

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod*

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No. 5



Ascension Day

See, the Conqu'ror mounts in triumph;
See the King in royal state,
Riding on the clouds, His chariot,
To His heav'nly palace gate!
Hark! the choirs of angel voices
Joyful alleluias sing,
And the portals high are lifted
To receive their heav'nly King.

The Ascension of Jesus

Forty days after His glorious resurrection, after numerous appearances to His followers, and after giving His disciples instructions as to the extension of His kingdom on earth, Jesus led His disciples upon the Mount of Olives near Bethany and "lifted up His hands and blessed them. And it came to pass, while He blessed them, He was parted from them and carried up into heaven." Luke 24: 50-51.

Perhaps the disciples had hoped that Jesus would remain visibly with them after His

resurrection, but the risen Lord announced, instead, through Mary: "Go to My brethren and say unto them: I ascend unto My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God." John 20: 17.

Jesus ascended into heaven to open the gates of glory to all believers. Heaven is the true home of all His followers, where they shall abide and be at peace forever; where there will be no more sins, temptation, and corruption; where there will be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, and no more pain; where all these former things shall have passed away; and where all of Christ's disciples, including ourselves, who believe in Him, shall be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.

The ascension of Jesus, therefore, is a glorious truth and comfort to us in all earthly trials and temptations. O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

How Can Water Do Such Great Things?

We have learned that in Baptism it is not the water that gives forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and devil, and gives eternal salvation, but it is the word of God which is in and with the water. Now you ask: "How can I get these blessings?"

Only Believe

We must not think that man gets forgiveness simply by performing the act of Baptism. Just as the good deed of going to church, or giving money to the poor, or any other good

work cannot get forgiveness for you, so Baptism as a good deed cannot take away sin. No, God puts His word and promise into Holy Baptism and asks us to accept it in true faith, "faith which trusts such word of God in the water." If a man is baptized and does not believe, he has no forgiveness and no salvation. Jesus says: "He that *believeth* and is baptized shall be saved," and Luther has taught us to say: "Baptism gives eternal salvation to all who believe this." By faith man takes this forgiveness which God offers by His word in and with the water. Take your Catechism and in the first sentence under "Thirdly" underline these words: "Water—word of God—faith," and you will plainly see that water alone cannot do these great things. Also in Baptism we are saved "by faith without the deeds of the Law," Rom. 3:28.

And Faith Is the Work of the Holy Ghost Also in Baptism

The Holy Spirit must work this faith in us. Therefore our Catechism calls Baptism "a washing of regeneration [being born again] of the Holy Ghost." We are born in sin into this world, and now in Baptism we are regenerated (born again) and become God's dear children. And that is not our work, but the work of the Holy Ghost, as our Catechism says. As no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but (except) by the Holy Ghost, 1 Cor. 12:3, so also in Baptism a man is not born again except by the Holy Spirit. As He works in the heart of man by the word, so likewise by the word in Holy Baptism. Thank God for His Holy Spirit, by whom we are born again in Baptism.

Praise God for This Wonderful Teaching in Our Catechism

Great blessings we receive in Holy Baptism by faith, which the Holy Ghost works in us. There is nothing in us. Always our Catechism holds forth God's wonderful grace to us poor sinners! All glory be unto Him! J. L. S.

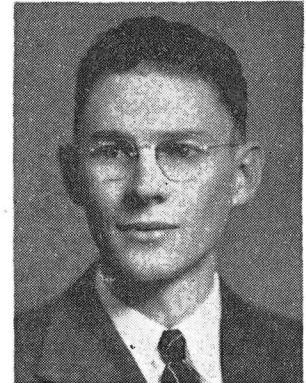
The Rev. George C. Ring

In the last few issues of the DEAF LUTHERAN you have read much concerning our two new Lutheran pastors for the deaf on the West Coast. We feel that not too much has been

said, and surely we all rejoice greatly that the Lord called these two new workers into this important field of work and made them willing and happy to serve the deaf.

Pastor George C. Ring, pictured below, the new worker in Portland, Oreg., was born on April 21, 1920, near Beardstown, Ill. He attended Concordia Seminary at Springfield, Ill., and graduated from this institution in June, 1946.

He was ordained and installed at Hanford, Calif., on Sept. 8, 1946, and served this congregation until Nov. 14, 1948, at which time he accepted the call extended to him by the Board of Missions to the Deaf. During his pastorate at Hanford, First Lutheran Congregation was organized and also accepted as a member of Synod. Before coming to Portland on Jan. 1, 1949, Pastor Ring took training in the sign language for about six weeks at Oakland, Calif., under the direction of Dr. G. W. Gaertner.



Installation of Pastor Ring in Hope Church at Portland took place on Jan. 16, Dr. J. L. Salvner conducting the service in both signs and speech. Dr. Salvner remained with this new worker for a few weeks during January.

