

The Deaf Lutheran

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Board of Missions to the Deaf. — The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

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No. 8

Trust

Though there is less of sunshine
Than I long for day by day,
I never feel discouraged
As I journey on my way.

I learned a needful lesson
Long ago beneath the rod,
That the shadow and the sunshine
Serve alike the will of God.

When burdens seem too heavy
For this heart of mine to bear,
I place them all on Jesus
And I leave them in His care.

His judgments I never question,
I can trust this Friend so dear
To lead where skies are bluer
And sweet songs of joy ring clear.

MARIE C. TURK

Spiritual Deafness

(See the First Letter of John, 4:1-6)

To be spiritually deaf and speechless is a far greater problem than to be physically deaf and without a voice. Jesus healed the physically deaf man so that his ears were opened and his tongue loosed and he began to speak correctly, but He also opened his spiritual ears to receive the Gospel message; the latter was a far greater blessing.

The spiritually deaf do not perceive the glorious Gospel message, nor do they proclaim God's love and mercy in Christ Jesus in church services, in church activities, in the home, the family, and among people and acquaintances everywhere.

The spiritually deaf, to hear God's voice, must go aside from the crowd to attend a church service for at least one uninterrupted hour every Sunday. Only then, like the cured deaf man, will they gladly publish the truth; they will then pass it on to others and hold fast to it until their dying hour. It is far better to be physically deaf and spiritually hearing than to be spiritually deaf. The spiritually deaf shall inherit no part of eternal joys with Christ; they do not have the assurance of salvation, because they reject His love and make God a liar. 1 John 5:10-13. The Bible tells us, therefore: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord." Rom. 6:23.

O. C. S.

The Convention of Our Church

Many decisions of great importance pertaining to missions, Christian education, and doctrinal matters were made at the triennial assembly of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, in Milwaukee, Wis., June 21 to 30, 1950.

Dr. John W. Behnken was re-elected for the sixth time as President of our Church. The Board of Missions to the Deaf, the Rev. W. A. Buege, Chairman, was re-elected.

If we had no Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, we would have no Lutheran Mission to the Deaf. May our Deaf also pray and work for their Lutheran Church to the glory of God!

O. C. S.

Northwest Lutheran Deaf Conference

Spokane, Wash., will be the meeting place of the first Northwest Conference for pastors and laymen (that means *you*), on Saturday and Sunday, August 12 and 13. Faith Lutheran Church will open for registration and room assignments, August 11, 5:30 P. M. To find the church from downtown Spokane, go north on Monroe St., to Shannon; turn east. The church is at 811 West Shannon. Everybody welcome!

The program opens at 9 A. M., August 12, with a service at Faith Church. Papers will be presented by the Rev. Dr. J. L. Salvner and member John E. Skoglund. Officers will be elected. After lunch, Pastor Hauptman will give the main address for the afternoon. Business meeting will continue.

On August 13 a chartered bus will take delegates to Camp Lutherhaven, at Lake Cour d'Alene for an all-day picnic. Outdoor services will be held, with pastor Beyer preaching.

If you plan to go, write to Pastor A. L. Hauptman, 610 9th St., S., Great Falls, Mont., or to Pastor J. A. Beyer, 1101 15th Ave., Seattle 22, Wash. *Write today* so they can tell Mr. Skoglund how many rooms will be needed.

The Northwest Conference is the second of its kind to be started since 1949. The Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference men wish their Northwest brethren the blessing of God during their conference.

F. G. G.

THERE are two ways to begin the day — with prayer or without it. You begin the day in one of these two ways. Which? — *Informer*

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE FIFTH CHIEF PART

What Do You Believe According to These Words?

True ministers of Christ "deal with us by His divine command." What they teach and preach and do, they do as their Lord and Master commanded them. If people listen to them, they listen to Christ; and if they will not listen, they listen not to Christ. Therefore He says: "He that heareth you heareth Me; and he that despiseth you despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me." Luke 10:16. Ministers of Christ want to please Him only, and not men. Paul therefore says: "If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ." Gal. 1:10.

