

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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Number 2

Beautiful Savior

Beautiful Savior, King of Creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, Truly I'd serve Thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flowers of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
He makes my sorrowing spirit sing.

Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels in the sky.

Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine! Amen.

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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

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Orchids for Holy Cross

St. Louis

Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthian Christians that their willingness to sacrifice for others was very marked and that their zeal, their interest and good work, had provoked many, that is, it had made others to follow the example. So we feel that Holy Cross of St. Louis in a meeting of December 11 did a number of important and outstanding things which others should know about. Only if we know about good things can these things influence us to renew and increase our effort for the cause of the Lord.

The outstanding thing was the merger of Holy Cross and St. Philip's Deaf congregations. Holy Cross takes in the Negro members of St. Philip's Lutheran Church, pastor of which hearing church is Rev. W. Heyne. Pastor Reinking and former pastors of Holy Cross have served these people at the place of worship of St. Philip's, Goode and St. Ferdinand Avenues, but now they will worship with Holy Cross at St. Stephen's Lutheran Church until the chapel plans of Holy Cross will have been carried out and Holy Cross will again have its own home of worship.

This was a fine move. It relieves Pastor Reinking of the work of an extra service, gives the congregation greater strength, numerically and financially, and is a fine example to all to disregard external lines that divide people, for "in Jesus Christ neither circumcision nor uncircumcision availeth anything, but faith which worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6), which means that, whether one is Jew or Gentile, white or black, man or woman, rich or poor, learned

or humbly simple, all this matters nothing. See also Galatians 3:28.

This was also a brave move. In some quarters the race question is very troublesome. We have worked in many sections of the Middle West, North and South, and we have found that the Deaf are more tolerant toward people of another color than many hearing people are. But Holy Cross here bravely takes a step that stands out as truly fine; they tell all: "These are our brethren in faith of our dear Lord Jesus; we recognize them as such, and we want them to be with us on earth as we know we will be together someday in heaven through Him who saved all of us."

In the same meeting it was decided to use the individual cups in the celebration of Holy Communion. Oh, yes, we know that some people just love the symbolism of the one common cup; we ourselves felt that way for a long time; but we have found that it matters not in what kind of containers the elements are dispensed; the cup and the plate are just vessels that bring a more precious gift, the bread and wine together with which we receive the body and blood of the Savior. And so we have long been reconciled to the individual cup and with our good ladies and their lipstick, and the "soupstrainers" of former days of the bearded men, and all kinds and both sexes communing together, why not? While it has never been proved that diseases were communicated while alcohol-containing wine is used, there is a simple sanitary precaution practiced if the individual cup is used.

Another item of Holy Cross's meeting was the acceptance of a large budget for 1956. One feels

again that Holy Cross is "brave." About 75 communicants gathered about \$6,000 in 1955 for their general and building treasury, and they are going for about \$4,000 for the general treasury and are collecting ardently besides for their building fund. For their pastor's salary they monthly plan to pay \$100, plus \$20 per month for car allowance, \$8 for pension, \$7 for telephone; \$100 monthly for missions, \$26 for other charities, \$100 for DEAF LUTHERAN subscriptions for the year for all members, and several other items in which they co-operate with the hearing churches of St. Louis in various endeavors. Surely they de-

serve mention that others may hear and take heart and follow.

How can they do it? There is a good proportion of well-trained, Christ-loving, Bible-studying, praying people, not rich in worldly goods, but rich in love and zeal for Jesus. And we will not overlook the fact that God has given them in their pastor a real leader and man who is not afraid to speak the truth but is doing it in love and consideration and is showing the way in deeds himself. When one sees such a congregation and leader, one can only look up to God and ask His blessing on them and pray that this spirit may fill all of us. U.



We were very sorry to hear of the cross that came to Dr. John A. Klein of the Ev. Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, Detroit. He awoke one morning unable to see, a disturbance in the eye causing blindness. Last reports indicate that he is satisfactorily recovering. Let us not forget this good man in our prayers; he has been a worthy servant of the Lord among the Lord's children of silence for almost fifty years.

