

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

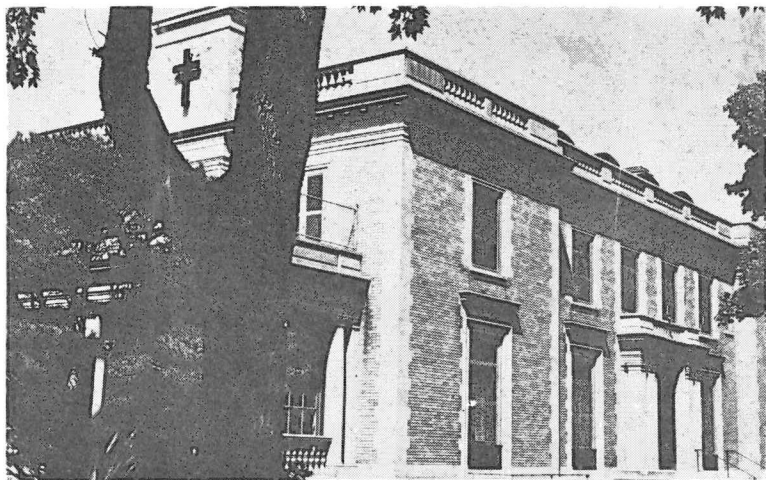
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St. Matthew's of Newark



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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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Saint Matthew's of Newark

The history of the New Jersey Mission to the Deaf is associated with that of the oldest Lutheran church in America — St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Manhattan, N. Y., begun in the year 1648 and chartered in the year 1664.

At the request of the Mission Board of the newly organized Atlantic District of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, the Rev. Arthur Boll made a survey of the Deaf in New York City in 1912. At that time Rev. Boll was pastor of the Detroit Mission to the Deaf; previously having served the Deaf of Toledo, Cleveland, and Kentucky. As a result of the survey the Board of Missions to the Deaf asked Pastor Boll to begin work among the Deaf in the East. In the fall of 1912 Pastor Boll moved to New York and began serving the Deaf from "old" St. Matthew's on Broome St. The Lord blessed his work, and a small group of Deaf organized a congregation and chose the name of its host church, St. Matthew's.

In a few years, St. Matthew's for the Deaf changed its services to Immanuel Lutheran Church, South 9th St., Brooklyn, as "old" St. Matthew's moved to 145th St. By this time Pastor Boll served Deaf in Washington, D. C., Albany, Kingston, and Schenectady, N. Y., Meriden, Conn., and Holyoke, Mass. The pioneer Lutheran pastor to the Deaf in the East had found a truly fertile field.

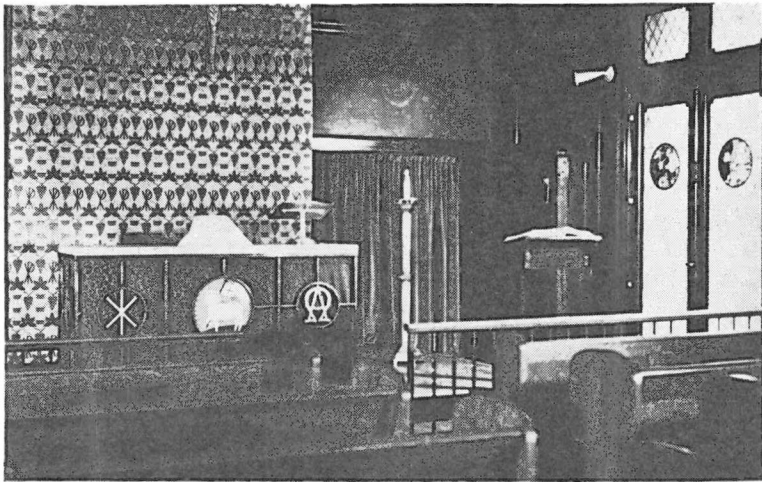
In the fall of 1935 Pastor Boll was asked by his friend, the Rev. Theodore S. Keyl, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Newark, N. J., to preach a mission sermon. Among those in the full church on Peshine

Avenue was Mr. Oscar Rehling, a member of St. Matthew's for the Deaf in New York. For several years Mr. Rehling had asked for services in Newark, but Pastor Boll's schedule was too full. Pastor Keyl was so impressed by Mr. Rehling's plea that he urged Pastor Boll to add another preaching station to his already long list.

