

Volume 60

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Number 7

The nation Thou hast blest May well Thy love declare, From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Thy care. For this fair land, For this bright day, Our thanks we pay — Gifts of Thy hand.

The Lutheran Hymnal, No. 575

Christian Citizenship In Focus — July

"Let's celebrate!"

Every year the Fourth of July comes, and we see Americans celebrating with parades, travel, and recreation.

This is not wrong, but is this the only way to celebrate Independence Day? The celebration should relive something from the past. July 4, 1776, was the birth of a new nation. Through hardship and struggle men established a republic that emphasized political and religious freedom.

How shall we celebrate?

The apostle Peter gives us the key: "Honor the king." When the apostle uses the word "king," he has in mind the government, the ruling body. Since our system of government is democratic in nature, our celebration should show what it means to us to have political and religious freedom.

We are not to separate ourselves from the world or from other people when we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. Instead, we become involved in the life of our country and our community.



That means we pay our income tax honestly, we obey the laws of the land, we use our right to vote, we show a willingness to serve and work and even sacrifice for the true welfare of the nation.

We celebrate Independence Day not only on July 4 but every day by being good citizens. That shows we "honor the king," and it reflects our love for Jesus.

> Adapted from "Portals of Prayer"

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

Official Paper of the Board for Missions of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, Secretary for Deaf Missions, 210 N. Broadway, St. Louis, Mo. 63102. Ph. (314) 231-6969.

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* Dr. George Walter Gaertner *

It has pleased our Lord and Savior to call to His heavenly kingdom the beloved veteran of the cross, Dr. George W. Gaertner of Oakland, Calif., who departed this life on Tuesday evening, May 28, at the age of 75. Funeral services were conducted in Oakland by Rev. Leland Mosley on Friday, May 31. President Paul Jacobs of the California-Nevada District spoke in behalf of the Synod.

A memorial service was also held in the evening on May 31 at the Pacific Coast Regional Conference, meeting in Los Angeles, Calif.

Dr. Gaertner was a pastor to the deaf for nearly 50 years. He

graduated from Concordia College, Milwaukee, in 1913 and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1916. He was ordained by President Frederick Pfotenhauer in Chicago, Sept. 16, 1916, during Ephphatha Conference. Assigned a call into deaf missions upon his graduation. Pastor Gaertner worked in the Great Lakes area for the balance of 1916, preparing for service in the mission. He was installed in Spokane, Jan. 7, 1917, and a week later at Seattle, Wash., which became his headquarters. As the first full-time resident missionary to the deaf in the Northwest, he served the deaf of Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia.



Dr. and Mrs. Gaertner, in 1962, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of Pastor Gaertner's ministry among the deaf

Pastor Gaertner transferred to the Oakland field (then called Berkeley or Bay area) and was installed on Sept. 27, 1931. He served this field until his official retirement. Although he announced his retirement in July 1963, he continued as an active pastor, serving the field as its vacancy pastor until his successor was installed on May 24, 1964.

From his Oakland headquarters Dr. Gaertner continued his interest in the spiritual welfare of the deaf all along the Pacific coast. When the office of regional counselor was established in 1949, he was elected counselor for the Pacific Coast Region — an office he held until 1963, when he resigned for reasons of health. In connection with his work as missionary to the deaf, Dr. Gaertner trained seven men in the language of signs for work among the deaf.

In 1926 Pastor Gaertner obtained an M. A. degree in psychology from Northwestern College of Laws, and earned his Ph. D. degree in 1942 from the American Bible Institute. The American Bible College honored him with the D. D. degree in 1945 for his work on the dictionary now known as Gaertner's *Compend of Signs*.

Dr. Gaertner served the church



Dr. George Gaertner (center) is awarded the John of Beverley medal at the synodical convention in Cleveland, 1962. L. to r.: Rev. Howard Schoenfeldt; Dr. John W. Behnken, then synodical president; Dr. Gaertner; Rev.

