

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 48

NOVEMBER 1956

Number 11

The Ephphatha Conference



Lutheran Pastors to Deaf, St. Paul, Minn., July 1—4, 1956. Left to right, seated: Pastors Rohe, W. Ferber, DeLancy, Uhlig, Salzer, Bremer, Mappes, Frederking, Scheibert, Cordes. Middle row: Hoemann, Samson, Borchers, Bailey, Hausmann, Drachenberg, Lange, Hauptman, Reinking, Gerhold, Oermann, Vicar Graef. Rear row: Kosche, Thies, Neisch, A. E. Ferber, Borchardt, Stacy, Boerner, Mueller, Bauer, Vicar Thale.

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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

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo. Subscription price, 50 cents per annum anywhere in the world, payable strictly in advance. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 14, 1935. Send all subscriptions, changes of address, and cancellations to Rev. Wm. Reinking, 6301 Alamo, St. Louis 5, Mo.

The DEAF LUTHERAN goes to press on the 3d Friday, two weeks before issue. Send all news, pictures, stories, articles to Rev. N. P. Uhlig, Editor, 2346 College Ave., Indianapolis 5, Ind.

The 1956 Meeting of the Ephphatha Conference

Ephphatha Conference is a conference for pastors of the Deaf.

Why do pastors of the Deaf travel so far, spend so much money, and use so much time in order to attend a conference? It is for this reason: The pastor goes to the conference in order to learn ways to serve the Deaf better. At the conference the pastor receives refreshment for his mind and for his soul. A conference to the pastor is as an oasis to the traveler in the desert. At this conference resolutions were passed, and worthwhile and interesting papers were presented that will help the pastors to serve the Deaf better.

The meetings were held at Concordia College in St. Paul July 1 to 4. The pastors were quartered at the college but bought their meals at neighboring restaurants. The conference was opened with a Com-

munion service in which Rev. Donald E. Boerner of Boston preached the sermon. Every morning and afternoon session was opened with devotions.

A paper about "Problems of Dealing with the Adolescents" was presented by Mr. Elmer N. Witt, the Executive Secretary of the Walther League. Mr. Witt brought out that the teen-ager is in a period of changes. He suggested that the church should include five things in its program for the youth. First, worship, the center of the program. The young people should be able to take part in the congregation's worship. Second, education. The church must help the young person to understand what God is thinking about him and his life. This can be done by means of Bible study and talking to him personally. Third, fellowship. The young people must have the opportunity to share their faith in Christ with other people their own age. Fourth, service opportunities. The young people should have the



Pastors to Deaf and Their Wives at Ephphatha Conference, left to right: the Bauers, Hausmanns, Hoemanns, Graefs, Drachenbergs, Gerholds. All but the Hausmanns and Gerholds are new workers and were married last summer

opportunity to tell other young people about Christ. Fifth, recreation. This should not be thrown in only in order to draw the young people, but recreation should serve to help the young people to grow in Christ.

Pastor N. P. Uhlig led a discussion on "Deaf Youth, Gallaudet, and the Church." Gallaudet does not claim to be a Christian institution. It has many activities which draw the youth away from the church. It was pointed out that the pastor at home can help the deaf student to remain close to his Savior by keeping in touch with him. The student also is wise who realizes his own weakness and keeps in touch with his pastor.

Headmaster Melvin W. Luebke of Mill Neck Manor Lutheran School for the Deaf in Long Island, N. Y., talked about the school and the language key used in teaching there. The school had an enrollment of 70 children last year. He also stated that it costs about \$2,000 to teach each pupil a year. Mr. Luebke said that Mill Neck is accredited by the United States State Department as being one of the some ten schools that can accept foreign deaf pupils and is rated the near-equal of the long-established schools in the area.

Pastor Simon presented some sample pages of a proposed "Religion Lesson and Workbook." Mr. Allen Keschull, a teacher at Mill Neck, has been considering the making of these lesson-workbooks as the topic for a Master's dissertation. These would be of great help in teaching our deaf Sunday school children.

