

The Deaf Lutheran

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo. Subscription price, 25 cts. per annum anywhere in the world, payable strictly in advance. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 14, 1935

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

Vol. 42

St. Louis, Mo., September, 1950

No. 9

Fear not, O little flock, the Foe
Who madly seeks your overthrow;
Dread not his rage and power.
What though your courage sometimes faints,
His seeming triumph o'er God's saints
Lasts but a little hour.

Northwest Lutheran Deaf Conference

Sixty-five Deaf from the Rainy Portland Field, the Rainier-Seattle Field, and the Rocky Montana Field gathered in Sunny Old Spokane for the first Northwest Lutheran Deaf Conference on Saturday, August 12.

Rev. J. A. Beyer of Seattle opened the morning session with a devotional address on Matt. 5:13: "Ye are the salt of the earth." He showed how the Deaf as Christians are helping to preserve the world from moral and spiritual decay.

Temporary officers were elected: Pastor Beyer, Chairman, and Mr. John Skoglund, Secretary.

The Deaf Mission's Executive Secretary, Dr. J. L. Salvner, read a paper pointing out the important part the Deaf Christians have in the work of the Kingdom of God. Deaf people, both men and women, took an active part in the discussion. A rising vote of thanks was given to Dr. Salvner for his paper.

The afternoon session was opened with a devotional address, also by Pastor Beyer on Matt. 5:14: "Ye are the light of the world." He showed how Deaf Christians are spreading the light of Jesus, who is the Light of the world in this sin-darkened world.

The conference was highly pleased to receive a telegram from Mr. and Mrs. Chester Correll of Memphis, Tenn., who were so largely responsible for the success of two Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conferences, the first similar gatherings ever held in our circles.

Mr. John Skoglund read an extended paper on stewardship, but unfortunately there was no time for discussion.

Tentative plans call for a second conference in Portland in June, 1951.

Pastor Beyer brought the business sessions to a close by reading Romans 8:16-17 and reminding the conference that they are children of God, who should use their talents to enlarge the kingdom of their Father in heaven.

In the evening a banquet was held in the Desert Hotel, featuring the film "Reaching from Heaven." The film showed how our gracious God extends His love and help to penitent sinners through His children and His Church.

On the enchanting shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene in

Idaho an all-day outing was held on Sunday. It began with a service, in which Pastor Beyer delivered the sermon, "The Way to Genuine Happiness Leads Through Cheerful Christian Service." Mrs. John Moore and Mrs. A. J. Sackville-West signed the hymn "Beautiful Savior." Pastor Beyer signed "Holy! Holy! Holy! Lord God Almighty!"

After being without a resident pastor for about 15 years the Spokane Deaf were extremely happy to hear Dr. Salvner's announcement that Pastor Hauptmann would move to Spokane as soon as housing can be found, if the Board acts favorably upon his recommendation. The pastor will travel by airplane between Spokane and Great Falls every week, if possible.

JOHN SKOGLUND, *Secretary*

THANKS!

The Conference extended a hearty "Thank You" to the Spokane Deaf and their pastor for the efficient and effective handling of the meeting. The hot dinner served to 115 Deaf at the lake on Sunday was provided by the Spokane congregation "for free"; and for the information of those who could not be present, it was not just a snack. Hats off to a gracious and generous group of Deaf, members of Faith Church in Sunny Old Spokane!

FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH

Head and shoulders above everyone else stood out Chairman on Arrangements, John Skoglund, whose consecrated wife labored so loyally at his side in the work of the Kingdom.

Their last labor of love together was performed on their knees, painting the floor of the church's social hall, Tuesday, August 8. Mrs. Skoglund tripped over the garden hose, fracturing a leg, on Wednesday, only a few days before the conference. She was apparently getting along satisfactorily on Sunday evening, when all three pastors and other visitors called on her at the hospital. She answered the call of her Savior and went to be with Him on Monday morning, August 14. Our deepest Christian sympathy goes out to Mr. Skoglund and his family.

J. A. B.

Divine Authority

God is the God of truth. He desires that our worship of Him be grounded on truth. If it is based on false notions or mistaken ideas, it cannot be pleasing to Him. We must admit that God has given man the Ten Commandments, that there is sin, judgment, death and hell. But God has a plan for our salvation. He laid

upon His Son the sins of the whole world. Jesus was obedient to God unto death; He paid for our sins with His precious blood; He arose from the dead and ascended into heaven, where He prepares a place for His followers. To this glorious Gospel we owe obedience. We must submit our ideas, feelings, and notions to this truth.

