves: "What can be done next to stop this preaching about the Savior

Jesus?" That was the question the Jews asked among themselves. They did not know what to say next. Therefore they needed a secret conference among themselves. V. 15. They commanded Peter and John to step out of the council room. We can imagine that the Council of seventy elders (note Num. 11:24) had an excited discussion. Every one desired to give his opinion freely. V. 16. "What shall we do to these men?"—that was the question and problem before them. It is plain that the Council was afraid to punish the disciples, because by the miracle so many people now believed in Jesus.

The Council confessed "it was a notable [evident] miracle, and we cannot deny it." This means that Peter and John did the miracle in the name of Jesus and that Jesus Himself had often done miracles like this while He was here on earth. It was an example of the power of Christ and proof of His doctrine. This made Christ's enemies uncomfortable and unhappy. It is still the same today. When you see the Church and Gospel preaching making progress, who is it that always becomes displeased or works against the Church, even in 1944? A. E. F.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father Who Art in Heaven"

When we pray to God, we pray to "our Father." Boldly we ought to go to Him in prayer, trusting in His fatherly goodness. But our Lord Jesus teaches us to add these words: "who art in heaven." In this study let us meditate upon these precious words.

Our Father "in Heaven," the Rich and Mighty God

Our heavenly Father is not like an earthly father or mother. Often they cannot give their children the things for which they ask. With a sorrowful heart they sometimes must say: "My dear child, I am not able to give you this or to do this for you." But not so our Father "in heaven." These words do not mean that He is locked up in heaven. Oh no; He fills heaven and earth, Jer. 23:24. He is over all things. He is the mighty Lord of heaven and

earth. He says: "The world is mine, and the fullness thereof," Ps. 50:12. You cannot ask for anything of Him that He is not able to give. There is nothing too hard for Him. "With God all things are possible," Matt. 19:26. Surely, boldly we can go to our heavenly Father, the Lord over all things!

Our Father "in Heaven," the All-Knowing and All-Wise God

Our Father in heaven knows what is good for us. Parents sometimes give harmful things. And then they often see they have made a mistake and have given their children things which do them more harm than good. But our heavenly Father never makes a mistake. He is the all-knowing and all-wise God. Therefore He often will not give us the things for which we pray. He knows that these are not good for us, and He gives us better things. Also parents often say no to their children when they ask for things that will hurt them, as a sharp knife, a loaded gun, etc. Oh, boldly let us pray to our Father in heaven, trusting in His knowledge and wisdom.

Pray to Our Father "in Heaven," Who Wonderfully and Mightily Saved Us

Our Father "in heaven" wanted us to be saved from sin and death, from devil and hell. He knew how to save. Wonderful wisdom! He sent His only Son, laid upon Him the sins of us all, and let Him shed His blood on the cross to cleanse us from all sin. And He was able to save. A mighty Savior! Sin is forgiven, death is defeated, devil and hell are overcome! All who believe in Him are saved. Boldly pray in the name of this Savior Jesus, and all good things are yours. He who so wonderfully and mightily saved us surely will give us all things for which we pray.

J. L. S.

Ephphatha Conference Meets in Omaha

For the first time since 1941 our Lutheran pastors to the deaf will have a conference to discuss the blessed work of our Church among the deaf and the blind.

The 21 pastors and some members of the Board will meet in Omaha, Nebr., from September 29 to October 3, inclusive.

We ask your prayers for God's guidance and blessing in these meetings. E. M.

Field Secretary Visits St. Louis and Omaha Fields

April 14—19 the writer spent with our St. Louis missionary, the Rev. N. P. Uhlig. The evening of the first day the latter interviewed the writer on our work among the deaf over our Radio Station KFUD.

The following day we motored to the Illinois State School for the Deaf at Jacksonville, where Pastor Uhlig conducts classes. We received a hearty welcome at the school, where we stayed during our visit in Jacksonville, for which we extend our hearty thanks. A pleasant evening was spent with Mr. and Mrs. Dettmann, housefather and housemother in the honor building. They expressed the wish that more work be done in the school among our Lutheran children. Pastor Uhlig is not able to give more time to the work here because of his vast field.

