

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 46

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Number 11

Sing unto the Lord!



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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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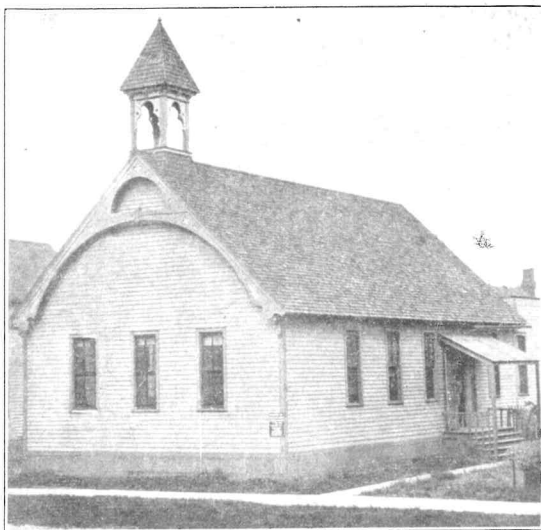
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The Story of Our Savior Lutheran Congregation of the Deaf, Detroit, Mich.

The first Lutheran service for the Deaf of Detroit was held in the year 1901 by the sainted Rev. Enno Duemling, D.D. He was pastor at that time of Emmaus Lutheran Church, Twelfth and Lysander Sts. He, Rev. T. M. Wangerin, Rev. Herman Bentrup, and Rev. W. Giese had constituted the first class of students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, when Rev. Augustus Reinke had begun preaching to the Deaf in 1894 and had gone to St. Louis to interest students in the sign language. They had been instructed by Mrs. Jacoby. Pastor Duemling's knowledge of the sign language was very limited at that time, but faithfully he preached to the few Deaf that came to "hear" him. In 1902 he became institutional missionary at Milwaukee, Wis., where he labored with wonderful success for more than forty years.

The late Rev. Wm. Gielow, for over thirty years superintendent of the Ev. Lutheran Institute for the Deaf and for several years pastor-in-charge of Our Savior's, wrote of him: "His unselfish efforts among and in behalf of the Deaf and for the cause of the church netted *one* man who continued as a member of his hearing congregation until he joined the congregation of Deaf gotten together by the Rev. Arthur Boll, then the missionary in charge

of the Toledo Field." Just *one* man permanently gained! But what a tribute to him, to labor and labor and just have a *little* success! But it was not just that he had gained *one person*; by his efforts he had

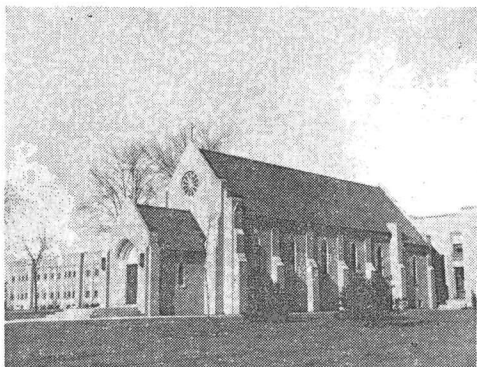


Bethany Lutheran's old hall, Our Savior's first church home

called attention to the fact that there were plenty souls to be served at Detroit.

Rev. Boll at Toledo saw the opportunities at Detroit. He had worked at Louisville, Indianapolis, and other cities in Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky and had gathered small flocks in a number of cities. Despite advice to the contrary he in 1904 decided to make preaching trips to Detroit. Soon he had a group of ten Deaf attending his services, which were held at old Trinity, Gratiot Ave. and Rivard St. Slowly but steadily the interest and attendance on the part of the De-

troit Deaf grew, and when Rev. Boll left in 1912 to begin work in the New York metropolis, there



Chapel of Institute for the Deaf, Our Savior's present house of worship

were twenty-two communicant members on the list.

