



The Deaf Lutheran



Ephphatha, Be Opened

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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

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MOVING? CHANGING ADDRESSES?

Please clip the form on the inside back cover with the old address label. Mail it to THE DEAF LUTHERAN, 31 W. Beacon St., West Hartford, Conn. 06119.

Only One Life

Two little lines I heard one day
As I plodded on in my usual way:
And they rang in my ears again and again,
Repeating in solemn, sweet refrain:
"Only one life, 'twill soon be past;
Only what's done for Christ will last."
"Only one life," the still, small voice
Gently allures to the better choice,
Bidding me never let selfish aims
Overshadow my Savior's claims.
— Give me, Savior, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy trust to keep;
And so through trouble, care, and strife,
Glorify Thee in my daily life!
"Only one life, 'twill soon be past;
Only what's done for Christ will last."

Did You Try It?

Evangelism — In Focus

"Get 'em in by hook or crook," the new evangelism theme in our Synod, is appropriately emphasized by a new symbol of a shepherd's crook crossed by a fishhook.

The shepherd's staff symbolizes the Shepherd's concern that none be lost, and the fishhook is a constant reminder that we are fishers of men. The shepherd's staff and the fishhook are fashioned into a cross symbolizing that it is the Gospel of Christ's cross that we through the power of God's Holy Spirit bring to a lost world.

The 1970 Evangelism Festival carries the theme "Gaining and Regaining for Christ" and is dedicated to strengthening the congregation. The emphasis is not only

to draw more people to Jesus but also to draw the inactive dropouts back to active participation in the congregation's life.

Evangelism festival materials have been sent to all pastors and/or congregations in Synod. The materials can be adapted to a useful purpose in our deaf congregations. If your congregation did not have an evangelism festival the last Sunday of January, how about having one during Lent?

"DWIGHT L. MOODY, upon being severely criticized for his methods in evangelism, replied, 'Lady, I like my way of doing it better than your way of not doing it.'"

We Could Not Tell Them About Jesus

I had my first contact with deaf people when my husband was pastor of the large parish of São Leopoldo, Brazil — with four congregations.

I was sick, and a Negro woman came once a week to wash our clothes. The lady, a widow, had four deaf children and no religion at all. She was living in the slum area of the Rio dos Sinos (River of the Bells).

One day she came very happy to our home, telling us that her oldest daughter, Terezinha, had found a job housekeeping. But after some months she came running and crying to our house: "Please come with me! Terezinha wants to kill herself. Tell her about Jesus, bring your Bible, talk to her. I can't tell her about Jesus; I don't know about Him."

The man of the house where Terezinha was working had abused her, and she was pregnant. When she realized what was happening, she wanted to kill herself.

I told the lady that I did not know how to talk to Terezinha since she could not read or write, and neither of us knew sign language. And my husband was not at home. But even he had never had contact with deaf people before.

It was terrible for us! Somebody was asking us to talk about Jesus to a girl who wanted to kill herself — and we, who wanted so much to help her, were not able to do it.

"Tell about Jesus! Tell about Jesus! Tell. . . ."

An opportunity was lost.

Soon after this my husband accepted a call to be principal of Colegio Concordia at Porto Alegre, and there again Jesus put deaf children in our path. In 1963 our school had a contest for Sunday school and day school children. At the time I was teaching a third-grade religion class. The children were to write about "I'm Jesus' Little Lamb." The best composition would receive a prize. A girl in my class wrote:

"I have two sisters and a little brother who are deaf. I always pray to Jesus that He may do a miracle with my sisters and my little brother, Sergio, like He did when He cured the blind and deaf man. Then I could tell them the stories about Jesus that you are telling us every day. Then you could teach them the song I like the most of all: 'I'm Jesus' Little Lamb.'"

This composition was later published in one of our church magazines. But when the little girl gave me the composition, she asked: "Why don't you come to my house and tell my sisters and my little brother Sergio about Jesus? You are a teacher; you can talk to them, can't you?"

No! No again! No, I could not talk to them. But I went to their home. The children sat on the floor and gave me a picture of Jesus. They looked at me, wait-

ing for me to talk about Jesus. Oh, how much I wanted to tell them that Jesus loves them too!