Another aid for teaching deaf children which has come out of Ephphatha Conference is Pastor Clar-

ence Bremer's sample Catechism Workbook. Other members of the conference will be assigned other parts of this workbook, so that we should have a complete Catechism workbook for the Deaf very soon.

The superintendent of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf, Dr. Wm. M. Milligan, talked on "The Sign Language as a Means of Education, Its Goals, Advantages, and Handicaps." He spoke about the difficulty of translating abstract ideas into sign language and about the problems of interpreting and the methods of teaching by means of the sign language.

Pastor Hauptman spoke on "A Stewardship Life—Talents, Time, and Treasure." A person must first understand that Christ has redeemed him and that now he belongs entirely to Christ. He must realize that not only part of his talents, time, and treasure should be used for God, but all of it. And each person should set aside part of his talents, time, and treasure for the preaching of God's Word in the church.

Other presentations and reports were as follows: Pastor Sampson, "Psychology of the Deaf," Pastor Simon, a report on the National Association of Deaf convention; Pastors Scheibert, Bailey, and DeLaney presented a panel discussion on "Should Deaf Congregations Join the Districts of Synod?" Seminarian William Ludwig presented an essay on "The Joy of Becoming a Minister to the Deaf." Pastors Borchardt and Lange presented an essay on "Conducting a Well-rounded Program for Teen-agers."

The Conference passed among others also this resolution:

"Be it resolved, That the Ephpha-



"Shooting" the Ephphatha Conference at St. Paul. (No, these young preachers' wives are not looking for their husbands with binoculars, but hold cameras. We bring this not because "people are funny" when they take pictures, but to present Pastor Simon, who snapped the group picture on front cover and is missing there.)

the Conference recognize with gratitude to God the years of service in the ministry to the Deaf completed by the following pastors: Dr. John L. Salvner (55 years), Otto C. Schroeder (45 years), Dr. George W. Gaertner (40 years), Ernest C. Mappes (35 years), Walter A. Westermann (25 years), Martin E. A. Mueller (25 years), Robert F. Cordes (20 years).

"Be it resolved . . . that we extend to these brethren of Ephphatha Conference our congratulations."

Chairman of the Conference is Rev. C. Bremer, Rev. Clark R. Bailey is vice-chairman, and Rev. Theo. DeLaney is secretary.

E. OERMANN

Jacksonville, Ill. — One of the charter members of Christ Church, **Mr. Felix P. Lupien**, passed away September 18 after a long siege of illness and suffering at San Leandro, Calif., where he and his wife had moved last June. His body was brought here, and he was given Christian burial on September 28 here where he had lived and worked. He was 87 years old. He served this

congregation in various offices and was a pillar of strength. Despite his crosses — two accidents within three years had given him fractured hips, and he could move about only with great difficulty — he came to church and meetings of the church regularly until he became completely confined to the room and bed. He and his wife (Elmira Mather) could always be counted upon to say and do the right thing. May he rest in peace, and may God comfort his widow and children. — October 28 to November 1 Pastor Thies will be guest missionary (preacher) in Holy Cross Deaf Church in St. Louis, which congregation participates with the Lutheran churches of St. Louis and vicinity in the area mission, a week of nightly services and visits to bring the Gospel to unchurched people. — The enrollment of deaf pupils of I. S. D. (Illinois School for the Deaf) in our Sunday school in September was 97; several applications were pending, since children of non-Lutheran parentage must have the written consent of their parents in the office of the school before being allowed to attend.



Minneapolis.—Some weeks ago **Dr. J. L. Salvner's** 79th birthday was observed by the members of his family and some friends. He has served the Deaf and the church for 55 years now. Someone has said: "When people get old, they have gold in their teeth, silver on their head, and lead in their feet." But this does not fit Dr. Salvner. We are not sure about gold in his teeth; he keeps his mouth shut unless he has something to say. He has not a gray hair on his head. He has no lead in his feet either, for he is ever busy going about the Lord's work, and as Executive Secretary he ever is on the road visiting churches and strengthening the members and pastors. May God preserve him, and may others learn from him to serve the Lord in humble consecration. Psalm 92 says of such: "The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree; he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; to show that the Lord is upright; He is my Rock, and there is no unrighteousness in Him."

