

# *The Deaf Lutheran*



*Ephphatha, that is,  
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

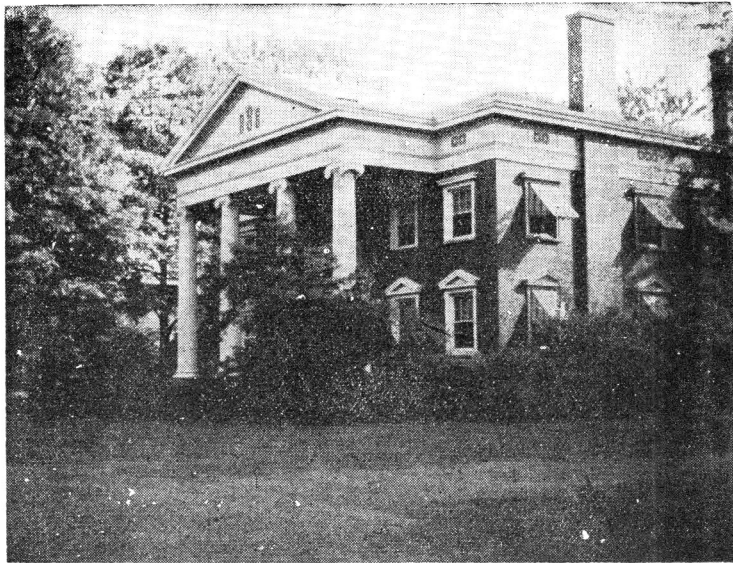
Volume 46

FEBRUARY 1954

Number 2

## We Salute . . . .

*Alpha  
Lutheran  
Church  
Rochester*



Alpha Lutheran Church and Parsonage  
Rochester, N. Y.

## A Thought for Today

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again. The short hand is the hand of discipline; the long hand is the hand of mercy. Slowly and surely the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each

stroke; but over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down twelvefold blessings for each stroke of discipline and trial, and both hands are fastened to one secure pivot—God's heart of love.

*Found in an old lady's Bible*

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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

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo. Subscription price, 50 cents 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. 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 3d Friday, two weeks before issue. Send all news, pictures, stories, articles to Rev. N. P. Uhlig, Editor, 104 Finley St., Jacksonville, Ill.



**Dedication Day Service at Rochester, N. Y.**

Left to right: Dr. C. A. Behnke, Dr. J. L. Salvner, the Rev. H. Rohe

## Rochester, N.Y., Hail!

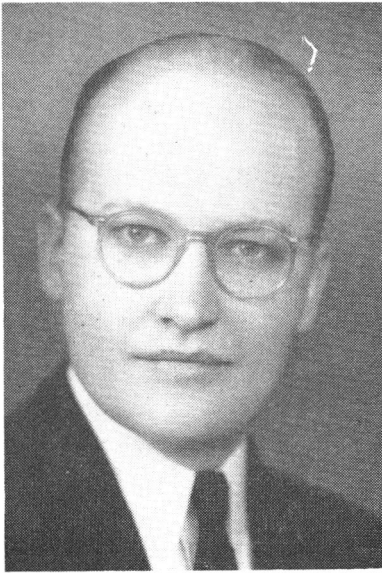
Sunday, November 22, 1953, will not be forgotten in Rochester, N. Y. That was the day when Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf dedicated its fine chapel and parsonage to the greater glory of God and the salvation of precious souls. The DEAF LUTHERAN is glad to present to its readers in this issue in word and picture a little of the story of Alpha Congregation and its lovable pastor, the Rev. Herbert Rohe. The picture on the cover shows us the fine property in which the congregation now worships, located at 1369 East Avenue at Hawthorn in Rochester.

