

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 48

JANUARY 1956

Number 1

A New Year's Prayer

1. Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Name all other names above,
Unto which must every knee
Bow in deep humility.
2. Jesus! Name decreed of old,
To the maiden mother told —
Kneeling in her lowly cell —
By the angel Gabriel.
3. Jesus! Name of priceless worth
To the fallen sons of earth
For the promise that it gave,
"Jesus shall His people save."
4. Jesus! Name of mercy mild
Given to the holy Child
When the cup of human woe
First He tasted here below.
5. Jesus! Only name that's given
Under all the mighty heaven
Whereby man, to sin enslaved,
Bursts his fetters and is saved.
6. Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee,
Helpless, O our God, to Thee.

Amen

Wm. W. How

A Blessed New Year to All Readers!

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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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Editorials

A New Year

By the grace of God we are permitted to enter upon a new year, 1956. It is a year of new blessings, new opportunities, and new responsibilities.

The old year gave us many blessings and opportunities and also responsibilities. As we look back, the blessings cause us to look up and say: Thank You, God! We also must say: Forgive us, God, when we remember the opportunities that we did not make use of or did not properly carry out for the greatest glory of God and the greatest good of our neighbor. For every opportunity carries with it a responsibility.

How good to know that we will have another year in which to do better! There is much to do for God. There are many, many still living in darkness of ignorance and sin and hopelessness who need the Light of the world, the Morning Star, Jesus.

May God give us grace in this new year to realize that "we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them." The great work is the work of bringing the Gospel to mankind, and personal efforts, prayers, and liberal money gifts are necessary.

1956 Anniversary Year

The year 1956 marks the sixtieth year of the Mission to Deaf of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. So when May comes this year, we must think of that day in May 1896, when, at the synodical convention at Fort Wayne, Ind., the Rev. Augustus Reinke of Chicago held forth and told the story how for the two preceding years he had preached to Deaf in the sign language and that the work was too much for one man to do and that it was the duty of all to do this together. Then the work was officially taken over and has been carried on with ever-increasing effectiveness.

Let us thank God that He has permitted us to do this work for the

children of silence. Let us look around and see where more chances are offered us for greater service to the Deaf. We cannot but think of the millions of Deaf in the countries of the wide world who do not have the story of Jesus and the hope of eternal life through Him. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest" (Matthew 9:37, 38). May this year see renewed and increased effort on the part of all to "lengthen the cords and strengthen the stakes" (Isaiah 54:2), so that the Mission to the Deaf may grow inwardly and outwardly, by the grace of God.



Dr. Salvner Reports:

Indianapolis, Rochester.—October 17 we boarded a train for Indianapolis to spend a few days with Vicar Nickerson and discuss matters concerning the work in his field. October 20 we attended the meeting of the Advisory Placement Committee in Chicago, where the need of workers in every mission department was set forth. God willing, there will be about 199 candidates and 231 vicars available next year, who will then be ready to go out to work in the Lord's harvest fields. Our mission will need five or more workers in 1956.

The same evening we left for Rochester, N. Y., to preach for Pastor Rohe on October 23, 25, and 27 at his Spiritual Life Mission, also called the Preaching-Teaching-Reaching Mission. Pastor Westermann preached October 24, 26, and 28. Several weeks before these services Pastor Rohe and some of the members visited all of the Deaf in the Rochester area, telling each one of the need of a Savior and of Christ's love for sinners, and then inviting them to come and to worship with us. Every evening a few more Deaf came. Friday evening a large gathering was on hand for the fellowship dinner and for the final rally service. May our dear Lord bless these services and grant that everyone be filled with love and zeal for Christ and His kingdom, that is, to go out and to bring more and

more Deaf to the one and only Savior. We who know Jesus and His sin-cleansing blood surely want all people to know this Savior and by faith in Him to obtain life everlasting. Let us not say as did Cain: "Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:5) but as Paul: "I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (1 Corinthians 9:22). God grant this to you and me, Christian reader!

