



The

DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Organ of the Board of Missions of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

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WONDERS OF GOD IN NATURE

By Herman W. Schaars

Insect Architecture

You may have heard what eminently good artisans some insects are. We think of the elaborate home of the honey bee, the hornet, the mud dauber, and the potter wasp. What simple tools they use compared to those of man! What ordinary construction materials are at their disposal! Yet how cleverly they are designed, how accurately the specifications are carried through, how securely they are attached, how effectively they meet all the needs of the dweller! Can one still ignore the fact that all this is definite proof of the glorious wisdom of the Creator! They have not copied the architectural plans from anyone else--it is God-given instinct.

The home of the honey bee is the hive. In this hive are many cells. In the center are the brood cells, surrounding them are the honey cells, beyond them the pollen cells. As a new queen is to be introduced, a special cell is constructed. These cells are made of bee-wax. The wax is squeezed out of tiny holes on the side of the bee's abdomen. It appears in a flaky form. With the legs these flakes are fed to the mouth, where they are chewed till the proper constituency is acquired.

Each cell is hexagonal. It has been mathematically established to get the largest number of cells of a given volume in a given area, the cells must not be octagonal, nor square, nor round, but hexagonal. It is claimed that the measurements of honey bee cells of Wisconsin hives are exactly those of cells in Illinois or in Florida or in California. At one time it was even suggested to use the width of a cell as a unit of measure. What an expert mathematician, a honey bee! God-given instinct! The size of the cells allows just 28 to the square inch. They are so firmly constructed that a weight of 25-lbs. would not crush the cells.

The Hornet

You have marveled at the architecture of the honey bee, that of the hornet is no less wonderful. As winter

approaches the entire colony dies off. Only the queen survives. How could she survive when all the others dropped dead? She is sustained to perpetuate her kind. A special power of the Creator!

As the temperature of spring rises to 54 degrees or higher, the queen rouses herself and selects a place for this year's swarm. It may be the branch of a tree. The nest is firmly attached, about the size of a small apple, large enough to accommodate about 12 cells. The nest is

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TODAY IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE!

Now after the sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the sepulchre. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning, and his raiment white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'DON'T BE AFRAID; FOR I KNOW THAT YOU SEEK JESUS WHO WAS CRUCIFIED. HE IS NOT HERE; FOR HE HAS RISEN AS HE SAID...' Matthew 28:1-6a.

We might be able to say that Jesus was born again on Easter morning, that he took to himself his heavenly body for the first time fully since that night in a stable of crowded Bethlehem thirty-three years before. It was not a new birth to Him but only in our minds; we must live by the rules of time and space. To people He seemed to change, to die, to leave and to come again. But in the mind of God He was merely fulfilling an elaborate plan of salvation. He was making the final great sacrifice for us. So on Easter morning, when it was all finished, and in our eyes at least, Jesus began the first day of the rest of His life.

How do you feel about it? What Jesus did--is it just a wonderful story or does it have special meaning for you today? When Jesus preached to the crowds of people, he knew their real thoughts. He would point at some of them and call them hypocrites, liars and braggers. It was as if he was saying, "You bad people, you aren't hearing what I say." They had their minds on the pleasures of life and every word of Jesus passed through their heads like wind through the trees. The Easter miracle is one last attempt by Jesus to preach to your heart; do you hear him talking to you now?

You may ask, "What can I do to change or to improve myself?" Let me tell you. Make these promises to yourself: 1) I WILL NOW, AT THIS MINUTE, GIVE A PRAYER TO JESUS THANKING HIM FOR SAVING ME. 2) I WILL GO TO WORSHIP EVERY CHANCE I GET. 3) I WILL READ THE BIBLE OFTEN AND TRY TO ATTEND AT LEAST ONE BIBLE CLASS EACH WEEK. 4) I WILL SHOW MY FAITH TO ANYONE WHO CAN SEE MY ACTIONS. And 5) I WILL PRAY OFTEN ASKING JESUS TO GIVE ME STRENGTH NOT TO FAIL HIM. Thanks be to God for His rising from the grave. Congratulations to you on the first day of the rest of your life!!

Jesus says, PEACE I LEAVE WITH YOU; MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU; NOT AS THE WORLD GIVES DO I GIVE TO YOU. LET NOT YOUR HEARTS BE TROUBLED, NEITHER LET THEM BE AFRAID. John 14:27.

