

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 47

DECEMBER 1955

Number 12

Advent

Prophecy

"I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her Seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel," *Genesis 3:15*.

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me, that is to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting," *Micah 5:2*.

"Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel," *Isaiah 7:14*.

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem. Behold, thy King cometh unto thee; He is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass and a colt, the foal of an ass." *Zechariah 9:9*.

Christmas

Fulfillment

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord," *Luke 2:11*.

"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem," *Luke 2:4*.

"And Mary brought forth her first-born Son and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn," *Luke 2:7*.

"And He had on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**," *Revelation 19:16*.

"Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!" *Matthew 21:9*.

Board of Missions to the Deaf of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Rev. Wm. A. Buege, Chairman, 3236 34th Ave. S., Minneapolis 6, Minn. Parkway 9-1424
 Rev. Ernest R. Drews, Secretary, 1680 W. Minnehaha St., St. Paul 4, Minn. Midway 6-1682
 Mr. G. F. Kruse, Treasurer, 1861 Randolph Ave., St. Paul 5, Minn. Midway 9-6004
 Rev. Erwin E. Schroeder, 5337 15th Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. Regent 9-6004
 Mr. J. P. Miller, 1104 Vincent Ave. S., Minneapolis 5, Minn. Kenwood 7069
 Rev. J. L. Salvner, D. D., Executive Secretary, 3320 Chowen Ave. N., Robbinsdale 22, Minn. Juniper 8411

Lutheran Ministers of the Deaf

Rev. Clark R. Bailey 3521 Fillmore St., Denver 5, Colo.	Dudley 80322	Rev. Geo. R. Kraus 1162 Marshall Ave., St. Paul 4, Minn.	Capitol 5-1141
Rev. J. A. Beyer 1101 15th Ave., Seattle 22, Wash.	Capitol 8428	Rev. Wm. H. Lange 847 Cerritos Ave., Apartment 3 Long Beach 13, Calif.	74493
Rev. Donald E. Boerner 127 Washington, Apt. 3, Brighton, Mass.		Rev. E. Mappes 5070 Lake St., Omaha 4, Nebr.	Walnut 1529
Rev. Richard Borchers 6235 S. Woodlawn, Apt. 301, Chicago 37, Ill.	Plaza 2-2972	Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller 2571 N. Grant Blvd., Milwaukee 10, Wis.	Hilltop 5-7230
Rev. N. E. Borchardt 11719 Evanston Ave., Detroit 13, Mich.	Lakeview 7-7023	Vicar John Nickerson 2346 College Ave., Indianapolis 5, Ind.	Walnut 6-3240
Vicar Wayne C. Bottlinger 900½ N. W. 17th, Oklahoma City, Okla.		Rev. Ervin Oermann 4429 Leeland, Houston 23, Tex.	Walnut 1-2356
Rev. C. Bremer 1221 22d Ave. N., Minneapolis 11, Minn.	Cherry 2430	Vicar Robert Rasch 123 W. 7th St., Jacksonville, Fla.	ELgin 3-3540
Rev. Robert F. Cordes 116 S. Grange Ave., Sioux Falls, S. Dak.	47956	Rev. W. F. Reinking 7209 Nashville, St. Louis 17, Mo.	Sterling 1-0311
Rev. Theo. DeLaney 2034 32d Ave., San Francisco 16, Calif.	Lombard 46793	Rev. Geo. C. Ring 4807 N. E. Rodney Ave. Portland 11, Oreg.	Garfield 9589
Rev. A. E. Ferber 3807 Gillham Rd., Kansas City 11, Mo.	Logan 3849	Rev. Herbert W. Rohe 1369 East Ave., Rochester 10, N. Y.	Greenfield 8291
Rev. W. Ferber 617 14th St. S., Fargo, N. Dak.	5661	Rev. J. L. Salvner, D. D. 3320 Chowen Ave. N. Robbinsdale 22, Minn.	Juniper 8411
Rev. Theo. Frederking 1221 Virginia Ave., Cleveland 7, Ohio	Academy 16199	Rev. Marlin Sampson 145 E. Santa Clair, Jackson, Miss.	5-3105
Rev. G. W. Gaertner, Ph. D. 3233 62d Ave., Oakland 5, Calif.	Lockhaven 93881	Rev. E. Scheibert 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago 51, Ill.	Belmont 5-7480
Rev. C. Roland Gerhold 510 Parker St., Newark 4, N. J.	Humboldt 5-2260	Rev. Donald E. Simon 53-13 244th St., Douglaston, L. I., N. Y.	
Rev. Francis G. Gyle 930 N. E. 138th St., North Miami, Fla.	845534	Rev. Laurence M. Stacy 333 Lucille St., Pittsburgh 18, Pa.	Penhurst 1-6211
Rev. A. L. Hauptmann 3614 W. Wellesley, Spokane 15, Wash.	Fairfax 3707	Rev. Delbert Thies 3765 Tutwiler Ave., Memphis 12, Tenn.	34-1557
Rev. Wm. J. Hausmann 2195 Central Rd., Apt. 2F, Fort Lee, N. J.	Windsor 4-3249	Rev. N. P. Uhlig 104 Finley St., Jacksonville, Ill.	2621
Rev. A. T. Jonas 927 Gramercy Pl., Los Angeles 19, Calif.	Republic 8630	Rev. W. Westermann 1728 Varnum St. N. W. Washington 11, D. C.	Taylor 99552
Rev. Martin Kosche 1929 Huxley St., Madison 4, Wis.	CH 9-4983		