Putting Out Manifest and Impenitent Sinners

Especially do the ministers of Christ "deal with us by His divine command" when they exclude (put out) manifest (open) and impenitent (not sorry) sinners from the Christian congregation." This we call excommunication. Of this Jesus tells us in Matt. 18:15-18. Take your Bible and carefully read these verses. What does Jesus want you to do if a member lives in sin? Let us suppose a church member belongs to a secret society in which they pray Christless prayers and teach a way to heaven by doing good, and you know that. What then should you do? Jesus says: "Go and tell him of his fault between thee and him alone." You should speak to him of his sin. Now if he sees his wrong and is sorry and leaves this secret society with its Christless prayers and a false way to heaven, then you have won your brother for Christ. But if he will not listen, then, Jesus says, "take with thee one or two more," and with them speak to him. And if he still wants to stay in this sin, then you should tell it to the church or congregation, and all members of the church should warn him in love and try to win him from sin for Jesus. And if he will not leave his sin, then "let him be unto thee as an heathen man (unbeliever) and a publican (wicked man)." Such a man should be excluded (put out), and the minister should announce this to him and excommunicate him, that is, put him out of the communion or congregation. The minister does all this "by His divine command." Therefore "this is as valid (good) and certain, in heaven also, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us Himself." This is done that the sinner may learn to know how terrible his sin is and fear God's wrath and punishment, and then turn to God's mercy with sorrow for his sin.

Absolving (Forgiving) Those That Repent

And now, what if a sinner repents (turns from sin) and is willing to amend (change)? What if a man comes back to the church and asks for forgiveness? Should the church again receive him? Indeed, the church should welcome him back, and the minister should absolve him, announce God's forgiveness to him. This is Christ's command, and therefore "is as valid and certain, in heaven also, as if Christ, our dear Lord, dealt with us Himself." And this is true also when we in our services confess our sins and the pastor announces forgiveness, or, if we, before going to the Lord's Table, make a con-

fession of our sins and the pastor forgives us in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Thank God for Forgiveness from Your Pastor

Let us rejoice and thank God when our minister in Jesus' name forgives us all our sins in a service. That is as if Jesus Himself would tell us this, for our minister does it "by His divine command." He says: "Whosoever sins ye remit (forgive), they are remitted unto them." John 20:23.

J. L. S.

The First Letter of John

CHAPTER III (Continued)

(Translation of Kraus, edited by Professor Franzmann)

Don't be surprised, brothers, if the world hates you! We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brothers. He who does not love remains in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer. And you know that no murderer has eternal life remaining in him. By this we have known love, because He laid down His life for us. And we have the duty to lay down our lives for our brothers. Also, whoever has enough money to live and sees his brother in need and locks up his pity from him, how can the love of God remain in him? Little children, let us love not by word and tongue, but with work and truth. (Verses 13-18.)

By this we shall know that we are from the truth; and we will prove that to our hearts before Him. Because if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart and knows everything. Dear friends, if the heart does not condemn us, we can be bold before God. And what things we ask we receive from Him; because we keep His commandments and do the things pleasing in His sight. And this is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another (as He gave us commandment). And he who keeps His commandments remains in Him and He in him. And by this we know that He remains in us (by the Spirit whom He gave us). (Verses 19-24.)

CHAPTER IV

Dear friends, don't believe every spirit. But prove the spirits if they are from God. Because many false spirits have gone out into the world. By this you will know the Spirit of God. Every spirit which confesses Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. And every spirit which does not confess Christ has come in the flesh is not from God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist. (You have heard that it comes, and it is even now in the world.) You are from God — little children — and you have overcome them. Because stronger is the One in you than the one in the world. They are from the world. Because of that they speak from the world. And the world hears them. We are from God. He who knows God hears us. He who is not from God does not hear us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error. (Verses 1-6.)

Dear friends, let us love one another, because love is from God. And everyone who loves is born from God

and knows God. He who does not love does not know God. Because God is love. By this the love of God appears in us (that God sent His only-born Son into the world so that we can live through Him). In this is the love, not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son (a Peace-offering) for our sins. (Verses 7-10.)

Dear friends, if God loved us so much, we also have the duty to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God remains in us. And His love becomes perfect in us. By this we know that we remain in Him and He in us — because of His Spirit, whom He has given us. And we have seen and witness that the Father sent the Son as the Savior of the world. (Verses 11-14.)

