

Ephphatha, that i. Be opened.

MARK 7:34

Volume 60

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Number 10



"In the Cross of Christ I glory . . . "

The Lutheran Reformation

In Focus — October

"Jesus loves me." We say that so often. Yet even Christians sometimes forget that God loves them. When Columbus sailed for America in 1492, an 8-year-old boy named Martin Luther was attending school in Mansfeld, Germany. He came from a Christian home, but he did not know Jesus as a loving Savior. Martin was afraid of Jesus because, even though he tried hard, he did not always act as he thought a Christian should.

Martin's father wanted his son to be a lawyer, so Martin went to the university to study law. He was still unhappy, afraid that God would punish him for his sins. One day he was caught in a thunderstorm. Lightening struck right next to him, and he thought he was going to die. He prayed to St. Ann to save him and promised to become a monk if he would live.

Martin Luther became a monk and thought it would please God. He prayed every day for hours,

and many times he went without food or sleep. Still he worried about his sins. Luther became a priest and then was asked to teach the Bible at the University of Wittenberg. While studying the Bible he suddenly realized that God was not an angry Judge but a loving Father. We cannot pay for our sins by doing good things. The Bible said that God freely forgives our sins for the sake of His Son, Jesus. This Good News gave Luther a new life — a happy life free from worry about his sins. At last he was at peace with God.

People at Luther's time thought they must pay for their sins on earth. They said certain prayers and gave up certain food. Another way was to buy an indulgence a paper that said one could buy the good works of saints to cover up one's own sin. Many people bought indulgences and thought they were buying forgiveness for their sins.

Then on Halloween 1517, Luther tacked 95 theses or sentences on the church door in Wittenberg. These sentences said that God freely forgives our sins for Jesus'

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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sake, even without an indulgence. Soon many people heard about Luther's 95 theses. Many people agreed with him and were happy to know that they had free forgiveness.

Not everyone, however, agreed with Luther. Some said he was a false teacher. To support his teachings, Luther always quoted the Bible. For him and for those who follow his teachings today the Bible is the only true guide for faith and life.

Some teachers of the church demanded that Luther take back what he had written. When Luther refused, the pope sent him a letter of excommunication, which meant he was no longer a member of the Roman Catholic Church. Emperor Charles V ordered Luther to come to the city of Worms to stand trial for teaching wrong things about God.

At Worms the emperor again told Luther to take back what he had written. For a whole day Luther thought about the emperor's demand and prayed to God for His guidance. He finally decided that since his writings told the truth about Christ, he could not take them back. Luther told the emperor and the princes gathered at Worms: "Unless you can show me from the Bible or plain reason where I am wrong, I can and will take back nothing. God help me. Amen." Today, too, Christians joyfully confess their faith in Jesus, the Savior.

Luther was placed under the

ban of the emperor. This meant that unless he left the empire within 30 days, anyone could kill him. When his friends heard of this, they hid Luther in the Wartburg Castle. There, disguised as a knight, Luther wrote many books and translated the New Testament into the language of the common people. He believed



God wanted all people to know of His love for them. Later Luther translated the whole Bible into German.

Still later, Luther wrote a catechism to help children learn the Good News of God's love in Jesus. He wrote many hymns for the people to sing in worship. He wrote "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" just before a meeting of the German princes at Speyer in 1529. Here the word *Protestant* was used for the first time. The Lutheran princes got this name because they "protested" a rule denying Lutherans freedom of worship in some areas of the empire.

Today we give thanks to God that His Word of forgiveness of

sins for Jesus' sake is still taught in His church. Through this Word of promise God's Holy Spirit continues to bring new life into His church. On this 451st anniversary of the Reformation we must promise ourselves to be faithful hearers and speakers of the Word of forgiveness and life. From this Word we know that God loves us and has forgiven us for Jesus' sake. Jesus has won the new life of God for all people.

> — from the Michigan Deaf Lutheran Rev. ROBERT BREMER

Ephphatha Conference

St. Louis, Mo.

Hot and humid St. Louis greeted us on July 10 as we arrived for our 48th annual Ephphatha Conference. Lutheran pastors and workers of the deaf from all over the United States and Canada gathered at the beautiful campus of Concordia Seminary from which many of us had



graduated. Naturally we met in air-conditioned comfort during our sessions, but our dorm rooms caught little of the night breezes.