Many are journeying through life to an unknown destination without preparation and without hope, spending their time and strength in seeking pleasures and treasures which perish; they fail to exchange their guilty conscience for the joy of sins forgiven, their condemnation for justification and glorious liberty. We must accept the authority of God's Word and be obedient to His Gospel to receive these blessings. O. C. S.

Rev. Robert W. Mackensen

Robert W. Mackensen was born October 18, 1920, in Hammond, Ind., where his father, the Rev. Henry Mackensen, was pastor. Robert was the youngest of four children born to Henry and Laura Mackensen. When Robert was two years of age, his father and family moved to Glen Ellyn, Ill., where his father assumed the pastorate of the Lutheran church in that village. After graduation from public grade and high schools and working a year as stockman at the local dime-store, Robert entered Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill. After the first four years of study there, he vicared a year at Concordia Lutheran Church, Akron, Ohio, where he met his wife, the former Lois Harnack. Upon graduating from Springfield, he was married January 27, 1945; and the newly married pair then journeyed 2,000 miles to their home in Missoula, Mont.

In 1945 their first child, Ruth Ann, was born, and on September 25, 1949 Laura Christine was born.

During the five years in Missoula, Pastor Mackensen, who had a hearing congregation, had very little contact with the Deaf. It was through his friendship with the Rev. A. L. Hauptman, Missionary to the Deaf in Montana and Spokane, Wash., that Rev. Mackensen attended services for the Deaf in Missoula and learned a little of the sign language — enough to sign the Scripture readings for the church service on two occasions and to make a hospital call on a Deaf patient. When the call into work among the Deaf arrived and was prayerfully considered and accepted, the Mackensen family came to Delavan, Wis. His field of work includes the following preaching stations: work with the adults and with about 80 Lutheran Deaf Children in the State School in Delavan; Madison, Watertown, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Neenah, Oshkosh, Baraboo, and Beloit, Wis., and Rockford, Ill.

Robert Mackensen was commissioned as Missionary to the Deaf on May 21, 1950, at Redeemer English Lutheran Church, Delavan; he was installed as Pastor of Silent Lutheran Congregation of Madison, June 11, 1950, in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Madison, Wis. The Rev. J. Salvner, D. D., Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions to the Deaf, officiated at both the commissioning and the installation. E. M.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

CONFESSION

The Fifth Chief Part of our Catechism speaks also of confession. We confess our sins in every service and ask God for forgiveness. This we do also before we go to the Lord's Supper. And this is according to God's Word.

The Bible Often Speaks of Confession

David prays in Psalm 32:5: "I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid." When John the Baptist preached and baptized in the wilderness, many went out to him and "were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins." Matthew 3:6. And when Paul preached in Ephesus, "many that believed came, and confessed, and showed their deeds." Acts 19:18. They that confess do not hide their sins but make them known. Therefore our Catechism also says: "Confession embraces (has) two parts. One is that we confess our sins."

Confession with a Sorrowful Heart

They that confess do so with a heart full of sorrow, because they have sinned against their good Lord and God. David, therefore, could not forget his sin; he says: "My sin is ever before me. Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned and done this evil in Thy sight." Ps. 51:3-4. And listen to his words in Ps. 6:6: "I am weary with my groaning; all the night make I my bed to swim; I water my couch with tears." Therefore before we go to the Lord's Table, our pastor asks us: "Are you truly sorry for your sin?" They that confess their sin do not boast of their sin and laugh about it.

All Need to Confess Their Sin

Paul says: "All have sinned," Romans 3:23; and again, v. 11: "They are all gone out of the way; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." And John writes: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. — If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us." 1 John 1:8, 10. Surely, every one of us must confess with sorrow: "I have sinned against the Lord."

Blessed are They That Thus Confess Their Sin

David learned to know this. He says: "I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin." Ps. 32:5. The publican confessed his sin in sorrow, for he stood afar off and "would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, 'God be merciful to me, a sinner.'" Luke 18:13. And Jesus tells us: "This man went down to his house justified" (forgiven and saved). Therefore our Catechism, speaking of the two parts in confession, says: "And the other, that we receive absolution, or forgiveness, from the pastor, as from God Himself."

Come, let us daily confess our sins with a sorrowful heart, and then rejoice in God's mercy and forgiveness in Christ Jesus, who loved us and gave Himself for us

J. L. S.

The First Letter of John

CHAPTER V

(Translation of Kraus, edited by Professor Franzmann)

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God. And everyone who loves Him who begot also loves Him who was born from Him. By this we know that we love the children of God — when we love God and keep His Commandments. Because this is the love of God — that we keep His Commandments. And His Commandments are not heavy. Because everyone born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory which overcomes the world — our faith. Who is he that conquers the world, but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? (Verses 1-5.)