Des Moines, Iowa. — **Rev. Laurence M. Stacy** was installed as pastor of Mount Calvary and the eastern Iowa field on January 5 by Rev. Mappes of Omaha. Details are lacking at time of this writing.

St. Louis, Mo. — Holy Cross Deaf Congregation had its annual mission festival November 27. Pastor Uhlig of Jacksonville preached the sermon.

In the evening, mission movies were shown, and a social meeting followed at Grace Lutheran Hall. — On December 4 there were three baptisms at the service. Into the arms of Jesus were laid **Mark Frederick Reinking**, the son of Pastor and Mrs. Wm. F. Reinking, **Roger Daniel Case**, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Case, and **Karen Vanessa Piotraschke**, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Piotraschke. May the Good Shepherd keep these lambs in His bosom! — At St. Philip's on December 11 **Mrs. Vermont McGuire** and **Mrs. Verdesa Phillips** were received into membership by confirmation, and **Mr. Howard Harris** was received by Holy Baptism. May God keep them in faith until their dying day! — Holy Cross Congregation in a meeting of Decem-

ber 11 decided to merge with the Deaf of St. Philip's Congregation. The matter is the subject of a special article in this issue of the **DEAF LUTHERAN**. In this meeting the 1956 budget was adopted also; see article on this matter also.

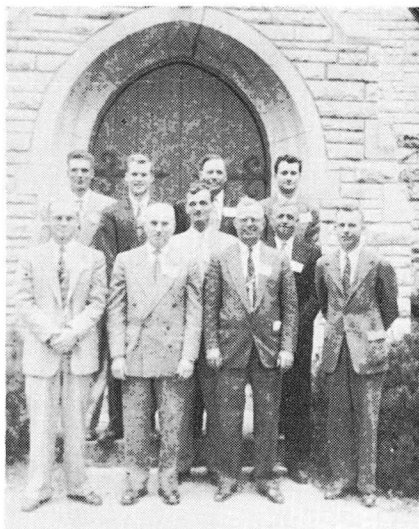
Jacksonville, Ill. — On December 11 the Sunday school children's Christmas service was held. The teaching staff, under the leadership of Earl Thaler of the Springfield Seminary, had prepared a Christmas pageant in which in ten scenes the Christmas story was depicted. The costumes were prepared by Mrs. Arthur Avery, the wife of a seminary student, one of our Sunday school teachers. Our enrollment has now reached the 100 mark. Every Sunday one or two cars bring students from Springfield who teach the classes, and interest among students and deaf children is very high. We are utilizing the facilities of our chapel to the utmost. The Lord has blessed the work markedly.

Christ Congregation has extended a call to **Rev. Delbert Thies** of Memphis to succeed Rev. N. P. Uhlig, who will relinquish the Central Illinois field July 1.

Los Angeles, Calif. — It may be a little late, but it is a fact and interesting news for many that on September 18, **Rev. Wm. H. Lange** of Long Beach, Calif., and **Miss Ellen Westendorf** were united at Pilgrim Lutheran Church by Pastor Jonas. May God bless them! Mrs. Lange's father is the Rev. J. C. Westendorf, missionary at Juneau, Alaska.

Colorado Springs, Colo. — On November 26 **Mr. Steve Puzick** and his three daughters and a niece, **Jane Puzick**, and a nephew, **Eli White**, were killed by a train near Mathe-

son, Colo. He was bringing his two youngest daughters home from the farm of his wife's parents, where they had been visiting a week. The niece and the nephew had gone along for a ride. Steve and his wife attended church regularly and were



Officers and Delegates at Midwest Conference of Lutheran Deaf Lay Members and Pastors

taking instructions for confirmation in January. The three children, **Marilyn, Suzanne, and Cynthia**, had been baptized last October 2. It was a shocking tragedy when these six were all killed; approximately 650 friends and relatives attended the service at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, where Rev. Clark Bailey officiated, preaching on the texts Jeremiah 29:11 and Isaiah 55:8, 9. The widow and both sets of grandparents bore up well under the strain. May God continue to comfort and sustain them.