Ernest Drews; Melvin Luebke; and Rev. William F. Reinking

at large through his two terms as instructor in German at California Concordia College, Oakland, 1937 to 1939; as secretary of the board of control for the same college, 1939—47; and as first vice-president of the California-Nevada District, 1942—45. At the Cleveland convention of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod in 1962 Dr. Gaertner received the John of Beverley award from the Luther-

A Tribute to Dr. George W. Gaertner

Dear Friends in Christ,

These words are written on Memorial Day, and appropriately so, as a memorial to a soldier of the cross of Christ.

These words are also written with deep feelings of both inadequacy and sorrow — inadequacy to express fully and completely what is beyond words for one whose life and ministry contributed so greatly to our mission to the deaf, and sorrow that his life has come to an end.

The ministry and dedication of Dr. Gaertner to the deaf on the west coast was monumental in the history of our church and especially in the 74-year history of our mission to the deaf. It is a ministry that influenced and guided the lives of a wide host of God's people, both lay and clergy; a ministry crowned with great blessing and success by the Lord and Savior whom he served so long and faithfully.

I am sure the words of Holy Scripture as recorded in Revelation 7 are now in effect for our departed brother in Christ. May I paraphrase these for our mutual comfort and strength. These words would tell us: "Dr. Gaertner is one who has come out of great tribulation and washed his robe and made it white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore he is before the throne of God and serving Him day and night in His temple; and He that sitteth on the throne lives with him. . . . For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne keeps him and leads him to living fountains of waters; and God wipes away all tears from his eyes."

On behalf of the Board for Missions and Ephphatha Conference of pastors of the deaf, we extend our heartfelt sympathy to Dr. Gaertner's family and to all who mourn his death. We join them in the comforting knowledge that he is now "forever with the Lord" in the church triumphant.

Sincerely in Christ our Savior, REV. HERBERT W. ROHE Secretary for Deaf Missions an Friends of the Deaf for outstanding work in providing spiritual help for the deaf.

He married Mabel Muskopf on June 6, 1917, and their marriage was blessed with two sons, George Walter, Jr., of Modesto, Calif., and Paul Clarence, of Oakland, Calif.

Messages of condolence may be sent to his widow, Mrs. Mabel Gaertner, at 3233 62nd Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94605.

New Oral Day Program

Letter from Hong Kong

When I arrived in Hong Kong last August, the prospect of having an oral day-school for the deaf could not be seen in the future. The blessings of the Lord over the past 10 months, however, have reminded me many times of the words Jesus spoke to His disciples as He calmed the stormy sea: "How little faith you have!"

In February Savior School in Hong Kong opened its doors for the first time. In April the school's board of managers agreed that one schoolroom could be used for instructing hearing handicapped children. With the continued blessings of the Lord, we would plan to add a second class the following September.

Then, within a month after that important decision, we received the good news that funds for the program would be available for the balance of 1968. We also received assurance that the Hong Kong government would be willing to subsidize the program early in 1969.

Although this class is only for a few of the hundreds of deaf children who are not able to attend school, it is the beginning of a program that we hope will rapidly expand by 1970. By that time another unit for deaf children may be included in the proposed new school for Chinese children.

The value of our single class now is that it will provide the church with a demonstration class for a full-time teacher-training program. It is possible that the church here will need 10 to 20 fully trained teachers of the deaf by 1970. Right now the church has none.

The only program for teachers of the deaf available in Hong Kong at this time is an in-service type program. We cannot, however, hope to train teachers fast enough with that kind of program. Several teachers in Taiwan would like to come to Hong Kong to study education for the deaf, but it is not possible for them to accept a teaching position and study under the in-service program. The present evening school for the deaf operated by the Lutheran Church in Hong Kong is not an oral school. Although speech is stressed here, the language of signs is also used. Therefore this school has limited value for the training of teachers in the oral method of instruction.

One more great blessing in hav-

ing this class for deaf children in a hearing school is that the hearing children and their teachers will have an opportunity to learn something about the deaf. Many hearing people have wrong ideas about the deaf because they have never been with the deaf for more than a few minutes. In this program the hearing and the deaf will be together for many activities. They can play together. They can worship together. In the future, we hope, some of the deaf children will also be able to study in the same classes with hearing chil-

(The following letter from Rev. H. W. Rohe was sent to answer questions asked by the church council of one of our deaf congregations. It is printed here as an open letter for all our members. ED.)

