

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., November, 1950

No. 11

Thanksgiving 1950

This year also we shall find cause for thanks to Almighty God if we but stop for a moment to consider our bodily and spiritual blessings. We owe God thanks for a bounteous harvest, for health, for a full year of life, for the grace of God, for His Word and the Savior. We ought, therefore, to bow our heads on Thanksgiving Day in a sincere prayer of thanks to God for blessings to heart and soul.

Let us not be content to thank God only for material blessings, health, food, and clothing, but let us pray sincerely for an increase in faith, hope, and charity. By sin the whole human race became leprous exiles, outcast from the heavenly home, from Eden here and from heaven hereafter.

How amazing, then, that the merciful God should give us His promise of love and help, bestowing on all who believe in Jesus the right to inherit everlasting life with Himself in heaven!

O. C. S.

The Third Letter of John

(Translation of Kraus, edited by Professor Franzmann)

[From] the Elder —

To the beloved Gaius, whom I love in truth. (Verse 1.)

Beloved, I pray you may be successful in all things and in good health (as your soul is successful). I rejoiced very much when the brothers came and witnessed to your truth, even as you walk in truth. I have no greater joy than this, that I hear my children walk in the truth. Beloved, you do a faithful thing, whatever you do for the brothers, especially for strangers (who witnessed about your love before the church). You will do a good thing for them by sending them forward [in a way] worthy of God. Because of His name they went out (taking nothing from the Gentiles). Therefore we ought to welcome such [workers], so that we can be fellow workers in the truth. (Verses 2-8.)

I wrote something to the church. But Diotrephes (who loves to be the leader among them) does not receive us. Because of this, when I come, I will remind [them] of his works which he does. He makes empty

charges [blames] against us with sinful words. And not satisfied with these, he himself does not receive the brothers. And he stops those who want to [receive them]. And he puts them out of the church. (Verses 9-10.)

Beloved, do not copy sinful things, but good things. He who does good is from God. He who sins has not seen God. Demetrius has a good reputation [name] from all, also from the truth itself. And we witness [for him] also. And you know our witness is true. (Verses 11-12.)

I have many things to write you. But I do not wish to write you with pen and ink. And I hope to see you soon. And we will speak to your face. Peace to you. The friends greet you. Greet the friends by name. (Verses 13-14.)

Bible Readings for November

With this number of the DEAF LUTHERAN we shall begin to read the Gospel according to St. Luke. Luke was a Gentile (not a Jew). From his writings we learn that he was a doctor. Paul calls him "the beloved physician," Col. 4:14. He traveled a good deal with Paul. In this Gospel as well as in the Book of Acts he speaks of the Savior of the world. Luke wrote his Gospel about 60 A. D.

We shall read this Gospel, verse by verse, and learn to know our Savior better and better. We shall bring a reading for every Sunday and one for Thanksgiving Day. May our dear Lord bless these readings in our hearts, by them strengthen our faith, comfort our hearts in every trouble, fill us with love for our Lord Jesus, and keep us in the true faith unto everlasting life. With this prayer we are sending out these readings.

Sunday, November 5

In Your Bible Read Luke 1:1-4

Thank God for His Word; Prayerfully Study

Many had written of those things that were most surely believed among the followers of Jesus in those days. These writers delivered (gave) to them who from the beginning had

seen these things and were ministers (preachers) of the Word, as Peter and John. Many had written these things, but only the four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, were moved and led by the Holy Ghost to write these things of Jesus as we have them in our Bible. Luke writes that he had perfect understanding of these things from the very first, had diligently examined and searched all things. He was led by the Holy Ghost and wrote this Gospel to his friend Theophilus. It is the Word of God which we are studying now. Let us not forget this. And then also when we write a letter to our friend, let us tell him of Jesus, the one and only Savior, and send a precious Bible verse along with the letter. Always speak for Jesus.

Luke tells us why he wrote this book. He did it so that his friend Theophilus might know that these things in which he had been instructed are very sure. So when we study this Word of God, may we also become sure that these words about Jesus are true, and therefore joyfully believe in this Savior and be saved. May God in His mercy grant us this.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, bless Thy Word in our hearts so that we all may rejoice in our Savior Jesus Christ, and by faith in Him have everlasting life. Amen.