Fargo, N. Dak.—**Mr. Gilman Nordhogen**, a long-time member of our Fargo mission died quite suddenly in a Fargo hospital on July 29. Funeral services were conducted by his pastor, the Rev. W. Ferber, on August 1. — In Bismarck a funeral service was conducted for

one of the oldest communicants of our mission, **Mr. Jacob Berrett**, who had departed this life on Aug. 25. His body was laid to rest in Goodrich, N. Dak., where he and Mrs. Berrett had made their home for many years. We comfort ourselves with the thought that death for a believer is only a rest preparatory for the glory which Jesus will show us in heaven. W. F.

Madison, Wis.—With the purchase of a plot of ground, 267×125 feet, across from the Wisconsin School for the Deaf in Madison, activity on the part of the members there is evident. **George Tschanner**, chairman, **Oscar Beaver**, and **Wm. Kruckenberg** are the members of the building committee. But before this chapel can actually be built, other matters must be taken care of. Of the purchase price of \$8,000 for the site, \$870 still must be gathered, and then the cost of the building must be raised, and building costs are high and rising. The Board of Missions to Deaf has earmarked \$50,000 in 1957 for two projects, the chapels at Delavan and at St. Louis being in line to share this amount. But much more will be needed if Wisconsin should get half of that sum. So the folks in Delavan are looking for help. And they have a right to expect help. For the Delavan chapel is primarily for the use of the deaf children of the State of Wisconsin studying at the school there. So all the Lutherans of Wisconsin have an obligation, and

though they, as all other Lutherans, contribute to the general budget of the church, from which the Missions to Deaf are supported, the building of their chapel is a special project for them, and the Deaf of Wisconsin should recognize this fact too. The Milwaukee Deaf have before them the building of their own house of worship; still the Delavan project concerns them also, though their hands be tied to help much. May God lead the hearts of many thankful Christians in Wisconsin to help in gratitude that their children were not deafened, or born deaf, and thus ease the burdens of others who have that handicap. May the example of the Lutherans of Illinois inspire them, for there the fine chapel-parsonage at Jacksonville was erected at a cost of over \$100,000 and is paid for, except a minor addition, the completion of more bedrooms in the attic. And it was done in the space of six years and has wonderfully aided our work with the deaf children of Illinois. May Wisconsin have the same experience.

Lewistown, Mont.—Those who

came to Lewistown September 2 to the Montana Deaf Lutheran Conference came to listen and to work, and the Lord's Spirit did great work for them. The only regrettable fact was that not more of the Deaf could come to share the blessings of the meeting. After much discussion on various ways of serving the Lord, the conference decided to join the Deaf Mission Society. This society is composed of many Deaf congregations in America, and it aims to promote mission work among the Deaf of other lands by study, prayer, and offerings. It has already made a study of the mission opportunities in Japan. It is said that there are 80,000 Deaf in that country. Victor Lyon of Bozeman was elected chairman for the next year, and Mrs. Beulah McFarland of Billings was chosen secretary. Next year's convention is to be held in Billings. The Deaf of Lewistown were host to the conference, and all praised the fine work they did in entertaining the conference.

Des Moines, Iowa.—On May 6 Pastor Stacy held a service at Oska-



Montana Lutheran Deaf Conference, Lewistown



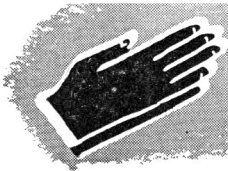
Pastor L. M. Stacy and Oskaloosa, Iowa, Group. (Miss Harriet Van Mersbergen, front, fourth from left)

loosa, Iowa. It was attended by 14 Deaf and ten hearing relatives. The average in the five services held since that day has been 13 Deaf and nine hearing. Great interest is shown the services by the Deaf. A little maid, **Miss Harriet van Mersbergen**, was very helpful by getting names and addresses of Deaf in the area for Pastor Stacy. In the accompanying cut she stands in the front row, the fourth from left. Thus the work expands; and the good news of the Savior is brought to more and more people. It is gratifying to hear of the workers in the harvest fields putting in the sickle and gathering sheaves for the heavenly Father.