On that Sunday in November nearly 400 Deaf and hearing gathered for three services of dedication and praise. After the opening ceremonies the Rev. J. L. Salvner, D. D., Executive Secretary of the Mission to the Deaf of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, preached on Psalm 84:4: "Blessed are they

that dwell in Thy house; they will be still praising Thee." He also interpreted the fine message of the President of the Eastern District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, the Rev. C. A. Behnke, D. D., in the afternoon service. Dr. Behnke is pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Rochester. In the Sunday



**Rev. Rohe and Dr. Salvner, leading procession to open Alpha Church doors on Dedication Day**



**The Rev. Herbert W. Rohe**

school hall of St. Mark's the Deaf have been conducting their services hitherto. Another Rochester pastor, the Rev. Herbert Plehn of St. Matthew's, preached a very striking and appropriate sermon in the evening service. Basing his message on St. Paul's words in Romans 12:2: "Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds," he pointed to the fact that as Alpha Church had taken a house built for the purposes of this world and had transformed it into a house of God, so we should in heart and mind here be drawn from worldly things to the things of God. Rev. Rohe, who had officiated at the opening ceremonies and had been the liturgist in the other services, interpreted Pastor Plehn. Long will Alpha remember those inspiring services of November 22, 1953.

We are happy to state that the photographers were busy that day and were good, and so we can present a number of pictures in this

issue which amplify the word pictures of the story. Particularly we thank the Rev. Paul Voigt, pastor of Concordia Lutheran of Brockport, N. Y., who is the official photographer of the Rochester Pastoral Conference. His picture, taken at the afternoon service, shows Doctors Behnke and Salvner, preacher and interpreter, and Pastor Rohe, the liturgist, and gives us a good view of the altar and chancel of the church. Among the various other pictures we do not find a single one that shows a sober face, but it is evident all hearts and faces were filled with joy and gratitude that God had given His Deaf children one more place where He records His name and will come to them and will bless them. That is as it should be.

God has been good to Alpha. He gave Rochester a faithful pastor in Rev. Rohe. Many trips had he made from Pittsburgh to Rochester over the years. His health has not always been the best, but the good Lord gives strength to those that look up to Him. When some time ago Pastor



**Confirmation Class, Alpha Church**

Left to right: Mr. and Mrs. Rod, McNeil, Rev. Rohe, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Van Vechten, Mr. Ralph P. Tugaw



Rohe was transferred to Rochester, the years and months of quiet work yielded a visible return. Alpha Church numbers some fifty communicant members, and twenty-five of these were added in the last year. What a great blessing! On the Sunday following the dedication a class of five new members was welcomed into the church by confirmation. These had been waiting since October for their official acceptance as members, but had awaited the dedication in order to have the joy of being received in the place they had helped to get ready. In a picture they are shown before the altar: Mr. and Mrs. Roderick McNeil, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Van Vechten, and Mr. Ralph Tugaw. God bless these new members together with all the old ones and give them great joy in their church.

The Sacrament of Holy Baptism was administered in the new chapel November 29 to Greg. K. Kaltenbach, infant son of Gertrude Ann Kaltenbach. Pictured at the font are his mother, his proud uncle and sponsor, Ronald Heffernan, and the



**Baptized at Alpha Church**

Left to right: Gertrude Ann Kaltenbach, Ronald Heffernan, Ida Eysaman



**Officers and Ushers of Alpha Church**

Left to right, front row: C. Leary, president; G. McGee, vice-president; C. Heffernan, secretary; H. Altemoos, treasurer; D. McGee, usher. Back row: Ushers W. Johncox, L. Van Vechten; A. Heriz, trustee; R. McNeil, usher

baby is held up by the proxy of an aunt sponsor, Mrs. Ida Eysaman. The font as well as lectern and altar were obtained through the services of Dr. Behnke from the State Hospital.

Alpha has a staff of interested and active officers, pictured also. Mr. C. Leary is president, Mr. G. McGhee is vice-president, Mr. C. Heffernan is secretary, Mr. H. Altemoos is treasurer, Mr. A. Heinz is trustee, Messrs. D. McGhee, W. Johncox, L. Van Vechten, and R. McNeil served as ushers November 22.

Not to be outdone nor to be forgotten are the ladies of Alpha Lutheran Ladies' Guild with their officers, pictured (right to left): Mrs. H. Benowitz, president; Mrs. A. Heinz, vice-president; Mrs. C. Leary, secretary; and Mrs. A. Altemoos, treasurer.

The church is situated upon a plot of ground 190 by 300 feet. The building is a large brick house. The chapel seats 80 people. The chapel

and other educational and social rooms are on the first floor. The pastor's family lives in a nice six-room apartment on the second floor, where the pastor's study and office is located. The property was purchased for \$30,000 but is valued at \$66,000. The Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod made a grant to Alpha Congregation from the "Conquest for Christ" collection, and a \$10,000 loan was made for a term of one year, completing the purchase. The Christmas picture gives one a good idea of the beautiful and stately interior of the building.

