

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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Number 7



God, Bless Our Native Land!



God, bless our native land!
Firm may she ever stand
Through storm and night!
When the wild tempests rave,
Ruler of wind and wave,
Do Thou our country save
By Thy great might!

For her our prayer shall rise
To God above the skies;
On Him we wait.
Thou who art ever nigh,
Guarding with watchful eye,
To Thee aloud we cry,
God, save the state!

John S. Dwight

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These ministers preach in more than 275 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at over 50 city and state schools for the Deaf. You will find them ready to serve you; call upon them or write to them. The Deaf need God's Word.

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

Official Paper of Lutheran Churches of the Deaf

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Personnel Changes

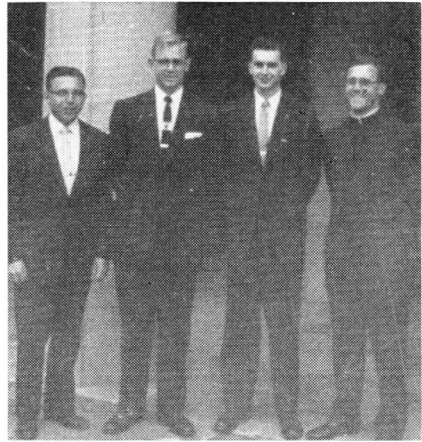
Losses

As reported before, the Mission to the Deaf lost the services at Minneapolis of **Rev. Clarence Bremer**, who after recovering from a breakdown assumed charge of two hearing congregations at Dumont, Minn.; **Rev. Don. Boerner**, because of a breakdown left the New England field and is now with the active ministry; **Rev. Richard Borchers** accepted a call from hearing churches and is now serving at Hegewisch and Jeffry Manor on the South Side of Chicago. **Pastor N. P. Uhlig** re-



Rev. N. P. Uhlig

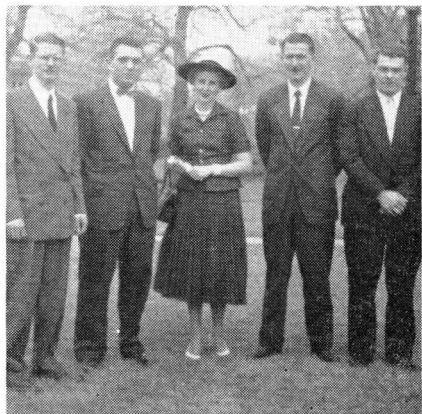
linquished the Central Illinois field last July but served as missionary at large, first at Indianapolis, then in the Southern Dixie area at Jackson, Miss., and since February in the New England field. He now retires from active field duty, but will continue to serve as editor of the **DEAF LUTHERAN**. He will make his home at present with his son, Rev. Walter Uhlig, at Pleasant Plains, Ill., about thirty miles from Jacksonsville and not far from Springfield. He felt that the strain of work with failing eyesight does not permit him



New Workers for the Mission

These four of our five new workers are from the St. Louis seminary. Left to right: Cand. Wayne Bottlinger for Memphis; Vicar Rodney Rynearson for Chicago; Vicar Louis Jasper for Boston; Cand. Gene Merrell for Indianapolis

to do justice to a field. During the 48 years of his ministry he served a total of 25 years in the Mission to the Deaf and 23 years in hearing churches where, however, he always served the Deaf of the vicinity. He was happy to return to the exclusive service of the Deaf and to preach to the small groups,—often



Springfield Seminary Helpers in Jacksonville Sunday School: (l. to r.) Wm. Ludwig, (see page 101), Herbert Schwandt, Mrs. Audrie Avery, Leroy Mason, Earl J. Thaler

only two or three in the service — not minding at all to leave in 1938 his last hearing charge at Shawano, Wis., at that time numbering almost 1,800 communicant members and now one of the largest congregations in the Missouri Synod with three pastors and more than 3,000 communicant members. Souls are souls, and to preach to small groups of two and three or to large groups of hundreds and thousands is all the same; in fact the care of the souls of hundreds and thousands is such a heavy load which he was glad to leave after eleven years of service at that place. Having served small and large hearing churches and small and large Deaf parishes, he states that in every place he was constantly busy, and if people think that a Deaf parish, with its members scattered over an area of 100,000 to 200,000 square miles is a simple task where the pastor has to preach ten or twelve times in order to preach once to every member, then such people just do not know how tired and very lonely and discouraged a pastor serving such fields often is.

