

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., March, 1948

No. 3



Easter

The Apostle Paul rejoices to tell his Christians: "But 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." (1 Thess. 4:13-14.) We dare not forget the real meaning of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead; for it is the very cornerstone of our Christian faith and hope. Without it we should despair in the gloom of all earthly things, but His resurrection gives us a firm foundation for our hope of eternal life, where, glorified in body and soul, we shall be with Christ forever.

To the ungodly, Easter means only the renewal of life in nature, new clothes, and parades. The Scriptures tell us, however, that the resurrection means Christ's victory over

sin, death, and the grave. St. Paul teaches: "And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain" (1 Cor. 15:14). Easter is to us a day of joy and triumph. It will drive away all doubt and gloom from the believing heart. If the grave had held His body, we would have no hope of the resurrection of our own bodies from the grave. St. Paul states: "But now is Christ risen from the dead and become the First Fruits of them that slept" (1 Cor. 15:20). This is a blessed hope. We may exclaim with the Apostle: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Cor. 15:55.) Because Christ lives, heaven is real to the children of God. Dear friend, do not live and die without accepting this glorious Gospel.

O. C. S.

The Glory Way

Now that the Christ is risen,
Now with the darkness gone,
The road lies out before us
Upward—and on and on—

There are His sandal footprints,
There is His form ahead,
Straight and strong and compelling;
The Christ that they left as dead.

Nothing can dim His glory,
Nothing can stay His feet,
And countless are they who follow
Him down each lane and street.

And I would be one among them
Along the Glory Way,
I would arise and follow
The risen Christ today.

—GRACE NOLL CROWELL
in *Christian Herald*

Dedication of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf Jackson Heights, Long Island, N. Y.

On Sunday, Jan. 11, 1948, the pastor and members of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Jackson Heights, L. I., N. Y., saw the realization of their prayers, hopes, and labors, when in a beautiful service they dedicated their magnificent church edifice to the service of the Triune God.

The service was held at 3 P. M. Every seat was filled, many standing in the aisles. Pastor Hugo Gamber of Bethlehem Luth. Church, St. Paul, Minn., for 20 years chairman of the Board of Missions to the Deaf and Blind, preached an inspiring sermon based on Rom. 1:16: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." He held his large audience, of both deaf and hearing, in spellbound attention.

The entire service was interpreted to a large deaf congregation by means of the sign language by Pastor Theo. Frederking of Cleveland, Ohio, and Pastor Walter A. Westermann of Washington, D. C. A public address system brought the service to an overflow congregation which filled the substructure of the church. Pastor Arlo M. Mueller of Mineola, L. I., served as liturgist.

The service was further enhanced by the truly beautiful hymn selections by the choir of St. Matthew's Church. All of the hymns were also rendered in the sign language. The singers were Miss Dorothy Cadwell, Mrs. Ulmer, Mrs. H. Borgstand, Mrs. John Heil, Mrs. Louis Brook, Miss Edith Allerup. Mrs. Mildred Cadwell sang Rock of Ages, while her daughter, Dorothy, rendered the hymn in graceful signs.

The "singing" of the deaf choir and the soloists was so well done that the remark was made: "It is hard to refrain from tears as one sits and sees this mode of worship."

The pastor of St. Matthew's, the Reverend Floyd Possehl, and the members of his congregation have worked hard and prayed much, and God has richly rewarded their work and faith.

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf is the Protestant church for deaf in New York City and is a truly magnificent house of worship. It stands at 4101 75th St., Jackson Heights, Long Island, N. Y. It is of solid brick

construction, with full basement, modern in every respect. The auditorium seats 200 people, and an overflow may be seated in the narthex.

The chancel is a joy to behold, with its hand-carved clear oak altar, pulpit, lectern, candelabra, Communion rail, and the beautiful, artistic, correct altar furnishings in brass. All tend to add beauty to the worship of the Triune God.

Above the altar is a large rose window depicting the Healing of the Deaf-Mute. Surrounding the main picture are symbols of Christ's Passion. The window is done in beautiful colors and was made especially for St. Matthew's Church. Above the entrance is a unique window in the form of the symbol of the Trinity. The top circle bears the seal of St. Matthew's; the left circle, Luther's coat of arms; and the right has the picture of an ear surrounded by rays of light, thus symbolizing the name of the Church.

St. Matthew's Church was constructed at the cost of about \$85,000 and will, under God's blessing, be a means of leading many sin-sick souls to Christ and to their eternal home.

