

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 49

MAY 1957

Number 5



This is a view of the recently acquired property of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf, St. Louis. The church and parish house stands on the 135- by 115-foot corner lot at Oleatha Avenue and Hereford Street, slightly west of the center of the southern half of the city. The property was purchased for \$20,000 from Unity Congregation of the United Lutheran Church, which erected a new edifice. Holy Cross hopes in some years to replace this frame church with a new building. This church seats 140 people, and there are rooms for Sunday school and social activities

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Minister of the Deaf and the Blind

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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

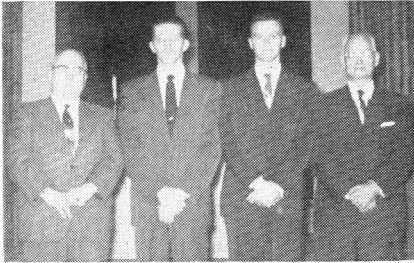
Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis 18, Mo. Subscription price, 50 cents per annum anywhere in the world, payable strictly in advance. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of 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, 307 Huntington, Boston 15, Mass.



Field gleanings

Jacksonville, Ill. — The willing servants from Concordia Seminary who come every Sunday to teach in the Sunday school bring other members of the sign language class

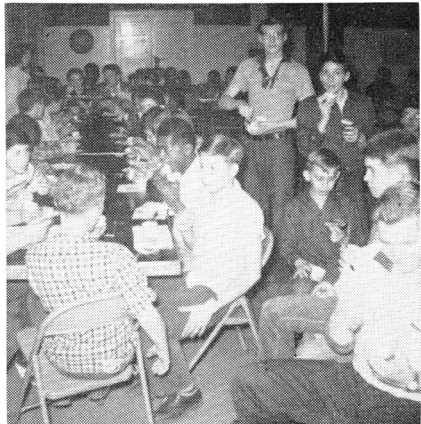


1957 Officers of Christ Church,
Jacksonville, Ill.

L. to r.: A. Buettner, Vice-President; Rev. Thies, Secretary; Cl. Broecker, President; Parke Moses, Treasurer

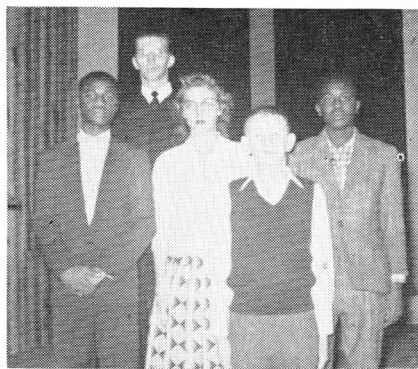
of the seminary along who render songs in the services. The Ladies' Auxiliary has organized a choir also to render hymns. — Recently a two-page spread in the Central Illinois District Edition of the *Lutheran Witness* gave a report on the erection and cost of the chapel (cost \$100,000) and thanked all that helped. This material was sent to every Lutheran pastor of our Synod in Illinois for display on the bulletin boards in order to thank the many from the other Illinois Districts that helped in the project. Several matters, originally not provided, such as a bulletin board and additional bedrooms upstairs in the parsonage, leave the little congregation with an indebtedness of about \$5,000. — Officers of the church in 1957 are Cl. Broecker, president; A. Buettner, vice-president; Parke

Moses, treasurer; R. Hurford, trustee; Pastor Thies, secretary. The officers of the Ladies' Auxiliary are Mrs. Robert Bowman, president; Mrs. A. Buettner, vice-president; Mrs. John Houser, treasurer-secretary. — **Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Biggs** of Mattoon recently escaped serious injury when a train hit their car and pushed it for fifty feet along the track. Surely the angel of the Lord was on the job there. Do we realize that? The Lord is kind. — Christ Auxiliary is saving used stamps for Missions. Thousands of dollars have been gathered over the years by thoughtful friends of missions for the Lutheran Hour and other good causes; \$16,000 was invested in 1956 that was gained through saving used stamps. — **Mr. Lloyd Bowman**, long a patient at a hospital in Jacksonville, passed away February 13 and was buried February 15. He was deaf and



Celebrating Pastor Thies's Birthday

blind. — Our group had a pancake supper on February 9 which was a great success, and there was a nice celebration of Pastor Thies's birthday on March 13, for which over one hundred children of the School for the Deaf and adult Deaf attended. He was presented with nice gifts. — Six Sunday school helpers come from Springfield every Sunday to teach the children. — The last Sunday of each month the Auxiliary members arrange a potluck dinner for members, friends, and the Springfield people that help us in the Sunday School. — Four more children of the School for the Deaf were baptized recently. These are **Darlene Allison, Lonnie Hughes, T. Smith, and L. Young.** May God keep them in His grace. — Pastor Thies was guest missionary Febru-



Baptized at Jacksonville, Ill., by Pastor Thies, l. to r.: L. Hughes, D. Allison, T. Smith, L. Young

ary 24—28 at Indianapolis in the Preaching-Teaching-Reaching Week there. Mr. Broecker conducted the I. S. D. classes on the Thursday of that week for him.