But thank God that the Mission to Deaf has obtained five workers when the Board of Assignment of Calls met.

Replacements

Candidate Wayne C. Bottlinger

He has been assigned to Memphis, Tenn., which field last year was served by **Vicar Herman Graef**, who now will return to St. Louis to complete his studies and will graduate next year. Candidate Bottlinger, whose home is in Hamilton, Tex., studied at Concordia Junior College at Austin, Tex., at St. John's College, Winfield, Kans., and at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he grad-

uated June 4. His vicarage he spent in the Oklahoma and Indiana fields in Deaf work. He was married June 16 to **Miss Bernice Shedeck**, a member of the Lutheran Deaf Congregation of Oklahoma City.

Candidate Gene E. Merrell

A native of St. Louis, he will serve the Indiana field. A graduate of Lutheran High School, St. Louis, and St. John's College of Winfield, Kans., and the St. Louis Concordia Seminary, class of '57, he vicared two years in Mexico City, Mexico, and held summer vicarages at Bethesda Home, Watertown, Wis., and in Glacier Park, Mont. He will be married August 4 at Villard, Minn., to **Deaconess Mary Elizabeth Andert**, a graduate of Valparaiso University who served as deaconess at the State Home for Feeble-minded at Grafton, N. Dak., and as parish deaconess in Grosse Pointe, Mich. Candidate Merrell will spend some time at Minneapolis with Dr. Salvner and will take up his work in Indiana the latter part of August. The Indiana field is at present being well served by **Vicar Earl Thaler**, who will return to Concordia Seminary at Springfield to complete his theological studies, graduating God willing, next June.

Vicar Louis R. Jasper

Vicar Jasper, whose home is at Bethpage, Long Island, N. Y., has been assigned to serve his vicarage year at Boston, taking care of the New England field, orphaned by the resignation of Rev. Boerner and served by Rev. N. P. Uhlig. He took up the work at Boston June 7. He is a graduate of Concordia College Institute, Bronxville, N. Y., and has studied three years at Con-

cordia Seminary, St. Louis. He has been very active in work with the Deaf under Rev. Reinking, also supplying the pulpit for Rev. A. E. Ferber in some of the latter's congregations. He will be united in marriage in August with **Miss Joan Weissbach** of Niagara Falls, Ontario.

Vicar William Ludwig

He is a native of Denver, though his present home town is Omaha, Nebr. Totally deaf, he graduated from the Ev. Lutheran Institute for the Deaf at Detroit, then graduated from Gallaudet College, Washington, D. C., and has been studying at the Springfield Concordia Seminary, where he, despite his hearing handicap, kept apace with the best, being a good lip reader. He has been assigned to work his vicarage in the Twin Cities with Rev. Geo. Kraus, where Dr. Salvner has been helping out since the illness and departure of Rev. Bremer and where the merger of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Deaf congregations, with the re-establishment and organization and building of a new, centrally located church building, and the serving of the Faribault, Minn., Deaf School offers a very big program.

Vicar Rodney R. Ryneason

He is a Nebraskan of Omaha, attended St. John's Lutheran College at Winfield after graduation from high school and has been studying at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, the last three years. His home now is in Denver, Colo. He has been assigned to work in Chicago, taking over the charge left vacant by the resignation of Rev. Rich. Borchers, who went into hearing work. Vicar Rodney will find a big field in Chi-

cago, working particularly with the Negro St. Philip's Congregation, but serving other stations in Michigan and Indiana.

Thus we welcome five new workers. May God grant them zeal and wisdom, courage and patience, for these qualities are definitely much needed in the work with the Deaf. And may God's blessing rest upon the three young brides and their husbands, who are starting their wedded life journey together.

Conference Notices

Ephphatha Conference meets at Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill., July 5—9. A good program, including workshops on Social Work among the Deaf, Evangelism, Signing, and Soul-Keeping, has been arranged.

