

# 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*

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No. 8

### Prayer

Grant me only grace to follow  
Thee through life, I pray.  
Let me trust in Thee, Lord Jesus,  
To my dying day.

Should I in my weakness ever  
Rise against Thy will,  
Punish me for my reluctance,  
Teach me to be still.

Press my burdens down with anguish  
Till I heed Thy voice,  
Grant me grace to calmly follow.  
Make Thy will my choice.

Give me grace to calmly follow,  
Father, hear my cry;  
Mercy, love, and Thy compassion  
Thou wilt not deny.

Let the Cross of Jesus' suffering  
Keep me from the snare;  
If through weakness I have fallen,  
Safely guide me there.

### True Joys

Jesus says: "The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." John 6:63. If you have accepted Jesus in true repentance and faith, your life will be given to Him. In serving and in loving Him with your whole heart, you will have spiritual joys and a peace in your heart which passes all understanding. If you are halfhearted in your religious life, you will also be worried and heavyhearted. In appreciation of what Christ has done for your salvation, you will gladly come to church; you will offer sincere prayer; you will bear witness and present gifts to Him. If you honor Him only with your lips and hands, while your heart is far from Him, the Holy Spirit cannot work joy and peace in your soul.

God has revealed His wonderful love to you in Christ Jesus. He has not only created you, but redeemed you and made you an heir

of eternal salvation. He defends you from your spiritual enemies so that you can conquer them with the sword of faith to gain the victory and to serve Him in joyous gladness. As a result of your own joy, you will help to lead others, who are still in sadness and sins, to repentance and a personal and saving knowledge of Jesus, the only Savior. Is your heart filled with spiritual joy and peace?

O. C. S.

### Rev. F. G. Gyle Commissioned Missionary to the Deaf

On Tuesday evening, June 25, in a service at St. Peter's Church, St. Louis, Mo., Candidate F. G. Gyle was commissioned as missionary to the deaf, to preach the story of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus to the deaf. Rev. E. L. Wilson conducted the service and officiated at the commissioning. Prof. A. Guebert of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, preached the sermon. Rev. Arnold J. Lutz, former pastor of Grace Church for the Deaf, Minneapolis, Minn., interpreted the entire service for the deaf. Rev. H. R. Kunkle and Rev. A. J. Meyer also assisted.

Since Rev. Uhlig moved to Jacksonville, Ill., Rev. Gyle has been the vicar for Holy Cross Church for the Deaf in St. Louis, and also has been serving many other near-by places. He has continued the training of young men at the seminary in the sign language.

For two years, from 1941 to 1943, Mr. Gyle worked as boys' counselor and teacher at the California and Maryland State schools. In the fall of 1943 Mr. Gyle began his studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis to become a pastor in our church. He finished his studies last February. He has been working as vicar

in St. Louis since October, 1945. For the present he will continue at this work.

We are happy that the Lord has given us another missionary to bring the Gospel to the deaf. May God bless his work in the Kingdom of our Savior for His own glory and the salvation of many souls. A. J. LUTZ

### A Few Days in the Chicago Field

June 8—12 we spent with our Chicago missionary, the Rev. E. Scheibert. Sunday morning we preached the sermon, showing the great need of hearing and learning the Word of God, of bringing it to others, and what great blessings this brings to one and all.

The ladies served dinner, and after that good meal a special meeting was held in which church attendance, Holy Communion, contributions for the Lord's work, giving towards the support of the pastor, and other matters pertaining to Church work were discussed. May God bless His Word that was spoken in the hearts of all and grant that we all grow and increase in faith and love.

Our Chicago congregation is getting ready for our jubilee celebration, which will take place when the Ephphatha Conference meets October 4—8. The church has been beautifully decorated, the parsonage painted and papered, the grounds also have been improved, grass has been sown, shrubberies planted, etc. And they intend to do still more. They probably will spend over \$1,500. An altogether new dress for the fiftieth jubilee! And it is well so, for Chicago is the cradle of our mission.

