

# The Deaf Lutheran

## A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

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### Lent

The weeks between Ash Wednesday and Easter are set aside by Christians as a season for special meditation on the Passion and death of our Lord. Our hearts and minds are centered in this last journey of Jesus and His disciples to the Holy City. We go up to Jerusalem to witness scenes of our Lord's suffering, shame, and death on Calvary's Cross.

In this Lenten season especially we ought to gaze in repentance and faith upon the suffering Savior, who died for the sins of the whole world, that His holy life may raise us from the death of sin. We ought to attend special Lenten services whenever possible to be with the suffering Redeemer in His house.

Some men enjoy waving flags and shouting, but not many are ready to bear a cross. Jesus bore His Cross silently and patiently. Are

you willing also to bear a cross to His glory? We must follow His example; we must not fail in giving our life and service to Him who died that we might be eternally happy. Have you given your heart and life to Jesus?

O. C. S.

### The Price is Paid

The price is paid,  
And I am justified.  
My guilt is laid  
On Christ the Crucified.  
He trod the dreaded road  
That led to Calvary,  
Bearing the crushing load  
Of my iniquity.

Unworthy one!  
I should not lift my face  
Toward heaven's throne  
But by His wondrous grace.  
He sought this heart of mine,  
Weary with sin and dross,  
And shed His love divine  
Upon me from the Cross.

The price is paid;  
My soul has been redeemed.  
My choice is made.  
More glorious than I dreamed  
Is the sweet certainty  
Of life through endless days.  
Christ, Thine the victory,  
To Thee I give my praise.

EMMA BUSCH LANGE

### Studies in Luther's Catechism

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

*"But Deliver Us from Evil"*

"Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble," Job 14:1. Indeed the world is a vale of tears and trouble. Oh, to whom can we flee? Where can we find help? Our dear Lord Jesus teaches us to go to our heavenly Father and to pray:

### **"Deliver [help] Us from Evil"**

"Deliver us." That means: "Help and free us from all trouble. Take it from us." Also in the Old Testament our Father in heaven tells us to do this, saying in Psalm 50:15: "Call upon Me in the day of trouble." Trouble should drive us to hear the Word of God and to pray and so bring us closer to God. We should therefore look upon trouble as a blessing. Therefore Paul says: "All things work together for good to them that love God," Rom. 8:28, and David: "It is good for me that I have been afflicted," Ps. 119:71. Therefore thank God for your affliction; and as little children run to Father and Mother with their troubles, large or small, so let us run to our Father in heaven when trouble comes.

### **In Every Trouble Hurry to Your Heavenly Father**

In his explanation of this petition, Luther says: "We pray in this petition, as the sum of all, that He would deliver us from every evil." In every trouble go to Him. Surely, often also our friends help us; often we call the police or firemen in trouble; often we hurry to the doctor for help. But they cannot deliver us from every trouble. Some troubles are so great that man cannot help us. Often a doctor must tell us: "I can do nothing for you." But our heavenly Father can help in every trouble. This we learn from our Lord Jesus. While He walked upon this earth, He helped the sick and the lame, the blind and the deaf, yes, He also cleansed the lepers and raised the dead. Nothing was too hard for Him. And to this mighty Helper also we can go. We should pray as that leper prayed: "Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean."

### **Pray in Every Trouble in the Name of Jesus**

So often we forget to do this. When sickness comes, we hurry to the doctor and forget to go to our heavenly Father. When anything terrible happens in our home, we hurry to our friends for help and forget our dearest Friend, who loved us poor sinners and shed His blood for us. First go to your Father in heaven in the name of Jesus. He will surely help. He promises: "I will deliver thee," Ps. 50:15. In every trouble pray, trusting in His word and promise, and all shall be well! J. L. S.

### **Uniform Practice of Communing Guests**

EDITOR'S NOTE. — At our annual Ephphatha Conference of Lutheran pastors to the deaf some very well-prepared, useful, and instructive essays on various phases of church work are read and discussed.