C. R. B.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa. — **Mrs. Martha D. Steffens** has announced her engagement to **Pastor N. Paul Uhlig** of Jacksonville, Ill. The wedding



Midwest Conference of Lutheran Deaf Lay Members and Pastors
(Story in January number, p. 6)

will be in early summer when Pastor Uhlig will relinquish the Central Illinois field of Deaf Mission. They will live in Cedar Rapids, where Mrs. Steffens will continue to operate her photographic studio.

Sioux Falls, S. Dak. — Friends of the former Shirley Binney, now **Mrs. Everett Ruedebusch**, will be glad to hear that on November 25 a strapping youngster called **Robert Binney Ruedebusch** has arrived to make them very happy. God bless baby and parents!

Rock Island, Ill. — On November 19 Miss **Patricia Ann Burnett** and **Mr. Edward Henry White** were united in holy wedlock. And the engagement of **Miss Wanda Lee Gargus** and **Mr. Richard P. Parkin** has been announced. Congratulations and best wishes to both couples!

Omaha, Nebr. — **Cecil Harold Teater, Jr.**, the infant son of **Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Teater**, was baptized November 20. May God keep this child safe in body and soul! — Stork visits are reported from Fremont, Nebr., where **Mr. and Mrs. Preston Best**

welcomed little **Kathy Clare** November 20 and from Sterling, Colo., where **Jeffery Leon** was born to **Mr. and Mrs. Covert Turner**. — The angel of death on December 9 took **Mrs. Joseph Hiltabidel**, mother of Robert Hiltabidel and Mrs. Josephine Arnold, after a siege of illness. She is well remembered for her deeds of kindness. Our sympathies go to the bereaved relatives. — At Lincoln, Nebr., **Mrs. James Wiegand** was confirmed on November 20. She has been a good student of the Bible. May God keep her in firm faith! — Pastor Mappes received a fine gold cross from the Sioux City members December 11.

S O S

The editor will appreciate very much the receipt of items and pictures from reporters and pastors. It will make the paper more interesting if we can have a few "windows" on the pages, pictures. However, they should be glossy and sharp; otherwise they are poor for printing.



Editorials

Now Ash Wednesday and Lent

Barely have the Christmas decorations been removed and the tasks of the first month of a new year been taken care of when the shadows of the cross throw themselves into view and we go again with the Savior on the Way of Sorrows to the little hill outside the wall of Jerusalem. One is reminded of the picture painted by an artist of the home in Nazareth where Mary is seated with outstretched arms toward her little Child, just learning to walk, His little arms extended to the side, while from a light the shadow of little Jesus is seen on the floor, forming a cross that prophetically portrays Calvary and His death.

At Christmas we rejoice at His birth; now let us weep with Him; but let us weep about our sins that pressed the thorns into His head and pierced His hands and feet with cruel nails.

*Love divine, all love excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down,
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling,
All Thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation,
Enter every trembling heart. Amen.*

I HAVE no yesterdays,
Time took them away;
Tomorrow may not be —
But I have today.

PEARL Y. MCGINNIS

I Shall Not Pass Again This Way

The bread that bringeth strength
I want to give,
The water pure that bids the thirsty
live;
I want to help the fainting day by
day.
I'm sure I shall not pass again this
way.

I want to give the oil of joy for tears,
The faith to conquer crowding
doubts and fears.
Beauty for ashes may I give away.
I'm sure I shall not pass again this
way.

I want to give to others hope and
faith,
I want to do all that the Master
saith;
I want to live aright from day to
day.
I'm sure I shall not pass again this
way.

