

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

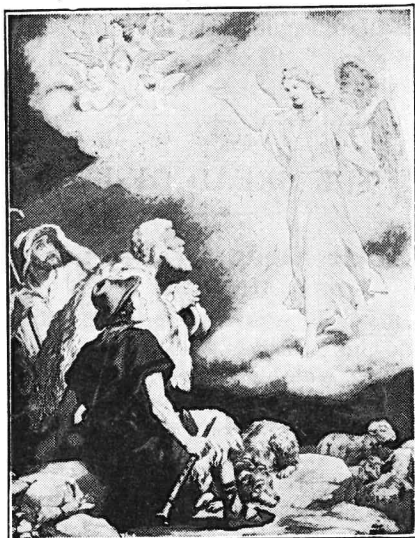
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No. 12



Fear Not

That was the first angelic word
That the startled shepherds heard;
Fear not! Beloved, it comes to you
As a Christmas message most sweet and true.

As true for you as it was for them
In the lonely fields of Bethlehem;
And as sweet today as it was that night
When the glory dazzled their mortal sight.

F. R. HAVERGAL

Christmas Joy

The universal joy of Christmas is wonderful. We ring the bells when victories are won, or toll a mournful dirge when great men pass away. Nations have their red-letter days, their anniversaries and festivals, but once in the year, and only once, the whole world stands still to celebrate the advent of a life. Only Jesus of Nazareth claims this worldwide undying remembrance. You cannot cut Christmas out of the calendar, nor out of the

heart of the world. It is a festival of love and good will.

At this season, when we are receiving and giving presents, it is very appropriate that we should think especially about the choicest gift that God has given to humanity, His own Son. With this Christ Child, He has bestowed upon us deliverance from sin, death, hell, and the power of the devil. Let us ask ourselves: "What shall we render unto the Lord for all His benefits?" Ps. 116:12. God answers this question in His holy Word. He tells us: "My son, give Me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe My ways." Prov. 23:26. O. C. S.

The Value of the Sign Language

Nick Braunagle, editor of the *North Dakota Banner*, last year wrote an interesting item on the value of the sign language, and we reprinted this in *The Companion*. It appeared over a short item taken from *Business Week*, and the latter magazine has been receiving credit for the product of Nick's facile pen.

In order to give credit where it is due, we are reprinting the article below, with the proper credit line:

"Miss Buck, famous authoress and world traveler, said, 'The sign language is simply one of many other languages. That it is spoken by the hands instead of the lips is, I think, immaterial.'

"The public rendition in the sign language of a hymn by a deaf songstress once moved John D. Rockefeller to tears.

"At one of Gallaudet College's commencement exercises, President Theodore Roosevelt spoke appreciatively of an address delivered in the sign language by one of the graduates.

"Carl Sandburg, one of America's literary men, who is familiar with the sign language, said it served as a stimulus in his writing of poetry.

"A sort of variation of the sign language was being used as a means of communication by the fighting forces. Numerous stories have been related about its efficacy on the battle fronts." — *Minnesota Companion*.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE SECOND PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Thy Kingdom Come"

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that we believe His holy Word and lead a godly life.

We Ask Him to Do This "by His Grace"

That we believe and live a holy life is all of God's grace, that means, not of debt, not of works. God owes us nothing; we have deserved nothing except punishment, for we daily sin much. Behold the wonderful grace of God toward us! By His free grace He gives us His Holy Spirit, who by the Word works faith and holiness in us. Every Christian is a wonder of God's grace. Therefore we boldly go before Him and ask: "Thy kingdom come," knowing that He is gracious and will give His Holy Spirit. Only ask; graciously He will give. Read Luke 11:13.

We Ask This for "Here in Time"

His kingdom should come not only for one or two days, or perhaps for one year, but always. If He will not give His Word and Spirit every day "here in time," then His kingdom will not come, then people will stay in darkness and not come to faith, and if they have come to faith, they will not stay with Jesus. Every day we need His Word and Spirit if His kingdom should come also among the deaf. Therefore He teaches us to pray every day for His Kingdom of Grace, saying: "Thy kingdom come." Friend, daily pray this petition.