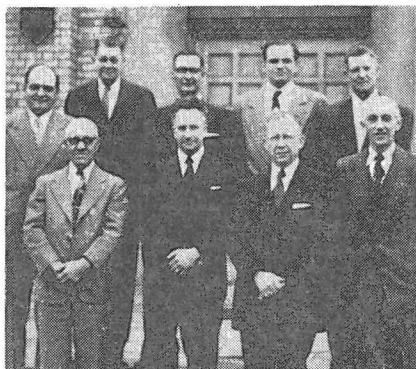
Shortly before moving east Rev. Boll installed Rev. O. C. Schroeder as the first resident Lutheran pastor of the Deaf of Detroit. It was well that Rev. Schroeder made Detroit his headquarters; about that time began the great boom, as Detroit became the great automobile city of the world. From all parts of the country came the people in search of work and opportunities, and the city had a mushroom growth that extended its limits beyond the boundaries of Wayne County. Among the newcomers were many Deaf and quite a number of Lutheran Deaf. These with newly confirmed swelled the number to about fifty by the fall of 1917. The congregation was formally organized in 1914 with sixteen voters, and a constitution adopted.

Bethany Lutheran Church, located at that time at Pulford and Meldrum Sts. and served by the late Rev. R. Smukal, gave the Deaf the use of its first church building, a little frame hall standing on the property behind

its newer church. The Deaf could now have weekly services. The chapel was dedicated on the third Sunday of July, 1915. It had been redecorated without and within and was a very neat little place of worship.

Pastor Schroeder was given a release to accept the charge of the Kansas City Field in 1917. After fruitless calls to Rev. Wangerin and Rev. Gielow, the latter agreed to be pastor-in-charge of Our Savior Church and served in that capacity until 1923, and through his preaching the congregation was strengthened in faith and good works.

In 1923 Candidate E. Scheibert, graduate of Concordia Seminary of St. Louis, accepted the call of Our Savior's and served it faithfully and successfully for fourteen years, in 1927 taking a call to serve the Chicago Deaf parish.



Our Savior, Detroit, Church Council
L. to r., front: Ed. Luchow, Pastor Borchardt, Leon Moreland, Wm. Denham; rear: Clarence Schulz, Leo Kuehn, Walter Reiher, Raymond Much, Ben. Beaver. Mr. Moreland died October 18

The congregation did not have to wait long for a successor. The Rev. N. E. Borchardt, pastor to the Deaf at Cleveland, accepted a call ex-

tended to him and was installed on April 11, 1937, at Epiphany Lutheran Church at Seven Mile Road and Woodward Ave. by Pastor E. T. Bernthal, D. D., pastor of that



Officers, Ladies' Aid Society, Detroit

L. to r.: Mesdames Paul Stemplowsky, Ed. Luchow, Gerald Adler, Ralph Beaver, Leo Kuehn, Levi Schemenauer, Steven Klein

church and a great benefactor of the Deaf. Pastor Borchardt has now served the Detroit and Eastern Michigan Field seventeen years. Besides taking care of Our Savior's, he serves stations at Flint and the Michigan School for the Deaf, Coldwater, Monroe, Mount Clemens, and Saginaw.

A great day of rejoicing was Pentecost Sunday, May 12, 1940. On that day the chapel and the other beautiful buildings of the Institute for the Deaf were dedicated. A large assembly of about 10,000 people were gathered on the spacious lawn of the Institute, among them several hundred Deaf. The speaker of the day was the sainted Dr. Walter A. Maier, and the undersigned interpreted his wonderful sermon that day on "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." When the cornerstone of the chapel had been laid some time before, there was placed into it, with other

things, this statement by Mr. John Berry, who got his transfer from Our Savior's to the Church Triumphant in heaven last year: "For many years we, the members of Our Savior's, have hoped and prayed that the Lord would make it possible for us to have our place of worship. The Lord has heard our prayers. He has induced Mr. Wm. Knudsen to build a church for us. We thank God for this and pray that He will remain with Our Savior Congregation in the future." The chapel of the Institute is this church, which Our Savior's now can use for its worship with the children of the Institute. The church furniture of the chapel was paid for by Our Savior Congregation, the needed \$3,000, borrowed from the Michigan Church Extension Fund, was repaid within four years.

There is a very active ladies' aid society and a young people's society. The congregation now numbers two hundred communicant members, and there are about one hundred com-



Officers, Detroit Y. P. S.

L. to r.: Marjorie Jones, vice-president; Marlene Schulz, president; Shirley Sauter, secretary; Harry Petrowske, treasurer

municant members in the other five stations that comprise the Detroit Field.

