

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. 37

St. Louis, Mo., October, 1945

No. 10



Martin Luther

A modest, quiet man he was,
Yet firm and brave and strong,
Who would not brook a compromise
Nor plead the cause of wrong.
For him there was no middle course,
Opinion, fancy, whim;
The narrow path that leads to life
Was broad enough for him.
He did not waver to and fro,
But knew just where he stood:
Against the things that God condemned
And for the right and good.
To him one word of God was more
Than all the words of men.
'Twas this that gave such power to him
And to his mighty pen.

Christ Church Messenger

Reformation Day

The doctrine of salvation by grace alone through faith was taken from the Bible and restored to the people by Dr. M. Luther. He led the world to become Bible-centered and to live by its teachings alone.

Today we too must abide and continue in the word of Christ if we desire to be eternally saved. Jesus says, "Abide in Me," John 15:4. He promises to present us "holy and unblamable and unreprouvable in His sight; if we con-

tinue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the Gospel," Col. 1:22, 23.

If we depart from the faith or return to the world and its sin, we cannot hope to be saved. Our only safety is in dwelling in the secret place of the Most High. His precious word of promise gives rest and shelter through Christ's atoning blood. It is the only refuge for any sinner. God warns us: "In the latter times some shall depart from the faith," 1 Tim. 4:1.

May we, therefore, abide in Christ and the doctrines which we have learned and which were restored to us by the great Reformer.

O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE SECOND PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Thy Kingdom Come"

Our Catechism says: "The kingdom of God comes indeed without our prayer of itself; but we pray in this petition that it may come unto us also." We now ask: "How is this done?"

For the Coming of God's Kingdom We Need the Holy Ghost

By our own reason or strength we cannot become God's children, nor can we make anyone a child of God. The Holy Spirit must do it. Our Catechism therefore teaches: "When our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit. . . ." And Paul says: "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord but [except] by the Holy Ghost," 1 Cor. 12:3. Therefore when we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we intend to say, "Father, send us Thy Holy Spirit."

For the Coming of God's Kingdom We Need the Word

The Word is the Law, whereby the Holy Ghost shows man his sin, and then also the sweet Gospel, by which the same Spirit tells the sinner how he can be saved. Only by "His holy Word" the Holy Spirit works in the hearts of men. It is "the word of salvation," and "the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes." Therefore this Word, and nothing else, must be preached in our churches. Only then will God's kingdom come "unto us also." With this little prayer Jesus teaches us to say: "Heavenly Father, give us Thy Word, and keep it among us."

God's Kingdom Comes when People Believe and Live Holy

By the Word the Holy Spirit first works faith in us. From the Word He shows man his sin and God's wrath, then points to the Cross and the blood shed upon it and invites the sinner, saying: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." He gives us faith and keeps us in the one true faith unto the end. And true faith will show itself in a holy life. The Holy Spirit works in us by the Word, and we "lead a godly life" and "show forth the praises of Him who hath called us out of darkness into His marvelous light." When we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we pray, "Heavenly Father, give us Thy Holy Spirit that we believe Thy Holy Word and lead a godly life."

Daily Pray, "Thy Kingdom Come"

May this be the chief part of our Church's postwar planning. Only if God's kingdom comes will a sin-sick and troubled world find peace and rest and comfort. Let us pray without ceasing. J. L. S.

Notes from the Field

In July the writer was in St. Louis in order to secure a supply worker for the Spokane-Great Falls field. Thanks to God, He gave us one, the student A. L. Hauptmann. With Pastor Uhlig we spent a day in Springfield, Ill., and conferred with Mr. Hauptmann in regard to his work in Spokane, Great Falls, and other Montana cities. He began his work in Spokane on Aug. 22, visiting deaf and conducting

services every Sunday. Now he has moved to Great Falls in order to conduct religious classes every week at the Montana State School, to minister to deaf in other Montana cities, and to preach twice a month in Spokane. May God richly bless his work. The writer spent two weeks with him in September. Before returning home from St. Louis, we spent a week in Oklahoma City with Missionary Streit in the interest of our work.

In August we made a short trip to Nebraska and Iowa. With Pastor Mappes we went to Boone and Des Moines, Iowa, on Sunday, Aug. 26. On the way we discussed matters concerning our Ephphatha Conference to be held in Kansas City, Oct. 5—9, *e. g.*, Book of Forms, on which six groups of missionaries worked during the past months. In Boone services were held in the afternoon with fifteen in attendance. After the service we had a short meeting with them, speaking to them of church attendance, the Lord's Supper and its great blessings, and contributions for the blessed work of soul-saving. Then we left for Des Moines. Fifty-three attended the service there, a very enthusiastic gathering! After the service a meeting similar to the one in Boone was held. We surely need a resident missionary in Iowa who will minister to the deaf in Des Moines and other cities. That is the earnest desire of both of the Iowa Districts, East and West. We met with the Secretary of Iowa West, the Rev. Geo. Vogel, in regard to this matter, especially concerning the buying of a chapel for our work which the congregation of Pastor Eynon intends to sell. They, however, have a good offer from another organization, and all felt it best to drop the matter. Pastor Eynon's congregation will erect a new church, with a little chapel in connection with it, which the deaf then may use for their services. We surely thank Pastor Eynon and his congregation for the interest they are taking in our work. The present church may be used by the congregation, and also by the deaf, until March, 1947.

May God grant that soon we may be able to place a man here. And we need still more men, consecrated men, men filled with a passion for souls, one in the far East and another in St. Louis, since the St. Louis field has been

divided and Pastor Uhlig is taking over the Central Illinois field. "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." J. L. S.

