

# The Deaf Lutheran

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No. 3

## A Blessed Season

The Lenten time is an occasion  
For earnest prayer and meditation.  
Again to Calvary's cross we go  
To see Christ's pain, His death, His woe.

The guilt was ours; He paid the price,  
His holy life the sacrifice.  
Can we not watch with Him one hour  
To learn of grace and saving power?

Then after Lent, in later days,  
When we would turn to worldly ways,  
Lord, grant true faith that will impart  
A lasting Lent in every heart.

*Mary Kathleen Weichel*

## A Successful Dixie Conference

It was the first time in our forty-eight years of ministering to the Deaf that we attended a conference of missionaries and Deaf members of our Church, and that was in Memphis, Tenn., where our friend Wm. F. Reinking, student of our Seminary in St. Louis, has been holding forth since July, 1949. Deaf from Mississippi, Memphis, St. Louis, and Nashville were present, also Missionaries Schroeder of Chicago, DeLaney of Austin, Tex., A. L. Ferber of Kansas City, Gyle of St. Louis, Reinking of Memphis, and our new vicar, Mr. Luther Russert. The writer was the seventh worker in attendance.

The sessions continued for two days, January 28 and 29. In the first session, Saturday morning, Pastor Victor Brugge preached the opening sermon, showing the universal need for the Gospel. Pastor DeLaney read a paper on the Holy Scriptures, showing how the books of the Bible came down to us, how they were written and by whom, that they are the Word of God given by inspiration to make us wise unto salvation by faith in Christ Jesus. The paper was discussed at length, our Deaf members taking part in the discussions. In the afternoon, Pastor Gyle (pinch-hitting in the absence of a school teacher, who could not

come) presented a discussion on material for the instruction of children and adults. He showed us the material being used by our worker in New York, the Rev. George Kraus, for the instruction of the little tots, then also discussed material for the junior and senior groups, and finally for the instruction of adults. Again the paper was discussed by the Deaf members of our Church and the missionaries. The evening of the same day all met for a banquet, about 35 attending. Missionaries and also Deaf were called upon by Mr. Correll to say a few words, some being on the serious side and others on the humorous side. All enjoyed a pleasant evening together.

Sunday morning services were conducted with Holy Communion, the members and missionaries partaking. It had been planned that the dedication of the chapel take place on this Sunday. This chapel is a room in the new parish hall of Trinity Church. Pastor Brugge and his good people kindly set aside a room in the hall which is to serve as a chapel for our Deaf friends. However, the building had not been completed, and therefore the service was held on the ground floor of Trinity Church. Pastor Gyle preached the sermon, and Vicar Reinking was the liturgist. Trinity Church and their pastors for many years have taken our Deaf flock under their wings. May God richly bless them for it!

In the afternoon another session was held, in which the writer presented a paper on "The Call into the Ministry, as It Applies to Our Work Among the Deaf." It was shown both from the Old and the New Testament that Christians are priests unto God and are to bring spiritual sacrifices, as, a broken heart and a broken and contrite spirit, praise and thanksgiving unto the Giver of every good and perfect gift, their body and life. Again the Deaf took part in the discussions.

Thereupon several details were taken care of, and, God willing, the Conference will meet

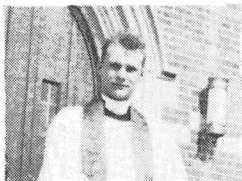
again in the month of April, 1951, at St. Louis. It was indeed a profitable meeting, and this thought came to our mind: What a blessing it would be if we had similar conferences in all parts of our country! The Deaf and missionaries of the Dixie area are to be highly commended for making the start. They met in 1949 for the first time in Shreveport. Heartly thanks are due also to Mr. and Mrs. Chester Correll for their kind hospitality.

May our good Lord continue to bless our work unto the glory of Jesus' name and the eternal salvation of many Deaf! J. L. S.

### Pastor George Kraus

The Rev. Geo. Kraus, newest member of our Ephphatha Conference of Lutheran pastors for the Deaf, was born November 26, 1924, at Plainfield, N. J. His father being a salesman for the H. J. Heinz Food Products Company, we surmise that George during his boyhood days had the privilege not often experienced by other youngsters, namely, to sample all 57 varieties produced by the Heinz Company. All his boyhood years were spent at Plainfield. After his elementary school training he entered our Concordia College at Bronxville, N. Y., from which institution he graduated in January, 1945. Thereupon he enrolled at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Mo., and graduated in June, 1949.

