

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

*Published by the Board of Missions for the Deaf
The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod*

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. 41

St. Louis, Mo., March, 1949

No. 3

Calvary

O'er earth lay unrelieved monotony
Of sin and shame, of death's dark destiny.
The cruel hands of men gone mad with hate
Had led the Lord of Life outside the gate
Of old Jerusalem — to Calvary.

'Twas there brute force in blindness crucified
Our blessed Lord and hung Him there to die
Between two thieves, whose lives in sin were spent;
His life, to save both them and us, was sent
Of God to lift up Love — on Calvary.

Behold! 'Twas there the Love of God reached down
To place on Jesus' head the victor's crown;
And gave to men on earth Christ's life and light,
Which, in our wilderness, ne'er shone more bright
Than on the day when God gave Calvary.

O God, whose Love unfolds like flowers of spring,
Help us this day to rise! Of life to sing,
And not of death! Bright Easter with its sun
Of immortality had not begun
Hadst Thou not built the Cross on Calvary.

By HUGO L. DRESSLER, in *The Lutheran*

Lent

The lesson of this season is God's great love and sacred promise of peace with Him through the atoning death of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us, therefore, not be so busy and occupied with the things of this world that we neglect the seeking of the greatest of all treasures, God's love and forgiveness through the obedience and sacrifice of His Son. Our own death then will be the gateway to everlasting life and glory in the mansions above.

May we ever pray that the Holy Spirit strengthen our faith to accept in repentance the pardon achieved for us by the agony of Christ and to find in His blessed obedience

the answer to all our questions and problems in this sin-cursed, evil world. God alone can remove our pride and other weaknesses of the flesh. God is able to create and strengthen in us new spiritual life, which bears the fruit of self-sacrificing service to other men for the sake of Him who loved us to the uttermost. To this end attend Lenten services and there ponder upon God's marvelous love.

O. C. S.

Missions

After His crucifixion, resurrection, and glorious ascension into the heavens, our Lord sent His disciples on a missionary errand to preach the Gospel of salvation, hope, and eternal life to sin-cursed humanity. He gave the promise of His abiding help and presence.

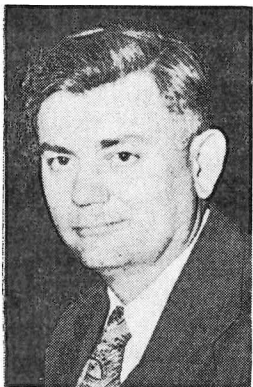
It is the chief work of every Christian on earth to help spread the Gospel of Jesus and thereby to win souls for Christ. To this end he must work and pray.

Many Christians, also among the deaf, are shamefully neglectful, careless, and cold in their efforts to bring others to Christ. Many halfhearted followers of Jesus neglect opportunities to speak to their associates in the home, shop, and business, or they do so in a halfhearted manner. All this shows that they are poor in good works and devotion to their ascended Lord, that they are failing in their most important task and purpose on earth. Men are perishing everywhere while many Christians stand idly by. The eyes of Jesus are upon His Christians. He is greatly displeased with such coldness. May God grant us His grace that we awaken to this, our chief duty!

O. C. S.

Dixie Conference of Lutheran Workers Among the Deaf

Pastors and delegates representing congregations in mission stations and schools for the deaf from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas met Jan. 29 to 30



Mr. Walter Maack
Chairman of the
Conference

at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Shreveport, La., for the purpose of discussing problems related to our work among the deaf of the South. Objectives of the conference were the stimulation of deaf interest in our Lutheran mission, eradication of an inferiority complex of some deaf, the promotion of closer relationship among the deaf and the hearing,

and the formation of plans for a permanent organization.

The conference was given wide newspaper publicity. The Hon. C. Fank, mayor of Shreveport, and other city and State officials attended some sessions. Pastor Derwig reports that the meeting was a definite success. Both laymen and deaf showed enthusiasm. The next conference is to be held in Memphis in January, 1950.

Among the speakers and essayists at the conference were Pastors Theo. De Laney, H. Bollow, F. Gyle, R. Holberg, and Geo. Derwig.

Perhaps the time has come in our Mission for the arrangement of regional meetings in addition to the regular convention of the Ephphatha Conference. The editor personally favors all new movements to promote the work of saving immortal souls among the deaf.

O. C. S.

Rev. Robert Frederick Cordes

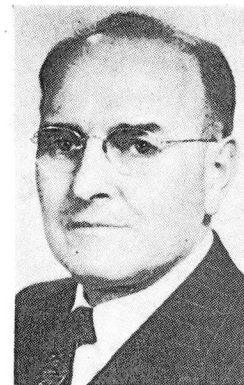
Up in Montmorency County, Michigan, near the town of Hillman, on the homestead of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Cordes, Sr., a small but precious package arrived just a few days before Christmas, 1895, in the person of little Robert Frederick. The exact date of his arrival was December 15.