Pastor Rohe conducts a service on Sunday evenings for the upper-grade Protestant children at the Rochester School for the Deaf. He gives a sermonet and presents visual aids, and the children take care of the readings, hymns, and prayers, thus participating extensively in the worship. About 35 children usually attend these services.

At the Central New York School for the Deaf in Rome, N. Y., where Rev. Rohe has instruction for Lutheran children, he conducts a serv-



**Officers of Alpha Ladies' Guild**

Left to right: Mrs. H. Altemoos, treasurer; Mrs. C. Leary, secretary; Mrs. A. Heinz, vice-president; Mrs. H. Benowitz, president



**Christmas in Alpha Church**

ice on the third Monday of the month for all Protestant children. One hundred to 125 attend this service.

Thus we have visited Rochester and Alpha Congregation. May God bless this field and group and its pastor and family. U.

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My life is but a weaving

Between my Lord and me;

I cannot choose the colors

He worketh steadily;

Ofttimes He weaveth sorrow,

And I, in foolish pride,

Forget He sees the upper

And I the under side.

Not till the loom is silent

And the shuttles cease to fly

Shall God roll back the canvas

And explain the reason why

The dark threads are as needful

In the Weaver's skillful hand

As the threads of gold and silver

In the pattern He has planned.

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Christ, Jacksonville, Ill., bids  
**Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference** to  
meet there May 1—2, 1954.



## *Field Gleanings*

### "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

Thus we sang while visiting several of our fields. Our first stop was **Rochester, N. Y.**, where we were scheduled, on Sunday, November 22, to preach at the dedication of a chapel-parsonage newly acquired by Alpha Congregation with the help of our Board. They now have a beautiful chapel for worshipping their God and Savior and also sufficient room for social purposes. On the second floor the pastor's family has six rooms, which make fine living quarters for them. The Deaf had arranged three services of praise and thanksgiving. In the afternoon Dr. C. A. Behnke preached the sermon, and in the evening Pastor H. E. Plehn. Both pastors and their congregations have done much for our Rochester flock during the past years. Thanks was expressed to them. Through the efforts of Dr. Behnke they obtained an altar, lectern, and baptismal font from the State Hospital. The Deaf were busy till late Saturday night in order to have everything in good shape for dedication day. We addressed Alpha Congregation also on Thanksgiving Day, November 26.

Then we went on to see **Pastor Donald Boerner**, our new man for the New England States. We were happy to be with him for ten days.

During his seminary days he did some work among the Deaf in Delavan, Wis., and Jacksonville, Ill. We thank God for this new worker who knows the sign language and is very much interested in the work. This field has suffered greatly because of the fourteen-month vacancy. However, with the help of God and His blessing it shall be built up again. We went with him to Springfield, Hartford, and Worcester and preached in every place, also in Boston. We also visited the three schools with him in which he conducts religious classes for the Deaf. God be with him and bless his work unto the glory of our Savior's name and the eternal welfare of many Deaf.

Our next destination was Jackson, Miss. On the way we stopped off in **Memphis** to see Brother D. Thies and his family for a few hours and to take a look at the parsonage recently purchased by our Board. It surely is an ideal home for the Thies family. We thank God for it. The work is progressing nicely in the entire field under the rich blessings of God.

The following day we went on to **Jackson**. There we met Vicar Drachenberg, who for the last six months ministered to the spiritual needs of the Deaf in the Jackson area. Also the newly called pastor, the Rev. Marlin Sampson, was there to meet us. At Watonga, Okla., his former charge, we had given him

some training for the work. We were surprised to hear that he preached his first sermon to the Deaf November 29. We visited the State Hospital with him and preached to several of the patients there, and in the evening of the same day we addressed eighty very attentive deaf boys and girls in the school for colored. Sunday morning we addressed the assembly in the school for white children and in the afternoon in the school for colored. In the evening service Pastor Sampson was commissioned in Redeemer Church to serve as pastor and missionary to the Deaf in the Jackson field, comprising stations in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana, and Florida. Pastor N. R. Gardels of Redeemer Church was the liturgist, and he and Vicar Drachenberg assisted in the commissioning. Redeemer Ladies' Guild held a reception for the Sampson family before the service for which hearty thanks are due them. Fourteen Deaf attended. May our dear Lord be with our new worker and grant that he be a blessing unto many.