On February 8 of this year the voters decided to become self-supporting. That means that they undertook to support their pastor alone, without aid from the Board



Editorials

The Month of Song

December is the month of song. Christmas with its glorious story of the birth of our blessed Savior brought down from heaven the heavenly host that sang the grand song, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And though we do not know whether Christ was really born in the month of December or in some other month, we celebrate His birth in December, and the birth of Christ brought forth the never-ending joy that Christmas brings and that moves young and old to sing.

Take your Bible and turn to the second chapter of the book of the Prophet Haggai, who lived about the year 500 before Christ was born. In the verses six to nine we read that the Lord will shake heaven and earth and then "the Desire of nations" will come, that is Jesus the

Savior, and He will build a glorious temple on the ruins of the devil's kingdom, that is His great church of believers. The earth was shaken; it was shaken in the sense that the powerful emperor Caesar Augustus of Rome made a law that all the the world should be "taxed" or, as we would say, that a census of all the people should be taken, everyone going to his home city to have his name recorded. This made a tremendous commotion in the world, the population of the whole then-known world traveling around on the highways, that one could say that the earth was shaken. And the heavens would be shaken, for the angels would come to the fields of Bethlehem from heaven and sing "Glory to God in the highest," for then would the Savior be born.

Then in the eighteenth verse the twenty-fourth day of the ninth month should be remembered as the

of Missions to Deaf, which subsidizes, as it is called, or as we could say, it helps to pay the salary of the various fields with money contributed by the members of the hearing churches of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

The congregation has always tried to help carry the common burden of the church. Besides the pastor's salary and rent it pays its share of the pastor's pension premium payments and a monthly contribution toward the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, whose chapel it uses for worship, and it makes regular contributions

toward all synodical purposes and other benevolences. Needless to say, its members all use the envelope system, which consists of weekly envelopes for the Detroit congregation and monthly envelopes for the preaching stations which help to make the parish self-supporting. This is as God wills.

Our Savior Congregation of the Deaf is a well-established and honored member of the Lutheran Deaf churches in our country. May God bless and keep it in His Word and the spirit of love. Success comes only through God's blessing. U.

great and noteworthy day. The ninth month of the Jewish holy year began with the new moon of the month of our December, thus we get December 24 and 25 as the great days. The heathen people of old Rome celebrated a heathen festival on these days; so the Christians celebrated the birth of Jesus.

The Prophet Zechariah, who lived about the same time as Haggai, said in verse ten of his second chapter: "Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for, lo, I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the Lord."

But can the Deaf sing? To sing means to give expression to the feelings of your heart in words which are not spoken in the ordinary tone of the voice but in the raised and lowered notes of the musical scale. But the main thing of the song and of singing is the feeling of the heart, not the noise of sound. The phonograph can make that noise, but you would not say that the phonograph record can sing. The Deaf cannot so well make the different sounds of the musical scale, but they can feel in their hearts the joy of the sweet words of Christmas. So they can do the thing that we call singing, but in a way that is different from that of the people that can raise and lower their voice, for that you must be able to hear.

On the front page we have deaf ladies of Los Angeles singing unto the Lord. Yes, let us not overlook the beauties of song. And it does not matter that maybe some cannot make the signs as gracefully as others, just as not all hearing people can sing as beautifully as others that have a better voice; just sing unto the Lord! And we look forward to the day when our hymnbook for the Deaf will be forthcoming, in

which many of our beautiful hymns are arranged for easy singing. That will be a great help for making more beautiful our services in which we praise God. U.

For the Deaf of India

Missionary Arnold Lutz, now returned to India, left with a happy heart. He was glad to get back to his beloved India and the work of bringing Christ to the heathen there. And there was another matter which made his heart glad. He had written a letter to Pastor George Kraus of New York, who has been so active to advance the work of the Deaf Mission Society for Foreign Mission Work. The letter said in part:

"But at this time I would like to ask you to get a few things for the Deaf work in India if the money is available. I think it would be helpful if I could take out some or all of the following items: a complete set of the flip charts; a complete flannel-graph set with the pictures already cut out; a projector for 6-volt battery and also extra 6-volt bulbs, a complete set of the church-craft slides, and a small or medium-sized screen to go with the projector. I would appreciate getting these things rather soon, because we are due to leave on September 7 from Seattle. Sorry we won't be seeing you this time. Let me know what you can do about the things I mentioned above. I'll write again if I think of anything else.