Minister of the Deaf and the Blind

Rev. O. C. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago 17, Ill. — Regent 4-3621

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 Rev. Wm. Reinking, 7209 Nashville Ave., St. Louis 17, 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.



A Big Business

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod budget for 1955 is \$9,100,000. The budget figures for a year show what is needed in order to carry on the work of the organization in that year. It is a large sum. Let us remember that this sum does not include the outlay of the congregations for their own requirements, but only what is necessary to carry on the work which is done collectively by all congregations for the various missions, educational program, and the numerous departments of Synod, about thirty items, some running into seven figures. That is a large sum of money to gather this year.

The fiscal year of Synod runs from February 1 to January 31. Where do we stand? On September 30 eight of the twelve months of the fiscal year had passed, and a little over six million dollars should have been gathered in order to keep even with the expenses which go on constantly. But only four million less \$100,000 had been sent in, leaving over five million to be collected in the last four months of the fiscal year; and when this issue of the DEAF LUTHERAN reaches the readers in December, only two months will remain of the fiscal year. In order not to end the year with a deficit, it will be necessary that all that share the benefits of Synod help

carry the burden and make an extra effort to help put the thing over.

This large figure of over nine million dollars is for the running expenses. It does not include what is called "capital investments," that is, money needed to put up necessary additional buildings for the work which extends over the whole earth. For such additions special collections have been held, such as the Building for Christ and Conquest for Christ offerings of late years. Within the next five years, we are informed, about twenty million dollars will be needed for such expenses.

Now, in order to get away from extra or special heavy collections in addition to the regular budget contributions, the Fiscal Conference, composed of the various synodical and District leaders who meet annually to find how much is needed, decided to get away from such extra collections by spreading this additional amount over several years and adding it to the regular budget figure.

So in the next year we shall not have a budget of \$9,100,000 but one of \$12,900,000. That means almost four million more than in 1955, and it means that all of us must really apply ourselves closely. It will not do to take the number of members,

which is a little over a million, and divide that into the sum to be collected and each pay an equal amount. God blesses us, and according to His blessings we should share. Some have more, some have less, and we must "bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ." A father having many minor children which are properly counted as members cannot pay out of his pay envelope as much as others with larger income and fewer dependents. Therefore it must ever be remembered that striking an average is not the fair way.

The amounts that are paid for the work of Synod are said to be about 8% of the total contributions of our members. If that percentage figure is correct, it would mean that the amount paid by the members of our churches for their home church and for the Synod totals about 114 million dollars a year. Using the Government figures of the average American income, our members have together an annual income of two billion dollars, and the sum of two hundred million would be 10% of our income; 114 million is about 6½%. Of course, our members pay for other charitable purposes, such as local community chests and civic endeavors. But our Government allows deductions for church and charities up to 20% of a person's income, and for some purposes even up to 30%. So people could divert more into charitable channels and still not be paying more; they would only be paying more for church and charities and less for taxes; now they pay more for taxes by paying less for church. We should make use of our privilege and put more into church and charities, which we could deduct from taxes. Particulars

can be had from any tax consultant or financial expert. With the heavier budget coming up in Synod we must use good sense and help the Lord's cause as much as possible.

When our pastors of the Deaf conduct the services for the Deaf, 25% of the collections is sent in for missions and 75% is used toward the expenses. That is a fair and good system. We should remember that our Missions to Deaf will next year get \$205,000 out of the general synodical budget. So we must help all we can that the necessary funds are collected.

