

# The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,  
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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## The Month of the Reformation

October is the month of the Reformation. Four hundred and thirty-nine years ago a young man of thirty-four years of age took a walk one evening, the last day of the month. He wore a gown, for he was a Catholic priest. He had a hammer and some nails and a rolled-up large sheet of paper. Using the door of the church as a bulletin board, he

posted that paper. This was commonly done for special announcements to the public.

"A drop of ink may make a million think," someone has said. That certainly was true of the ink used on that roll of paper. It started off the biggest debate in the history of the world, a debate that still is being carried on though the issue has been rather clearly decided. Man's right to think and to judge independently without suffering the penalty of being burned or hanged for his thoughts, was one result of that debate. But the greatest gain to the world was that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was again clearly sounded forth, cleared of man-made additions and interpretations. Martin Luther was that angel, or messenger, that flew through the ecclesiastical world with the everlasting Gospel which was restored to all nations and kindreds and peoples (Revelation 14: 6, 7).

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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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## The Church

The sign for "Church" is a beautiful sign. It is made by forming the letter C with the right hand and placing the thumb of this hand upon the back of the left fist. The fist upon which the "C-hand" rests represents a rock. This rock upon which God builds His church is Jesus Christ, our Lord. He is the one and only Foundation upon which the church can stand secure. But because the church does stand upon this Rock of Jesus Christ, it will endure forever, guarded by Him.

In his First Epistle, chapter two, verses four and following, Peter invites us: "Come to Him, to that living Stone, rejected by men, but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

When you plan to buy a house, you first make sure that the house stands on a good foundation. If you see that the foundation is cracked, you refuse to buy. The house is not safe. *This is wise buying.* Jesus once said, "Everyone, then, who hears these words of Mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock." *This is wise living.*

Built on the Rock the church doth stand,

Even when steeples are falling;  
Crumbled have spires in every land,  
Bells still are chiming and calling,  
Calling the young and old to rest,  
But above all the soul distrest,  
Longing for rest everlasting.

H. HOEMANN

## Watch Your Lights!

When the lights on your car become dim, you know the battery is low. If the generator is not working, the lights will grow dimmer and dimmer. It is dangerous to drive with poor lights. A policeman does not need to warn you about that.

In the world we find that many people are traveling down the highway of time without any lights at all. Also many Christians are traveling with poor lights. Their batteries are weak. There is perhaps a loose connection between the generator and the battery. Do they not know that it is dangerous to travel with poor lights? Any moment they may collide with the devil and meet with disaster. Any moment they may hit a chuckhole or deep rut of sin. They then lose control and dive off the highway of time into eternal ruin.

*Are you a Christian?* If so, your lights are burning. But *you* did not light them. God gave you your lights. God worked faith in your heart. Faith is your light. You believe in Jesus, the Savior of the world. You believe that all things are happening for good. You believe and are sure that God will lead you safely to heaven. You have faith, and your lights are burning.

*Check your lights!* Do you quarrel in your home? Then your lights are flickering. Do you murmur and complain about sickness and pain? Then your lights are growing dim. Do you gossip about other people? Do you stay away from church? Do you neglect to read your Bible? Do you forget to pray? Do you worry about many things? Perhaps there is a loose connection which needs to be tightened.

*Don't drive with poor lights!*  
Charge your battery! Go to the  
Mechanic of souls. The Mechanic of  
souls is Jesus. Ask Him to make  
your lights brighter. He alone can  
charge your battery through His  
powerful Word. Attach yourself to  
His Word in meditation and prayer.  
Read your Bible daily. Go to  
church regularly. You will soon look  
out ahead and see a strong beam  
of light. You will see the chuckholes  
of sin and avoid them. You will see  
the sharp curves of temptation and  
slow down for them. Your trip  
through life will be more pleasant,  
and you will reach heaven safely.

G. C. RING

## Good Enough to Copy

A recent bulletin of the Stewardship Department of the English District of our church brought this:

"Listen to This!

"A member of a service organization told recently of a club in a leper colony which sent a sizable gift to the international headquarters earmarked 'For those less fortunate than we are.'

"A similar reaction comes to us when we note that one of our District churches, Holy Cross, St. Louis, composed solely of deaf people, gave \$9 'for others' during the first half of 1956. The average of those in our District who have been blessed with 'ears to hear' is only \$5.14.

