

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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Bethlehem

Is. 7:14; 9:6

The cradle seems	When Christmas comes,
So frail, so weak,	Throughout the earth
With just a child,	Men worship Him
Our Lord, asleep!	And greet His birth.
And yet that Babe,	And silence reigns,
So weak, so frail,	And war cries cease;
Rules heaven and earth—	Still rules our Lord,
Immanuel.	The Prince of Peace.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER

Christmas Gifts

At this Christmas season, when we are receiving and giving presents, it is very appropriate that we should think about the many choice gifts that God has given to us, and that we should also ask ourselves the question "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits?" Ps. 116:12.

There is really no limit to the blessings which God has given and still gives us, but they all center around the gift of His only Son. In the manger at Bethlehem lay the eternal Son of God, born of a woman, in order that He might free us all from hell, devil, and death and that He might procure for us forgiveness

of sins, life, and salvation. Through Him the Lord freely gives us all things. Oh, what a bounteous gift!

And what may we give God in return? All that we have is His. Yet He is pleased to have His believers give Him a heart filled with grateful love, love that will show itself in service to Him. May we all say with the Psalmist: "I will offer to Thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call upon the name of the Lord." Ps. 116:17. O. C. S.

A "Peace Chest" For the Savior

In God's kind providence the day will come when the armies of Europe will lay down their arms and the priceless boon of peace will be restored to a large section of this war-torn world. When that day comes, the members of our Church will be eager not only to sing hymns of praise to their God but also to bring tangible evidence of their thankfulness to Him in the form of generous gifts and offerings.

To give our members an opportunity for such a tangible expression of their joy and gratitude, our Church has arranged for a \$5,000,000 peace thankoffering, which is to be gathered on the Sunday after the war in Europe ends. It has decided to gather these offerings as a fitting "peace chest" for our Lord and Savior.

That there will be an urgent need for such a "peace chest" in order that the work of the Church might be carried to new fronts in the early postwar world, needs hardly to be said. Our church papers continue to report a veritable chorus of Macedonian calls which come to us from almost every section of the world.

With the coming of peace we shall have to be prepared to enter the many doors of opportunity which our Lord Himself is opening.

So that there may be a unanimous and spontaneous outpouring of gifts on the appointed day — gifts which truly express our heartfelt gratitude to God — let everyone NOW already begin to “lay by in store” as God is prospering him. “The Lord hath need of them.” And we who have been so abundantly blessed — have need to give! H. W. G.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible Study for December

Acts 4:23-29

“And being let go, they went to their own company and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord and said, Lord, Thou art God, which hast made heaven and earth and the sea and all that in them is; who by the mouth of Thy servant David hast said: Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things? The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord and against His Christ. For of a truth, against Thy holy Child Jesus, whom Thou hast anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together for to do whatsoever Thy hand and Thy counsel determined before to be done. And now, Lord, behold their threatenings and grant unto Thy servants that with all boldness they may speak Thy Word.”

John and Peter were again free men. Our text tells it in the words “being let go.” The disciples knew what had happened to others. They knew the Council could easily have put them to death. Or they could have been put in a dark, dreary prison for life. But now they were free. Then what to do next? They had said, “We cannot but *speak*.” Would they keep their promise? Or would they go and hide? The Council had made dangerous threats.

But our Bible lesson plainly shows faith in action. 1. They went to their own company. 2. They reported all that had been said unto them. Their courage of faith could now be seen in their actions and words. They were not afraid. “Neither principalities nor powers . . . shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord,”

Rom. 8:38, 39. Peter and John were marching forward with Jesus. They went to the other Christians and testified. Their faith and their courage impressed and encouraged the other Christians. Like a choir, the other Christians expressed their joyful faith in God's power and protection (vv. 25-27).

And now, when the Christians knew how bitter enemies were continuing against the teaching of Jesus, what did they do? Did they pass a resolution to hide? Indeed not. Look at this prayer, v. 29. They say: “Grant unto Thy servants that with all boldness they may speak Thy Word.” They had an active faith. They were ready to confess their faith in Jesus anywhere.