Author unknown

ONCE a minister and a soap manufacturer were discussing the faith as they walked on the street. The soap manufacturer said: "Christianity hasn't done much good, has it? The Gospel is really a failure. Look at the war, hate, sickness, crime." The minister said nothing until they saw a dirty little boy sitting in the gutter. Said the minister: "Soap hasn't done much good, has it? Look at all the dirt and filth in the world. Soap's a failure." "Oh, no, it isn't," said the soap man; "after all you have to use soap." Said the minister: "Exactly, the same with the Gospel."



Know Your Bible

The Book of Nehemiah

Nehemiah was a Jew of high rank at the court of the Persian king, Artaxerxes. He had a special title, being called Tirshatha, and was the cup-bearer of the king, chapter 10:1. He came in 445 B. C. to Jerusalem, thirteen years after Ezra had returned from the captivity into which the Hebrews had been led. He was a very pious man. He understood that trouble had come to his people because they had sinned and forgotten the Lord. His first thought was that of asking God's forgiveness for the sins of his people. It grieved him very much to hear that his home city was still in a bad way, the walls broken down and the gates burned with fire. What a lesson he gives! In trouble look for the reason in yourself and turn to God for mercy in repentance.

His book is the last one of the history of the Jews in the Old Testament, and whatever we know of the events in the next 400 years, until Jesus came, we have from the general knowledge of the history of those times. It is a touching book to read. He tells how the king made him governor of Jerusalem. When he saw the desolate city, he was very sad. He spent three days in inspecting the ruins, but he was determined in the face of opposition to build the walls and gates of the city. In 52 days the wall of the city was built. Ezra, the priest, had come thirteen years before; he taught the

people and led them to repentance; Nehemiah was a civil governor with authority from the Persian king to rebuild the city.

Ezra and Nehemiah worked together to restore pure worship and put away wrong habits that had been cultivated. They urged the people to stop the practice of marrying women that worshiped idols, and they restored the temple worship and church festivals and tithing.

It is touching to read chapter eight, which tells that the Book of the Law was solemnly read and that the people obeyed the laws which God had given through Moses. Then we are told of the feast of repentance and the solemn worship. One is reminded of the story of the Reformation under Luther when one reads of the reformation under Ezra and Nehemiah. Very distinctly stands out the great lesson of history: if you forget God, you will have trouble; but if you turn to God in repentance, God will show mercy. The very last words of the book, "Remember me, O God, for good," give to the whole story of Nehemiah and his life and work the stamp of a pious man of God. As we now find ourselves in our Synod facing great problems in these years as we are trying to build up the work of our church and urge our people to make real sacrifices so that "the walls of Jerusalem" in our day might be built up, we can read and study Nehemiah for guidance and comfort and inspiration. U.



Catechism

Table of Duties TO ALL IN COMMON

(Romans 13:9; 1 Timothy 2:10)

From the Word of God the Table of Duties has shown us the duty of pastors and hearers, of the government and subjects, of parents and children, of husbands and wives, of the young, and of widows. And now it closes with a word of God to all.

Love Your Neighbor

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." This is the duty of everyone. Our neighbor is he who is near us and needs our care and help, be he friend or enemy, as Jesus teaches us in the story of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10:29-37. The pastor and his hearers are neighbors to each other, likewise the government and its subjects, the husbands and their wives, the parents and children, the masters and servants, the young and old. And now God commands: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor." And this love rules in our hearts only if we know the love of God. Of it John writes in the Book of Books: "God is Love . . . and sent His only-begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him," 1 John 4:8, 9. And then in verse 11 he adds these words: "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another."

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

We should love our neighbor even as we love ourselves. Jesus explains this in Matthew 7:12: "All things

whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." We call this the Golden Rule. Would to God that all people in home and church and state would remember this, for then it would be a wonderful world. James therefore calls this commandment "the royal law," saying: "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well," James 2:8. And Paul says: "Herein are comprehended (put together) all the commandments," Romans 13:9. Therefore whether you are pastor or hearer, husband or wife, father or child, young or old, your duty is expressed in these words: "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." And Paul says: "Owe no man anything but to love one another," Romans 13:8. Our Lord Jesus has given us a good example. He says: "This is My commandment that ye love one another as I have loved you," John 15:12.