"Sincerely yours,
"ARNOLD J. LUTZ"

And he got all this. The Deaf paid for them. The Deaf Mission Society is doing a good work. It welcomes help from other Deaf; "come over and help us," they say.



The picture on our front page is of Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Los Angeles. L. to r.: **Mesdames Esther Kingsley, Martha Nilsen, Mae Thuve, Helen Stephenson, Floyd Miller, Fannie Degner, F. V. Farmer.**

Minneapolis, Minn. — August 29, 1954, was a day of rejoicing in Grace Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn. Seven people knelt before the altar of the Lord and



Minneapolis Confirmation Class
L. to r., front: Mrs. Arthur Cuskey, Pastor Cl. Bremer, Miss Beverly Johnson; rear: Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Aspnes, Henry Peplinski, Mrs. and Mr. Roy Young, Jr.

promised faithfulness to the Lord unto death. These seven new members of Grace Church are **Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Aspnes, Mrs. Arthur Cuskey, Miss Beverly Johnson, Mr. Henry Peplinski, and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Young, Jr.** Miss Johnson was also baptized. We pray that the Lord will keep them faithful to their promise.

One member of this class, **Mr. Aspnes**, has enrolled at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. He has normal hearing, but plans to become a pastor for the Deaf. We wish him the Lord's blessings.

C. B.

Rev. A. H. Hauptmann of Spokane regularly mentions the TV production "This Is the Life" in his weekly bulletin and gives a summary of the story so that his people might get the best understanding of this series of stories which our Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod prepares and which is ranked as of the very best that TV brings.

From **Oshkosh, Wis.**, Paul Thiel reports that **Clyde Fuller** has been ill for a long time; that **H. Fenske** has been severely injured in a car accident at Rice Lake, Wis.; and that **Richard Thiel**, a nephew of Paul Thiel, has died at the Veterans Hospital at Wood, Wis., after having joined the Navy only a short time ago.

St. Louis. — Holy Cross Lutheran Church of the Deaf is just finishing a year in which the members undertook to raise the largest budget in the history of the congregation, \$2,305. Good progress has been made, and the members are hoping that the end of the year will see their efforts crowned with success. The officers of the year are Bert Keim, president; Norman Hollrah, secretary; Wm. Lambur, treasurer; Leo Muir, Walter Maack, and Marion Rossell, trustees; O. Krumm and T. Wrausmann, ushers.

The congregation set itself an ambitious goal by trying to gather \$6,000 in two years for its building fund.

Holy Baptism was administered to **Michael David Marshall**, the infant

son of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Marshall, and to **John and Janet Griffin**, children of Mr. and Mrs. John Griffin. May God bless and keep these lambs of His fold.

The year brought sadness to the members of both Holy Cross and St. Philip's congregations. **Mrs. Lois Weaver** of St. Philip died January 7. Both she and her husband had eagerly awaited the birth of their first child, but both mother and the unborn child were called to the heavenly home. She was laid to rest January 10 at Washington Park Cemetery in St. Louis County.

Mr. Wm. Pundmann of St. Charles departed this life March 4 at the age of 79 years as the result of a stroke. The Sunday before he had been strengthened in faith through the Lord's Supper, and with a glad heart he went home to Jesus. He was buried March 7. Dr. Niedner conducted the service, with Pastor Reinking interpreting.

The Deaf and the hearing Saint Philip's Congregation worshiped together on several occasions this year, for instance, in the midweek Lenten services. When Pastor Heyne preached, Pastor Reinking interpreted him; when the latter preached, he signed and spoke at the same time. These services bring the groups together well, as the Deaf are members of the hearing St. Philip's Congregation.

Missionary Arnold Lutz, who has now returned to the India mission field and who for several years served the Deaf of Minneapolis, gave the members of Holy Cross and St. Philip's a very profitable and highly interesting lecture on the work of our church in India. Although he has been away from

signs for seven years, he signed the entire lecture and did a very fine job of it. May the Lord be with him and his family in India, and may he be successful in his efforts to reach out to the Deaf in that foreign land.

