

# 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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### Keep Christ in Christmas

The birthday of our Lord draws near,  
The "day of days" of all the year,  
A day of hope and joy and cheer.

Keep Jesus Christ in Christmas!  
Let not old "Santa" crowd him out,  
With whiskers gray and body stout;  
He helps the world forget about  
The loving Christ at Christmas.

The day is Christ's by right divine,  
A day no myth should undermine,  
A day when thoughts and deeds sublime

Should keep the Christ in Christmas;  
When every message, every gift,  
Should in some joyous way uplift  
One's every thought to make them drift  
To Bethlehem at Christmas.

Beyond all else this day should be  
A day of holiest memory,  
When all the world should joyfully  
See Christ, its Lord, in Christmas,  
Give other things a minor place,  
But tell to man in every race  
The story, on this day of grace,  
Of Christ, his Lord, on Christmas.

JOSEPH CLARK

### Christmas

This holiday season will again bring peace and joy, but only to those who keep in mind the purpose of Christ's birth into this world of sin, suffering, and death. God's peace comes to all who through Christ possess His grace and love, with the comforting memory of sins forgiven. This is the happy message which the shepherds of Bethlehem heard and the wise men from the East understood. They found their Savior, the Prince of Peace.

The world at the time of Christ's birth was living in the darkness of sin and despair. Then Christ was born to fill their hearts with gladness, hope, and eternal life. Without the knowledge of God's overarching and under-

girding love in the Christ Child all of man's striving and achieving on this earth is without meaning.

Many reject the light and prefer to live in the darkness of sin; they do not know Jesus as their Savior, but all who receive Him are given the power to become the children of God. God's grace in Christ is for all men. May we accept His love and invitation! May we heed His call, and may He give us grace to receive the peace He brought! O. C. S.

### Notice to Our Readers

About a year ago the Rev. Utten E. Read of DeLand, Fla., retired Methodist minister, went to work and sent questionnaires to all our Lutheran pastors of the deaf to gather statistics on Lutheran Deaf Missions and also to get information to be used in writing biographies of each pastor among the deaf. In a letter to the undersigned, Rev. Read mentioned that all pastors had complied with his request and that he has now finished all the biographies, and he sent them to us, asking the editors of the DEAF LUTHERAN to print these biographies if they found it feasible. At the last Ephphatha Conference of Lutheran pastors among the deaf, at Sioux City, Iowa, it was decided to have these biographies appear in the columns of this paper and to have all necessary changes and additions made by the editors so as to bring them up to date before having them printed. Therefore in subsequent issues we shall print the biographies either one or two at a time, as space permits.

E. MAPPE

### Lutheran Church Missions for the Deaf

(Introduction to the biographies by REV. UTTEN E. READ)

Of all the Protestant churches the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod holds the banner for being the most aggressive denomination for the evangelizing of the deaf of America, having pastors actively engaged in this work from

New York City to the Pacific Coast and as far north as Minnesota and Canada and as far south as Texas and Louisiana. According to Rev. J. L. Salvner, D. D., the executive secretary of Lutheran Missions to the Deaf and Blind, there are twenty-four full-time pastors and three student vicars as well as a few part-time workers preaching the Gospel of Christ to the deaf in their language in approximately 275 cities and towns, one of them also serving the blind and deaf-blind. Nearly 3,000 communicant members and many others attend the services of these pastors. Most of the Lutheran pastors now engaged in work among the deaf became interested in the deaf while attending Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Mo., or Concordia Seminary at Springfield, Ill., where sign language classes are conducted regularly by two of the missionaries.

In the following issues of the DEAF LUTHERAN we shall present to you members of the Lutheran Church and other readers the biographies of the men whom the Lord has sent out among you to serve you and to bring you the one thing needful unto salvation.

Watch for the January issue and each succeeding one for these biographies.

## Studies in Luther's Catechism

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

We have learned that "Baptism is not simple water only, but it is the water connected with God's word." Therefore we should rejoice in our Baptism as we rejoice in the word of God.

#### Baptism Is Water also Comprehended in God's Command

Someone perhaps will say: "If the word of God makes water such a good and holy thing, then I may take anything and say God's word with it, and then it will be good and holy." But you cannot please God with works invented by man, even though he uses God's word with it. Also Baptism would not please God if man had invented it and would use God's word with it. In vain we worship God doing the commandments of men. We must have God's command for it, and that we have for Baptism. Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He commanded: "Go ye and teach all

nations, baptizing them," Matt. 28:19. And when the people on Pentecost Day were troubled about their sin and asked: "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" then Peter answered: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ," Acts 2:38. We "can boast that Baptism is no human trifle, but instituted by God Himself. . . . What God institutes and commands cannot be in vain, but must be a most precious thing, though in appearance it were of less value than a straw." (*Triglotta*, 733, 6.)