Spokane-Portland-Seattle—From Rochester we returned to our home October 28, but only for a few days. November 1 we started out for the West. The next day we met Pastor Hauptman at Great Falls, Mont., attended his classes at the State School, where we also addressed each class. The same evening a service was held with the Great Falls adult Deaf. Our next stop was Billings for a service November 3; and November 4 we were in Park City and Bozeman for a service. November 5 we met with the Butte Deaf for divine worship. The same evening we went to Spokane, thus covering 1,500 miles by rail and bus in four days. On Sunday at 9:30 A.M. the adult Bible class met in Faith Church, Spokane, led by one of the members. At ten o'clock a service was held and at the same time Sunday school for the hearing children of deaf parents. At 11 A.M. the voters of the congregation met. Reports were given, and then we also discussed the request of the congregation that their pastor be

relieved of the Montana stations and thus be enabled to minister to more Deaf in the western part of Washington and also to do more intensive work in Spokane. They were reminded of the present shortage of men and also of the small number of Deaf in some of the stations which would not warrant the placing of a full-time man into Montana at this time. However, arrangements will be made to make it easier for the pastor of Faith Church to serve the forty children in the Montana school and the communicants in the stations, probably by using the plane more frequently, whereby many days would be saved for the work in Spokane.

November 7 we boarded the train for Portland, the "City of Roses," but snow and ice and cold were with us the following Friday. With Pastor Ring we visited the State School of Oregon in Salem and also the State School of Washington in Vancouver and there attended his classes in these schools. In Salem it was great joy to see twenty-one adults for their Bible class, which meets every Wednesday. Friday the Portland Ladies' Aid met in the afternoon. After the ladies had served a potluck dinner, the voters met. Then we addressed the entire group, stressing church and Communion attendance and giving for the Lord's work. We were pleased to note that the number of members has grown considerably during the past five years, also the average attendance in services, and that the contributions for God's work had increased. We were pleased to learn that the Portland Deaf have resolved to pay twelve dollars a Sunday for a chartered bus for the purpose of bringing the forty children

from the Vancouver school to the Portland service. These meet at 10:15 A. M. for instructions while one of the members conducts an adult Bible class. And at the same time two classes of smaller deaf children and three classes of hearing boys and girls of deaf parents meet in the basement for Sunday school. At eleven all of these attend the service with the adult Deaf. Eighty-five were in attendance on this Sunday. At 2 P. M. a service was held in Salem. We are always pleased to see Mrs. Clara Lauby, a member of our first confirmation class in Minneapolis fifty years ago. We thank God that she still clings to Jesus and loves to learn His heavenly Word in church and also in Bible class. At 3 P. M. we spoke to about seventy children from the school.

November 14 we left Portland for Seattle, where we spent a week with Pastor Beyer. Services were held on Thursday in Vancouver, B. C., on Friday in Tacoma, and in Seattle on Sunday morning. After the ladies had served dinner, there followed a meeting with the entire group. Then we hurried on to Everett for a service at 4 P. M., after which the ladies also served a meal. A meeting of all followed. In every place we could tell of our Synod's work in all parts of the world and of our fourteen colleges and seminaries for the training of workers, stressing that this all is the work of the Holy Spirit, who alone deserves all praise for the wonderful growth of our church; for "no man can say that Jesus is the Lord but by the Holy Ghost" (1 Corinthians 12:3).

The same Sunday evening we boarded a train for home, praising and giving thanks to God for the

many blessings He is bestowing upon our work in every place! We pray:

Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Thy love.
Grant steadfastness, and help us
To reach our home above.

J. L. S.

Omaha, Nebr.—At the Midwest Conference of Lutheran Deaf Lay Members and Pastors in Kansas City, Mo., on October 22 and 23, it was decided to meet next fall at Worthington, Minn. Date of conference will be announced later. This will give the Deaf in Iowa, Nebraska, and South Dakota a fine opportunity to attend, and it is hoped it will be a conference with the largest attendance so far.—Mr. Geo. Dietz of Denver was elected president of the conference for this year. Mr. Gaasland of Worthington, Minn., is vice-president, and Mr. Marvin Neuschwanger of Des Moines, Iowa, was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Mr. Nick Petersen of Omaha served as president during the past year. Mrs. Nick Petersen gave an interesting and well-prepared talk on the subject "Our Church in the World" and "World Conditions Affect the Church." Other speakers were Mr. William Ragland, Mr. Keith Matthews, Mr. Hughes, Miss Jeffries and Mrs. Wear, all of Kansas City. They spoke on various phases of our church's great work in the Lord's kingdom. The delegate from Omaha was Mr. Earl Petersen. He served on the resolutions committee at the conference. The Rev. Clark Bailey of Denver preached a good sermon on Sunday morning. The Rev. R. F. Cordes of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., gave some very fine talks. Pilgrim Congregation of Kansas City with its pastor, Rev. A. E. Ferber, were won-

