

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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Our Refuge

O, Lord, our Refuge, Strength, and Hope,
On Thee alone we rest,
Thou wilt sustain Thy very own,
Thou knowest what is best.
We'll walk with Thee where Thou dost lead
And let no sorrow rise,
But say, "Thy will be done, dear Lord,"
And count the cross a prize.

Eternity will dawn at last,
And then, Lord, through Thy grace,
We'll view the beauty of the dawn
And meet Thee face to face.

Then with the loved ones gone before
Our voices we'll unite,
And through the skies shall ring a song
Of infinite delight.

We'll praise Thy gracious, wondrous love,
Thy many words of cheer,
That filled our hearts with hope and joy,
The while we sojourned here.

MARIE C. TURK

Family Devotions

In our modern world and busy life, many church members, also among the deaf, neglect entirely the study of God's Word and prayer in the family circle. They think of God as their heavenly Father, but do not take the time to gather together with the other members of the family to talk with God in prayer; they forget at times that the Savior is the only true Light of their soul and life, shining in this sin-darkened world, and that they need this Light also in the home and family circle.

After a day of strenuous work, Christians ought to gather together for family devotions to praise and thank God for His protection and help during the day — to read His Word

and offer prayer to their heavenly Father and blessed Redeemer.

This quiet study gives calm, refreshing rest; nothing is more inspiring than the happy moments Christians spend daily together learning God's Word. Do you have family devotions in your home? O. C. S.

Rev. Arnold T. Jonas

A true Westerner by birth and at heart is Pastor Arnold Jonas. He was born in Oakland, Calif., on Jan. 4, 1912, and spent all his boyhood days in this beautiful West Coast city. His father was a professor at Concordia College in Oakland for many years, and thus young Arnold, having had the privilege of associating with the students at the college and observing their various activities, decided that this was the school for him. Therefore, after eight years of learning and training in the Lutheran parochial school not far from the college, Arnold enrolled at Concordia as a ministerial student.

He began his studies here in the fall of 1925 and graduated in 1931. He then continued his preparation for the holy ministry at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo.

After his graduation from the Seminary in June, 1935, he received the call to serve a hearing congregation at Salida, Colo. One year of single life in this mountain State was enough, and so he hastened back to his native State, to the city of Napa, Calif., to take unto himself a helpmeet in the person of Alberta Mary Staton. Returning together to Colorado they remained there another year, until a call came from the Board of Missions to the Deaf, which Pastor

Jonas accepted. The field to which he was assigned was in South Dakota, with headquarters at Sioux Falls. For the next three months, from Oct. 1, 1937, to Jan. 1, 1938, Pastor Jonas prepared himself for his future work in the Lord's kingdom by taking a special training course in the sign language under the able tutelage of Dr. Geo. W. Gaertner in Oakland, Calif.

On Sunday, Jan. 9, 1938, Pastor Jonas was installed as missionary to the deaf in Sioux Falls, S. Dak., by the Rev. G. H. Steffen, assisted by Rev. E. Mappes, who had served the deaf in that area for some time. The new missionary served regularly and faithfully seven preaching stations and the South Dakota School for the Deaf at Sioux Falls, and in a comparatively short time he had mastered the

sign language, and God abundantly blessed his earnest endeavors in this new field of labor. Through his efforts and by God's grace many were added from time to time to the communicant membership in this field by instruction in the truths of God's Word and by confirmation.



Rev. A. T. Jonas

A vacancy having been created in the Seattle, Wash., field when Pastor W. Westermann was transferred to Memphis, Tenn., the Board called Rev. Jonas from Sioux Falls to Seattle. So on March 12, 1942, he was installed as pastor of the congregation in Seattle by the Pastors E. Eichmann of Portland, Oreg., and C. Bensene of Seattle. Here the following preaching stations were served in addition to Seattle: Tacoma, Everett, and Yakima, Wash., and Vancouver, B. C., Canada. There are approximately 150 communicant members in this field.

After serving in the Northwest for a little over six years, Pastor Jonas was called to the Los Angeles, Calif., field to succeed the Rev. W. Uhlig, who had accepted a position in Detroit, Mich. His farewell sermon to the Seattle congregation was delivered on Sept. 5, 1948, and the work in Los Angeles was begun on Oct. 1. At present the missionary also serves San Diego besides the large area covering Los Angeles and surrounding territory.