Much of our conference time, as well as our free moments, was spent on a continuous discussion of the philosophy, structure, and policy of the coming change in the administration of deaf missions. We explored two possible methods. We call the first possibility the multi-148



district plan. Under this plan the hearing districts of our church would be responsible for overseeing the work of our deaf congregations and fields.

The second plan calls for an Ephphatha District. With this idea all our deaf congregations and fields would be united to administer our deaf missions work. Deaf laymen would be more involved in positions of leadership and the



deaf would have more voice in directing their mission work in North America.

Although much time was spent in discussing the pros and cons of each plan, Ephphatha Conference did not come to any conclusive decision in favor of one plan or the other. Our chief purpose was to inform the *ad hoc* committee which must report its findings to the Denver convention of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod in 1969.

Our conference also included a meaningful workshop for signing on television. Each of us prepared a 5-minute devotion which we signed for practice before a videotape machine. Small groups met to discuss and evaluate how well we appeared on TV, how we signed and whether we signed what we wanted to say.

It certainly was an experience for growing in personal confidence as well as for improving our stance before the TV camera.



We signed our devotion a second time before the video-tape recorder and before a 16 mm movie camera. The movie of the devotions will be used in many ways for both deaf and hearing audiences. For example, it may be used to train our future pastors of the deaf, and the organizations of our churches may use it for their programs.

The conference also adopted guidelines for observing in 1969 a Synod-wide recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the language of signs worship services for the deaf by our church. In view of this observance Dr. August Suelflow of Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis read to us parts of the history of deaf missions which he is compiling. Dr. Suelflow's presentation may be used as a basis for a special anniversary edition of the DEAF LU-THERAN which hopefully will be available to all congregations of Synod in the Spring of 1969.

Two pastors from other church bodies participated in our conference sessions. Rev. Frederick Goos of Philadelphia, Pa., serves the deaf on a part-time basis in the Lutheran Church in America. Rev. John H. Rozendall of Zeeland, Mich., is the only pastor serving the deaf in the Reformed Church in America.

One of our guest speakers was Rev. William Reinking, secretary for missions in Africa and the Middle East, who showed us slides of his former work with the deaf in the Far East and told us of our church's work in war-torn Nigeria.

Another guest speaker was Mr. Mervin Garretson (pictured below), executive director of the Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf, who explained to us the purpose and work of the 14-member council.

One of the highlights of the conference was our fun-night our annual banquet. Pastor Arnold Jonas served us well as master of ceremonies and kept things moving along with his string of stories. Dr. William Kohn, chairman of the Division of



Missions of our church, was our guest speaker and directed our attention to the ever increasing need for the involvement of every Christian in sharing Christ in a world growing every week at the rate in population equal to the size of St. Louis. Dr. Kohn is pictured above at the head table; I.—r., Miss Dorothy Miles of the



National Theatre of the Deaf, who entertained us after dinner; Rev, R. Blakely, conference secretary; Dr. Kohn; Mrs. Kohn; Rev. W. Lange, conference chairman; and Rev. A. Jonas.

Our pleasurable evening concluded with a slide presentation of last year's conference and the recognition of 14 pastors for their years of service to the deaf. (List published next month)

A NOTE OF INTEREST Teen-ager Honored

San Francisco, Calif. Miss Susan Beebe, teen-age daughter of Mrs. William Beebe (a member of the Redwood City deaf congregation), was chosen as the only northern California delegate to the YMCA conference in Miami last July and for the YMCA's 1968 summer work camp in South Two delegates from America. southern California are also among the 75 boys and girls from all over the United States who are involved in this program.



Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf, St. Louis, pictured here, served us as host congregation. We worshiped in this beautiful chapel which was dedicated to the Lord in 1966. This was the first Ephphatha Conference in many years to meet over a weekend. Holy Cross congregation certainly enjoyed meeting our many pastors and workers.



A memorial service was also conducted at Ephphatha Conference in memory of Dr. George Gaertner, former missionary to the deaf in Oakland, Calif., who passed away on May 28. The following is another tribute to this pastor and his love for the deaf for Jesus' sake, and is recorded on a plaque.