Dear Brethren in Christ:

Your special delivery letter was received with joy. I am pleased to know that your church council is aware of and concerned about our church and its pastors.

You have asked some fine questions, and I am happy to answer each of them.

1. Why Pastors Leave

You asked why pastors leave our deaf mission to serve in other church work. I count at least a dozen men who have in recent years left our deaf churches to serve hearing churches. They have given many, many reasons for doing so, and I do not feel it is our place to judge. After all, this is a matter between them and dren. In addition this program will help us interest many more teachers to become teachers of the deaf.

Once again we are moved to say, "O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good!" He who is ready to give more than we even ask or think has opened His hand of blessing on the labors of our hands. Humbly we pray that He would continue to use us to build His kingdom.

> Rev. Louis R. Jasper Kowloon, Hong Kong

Losing Pastors – Why?

their Lord that they must answer for themselves.

Perhaps it would be helpful to ask instead the reason why pastors come into the mission to the deaf. I am convinced it is the Lord through His Holy Spirit who speaks to the hearts of men and moves them to love Him and serve His people. I am sure that our pastors who respond to the call of the Spirit and undertake a ministry among the deaf do so with joy and in anticipation of great satisfaction in fulfilling a fruitful ministry. In fact, these men are in a special measure dedicating themselves to their Savior and His kingdom.

We also remember that the "old evil foe" is always at work and is always seeking to destroy the Lord's church. He is also at work tempting the pastors to be unfaithful. Just as the Lord Jesus cautioned His disciples in the garden, saying, "Watch and pray, so you will not fall into temptation; the Spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak," so we should daily remember our pastors in fervent prayer that they resist the temptations of the old evil foe and remain faithful to their calling.

2. Get New Pastors

You asked what we are doing to replace men and find new men for work in our deaf churches.

We must seek to improve our recruitment and training programs in our seminaries. It seems that a good number of students interested in the deaf come from our other colleges and the senior college in Fort Wayne, Ind., but for some reason do not continue in our seminary training programs.

We have improved our program at the senior college in Fort Wayne. Now two pastors are serving there, one out of Indianapolis and one out of Toledo, both of whom are cooperating to improve recruitment and training at the college.

We also hope to call pastors out of the "hearing" ministry to train in the new program for religious workers that will soon be set up at New York University. We have been working on this for 2 years. Students taking the New York University program will do field work in our New York City and New Jersey deaf parishes.

Then, the Board for Missions at its last meeting resolved to establish a training program at the Lu-

theran Lay Training Institute in Milwaukee so that we may train both deaf and hearing laymen for full-time service in the church. A good number of our pastors who are overburdened with large fields and numerous cities will welcome the aid and assistance they can receive from such consecrated laymen. We will be meeting soon with the director of the Lutheran Lay Training Institute, who is eager to cooperate with us in getting such a program started. Our congregations Milwaukee. in Madison, and Delavan, Wis., can be of real help to us by encouraging these people and cooperating with the training program there.

3. Deaf at Fault?

You asked whether the Lutheran deaf appreciate their pastors or whether their general attitude discourages them.

This is a good question that all our members should carefully consider. Each must answer for himself and seek to be of help and encouragement to his pastor. By nature we are quick to criticize. It is easier to destroy than to build. I know about many deaf who are truly concerned about the ministry of the Word of God in their churches and are a great inspiration to their pastors.

This matter can and should be studied at all voters meetings and regional conferences. I am sure that much can be done by our deaf members to encourage and help their pastor in a faithful and fruitful ministry.

4. What the Deaf Can Do

You finally asked what specific things the deaf can do to help recruit and keep their pastors.

As I told you in answer to question one, first of all our members can pray. Our Lord Jesus has urged us: "Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send out more workers to gather in His harvest." We should never underestimate the power of prayer or, rather, the power of almighty God to respond and give what the believer asked for.

It would also be helpful if our deaf members would let us know when they meet a "hearing" pastor who shows an interest in the deaf but who perhaps does not know how we can help him train for this ministry.