In Chicago last October the essay "Uniform Practice of Communing Guests" was read by Pastor W. Westermann of Memphis, Tenn. Since this paper was extremely thought-provoking and timely and since our conference deemed it worthy of consideration not only for our pastors to the deaf, but also for our members, it was decided to ask Pastor Westermann to submit this paper to the editors of the DEAF LUTHERAN for publication in some of the future issues. We have therefore decided to print, beginning with this issue, the entire essay in two or more installments. We sincerely hope all our members will take a few minutes time to read and study the essay.

### **God, a God of Order**

Our God is a God of order. In His kingdom everything is done in order. His is no hit-or-miss system.

Even as God is a God of order, so He wants things done in good order. He hates disorder and every form of slovenliness. This is true in God's Kingdom of Power. Here every creature must obey His will, serve His purpose, whether they would or not, — all to His honor and to the glory of His holy name. There is an orderliness in God's Kingdom of Power that if we but take the time to look and see it, astounds us and holds us spellbound. There is nothing left to chance in God's regime.

As God has and keeps order in His Kingdom of Power, so He also, and more so, wants things done in an orderly fashion in His Kingdom of Grace — His holy Christian Church on earth.

### **Ministry, a Sacred Office**

In His Church here on earth God deals with man through man. To do this, He established among us the holy office of the Gospel ministry.

The called and ordained servants of the Word are God's representatives. They are God's stewards, the housekeepers of the Lord. They are, as Paul says 1 Cor. 4:1: "The ministers of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God." As such the ministers are in a very responsible position. Theirs is the highest office of any among men on earth, and it carries with it the very highest responsibility. No minister should at any time consider, look upon, or speak of his sacred office as a job.

Every true minister of God, every servant of the Word, is at all times, and under all circumstances, directly responsible to God Himself for every act, word, and deed. He must give an account to God for the administration of his sacred office to the minutest detail. There will be absolutely nothing which will not be brought into the searchlight of God's all-seeing, examining eye. Every man, every human being, should remember this fact at all times, that sometime, someday, he will be called upon to show his books to the Lord, to render a full account of his life, his deeds, his very thoughts. How much more so, then, should every servant of the Word, every minister of the Gospel, ever keep this fact before his eyes: "*You must give account.*"

### **Importance of the Lord's Supper and Its Effect on Human Lives**

We must give account for every act and word. Among the acts for which we will be called upon to give account to the Lord, as stewards of the mysteries of God, will be also this, how we have administered the Sacraments of the Lord.

When we read and study our Bible, we are struck by the solemnity with which it treats of the Sacrament of the Altar, the Lord's Supper. Of no other sacred act does the Lord speak with greater care and in more detail. Why? Certainly to engrave upon our very soul the importance, the far-reaching effects, of this Sacrament in the lives and upon the souls of men.

In all too many instances the Lord's Supper is considered a mere form by too many of our people. They do not stop to think, to fully realize what they are doing, when they come to the Lord's Table. They often come because, as they put it, "it's my turn, my time, to go." How very easily must it, then, not happen that such a careless, indifferent soul would partake of the Holy Supper to its own damnation, when a gracious and loving Savior intended it for the blessing of hungry souls.

The fact that this may be done in ignorance, does not lessen the tragic results of such a Communion.

### **Pastor Directly Responsible to God for Administration of Lord's Supper**

Since the pastor, the servant of the Word, is directly responsible to the Lord for the use,

the administration, of the Sacrament and also for the care he has expended upon every soul entrusted to his keeping, he should, in every instance make sure, as far as is humanly possible, that he admits no one, administers the Sacrament to no one, who does not rightly understand its meaning and importance.

There is a good reason why he should do so. In the first place, in the Sacrament of the Altar, in contrast to the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, *every* guest at the Lord's Table takes away something from this Sacrament. He is the recipient of either a blessing or a curse, as Paul says 1 Cor. 11:26-30. What solemn and weighty words are these!