This Is Testimonial to Service Rendered Far Above the Ordinary Role of Men

The Rev. Dr. G. W. Gaertner

over the course of almost five decades has ministered to the spiritual needs of a widespread pastorate among the deaf men and women of California, including for many of these years children of the California School for the Deaf.

His must be the satisfaction of having long been steadfast help to them, their children and even children's children. In him they have known one to whom they could always approach with the confidence he was there, ready and willing, to guide them onto the path of wholesome living, to comfort them in time of distress, to share with them their joys, a shield of protection, a kindly shepherd.

In gratitude for the selfless and benign character of his labor, these words but feebly reflect the affection and esteem of his fellow men.

> The Faculty, Staff and Student Body of The California School for the Deaf

June 2, 1963

Berkeley, California

Notes of Interest

Auto Insurance

Two years ago the DEAF LU-THERAN reported a new program for deaf drivers. This was the *Driver Improvement Classes for the Deaf Driver*. Almost every deaf community has had at least one such program, and certainly driver improvement courses or defensive driving courses, as they are sometimes called, ought to be sponsored on a regular basis in every deaf community. Because of such programs and because many individuals have given their time and energy to the problem of buying insurance for the deaf driver, sooner or later insurance companies will begin to listen. The July—August issue of the *Frat*, publication of the National Fraternal Society of the Deaf, had this to say:

"In the May—June issue of the Frat was published a list of 12 insurance companies which had indicated that they would be willing to insure deaf drivers, each application being considered on an individual basis.

"Recently, an enterprising member of our Society, Bro. Lowell J. Myers, an attorney-at-law, contacted numerous insurance companies utilizing the statement on deaf drivers by Judge Sherman G. Finesilver of Denver. Colo., which appeared in the January—February Frat. As a result of Bro. Myers' efforts, 22 companies have reassessed their position on the deaf driver and are now willing to insure the deaf driver at regular rates. It should be kept in mind, however, that a good driving record is of prime importance and that an application may be rejected not because of the fact that the driver is deaf but because of a poor driving record. (Italics by editor)

"We are printing below the list previously published along with the additions furnished us by Bro. Myers. While no addresses are given, members are advised to keep this list handy and show it to their agent or broker when shopping around for automobile insurance.

American Employer's Insurance Co. American Family Mutual Insurance Co. Ambassador Insurance Co. The Atlantic Companies Atlantic Mutual Ins. Co. Centennial Ins. Co. Auto-Owners Insurance Co. Celina Insurance Companies Celina Mutual National Mutual Republic Mutual

- Celina National
- The Central Nat'l Ins. Group of Omaha
- The Chubb and Sons Ins. Group Federal Ins. Co. Vigilant Ins. Co.
 - Atlas Ins. Co., Inc.

Sun Assurance Office, Ltd.

- County Casualty Insurance Co.
- The Employers Group of Ins. Cos.
 - The Employers Liability Assurance Corp., Ltd.
 - American Employers Ins. Co.
- The Northern Assurance Co. of America
- Employers Mutual Companies Employers Mutual Casualty Co. Emcasco Insurance Co.
- Farm Bureau Mutual Ins. Co. of Missouri
- Fireman's Fund American Insurance Cos.
- Grinnell Mutual Reins. Group
- Hartford Insurance Group
- The Home Insurance Co.
- Indiana Insurance Co.
- Insurance Co. of North America
- Liberty Mutual Ins. Co.
- Maryland Casualty Co.
- Nationwide Mutual Ins. Co.
- New Hampshire Ins. Co.
- Northland Insurance Co.
- Reliance Insurance Cos. Reliance Ins. Co. Planet Ins. Co.
- Reserve Insurance Co.
- Reserve insurance Co.
- Royal Globe Insurance Cos.
- Royal Ins. Co.
- Liverpool & London & Globe Ins. Co.
- Royal Indemnity Co.
- Globe Indemnity Co.
- Queen Ins. Co. of America
- London & Lancashire Ins. Co.
- Safeguard Ins. Co.
- Newark Ins. Co.
- American and Foreign Ins. Co.
- Safeco Insurance Companies Safeco Ins. Co. of America General Ins. Co. of America First National Ins. Co. of America
- The St. Paul Insurance Companies
- Statesman Insurance Group
- The Travelers Insurance Co.
- The Western Casualty and Surety Co.
- Zurich Insurance Co. (through Marsh & McClennan Inc., c/o G. B. Sullivan, 231 S. LaSalle St., Chicago, Ill. 60604)"

Allstate Insurance Co.