We began to realize that Jesus was putting all these children in our way so that we would do something for them. But how? Where to start?

Sometimes I wanted to quiet my conscience, thinking that somebody else could also do something for the deaf people. Why should I do it?

But it was always as if Jesus were asking me, "Are you like Jonas?"

"No, my Lord, take my hands, guide me, help me do the work."

When my husband received a scholarship to study at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1965, our daughter Beatriz and I came with him. While working at the Lutheran Building, I became acquainted with Rev. Herbert Rohe, secretary for deaf missions. I told him how concerned I was about the deaf people of Brazil. He arranged for us to take sign-language lessons with Rev. Floyd Possehl, a St. Louis pastor who teaches sign language at the seminary.

I think Pastor Possehl had a hard time in the beginning, since we did not know the English language and he did not know our language, Portuguese. But he and his wife were wonderful teachers, and we are so thankful to them.

After that, for a number of months, the Board for Missions made it possible for me to attend classes in the morning at the Cen-

EDITOR'S NOTE: *In recent years the DEAF LUTHERAN has had many articles about Mrs. Naomi Warth and her work with deaf children in Brazil. Above is another article, written by Mrs. Warth and reprinted from the Winter 1969 Lutheran Woman's Quarterly, a publication of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. In the article Mrs. Warth tells how God led her to do this work of love for the deaf. Read also the following article, "A Closer Look at South America," and notice how God may soon bless an expanding ministry to the deaf in Brazil. You can support this ministry by contributing to your Lutheran Deaf Mission Society.*

tral Institute for the Deaf, which is connected with Washington University. In the afternoon I worked at the Concordia Historical Institute.

When we came back to Brazil, we started a mission school with the three children of that one family. The school began Sept. 5, 1966, authorized by our District president, Rev. Elmer Reimnitz, and supported by our Mission Board. We held classes on the stage of a school, since we did not have another room.

Now we have 14 children, ages 5 to 26 — white, black, and crippled children.

The work was very difficult, especially since we didn't have any special equipment like hearing aids or earphones. If I would not have Jesus working with me at one side and my husband and Beatriz at the other side, I would not be able to do a good job. I'm so thankful to them.

The first lady who wanted to

help me was Herta Sander, a kindergarten teacher. She now teaches the girls some handcraft work. A student at our seminary comes once a week and teaches bookbinding. And a teacher of another school has woodcraft work once a week.

Our church in Brazil is very much interested in this mission. Walther League groups in Brasilia and in Porto Alegre have helped me very much. The ladies group in Porto Alegre paid for the cover for the first religion book that we mimeographed last year. Rev. Walter Hoerlle started a campaign among the Sunday school children in Brazil.

But I would most of all like to tell you a little about some of the children in our deaf school.

One 18-year-old girl came very far, about 800 miles. She belongs to our church but never had opportunity to go to school. She works in the morning in our seminary kitchen, and in the afternoon she comes to our school to learn how to read and write and to love her Savior Jesus. Last year she became the first student from our school to be confirmed. We were very happy on that day and thankful to our God.

A young Negro (26 years old) did not go away when I told him that he was too old to be in the same class with our little children. He sat on the floor near the door for 3 days and did not go away.

Finally we felt sorry for him, and now he too attends our school and is learning with the little chil-

dren how to write and to love Jesus. He can say with the children the little prayer we pray every day: "Jesus loves me, I love Jesus. Amen." He just loves the religion hours, and they are always too short for him.

Ubirajara, a 5-year-old boy of mixed race, was too poor to come to the school. We paid his bus fare, but he was still too poor to come. So Ligia, a seminary student's wife who also helps in our teaching, took Ubirajara to her house. When he started school, he was like a little animal and wanted to bite everybody. Now he is such a happy and nice boy, and all the children like him so much.

Our school is well known all over the city. People say that the children from our school change so much after they are with us for a time. Some people ask me why. I tell them that our children are happy children because Jesus is with us every day and loves the children and the children love Him.