The Northwest Laymen's Conference will meet at Camp Lutherland, near Tacoma, Wash., July 19—21. Theme, "Fishers of Men." Speaker, Rev. A. J. Jones.

The Address of the Editor now is:

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THOU wilt show me the path of life; in Thy presence is fullness of joy; at Thy right hand there are pleasures forevermore.

Psalms 16:11



Field Gleanings

Calgary, Alta., Can. — On May 4, two of our deaf friends of Calgary were committed to God's acre — "Earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust; in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ." **Mr. Norman McDiarmid Wilson** fell asleep in the Savior's keeping on April 30, and on May 1 **Mr. John Wesley Heron** followed him. Mr. Wilson, who had not been able to come alone to the services, was always taken there by Pastor Robert A. Bauer. In the picture of the Calgary group of Deaf accompanying this article, both of these elderly men are seen at the right side in the front row, Mr. Heron standing next to the taller, Mr. Wilson. — Pastor Bauer con-

ducts services every two weeks in Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, between 8 and 22 Deaf attending. Interest is growing in these services. — One of those who attended our services was Miss **Pauline Gerduckis**, who now is living in Medicine Hat, Alberta. Before she left, she received lovely gifts at a farewell party on April 12. K. R.

Newark, N. J. — "St. Matthew's Church for the Deaf observed the 20th anniversary of its founding with a special service on Sunday afternoon, January 20, 1957. Rev. John R. Weber, pastor of St. Matthew's Church, Newark, which housed the deaf congregation for 14 years, was the preacher. Rev. Paul F. Arndt, pastor of Redeemer Church, New-



Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Deaf Group

ark, which housed the deaf congregation for three years, served as liturgist. The Church for the Deaf has had its own place of worship on Parker Street since September 1952. The first service for the Deaf in Newark was held by Pastor Arthur Boll on January 17, 1937. By June 1940 the congregation numbered ten. September 23, 1949, the congregation incorporated. Rev. Floyd Possehl became the first resident pastor in the summer of 1950. In September 1952 Rev. C. Roland Gerhold became the pastor. The spacious building on Parker Street houses the parsonage, recreational and educational facilities, the Boll Baptistry, and the Key! Chapel. The present membership is 52. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary a painting in the social hall was unveiled by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Rehling, charter members. It is a copy of "Christ and the Little Children" by Endre Komarome-Kazz of Budapest. — Out of Newark Pastor Gerhold serves five other congregations of Deaf — in Camden, Hackensack, Jersey City, Paterson, and Trenton." (*Atlantic District Lutheran Witness*)

Spokane Field. — Faith Lutheran Church of the Deaf at Spokane has accepted the offer of Pilgrim Lutheran Church and now rents the fine brick chapel where for one year the Deaf have held services on a trial basis. Trinity outgrew the structure long ago and now has its new property. This gives the Deaf the exclusive use of the chapel and church office, while the parish-hall facilities will be shared with the hearing congregation. The chapel, having been used as a Sunday school room, will be restored to its original beauty.

The Montana Deaf Conference

met at Billings, Mont., June 23. It began with a picnic lunch at Pioneer Park at noon, and the meetings were held at the fellowship rooms of Trinity Lutheran Church. The conference was well attended, groups coming from various cities of the states and the groups had worked hard, preparing reports, skits, and demonstrations. Chairman of the Montana Conference is Victor Lyon of Bozeman, and Miss Beulah McFarland was in charge of the local arrangements. — A class of children of the Montana School for the Deaf was confirmed May 19 by Pastor Hauptmann at Trinity Lutheran Church, Great



Rev. Hauptmann's Birthday Party

Falls. — In the picture appearing with this article we see Rev. A. L. Hauptmann seated *before* Raymond Johnson, *between* Beulah McFarland (left) and Ingeborg Nerhus and *behind* a big cake that he got when on February 7 the Lewistown Deaf and the next evening the Billings group gave him surprise birthday parties.

