

The Deaf Lutheran



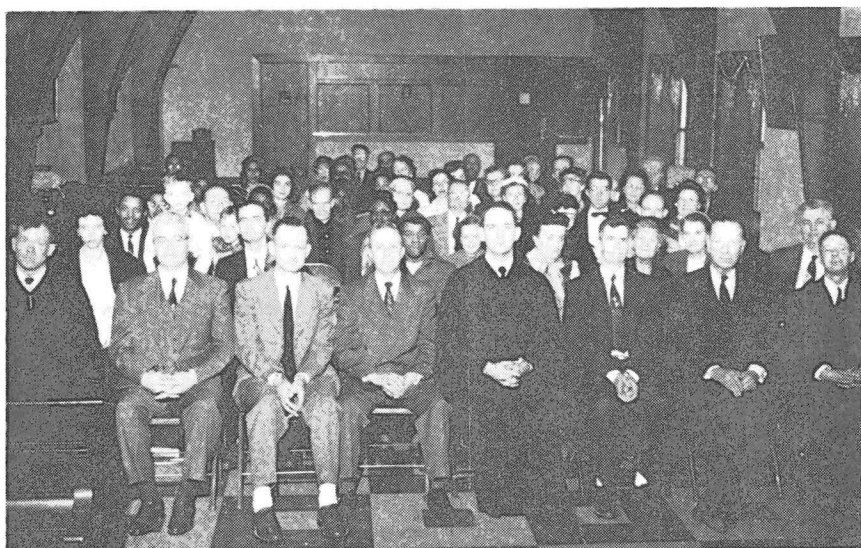
*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 48

MARCH 1956

Number 3



Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf, St. Louis, January 1, 1956, when it and St. Philip's Lutheran Church of Deaf integrated to form one congregation
Officers of the Church are, left to right, front: N. Hollrah, pres.; Wm. Lambur, treas.; M. Rossell, W. Viets, and E. H. Elrod, trustees, Pastor W. F. Reinking (between them); B. Keim and O. Krumm, ushers

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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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Forty-five Years of Service to the Deaf

God willing, on May 11, 1956, Pastor O. C. Schroeder, B. D., by the grace of God will round out forty-five years of service to the Deaf. Having been active as a minister of the Gospel in hearing congregations near Chicago from 1909 to 1911, he was installed by the sainted Rev. A. Boll on May 11, 1911, as pastor of the Deaf in Detroit and other Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana cities. In January 1918 he left Detroit to serve another mission field.

During the past forty-five years he organized and served seven Deaf congregations, eleven state schools for the Deaf, Gallaudet College, one city school, and approximately sixty-eight preaching stations in twelve states. He also edited the DEAF LUTHERAN twenty-five years, 1926—1951.

At this time he is engaged in service to the Deaf-blind in the Chicago area while still serving fifty-five Deaf in neighboring cities. Since 1927 he has been editing Synod's literature for the blind, the *Lutheran Herald*, the Braille "Bote" and since 1939 also the Braille *Messenger*. Under his direction friends transcribed about one thousand books into Braille to establish the Lutheran Library for the Blind, now located in the Synodical Office Building in St. Louis, Mo. Through these publications he has brought the Gospel of Jesus to several thousands of blind in the U. S. A. and twenty-six foreign countries.

Born in Dashwood, Ontario, Canada, March 28, 1886, Pastor O. C. Schroeder is the son of the sainted Rev. and Mrs. F. L. Schroeder,

formerly of Port Huron, Mich. He received his parochial school training in Port Huron before entering our College and St. Louis seminary. In giving these details to the Editor he writes:

TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY!

Pastor Thies Leaves Memphis

With sorrow in their hearts but convinced that the Lord wants their pastor to take over another field of labor, Grace and Peace Deaf congregations of Memphis on January 15 granted a peaceful release to Pastor Thies, who has accepted the call extended to him by Christ for the Deaf of Jacksonville, Ill., and the Board of Missions to the Deaf.

Pastor Thies will continue to serve the Dixie area until July 1.

May God soon grant unto the field of labor that he leaves such another man as he has proved himself to be: a faithful shepherd and an untiring servant of the Lord. God has blessed Memphis with good shepherds of the Deaf, and to Pastor Thies must go a great share of credit; for he with outstanding zeal and untiring energy and overflowing enthusiasm has worked hard in his extensive Dixie Field, which he now leaves for Jacksonville and Central Illinois. Peace (Negro) Church is a fruit of his labors for the Lord and the Deaf.