"The Savior who gave all for us said, 'He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.' Matthew 11:15.

"Pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth laborers into His harvest.' Luke 10:2."

## To Our Readers

Your special attention is directed to the devotions in this issue. We have departed somewhat from the plan followed hitherto. Requests have been made that a little more explanation and application of the Bible section be offered. This lengthens considerably the space needed for the devotions in the magazine, reducing the space left for other features. Pastor Th. Frederking of Cleveland, who wrote the excellent series on the first twenty-one chapters of Genesis in this issue has omitted the short prayer after each devotion. Instead he submitted one prayer which may be used daily this month after the devotion with the Lord's Prayer. Since Dr. Salvner in the September issue of the DEAF LUTHERAN has concluded the articles on Dr. Luther's Small Catechism, which have appeared for many years, the space used for these articles could be given to the devotions. We respectfully ask for your reaction, whether you prefer the former shorter remarks about the section or a little longer explanation, as Pastor Frederking presents in this issue. Let the editor or your pastor know if you like the arrangement which is presented in this issue.

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JESUS wants all of you, not just a part;  
All of your thinking, all of your heart;  
All your ambitions, joys, hopes and  
fears,

Even your heartaches, even your tears.  
Be His completely, loyal and true;  
Now and eternally, Jesus wants you!

JESUS wants all of you,  
Not just a part;  
All of your thinking,  
All of your heart.





## *Field Gleanings*

**Saginaw, Mich.** — **Mr. Martin Salvner**, the brother of Dr. J. L. Salvner, our Executive Secretary, passed away on August 21 after an illness of many years, which had made him an invalid. He looked forward with longing to the hour when he would be with his Savior. The day before his death he asked for and received the Lord's Supper from his pastor, who had faithfully visited him while he lay in the oxygen tent in the hospital. He was given Christian burial August 24. Mr. Salvner was an active worker of the church. He had been a member of the Board of Directors of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, but during the last years his illness forbade active work. He was 75 years of age. May he rest in peace.

**Miami, Fla.** — The angel of death came to **Mr. George Mauger**, the father of Pastor Gyle's wife, Mrs. Alice Mauger-Gyle. He was 72 years old and had been ill for a long time. He was a retired banker. While Pastor and Mrs. Gyle lived in Saint Louis, he had the parsonage insulated, and at Miami he assisted through improvements of the parsonage and property and the building fund of Zion Church of Deaf. He was given Christian burial on June 30 by Rev. B. Schumacher, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran church, who spoke on "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." May the Lord comfort the mourning.

**New York.** — St. Matthew's received six new members on May 20

through the rite of confirmation. These are: **Robert Dettling, Donna Offerman, Charles Noddin, Dorothy McFarland, Nancy Peterson, and Dorothy Cohler.** Mrs. Louis Brooks assisted the pastor faithfully in the instruction of these people. May they be faithful to their Savior until death.

D. S.

**Billings, Mont.** — One of the first members of the Lutheran group of Deaf at Billings, **Mrs. Charles Goodall**, departed this life June 5. Funeral services were conducted by Pastor Hauptmann at St. Paul's, Park City, on June 8. It is interesting to note that Mrs. Goodall and her husband and her son Mark and her parents, all in her household, were gained and baptized at one time by Pastor Robert F. Cordes, who at that time was pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Park City. Pastor Cordes learned the sign language from the Goodall family and returned the favor by leading them all to Christ. This was God's way of preparing Rev. Cordes for his future work of serving the Deaf in the Lord's kingdom, for soon after he had gained the Goodall family he became missionary to the Deaf, at present being stationed at Sioux Falls, S. Dak. Our Deaf at Billings will miss Mrs. Goodall's friendly Christian leadership and counsel. May God bless and reward her abundantly in His eternal kingdom above. — **Mrs. Ruby Sparks**, nee Olson, of Missoula, Mont., who had almost completed the course of study pre-

paratory for confirmation last winter when illness overtook her, was translated into the kingdom of glory June 29. She was buried July 2 at Missoula, Pastor Hauptmann conducting the services. She is survived by her husband, Mr. George Sparks, and a deaf brother at Spokane and many hearing relatives.