On Being Deaf

My purpose is to tell you how we, who are deaf, regard our deafness or, in other words, how we can take it.

We deaf do not just grin and bear it; we grin and forget it. People who can hear are being constantly reminded that they have hearing by the sounds that greet them on every side. No such sounds bother us deaf people; so it is easy for us to trot along life's pathway and forget all about our lack of hearing.

A short time ago I met a hearing man who has worked with the deaf for quite a number of years. When I told him I was to talk on the art of being deaf, he said, "Go and tell them the deaf are not handicapped. Do you think so?" I think some may be to a certain extent, but they probably do not know it; so the matter may be dismissed as it does not affect their happiness. And happiness, we all agree, is the main goal in life.

I have seldom thought about the difference between the deaf and the hearing. I always thought it was something that could not be helped and therefore not worth bothering about; that is, until I looked through a hundred questionnaires which an acquaintance of mine handed me. She was making a study of the deaf, and these questionnaires had been circulated among the adult deaf of Flint. Of the 85 questions in one of them the one question that interested me most was, "How do you feel about your deafness?" Not one of the answers she obtained expressed the slightest resentment. Quite a number stated they would rather be deaf than hearing! This may seem strange to you, but Edison said once that he was glad he was deaf as he had less distraction and could therefore attend to his work better.

If deafness is a real loss, we deaf people do not realize it; we just let the fact of deafness go at that. There is no better illustration of the saying "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise."

When we are confronted by obstacles the hearing do not encounter, we are not discour-

aged, for we know that happiness does not come from taking things easy but from finding a way over, around, or under barriers set in our paths. We have overcome educational, job, and insurance barriers. And we will overcome the other barriers in our way. The deaf realize that they have lost something; they accept the fact of deafness and, needing no pity, are happy without hearing. — Clyde Stevens, teacher Michigan School for the Deaf, in *Minnesota Companion*.

Aside from what is said in the above article, the deaf can also be happy because they, as well as the hearing, have the Gospel of salvation of Jesus Christ preached to them. And this Gospel, if accepted in true faith, most assuredly can give the deaf full and everlasting happiness and peace in heaven. E. M.

The Greatest of All

My greatest loss.

To lose my soul.

My greatest object.

To glorify God.

My greatest work.

To win souls for Christ.

My greatest prize.

A crown of glory.

My greatest joy.

The joy of God's salvation.

My greatest inheritance.

Heaven and its glories.

My greatest victory.

Overcoming death through Christ.

My greatest neglect.

To neglect so great salvation.

My greatest crime.

To reject Christ, the only Savior.

My greatest privilege.

To become a son of God.

My greatest peace.

The peace that passeth all understanding.

My greatest knowledge.

To know God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

Just as water does not flow up the hill, but comes running down the mountain into the valley, so also God's grace does not reach the exalted (proud) ones, but those who are lowly in heart.

An Empty Sign

"When the ink in this pen begins to flow too freely, it is a sign that the pen is nearly empty and should be filled" — these are the instructions given with a fountain pen. But it seems as though this may also be said of some people. When the words begin to flow too freely, as in gossip, slander, and idle chatter, it is a sign that the mind is nearly empty and should be filled (especially with the Word of God).

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Omaha, Nebr. — During August a trip was made by car across the State of Nebraska for several reasons — all in the interest of our Missions to the Deaf. We had been invited and had accepted to preach at a mission rally at Scottsbluff, Nebr., in Pastor G. V. Weber's church on Aug. 12. On that day, after telling a large and interested audience about our work, we also had a service for nine deaf friends living in that community. Four of these we had never met before, while the other five were persons whom we had instructed while they attended the Omaha School.

On our way going and coming back we also made other contacts and investigated the possibilities of having services for groups of deaf at various places in the future. It was also a pleasant experience for us to visit the homes of a number of the children who now attend and have attended our classes at the Omaha school. The entire trip was a true success, and we hope to conduct such tours more often in the future as time allows.

Classes of religious instruction at the Omaha and Council Bluffs, Iowa, schools have begun in earnest, and, thanks to God, we again have an enrollment of over 200 pupils in our classes in both schools. May the Lord continue His blessings upon the work of all our pastors in these schools for deaf children. E. M.

Mission for Blind and Deaf. — While in Northern Michigan in August we conducted 6 services for the deaf, made 22 personal calls on the deaf, answered 104 letters, and prepared manuscripts.

We and our Allies give thanks to God that this most terrible of all wars has been victoriously concluded. It means the end of anxiety for millions of people.

Following are a few of the letters which reached our office last month:

From Australia. Sending us a request of a man in New Zealand for our *Herald*, a blind evangelist wrote: "I use your short sermons and many other articles from your magazine in my work. No doubt, you want us to use this good seed as much as possible. I sent a friend in New Zealand one copy of the *Herald*, but it gave me a pang to part with it. I have all the back copies and spend many happy hours reading them over and over again. I get good and helpful items to use in my work reading them. I had a fine letter from the Duchess of Gloucester. Assuring you of my appreciation of the *Herald* and your letters,

Sincerely, J. R.

From Kentucky. I wish I could shake your hand, congratulating you on the progress of the *Messenger*.

From Pennsylvania. I always enjoy reading the *Messenger*; this one especially has many beautiful thoughts.

O. C. S.

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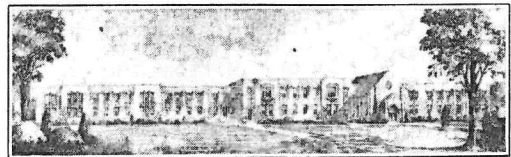
Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

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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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, 3553 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.