May God bless and prosper Peace and Grace churches of Memphis!

The Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference meets at Jacksonville, Fla., April 28 and 29.

Rev. Laurence M. Stacy Installed

On January 5, 1956, the Rev. Laurence M. Stacy of Pittsburgh, Pa., was installed as pastor of Mount Calvary Deaf Lutheran Church, Des Moines, and placed in charge of



the Iowa Field formerly served by the Rev. Victor Mesenbring. Pastor E. Mappes of Omaha installed him, assisted by Pastors Herman Zagel, O. Soeldner, and K. Schliepsiek, all of Des Moines.

Pastor Mappes spoke on 1 Thess. 5:12, 13, in which text St. Paul admonishes Christians to receive gladly and to value the pastor that God sends them. Several hymns by a choir of Deaf ladies and a solo by Mr. Marvin Neuschwanger beautified the service.

After the service a reception was held in the church parlors. The joy of the congregation, which has been

without a pastor for over six months, was very evident.

Rev. Laurence Stacy and his wife Ruth have three children, a girl and two boys.

The *Des Moines Tribune* devoted a page of its January 14 edition in the Features Section to the installation and reception.

Pastor Stacy serves, besides the Des Moines congregation, groups of Deaf at Fort Dodge, Webster City, Cedar Falls, Mason City, Cedar Rapids, Burlington, Atlantic, Boone, Iowa, and Rock Island, Ill.

"Local Deaf Congregations Lead Way in Integration"

That is the headline in the *Saint Louis Lutheran* of December 31, 1955, of an article about the amalgamation of St. Philip's (Negro) and Holy Cross Deaf congregations.

The article brings the story of the consolidation of the two congregations under Rev. Wm. Reinking and brings the picture given in this issue on front page.

The February DEAF LUTHERAN brought the story.

THINKING of the blessings that God had given him and troubles and ills that he had not been called to suffer, the famous English preacher Spurgeon said, "I thank God for what I've got and for what I've not got."

"If you turn your back on God, you face the devil."

Welcome, Peace Church of Memphis, Tenn.



The youngest congregation, so far as we know on January 20, 1956, is Peace Lutheran Deaf Congregation of Memphis, Tenn. It was organized during the latter days of 1955 by Pastor Delbert Thies.

It numbers 20 communicant members plus six students. A picture of the group appears herewith.

The first officers of this congregation are: President, Lawrence Fields; vice-president, W. Fitzgerald; secretary-treasurer, C. Smith. Fields and Fitzgerald are elders, and Oma Presley and James Allen are ushers.

May the fruits of our Lord's salvation abound in their lives!



Mrs. Pauline Gustin

The accompanying picture shows us **Mrs. Pauline Gustin** of Seattle, Wash. We do not know much of her; but what her pastor, Rev. John A. Beyer, wrote does deserve to be mentioned: "The enclosed snap of Mrs. Pauline Gustin was taken relatively recently. Mere years do not count much. What counts is how they were spent. Mrs. Gustin's years have been filled with loving, willing, and devoted service to her Savior."

Well spoken. God bless her and the many others that serve their Lord in that same spirit!

In November Mrs. Gustin's 90th birthday was celebrated with a short service in the church and a party in the church parlors.



Editorials

Pledge Cards

Pledge cards are cards given by almost all churches to their members at the beginning of the fiscal year, meaning the twelve months which make up the year of the church; some churches begin their year on January 1 and some choose other dates, such as October 1 to October 1.

On these cards the member states how much he or she intends to contribute toward the upkeep of the church. A church must conduct its business and needs support; and since the cards tell approximately how much money is coming in, the officers can be guided in the expenditures. While some people do not think such a system is necessary or good, it has been found that it is necessary and wise to have such pledges and promises. The congregation is a large family, and in every family the income and outgo of money is an important matter, and each member of the family is interested in his own responsibility and share and is entitled to know that all other members of the family do their part.

Such a pledge naturally may have to be changed; situations and circumstances may make it possible to give more, or necessary to reduce the support somewhat.

Many congregations have instituted the "sealed pledge." The pledge is a promise to the Lord; and so many feel that their pledge should be kept secret and not known to anyone else. Accordingly they put

their signed cards with the stated sum into envelopes and seal them, and these are kept on the altar all year in sight of the congregation, which reminds every member of his duty and promise every time he sees the containers on the altar. At the end of the year the envelopes are returned, unopened, to the members, who then can see if they have kept their promise made to God.