Sunday, November 12

In Your Bible Read Luke 1:5-10

Love the Savior; Do His Commandments

The priest Zacharias lived during the days of King Herod of Judaea. He was of the course of Abia. The priests were divided into twenty-four courses, or classes. His wife was Elisabeth of the family of Aaron. They both were righteous before God. They trusted in the promised Savior and were waiting for His coming. They did all the commandments and ordinances (rules) of the Lord without blame. They were a God-fearing couple. Surely, it is a blessed home where husband and wife believe in the Lord Jesus and serve Him in love. Is your home such a happy home?

But they had one great sorrow. They had no children. Elisabeth was barren (not able to have children), and both were well-stricken (very old) in years. To have no children, that was their great sorrow. Today so many married couples do not want children. They forget

that children are a precious gift of God. Our Lord Jesus loved children.

It happened that Zacharias was in the Temple doing his work before the Lord. It was his duty that day to burn incense, which gave a sweet smell as perfume. The burning of incense is a picture of offering prayers, which also are like a sweet smell, pleasing to God. And the whole multitude (all the people) were praying outside of the holy place; for they could not enter it. It was only for the priests.

Zacharias and Elisabeth belonged to God's people. They served God both at home and in the Temple. They are a good example for us. Let us learn from them to believe in the Lord Jesus, serve Him in our home, and gladly go to the house of God to learn His Word and to pray. It would be a great blessing to our country if we had many homes like this.

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, let my home be a home in which Jesus and His Word rule, and so make it a home pleasing to Thee. Amen.

Sunday, November 19

In Your Bible Read Luke 1:11-13

"Pray Without Ceasing (stopping)"

While Zacharias was in the Temple burning incense, an angel came and stood at the right side of the altar (church table), on which he burned incense. When he saw the angel, he was troubled and afraid. Often God sent His angels to His people to bring them words of good news. Angels are servants of God and do His commandments. So still today God sends His angels to serve His people, His Christians, Heb. 1:14. Wonderful comfort!

Zacharias was afraid, but the angel said: "Fear not." This word we find in our Bible again and again. Christians need not fear in this wicked and troubled world. And he need not fear, for the angel says: "Thy prayer is heard." Zacharias and Elisabeth were praying people. They took everything to God in prayer. Let us follow their example. So often we forget to pray, and we pray so very little. James writes: "Ye have not, because ye ask not." James 4:2.

For what did they pray? We learn from the angel's words: "Thy wife Elisabeth shall have a son." They prayed for a child again and again. Surely they prayed also for the coming

of the promised Savior. And now God gave them a son who was to prepare the way for this coming Savior. Indeed, God hears prayers and gives us the things that we ask in Jesus' name. Jesus promises: "Verily (truly), verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it you." John 16:23. In everything let us continue in prayer as this old couple did, and we shall be blessed. The angel also gave them a name for their son, saying: "Thou shalt call his name John." This name means "God is gracious (forgiving)." John was to preach grace and forgiveness to sinners and so prepare the way for the Lord.

Prayer: Grant, dear Father in heaven, that I boldly and without fear come before Thee, praying in the name of my Lord and Savior and trusting in His promises. Amen.

Thanksgiving Day, November 23

In Your Bible Read Luke 1:14-17

Thank God for Sending Ministers to You

Surely the hearts of Zacharias and Elisabeth were filled with thanksgiving to God for giving them a son. They had much joy and gladness. So we ought to come before God with thanksgiving today; and not only today, but every day. God has given, and still gives, us so many blessings for body and soul. Sit down; count the many good things you have from God, and your heart will overflow with thanks and praise, for you cannot count them all. Above all, we ought to thank God for His Son, who came into the world, shed His blood to wash away our sins, and then arose again. O joy, we are saved from sin, from death and from the power of the devil. Oh, give thanks unto the Lord! This is the Lord and Savior, for whom John was to prepare the way.

He should be a blessing unto many. The angel says: "Many shall rejoice at his birth," for John was to preach of the one and only Savior. Furthermore, "he shall be great (wonderful) in the eyes of the Lord." And he should not drink wine nor strong drink, for he was to be separated for God and His work. And God was to fill Him with power from on high, and, before birth, with the Holy Ghost, who would work mightily in the hearts of men by the preaching of John. Therefore, John should turn (bring) many of the Jewish people to the Lord their God. And this he would do with the spirit

(zeal) and power of the prophet Elijah. This Elijah was a prophet in the Old Testament who worked with great love and zeal for his Lord. And John should do as Elijah did. By his work he should turn the hearts of the fathers to their children in love to God. The disobedient, those that did not want to do God's commandments, he should turn to the wisdom of the just. This wisdom is the Word of salvation by faith in Christ Jesus that makes people just and right before God. And in this way he should make a people prepared for the Lord, the coming King and Savior. For all this Zacharias and his wife surely thanked and praised God continually. So God today sends His ministers to us with His Word to prepare our hearts for the Lord Jesus. Thank God for these ministers, and pray for them that they also may turn many to the Lord and be a blessing unto many.