In the spring of 1936 Pastor Boll began services to the Deaf in New Jersey at the church of his friend Pastor Keyl. This church, too, had been founded by "old" St. Matthew's in New York around the turn of the century. Again it happened as it did only a few years before, for the Newark Deaf Mission also chose the name St. Matthew from its host church. It is interesting to note that the first two Lutheran congregations for the Deaf in the Greater Metropolitan Area have the same name and "descend" from the oldest Lutheran church in America.

For five years Pastor Boll served the New Jersey Deaf in addition to his other missions. Then the Lord called this tired pastor to Himself in heaven during his sleep on Sunday morning, December 14, 1941. The pioneer Lutheran pastor to the Deaf in the East had done his work well; for today there are five separate mission fields where there were none until Pastor Boll came. In recognition of the work and sacrifices of our first pastor we have dedicated our Baptistry to God's glory in his memory. He was the first Lutheran pastor to preach the Gospel to us and bring us Holy Baptism.

The entire Eastern Deaf field was without a pastor. But not the Deaf



The Chancel of St. Matthew's, Newark

in New Jersey. Rev. Keyl was very interested in the work of his friend, Pastor Boll, and often attended the two Sunday evening services the Deaf had every month. On the Sunday before Christmas, 1941, Pastor Keyl preached to the Deaf by writing a sermon which Miss Ruth Kievit interpreted for the Deaf. Pastor Keyl also procured Bible history books which he gave to the Deaf group that met in his church. For four months this arrangement continued until the Lord answered the prayers of the Eastern Deaf by sending the Rev. Floyd Possehl in March, 1942.

The young new pastor to the Deaf continued the work and expanded the field of our sainted Pastor Boll. A church was built by the New York Deaf and their friends; and our Newark Mission grew. The need for an eastern school for the Deaf, similar to the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf in Detroit was so great that in 1949 Pastor Possehl was granted a year's leave of absence to promote the Mill Neck Manor Lutheran School for the Deaf. Pastor George Kraus was called to

serve the New York-New Jersey Field, beginning his work in the summer of 1949.

In the same year the Lord called home our friend Pastor Keyl. In the late spring of 1950 the Board of Missions to the Deaf separated the New Jersey Field from the New York Field, and Pastor Possehl became the first resident pastor of the New Jersey Field. St. Matthew's for the Deaf began worshiping in Redeemer Lutheran Church on Broadway in North Newark. This same year a drive to build a new church was launched. Meanwhile Pastor Possehl expanded his preaching to include Paterson, Trenton, Bogota, Jersey City, and Elizabeth.

While looking for property on which to build a new church, Rev. Possehl found our building at 510 Parker Street. With the aid of the Board of Missions to the Deaf and the kindness of the seller, Mrs. Robert A. Cacciarelli, a contract to buy was signed in June, 1952. In the middle of transactions Pastor Possehl was called as pastor of Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf

in St. Paul, Minn. In the summer of 1952 he left, staying long enough to see that the Rev. C. Roland Gerhold, pastor to the Deaf in New England, had accepted the call to the New Jersey Mission. Pastor Gerhold began his work in September, 1952. Five days after he was installed, he and the trustees bought our present building for \$16,800. On the last Sunday in September we began worship in our present chapel, borrowing church furnishings from neighboring hearing congregations.

Work on the renovation of the building began in January, 1953, with the brother of the former owner as our contractor. Our building has a steel skeleton and hollow-tile floors and walls; therefore it was very important for us that we had someone as contractor who "knew" the building. This was Mr. A. R. Cacciarelli, who worked with our consulting engineer, Mr. Warren A. Sambach.

A parsonage was constructed upstairs, a complete new electrical



Rev. C. Roland Gerhold

system was installed, and an Arts and Crafts Center was prepared in the basement. The chapel on the first floor was designed by Pastor Gerhold. It is this chapel which was dedicated September 19, 1954, to the glory of God in memory of our good friend Pastor Theodore S. Keyl. May this chapel bring the Gospel of Christ Crucified and Risen to many Deaf in New Jersey.