FIELD

GLEANINGS

Midwest Region News Vacation Bible School

Des Moines, Iowa. Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Des Moines, sponsored a vacation Bible school for both deaf and hearing children at their church, Aug. 5—16. Of the 30 children enrolled, eight were deaf.

Teachers for the deaf children were from Calvary Congregation: Mrs. Gertrude Hendricks, Mrs. Kathleen Kautzky, and Mrs. Mildred Taylor. Other Lutheran churches in Des Moines supplied the teachers for the hearing children. Rev. James C. Bengelsdorf, pastor of Calvary Deaf Congregation, was the VBS superintendent.

The closing service was conducted on the last day of the Bible school. In this service the children sang hymns and presented their closing program. Participation certificates were awarded



New chapel for the deaf — Bethel Deaf Lutheran Church, Denver, Colo. It was dedicated as part of a hearing church on June 2 (story, August Deaf Lutheran, p. 124). A pulpit, normally to the left of the altar, is not in the picture



Mrs. Gertrude Hendricks gives special attention to deaf student Debra Moore as she completes her VBS workbook

both children and teachers. The theme of this year's program was "Tell the Good News."

The Ladies Aid of Calvary purchased the supplies and materials for the VBS and served refreshments each day to the children.

The members of Calvary Congregation felt the VBS program was a wonderful experience for these children, who want to know more about Jesus. They hope to continue this program in future years not only for their own deaf and hearing children but also for the hearing children in the neighborhood of their church.

Why not try a VBS program for your congregation's deaf and hearing children? It will be a blessing for them and for you.

REV. D. ZUHN, Reporter



Another VBS class of hearing children practice with the deaf children. They are signing the song "Jesus Loves Me, This I Know." All the children, both

hearing and deaf, signed and sang this song at the closing program



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

for October

Include the following in your prayers this month:

- that the Word of God may lead you strongly to place all your hope in Him.
- that God will give you strength to meet the problems of life with courage and faith.
- that God will give you His grace that you may understand yourself as a sinner, be brought in humility to repentance, and be raised in forgiveness to stand as one of God's people.
- that the gone-astray members of your congregation may know the joy of God's forgiveness and return to share that joy in God's family.
- that your worship, prayer, and Bible study may lead you to a greater zeal for the Lord's work.
- our church workers who celebrate their birthdays this month: Mrs. Doris Ring, pastor's wife, Sioux Falls, S. Dak. (10-4)
 Pastor William Lange, Omaha, Nebr. (10-4)
 Pastor Robert G. Blakely, Norwood, Mass. (10-6)
 Pastor Theodore Frederking, Phoenix, Ariz. (10-10)
 Pastor Larry Harris, Toledo, Ohio (10-16)
 Mrs. Carol Jones, pastor's wife, Chicago, Ill. (10-21)
 Pastor James Bengelsdorf, Des Moines, Iowa (10-26)
 Mrs. Kathryn Zuhn, pastor's wife, Denver, Colo. (10-28)

Theme: "Righteousness by Faith" — The Theme of the Reformation.

How can anyone stand before God as a holy and just (righteous) person when everyone sins and breaks God's law? In the Bible Martin Luther found these words: "The just (righteous) shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). Luther understood that God offers mankind a free gift to wipe away sin and guilt and make us holy (righteous). That free gift of forgiveness and eternal life becomes our own only through faith in Jesus Christ. We cannot earn our way to heaven. We need only believe. The Holy Spirit of God helps us believe and live as His people.

Oct. 1 — Habakkuk 2:1-20. In answer to Habakkuk's prayer for the relief of the people in their troubles, God says: "The righteous shall

live by his faith" (v. 4). The four woes (warnings) of divine judgment follow.

Oct. 2—Habakkuk 3:1-19. God's majesty is shown in His helping His people. Habakkuk tells again his personal trust in the Lord.