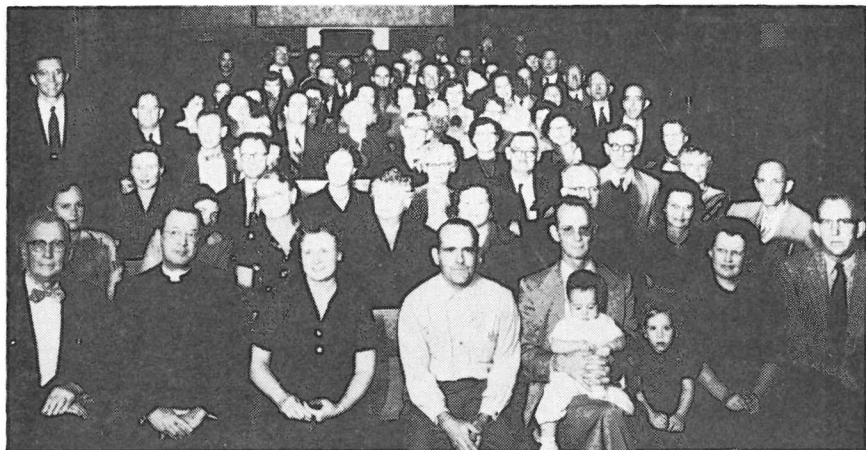
derful hosts. It was a very interesting and stimulating meeting. E. M.

Menomonie, Wis.—Miss Shirley Hathaway and Mr. Robert Everett were united in holy matrimony October 1 by Pastor Geo. Kraus. God grant them a happy life together in the service of Christ.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Pastor L. M. Stacy received and accepted the call extended to him by Mount Calvary Lutheran Church of the Deaf at Des Moines, Iowa. He leaves Pittsburgh and his stations of that field after the Christmas holidays. He has had an uphill fight, but has done good work, and we wish him God's blessing in his new field of labor. At this writing it is not known what arrangements have been made or will be made to supply the field until a new worker arrives.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—The work in this area is progressing nicely. Vicar Wayne C. Bottlinger has been very active and has received fine recognition on several occasions. He and his Deaf group participated in several events of interest, getting much publicity in newscasts and TV presentations. They participated in the Reformation Day services of the Lutheran churches of that vicinity and at the mission festival of Christ Lutheran Church.

Memphis, Tenn.—The week end of November 19, 20 was a memorable one for the Memphis Deaf. Saturday evening the members of Grace Church of Deaf had a turkey supper, Pastor Thies being the host. The evening's entertainment consisted of the showing of colored slides by Pastor Thies of his work in the Memphis field and talks by several. Pastor Uhlig of Jacksonville, Ill., regional representative of



The Memphis Deaf

Pastor Delbert Thies standing in aisle besides Mrs. Thies; Pastor N. P. Uhlig and the Rev. and Mrs. Victor Brugge in first pew at left

the Dixie area, spoke, and his slides of the Jacksonville chapel and the work in his field were shown. He preached in the Sunday morning service at Grace and at the afternoon service of the Negro Deaf congregation.

Council Bluffs, Iowa. — **Dennis Gene**, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry **Eckstrom**, born July 29, was baptized November 6. May God keep him in his baptismal grace.

St. Paul, Minn. — **Andrew Luther Kraus**, the son of Pastor and Mrs. George Kraus, born October 7, was baptized that day by Pastor Kraus. The little lad had a hard start and was in the baby incubator for a while, but at last report was coming along fine. God bless and keep the child, and may his parents have much joy from him.

