

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod*

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True Joy

A thousand pleasures ne'er can fill
This empty heart of mine;
So come and take possession, Lord,
And make it wholly Thine.
Thy joy will gladden every day
That I with Thee shall spend,
Though I should lose all earthly friends
I'll serve Thee to the end.
And when Thou callest me to dwell
In heaven's home above,
Its portals evermore shall ring
With songs of joy and love.

MARIE C. TURK

Rev. Walter A. Westermann

A missionary to the deaf who has served congregations, preaching stations, and schools in at least ten States, the District of Columbia, and in one Canadian city, and one who has covered more territory by railroad, bus, and other transportation than any other of our Lutheran missionaries to the deaf, with the exception of Dr. J. L. Salvner, our Executive Secretary, is the man pictured here, the Rev. Walter A. Westermann.

In May of this year Pastor Westermann completed twenty years of active and faithful service in this mission.

Down on the plains of Kansas in the town of Bremen, Marshall County, in the home of a successful rancher and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Westermann, Walter made his appearance in this world on April 21, 1896. He was the ninth and last child born in this large family of eight boys and one girl. His boyhood was spent in Kansas and southern California.

For eight years Walter had the blessed opportunity of attending a parochial school. Then

he decided to prepare for the holy ministry. He enrolled at Concordia College, Concordia, Mo., and finished a two years' course in one. In 1917 he entered Concordia Seminary at Springfield, Ill., and graduated in May, 1921. One year he served as vicar in Fort Morgan, Colo.

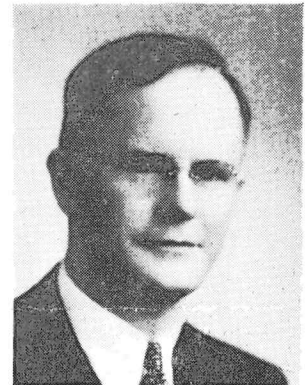
His ordination took place in August, 1921, at Orange, Calif., the Rev. N. F. Jensen, a Lutheran missionary to the deaf at that time, officiating.

Pastor Westermann's first charge was Delano, Calif. In January, 1923, he came back to the State of his birth, and was installed as pastor of a rural congregation near Great Bend, Kans.

Toward the end of his pastorate at this place his hearing became impaired to such an extent that

he felt unable to carry on the work in this congregation. Previously Pastor Westermann had taken some instructions in the sign language at Great Bend from one of Rev. A. E. Ferber's faithful members, Miss Tillie Dohrman, and on several occasions he assisted Pastor Ferber by conducting services for a small number of deaf at Great Bend.

In May, 1929, a call was received by Pastor Westermann from the Board of Missions to the Deaf. He accepted this call and was assigned to the Seattle, Wash., field as successor to Pastor G. W. Gaertner, who had moved to Oakland, Calif.



Covering a wide area, he served deaf groups in eight cities in Washington, ten cities in Montana, in Vancouver, B. C., Canada, and at the State School at Great Falls, Mont. After nearly twelve years of faithful ministry in the Northwest, Pastor Westermann accepted a call to Memphis, Tenn., and arrived there on Jan. 1, 1941. Exploration and expansion of this field in the Deep South was the order since he was the first resident Lutheran missionary to the deaf in this section. Several cities and schools in the South had been served previously by the former St. Louis missionary, the Rev. N. P. Uhlig, and also his son, Rev. Walter Uhlig.

The enthusiasm and love of bringing the Gospel to as many deaf as possible caused this missionary to spend considerable time on his long trips, calling at the homes of the deaf and gathering together groups of deaf people in several of the Southern States. Ten regular preaching stations and five State Schools were served in the States of Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. Very often the missionary was away from home from ten to fifteen days on a single trip through this vast Southern field. What our Lutheran Church has gained in deaf membership in the Deep South is largely due to the untiring efforts of this energetic missionary.

The Board of Missions to the Deaf, seeing the dire need of a resident missionary at Washington, D. C., where the only college for the deaf, Gallaudet College, is located, called Pastor Westermann to this new and important field. He arrived in Washington on June 24, 1947. Besides serving over 50 students at the college and having regular Bible study classes and confirmation instruction for some, the missionary also travels extensively in this field, holding services in the following cities: Washington, D. C., three Sundays in the month, in Baltimore, Md., Hickory, N. C., and Knoxville, Tenn. Also instruction classes are held at the schools in Morganton, N. C., Frederick, Md., and Knoxville, Tenn. Prospects are good at this time to begin services at Richmond and Charlottesville, Va., and at Charlotte, N. C.

In the present field served by Pastor Westermann there are 73 communicant members and 163 souls under his spiritual care.

Rev. and Mrs. Westermann were married in Arlington, Nebr., on June 26, 1921. They

have two sons, the elder being a student and assistant professor at George Washington University at Washington, D. C., while the younger, having finished one year at the Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., is planning to follow his father into the ministry.

God grant His grace and health to Pastor Westermann and continue to bless his labors in the nation's capital and in his service of the Lord in his entire field.

Two New Workers

On his recent trip to St. Louis, Mo., the Executive Secretary and representative of our Mission Board, Dr. J. L. Salvner, was successful, by God's grace, in securing two new workers among the deaf in our Lutheran Church.

One of them is a graduate of the St. Louis Seminary, Candidate George Kraus, who will work in the New York field. The other is Student Reinking, who will take over the Memphis, Tenn., field for a year until he returns to the Seminary to finish his course of study.

Aside from these, another student from our Springfield, Ill., Seminary, Mr. Lee Lennon, will assist Pastor Mappes in the Nebraska and Iowa territory during the months of July and August.

God grant His blessing upon the work of these men.

Are You a Christian?