Sunday morning we met with about thirty children, all Lutheran, with whom we recited the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and the words of institution of the two Sacraments. Pastor Uhlig then told the Easter story, asked questions, and gave them work sheets. He could not meet with all classes on this trip. At 9:30 A.M. he preached a sermon on "Faith," basing his remarks on John 20:19-31. Hymns were signed by our deaf boys and girls. About 250 of them attended with several teachers and adult deaf. Thereupon a service was held in Jacksonville with nine adult deaf, the writer preaching an Easter sermon. Then we left for St. Louis to celebrate the fifth dedication anniversary of the St. Louis chapel. The undersigned preached the sermon, setting forth the Christian congregation's rejoicing on its dedication anniversary from Ps. 20:5. Supper was served in the hall, and then an informal meeting was held with the whole congregation, which numbers 58 communicants and had a very good average attendance of four at the Lord's Table during the past year. Furthermore, attendance at regular services, contributions for church work, pastor's salary, and other things were discussed. The meeting lasted one and one half hours, but the writer enjoyed them immensely. We hope that they were enjoyed also by all present. May God richly bless this visit unto the glory of our Savior's name.

Monday we met with Dr. Streufert, our secretary of all missions, and with him discussed matters pertaining to our missions. We found that he is deeply interested in our work among the deaf and is desirous of seeing it progress and expand more and more. We also met with Rev. W. Beck of the Visual Education Department and conferred with him about material for the deaf. From there we went to the Central Institute for the Deaf and visited classes. Dr. Silberman, superintendent of the school and one who is doing research work, took us through the Institute and showed us the apparatus for making various tests. There we find also a clinic for deaf and hard of hearing. Tuesday we went to Springfield, Ill., where one of our seminaries is located. In the afternoon we met with the sign class. All members are very much interested in the study of the sign language. In the evening the writer preached the sermon and the students of the sign class

took over the liturgy and hymns with Pastor Uhlig. Several of the professors, about forty students, and two deaf attended. On Wednesday afternoon we met with the sign class of the St. Louis Seminary, and in the evening we gave an address to some of the students in the interest of our work.

Thus we spent busy days in the St. Louis Field, but it was all joy.

In May the undersigned visited the Omaha Field, of which Pastor Mappes has charge. Sunday afternoon, May 21, a service was held, which was attended by 76 deaf, 58 partaking of the Lord's Supper: 47 members, nine boys and girls from the School, and the two pastors. We preached the sermon on the need of prayer on the part of the congregation and also on the part of the pastor. More prayers, more blessings. After the service a meeting was held with all present. We showed them that Christians are God's people and always should show forth the praises of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. This is done by attending services regularly, often coming to the Lord's Table, doing personal mission work, and gladly giving for the Lord's work. We told them of a member in one of our fields who brought 1,750 pennies as a Christmas offering. He is still saving pennies and brings them as a special offering besides his regular contributions. Save your pennies for the Lord! In regard to personal mission work we urged that we should not be as Cain, who said: "Am I my brother's keeper?" but like Andrew, who brought his brother Peter to Jesus. May also this visit redound unto the glory of our Savior's name!

We were also deeply impressed by the work of Pastor Mappes in the Nebraska and Iowa Schools. In the former he has 55 boys and girls under his care. Every Wednesday afternoon he has two classes, every Thursday he meets with the confirmation class, and Friday evenings with the boys. In Council Bluffs he has 155 boys and girls in his classes, 53 of whom are communicant members. Every Tuesday he meets with three classes, and every Friday he instructs the confirmation class. What a grand privilege that he can every week instruct over two hundred boys and girls in God's Word and Luther's doctrine pure. We are thankful for His many blessings. The writer spoke to all the classes in both schools, telling them of the twelve-year-old Jesus or of Mary, who sat at Jesus' feet and heard His Word, and urging them to follow their example.

Thus we could bring good reports from our St. Louis and Omaha Fields to our Board of Missions to the Deaf and Blind. May God's richest blessings rest upon the work of all our missionaries to the deaf in the United States and Canada, and may His name thus be glorified also among the deaf and many souls be won for Christ!