Monday we spent several hours with Pastor Schroeder, discussing jubilee publicity and our work among the blind. Tuesday and Wednesday we went with Pastor Scheibert for a service and meeting, similar to the one in Chicago, with deaf of Muskegon and Grand Rapids. Wherever we go we find that God's Word does not return unto Him void, but accomplishes that which He pleases and prospers in the thing whereto He sends it. And this our good Lord has done for fifty years. Many have been brought to Christ, the only Savior, and rejoice in His salvation, either here on earth or there in heaven. Let us praise and thank Him! J. L. S.

### Studies in Luther's Catechism

#### THE FIFTH PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

*"Forgive Us Our Trespases"*

In the four petitions that we have studied we ask our heavenly Father for many blessings, both for body and soul. But, oh, we have not deserved these good things, for we must pray: "Forgive us our trespases (sins)."

#### With This Prayer We Confess Our Sin

Everyone who prays this prayer confesses: "I am a sinner," for we ask God to forgive us "our" trespases. They who think they have no sin cannot pray this prayer. It is not for them who pray: "God, I thank Thee that I am not as other men are." These go before God with a proud heart, but they that pray this prayer in spirit and in truth come before Him with a humble heart confessing their sin. And this they do every day. As we daily ask God for food and drink, so we every day must go before Him and confess our sin, "for we daily sin much and indeed deserve nothing but (excepting) punishment." Forget it not! When you pray this prayer, you confess that you are a poor, miserable sinner!

#### In This Prayer We Ask God for Forgiveness

We have nothing with which to pay for our sin. We must cry to God for mercy and forgiveness. And what does this mean? Luther says: "We pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would not look upon our sins." Oh, if God would look upon our sin, He would have to punish us and could not give us anything for which we pray, not even a piece of bread or a drink of water. "Forgive us," we must cry, "and do not deny (say 'No') our prayers on account of our sins, but grant us all these things by grace, for we are worthy of none of the things for which we pray, neither have we deserved them."

#### Our Greatest Need, Forgiveness of Sins

Forgiveness of sins! The greatest blessing in all the world! "Blessed (happy) is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." Psalm 32:1. Therefore pray, pray for it every day! J. L. S.

## THE BREAD OF LIFE

### Bible Study for August

Acts 5:40-42

And to him they agreed; and when they had called the Apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the Temple and in every house they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ."

In forty-two verses in this fifth chapter of the Book of Acts we have in the past weeks studied God's Holy Word, and as the chapter now is ending, we do well to repeat the question: "What is the most important fact in it, and what were the Apostles doing?" For an answer let us quickly look back to the closing words of the June lesson (v. 39): "If it (this work) be of God, ye cannot overthrow it." The work of preaching and doing miracles and the power to do so was given to the Apostles by God and the Lord Jesus. Every place they went to and every word they spoke, therefore, was continuing the plan and program of Jesus "to preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). Jesus had come into the world as the Savior "to seek and to save that which was lost" (Matt. 18:11). Jesus did His work in a perfect way and always finished it completely. Jesus said: "My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me and to finish His work" (John 4:34). "God will have (wishes) all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:4).

Believing and trusting in the Lord Jesus as their Savior, the Apostles then were carrying out the program and plan of Jesus to bring the good news (Gospel) to as many as possible. From God the Holy Spirit they had received power and courage. In public they were now doing what they prayed for when they said: "Thy kingdom come" (Matt. 6:10). The key words in our lesson this month say: "They (the Apostles) ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ." What wonderful courage in "difficult" surroundings!

And what application can we make from this lesson for our faith in daily life? First, let us believe and accept Jesus as our personal Savior. And let us pray the Lord to give us power to believe in and confess the name of

Jesus by the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:3.) Then let us every day think of the salvation prepared by Jesus, and, that all people must learn to know about Him, before they can go to heaven. Let us *speak* about the "program" of Jesus more often. "Be ready always to give an answer to every man of the faith that is in you" (1 Pet. 3:15). But we can *work* in the program of Jesus still more and *bring* friends to Jesus in public worship. The work is not easy. But think of the difficulty for the Apostles! They rejoiced because they were counted worthy to suffer for Jesus. They ceased not (continued steadily) to speak about Jesus. Let us do the same! A. E. F.

### Stewardship of the Gospel

Fellow Christians, do you realize that we are entrusted with something that is worth far more than money or education? God's greatest gift to us is the Gospel. He has made us stewards of it. God also requires an accounting. We are not to hide it, but to divide it. The extent of your stewardship will be measured by God not by what we have *kept* for ourselves, but by the way we have *shared* the Gospel with others. 1 Cor. 4:1.