Omaha, Nebr. — On Sunday, September 18, Miss **Consuella Chandler** of Sioux City was united in holy matrimony with **Mr. Harold Schulz** of Omaha at Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Deaf. **Mr. and Mrs. John Cafferty** of Hastings, Nebr., were

confirmed at the service in Grand Island, Nebr., September 26. — **Mrs. A. V. Beavers** of Anthon, Iowa, who with her deaf-blind husband is a regular worshiper at the Sioux City services, recently underwent an operation. May the good Lord keep all these mentioned and bless them.

E. M.

Rochester, N. Y. — At the convention of the Eastern District at Ebenezer, N. Y., Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf was represented by **Pastor Rohe** and **Mr. Francis van Aken**. Pastor Rohe interpreted in signs the proceedings of the convention. Mr. F. van Aken is a supervisor of young boys at the Rochester School for the Deaf. The sight of Deaf delegates at District conventions is becoming more frequent. It is a source of inspiration to the hearing people and a source of information to the Deaf.

THE ship's place is on the sea, but pity the ship if the sea gets into it. The Christian's place is in the world, but pity the Christian if the world gets into him.



Know Your Bible

The Book of Ezra

Cyrus, the king of Persia, in the year 536 gave an edict, or order, that the Jews may return to Jerusalem and build their city and temple again. Zerubbabel was the leader of the Jews under whom the first expedition was made. Seventy-eight years later a second company of exiles came back under Ezra. In the Book of Ezra the story of these two expeditions is related.

Part of the book is written in Aramaic, the language of the Jews of later periods of Old Testament times. Ezra has always been accepted as the writer. He was a famous scribe, or law teacher, and priest, and descended from the famous high priest Hilkiah, who lived in the reign of King Josiah. Ezra is believed to be the author of several of the books of the Bible dealing with the history of the Jewish nation.

The book has ten chapters. The first section, chapters 1 to 6, deals with the edict of Cyrus, the journey of the people numbering about fifty thousand (Ezra 2:64, 65) and their march of four months, the setting up of the altar, laying the foundation of the temple, the opposition of the Samaritan people, but how after the interruption the work was resumed and the temple completed and dedicated.

In the second section, chapters 7 to 10, a second company went to

Jerusalem under Ezra. This was 78 years after the first expedition. 1,755 men went back (Ezra 8), together with their families and servants. The people were sadly ignorant of God's will and Law. With a fast of repentance and a prayer for forgiveness and protection, Ezra instituted a reformation. The social, moral, and religious conditions were improved.

The book gives one an insight into the struggles of a pious leader who sees that things are not right and works hard to have the people see and do the right thing. We learn the names of the leaders and hear of the sacrifices and labors of the faithful to restore the right worship of God.

Ezra, like Nehemiah later, was a pious, God-fearing man, burning with zeal for the Lord and with pity for the people. It must have been a time of great emotion. So many had married heathen wives, and with them the worship of the Lord had been forgotten. So the reformation resulted in the repentance of many who turned to God again.

May God give us always leaders who see the mistakes and work with determination to set things right.

SOMEBODY has said: "Wisdom is divided into two parts; having a great deal to say and not saying it."

It is better to ask the Lord to direct our paths than to correct our mistakes.



Catechism

Table of Duties TO WIDOWS

(1 Timothy 5:5, 6)

Scripture says: "A Father of the fatherless and a Judge of the widows, is God in His holy habitation" (Psalm 68:5). God exercises special care upon widows and the fatherless.

"Widows Indeed" Trust in the Lord

Of such a widow God says that she is "desolate." She is left alone and lonely. A widow is to be pitied, left without a husband and provider. And among these are to be reckoned those whose husbands desert and leave them. Nevertheless, such a "widow indeed" is not alone. She "trusts in God." Especially, she trusts in Jesus and His blood that cleanses from all sin. And from the Word of God she learns that God will take care also of her bodily needs. In the Old Testament God told His people to leave grain and fruits upon the field for widows and the fatherless. In the New Testament He tells Christians "to visit the fatherless and widows in affliction" (James 1:27). He says, and these words surely apply to widows also: "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:15). And by Jeremiah He says: "Let thy widows trust in Me."