Omaha, Nebr.—The Deaf of the area served by Pastor Mappes on September 16 celebrated the 35th anniversary of his service as a pastor to the Deaf. Bethlehem Church, assisted by the Rev. Lloyd Behnken of the neighboring Bethany Lu-

theran Church, had arranged for this celebration, which was a complete surprise to Pastor Mappes. Congratulatory messages from many of the groups served by him, accompanied by gifts, and well-wishes from many of his fellow pastors to the Deaf and other brethren of the cloth made the occasion a memorable one. The service was one of thanksgiving to the Lord, who has sustained him so many years to do such notable work for the Deaf.

Spokane, Wash.—September 16 Faith Church celebrated its annual Mission Festival, worshipping by itself in the morning but participating in the joint service with Pilgrim Lutheran in the afternoon. Rev. John Feiertag of Veradale was the speaker, Pastor Hauptmann interpreting the service. At noon the members of Faith and Pilgrim had a potluck dinner together, and Faith held a voters' meeting before the afternoon service.



Devotions

Selections, devotions, and prayer for the month are by Pastor N. P. Uhlig

The Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, the Giver of every good gift, I thank You for all the blessings of body and soul and the protection from harm and danger that I have received from You. O Lord Jesus, my Savior, I thank You for having saved me by Your holy life and bitter death from my sins, which are many. O Holy Ghost, I thank You for having brought me to faith through the Gospel and having kept me in that until now and brought me back when I forgot God. O Holy God, keep me, for I am weak. Bless also all that are near and dear to me, the members of my family, my pastor and congregation, my Synod and the missionaries working at many places for me also. Bless our Government. Protect us in our work and rest. Comfort the sick. Help the troubled. Bring back the lost. Should this day be my last, take me home for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Thursday, November 1

All Saints

Genesis 22:1-19

Abraham's faith was here tested in a terribly hard test. Would he really bring that sacrifice and offer his son? Would he obey God's command even if his own heart would cry in pain? He was willing; God saw that and saved Isaac's life. God sometimes tries us, too. But such tests make our faith stronger when we see how God leads all things well. Trust God, and when His commands seem to go against our wishes, let us submit to Him. As Abraham's faith and love were strengthened, so will God bless us.

Friday, November 2

Genesis 23

The sad day of parting came to Abraham, and his dear Sarah was taken from him by death. Here we

are told how he laid her away in the cemetery, the cave of Machpelah by Hebron, where he and Jacob later were buried also. He bought the field for about two hundred dollars. —To us, too, come the sad days when our loved ones leave us. We lay them down and remember them and care for the graves where they sleep. We think of our own grave; but let us always keep in mind to be ready so that we can in faith in our Savior close our eyes and go to sleep in peace.

Saturday, November 3

Genesis 24

Abraham took great care that his son got a good, believing wife. So parents must take a great interest that their children marry Christians. Abraham prayed about this and sent Eliezer, his faithful steward, or business manager, to his old homeland, making him swear that he would

carry out his wishes carefully. It is a lovely story how Eliezer asked and brought Rebecca home to Abraham and Isaac. When parents and their grown children think of marriage, may they, like Abraham and Isaac, ask for God's guidance and blessing, and the marriages will be happy.

Sunday, November 4
23d Sunday after Trinity
Genesis 25:1-10

Even the best Christian must die, as Abraham died. Because all are sinners, they must suffer the wages of sin, death of the body. But death of the soul, being separated from God forever, a Christian does not suffer; for by faith we are God's children, and death means to go home to the heavenly Father. We shall not reach Abraham's age, 175 years, but when one has come to faith, he is old enough to leave this evil world and go to "Abraham's bosom," as Jesus called heaven. And faith comes through hearing and accepting God's Word.

