



Vol. 45

St. Louis, Mo., November, 1953

No. 11

## One Returned to Give Thanks

When Jesus lived on earth, one day ten men came to Him for help. Each one needed His help desperately, for each one had the terrible disease of leprosy eating away his very flesh and bones.

The Lord Jesus had compassion, and sent them away—healed. Their rotted flesh became well and sound.

But only one came back to thank Jesus. What happened to the other nine? We hear no more about them. They were gone, gone into the world, gone from God.

Today it is still the same. God, in His love and mercy, gives His precious gifts—too many to list in this small space. Again we have seen the earth yield bumper crops. The needed rains came. The sunshine did not fail. We have been blessed with health and strength from day to day. Peace yet reigns in our land. We are yet a free people. Best of all, we have the precious Gospel of Christ, who died to free us from the terrible leprosy of sin which can

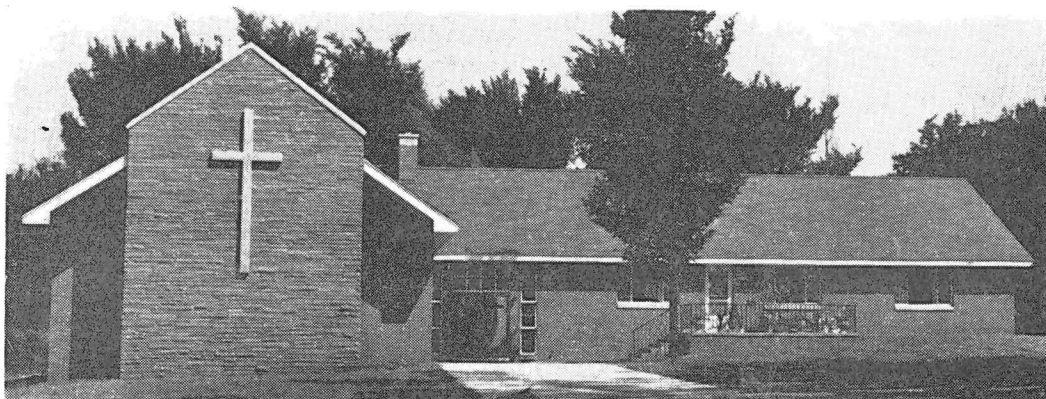
destroy not only the body but also the soul in hell.

Sunday after Sunday this precious Gospel is still preached. Day after day the Lord Jesus looks and waits for our prayers and words of praise and thanks.

To what group do we belong? To the nine who do not find their way to church, who do not find time to open their Bible or say a word of thanks? Do we greedily grab God's blessings and then lose ourselves in the world, and forget Him who gave all?

Or do we belong with the one who came back to Jesus to give thanks? Do we take time in this busy world for Jesus—on Sundays to go to His house to give thanks, and every day at home to read His word and raise a prayer of thanks morning and evening?

"Enter into the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him and bless His name." Psalm 100:4. Make every day Thanksgiving Day. "Every day will I bless Thee." Psalm 145:2.



Christ-for-the-Deaf Chapel, Jacksonville, Ill., dedicated Sept. 13, 1953

## *Ephphatha Conference 1953*

The annual meeting of our Synod's ministers to the Deaf was held in Des Moines, Iowa, August 7 to 11. Twenty-nine of the 34 full-time workers were present, coming from all parts of the country.

The Ephphatha Conference is always an event which these men look forward to, for it is here that they meet with their fellow servants of God, who have the same special work, the same problems and difficulties, and also, under God's blessing, the same holy joy of bringing the Gospel of Christ to the Deaf. It is always like a happy family reunion when these men get together.

The ministers brought with them enthusiastic reports from their various fields of Christian deaf and hard-of-hearing people who are doing the Lord's work.

The joyful announcement was made by the Board of Missions to the Deaf that three new missionaries have joined our ranks. These missionaries are Rev. Clark Bailey, Rev. Ervin Oermann, and the Rev. Donald Boerner. Rev. Boerner is assuming the Boston field. He was formerly pastor in South Dakota. Revs. Bailey and Oermann are 1953 graduates of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Rev. Bailey will take over the Colorado-West Nebraska mission, formerly served by Revs. A. Ferber and E. Mappes, while Rev. Oermann becomes missionary of the Texas-Oklahoma field. Rev. Theodore DeLaney, formerly of the Texas mission, has been transferred to Oakland, Calif., where a new mission station is being established.