"Widows Indeed" Continue in Prayer

What a comfort that she can go to her Lord and heavenly Father in

everything! She, as well as every Christian, trusts in the Savior's promise: "If ye shall ask anything in My name, I will do it" (John 14:14). Humbly and earnestly she goes to her God in every trouble. And she does not give up, but "continues in supplications and prayers." He is the only One to whom she can go. And she does that "night and day." Oh, how blessed are they who do this! Therefore she also gladly goes to church to learn the precious Gospel of Jesus Christ. Every day she takes her Bible and learns what God has to say to her. And out of love to Him she also works for her Lord in church and brings her gifts to Him, as did the poor widow who brought all she had unto her Lord (Mark 12:41-44). Surely, a life worth living!

Some Are Not "Widows Indeed"

Some widows trust not in God, do not give themselves to prayer and the Word of God, but "live in pleasure." They go with the wicked world, live in sin, seek the pleasures of this life, love the world and the things of this world. Of such Paul says: "She is dead while she lives." She lives, but really is dead, dead in trespasses and sins, and unless she repents, must at last with all unbelievers hear these terrible words on Judgment Day: "Depart from Me . . . into everlasting fire" (Matthew 25:41), and go to everlasting death.

May Every One of Us Live as "Widows Indeed" Live

Come, every one of us, let us trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and His blood, continue in prayer night and day, love the Word of Jesus both in church and home, live not unto ourselves, but unto Him who died for us and arose again. That will insure a blessed life here on earth and everlasting life in heaven! J. L. S.

The Doctrine of the Sacraments

(Continued)

By THEO. DELANEY

So far we learned that a Sacrament is a holy act through which God promises, gives, and seals to us forgiveness. It must have been ordered directly by God, there must be used a visible thing specified by God, and we must have God's direct promise of forgiveness for its use. Only two Sacraments, Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper, we have seen, qualify as Sacraments. Several so-called sacraments we studied and found them to be not true sacraments, namely, penance, ordination, confirmation, and marriage.

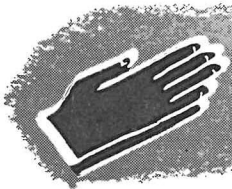
Next let us look at **Extreme Unction**, claimed by some to be a sacrament. It is used by some when a person is at the point of death, and in it a drop of oil is placed upon the person's forehead, breast, and feet. As "proof" James 5:14,15 is quoted. We must study the entire section (vv. 13-18) to get the right understanding and these verses speak of the power of prayer; in joy the Christian's prayer is a song of praise; in sickness he prays for help, to be "saved," which in connection with sickness simply means to be "healed," or to get well again.

In the Bible we are very often told to pray always. A Christian's life should be a life of prayer, talking everything over with God. We thank Him, praise Him, ask Him for many things for ourselves and the neighbor.

In verse 14 James speaks about Christians sick in bed. Note that he speaks to Christians, people who have faith and through Christ have forgiveness. But they are sick and downhearted; they want to be restored to health, if God wills it, "saved" in the sense of being freed from pain and sickness. They need comfort. Now Jesus points out in Matthew 25:35-45 that visiting and comforting the sick is a wonderfully pleasing thing. Let us not forget this when we know people are sick. Who among Christians should best be qualified to bring the comfort of God's Word to the sick? The elders of the church. The word "elder" comes to us from the synagog, or meeting place, of the Jews. The elders had much the same duties as our pastors. They were not priests (Greek, *hiereys*), but the word is *presbyteros*, and some churches today call their elders presbyters. In the New Testament Church the elders became the pastors of the congregation; note, they became the pastors (plural), the early churches having several who divided the work among themselves.

The sick should call the elders. And these should pray with them and give them the comfort of God's Word. And doing so, they should "anoint them with oil," James says, v. 15. The prayer is the main thing, the anointing is an act that accompanies the visit. The way it is put in the text it clearly shows what the

(Please turn to last page)



Devotions

Selections are from the First Epistle of St. John by Pastor Marlin Sampson

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.