Monday, November 5
Genesis 25:20-34

Now begins the story of Isaac's family. Rebecca bore him twins; the one born first was Esau, but Jacob, the other, was to have the rank of being first, and from him was to come the Messiah, Jesus. Esau one day gave up his first rights for a meal of lentil soup and so despised his rights. Isaac liked Esau more than Jacob, and Rebecca liked Jacob more; and that later made trouble. Parents should treat all children alike and be fair to each one, as the heavenly Father is fair to all His children.

Tuesday, November 6
Genesis 26

God gave to Isaac the same promise of blessing that Abraham had received. Isaac feared that someone might kill him to marry pretty Rebecca when he lived among the Philistines and said she was his sister. This was a lie that could have become dangerous. Let us be truthful and not fear; God will take care of us. Peaceful Isaac had trouble because the Philistines quarreled about the wells he had dug. So he rather left them and moved on, and God did not forget him but blessed him. Let us be peaceful; such win out at last.

Wednesday, November 7
Genesis 27:1-29

Isaac's home was like our homes are; disagreements arise and wrong things happen. Isaac wanted to bless his sons and give to Esau the best blessing; Rebecca wanted the better blessing for Jacob, and she deceived Isaac. This was not good; it caused more trouble. She knew that Jacob was to be the more famous son and wanted to help. Jacob was entitled to the blessing, and from him was to come the Redeemer; but Rebecca and Jacob were not honest, and lied. It is a sin to lie; and we need God's forgiveness for every sin, even if people sometimes think that telling a falsehood is not bad.

Thursday, November 8
Genesis 27:30-46

Esau was very bitter and angry because Jacob had obtained the better blessing by lying and deceiving. He was also blessed by Isaac; but his heart was bitter, and he wanted to kill Jacob. So dishonesty made

much trouble. Even in Christian homes wrong things will happen, and we need daily to ask God to make us truthful and forgiving for Jesus' sake. How sad if members of a family hate one another and cause trouble! Many a father and mother grieve as Isaac, who surely felt very bad about things in his family.

Friday, November 9

Genesis 28

Esau had taken two heathen women as wives and they were a grief unto Isaac and Rebecca. So when Jacob had to flee from home, Isaac pleaded with him not to take a heathen woman, but to go to his believing relatives in faraway Haran. One evening, lonely and heartsick, he rested on the field. There God comforted him in a dream with the ladder reaching from earth to heaven. God is near us; we have a ladder that reaches to heaven, His Word and Jesus; we will not miss comfort and heaven if we go up that ladder. In Bethel, in God's house, we have our gate to heaven.

Saturday, November 10

Genesis 29

Jacob had many disappointments; just as we all have. For Laban's daughter Rachel he worked seven years, only to get Leah, the older, as a wife; for another seven years of faithful service, he also married Rachel. Leah was despised; but God gave her children; Rachel had no children until later. But to one of Leah's sons, to Judah, the promise of the Messiah-to-come was given. God permitted in those days that men had more than one wife, but Jesus said, "From the beginning it was not so." One man and one

woman is the right and blessed union for a happy home.

Sunday, November 11

24th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 30

Jealousies between Leah and Rachel and troubles with Laban, who in business constantly tried to "short-change" Jacob and not give him his due wages, made life miserable for Jacob. He had to use tricks to get his due wages. We, too, often find ourselves in disagreeable situations in family and business life. What to do? Today is Sunday, God's day. Go to church! God's guidance in His Word, God's comfort, family devotions so that the members of the family constantly hear God's Word, are needed. Let us be regular churchgoers and not be without daily family prayer and the family altar.

Monday, November 12

Genesis 31

Finally Jacob saw nothing else to do than to separate himself from Laban, and that he did. He did unwisely in not openly telling Laban his plans; it would have been better to discuss the matter and openly inform him. Instead he left secretly. But the matter was settled peacefully, and he with family and flocks at last found a place for himself back at home. "Let all things be done decently and in order" is good advice. Pray over your plans and difficulties; discuss them openly with those concerned and deal honestly; it always is the best policy.