One day a hospital called the city social service department, telling them about a little deaf girl who was lying on the floor of the hospital. They could not keep her, because she was not sick. The social service people told them to call me. So they did.

Ligia brought the girl, Rosenda, to our house. She was terribly dirty. Beatriz washed her for almost one hour and put some of her own clothes on Rosenda. Rosenda now lives with us and is

such a lovely girl. She loves her Savior, and she knows many of the stories about Jesus. Every night Bea prays with her. They are only some words, but Jesus understands them.

I'm so thankful to Pastor Rohe, the Board for Missions, the North

Wisconsin and the Northern Illinois LWML, and everyone else who is making it possible for me to do this work, which is so important for our mission in Brazil. May God bless them all.

MRS. NAOMI WARTH
Porto Alegre, Brazil

A Closer Look at South America

It has been 3 years since Mrs. Naomi Warth began Concordia Lutheran School for the Deaf at our seminary in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Within a short time the school grew from six pupils to fourteen. This number could easily be doubled or even tripled within the next year or two if the school had the space and facilities.

The Board of Directors of the Brazil District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has recognized that God's blessings upon this small school for the deaf is leading them to minister to the deaf. Through District president Elmer Reimnitz the board requested help in finding the best ways to develop a ministry to the deaf in Brazil and to expand Christian deaf education.

Melvin Luebke, superintendent of our Lutheran School for the Deaf at Mill Neck, N. Y., and I were asked to make the trip to South America, Nov. 8—28, 1969, to advise the Brazil District in these matters.

First Stop—Rio de Janeiro

We first visited the federal (state) school in Rio de Janeiro,

Brazil. This school was founded in 1831 and has a reported enrollment of nearly 700 students. We were saddened, however, by some of the conditions at the school and by the attitude of frustration and depression on the part of the teachers. They did not have enough classroom facilities or even textbooks. Playground facilities and space were limited to a small courtyard. The teachers pleaded with us to send them materials and other teaching aids.

We had a fair picture, therefore, of the conditions and needs of the deaf in South America by the time we arrived in Porto Alegre.

We were expecting to find the same poor conditions in Porto Alegre as we found in Rio de Janeiro. When we arrived, however, we were so pleased and surprised by what we saw at our Lutheran school in Porto Alegre that we are convinced that Christian attitude and spirit truly make a great difference! We were highly pleased and impressed by the fine attitude and dedication of the teachers and Mrs. Warth and by the happy, healthy children at the

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Thank you.

school. The children are making speedy progress in their learning in spite of their temporary quarters and meager facilities.

I feel our church has a great deal to contribute to deaf education in Brazil and we should eagerly grasp the opportunities we have without delay. God is leading our churches in Brazil, and we should not hesitate or falter in making the most of the doors He is opening to us.

Future Possibilities

Our meetings with the Board for Missions and the District Board of Directors were most encouraging and successful. At the Board for Missions meeting we urged them to call a director of deaf education, establish a Lutheran Deaf School Association, and form a South American Lutheran Friends of the Deaf Foundation. We also suggested that they employ Mrs. Warth as principal of the school and recruit and train teachers of the deaf.

There are three possibilities for the location of a school — at the

seminary, at our new school in São Leopoldo, or at a new school to be built by St. Paul's Congregation (Rev. Leopoldo Heimann) in Porto Alegre in 1971. The latter seems to be the best since it would provide classroom, food, and playground facilities as well as give the advanced deaf children an opportunity to go to school in classes where they have the ability to meet oral hearing class requirements. For example, if a deaf child shows exceptional ability in arithmetic or science, he or she could attend regular hearing classes and progress more rapidly than in deaf classes.

We also had a chance to meet with the president of the seminary, Dr. Arnaldo Schmidt, and the upper classmen. We urged them to train for ministry to the adult deaf, since religious services for deaf in South America are sadly lacking. We could not discover one adult deaf church in either Brazil or Argentina. Yet there are many adult deaf whom our church should be serving. This we discovered especially in Argentina.

On to Argentina

After we left Brazil, we went to Buenos Aires, Argentina. Here we found a much more progressive and better-equipped federal school. In fact, after seeing this school, we urged the Brazil District to send young men and women to this Argentina federal school which has a center for teacher training.