During the school term of 1946—1947 he taught in a Spanish parochial school at San Antonio, Tex. He also worked with Deaf people during his year of vicarage. His intentions were, after graduation, to enter upon the work in the Spanish field; however, while at the seminary, he studied Sign Language under Student Elmer Luessenhop, now a pastor in Wichita, Kans. He also had opportunity to work among the Deaf with Pastor F. Gyle at St. Louis and during his last year assisted in the instruction classes at the Wisconsin School for the Deaf at Delavan, Wis. This work appealed to Student Kraus, and he began to love the work among the Deaf more and more. Upon



graduation a call was extended to him by the Board of Deaf Missions, and he accepted.

At that time Pastor Floyd Possehl of St. Matthew's Congregation in New York City was given a leave of absence in order to work in the interest of the new Lutheran School for the Deaf in the East, and then Candidate Kraus was appointed to take charge of this congregation and the work in the New York field.

He was ordained and installed by Pastor Possehl on June 26, 1949, and has since that time served as pastor of St. Matthew's Congregation. — On June 9, before entering upon his work as pastor for the Deaf, Rev. Kraus was married to Miss Helen Sieck.

We are confident that this young couple will be successful in this blessed work which they have chosen, and to this end we ask the Lord's gracious guidance in all their endeavors. May He abundantly bless them in their new home and in their labors in His kingdom. E. M.

THERE are two kinds of people in the world — the righteous, whom God has declared righteous through faith in Christ Jesus, and the unrighteous, who do not believe in the Savior. You belong to one of these two kinds. Which?

### FIELD GLEANINGS

Chicago, Ill. — Nov. 15—16, 1949, Lutheran workers among the blind met for the first time in the history of our Church at the Morrison Hotel here. Pastors who instruct Lutheran children at State schools for the blind, members of Synod's Board of Missions to the Blind, officials of Government and State, attended.



Names of Men in Picture

Seated, front row, left to right: Mr. V. Miller, Milwaukee; Rev. W. Storm, Cleveland, Ohio; Dr. F. Streufert, St. Louis, Mo.; Pastors G. R. Brueggemann, Milwaukee; V. Selle, Milwaukee; O. C. Schroeder, Chicago; Mr. B. Berger, Milwaukee; Pastor E. Tieman, Milwaukee. Second row, standing, left to right: Pastors R. Boedecker, St. Louis; E. Dwyer, Auburn, Nebr.; W. Barth, Indianapolis, Ind.; B. von Schenk, New York; W. Enge, Colorado Springs, Colo.; G. Olsen, Batavia, N. Y.; E. Tonn, Jacksonville, Ill.; M. Duchow, Hartford, Conn.; Mr. F. Ave-Lallemant, Washington, D. C.; Pastors L. Draheim, Kansas City, Kans.; E. Graff, Austin, Tex.; E. Callies, Little Rock, Ark.

Among the speakers were: Drs. John W. Behnken and F. C. Streufert, Pastors V. Selle, E. Tieman, E. Tonn, W. Storm, O. C. Schroeder, Messrs. F. Ave-Lallemant, Washington, D. C., and R. Dickinson, Chicago. May God bless this new project.

Mrs. O. Seymour, a resident of the Illinois Home for the Deaf, departed this life Dec. 7 at the age of 67. She attended our services for more than 15 years and frequently confessed her faith in Christ, the only Savior of mankind. We visited her at the hospital before her death. She is now with God in His heavens, "where there is fullness of joy and where there are pleasures for ever more." May we follow her example!

Mr. Fred Hartung, a Deaf-blind Christian of Evanston, Ill., memorized the Christmas editorial in the DEAF LUTHERAN and recited it to the Deaf on Christmas Eve.

O. C. S.

*Fargo, N. Dak.*—We can thank God for the blessings He has given us during 1949. Last fall nine newcomers entered our Devils Lake classes. Among them we have three children who have near normal hearing but no speech. They are being taught their Sunday school lessons with the help of a sand table, in which they can demonstrate the Sunday school lesson. Interest in this year's Christmas program was increased by a movie on the Christmas story. Three Deaf from Grand Forks paid the rental charges for this moving picture. They are Mr. and Mrs. Henry Lombness and Mr. Laurence Larson. The twelfth-graders are learning the story of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod by seeing pictures of historical interest thrown onto a screen from an opaque projector.