BEULAH MCFARLAND

**Madison, Wis.** — There is the good news to tell that a tract of land has been purchased at Delavan, Wis., for a chapel site. Four lots running along Walnut Street, across Highway 11, which runs past the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, and measuring approximately 300×125 feet, were obtained for \$8,000. The Wisconsin Lutheran people who have been collecting for a chapel for Delavan are now at work to step up this effort so that funds may be available soon. — At Rockford, Ill., **Randall Allen Suhr**, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Suhr, was baptized June 3. His birthday was April 12. The Herbert Suhrs formerly lived in the Rochester, Minn., Prairie Du Chien area, served by the St. Paul pastor for the Deaf.

**Twin Cities, Minn.** — The Minneapolis and St. Paul churches, Grace and Calvary, have bought the property on Otis Avenue, St. Paul, one block south of Lake-Marshall and one block east of Mississippi River Boulevard, and the committees of both congregations are now busy planning the campaign, which will bring about amalgamation of the churches and erection of an adequate center for religious and social functions. It will mean much hard work, but with God's help it will be done.

**Denver.** — At Our Savior Lu-

theran Church, **Miss Betty Knudson** and **Mr. Alvie Moser** were united in holy wedlock. — June 23 there was a nice picnic of the Deaf, which netted \$20, the collection going to the Midwest Conference Fund.

**St. Louis.** — **Mrs. Hilda Schubert** of Fayetteville, Ill., who had been suffering a long time from cancer, fell asleep in Jesus on June 24 and was laid to rest June 27, Pastor Reinking officiated. She had been a member of the Lutheran Church for a long time. — **Jonathan Carl Neisch** was baptized in Holy Cross Deaf Church on June 10 by his father, Rev. W. O. Neisch. It was the first official act of Rev. Neisch, who the Friday before had been ordained at Holy Cross (hearing) Church in St. Louis. Rev. and Mrs. Neisch with their son now live in Jacksonville, Fla., where he serves the North Florida Field. — **Donna Schaeg**, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Schaeg, was for a long time seriously ill as a result of a fall. She was in a coma and in an oxygen tent in the hospital for several weeks, and her recovery was very slow. — **Mrs. Edwin Kurtzeborn** has had a very hard pull and was very sick for a long time, but is making satisfactory progress now. The Lord be the Helper of the sick. — **Pastor Reinking** experienced a gracious protection when the flap of a cardboard box accidentally came in contact with his eyeball in his home, tearing the eyeball. An infection was fortunately avoided, else the injury might have proved very costly. As it was, the tear healed well and rapidly. — **Mr. Robert Rasch**, who had returned from the North Florida Field, where he had been a vicar, helped Pastor Reinking out during his illness. —

The infant daughter of **Mr. and Mrs. George Jones** was laid into the arms of Jesus in Holy Baptism on August 5. May God graciously keep the child.

**Jacksonville, Ill.** — Christ for the Deaf Chapel was the scene of a pretty wedding August 11, when **Miss Edna Dirks** and **Mr. John Houser** were united in marriage by Pastor Thies. Congratulations! — Sunday, August 19, was the date of services at Decatur, but there was



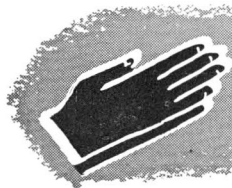
**Mr. and Mrs. John Houser** with attendants, **Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dirks**, and **Pastor Thies**

also the date of the annual picnic of the Deaf. So Pastor Thies, figuring that if the Deaf don't come to the church, the church should come to the Deaf, had his services at Nelson Park, Decatur, some 75 people attending, 60 of them Deaf. (Righto, Pastor Thies! Picnics are fine, and the Deaf love them just as much as you do; and it is fine to bring the Word of God to them at the picnics, and they, as a rule, appreciate that, too. The editor has recently received notices of picnics with which services were combined, reported in eleven different bulletins).

**New York.** — From the St. Matthew's parish paper we glean these interesting figures: July 1 St. Matthew's had 98 communicant members; 181 were communed in the ten

Communion services; six new members received; 619 persons attended the 21 services that were conducted; contributions totaled \$948; the Sunday school contributed \$36.35; 53 calls were made in April, May, and June. In Hempstead 20 communicants are on the list; Pastor Simon visits four state hospitals, in which are five members, and he visits 21 Deaf; in the Mill Neck Sunday School he has 99 children. — From Pastor Hausmann's newsletter we see that **Mr. Walter Hale** and **Mrs. Anna Hale** were received in the Hartford mission by confession of faith, and **Miss Betty Nomeland**, late from Minnesota, was added by letter of transfer. — St. Mark's has started a choir.