Four teachers from the federal school were so eager to discuss educational matters with us, that they forgot their classes and spent 3 hours in excited conversation with us. We were surprised to find them quite well informed about United States deaf education. In fact, they were eager to know more about the "Rochester Method," which their government had just adopted. They call it "the combined method."

Another thing that surprised us here was the fact that the adult deaf confederation had succeeded in getting their government to adopt the "combined method." Apparently they have a very strong adult deaf organization.

In the evening of the same day, we met with the leaders of the adult deaf association for 3 hours. We met Teodoro Mendoza, an intelligent and aggressive leader. He came to our hotel and escorted us to their offices. There we talked with Esteban Ferrar, who could write English, and with a hearing woman, secretary in their downtown headquarters, who could speak English very well. We also met a Swedish woman, mother of a deaf daughter, who works for their association as public relations director.

The deaf association is currently trying to get time on a local Saturday TV program, called "Saturdays of Goodness." These deaf leaders were eager to discuss U.S. programs of rehabilitation, vocational training, and psychiatric care for the deaf. They

seemed well informed on all these matters. They showed us blueprints of a new vocational training center they hope to build soon; it is to include services also for the deaf-blind. The deaf association is urging U.S. deaf leaders to attend their first national forum, which will be held in April 1970 in Buenos Aires.

The local deaf club in Buenos Aires is 57 years old and numbers 1,500 members. It occupies three floors in a downtown building at Maza 1480. The members told us sadly that very little is done for the deaf in religious worship and education. In fact, at the school in Rio de Janeiro we were told that a local minister visited the school only occasionally and that recently they were told the deaf do not need religious education, because God recognizes their handicap and graciously takes them to heaven automatically. In other words, the feeling was shown that it does not make any difference whether they understand God's Word and know their Savior or not.

Other Impressions

The trip to South America was indeed exciting, not only from what we learned about the deaf, but also from other experiences. We were searched four times for weapons, each time we left one country to go to another. We were in six major cities and touched two more by airport landings. In Lima we saw the bullfights in the city arena, which seats about

50,000 people. In Cusco, Peru, we were surprised one night as we heard three thunderous explosions resounding through the city square when two rival university student groups fought one another. We didn't get much sleep that night.

Here we also saw the ancient Inca ruins and spent another day visiting the famous lost city of the Incas at Machu Picchu, high in the Andes Mountains. Our Indian guide told us that the Incas were not worshipers of the sun god as many people have been told, but they worshiped the supreme being of the universe, creator of the world. Thus it was not difficult for the Spanish conquerors to get the Indians to recognize the cross as a symbol of Christianity. We saw crosses on top of many houses. Yet, strangely, the native Incas do not worship Christ. The cross is only a superstitious symbol which they place on their homes for divine protection.

In Porto Alegre we saw another oddity of superstition. The Indians set a box in the street and

place in it articles taken from the house of a person who is sick. They believe that if a car destroys the box the evil spirits will transfer to the people in the car and the people in the house will be free from the evil spirits and sickness.

These incidents tell us that South America certainly does need the truth of God's love and forgiveness in Jesus. Superstition, fear, fighting, and ignorance affect the deaf here as well as the hearing.

We are glad that we had the opportunity to visit South America and to help the Brazil District in their desire to provide a ministry to the deaf. We are excited about the deaf school project and happy to offer any helpful suggestions. I am sure that this school will develop into one of our major educational institutions in South America. God will certainly bless the dedicated efforts of these fine people, and we shall do all we can to help them.

REV. HERBERT ROHE
St. Louis, Mo.

Lent — Preparing for Easter

The Church Year Back Cover

After the season of Epiphany the church begins to look forward to Easter, the feast of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. To make the season more meaningful, the church notes the dramatic events

in the life of Jesus that show Him as God's Son, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

This year the cycle begins on Jan. 25, Septuagesima Sunday, about 70 days before Easter. This is the first of three Sundays that

provide a time of transition from Epiphany to Lent. This is sometimes called pre-Lent, a time of preparation before Ash Wednesday.

