

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. 39

St. Louis, Mo., April, 1947

No. 4



Hope was Born

Blest hope was born
On Easter morn,
When from the sealed tomb
The Christ arose
From death's repose
And scattered all its gloom.

He lives again,
In heaven doth reign.
Our names are on His hands;
He intercedes
For all our needs
And grace for us commands.

Thus hope is born
On Easter morn
Because the Savior lives;
A radiant gleam
Of joy supreme
This blest assurance gives.

FRED SCOTT SHEPARD

Easter

The Lenten season with its suffering and humiliation has impressed the image of the agonizing Savior more deeply upon our hearts, which must now be reflected more sharply in our lives. For us He suffered the insolence of small-minded men, allowed Himself to be judged by Pilate, carried His cross toward Golgotha, and had His body tortured on a cross.

This suffering was followed by the glorious dawn of resurrection morning. The resurrection proved that the sacrifice was accepted by God in full payment for the sins of the whole world. St. Paul teaches: "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins," 1 Cor. 15:17.

In gratitude to God for His wonderful mercy to us, His erring children, we must now joyfully, in reverence and devotion, exclaim with St. Peter: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation," 1 Pet. 1:3-5. O. C. S.

Uniform Practice in Communing Guests

(Continued from March issue)

Communing the Guest

In our own congregations and in our various ministrations to our own people, our own members, there is perhaps less danger of a pastor's becoming somewhat indifferent, care-

less, and negligent in his stewardship than at such times when he must deal with the stranger in our gates, with the would-be guest at our Communion table.

It should be remembered at all times that we became the pastor, shepherd, soul keeper, of everyone whom we admit to our Communion table. Whether we acknowledge the fact or not, we do assume the responsibility for the care of that soul for a given period of time, and so we are answerable to God for that soul.

If the individual pastor keeps this undeniable fact in mind, he will exert care and caution when he administers the Sacrament to his own people and to the guest at his Communion table.

We do have guests at our altar now and then. How are we going to deal with them? What should be our practice in communing a guest? There is often a great difference of opinion on this point. Some will welcome such a visitor from some other city, State, or parish with wide-open arms and let him come to the Lord's Table without any further ado, glad to have one more person to help swell the crowd and the number of communicants to be entered in his records.

Says the guest: "I'd like to go to the Lord's Supper here today. I'm a Lutheran, a member of the "Beeville congregation." "Oh, surely, you may join us—we will be more than glad to have you join us," says the preacher, and that is that.

The Pastor's Safeguard

But wait just a moment, brother! Stop and think a moment! Just what do you know about the Beeville congregation or church? What do you know about its confession, its doctrine and practices? Are its practices sound and based upon Scripture alone? Does your so warmly and readily welcomed guest understand the meaning, the benefits—or the danger of unworthy participation of this heavenly feast to which you are so willing to admit him? Are you sure in your own mind that this guest will be a worthy partaker? Are you convinced in your own heart and mind that you are not inviting or at least admitting a blood-bought soul to eat and drink damnation to itself instead of receiving the

Savior's blessing. Remember, you are held responsible in the first place.

Why should we be so very ready to admit any guest when so much hangs in the balance? We take time, and we expend energy and care, at least a certain amount, in everything that we undertake. We try to do the thing right. We want to avoid mistakes that might backfire. To do so is only good common sense. Then how much more should we use every care and caution to avoid a mistake in communing anyone, and especially the guest at our Communion table. A mistake made here through indifference, carelessness, and hesitancy to make sure might well reach beyond this life, over into eternity.

Let us again keep in mind this fact: We do become the pastor, or soul keeper, of that person for a given period of time, even if only for an hour or less, and as such a steward pastor; we assume a pastor's responsibility for that soul. If we do keep this fact in mind, we will use precaution and care in communing our people *and our guest*.

Uniformity of Communing Guests

In communing guests we should follow certain rules and establish a uniform practice among ourselves. This will tend to avoid confusion and misunderstanding and hard feelings among ourselves and our people, our members.

Surely we are all agreed on these points: 1. The Lord's Supper is a most sacred mystery, the administration of which the Lord of the Church has entrusted to us. 2. The Lord's Supper dispenses either a blessing or a curse, and we, as stewards of the mysteries of God, are accountable to God for its administration.

Being agreed on these points, why, then, should there be any variance among us in communing the guest at our Communion table?

What should be our common or uniform practice? When a guest comes to our service and there wishes to commune with our people, let us make sure and certain of a few things. Brother, there is always enough time to do so, regardless of what your clock or watch has to say. Remember you are dealing with a precious, an immortal soul.

Find out, first, Why does this person wish to commune with us at this particular time?

Secondly, Where does this visitor come from? Is he from the congregation next door? If so, find out why he should not commune in his own church, at his own altar, with his own pastor. In most cases there is something wrong which the individual does not like to reveal. You will find that he or she is "mad at the preacher" or that he or she "cannot go to communion with so and so." Such or some other similar reason and excuse is advanced why they would not commune in the home church and now wish to partake of the Holy Supper with your people. If such is the case — and too often it is the case — hard feelings or no hard feelings, do not commune such a guest; you have no excuse, no right, to do so.

(To be continued)

No Hope in Unbelief

Some years ago Robert Ingersoll, the noted infidel, delivered a funeral oration at the grave of the child of an intimate friend. There was deep sorrow in that home, and a word of hope and cheer was sorely needed. But Ingersoll had to content himself with vague generalities. The nearest he could come to saying a word of comfort was the hopeless line which has been quoted frequently ever since: "It is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all."

