

# The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod*

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No. 2

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## † Rev. Herman Adam Bentrup †

One of the first two Lutheran missionaries to the deaf called by the Board of Lutheran Missions to the Deaf was the Rev. Herman A. Bentrup. He was born at California, Mo., Nov. 24, 1872, and attended Concordia College at Fort Wayne, Ind., and Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Mo. From 1896, the year he graduated from the seminary, till about May, 1900, Pastor Bentrup served the deaf in several Central States with regular preaching services and from 1900 till 1902 was connected with the Lutheran School for the Deaf at Detroit, Mich.

He also served hearing congregations at Cowling, Ill., Holgate, Ohio, Falls City, Nebr., St. Joseph, Mo., Meriden, Cherokee, and Elma, Iowa. In the latter place, on Dec. 10, 1928, his wife was taken by death and was buried there.

On Jan. 18, 1931, he was married again to Miss Eleanore F. Ehlers, daughter of the Rev. Anton Ehlers. On Dec. 1, 1940, he resigned from his charge at Elma, Iowa. After this Rev. and Mrs. Bentrup lived in various places in Texas and California and in October, 1944, came to Chattanooga, Tenn., where his son Gustave Bentrup was teaching and where they would be close to Mrs. Bentrup's relatives.

On Feb. 26, 1946, Pastor Herman Bentrup took up mission work among the colored people in Chattanooga and labored faithfully for the Lord among these people for a little over a year, when the Rev. G. S. Roberts was installed as missionary to the colored in that city.

Pastor Bentrup was also very helpful to our St. Louis missionary, Rev. F. G. Gyle, in

serving the deaf in Chattanooga. He furnished a list of names of deaf people to Rev. Gyle, who held the services for the deaf, while Pastor Bentrup himself took care of all publicity in the local press, visited the sick, made calls, and also preached to the deaf on one occasion. When the missionary to the deaf came to town, Pastor Bentrup would accompany him on his visits to the homes of the deaf.

In October, 1946, upon special invitation to be present at the Ephphatha Conference at Chicago and the 50th-anniversary celebration of Our Savior's Deaf Congregation in Chicago, Pastor Bentrup attended together with another pioneer missionary among the deaf, the Rev. T. M. Wangerin, and he fully enjoyed being present at this conference and celebration.

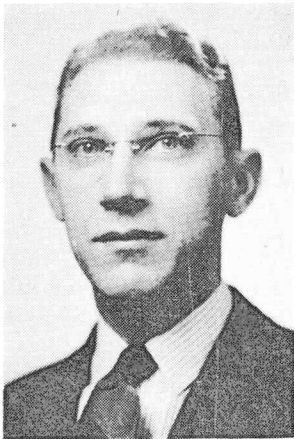
On Oct. 29, 1948, the Lord called this faithful and energetic worker home to the heavenly rest. He died in Chattanooga, Tenn., and his remains were laid to rest at Elma, Iowa, to await the day of resurrection of all the dead. The sermon delivered at the funeral was based upon Rom. 5:20b-21.

Reviewing the events of his life, this humble servant of the Lord before his death could not help but exclaim with Jacob of old: "I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which Thou hast showed unto Thy servant." Gen. 32:10.

All friends and readers of the DEAF LUTHERAN join in praise to God for the grace and love shown to this His servant during his earthly sojourn, and in extending their sincere sympathy to those who survive, his beloved wife, five sons, and three daughters. E. M.

### Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller

Our Milwaukee Lutheran pastor to the deaf, the Rev. Martin Mueller, has been active in the Deaf Mission for seventeen years, ever since his graduation from Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Mo.



Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller,  
pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran  
Deaf Church, Milwaukee, Wis.,  
since April, 1939

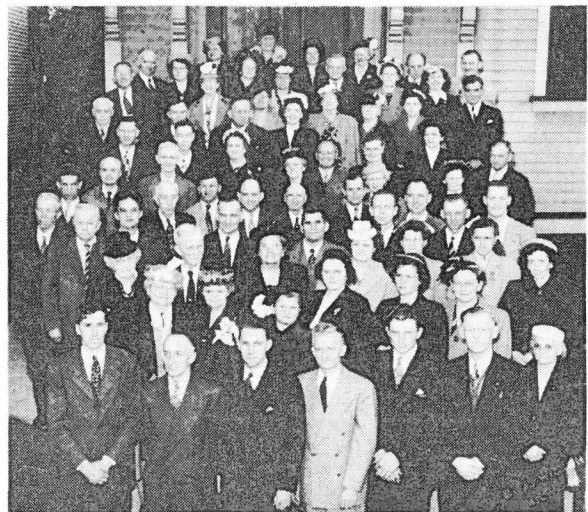
He comes from a Lutheran parsonage, his father having been a pastor at Romney, Tex., at the time of Pastor Mueller's birth. The date of his birth was Nov. 1, 1905. In 1920 he entered Concordia College at St. Paul, Minn., and graduated from this institution in June, 1926. During his seminary days he served as vicar at Riesel, Tex. (1928—29), and at Arlington, Minn. (1929—30). In June, 1931, he completed his ministerial training and accepted the call of the Board of Missions to the Deaf.

After having studied the sign language diligently during the summer months and receiving some special help under the able tutelage of Pastor A. E. Ferber, Candidate Mueller was ordained at Waco, Tex., on Nov. 29, 1931, by the Rev. G. H. Biar. Rev. A. E. Ferber previously had served several Oklahoma stations from Kansas City. But Pastor Mueller was the first resident Lutheran missionary for the deaf in the Texas and Oklahoma field and therefore faced the task of establishing himself in this territory and of organizing new preaching stations. For five years he labored successfully in the Texas area, also serving a number of cities in Oklahoma, and in 1936 he changed his headquarters from Waco, Tex., to Oklahoma City, Okla. From here Pastor Mueller continued to serve the same territory as heretofore, 15 to 20 preaching stations, all told, and in addition conducted regular Bible instruction classes at the Austin, Tex., and Sulphur, Okla., State Schools for the Deaf.

In the spring of 1939 he was called by Em-

manuel Lutheran Deaf Congregation at Milwaukee, Wis., and accepted the call. He succeeded Rev. F. C. Gade, whom the Lord had called home by death. Installation at Milwaukee took place on April 23, 1939. So for nearly ten years Pastor Mueller has under God's rich blessings labored in the Wisconsin field, where at present he serves, besides the Milwaukee congregation consisting of 103 communicant members, nine other cities, namely, Watertown, Waukesha, Madison, Baraboo, Kenosha, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Neenah, and Oshkosh. Communicants in the entire field number 210. Until recently he also held instruction classes for the pupils at the State School for the Deaf in Delavan, Wis. This work has now been turned over to another missionary, since Pastor Mueller's many other stations require all his time and efforts.

To the Milwaukee field, under the direction of Pastor Mueller, belongs the honor of being the only self-supporting field among the deaf in our Lutheran Church. This means that for the past six years the pastor's entire salary and all other expenses connected with the serving of this field have been paid by the various deaf congregations without any financial aid



Members of Emmanuel Lutheran Deaf Congregation, Milwaukee, Wis. Pastor Mueller and officers in front row

from the Board of Missions to the Deaf, Emmanuel Congregation bearing the heaviest part of this expense. Contributed during 1948 by Emmanuel Congregation was \$4,038.27, while the contributions of the other stations amounted to \$1,095.03. Contribution envel-

opes are distributed to all members in Pastor Mueller's field, and he states that all contributions are strictly freewill offerings and every cent contributed the deaf bring of their own volition once they see the need and the blessings resulting from giving out of love.



The first pastor of Emmanuel Congregation, Rev. T. M. Wangerin, addressing the assembly gathered at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Milwaukee congregation on Aug. 15, 1943

There is also an active ladies' aid society in Milwaukee, which during the past year collected \$706.66.

