

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 12

Let Us Go to Bethlehem

O let us go to Bethlehem
With Mary, virgin mother,
To seek the Infant born today,
The Christ and Lord, our Brother;
In greatest poverty He lies,
In lowliness and weakness,
The picture of humility,
Of helplessness and meekness.

O let us go to Bethlehem
To see the King of Glory,
Whose coming sages wise and kings
Foretold in song and story.
A manger lowly is His throne,
His palace but a stable,
Yet all the world is daily fed
At His abundant table.

P. E. KRETZMANN

Christmas

The angels of God proclaimed to a lost and condemned world: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). These tidings of great joy have always brought hope, peace, and happiness to sinners. Indeed we, too, have every reason to rejoice in the knowledge that unto us a Savior is born; for we, too, have wandered far from God's grace. With thankful and joyful hearts we, like the shepherds of old, ought to welcome the Babe of Bethlehem as our only Savior, from whom all blessings flow, praying that His heavenly mercy may rest upon our homes and lives.

During this joyous season Christians feel the unfathomable depth of God's love more than at other times.

The observance of Christmas dates back to the fourth century. Christians have at all times set this season apart for spiritual medi-

tation upon the Christ Child, God's greatest gift to a world lost in sin. He came to suffer agonies for us, to be obedient even unto His last breath on the cross, to remove the mountain of our sins, to make us God's forgiven children.

How do we respond to this great love of God in Christ? Do we love Him and His



message as we should? Do we worship and adore Him every day or only at Christmas-time? Do we pray sincerely for His kingdom, and do we work for it? Have we gained any souls for His Church? Do we speak of Him to the unchurched in our neighborhood, shops, and offices? Does our daily life show this renewing and sanctifying power of His Gospel?

These are questions which we should ask ourselves. Then, if we confess our failures and resolve by His grace to mend our ways, we shall celebrate Christ's birthday in a God-pleasing manner.

O. C. S.

Rev. Ernest J. Scheibert

Pastor Ernest J. Scheibert, our missionary to the deaf at Chicago, Ill., was born April 18, 1898, in North Tonawanda, N. Y.

In the fall of 1912 he enrolled as a student in Concordia Collegiate Institute, Bronxville, N. Y., to prepare for the office of the holy ministry, and was graduated in 1918. In September he began his theological course at Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis, Mo., from which he was graduated in 1922. He had interrupted his seminary studies for one year to serve as vicar at St. Mark's



Rev. Ernest J. Scheibert

Lutheran Church in North Tonawanda, N. Y., from 1919 to 1920.

As a seminary graduate the young Rev. Scheibert accepted a call to service in the Lutheran Mission among the Deaf. He was commissioned and ordained on the last Sunday in August, 1922, at St. John's Lutheran Church, St. Johnsbury, N. Y. This was the same church in which Pastor Scheibert was confirmed ten years before.

The field assigned to him was the Detroit area, where he worked under the direction of the sainted Rev. William Gielow, who was director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf at that time. Much help and guidance in studying the sign language was given him by Mr. John Berry of Royal Oak, Mich., a staunch member of the Detroit congregation.

In March, 1923, Rev. Scheibert accepted a call and was installed as pastor of Our Savior Congregation of the Deaf in Detroit. He served this congregation faithfully and the mission stations of the Detroit field without interruption until 1937, when he was called to Our Savior Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Chicago, where he was installed on Jan. 10, 1937. He succeeded Pastor A. C. Dahms, who had served this congregation for many years.

While in Detroit, Pastor Scheibert was also privileged to serve a number of years as

a member of the School Board of the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf. He also taught religious instruction classes at the Michigan State School for the Deaf at Flint and at the Western New York School at Rochester, N. Y.