Also some of our churches of Deaf have been using the "sealed pledge" system. We quote from the January "Newsletter" of Pastor M. Kosche of Madison, Wis. He writes:

"Pledge cards have been given out to almost all of our members by this time. Those who have not yet received theirs will find them enclosed with this mailing. Every member who wishes to make a pledge is asked to bring his pledge to church at the first service of the year. At this service we shall have a special prayer for our pledges, and then each member will place his pledge into a box on the altar. If you cannot be present at the first service in January, then bring your pledge at the next service and place it on the offering plate. Perhaps some are asking the question: Must I make a pledge? The answer is: No, it is not a church rule or law that we must make a pledge to God. But we believe that it is good for our souls to make such a promise. Otherwise it is so easy for us to forget our obligation to our God. That is something that no Christian wants to do."

"Making Reports"

The months just passed are the months of report making. Rev. Geo. Ring of Portland, Oreg., in sending the Editor his interesting bulletins (Thank you, Brother, and you others that thus enable us to make the DEAF LUTHERAN interesting!) has some fine words on that usually troublesome task. He says: "We have been very busy preparing the reports for the congregation, for the Board of Missions, for the U. S. Government, and for the State. It is a big headache to work on reports for some people, but if we are doing it for the Lord, it can become a real joy."

And he adds: "I am thankful for the adding machine which the Lord has placed into my hands. It is a real help to me at this time of the year."

A Midnight Interlude

It was a Sunday night after the regularly well-filled day. Shortly after midnight the pastor was awakened out of a deep sleep by the telephone. The mother of a Deaf man called to say a friend of her son was in a small town 60 miles away, returning from a visit with his wife's folks. Their car had engine trouble, and it was entirely impossible for them to get home with it. They had spent almost all of their cash in another town for repairs and now did not have enough money for bus fare home. They had tried in vain to get one of their friends to go out and bring them home. In desperation the mother of their friend decided to see whether the pastor could offer a solution. He could and did, because they had a small baby with them and it was winter.

The pastor took a youthful member of the family with him for company on the way and to help keep him from falling asleep while driving, in fact, to do some of the driving herself. By 4 A. M. the young Deaf couple and their baby were at home; at 4:30 the pastor and his daughter were also at home.

Never before had the pastor been called upon to render that kind of service, although he has been called upon to render a fairly wide variety of other services for other Deaf people, some of whom were thankful to him, and others accepted the service without appreciation or thanks of any kind.

THE two largest Sunday schools of our Synod are in Detroit; Our Savior has 1,223 pupils and Peace 923; Bethlehem of Fort Wayne has the largest Christian day school, with 590 children.

"THOU wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee," *Isaiah 26:3*.

AN unbeliever is a man who builds a house without windows and then blames God because he has to live in the dark.

SOMEONE said that much trouble comes from combining a small mind with a big mouth.

IF people do what they should, they will have little time to do what they should not.

"MONEY cannot go to heaven, but it can do something heavenly here on earth."



Congratulations and Best Wishes!

May God bless **Vicar and Mrs. Robert R. Rasch** of Jacksonville, Fla. They were married near the turn of the year, as he indicated after the event in connection with the sending of a note to the Editor. He did not mention the name of the beaming bride nor the date and place of the wedding, so the Editor cannot inform the readers about these details, but while we would like to know, we can anyway congratulate them and wish them God's blessing.

Burlington, Iowa — On January 14, Miss **Mary V. Smith** and **Robert Cousins** were united in holy wedlock at Concordia Lutheran Church by Pastor N. P. Uhlig, Rev. Stacy reading the words of the ritual for the benefit of the many hearing friends and relatives. The young couple will live in Burlington.

Rock Island, Ill. — The wedding of Miss **Wanda Lee Gargus** and **Richard P. Parkin** took place January 21 at Rock Island, where the couple will live. May God bless this union.

Jacksonville, Ill. — A candlelight Christmas service December 24 and a Watch Party and service on December 31 were the features of the Christmas season at Christ Congregation.

The officers for 1956 are: President, Theo. Zimmer; vice-president, Clarence Broecker; treas., Parke B.

Moses; secretary, N. P. Uhlig; elders, Zimmer and Broecker; trustees, F. Lupien and Alb. Buettner.