Chicago. — The matron of the Illinois Home for the Deaf is leaving

Evanston. Having completed his studies, Rev. Kalbacker, her husband, has accepted a pastorate in Louisville, Ky. She is the granddaughter of the late Rev. Ph. Hasenstab, who served the Deaf of Chicago for 48 years, and the daughter of Mrs. Elms, who is now serving the Deaf.

Mrs. Milton Moskow, a deaf-blind communicant member, who suffered a stroke some months ago, has been restored to health. She can again do her housework, serving her husband and children, who with all her many friends thank God for her recovery. — Another devout Christian friend and mother, **Mrs. Tillie Harmon**, departed this life on May 10 and was given Christian burial on May 13. A large gathering of Deaf and hearing friends attended. When at the age of 17 she came from Norway to Chicago, our first Chicago Lutheran missionaries to the Deaf, Rev. Augustus Reinke, and his son, Rev. Arthur Reinke, served her. She was 86 years old at the time of her death. She is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Grace Wilkening, and a son and a brother. When we asked her a few days before her death if she was worried or afraid, she smiled and said: "No, Jesus is with me; I look to His cross for salvation." "Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord!" O. C. S.

Des Moines, Iowa. — God's Word gains the victory over doubt and distrust and makes hearts willing to confess Christ before men and to join the Christian Church. On April **Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Markle, Mr. Charles Taylor, Mrs. Clem Thompson, and Miss Mayrose** were received by confirmation. **Mrs. Ernst Langenberg and James and Jeffry**

Markle were received by baptism. On May 6 **Mrs. Arnold Olson** was baptized. May God strengthen and keep these Christians in faith. — Church attendance and general interest are good in the various stations of the Des Moines field. It encourages worker and members to see that. L. M. S.

"Monica Gable, who has been totally deaf from infancy and who completed eight grades at the Ev. Lutheran Institute for the Deaf in Detroit, graduated from Fort Wayne South High School for hearing students in June. She understands her friends by reading their lips, and she expects to enter Gallaudet College in Washington, D. C., next fall. She is deeply appreciative of 'the educational and spiritual foundation laid for her in the Ev. Lutheran Institute for the Deaf.'"

From *The Lutheran Layman*

Bible Quiz

Who is like a maul (sledge hammer), sword, and sharp arrow? Proverbs 25:18

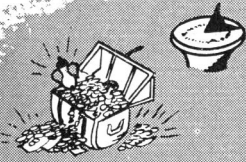
What is required if one would teach, giving spiritual food to Christ's lambs and sheep, the Christians? John 21:16

What is more valuable than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices? Mark 12:33

What will the Deaf hear in the days of the New Testament? Isaiah 29:18

Where can a lazy person, a sluggard, get a needed lesson? Proverbs 6:6

What was the excuse which the lazy man gave for not getting busy with his work? Proverbs 22:13



Stewardship

Are You Risen with Christ?

What a strange question! Yet St. Paul implies this question when he writes to the Christians:

"If ye, then, be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. . . . For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

Colossians 3:1, 3

When it comes to serving God, we should not be too concerned about the letter of the Law. The main question is *not*: "Does God *command* this or that?" but it is this: "Have I risen from sinful works with Christ to a new life with Him? Am I a *new* man in Christ?" You might also ask yourself: "Have I killed my *old* man with his selfish affections and lusts?" Can you say with St. Paul: "I am crucified with Christ"?

When St. Paul saw how selfish his old "I" was and what his "I" had done to the innocent Son of God on the cross, he was struck with terror. The sight of his sin and the terrible price that Christ paid dealt a mortal blow to his old "I." And so he thought, and rightly: "Jesus, You died for me; if that is what sin does to You, I am finished with sin."

Paul did not despair when his old "I" was slain, but he cried out in

victorious faith: "I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." Galatians 2:20.

So when it comes to stewardship, whether it be the stewardship of time, talents, or money, the question is not: "*Must* I do it?" but it is this: "Am I risen with Christ?" And if I am a new man in Christ, I will ask: "Can I do it? and why can't I do it more?" And you will say with St. Paul: "I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me." Philippians 4:13.

