

Ephphatha, that is, Be opened. Mark. 7:31-37



# The Deaf Lutheran

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## Open Doors in 1952

(Missionary Journey of Dr. J. L. Salvner)

### Mill Neck School Opens

We were privileged to attend the dedication of our second Lutheran school for the Deaf, the one in Mill Neck, Long Island, September 23. It was a great occasion. About 3,000 people attended. Dr. Streufert, Secretary of Missions for our Church, was the principal speaker. He showed us what a God-pleasing work it is to establish such a school. A large number of Deaf had come for the occasion. The entire service was interpreted for them.

Beautiful buildings in a beautiful setting of trees and flowers! Beautiful rooms very suitable for classrooms; a young and energetic superintendent; a staff of teachers eager to do their best for our Deaf boys and girls! The school opened September 26 with an enrollment of twenty-one boys and girls. A week later there were twenty-five, and in January another class will be added. May God's richest blessings attend also this school, as they have our Detroit school during almost eighty years.

### North Atlantic Fields

We then visited three of our Eastern fields. The first one was the Newark field, where Pastor Possehl is eagerly seeking to win more and more Deaf for Christ by opening one station after another. Next, we went on to the Boston field, where Pastor Gerhold serves. In the future his work will be so arranged that he will have more time to spend with the Boston group. The other stations will have regular services, although not quite as often. May God be with him and bless his efforts for the salvation of many Deaf.

### Washington Visit

Then we took a little side trip to Saginaw, Mich., for a few days of rest. There we celebrated our 75th birthday, with praise and thanksgiving to God, with our only brother and a host of other relatives. After that we went to the capital city of our country. There we met Pastor W. A. Westermann, visited several of his stations, and spoke words of encouragement to the various groups. We also addressed the student body of Gallaudet College and the students of the Normal Department. May our good Lord be with Pastor Westermann in his work with the young men and women at Gallaudet, among whom there are about fifty Lutherans, future leaders of our Church in various parts of our country. They can be of great help in building up the Kingdom among the Deaf. God grant it for His name's sake!

### North Florida

Now into Florida! God has been with us also there. Everywhere we found doors open by the grace of God. For several years the Deaf of Florida have had no regular preaching services. (How thankful we ought to be when we have a pastor who regularly comes to us with the Gospel of salvation!) November 1 we arrived in Jacksonville, where Miss Margaret Whatley conducts a Bible class for the Deaf every Sunday in the First Baptist Church. However, the Deaf also welcome a preaching service by an ordained pastor. We therefore promised them a service for December 9.

Our first service of the journey into Florida was held in St. Augustine, where the Florida State Schools are situated. We spoke in both schools and also conducted a service for the adult Deaf on November 4. Our next stop was

Tampa. Our friend Pastor Wolter kindly took us around making calls, and on November 11 we held a service with forty-two Deaf and a number of hearing friends in Zion Church.

#### *Miami*

For November 18 and 25 we had no services scheduled, but our good Lord did have, unknown to us. November 16 we went to Miami for a survey and also to attend a flourishing Bible class in Central Baptist Church. Pastor Knight got in touch with Mrs. Gibbons, who herself is blind and has a Deaf son and is deeply interested in the spiritual welfare of the Deaf. She at once suggested that we preach on Sunday, November 18. And we did to the Deaf who had come for the Bible class. And when we told her that we had nothing planned for November 25, she volunteered to inform the Miami Deaf of another service by us on that Sunday, and thirty-three Deaf came for this service. We surely thank Mrs. Gibbons and also Mrs. Hecht, the leader of the class, for granting us the privilege of telling the Deaf of the one and only Savior. Several Deaf, visiting from West Palm Beach, expressed the wish that services be held in their city, too. While in Miami, we also preached in two of our hearing Lutheran churches, addressed two Sunday schools, and spoke on our Missions Among the Deaf at a fellowship dinner at Holy Cross Church.