At vour regional conferences encourage one another and your fellow deaf Lutherans to support and work faithfully with their pastors. Each member ought to attend church faithfully. Nothing pleases a pastor more than faithful members. No pastor enjoys preaching to the walls of an empty church, especially a deaf church. The preparation for a deaf service takes more time and effort than for a hearing church. Our pastors working with the deaf need to see and know that their members truly appreciate their faithful labors.

Another way our deaf churches can help is for each congregation to send a delegate to the District convention. This way you let the pastors and lay delegates know that the deaf churches also need pastors. Perhaps some young pastor at the convention, only by meeting the deaf lay leaders, will be encouraged to serve the deaf. You cannot enjoy the taste of candy until you eat it. A pastor cannot enjoy the deaf until he meets them.

As I said before, it takes a special measure of consecration and dedication for a man to enter the ministry to the deaf. I am sure, however, that you will all realize that the major problem is one of communication. When other pastors at conventions see how it is possible to readily communicate with the deaf and at the same time see the appreciation the deaf have for their church and their pastor, I know pastors would be encouraged to inquire and look into the possibility for serving in our deaf churches

I feel your questions are so timely and necessary that all our members in America should think about them. Therefore, I am taking the liberty of sending this letter to all our pastors and people through the DEAF LUTHERAN.

With my personal and heartfelt thanks to your church council for your Christian concern and love for the ministry and the Lord's kingdom among the deaf, I remain

> Sincerely yours in Christ, REV. H. W. ROHE Secretary for Deaf Missions St. Louis, Mo.

Summer Directory of Regular Sunday Services

Summer vacation time is here again. Many of our Lutheran deaf will be traveling to various parts of the country visiting friends and relatives.

The DEAF LUTHERAN encourages its readers to remember to ask God for His blessings as they travel. Be faithful to Him in prayer and worship at church.

For this purpose we publish the following list of regular Sunday services. Besides these every-Sunday services, our Lutheran missionaries serve over 200 other cities once or twice a month. If you plan to travel across the country, write to the pastors in the state where you will visit. They will be happy to tell you about their services in their several cities. See page 112 for addresses.

For your information as you read this directory, "SS" means Sunday school, "BC" means Bible class, and times listed are a.m. except where noted otherwise.

ARIZONA

Phoenix, Our Savior 5105 N. 7th Ave. SS — 9:30. Worship — 9:30 Rev. Theodore Frederking, pastor

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles, Pilgrim 1233 S. Vermont Ave. SS — 11:00. Worship — 11:00 Rev. A. T. Jonas, pastor

Oakland, Memorial 1011 Grove St. SS — 9:00, BC — 11:15 Worship — 10:00 Rev. Clark Bailey, pastor

Support your church

Go every Sunday

COLORADO

Denver, Bethel 750 S. Franklin St. Worship — 11:00 Rev. Donald Zuhn, pastor

CONNECTICUT

West Hartford, Lutheran 31 W. Beacon St. Worship — 9:45. Tues. BC — 7:30 p.m. Rev. Earl J. Thaler, pastor

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington, Christ 5101 — 16th St. N. W. See Rev. D. Pokorny for information

FLORIDA

Miami, Deaf Zion 15000 N. W. 27th Ave. Worship — 7:00 p. m. BC — 8:15 p. m. Rev. Walter Busby, pastor Mrs. D. Myhre, parish worker

ILLINOIS

Chicago, North, Our Savior 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave. BC — 9:00, Worship — 10:00 Rev. C. Jones, pastor

Chicago, South, Ephphatha 7956 South Park Ave. Worship — 10:00 Wednesday BC — 7:30 p.m. Rev. Leroy W. Mason, pastor

Jacksonville, Christ 104 Finley St. Worship — 9:00 Rev. Orlin Anderson, pastor

INDIANA

Indianapolis, Peace 4201 N. College Ave. SS — 9:30, Worship — 10:30 Rev. Myron Prok, pastor

IOWA

Des Moines, Calvary 7th and Forest Avenue Worship — 9:30 Rev. James Bengelsdorf, pastor

MICHIGAN

Detroit, Our Savior 6861 E. Nevada Ave. SS — 10:00. Worship — 10:00 Rev. N. E. Borchardt, pastor