Peoria, Ill. — On December 9 **Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ritter** received Holy Baptism in the service conducted by Pastor Thies. May the Lord hold His hand over them con-



Displaying Certificates of Baptism
Mr. and Mrs. Rob. Ritter, Peoria,
with Pastor Thies

tinually. — The group in Peoria is served every second Sunday of the month when the pastor, coming from Jacksonville after the morning service and Sunday school first goes to Bloomington for services at 2 P. M. and then conducts the Peoria service at 4:30. Both groups are faithful students of God's Word.

Chicago. — **Mrs. Milton Moskow**, one of the deaf-blind friends of Pastor O. C. Schroeder whom he regularly visits, suffered a stroke recently and is confined at Cook County Hospital. He reports that many Deaf have visited her, and she thanks them. Rev. Schroeder, who has for many years now served many Deaf in northern Indiana, especially in places not so easily served by the pastors to the Deaf, recently visited Kokomo again, and about thirty Deaf attended a service he held there in a room of the Silent Club. He missed a number of the old faces, for they have been called from this world. **David L. Grammer**

and **Ronnie J. Rice** were brought to Jesus in Holy Baptism by him. May God keep them in His grace unto everlasting life. — **Regina Monika Horn**, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Horn, was baptized into the Christian faith on December 30, 1956. The family recently moved into the Chicago area from Germany.

Henry John Dykhuisen was received into the Christian fellowship of our congregation at this time also. We pray that he may be richly blessed spiritually in his association with us. **Nels Nelson** of Elgin died at the age of 74 years. He was a lifelong resident of that city, working as a shoe repairman. His sister, Carrie, also deaf, with whom he made his home, and two brothers, John of Elgin and Alfred of Los Angeles, Calif., survive. Both Nels and Carrie had been faithful and regular attendants at our Elgin services. — On January 9 the Lord relieved **Mrs. Hattie M. Heinold** of all her suffering. It was in April of 1947 when she had a serious fall and sustained grave internal injuries. For several months after that she was hospitalized in Chicago. In July of that year she was transferred to the hospital in Elgin. Thus she was a bed patient for almost ten years. Often when we visited her to bring her the comfort of God's Word, she would repeat verses of Holy Scripture and Christian hymns to us without mistake. With patience and trust she bore her heavy cross through the years. Now she has entered the rest of the children of God. She was born in Germany, July 28, 1880, and she came to this country in 1891. One sister, Mrs. Frank (Minna) Edson of River Forest, Ill., and one brother, W. H. Stuth of

Louisville, Ky., survive. Our oldest member in Chicago, **Mrs. Mary B. Henning**, is mostly confined to her home, but she was indeed happy to meet many friends at church re-



Mrs. Mary Henning, Oldest Chicago Member, and Friends

cently, feeling strong enough to be transported here and back to her home again by her pastor. The picture shows her with some of her friends at church. E. S.

Seattle, Wash. — Byron Davis Aker, age 42, the foster son of Rev. and Mrs. Wm. Westermann, died January 20 after suffering for seven years from cancer. Pastor Merz of Holy Cross Lutheran Church conducted the funeral service. Mr. Aker left a wife and one son and one daughter. He was won for Christ years ago by Pastor Westermann.

Baltimore, Md. — Mrs. John Schramm, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schleibohm, on February 10 departed this life, being without a moment's notice swept from this world by a cerebral hemorrhage. She was given Christian burial by Pastor Westermann on February 14. Her father, **Mr. Henry Schleibohm**, has now been very ill for three years and could not attend her funeral. Let us always be ready for the final summons. But how

wonderful it is if the Christian, ready, in an instant is granted his transfer from his congregation on earth to the All-Saints Church in heaven!