Sunday, January 1

New Year's Day

1 John 1:1, 2

Jesus, who suffered and died for us, is none other than the eternal Son of God. He is named the "Word of Life" because He reveals God to us and gives us eternal life. He, who is true God, was made known to men that He might take away our sins. And the Apostles have written only what they knew to be true.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we thank You for showing Yourself to men as our God and Savior, and for the men who wrote our Bible. Amen.

Monday, January 2

1 John 1:3, 4

Because the Apostles knew Jesus intimately and proclaimed and wrote what they knew to be true, we should believe their testimony and not doubt. By believing their word we share the blessings of God's kingdom with them and are truly happy because our sins are forgiven.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to believe with unwavering faith that

You are our God and our Savior. Amen.

Tuesday, January 3

1 John 1:5-7

God is Truth and has revealed the truth to us in His Word. If we believe and obey the Bible, we are one holy family in Jesus, for by faith we receive the forgiveness of sins which Jesus earned for us on the cross. But if we do not believe, we stay in the darkness of ignorance and death.

Prayer: Lord, teach us from Your Word that we might know the truth and live by it. Amen.

Wednesday, January 4

1 John 1:8-10

We who are wise know from God's Word that we are sinful and need His forgiveness. Therefore we confess our sins. But if anybody hides his sin, or calls sin by another name, he is a fool who says by his unbelief that God has lied.

Prayer: Dear God, my sins are many. Forgive me for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Thursday, January 5

1 John 2:1, 2

What the old Apostle has written, and will write, should make us leave the ways of sin. But if we do sin, Jesus who suffered and died for us, is quick to help us and to intercede for us.

Prayer: Dear Savior, we thank You because You have suffered and died for the sins of all men, especially ours. Help us now to live a clean life to Your glory. Amen.

Friday, January 6

Epiphany

1 John 2:3-6

We must believe all of the Bible and obey it in order truly to know Jesus and be His people. When we do that, the love of God is perfected in us, that is, His love has truly saved us and made us His children.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, seal Your Word in my heart, and strengthen me that I will live according to it. Amen.

Saturday, January 7

1 John 2:7-11

No other commandment, or teaching, can take the place of the Gospel of Jesus, which we have believed since the beginning of our new life in Christ. But it is also true that if a man does not love other people, he is not a Christian, but lives in ignorance and is going to hell, unless he repents of his sin.

Prayer: O Lord, I do not love enough. Help me to love others as You love me. Amen.

Sunday, January 8

First Sunday after Epiphany

1 John 2:12-14

John writes to all as a father would write. But some are old, some

are young. All should remain true to Christ: the little children who believe and have forgiveness, the adults who have mature knowledge and leadership, and the young people who have much strength for serving Jesus.

Prayer: My Savior, keep me true to You in faith and service. Amen.

Monday, January 9

1 John 2:15-17

Our interest and love in life is not to center in self, in food and pleasure, in fame and fortune, but in the Word of God and in doing God's will. The world with its treasures will shortly be gone. Only Christ's people will live forever. We must choose Christ or the world! We can't love both!

Prayer: Jesus, let me love You more and more and the world less and less. Amen.

Tuesday, January 10

1 John 2:18-23

God has divided time into periods. Now is the last period before Jesus comes again. Antichrists, men not of the church, arise in the church and by teaching their ideas lead people from Jesus to hell. The Holy Spirit is in us and teaches us the Bible is true.

Prayer: God, keep us safe from false teachers. Amen.

Wednesday, January 11

1 John 2:24, 25

We have believed what the Bible tells us about Jesus, that He is God and man, our Savior. We should continue to believe, because in this faith we have forgiveness of sins and will live forever with the Father and His Son, Jesus.

Prayer: Father, we thank You for the saving faith Your Word has worked in our hearts. Keep us in this faith. Amen.

Thursday, January 12

1 John 2:26-29

We are warned that deceivers are in the world. But we would know them anyhow because God's Spirit gives us the ability to separate truth from error. We can't save ourselves, but Jesus has saved us, and we are to live for Him. That is truth.

Prayer: We thank You, Holy Spirit, for helping us understand the Bible and for making us believe in Jesus and live right. Amen.