At the present time the missionary serves 11 preaching stations in the Chicago area. Besides preaching every Sunday in his home congregation, he serves the colored deaf on Chicago's South Side twice a month and the following groups of deaf: at Kankakee, Elgin, Aurora, and Rockford, Ill.; Valparaiso, South Bend, and Fort Wayne, Ind.; Muskegon and Grand Rapids, Mich.

The Chicago congregation numbers 113 communicants at the present time and is the oldest of all our organized congregations among the deaf. In 1946 the congregation celebrated the 50th anniversary of its organization during the time Ephphatha Conference met in its midst. Prior to this celebration many improvements were made on the church building, both interior and exterior, and well over \$4,000 has been spent in the past few years for upkeep and improvements. The present church was erected in 1922 and dedicated in December of that year. According to Pastor Scheibert, the maintenance and upkeep of their church building has always been a source of pride to the deaf membership. The Chicago congregation also pays monthly a substantial sum toward the pastor's salary.

We feel certain that with the co-operation



Our Savior Lutheran Church and Congregation Members at Chicago, Ill.

of the congregation members with their pastor and God's continued blessings resting upon the preaching of His Word, Our Savior Congregation will continue to grow both numerically and spiritually in the years to come.

May the Lord of the Church grant this for His name's sake!

E. M.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

"What Does Baptism Give or Profit?"

Baptism gives eternal salvation, and therefore we rejoice in our Baptism. Baptism saves us now and forever.

Only Believers Get Salvation in Baptism

You ask: "Does everyone who is baptized receive these great blessings: forgiveness of sins, deliverance from death and the devil, and everlasting salvation?" God offers these blessings to everyone that is baptized, but only believers have them. Our Master Himself says in the last chapter of Mark: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." Therefore our Catechism also says: "Baptism gives eternal salvation to all who believe this." "Only believe," and these blessings offered and sealed to you in Baptism are yours. But so many are baptized and believe not. They cast away this salvation as when a hungry man throws away the piece of bread which has been offered and given to him. If this hungry man continues doing this, he will die with hunger. So if any man continues casting away these blessings in Holy Baptism, he shall be lost, for Jesus says: "He that believeth not shall be damned (lost in hell)" (Mark 16:16).

The Words and Promises of God Declare This

The word of Jesus stands: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." We need no more. "All the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us" (2 Cor. 1:20). Therefore our Catechism points to the "words and promises of God." But, oh, we daily sin much and indeed deserve nothing but punishment! Fear not; God's promise shall stand forever. He says in Is. 54:10: "The mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but My kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant (agreement, promise) of My peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee." Surely, Baptism gives strength and comfort when we fall into sin. In your Baptism you can always see His bountiful grace and forgiveness held out towards you and your heavenly Savior standing with outstretched arms and saying: "Come unto Me: I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

Never Forget Your Baptism

"Baptism works forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare." Thank God for these blessings offered and given you in your Baptism. J. L. S.

Resisting the Devil

A man once came to Mr. Finney and said, "I don't believe in the existence of a devil." "Don't you?" said the old man; "but if you were to resist him for a while, you would soon believe that there is one." Some people are too close to the devil, and that is why they cannot see him. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." James 4:7.

"A Fool Layeth Open His Folly"

(Proverbs 13:16)

Locating Jonah. — While addressing an open-air meeting, an atheist once asked Bishop Carpenter if he believed that Jonah was swallowed by the whale. "When I get to heaven, I will ask Jonah," said the Bishop. "But supposing he is not there," replied the atheist. "Then you will have to ask him," was the quick retort.

Cain's Wife. — In one of Billy Sunday's meetings a man called out from the crowd: "Mr. Sunday, can you tell us where Cain got his wife?" The fiery evangelist shouted back: "I honor all seekers of the truth, but I warn you, friend, don't risk losing your soul by inquiring too much after other men's wives!"