Upon arrival at Los Angeles, Pastor Jonas, in addition to the task of becoming acquainted with his membership and the new surroundings, was faced with the problem of renovating the church building, which was purchased about three years ago. At present Pilgrim Congregation is completing the renovation of the chapel and social hall and is also adding a new kitchen and rest rooms.

Pilgrim Congregation was organized several years ago and now numbers 80 communicant members; 150 members in the entire Los Angeles field. This group is doing their share in paying part of the pastor's salary, as other congregations in the Deaf Mission are doing.

Within the congregation there is an active Ladies' Aid Society and also an organization called The Guild, both of which are working together with the voters of the congregation in the interest of their church, and we know the Lord will grant His blessings upon their labors.

We also wish to say in closing that Pastor Arnold Jonas has been a very active member of our Ephphatha Conference of Lutheran pastors to the deaf and as such has held the office of secretary for four years and at the present time is a member of the conference Program Committee.

To this brother and his wife and family of four children and to the Pilgrim Deaf Congregation at Los Angeles we wish to say: God be with you, guide and lead all of you in your labors together for the Lord and for the salvation of many souls in the years to come.

"Faith must accept Him who is the Sum and Substance of all God's revelation, even Jesus Christ, who became man that He might redeem our fallen nature from all the evils of sin and raise it to eternal felicity. We believe in Christ, on Christ, and upon Christ, accepting Him because of the record which God has given to us concerning His Son that He is the Propitiation for our sins. We accept God's unspeakable Gift; we receive Jesus as our All in all.

"If I wanted to describe saving faith in one word, I should say that it is trust. It is so believing God and so believing in Christ that we trust ourselves and our eternal destinies to the hands of a reconciled God." — *Spurgeon*.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Omaha, Nebr.—Our annual confirmation service of pupils from the Omaha and Council Bluffs schools on May 1 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Omaha was an event that many will remember a long time, as the church was filled with parents and relatives and



Pupils from the Omaha and Council Bluffs Schools Confirmed May 1 by Rev. E. Mappes

friends of the fifty children in the class. Our deaf congregation members had to use all available sitting and standing room in every corner of the church. A number of the staff of both schools were present also. Twenty-two of the children were from the Omaha school and 28 from the Council Bluffs school. On April 3, 31 of these children received Holy Baptism.

All of these children will return to school in the fall and continue with us in the Bible instruction classes held every week.

May the Savior and Shepherd of our souls, the Lord Jesus Christ, continue to guide and lead these His sheep on their way through life and finally grant them eternal life in the blessed home above.

On June 26, at Des Moines, Iowa, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Mayberry, Rachel Irene, was baptized in the name of the Triune God. God keep her in His grace and grant that she may learn the way to eternal life through Christ, the Savior.

Marriages in June: Mr. Walter Berg of Oregon, Ill., and Miss Elsie Diehl of Lincoln, Nebr., on June 7 at Council Bluffs, Iowa; Mr. Sidney Hruza and Miss Kathleen Thomsen, both of Omaha, on June 11 at Osmond, Nebr.; Mr. Clifford Rieper of Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Miss Beverly Becker of Boone, Iowa, on June 14 at Boone.

May God's blessings abide with them in their homes.
E. M.

Fargo, N. Dak., Mission.—The confirmation of our Devils Lake school class took place on May 15 in the Lutheran Church at Devils Lake. There were five boys and four girls in the class. The Lutheran Women's Missionary League of the North Dakota District purchased the robes for all the members of the class and

donated them to our Mission. Many of the parents of these children came for the service, and many members of the local hearing congregation also were present.

The school was represented at this service by the superintendent, Mr. Carl Smith, and his family, several teachers, and a number of the household staff, including the secretary of the school, Miss Clara Alfson. Miss Alfson provided each member of the class with flowers, while other members of the school staff provided flowers for the church.