Rev. and Mrs. Ring have one child, a girl, Rachel, ten months old.

While in Oakland, they shared the home of Mrs. Elizabeth Fiantt, a faithful member of Pastor Gaertner's church, and with Mrs. Fiantt's help and interest also Mrs. Ring acquired some knowledge of the sign language. Then, after arriving in Portland, they enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lauer, members of their congregation, for about two weeks, and here also some valuable knowledge of the sign language was gained. It is certainly commendable for the wife of a pastor to the deaf to prepare herself to converse with the members of her husband's congregation. Mrs. Ring's ability to use the sign language will be

a distinct asset to her husband in his difficult and arduous work. God grant them many years of service in their new field of labor and crown their work with His richest blessings.

E. M.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Seattle, Wash. — March 20, our last day in Seattle, was a day of joy and thanksgiving unto our God. After the morning service in Tacoma, Pastor Hintz called upon the little Erickson boy at the hospital, who, thanks to God, is on the way to recovery. Then we hurried on to Seattle for a service in the afternoon. Forty-one attended this service, and thirty-two came to the Lord's Table. Pastor Hintz preached the sermon, and the writer delivered the preparatory address for the Holy Supper. After the service a voters' meeting was held in which the constitution of Our Redeemer Church for the Deaf was explained, whereupon seven signed the constitution. Several could not be present, and four did not sign for the present time. New officers were elected for the coming year as follows: Theodore Brighton, president; Rudolph Ekstrom, vice-president; Pastor W. Hintz, secretary; Kenneth Jackson, treasurer. Among other things the following resolutions were passed: Holy Communion is to be celebrated every other month, very likely every month during the next year; one third of the Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas collections is to go for Synod's work. We hope that in the course of time the congregation will have monthly collections for Synod's work: for the support of colleges and seminaries, from which also the deaf get their pastors, and for the support of the various missions conducted by our Church. The work of our Synod should interest also our deaf Christians, for also to them Christ says: "Preach the Gospel to every creature." After the meeting, which lasted two hours, the ladies served lunch. Thereafter one of the members arose and thanked the writer for his work among them, especially for bringing and training a pastor for them. Then he called upon the president of the ladies' aid, who came forward with a neatly wrapped package and handed it to us with the request to open it. In it we found a beautiful brief case which, as they said, should help the writer to remember them on his journeys. After a hearty "Thank you" we bade them farewell with the prayer that God be with Our Redeemer Congregation and bless their new pastor and his work among them unto the glory of our Savior's name and the salvation of many deaf. They had remembered Rev. and Mrs. W. Hintz before with a grocery shower, which surely was deeply appreciated.

Great Falls, Mont. — On our way home to Minneapolis we stopped off in Great Falls, Mont., on Monday evening, March 21, in order to spend a few days with Missionary Hauptman. Tuesday we went to Havre for a service, attended by 15 deaf, Pastor Hauptman preaching the sermon. After refreshments had been served, the writer addressed the group on "Christ's

Religion a Religion of Joy." Thursday afternoon we went to the Montana State School at Great Falls, where our missionary has 27 children in classes. Thursdays the seniors meet, and on Mondays the juniors. In the evening we addressed the Bible class of adults, ten attending. Bible class ended, a large cake with the word "Welcome" was placed on the table, and refreshments were served. Friday we went on to Missoula for a service, 14 deaf attending. After the service the writer spoke also to them on the Christian's joy in believing and serving the Lord Jesus. Sunday, March 27, we spent in Spokane, preaching both the sermon and the confessional address, 29 deaf being in attendance. In the afternoon the voters met, and after them the Lutheran Ladies' Missionary Society, which very likely will affiliate with the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

God is visibly blessing Pastor Hauptman's work. Attendance is good, in some places 100%, and in Spokane (35 members) 65%. Communion attendance also is good; and their contributions for God's work increased during the past year. The Spokane congregation collected a little over \$300 in 1947, and in 1948 over \$600. Thus also in the other cities. When we spoke of the pastor's salary in the voters' meeting and asked whether they could not increase their payments toward salary by five or ten dollars, they at once resolved to increase it 100%, from ten to twenty dollars. Spokane has its own church, and they intend to enlarge it and also to build a room where their pastor may work and sleep when he comes every second and fourth Sunday of the month, in order to save hotel expenses. They also resolved to take part in the collection for "Building for Tomorrow" on the first Sunday in June and thus help, with our hearing Christians, in the repairing of our college and seminary buildings and in erecting new buildings. Thanks be to God for the many blessings He has bestowed on the work of our friend Hauptman, and may He continue to be and to abide with him in the Montana-Spokane field.