C. ROLAND GERHOLD



The Rear of the Nave of St. Matthew's

Our Feature Article

Our feature in this issue is the history of St. Matthew's of Newark, N. J., written by Pastor C. Roland Gerhold, in charge of the New Jersey Field. It was written by him for the booklet that brought the worshipers the program of the services of dedication of the Keyl Memorial Chapel and the Boll Memorial Baptistry on September 19, 1954.

It presents also the story of the beginning of the work among the Deaf of the eastern part of the United States by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, when the sainted Pastor Arthur Boll began his work at New York in 1912. One cannot but praise the Lord for His blessings that have been showered upon the silent people through the painstaking work of Pastor Boll and his successors.

The story of the dedication services on September 19 was given in the Field Gleanings of the February number of the DEAF LUTHERAN. Pastor Gerhold issued a very fine memorial booklet, which besides the history and the program described the appointments of the chapel. He has a fine artistic sense and is a student of the many beautiful symbols of the Christian Church that are so meaningful, and he has made use of many in the chapel, which he designed in all particulars. In a church the altar should be, as Prof. Fr. Kreft, the noted church decorator, says, "the spot which the eye first finds and on which it loves to dwell." So the altar in Keyl Chapel is the outstanding spot—the table plate, or mensa, of white marble, supported by fine wrought iron and fitted with appropriate symbols.

Lack of space forbids the mentioning of the many other fine things.

The house of God should be a lovely place, for it should mean and does mean to the believer that he looks forward to that "house of God in heaven" for which the earthly church prepares him and where he longs to be forever.

We Are Very Sorry

In recent months the DEAF LUTHERAN did not arrive at the reader's home at the beginning of the month of issue, seriously inconveniencing especially the faithful users of the daily devotional materials. We are very sorry.

The delay was due to a number of circumstances affecting the editorial department and was not the fault of the publishers. Such an organization, serving many publications, must work on a very close schedule; and delayed material, like a late train, must wait a chance to get through and cannot interrupt the regular schedule of others. We now are again able to be in line.

May we suggest that our faithful users use two devotions daily, perhaps one in the morning and one in the evening, thus catching up and not missing some of the very fine selections of the recent months?

Finally, we dare to remark that the cry we heard about the delay—and the outcry was rather loud in spots—proved that the little magazine was *missed*, therefore it has real friends. Thank you! Ed.

REMEMBER, the task before you is never so great as the Power behind you.

A Visit to the Oklahoma-Texas and Kansas City Fields

Oklahoma-Texas Field

Several changes will take place in the near future. Our Board intends to place a vicar into Oklahoma City to work under the supervision of Pastor Oermann, who has charge of this large field at the present time. The vicar is to concentrate chiefly upon Oklahoma City, where we preached to thirty Deaf on January 25. For the Christmas service 31 Deaf were in attendance. The same week we preached also in Tulsa, in the colored School for Deaf, Blind, and Orphaned Children in Taft, and then visited the Oklahoma State School in Sulphur. The vicar will serve these stations, probably once a month. Then very likely he will help Pastor Oermann in ministering to the Deaf of Fort Worth and Dallas, Tex. We greatly enjoyed visiting these Oklahoma cities and, upon the basis of Luke 19:9, 10, urged them to let Jesus enter their hearts and home and bless them with His salvation by faith in His blood.

Pastor Oermann, now living in Austin, will move to Houston in April, where he will be able to reach more Deaf with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. At the present time there are five communicant members in Houston, and under God's blessing the number is sure to grow. In our service there we had sixteen Deaf, the largest number ever recorded in services there. We also addressed the ten deaf boys and girls from the Texas State School in religious classes and then also the 75 Deaf and 50 blind at the colored School for the Deaf, Blind, and

Orphans. We delivered the sermon also in Austin, San Antonio, Fort Worth, and Dallas to a fine group of Deaf in every place. We left Texas and Oklahoma with a prayer of thanks to God for His blessings and a prayer that His richest blessings may continue to rest upon our work in these two states.