Whoever will confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. And we have known and believed the love which God has for us. God is love. And he who remains in love remains in God. And God remains in him. By this, love becomes perfect with us, so that we can have trust on the Day of Judgment. Because as that One is, so also are we in this world. No fear is in love. But perfect love throws out fear. Because fear has punishment. He who fears is not perfect in love. We love because He first loved us. (Verses 15-19.)

If anyone says that he loves God — and hates his brother — he is a liar. Because he who does not love his brother (whom he has seen) cannot love God (whom he has not seen). And this commandment we have from Him — that he who loves God also loves his brother. (Verses 20-21.)

(To be continued)

FIELD GLEANINGS

Billings, Montana — Miss Mae Snow is recovering from a fractured hip, which she suffered in a fall last winter. Her sister acted as head nurse. She invited the Deaf to have their April meeting in her home.

Great Falls, Montana — Thirty-four students at the Montana School for the Deaf were enrolled in Lutheran classes this past year. The fifteen advanced students have studied the Gospel of St. Mark. Filmstrips of Jesus' suffering were bought by the Montana Lutheran Women's Missionary League. We showed them during Lent. We are proud of the good attendance; the students miss only when they are sick; and the boys bring their friends to class with them.

Three hours — one hour for study, one hour for work, one hour for visiting and refreshments, make a well-rounded evening for the Deaf when they come to the pastor's home, the first Friday of each month. There has been a very fine spirit at these meetings so far, and we hope and pray it will continue.

IN CASE OF SICKNESS or when there is a **DEATH**, do not hesitate (put off); call the parsonage. If the pastor is not at home, leave your message with Mrs. Hauptman. The pastor is ready to help you in your trouble, but you must let him know. (Deaf in every town, please remember and do this! — Ed.)

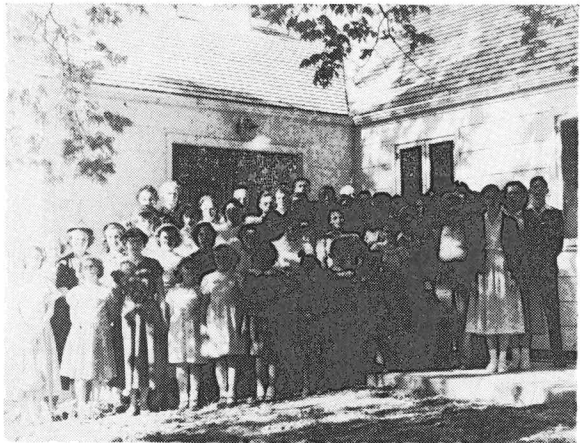
Sympathy — to Mrs. Rose Shoemaker, whose husband departed this life on March 20. May the God of all grace keep her with the hope of a happy reunion in heaven.

Altar — St. John's (hearing) Church of Spokane has sold us their old altar, pulpit, and baptismal font. The altar, with a large statue of the risen Christ, has been remodeled and installed in Faith Church. Many thanks to Mr. F. N. Lobough and all who did a fine job. The congregation has also bought a new rug for the church.

Faith Congregation — is also busy getting ready for the Northwest Lutheran Deaf Conference, August 12 and 13. St. John's Congregation is helping very much by opening their homes to the Deaf who will come from out of town. Expenses will be kept low; no one will need to spend money on hotels. A. L. H.

Kansas City, Mo. — Writing to the Corinthians 1 Cor. 3:6.), Paul, the man of God, says: "I have planted . . . but God gave the increase." With humble thanks we say the same about developments in our Kansas City field. Everywhere more and more requests come in for more and more messages of the saving Gospel. Attendances and co-operation have been fine. Also at the schools, where it is our privilege to conduct Bible classes, the interest of the scholars is wonderful.

At Olathe a new Lutheran Church (ALC) has been erected adjacent to the Kansas School. We began to meet there for worship in the past month of May. It was a most impressive worship, especially since that day



six younger scholars were by Baptism received into the kingdom of Jesus and six others were confirmed. Three of the latter also received Holy Baptism. Our Olathe adult members, representatives of the School staff, and scholars filled the chapel. The Bible class semester at the Kansas School was concluded with more than one hundred forty scholars attending.