*Let each his lesson learn with care,
And all the household well shall fare.*

"Pray Without Ceasing"

Our chief duty toward our neighbor is to "persevere in prayer for all men." Pastors should pray for their hearers, and hearers for their pastor; the government for its subjects, and the subjects for the government; husbands for their wives, and wives for their husbands; the parents for their children, and the children for their parents; all should pray for one another. And God wants us to

pray "for all men," especially that all may learn to know their sin, the need of a Savior, and then to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, who died for all. But, oh, we so easily grow tired of praying. Therefore Paul says: "Persevere (continue) in prayer for all men."

*Do thy duty, that is best,
Leave unto the Lord the rest.*

J. L. S.

The Doctrine of the Sacraments

(Continued)

By THEO. DELANEY

We last were considering some "extra" sacraments, claimed to be such, besides Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper, and were speaking of Extreme Unction, in which some drops of oil are put on a dying person. The claim that it is a sacrament in which we get forgiveness is based on James 5:14, 15, where we are told that sick persons should call the elders who are to pray over them and "anoint" them with oil, and the "prayer of faith shall save (help) the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up" (make him well).

Let us look at the act of putting oil on a sick person. The use of oil was widespread in those days and still is today in many parts of the world. In the Old Testament, usually the Hebrew word *mashach* was used for "anoint" in official, ceremonial use of oil when kings, priests, and prophets and other officials were placed into office; and forms of the Hebrew word *suk* were used when speaking of personal or private use of oil. And in the Greek language they used *chrīoō* for official anointing usually, and *aleiphoo* for per-

sonal or private use of oil. In James 5:14 a form of *aleiphoo* is used.

History shows that many different peoples used body oil as part of their daily toilet. Many people still use oil that way. Some years ago the Egyptian dancer Samia Gamal, who married Sheppard King of Houston Tex., when asked about American women, said that they should use oil on their bodies instead of taking so many baths. The idea is not so strange; think about little babies. Do they get their earliest baths with water? No, with oil!

Jesus tells us that the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:34) poured oil into the man's wounds. Why? For the same reason that many doctors today use oily medicines—the oil softens the sore and helps ease the pain. This is the very same oil about which James speaks. The oiling comforts the body of the sick Christian.

The words "in the name of the Lord" may be understood in two ways. First, they can be understood as in 1 Corinthians 10:31, to the greater glory of God; "whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him," says Paul in Colossians 3:17. Secondly, the elders do this in the name of the Lord, as representatives of the household of the Lord, which is the church, thus showing interest as Christians in the bodily welfare of the sick person.

In verse 15 James writes: "The prayer of faith shall save the sick." The word here translated as "save" also means to "heal" or "get well" as in John 11:12 and Matthew 9:21, 22. It also means "rescue," as in Matthew 8:25 and Matthew 16:25. It is used like in the sign language

the Deaf make the sign for "free" when someone was not hurt in an accident, meaning "saved" or "rescued." The prayer that the elders utter by faith asks God to heal the sick brother if it be His will (1 John 5:14). "And the Lord shall raise him up" (verse 15) shows that this is so. If God wills to heal the sick brother, His answer to the prayer of the elders will be shown in raising the sick brother. The power rests with God, not with the elders.

But some churches claim that James promises that this oiling in the name of the Lord forgives sins: "If anyone says that the anointing of the sick neither confers any grace, nor remits sins, nor comforts the sick, but that it has already ceased, as if it had been a healing grace only in the olden days, let him be anathema" (damned) (Canon 2 in re Extreme Unction, Council of Trent).