### *Conference Service*

One of the highlights of the conference is the Communion service which is held on the opening day. This year Pastor R. W. Mackensen preached the conference sermon on the text 2 Timothy 4:1 and 2. He especially encouraged us to "preach the Word" (verse 2). He reminded us that it is not an easy thing to preach God's Word, but that it is most important that we do preach God's Word only, and to give to each person those words of God that he needs. After the sermon all the pastors partook of the Lord's Supper. This is much appreciated, as we do not often have the opportunity to commune.

### *Lectures and Presentations*

Then down to work. A good deal of time is given to the study of correct and clear signing. Pastor Possehl signed chapter 6 of Romans, verse by verse. The others watched to see if they could understand and to see if they could suggest a better way of signing the verse. In the same way Pastors Mappes and Thies signed parts of the Catechism.

Pastor Bremer led a discussion on "The Sermon to the Deaf," Pastor N. P. Uhlig led a discussion on the custom of receiving persons into church membership by confirmation, and Pastor Westermann led a discussion on how to deal with persons who are planning to get a divorce or have already gotten one.

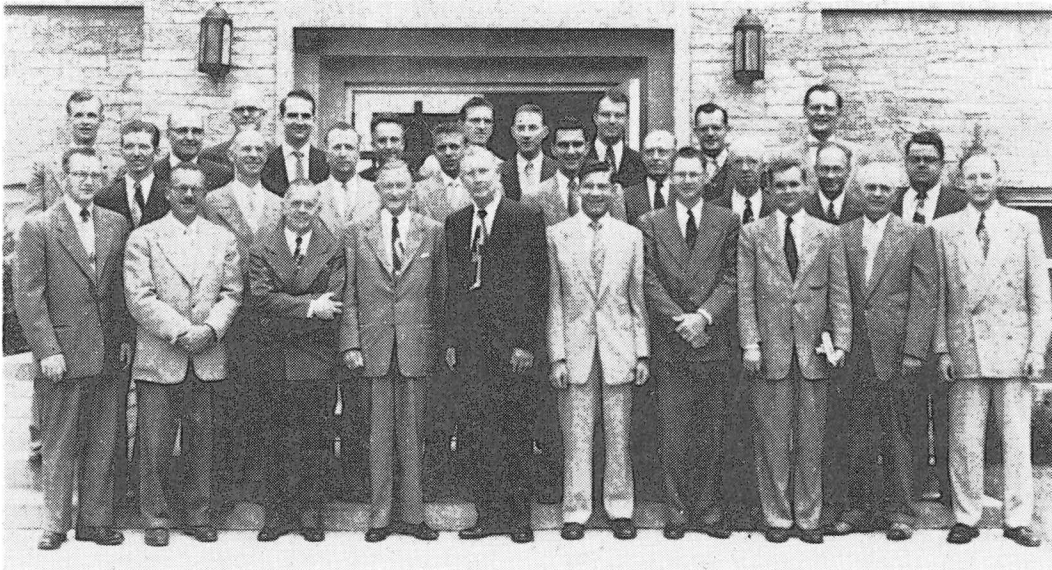
### *Reports*

The work of the Ephphatha Conference, like any other active organization, is not all done at the annual meeting. Committees are appointed to make studies on different things and to prepare materials that all the pastors can use. Thus Pastor Kraus reported on the activity of his committee on visual aids. He is always on the lookout for better filmstrips, slides, picture rolls, flannelgraphs, models—anything that can be seen, as helps in teaching the Deaf. He reported that he is working with another pastor in New York to prepare large picture booklets on every important Bible story.

Pastor DeLaney, realizing the need for hymns that can be signed easily, has been working for several years on a hymnal for the Deaf. He reported that he is ready to begin printing his book in sections.