**Columbus, Ohio.** — At the University Lutheran Church on August 11 **Miss Phyllis Garrison** and **Mr. Richard Cross** were united in marriage, and on August 19 at the same church **Miss Nellie Gray** and **Mr. Davis Hixson** were married, Pastor Drachenberg performing both ceremonies. May God bless these unions. — **Pastor and Mrs. Herbert Drachenberg** were given a surprise wedding shower on July 28 by the many friends they have made in the short time they are there. They were married at Kansas City June 9, and they came to Columbus after their marriage, he being ordained and installed there June 17. At the shower they received a purse of \$33. — On August 26 Holy Cross Deaf Church celebrated its annual mission festival. A fine attendance was noted. A group of seven guests had come all the way from Cincinnati, and from as far as North Sandusky some people had come. Pastor Uhlig of Indianapolis conducted the service.



# Devotions

Selections and devotions and the prayer for the month are by Pastor Theodore Frederking.

## 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.

### The Prayer for October

Dear Father in heaven, I thank You because You have blessed, kept, and protected me in soul and in body. I pray You, keep me in the faith of Jesus, and forgive all my sins because He suffered and died for me. Let my faith in Jesus become stronger as I use the Word of God in church and at home, and keep me from sin and unbelief. Help me to prove my thankfulness to You by truly loving You and my neighbor. When I die, accept me into heaven, not because of any good works of mine but because Jesus took away my sins, paying for them on the cross. Bless all that are near and dear to me, and bless the preaching of Your Word everywhere. I ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Monday, October 1

#### Genesis 1

God created all things by His almighty power in six days, as we confess: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." Through Adam God has also

created you; and God says: "I have created you for My glory." If you truly believe in Jesus as the Son of God and the only Savior from sin, the glory of God dwells in you, and you will show it in your speech and life.

### Tuesday, October 2

#### Genesis 2:1-17

God planted the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve as a place in which to live and to find daily work. It is God's will that man should keep himself busy with a useful and God-pleasing occupation. But man should also take off time each week to rest and to worship God. God "rested" the seventh day, which means He stopped working. He did not need a rest, but He thereby taught us to rest, to stop our regular work, not for having pleasure, but to seek Him in worship in church.

### Wednesday, October 3

#### Genesis 2:18-25

After God by His wonderful power and wisdom had made woman from the rib of Adam, He led Adam and Eve into marriage and blessed both.

Jesus said later: "What God has joined together (in marriage), let not man put asunder (separate, destroy)." It is the will of God that married persons should live together till death parts them; and man and wife should live together in faith of Jesus, in love for God, and should show love to each other by mutual helpfulness and Christian virtues.

**Thursday, October 4**

**Genesis 3:1-8**

God did not want to take man to heaven without a test. Adam and Eve did not pass the test but ate of the forbidden tree and in this way brought sin, curse, and all misery into the world. You also cannot enter heaven without being tested. We must learn to refuse the temptations of the world, the devil, and our own sinful heart. John writes: "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." By faith in Jesus we can overcome temptations.

**Friday, October 5**

**Genesis 3:9-24**

After man had sinned God appeared in His great justice and in His great love. According to His justice man now suffers many ills because of his sin, like hardship in his work, sickness, financial troubles, and death. But according to God's great love (verse 15) God promised to send the Seed (Child) of the woman, Jesus, the Son of God, to be born of Mary, and He would crush the head of the serpent, the devil, and thus save mankind from the power of the devil.

**Saturday, October 6**

**Genesis 4:1-15**

Adam and Eve had many children, not only Cain and Abel and Seth.

Most of these children, we hope, believed; but Cain did not believe, and after murdering his brother Abel he showed his lack of repentance. If you are a father or a mother, pray often to God to cause all your children to believe in Jesus, and do all in your power to teach them to pray with a true heart. Explain to them what Jesus has done for us, and by your good example show the children how to live for God, how to speak, and how to worship God at home and in church.