Mr. Bert Keim has recovered from a serious siege of sickness. He, as well as **Mrs. Ed. Lutker** of Sparta, who also suffered many months with a painful ailment, will remember this year and will thank God for His help in time of need. W. R.

Chicago. — July 10 **Mr. David Bowman** and **Miss Elizabeth Samuels** were married by Pastor Scheibert. God's blessing be on them!



Vicar Drachenberg with St. Philip, Chicago, Workers' Committee

St. Philip's of the Chicago South Side, under the leadership of Vicar Drachenberg, is not a large group, but its enthusiasm and interest in God's Word is big. Some months back the editor occupied the pulpit there, and we can report that it was a very fine service, in which the glowing faces showed that the hearts were with us every minute. The members believe also in good fellowship, as was evidenced when their outing on August 8 at Dan Ryan Woods was held. Too bad your picture of the large group was not successful, but instead we shall let the committee that worked so well get its bow. Here they are.

Springfield, Ill. — On October 3 **Torrence Franklin Lowe, Jr.**, born July 25 to Torrence Lowe and his wife, Frieda, nee Deutsch, was laid into the arms of Jesus in Holy Baptism, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Basta assuming sponsorship. God keep the little lad!

Denver, Colo. — **Stephan Roy Bailey**, who was born to Pastor and Mrs. C. R. Bailey June 7, died within two hours after birth, though the child appeared to be healthy and strong. God's ways are sometimes puzzling to us, but we must trust in His wisdom. May He remember the parents in love and compassion and compensate them for their loss!

U.

Pastor and Mrs. O. C. Schroeder celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary in October by visiting spe-

Pastor Schroeder, who was graduated with the editor in the class of 1909 of St. Louis forty-five years ago, has for many years brought the truth of the Bible to the blind through the Braille and Moon magazines of our church. He served also the Deaf for over forty years.

Rockford, Ill. — **Student John Nickerson** of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, who is interested in the sign language and the Deaf, preached to the Rockford Deaf on July 4, when Pastor Mackensen was attending the Ephphatha Conference in St. Paul. He is married and has three children. At Springfield he gathers a group of Deaf together and has a Bible study with them.

Pastor Rob. Mackensen, who is doing such outstanding work in his field in Wisconsin, is enjoying a vacation trip to California in December, visiting his brother, a pastor in El Centro, Calif., and a sister in Yuma, Ariz.

Memphis, Tenn. — On August 1 **Russell Bowen** was received as a communicant member in Grace Lutheran Church of the Deaf. There were 27 people at the service who witnessed his confession of faith. May God keep him faithful unto death.

Speaking of picnics, which seem to be a popular "sport" in summer, they had one at Florence, Ala., attended by 47 Deaf. And we were glad to note that they first had a service. And Pastor Thies had a church-picnic (that's one where they have a service, too) in Memphis for the colored Deaf; and do you know what they had for refreshments? Yes, you are right: water-melons.

And down there in Dixie, when they learn to say the Ten Com-



Some of the Deaf of the Michigan Upper Peninsula, served by Pastor O. C. Schroeder since 1940

cial friends in the first parish he served at Knox and Hamlet, Ind., near Chicago. Best wishes for many more happy years!

mandments, they get a pin for a reward. And when they know the Ten Commandments, they study the Three Articles and some other parts, too. Good for them! D. T.

Miami, Fla. — On August 25 **Joseph Gyle**, the infant son of Pastor and Mrs. Francis G. Gyle, was baptized, as were also **William and Deneise Scott and Susanne Welsh**. God keep these children in His grace!

Pastor Gyle conducted two vacation Bible schools last summer, one at Jacksonville, Fla., and one at Hialeah.

Holyoke, Mass. — When Rev. Boerner conducted a service at Florence, Mass., in August in connection with the outing of the Deaf at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Brainerd, Mrs. Joseph Marshall signed some hymns very beautifully. She used to live in Scotland. — Rev. Boerner has his headquarters at Boston, but he is very much encouraged by the interest shown at Springfield, Mass., where he conducts services twice a month.