### *"Deaf Lutheran"*

Concerning the DEAF LUTHERAN, our monthly church paper, it was decided to give the editorship to Pastor N. P. Uhlig. There are several reasons for this change. The former editors, both having large fields, found it difficult to put out the paper. Also the distance of our editors from each other and from the Publishing House in St. Louis was a handicap. Moreover, at the present time, Pastor Uhlig has found it more and more difficult to serve his outlying preaching stations because of the poor health of his invalid wife. Under the new setup Pastor Uhlig will be relieved of several of his



Ephphatha Conference, Des Moines, August 7—11, 1953

Front row (l. to r.): Pastors Simon, Jonas, Gaertner, Salvner, Uhlig, Stacy, Ring, Kraus, Mappes, Kosche. Second row: Thies, Scheibert, Frederking, Drachenberg, Mesenbring, A. Ferber, W. Ferber, Bremer, DeLaney. Rear row: Rische, Cordes, Westermann, Reinking, Borchardt, Oermann, Mueller, Bailey, Mackensen, Gerhold

stations in exchange for the DEAF LUTHERAN work. Pastor Kosche took over the Mattoon and Effingham stations in September.

#### *Brotherly Encouragement*

Dr. Salvner, veteran minister to the Deaf, and Pastor Buege, chairman of the Board of Missions to the Deaf, represented the Board at the conference. Both gave inspirational talks to the men, encouraging us in our difficult but God-given and most blessed work. It is such encouragement and mutual understanding and helpfulness that makes the Ephphatha Conference a source of strength and courage for the pastors.

This was shown very strongly in one of the sessions, when three of the men confessed that they had become very discouraged in their work and had come to the conference with the intention of resigning. However, at the close of the conference, these three and the others, who no doubt also often feel discouraged, parted with the resolve to continue with God's help to build the Church of Christ among the Deaf.

#### *Joint Service*

On Sunday a joint service was held at Calvary Church of the Deaf, with the local deaf congregation in attendance. Pastor Jonas preached an inspiring sermon on the text Matthew 21:12-16.

#### *Officers*

New officers chosen at the closing session are: Pastor Bremer, chairman; Pastor Kraus, vice-chairman; and Pastor DeLaney, secretary.

#### *Hospitality*

The hosts did an excellent job of taking care of our physical needs during the five-day stay. The ladies of Calvary Church served excellent meals on Friday and Saturday, and the good ladies of Trinity hearing congregation did likewise in their beautiful new church building on Monday and Tuesday. Hearing and deaf Lutherans graciously opened their homes to provide lodging for the men. A fellowship evening was enjoyed at the home of Pastor and Mrs. Mesenbring on Monday.

Next year's meeting will be at St. Paul, Minn.

#### *God's Protecting Hand*

While on his way home from the Ephphatha Conference, Pastor Ring of Portland, Oreg., was involved in an auto accident. His wife and three small children were with him. The auto was a complete loss, but no one was injured. "God's protecting hand was over us," was Pastor Ring's explanation for their miraculous deliverance.

The thought comes to us — our Lutheran

(Continued on page 81)

## Studies in Luther's Catechism

### TABLE OF DUTIES

#### *Pastors After God's Own Heart*

A pastor should be a man after God's own heart who shall fulfill all His will. His daily prayer, therefore, is: "Lord, teach me to do Thy will," and with Jesus, the Chief Shepherd, he ought to say: "I delight to do Thy will, O my God." Psalm 40:8.

#### *The Pastor in His Home*

In His holy Word, God says that a pastor should be "one that rules well his own house." This he does if he lets the Word of God be his guide and gives himself to much prayer. Daily he will gather his family for the reading and study of God's Word and for prayer with them, always seeking the welfare of their souls. His children he should have "in subjection (obedience)." The children should obey their parents in the Lord, and so be an example to all children. And he should have them in subjection "with all gravity," that is, with all serious-mindedness. Especially, he should bring up his children in "the nurture (teaching) and admonition (leading) of the Lord." A pastor, therefore, must be well grounded in faith and in love, "not a novice," that means, one who just a short time ago has become a Christian. Such a one easily becomes proud and will fall, as the devil fell, in pride.

#### *The Pastor Among People*

However, not only in his home, but always among all people, he should be "holding fast the faithful Word as he has been taught." He should stay in the Word as Christ and His disciples taught it. He should not let man's word and wisdom take its place, as so many preachers do today. These do not lead sinners on the way to God, but by their false teaching lead them on the way to hell. "Hold fast the Word," God tells him. And it is the "faithful" Word. You can depend upon it at all times. It is sure. Then he will be "able by sound doctrine (teaching) both to exhort (give comfort) and to convince the gainsayers," that is, to defend the truth against all who speak against it. What a blessing if a pastor holds fast the Word!