--The Messenger of Christ, Columbus, Ohio



← Memphis, Tenn. Rev. Donald Leber and lay delegate Leland Maxwell of Eternal Mercy Congregation attended the Mid-South District Convention, June 12-15, at Memphis. The convention's theme was "Declaring His Works with Rejoicing." Dr. Theodore Nickel, Second Vice-President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod explained the work of our church. Dr. Charles Mueller, President of the Southeastern District, was the main speaker.

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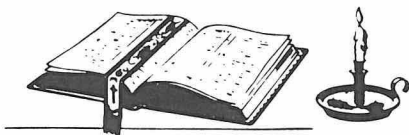
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Daily Bible Reading Plan

1972

(American Bible Society)
HOPE
FOR MODERN MAN



HOPE FOR A NEW ORDER

AUGUST

DAY	CHAPTER
1.....	Hosea.....14:1-9.....
2.....	Joel.....3:9-17.....
3.....	Amos.....9:11-15.....
4.....	Micah.....4:1-5.....
5.....	Nahum.....1:7-15.....

Cries of the Human Heart

6 Sunday...	Job...5:1-8.....
7.....	Job.....6:1-11.....
8.....	Psalm....67:1-7.....
9.....	Psalm....96:1-13.....
10....	Psalm....98:1-9.....
11....	Psalm....142:1-7.....
12....	Psalm....143:1-12.....

Promise of the New

13 Sunday...	Isaiah..65:17-25
14....	Jeremiah..31:31-34....
15....	John.....13:31-35....
16....	1 Corinthians 11:23-27
17....	Hebrews..10:16-25....
18....	2 Peter..3:1-10.....
19....	John.....2:7-11.....

New Life in Christ

20 Sunday...	Luke..14:25-33.
21....	Acts.....3:19-26.....
22....	Acts.....4:31-37.....
23....	2 Corinthians 5:17-21
24....	Philippians..1:19-25.
25....	Colossians...3:12-17.
26....	1 John...1:1-10.....

New Heaven and Earth

27 Sun...	Revelation 20:11-15
28....	Revelation..21:1-7...
29....	Revelation..21:21-27.
30....	Revelation..22:1-7...
31....	Revelation..22:8-15..

WONDERS from page 1

made of paper--but not paper made by man, for the hornet makes its own paper. It bites off small pieces of wood, chews it thoroughly, mixes it with saliva, to reach the consistency of papiermache. With her mandibles and feet she constructs a well-rounded nest, the opening at the bottom. The Chinese are credited with having been the first paper makers, but they learned the art from the hornet.

Within the nest a dozen cells are built, hexagonal in form, all pointing downward. In each cell the queen glues an egg to the ceiling. When the eggs hatch, the queen is the nurse. In about 18 days there are 12 adults, all workers. They enlarge the nest to about the size of a melon. The reconstruction is so wisely planned that the elements at no time interfere with the building. Who taught the hornets such intricate building technique! We say, "How great is God!" By fall the nest may have reached the size of a water melon with possibly a thousand cells, one tier upon another. You may have found a nest in winter.

The Mud Dauber

Another highly qualified craftsman is the mud dauber. As its name indicates, it uses mud to build a home. It is no "dauber", however, working in a hap-hazard way, littering mud all about; just the opposite is the case.

The site of the nest may be an exposed rafter in a shed where an open door or a broken window permit ready access. The female flies to a pool. With her mandibles she gathers mud, rolls it into the size of a pea to lay the foundation of her home. She spreads this out so skillfully that a mason with a trowel couldn't do better. She returns to collect more mud to complete the tubular structure, pipe-organ like, about an inch deep, a row of them constituting the nest colony. You may have seen them and admired how proficiently they were constructed.

Now she seeks small spiders, paralyzes them at the nerve center, and carries them to the nest. One that I examined had 13 spiders. On the body of one an egg is laid. As the egg hatches, the table is already set with fresh animal matter, its favorite food. The door to the home is made on a bevel, tapering towards the inside, as a cork in a bottle. From the inside it can be pushed out, from the outside it is secure from attack. Can we still deny the power and wisdom of a wonderful Creator!

The Potter Wasp

The potter wasp is also a most skilled artisan. As the name suggests, the nest has the form of a jug about 1/2-inch in diameter. The lips curve outward as the form of a jug would suggest. It is made of mud so artistically designed you might think it came from a potter's wheel. It is firmly placed on the branch of a tree. The nest is partly filled with a certain kind of caterpillar, only this kind will do. The nerve center of this caterpillar is best reached from below. The caterpillar must be turned slightly to get at this spot. The egg hangs from a little strand of silk. The hatchling lands on its food, a food thoroughly relished. The neck of the jug is firmly sealed, again on a bevel to be easily removed later.