The Apostle Paul, writing to the Ephesians, chap. 3, speaks of himself as a debtor to all unconverted people. 2 Cor. 5:18. He tells the Christians that God "hath committed unto us the Word of Reconciliation." He speaks of the Christians as ambassadors who are to go out and bring the Gospel to all men.

May the Lord in this season find many of us busily engaged in this mission work. May the Holy Spirit make many of us willing "to uphold the hands" of our missionaries.

### IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

*Minneapolis Mission.*—Another member of Grace Church has gone to the heavenly home. Tuesday morning, June 25, Christ took Frank Holton from this vale of tears to Himself in heaven. June 8 he suffered a heart attack and was taken to a hospital. Pastor Bremer visited him repeatedly and also administered Holy Communion to him. Upon being asked whether he believed that Jesus Christ was also his Savior he spelled "Y-e-s." Thursday, June 27, he was laid to rest,

Pastor Bremer preaching from the words of Paul in Rom. 14:8, 9 and showing what a comfort it is to know that whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. May our good Lord comfort the bereaved wife and their three daughters and the other relatives with His heavenly comfort. Mr. Holton was born February 24, 1881, and thus reached the age of 65 years and four months. Jesus says: "I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die." John 11:25, 26.

One member taken from us to be with Christ; another member was added to Grace Church confessing Christ. On Sunday, June 30, Marcus Francis Tibbetts confessed his faith in our only Savior, renewed his baptismal vow, and promised to serve his Lord Jesus now and forever with the help of God. Mrs. Tibbetts was confirmed by the writer in 1931. After the confirmation they with 27 other deaf came to the Lord's Table for the strengthening of their faith and increasing their love to Jesus and their fellow men. May our heavenly Father fill this new member of Grace Church, and us all, with love and zeal for His work of saving souls. The confirmation address was based upon the words of Christ: "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father which is in heaven." Matt. 10:32, 33. J. L. S.

*Omaha, Nebr.* On Sunday, June 30, our Omaha deaf congregation lost its oldest and most faithful member, when the Lord in His mercy and wisdom took from this vale of tears the soul of Mrs. Minnie Spraktes, age 80 years and 21 days. Mrs. Spraktes was a widow for 22 years. She never lived near her church, but rain or shine, cold or heat, she was found in her accustomed place at the services in church, and she attended other meetings and affairs regularly also. We can say, too, that she displayed a truly Christian character at home and among friends, and all loved her. In her home, the Bible, a prayer book, and daily devotional booklets were her constant companions, and to her last hour she trusted in the blood of Jesus her Savior. Funeral services were held on July 2, the pastor choosing for his text John 10:27-28: "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give unto them eternal life." Mrs. Mappes impressively rendered the hymn "Jesus, I live to Thee" in signs. Many deaf and hearing people attended to pay their last respects to this friend and fellow Christian.

Three weddings took place in June. Mr. Ernest Ogier and Miss Leona Herfel, both of Council Bluffs, Iowa, were married at the Omaha church on June 16; Mr. Lester Anson of Omaha and Miss Opal Bredehoft at Battle Creek, Nebr., were married at the home of the bride's parents on June 21; and on June 30 the wedding of Mr. Fred Rentschler of Fairbury, Nebr., and Miss Hazel Miller of Alexandria, Nebr., took place in the Lutheran church at Fairbury.

God grant all these young people a happy and blessed married life.

*Mission for Blind and Deaf.*—The National Convention of the Association of American Workers for the Blind and Deaf-blind scheduled for June 10—13 in Chicago has been postponed indefinitely due to the fire at the La Salle Hotel. The disaster took a toll of 61 lives. We thank God that many of our friends among the deaf-blind and the blind who had planned to meet us at the Convention in that hotel had not arrived. The tragedy occurred just a few days before June 10. O. C. S.

### Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

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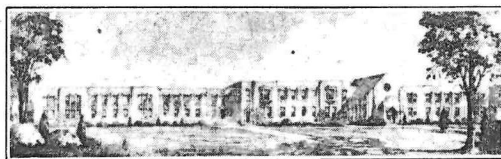
### Minister to the Deaf and the Blind

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