SINCE 1929 the yearly average per-member giving for all purposes in The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod went up from \$22.25 to \$67.83. In 1929 Synod got 12% of the contribution; in 1954 only 8%. If Synod got 15% of each member's contribution, we would not have a deficit and would reach the 1956 budget of \$12,900,000.

IN the school year 1954—55 there were 4,833 students at the fourteen colleges of our Synod; 1,216 studied at the two theological seminaries, 1,114 at the two teachers' colleges; 2,305 at the ten junior colleges. Of the total 1,070 were women.

FOR lack of room 4,821 pupils were turned away from Lutheran schools; 921 of these were from unchurched homes.

FROM "family" take the letter "m" standing for "mother" and the "y" for "youth" or children, and you have "fail."

"THE only thing necessary for evil to win is that good men do nothing."

Edmund Burke



Field Gleanings

Changes

The Rev. Donald Simon, late of Columbus, Ohio, was installed on October 16 at St. Matthew's, Jackson Heights, New York. The Columbus congregation called **Rev. Eugene Krug** of Wabash, Ind., as his successor; but the call was declined, and **Pastor Arthur Strege** of St. Louis has also declined. **Rev. Rich. Meyer** of California has returned the Des Moines call, and **Rev. Laurence M. Stacy** of Pittsburgh has been called to Des Moines. **Rev. N. P. Uhlig** of Jacksonville, Ill., has tendered his resignation on account of failing eyesight and declining strength, to be effective July 1, 1956.

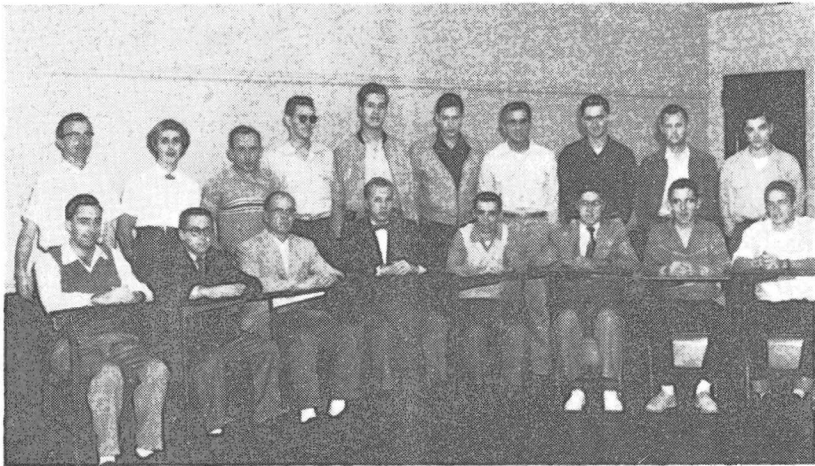
Welcome!

We rejoice to report that several promising candidates have appeared on the scene who could help serving the Deaf in their church work. At Denver it is Philip John, and in St.

Louis it is Mark Frederick. However, we must give them a little more time to get ready, because **Philip John Bailey** and **Mark Frederick Reinking** are still engaged only in very elementary occupations (we almost spelled that word *alimentary*, which has to do with food and nutrition). They prefer milk to "strong meat," which men like better and need for hard work. But we shall overlook their preference for milk, because Philip John was born only September 6, 1955, and Mark Frederick October 24, 1955. Mark was a "husky" at that, weighing nearly ten pounds. Well, we surely welcome you two (and the other newcomers at Memphis and Spokane and perhaps in other parsonages of pastors of the Deaf); and we hope you will be as famous as the Apostles whose illustrious names you bear! And congratulations to all the happy parents!



Arapahoe, Nebr., Deaf and friends enjoyed their service and picnic August 14, 1955



Sign Language Class of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill.

(Standing, 1. to r.): Herman Christiansen, Mrs. Audrie Avery (wife of a married student), Ludwig Rucki, Francis Mennenga, Gary Borges, Joel Lehman, Herbert Schwandt, Leroy Mason, Orlin Anderson, Earl J. Thaler (instructor). (Seated, 1. to r.): Duane Imig, Loren Delgehausen, Robert Hofener, Donald Heino, Warren Greenwald, Karl Wordell, Reiner Bohlen, and Robert Bruer

Springfield, Ill. — The sign-language class of Concordia Theological Seminary has a record enrollment of seventeen this year. Mr. Earl J. Thaler, a student of the Seminary, instructs the class. He reports a group "full of enthusiasm for the signs." The class meets every Monday evening for approximately one hour. Several members of the class, with Mr. Thaler and Mr. Wm. Ludwig, a Deaf student of the Seminary, teach in the Sunday school of Christ for the Deaf Chapel at Jacksonville, 37 miles away, where the Illinois School for the Deaf is located. Mr. Thaler is superintendent of the Sunday school. One of the teachers is Mrs. Audrie Avery, the wife of a student at the Seminary; she, a teacher by profession and working towards a doctorate at the U. of Ill. Extension in Springfield, is a working housewife and a fine member of the Sunday school staff. Many of the others in the class are eager to do their share in "spreading the

Gospel to the Deaf." One must thank God for such an enthusiastic group of students and workers. May the Lord shower His blessing on their work throughout the year.

