

# 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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### Ephphatha Conference

"Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised," thus the Psalmist extols the Almighty God, and thus our Lutheran pastors to the deaf in conference at Milwaukee, Wis., from Aug. 13 to 17, also gave glory and honor to Him who has so graciously and abundantly blessed the work among the deaf, especially during the past year since our last conference in 1947.

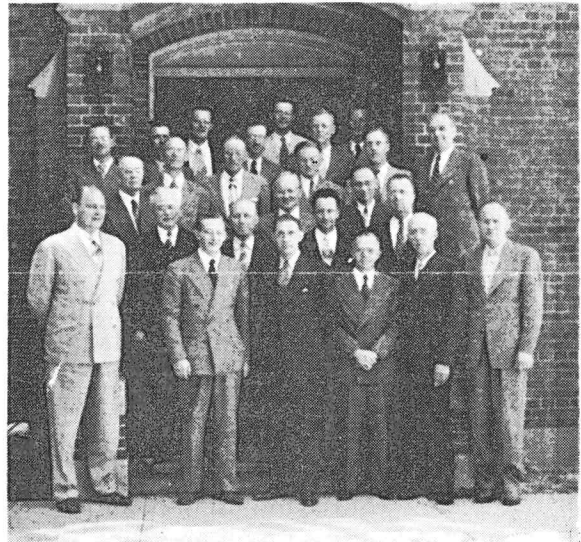
Each year when our pastors meet, the reports given concerning the various fields show some definite progress made all along the line. Perhaps the most joyful announcement made by the Board of Missions to the Deaf was that two almost entirely new fields were opened during the past year and workers placed into these fields, while another section, vacant for some time, again has a full-time resident pastor. The two new fields are Massachusetts and Mississippi, while the Texas and Oklahoma field was again supplied with a pastor.

All sessions of the conference were held at Concordia College, where the pastors were also accommodated with sleeping quarters and meals — an ideal arrangement.

The opening service, a Communion service, was held at Emmanuel Lutheran Church for the Deaf. Pastor G. W. Gaertner preached the sermon, and Pastor M. E. Mueller had charge of the Communion service.

Only one of the missionaries was absent from conference — 24 being present. In addition, Student Donald Simon, who during the past year served in the Montana field, attended all sessions. Four members of the Board were part-time attendants, and they also spent considerable time discussing important matters with the individual missionaries.

Visitors during the days of conference were a number of pastors from the Milwaukee area; the Rev. H. A. Mayer, Assistant Mission Director of Synod, and Mr. Herbert Thien of New York City, representing the corporation known as "Lutheran Friends of the Deaf." Mr. Thien stated that this group was organized in order to carry out the 1946 resolution of Synod for a collection in conjunction with the golden jubilee of the Deaf Mission, the collection to be used for a new Lutheran school for the deaf in the Eastern section of the United States.



Lutheran Ephphatha Conference Members

First row, l. to r.: Rev. Wm. Buege, chairman of the Board; Student D. Simon; Rev. M. E. Mueller; Rev. G. W. Gaertner; Rev. W. Ferber; Rev. C. C. Niemann, secretary of the Board  
Second row, l. to r.: Rev. E. Mappes; Rev. A. E. Ferber; Rev. H. Rohe; Rev. N. E. Borchardt; Rev. C. Bremer; Rev. T. Frederking  
Third row, l. to r.: Rev. O. C. Schroeder; Rev. E. Scheibert; Rev. T. M. Wangerin, first pastor of Milwaukee congregation; Rev. J. L. Salvner; Rev. C. Schleicher; Rev. R. Cordes  
Back row, l. to r.: Rev. A. Jonas; Rev. F. Possehl; Rev. C. R. Gerhold; Rev. F. G. Gyle; Rev. H. E. Bollow; Rev. N. P. Uhlig; Rev. W. Westermann  
Not on picture: Rev. J. A. Beyer, Rev. T. De Laney, and Rev. M. Kosche

The property for this school has been purchased and is located on Long Island, about 20 miles from the heart of downtown New York. It includes 35 acres of land, a three-story, fireproof mansion (40 rooms and 10 baths) necessitating very little change for a school. The purchase price is \$200,000, and nearly one half of this is on hand. It is hoped the school may be opened within a year.

A report by the Rev. N. E. Borchardt regarding the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, Mich., included the encouraging statement that a new addition to this school is under construction. A resolution was passed that we encourage our Lutheran members to send contributions for the purpose of furnishing a room in the new building.

Pastor A. L. Hauptman presented a unique demonstration in teaching school children the stories of the Bible by means of various visual aids, stressing particularly the flannelgraph method. Conference elected a committee consisting of the Pastors Hauptman, Gaertner, and Possehl to survey the entire field of visual aids, to ascertain our needs, and to present these needs to the Board.

Regarding social work, Rev. Gaertner read an editorial and pointed out that our workers among the deaf spend considerable time and effort doing social work and therefore suggested that our conference have a representative at the annual Associated Lutheran Charities convention and keep in close contact with all their activities. This was favorably voted upon by the members of conference.