Thus when it comes to worship, church, Bible class, giving, witnessing, or just plain everyday labor, we will not say with the old man: "*Must* I do it?" but with joyful spirit: "*Let* me do it, *please*, God, and let me do it more and more."

When your pastor asks you to give a generous part of your income for God's kingdom work, you will not grumble with the old man of sin, but you will think with the Holy Spirit: "How wonderful! Please, God, bless my work and my planning so that I am able, and, dear Savior, give me a thankful heart to do it gladly."

AUGUST L. HAUPTMAN



Devotions

The devotions of the Epistle to the Philippians are by Pastor N. P. Uhlig.

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.

Dr. Luther's Morning Prayer

I thank Thee, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray Thee that Thou wouldst keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please Thee. For into Thy hands I commend [give] myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Dr. Luther's Evening Prayer

I thank Thee, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Thy dear Son, that Thou hast graciously kept me this day; and I pray Thee that Thou wouldst forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong and graciously keep me this night. For into Thy hands I commend [give] myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Thy holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Monday, July 1

Read Philippians 1:1-5

A Joyful Greeting. Paul, speaking for his fellow worker Timothy also, wishes grace and peace to the Philippian Christians. He assures them that he always thanks God very joyfully when he remembers that from the very first they had always shown a great interest in God's Word and kingdom work. Such interest always brings joyous prayers of thanksgiving from pastors and is pleasing to God. But if by lack of interest congregations

make their pastors sigh, that does not please God and is not profitable to those churches. Lord give many pastors the joy of having appreciative congregations.

Tuesday, July 2

Read Philippians 1:6-11

A Pastor's Prayer. The faithful pastor thinks well of his members and prays and works toward the goal that they grow in knowledge and holy life, avoid sin, and bring forth much fruit in doing good. Work and prayer is the minister's

best way to success; and the same holds true of the members; they should also work for Christ and their pastor and pray for him. Lord, make all pastors and congregations eager to pray for each other, and to serve each other to the glory of Thy name.

Wednesday, July 3

Read Philippians 1:12-14

Paul's Imprisonment Helped the Gospel. Paul wrote this letter from Rome, where he was held captive under a guard but had for about two years been living in a rented home. Then he became imprisoned in the palace guardhouse. His life was harder, but more and better attention was given to his preaching, and he had success even among the guards. And let us remember, if he had not been in prison, this and other fine letters would not have been written for the benefit of the world. Lord, bless our troubles for the good of Your Gospel!

Thursday, July 4

Read Philippians 1:15-18

The Main Thing: Preach Christ! Paul and the Gospel got publicity by some that envied Paul and wanted to set people against him; others, friends, spoke up for the Gospel and defended it and Paul. He was happy so long as Christ was preached. Without a doubt, even when some men do not preach Christ for right reasons, some good is done if the truths of sin and salvation are proclaimed and given publicity. The seed of God's Word may find good soil and bring fruit. Holy Spirit, work in many by the Gospel, and bless the work of all that preach Christ!

Friday, July 5

Read Philippians 1:19-21

All Things Work Together for Good. Paul trusted that "this", meaning his hardship and prison, would work together for his good and final salvation and for Christ's glory. He knew he might be executed, as he later was, but living or dying made no difference to him so long as Christ was glorified. What a faith! Are we ready to say this? Could we see ourselves killed for Christ and be happy about that? O Lord, make us ready to suffer even death for You, as we promised at our confirmation.

Saturday, July 6

Read Philippians 1:22-26

A Hard Choice. Paul knew that through preaching Christ, even at the cost of personal hardships, he was doing good and therefore was willing to go through suffering and stay alive; but inwardly he was ready to die and be with Christ. *To be with Christ* — do we realize what this means? What better place is there than heaven? Lord, give us a homesickness for heaven which can only be stilled by going home to You!

Sunday, July 7

The Third Sunday After Trinity

Read Luke 15:1-10

Going after the Lost Ones. Look and search hard for the lost coin or sheep. It is self-evident that you should do this. Such work brings joy and profit if successful. Oh, that we would apply this, and would look and search and work hard and long to bring the lost ones back! How many Deaf are there that do not

care for Jesus! So those that have found salvation and know what it means to be saved must work to save the backsliders, and there are so many of these. Good Shepherd, give us an inward urge to bring home the lost ones among our friends and relatives. May Thy Holy Spirit turn them to believe Thy life-giving Word and be saved.