The work at Jacksonville among the children of the Illinois School for the Deaf, though under the control and supervision of Pastor Uhlig, has been made a project of the Wyneken Missionary Society of Concordia Theological Seminary. In this society, working under the direction of Prof. Arthur Graf of the Seminary faculty, the students are led to do missionary work at institutions, nursing homes, hospitals, preaching, visiting, canvassing, teaching, and thus to gain valuable experience. The congregations and institutions benefited remunerate the society, which must maintain several automobiles to carry on the work. Regular reports must be made on the work, and the students receive academic credit for this activity.



Three Readers of Lutheran Blind Literature of Ishpeming, Mich.

Mrs. A. Douglas, Mr. M. Moscow, Miss Vallie Douglas (Deaf-Blind)

Ishpeming, Mich. — **The Rev. O. C. Schroeder**, editor of the Lutheran periodicals for the blind and pastor of Deaf for many years, sufferer from hay fever, annually escapes the heat of Chicago here in the North. He conducted several services for the Deaf while here. He is shown on the accompanying cut with his Deaf friends. Another cut shows three of the readers of our blind literature: **Mrs. A. Douglas** and her deaf-blind daughter, **Miss Vallie Douglas**, and **Mr. M. Moscow**. The

pictures were taken by **Mr. Alex Suudi**, a Lutheran Deaf photographer. Next summer these Deaf plan to have a picnic on beautiful Presque Isle, near Marquette, Mich.

Memphis. — **Mr. and Mrs. Houston Myers** could celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary in September. It does one good, when we read of so many divorces and broken homes, to hear of such anniversaries. People that are true to God's leadership are true to their promises to their fellow men.

Florence, Ala. — Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has offered to sponsor a "nursery" to take care of the children of Deaf while the parents attend the services for the Deaf which Rev. Thies conducts at Florence.

Memphis. — The people that attended the Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference at St. Louis last summer will remember **Mrs. Mamie Burton**, the fine Negro delegate from Memphis, who passed away not long after that conference. They had a "Mamie Burton Day" at our Negro Church for the Deaf at Memphis, at which



Rev. O. C. Schroeder (second from left) and Group of Deaf of Ishpeming, Mich.

they had a collection and placed a marker on her grave. That certainly was fine.

St. Louis. — On October 9, at St. Philip's, **Angelo Juan**, son of **Mr. and Mrs. van Langston**, and **Kerwin Lester**, son of **Mr. and Mrs. Archie Marshall**, were laid into the arms of Jesus in Holy Baptism. And at the **Norman Piotraschke** home a little daughter has arrived. May God bless and keep these children in His grace.

Portland, Oreg. — The Northwest Deaf Lutheran Lay Conference was held July 15—17 at Camp Colton, Portland, and was very successful. Details will be reported in a later issue. The award for the person coming the greatest distance was won by **Mrs. Beulah McFarland**, who had come 1,000 miles from Billings, Mont. Tacoma has invited the conference for 1956.

Madison, Wis. — On June 23 **Mrs. Emma Worden** departed this life and was laid to rest June 27 at Watertown, Wis. August 1 God called home **August Schefske**, and he was buried August 4 at Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery near Johnson Creek. **Mrs. Russell James** of the Delavan congregation lost her mother by death on July 1. Our sympathy goes to those who mourn the loss of loved ones, but those that are called away, if they are believers, are always happy, because to them death is the entrance to heaven.

M. K.

Omaha, Nebr. — At Wakefield, Nebr., on June 29, the 45th wedding anniversary of **Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Becker** occurred and was celebrated June 25 at their home by their friends. — August 15 **Mrs. Lois Wilson** of Omaha and **Mr. Jack Peder-**

sen were united in marriage. — May the Lord bless these unions. — **Verne Taylor** of North Platte, our member, recently graduated from the Nebraska School for the Deaf, has entered Gallaudet College at Washington, D. C. Rev. Westermann serves these Lutheran students. May all such remember that they will do better in their classes if they always seek the Lord's blessing by being faithful to their church.