Minneapolis, Minn. — On February 10 **August Roy Walter Klein**, the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Klein, was laid into the arms of Jesus in Holy Baptism, Dr. J. L. Salvner performing the rite at Grace Lutheran Church. **Mrs. Bette Saterlund** was received into membership by confirmation. She confessed her faith at her home in the presence of Mrs. Hans Saterlund, Mrs. Anna Coffman, and Mrs. Roy Klein. May God keep these His children in faith until death. **MRS. H. HAGEL**

St. Louis, Mo. — On January 27 **Billie Ruth Perkins** and **Mrs. Jack Goff** were added to the list of members by confirmation; **Miss Ruby Burton** was also to be confirmed at that service, but had to go to the hospital two days before for an appendectomy. May God keep these new members in faith. — The dedication of our recently bought church was held February 17. Rev. E. Mappes and Dr. Herman Mayer, Executive Secretary of Missions, were the preachers in the two services of the day, which were attended by 144 and 110 people. Very much work was done by the members in a few days so that the dedication could be held sooner than had been expected. The congregation is very happy to have its own house of worship again after having worshiped as guests in churches of sister congregations for many years.

Indianapolis, Ind. — On January 27 Mr. Wm. Ludwig of Concordia Theological Seminary of Springfield, visiting here during the semester recess, preached for us. —

Mr. Wm. Gerber, who had been confined to his home on account of age and weakness, died January 19. — On January 26, **Miss Lillian Jourdan** and **Mr. Earl Stigers** of Lafayette were united in holy matrimony. — On March 10 the two children of Mr. and Mrs. Walton Jones were baptized. — The P-T-R Week of Evangelism was held Feb-



Vicar E. J. Thaler and Indianapolis Deaf

ruary 24—28. Rev. Delb. Thies of Jacksonville, Ill., was our guest preacher. Services were held every evening, and teams of our members made daily visits to prospects. A result of the effort is a better church attendance since that time here in Indianapolis. Our meetings at Evansville, Columbus, and Alexandria have been very gratifying also. The 1957 officers of Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Indianapolis are: **Harold Wood**, president; **William Bearhope**, vice-president; **Raymond Clemens**, treasurer; **Diane Foster**, secretary. The Evansville Deaf congregation elected the following: **Oscar Fields**, president; **Joseph McGrew**, vice-president; **Elsie McGrew**, treasurer; **Jane Elliott**, secretary; **Claude Meyer**, **Orval Elliott**, **William Pennell**, trustees.

Columbus, Ohio. — Recent baptisms were: At Cincinnati, January 13, **Linda Sue Burnside**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Burnside

of Detroit; at Dayton, Ohio, March 17, **Ricky Steven Gray**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Gray; at Columbus, March 24, **Tina Dawn Maurer**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Maurer. — **Mr. J. Lemley**, who has been studying the Christian doctrine, was received as a member by Holy Baptism at Columbus on March 31. May God preserve these new members graciously in faith. — On March 2 **Mrs. Herbert Drachenberg** was given a surprise baby shower at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Baker. **Mr. Baker** has been busy completing the third-floor rooms of the parsonage, which have not been readied for occupancy hitherto. — Concordia Lutheran Church of Cincinnati, where our services for the Deaf are held, invited Pastor Drachenberg to be its mission-festival preacher on May 12.

Spokane, Wash. — The summer conferences will soon be upon us. The Montana Lutheran Conference will meet at Billings June 23. — At Spokane on February 17 **Karen Lynn Wageman** and **Mrs. Alex Schierman** were baptized, and **Mrs. Charles Howell** was confirmed. "The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved," Acts 2: 47. — The groups at Lewistown and Billings remembered Pastor Hauptman's birthday with surprise parties on his February trip.

New York. — **Dorothy Rose Sampson** of Manhattan became a member of St. Mark's Lutheran Church of Deaf by confirmation, and **Mrs. Elizabeth Halligan** and **Mr. Charles Rancke** were confirmed at St. Matthew's on March 10. May God's blessing rest on all these new members of the New York churches for the Deaf. Pastors Hausmann, Simon,

and Gerhold need no longer go to Boston, Worcester, Portland, and Bangor since Pastor Uhlig took over there in February. Pastor Uhlig preached at St. Matthew's, New York, and at Hempstead February 17 while en route from Jackson, Miss., to Boston. Pastor Hausmann, who serves the Springfield, Mass., Deaf, has been granted the use of the chapel of the American School for the Deaf. Bethany Lutheran at Hartford, where the services formerly were held, is constructing the superstructure of their church.