The Milwaukee congregation, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last Aug. 15, at the



Six members of the Ladies' Choir of Emmanuel Congregation who helped beautify the service at the 50th anniversary by rendering several hymns in signs  
Names, l. to r. — Miss Anderson, Mrs. Ring and Mrs. Goetsch, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Krause, and Mrs. Arndt

time of the meeting of the Ephphatha Conference in its midst, is now busy making plans and collecting special funds for a new church building. The present church and parsonage were erected almost 48 years ago, the dedication taking place on April 14, 1901.

The new church will be built in a new location; however, no property has as yet been acquired as a building site.

May our gracious Lord and God continue to shower His divine blessings upon this our sister congregation in Milwaukee and upon the entire Wisconsin field and its pastor, Rev. Martin Mueller, and may God grant that through their combined efforts many more souls among the deaf may be saved for His heavenly kingdom.

## Studies in Luther's Catechism

### THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

#### *How Can Water Do Such Great Things?*

Confessing as we did in our last study: "Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation," someone perhaps will smile and unbelievably ask: "How can water do such great things?"

#### **It Is Not the Water That Does These Great Things**

No one in our Church has ever taught that water does these great things. With water we can wash our bodies clean from dust and dirt, but water cannot cleanse our soul from sin. Water never can do that. Therefore our Catechism says: "Baptism is not simple water only," and again: "It is not the water indeed that does [these great things]." If Baptism were an invention of man, if this water were connected only with man's word, then it would be "simple water and no Baptism." It is more than that.

#### **The Word of God in and with the Water Does These Great Things**

Luther says in our Catechism: "It is the water comprehended in God's command and connected with God's word," and again: "The word of God which is in and with the water" gives forgiveness of sins and salvation. In-

deed, it is the water comprehended in God's command: "Go ye and teach all nations, baptizing them," and connected with God's word: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." "With the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life." Baptism gives new life to a man "dead in trespasses and sins." It keeps him in this new life unto death and at last grants everlasting life. And all this is true because we "have been baptized into Christ and have put on Christ," Gal. 3:27. It is a "gracious" water of life, for it gives life free of charge; no money nor work is asked. Also in Baptism Jesus invites us and says: "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17. Also in Baptism we are "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus," Rom. 3:24.

### Praise God for This Free Salvation in Baptism

In your Baptism God came to you, dear friend, and has sealed His forgiveness to you. It is a gift of God to you. Daily thank and praise Him for this free salvation. J. L. S.

"THE greatest sinners are those who feel sin least."

"A FAMILY altar leads to an altered family."

### IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Portland, Ore.—The Portland area, vacant since Aug. 1, again has a pastor, the Rev. George C. Ring. The deaf rejoice with thanksgiving, and we rejoice with them. A service was held Jan. 2 in Portland with an attendance of 27, twenty of whom came to the Lord's Supper. The same day we conducted a service also in Vancouver, seventeen attending and five partaking of the Holy Supper. Jan. 4 we visited the Washington State School at Vancouver, spoke to the assembly, and made arrangements for religious classes, and gave private Communion to two sick members in the city. Wednesday we visited the Oregon State School at Salem and also there arranged for religious classes. In the evening, a service was held with the seventeen adult deaf attending and thirteen coming to the Lord's Table. Jan. 16 our new missionary and pastor for the deaf was installed. May our heavenly Father be with him and richly bless his work in the Portland area.

Rev. Ring's address is: 5723 Washington, S. E., Portland, Ore. J. L. 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. W. Ferber, 617 14th St., S., Fargo, N. Dak.  
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 Rev. W. Westermann, 10 Milmarson Pl., N. W., Washington 11, D. C.

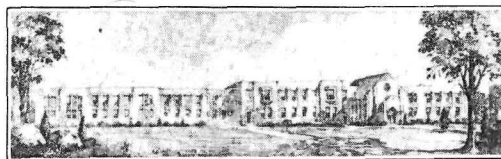
### Minister to the Deaf and the Blind

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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 Pastor J. L. Salvner, D. D., executive secretary, 3320 Chowen Ave., N., Robbinsdale 12, Minn.



Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich.  
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