**Sunday, October 7**

**The 19th Sunday After Trinity**

**Genesis 4:16-26**

When Cain killed his brother, a number of villages may already have existed. Adam may have been 200 or 300 years old then. At first the many children of Adam had to marry their sisters and brothers. In those days there were very large families. In 200 years the population of the earth could have already been quite large. When we read that Cain went to Nod and there found a wife, we must not be surprised. She was either a sister or a niece or a distant relative much younger than he. Since Washington's time, less than 200 years ago, how have we as a nation multiplied!

**Monday, October 8**

**Genesis 6:1-12**

Before the world-flood not only the people but sinfulness also multiplied greatly. The chief sin mentioned about that time was that children of believers married unbelievers, and soon faith in God and a Savior decreased and almost completely vanished. Jesus compared the people of Noah's time to the

people of the last times of this world, the times in which we now live. Like then, so now most people, even many church members, are not concerned about keeping the faith in Jesus and being faithful to God, but the aim of most people is to eat and drink and be merry; they are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. God have mercy on us.

**Tuesday, October 9**

**Genesis 6:13-22**

Noah prepared for the first judgment day of the world, which was the Flood, and built an ark according to God's careful directions. We, too, have an ark, prepared by God, in which we should stay and be safe; this ark is the church. If we believe as Noah believed, that Jesus died for us poor sinners, and trust in Him only, then we are inside the ark of God, the church. Let us build the church according to God's plan, cling to the true Gospel, hear and study God's Word, bring the good news to others; then we are giving glory to God and are saved from the terrors of Judgment Day through faith in Jesus.

**Wednesday, October 10**

**Genesis 7:1-10**

God did not only create man and animal, but He preserves mankind and animal life. Before the Flood God provided properly to keep the godly family of Noah and sufficient animals alive for continuation of the human race and of the animals after the Flood; we therefore confess correctly: "I believe that God preserves me and all creatures." God wants to preserve your soul for the time after the flood of fire on the Last Day. Paul said: "The Lord shall

preserve me unto His heavenly kingdom." May you, like Paul, believe in Jesus and live for God; and pray God to keep both your body and soul for eternal life.

**Thursday, October 11**

**Genesis 7:11-24**

When God destroyed the earth by water, it not only rained forty days and forty nights, but God caused the "fountains of the deep" to be broken up, very likely by a great world-earthquake. This explains why we now find fossils of fish and other animals in rock, deep below layers of earth. As the great wickedness brought terrible punishment on earth, so we are warned that the great neglect of the people—and many are church members—will bring a second terrible Day of Judgment. Let us repent of our sins and completely turn to the Lord Jesus before it is too late.

**Friday, October 12**

**Genesis 8:1-12**

Noah's family and the many animals stayed in that large ship over one year. That was a miracle of God; for man and animals need the vitamin power of the sun; but God Almighty can sustain life under exceptional conditions. Elijah (1 Kings 19:8) was kept alive forty days by a miracle; God kept the Jews in the wilderness in good health for forty years while they ate chiefly manna daily. Let us not, as some do, therefore call the story of Noah and the ark a fairy tale. God performed a great miracle, even as Jesus performed great miracles. In great trouble let us in faith of Jesus call upon God to spare our lives and preserve our health.

**Saturday, October 13**

**Genesis 8:13-22**

Many people, moving from city to city, will first look for a job and a house and probably after a long time think about going to church to worship God. When Noah left the ark, there was much work to do; but the first thing he and his family did was to build an altar to worship God and to thank Him with all their heart. Wherever you may live or move to, may you always look for the church on the first Sunday you are in the new place. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God," said Jesus; and then He promised that all necessary blessings will follow.

**Sunday, October 14**

**The 20th Sunday After Trinity**

**Genesis 9:1-17**

"I will establish My covenant (promise) with you," God said three times in this chapter, meaning that He will never again permit the world to be entirely flooded. While He in His great kindness will keep this promise, He here and there finds it necessary to send punishment upon earth. Great sin made God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah; great sins of nations bring on great wars; and because of sins God permits great troubles to come in the lives of persons to wake them up, that they might repent of their sins and turn fully to Jesus. If we turn to Jesus and trust Him as the Savior from all sin, God will turn sufferings and afflictions into blessings for us.