But what does St. James mean when he writes: "And if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him"? "Forgiven" and "anointed" are not joined in thought by James. James places "forgiven" after "the prayer of faith," showing that it is faith in the heart of the sick brother that accepts the forgiveness offered through Jesus. Many times past sins (already forgiven sins) pop up in our minds to bother us. This is especially true during times of sickness when we have plenty of time to lie in bed and think, and remember and worry! James reminds his readers about this and comforts them with the knowledge that sin is forgiven. Then in the same breath he tells his readers to confess their sins to one another, and to pray for one another that they may be healed in soul (verse 16). The elders in their visit

to the sick brother should also remember this. They should pray for spiritual as well as for bodily healing for the sick brother. James reminds his readers that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much," will help much.

And now, what must we say about Extreme Unction as a sacrament? We have seen that James 5:14,15 cannot be used to show that God instituted this oiling as a sacred act with a special meaning. Therefore we say that God did not institute Extreme Unction. While a visible thing is used in this act, we have neither God's command nor His promise that it would forgive sins. And as we have seen from our study of James 5:14,15, this oiling does not forgive sins. Therefore we say **Extreme Unction is no sacrament.**

We have now looked at seven holy acts that some churches call sacraments, Baptism, Lord's Supper, Penance, Confirmation, Ordination, Marriage, Extreme Unction. We have seen that only Baptism and the Lord's Supper truly are instituted by God and use His word, joined with visible things, to forgive sins. Therefore we believe and teach that **God gave His Church only two Sacraments.**

"Has someone seen Christ in you today?

Christian, look into your life, I pray; The little things you've done or said, Did they accord with the way you prayed?

Have your thoughts been pure, your words been kind?

Have you sought to have the Savior's mind?

The world, with a criticizing view, Has watched; did it see Christ in you?"

Selected



Devotions

Weekday selections are from St. James by Rev. C. Roland Gerhold

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 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.

Wednesday, February 1

James 1:2-4

The Holy Spirit gives us faith for resisting temptation. Let us use faith for overcoming the devil. Then our hearts learn patience and how to stand against sin.

Prayer: O Holy Spirit, give me grace to continue strongly in true faith by Your Word to the end of my life. Amen.

Thursday, February 2

Presenting Christ in the Temple

Luke 2:22-32

Christ obeyed God's Law and freed us from it. Now the Law cannot condemn us, and we have peace for our conscience.

Prayer: O Lord, my eyes have seen Your Salvation — Jesus Christ. Help me to show Him to all people so they, too, can see and praise Him. Amen.

Friday, February 3

James 1:5-8

God wants our faith to be complete trust. Our faith grows weak

because we do not fully trust Him. How foolish to doubt our loving God!

Prayer: Lord, You gave wisdom to Solomon. Let Your Holy Spirit make me wise to believe in Christ by Your holy Word. Amen.

Saturday, February 4

James 1:9-11

When we are rich, we need God to make and keep us humble. When we are poor, we need God to comfort us. His Word shows us that riches do not last.

Prayer: O Jesus, You showed true humility. Help me never to become proud and make You angry. Give me humility for sharing gifts of Your grace. Amen.

Sexagesima Sunday, February 5

(Introit) Psalm 44:23-26

When your troubles weigh heavy for a long time, God seems to be asleep to your prayers. But He never sleeps, and at the right time He answers in His way.

Prayer: O Lord, in kindness accept the prayers of Your people.

Because You save us from trouble and wrongs, we can serve You in Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Monday, February 6

James 1:12-15

Whom do you love? the devil, who sends temptations and excites bad desires, or the Lord, who gives you faith and eternal life?

Prayer: O God, Your strength becomes perfect in my weakness. Stop and kill all wishes in me for sinning. Take me to heaven for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tuesday, February 7

James 1:16-18

The God who made light also makes us His children by His Word. We cannot find Him or believe in Him by ourselves. His Word is true; the ideas of people against it cannot fool us.

Prayer: Through Your Spirit make light my mind, O God. Then You can lead me into all truth as Your Son promised. Amen.