Kansas City Field

February 8 we met Pastor Ferber of Kansas City in Wichita, Kans., where we had services the same evening. Since we could not secure a room in any of the hotels because of a convention, we had to take the midnight train to Kansas City, arriving there after 4 A.M. In the afternoon we met with about forty children of the Kansas City Public School for Deaf. They meet every Monday afternoon to learn the precious Word of God. In the evening we attended the Bible class in Pilgrim Church. We enjoyed this class very much, for we saw the Deaf take a very active part in the discussions. The following day we visited a deaf lady, an invalid, who for twenty-one years has been in a wheel chair and in bed. Pastor Ferber and I visited her in order to bring comfort and cheer to her. We wish every one of our readers could have seen the wonderful smile which brightened up her face while she was lying in bed not able even to shake hands with us. We shall never forget her joyful face when we spoke to her of Jesus and His love and then signed "Jesus, Lover of My Soul" for her. She still insists upon contributing for her Lord's

work out of her little allowance. We departed committing her into the Lord's gracious hands and with a prayer of thanks to our heavenly Father for having led us into this blessed work among the Deaf sixty years ago. It is a great blessing that we can bring the glad tidings to Deaf like this Christian.

The next day we conducted a service in Salina, and Sunday we attended the Bible class led by Mrs. Wear, and in the service we preached the Word to the deaf congregation. In the afternoon we had a service for our Lutheran students from the Kansas School at Olathe, and then went on to Topeka, where we could preach the Word of Salvation to seventeen Deaf and three hearing.

Monday afternoon we again met in the Olathe School, where Rev. Ferber conducts four classes every Monday, three in the afternoon and one after the evening meal. We could speak to more than 100 students that day. The same evening we bade Pastor Ferber good-bye and arrived at home the next morning. Praise be to God!

On this trip we made more than 1,700 miles by car with Rev. Oermann and about 800 with Rev. Ferber by train and car. It was somewhat strenuous, but it was a pleasure to talk to so many Deaf of Jesus who loved us and gave Himself for us, and not only for us, but for the whole world. Thanks be to God!

J. L. S.



Kansas City, Mo.—**James Thomas Lang** passed away January 26, 1955. Mr. Lang was one of the first to make a public confession of faith in Jesus at Pilgrim Chapel; he was confirmed there December 20, 1942.
A. E. F.

Denver—Wedding bells rang for **Miss Rita Hall** and **Richard Suska** on October 8, 1954. They are making their home in Denver.

Pueblo, Colo.—**Miss Elsie Mae Burbach** and **Joe English** were married at the home of the bride on October 24, 1954. The couple reside in Pueblo.

Madison, Wis.—**Daniel William Ekloff**, the child of **Royal** and **Iva Ekloff**, was laid into the arms of Jesus in Holy Baptism, Novem-

ber 28, at Immanuel Lutheran Church.

Sioux City, Iowa.—A baby girl, **Sally**, was born to **Mr. and Mrs. Dean Kruger** on December 23, 1954. The Krugers have one other daughter.

Beloit, Wis.—**Johnny William Matthews**, the son of **John** and **Leola Matthews**, was baptized November 21 in St. John's Lutheran Church.

Delevan, Wis.—**Mr. Hans Hanson**, member of Redeemer Deaf Congregation, fell asleep in Jesus January 11 and was buried January 14. He was 79 years old and is survived by his wife and daughter.
R. W. M.

Canon City, Colo. — On September 26, 1954, the five children of **Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hoza** were baptized by Pastor Clark Bailey. They are: Peggy Lou, Linda Rae, Larry James, Donald Lee, and Patrick Alan.

Muncie, Ind. — **James LaFever**, whose 56th - wedding - anniversary picture appeared in the January issue, did not live to see his picture in print. The Lord called him out of this life on December 20 at the age of 80. Burial took place December 23 at Beech Grove Cemetery in Muncie. We are comforted to know that he now is in heaven.

Gary, Minn. — **Mrs. Rudolph Samshal** left her earthly home to be with Jesus on Sunday, January 2. Mrs. Samshal had been ailing since fall and had spent some time in a hospital and a rest home. Pastor W. Ferber conducted memorial services for her in Twin Valley in the home of her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Samshal, on Thursday afternoon, January 6, basing his words of comfort on John 11, the resurrection of Lazarus.