Flint, St. Paul's 402 S. Ballenger Highway Worship — 11:00 Rev. Robert Bremer, pastor

MINNESOTA

St. Paul, Prince of Peace 205 N. Otis Street Worship — 10:00 Rev. A. L. Hauptman, pastor Mrs. F. Finke, parish worker

MISSOURI

Fulton, at St. Paul's Highway 54 & Douglas Blvd. Worship — 8:30 a. m. Rev. C. Bremer, pastor

Kansas City, Pilgrim 38th St. & Gillham Road SS & BC — 9:45. Worship — 10:45 Tuesday BC — 7:30 p. m. Rev. A. E. Ferber, pastor

St. Louis, Holy Cross 101 N. Beaumont BC — 9:00, Worship — 10:00 Rev. Floyd Possehl, pastor

MONTANA

Great Falls, Christ 3726 5th Ave. N. No service schedule Rev. R. Johnson, pastor

NEBRASKA

Omaha, Bethlehem 51st and Lake Sts. Worship — 10:30 Rev. W. H. Lange, pastor Vicar Robert Henrikson

NEW JERSEY

Newark, St. Matthew's 510 Parker St. at Ballantine Pky. SS — 10:00. Worship — 10:00 Rev. C. R. Gerhold, pastor

Trenton, Nativity (at Savior) Front and Montgomery Sts. Worship — 11:00 Rev. William Aiello, pastor

NEW YORK

Elmhurst, St. Matthew's 41—01 75th St. SS — 9:00, BC — 1:30 p.m. Worship — 11:00 Rev. Daniel Hodgson, pastor Miss Johanna Becker, parish worker

New York, St. Mark (Mt. Zion) 145th at Convent Worship — 3:00 p.m. Rev. Daniel Hodgson, pastor Miss Johanna Becker, parish worker

Rochester, Alpha 580 Winton Rd. N. BC — 9:30, Worship — 10:45 Rev. R. Rynearson, pastor

NORTH DAKOTA

Devils Lake SS — 9:00, BC — 9:45 Worship — 8:10 Rev. R. Leonhardt, pastor

OHIO

Cleveland, Christ E. 25th and Payne, downtown SS and Worship — 10:45 Wednesday BC — 8:00 p. m. Rev. Martin A. Hewitt, pastor

Columbus, Holy Cross 360 Morse Road SS and BC — 9:30, Worship — 10:45 Wednesday BC — 7:30 p.m. Rev. William A. Ludwig, pastor

Toledo, Good Shepherd (St. Paul) 428 N. Erie St. SS and Worship — 9:30 Rev. Larry Harris, pastor

OREGON

Portland, Hope 1700 NE 132nd St. SS — 9:15, Worship — 10:30 Rev. George Natonic, pastor

PENNSYLVANIA

Pittsburgh, Trinity 409 Swissvale Ave. SS. and BC — 10:00, Worship — 11:00 Vacant

SOUTH DAKOTA

Sioux Falls, Trinity 101 S. Mable Ave. Worship — 9:00 Rev. George Ring, pastor

TENNESSEE

Memphis, Grace 210 Washington St. SS — 9:00. Worship — 10:15 Rev. Donald Leber, pastor

Memphis, Peace 1008 E. McLemore Ave. SS — 2:30 p.m. Worship — 1:00 p.m. Rev. Donald Leber, pastor

TEXAS

Austin, Jesus 1307 Newton Ave. Worship — 11:00 Rev. Don Haug, pastor

Dallas, John of Beverley 7611 Park Lane SS and BC — 9:00, Worship — 10:30 Rev. William E. Duey, pastor

WASHINGTON

Seattle, Our Redeemer 1101 15th Ave. BC — 10:30, SS and Worship — 11:00 Rev. John A. Beyer, pastor

WISCONSIN

Delavan, Holy Cross 116 Walnut St. Worship — 10:00 Rev. M. Kosche, pastor Madison, Silent 1929 Huxley St. Worship — 9:30 Rev. Robert Corl, pastor

Milwaukee, Emmanuel 4328 W. North Ave. BC — 9:00. SS — 9:45 Worship — 9:45 Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller, pastor