Wednesday, February 8

James 1:19-21

The Bible can and does save us, because it is God's Word. The dirtiest sinful habit flees from the Word of God. We need more reading and studying His Word.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, help us attend, read, know, learn, and accept Your Word in our hearts. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Thursday, February 9

James 1:22-25

When the pastor says Amen, the sermon is not finished; we must live it. God wants each of us to

DO His Word; not as slaves, but as free people under His Son.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, let me perfectly know Your Son, Jesus Christ, as the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Then I can serve You in freedom. Amen.

Friday, February 10

James 1:26, 27

God sees our hearts when we criticize others. We cannot act the part of believers before Him. The Lord requires loving works of the members of His church.

Prayer: O Lord, Your love joins peace with good works. Send Your Holy Spirit, and give into our hearts the perfect gift of love. We need this. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Saturday, February 11

James 2:1-7

Money talks; but not in church. We cannot buy anything from God. In church all are poor in spirit; but God gives us the riches of Christ's holy life and death.

Prayer: O Lord, forgive my enemies and people who do bad things to me. Change their hearts. Then through Jesus they will walk with me in humility and peace. Amen.

Quinquagesima Sunday, February 12
(Introit) Psalm 31:2, 3

This ROCK is Christ. He now goes to Jerusalem to die for us and save us. The suffering and death of Jesus is our defense and fortress against every evil of body and soul.

Prayer: O Lord, as I begin another Lent this week, let Your Spirit lead me into all truth and defend me from all trouble; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Monday, February 13

James 2:8-13

God does not ask, "Were you in jail?" but, "Did you always love others as yourself? Did you forgive others as I forgive you?" How do you use your freedom under Christ?

Prayer: For Jesus' sake, O Lord, do not give me what I should receive because of my sins; and do not pay me what I earn from my Law-breakings. Amen.

Tuesday, February 14

James 2:14-17

If you are cold, hungry, and lonely, some clothing, food, and friendship is a strong sermon. When did you last help someone find a job? or visit sick people? or old folks?

Prayer: O Lord, when people are suffering or in trouble, lead me to know their needs. Help me serve them; through Jesus, my Savior. Amen.

Ash Wednesday, February 15

James 2:18-26

As the Holy Spirit works in us by His Word during this Lent, we need (1) to grow more in faith; (2) to work more for God. Will your faith and work be MORE?

Prayer: O Christ, Lamb of God, You that take away the sin of the world, show mercy to us and give us Your peace. Amen.

Thursday, February 16

James 3:1-5

We Christians are teachers. People judge our words. Be careful about what you say. Know Christ before witnessing for Him. This means Bible study.

Prayer: O Lord, let Your Holy Spirit give light to and establish the hearts of all who are born again through Your grace in Christ. Amen.

Friday, February 17

James 3:6-12

The devil is a liar, and our tongues can easily support his work. We who belong to Christ speak truth, because Christ is the Truth.

Prayer: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will announce Your praise. Amen.

Saturday, February 18

James 3:13-18

Are you jealous? Are you selfish with your things? Our Savior suffered and died for you. He forgot Himself and gave His life for you. What are you doing for Him?

Prayer: O Lord, You want people to agree and live in peace. Help me do this; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Invocavit Sunday, February 19

(Introit) Psalm 91:15, 16

Many wonderful promises God gives in this psalm to all who live with Christ in their hearts. But we deserve the exact opposite because of our sins.

Prayer: O God, You gave us Your Son. He became a true man like us. Let us become born-again children by Your grace, and make us new daily by Your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Monday, February 20

James 4:1-10

Which are your sins? Proud and alone you cannot fight sins; but with the Holy Spirit you can overcome

sin successfully. During Lent repent and seek God's strength.

Prayer: Merciful Father, let me truly feel sorry over my sinful life. Change me and forgive me because of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Tuesday, February 21

James 4:11, 12

Before we condemn others, we must first understand God's Law rightly. He gives and explains His Law in the Bible. Don't condemn others because you misunderstand Him.