E. M.

New York. — When on June 26, 1955, the **Rev. William Hausmann** was ordained and commissioned as missionary to the Deaf in the New York area, he became the first son of Deaf parents to enter the ministry in The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. He was baptized in infancy by the pioneer Missouri Synod pastor of the Deaf in the Eastern part of the United States, the Rev. Arthur C. Boll. He serves St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Deaf in Harlem and works among the Deaf in the Bronx, Westchester, and points north. During the recent vacancy at St. Matthew's in New York he supplied them also.

Pittsburgh, Pa. — Last summer, when the 15th reunion of the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf Alumni Association was held, 78 Deaf attended the church service held by Pastor Stacy of Trinity Lutheran Church of Deaf. Trinity's chapel fund was given the collection of \$29. The chapel fund has more than \$5,200 now, and the 1956 budget of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod contains an item of \$50,000 toward chapels in Pittsburgh and Los Angeles. Thus prospects are good that the Pittsburgh Deaf will presently get their much-needed chapel and parsonage.



Catechism

Table of Duties TO THE YOUNG IN GENERAL

(Continued)

(1 Peter 5:5, 6)

In His holy Word our God and Lord tells the younger to humble themselves before the older and to honor and respect them. However, He also says that *all* Christians should be "clothed with humility."

"Humble Yourselves"

Often God impresses this upon our mind. Rom. 12:10 we read: "Be kindly affectioned [minded] one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." And in Philippians 2:3 God says: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory [empty pride]; but in lowliness [humility] of mind let each esteem [think] others better than himself." Christians are to be "clothed [dressed] with humility." Our Lord Jesus gives us a good example. He, the mighty Son of God, washed His disciples' feet. He humbled Himself for us, became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross, Philippians 2:6-8. Therefore in verse 5 Paul says: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." How sad that often we do not find this mind among Christians! Also in Christian families and congregations we see pride and quarrels and jealousies, just as Jesus found it among His twelve disciples. Come, let us learn of Christ to be meek and lowly and to serve one

another in all humility as Christ served us.

God Will Cast Down the Proud

God hates pride! Peter therefore says: "God resisteth the proud." God is against the proud and will cast them down. Jesus says: "Who-soever exalteth [proudly makes himself high] himself shall be abased [made low]," Luke 18:14. Remember what God did to proud King Pharaoh, who would not let God's people go out of Egypt, Exodus 14. Daniel, chapters 4 and 5, tells us how God humbled the proud king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar. He learned the lesson and said: "Those that walk in pride He is able to abase [put down]." Beware of pride! Be clothed with humility!

"God Gives Grace to the Humble"

According to God's Word, God will show mercy and kindness to the humble and bless them. God gave grace to King Hezekiah, for he humbled himself before God, 2 Chronicles 32:26. And forget not how God showed mercy to the poor publican, or tax collector, who stood afar off, would not lift up his eyes to heaven, but smote his breast, saying: "God be merciful to me, a sinner." Jesus says of him: "He went down to his house justified." Jesus declared him good and righteous in God's sight. Let us heed the words of Peter: "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

Oh, humble yourselves in your sins before God, trust in His great mercy as we see it in our crucified Savior. Then you will cast aside all pride and humbly walk among all people. Then, at last, you will be exalted [lifted up] into the heavenly Father's home, where Christ now is praying for us and preparing a place for us.

Pray for a Humble Spirit

Daily ask God for a "meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price," 1 Peter 3:3, 4.

J. L. S.

The Doctrine of the Sacraments

(Continued)

By THEO. DeLANEY

We have learned that a Sacrament is a holy act through which God promises and seals to us forgiveness. And we have seen that, in order to be a true Sacrament, it must have been ordered by God Himself, and a visible thing must be used with it with the Word of God that orders it and promises us forgiveness. There are two Sacraments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper. We have seen that some extra sacraments, claimed to be true sacraments, are not really forgiveness-giving acts, because they lack some of the three essentials that make a true Sacrament, such as penance and confirmation.

Now let us look at another "extra" sacrament, claimed to be a true Sacrament by some. It is called **Ordination**. God truly established the office of the holy ministry in Scripture. In 1 Corinthians 12:28 we read: "God has set some in the church, first Apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers." Speaking to the elders of Ephesus, Acts 20:28, Paul tells them: "Take heed,

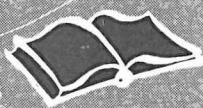
therefore, unto yourselves and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers." See also 1 Peter 5:1, 2. God, working through the church, sets these men apart as His special servants to bring His Word to all men, Acts 13:2: "As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said: Separate Me Barnabas and Paul for the work whereunto I have called them." We may note here that God works through each congregation, for Jesus said Matthew 18:20: "Where two or three are gathered together in My name, there am I in the midst of them." These ministers must "rightly divide the Word of truth," 2 Timothy 2:15, that means apply properly Law and Gospel and preach the right thing at the right time to the needs of the individual.