J. L. S.

**Minneapolis, Minn.** — As a memorial to her husband **Mrs. Ida Gruber** has presented ten beautiful Bibles to Grace Lutheran Church for the Deaf. This is a fitting memorial to **Mr. Clarence Gruber**, who was a faithful member of Grace Church until his sudden death on October 9, 1953. He loved his Savior and the Word of God. His love for Jesus moved him to be active in the work of his church. For a number of years Mr. Gruber served as church treasurer, and at the time of his death he was one of the trustees of the congregation. Mr. Gruber was deeply concerned about people who

were not faithful to their Lord. By diligent study of the Bible and faithful attendance at the Lord's house we can have the same hope that Mr. Gruber had and be well prepared to die, if death should come to us suddenly as it came to him.

**Kansas City, Mo.** — Basketball players and visitors coming to Kansas City for the AAAD Tenth Tournament, are cordially invited to our worship in Pilgrim Chapel, Sunday morning, April 4, at 10:45. (From 38th and Main Streets go four blocks east.)

Pilgrim Church's presentation of the Christmas pageant "The Birth of Jesus" was a complete success. Friends in the audience liked it so well that they ask if they could see it twice. Among our many friends in church on December 27 we were happy to welcome fourteen young friends who were home for the Christmas Festival. Come again and often!

We of Pilgrim are pleased that our pastor is continuing his studies for the third year in Extension classes of Kansas University. Also we are happy that he is chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the Western District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. We are sure that he, working with 275 other pastors in the District, can often speak to them about the deaf and hard-of-hearing Christians. And congratulations to Pastor and Mrs. Ferber upon the arrival of a "bundle from heaven" — a **new granddaughter** born on December 29, in Kansas City.

**Miss Caroline Jespersen** of Lawrence, Kans., had an accident in her home late in December and suffered a broken leg. Miss Jespersen often

travels many miles to worship at Topeka or in Kansas City.

It is a joy for us to tell young boys and girls of the schools about Jesus. Thirty-five boys and girls from the Kansas City School for the Hard of Hearing attend our Wednesday classes. Some of us help the pastor teach the classes. In the Kansas School for the Deaf one hundred twenty-five boys and girls study the Bible on Mondays.

**Barbara** and **Marilyn Stanton** were confirmed in Kansas City a short time ago. Barbara is an honor



**Confirmation at Kansas City**

Marilyn (left) and Barbara Stanton with the Rev. A. E. Ferber

student at Gallaudet College, Washington, D. C., and worships regularly in the Lutheran church there of which the Rev. W. Westermann is pastor. **MRS. SHIRLEY GOUBY**

**Omaha, Nebr.** — The hearing Sunday school composed of 23 children of deaf members gave their Christmas program at **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** in **Omaha** in the afternoon of December 20. A group of nine small deaf children living in the vicinity of the church also took part in the program. The motion picture "The Child of Bethlehem" was shown after the program. Over one hundred attended this service.

Three **marriages** were performed in **Omaha** the latter part of Decem-

ber: on December 19, **Mr. Hans Neujahr** and **Miss Rose Stepan**; on December 23, **Mr. Harold Poch** and **Miss Eilene Uzel**; on December 31, **Mr. Kenneth Harlan** of Des Moines, Iowa, and **Miss Dorothy Dundon** of Belmar, N. J. — God grant these newly married people many blessings.

In the service at **Lincoln, Nebr.**, on December 28, **Mrs. Howard Kling** became a member of Grace Lutheran Deaf Congregation by confirmation. May our Lord and Savior Jesus abide with her and keep her faithful unto death. **E. M.**

**Spokane, Wash.** — Congratulations to Pastor and Mrs. August L. Hauptman, who were made happy before Christmas through the gift of a **second son, Martin John**, who was baptized December 27.