*O Lord, Help!*

Thus Paul describes a pastor after God's own heart. Every pastor must exclaim, "Who is

sufficient (fit, able) for these things?" 2 Corinthians 2:16. Paul answers, "It is of God." A pastor, therefore, daily prays to His Lord and Master, beseeching Him that He make him a pastor after His own heart. Also church members should daily seek the Lord in prayer for their pastor, that he always be a true and faithful shepherd of souls and by his teaching and life lead many to eternal life. Yes, pray for your pastor!

J. L. S.

## Northwest Laymen's Conference

By VICTOR LYON

One hundred and five Deaf and several hearing friends registered for the fourth annual Northwest Lutheran Deaf Laymen's Conference in Vancouver, B. C., Canada, August 21 to 23.

Conference theme was "My God and I."

Friday afternoon Rev. John A. Beyer, host pastor, opened the sessions with a devotional address in which he showed that a Christian's most delightful business is to serve the Lord.

Vancouver, B. C., chairman, Mr. A. Stanley Walker, extended a very cordial welcome to all the friends of Jesus who had met to consider their part in the work of God's kingdom. The conference chairman, Mr. Harold Riffe of Portland, made the response and conducted the business sessions.

Rev. Ernest R. Drews, secretary of the Board of Missions to the Deaf, delivered a paper on "The Stewardship of Life," showing that all we are and have is really God's and that Christians are only stewards, or managers, of God's property.

On Friday evening a picnic supper in the



Portland, Oreg., Group at Northwest Lutheran Deaf Laymen's Conference, Vancouver, B. C., August 21 to 23, 1953





Fourth Annual Lutheran Deaf Laymen's Conference, Vancouver, B. C., August 21—23, 1953

justly famed Stanley Park was immensely enjoyed by everyone.

In the Saturday morning devotion Pastor August L. Hauptman gave an interesting address about Jesus calling us His friends and how His enemies become His friends.

Mr. Samuel Schneider, a Jewish man from Seattle, spoke on "My God and I—How We Met," showing how Pastor G. W. Gaertner had led him to know and accept Jesus as his God and Savior.

Mr. Wm. Reid of Vancouver read a paper on the duty of pastors and deaf church members to work and to witness for Christ.

An impressive skit, "My God and I—in Teaching Children," was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Luther Sandberg, their two daughters, and Pastor Hauptman.

At the banquet on Saturday evening Mr. Wm. Reid and Mr. A. M. Brodie, first Lutheran Deaf in Vancouver, told how Rev. Victor Meyer took the first step that led to beginning of church work among the Deaf in 1929 by Rev. G. W. Gaertner.

Colored films of the North American Indian Sign Language and the British Royal Tour of Canada were enjoyed by all.

Spokane was chosen as the 1954 conference

city. Mr. John Skoglund of Spokane was elected president and Mr. Victor Lyon of Bozeman, Montana, secretary.

In two services on Sunday morning Pastor Drews delivered a sermon for hearing people about Deaf Missions and a different sermon for the Deaf.

#### *God's Protecting Hand*

*(Continued from page 79)*

Church has been doing church work among the Deaf for 57 years. At the present time there are 34 full-time pastors traveling many miles every month to all parts of the United States and into Canada. We will not even try to guess how many millions of miles these men have traveled—by bus, by train, by auto, and by plane. Yet, in all these many years and in all these millions of miles, not one pastor has been killed by accident, or even injured seriously. Surely God's protecting hand has been over these servants of His.

Let us not forget to thank Him also for this great blessing that He has given. And let us often pray Him to continue to keep His protecting hand over those men who travel the world's highways and byways to bring the Gospel of Christ.

M. K.

## Bible Readings for November, 1953

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 — Read Luke 18:1-8

*Pray Without Ceasing (Stopping)*

Jesus wants us to pray always and not to grow tired. We should remember this especially because He will come again to judge. So that we will do this, He tells us a parable about an unjust judge. He feared and respected neither God nor man. Now, there was a widow in that city who was in great trouble. She came to this judge and asked him to help her against the one who was causing this trouble. But the judge was not willing to help that poor widow. However, she came again and again. She did not stop coming. Then he said to himself, "I do not respect God nor man, but this woman will not let me rest; therefore, I will help her before she wears me out and perhaps gives me more trouble." By her continual coming she overcame that unjust judge. So God often does not quickly answer our prayers. He lets us pray and cry for a while. Jesus tells us that these praying Christians are His elect, whom He knows and loves and delights in. If that unjust judge finally helped that widow who was a stranger to him, surely God will help His elect children. The judge told the widow to go away, but the heavenly Father invites us to come to Him in prayer, saying, "Call upon Me in the day of trouble." Let us pray always and not grow tired. He will help. However, when Jesus comes, not many will have such a faith. Some Christians continue not in prayer and give up. Come, pray always; God will hear you and help you.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, teach me to pray always and not to give up, trusting in Thy promises and rejoicing in them because Thou didst die for me. Amen.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8 — Read Luke 18:9-14