Madison, Wis. — The following children were baptized: At Menasha, **Wanda Reene**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter **Dawe**, and **Steven Gerald**, son of Mr. and Mrs. Erwin **Korth**, October 13; at Beloit, **Stevie Paul**, son of Mr. and Mrs. John **Matthews**, on December 16; at Sheboygan, **Robert John**, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louis J. **Dumovich**, December 23; may the Good Shepherd bless and keep His lambs. At Madison, November 24, **Miss Shirley Tupper** of Madison and **Mr. Lee Nelson** of Racine were married and are living at Racine. — The church work in this field has been going on steadily but quietly; the reports for the year 1956 showed gratifying progress everywhere, thanks to the good Lord.

Memphis, Tenn. — The group of Deaf of Birmingham, Ala., has moved to a larger room after outgrowing the small classroom where at first the meetings were held. That is part of what the Lord means when He said that we should grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Such growth comes from the study of God's Word, and when outward growth also is no-

ticed, that is cause for rejoicing.—The 1957 officers of Grace Lutheran Church of Deaf of Memphis are: **Russell Bowen**, president; **Houston Myers**, vice-president; **Herman Graef**, secretary; **Chester Correll**, treasurer; **Ralph Davis** and **Chester Correll**, elders. Peace Lutheran elected the following: **Lawrence Fields**, president; **Billy Fitzgerald**, vice-president; **Charley Smith**, secretary-treasurer; **Fields** and **Fitzgerald**, elders; **Oma Presley** and **James Allen**, ushers.

Pittsburgh, Pa. — Mr. and Mrs. James Paul of New Kensington had prepared themselves for church membership by studying the doctrines of the Bible according to a course of study that Rev. Stacy, now in Des Moines, had prepared. They were ready for their decision to become affiliated with the Lutheran Church upon completion of their study last month, when Mrs. Paul was forced to undergo surgery at Allegheny Valley Hospital, which postponed the formality of joining for a little while. But the study had made her trip to the hospital much easier; for by becoming better acquainted with God through the study of His Word and especially by the study of God's marvelous love as shown in His plan of salvation of man, one gets that peace which the world can neither give nor take away and which upholds one at all times. God bless these new members and keep them in His love. Pastor Hoemann conducts a class of young people every Monday afternoon at Pittsburgh. Sometimes people hesitate to come to such meetings where the instruction in God's Word is systematically carried on over a period of months, because

they are afraid or ashamed to be classified as learners; but such meetings are quiet, helpful times where they can hear these interesting matters clearly explained and speak their own minds. Thus they grow in grace and become strong and intelligent Christians.

Omaha, Nebr.—During January Pastor Mappes had two sieges of illness, which kept him from meeting his out-of-town preaching engagements in the field. Mr. Charles Doering and Mrs. Mappes helped with the school classes during the height of the illness, which was caused by an infection in the face. Pastor Mappes has missed very few dates in his extensive territory which he so ably has served for many years. Do the members of any field realize what it means to arrange for so many services and meetings and instruction periods and to meet these appointments month after month? Often people stay away at the least or the very slightest interference, or for no reason at all, from the meetings; but they little think of the grind and effort the pastors have to meet all engagements. At the bottom of all is this question of Jesus: "Do you love Me?" The love of Christ constrained, urged, Paul to go, tired but untiring, on his hard journeys; and that love moves the pastors and should move the members to faithfulness and loyalty.—Peace Congregation of Sioux City elected for 1957 the following officers: **Aug. J. Mueller**, president; **Arthur Keller**, secretary; **Robert Dunnington**, treasurer; **James Mount** and **Edward Humphreys**, elders; **Donald Haines** and **Floyd Norris**, auditors.—On March 3, when Pastor Mappes was in Saint

Louis to preach at the dedication of the newly purchased church property of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Student Gail Rabe of Bethany Church conducted the services in Omaha, Mr. H. Christian, principal of the Omaha School, interpreting the service.

Miami, Fla. — February 25 was an important day for **Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Trainor** and their son **Mark** of Holly Hill, Fla. Mark was baptized, and the parents became members of the Lutheran Church. While such a matter may not seem very important to some, let us think of another side: It is a day in life when we take a stand for Christ by becoming affili-

ated with His church; and for Mark it was a big day; little does a little child realize what Baptism means; but Jesus says: "Rejoice that your names are written in heaven," and just that is what Holy Baptism does for little children. — Deaf Zion Church celebrated the dedication of its chapel March 3 and 10. The chapel is a wing of Bay Shore Lutheran Church, 5051 Biscayne Boulevard, and seats 47 people. Bay Shore's pastor is Rev. Eugene Krug, who served Deaf when at Wabash, Ind. Five years ago, Ash Wednesday 1952, Rev. Gyle held his first service at the Bay Shore church. Weekly services are held in Miami.