Reflecting upon the remarkable architecture of insects, we exclaim with the psalmist, "I will praise Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will show forth all Thy marvelous works." Psalm 9:1.

Reprinted from The Badger Lutheran

MY HAND IN GOD'S

Each morning when I wake I
say,
"I place my hand in God's
today."
I know He'll walk close by
my side
My every wandering step to
guide.

He leads me with the tender-
est care
When paths are dark and I
despair--
No need for me to understand
If I but hold fast to His
hand.

My hand in His! No surer
way
To walk in safety through
each day.
By His great bounty I am
fed;
Warmed by His love and
comforted.

When at day's end I seek my
rest
And realize how much I'm
blessed,
My thanks pour out to Him
and then

I place my hand in God's
again.
--Submitted by Sadie B.
Neely

JAMES 1:22-25 (BECK)

"Always do what the Word
says; don't merely listen to
it and so deceive yourselves.
If anyone listens to the
Word but doesn't do what it
says, he's like a man who in
a mirror sees the face he
was born with. He looks at
himself, goes away, and
immediately forgets what he
looked like. But if you
look into God's perfect
Word, which makes us free,
and are loyal to it, if you
don't merely listen and
forget but do what it says,
you'll be happy as you do
it."



Elmhurst, N.Y. More than 125 people attended the May 7, 1972, Recognition Day Banquet at St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the Deaf. Each year St. Matthew honors its volunteer workers with a banquet celebration. The members are thankful to our Lord for the many hearing people who give their time and talent teaching deaf children in three schools for the deaf in Metro New York. Then, too, many others help around the church during the year. They assist with remodeling, painting, electrical work and many other jobs.

After a delicious buffet dinner planned by Mr. & Mrs. John Minter, the Young People entertained the guests with pantomime skits and gospel songs in sign language and taped music. Then all the volunteer workers received recognition cards for their outstanding service. Members of the Concordia College and St. Matthew Sign Language Clubs received certificates for their accomplishments in learning the language of signs.

The day was closed with a Vesper Service in the church led by Pastor Hodgson and Vicar Page. St. Matthew is grateful to God for the fine Christian people who give their help with love.



President Warren King welcomes guests to the 4th Annual Recognition Day at St. Matthew's, Elmhurst, N.Y.

JOHN ERSKINE'S SECRET OF MANAGING TIME ...

John Erskine, the well-known author, professor, and lecturer, once wrote that he learned the most valuable lesson of his life when he was fourteen. His piano teacher asked him how much he practiced, and how long at a stretch. The boy replied that he practiced for an hour or more at a time.

"Don't do that," warned the teacher. "When you grow up, time won't come in long stretches. Practice in minutes, whenever you can find them--five or ten before school, after lunch, between chores. Spread the practice throughout the day, and music will become a part of your life."

HONOR TO PARKS

and their makers
designers and
their guardians!

Whether it is the rugged landscape ballfields lakes and playgrounds of New York's Central Park, the imaginative charm of Boston's Public Garden, the marina/museum complex of Chicago's lakefront Grant Park or the coastal magnificence and seal-bearing rocks of San Francisco's Golden Gate or some tiny triangle oasis in a city traffic pattern of benches and a stone bubbler of warm water for lunch eaters and book readers shaded by two sycamores and a linden tree.

The making and the keeping of a park is a pious act--charity to all city folk poor-to-wealthy.

--Margaret Tsuda in The Christian Science Monitor Reader's Digest quote.

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Erskine stated that the observance of this advice enabled him to live a comparatively complete life as a creative writer, outside his regular duties as an

instructor. He wrote most of *Helen of Troy*, his most famous work, on streetcars while commuting between his home and the university.
--from Bits & Pieces

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Three young ladies from the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind were received into God's Kingdom through Holy Baptism, May 21. Following a course of study that prepared them for church membership, they were received as communicants of Christ Lutheran Church of Montana.

After the service Mr. Walter Herbold, President of the congregation, presented each girl with a small personal size cross made of walnut and aluminum. Mrs. Flo Ellen Hippe, President of the Ladies Guild, presented each girl with a gold cross and chain. A reception was held after the service so that everyone could meet the girls. We rejoice that on Pentecost three more souls were added to God's Kingdom.