Friday, January 13

1 John 3:1, 2

God's love is too great for our understanding. He has changed us and made us His children. In this life we have our weaknesses and troubles, and the world rejects us as it did Jesus. But the day is near when Jesus will take us to heaven. Then we will be holy and perfect like Him.

Prayer: Lord, teach us patience in this life in the knowledge that we are heirs of heaven. Amen.

Saturday, January 14

1 John 3:3-7

Because we are God's children and hope to live in heaven, we do not let sin rule us. Anyone living in willful sin is condemned by the Law, which he breaks, and cannot be a Christian. But we resist sin and believe in Jesus. Therefore God forgives our sins of weakness.

Prayer: Lord, I want to obey all of Your Law. Help me! Amen.

Sunday, January 15

Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 John 3:8-13

Anyone who continues in sin is a child of the devil, and not of God. Jesus freed us from the power of the devil. We were given a new birth, that is, a new mind and will which are obedient to God. So, don't be surprised because the world hates you, it is like the devil, God's enemy.

Prayer: O Lord, work repentance also in the children of the world, and thus free them from the devil's power. Amen.

Monday, January 16

1 John 3:14-18

Hatred is murder. The world is guilty of hatred, but Jesus' people love one another. We should not only love, but let people see our love by what we do for them. Love shows itself. Jesus saved us. How do we show our love?

Prayer: Jesus, You died because of our hatred also. Please teach us to love one another perfectly. Amen.

Tuesday, January 17

1 John 3:19-24

Our hearts are confident, and not fearful of judgment, because Jesus has taught us to love others as He loves us. And God forgives the weakness of our love, because we believe in Jesus. He also hears our prayers because we pray for right things out of love for others. Faith, love, confidence, and the ability to pray are gifts of the Holy Ghost.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, increase our love, and teach us to pray for others more than for ourselves. Amen.

Wednesday, January 18

1 John 4:1-3

We should examine what preachers tell us. Some deny, or take from, the truth that the Son of God came from heaven and became man to save us. They speak Christ's name, but teach falsely. We must study the Bible regularly so we can avoid them.

Prayer: We thank You, God, for all true preachers, and if we ever hear a false preacher, give us wisdom to reject the error. Amen.

Thursday, January 19

1 John 4:4-6

God's Spirit has entered our hearts and taught us faith in His Word. Therefore false prophets mislead the sinful children of the world, but we can avoid them. God's children believe only what the Bible teaches about Christ and salvation.

Prayer: Dear Savior, always send us true preachers, and make us hear them only. Amen.

Friday, January 20

1 John 4:7-12

We must never forget that God loved us first and sent Jesus to save us from sin, death, and hell. That is why Christians love God and one another. We see God's love in what Jesus did. And although we can't see God, who is Love, we know He lives in us if we continue to love one another, and that His love is perfected in us, that is, His love has changed us.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love which reached down from heaven and made us Your people. Amen.

Saturday, January 21

1 John 4:13-15

The Apostles were men of God who saw Jesus with their own eyes. And the Spirit of God was in them. Therefore they knew that not just a man but the very Son of God suffered and died for us. Let us always believe and confess that important truth.

Prayer: Father, I believe that Jesus is Your Son and that He suffered and died to redeem me, a lost and condemned creature. Amen.

Sunday, January 22

Third Sunday after Epiphany

1 John 4:16-19

We believe and know God's love and how it has saved us. Jesus loved us first, but now we follow the example of Jesus—we love because He loved us. And love is fulfilling the Law. By this we know our faith in Jesus is true and our conscience cannot condemn us and make us fear Judgment Day.

Prayer: I thank You, Lord, because You have taken away all fear from me and given me faith and love. Amen.

Monday, January 23

1 John 4:20, 21

Sometimes we see people who need our help or friendship, and we do nothing to help them. Let us find people to help this week and every week. Friendship and kind words are most easily given and are often most greatly needed. Read Matthew 25:34-46.

Prayer: Lord, give me lasting love, so that I will always be a friend and helper to people in need. Amen.