The color used during pre-Lent and Lent is purple or violet. This is the color of the Christian's repentant sorrow for sin, the central theme of this period of preparation before Easter.

Lent itself begins on *Ash Wednesday*, Feb. 11 this year. The name comes from the centuries-old ceremony in which the church applied ashes to the foreheads of her people with the words "Re-

member, O man, that you are dust and to dust you shall return." It is a day of personal examination, prayer, and repentance of sin.

Lent consists of 40 fasting days. The Sundays in Lent are not counted as part of the Lenten period of "sorrow for sin," but they do emphasize Jesus' obedience to God's law, His resistance of the devil's temptation for us, His power as God's Son, and His willingness to be our Savior by being our substitute as God planned.

Next: Holy Week

Luther and Patience

Thoughts on the Reformation Part V



In the last part of this series on words of the Reformation, we come to *patience*. I would think that the word "reformation" would be more associated with impatience than with patience. In this article, however, Martin Luther is characterized as a man of patience.

I don't pretend to know Luther well enough to say just how patient a man he was, but it is possible to see the element of patience in his words as he stood before the Diet of Worms, "Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise. God help me. Amen."

Our first reaction might be that Luther had already lost his patience by nailing the 95 theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. That may be true. On the other hand, the type of patience that says everything will be all right in the end, so why get involved, is not necessarily a virtue. This is not the kind of patience we see in Luther.

One biographer wrote of Luther: "He could hide nothing. No one ever remained in doubt very long as to what Luther thought and as to how he felt about a matter or person." In fact, Luther often furnished his enemies with welcome ammunition by expressing his views emphatically and at length on everything imaginable.

The kind of patience we see in Luther is not the ability to wait for a better time to say what was on his mind. Rather, as we look at his words, "Here I stand. . . . God help me," we see possibly the most significant aspect of patience. We see Luther as a man who has done what he believes to be correct and pleasing to God. He acted in agreement with Scripture, his conviction, and his conscience. He now utters the prayer, "God help me." I consider these to be words of patience.

This a patience that understands the limits of what men can do, but that believes at the same time that with God all things are possible. It is a patience that is willing to be satisfied with each new day without telling God when and how to act. This patience is not fatalism; it is not saying, "Whatever will be, will be." It is saying that God is a loving Father who knows all, and He will take action in our best interest according to His knowledge, in His own way, and at His own time.

The patience I see in Luther is that of trying to do all he knows to be good and right, and he leaves everything else in the hands of his heavenly Father. With conviction, humility, security, boldness, and patience we, with God's help, might well repeat the words composed by Luther:

A mighty Fortress is our God,
A trusty Shield and Weapon;
He helps us free from every need
That hath us now o'ertaken. . . .
With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the Valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected. . . .
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Let these all be gone,
They yet have nothing won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

Here we may stand. God help us. Amen.

REV. LOUIS R. JASPER



FIELD

GLEANINGS

Lutheran School for the Deaf In Its 97th Year

Detroit, Mich. Gleaned from the *Deaf Child's Advocate*, the quarterly publication of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, are the following items of interest:

The 1969—70 school year opened with 114 pupils, 56 boys and 58 girls. This number is an increase of 8 over last year. Due to the measles epidemic of 1964 and the extremely high number of applicants for enrollment, the school added one more class. Of the 114 pupils, 21 were new enrollees, and 16 of these entered at the beginning level in two classes.

The teaching staff for the current school year consists of 18 teachers, of whom 5 are new to the school.

The annual cost to educate, house, and feed a deaf child at the Lutheran School for the Deaf is now about \$4,000. (Costs of similar schools for the deaf are the same.) Since the school can expect to receive on the average only about one-seventh of its annual total financial needs from parents in the form of tuition fees, much publicity is required for financial support from Lutheran congregations and individ-

uals. During the past year the school was remembered in 26 wills.

Three years from now the school will celebrate its 100th anniversary. Committees are now planning for this special observance.