Devotions

The devotions on the Epistle to the Galatians and the prayer are by Pastor N. P. Uhlig

SUGGESTED USE

1. As you open your Bible, say: "Speak, Lord, Thy servant heareth."
2. Find the place in your Bible, and read the verse or verses. Read slowly, and think what each verse says.
3. Read the explanation under the date. Look up the Bible verses in the devotions as you come to them.
4. Close your devotion with the prayer here given, add what is on your heart, and repeat the Lord's Prayer.

PRAYER

Lord God, heavenly Father, I thank You for the gift of this day. Every day will I praise You, because every morning gives me new strength, and every evening gives me peace and hope through Your patience and mercy, which for Jesus' sake wipes out my sins. In this season, when the new life of spring is seen everywhere in nature, let me walk in newness of life according to Your Commandments, and let me grow in faith and love daily through the study of Your Word. Bless me and my loved ones with protection against the dangers of soul and body which surround us. Bless my family, my church, my pastor, my government. Give strength, zeal, and success to the missionaries of the Gospel in all lands. Let me ever be mindful of the shortness of life; and should my death come soon and suddenly, take me home for the sake of my Savior, in whose name I pray furthermore: Our Father, who art in heaven, etc. Amen.

Wednesday, May 1
Saints Philip and James

Galatians 1:1-5

A Christian Greeting. — The Apostle Paul wrote this Letter to the Christians in Galatia. In it he had to speak very sharply, because they had given way to very bad errors in faith. But he greets them in friendly words and wishes them peace and grace through Christ. When we have hard tasks to do, warning people that have gone wrong, let us do so without unfriendly words, always remembering that Christians make errors. We can still speak plainly and seriously, but should do so in love and not treat them as heathen.

Thursday, May 2

Galatians 1:6-9

Only One Gospel. — Paul goes straight into the important matter and expresses surprise that they had permitted false teachers to turn them away from the true Gospel. There is no other good news, for that is the meaning of "Gospel," namely that man is saved only through the work of Jesus, and anyone, though it may appear that it was an angel from heaven, if he brings another plan of salvation, is wrong and under God's curse. That still holds true today. Man ever invents easier and so-called better ways to heaven, but there is no other way than by grace, for Jesus' sake, through faith.

Friday, May 3

Galatians 1:10-14

Paul's Gospel Is the God-given Gospel. — Paul is not seeking the favor of men, but he fears God. He states very strongly that this doc-

trine, that Jesus died for the sins of the world and that we are saved through faith in Him, does not come from him or from any human mind, but was revealed to him by Christ, who turned Paul from persecuting the believers to a great defender of Jesus and a missionary who gave up honor among the Jews and earthly gain for Jesus. Today men still speak of Pauline doctrine as different from that of Jesus; but even today let us remember that Paul differs not from Jesus and the other Apostles in doctrine.

Saturday, May 4

Galatians 1:15-21

Paul's Message Is Not Hearsay. — Paul says that he did not hear the doctrine he preached from others; he said that he even did not know the other apostles personally or was known by them until he had come back from Arabia, when he met Peter and James and was with them a while. They met him and praised God that Paul had become a defender and soldier of Jesus Christ. To us the entire Bible dare not be just some general book of stories, but the God-given fountain of truth. Let us honor God's Word.

Sunday, May 5

Misericordias Domini

Second Sunday After Easter

John 10:11-16

The Good Shepherd. — Jesus gave His life for us and came back from the grave and ever lives to feed and lead His flock and to protect His sheep from the hellish wolf. And through the preaching of the Gospel He brings other sheep, who are not yet in the fold but already given to Him, having been through the

grace of the Father elected in eternity. Let us ever be led and fed by this Shepherd, who has given us in our pastors faithful undershepherds, through whom He speaks to us in the services in the churches, for He says: "He that hears you, hears Me."

Monday, May 6

Galatians 2:1-5

Standing in Christian Liberty.— There had come to the Galatians false teachers who said that the Old Testament church laws with circumcision and other requirements of the Jewish religion were still in force and had to be kept. Paul tells how he came with Barnabas and Titus, who had not been forced to be circumcised, and how he had stood up for the truth against these false teachers. He had met with the leaders of the church in Jerusalem to bring about an understanding and to report how God's Word had been effective among the heathen to whom he had preached. Let us never give in to error but stand on the truth and for the truth.