With students of the Springfield and St. Louis seminaries serving in the Sunday school and helping out with preaching, Pastor Uhlig was gone two weeks in January, visiting as regional representative of the Board the Texas, Oklahoma, and Southern fields and in February the Florida field, and he conducted a week of services at Miami in the P. T. R. (Preaching-Teaching-Reaching) campaign in that area.

Mr. Clarence Broecker meanwhile took charge of the Jacksonville confirmation instruction and conducted a reading service.

Madison, Wis. — The Madison Silent Congregation's officers for 1956 are: President, Royal Eklof; vice-president, Arnold Walsvik; secretary, Gerald Hesper; treas., Wm. Binn; financial secretary, Jacob Vertz. Elders are R. Eklof, A. Walsvik, Gerald Hesper; trustees, W. Binn, J. Vertz, and Willard Sharer.

The members used dime folders, which were returned January 31, in order to gather money for the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society so that the Gospel can be brought to the Deaf of other countries.

With the January Newsletter all members of the ten stations and the classes of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf that Pastor Kosche serves received a schedule for all the services to be held in 1956, giving date, time, and place of each service.

Denver, Colo. — Married were on New Year's Day at Denver **Miss Mattie Hines** of Greeley, Colo., and **Keith Hardy** of Colorado Springs. They live at Colorado Springs, where Keith works at the Deaf School.

Spokane, Wash. — Rev. A. L. Hauptmann prints and sends out not only Sunday bulletins but also Midweek Meditation bulletins. They are helpful.

We are reminded of a cartoon seen years ago. A man was pictured trying to scale stairs of seven steps in one big step, and a note said, "Wouldn't it be easier, if you took two or more steps to get up?"

From Sunday to Sunday is too big a stretch to make in one step. A midweek service of prayer and meditation is better, and a daily devotion is best.

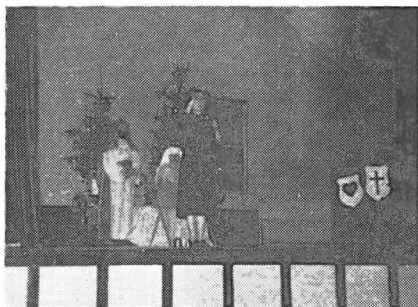
The officers of Faith Church, Spokane, for 1956 are: President, Arthur Anderson; vice-president, Norman Barney; secretary-treasurer, Elmer Francisco; elders, John Skoglund and Charles Raymond; trustees, Frank Lobaugh and Pastor A. L. Hauptmann.

St. Paul, Minn. — On December 16 the combined congregations of Grace and Calvary of St. Paul, Minn., and Minneapolis, Minn., produced the Christmas play "A King Is Born." The entire production was in the sign language, and the entire cast, of course, was Deaf.

The picture shows the last scene of the play. Here the players show Christmas lasts all year and not just one day, that the Christmas play is not just history but the ever-living truth, that Jesus is our Savior.

The play is a long one and has a cast of about 35 actors. All enjoyed

acting in the play and preparing for it. Our choirs from both churches



also sang the hymns while many of the hearing audience sang. Our attendance was at the 200 mark.

Next year the play will be better than ever. This is the sentiment of our people. (We also plan to produce an Easter play.) Both our congregations urge other groups to try it. Everyone will find not only that it presents the birth of our Savior but that it is truly fun to work on the program. G. K.

Miss Imma Einarsdotlir of Iceland and **Russell Rains** of Rockford, Ill., at Rockford, where they live, married October 22.

Mrs. Milton Goff, age 70, was received October 23 as a communicant member after having received instruction from Pastor Kosche.

Miss Joan Kliebenstein of Milwaukee and **Vern Schultz** of Madison, married November 5, living at Madison.

Congratulations to all of these, and may God bless them! M. K.

Baptized were on December 11 **Larry Ray Davis** and **Jerry Neal Wicks**, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Wicks, and on December 18 **Gary Allen**, the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Dietz.

May the blessing of God rest on all these people.