In the Bible we read that this ordination ("setting apart") was shown through the laying on of hands by fellow ministers (not by special bishops) 1 Timothy 4:14, "with the laying on of hands by the presbytery." But we read nowhere that this ordination promises and gives to the ordinand (the one set apart) forgiveness of sins nor that it makes a special mark on his soul.

Therefore we say **ordination is not a sacrament**.

One thing is described in Scripture as an honorable and holy estate: **Marriage**. God established marriage in the beginning when He made Adam's wife Eve. Genesis 2:18, 22, 24 we read: "I will make him a helper meet [fit] for him. . . . And the rib which the Lord had taken from man He made a woman and brought her unto the man. . . . Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall

(Please turn to page 192)



Know Your Bible

The Two Books of Chronicles

The two Books of Kings give us the **national history** of the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. The two Books of Chronicles could be called the **church history** of the Jewish people. The history begins with the names of the ancestors from Adam through Noah and his sons, Abraham and his sons and descendants, the generations that came from Jacob and his children; tells the story of David's rule in the First Book; in the Second Book we are told of the succeeding kings of the kingdom of Judah from Solomon to Zedekiah.

So Kings and Chronicles are not meaningless recordings of the same rulers. In Chronicles we find the story of the church and the temple, and many details are given which show that this section was written to bring the things of particular interest to the priests and Levites and the religion of the people of God in the Old Testament until the time of the captivity of the Jews at Babylon.

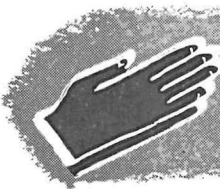
References indicate that these books were written after the return from Babylon. The name of the coins mentioned First Chronicles 29:7, "drams," is really "Darics," which were gold coins with the image of King Darius. These were Persian coins used only during that time, when the language was largely Aramaic, which was the language spoken at that time by the Jews. It is generally accepted that Ezra

was the inspired writer of Chronicles. Under him the first Jews returned to Jerusalem after their captivity, and in the Book of Ezra we find many similarities with portions of Chronicles. The time of writing can therefore be set at 535 to 515 before Christ.

The building of the beautiful temple of Solomon and the dedication are recorded in the first seven chapters of the Second Book of Chronicles. It is an account of great splendor and wealth under Solomon, a gifted man. It touches one to read finally of the sad turn of his life, for in his prosperity he introduced and let grow the worship of idols which his foreign wives brought from their homes. What a lesson! Also in our day magnificent churches are built, but sometimes the worship of the true God is not found in them, or the worship is mixed with error. We see in Chronicles the struggle of faithful servants of God like Hezekiah, Josiah, and Jehoshaphat to restore and preserve the true worship, while we hear of unfaithful people and the final destruction of the nation because it was not faithful to God. Let us learn. "Whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning," Romans 15:4.

"Make all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can."

— John Wesley.



Devotions

Selections are from the Gospel according to St. Luke by Pastor Wm. F. Reinking

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.

Thursday, December 1

Luke 1:5-17

Many times when we pray to the Lord, He does not answer us right away. He has not forgotten us. Sometimes He lets us wait to test us. Do not stop praying. At the right time God will help you.

Prayer: Lord God, make our faith strong enough that we will continue patient in prayer. Amen.

Friday, December 2

Luke 1:26-38

Elizabeth had a son when she was old. Mary had a son without any human father. God can do anything. Trust in God. Tell Him all your troubles, and He can help you. He loves you.

Prayer: God of all power, take from us all fear and doubt. Comfort us with the knowledge of your power. Amen.

Saturday, December 3

Luke 1:46-56

God showed much honor to Mary. He chose her from all the women of that time to be Jesus' mother.

Does she think she is better than others? No. Do you think yourself better than others?

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You made Yourself humble to come and save us from sin. Keep us humble always. Amen.

Sunday, December 4

Luke 1:66-79

Second Sunday in Advent

What a wonderful God we have! He remembered that promise He made to Abraham 2,000 years before and sent a Savior. God never forgets any promise. Believe in Jesus, and you will have heaven.

Prayer: Father in heaven, we thank You that You remembered Your promise and sent our Savior. Amen.