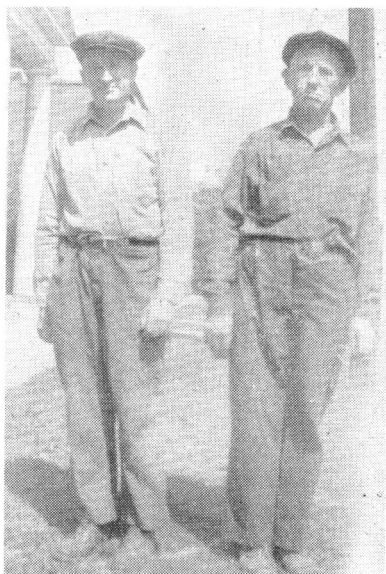
**Devils Lake, N. D.** — Through the generosity of the North Dakota Women's Missionary League, which provided considerable money, and the helpfulness of St. Peter's Lutheran Church and its pastor, Rev. L. Dierks, a chapel has been provided for Rev. W. Ferber to use in his work among the children of the North Dakota School for the Deaf. The chapel is attached to the church for the hearing. It is used for the monthly Communion services — Pastor Ferber has eighteen confirmed children at the School for the Deaf — as well as for other meetings and classes. It is commendable that hearing churches thus facilitate the work of the pastors of the Deaf. A pastor of the Deaf usually must travel over a vast territory to minister to the various little groups, as not all Deaf live in metropolitan areas, and unless one has help at these stations, the work is doubly difficult and exacting.



North Dakota women and churches should get a round of applause for their helpfulness. We are glad to note that so far as we have been able to ascertain, all pastors of the Deaf all over the nation are loud in the praise of the hearing churches and pastors. May God reward them!

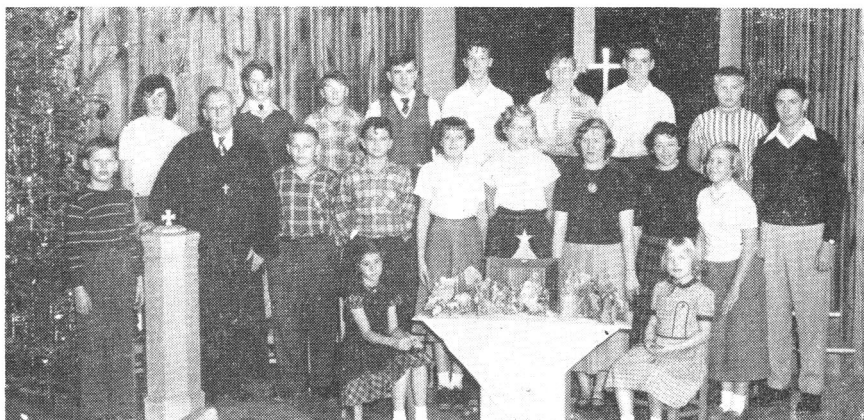
**Jacksonville, Ill.** — The children of the Lutheran classes had their Christmas service December 13. The Christmas story was told by them according to the program "O Holy Night" and was accompanied by the showing of a beautiful filmstrip. Five students of the sign-language class of Concordia Seminary of Springfield assisted in the service. **Thirteen children were baptized** under the Christmas tree. These could not be present on November 22, when fourteen others were baptized as reported in the last issue of the DEAF LUTHERAN. A number of hearing friends attended the service.

**Metamora, Ill.** — At the Country Home here, not far from Peoria, William Scharm and Frank Crank have been staying for a long time.



Wm. Scharm and Frank Crank  
Metamora, Ill.

They are quite lonely. They remember the days of their youth when they attended the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf at Detroit and wonder about their old friends. They remember their Savior Jesus too. Perhaps some readers of the DEAF LUTHERAN will recognize them on the picture and send greetings.



Group Baptized at Christ for the Deaf Chapel, Jacksonville, Ill.

Nineteen of the twenty-seven that were baptized November 22 and December 13, 1953, by Pastor Uhlig

## Bible Cake

4½ cups flour ..... 1 Kings 4:22  
1 cup butter or shortening

Judges 5:25

2 cups sugar ..... Jeremiah 6:20

2 cups raisins ..... 1 Samuel 30:12

2 cups figs ..... Nahum 3:12

2 tsp. honey ..... 1 Samuel 14:25

6 eggs ..... Jeremiah 17:11

½ cup milk ..... Judges 4:19

2 tsp. baking powder ..... Amos 4:5

Season to taste with spice

2 Chronicles 9:9

Mix as for any cake recipe, and  
bake.

Thanks to

MRS. FRANCES BRADBURY  
Memphis, Tenn.