Oshkosh, Wis. — On February 9, after an illness of two years, **Emil C. Reinke** departed this life and was given Christian burial by Rev. Rob. Mackensen on February 12. He was one of the faithful members of the Oshkosh flock. He leaves his wife, the former Bertha Wolfram, and a daughter. He was 78 years old.

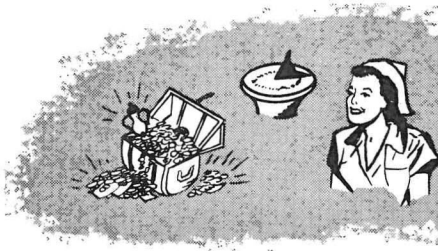
Nashville, Tenn. — **Susan Peach**, infant daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. James Peach**, was received into God's Kingdom of Grace on September 20, 1954, when Pastor Delbert I. Thies administered the Sacrament of Holy Baptism to her.

Jacksonville, Ill. — On February 20 **Pastor Uhlig's** 70th birthday was remembered by Christ Church of the Deaf with a surprise dinner after the morning service. He was given a purse of money. In the



evening of that day, at a "Family Night" of Salem Lutheran church, of which for ten weeks recently he was vacancy pastor, he had another surprise when he was seated before candles and cake and a two-foot plastic tree, on the branches of which several hundred silvered quarter coins glittered. Pastor Uhlig, who was born February 20 seventy years ago at the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf in Detroit, is now completing 46 years in the Lutheran ministry, serving 23 years as pastor of Deaf churches and 23 in hearing churches, during which time, however, he also preached to the Deaf of the vicinity.

Omaha. — Born on July 8, 1954, **Dorothy Jean**, daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sparks**, was baptized in Lincoln on August 15. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Berton Leavitt of Lincoln and Mrs. Evelyn Allen of Beatrice, Nebr.



Stewardship

"That I May Be His Own"

I Am to Glorify God with My Gifts

Joseph, the son of Jacob, served as a slave in the house of his master Potiphar. God was with him and blessed him, and Potiphar saw this and made him overseer and put all he had under Joseph's care.

Likewise **God made me a keeper** of His gifts. Everything I am and have I received from Him. My soul and body, my mind and abilities, my treasures, my skill, **I have received it all** from Him by grace. That includes the skill in work as a farmer, carpenter, businessman, housewife, artist, musician.

Some have more talents and abilities than others. According to His will, **God gives every man his portion**; but everything that anybody is or has he got from God as a gift.

I must use His gifts properly, according to His will. I should use these gifts and abilities **not selfishly, but for His glory and the welfare of others.**

I Am to Value the Gift of Time

One of the most precious gifts is **time**. Time is the means to opportunity. I must not waste it. God does not expect me to use all my time for special services, but I need **time for doing my daily work** and to eat and sleep. He wants me to

use part of my **time to worship** Him and to work for His church.

Thomas Edison said: "Time is the most precious thing in the world." Life is short, and the time comes when my life is ended. Christ said: "I must work the works of Him that sent Me while it is day; the night cometh when no man can work."

There Is Use for Every Gift

The piccolo player in a large orchestra did not play, thinking that in so much noise his little piccolo would not be missed, but the conductor stopped and shouted: "Where is the piccolo?" The master's ear missed it; so God expects all to do their part, no matter how small a part it is. There is so much to do that **every gift has a place** to be useful.

I Must Give an Account of My Stewardship

Jesus taught that we, as servants, must answer someday to God and **give an account** if we have used properly what He gave us to work with. He may come any time, and then I must answer. I must live from day to day ever mindful of my Lord's return. "Blessed," says Jesus, "is that servant whom his Lord, when He cometh, shall find so doing." "Be ye also ready."

Chapter 4 of Rev. R. C. Rein's book *That I May Be His Own* (condensed).



Catechism

Table of Duties

TO PARENTS — EPHESIANS 6:4

When God brought Eve to Adam, He blessed them and said: "Be fruitful, and multiply," Gen. 1:28. "And Adam begat sons and daughters," Gen. 5:4. Thus God "hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth," Acts 17:26.