Monday, July 8

Read Philippians 1:27-30

Living Unafraid for Christ. Paul tells the Philippians to let their conversation (meaning the way they live) be a credit to the Gospel and to remember that it is part of a Christian's duty to suffer for Christ and be ready to endure the same thing that Paul suffered. How many of us realize that we have the duty to stand up for Jesus even if we are punished for that? Let us not be "sunshine Christians" only. Lord, give us the spirit of Paul and the first Christians again.

Tuesday, July 9

Read Philippians 2:1-4

Love One Another. Paul's argument in these verses is: Love one another and look out for one another. Do not have bitter arguments, and show thereby that you have Christ's humble mind, which seeks to deal kindly, in a loving, merciful way with others. Since Paul had such a high and good opinion of the Philippian Christians, he wants them not to disappoint him by being quarrelsome. He speaks like a father to dear children. Lord, give us that spirit of brotherliness which does not skip lightly over our brother's faults but kindly leads him into ways of peace.

Wednesday, July 10

Read Philippians 2:5-8

O Humble Jesus! Though Jesus, in a human body, was truly the Son of God, He did not use His power for a time in order to be an obedient Substitute for us and to serve as God's Servant, keeping the Law, paying for our sins, not boasting with power, and finally even dying for us. Such a humble, serving, selfless mind we should have. Lord, have mercy on us, for by nature we are so proud and selfish; give us humility and kindness!

Thursday, July 11

Read Philippians 2:9-11

Christ is Exalted and Lifted Up. The God-man Jesus had so obediently humbled Himself and given Himself into death to save man. Therefore, according to His human nature, He now was given the position of Lord of all, to whom every knee should bow. If you do not honor Him as God and your only Savior, you put yourself hopelessly into hell. Lord, make us realize that You are the Lord, and make us eager to show others, through missionary work, how they can escape hell.

Friday, July 12

Read Philippians 2:12-18

Be a Sincere Christian. By obeying God's Word let us with fear and trembling "work out" our salvation. This does not mean that we can "earn" our salvation by works, for "it is God that worketh both to will and to do," but that we should not by wickedness destroy faith, which God alone can work in us. Paul hopes that the Philippien Christians may remain faithful and may obtain salvation. Then his work with them

would not turn out to be a failure. Let us shine in this wicked world as lights that show the way to heaven to others. Lord, give us, too, the joy that comes to those that lead others to You!

Saturday, July 13

Read Philippians 2:19-24

Faithful Timothy. Timothy here is given a fine testimonial. As pastors must nowadays, Paul, too, had to complain that people looked out for themselves and did not, like Timothy, serve in a selfless manner. As soon as he could find out how things would go with him, he wanted to send Timothy to give the Philippians a report and to bring back to him a report about their well-being. Would that all pastors had faithful Timothys in the congregations! They are scarce. Heavenly Father, give us the spirit to serve You unselfishly in our congregation.

Sunday, July 14

The Fourth Sunday After Trinity

Read Luke 6:36-42

Eyes That See Clearly. We need eyes that see clearly; that see others as individuals with the same faults and weaknesses we ourselves have. Let us judge others mercifully. God's Law is the mirror. If we look into it, we shall see our own faults, which perhaps are bigger than those of the other person. Then we will deal kindly with the other person and will help him to see his mistakes and to see in Jesus his Savior. Lord, like the blind man, I pray that I may receive my sight.

Monday, July 15

Read Philippians 2:25-30

Faithful Epaphroditus. Epaphroditus was from Philippi, and he

served Paul faithfully. He had been sick unto death, but God spared his life and spared Paul the sorrow of losing him. They at home had heard about the illness and were worried about him; so Paul sent him home and gave him the praise that he had served Jesus in serving Paul; and the apostle acknowledged to the Philippians that they had served him through Epaphroditus. Jesus looks upon services done His servants as having been done to Him. Lord, bless the faithful men and women that untiringly serve Your pastors and teachers and missionaries everywhere.