**Monday, October 15**

**Genesis 11:1-9**

Pride caused the descendants of Noah to build the tower at Babel. Pride caused Adam and Eve to fall

into sin, because they wanted to be like God. Pride comes before the fall. As God caused the people at Babel to speak different languages and to become confused so that they scattered into different directions, so God often causes entire nations to be humbled or destroyed because of their pride. Where is the pride of old Rome, of Greece, or of modern Germany? Let us often pray for our nation that we may not become proud in our prosperity and forget God. "Righteousness exalteth a nation," but pride leads to destruction.

**Tuesday, October 16**

**Genesis 12:1-9**

God called Abram (Abraham) to leave all his dear relatives and his country and to go far away to Palestine, because God chose him to be the forefather of Jesus, the Messiah. Abraham believed in the Messiah, that coming Savior, and obeyed. He made a great sacrifice to establish the Jewish nation, from which Jesus was to be born. By the Gospel of Jesus, God calls you to become one member of His people, that you should believe in Jesus and separate yourself from the sinfulness which is in the world and worship and work with God's people in the Christian Church. Let us like Abraham believe and obey and gladly make sacrifices to build and support the church of Jesus Christ, and only blessings will follow.

**Wednesday, October 17**

**Genesis 12:10-20**

"We must through much tribulation (trouble) enter into the kingdom of God," says the Bible. Abraham found that out soon after he had left home and had come to Palestine.



Because of a food shortage he moved to Egypt. Although there was more food there, new troubles arose, because the king, the Pharaoh, almost took away Sarah, Abraham's wife. As God delivered Abraham from all his troubles, so will a Christian be delivered from his troubles by God. Troubles are needful; we are driven to God through them, and upon being delivered by God, our faith becomes stronger.

**Thursday, October 18**

**St. Luke's Day**

**Genesis 13:1-18**

David wrote: "Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to live together in unity." When Abraham had left his native country with his wife, he had taken along his nephew and his wife and many servants. Abraham and Lot got along well; but later their herdsmen quarreled so much that Abraham and Lot had to separate. Big-hearted Abraham permitted Lot to choose to go to the richest land with much water, near the city of Sodom, while he went to Hebron. In our association with relatives and friends, may we do everything to live together in peace and unity and love. Let us avoid petty, sinful quarreling; let us forgive one another's faults and in Christian love get along with neighbors and relatives as God desires it.

**Friday, October 19**

**Genesis 14:1-16**

To live in a city where one may earn money is not always a blessing. Lot selfishly chose to live in Sodom; and after he had settled there, a mighty king from the East made war against Sodom, captured it, and took away among the many prison-

ers of war also Lot and family and servants and cattle. Lot was in danger not only of losing everything, but also of becoming a slave for life. Being a believer in the Messiah, he called upon the Lord in his trouble, and Abraham came to his rescue. Though they had separated, they were not enemies. Abraham risked his 318 menservants to pursue the enemy and the small army defeated the enemy and delivered Lot and all his. So God permitted Lot, the believer, to get into trouble, later to see the mighty and wonderful help of God.

**Saturday, October 20**

**Genesis 14:17-24**

When Abraham returned from the battle in which he had freed Lot, Melchizedek, king of Salem, met him. This king was a man of mystery, of whom little is known, but in Hebrews 7 he is described as a king of righteousness, a type of Christ. Abraham recognized Melchizedek as a great priest of God and gave him a tenth of all the gains captured in the war. Melchizedek blessed Abraham; and as Melchizedek met and blessed Abraham, so may Jesus, our great King of Righteousness, meet you on all your ways and bless you; and may you, like Abraham, contribute to Jesus, not just a little one tenth, but your whole life, and may all that you have be dedicated to Christ and His kingdom.

**Sunday, October 21**

**The 21st Sunday After Trinity**

**Genesis 15:1-21**

Abraham has the name "Father of all believers." He was a man of strong faith in the promises of God.

When he was about 90 years old, he still had no child; but when God assured him that he would have a child and heir and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the heavens, he “believed in the Lord, and God counted it to him for righteousness.” Abraham believed that from his nation the Son of God, the Messiah, now named Jesus of Nazareth, would be born and that He would bless all the nations of the earth by saving man from sin and sin’s curse and punishment. Let us pray that God would make us to be such men and women of faith who believe firmly every promise God gave us in the Bible. Especially believe this promise: “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved.”