Tuesday, November 13

Genesis 32

We can understand with what solemn thoughts Jacob returned to

his home country which he had left heartsick and lonely 20 years before. But first he was coming to the country where Esau, his brother, lived and would meet him. What kind of meeting would it be? God comforted him by a vision of protecting angels. He made provisions for the meeting by selecting presents and gave his orders. That night he would never forget; all night he wrestled with the Angel of the Lord. He came out of the struggle with a blessing. Have you ever spent sleepless nights with a troubled mind? Wrestle with God in prayer. You will be blest. Be a "wrestler with God," as Jacob now is called "Israel."

Wednesday, November 14

Genesis 33

God had turned the heart of Esau. Jacob's prayers and time had changed him. It was a peaceful, fine reunion. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God." So let us never carry old grudges, but make and keep peace. How sad if relatives carry grudges for years, yes, even for life! Whoever has found peace with God through faith in Christ, will live peacefully with his neighbor. Whoever will keep hatred, will not have peace.

Thursday, November 15

Genesis 35

Jacob had many sorrows. In the foregoing chapter we can read how two of his sons had taken the law into their own hands and had killed several men who had wanted Jacob's daughter Dinah to marry one of them. Jacob went to Bethel, erected an altar and sacrificed to God, seeking mercy and forgiveness. We hear

in this chapter the sad story how Rachel, giving birth to Benjamin, died; and lastly, how also Isaac, Jacob's father, died. Surely Jacob was troubled. But he did what we must do in trouble: Go to God; confess our sins; seek and get forgiveness and comfort. How sad if people forget that with God is help and hope and comfort!

Friday, November 16

Genesis 37:1-22

Joseph and Benjamin were Jacob's dearest sons; they were Rachel's children, and she was gone now. There is a great difference among children, and parents naturally feel more kind toward those that behave. Some of Jacob's sons were bad. Joseph, openhearted, told them his thoughts and the wonderful dreams he had; they hated him for it, though God had shown in them what was to happen in their lives and in his. Parents, do not show preference for some children; correct wrongs, condemn faults, but be impartial. We need wisdom from God to do right by our children.

Saturday, November 17

Genesis 37:23-36

This is one of the saddest stories of the Bible, how the brethren of Joseph sold Joseph into slavery for twenty pieces of silver, the price of a young slave. They almost had killed him, but Reuben, the oldest and responsible to the old father, had moved them to throw him into a pit in order to set him free later. How bad can brothers be! Where there is no faith there is no love, but hatred. There was no love for their father either. Yet God's hand led even this evil to produce good; He does not want evil, but His power

can change it for good. Hatred leads to murder, lies, and misery. Juvenile delinquency nowadays calls for a return to the old ways when parents took religion seriously; nowadays it is forgotten. Parents, be wise!

Sunday, November 18
25th Sunday after Trinity
Genesis 39

God forgot not Joseph; in Egypt he soon was a trusted servant unto Potiphar. He was a handsome young man, and the unfaithful wife of Potiphar wanted him. But rather than sin against God and his master, he refused her and was cast into prison. In all this he lost not his faith in God. The lesson of purity is sadly needed in the world now; filthiness, unfaithfulness, and shameful sickness increase. God, protect our young men and women! Young men and women! Use God's Word, pray, keep from laziness, avoid the places of temptation; that is the way to escape.

Monday, November 19
Genesis 40

God does not forget His own. Joseph soon became a trusted and respected and beloved prisoner and was in charge of the prison. He did not try to escape. Faithfully he served. In due time God helped him. God revealed to Joseph the meaning of the dreams of the baker and of the butler, who had been in charge of the king's beverages. As Joseph had explained the dreams, so it happened. But the butler forgot his promise to help Joseph become free. Men forget their promises; but God does not. In trouble don't give up your faith.