In Fargo the Bible class is studying Luther's Catechism. The Fargo group has shown a very good interest in these Bible classes. The severe winter weather, however, has cut down our attendance somewhat. We in Fargo have also had the pleasure of adding one new member to our group through the Baptism of James Newcomb. He is showing his appreciation for the blessings God has given him in his Baptism by bringing two hearing boys of Deaf parents to Sunday school every Sunday morning. Some time ago Grace Lutheran Church, the local hearing congregation, had given us a room which is at all times heated (an important factor so far north), which the Fargo Deaf can use to make a chapel for themselves. As a beginning we have bought and completely paid for an altar platform and a Communion rail. When Grace Lutheran's parochial school grew more rapidly than anticipated, the Deaf kindly offered this room back to the congregation for the first grade of its parochial school. The congregation will return the room to the Deaf as soon as its school building can be erected.

The Fargo pastor is also happy to report that lately two deaf couples have decided that when they would marry, they would have a church wedding and so begin their marriage before God's altar. Joyce Wooten and Kenneth Halvorson were married in our Bismarck church on October 22, while Marlys Hektner and Bennie Docktor were married in a beautiful church wedding in Jamestown on December 31.

God's gracious hand could be seen in this field

also through the fact that the entire year passed by without a single funeral.

For many years the Fargo parish Deaf have been supporting the Wheat Ridge Sanatorium. Since, living so scattered, they cannot always come to church as often as they wish, we have for many years had these collections taken by mail. Instead of decreasing after so many years, the interest of the Deaf of this group in this venture is still increasing. So we, looking back to 1949, see the blessings God has given the Fargo field and pray God to continue to bless our efforts in our mission during 1950. W. F.

*Pittsburgh Field*—On Oct. 9, 1949, two new members were welcomed to the fold of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Pittsburgh, Pa. These were Mr. and Mrs. Charles Reed, who on that day vowed their faithfulness and loyalty to the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in a confirmation service. May the Lord bless and keep these His servants.

In November special thanks to the Lord filled the hearts of the pastor and his family in that a permanent home was made available to them in Pittsburgh. Up until that time the pastor and his family had lived in rented quarters and had to move twice within the past four years. The new home is especially appreciated, since it is located near the school for the Deaf in Edgewood, Pa., where the pastor has weekly classes with the Deaf children, and also near the new and prominent highways which the pastor will use frequently in his work.

During the early part of December the Pittsburgh field was privileged to have as guest the Rev. J. L. Salvner, D. D., who visited services in most cities. His words of encouragement and admonition from the Word of God will long remain and be remembered among us. On December 2 some thirty Pittsburgh Deaf attended a meeting held in honor of Dr. Salvner. After the showing of Synod's new film, "Your World Call," and various short subjects, Dr. Salvner addressed the gathering bringing us interesting events from his early ministry and also greetings from the Board of Missions. A number of ladies from Trinity Ladies' Aid then served light refreshments.

On December 9 the ladies of Franklin and Oil City, Pa., showed a wonderful spirit of Christian service and good will by serving a delicious supper, at which Dr. Salvner was our special guest. Twenty-five people attended the dinner, including Pastor and Mrs. Bielenberg, in whose church we worship. After the dinner all the Deaf remained for the church service.

The first business meeting in the new year for Trinity Lutheran Church of Pittsburgh was held on January 8. The following were elected officers for 1950: President, Mr. Chas. Fritzges; treasurer, Mr. Louis Kieffer; secretary, Pastor Rohe; trustees, Mr. Chas. Reed, Mr. Walter Eckhardt, Mr. Martin Eber, and Mr. David Kramer. May the Lord Jesus, the Ruler of the Church, be with these His servants and enable them faithfully to fulfill the duties and services which their offices require to the greater glory and success of His Church and the salvation of precious souls.