## Why Be Baptized?

Jim just couldn't believe that a person could get forgiveness for his sins by being baptized. "How can mere water do anything like that?" he asked Rev. Johnson.

"Well, Jim," replied the pastor, "suppose God told you that if you picked up the first stone you saw, He would forgive your sins. Would you do it?"

"Why sure," said Jim.

"And do you believe God would forgive your sins if you did it?"

"Of course, because He would have to keep His promise."

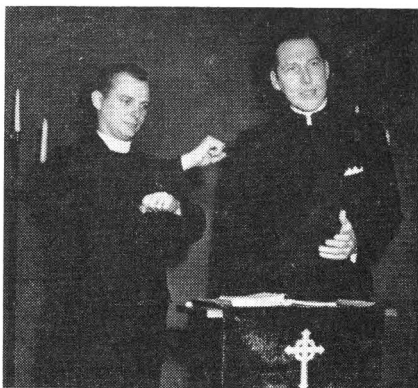
"Exactly!" replied Rev. Johnson. "And it's just the same with Baptism. It's not the water. It's the promise of God behind the water."

"God has promised: 'He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.' Again He says: 'Arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins.'"

These are the gilt-edged promises of God which stand behind the sim-

ple act of Baptism. Fortunate is the person who accepts those promises as the unbreakable assurances of God. From the *Silent Visitor*

The first telecast to employ the sign language on a regular schedule for the benefit of the Deaf has been instituted by the **Rev. O. H. Bertram**, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Naugatuck, Conn. "Moments of Comfort" is an inspirational feature, telecast each Wednesday over WNHC-TV, New Haven, Conn., by



The Rev. George R. Kraus, pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church (Deaf), Jackson Heights, N. Y., and the Rev. O. H. Bertram, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Naugatuck, Conn., shown as they appeared on recent telecast in "Moments of Comfort," over Station WNHC-TV, New Haven, Conn.

him. On the first and third Wednesdays of the month **Pastor Geo. Kraus**, St. Matthew's, N. Y., renders the program in the language of signs. We are very happy that at last the Deaf are being regularly remembered on TV. Ten years ago, when people first began to whisper about television, we urged that this would be employed for the Deaf, and we hope that soon many stations will grant the Deaf the chance to get their due share of air-wave Gospel preaching.



# Catechism

## TABLE OF DUTIES

### What Hearers Owe to Their Pastors

In our Bible pastors and preachers are called laborers. They labor, work, in the word and doctrine (teaching), 1 Timothy 5:17. They preach the Gospel; they comfort poor sinners; they bring cheer to the sick; they go after the lost; they prepare the dying for a blessed end. They give themselves continually to prayer and the ministry of the Word, Acts 6:4. Christian friend, your pastor labors for you!

### Laborers Worthy of Their Hire

Jesus says: "A laborer is worthy of his hire." Therefore also pastors are worthy of their hire (wages) because they labor. They should "eat and drink such things as they (the hearers) give." As a man gives his hired man food and drink or pays him that he may buy things necessary for this life, so Christians should do to their pastors. God says by His Apostle Paul in Galatians 6:6 that Christians should share with their pastors and teachers all good things. They should pay their pastor not as little as possible, but share all good things with him. Gladly we ought to do this, for our pastor comes to us with the greatest blessings: forgiveness of all sin, life, and salvation. Therefore Paul writes: "If we have sown unto you spiritual things (things for the soul), is it a great thing if we shall reap

your carnal things (things for the body)?" 1 Corinthians 9:11. Whatever we pay our pastor is not charity, but his hire (wages). We never can pay him in full for his work. A doctor seeks to keep our body well and alive, and we pay him for it. But our pastor keeps not only our body, but also our soul unto life everlasting by the preaching of the Cross.

### *Pastors, Preaching the Gospel, Should Live of the Gospel*

Someone perhaps will say: "Why should we give for the pastor's support? He works only a few hours, preaching on Sunday and making a few sick calls. The other days of the week he can do some other work and so make his own living." Yes, he could as did St. Paul. But listen to God's Word. In 1 Corinthians 9:14 we read: "Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel." This means, pastors should get all they need for body and life from them to whom they preach the Gospel. The pastor must have time to study and to prepare for his sermons. For that he must have *much* time. To young Timothy St. Paul writes: "Meditate upon these things; give thyself *wholly* to them." 1 Timothy 4:15. A faithful pastor has no time for other work. The Apostles could not take care of the poor. Therefore they asked the congregation in Jerusalem to appoint other

men for this work, saying: "We will give ourselves *continually* to prayer and to the ministry of the word." Acts 6:4.