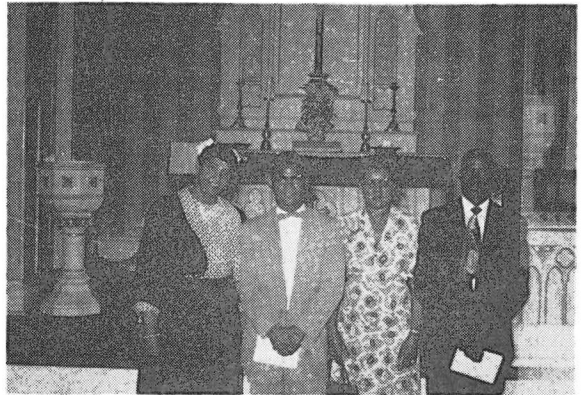
*Saved by Grace Without Works*

How can you be justified or become just and right before God? Jesus tells us of two men who went into the Temple to pray. Both wanted to become right with God. The one was a Pharisee, the other a publican.

The Pharisee went to the front so that all people could see him. He thanked God. For God's kindness and mercy? No, he thought he needed no mercy and no forgiveness. He

came to tell God how good he was. He had not stolen nor broken holy marriage as others did. He also was not like the publican, who, as other tax collectors, had stolen and cheated people. He also had done much good. He fasted twice a week and gave tithes (1/10) of all he got. People perhaps did say that he was a very good man and surely would go to heaven.

The publican stood afar off. He was ashamed to be seen of people. He did not lift up his eyes to heaven. In shame he also stood before his God. In great sorrow for his sin he smote his breast. And for what did he pray? Oh, listen to him. He says, "God be merciful to me, a sinner." He really said, "I, the sinner, the



Latest class of Deaf confirmed in Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wis. Left to right: Mrs. Mary Williams, Mr. Veodis Robinson, Mrs. Samuel Hendricks, Mr. Samuel Hendricks

chief of sinners." He did not trust in himself nor in his works, but in God's mercy and forgiveness. People perhaps did say that this man was a very bad man and surely could not go to heaven.

But what does Jesus say? The publican received forgiveness and was saved. He humbled himself and begged for God's mercy, and God exalted (lifted up) him. In great pride the Pharisee trusted in himself, and therefore God put him down. Not all people that go to church and pray will be saved. No, only they who humble themselves in their sin and trust in God's mercy in Christ Jesus. Will you trust in yourself, or in God's mercy and forgiveness?

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, I am a sinner. Help me that I trust not in myself, but only in Thy great mercy in Christ Jesus for my soul's salvation. Amen.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15 — Read Luke 18:15-17

*Humbly Believe as a Little Child*

Jesus is the Friend of children. He wants all the little children in His kingdom. Mothers brought their little ones to Him that He might touch and bless them. But the disciples told these mothers to go away and not to trouble Jesus, as He was teaching the grown-up people. But Jesus said: "Suffer (let) little children to come unto Me." He invites the little ones and He tells His disciples, "Forbid them not; do not keep them away from Me." He wants them in His kingdom, for He says, "Of such is the kingdom of God."

Parents should bring their little ones to Jesus as these mothers did, and they do this when they have them baptized in the name of Jesus. Thus they receive forgiveness and become God's children. And, then, blessed are those parents who tell their little ones of Jesus and His love and of His blood that washes away all sin. Some people try to keep the little ones away from Jesus and say, "Let them first grow up, and then let them decide." Jesus answers, "Let little children come unto Me."

Now He tells us that we should receive the kingdom of God as little children. Children joyfully believe the word of Jesus, humbly pray to their heavenly Father, and sing: "Jesus loves me. This I know, For the Bible tells me so." Come, ask God for such a childlike faith and be saved.