This is the One who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ (not by water only, but by water and by blood). And the Spirit is the Witness. Because the Spirit is the Truth. Because there are three who witness, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood. And these three agree. If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is better. Because He has witnessed about His Son. He who believes in the Son of God has this witness in him. He who does not believe God has made Him a liar. Because he has not believed in the witness which God has witnessed about His Son. And this is the witness, that God gave eternal life to us. And this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life. He who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (Verses 6-12.)

These things I wrote to you so that you know that you have eternal life — as those believing in the name of the Son of God. And this is the boldness we have before Him, that if we ask anything in agreement with His wishes, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us (whatever we ask), we know that we have the things which we have asked from Him. (Verses 13-15.)

If anyone sees his brother sin a sin not to death, let him ask, and He will give his brother life (to those who sin not to death). There is a sin to death. About that sin I do not say that he ought to ask [forgiveness]. All wrong-living is sin. And there is a sin not to death. We know that everyone who is born from God does not sin. But He who was born from God keeps him. And the Evil One does not grab him. We know that we are from God. And the whole world is in the power of the Evil One. We know that the Son of God has come. And He has given us understanding so that we know the True One. And we are in the True One (in His Son Jesus Christ). He is the true God and eternal life. (Verses 16-20.)

Little children, guard yourselves from idols. (Verse 21.)

WHAT kind of example is your life for other people to follow? Can you ask other people to live as you do? That's what the Apostle Paul could do. He writes: "Be ye followers of me, even as I am of Christ" (1 Cor. 11:1). Often it is easier for Christians, too, to say, "Do as I say, not as I do."

The Holy Trinity

O Triune God, to man unknown,
Though Lord through endless ages,
Thou hast revealed Thy name alone
In Scripture's holy pages.
Thou art the heavenly King above;
There is no other Savior.
Almighty, gracious, full of love,
Thy people's Shield forever:
One God and yet three Persons.

O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Uncounted saints adore Thee;
In Thine exalted name they boast,
And come with praise before Thee.
The patriarchs rejoiced to see
Thee God of hosts victorious;
Thy Church proclaims triumphantly
Thy gifts, supreme and glorious:
For wondrous things Thou doest.

O gracious God, Thy mercy show;
Blest Lord of earth and heaven,
On all mankind Thy Word bestow;
To all Thy grace be given.
Bring in the sheep that go astray;
The blinded eyes enlighten.
Turn every evil far away
That wickedly would frighten
Thine own in their affliction.

O faithful God, in heaven's fold
Let us behold Thy glory;
There shall Thy Church with joy untold
Extol Thy love's sweet story.
For Thou, dear Lord, art King above;
There is no other Savior.
Almighty, gracious, full of love,
Thy people's Shield forever:
One God and yet three Persons.

From *Luth. Witness* — Dr. J. T. Mueller

FIELD GLEANINGS

Beloit, Wis. — Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Christianson brought their infant daughter, Lova Kea, to Baptism, Sunday, July 16. Sponsors are Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Waite. The pastor baptized the child in the name of the Triune God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

R. W. M.

Delavan, Wis. — *Congregation Organizes:* Article I of the Delavan Constitution, adopted June 8, 1950, reads: "The name of this congregation shall be: REDEEMER DEAF LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD." The Introduction to the Constitution reads: "Since, according to the Word of God (I Cor. 14:40; Col. 2:5) all things in every Christian congregation should be done decently and in order, and accordingly our forefathers have composed constitutions for Christian congregations, we, a number of Deaf Lutherans from Delavan and vicinity, have united, in order to organize a congregation and to acknowledge and observe the following paragraphs as our constitution."

R. W. M.

Jacksonville, Ill. *Confirmed* — A class of ten children was received into full membership on May 21. Eight were baptized also. Confirmed were Marilyn Lipka, Springfield; Thomas Klbecka, Chicago. Bap-

tized were Shirley Boyd, Bridgeport; Roberta Hall, Ashland; Robert Lee Inman, Jacksonville; Beatrice and William McClodin, Chicago; Donna Rode, Forest Park; Carroll Sisson and Patricia Sueoka, Chicago. — At Effingham, on May 28, Carl Lester Huddleston was con-



firmed, and David Albert Wease was baptized, both adults living at Newton, Ill. May the Lord keep these twelve steadfast until death.