A committee of three, consisting of Pastors Jonas, Bremer, and Possehl, was elected to study the plan of better and more representation of our deaf laymen and bringing forth of lay power in church work by arranging regional conferences of pastors and laymen.

Upon an urgent request by the chairman of the Board the following resolution was passed by the conference: "Be it resolved that the missionaries encourage the members of their congregations and preaching stations to support more fully both the ministry in their midst and the work of the church at large by proportionate giving."

A lengthy discussion took place concerning the lectionary and the hymnal to be prepared for use in our services, and the respective com-

mittees were urged to have these ready for use as soon as possible.

Other papers were delivered by Pastor C. Schleicher on 1 Corinthians, chapter 11, presenting this chapter in signs; by Pastor N. P. Uhlig on "Proper and Acceptable Signs in Lutheran Usage." It is hoped that a Dictionary of Signs may be the result of this presentation, which may be used not only by the pastors, but by our members as well.

Dr. J. L. Salvner's well-prepared essay on "The Call into the Ministry as It Pertains to the Deaf Mission" evoked a lively discussion during several sessions, and it was unanimously decided that this essay be mimeographed and that all receive a copy.

The conference took cognizance of two anniversaries, first, Pastor E. J. Scheibert's 25th anniversary in the ministry and in the Deaf Mission, which occurred in 1947. Belated congratulations and best wishes for the Lord's blessing in the future were extended. Similarly it was resolved to express the wish for God's continued blessing upon Pastor W. Ferber and his labors, since he is rounding out 25 years in the Deaf Mission this year.

Officers elected to serve for the next two years are: chairman: Rev. J. A. Beyer; vice-chairman, Rev. A. E. Ferber; secretary, Rev. Theo. De Laney; Program Committee, the pastors G. W. Gaertner, A. Jonas, and M. E. Mueller.

Three invitations for the 1949 conference were presented by the pastors from St. Paul, Minn., Oakland, Calif., and New York City. The conference favored the two invitations from the East and West Coasts; however, in the event the acceptance of neither should be possible, we accept the St. Paul invitation.

Resolutions were passed to extend sincere and hearty thanks to our hosts, Emmanuel Deaf Congregation and its pastor, the Rev. M. E. Mueller, who so wonderfully provided for and entertained our conference; also to the group of Milwaukee Lutheran laymen who so kindly provided for our enjoyment such an excellent dinner meeting on Monday evening.

#### **Anniversary Service and Banquet**

Highlights of the conference were the golden anniversary celebration of Emmanuel Lutheran Deaf Church with special services

held at 3 P. M. on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 15, and a banquet at 6 P. M.

The main speaker at the service was the Rev. William Buege, chairman of the Board. In very fitting language and forceful manner Pastor Buege gave all praise and glory to the almighty God and Ruler of the Church and pleaded for all to remain steadfast in the faith in the only Redeemer, Jesus Christ, and urged continued consecrated efforts on the part of all our Christians in the great cause of bringing God's saving Word to sin-sick and precious souls that many more may be eternally saved. Pastor N. P. Uhlig interpreted the sermon for the deaf, while Pastor A. Jonas interpreted the liturgy.

Dr. J. L. Salvner, senior member of Ephphatha Conference, using both signs and speech in his sermon, also bespoke the praises of Him who hath done all things well for our deaf, for us, and especially for Emmanuel Lutheran Congregation since its organization fifty years ago. A Lutheran radio choir, directed by Mr. Walter Schober, helped to beautify the service, and the numbers rendered by the choir were interpreted in graceful signs by two groups of deaf ladies from Emmanuel Congregation. An estimated 200 deaf attended the service including about 65 fellow deaf members from Chicago. The large gymnasium of Concordia College was well filled.

Sunday evening at six o'clock the anniversary banquet was held in the spacious dining hall of the college. Rev. J. A. Beyer was toastmaster and in his usual jovial manner kept everyone in good humor and made us all feel at ease. The food served was first class, and there was plenty of it.

Mr. Martin Drews, chairman of Emmanuel Church, gave the welcome address to the conference members and guests. Rev. E. Mappes gave the response. Other speakers included the first pastor of Emmanuel Church, the Rev. T. M. Wangerin, Mr. Wm. Meilicke, Mr. Robert Horgen, and Rev. C. Niemann, secretary of the Board of Missions.

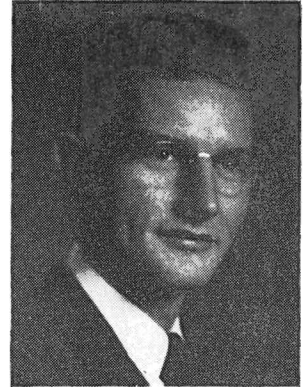
It was a day which will long be remembered by all those present, and the entire conference was a real blessing to the missionaries and to the work of our Church among the deaf. All glory to God!

E. M.

### Pastor August L. Hauptman

We have reason to thank our God for granting to our Church new workers among the deaf from time to time. Three new pastors entered this blessed work during this year. One of these is Pastor A. L. Hauptman, who accepted the call extended to him to serve the Montana field. His place of residence will be Great Falls, Mont.