How great, then, should be the care of the administrant that as far as he is concerned, this shall not happen, namely, that anyone receive the Sacrament to his own damnation.

In the second place, the pastor is accountable to God for his administration of the Sacrament: "For they watch for your souls as they that must give account," Heb. 13:17.

The pastor is the shepherd, the "soul-keeper," of everyone whom he admits to his Communion table, and as such a shepherd he cannot evade the ensuing responsibility or shirk it. There is no loophole left him. "For they watch for your souls as they that must give account."

If in the administration of the Lord's Supper the pastor is indifferent and careless, negligent, he is laying himself wide open to the consequences of unfaithful stewardship.

[To be continued]

### **The Need of Many Churches**

More tithes and fewer drives.  
 More action and less faction.  
 More workers and fewer shirkers.  
 More backers and fewer slackers.  
 More of God's plans and less of man's.  
 More praying and less straying.  
 More divine power and less human "pow-wow."  
 More Good News and fewer book reviews.  
 More burden bearers and fewer talebearers.  
 More fighting squads and fewer tightwads.  
 More liberal males and fewer food sales.  
 More "tongues of fire" and fewer fiery tongues.  
 More zealous effort and less jealous thought.  
 More soul service, if not less social service.

More love for the Word; less love for the world.

More seeking for grace; less seeking for place.

More holiness of life; less bickering and strife.

More fasting; less feasting.

More praying; less playing.

Author Unknown

## IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

*Mission for Blind and Deaf.*—A friend, Mr. Wm. Lowry, who attended our services years ago in Kentucky, sent us his picture. He wrote that he still studies his Bible and attends church whenever possible. We are always happy to receive such reports from old friends.



Wm. Lowry, Lexington,  
Kentucky

Recent letters from Palestine, South Africa, China, England, and many States in our country express deep appreciation of the Gospel message sent to them in our periodicals and our library books for the blind. One pastor wrote that a blind

friend would like ink-print copies of the *Messenger* for his sighted relatives because the truths of the Bible are made much clearer in our literature for the blind than in ink-print magazines.

O. C. S.

*Sioux Falls Field.*—Three more members of our field celebrated their first Christmas in heaven in 1946. Two sisters at Watertown, S. Dak., died within eight hours of each other—one late in the evening of December 18, the other early in the morning of December 19. They are Mrs. Minnie Weller, age 80, and Mrs. Augusta Noeldner, age 81. Also on December 18, Mrs. Matthias Mattson of Dawson, Minn., was taken to her eternal home after a severe illness. "Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him."

After almost two years of preaching and a year of instruction we have had our first confirmation at Rock Island, Ill. The service was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church on January 23, with sixty hearing and deaf friends present. Confirmed were Harriet Erickson, Frank Stacy, and Arthur Gabrilson. May they continue true to their Savior until He takes them into the perfect life above!

Spencer, Iowa, is the latest station to be served from Sioux Falls with the Gospel of Christ. Regular services were begun there in July of last year, with the first Communion service in January of this year. At the present time, services are held once every three months.

C. S.

**TO PREVENT WAR.**—Men cannot prevent war simply by getting rid of the atomic bomb. What they need to get rid of is the sin in their own hearts, for that is the cause of wars—and only Christ can rid them of that.

SCIENTISTS say that ants are the hardest workers in the world, but somehow they find time to attend all picnics. Even church people sometimes cause them to work overtime by having picnics on Sundays instead of going to church.

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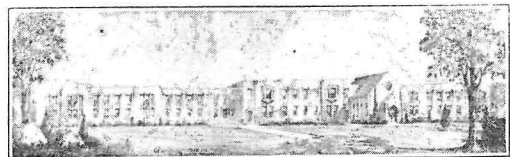
## Minister to the Deaf and the Blind

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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