One could not describe the joy of the deaf congregation — it defies mere words — when they entered their church for the first time. They were a thankful, happy people. The offering of this day was more than \$2,500. There were more than 500 deaf and hearing friends in attendance to rejoice with St. Matthew's Congregation.

The future of St. Matthew's looks bright. Many of the city's deaf worship there, and rapid growth seems assured.

May God ever protect and keep St. Matthew's Church for the Deaf. May He richly bless the work of the faithful pastor and his wife, the Rev. and Mrs. F. Possehl, among the many thousands of deaf in New York City.

God grant that this beautiful church be ever a gateway to heaven for weary souls seeking peace and rest. W. A. WESTERMANN

Biography of Rev. George W. Gaertner, Ph. D.

Pastor G. W. Gaertner has the distinction of being the pioneer Lutheran missionary to the deaf on the West Coast, having taken over

the work in January, 1917, after the territory had been under survey by Rev. N. Jensen, who left the Deaf Mission in 1916.

Rev. Gaertner was born at Evanston, Ill., on Aug. 17, 1893. He attended our Concordia College at Milwaukee, Wis., and Concordia



Geo. W. Gaertner

Seminary at St. Louis, Mo., graduating from the former school in 1913 and from the latter in 1916.

He was ordained in Chicago, Ill., by the late President of our Synod, Dr. F. Pfotenhauer, on Sept. 17, 1916, and served as supply pastor in the Central States from June, 1916, to January, 1917, under the direction of the Rev. N. P. Uhlig. Then he followed a call to Spokane, Wash., where he was installed as missionary to the deaf in January, 1917, to serve the Pacific Northwest and the State of California. Later, he also started preaching stations in the Alberta and British Columbia District. Congregations were organized by him at Spokane and Seattle, Wash., and Portland, Oreg. His entire territory consisted of 22 preaching stations at that time.

Seattle, Wash., later became headquarters for the missionary. In 1922 he directed the construction of the Lutheran chapel in that city, this chapel being built by a group of deaf carpenters and the pastor.

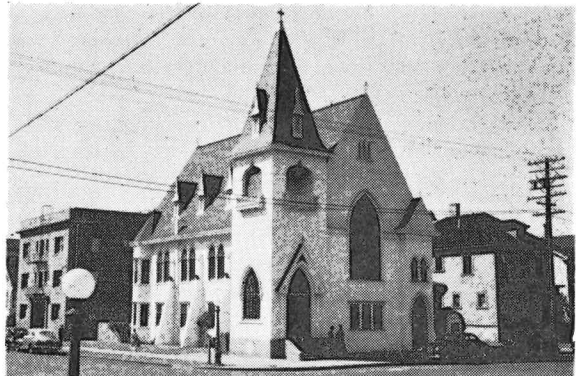
As time went on and more deaf people were added to the communicant membership of our Lutheran Church in various places and the attendance at services on the part of the deaf in this territory increased, additional missionaries were called to this field by the Board. It was the privilege of Pastor Gaertner to install the following missionaries at various times during his 32 years of service: Rev. J. Beyer

at Portland, Oreg., in 1920; Rev. C. Frice at Spokane, Wash., in 1924; Rev. E. Eichmann at Portland in 1924; Rev. G. Ferber at Los Angeles, Calif., in 1927; Rev. M. Engel at Oakland, Calif., in 1928; Rev. F. Hischke at Spokane in 1931; Rev. W. Westermann at Seattle, Wash., in 1931; and Rev. W. Uhlig at Los Angeles in 1942.

Pastor Gaertner was called to Oakland, Calif., in August, 1931, where he has served the deaf faithfully and with marked success to the present time. Both Oakland and San Francisco were mission stations with no Lutheran communicant members upon the pastor's arrival. The present membership at Oakland stands at 126 members and 52 children. The entire field, which now comprises the cities of Oakland, San Francisco, Berkeley, Hayward, and San Jose, Calif., and the State Deaf Institution and State Blind School, numbers 205 communicants.

In 1944 a downtown church property in Oakland was purchased, the church was remodeled, and an adjoining home with nine rooms was also bought and is at present the Memorial Home for the Deaf. Nine deaf friends have their home in this building. The entire property has a value of \$60,000.

Certainly it is apparent that the Lord has signally blessed the faithful efforts of Pastor Gaertner in behalf of bringing the saving Gospel to the deaf in this field during the past



Luth. Memorial Chapel and Home (at right).
Oakland Calif.

16 years. May the Lord continue to guide and bless him and his labors for the Kingdom.