Catechism

The Doctrine of the Sacraments

By THEO. DELANEY

(Concluded)

We have seen that Sacraments are holy acts through which God grants us forgiveness. Sacraments must have been definitely ordered by God, the command and the promise must be clearly given in the Bible, and certain visible things must be used which were specified by God. We have seen that there are only two valid Sacraments, Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

Sacraments Are Means of Grace

We call the Word of God "the means of grace" because this Word brings to us and offers us God's grace in Christ Jesus: "Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls" (James 1:21); "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). God does not simply and automatically pour this grace into our souls. He offers it to us in His Word. We must accept this grace with the hand of faith: "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them

that believe on His name" (John 1:11,12); "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law, but by faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ and not by the works of the Law, for by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified" (Galatians 2:16). God offers His love and forgiveness to all through Jesus Christ, He "will have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:4). But God never forces His grace on anyone: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathers her chickens under her wings, and you would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate" (Matthew 23:37, 38).

In the Sacraments, God offers this same grace to us: "Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:26, 27); "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38); "This is My blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew 26:28). Therefore we say that the Sacraments also are means of grace.

(Please turn to last page)



Devotions

Selections are from the Epistle to the Ephesians by Rev. Delb. I. Thies.

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.

Thursday, March 1

Ephesians 1:1, 2

Grace is love that we do not earn nor deserve. God showed grace to us when He sent His son Jesus to save us sinners. "We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," Romans 5:1.

Prayer: We thank You, Father in heaven, because You have shown mercy unto us and given us a Savior. Now we have peace in our heart. Amen.

Friday, March 2

Ephesians 1:3, 4

God blesses us for Jesus' sake. He chose us to be His children. That is the best blessing. Verse 4b speaks of sanctification, living for Jesus. Do we always live as children of God?

Prayer: We are happy, dear Father, that You have adopted us and that through Jesus You bless us with all spiritual blessings. Let Your Spirit help us live to the praise and glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Saturday, March 3

Ephesians 1:7

Verse 7 is a most wonderful and comforting "Gospel." We think of Luther's words in the explanation of the Second Article: "He (Jesus) has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death."

Prayer: Thank You, Jesus, for saving us from sin. Amen.

Sunday, March 4

Oculi, Third in Lent

Ephesians 1:8-10

God made known unto us the mystery of His will. He does that with His Word (Romans 16:25, 26) and through preaching (1 Corinthians 1:21). He wants to "gather together in one all things in Christ." We become "one, in Christ," by faith (Galatians 3:26f.; 1 Corinthians 12:12f.).

Prayer: God, make us a happy family, a communion of saints. Help us live together as brothers and sisters for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Monday, March 5

Ephesians 1:11, 12

Through faith in God's Son we become "children" of the heavenly Father and heirs of salvation. To understand this better, read Romans 8:14-18. What Christ now has we shall someday enjoy.

Prayer: Gracious heavenly Father, we are happy to know that we shall inherit the joys of heaven through Jesus Christ, your Son. Amen.

Tuesday, March 6

Ephesians 1:13, 14

Verses 3—14 of the Letter to the Ephesians tell about the very important teaching of our election of grace. Read these verses again slowly and carefully, and then thank God that you have heard the "Word of truth," and have been "sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."

Prayer: Help us more and more to know Your truth and to understand Your holy Word, O God of our salvation. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday, March 7

Ephesians 1:15, 16

Paul says of the Christians in the church at Ephesus: "I thank God for you and pray for you." He writes the same to all the congregations he established. We ought to pray for one another and others, too.

Prayer: Dear God, we give thanks for those who trust and love You. May everyone learn to know You

and be saved through faith in Jesus. Amen.

Thursday, March 8

Ephesians 1:17-19

This is Paul's prayer (vv. 17-19), and what wonderful things to pray for, namely, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding!

Prayer: Lord, give unto us who believe these gifts of Your Spirit. Amen.

Friday, March 9

Ephesians 1:20-23

The power of God was clearly shown in the resurrection of Christ from the dead. And Christ now sits at the right hand of God, a place of power and honor. He is the Head of the body, the church, and we are the members of that body.

Prayer: Praise, honor, and glory unto our Lord, who has all power in heaven and on earth and in whom we live and move and have our being. Amen.

Saturday, March 10

Ephesians 2:1-5

God gives life to the spiritually dead. We were once spiritually dead (v. 3) but now are alive by the grace and love of God (v. 4) and saved from our sin (v. 5). And all this through Jesus!

Prayer: For spiritual life we thank You, Jesus. Amen.

Sunday, March 11

Laetare, Fourth in Lent

Ephesians 2:6-9

Here again we have the "Gospel" (good news) of our salvation. We learn that it is a gift of God and not

of our own works. A gift is free, and we do not earn it. Therefore we cannot boast.