Prayer: Thanks, dear Father in heaven, for the many good things Thou hast given us, especially for Thy dear Son, our Savior. Thanks also for these ministers that come to us and preach Christ unto us. Amen.

Sunday, November 26

In Your Bible Read Luke 1:18-22

The Word of God Is Sure and True

The angel brought good news to Zacharias. But it was so hard for him to believe it. Therefore he asked: "Whereby (by what) shall I know this?" He wanted a sign (wonderful happening) to show that the angel's words were true and to make him sure. He was an old man, and his wife was also very old. They could not expect a child any more. Therefore he could not believe the angel's words. So often we also find it hard to believe the words of Jesus. But they are true words of God. Believe every word of Jesus.

And the angel then gave him a sign. But first the angel spoke of himself as an angel of God, saying: "I am Gabriel, that stand before God; He sent me to speak to you and to show you these glad tidings (news)." And then he gave him the sign (wonderful happening), saying: "Behold (look), thou shalt be dumb (mute), and not able to speak." And he would not speak again until the child would be born, because he believed not the angel's words. But the angel's words were sure, for they "shall be fulfilled (exactly happen) in their season (right

time)." Every word and promise of God shall be fulfilled. His promises are not like the promises of people. They often break their promises.

For a long time Zacharias was in the Temple. The people were waiting outside and were wondering why he was staying in the Temple so long. Soon they were to find out. When he came out, he could not speak. And the people saw that he had seen a vision (angel). Then he beckoned (made signs) to them, and he remained (stayed) speechless (could not speak). Let us not ask for a sign (wonderful happening) as Zacharias did. Believe the Word of God, every word of it; not one word shall fail. It is the rock on which our faith is built.

Prayer: Help, heavenly Father, so that I believe Thy sure Word, especially Thy Word about Thy dear Son Jesus Christ, who died for me and arose again. Amen.

First Sunday in Advent, December 3

In Your Bible Read Luke 1:23-25

Rejoice! The Promised Savior has Come!

Upon finishing his work in the Temple, Zacharias returned to his home. He had seen and heard wonderful things. He would have a son, and this son would point to the promised King and Savior and speak of forgiveness and salvation for all the world. Singing was in that home. So singing is in the homes of all Christians today. This is the first Sunday in Advent. Advent means coming. There are four Sundays in Advent before Christmas, and these should prepare our hearts for the happy birthday of our King. Zacharias and Elisabeth rejoiced in the coming Savior, for whom their son should prepare the way. We rejoice in Him in whom all the words in the Old Testament of the promised King and Savior have been fulfilled. Let these four Sundays in Advent fill your heart with joy and singing for the day of our Savior's birth.

As the angel told Zacharias, so it happened. Elisabeth was to become a mother, and she hid herself five months for praise and thanksgiving unto God. She praised Him because He had looked upon her and taken away her reproach (shame of not having children) among men. Those were days of joy and gladness in their home, especially because the coming of the Savior was near.

And, thanks to God, we see it all fulfilled. Oh, see what the Lord has done for us! He has looked also upon us in His grace and has taken our reproach (shame) from us. He has laid our sins upon His Son Jesus and let Him shed His blood to wash us clean from sin. Praise God! In Christ Jesus we are good and righteous before Him. Hallelujah!

Prayer: Thanks, heavenly Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for sending Thine only Son for our salvation as Thou hast promised. Praise to Thee now and forever. Amen. J. L. S.

FIELD GLEANINGS

Fargo, N. Dak. — Here is a picture of the Lengby-Ebro-Fosston group of Deaf, living on farms in northern Minnesota. They have been faithful in attending services for many years. Services are alternated, so that each



family gets a chance to have the services in its home about twice a year. Winter usually is no serious handicap, since in that part of the State there are enough woods to break the force of the wind so that no snowbanks will seriously impede our traveling to the place of worship. Mrs. Clarence MaGaurn comes all the way from Bemidji to attend these services. Bemidji is about 40 miles away. Mrs. MaGaurn is the first lady to the left, front row. These Deaf all live on farms. W. F.

Our Ministers are Ready to Serve You

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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.

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PRINTED IN U. S. A.