CANADA — ALBERTA

Edmonton, Cross of Christ 115 St. and 60th Ave. SS and BC — 9:30, Worship — 10:30 Rev. Robert A. Bauer, pastor



BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver, Trinity School Ave. at College (2900 Kingsway) SS and BC -- 10:30 Worship -- 11:00 and 7:30 p.m. Thursday BC -- 8:00 p.m. Rev. Wayne Bottlinger, pastor Mr. Alex Brodie, lay worker

MANITOBA

Winnipeg, Jesus (Immanuel) College and McKenzie Worship — 11:00 Rev. F. P. Gehrs, pastor

FIELD

GLEANINGS

Bibles for Romania

St. Louis, Mo. The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod has given the American Bible Society \$5,000 for the printing of Bibles for use in Romania, behind the Iron Curtain. The sum was voted by the church's board of directors.

New Chapel Dedicated

Great Falls, Mont. Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Montana dedicated its new chapel in Great Falls, Palm Sunday, April 7. About 200 deaf and hearing attended the dedication and cornerstone-laying services. Rev. Clark Bailey, counselor of the Pacific Region, was their guest speaker.

Situated three blocks from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, the brick-veneer church has pews for 150 worshipers and ample room for additional seating as needed. The statewide deaf congregation numbers 104 communicants, with an average of 55 attending the Sunday services at Great Falls. The congregation conducts a Sunday school program for 38 of the children from the nearby school for the deaf.

With the approval of the Board for Missions to the Deaf, the deaf purchased a site for a chapel in 1965. Construction began last fall after the deaf, a number of hearing congregations, and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League raised half of the \$61,150 cost. The rest came from an allocation from the Ebenezer Thankoffering.

Rev. Russel Johnson has served the congregation as pastor since 1966.



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings for July

Include the following in your prayers this month:

- that God will give our pastors and lay workers a safe journey as they travel to St. Louis for Ephphatha Conference (7-10) and back home again (7-16).
- that every citizen in our nation may have complete freedom and equality with justice.
- that peace will come to our nation and throughout the world.
- that God will give you courage to meet your responsibilities in your family, church, and country.
- a prayer of thanksgiving for the many blessings God has given our land.
- our church workers who celebrate birthdays this month: Mrs. Doris Myhre, parish worker, Hialeah, Fla. (7-1) Pastor Norbert Borchardt, Detroit, Mich. (7-7) Mrs. Bernice Bottlinger, pastor's wife, Vancouver, B. C., Can. (7-10) Mrs. Joan Jasper, pastor's wife, Kowloon, Hong Kong (7-11) Mrs. Betty Lou Oermann, pastor's wife, Milledgeville, Ga. (7-12) Mrs. Cam Busby, pastor's wife, Miami, Fla. (7-13) Pastor Wendell Peterson, Decatur, Ill. (7-25) Pastor William Duey and his wife Mary Ann, Dallas, Tex. (7-28) Mrs. Altha Corl, pastor's wife, Madison, Wis. (7-30) Pastor Floyd Possehl, St. Louis, Mo. (7-31)

Theme: "Freedom of Conscience in Christ — Keynote for Christian Living." The Christian is free, yet responsible; his conscience is bound by the Word of God, and his life is motivated by the love of Christ living within him. In his letters Paul presents different ways of expressing Christian freedom and in everyday life.

Epistle of Christian Freedom

- July 1—Galatians 1:1-24. After a personal introduction, Paul stresses that the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ is God's own truth, which we can firmly trust.
- July 2-Galatians 2:1-21. After describing his trouble with those who

wanted to substitute Law for Gospel, Paul shows his close identification with Jesus Christ and His death and resurrection.

- July 3 Galatians 3:1-29. Only by faith in His grace do we become God's people. No matter what place we have in this life, we are one through faith in Jesus.
- July 4 Galatians 4:1-31. We are sons and heirs of God not because our parents were God's people but through faith in God's promise of grace, which helps us live in freedom.
- July 5 Galatians 5:1-26. In our freedom we are led by the Spirit and not by our sinful wants.
- July 6 Galatians 6:1-18. In our Christian liberty and love we are free to help others, glory in the love of Christ, and walk in peace.