#### *West Coast*

On December 2, services were held in St. Petersburg with sixteen Deaf and in Tampa with thirty-four. At St. Petersburg, Pastor Steinbach drove us around to make calls. On November 21 we held a Communion service with three communicant members of our Church, two of whom were confirmed by Pastor E. C. Mappes and the third by Pastor E. Scheibert. Six Deaf were in attendance. Two of these were Mr. and Mrs. George Harmening, who repeatedly sent us addresses of Tampa Deaf and assisted us in other ways. They had expressed the desire to become members of our Church. We therefore instructed them in the chief teachings of the Bible, putting in many an hour with them, sometimes three or four hours a day. On December 4 they were confirmed in a service in Zion Church. Six deaf and twelve hearing friends were present. The

three other communicants then came to the Lord's Table with them. (Here we may mention that two communicant members attended our Miami service, formerly members of St. Matthew's Church in New York. Also present was a graduate of our Detroit School, Mrs. Salmond of Lake Worth.)

#### *North Again in Florida*

The time now had arrived that we again go to the northern part of the State. There we conducted a service in Gainesville with eight Deaf on December 7, and in Jacksonville with ten Deaf and fourteen hearing friends, and in St. Augustine with eleven on December 9. The same day at 11:00 A. M. we spoke to 130 boys and girls at the School, and Monday morning to thirty Blind and seventy Deaf of the School for Colored.

#### *St. Louis Pastor Called to Miami*

Thus we conducted fourteen services for the Deaf in Florida, made fifty-five calls, and on several occasions addressed our hearing Christians concerning our work. We thank God and rejoice in His grace that He has opened the doors so wide unto us and has granted us the opportunity of preaching Jesus Christ to so many Deaf. It was a joy for us to tell them of Jesus. God willing, we shall place a full-time man into this field. The call has been sent to Pastor Francis Gyle of St. Louis.

#### *Greater New York Area*

December 10 we boarded the train for New York to see Pastor Kraus. Besides serving St. Matthew's Church, he has established three other stations in New York City. God be with him also and richly bless his work. December 17 left for *home, sweet home*, which surely seemed sweet after our three months of journeying here and there.

J. L. S.

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### THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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**Bible Readings for Lent — 1952**

Behold the Savior of mankind  
 Nailed to the shameful tree!  
 How great the love that Him inclined  
 To bleed and die for thee!

**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 9***Read Luke 8:49-56**The Risen Savior Saves from Death*

Jesus was on the way to Jairus' house to heal the man's sick daughter. The woman that had been sick for twelve years stopped Him on the way, and He healed her. While He was still speaking to her, one came from Jairus' house, saying: "Thy daughter is dead: trouble not the Master." He intended to say: "Now it is too late." Perhaps the father felt the same way upon hearing this. But it is never too late for Jesus. Quickly He said to Jairus: "Fear not; believe only, and she shall be made whole (well)." And they came to the house, and He took Peter, James, and John, and also the father and the mother of the girl, into her room. No one else could go in with Him. And the women were there, weeping and crying and making a noise. And Jesus said: "Weep (cry) not; she is not dead, but sleepeth." But they all laughed and mocked because they knew she surely was dead. And Jesus put them all out. Then He took the hand of the dead daughter and called, saying: "Maid, arise." And her spirit (soul) came back, and she arose. Jesus then told them to give her something to eat. And the father and mother were surprised.

Our Jesus has power over death. He Himself went into death on the Cross and was buried. But the third day He arose again. He has overcome death and the grave. And He did it all for us. Christ "died for all and rose again," 2 Corinthians 5:15. Look to this crucified and risen Savior, and you need not fear death. Death will be like sleep unto you, and on the last day you will hear His voice and come out of the grave in a glorified body. Oh, thank Him who died for you and arose again, and live only unto Him!

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, Thou Victor over death and the grave, help that in life and death I trust only in Thee, my crucified and risen Savior, and so pass through death to life with Thee. Amen.

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 16***Read Luke 9:1-6**Preaching Only Christ Crucified*

Jesus called His twelve disciples and gave them power to command all devils and to cure diseases. But their chief work was to preach the Kingdom of God: They should show people how they could come into the Kingdom of God, His Church on earth, and at last go into the everlasting Kingdom of Glory. That is preaching the Gospel. This preaching of the Kingdom of God (the Gospel) is the preaching of the suffering Lord Jesus on the Cross. He shed His blood for sinners. Like Paul let us always in all of our churches and services decide to know nothing except Christ and Him Crucified. Only this preaching can save the world from sin. And to show that their preaching is the truth, Christ gave the twelve disciples power over all devils and to cure disease and heal the sick. They did this everywhere. The good Word of the Crucified One is the only saving truth.