H. W. R.

*Pittsburgh Field*—November 29 we met Pastor Rohe, our Pittsburgh missionary, in Buffalo and with him visited all the stations in his field, nine of them. In every place we preached and addressed each group after the services as we did in the Indianapolis Field. It was a pleasure also in this field to speak to the Deaf of these cities of the blessed work of bringing Christ and His salvation to them. Also Pastor Rohe is instructing adult Deaf, fourteen of them, in the chief teachings of Holy Writ. Then we also visited the Western Pennsylvania School at Edgewood, where he has six in the confirmation class and twenty in another class, and the Rochester, N. Y., School, where there are twenty in his classes. Thus also in this field, Deaf are being taught the Word of God and are searching the Scriptures, as Jesus tells us: "Search the Scriptures—they testify of Me." John 5:39. Many of these are being prepared for the Holy Supper and thus are enabled to examine themselves before going to the Lord's Table, as Paul says: "Let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup." 1 Cor. 11:28. Yes, before going to the Lord's Supper one must know what sin is, who Jesus is and why He came into the world, what Baptism is and should mean to us, also what the Lord's Supper is and what its benefits are. Only then one is able to examine himself and to be prepared for the Lord's Table. With Brother Rohe we also made many calls, and also he picked up Deaf here and there and brought them to church. One of these is a man who fell several years ago, injuring his spine and being paralyzed from his waist down. He underwent eight operations, and now, thanks to God, he is able to walk again with the aid of crutches. And it always is a day of joy to him when Pastor Rohe comes and brings him to church and then back home again. May our good Lord be also with Brother Rohe and richly bless his work unto the eternal welfare of many Deaf! With Pastor Rohe we traveled over one thousand miles, also by car.

Going about with our Indianapolis and Pittsburgh missionaries we rejoiced to see them bringing the Word of Jesus and His love to so many shut-ins who are not able to come to church. Every time we offered a prayer of thanks to our heavenly Father for having led our Church into this soul-saving work among the Deaf.

Furthermore, we also want to thank all the pastors and their congregations for opening their church doors to our missionaries and their Deaf congregations. May God bless them for it! Thus they are helping us in carrying on this our work. In Youngstown, Ohio, the Deaf meet in a community chapel, built in with large Trinity Methodist Church. It is a wonderful place of worship, with a beautiful altar having a large picture of Christ, a pulpit, a lectern, art-glass windows depicting scenes from Christ's life. We enjoyed preaching in this beautiful chapel. There we also met the pastor of Trinity Church, and he said to us: "You men are doing a fine work. We certainly appreciate the work you are doing. Continue in this blessed work." We thank him for these words of encouragement.

J. L. S.

*St. Louis, Mo.*—1949: Baptized: Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman E. Grubb, born April 6; sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bastian, at Nolte Chapel, St. Louis, May 24. Linda Carol, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Basta, born Oct. 6; sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Lowe of Springfield, Ill., at Nolte Chapel, Nov. 6. And Miss Naomi Williams of Columbia, Mo., at St. Philip's Lutheran Church, July 24.

*Married:* Miss Mattie Lee Lewis and Mr. John Robert Morris, both of St. Louis, in St. Philip's Lutheran Church, June 6. Miss Frieda Deutsch of St. Louis and Mr. Torrence Lowe of Springfield, Ill., at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Sept. 17. May God add to the faith and joy of those who have been baptized and put on Christ. May He bless and give faith to those who have become one in holy marriage, so that they, too, may be one with Him through His mercy in Christ Jesus, the only Savior.

*Well done:* Carl Lochmann, charter member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf, St. Louis, was suddenly taken to be with his Lord on Easter Sunday, April 17. He had complained of a pain in the side on Saturday evening and fell over while waiting by the window on the next morning. The doctor said he had suffered a heart attack. A graduate of the Gallaudet School for the Deaf in St. Louis, he was confirmed at Bethlehem Church by Pastor Schubkegel, in 1922. He came to services regularly during all these years. He died at the age of 56 years and four months, preparing to go to church and rejoice again at the story of Jesus' victory over the grave. Now he shares in that victory, as do all believers who wait for the Lord.

F. G.

*Toledo, Ohio*—It was the rare privilege of the members of our Lutheran congregation to receive into their membership three octogenarians on Christmas Day, 1949. The three who vowed faithfulness unto the Lord and His Church until death were Mrs. Emma B. Hannan, who was 87 last July, Mrs. Cora Augustus, who is 80 this year, and Mr. Harry Augustus, who will be 81 years old in March. All three had attended our church services regularly for over a year and, finally, after brief instructions, they became members of our congregation. May the Lord grant them a full measure of His grace and love for time and for eternity.

N. E. B.

#### Our Ministers are Ready to Serve You

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#### The Deaf Lutheran

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