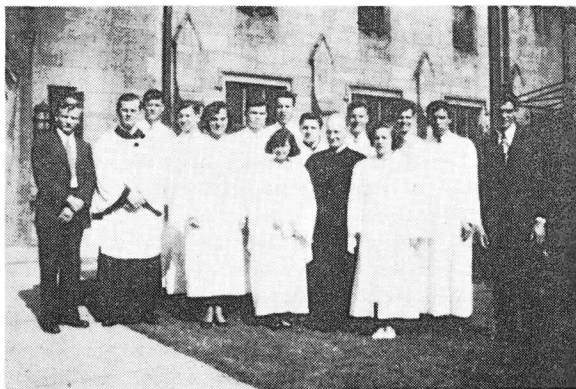
We appreciate the kindness of these folks as well as that of the L. W. M. L. group and herewith want to express our sincere thanks.
W. FERBER

Pittsburgh Field.—On Sunday, May 8, twelve young men and women pledged their faithfulness to their Lord and Savior in a special service of confirmation in Pittsburgh, Pa. Eleven of these are pupils at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. The service was held in First Trinity Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh and was attended by some seventy persons, including a number of parents and hearing friends. A brief message of welcome and encouragement spoken by the Rev. F. Schumann, pastor of First Trinity, was interpreted by the minister to the deaf, Rev. H. Rohe, who also preached the sermon and conducted the service.

On Sunday morning, June 19, an unusual service was held in Pittsburgh, Pa. The Alumni Association of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, meeting in convention, opened the day's sessions with a service of worship and thanksgiving. Rev. Herbert Rohe, minister to the deaf of western Pennsylvania, was asked to conduct the service. Between two and three hundred alumni attended the service.

We are glad to see that this Alumni Association took time at convention to worship the Lord. This is as it should be, and we hope the example of this convention will be followed by other deaf conventions throughout our country.

At a service in Buffalo, N. Y., June 21, two new members were added to the Lord by confirmation. Miss Alice Roessel and Mr. George Jorgensen con-



Pictured in the photo, reading from left to right, are the following: First row: Ralph Anderson, previously confirmed; Mr. Stanley Barwiolek, an adult convert; May Rice, Maryetta Tipton, Pastor Rohe, Ann Smith, Robert Kramer, Elijah Rice, to be confirmed later. Second row: Howard Reese, John Saraka, Dale Smith, Lynn Frye, Howard Shaffer, Harry Reese, and James Prinzler, who was also baptized. May the Lord Jesus bless and keep these new members

fessed their faith and pledged faithfulness to the Lord and Savior. The service, held in Calvary Lutheran Church, was attended by sixteen deaf. We pray that the full measure of the Lord's blessing rest upon these His new members, that they remember their vows and remain faithful to Him.

After services in Rochester, N. Y., June 22, a shower was held in honor of Miss Sophia Rose, one of our members there. Miss Rose will soon enter the blessed estate of matrimony and will live in Florida. Recently the graduating class of the Rochester School for the Deaf dedicated their yearbook to Miss Rose for thirty-eight years of faithful service to their school as assistant supervisor of the Primary girls. We shall miss Miss Rose at our services. Her interest in the Church, her faithful attendance at services and the Lord's Supper, and her generous contributions toward the Lord's work were gratifying. May the Lord bless and keep her in her new life.

H. ROHE

North Dakota Young Lutherans Hold Reunion. — We have heard of various reunions held among our deaf people in different sections of the country, alumni reunions of the State schools, etc.; however, the one



Reunion of Lutherans — Confirmed by Pastor W. Ferber in Former Years

held at Jamestown, N. Dak., on Sunday, June 5, was one of special interest to us, and we know it will be of interest also to the readers of the DEAF LUTHERAN.

On that day a large number of Lutheran deaf, who had formerly been confirmed by the Rev. W. Ferber at Devils Lake, N. Dak., and who now live scattered over a wide area in Pastor Ferber's parish, attended this reunion.

A special feature of the reunion celebration was a Communion service, and twenty-eight partook of the Holy Sacrament together. After the Communion service moving pictures were shown, some of which included movies taken of these same people while they were children attending the Devils Lake School.

Certainly the Lord is pleased with such reunions held for the sake of giving thanks and praise to Him for past blessings as well as for Christian fellowship and of furthering the cause of His kingdom. — Would it perhaps be possible for other fields in our Lutheran mission among the deaf to try this? E. M.

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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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