Other schools where it is our privilege to teach the Bible are the Greater Kansas City Public School for Hard of Hearing children, and the Colorado School. All the Protestant scholars of the Colorado School attend the worship-meetings in the Lutheran Church on the third Sunday of each month, at two thirty o'clock.

Since the day of its dedication we have had many

inspiring worship meetings in Pilgrim Chapel. . . . However, none was more impressive than that of Sunday, May 21, when six children received Holy Baptism. The fifth person of Kansas City was confirmed here on that day also. . . . In Wichita, Kans., one adult joined the Church by Baptism and confirmation. On June 18, three scholars of the Kansas School and a baby sister of one boy were baptized. The Rev. L. H. Deffner assisted us. Since January 1 the increase by God's grace is nineteen children baptized and fifteen other people confirmed, eight of whom also received Holy Baptism. Many of the Kansas City friends who are home from the Missouri School for vacation, are attending worship very regularly.

In the local Pilgrim Mission, the pastor has recently officiated at the marriage of Mr. Robert L. Johnson and Miss Ursula Heidenreich. Also for our Negro Christians Mr. Earl W. Davis of Denver and Miss Elizabeth Smith of Kansas City. May God's blessings be upon these and all our friends. A. E. F.

Omaha, Nebr. — By God's grace a class of 38 pupils and four adults were confirmed on May 7 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Omaha. Thirty of these pupils are from the Iowa School and eight from the Nebraska



School. Nineteen also received Holy Baptism. Other Baptisms: Terry Dell Rose, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Monnie Rose, on March 26 at Des Moines, Iowa, Melvin Dale, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Miller, on June 18 at Omaha.

God keep all these new members of His Church in His grace and help them finally to gain life everlasting through faith in their Savior.

On May 28 dedication services were held at the recently acquired Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Des Moines, Iowa. Dr. J. L. Salvner delivered the dedicatory sermon both orally and in signs. 95 Deaf members and friends attended, and a number of hearing people.

We have 34 communicant members at Des Moines at present. May God grant that others will make a decision to join Calvary Church.

Pastor Victor Mesenbring will take over this congregation in Des Moines and other stations in Central Iowa about August 1. E. M.

What Can You Do?

"What can you do?" asked a Nebraska pastor, on a telephone call to the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, Detroit. He stated the problem. Joyce is a three-year-old Deaf child. Her father, a veteran of World War II, is a T.B. patient in a Government hospital in Denver, Colo. Her mother is unable to care for her. The grandfather, a Lutheran pastor in Nebraska, and his good wife had made preparations to adopt their little Deaf granddaughter. However, the pastor suffered a heart attack and died at the age of 45. The grandmother, being physically unable to care for the grandchild, took her troubles to a Lutheran pastor friend. This pastor knew that your Lutheran Institute for the Deaf is being maintained by Christians to help solve just such problems. He assured the grieving relative that the Institute would open its doors to her little grandchild. And the long distance telephone call was to prove his belief to be correct.

The good pastor's question, "What can you do in this case?" was answered 76 years ago. Then the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf was founded. The Lord's admonition: "Bear ye one another's burdens," was and is the guiding principle of this Institute, which offers Deaf children a truly Christian education and rearing in a homelike atmosphere.

And now little Joyce is a happy and well-adjusted member of our large family. Here she is receiving loving physical care. Above all, she will learn to know the Savior.

Joyce's problems are no more strange than those of many other Deaf children at your Institute. The gifts of love sent to the Institute by Christian friends make it financially possible to give such less fortunate little ones as Joyce a pleasant home and a Christian education. Little or no financial support can be expected from some parents or relatives. The Lutheran Institute for the Deaf is located at 6861 Nevada Ave., Detroit 34, Mich.

Wanted

Back numbers of the DEAF LUTHERAN to complete the files of the Library at Concordia Seminary. Needed are: Vols. 1 to 18; Vol. 19, No. 4; Vol. 22, No. 10; Vols. 25 to 30; and Vol. 35, No. 4. Extra copies would also be appreciated. Write to Prof. E. C. Zimmermann, Concordia Seminary, 801 De Mun Ave., St. Louis 5, Mo.

THERE are two deaths which people die — some die "in the Lord"; others die "in their sins." You will die one of these two deaths. Which? — *The Mission Informer*

Our Ministers are Ready to Serve You

For information write to:

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The Deaf Lutheran

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