Tuesday, May 7

Galatians 2:6-10

Examined and Approved.— Paul had come to Jerusalem to meet them "that seemed to be somewhat" (we would say, them that seemed to be somebody, the leaders), who discussed matters with him. After the discussion they gave one another the hand of fellowship. They agreed that Paul had indeed been called by Jesus to preach to the non-Jews, and Peter was to preach to the Jews. Discussions of doctrine with others are good. For ten years some of our Lutheran leaders have been meeting every summer with other Lutherans in Europe in the cause of

making clear the doctrine. Thereby we bear testimony, and better understanding and unity can result from such discussions.

Wednesday, May 8

Galatians 2:11-14

Correcting Erring Brethren.— Paul corrected Peter at Antioch, because Peter, who had been associating with non-Jewish Christians, stopped meeting with them when certain Jews came. He gave offense by that, as he made others believe that the old church laws were still in effect, and he hurt the non-Jewish Christians. Therefore Paul corrected him and showed that he was not doing right. Let us also, when we see believers make mistakes, correct them and show them to do what is right.

Thursday, May 9

Galatians 2:15-21

Justified by Faith in Christ.— Paul here plainly tells that man is not declared good by God because man does good works, but because man accepts Christ as the Savior who kept the Law for us, paid for our sins with His blood, made us perfectly free, and now wants us to live according to God's Law in a new, holy life. Anyone who thinks that he himself must earn heaven with doing good, really says that Christ is not the Savior. V. 16 was a verse that gave Dr. Luther the clear understanding of the way to salvation.—Lord, keep us firm in this faith!

Friday, May 10

Galatians 3:1-5

A Very Important Question.— Paul very strongly tells those people that they really are crucifying Christ

again by believing that people are saved by keeping the Law and that it was necessary to go back to the Old Testament church laws about circumcision and bringing animal sacrifices and keeping the old festivals. "Did God give you the Spirit because you kept the Law, which you did not keep, or did He give the Spirit to you because you heard and believed the Gospel?" The answer is clear.—Lord, make us always realize this great truth.

Saturday, May 11

Galatians 3:6-9

Faithful Abraham.—The Christians in Galatia were Jews who boasted that they were children of Abraham. Paul shows now that Abraham believed God and that this faith made him acceptable to God. And God told Abraham that through his great Descendant, the future Christ, also the non-Jews that believe the Gospel would be saved, and thus all the nations in the world would be blessed through Abraham. All believers in Christ are "children of Abraham," and those that do not believe as Abraham, even if they are Jewish, are not true children of Abraham.—Lord, strengthen our faith!

Sunday, May 12

**Jubilate, Third Sunday After Easter
Mother's Day**

John 16:16-23

Reunited.—In the solemn hours between the institution of the Holy Supper in the Upper Room and His walk to Gethsemane, Jesus in our Gospel Lesson today speaks of the near separation, but also of the reunion that would come soon again. These words of comfort let us often recall to mind in days of sorrow and

trouble; for "I am with you," Jesus says. In the lesson a reference is made to a mother, and today is Mother's Day. Let us today thank God for our mother; and the reunion that Jesus mentions assures all believers also of a reunion before the Throne.

Monday, May 13

Galatians 3:10-14

Christ Removed the Punishment of the Law.—The curse of the Law is the punishment and disgrace that comes from breaking the Law. Among the Jews in the Old Testament criminals worthy of death were killed and then the body hung up until evening. When Christ hung on the tree of the cross, He was our Substitute, and so really every sinner has already been punished in and with Christ's death. Those that accept Him as their Savior live because of their faith; those that do not are still under the curse of the Law.—Thanks, O Lord, for having removed the curse from us!

Tuesday, May 14

Galatians 3:15-18

The Way to Salvation was Fixed Long Before Moses.—God had made a covenant, or contract, or promise, to Abraham when He told him that in Abraham's Son Jesus all would be blessed; and Abraham died believing in, and hoping for, this Son, Jesus. 400 years later God gave the Law to Moses. Did the Unchangeable God make a change now, promising salvation through keeping of the Law? No, giving us the Law through Moses was not meant to fix a new way of salvation; the Law has another purpose, which we shall see tomorrow.—Lord, it is well that You do not change!

Wednesday, May 15

Galatians 3:19-24

The Law's Purpose. — Because the Jews and all people do so many transgressions, God gave the Law to Moses to keep man from great evil works by the threat of hard punishment and to remind man that he is a sinner that needs Christ and to show man what God wants man to do, but not to earn heaven thereby. Now all can know they need Christ; and thus the Law was like a schoolmaster, or teacher, to make man look for the Savior. V. 21 clearly shows that no law can give life eternal. And still so many people think that they will go to heaven because "they have been good." — Lord, open our eyes to see the truth!