PRAYER: Heavenly Father, by Thy Holy Spirit give me such a humble and childlike faith, and thus I be saved. Amen.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 — Read Luke 18:18-23

*Give Up All for Jesus*

How can I be saved and get everlasting life in heaven? That is the most important question in all the world. A rich young man came to Jesus with this question, saying, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus then asked, "Why do you call Me good? None is good, save (except) one, that is God." Jesus is God, and therefore it is right for the young man to call Jesus good, but he did not know that Jesus was the Son of God. With these words Jesus plainly told him, "Only God is good. You are not good." Then Jesus told him some of the Commandments. Quickly the young man said, "All these Commandments

I have kept from my youth up." He meant to say, "I am good." So many people love to say, "I have not stolen, nor killed, nor committed adultery; I am good." But Jesus says, "None is good, excepting one, God." Do you believe Him?

Then Jesus made it very plain to the young man that he was not good and that he had not even kept the First Commandment. Jesus told him to sell all that he had and to give it to the poor, and he would have treasure in heaven. And then he should come and follow Jesus. All that he had he should give up for Jesus. But he was not ready to do this. When he heard these words, he was very sorrowful, for he was very rich. Money was his god. He loved it more than he loved Jesus.

So we should be ready to give up for Jesus all that we have, yes, also our own life, for He suffered and died for us and our sins and made us rich in God. May God's Holy Spirit help us to do this.

PRAYER: Dear Savior, I am a poor and miserable sinner and not good. Thou art good, and hast made me God's dear child by Thy blood. Help that I be ready to give up all for Thee. Amen.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29 — Read Luke 18:24-27

*Love Not the World Nor the Things of This World*

Do you love money? Do you love the world and the things of this world? Take heed (care)! When Jesus saw the young man going away because He had told him to give up his riches, He was very sorrowful. Always He is sad when anyone leaves Him and loves the world. He then said that it is hard for them who have riches to enter the kingdom of God. For making this very plain He said that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into heaven. And why is that? People who love money, be it little or much, trust in money and think they need not worry, because they have a few dollars laid aside. Therefore He says that it is hard for them who trust in riches and love them to enter into the kingdom of God. The disciples therefore in surprise asked, "Who then can be saved?" We know our wicked heart, that it also loves money and the things of this world. And we also must cry out, "Who

then can be saved?" Jesus answers, "The things that are impossible with man are possible with God." Indeed, we cannot tear ourselves away from the world and the things of this world. But God can do it. He shows us that it is foolish to trust in riches and the things of this world, and that to have forgiveness, life, salvation, joy in the Holy Ghost, and the hope of heaven makes one truly rich. Oh, may God make every one of us truly rich in Christ Jesus!

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, teach me to learn that all things of this world will pass away and that the great blessings by Thy suffering and death on the cross are the true riches. Amen.

J. L. S.

### Field Gleanings

**Gainesville, Fla.** — Mrs. Gottlieb Schock, nee Phyllis Ferguson, whose baptism and reception as a member of the Lutheran Church was recently reported, died August 20 as a result of a hemorrhage. It became true again, as it has been since the time of Mother Eve, that a woman has one foot in the grave when she is about to become a mother. Mrs. Schock is mourned by a grieving husband, their little son Gordon, and her sorrowing parents. She was laid to rest at Fall City, Mont. Pastor Gyle spoke on Romans 14:6-8. May God, who has taken her to Paradise, be the Comfort and Keeper of those she left behind!



Medora Williams and Lausene Gipp (r) confirmed by Rev. R. W. Mackensen, Delevan, Wis., May 31, 1953

SOME people spend more time trying to dodge duty than would be required to discharge it.

SATURDAY has no sorrow that Sunday cannot heal — if Sunday is a day of worship, prayer, and praise.

WORRY is like a rocking chair. It will give you something to do, but it won't get you anywhere.

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 Rev. N. P. Uhlig, 104 Finley St., Jacksonville, Ill.  
 Rev. W. Westermann, 1728 Varnum St., N. W., Washington 11, D. C.

### Minister of the Deaf and the Blind

Rev. O. C. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago 17, Ill.

These ministers preach in more than 275 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at over 50 city and State schools for the Deaf. You will find them ready to serve you; call upon them or write to them. The Deaf need God's Word.

### THE DEAF LUTHERAN

Official Paper of Lutheran Churches of the Deaf

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