Epistle About the Church

- July 7 Ephesians 1:1-23. In a beautiful verse of praise to God (vv. 11 to 14) and a fine prayer (vv. 15-23) Paul describes the blessings of God's grace we enjoy in Christ, and prays for us as members of the one body of Christ.
- July 8 Ephesians 2:1-22. Saved by grace through faith and alive in Jesus Christ, we believers are one in Christ, the chief Cornerstone of this living temple of God.
- July 9 Ephesians 3:1-21. Paul's ministry and ours: to preach the wonderful riches of Christ to the whole world.
- July 10 Ephesians 4:1-32. We show our Christian love also by trying to keep the unity given by the Spirit, to speak the truth in love, to live the new life in Christ, and to be directed by the Spirit.
- July 11 Ephesians 5:1-33. As God's people we ought to live in purity of life and speech, knowing the rights of others and helping satisfy their needs.
- July 12 Ephesians 6:1-24. We ought to live our Christianity also in our family circle. With the armor of God we are to battle against every evil and unbelief.
- **Epistle of Christian Joy**
- July 13 Philippians 1:1-30. Paul has a kind concern for and joy in his readers. Because Christ is everything, we ought to show the joy of our faith both in life and in death.
- July 14 Philippians 2:1-30. In following the example of Christ we ought to show in our lives love, unity, humility, faith, and respect for the Word of Jesus Christ.
- July 15 Philippians 3:1-21. In Christian joy Paul professes his Christian faith and goal. When my life on earth is over, may I receive the heavenly crown. Amen.
- July 16 Philippians 4:1-23. In Christ we have that security, peace, and truth which can fill our hearts with eternal joy and confidence.

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Epistle of Christ's Preeminence (Superior above all things)

- July 17 Colossians 1:1-29. We have been brought back to God through Jesus Christ, who is the greatest above all things. We must preserve our freedom in Christ and continue in the riches of the Savior's glory.
- July 18 Colossians 2:1-23. Rooted in Christ, we can remain steadfast in faith in spite of all non-Christian teachings and practices.
- July 19 Colossians 3:1-25. Dead to sin but alive to God, we ought to place God's kingdom first, letting the Word of Christ live richly within us.
- July 20 Colossians 4:1-18. My Christian life is to be one of prayer and thanksgiving in which I make the best use of opportunities for doing good.
- The Book of Esther
- July 21 Esther 1:1-22. Queen Vashti is dismissed as queen. This begins a series of events showing how God works in history to take care of His people.
- July 22 Esther 2:1-23. Esther is chosen as queen. Mordecai saves the life of Ahasuerus.
- July 23 Esther 3:1-15. Haman sinfully plots to get rid of the Jews, especially Mordecai. Lord, preserve me from all evil. Amen.
- July 24 Esther 4:1—5:14. Esther works to save her people from destruction. Lord, make me a blessing to Your people. Amen.
- July 25 Esther 6:1-14. Haman is ordered to give honor to Mordecai, who had saved the king's life. Lord, confuse those who seek to harm others. Amen.
- July 26 Esther 7:1-10. In response to Esther's request, the lives of the Jews are spared. Lord, give me greater zeal to tell others the Good News of salvation that they may have eternal life. Amen.
- July 27 Esther 8:1-17. The king cannot change his decree (law), but he accepts a plan to help the Jews escape any evil.
- July 28 Esther 9:1—10:3. The Jews escape death. The festival of Purim begins. Lord, give me a grateful heart that I may ever praise You for the salvation You give me in Jesus Christ. Amen.
- Epistle of Perseverance (Continue strong in faith)
- July 29 Titus 1:1-16. Titus establishes order in the churches by selecting only well-qualified teachers in the church. God wants us to conduct the affairs of our church in an orderly, disciplined manner.
- July 30 Titus 2:1-15. Note the goals of the Gospel of God's grace through discipline and love unto redeeming liberty in Christ. (Vv. 11-14)
- July 31 Titus 3:1-15. Our Christian responsibility for good government. A majestic statement of the truth the Gospel teaches.

Lutheran Deaf Mission Staff

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