Tuesday, January 24

1 John 5:1-4

People may love one another but not love God. That is not true love. We must believe all of God's command, or revelation, about Jesus and our salvation. Only by such faith can we overcome the world of sin and temptation and truly love. True love results from faith in God's love as revealed in Jesus.

Prayer: O God, keep us that we may always remember that we must believe Your Word in order to be Your people. Amen.

Wednesday, January 25

Conversion of Paul

1 John 5:5-8

The name Jesus means Savior. Anyone who believes that the Son of God is his Savior has overcome the world and the devil, who rules it. The same Son of God, who was baptized and began His preaching, was also crucified and died to save us. The Holy Spirit gives us this faith.

Prayer: We thank You, dear God, because You have made us to believe in Jesus, Your Son. Amen.

Thursday, January 26

1 John 5:9-12

How terrible it is for anyone to deny that Jesus is the Son of God! If we believe what men tell us, we should certainly believe what God tells us in the Bible. The Holy Spirit is speaking to our heart when we read the Bible. Only by believing it can we be saved.

Prayer: We thank You, heavenly Father, for Jesus and for Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Friday, January 27

1 John 5:13

All that has been written by John is for the purpose of keeping us in the one true faith. Our hearts and minds, our feelings and understanding, should be convinced that Jesus is God's Son and that He alone, without our help, has saved us.

Prayer: Lord, let me never grow weary of hearing Your Word, which assures me that You are my Father and I am Your child. Amen.

Saturday, January 28

1 John 5:14, 15

We pray to God with confidence because He loved us enough to save us. Now He will hear our prayers. We ask for good things and pray: "Thy will be done," because we do not always know what is good. And He answers our prayers.

Prayer: "Lord, teach us to pray." Amen.

Sunday, January 29

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

1 John 5:16, 17

In our prayers we should ask for spiritual blessings upon ourselves and others that we may avoid every wrong and serve God. Every wrong is a sin and punishable by death. When we are sorry for, or worry about, our sin, we should believe Jesus forgives us. A person who shows that he rejects Jesus, despises God's Word, and loves sin, has no forgiveness. May all such repent before it is too late!

Prayer: Lord, protect us all from the sin of a hardened heart and help us to always love your holy Word. Amen.

Monday, January 30

1 John 5:18, 19

A Christian does not live in sin, since he has been born again by the Word of God and can overcome sinful desires and temptations. But the children of the world continue in wickedness and cannot do differently.

Prayer: We thank You, God, for our new life in Jesus. Protect us from sin and temptation. Amen.

Tuesday, January 31

1 John 5:20, 21

People worship many idols, or false gods. Some worship money, honor, power, self, etc. Most dangerous to us is the worship of a god, or idea of god, which is not the

Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, who has saved us.

Prayer: Keep us, O God, from worshiping an imaginary god instead of You and Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

The Doctrine of The Sacraments

(Continued from page 10)

main thing is. Like a woman might say, "I answered the telephone peeling potatoes." She tells us that she answered the phone; peeling potatoes is just showing what she happened to be doing then. So here with praying and anointing. There is much to be said, and we must understand what the use of oil meant in those days, and what it still means in some countries. Let us talk about this in the next installment.



Bible Quiz

What sounds like the crackling fire of thornbushes under a pot? Ecclesiastes 7:6.

Who dug the well beside which Jesus talked to the woman of Samaria? John 4:6.

At the time of great hunger and war, what did some women use for food? 2 Kings 6:28, 29.

How can people keep out of trouble? Proverbs 21:23.

A score being twenty, what did the head of a mule cost at the time of the great famine in Samaria? 2 Kings 6:25.

What is the difference, if any, between Psalm 14 and Psalm 54?

Of what was Paul not ashamed? Romans 1:16.

What do dead flies do? Ecclesiastes 10:1.

What was the end of Balaam, who spoke the prophecy that Jesus, the Star of Jacob, would gain the victory over the enemies? Numbers 31:8.

How can we find "the path of life"? Psalm 16:11.

What is more necessary than bread to keep a man alive? Matthew 4:4.

Why was Barabbas held in jail? John 18:40 and Luke 23:19.

For whom did the women of Israel mourn four days every year? Judges 11:40.