Thursday, May 16

Galatians 3:25-29

All Are Children of God Through Faith. — Before Christ, the One-who-must-be-believed, came into this world, all were under the schoolmaster, the Law; but after He came, we were free. By Baptism we were united with Christ and were clothed with the dress of righteousness. All wearing this dress are children of God, be they Jew or non-Jew, Negro or white, rich or poor, slave or free, male or female. — Jesus, Your blood and righteousness are my glorious dress!

Friday, May 17

Galatians 4:1-6

No Minor Children Any More. — Minor children, below legal age, are like servants and have not a free will but must obey the elders. So in the Old Testament all were under many laws. Through Christ we be-

came "of age." Now the "elements of the world," the many church laws, are gone, for Christ fulfilled the Law, and the church laws were just temporary; so they are gone too. Now as full-grown children of God we can go to the Father and speak to Him in Jesus' name as to our Father. — Abba, O my Father, I love You!

Saturday, May 18

Galatians 4:7-11

Don't Wear the Handcuffs Any More; You Are Free! — The many Old Testament church laws, to which the Christians in Galatia wanted to return, were like handcuffs. And Paul says that they should not go back to them. Let us not be led wrong to keep so many man-made rules nowadays, such as Sunday blue laws, prohibition ideas, meatless days, as if such rules were part of Christianity and could make man more acceptable to God. Commandments of men they are, handcuffs. Throw them away. — Jesus, You make us free indeed!

Sunday, May 19

Cantate, Fourth Sunday After Easter

John 16:5-15

The Comforter, the Holy Spirit. — Jesus knew that His death would make His disciples sad; but He tells them that only by going through death would He be able to send them the Holy Spirit. This heavenly Teacher would convince all that their sin is deadly and that Jesus alone gained salvation for us and defeated the devil. This Spirit would be the real Comforter. He would lead them into all truth. The Holy Spirit guided them and made them truthful and reliable leaders. Their

writings are inspired and God has given us His Word through them.

Monday, May 20

Galatians 4:12-20

Paul Said, "Don't Misjudge Me!" — Paul was a sick man when he had come to Galatia; but they had accepted him and would gladly have done anything they could for him. But the false teachers had turned them against him and against Christ's truth. He was afraid for their souls. Let us not turn against faithful pastors and leaders by listening to people that would turn us against them because they dislike their warnings; a pastor must sometimes speak unpleasant truths. — Let Your pastors be faithful, O Lord, and support them when they bravely speak the truth!

Tuesday, May 21

Galatians 4:21-27

Free-born and Slave-born Children. — Abraham's two sons, Ishmael and Isaac, represent two kinds of people. Isaac was born of Abraham's wife, Sarah, through the direct promise of God, when, according to human reason, she was too old to have a child; Ishmael was born from Agar, when Sarah had doubted God's promise of a child and therefore wanted Abraham to get a son from her slave Agar. Man wants to be saved by his works, and Ishmael represents all that want to save themselves; Isaac represents Christians, who know they are saved through Christ according to God's promises. Free-born Christians are free; slave-born self-righteous people are still slaves under the Law. — Lord, thanks for letting us be born again through water and the Spirit.

Wednesday, May 22

Galatians 4:28-31

Who Gets the Inheritance? — Not slaves and servants but the children get the inheritance. Eternal life is given by the Father to His children only, to believers. And if the slave-born despise the Christians and laugh about their faith in Jesus, they will find out some day that Christians were right. — Give us faith, Lord!

Thursday, May 23

Galatians 5:1-10

Stand in Your Liberty! — Paul here does not condemn circumcision in itself; he says that whoever insists on circumcision as necessary for salvation because it was demanded in the old church laws, has denied Christ's salvation and has fallen from grace. Faith in Christ, which works by love for God and the neighbor, is the thing, and Christ made us free from the church laws of the Old Testament. So many people who even today think this or that thing must be observed, make the same mistake that the Galatians made. — Lord, You have made us free; keep us in that liberty!

Friday, May 24

Galatians 5:11-15

By Love Serve One Another! — Because God has loved us and Jesus in love freed us, we must love one another, even our enemies. Many times in homes and congregations we see fighting and quarreling. "My brethren, these things ought not so to be." That shows that many church members have not yet fully understood that man by nature is altogether unworthy and only God's grace saved him; therefore they

yield to their natural selfishness and want their will to prevail.—Lord, make us humble and loving!