During our stay on the Coast and in Montana we found that some deaf had joined various organizations, such as the Desoms (Deaf Sons of Masons), the Moose Lodge, and the Eagles. In every place we showed that these organizations have a Christless religion. From their own books and rituals one may learn that they worship a God without Christ, speak of forgiveness of sin and everlasting life without Christ, and that, therefore, a Christian cannot be a member of Christ's Church and at the same time a member of these organizations. Without Christ there is no forgiveness, no salvation, no eternal life in heaven, but only God's wrath and displeasure and everlasting punishment. Read John 14:6; Acts 4:11-12; Mark 16:15-16; John 3:36. Several have, and a few others will, sever their connection with these organizations because of that. May God bless His Word in the hearts of all and grant that also the others will leave these organizations and stay with Christ, the one and only Savior for sinners.

J. L. S.

Cleveland, Ohio — On Feb. 20 one of our members, Miss Helen Smart of Cleveland, was married to Mr. Charles Harris of New York City in her own home.

It was a beautiful home-wedding and was witnessed by Miss Mary Perry and Mr. Edward Smart. May the grace of Christ abide upon these newlyweds for a happy and blessed marriage!

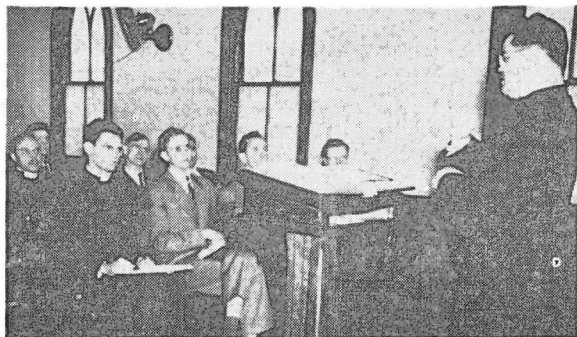
The angel of death struck a severe blow in the home and life of Mrs. Lloyd Townsend when on March 5 her husband, after a very brief illness, passed away. Mr. Lloyd Townsend, together with his wife, was confirmed and received into our membership. He reached the age of 50 years and is survived by his sorely stricken widow and three young sons. On March 8 the funeral services were held by the pastor. The sermon was based on Job's words: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him," Job 13:15. May God comfort and uphold the widow and her children.

A third death during 1949 took place among our Cleveland members when on March 24 Miss Anna Hinz suddenly passed away in the home of her sister at Pittsburgh, Pa. As an orphan she was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Hinz. She was educated and confirmed in our Detroit Lutheran Institute for the Deaf. She was a lifelong, faithful member of our Cleveland congregation and manifested a devoted and inspiring worship of our God and our Savior. After the death of her mother she made her home with her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hinz. She reached the age of 68 years. Funeral services were held on March 26, the pastor preaching on Luke 12:35-36. T. F.

Omaha, Nebr.—After a long, lingering illness the Lord in His mercy relieved the pastor's mother, Mrs. Anna Mappes, from all earthly suffering on March 15 and granted her eternal rest in the mansions above. Funeral services were held at Norman, Okla., on March 18.

Mr. Edward Rodda, a charter member of our Bethlehem Lutheran Congregation at Omaha, passed away in the faith in His Savior on the evening of March 29. At the funeral service on April 1 the pastor spoke on John 19:41-42. His wife, Bertha, two sons, Earl and Bert, and a sister, Mrs. Susie Champion, are the survivors.

On Sunday, April 3, Mr. Covert Turner and Mr. Sidney Hruza were accepted as members of the Omaha congregation by confirmation. Mr. Turner was also baptized. God keep them faithful members of His Church. E. M.



Pastor Theo. De Laney of Austin, Texas, Delivering the Sermon at the Dixie Conference of Lutheran Deaf Laymen and Pastors at Shreveport, La., Jan. 30

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.
 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. C. Roland Gerhold, 34 Walnut St., Watertown, Mass.
 Rev. Francis G. Gyle, 8011 Nola, St. Louis 14, Mo.
 Rev. A. L. Hauptman, 610 9th St., S., Great Falls, Mont.
 Rev. Walter J. Hintz, 1101 15th Ave., Seattle 22, Wash.
 Rev. A. T. Jonas, 1746 W. 46th St., Los Angeles 37, Calif.
 Rev. Martin Kosche, 126 W. 32d St., Indianapolis 8, 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. Geo. C. Ring, 5723 Washington, S. E., Portland, Ore.
 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. 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.

BOARD OF MISSIONS TO THE DEAF

Pastor Wm. Buege, chairman, 3226 34th Ave., S., Minneapolis 6, Minn.

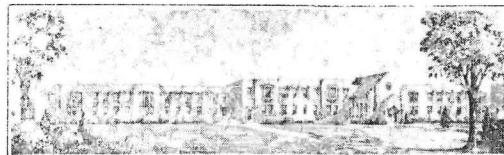
Pastor C. C. Niemann, secretary, 1308 N. Avon, St. Paul 3, Minn.

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

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