J. L. SALVNER

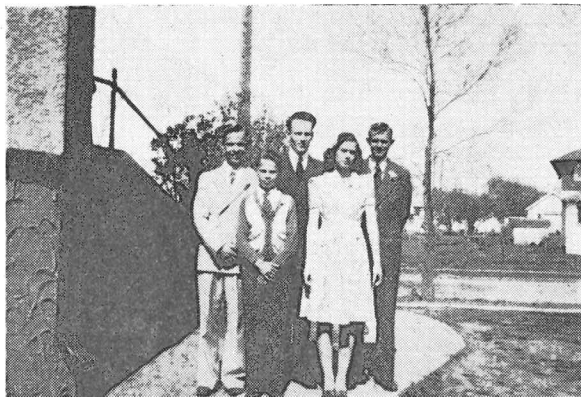
IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Sioux Falls, S. Dak.—Our congregation in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., had a very happy day on May 14. Four children from the School for the Deaf came to church that day to make a public confession of their faith in

their Savior. They made the solemn promise to remain with their Savior and Lord unto death. The names of the four who were confirmed are: Lucille Knittel, Everett Ruedebusch, Raymond Ellis, and Bobbie Ellis. The last three named were also baptized in obedience to the Lord's command. In the same service the newly confirmed came to the Lord's Supper, together with other members of the congregation. May the Lord remain with them and richly bless them throughout their earthly life.

Last year Pastor Arnold Lutz lived in Sioux Falls and served our deaf friends in the State of South Dakota. In January of this year he accepted a call to Grace Church for the Deaf in Minneapolis and left South Dakota. However, he tried to keep up regular services for all our friends in South Dakota.

Then in July we were all glad to hear that Mr. Curtis



Schleicher, who this spring had graduated from Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., had accepted the call to this field. On July 5 he came to Minneapolis to brush up a little on his signing. The last week of July he went to Sioux Falls; and on July 30 he was ordained and installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Congregation of the Deaf, Sioux Falls, and as missionary to the deaf of South Dakota. Rev. Lutz preached the sermon, both signing and speaking; then Rev. Steffen, a friend of the deaf, ordained and installed Pastor Schleicher, while Rev. Lutz interpreted for the deaf. Rev. Herman Rossow of Sioux Falls also assisted in the service. Two members of the congregation, Mr. Krohn and Mr. Larson, in the name of Trinity Congregation, publicly accepted Rev. Schleicher as their pastor.

A reception with a light lunch was held on the lawn on the north side of the church. The congregation welcomed their new pastor with a gift of money. We rejoice with the deaf of South Dakota because the Lord has given them another pastor. We pray that God will richly bless his work and make him a true servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for the salvation of many souls.

A. J. L.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—In Indiana an aged deaf friend recently departed this life to be with Christ. We thank God for having given us the privilege of leading him to Jesus in his old age.

A letter from Europe states: "I am very thankful

that I have received all my copies of the *Messenger*. They are a joy and a comfort to me."

Enclosing \$10, a reader in Connecticut wrote: "I thoroughly enjoy the *Lutheran Messenger* and eagerly await the arrival of each new issue."

A military officer in a camp in Mississippi sent us a donation for our library, with the remark that he had read about our work in the *Chicago Tribune*.

O. C. S.

Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

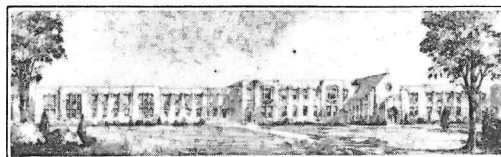
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Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago 17, Ill.
 Rev. C. Bremer, 11251 S. Homewood Ave., Chicago 43, Ill.
 These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the deaf. 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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The Deaf Lutheran

Official Organ of Lutheran Church Missions for the Deaf
 Published Monthly

Twenty-Five Cents per Annum in Advance

Send all subscriptions, changes of address, and cancellations to Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis 18, Mo.

The DEAF LUTHERAN goes to press on the 12th of the month preceding month of issue.

Rev. O. C. Schroeder, B. D., Editor, 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill. Send all news items intended for publication in this monthly to Rev. E. Mappes, Associate Editor, 5070 Lake St., Omaha, Nebr.

PRINTED IN U. S. A.