### *God Wants This*

Paul writes: "Even so hath *the Lord ordained* (decided) that they which preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel." *The Lord commands*: "Give your pastors food and drink; share all your good things with them." God wants you to learn His Word, which makes you wise unto salvation by faith in Christ Jesus. Therefore He sends a pastor to you with His soul-saving Word and asks you to give him what he needs for body and life. Are you doing this? Are you perhaps spending much money for the wisdom and the joys and pleasures of this world? How much are you giving for the support of your pastor, who by his teaching brings you true happiness here on earth and everlasting pleasures in heaven? Paul says: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked." Galatians 6:7. We mock God if we give nothing or very little for the support of His ministers. Paul therefore goes on saying: "Whatsoever a man soweth, that

shall he also reap." If a man sows much, he will reap much; if he sows little, he will reap little. So he who gives much will reap great blessings; and he who gives little shall receive little blessings.

If you value a faithful pastor then you will do as your Savior wants you to do and gladly and thankfully give for your pastor's support who ever directs you to the "Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29. J. L. S.

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WE squander health in search of  
wealth;

We scheme and toil and save;

Then squander wealth in a search  
of health;

And all we get's a grave.

We live and boast of what we own —  
We die — and only get a stone!

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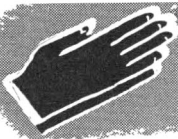
Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference,  
meet at Jacksonville, Ill., May 1—2,  
1954.

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THE great are never proud, and  
the proud are never great.



Rev. Kosche (center) is welcomed by Pastor Uhlig, Mattoon, Ill.



## Devotions

Sunday, February 7

Read Luke 19:35-38

### Welcome Jesus, Your King and Savior

The disciples threw their clothes upon the colt, the young ass. Then they made Jesus sit upon it. The people also took off their clothes and spread them on the way and made a carpet for Him. They honored Him and wanted to give themselves and all they had to Him. So we should give ourselves to this Jesus, give Him honor, and accept Him as our King and Savior. That will please Him.

Let us join the people in rejoicing and singing praises to God. The people remembered the many mighty works He had done in every place. These works showed the power of God in Jesus. Christ still does wonderful works today. Look at His Church in the world. In every place you find some who believe in Him and His love. The Word of Jesus changes men and women also among us. For this we ought to sing praises unto our God.

They sang: "Blessed be the King that comes in the name of the Lord." They led Him into Jerusalem as the King and Savior promised of God by His Prophets in the Old Testament. Jesus accepted this song and was pleased with it. He is the Blessed One. God's blessing rests upon Him. He came in the name of the Lord. God sent Him. This King brings many blessings. They sang: "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest." God made peace with man

through Jesus. Sins are forgiven. Heaven is opened! For this all glory "in the highest." Jesus is our peace by His blood. For this we must give all glory to God. We learned that on Christmas Day and every Sunday since then. And we shall again learn it during Lent, on Good Friday, and on Easter Day! Rejoice, and sing!

PRAYER: King and Savior Jesus Christ, praise to Thee for making peace with God for us, for giving us forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Amen.

Sunday, February 14

Read Luke 19:39, 40

### Welcome Jesus with Praise!

Not all people welcomed this Lord Jesus. In the crowd we see also Pharisees, proud people who thought themselves righteous before God and therefore not in need of a Savior. Also today not all people will welcome this Jesus and praise God for Him. There are Pharisees also today among God's people. They are proud and think they can save themselves by doing good. They think they need no Jesus.

The Pharisees therefore said to Jesus: "Teacher, rebuke (scold and stop) Thy disciples." They did not want to hear people welcoming Him with joy and praise. They did not believe in Him. They believed Jesus was a teacher, but not the Savior and King. So people today do not want us to rejoice in the Christ Child in the manger and in Him who died on the cross. They think it all foolishness that we with the Wise



Men worship the little Lord Jesus. They laugh at us because we say with Paul: "Christ the Son of God loved me and gave Himself for me."