Monday, December 5

Luke 2:41-51

Here we see how Jesus perfectly obeyed the Law for us. Many times we have not loved, honored, obeyed our parents as God wants. The perfect obedience of Jesus and His death on the cross open heaven to us.

Prayer: O Savior, forgive us for our many sins of not obeying our parents. Help us do better. Amen.

Tuesday, December 6

Luke 3:1-6

Repentance means to feel sorry and ashamed of your sins, to believe Jesus is your Savior, and to ask forgiveness from Him. Are you repentant? You must be if you want to live in heaven eternally.

Prayer: Lord, make our hearts grieve for the sin we have done. Comfort us with Your forgiveness. Amen.

Wednesday, December 7

Luke 3:21, 22

We believe in the three-in-one God. At Jesus' Baptism we see the three Persons of God. God the Father speaks from heaven, the Son is in the water, and the Holy Ghost is in the dove. Wonderful God!

Prayer: O God, we cannot understand the mystery of the Trinity, but we know You are our Savior. Amen.

Thursday, December 8

Luke 4:1-13

Satan tempts us every day to lie, cheat, quarrel, be angry, hate, and to do other sins. When we believe in our Savior Jesus, we know we can resist the temptation. Jesus Himself beat Satan.

Prayer: Lord, make stronger our faith in our Savior. Then we will not sin when Satan tempts us. Amen.

Friday, December 9

Luke 5:1-11

You are also a fisher for men. You love Jesus, but many other people do not know about Jesus. Talk with your family, your friends,

your neighbors. Tell them Jesus died for them, too.

Prayer: O Christ, many times we want to talk about You, but we are shy. Help us to save souls. Amen.

Saturday, December 10

Luke 5:27-32

All of us were sick people. We were sick with sin. This sickness sends us to hell if someone does not save us. Jesus is our good Doctor. He saves us from sin because He died on the cross.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, make us to understand we sin much, and wash clean our sins with Your blood. Amen.

Sunday, December 11

Luke 6:27-29

Third Sunday in Advent

When someone lies about you or hurts you, right away you want to do the same back to him. Jesus says: "Don't get even. Rather love your enemies." Easy? No. Necessary? Yes, if you believe in Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, fill us with so great a love that we can learn to love all those who hate us. Amen.

Monday, December 12

Luke 6:46-49

A true believer in Jesus will show his faith in everything he thinks, says, and does. You cannot separate your faith from your life. A faith not active is a dead faith. A dead faith cannot save us.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, do not let us fool ourselves with a dead faith. Make us live for You. Amen.

Tuesday, December 13

Luke 7:11-17

Jesus could make that boy live again, for Jesus Himself died and

rose again. We who love our Savior will not fear death. We know that in death our bodies sleep until Jesus calls us to rise again.

Prayer: Lord, when the hour of our death comes near, comfort us to know that we shall rise to live with You. Amen.

Wednesday, December 14

Luke 8:1-3

Women can do important work for Jesus. They cannot preach, but they can be active in ladies' aid groups. They can teach their children to love Jesus in the home. They can visit the sick.

Prayer: O Lord, we give thanks to You for the women in our churches. Help them do even more work for You. Amen.

Thursday, December 15

Luke 8:22-25

See the wonderful power of Jesus in this story! That same power can help us in any trouble we have. Often we suffer alone in our trouble, because we did not ask Jesus to help. Remember to pray.

Prayer: Comfort us, O Lord, with the knowledge that You are always near. Help us in all our troubles. Amen.

Friday, December 16

Luke 9:10-17

How many times did you sit down to eat a good meal, get up, and never think to thank Jesus? Just as He fed the 5,000, He also feeds us. We must daily give thanks for all He has given us.

Prayer: Lord, we must confess that often we are not thankful enough for all Your blessings. Amen.

Saturday, December 17

Luke 10:25-37

Each one of us is selfish like the priest and Levite that did not stop to help. Selfishness is a sin. A true believer in Jesus will always think first how he can help others.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, take from us all feelings of selfishness, and fill us with love. Amen.

Sunday, December 18

Luke 11:5-13

Fourth Sunday in Advent

The Lord does not promise to answer our prayers right away. The story Jesus tells us today teaches us that we must continue to pray. The Lord will answer, but He knows best when the right time has come.

Prayer: O Christ, help us not to be impatient in our prayers. Give us trust to know You will help. Amen.

Monday, December 19

Luke 12:16-21

What is most important in life for you? It should not be money, a fine home, new cars, etc. When you die, these things are left. Let your faith in your Savior be most important to you.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we must confess that earthly things often become most dear to us. Forgive us. Amen.