Children Are a Gift from God

God blesses holy marriage with children. David calls them "an heritage (gift) of the Lord," Ps. 127:3. And Jacob said of his children to Laban: "The children which God hath graciously given thy servant," Gen. 33:5. Children are a gift from heaven and are to be received with thanksgiving. How sinful that so many parents do not want children and despise such a precious blessing from God! Has God blessed your home with children? Thank God for it!

Parents Should Rule Their Children with Love

In Eph. 6:4 Paul writes: "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath." He writes to fathers, for the father is the head of the house. The chief responsibility rests upon him. However, the mother is to be a helpmeet to the father also in this, and therefore shares the responsibility. They should not provoke their children to wrath, that is, they

should not be harsh and cruel to their children and so turn their hearts against them in anger. King Saul did this to his son Jonathan, because Jonathan had made David his friend, and therefore Jonathan arose from the table in anger. Thus parents often drive their child from home by being unreasonable. God therefore warns parents and tells them to rule with love over their children. Also when they punish, they should do it out of love to their child.

Parents Should Bring Their Children to Christ

Parents show true love to their children by bringing them up "in the nurture (training) and admonition (teaching) of the Lord." Parents should not only, as animals do to their young, feed, protect, and raise their children, nor as the unbelievers, only teach them the wisdom of this world and how to get riches and success, but should bring them up for the Lord with the Word of God.

Parents, Ask God to Help You

The Bible tells us that Abraham taught his children the Word of God; Hannah brought her son Samuel up for the Lord; Mary brought her boy Jesus to the house of God. May all parents follow their example and ask God to help them in doing their Christian duty towards their children!

J. L. S.



Devotions

Selections are from "Feeding on His Word," a daily Bible-reading guide for 1955 by the Board for Parish Education of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, 210 N. Broadway, St. Louis 2, Mo. Obtainable there. 5 cents.

SUGGESTED USE

1. As you open your Bible, say: "Speak, Lord, Thy servant hears."
2. After finding the place in the Bible, read the short explanation given under the date.
3. Now read the words of the Bible. *Read slowly, and think what each verse says.*
4. Read again the short explanation and the prayer, adding what is on your heart and perhaps the Lord's prayer.

Friday, April 1

Mark 9:14-29

Jesus overcomes the devil who troubled a child with epileptic fits. Faith in Jesus gives power to do wonders. Have we faith?

Prayer: Lord, our faith is so often very weak; make it strong that we can overcome the devil. Amen.

Saturday, April 2

Galatians 3:22-29

Jesus came and fulfilled the Law and took the punishment for all sin. In Baptism we become God's children and "put on Christ" like a coat that covers and protects us.

Prayer: O Lord, through faith people of all nations become brothers; bless the work of missions that makes people love one another. Amen.

Sunday, April 3

Acts 2:37-42

Peter's sermon about Christ's death and resurrection brought many to faith. It still makes people

believers who are baptized and stay firmly with God's church.

Prayer: Lord, keep our children in faith through Your Word, that they be not lost. Amen.

Monday, April 4

John 3:31-36

Jesus came from God with all knowledge and power. He gives us life and makes us God's loved children if we accept Him as what He is, God's Son and our Savior.

Prayer: Jesus, we are sure You are our Lord and Savior. Keep us in that faith. Amen.

Tuesday, April 5

Philippians 3:2-11

Real "Hebrews" and Abraham's children are all such that, like Paul, do not try to save themselves by their good works, but through faith in Christ's work come to spiritual life.

Prayer: Lord, make us realize that if we have Christ, we have more than all the goods and pleasures of this world. Amen.

Wednesday, April 6

Romans 8:1-8

Who really believes will not do the evil things that the sinful heart wishes, but will follow the Spirit. Such a person will not be condemned, but is saved.

Prayer: Lord, give us that perfect peace of heart that comes only from following You faithfully. Amen.

Thursday, April 7

1 Corinthians 11:23-29

In the Holy Supper, instituted by Jesus in the night before He died, He gives us His body and blood with the bread and wine to strengthen our faith that He really died for our sins. It must be received with a heart that believes His words.

Prayer: Lord, strengthen our faith, increase our love and hope whenever You come to us in Holy Communion. Amen.