Prayer: May we never boast of our own goodness but trust alone in You, dear Savior. You earned heaven for us upon the cross. Amen.

Monday, March 12

Ephesians 2:10

Good works and a Christian life are the evidence that faith lives in us. But even of these we cannot feel proud, for "we are His workmanship." Christ lives in us and does the good through us.

Prayer: O Jesus, we pray, help us always to walk and live as God has ordained. May our life and works always please You. Amen.

Tuesday, March 13

Ephesians 2:11-13

Paul writes of the Gentiles who were not circumcised like the Jews. At one time they were without Christ and had no hope. But Christ came to save all, also the Gentiles (v. 13).

Prayer: O Lord Jesus, we give thanks that you saved all sinners. In You we hope and trust for salvation. Amen.

Wednesday, March 14

Ephesians 2:14-17

Christ gave peace to Jews and Gentiles. He broke down the wall, sin, which divided all from God, to make one group of all who believe. He did this by shedding His blood on the cross.

Prayer: O Lord, send Your Spirit to work through the preaching of Your Word for the salvation of all men. Amen.

Thursday, March 15

Ephesians 2:18-22

In these verses we learn of our relationship to one another and to God. We are like citizens of a country, members of a household, and bricks of a building. We are knit together by our faith to form the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints.

Prayer: Dear God, we come to You through Jesus and ask that You bless us and send the Holy Spirit to make His habitation with us. Amen.

Friday, March 16

Ephesians 3:1-6

Paul, at this time a prisoner at Rome, had been arrested because of his bold preaching of the Gospel to the Gentiles. He is now trying to explain the wonderful grace of God, that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, etc. (v. 6). God, by special revelation, made known unto Paul the "mystery" of the Gospel which is now revealed to us in the Bible by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer: Lord, we thank You for Your Word and Your faithful preachers. Amen.

Saturday, March 17

Ephesians 3:7-12

Paul was always grateful that God had, in a miraculous way, converted him and given him the privilege of preaching the Gospel of Christ. Read Acts 9:1-31 and 2 Corinthians 12:1-12 and 1 Timothy 1:12-16 in order better to understand Paul and his ministry.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, we thank You for converting us and giving us the privilege of witnessing to others. Amen.

Sunday, March 18

Judica, Fifth in Lent

Ephesians 3:13-19

Once again we read of Paul's love and concern for his people. He suffers, but it is for their good. He prays that they will be strong, have faith, live in love, be able to comprehend the love of Christ, etc.

Prayer: Spirit of God, while we kneel in prayer, fill our hearts with love and knowledge of Christ, and give us faith. Amen.

Monday, March 19

Ephesians 3:20, 21

This is a doxology or hymn of praise unto God, who can do much more than we even ask or think. Unto Him be glory both now and forever. Amen means yea, yea, it shall be so!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, protect Your church on earth. As we are "a communion of saints" here, may we be *one* in heaven. Amen.

Tuesday, March 20

Ephesians 4:1-6

We have here a clear and simple description of the holy Christian Church. Paul explains what it is (vv. 4-6) and how we are to live as members (vv. 1-3).

Prayer: God, help us to live humbly and in love with one another, worthy of the name Christian. We ask it in Jesus' name. Amen.

Wednesday, March 21

Ephesians 4:7-16

Every Christian has received from God the gift to preach or teach or serve Christ in some way. Using

these gifts of grace, we (the church) can grow and mature in knowledge and in love.

Prayer: Father, help us to use our talents in the interest of Your church, and bless our service for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Thursday, March 22

Ephesians 4:17-24

Being members of Jesus' church, we ought to live as such, as we have learned from Him and His Word, forsaking the way of sin and evil and following the way of righteousness and true holiness.

Prayer: Lord, help us do things pleasing unto You. Amen.

Friday, March 23

Ephesians 4:25-32

Paul here names several sins which we must be careful about. How easy it is to lie, become angry, steal, speak evil, etc. But let us not do so and grieve the Spirit of God. Rather follow the advice of verse 32.

Prayer: Holy God, forgive us when we do wrong, and help us do the right, for the sake of Your Son, our Savior. Amen.

Saturday, March 24

Ephesians 5:1-5

Children copy and do what they see their fathers do. We, as God's children, should copy Him and follow His ways. Verses 3 to 5 tell us what not to do. People who do such wicked things will not go to heaven.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You loved us and saved us from sin. May we show our love by living for You. Amen.