Prayer: O Lord, with Your Law lead me. Make pure my heart and body, and rule over me. Defend me through Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen.

Wednesday, February 22

James 4:13-17

Good luck? There is none! God laughs at that, because He rules. You sin when you forget to do everything for God's glory. He is eternal; and our life lasts only a few years.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, not my will, but let Your will arrange my life. Help me obey You as the angels. Amen.

Thursday, February 23

James 5:1-6

Some people use their things for cheating, stealing, and hurting other people. Pray that your possessions will not steal heaven from you.

Prayer: O Lord, let everything I am, and everything I have, and everything I do, praise and give glory to my Savior. Amen.

Friday, February 24

St. Matthias the Apostle

Acts 1:15-26

You can be another Judas; or a servant of God like Joseph and Matthias. Be faithful unto death, and Christ will give you life.

Prayer: O Lord, preserve Your church from false ministers, and keep it always in the teachings of Your Apostles; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Saturday, February 25

James 5:7-11

Must you be dissatisfied? Wait for the Lord! Be patient, and stand strong in faith until He comes as Judge. It won't be long; then you will forever be with Jesus.

Prayer: O Jehovah, help me copy the patience of Job and Your prophets. Help me to accept and face those things that come against me in faith in Christ. Amen.

Reminiscere Sunday, February 26

(Introit) Psalm 25:6

God's mercies to us began before time began. Even then He knew we needed a Savior from sin. Will you remember this?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You because You have taken away Your righteous anger from us and shown kindness to us in Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Monday, February 27

James 5:12

Keep your promises. People must know that believers in Christ speak the truth. When God permits, swear in His name; but not on things He has made.

Prayer: O Lord, teach me that my help is in Your name, and help me to glorify Your name. Amen.

Tuesday, February 28

James 5:13-18

Sin brings sickness and trouble to our bodies. Only God can cure. Do you help sick people?

Prayer: O Lord, I confess that my sins earn Your terrible punishments. For Christ's sake make suffering and sickness easier. Comfort me with life everlasting. Amen.

Wednesday, February 29

James 5:19, 20

Did you forget those onetime-believers, now weak with sin and wandering from God? We must do all we can, and more, to win our family and friends and others back to the Savior and His church.

Prayer: O God, show people their mistake who forsake Jesus or any teaching of the Bible. Lead them again to trust Your Son Jesus Christ and to rejoice in their salvation. Amen.



Bible Quiz

What makes the eye dim? Job 17:7.

What should we always be doing? 1 Thessalonians 5:17.

What thoughtless promise did Jephtha, the judge of Israel, make before the battle with the Ammonites? Judges 11:31.

Who came first out of Jephtha's house when he returned victoriously from the battle? Judges 11:34.

What knowledge do we get from God's Law, the Ten Commandments? Romans 3:20.

Does it really make any difference if people sin only a little bit? James 2:10.

Was Christ, who gives us living water, already with the people of the Old Testament and gave it to them? 1 Corinthians 10:4.

The prophet Balaam said that the children of Israel were as strong as a unicorn, or rhinoceros, because they had a certain leader. Who, did he say, led them? Numbers 23:22.

What shall be the crown of God's people? Isaiah 28:5.

Onesimus was a runaway slave whom Paul converted in Rome. In a spiritual sense what relationship existed between Paul and Onesimus? Philemon 10.

What does God's Spirit and the church, the bride, say to every one? Revelation 22:17.

Isaiah 28:16 says that the church is built upon a certain tried [reliable] and precious "Stone." Who is that Stone? Ephesians 2:20.

On which of the first six days of the world did God create sun, moon, and stars? Genesis 1:19.

What terrible thing is in house of the wicked? Proverbs 3:33.

Why are children not born without sin? Job 14:4.

What should we lovingly do? Galatians 5:13.