Tuesday, July 16

Read Philippians 3:1-3

True Children of God. Circumcised Hebrews, claiming that they were the true children of Abraham and of God because they were Hebrews, troubled the Philippian Christians. Paul tells his members to be joyful in the knowledge that believers in Christ are the real children of God. Not outward connection but real faith in Jesus saves. Holy Spirit, work faith in many hearts through the Gospel, and keep us in faith until death.

Wednesday, July 17

Read Philippians 3:4-7

The Pharisee Saul Became the Apostle Paul. Paul tells his life story before conversion. He had enough to boast about if such things as education, family history, and zeal for the Hebrew church were to be counted; but all this he considered of no value and a loss so far as Christ and salvation were concerned. Let us not boast about achievements and earthly distinctions. "He that glorieth, let him

glory in this that he knoweth . . . that I am the Lord.” Lord Jesus, I thank You that You have saved me and that You love me!

Thursday, July 18

Read Philippians 3:8-11

“Winning Christ” Is the Greatest Gain. Here Paul confesses on what he places his hope of salvation, namely, that he is declared righteous by God through the work of Jesus, in whom he believes. All else is “dung,” filthy stuff; to know Jesus and to share the resurrection to eternal life is the supreme thing in life. How true! O Holy Spirit, You alone can work this faith through the Gospel. Work it in me, and let me be firm in this faith and hope.

Friday, July 19

Read Philippians 3:12-16

Keep Trying. There are many who believe that a Christian can become so strong and perfect in faith that he does not sin any more. Paul here tells that even he, with all his love and work for Jesus, is not perfect and will never be; but he will not stop trying to improve daily, and he tells those (v 15) that are “perfect” (have gained ripe understanding) to be “thus minded” (to keep this in mind), and God would reveal (show) to them that he is speaking the truth and that they therefore are not perfect. But they should keep trying as he is doing. Lord, show us our weaknesses, and give us strength to correct them, improving daily.

Saturday, July 20

Read Philippians 3:17-19

Enemies of Christ’s Cross. Here is an earnest plea by Paul to his Philippian Christians and to us to watch

the example of god-fearing leaders and to follow them and not those who mind (think only) of earthly things and whose god is their belly. Their end is destruction; what they are proud of, of this they should be ashamed. That is the sad end of the enemies of Christ’s cross, that despise God’s way of salvation. Lord, let us never be ashamed of You.

Sunday, July 21

The Fifth Sunday After Trinity

Read Luke 5:1-11

Peter, the Christian Fisherman. Peter let Jesus use his boat for a pulpit; then he went to work, and to work according to the directions of Jesus. He acknowledged that his good catch of fish was due to God’s blessing. After this he “fished for men.” Secret of a successful life is this: Think of heavenly things first for yourself and others; hear God’s Word; pray to God; talk for God. In your business pray, work, and know that God gave you what you have. Work for Him even while you work for yourself. Lord, let us always figure with You, be it business or pleasure, and become “fishers of men.”

Monday, July 22

Read Philippians 3:20, 21

Heaven Is Our Home and Hope. The word “conversation” here does not mean “talk” but “citizenship.” We might say it means “our home country where we live.” This is heaven, and to go there is our hope, for Jesus has promised heaven to us. He will change our weak bodies into renewed, glorious bodies in the homeland above. Let us often think of this and not follow earthly-minded people but rather Christ’s

leadership. Lord, lead us through the desert of this life to the Canaan above.

Tuesday, July 23

Read Philippians 4:1-3

Names in the Book of Life. Paul mentions several names on God's honor roll. They were *workers* in the Kingdom. He mentions one whom he calls his "yoke fellow," who worked hard together with Paul. He mentions two women who helped him faithfully with other women. Their names were not in the book of life because they had earned that honor with work, but they worked in the right spirit because their names were through faith written there. We think of the many good helpers, especially the women of the many churches, LWML's, ladies' aids, etc. My Savior, write my name into the book of life; and bless the many faithful souls who served You well on earth because they believed in You.