Christ Lutheran Church of Montana rejoices in His mercy as three were added to His Kingdom on Pentecost Sunday. Pictured (left to right) are MRS. VERNON HIPPE, President of the Ladies Guild, MISS GAIL PACE, MISS CONNIE MC CORKLE, MISS SEMELEEE LAKE, MR. WALTER HERBOLD, President of the congregation.

HELPERS WHO SHARE THE GOSPEL

In sharing the Gospel of Jesus with others we are thankful to the Lord because many friends are interested, and, we also appreciate the help of other friends in carrying out the details.

This is particularly true at Joplin and Noel, Mo., and Baxter Springs and Pittsburg, Kan. Our "assistants" make many visits, (keep in touch with the pastor when there is sickness,) mail invitations, furnish transportation, etc. They are members of Immanuel Lutheran. The photograph shows a part of our group which assembles at Joplin, in the Immanuel Lutheran Church. On many occasions we have friends in this worship from "tri-state" Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas.



NOTES ON READING – BY A LAZY READER

By Jon Suel



It seems that someone is forever telling me I should read something. Perhaps it is that I look less intelligent than the rest of my fellows or perhaps I look as if I'm one who has time to read. At any rate again the other day a friend pushed a book at me and said the familiar words-- "why don't you read this?"

Now the shelves of my home and office are filled with books, some of which I have read carefully and some of which I've never looked at and should discard. But most of the books have been sampled and then placed aside for more thorough reading at a later time. That future time seems to be somewhat nebulously associated with retirement and I suspect that when retirement comes I shall be too tired to read all these sampled but put-aside-for-now books.

My sampling of books begins with reading the preface which generally gives an idea of the contents of the book and the author's reason for writing what he wrote. It helps also if there is a little biography of the author. If the contents and purpose of the book have some interest for me I sample the contents, that is, read a bit here and a bit there. If there is a new or stimulating thought I'll spend a longer time with it. I like to note ideas and interesting topics on a blank page usually at the back of the book. When I do this I make a note of the page number carrying the idea. In this way I can have a quick reference file about the particular book. There's really no point in telling you about all this except to indicate what a lazy reader attempts to do when confronted with the mountain of reading materials presented today.

But back to the book pressed upon me. The title was attractive "Haircuts and Holiness". The title takes its name from the first chapter which is a little thing about the Lord looking into the hearts of people and going beyond the outside appearance. So also should people today look beyond all the hair and clothing fads of young people and love them for what they really are.

That's what the little book is like--a series of brief essays, treatises or dissertations designed to induce thinking, meditation or discussion about spiritual matters. The author doesn't try to preach. He doesn't ask you to accept what he says. He doesn't even suggest many new ideas but some old ones are packaged in such a way the reader is forced to do some thinking and meditation.

It seems to me that is precisely what books and publications are to do--make us think. Help us to rethink. It is impossible to read all that is written and much of what is written should not be taken seriously. A reader should pick and choose, apply and use as one does when making a purchase. One simply has the option to accept some things an author says and reject others.

Incidentally, the author of the little book is Louis Cassels who is senior editor of the United Press International and author of a weekly column "Religion in America". He includes a few little essays on prayer which alone are worth the publishers asking price of \$1.75. Each little article takes only a few minutes to read and the articles need not be related to other articles for continuity--another plus for the reader who must read in snatches of time.

--from *The Lutheran Layman*

←(Back Row): MISS KATHERINA HENCKEL; REV. DONALD LOESCH, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church. (Front Row): MRS. JULIA NILSON, member of our Mission; a sister; MRS. KATHRYN SCHOOLEY, Mission-Leader; PASTOR A. E. FERBER; Anonymous "assistant", member of Immanuel. MISS ESTELLA FRITZ, a very faithful "assistant" was unable to be present.

The worship meetings for the Deaf of the Joplin area have been conducted without interruption since 1924.

--Rev. A. E. Ferber



FAN MAIL

Dear Editor Jones,

On behalf of the members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the Deaf in New York, I wish to express our great appreciation and pleasure of reading the monthly DEAF LUTHERAN newspaper. You certainly have been doing a marvelous job as the editor. Keep up the good work!!

Yours in Christ,
Linda King,
Secretary

CORRECTION NEEDED (?)

Dear Editor Jones,

First, I want to commend you on your work. The May issue of the DEAF LUTHERAN is indeed very neat and attractive. I enjoyed reading the contents and found them wholesome and very good. I pray that God's Spirit be with you as you continue to serve and to win souls for Christ with the printed Word.

