

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. 40

St. Louis, Mo., January, 1948

No. 1



A New Year

Only if you have permitted the Christ Child, the King of Kings, to have room in your heart, to bring you joy and peace in the Christmas season, will the new year be a year of victory and happiness for you. You will then not only have a year of work, striving, sickness, sorrow, perhaps death, but the new year will bring to you opportunity to serve Christ and your fellow man in love. Your faith in the guidance and protection of God through Christ Jesus will give you strength to meet all problems and temptations of life with courage; it will help you to conquer the power of sin and your own weak and erring heart; it will be a daily joy for you to travel another mile toward the heavenly kingdom in the service of Christ and your fellow redeemed.

Christ became poor to make you rich. He suffered shame to give you heavenly glory. He died to give you eternal life. Look to Him, and trust in Him. He will not fail you in the new year. His promise reads: "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world," Matt. 28: 20.

O. C. S.



Biographies of Lutheran Pastors to the Deaf

(Written by Rev. Utten E. Read, Revised by E. Mappes)

Rev. J. L. Salvner, D. D.

Forty-six years of continuous service in the Deaf Mission is the record held by Dr. J. L. Salvner. He was born at Saginaw, Mich., October 17, 1876.

He attended Concordia College at Milwaukee, Wis., and Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Mo., and was assigned to the work among the deaf immediately after his graduation from the latter institution in 1901. He was ordained as pastor on Aug. 25, 1901, and became the first resident missionary to the deaf in Minnesota, with headquarters at Minneapolis.

Through his faithful preaching and teaching of God's Word many deaf have been brought to the knowledge of Christ and faith in Him as their only Savior, and the Lord has bountifully blessed his untiring efforts and labors among those people to whose service he dedicated his life.

During Pastor Salvner's 46 years of service among the deaf, he opened many new fields in Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, and South Dakota and brought the saving truths of God's Word regularly to the children in the various State schools and also to the sick and the invalid deaf in other institutions in



these States. In this large territory, by God's grace and blessing, his labor of love for saving souls continued until with God's help new men were called to take over various sections of this vast field.

A combined chapel and parsonage was erected at Minneapolis in 1915 during his pastorate there, and it is known as Grace Lutheran Church for the Deaf.

In 1943 Pastor Salvner accepted the call of the Board of Missions to the Deaf and Blind as Executive Secretary, and since then he has faithfully served in this capacity, visiting and supervising all the mission fields, reporting to the Board in detail concerning the progress made, and offering suggestions for the advancement of this work. While carrying on these duties, he also serves as assistant pastor of Grace Lutheran Church and conducts services at a number of other stations in that territory.

Among his many other duties, Dr. Salvner is the editor of a special *Catechism for the Deaf*, being used to instruct children as well as adults in the chief teachings of the Bible. He also made available a set of questions covering the entire Catechism used chiefly for a correspondence course of instruction. He has also for a number of years published Bible studies for each Sunday, which are being used for distribution by all the missionaries. For many years he served as editor of this monthly paper, the DEAF LUTHERAN, and at present is the author of the Catechism-study articles which appear in this paper every month.

In years gone by, many of our younger pastors in the Deaf Mission have received help and training under the able tutorship of Pastor Salvner.

And so we wish to say, in closing, that we all join in giving praise and glory to our God for giving to our Church a man like Pastor Salvner as a pioneer in this great work and for granting him good health, courage, energy, and strength during his past years of service; and our prayer is that the good Lord will continue to give him the necessary strength to carry on for a number of years to come.

"MANY do not want the Bible to be true because it condemns their practices."

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing . . ."

Baptism is "water comprehended in God's command," for Christ, our Lord, says in the last chapter of Matthew: "Go ye . . . baptizing." And, again, it is "connected with God's word," for Jesus says: "Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost."

Christ's Last Command to His Church

"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing . . ." These words our Lord and Savior spoke before He ascended into heaven. That was His last command. And to whom did He give this command? On that day He met with His eleven disciples, and to them He spoke these words. However, this command is not only for the eleven disciples, but for all disciples, for all Christians, for His church "unto the end of the world." It is His command also to you and to me.

He Commands His Church to Make Disciples

He commands: "Teach all nations." The word "teach" means to make disciples, or Christians. That is our work in this world. To do this, we still are in this world. When we come to faith, our Lord Jesus could quickly take us to Himself in heaven, but He has a work for us to do. We would like to be with Jesus in glory, but He says: "First go and tell people of Me and My love and bring them to Me." And this we should do among "all nations." We have a great work to do.