Palm Sunday, March 25

Ephesians 5:6-21

There is a big difference between darkness and light, and the same difference between "children of disobedience" (v. 6) and "children of light" (v. 8). Read verse 11 again.

Prayer: Thankful that we are children of light, we sing and make melody in our hearts unto You, O Lord. Amen.

Monday, March 26

Ephesians 5:22-33

In these verses we learn the duties of husbands and wives, as shown in the relationship of Christ to His church. As the wife in marriage becomes one flesh with her husband, so we, the members of the church, are united with Christ in a spiritual union.

Prayer: Holy Spirit, bless the union of Christ the Bridegroom with His bride the church. Amen.

Tuesday, March 27

Ephesians 6:1-4

A Christian home is a blessed home. With so much juvenile delinquency today we need more homes in which parents bring up their children in the fear of the Lord and in which children learn to honor and obey.

Prayer: Lord, bless our home. Help us as children and parents to live together in love and devotion, for Your name's sake. Amen.

Wednesday, March 28

Ephesians 6:5-9

Paul does not forget instructions to servants and masters. We could say "employers and employees." If both would follow the advice of this passage, there would be perfect

harmony and good will between labor and capital, worker and boss.

Prayer: Dear Savior, help us to live in agreement with Your law of love and obedience, knowing that there is no respect of persons with You. Amen.

Maundy Thursday, March 29

Ephesians 6:10-12

In these verses Paul calls to our attention the battle that goes on between the powers of darkness and God and His Christians. With God's Word we can overcome our enemies.

Prayer: O Lord Jesus, let us always recognize our spiritual enemies and be on the watch against them. Amen.

Good Friday, March 30

Ephesians 6:13-17

"Stand up, stand up for Jesus! Stand in His strength alone;

The arm of flesh will fail you,
You dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor, Each
piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger, Be
never wanting there."

Prayer: O Lord, we thank You that You died to save us, and pray You to help us fight the battle of life victoriously. Amen.

Saturday, March 31

Ephesians 6:18-24

In these closing verses we have an appeal for prayer, especially that God will help Paul preach the Gospel boldly, even though he is a prisoner and bound. Paul closes the Letter with a double Apostolic blessing (vv. 23, 24).

Prayer: O Lord God, bless us and grant us peace in the knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

The Doctrine of the Sacraments

(Continued from page 42)

Sacraments Are the Visible Word

God's Word comes to us in three forms. When we read the Bible, we receive the printed Word. When we hear the Bible discussed and explained in sermons and the Bible class, we receive the audible Word. Because the Sacraments bring us God's Word joined with visible things, we call the Sacraments the visible Word.

There are many other things that we could study about the Doctrine of the Sacraments. We could take the Sacrament of Baptism, see how God instituted it, learn what the Bible says about how to baptize, discuss the power of Baptism, see who should be baptized, ask about the necessity of Baptism, and talk

about the baptism of John. We also could take the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, see how God instituted it, discuss Jesus' presence in this Sacrament, explain about the visible and invisible elements (things) we receive in the Lord's Supper, learn about the power of the Lord's Supper, see who should receive the Lord's Supper, ask about the necessity of the Lord's Supper, and answer the question: "Did Jesus make the Lord's Supper a new sacrifice?"

But all these questions would require more time for complete and proper discussion than we here have. Therefore we have limited ourselves to the doctrine of the Sacraments in a general way. Let us thank God for having given us Sacraments, and let us use them properly.



Bible Quiz

What were the names of Job's three friends that tried to comfort him? Job 2:11.

Why can Christians expect to be persecuted by unbelievers? John 15:20.

Mephibosheth, the son of David's friend Jonathan, was kept by David as a member of the family. What was the matter with Mephibosheth? 2 Samuel 9:13.

How many times did Jacob's father-in-law Laban change Jacob's wages, trying to cheat him? Genesis 31:7.

What did Jesus call Judas, one of the twelve disciples, because he betrayed Jesus? John 6:70.

What did the voice of Seir say to the watchman, and what did the watchman answer? Isaiah 21:11, 12.

Even if only two or three people are together for a worship of the Lord, who is with them? Matthew 18:20.

What happened to two sons of Aaron because they offered "strange fire" before the Lord? Leviticus 10:1, 2.

What did Jesus say to Philip when He found him on the way to Galilee? John 1:43.

Who are Christ's nearest relatives? Matthew 12:50.