And they should not worry about food and clothing. Jesus will take care of them. They only need to trust in Him. And when they come into a city, someone will take them in. And from that place they should go in and out doing their work. Indeed, not all people would receive them. Then they should shake off the dust from their feet for a witness against them. This dust shaken off should tell them that they have despised the good news of salvation. So today not all people will accept the preaching of the Cross. But they should know that they had a chance to learn the saving Gospel and must blame themselves if they are lost. Without the suffering of Christ there is no salvation.

PRAYER: Thanks, dear Savior, for giving to a lost world the good word of salvation by Thy suffering and death. Help us accept it and then preach it to all the world. Amen.

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 23***Read Luke 9:7-11**Always Speak of Your Suffering Savior*

Jesus did wonderful works, and King Herod heard of it. But he was troubled because some said that John the Baptizer was risen from the dead; and some said that the prophet Elias had come; and others said that one of the old prophets was risen again. And the King, troubled in

mind, said: "I have beheaded John, but who is this of whom I hear these things?" He wanted to see Jesus, but never went. Many people today hear us say so many things of Jesus, the Son of God, and how He suffered and died on the Cross. They ask: "Who is this Man on the Cross?" We hope that they also want to see Jesus. Don't let them wait, like Herod; but help them really come and see Him who suffered and died for them. "Compel (pull) them to come in."

The disciples now returned from their preaching tour and told their Lord what they had done. Let us also tell Jesus what we have done, how many people we have told about Him, and how many we have led to Him and His Cross. Or have you done nothing for Him? It is a blessed work to tell others of Jesus and His love.

Jesus then took them aside privately into a desert place, where no people lived, for a rest, and to tell them more of heavenly things. So let us often go aside into our room, take our Bible and prayerfully read the story of His bitter suffering and death.

Jesus and His disciples got no time for a rest. People followed them, and our good Lord welcomed them. He always received people, always had time for them. Again He spoke to them of the kingdom of God and healed their sick. So let us always welcome people and take time to tell them of the Cross of Jesus, of His suffering and death.

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, let me always love to think of Thy suffering and death for me and then gladly speak to others about it for their soul's salvation. Amen.

#### FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT, MARCH 30

*Read Luke 9:12-17*

*He Who Died on the Cross Is a Mighty Savior*

Jesus and His disciples were in a desert place. Many people had come. He spoke to them of heavenly things. But now it was getting late, and the disciples were worried about the people because they had nothing to eat. They told Jesus to send the people away into towns where they could stay all night and also get some food. But Jesus' answer was: "Give ye them to eat." But how could they do that? They had only five loaves of bread and two fishes. The only thing they could think of was

to go and buy food for all these people. There were about five thousand men. Oh, their little faith! So often also we worry and have only a little faith. The disciples should have said: "Lord, Thou canst give them bread; we cannot."

He told them to sit down, took the bread and fish, looked up to heaven, and blessed the food. He teaches us to receive our daily food with thanksgiving. Then He broke it, gave it to the disciples, and they gave to the people. And all were filled. Then they gathered all the broken pieces that had fallen to the ground, and they filled twelve baskets. We should never waste food. Surely, we have a wonderful Jesus! First He preaches to them for their soul's salvation, and then also gives them food for their body. Trust in Him always!

And This is the One that came to suffer and die for our sins. See Him hanging on the Cross! He surely can save, and has saved us, from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood. Let us thank Him and give ourselves to Him for this blessed work of saving souls.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, our wonderful and mighty Savior, thanks for Thy wonderful works which show that Thou art God and that Thou truly didst save us from sin, death, and devil. Thanks, dear Lord! Amen.

#### Dear Editor:

(A letter received from "Seabee" Bremer, Minnesota poet, when reminded to get his February "Life and Light" writing done on time.)

I don't quite get this "poet" stuff;  
At poetry I'm very rough.  
But if you insist on reading verse,  
You'll get it for better or for worse.

Thanks for setting the deadline date.  
I don't expect that I'll be late.  
About ten devotions now are done,  
But I'm not satisfied with every one.

I'll keep on writing day by day  
Until all are out of the way.  
Then I'll check them all once more  
And maybe write better than before.

C. B.