E. KLINKE

Columbus, Ohio. — The **dedication of Holy Cross Lutheran Chapel** of the Deaf, located at 153 E. Lane Ave., Columbus, Ohio, took place October 3. Pastor D. E. Simon officiated in the morning dedicatory service, and Rev. Martin Kosche preached in the afternoon. The picture of the chapel and a description will appear in one of the next issues of this magazine, as will appear the story of the **dedication of the Newark Chapel and the Boll Baptistry** on September 19, which matters have not come to hand at the time of this writing.

Sioux Falls, S. Dak. — Pastor Cordes sends to the members every month a little news letter, called "The Lutheran Deaf Visitor." In one he wrote about having church services in connection with picnics, because the Deaf like outings, and it is all right for them to get together, especially in summer when the weather is nice. He very properly suggested that when such picnics are arranged, time for a service be set so that the souls also can have refreshment and nourishment on such days, which usually are Sundays. That is very proper and good. It can well be remembered by all of us. Pleasure is much more sweet and enjoyable if the main thing, God's Word, has not been neglected that day.

Jacksonville, Ill. — **Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Broecker** and their sweet little daughter Candyce have come to Jacksonville and were received as members, getting a warm welcome. Mr. Broecker is a teacher of the Deaf and is employed in the Illinois School for the Deaf. The last years he taught at the Hickory, N. C., School for the Deaf. Mrs. Ruth Leistner Broecker hails from New Jersey.

At the last meeting of Christ for the Deaf Congregation **Mr. Cl. Broecker** and **Mr. Albert Buettner** were received as voting members. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Buettner came to us from Des Moines. His trade is that of a bookbinder, working now here in Jacksonville, called the bookbinding headquarters of the country.

"O God, Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts find no rest until they rest in Thee."

St. Augustine



Devotions

Wednesday, December 1

Luke 1:1-25

Because Zacharias would not believe God's message and promise, he became unable to speak until time for his son to be born. We should never doubt God's promises, because He can do all things.

Prayer: O Lord Jesus, make us ready for Your coming through a strong faith in You. Amen.

Thursday, December 2

Colossians 1:12-23

Christ is to have first place in our hearts above everything else. Therefore we will want to give Him, the Head of the church, the first share of our money, too.

Prayer: Give us, O Lord, such a strong faith and trust in Your Gospel that nothing can ever move us from our hope of heaven. Amen.

Friday, December 3

Psalms 1

The fruitful (successful) life of the believer is seen from his actions; he does not live as the unbelievers nor follow their advice, but rather studies the Law (Word) of God. Which should we do?

Prayer: Let us find joy, O God, in studying Your Holy Word; and help us to live according to it. Amen.

Saturday, December 4

Psalms 143

When we see how completely David trusted God for help and guidance, even when his life was

endangered by his son Absalom, we should keep on trusting God in all troubles of body and soul.

Prayer: Because we want to please You, our loving God, we pray teach us Your will. Amen.

Sunday, December 5

Luke 21:25-36

This reading tells us of some of the things that will happen before Christ comes; because all these things are happening around us today, we must look up and be ready when Jesus comes again.

Prayer: O Lord, help us to watch and pray for Jesus' coming so we will not be busy thinking too much about this life. Amen.

Monday, December 6

Romans 15:4-13

In our homes and in our churches we should always try to be patient and agreeable so that we can "with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Prayer: O God of hope, send us the Holy Ghost so that through His power we have joy and peace because of faith in Jesus. Amen.

Tuesday, December 7

Micah 4:1-7

Only when Jesus shall judge (rule) among many people shall there be true peace. That means when people have peace with God through Jesus, they will live at peace with other people, too.

Prayer: Help us, O Lord, to walk in Your paths — the paths of peace and truth and happiness that lead to heaven. Amen.

Wednesday, December 8

Luke 1:26-35

Every Jewish woman in the Old Testament hoped she would be the mother of the Savior; but God gave that favor or blessing to the Virgin Mary. The angel Gabriel announced this to her.

Prayer: O Jesus, King most wonderful, rule in our hearts so we can live in Your kingdom forever. Amen.