Pastor John A. Beyer and his wife Martha pose with the cake commemorating the 50th anniversary of his ordination

Pastor Beyer Honored on 50th Anniversary

Seattle, Wash. Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of the Deaf celebrated the 50th anniversary of Pastor John A. Beyer's ordina-



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Seattle, honors their pastor, Rev. John A. Beyer, with a service of praise and thanks to God on his 50th anniversary

tion with two services, a dinner, and a social hour on Sunday, Sept. 21.

Pastor Beyer, 74, was ordained Aug. 31, 1919, in his home parish of St. Paul's, Saratoga Springs, N. Y. He was installed as missionary to the deaf in the Portland, Oreg., Field on Oct. 19, 1919.

Later he served the deaf in the St. Paul, Minn., Field and the Columbus, Ohio, Field before accepting the call to Seattle in 1949.

Pastor Beyer's interest in the deaf began at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo., when a classmate who had a deaf brother offered to teach signs to anyone interested. His curiosity took care of the rest.

To mark the golden anniver-

sary year, the congregation invited Rev. Wayne Bottlinger, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Vancouver, B. C., Can., to be the guest speaker at the morning service of thanksgiving and praise to God. A former classmate and longtime friend of the deaf in Vancouver, Rev. Victor L. Meyer, now retired, preached at the afternoon service.

CHILD during lightning storm: "Don't worry, Mother; That's just God's flashlight." Faith in God makes a difference.

IF SOME people were a little more careful about where they step, those who follow them wouldn't stumble so much.



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

February 17—April 2

Include the following in your prayers this month:

- that members in your congregation may love and understand each other.
- that God's Word and Spirit will lead the unchurched deaf to faith in Jesus.
- that the straying members of your congregation may return in love to worship and serve the Lord.
- that God may forgive your sins and give you an understanding of His greatest gift.
- our church workers who celebrate birthdays:
 - Pastor Clarence Bremer, Fulton, Mo. (2-10)
 - Pastor Ervin Oermann, Milledgeville, Ga. (2-18)
 - Pastor F. P. Gehrs, Winnipeg, Man., Can. (2-21)
 - Mrs. Delores Anderson, pastor's wife, Jacksonville, Ill. (2-23)
 - Pastor William Ludwig, Columbus, Ohio (2-28)
 - Pastor Orlin Anderson, Jacksonville, Ill. (3-1)
 - Pastor George Natonick, Portland, Oreg. (3-1)
 - Mrs. Lorena Mueller, pastor's wife, Milwaukee, Wis. (3-8)
 - Mrs. Martha Beyer, pastor's wife, Seattle, Wash. (3-10)
 - Mrs. Sonja Leonhardt, pastor's wife, Devils Lake, N. Dak. (3-12)
 - Pastor Delbert Thies, Omaha, Nebr. (3-17)
 - Pastor Myron Prok, Indianapolis, Ind. (3-20)
 - Mrs. Florence Sampson, pastor's wife, San Francisco, Calif. (3-22)
 - Mrs. Ellen Lange, pastor's wife, Omaha, Nebr. (3-30)
 - Mrs. Catherine Bengelsdorf, pastor's wife, Des Moines, Iowa (4-1)
 - Mr. Donald Fairman, lay assistant, Spokane, Wash. (4-1)
 - Pastor Arnold Jonas, Los Angeles, Calif. (4-1)

We Denied Our God

- Feb. 17** — **Genesis 3:1-7.** We are those who have chosen the knowledge of good and evil. *Pray God to forgive your pride.*
- Feb. 18** — **Genesis 3:8-15.** We live in the curse of our choice. We have no excuse for doing sin.
- Feb. 19** — **Romans 1:18-25.** Our sin is imagining a different God. *Ask forgiveness for your failure to honor God with thanks.*

- Feb. 20** — **Romans 2:1-5.** Judging others is actually thinking yourself better than they are.
- Feb. 21** — **Psalms 14.** The sinner acts as though God did not live.
- Feb. 22** — **Isaiah 64.** We have nothing to boast about. *Give thanks that God in grace has not shown His anger.*