This lesson is most important to us. Your Lutheran Church is making plans to bring the Gospel to more and more defense workers. Postwar plans are being made to send missionaries and pastors to nations that have suffered so much in the war. As soon as peace comes in the European part of the war, our Lutheran Church will on the following Sunday give a Peace Thankoffering. Much of this money will be used to bring the sweet Gospel to those people especially who have felt the horrors of war.

Will you, dear reader, help to confess the name of Jesus in the above plans? Will you put your faith into action more and more? May the Holy Spirit encourage you to speak often the words of our lesson: “Grant [give] unto Thy servants that with all boldness they may speak Thy Word.” A. E. F.

A Visit to the Milwaukee Field

In the July number of the DEAF LUTHERAN, 1921, a jubilee number, we read the following: “By a unanimous vote Missouri Synod, in May, 1896, at Fort Wayne, resolved to give to the Mission among the Deaf its full support, authorizing a newly created Board to call missionaries into this field of labor. Rev. A. Reinke, Sr., of Chicago, the founder of the Mission, thereupon encouraged several of the candidates at the St. Louis Seminary to take up the study of the sign language. The following students formed a class to make their initial studies in this language: E. Duemling,

A. Bentrup, F. Giese, and T. M. Wangerin. Of these four only two could be placed, A. Bentrup being called to Louisville, Ky., and T. Wangerin to Milwaukee. — Prior to 1896 the Milwaukee deaf had on several occasions been served by Rev. A. Reinke, Sr., of Chicago, and since the summer of 1896, they have their own missionary. In 1898 Emmanuel Congregation for the Deaf was organized with but eleven members. In November, 1900, ground was broken for the chapel, and on April 14, 1901, it was dedicated. Its erection was made possible only by the liberal donations of the school children of Missouri Synod." In the same number of the DEAF LUTHERAN we also find that in 1921 the Milwaukee missionary ministered to the spiritual needs of deaf in Oshkosh, Sheboygan, Racine, La Crosse, Wausau, Merrill, Manitowoc, and Delavan. The Milwaukee field was visited by the writer October 20—24. And it filled our hearts with thanks and praise to our good Lord for His many blessings upon the preaching of the Gospel in this field. This preaching of Jesus and His love has brought wonderful fruits. The field now numbers 230 communicants, of whom 108 are members of Emmanuel Church in Milwaukee. In this field we find something that we never had thought possible. The Milwaukee field has, by the grace of God, become self-supporting. The budget of the Milwaukee congregation and preaching stations is \$3,151 for 1945. The love of Christ constrains them. They draw no more funds from the Board of our Synod. What a wonderful example for all our fields! May we all more and more learn to know the love of Jesus and then live for Him who died for us and rose again.

On our way to Milwaukee we stopped off at Madison and held a service with fourteen deaf and after the service a meeting in which church and Communion attendance, the need of prayer for pastor and for one another, contributions for the Lord's work, and other things were discussed. This station has 26 communicants, and the average attendance in the second quarter of this year was sixteen, and fifteen came to the Lord's Table. Contributions of that quarter amounted to \$54.30. In 1943 the average attendance in twenty services was ten, 65 communed, and the average

contribution of each member was \$6.85 for the year.

On October 22 we preached at the mission festival of the Milwaukee congregation. Seventy-five attended, and the mission offering amounted to more than \$80. During the second quarter of this year the average attendance was 46 in fifteen services. In the afternoon we had a two-and-one-half-hour meeting with the whole congregation, and still they were not tired. Also here we spoke of church and Communion attendance, concerning church discipline according to Matt. 18: 15-17, family altar, personal work, and other matters. It was a most interesting meeting for us. May God's blessing rest upon this visit!