We Should Make Disciples "Baptizing" and "Teaching"

He says (Matt. 28:19): "Teach (make disciples, or Christians), baptizing." His twelve followers did that. On Pentecost Day, Peter said to the many people: "Be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ," Acts 2:38. Then they that gladly received the Word were baptized. Paul and Silas baptized the prison keeper of Philippi, him and all his. Acts 16:33. When Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, heard Paul and the Lord had opened her heart, she and her house-

hold were baptized, Acts 16:14-15. So the Church of Jesus Christ always has baptized people and thus made them Christians. And still today God's people go into all the world and baptize people everywhere in the name of Jesus Christ.

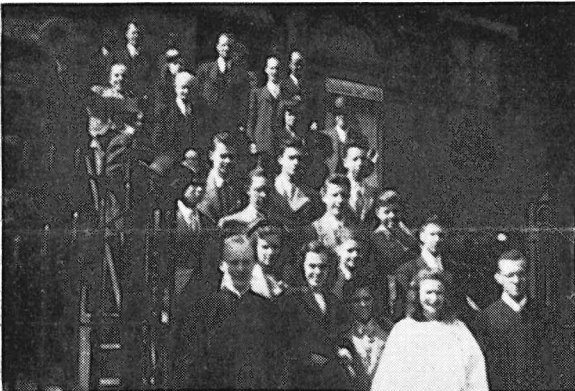
Come, Help in This Glorious Work

Are you doing Christ's last command? Are you bringing people to Him? Are you a fisher of men? Are you helping to send out missionaries into all the world that they baptize and teach people as our Lord commands? Oh, may our heavenly Father make every one of us glad and willing to do His work unto the glory of our Savior's name and the salvation of many blood-bought souls. J. L. S.

"A CHILD of God can see more on his knees than can a philosopher on his tiptoes."

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Pittsburgh, Pa.—A special confirmation service, attended by a large number of deaf, was held in Pittsburgh on May 4. Miss Betty Mowl of Washington, Pa., and Mr. Joseph Hezlep of Wilksburg, Pa., were the new



Pupils from the School for the Deaf, Edgewood, Pa., gathered with the congregation at Pittsburgh, Pa., for a confirmation service. Miss Betty Mowl and Mr. Joseph Hezlep, on the right in robes, are the new members. May 4, 1947

members, and both attended our class from the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf at Edgewood, Pa. May our Lord mercifully preserve these young members unto Himself, that they ever remain faithful to Him and remember their holy vows.

Also received into membership by confirmation on May 4 was Mrs. Lillian Montgomery of Monongahela. We must commend Mrs. Montgomery for her faithfulness in preparing for confirmation. Although suffering

from illness at the time, she continued meeting with the pastor for the study of God's Word. We are happy that the Lord again restored her to health, so that she can again attend services.

After an illness of many months Mr. Ernest Frese of Pittsburgh, age 51, was relieved by the Lord of great suffering on Sept. 12 and peacefully laid to rest on Sept. 15 at Monaca, Pa. Funeral services for the deaf were conducted by his pastor, Rev. Rohe, in Pittsburgh, on Sept. 14, with 18 deaf in attendance. In spite of his prolonged illness, Mr. Frese completed instruction shortly before his death, and he was to have joined our Pittsburgh congregation.

Mr. Fremond Offerle, age 81, who for many years attended our services in Erie, Pa., departed this life on Sept. 12 after suffering for more than a month from a severe case of pneumonia. He was buried on Sept. 15 in Erie, where he had lived in retirement with his sister, Mrs. C. E. Hapgood, his only survivor. Funeral services for the deaf were conducted by Rev. H. Rohe, and some 20 deaf were present.

On Sept. 23, Rev. Rohe was called upon to officiate at the funeral of Mrs. Marietta Swift of Pittsburgh, who passed away after a four-month illness at the age of 46. About 20 deaf were present at the service, after which her mortal remains were taken to her childhood home in Louisville, Ky.

During the month of September our Pittsburgh congregation was happy to welcome to our number Miss Norma Bushey, graduate of Gallaudet College, who undertook her new duties as teacher at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Edgewood, Pa. Miss Bushey has since added to the beauty and devotion of our services by her excellent signing of the hymns. She will also help teach the children's confirmation class from the school.

At our service in Buffalo, N. Y., on Nov. 18, Sharon Emilie Jorgenson, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Jorgenson, was brought to the Lord Jesus in Holy Baptism. May the Lord Jesus bless and keep this child in His love and grace.