We wish to add here that Pastor Gaertner's activities on the West Coast have extended also into other fields of work. Four years he

served as assistant instructor in languages and religion at California Concordia College at Oakland and for eleven years as secretary of the Board of Control of this institution. He was elected and served four years as a Vice-President of the California and Nevada District. In various civic organizations he has also taken active part, having been appointed as official interpreter to the courts of Alameda and San Francisco Counties in California in 1934 and a member of the Juvenile Advisory Board for the Deaf. In 1944 he served as American Red Cross instructor for the deaf in First Aid and Water Safety.

Pastor Gaertner, among his many other accomplishments, has also edited a *Sign Language Manual*, containing up to 2,100 word signs and phrases, which is proving to be of great value to our Lutheran pastors to the deaf as well as in other fields of deaf work.

In closing this biography we say again: God grant many more years of service to this energetic worker among the deaf, to the glory of His name.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Washington, D. C., Field.—Some months have passed since anything was heard from this field. The reason was our illness, from which we are now slowly recovering. We wish to take this opportunity to thank our friends for their prayers in our behalf during dark and trying days.

The mission in Washington, D. C., was made glad when we were given use of a beautiful chapel at Christ Church, 16th St., N. W., at Gallatin. As soon as furnishings are completed, we shall move into our new place of worship.

We were given a very friendly reception at Galaudet College, which is our main objective in the city.

At Baltimore, Md., our attendance has been growing. In Baltimore the deaf congregation meets in historic St. Martini Church. Martini is a beautiful old church built in 1865. In Baltimore 3 deaf are enrolled in our membership class. Services are held there every other Sunday afternoon. We go to Knoxville, Tenn., on the first Sunday of the month. We hope soon to open a new station in Philadelphia, Pa.

In February we are going to Hickory, N. C., where a group of deaf have asked for our services. Bristol and Richmond, Va., are also on our list.

The harvest in these States is great; if only we had more workers to gather it in.

A service we would greatly appreciate is this: Please send us names and addresses of any deaf friends you might have in this area.

W. A. W.

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.
 Rev. A. E. Ferber, 3807 Gillham Rd., Kansas City 2, Mo.
 Rev. W. Ferber, 617 14th St., S., Fargo, N. Dak.
 Rev. Theo. Frederking, 12322 Phillips Ave., Cleveland 8, Ohio.
 Rev. G. W. Gaertner, Ph. D., 3233 62d Ave., Oakland 3, Calif.
 Rev. Francis G. Gyle, 8011 Nola, St. Louis 14, Mo.
 Rev. A. T. Jonas, 1101 15th Ave., Seattle 22, Wash.
 Rev. Martin Kosche, 33 S. Spencer Ave., Indianapolis 1, Ind.
 Rev. E. Mappes, 5070 Lake St., Omaha 4, Nebr.
 Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller, 1717a 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.
 Rev. J. L. Salvner, D. D., 3320 Chowen Ave., N., Robbinsdale 12, Minn.
 Rev. E. Scheibert, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago 51, Ill.
 Rev. Curtis Schleicher, 1221 W. 10th St., Sioux Falls, S. Dak.
 Rev. N. P. Uhlig, 134 Prospect St., Jacksonville, Ill.
 Rev. W. Uhlig, M. A., 1746 W. 46th St., Los Angeles 37, 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.

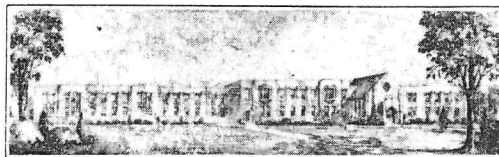
Minister to the Deaf and the Blind

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.

BOARD OF MISSIONS TO THE DEAF

Pastor Wm. Buege, chairman, 3236 34th Ave., S., Minneapolis 6, Minn.
 Pastor C. C. Niemann, secretary, 1308 N. Avon, St. Paul 3, Minn.
 Mr. G. F. Kruse, treasurer, 1861 Randolph St., Apt. 204, St. Paul 5, Minn.
 Pastor O. H. Lottes, 4842 Portland Ave., Minneapolis 7, Minn.
 Mr. J. P. Miller, 1104 Vincent Ave., S., Minneapolis 5, Minn.
 Pastor J. L. Salvner, D. D., executive secretary, 3320 Chowen Ave., N., Robbinsdale 12, Minn.



Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich.
 Mr. John A. Klein, Director
 6861 Nevada Avenue, Detroit, Michigan

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.