Pastor Hauptman is a native of California, having been born at Santa Ana, Calif., on Feb. 6, 1923. He entered our Springfield, Ill., Seminary in the fall of 1942 and graduated from this institution on June 10, 1948. Having attended the sign-language classes taught at the Seminary, he became interested in the work among the deaf, and for two years, 1945 to 1947, he served with marked success as student missionary in the Montana field.



August L. Hauptman

During the past year while he finished his studies at Springfield, as added training, he used his week ends serving a group of 58 deaf children at the School for the Deaf in Delavan, Wis., and a congregation of 25 members in that city.

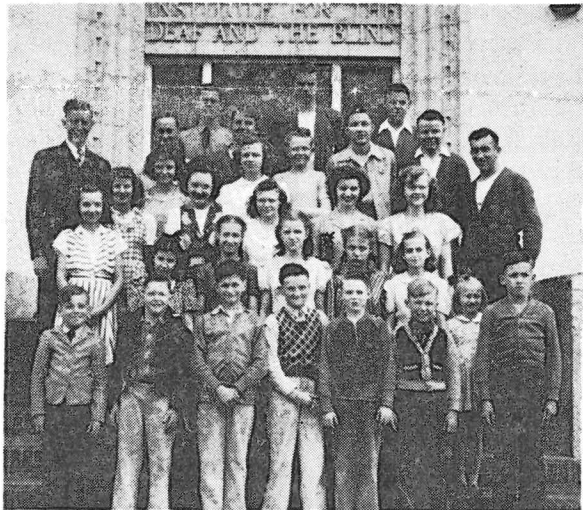
Student Donald Simon had charge of the Montana field from September, 1947, till the end of June this year.

On Sunday, June 27, Pastor Hauptman was ordained and commissioned in a service held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls. The Rev. L. Helmstetter of Lewistown, Mont., preached the sermon, and the Rev. E. T. Leckband performed the rite of ordination and commissioning. Student Donald Simon interpreted the sermon and the service in the sign language for the benefit of the deaf who were present at the service.

In view of the fact that Pastor Hauptman now serves ten preaching stations for the deaf in the State of Montana as well as an organized deaf congregation at Spokane, Wash., we are not surprised that each month he travels nearly

3,000 miles to minister to the scattered groups of deaf people in this vast territory.

Living in Great Falls, the missionary can best serve the pupils attending the Montana State School in that city. At present 30 children of the school attend his religious instruction classes. He makes diligent use of the various methods offered in the field of Visual



Pastor A. L. Hauptman and Thirty Pupils of the Montana State School Attending Lutheran Instruction Classes

Education, and these have proved very successful in his work.

We say in closing that indeed a great step forward has been made in the work of bringing the saving Gospel to the deaf in this vast territory of the Northwest by having a permanently called missionary in that section.

Our prayers are for the continued success of Pastor Hauptman's service, rendered unto the Lord of the Church among the souls purchased by the blood of Jesus Christ. God grant it for His name's sake. E. M.

### IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

*Milwaukee, Wis.*—“With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation” (Ps. 91:16). These words held true for Edwin W. Nelson, who departed this life on July 22 and who was laid to rest in Arlington Cemetery on July 26. Mr. Nelson was a Christian gentleman who loved his fellow men. He left a wonderful example of piety and regularity in church attendance. His record shows that he did not miss a single Communion service in the past nine years. He proved that distance and public transportation facilities are no excuse for irregular church attendance. The round trip from his home to his church required two hours. Often he made that trip several times a week

to attend to his spiritual needs and his duties as a loyal church member. In spite of his 74 years he was employed as an upholsterer until illness set in about one month before his death.

The Savior whom he served in life he trusted for salvation in the hour of death. He believed that the blood of Jesus alone cleanses from all sin.

May God comfort the widow, also an active member of our Emmanuel Congregation, and her family of four married sons and one married daughter. May the remembrance of faithful members encourage us all to be unceasingly active in the Lord's work.

Mrs. Johanna Blood, a faithful member of Christ, who for several years received spiritual ministrations as a shut-in, was laid to rest on July 29. Mrs. Blood reached the age of 87 years and was a great-great-grandmother. “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God” (Rom. 10:17). M. E. A. MUELLER

### Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

Rev. J. A. Beyer, 30 East Lane Ave., Columbus 1, Ohio.  
 Rev. Hans E. Bollow, 1101 12th St., Pascagoula, Miss.  
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 Rev. C. Roland Gerhold, 34 Walnut St., Watertown, Mass.  
 Rev. Francis G. Gvle, 8011 Nola, St. Louis 14, Mo.  
 Rev. A. L. Hauptman, 610 9th St. S., Great Falls, Mont.  
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 Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller, 1717a W. Meinecke Ave., Milwaukee 6, Wis.  
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 Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, 513 Roslyn Place, Pittsburgh 6, Pa.  
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 Rev. F. 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. Westermann, 1311 Madison St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

### 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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 Mr. J. P. Miller, 1104 Vincent Ave., S., Minneapolis 5, Minn.  
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