During the month of November our Pittsburgh congregation was called upon to share their blessings with a deaf lady in Europe who had written to us pleading for food and clothing. She is the daughter of a minister to the deaf who served in Latvia before his death during the war. Her husband was also lost during the war, and she is left with only her aged mother. Both are starving, and their hardship is made the greater because they are displaced persons from Latvia, now living in Germany. Four packages and two more packages were sent with money gathered from all the cities in this field. The total value of food, clothing, and cash amounted to approximately fifty dollars. Others wishing to lend their aid to this poor lady may do so by sending their gifts to:

Thea Praetorins
Rounstrasse 1
24 Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein
British Zone, Germany

H. ROHE

Indianapolis, Ind.—Earlier this year the Lutheran members at Indianapolis organized into a congregation. It was a small beginning, with only 14 members and with but five men to comprise a voters' assembly. We believe, however, that through the meetings and discussions we have all profited; and through delegating some of the church work to the officers, a greater zeal, interest, and understanding of the work of the church has been gained. Officers elected were Harold Wood, chairman, and Arthur Baumeister, secretary-treasurer. These men, together with Fred Draeger, form the board of elders and trustees. At that time the members also decided to introduce the semimonthly contribution envelopes and to make a regular monthly contribution toward the pastor's salary. May our good Lord bless this step and grant growth in this field, which is truly white unto harvest.

On Oct. 26, three persons were received into communicant membership in our Indianapolis congregation through the rite of confirmation—Mr. and Mrs. Charles K. Matthews, Sr., and Raymond Clemons. May God endow them with the gift of His Holy Spirit and keep them in the true faith. It was a joy to the pastor to hear these new members say in unison: "May we review the course of instruction when you organize the new class, because we want to learn better the beautiful truths in that little book (Luther's Small Catechism)?" At present they, together with one other member, are sitting in at the classes, in which seven new deaf are receiving instruction. All glory to God, who giveth faithful hearers of His Word.

The name chosen for the Indianapolis congregation is Faith Evangelical Lutheran Church for Deaf.

Norbert Matthews, speaking son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthews, mentioned above, is keenly interested in our Church's work among the deaf and is now studying at our Lutheran Seminary in Springfield, Ill. Together with other interested students, he assists Pastor N. P. Uhlig in teaching the Bible stories to the children at the State School in Jacksonville, Ill. We wish him the Lord's gift of wisdom and understanding, so that he may also become a worker with us among the deaf. We assure him of our continued prayers.

Pastor N. P. Uhlig spoke at our Mission Festival in Indianapolis on Oct. 12. Members and friends of our congregation not only received an inspiring message, but also enjoyed exchanging greetings with this friend of the deaf from Illinois.

On July 6 Miss Margaret Coughenour, an adult of Logansport, Ind., and on Aug. 18 infant Charles E. McNichols of Columbus, Ind., received the Sacrament of Baptism. The Lord keep them in His grace. Miss Coughenour is now receiving instruction preparatory to church membership.

Miss Virginia Key and Mr. Carlton Brown were united in holy wedlock on Oct. 11 in the home of the bride at Indianapolis. They are taking an excellent step toward keeping true and lasting joy in their marriage through being instructed together in God's Word. May the Lord bless their marriage with many years of happiness and their instruction with an eternity of bliss.

MARTIN KOSCHE

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.
 Rev. Theo. De Laney, 2105 Wilson St., Austin, Tex.
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 Rev. W. Ferber, 617 14th St., S., Fargo, N. Dak.
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 Rev. Martin Kosche, 33 S. Spencer Ave., Indianapolis 1, Ind.
 Rev. E. Mappes, 5070 Lake St., Omaha 4, Nebr.
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 Rev. Floyd Possehl, 9135 96th St., Woodhaven 21, L. I., N. Y.
 Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, 513 Roslyn Place, Pittsburgh 6, Pa.
 Rev. J. L. Salvner, D. D., 3320 Chowen Ave., N., Robbinsdale 12, Minn.
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 Donald Simon, 512 2d Ave. N., Great Falls, Mont.
 E. R. Wutke, 2546 N. E. 18th Ave., Portland, Oreg.

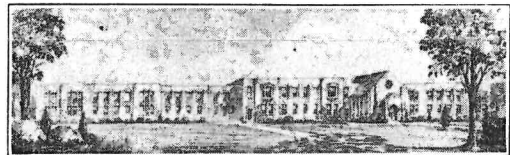
Minister to the Deaf and the Blind

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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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.