**Monday, October 22**

**Genesis 16:1-16**

Although Abraham was a man of great faith, he was a sinful man still and made serious mistakes like all the rest of us. When he and his wife Sarah were getting older and older and no son was born from Sarah, both got the wrong idea that the son and heir might descend from a maid in the home. But this was very wrong and later brought much grief to all of them; and the child Ishmael of the maid Hagar was not accepted by God as the heir of Abraham and the forefather of Jesus. Let us beware and not take matters into our own hands as Abraham tried and failed. If we are in great trouble and pray and God does not soon send help, let us patiently wait and keep on trusting in God’s promise and not do something wrong in trying to get what we want.

**Tuesday, October 23**

**Genesis 17:1-14**

In this chapter we read how God requested Abraham and the Jews to dedicate their male children to the Lord by the ceremony of circumcision. In Colossians 2:11,12 Paul tells us that we now in place of circumcision have Holy Baptism: “In Christ also you are circumcised . . . buried with Him in Baptism.” As God required of the Jewish parents to have their male children circumcised as small babes, so Christian parents bring their babes to God very early in Baptism, and not only the sons but the girls as well, as God wants the whole church to be baptized, Ephesians 5:26: “That Christ might sanctify and cleanse it (the church) with the washing of water by the Word.” The church includes all, and neither sex nor age nor nationality matters. So children are included and should be baptized.

**Wednesday, October 24**

**Genesis 17:15-27**

One year before Isaac was born, God again appeared to Abraham to assure him that in the right time Sarah would bear him a son and heir. Though Abraham had great faith, he still now in the presence of God had to laugh at the idea that Sarah would have a child, for she was ninety years old and he ninety-nine. That shows that sometimes grave doubts arise in the hearts of believers also. You also may have serious doubts sometimes about God or the Bible or about other important doctrines of God’s Word. Then go to your pastor and tell your doubts that trouble you. In most cases your pastor can help you and show you that, although certain

things seem foolish and impossible, as, for instance, that Sarah in her old age would have a child, still your doubts against the clear words of the Bible are foolish and dangerous; because if you keep those doubts, you may at last lose all faith in God and His Word.

**Thursday, October 25**

**Genesis 18:1-15**

The Bible teaches us to practice hospitality, which means to welcome needy persons into our home. When the Son of God and the two angels appeared in human bodies and stopped at Abraham's home, he welcomed them and fed them generously. Unknowingly Abraham had taken the Son of God into his home. If God lays before our door persons who need our help or home, we should welcome such and do it, as it were, as to Christ Himself. Jesus said: "You have done it unto Me."

**Friday, October 26**

**Genesis 18:16-32**

Before God destroyed Sodom and three other cities because they were so very wicked, Abraham begged the Lord again and again to spare Sodom, where Lot lived, and God promised to do so if only ten righteous people were in that city. This shows God's great patience to withhold just punishments, especially if there are children of God in such an area. For the sake of righteous believers in Christ God may postpone a terrible war that may threaten a nation. In our fears for the future of our nation and at the threat of atomic warfare we say with deep feeling, Would to God that more and more people would turn fully to the Lord Jesus Christ. For the sake of

believers among us in our lifetime we may be spared the agony of seeing great wars or other calamities. But God did not spare Sodom, because He could not even find ten believers there but only Lot and his wife and his two daughters.

**Saturday, October 27**

**Genesis 19:1-16**

Like Abraham, so Lot was a true believer, who in Christian love welcomed the two angels in human form into his home. God blessed him for this. Those angels protected Lot and his daughters and struck the wicked men of Sodom with blindness. The next morning these two angels led Lot and his family out of the city and saved them from destruction. God created angels, not only to glorify God in heaven, but to be of great service to man. Let us daily pray God that He send us an angel on all our ways and protect us from harm and danger. And let us not through sins drive away our protecting angels. Thank God for angels; even though we can not see them, they are there, and we perhaps often have had surprising escapes from harm because they were on the job.