Do you believe that Jesus is your Savior from sin, death, and the power of the devil? Do you have the glorious gift of eternal life and the hope of joy with Him in heaven? Are you still more interested in success, in having great wealth, and in being somebody? Is it your greatest wish to have a fine home, beautiful furniture, the latest model automobile, and a bank account? The value of all these blessings rises and falls with the stock market; these treasures will finally slip from your hands.

The blessing of Jesus cannot be taken from you; it is the true pearl of great price, the fortune that does not rust or rot. If you have this treasure, you will think of this world's dangers, and the lost condition of your fellow men; there will be no limit to your love. You will pray, not only for yourself, but for lost souls

everywhere, to God the Father through His Son Jesus. You will offer yourself to God.

If you have this certainty of God's grace, based on the merits of Jesus alone, not on your character, conduct, or feelings, your whole life will reflect the truth that heaven is your home, that while you are in this world, you are not of this world. Then you are a true Christian.

O. C. S.

First Television Service in the Sign Language

The truly deaf people have not benefited to any appreciable extent from the marvels of the radio, except when a hearing person was available who could interpret certain programs



Rev. Floyd Possehl, pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the Deaf (Missouri Synod), Jackson Heights, N. Y., is shown delivering a sermon in sign language on a chapel program that was televised by Radio Station WPIX in New York. It was the first such program ever to be televised. It featured a choir of five deaf persons who "sang" with their hands. The Missouri Synod has missions for the deaf in 33 States, in the District of Columbia, and in four Provinces in Canada

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE PHOTO

for them. With the still more marvelous television, however, the deaf have begun in a small way to enjoy certain programs that include considerable action, athletic contests, baseball, football, etc.

But when God enabled man to invent the radio and television, He had a much higher purpose in mind: these inventions are to serve in the interest of the Kingdom of God. It is His will that each and every man, woman, and child on the entire earth may have the opportunity to learn the only Truth that can make men free.

The Lutheran Church is the first Church, so far as we know, to use television to set forth the soul-saving Gospel of Jesus Christ before the eyes and minds of the deaf. The first complete service in the sign language was conducted by the Rev. Floyd E. Possehl, pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the Deaf in New York.

A number of deaf members of that church formed the studio congregation, and five of them took a leading part in the service by sign-singing two well-known hymns, "Rock of Ages" and "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

This service ushers in a new era for the deaf, and the Lutheran Church rejoices over the privilege and honor of using also this means to direct the deaf to Christ, the only Savior of sinful men. And the deaf may be assured that the Lutheran Church will present the Word of God in the sign language by television just as often as it is humanly possible, in the hope that a sizable number of deaf people will be reached as time goes on and it becomes possible also for the other 25 Lutheran pastors who are ministering to the spiritual needs of the deaf in over 300 cities in the United States and Canada.

From the *Ohio Chronicle*

By REV. J. A. BEYER

When a Man Cannot be Pardoned

God is gracious, but He will not force the acceptance of His grace upon men.

In 1829 George Wilson, in Pennsylvania, was sentenced to be hanged by a United States Court for robbing the mails and for murder. President Andrew Jackson pardoned him, but Wilson refused the pardon and insisted that it was not a pardon unless he accepted it.

That was a point of law never before raised, and the President called the Supreme Court to decide. Chief Justice Marshall gave the following decision:

"A pardon is a paper, the value of which depends upon its acceptance by the person implicated. It is hardly to be supposed that one under sentence of death would refuse to accept a pardon, but if it is refused, it is no pardon. George Wilson must be hanged."

And he was hanged. Provisionally, the

gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation, is for everyone, irrespective of what he may be or what he may have done. Potentially, it is only to "every one that believeth."

Wedding of a Colored Deaf Couple

On April 2 Miss Mozelle Ballard and Mr. Norman Dalzell, Jr., were united in holy wedlock at Springfield, Mass., by our missionary to New England, the Rev. C. Roland Gerhold.

The bride, a graduate of the American School for the Deaf at West Hartford, Conn.,



Pastor Roland Gerhold of Watertown, Mass., Performing a Wedding Ceremony for a Colored Deaf Couple at Springfield, Mass., on April 3

The bride, Mozelle Lois Ballard (third from left), of Springfield, exchanged vows by means of the sign language with Norman Dalzell of Jersey City, N. J.

ACME PHOTO

and until recently employed in the toy department of the Milton Bradley Co., was served by her sister-in-law, Mrs. Emily Ballard, as matron of honor, Miss Carrie Pickney, one of the two bridesmaids, and Joan Taylor, flower girl.

The groom is a graduate of the New Jersey School for the Deaf at Trenton and is now employed as a printer in Jersey City, where he and his bride live.

Also pictured are: Mr. David Lilly, uncle and best man of the groom, and Mr. Lester Ballard, brother of the bride, one of the ushers.

The new Mrs. Dalzell was a member of the Pilgrim Club in her home town, Springfield, which meets twice a month for Bible study after services, conducted by Pastor Gerhold. The marriage was held at Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in deference to the bride's parents. Rev. Gerhold writes that this was his first wedding in signs.

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.
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 Rev. E. Mappes, 5070 Lake St., Omaha 4, Nebr.
 Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller, 1717a W. Meinecke Ave., Milwaukee 6, Wis.
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 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 22, Minn.
 Rev. E. Scheibert, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago 51, Ill.
 Rev. Curtis Schleicher, 235 S. Euclid, 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.

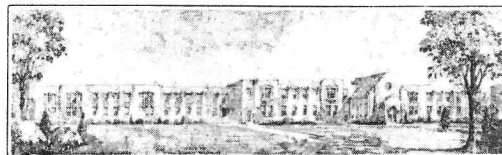
Pastor C. C. Niemann, secretary, 1301 Maywood St., St. Paul 3, Minn.

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Mr. John A. Klein, Director

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