Tuesday, November 20
Genesis 41:1-36

We now in the New Testament have the Bible in which God has told us all we have to know. In the Old Testament God spoke through prophets who got direct messages from God and sometimes through dreams. Pharaoh had some dreams that troubled him; then the butler remembered how Joseph had explained his dream and told Pharaoh. Pharaoh not only expected the explanation but also what the dream had been which he had forgotten. God revealed it and the meaning to Joseph. We nowadays do not need dreams; we have God's directions in the Bible; but if God has a special message for you, He can give you that in some way, and you will know what He wants.

Wednesday, November 21
Genesis 41:37-57

And so, after about 13 years in prison Joseph became free and was made premier, or ruler, over Egypt. What a change! God had raised him, and the poor Hebrew slave was a mighty ruler. It is not hard for God to bring down the haughty and to raise the humble, faithful children of men to places of honor. God had had His plans, and through sorrow and tears He brought Joseph to become the instrument of blessing to a mighty nation and all the country round about. Lord, do with our lives what You want; we know You lead us right!

Thursday, November 22
Thanksgiving Day
Genesis 42

When we look at our own life, we will also find reason for constant

thanksgiving as Joseph undoubtedly was very thankful. And so were Joseph's father and brothers; for the famine was bad, and in Egypt there was bread for them. So the brothers came and got bread, though Joseph, who knew them, arranged things so that one of them remained and so made sure they would come back. He wanted them back and see Benjamin and his father. He heard how they now remembered their sin against Joseph and were sorry. There were no thoughts of revenge in his heart. A Christian will not avenge himself. He will forgive as God has forgiven him for Jesus' sake. Oh, that all men had the spirit of Joseph!

Friday, November 23

Genesis 43

The brothers undoubtedly dreaded the trip back to Egypt. But they needed bread; so they would go, but not without Benjamin, and Judah went good for his return. Imagine Jacob's feeling! But he had to give in. And Joseph gave them hard hours; for they needed a hard lesson. When we have sinned, we must feel the terror and anger of God and become real small and humble. Godly sorrow is not to be repented of; it is wholesome, but it grinds us into nothing; then God can raise us up, and He will do so.

Saturday, November 24

Genesis 44

So many things the brothers of Joseph wondered about on that visit. How did the people know them and who was the oldest, etc.? Then came the hardest part when Benjamin was to be taken back and become a slave. Here they were in their final test.

And we see Judah speaking up and offering himself for Benjamin. How differently they spoke from the time they sold Joseph! Judah, Jesus' forefather, is a type of Jesus. Jesus offered Himself as the Substitute for you and saved us from the slavery of the devil and the pain of hell. Thanks be to Him!

Sunday, November 25

26th Sunday after Trinity

Genesis 45

This is the last Sunday in the church year. Now comes the new church year with Advent and another year of grace.—In today's chapter we see the climax of the story of Joseph: his big heart which forgives his brothers their guilt and does good for evil. These chapters of Genesis are some of the most thrilling and touching of the whole Bible. The brothers could hardly believe that this grand man was their brother. But he assured them. No doubt each of them in his heart humbled himself before God and acknowledged himself a sinner but praised God, who brings even evil to serve for our good. Let us likewise praise God for His mercy in forgiving us our trespasses.

Monday, November 26

Genesis 46

And now what a homecoming there was! How Jacob's heart must have welled up with thanksgiving that after the years of sorrow and tears now all things were changing into peace and joy! So God does in our lives, if we are faithful to Him; at last we will all say: "He has done all things well!" Joseph provided for his brothers and his father, and they came to Egypt to live in the best part of the land.

Tuesday, November 27

Genesis 47

The famine was so severe and lasted so long that practically all of Egypt — money, cattle, herds, and the land — came into Pharaoh's possession; for the people gave those things up in exchange for bread, much like our Government through loans on the crops obtained huge stockpiles of foodstuffs and even lands. But God had through Joseph provided in the seven years of plenty for the seven lean years. He will provide; but we should in times of plenty learn to lay by for leaner years. Joseph had thus become a great and wise ruler who took care also of his father and brethren. Children should not cast off the parents when they are old, but provide for them, as the parents took care of them in the time of youth. That is God's will.