Thursday, December 9

Romans 2:1-16

Paul warns us that people who rebel against God by doing what they know is wrong are walking on the way to damnation — punishment for making God displeased and angry.

Prayer: We ask You, O God, to make us repentant — sorry for our sins — because of Your goodness, kindness, and patience with us. Amen.

Friday, December 10

Psalms 42

We need never be cast down (discouraged) about things in life, because we can hope and trust in God, knowing He hears our prayers and answers them when the right time comes.

Prayer: Give us a desire and love for worshiping You, O Lord, as David showed. Amen.

Saturday, December 11

Psalms 91

God has given His holy angels the job of protecting us believers when

we go about our work for Him. They let nothing evil happen to us; all things must work together for our good.

Prayer: O God, help us trust You always, knowing that You are our Guard and Helper. Amen.

Sunday, December 12

Matthew 11:2-10

The Messiah, the Savior God had promised, has come! Jesus, who did many wonderful miracles of healing, is our Savior from sin. That is the wonderful Gospel (good news) the Bible tells us!

Prayer: We ask You, O Christ, to make us realize Your power — especially Your power to forgive sins. Amen.

Monday, December 13

1 Corinthians 5:1-5

When we see sin in our own lives or in those about us, we cannot simply overlook it and let it continue; we must do what we can to overcome it with prayer and the use of God's Word.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to hate sin, but to love sinners and bring them to You for forgiveness. Amen.

Tuesday, December 14

Malachi 3:1-6

God will judge all people guilty of punishment who cheat and lie and do wrong to other people and who do not honor Him. Do we show respect for Him and His laws and love people because of Him?

Prayer: O Savior, as the goldsmith refines with fire and the fuller (laundryman) cleans with soap, make us clean through Your blood shed for us. Amen.

Wednesday, December 15

Luke 1:39-56

Just as Mary confessed here that she needed a Savior from sin, we rejoice to learn that God sent us a Savior to take away our sins. As Christmas approaches, thank God for the Baby Jesus, our Savior.

Prayer: Help us, O Lord, to fear (honor) You and make us thankful for Your mercy. Amen.

Thursday, December 16

Romans 1:16-25

God has shown us in many ways that He hates and punishes sin, but He loves sinners and sent His Son to save us. All evil deeds against God and men show the great need for this Savior.

Prayer: O God, we ask for power from You to believe the Gospel of Christ for our salvation. Amen.

Friday, December 17

Psalms 4

David wondered about the people in his day with their love of the things of this world. What do we spend our time thinking of—vanities (things in this world that soon fade away)?

Prayer: Give peace to our hearts, O Lord, that we may rest in complete trust in You. Amen.

Saturday, December 18

Psalms 98

We truly have much to be happy about and thankful for—especially that in one week from now we shall celebrate the birth of our Savior again. "The Lord hath made known His salvation."

Prayer: Make our faith so strong, Lord, that we feel joy in our hearts like a song. Amen.

Sunday, December 19

John 1:19-28

We must always give Jesus first place, just as John did. Also when we divide our pay check, let us remember Jesus and His church work first. That is one way we can show Him honor.

Prayer: Give us courage, O Savior, to tell others about You every time we have opportunity. Amen.

Monday, December 20

Philippians 4:4-7

With Christmas so near, we think of Jesus' coming years ago as a little Baby and of His coming in the future as the Judge of the world. We should be happy and watchful for His second coming.

Prayer: Make our hearts free from all care, worry, and trouble, O Lord; and make us thankful to You for all Your blessings. Amen.

Tuesday, December 21

Isaiah 40:1-8

God's Word levels the hills and rough places of pride and self-righteousness and fills the valleys of doubt and unbelief so we have a smooth highway—straight to Jesus, our Savior.

Prayer: O Heavenly Father, comfort us with the assurance of forgiveness for all our sins. Amen.

Wednesday, December 22

Luke 1:67-80

The light that Zacharias spoke of was Jesus, the Light of the world. The Savior is a Light because He makes it possible for us to leave the darkness of sin and live in light forever.

Prayer: Give us, O Lord, a true faith that accepts Jesus for our only Savior. Amen.

Thursday, December 23
Hebrews 12:15-29

Jesus speaks to us from heaven, telling us the way of salvation. If we refuse His message, we shall suffer eternal punishment. "Be sure you do not refuse to hear the Voice of God."