But Jesus was pleased with the songs of joy and praise. He answered: "I say unto you that if these be silent, the stones will cry out." His disciples must not be silent. They must sing praises to Him. Also today Jesus is pleased when we welcome Him with songs of praise. Let us sing and praise. We must not let the wicked world stop us.

PRAYER: Welcome, dear King and Savior Jesus! Come, make Thy home in my heart, and make it sing praises to Thee. Amen.

Sunday, February 21      Read Luke 19:41-44

#### Turn from Sin to Jesus, and Be Saved

Because so many people and the Pharisees would not accept Him and be saved, He cried when He came near the city. And He said: "Oh, I wish you had accepted Me and My peace!" He came to save all people. Therefore it makes Him sad when He sees so many who care not for Him and His salvation. A mother's heart is full of sorrow when her son turns from her and goes on the wrong way. So Christ's heart is full of sorrow when He sees so many despising His love and going upon the way of sin. Are you making Him sad or full of joy?

Jesus cries also because He sees great trouble coming upon the city. Enemies will come around it. They will kill the people and their children. They will not leave one stone upon another. The city and all its people will be destroyed. And why? Because they knew not the time when God visited them with His

grace and forgiveness. Surely, also today Jesus has reason to be sad and cry because so many people know not the time of God's grace and forgiveness. They will be lost forever. God will come on Judgment Day, and they must go away from Him to everlasting fire in hell. Also we should be sad and cry when we see people who do not care for Jesus, do not come to church, who despise this good word of forgiveness and walk upon the way to everlasting hell and will be lost forever. How terrible! Let us work and pray that they turn from sin to Jesus, the only Savior.

PRAYER: Help, dear Savior, that I trust in Thee and be saved from everlasting punishment in hell, and then live with Thee forever in heaven. Amen.

Sunday, February 28      Read Luke 19:45-48

#### Go to Church to Pray and Worship

Jesus went into the Temple. There He saw things that did not please Him. People were selling in the Temple, not thinking of God, but only of themselves. Jesus is not pleased when people go to church for business, or to meet friends, or for other things, and not for the things of God.

He showed from the Bible that this was not right. "It is written," He said. And that is written also for us today. And what is written? "My house is a house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." People should come to church for prayer, not to rob God of His honor and not to rob people of their heavenly blessings. These people were in the Temple, but God was not in their heart. Some people come to church not for God, but make it a den of thieves.

For what purpose is the Temple, or the church? To pray and to worship the Lord Jesus and to hear His Word. Jesus went into the Temple to teach and to preach the Word of God. But the Pharisees and the Hebrew teachers did not want such teaching. Therefore they made plans to kill Him. But they could not find how to do it. Many people had come from far and listened to Him very attentively. So in our churches we must preach the word of salvation by faith in the blood of Jesus,

and nothing else. Some will not like this preaching, but that cannot, and should not, stop us. As the people in our lesson, so let us attend to this glorious Gospel of salvation, and gladly hear and learn it.

PRAYER: Thanks for my church, dear Savior, in which I may pray and learn Thy Word, the Word which can save my soul. Help that I go to church and gladly hear and learn Thy Word for my soul's salvation. Amen. J. L. S.



## Bible Quiz

- Figuring a cubit to be about a foot and one half, how tall was Goliath the giant? 1 Samuel 17:4.
- What happened to Lot's wife when she disobeyed God's command when Sodom burned? Genesis 19:26.
- Who could run faster, Peter or John? John 20:4.
- Who was a big liar? Acts 5:3.
- How did God call Himself because He always is? Exodus 3:14.
- What happened at the party of Job's oldest son? Job 1:18, 19.
- What do people forget when they drink strong drink? Proverbs 31:5.
- How many words does the shortest verse in the Bible have? John 11:35.
- Why are people that get riches the wrong way like a partridge that fails at hatching her eggs? Jeremiah 17:11.
- What does God call a person that says, "There is no God"? Psalm 14:1.
- On account of which sins did God let Jerusalem be destroyed? Amos 2:4, 5.
- Which are the three great virtues? 1 Corinthians 13:13.
- What did an Israeli in old time give to someone? Ruth 4:1.
- What name meaning "confusion" was given to the city in which a building job was not finished? Genesis 11:9.
- Sparrows like to be together in a flock, but where will you probably see a lonesome sparrow whose mate was killed? Psalm 102:7.