Saturday, May 25

Galatians 5:16-21

Works of the Flesh.—In a Christian a steady fight goes on and must go on between the Spirit and the flesh, the wicked heart. And the sad thing is that man by nature wants to do the wrong thing. Here is a catalog of openly wrong things; and those who do them “shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” The sins mentioned are the sins of uncleanness, hatred, selfishness, intemperance, and idol worship. And even today these are common. We all need to remind our wicked heart that those who do them cannot inherit the kingdom of God.—Lord, hold us by Your Spirit, and in mercy forgive us!

Sunday, May 26

Rogate, Fifth Sunday After Easter

John 16:23-30

Prayers That God Accepts.—Prayers that are made to self-made gods, be they of wood or stone or only imagined, are not acceptable; they are not addressed to God. Prayers to Mary and any dead people are likewise unheard and forbidden, for “Thou shalt worship the Lord, thy God, and HIM ONLY shalt thou serve.” We must pray in Jesus’ name, in faith that He is our Savior, for whose sake God will give us our request. How much foolish jabbering does one not hear!—Lord, teach us to pray, and to pray right!

Monday, May 27

Galatians 5:22-26

Fruits of the Spirit.—To read these verses, 22-26, is like going

through a fine garden of beautiful roses after having gone through a city dump, as the sins mentioned in verses 20 and 21 make us shudder. The fruits of the Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faith, self-control. Those that have crucified their flesh and fight it daily produce such fruits as they walk in the Spirit and love God and their neighbor. May God through His Spirit produce such fruits in us!

Tuesday, May 28

Galatians 6:1-5

True Brotherly Love.—Everyone will have his burden to bear. But we can and should with an understanding heart help the other fellow with his. He has the same wicked heart that we have; so let’s keep that in mind and help him by kind correction to overcome his fault and to assist him with all burdens, be they personal problems of the soul or social or even financial. That’s the law of Christ, who bore our burden. And remain humble always and never proud.—Lord, give us that spirit of brotherly love!

Wednesday, May 29

Galatians 6:6-10

Sowing to the Spirit.—Think of the fruits of the Spirit always, and produce them. But they spring from the seed of God’s Word, which the Holy Spirit had the holy men of God write down for us. This presupposes daily thoughtful study of God’s Word. Then we shall reap such fruits. Paul mentions also that we must share our earthly blessings with those that teach us; let us not forget our church contributions, but show kindnesses to our pastors and teachers and those in suffering and

sorrow, especially if they are our fellow members of church and Synod. All such deeds are remembered by God and rewarded. — Lord, You gave us all that we have; help us to share it with others.

Thursday, May 30

Ascension Day, Memorial Day

Mark 16:14-20

The King Enthroned. — Ascension Day is often forgotten by people. If Christ does not mean much to them, what happened to Him will interest them little. But let us remember that it was like coronation day for Him. His work was done; His enemies were defeated; the world was made free. Now He sits also according to His human nature as the Ruler, the Protector, the King, at the right hand of honor, equal with the Father, in full use of His powers. And with Him are the holy angels and those that in faith died. There already are those loved ones at whose graves we stand on Memorial Day. They see Him in His glory. — Lord, King Eternal, let us see You with the eyes of faith now and take us home when our hour comes!

Friday, May 31

Galatians 6:11-18

Farewell! — Paul, who had to speak sharp words to the Christians in Galatia — and to us! — bids them farewell now. He is thought to have had an eye ailment; he reminds them that he wrote them this Epistle with his own hand; it was too important to dictate it to his helper. He urges them not to try to escape persecution from the enemies by being circumcised; it seems that was one reason why some had it done, as they did not want to suffer. He

bore the “marks of the Lord Jesus” in his body, the many scars he had suffered for Jesus. Those are marks of distinction and glory, which many martyrs had and which even today our missionaries and Christians in China and Europe endure. He bids them and us peace and grace in Jesus. — O Prince of Peace, grant us Your peace. Amen.

Bible Quiz

For what among the early Christians were the Christians in the city of Rome famous? Romans 1:8.

What did the Jewish people never expect from Galilee? John 7:52.

What do people reap that plow iniquity and sow wickedness? Job 4:8.

How did God tell Daniel that the dead shall rise the Last Day and that Daniel would be in heaven? Daniel 12:2 and 13.

What kind of things should Titus and all true preachers of Jesus speak? Titus 2:1.

What did Paul's friends say when they urged him not to go to Jerusalem but could not change his mind? Acts 21:14.

What was the usual number of strokes of the whip when a person was punished by a beating? 2 Corinthians 11:24

What is the best way to make a child remember a lesson or a truth? Isaiah 28:10

At what age in a person's life does a person learn things most easily? Isaiah 28:9

How can we get the Holy Spirit? Luke 11:13