We Ask This Also for "Hereafter in Eternity"

We need His Word and Spirit so that at last we enter the Kingdom of Glory and then "live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him

in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness." For this Kingdom of Glory we wait and hope and pray. We pray for that day "when the Son of Man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him," Matt. 25:31; for that day when "the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first, and we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord," 1 Thess. 4:16. Daily let us pray for this Kingdom of Glory and say: "Thy kingdom come." "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." Rev. 22:20.

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible Study for December

Acts 5:17-21

Then the high priest rose up, and all they that were with him (which is the sect of the Sadducees) and were filled with indignation, and laid their hands on the Apostles and put them in the common prison. But the angel of the Lord by night opened the prison doors and brought them forth and said, Go, stand and speak in the Temple to the people all the words of this life. And when they heard that, they entered into the Temple early in the morning and taught. But the high priest came and they that were with him and all the senate of the children of Israel and sent to the prison to have them brought.

At the close of our last Bible Lesson we found the Apostles preaching the Gospel in the Temple, and believers joined with the Lord, and the sick were healed. However, every time the Gospel is preached, Satan tries to hinder its progress. How often does Satan put into the heart of the enemies thoughts to interfere with Gospel-preaching! In our lesson this month we find that the high priest, Annas, as well as Caiaphas, feared that he would lose his power and tyranny and wealth if the doctrine of Jesus would gain ground among the people. They laid their hand on the Apostles, arrested them, and put them in the "common prison," which was the place for the worst lawbreakers.

But the Apostles were not afraid. They believed the words of the Lord: "I will never forsake thee." They were to see the fulfillment of the Psalmist's words: "He shall give

His angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways." (Ps. 91:11.) And behold! into that dark prison cell during the night comes the shining figure of an angel. This angel led them out through the opened doors, then closed the bars again and said to the Apostles: "Go, *stand and speak in the Temple* all the words of this life." They are again not to work for the Lord in secrecy, but publicly. Most important of all—the Lord's message is not changed. Speak the words of life—that is their task! Let us speak the Word of Life now and about the miracle (the escape) later.

In the early morning, before the high priest "and all they that were with him" were fully awake, the Apostles were again busy in the Temple, preaching. About the "words of this life" which they spoke Peter at one time said to Jesus (John 6:68), "Lord, Thou hast the words of eternal life." Now these Apostles had the opportunity to preach it to other people. Now they could tell the people more and more about the eternal life which Jesus has purchased and won for us with His holy, innocent blood and His death on the Cross. That message can save people. Peter and John knew that it is the most important message in the world.

Since the Gospel-messages in all our church services are the "words of life" (Luke 10:16), let us take the courage and faith never to let ANY worldly things keep us away from worship. Or if it ever should happen that there is "opposition," dear reader, to your attendance at God's House, may this Bible Lesson about Peter and John encourage you to faithfulness.

A. E. F.

For the Show Window

In a Scotch village a shoemaker was passing a saloon just as the saloonkeeper was helping a customer out of his doorway.

"Here, John," called the saloonkeeper, "you give this chap an arm to his house."

"No, no!" replied the shoemaker. "You should do as I do when I've finished a good job—put it in the show window."

If people expect you to sin. "If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." Gal. 1:10.

Why Go to Church?

"Do you ask why I go to church?" said John Wanamaker, the great Christian store owner one day. "You might as well ask, 'Why do you eat,' or, 'Why do you drink?' I find the one just as necessary as the other. I might eat well and sleep well, and yet I would be a very miserable man without the spiritual blessing that comes only from going to church.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Sioux Falls Field.—Wedding bells rang twice in the Sioux Falls field this summer. On June 9 Miss Louise Salewske and Norman Hagen, both of Worthington, Minn., were united in holy wedlock at the pastor's home in Sioux Falls. Attending the couple as witnesses were Miss Mabel Stewart and William Giese, also of Worthington.

In a quiet but pretty church ceremony at Watertown, S. Dak., on June 27, Miss Clara Gammelin of Clark, S. Dak., became the bride of Carroll Syme of Payette, Idaho. Their attendants were Mrs. Joe Busta, St. Paul, Minn., and Carl Gammelin of Clark, sister and brother of the bride. "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder (separate)."