Secondly, I wish to comment regarding one sentence on page 3, which I think should have been deleted. It states: "All our sons in Vietnam are POW's. Bring them home!". I do not think it is wise to take sides on controversial political, social or economic issues in a church publication. I may be in sympathy with you regarding the war in Vietnam, but this is an issue on which Christians may be divided. I am sure that many of our Christian readers are of the opinion that "our sons are fighting for freedom in Vietnam" and they would want to encourage all Americans to "give them whole-hearted support."

I am aware that many churches today are taking sides in their publications and also voting on such issues in their assemblies. But I do not believe that it is in the best interest of God's Kingdom to do this. As a Christian, I may be a democrat or a republican; I may decide to vote for higher or lower taxes; I may support busing of children out of their neighborhood to attend schools elsewhere or I may be opposed to it; I may want my son to fight in Vietnam or I may want him to be a conscientious objector. On these and many more issues of the day, the church does not speak with one voice, but leaves each member to his own convictions.

The church is to be united regarding the teaching of the doctrines of the Scriptures and we are to teach God's Word faithfully. The unity of the church is not found in its support of political, social and economic issues. It is not the business of the church to vote on these issues and then to advocate the side of the majority. When a church does this, it weakens the cause of spreading the Gospel of Christ to all men. The devil would have a real hey-day, if he could lead us to believe that we had to promote and fight for unity on these issues,

rather than for doctrinal unity on the basis of the Holy Scriptures. May our DEAF LUTHERAN always promote the cause of Christ our Savior.

In His Service,
Rev. George C. Ring

WE GOT AN AWARD!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

Dear Editor Jones,

Here is a brief news item for publication in the DEAF LUTHERAN.

During the month of May, 1972, Branch 1670 of the Aid Association for Lutherans (fraternal life insurance), known as the Golden Gate Branch, Oakland, Calif., received a pleasant surprise from the Home Office at Appleton, Wis. The branch is composed of deaf Lutherans and their families, living in the Bay Area and Great Valley of California, where Pastors Clark Bailey and Marlin Sampson serve. It was awarded a GOLD STAR rating--the highest rating for exceptional performance during 1971.

The members soon learned that only 57 out of 4,551 A.A.L. branches received the GOLD STAR rating. These top branches are located in 28 states, from Alaska to Florida, and one province in Canada. We also learned that our branch is next to the "lowest man on the totem pole," because the "top most man on the pole," that is the most active GOLD STAR branch, reported 75 branch activities with a total attendance of 8,553!

Nevertheless, we are very thankful for being honored with this fine award. Let us hear about other A.A.L. branch activities and ratings.

Norman L. Davis
Secretary, Branch 1670

Yes, we agree! Let's hear more about the activities of other church organizations! Even the editor gets tired of stuffing a paper with "filler" stories. Isn't anything happening in the Central and Northwest Regions these days?

OVERPROTECTION vs. GROWTH

Dear Editor Jones,

I enjoyed reading Mr. David Denton's article, "Religious Services for Deaf People," in the July issue. Mr. Denton's concerns are real and to the point.

The article aims more at the practice of integrating the deaf within a hearing parish than our approach of establishing separate congregations of deaf people. Yet Mr. Denton offers some seed-thoughts for all of us.

The article suggested that the deaf who are involved in a hearing parish are not participating as full-fledged members. Why not? All too often the answer is overprotection. This attitude says, "The deaf cannot do it," or "They have no experience," or "They will not understand," or "They will make a mess of it."

Overprotection does not give the deaf a chance to see for themselves what they can or cannot do. Overprotection is another word for paternalism.

I see two causes for this trouble.

One cause lies with the hearing members of the church and it's root is guilt. Hearing members feel guilty sometimes because they believe they should be doing something for the deaf members but don't know what. This is compounded because they cannot talk with the deaf in signs and because they do not understand why the deaf act and live the way they do. Hearing people quiet the voice of their guilt by being overprotective. They make big plans for the deaf socially as well as in religion classes and services. Overprotection is spoon-feeding.

The second cause lies with the deaf themselves and has its roots in their schools. All too often the deaf child grows up in a school system that spoon-feeds him from start to finish. His teachers give him what he needs, but they do not require him to give much in return. He is not given responsibility and thus takes no pride in what he can do for himself. In the church situation, then, these deaf easily follow the pattern, silently accepting all handouts, directions, and programs as they are developed for them. I submit that they are not happy in this situation, but cannot seem to get out of it.

Mr. Denton suggested some factors that could begin to overcome both causes of the problem, but I do not want to comment on them at this point. Instead, I want to draw some parallels with our approach in Lutheran Deaf Missions.