Our Sin Is Pride

- Feb. 23** — **Deuteronomy 8:11-20.** Our own accomplishments close our hearts. *Pray for a repentant spirit.*
- Feb. 24** — **Jeremiah 9:23-24.** Our only glory is that we are loved by God. *Ask forgiveness for your boasting.*
- Feb. 25** — **Matthew 7:21-23.** Repentant humility is the first part of doing God's will.
- Feb. 26** — **Matthew 19:16-22.** Perfect love must push away all pride.
- Feb. 27** — **Luke 7:36-50.** Our only relationship to God is in the forgiveness He offers us through Jesus. *Thank God for all His gifts.*
- Feb. 28** — **Luke 15:25-32.** The good man fails to be good in God's eye.
- March 1** — **Luke 18:9-14.** The man who knows his sin and who seeks forgiveness in Jesus is made right before God.
- March 2** — **Romans 12:1-13.** Genuine love does not permit boasting. *Pray that your congregation live together in love.*
- March 3** — **1 Corinthians 4:6-10.** God's children serve one another.
- March 4** — **Revelation 3:14-22.** Only God can call us good. *Give thanks to God for forgiving your sin in Jesus and making a new friendship with you.*

Jesus Is Our Salvation

- March 5** — **Romans 3:9-26.** Our God has chosen to redeem us by love alone. *Give thanks for the gift of grace in Jesus Christ.*
- March 6** — **Galatians 4:1-7.** In Jesus God has freed us from our own acts of sin.
- March 7** — **2 Corinthians 5:6-21.** Jesus has taken our sin that we may become friends with God and become holy in His sight.
- March 8** — **John 10:11-18.** Jesus gave His life for us. May we humbly accept God's word of forgiveness.
- March 9** — **Romans 5:1-11.** God's love is unconditional; He will not change His mind, and it is for all people.

He Showed Us the Father's Love

- March 10** — **John 3:1-21.** It is God's love that judges us in forgiveness. *Ask God to strengthen your trust in Him.*
- March 11** — **John 4:31-38.** Jesus spoke to us the love of God. *Pray God help you to teach His love to your children.*
- March 12** — **John 6:1-14.** Our daily bread is given in love. *Ask for faith to bring all your troubles to God.*

- March 13** — **Matthew 9:1-8.** God cares for us in body and in soul.
- March 14** — **Matthew 11:25-30.** God's love calls us to repentance.
- March 15** — **John 6:60-71.** The common people were offended at Jesus' words.
- March 16** — **Mark 3:20-35.** Even Jesus' friends and family doubted Him.
- March 17** — **John 8:48-59.** The Jewish leaders rejected the Christ.
- March 18** — **Mark 14:43-52.** The chosen Twelve deserted Jesus. *Ask for faith to trust Him even in time of despair.*

We Hated Him

- March 19** — **John 15:18-27.** When God offers forgiveness, the world hates the accusation that it has sinned. *Pray that we understand our shame and guilt and accept His love.*
- March 20** — **Matthew 26:57-68.** We try to protect ourselves against the judgment of God.
- March 21** — **Mark 15:1-20.** The world worships power and rejects God's love.

We Crucified Him

- March 22** — **Matthew 21:1-11.** Praise is given in weakness, even though true. May God lead you as you worship Him.
- March 23** — **Mark 15:21-39.** The grace of God is completely rejected. *Pray that you might know the full evil of your sin.*
- March 24** — **Acts 2:14-24.** The Word of grace begins with judgment: we have killed the Christ. May God show us the weakness of our faith.
- March 25** — **Matthew 20:20-28.** Our ambition sets us against God's grace.
- March 26** — **John 1:29-36.** Jesus was sacrificed for us on the cross. He is our Salvation. *Ask that God's Spirit strengthen you in your Lenten and Easter worship.*
- March 27** — **Revelation 5:6-14.** The cross of Christ is the redemption of the world.
- March 28** — **1 Peter 1:13-21.** God has purchased us who hated Him. *Give thanks for the freedom in which you have been reborn.*

He Rose from the Dead

- March 29** — **Matthew 28:1-10.** Out of despair comes hope. *Give thanks for the assurance of your life with God forever.*
- March 30** — **1 Corinthians 15:1-19.** The risen Christ is our Hope.
- March 31** — **Acts 2:22-36.** The mercy we rejected has been restored to us. *Give thanks for God's never-ending grace that forgives sinners.*
- April 1** — **1 Peter 1:3-9.** The testimony of the apostles makes our hope in Christ sure.
- April 2** — **Philippians 2:1-11.** The cross of Christ is the perfect expression of love. *Pray for the ability to give yourself in love.*