**Sunday, October 28**

**The 22d Sunday After Trinity**

**Genesis 19:17-29**

We can understand that God in His justice destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah and two other cities because the people had given themselves to terribly immoral practices, sins which, however, are committed even in America. A very sad story is the death of Lot's wife. Against the angel's warning, not to look back, she did so and was turned in-

to a pillar of salt. Why did she turn back, and why did God so punish her? It is very probable that she did not truly believe in the Messiah and that in her heart she clung to the sinful city of Sodom and so perished in unbelief. In our contact with the world let us beware and not love the world and its sinful ways. John writes: "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

**Monday, October 29**

**Genesis 20**

Abraham and Sarah often moved from place to place in Palestine and Egypt. They feared the wickedness of people, but God spared them. Wherever Abraham lived, he built altars, worshiped God each Sabbath, and lived holy for God. Many that move about are not afraid of the wickedness of men but associate with them instead of looking for their church and keeping up the faith. Some members, when moving to a big city, will join a club and attend it regularly, but make no effort to look for God and Christ's Gospel in the church. If you want to live in heaven with Abraham and the Christians, appear before the altar in church, continue to believe in Jesus, and through the Gospel be preserved in the faith that saves the soul.

**Tuesday, October 30**

**Genesis 21:1-8**

In this section we read that the second forefather of faith, Isaac, was born by a miracle, because Sarah, Abraham's wife, was beyond the age of childbearing. It was one of the greatest miracles how Jesus, the Seed of Isaac, later was born of

the Virgin Mary without an earthly father, by the power of the Holy Ghost. If you are a true believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, then your soul also has been born again by a wonder of God the Holy Spirit. May we Christians appreciate the miracle that God has worked in us, turning us from darkness to light, from sin to holiness, from spiritual death to eternal life. This new birth, called conversion or regeneration, is what Jesus talked about to Nicodemus: "You must be born again . . . of water and of the Spirit."

**Wednesday, October 31**

**Reformation Day**

**Genesis 21:9-21**

Hagar, Sarah's maid, the mother of Abraham's son Ishmael, mocked Sarah and Issac, who was the real heir of the promise of God and from whom the Messiah would come to save the world from sin. God approved of sending away Hagar and Ishmael. Hagar suffered greatly and learned to become humble, and God did not forget her and her son. We, too, often must suffer much because we sinned and must be humbled; then let us turn to God, who forgives and raises us up again. When we look at it correctly, we will come to the conclusion that God is wise and good in that He makes us realize our mistakes and forgives them for Jesus' sake. All praise and glory be His.

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FOUR things a man must learn to do  
If he would make his record true:  
To think without confusion clearly;  
To love his fellow man sincerely;  
To act from honest motives purely;  
To trust in God and heaven securely.

VAN DYKE



## *Bible Quiz*

To what are the airplanes and ships compared that bring the missionaries to heathen lands with the Gospel? Isaiah 60:8, 9.

How shall we decide the amount of our church contribution? Deuteronomy 16:17.

Jesus wants us to be workers in His kingdom. Workers cannot work well if they wear too much clothing and very heavy boots. What directions about clothing did Jesus give His disciples? Mark 6:9.

What effect have the sun and also the moon in the hot tropical parts of the earth upon people? Psalm 121:6.

What is the difference between Jesus and a thief? John 10:10.

How do people become right before God? Romans 3:28.

Because the Lord is the Shepherd of Christians, they will always have enough. How does the second half of the verse express that truth? Psalm 23:1.

How do Christians handle their enemies? Matthew 5:43, 44.

In what respect is the Word of God not like grass and flowers? 1 Peter 1:24, 25.

What is the result if the members of the congregations obey God's rules sincerely and live peacefully? Acts 2:47.

Against what are even atomic bombs not effective? Ephesians 6:12.

Why did the rich man fire his steward who managed the property? Luke 16:1.

The Bible mentions one gift as the best of all blessings and that will never be refused by God when asked for in prayer; which is that gift? Luke 11:13.

Radio and television have exactly fulfilled a sign that tells us that the end of the world is near according to Jesus' own words; which is that sign of the end? Matthew 24:14.

Which bank is the safest one to put your money into? Matthew 6:20.

What was the name of David's famous choir director to whom David gave the thanksgiving psalm when the ark of the covenant was brought back to Jerusalem? 1 Chronicles 16:7.

What can make the most gifted person worthless? 1 Corinthians 13:2.

What did St. Paul never forget to do for his church members? Ephesians 1:16.

How do many people fool themselves? 1 John 1:8.

What is a sure sign of the nearness of the end of the world? 1 John 2:18.

What happens to the earth when God speaks as the nations are in confusion? Psalm 46:6.

Why did St. Paul work so hard to tell others that Jesus had died for them? 2 Corinthians 5:14.

Why is it not well to be a double-minded hypocrite? James 1:8.