Tuesday, December 20

Luke 13:1-5

Terrible things happen every day that kill people — tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, and fires. We never know when something will kill us. We are ready to die when we love our Savior.

Prayer: Jesus, protect us from these terrible happenings. Take us to heaven when we die. Amen.

Wednesday, December 21

Luke 14:16-24

St. Thomas

Jesus invites you to believe in Him through the Bible, the church, and your pastor. You can refuse the invitation. If you do, you go to hell. Accept the invitation and live in heaven with Jesus.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we thank You for the kind invitation to believe in You. Make strong our faith. Amen.

Thursday, December 22

Luke 15:11-24

When we were baptized and confirmed, we promised that we would always live for Jesus. How many times have we sinned! We can be sure that God is always waiting to forgive when we are sorry.

Prayer: Lord God, just like the younger son we have forgotten You. Forgive us, and keep us in true faith. Amen.

Friday, December 23

Luke 16:19-31

When you stand before your Judge, Jesus, He will not judge you according to your clothes or your money. What is in the heart is important. Is saving faith in Jesus in your heart?

Prayer: O Savior Jesus, take from us all love for things here on earth. Fill us with love for You. Amen.

Saturday, December 24

Luke 17:22-36

Christmas Eve

Today our thoughts are of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. We can no

longer see the baby Jesus. He will come a second time to earth. Then we all shall see Him. He comes to judge us. Do you believe that He saved you from your sins?

Prayer: Lord, we know not when You will come. Give us faith that we can be ready at any time. Amen.

Sunday, December 25

Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Day

Almost 2,000 years ago a baby was born. This was the Son of God and Son of Mary. This was the Savior God had promised to Adam and Eve. Thank God for the best Christmas Gift. Without Jesus we are lost.

Prayer: Dear Father in heaven, our hearts are full of joy on this happy day. Thank You for our Savior! Amen.

Monday, December 26

Luke 2:15-20

St. Stephen

Real Christmas joy does not last only for a day or two. Can you imagine the shepherds forgetting the baby Jesus? Every day should be Christmas to us. The baby Jesus is our Savior from sin.

Prayer: God, our Father, let our hearts be filled with real joy in Jesus every day we live. Amen.

Tuesday, December 27

Luke 18:9-14

St. John

Only humble people will pass through the gates into heaven. Proud people will boast what they do, but we can do nothing to save ourselves. We are sinners. Humble people trust in the Savior, Jesus.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, keep us humble in all our life. Let us always remember You are our Savior. Amen.

Wednesday, December 28

Luke 19:35-38

The Holy Innocents

Jesus is King. He is King over heaven and earth. Is He proud? No, He is a humble King. He rides on a donkey. He has no jewels and pretty clothes. He is our King. He died for us.

Prayer: O King in heaven, rule in our hearts every day, that we will do everything You like. Amen.

Thursday, December 29

Luke 21:1-4

Jesus praised the poor widow not because she gave much, but because she gave all she had. She kept nothing for herself. Think how much you keep for yourself, and how little you give to Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, we are ashamed for being so selfish. Forgive us, and make us happy to give our money to You. Amen.

Friday, December 30

Luke 22:54-62

Peter was too sure of himself. He thought he could stand with sinners and still show his faith. He failed and sinned. Don't tempt yourselves. Don't go near temptation if you wish not to sin.

Prayer: O Savior, we must confess that too many times we make temptation too easy for us. Forgive us. Amen.

Saturday, December 31

Luke 23:32-47

New Year's Eve

We come to the end of another year, a year in which we have

sinned much against God. Thank God we have a Savior who died for us! Let us promise that the new year of 1956 will find us better believers in Jesus.

Prayer: Jesus, Thank You for all the blessings of the past year. Be with us daily in the new year. Amen.

The Doctrine of the Sacraments

(Continued from page 186)

cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh." The New Testament compares Christ's Church to a bride and says that a husband and his wife should have that same pure and loving relationship that exists between Christ and His Church," Ephesians 5:21-33. Truly, God teaches us that He established marriage as a holy estate. But nowhere does He give us a visible thing in marriage comparable to the water in Baptism or bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. Moreover, the Bible nowhere teaches that marriage has the power to forgive sins. Therefore we teach that **marriage**, though it is a holy estate, is **not** a sacrament.

BIBLE QUIZ

Correction: The second question in the September Bible Quiz speaking of the large water basin in the old temple had a wrong Bible reference; the right reference is 2 Chronicles 4:3, where we are told that it was supported by twelve statues of oxen who faced away from the basin.

What is the Christian's real, last, and lasting joy? Psalm 17:15.