Friday, April 8

Colossians 1:19-23

We look up to Jesus on the cross with eyes of love and faith. He died to bring us back to God, and we promise to live for Him here and know we will be with Him forever in heaven.

Prayer: Lord, when sin tempts us, make us remember how You hung on the cross for our sins. Amen.

Saturday, April 9

1 Corinthians 1:20-31

To preach that Christ died and thereby saved all seems foolish to the proud and wise of this world, but it is according to God's wisdom the only way to life.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for the Gospel. Let us hear and believe it faithfully. Amen.

Sunday, April 10

Matthew 28:1-10

On Easter Day the earth shook for joy, and hell shook in terror, because the Son of God had won the battle with Satan, the world's sin had been paid for, and heaven's gate and our graves are opened.

Prayer: Lord, bless with Easter faith the faithful that praise Your victory in the churches. Amen.

Monday, April 11

1 Corinthians 15:1-19

It is true! The Old Testament said it would happen. It did. Jesus died on the cross and rose again. Peter (v. 5) and hundreds saw Him alive. It is a fact: Our sins are forgiven, and we will live again. Glory to God!

Prayer: Lord Jesus, because You lived again, we know we also will live again. We praise You. Amen.

Tuesday, April 12

Acts 2:22-36

In a powerful sermon Peter shows that David in Psalm 16:8-11 did not speak of himself but of Jesus, the Messiah, who died but who would rise from the grave (v. 27, here "hell" means "grave") and so show Himself to be Christ and Lord, whose face we will see in joy.

Prayer: Jesus, thank You that You are alive and are now always with us. Amen.

Wednesday, April 13

1 Peter 1:3-9

The hope of heaven is sure and glorious because Jesus rose again.

All sufferings and trials here on earth only make us happy and more ready to leave this world and to be with God.

Prayer: Lord, if our faith must be made purer through hardships and sufferings, then we shall praise You for them. Amen.

Thursday, April 14

Acts 3:17-26

Jesus, who died and rose again, is the Great Prophet who now sits at God's right hand. All must hear and believe Him or be lost. Abraham's children, the Jews, had the first chance to be blessed by accepting Him in faith, and so alone we also can be blessed.

Prayer: Lord, open the eyes of all to see in You their Savior. Amen.

Friday, April 15

Romans 6:1-11

Through Baptism we share the blessings that Christ's death won; our love for sin (v. 6, "old man") was crucified with Him. Now we should be "dead to sin" and live a holy life.

Prayer: O Lord, make us strong in faith to defeat the devil and to walk according to Your Commandments. Amen.

Saturday, April 16

Colossians 3:1-11

A Christian's crown of life is not seen by men but is safely kept in God's hands (v. 3). So we must look up to God, love and work for heavenly things, hate evil things. Studying and doing God's will, we will become more Christlike, no matter who we are.

Prayer: Lord, make heaven look so good to us that we will gladly give up all sinful life. Amen.

Sunday, April 17

John 11:17-27

Lazarus had died but lived with God, and Jesus brought his soul back. Who believes, never dies; the body rests a while in the grave, but Jesus is the Life, and who has Jesus by faith, has life also.

Prayer: Lord, comfort them that are sick and old, and make them hold on to You and live forever. Amen.

Monday, April 18

John 10:1-7

A thief enters some secret way, the shepherd comes in "by the door," the right way. Jesus came according to God's will, the right way, to give us life and food for the soul. He is the "Door."

Prayer: Good Shepherd, feed us and lead us that we will be in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Tuesday, April 19

John 14:1-7

We need not worry about losing our way to heaven nor about anything else if we follow Jesus in faith. He is the Way, the right Way, the only Way through whom we can come to God.

Prayer: Thanks be to You, O Lord, for the beautiful eternal home You made for us in heaven. Amen.

Wednesday, April 20

Job 19:23-27

Though Job knew he would die, he knew he would live again because his Redeemer, Jesus, lives. He

knew he would see God in his own and not with another strange body. What a glorious faith!

Prayer: Lord, give faith such as Job had. Then let anything happen, we are victors still. Amen.

Thursday, April 21

Luke 20:27-40

In heaven is no married life, but one like the angels live, and deathless. Though our body lies in the grave, our soul lives with and in God. How wonderful is our God!