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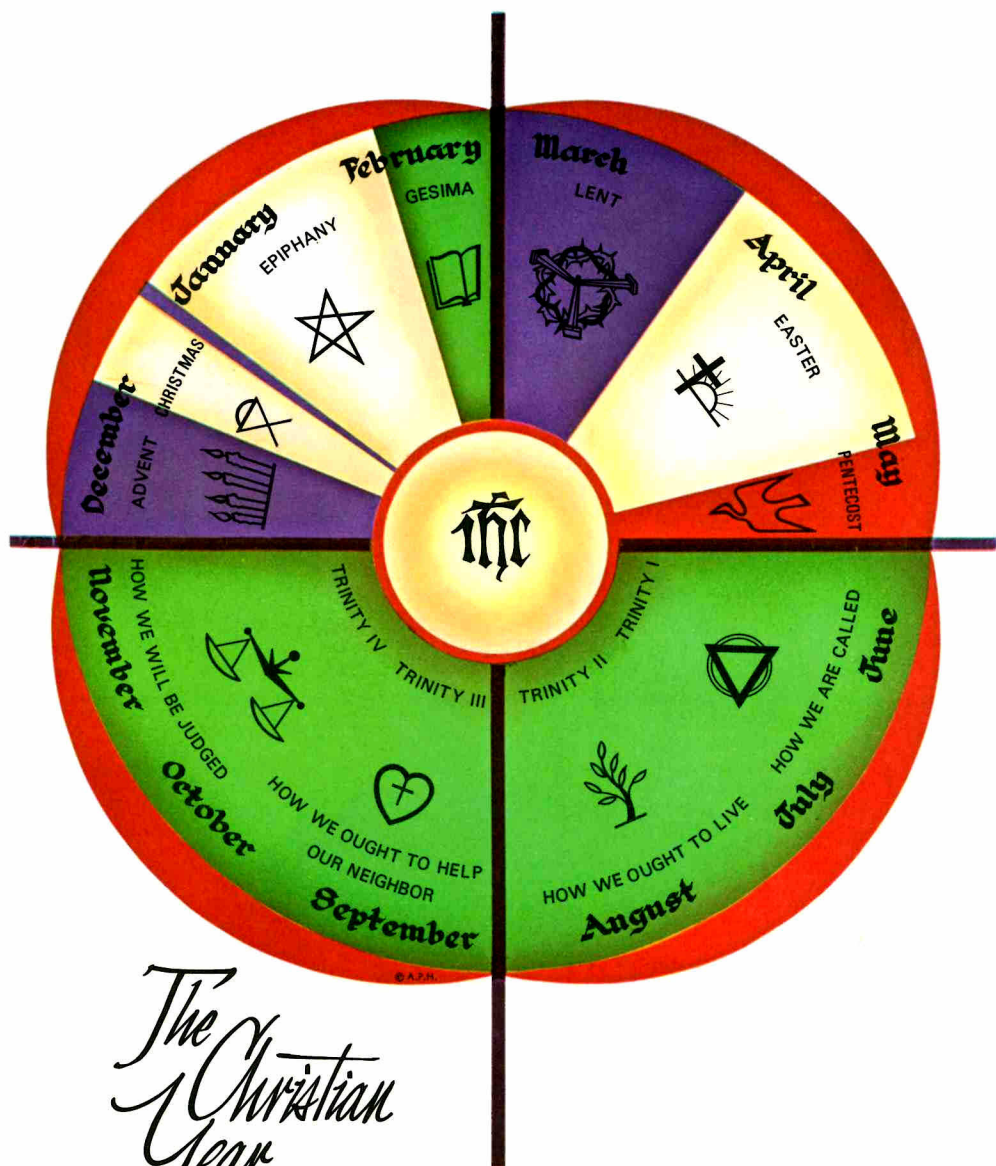
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