How different from the assurance of the Christian! The Christian can say with St. Paul: "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him against that Day," 2 Tim. 1:12. There is no uncertainty about the Christian faith.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Minneapolis Mission. — Feb. 7 Mrs. Ida Jane Bailey died in Christ, as we sincerely hope, at the Anoka State Hospital. She had reached the age of 74 years, three months, and 21 days. Quite a few of these years she had been a patient in this State Hospital. She was not a member of our Church, but she attended our services while living in Minneapolis, and often we called on her at the State Hospital, and she was always ready to receive the word of Jesus and His love. The burial took place on the 10th of February in Crystal Lake Cemetery. May the God of all comfort fill the hearts of her son and daughter with His everlasting comfort. Her husband departed this life five years ago. The funeral address was based upon 1 Thess. 4:13, 14:

"I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him." And may her death remind us of our last hour and move us to prepare to meet our God.

Feb. 15 Warren Nascene and Elise Oberman, both members of our church, were united in holy wedlock. The wedding discourse was based upon Gen. 32:26: "I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me." May they both continue in their Savior Christ Jesus and serve Him in love. Then, indeed, their home will be a blessed home. May God grant it for our Savior's sake.

J. L. S.

Milwaukee, Wis. — During the past eight years the undersigned has officiated at thirty burials of Lutheran deaf. More than half of these deaths were sudden or unexpected. This fact ought to make every reader ask himself, "Am I ready for an unexpected end?" The pupil or student in school who attends classes regularly and pays strict attention to the teacher is always ready for a final examination and need not fear even though the examination comes unexpectedly. Similarly, the Christian who attends services in God's house regularly and listens devoutly to the great Teacher, the Lord Jesus, need not fear the great final examination, death or Judgment Day.

We can confidently say that Rudolph Fenske was ready when his Lord Jesus came unexpectedly to take him to life everlasting. The Sunday before, he attended our services in Neenah, apparently hale and hearty. The following Friday he succumbed to a heart attack. Funeral services were conducted on Monday, Feb. 24, with a large number of deaf and hearing paying their last respects to a faithful member, who was an example of true godliness to many. We shall miss his good example of faithful church work, but we know that other members will follow in his footsteps. May God sustain the saddened widow and her family with His comforting promises.

Rudolph Fenske as a boy attended our Lutheran School for Deaf in Detroit and also the Wisconsin State School. For the past twenty-eight years he was employed by a publishing firm in Neenah and was highly respected in his community. We can find no better example of the Bible truth that "godliness is profitable unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come." On March 8 Rudolph Fenske would have been 71 years old. May the remembrance of this Christian friend encourage many to be "faithful unto death." M. E. A. MUELLER

Omaha, Nebr. — Two of the first members of our Omaha congregation, Mr. and Mrs. John Steyer, were honored in our church by over one hundred of their deaf friends on the occasion of their fiftieth wedding anniversary on Feb. 16. After the regular service at 4 o'clock in the afternoon on that day, another special anniversary service took place in which the pastor spoke briefly to the couple on Luke 24:29, and a choir of ladies as well the Steyers' oldest daughter, Mrs. John Ott, rendered hymns of praise in signs. After the service light refreshments were served in the basement

of the church and a short program in honor of the couple was given. A gift of fifty dollars collected from all their deaf friends was handed them at the close of the program. Four of the five Steyer children were present for the occasion, one son from California arriving too late for the event.

Our hearts join with this congenial couple in praise and thanks for the Lord's great and manifold blessings upon them in the past, and in prayer for His continued presence in their home and for His protection and guidance in the remaining years of their life.

In the service on Feb. 16, Albert Don, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sparks, was brought to Jesus in Holy Baptism. Mr. Herman Witte and Mr. Raymond Slaman were sponsors.

At Sioux City, Iowa, after the services there on March 9, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Dorsey, Samuel Edward, was baptized. Sponsors were Mrs. Aasa Furstenberg and Mrs. Anna Olson. May the dear Savior keep both these His children in His love and grace.

E. M.

Kansas City Mission.—Every year the American Legion Auxiliary of Olathe, Kans., holds an observance of "Americanism," and one phase of this observance is the sponsorship of an essay contest in the Junior High School and the Kansas School for the Deaf. This year Miss Dorothy Meyer from the Kansas School for the Deaf wrote the prize-winning essay. She presented her essay at the regular meeting of the Auxiliary Tuesday, Feb. 25. Mrs. Stanley Roth, the wife of the superintendent of the State School, interpreted for her.



Dorothy Meyer, graduate of the Detroit Lutheran School for the Deaf, is winner in essay contest

Miss Meyer is a member of our Lutheran Church. She is a graduate of the Lutheran School for the Deaf of Detroit, Mich. Her parents live at Aliceville, Kans., where they also are active members of our Lutheran church. At the Kansas State School for the Deaf, where we now have more than seventy boys and girls attending the weekly Lutheran Bible classes, Miss Meyer assists Pastor Ferber by teaching the primary classes. We sincerely congratulate Miss Dorothy Meyer.

At Joplin, Mo., Mrs. Frenchie Rusk, age 84, was baptized into the kingdom of Jesus on Feb. 27. Mrs. Rusk has been confined to a hospital room for more than six months with a hip fracture. But she is a humble, sincere, and cheerful believer in Jesus.

A. E. F.

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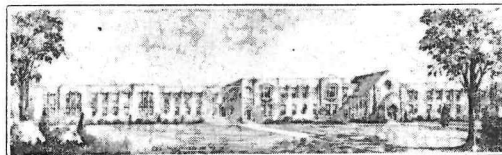
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Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago 17, Ill.

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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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, 3558 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.