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Los Angeles, Calif. — Sunday, Oct. 10, the members and friends of Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf gathered at an afternoon service for the installation of the Rev. A. Jonas. This service was held at Grace Lutheran Church before an attendance of one hundred and twenty. The Rev. H. Borchers delivered the sermon based on the words of 2 Cor. 5:20, "Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ." The speaker gave the Deaf a very fine understanding of the terms "ministers, pastors, Apostles, teachers," and then centered his chief remarks on the word "ambassador." The installation was conducted by the First Vice-

President of the Southern California District, the Rev. A. E. Mueller, assisted by four pastors who had been classmates of Pastor Jonas at the Seminary. After the services the Deaf held a reception in the spacious hall of Grace Church, and refreshments were served. The entire service was interpreted by the undersigned, who together with Student W. Reinking had taken charge of the Pilgrim Congregation since the vacancy. The fine spirit of this group of Deaf is to be praised, since they have had many setbacks in the past years. In their new pastor they should have a man with experience, since he has previously worked with blessings at Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and at Seattle, Wash. Mr. W. Degner, president of the congregation, with his good helpers had the parsonage in readiness, and we are sure with such help the remodeling of Pilgrim Chapel will soon be a reality. May the Lord bless the work of their hands.

G. W. H.

Great Falls, Mont.—David Sidney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fulton Herbold, was baptized on July 6 at the service in Valier, Mont. On Oct. 3 Kathryn Ruth, the infant daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Hauptman, was baptized in the service at Great Falls. Let us pray God to keep these children in His grace and increase their faith in the Savior Jesus.

At Park City, Mont., Mrs. Mark Goodall was received into membership of the Lutheran Church on July 28. The Lord keep her faithful to His Word unto death.

In Great Falls a Bible class meets at the pastor's home regularly every Thursday evening.

27 children are enrolled this fall in our Lutheran instruction classes at the Montana State School in Great Falls.

Members of Faith Lutheran Congregation at Spokane, Wash., have made extensive repairs and improvements in their church during the past few months. They certainly are to be commended for their fine work and untiring efforts.

A. L. H.

Sioux Falls, S. Dak. Field.—Two baptisms and two weddings were performed in recent months.

Baptized were Harry Swan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Swan Svenningsen of Alden, Minn., in the service at Albert Lea, Minn., on June 12, with Neil Jensen and Theo. Bell as sponsors, and Allen Jay, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Hastings of Albert City, Iowa, in the service at Spencer, Iowa, on July 11, with Mr. and Mrs. Will Darst as sponsors.

Before almost a churchful of deaf and hearing relatives and friends at Sioux Falls, Miss Shirley Erdman of Sioux Falls became the bride of Mr. Adolph Svoboda, Jr., of Owatonna, Minn., Oct. 9. The attendants were Virginia Farstead of Sioux Falls and George Svoboda, brother of the groom. While a hearing lady sang vocally, Mrs. A. J. Krohn signed, "Oh, blest the house, what'er befall, Where Jesus Christ is all in all!" The pastor's address was based on the account of the wedding at Cana, John 2:1-11.

At Watertown, S. Dak., on Oct. 22, Miss Emma Isoak of Dodge, N. Dak., and Mr. Palmer Larson of Summit, S. Dak., were united in holy matrimony.

Their attendants were a brother and sister-in-law of the groom, Mr. and Mrs. Olvin Larson. The ceremony took place before the beautiful altar of St. Martin's Lutheran Church. May our Lord through His Word cause both these couples to continue growing in love to Him and toward each other all their lives! C. S.

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.
 Rev. N. E. Borchardt, 11719 Evanston Ave., Detroit 13, Mich.
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 Rev. R. F. Cordes, 1162 Marshall Ave., St. Paul 4, Minn.
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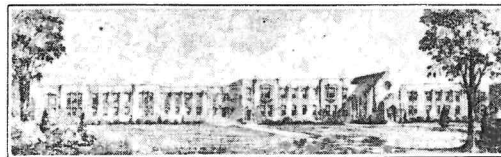
Minister to the Deaf and the Blind

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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