At the age of 15, after having been confirmed by the Rev. Herman Potzger, young Robert, having decided to prepare for the holy ministry, entered Concordia College at Milwaukee, Wis., in the fall of 1911. Since he had taken his first year's high school course at home under the tutorship of his pastor, Robert graduated after five years at this institution, in June, 1916. The following September he entered Concordia Seminary at St. Louis, Mo. After finishing one and one-half years at the seminary, Student Cordes spent the next two years, from the winter of 1918 till the winter of 1920, at Lane and Wessington Springs, S. Dak., serving these two congregations as vicar. Returning to the seminary in the fall of 1920, he completed his ministerial course and was graduated in June, 1921.

A call was extended to him by the congregation at Lindsay, Mont., where he was ordained on Aug. 14, 1921. Three other stations were also under his care: Bloomfield and Rose Valley, Mont., and a congregation ten miles southeast of Circle, Mont.

In 1930 he accepted a call to Park City, Mont., which he served till 1934. In Park City Pastor Cordes had the opportunity to take up the study of the sign language, as four deaf people resided in that small town. Anxious to help them in a spiritual way, he decided to meet with them once a week to study the sign language, and with the help of Dr. Long's *Manual of Signs* he was soon able to converse with them and also to instruct them in the fundamentals of the Christian religion.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Goodall were his chief tutors. Mr. Goodall was



Rev. R. F. Cordes

a classmate of J. Schuyler Long, the author of *Long's Manual of Signs*, and Mrs. Goodall a graduate of Galaudet College for the Deaf at Washington, D. C. Both Mr. and Mrs. Goodall were confirmed and received into membership of the Lutheran Church while Pastor Cordes was at Park City. In this confirmation service a rather unusual thing happened: the hearing

mother of Mrs. Goodall and the Goodalls' son, Mark, were confirmed with them; thus three generations of one family became members of the Church at the same time. The singing in that service was done in three languages simultaneously: German, English, and the sign language.

In 1935 a call came to Pastor Cordes from the Board of Missions to the Deaf to serve the Canadian field. He accepted the call and became the first resident Lutheran missionary to the deaf in Canada. Pastor W. Ferber had served a number of stations in Canada from Duluth, Minn., prior to this. Pastor Cordes' Canadian field consisted of the three Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta, where monthly services were held in the principal cities: Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Regina, Calgary, and Edmonton, and classes instructed in schools at Winnipeg and Saskatoon.

For seven years Pastor Cordes traveled far and wide, serving a large number of deaf in this vast territory. A call sent to him by Calvary Deaf Lutheran Congregation at St. Paul, Minn., in 1942 was accepted. So for the past six years he has labored faithfully and with marked success in this field, serving, besides the St. Paul congregation, preaching stations at Lake City, Winona, Rochester, Austin, and Faribault, Minn.; Decorah, Iowa; La Crosse, Black River Falls, Eau Claire, and Turtle Lake, Wis.; and Winnipeg, Canada. Regular instruction classes are also held at the Faribault, Minn., State School for the Deaf.

The congregation at St. Paul numbers 35 communicants and was organized in 1924. The church was erected and dedicated in 1926.

In the entire field there are approximately 130 communicant members. There is also an active ladies' aid society in the St. Paul deaf congregation.

May the Lord grant health and strength and His continued blessings to this faithful worker in His kingdom!

Love Your Enemies

During the Civil War, Gen. Robert E. Lee was asked by the President of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, what he thought of a certain officer in the army, as he had an important

place he wanted filled by a trustworthy man. Lee gave the officer an excellent recommendation, and the man was immediately promoted to the position. Some of Lee's friends told him later that the officer had said some very bitter things against him, and expressed surprise at the general's recommendation. "I was not asked," said Lee, "for the officer's opinion of me, but my opinion of him." Only a Christian heart could prompt such action. We are told to love our enemies, but in our everyday life we too often love only those who love us.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

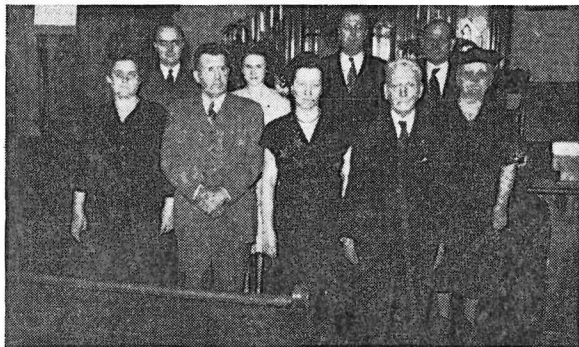
Seattle, Wash.—After a vacancy of almost five months the deaf in the Seattle field could rejoice in having their own pastor again. During the vacancy the Rev. K. Lindsay held five services in Redeemer Church, three of which were interpreted by Mrs. Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Skoglund of Spokane; in the two other services Pastor Lindsay handed the prayers and sermon to Mr. D. Krause, the president of Redeemer Church, who signed them to the deaf. In Tacoma our deaf had three services in Pastor A. W. Schelp's church, Mrs. Goetz, daughter of deaf parents and a member of our Tacoma congregation, interpreting the regular service of the church. In one service our deaf partook of the Holy Supper, Pastor Schelp signing the words of distribution and Mrs. Goetz interpreting the Lord's Prayer and words of the institution of the Lord's Supper. We thank these pastors and also the interpreters for their services rendered.