Wednesday, July 24

Read Philippians 4:4-7

Joy and Peace in the Lord. Christians can indeed be joyful in the Lord, through whom they are what they are. Their joy shows itself in loving consideration of others and in a carefree trust in God's goodness, in constant prayer and thanksgiving. Everything about them shows that they have peace in their hearts. Prince of Peace, give us such joyful peace.

Thursday, July 25

The Apostle St. James the Elder

Read Matthew 20:20-23

The First Bitter Cup. When the mother of James and John had asked Jesus to give her sons special

places of honor; when these sons had said that they were ready to drink "the bitter cup" of suffering with Jesus, He said that they would get that chance. And James the Elder was the first martyr of the Twelve. He was killed for Christ's sake. Many have had to taste this cup, even in recent times! May God spare us such experiences, but we must be ready, as we promised at confirmation, even "to suffer death" for Him. Are we ready? Do we love Him that much? Almighty God, You are the Lord. Do with us as seems good to You!

Friday, July 26

Read Philippians 4:8, 9

Things to Think About. Worldly literature, newspapers, magazines, movies, deal mainly with crimes and sins. If we fill our minds by reading and seeing only these, we shall fail in this request to think about lovely, true, honest, pure, kind matters, good stories, virtues, and praiseworthy things. There is no substitute for the Bible. The *Lutheran Witness*, *This Day*, and other good things should be found on our reading tables, and we should talk good things, not filth and crime. Holy God, give us hatred for wickedness and love for good things.

Saturday, July 27

Read Philippians 4:10-13

The Secret of Being Strong. Contentment in Jesus makes us strong. The faith and trust in his Lord made Paul strong and happy at all times. The Philippians had supplied him with money, and for a time they had no chance of getting it to him. He says it made no difference to him if he was hungry or filled. His God cared for him; this he knew. That is

enough. Faith and trust in God is what we need nowadays; then we can live without fear, for God is still Lord. Almighty and merciful God, be mindful of Your children everywhere.

Sunday, July 28

The Sixth Sunday After Trinity

Read Matthew 5:20-26

Standing Before the Judge. It goes bad with people before God, the Great Judge, if they have nothing to bring except their own imperfect attempts at keeping the Law and if they do not plead Christ's work for us. Do not make this mistake. And if we expect mercy, we must be ready to give mercy to those who sin against us. Find peace in Christ, and make peace with your brother! O Judge Eternal, have mercy on us for Christ's sake, and give to us the spirit of kindness toward others.

Monday, July 29

Read Philippians 4:14-18

Expected Fruit. The Philippian Christians had not forgotten their servant Paul in prison and trouble; they had supported him with prayers and salary, as we call such support nowadays. Paul points out that such action shows that they were thankful; and he says such thankfulness as shows itself in proper financial support of the preachers and teachers of God's Word is expected by God and pleases Him. Often churches and members forget this fact. Let us often ask: Are we supplying our pastor with enough in these days of high prices? Good Giver of blessings, make our churches willing to support their workers that bring the Bread of Life to them.

Tuesday, July 30

Read Philippians 4:19, 20

God's Storehouse. Here is a short but wonderful statement of faith and trust: "My God shall supply all your needs." He does not say "my needs" but "your needs." He thinks of them and wants them provided for; without doubt he will get his share. For Christ's sake the unlimited storehouse of God is open to us always. No matter what is needed, God has it all to give. Jesus, through Your love You have made us God's children and have given us hope and everything we need. Thank You!

Wednesday, July 31

Read Philippians 4:21-23

Greetings to the Friends. Paul remembers all and wishes to be remembered to all by greetings. He sends the greetings of those in Rome, especially mentioning those in the palace of the Roman emperor. His work was known there and had borne fruit, even though it was brought at the cost of personal suffering on his part. Joy, love, peace, and good will were in Paul's heart "through the grace of Jesus Christ." It can be in our heart, too. Is it? God grant it. O Lord, let Your gracious face be turned toward all Your children, and give us Your peace. Amen.

HE healeth the broken in heart and bindeth up their wounds. Psalm 147:3.

UNLOAD your care in Christian prayer.

HE satisfieth the longing soul. Psalm 107:9.