Died — Mr. A. P. Walliker of Davenport, Ia., passed away June 8 after a lingering illness and was laid to rest June 12. He had been studying the Lutheran Catechism, but passed to his Savior before completing the course. — Mrs. Katherine Kumpf of Peoria died July 7 and was buried July 10. She, too, had been of failing health for a while. "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord."

Married — At Bloomington, Ill., June 18, Miss Margaret Wise and Mr. James Kiley. At Jacksonville, Miss Ruth Keller and Mr. Robert Barbaur. "Thou blessest, O Lord, and it shall be blessed forever."

For Our Chapel — The Decatur, Ill., Deaf group which meets weekly for prayer, surprised the Jacksonville treasurer, Mr. F. Lupien, with a gift of one hundred dollars for the chapel fund, collected over a number of months. Well done, and a thousand thanks! — A leaflet, "The Story of the Grateful Centurions," telling of our building project, its needs and what Christians are doing because they are thankful for the blessing of hearing and speech, is being circulated among all the Lutheran churches of the State of Illinois, and it is opening the eyes of many that have never realized what our Lutheran Church is doing for the Deaf. Friend, a "Centurion" in this case is a Christian who sends us "one hundred iron men," as dollars are sometimes called. And we have been hearing from quite a few. But we need many more until our chapel is built. N. P. U.

Madison, Wis. — Evelyn Barbara Hagemann, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hagemann, was married to Jacob Cecil Vertz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Vertz, in a beautiful double-ring ceremony performed by Rev. R. Mackensen, Saturday, June 24, 1950. May the Lord's richest blessings rest upon their marriage.

R. W. M.

Memphis, Tenn. — Vicar Lawrence Stacy arrived

July 1 to work in Tennessee, Arkansas, western Georgia, and northern Alabama. He studied signs in Springfield, Ill., at Concordia Seminary. The former G. I. and his wife were welcomed officially by the Memphis Deaf at a picnic on Saturday afternoon, July 15, in Overton Park. Vicar William Reinking preached his farewell sermon on Sunday, July 16; his text was Acts 20:32, "A year of grace." Twenty-one were present that morning. Vicar Stacy conducted the Bible class. We wish the new vicar God's continued blessing. W. R.

Minneapolis, Minn. After six weeks with Pastor Mackensen in Delavan, one week with our brother in Saginaw, and ten days at the convention of the Missouri Synod, we were thankful to be at "Home Sweet Home" again. While at the Milwaukee convention, we had an exhibit, and were permitted to say a few words in behalf of our work and to give a demonstration in signs.

July 6 Candidate Victor Mesenbring continued, and his bride began, studying the sign language with us. They have been making fine progress. July 16 he signed everything in the morning service except the sermon. He conducted the Bible class and also part of the afternoon service at our picnic on the Haftten farm. July 23 he had charge of the entire service in Grace Chapel. The following Tuesday they left for Des Moines to take up the work in that area, ministering to Deaf in seven Iowa stations. May our dear Lord, the Chief Shepherd of His sheep, bountifully bless the new worker and his work unto the glory of His holy name!

J. L. S.

New Orleans, La. — After a one-year vacancy the Gulf States of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi will again have a resident pastor to the Deaf. Vicars Lee Lennon and William Reinking arrived August 1 to reopen regular services there. Vicar Reinking will work during August, helping to visit Deaf prospects in this large field. Vicar Lennon assisted in the Omaha and Delavan fields. He is also from the Springfield, Ill., Concordia. May the Lord bless His work in this large area. W. R.

Oshkosh, Wis. — Evelyn Hintz and Joe Mand were united in marriage, Saturday, June 9, 1950, by the Rev. M. Mueller of Milwaukee. One of the picture studios selected Evelyn as the most beautiful bride of the month. May the Lord continue to be with this couple and bless their home. R. W. M.

Our Ministers are Ready to Serve You

For information write to:

Pastor J. L. Salvner, D. D., Executive Secretary
3320 Chowen Ave., N., Robbinsdale 22, Minn.

The Deaf Lutheran

Official Organ of Lutheran Church Missions for the Deaf
Published Monthly by the Board

Twenty-Five Cents per Annum in Advance

Send all subscriptions, changes of address, and cancellations to Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis 18, Mo.

The DEAF LUTHERAN goes to press on the 12th of the month preceding month of issue.

Rev. O. C. Schroeder, B. D., Editor, 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill. Send all news items intended for publication in this monthly to Rev. F. Gyle, Associate Editor, 8011 Nola Ave., St. Louis 14, Mo.

PRINTED IN U. S. A.