#### God Commands It. Do Not Neglect It

So many do neglect it. Many come to be baptized only to please their parents, or pastor, or a friend. Remember God commands it. If anyone will not be baptized, he disobeys God. If you are not yet baptized, then go and do as God wishes you to do. Jesus Himself went to John to be baptized, saying: "It becometh us to fulfill all righteousness," Matt. 3:15. And if you are baptized, rejoice in it, because then God will be pleased with you, even as He was pleased with His Son Jesus, saying: "In Him I am well pleased." Therefore we also ought to bring our little children to Him as soon as possible. So many put it off and wait and forget God's command: "Baptize all nations" (people).

#### Praise God for Holy Baptism

Oh, praise Him, for it is "the water connected with God's word." God Himself comes to us in it. And it is "the water comprehended in God's command." Therefore never look at Baptism as to its outward sign "as we regard the shell of a nut." You do not despise the nut because of its shell. So let us not despise Baptism, but think highly of it because of its "kernel," that is, "God's word or command and the name of God, which is a treasure greater and nobler than heaven and earth" (*Triglotta*, 735, 16).

J. L. S.

## IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

*Omaha, Nebr.*—Two more members were added to our Faith Lutheran Deaf Congregation at Fort Dodge, Iowa, by confirmation on the evening of October 25. They are Mr. Theodore Hanson and Miss Marcia Smith. The former lives at Callender, Iowa, and the latter at Hardy, Iowa, and both have attended services at Fort Dodge regularly in the past.

On November 9 Mr. Melvin E. Doose of Belden,

Nebr., became a communicant member of Peace Lutheran Deaf Congregation in Sioux City, Iowa, by Baptism. At this service also JoAnn Marie, the one-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Michelotti of Alton, Iowa, was baptized. God keep them all in the faith in their Savior and in His grace unto life everlasting.

Mr. Harry Searles of Kansas City, Mo., and Miss Betty Nelson of Omaha were united in marriage at the Omaha parsonage on the morning of November 5. Mr. and Mrs. Searles will live in Kansas City, and we sincerely hope they will attend the services of Pastor A. E. Ferber there. E. M.

*St. Paul, Minn.*—In the afternoon of Sunday, October 26, three boys and three girls from the Minnesota



Confirmation Class, St. Paul, Minn.

Left to right: Shirley Billiar, Burnell Rasmussen, Dorothy Michaelson, Pastor R. F. Cordes, Lorraine Just, Earlin Graupman, Virginia Karow, Theodore Hines, and Edna McCutcheon

School for Deaf and two girls from the Minnesota State School were received into the communicant membership of the Lutheran Church. By Baptism all had become God's children in early infancy, excepting Theodore Hines, who was baptized on this same day. Before a sizable congregation of parents, relatives, and other Christians the class confessed their faith, and promised to remain true to their Savior from sin until He receives them into His eternal home. Then, with the nine other members of the Faribault congregation, they received the true body and blood of their Redeemer at the Lord's Table as a blessed assurance of the forgiveness of all their sins. God's Holy Spirit truly filled our hearts with that blessed joy and peace which He alone can give to His dear children. Our prayer is: O Lord, grant that these new members, together with all of us who have found Thee and trust in Thee alone for our salvation, may ever say:

Thine forever! Savior, keep  
Us, Thy weak and trembling sheep.  
Safe beneath Thy watchful care,  
Let us all Thy heaven share.

R. F. C.

*Minneapolis, Minn.*—On November 2 three persons were confirmed in Grace Lutheran Church for the Deaf. They are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Taylor and Mrs. Marvin Larson. Mr. Marvin Larson, who had been confirmed in the Lutheran Church before, was

also received as a member. Our pastor, Rev. C. Bremer, gave a very appropriate sermon from Rom. 4:1-5. The Lord's Supper was celebrated in the same service, and a large number turned out for this service.

In the afternoon of November 2 Mesdames Carlson, Coffman, Wilson, and Dreher gave a surprise party for Mrs. Maude Johnson, whose 75th birthday was the next day. About 46 persons were present, and many were unable to come. Mrs. Johnson has been a member of our church for a number of years and has served her church in many capacities, especially in the ladies' aid society and the Home Circle. God grant His grace and strength to her that she may be able to serve her Lord in the future as in the past.

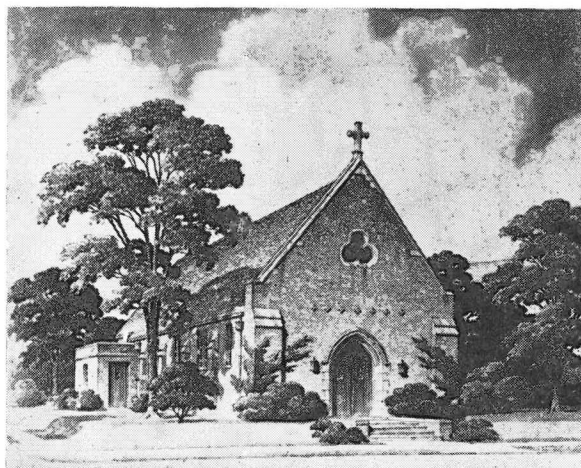
A word of greeting was received from our absent pastor, Rev. J. L. Salvner, who is at present in Seattle, Wash. He writes, among other things, that there is much rain in Seattle. We hope he did not forget his raincoat.