Prayer: Thanks be to You, O Lord, because You give us the victory over every enemy, even over death. Amen.

Friday, April 22

1 Corinthians 15:35-50

This tells us that we will have our own real bodies in heaven. These will have had a wonderful change, as Jesus' body after He rose was real, but gloriously beautiful, fitting us for an eternal existence with God.

Prayer: Jesus, our souls are wishing for that beautiful everlasting life with the Holy Trinity above. Amen.

Saturday, April 23

2 Corinthians 4:13—5:5

The glorious hope of heaven makes us satisfied even if our body grows old and dies. We know we cannot enter heaven without first dying, but the Holy Spirit makes us sure of life (v. 5, "earnest" means "pledge").

Prayer: Lord, keep us in faith that we are not found "naked" (v. 3), without the robe of Jesus' righteousness. Amen.

Sunday, April 24

Mark 2:1-12

Jesus, God's Son and true God, could as easily forgive sin as He could heal that sick man. He still is our best and only Helper against sin and every trouble.

Prayer: Lord, let us never doubt Your word that our sins are gone when You forgive them. Amen.

Monday, April 25

Isaiah 40:1-11

The everlasting good news about Jesus (v. 8) is true (v. 5). It comforts us (v. 1) and changes us (v. 4). Let us shout to the world (v. 9) that the Good Shepherd leads and feeds His flock very well.

Prayer: God, help us to bring the good news of salvation to all that still sit in darkness and have no hope. Amen.

Tuesday, April 26

1 John 2:1-6

Jesus, our Savior, paid with His life for us (v. 2, "propitiation" means money paid for freedom). When we sin because of our weakness, He prays for us. How comforting! Let us tell others to believe in Him also.

Prayer: Jesus, we trust Your word without doubt and fear. Guide us through it. Amen.

Wednesday, April 27

Luke 15:11-24

The son who wasted his fortune saw his mistake, took courage to come home, asked his father for forgiveness, and was forgiven. Let us see our mistakes, come to our merciful Father through Jesus, and be forgiven.

Prayer: Lord, let us feel that sin-

ning against Your Commandments is worse than all the troubles that it brings us. Amen.

Thursday, April 28

1 Timothy 2:1-6

Jesus died for all. God wants all saved, and He wants us to take an interest in all and help in the work of saving them. First talk to Jesus about them in prayer, then talk to them about Jesus.

Prayer: Lord, give us a good government and give our rulers wisdom to rule well. Amen.

Friday, April 29

Micah 7:18-20

How merciful is God! Micah mentions forgiveness seven times:

“pardons iniquity,” “passes by transgression,” “keeps not His anger,” “delights in mercy,” “will have compassion,” “casts sin into the sea.” Let Him be our God forever.

Prayer: Lord, your promises of forgiveness are many and true; give us a heart to believe them. Amen.

Saturday, April 30

Psalms 32:1-7

When God forgives sins, they are covered and gone. Let us see our errors, humbly confess them to God, and change our life with God's help. Then our soul and body will rest well in God.

Prayer: Lord, have mercy upon us for Jesus' sake. Amen. U.



Bible Quiz

What did Peter and his friends say when they heard that God not only wanted Jews but also Gentiles (other nations) to be saved? Acts 11:18.

Which is the last enemy of man that Jesus will destroy on Judgment Day when all the dead will live again? 1 Corinthians 15:26.

When David was proud and had the people counted, God let him pick one of three troubles for punishment. Which were these three? 2 Samuel 24:13.

How many people died in the three-day pestilence that came as a punishment for David's pride when he took a census of the people? 2 Samuel 24:15.

What had Paul left at Troas that he needed? 2 Timothy 4:13.

How many days was Miriam, the sister of Moses, in quarantine (locked up) because she was sick with leprosy? Numbers 12:14.

For how many silver shekels could a man 20–60 years old be redeemed from the vow that had given him “to the Lord”? Leviticus 27:3.

If somebody does a wrong against you, to whom should you talk about it? Matthew 18:15.

How can evil be overcome? Romans 12:21.

How many people were on the ship on which Paul was carried as a prisoner and which was shipwrecked? (A score is 20.) Acts 27:37.