In the evening of the same day we went to Sheboygan with Pastor Mueller, where we held a service with fifteen deaf. Here we have sixteen members with a good average attendance of twelve in four services in the second quarter of this year. Contributions of the same quarter amounted to \$38.75. The average contribution of each member during 1943 was \$6.46. After the service a meeting similar to the one in Madison was held. And on Tuesday, on our way home, we met with eleven deaf in Baraboo for a service and meeting. Here we have ten members, and the average attendance in three services during the second quarter of this year was nine. Average contribution in 1943, \$6.72. Other stations, as Kenosha, Manitowoc, Waukesha, Oshkosh, Watertown, we could not visit. Deaf of some of these stations attended the services and the meeting in Milwaukee.

In this field we found the deaf very much interested in the soul-saving work of our Lord. Indeed, there is still room for improvement. They are thankful for the preaching of the Gospel of salvation by faith in the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. To them we say: "My beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord," 1 Cor. 15:58. And may our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ fill the hearts of our deaf everywhere with love and zeal for His work unto the salvation of many deaf and the glory of His precious name!

J. L. S.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Omaha, Nebr.—Eight adult deaf at Sioux City, Iowa, who had been studying the chief doctrines of the Bible for some time, were accepted as members of the Lutheran Church by confirmation on October 22. The following are those who pledged allegiance to their Lord and Savior on that day: Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Oordt, Orange City, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Good, Sergeant Bluff, Iowa; Mr. and Mrs. Ben J. Redington, Mr. Arthur Keller, and Mrs. Helen Wells of Sioux City. The last six mentioned also received Holy Baptism.

We pray our heavenly Father to keep these new members of His Church in the faith which they publicly confessed and at last grant them eternal life in heaven.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—In the Calumet district, adjoining South Chicago, we meet deaf of various races and nationalities, such as Greek, Serbian, French, Italian, Spanish, Lithuanian, Polish, Swedish, German, and Irish. They require special attention and instruction. We serve many of these privately in their homes.

Following are a few excerpts from recent letters received in our office. From Minnesota: "I wish to let you know how much I enjoy the *Lutheran Messenger*. Your editorials give me such spiritual pleasure. I am so glad that there is such a clean Christian publication for the blind to read. I pray the Lord for the day when the eyes of the blind shall be opened to see the glory of the Lord." From Dorset, England: "Please send me some back copies of the *Herald*. I am deaf-blind. I would gladly pay, but have so little pocket money. I enjoy reading the *Herald* for its spiritual value."—Our deaf, blind, and their friends in October contributed \$341.71 to our work. O. C. S.

Milwaukee, Wis.—"Who knows how near my end may be!" This truth once again was impressed upon us in the death of a faithful member of our Sheboygan group, John Hoffmann. On Saturday night, October 28, he and his wife were struck down by a hit-and-run driver while crossing a street near their home. Mr. Hoffmann was rendered unconscious and passed away in the hospital the following Monday, October 30. Mrs. Hoffmann sustained a broken wrist and injuries to her limbs and was unable to attend her dear husband's funeral services on Thursday, November 2. The undersigned spoke words of comfort to relatives, friends, and nearly 20 Lutheran deaf. The following Sunday also a memorial service was held in the Milwaukee congregation. For a man of 71 years John Hoffmann was unusually lively in manner. Above all, he had a lively faith in his Savior Jesus. His good example as a faithful church member is worthy of imitation. "All things work together for good to them that love God," Rom. 8:28.

Judith Ann Carolyn, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Rasmus, was baptized in services for the deaf in Madison on November 12. "Baptism does also now save us," 1 Pet. 3:21.

For the year 1945 the Milwaukee field will endeavor to raise nearly \$3,200 in contributions for the support of the church. May God's love fill our hearts with love for this great work.

M. E. A. MUELLER

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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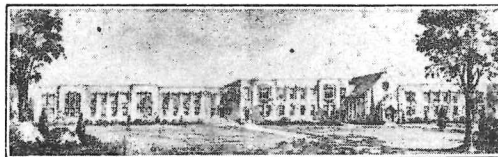
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Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago 17, Ill.
 Rev. C. Bremer, 11251 S. Homewood Ave., Chicago 43, Ill.
 These ministers preach in more than 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the deaf. 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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Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich.
 Mr. John A. Klein, Director
 6861 Nevada Avenue, Detroit, Michigan

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