Prayer: Let us have grace, O God, to serve You and show You honor by godly lives. Amen.

Friday, December 24
Psalms 5

In God we can have true happiness because He defends us from all dangers of body and soul; by trusting in Him we can be joyful instead of worrying.

Prayer: Help us worship You right, O Lord, in Your church at Christmas and always. Amen.

Saturday, December 25
Luke 2:1-20

The angel tells us that the Savior is born for each of us! The Baby Jesus, born at Bethlehem at Christmas so many years ago, is truly the Savior of all people that believe in Him.

Prayer: We praise You, O God, for the birth of our Savior; help us to tell others this wonderful news about Jesus. Amen.

Sunday, December 26
Luke 2:33-40

We should daily think of the wonderful thing that happened at Christmas — God's own Son was born to become our Savior from sin. God loves us very much; we should thank Him always!

Prayer: Help us, O Lord, to show our thanks to You by telling others

about the Redeemer, as Anna did. Amen.

Monday, December 27
Galatians 4:1-7

We have been adopted by God as His children; therefore He is our heavenly Father, and we shall inherit eternal life through Jesus Christ, His true Son.

Prayer: Help us to live, O Heavenly Father, as Your true sons, showing by our lives that we love You. Amen.

Tuesday, December 28
Isaiah 11:1-9

Christ is surely the Messiah, the promised Savior, who was to come from the family of Jesse. The Spirit of the Lord was with Him in such great measure because He is God.

Prayer: O Lord, through the Gospel make all people on earth know You. Amen.

Wednesday, December 29
Luke 2:22-32

Simeon was ready to die in peace because he had seen the Savior. We are not ready to die until we have seen the Savior through faith. "Faith comes by hearing . . . the Word of God."

Prayer: O God, as Simeon held the Baby Jesus in his arms, let us hold Him by our faith. Amen.

Thursday, December 30
Hebrews 2:9-16

Jesus, the Son of God, took a human body of flesh and blood like ours so that He could die for us and rise again. In that way He conquered the devil, who has power to make death a terrible thing.

Prayer: Free us, O Savior, from

the fear of death, because You rose again, and we shall, too. Amen.

Friday, December 31

Psalm 121

This Psalm makes us sure that God is with us as we go in and out

of our homes for our daily tasks. He guards and protects us in all we do each day.

Prayer: Make us sure of Your help, O Lord, during the new year as we honor You with our lives. Amen. W. O. N.



Bible Quiz

How many days did God want the people of Israel to work in a week of seven days? Exodus 20:9.

Why are the sins and punishments of people recorded for us in the Bible? 1 Corinthians 10:11.

What can we become if we believe in Jesus? John 1:12.

Which river did the children of Israel cross after traveling forty years in the desert in order to get to their promised land of Canaan? Joshua 1:2.

Which mountain is called the Mount of God? Exodus 3:1.

Which is better—to obey God's commands or to give God sacrifices (gifts)? 1 Samuel 15:22.

When Paul was taken to Rome as a prisoner on a ship, he told the masters of the ship and his guards that something very bad would happen. What would happen? Acts 27:10.

What does the slothful (lazy) man not do with the game that he got when hunting? Proverbs 12:27.

How long does God's love of His children last? Jeremiah 31:3.

What cannot separate us from God's love? Romans 8:38, 39.

What reward was Daniel offered for explaining the meaning of the dream of the king? Daniel 5:16.

Who is like stubble (straw) that will be burned up? Malachi 4:1.

When the prodigal (disobedient) son returned home, what did he want that his father should do with him? Luke 15:19.

What would happen to swords and spears if people became true Christians and learned to live as brothers in this world? Micah 4:3.

How many people lost their lives when the ship was wrecked on which Paul was being taken to Rome? Acts 27:44.

What could be said of the willingness of the people to contribute gold, silver, and precious garments when Ezra built the house of God that had been destroyed? Ezra 2:69.

What should make us willing to keep (obey) the words of Jesus? John 14:23.

If Jesus opens the door of heaven for us, what cannot happen to it? Revelation 3:8.

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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Sing unto the Lord!