M. F. TIBBETTS

*Detroit, Mich.*—We have the following marriages to report in our Detroit field. John Pittner, Jr., of Monroe and Esther Wirgau of Dearborn were united in marriage on June 14 in the chapel of the Altenheim in Monroe, Mich. On August 23 Werner Hoewisch of Milwaukee, Wis., and Louise Behrendt of Detroit were married in the Gloria Dei Chapel at the Institute for the Deaf in Detroit. Richard Holle of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Betty Beaver of Toledo, Ohio, were married in Holy Cross Church in Toledo. On Oct. 11 Perry Riehm and Florence Braun were also married in Holy Cross Church in Toledo. Finally, on Oct. 18 Michael Murphey of Windsor, Ontario, and Gladys Cornet of Detroit were married in Peace Church in Detroit.

May the Lord, who instituted marriage, grant these His children many years of marital bliss and happiness. N. B.

*New York Field.*—On Sunday, Oct. 12, at 3 P. M. the cornerstone of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for



The above picture is from the architect's drawing of the new church for the deaf in New York City, now under construction

the Deaf in New York City was set in place. Dr. Arthur Brunn, Second Vice-President of Synod, delivered the sermon and the Rev. Theodore Moeller assisted in

the ceremony. The entire service was interpreted in the sign language by the Rev. Floyd Possehl.

The choir of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, accompanied by the vocal soloist Mrs. Mildred Cadwell, beautified the service by rendering a hymn. The members of the choir are: Mrs. Gretchen Borgstrand, Mrs. Clara Ulmer, Miss Dorothy Cadwell, and Mrs. Marguerite Heil. A great debt of gratitude is owed to the choir for giving so freely of their time in preparing and rendering these hymns for a period of over five years.

We were blessed with a beautiful, warm day for the cornerstone-laying service. The newspapers estimated that about a thousand people were present. The building program is far past the cornerstone-laying stage, but the ceremony was postponed until the building was near completion so as to give more people the opportunity to see what the church would look like when finished.

It is tentatively being planned to dedicate the new church on Dec. 14. The Rev. H. A. Gamber, former chairman of the Board of Missions to the Deaf and Blind, will be the speaker on that day. The new church is planned to seat 150 people and to accommodate an overflow of thirty more. The plans also include a balcony, which will be built if and when necessary.

We are extremely grateful to God for giving us such a fine church. After the church is completed, we hope that all the deaf will continue to show their gratitude by coming to the church for worship regularly. We are also grateful to the many friends of the deaf who have so generously supported this project. The total cost of the church, lots, and parsonage will be a little more than \$100,000. Quite a bit of the money is still needed, but we are sure that if the deaf and their friends continue to contribute in the future as they have in the past, it will not be long before the entire church is paid for.

F. F. P.



Lutheran scholars at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, Delavan, Wis., and Pastor O. C. Schroeder

Chicago, Ill. — Student A. Hauptmann of our Springfield, Ill., Seminary, who for the past two years served the deaf in the Montana Field, is now serving the Wisconsin School for the Deaf at Delavan, Wis., as also the Delavan deaf with regular services. He began his work during the last week in October. We wish him God's richest blessing. Mr. Marvin Rood and a new Lutheran instructor at the school will assist him.

Pastor O. C. Schroeder of Chicago may conduct

Holy Communion services for the Lutheran members at regular intervals.

Mrs. O. Pauling of Steger, Ill., a faithful Christian, departed this life at the age of 73 years on Sept. 28 to be with Christ. She was given a Christian burial at Monee, Ill.

O. C. S.

### Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

Rev. J. A. Beyer, 1204 Wyandotte Road, Columbus 12, Ohio.  
 Rev. N. E. Borchardt, 11719 Evanston Ave., Detroit 13, Mich.  
 Rev. C. Bremer, 1221 22d Ave. N., Minneapolis 11, Minn.  
 Rev. R. F. Cordes, 1162 Marshall Ave., St. Paul 4, Minn.  
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 Rev. Francis G. Gyle, 8011 Nola, St. Louis 14, Mo.  
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 Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller, 1717 a W. Meinecke Ave., Milwaukee 6, Wis.  
 Rev. Floyd Possehl, 9135 96th St., Woodhaven 21, L. I., N. Y.  
 Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, 513 Roslyn Place, Pittsburgh 6, Pa.  
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 Rev. E. Scheibert, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago 51, Ill.  
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 Rev. W. Uhlig, 7612 California Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.  
 Rev. W. Westermann, 1311 Madison St., N. W., Washington, D. C.  
 Rev. N. W. Zellmer, 5425 N. E. 40th Ave., Portland 11, Oreg.

Vicars: A. L. Hauptman, 816 N. 12th St., Springfield, Ill.  
 Donald Simon, 512 2d Ave. N., Great Falls, Mont.  
 E. R. Wutke, 2546 N. E. 18th Ave., Portland, Oreg.

### 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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