Three children have been received into the kingdom of Christ by the washing of Holy Baptism. Bonnetta Henrietta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rad Davis, Worthington, Minn., was baptized in an interpreted ceremony during the regular service of the hearing congregation in that city on July 8. Larry Lee Hill was baptized at Sioux Falls July 17; Mr. Grant Daniels was sponsor and Mrs. Ella Baillie witness. By Baptism, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Svend Svenningsen, Albert Lea, Minn., became a Christian with the name Ramona Kay, during a service at their home September 15. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Stauffer, Winnebago, Minn., and Mrs. Anna Svenningsen and daughter Mary of Alden, Minn., were sponsors. "Their names are written in heaven."

At Mason City, Ia., on October 14, Thomas Christian of that city publicly confessed his faith in the Triune God, and in the rite of confirmation he promised to continue true to his Savior until death. He was then received as a communicant member of our Church.

God has opened the doors for regular services at three more places in our field. They are Rapid City, S. Dak., Cedar Rapids, Ia., and Rock Island, Ill. We ask all our Christian deaf to pray for rich blessings on the work done at these new stations.

The pastor and his bride, married at Springfield, Ill., July 29, were given many fine receptions and gifts while making their first trip together on both preaching circuits. And the Sioux Falls members joined in a surprise housewarming with a shower of canned goods and a purse the evening of September 28. Our sincere thanks to all.

Since there are no children of confirmation age at

the South Dakota state school this year, a refresher course is being conducted for all students that have been confirmed before. Three younger children also attend. Besides reviewing the Bible truths in our Catechism, the group also practices choir singing. C. S.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—Last month we had the pleasure of addressing 46 deaf at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Swaniveck in Three Rivers, Mich. Mrs. Swaniveck has been an invalid for a number of years. She is patient and cheerful in her affliction, trusting in her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Her many friends in Three Rivers and neighboring cities visit her frequently, marveling at her Christian courage and faith.

Following are a few excerpts from recent letters to our office:

From California: "Please accept my contribution toward your work. I do wish I could make it more, for I get so much benefit and pleasure from the *Messenger*. Thank you so much for sending it to me!"

From Northern Michigan: "My sincere thanks for THE DEAF LUTHERAN. I found it very helpful and interesting. It is my sincere wish that you may continue many years in the wonderful work that you are doing among the handicapped."

From Missouri: "I am a blind girl who would like to learn from your magazines. We hear about them in our pamphlets at school."

From New Zealand: "This is just a short note to try to express my thanks to you for the *Herald*. I do appreciate it. You are giving me many happy hours."

From Syria. The following letter just arrived:

"DEAR EDITOR:

"I am writing you these few lines to thank you heartily and to tell you that your magazine is a great help and blessing both to my sisters and to me.

"I am a teacher in a seeing school, though I am blind; and when I find a story or something suitable for the children whom I teach, I don't delay imparting to them this beautiful thought also.

"May God bless you and bless the magazine for many years; and may He reward you for what you do to help the handicapped.

"Gratefully yours,

"ASMA NASRALLAB, Nebk, Syria"
O. C. S.

Joyful Praise

I'm thankful that there is a day
When everybody meets to say
Their thankfulness, dear Lord, to Thee
For blessing all so bountifully.
But, oh, I love the joy I feel
When I can be alone and kneel
Before Thy great and mighty love
And let my thoughts go far above
What I can say, till everyone
Gets light and shining like the sun.

ROSE WALDO

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS

Because the paper situation is still critical, it remains necessary to discontinue subscriptions to all of our periodicals with the last number paid for under the subscription agreement. Therefore renew your subscription promptly. Send all remittances to Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo.

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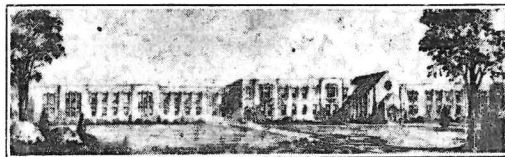
Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

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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