An Epistle of Christian Faith and Life

- **Oct.** 3—Romans 1:1-17. Paul is concerned for the Roman Christians. The theme: Through faith in Jesus Christ man receives righteousness (is made holy before God).
- **Oct.** 4—Romans 2:1-16. All people the world over are guilty before God. For salvation we cannot depend on ourselves but only on God and His merciful love.
- Oct. 5—Romans 3:21-31. Salvation is the free gift of God. It happened when God sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross in our place for our sin.
- Oct. 6 Romans 4:1-25. Abraham, father of God's people, was saved not by his works but only through faith in God's promises of grace.

The Christian life as a "Life in Christ"

- **Oct.** 7 **Romans 5:1-21.** See what blessings we enjoy by having that peace with God given to us through Jesus.
- **Oct.** 8 Romans 6:1-23. Through Baptism we believers are God's people in Christ, who have been freed from sin to serve God with a holy life.
- Oct. 9—Romans 7:1-25. The freedom from the Law was won for us by Jesus Christ.
- Oct. 10 Romans 8:1-39. The Holy Spirit gives us many assurances (comfort) to strengthen us in our faith.

All "Spiritual Hebrews" Will Be Saved

- Oct. 11 Romans 9:1-33. Our salvation is not won or earned because of our name or race. Our salvation is the work of the merciful God alone.
- Oct. 12 Romans 10:1-21. God's law does not make us holy it shows us our sin. We get our salvation only through faith in the crucified and risen Savior. Our faith grows by reading and studying God's Word.
- Oct. 13 Romans 11:1-36. God's plan of salvation for all men Jew or non-Jew — is His work of grace. It becomes man's only by faith. God's divine purposes are beyond our limited understanding. Therefore, we can know them only when He speaks to us in His Word, the Bible.

The Christian Life as One of Sacrifice

Oct. 14 — Romans 12:1-21. The truly satisfying life is one of personal honesty, service to others, and love for God and man.

- Oct. 15 Romans 13:1-14. Our Christian service to our government and to our neighbor.
- **Oct. 16 Romans 14:1-23.** Our conduct as Christians toward those who are weak in faith.
- Oct. 17 Romans 15:1-33. Paul urges us to seek patience and harmony in our relationships with other people.
- Oct. 18 Romans 16:1-27. Paul is concerned for individuals. He warns about some who cause splits and divisions among believers. Note his confession of praise to the God of all grace and mercy. Are we always interested, like Paul, in the people about us?
- Christ-Our Wonderful Savior and Great High Priest
- Oct. 19 Hebrews 1:1-14. God's Word to us through Christ. The service of God's angels to help us.

Christ, the Center of Both the Old and New Testaments

- Oct. 20 Hebrews 2:1-18. In fulfillment of the Old Testament promises, Christ became man to suffer and defeat Satan and the power of death for us.
- Oct. 21 Hebrews 3:1-19. Christ is the great High Priest in whom we must believe or else we will separate ourselves from the living God.
- Oct. 22 Hebrews 4:1-16. Our eternal rest. The power of God's Word.

Christ, the High Priest and Sacrificial Lamb

- Oct. 23 Hebrews 5:1-14. The perfect priesthood of Christ, who gained salvation for us.
- Oct. 24 Hebrews 6:1-20. We are urged to hold on to and continue in our Christian faith and life.
- Oct. 25 Hebrews 7:1-28. The priesthood of Melchizedek is a picture of the priesthood of Christ, our Savior.
- Oct. 26 Hebrews 8:1-13. The excellency of the priesthood of Christ.
- Oct. 27 Hebrews 9:1-28. The perfect priesthood of Christ is shown to be different than the human priesthood of God's ancient people.
- Oct. 28 Hebrews 10:1-39. The once-and-for-all sacrifice of Christ on the cross for our salvation. We are encouraged to remain faithful.

God's Children Live by Faith

- Oct. 29 Hebrews 11:1-40. The nature and fruits of saving faith in God's promises of grace fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- Oct. 30 Hebrews 12:1-29. As we hold on to our Christian faith, we must also show our faith in Jesus by godly living.
- Oct. 31, Reformation Day Hebrews 13:1-25. The writer urges us to live together in brotherly love and unity, with our faith rooted in God's grace as shown through Jesus. Surely we ought to unite in praise to God for His wonderful works of love.

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