Jan. 23 we held our first services in Tacoma, 18 deaf attending, and in Seattle, 39 deaf being in attendance. In these services, Pastor Hintz, after two days of studying the sign language, signed the blessing and doxology. Jan. 30 a service was held with 26 deaf and two hearing, one of whom being the superintendent of the Vancouver, B. C., school. Feb. 4 a service was held in Yakima. In this service our new worker signed the entire service except the hymns and the sermon. God willing, he will preach his first sermon in Tacoma and Seattle on Feb. 20, while the writer will be in Portland for a few days and then return to Seattle for the installation of Pastor Hintz on Sunday, March 6. Feb. 13 our first service will be held with the deaf in Everett. May God bless the work of our new Seattle missionary and make him a blessing unto many deaf! J. L. S.

Cleveland, Ohio.—On Dec. 26, in Akron, Ohio, the following eight persons were received into the Church by confession of faith, and the last four mentioned were baptized, viz., Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Grimm, Mr. and Mrs. Harry S. Dobson, Mr. and Mrs. Dail O. Hoffman, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene E. Kress. This class attended most regularly and showed great interest in the discussion of the truths of God's Word, and we trust they will continue to be faithful members

of the Church. We now have 25 members in Akron, and we pray God to use the faithful members to cause our Akron church to go forward rapidly.

On Dec. 11, in Cleveland, we conducted our annual business meeting, in which the following officers were elected: Mr. Stuart Mahan, president; Mr. Alfred Clauss, vice-president; Mr. Paul L. Smith, treasurer; Rev. T. Frederking, secretary. — As elders or leaders the following were chosen: Messrs. Henry Crittle, Earl Froelich, Frank Sulz, Joshua Fagnilli, Walter Juhnke,



Akron, Ohio, Adult Confirmation Class

Front row, l. to r.: Mrs. Hoffman, Mr. Dobson, Mrs. Dobson, Mr. Grimm, Mrs. Grimm. Back row, l. to r.: Mr. Kress, Mrs. Kress, Rev. Frederking, Mr. Hoffman

Richard Rose, Paul Potoskey. We trust our church officers will serve well, co-operate, and do what they can to cause our work at home to progress, to the glory of God and the blessing of our Church. T. F.

Detroit, Mich. — On Nov. 4 Mrs. Marjorie Nelson, wife of Benjamin Nelson, died suddenly. The cause of her death was a cerebral hemorrhage. Mr. and Mrs. Nelson had celebrated their twentieth wedding anniversary last March. — On Nov. 7 Edward Proshek of Toledo, Ohio, died after a prolonged illness. — On Nov. 16 C. L. Clinker, also of Toledo, died suddenly of a heart attack. — Thus within two weeks the Lord summoned the souls of three believers out of our midst. Our hearts were saddened by their departure, but we found comfort in the words of our Savior: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that heareth My Word and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation, but is passed from death unto life" (John 5:24).

Norman Beaver of Detroit and Phyllis Magers of Dearborn were united in marriage on Nov. 27. They are making their home in Dearborn. May God guide them by His Holy Spirit that they may live together for His glory and their own welfare in this life and in that which is to come. N. E. B.

Chicago, Ill. — Mr. Hart Whitmore, formerly a resident of the Indiana Home for the Deaf, departed this life on Jan. 12 at the age of 85. We visited him several times at the hospital in La Porte. He frequently confessed his faith in Jesus and died a sinner saved by grace.

To his relatives we extend our sincere sympathy. May God soften their grief. Death teaches us that all

man's successes, honors, and possessions are as vapor which vanishes into the air; it rings out a solemn warning from God that the things of this earth are but vanishing shadows and that only eternity and the things of eternity have true value. O. C. S.

Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

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 Rev. A. E. Ferber, 3807 Gillham Rd., Kansas City 2, Mo.
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 Rev. Curtis Schleicher, 1221 W. 10th St., Sioux Falls, S. Dak.
 Rev. N. P. Uhlig, 134 Prospect St., Jacksonville, Ill.
 Rev. W. Westermann, 10 Milmarson Pl., N. W., Washington 11, D. C.

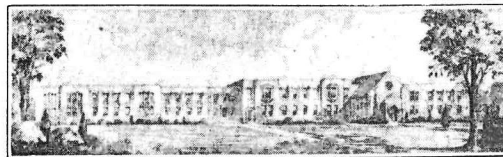
Minister to the Deaf and the Blind

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 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.



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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.