Wednesday, November 28

Genesis 48

Jacob's days came to a close. He was sick. Joseph with his sons visited him, and Jacob blessed the sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, and their descendants became two tribes of the Children of Israel. When later under Joshua the promised land of Canaan was divided, Joseph's name was not mentioned, but Ephraim and Manasseh received his inheritance. Their mother was not a Hebrew; but Joseph undoubtedly had preserved in his home a pious spirit, and his children found themselves at home among God's chosen people. Christians, going to another country, can indeed there preserve and build their church, even as our Lutheran Church, coming to America, has taken into its midst so many that

were not of this faith, but have become great towers of strength in the Lutheran Church.

Thursday, November 29

Genesis 49

The dying father called his children and blessed them, giving them final words of advice and well-wishes. Among these words those to Judah stand out: the coming of Shiloh, the Savior, from Judah's line. We see Jacob's eye was fixed upon the hope of the world, the Messiah. And Joseph's blessing is worthy to be remembered: a fruitful bough; his hands strengthened by the hand of the mighty God! When Christian parents approach their end, they will bless their children and will give the words of wise counsel to them to be faithful unto their Lord. Let us value our parents.

Friday, November 30

Genesis 50

Jacob, the cross-bearer whose crosses were often the result of his own weaknesses and sins, but who held his eyes fixed on the Lord, now goes to his rest and is buried with great honor by Joseph and his brothers and the whole country of Egypt. But he wanted to be buried among his fathers in the cave of Machpelah, where Abraham and the others lay. And Joseph gave orders for the Hebrews, when they went home someday, to take his bones along; and this was done. He had held to the worship of God even in the glories of Egyptian royalty. The requests of Jacob and Joseph show their faith in the God of Abraham and Isaac, and their trust in the coming Messiah. Let us likewise keep our eyes focused upon our Canaan, the Promised Land above.



Know Your Bible

The Book of Proverbs

This collection of wise sayings is ascribed to "King Solomon." He was the son of King David and ruled the Hebrew nation about 1,000 years before Christ. He was a wise man, a poet and philosopher. 1 Kings 4:32 we are told that he wrote 1,005 songs and 3,000 proverbs. In chapter 25:1 we read that "the men of Hezekiah copied out" some proverbs of Solomon; Hezekiah lived about 700 B.C., and these "men" were probably prophets of that time; Isaiah, Hosea, and Micah lived at that time and may have been some of these "men of Hezekiah." A collection of Solomon's other proverbs was compiled by them. Agur is mentioned in chapter 30 as its writer; but these men evidently reported the wise sayings of Solomon. "King Lemuel," chapter 31, is probably another name for Solomon, as many believe.

The book is a wonderful book of rules of conduct. One hears in it the voice of experience which admonishes us to be wise and not foolish.

In the opening verses of the first chapter the fear of the Lord is emphasized as the foundation of wisdom. The people of God of the Old Testament always were reminded of the Lord, the Maker of all things, and they were always told of the Messiah, who would restore what sin had made bad.

While it is true that we do not find in these chapters the way to

repentance and faith outlined, we must remember that these words were written for children of God, and these children of God are given wise rules of life, which have been found by experience to be good counsel for anyone and in any walk of life. Many a familiar saying has its counterpart in Proverbs.

In the section chapters 1—9 we are told how to become wise, what hinders wisdom, and how excellent wisdom is. In the main section of Proverbs, chapter 10—24, the sayings usually contrast the wise and the foolish thing, the right and the wrong thing, the friendly and the hostile thing, the wisdom of being moderate and temperate and the foolishness and harmfulness of being intemperate.

The most beautiful description of a good wife and excellent woman is chapter 31:10-31. It is a wonderful acrostic in the original Hebrew, each verse beginning with the letters of the Hebrew alphabet in order, and is considered one of the finest sections of the literature of the world.

You cannot read these chapters rapidly. Read the verses slowly, thinking about the meaning of each; and as you will read with thoughtfulness you will constantly say to yourself: "That's right! That's true! That's wise to do!"