Because the deaf generally have developed their own sub-culture, we found it natural to develop congregations and preaching stations of the deaf and their families. Looking back, the Lord has blessed this method of serving the deaf, and we have many fine congregations. We have also recently formed the International Lutheran Deaf Association with seven regional branches to develop leadership qualities of the deaf and to encourage Christian growth for all our members.

All things are not flowers and sunshine in this approach to religious services for the deaf, however. We must recognize overprotection, or paternalism, as an ever repeating problem to be fought and overcome.

The symptoms are the same as I outlined above. First, on the part of our professional workers--both pastors and lay workers, and on the part of our strong deaf leaders, overprotection of the majority of our deaf members prevents progress. I have heard it said, "They have no experience, they have no tact, they have no sense of responsibility." As a result, programs are developed, budgets set, people visited with only a few of the members doing the work of the Lord.

Does it then follow in our church as it does in integrated situations that the two roots of the problem are to be found in guilt on the part of our professional workers and deaf leaders and in the willingness of the deaf majority to be spoon-fed?

Why do our professional workers sometimes feel guilty? Speaking as

one, the professional worker comes face to face with many frustrations in serving the deaf. Number one frustration is the lack of time to do everything he sees needing to be done. He knows his job is to train, to build-up the members in Christian living, and, when he fails to do the job he requires of himself, he feels guilty. Another frustration is the failure of the spoon-fed deaf to react to a program and grow with it. Thus when challenge after challenge is met by silence or by small response, the professional worker blames himself instead of recognizing the root of the problem. If he does not continue to work to encourage the deaf, one of two things may

then happen. Either the professional worker becomes overprotective and stops challenging his members to grow, or he packs up and leaves the mission for greener pastures elsewhere. (Professional workers leave deaf missions for other reasons, too.)

The same guilt-overprotection process happens to our deaf leaders as they meet the same frustrations and begin to excuse the deaf majority. Instead of struggling with it, overprotection is the easy way out.

Overprotection does no one any favors whether in an integrated hearing parish or in a subsidized deaf parish. Church leaders cannot

deny the deaf majority those experiences, the adventures, yes even the frustrations they need in order to grow!

The church urges us to involve more people in the work of the Lord. Let's take it as a challenge to spend the time and energy to help more deaf wrestle with decisions and problems.

Whoever administers the subsidized deaf missions--Districts, Synod's Board for Missions, or Regional Boards--must realize this as well.

Encouragement, understanding, training, legitimate controls, opportunities for growing, YES! Overprotection, paternalism, NO!!

Cordially yours,
Rev. Martin A. Hewitt

THIS WE NEED TO DO TOGETHER

The church council spent an entire afternoon and evening discussing what it really is that we as a congregation want to do together in the Lord. This is what they suggest is our mission:

1. The Gospel of JESUS CHRIST needs to be preached and taught.

2. The *liturgy* needs to be meaningful to the people of the community.

3. We need to recognize the centrality of the sacraments and participate in them as such.

4. We need to encourage the youth to take responsibility for ministry through the church.

5. We need to visit the sick and shut-ins of the congregation and, as much as is possible, of the community.

6. We need to teach the children of the parish, with our teaching centered in the Gospel of JESUS CHRIST.

7. We need to communicate what it is we are about to (a) the members of the congregation and (b) the community as a whole.

8. We need to communicate the "Word" of God to social and political structures regarding social ills and needs of the community and world.

9. We need to encourage individuals and groups to sponsor fellowship events for different ages in the community.

10. We need to increase the numerical size of our fellowship.

11. We need to keep our buildings attractive and used at their maximum capacity.

12. We need to increase, through understanding, the level of our financial stewardship.

13. We need to increase our awareness of and closeness to other Christians.

14. We need to respond to critical personal human need in our community.

Obviously, we are not doing all of the above things well...we have a long way to go before all the members of the congregation truly take responsibility for making it happen. But a truly significant step has been taken: The church council has very deliberately decided that this is what we want to do together as a congregation.

The "how" will now have to follow. Each member should examine how closely the above list fits in with his own goals for the congregation. We will be talking a lot about these goals in the months ahead to decide how best these goals can be reached. Now it's up to all of us together and, even more, to the Spirit of JESUS working in and through us!

The Newsletter, the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Brooklyn, N.Y.--Advance

PROVERBS

A fraud is not perfect unless it be practised on clever persons.

The more you grieve the greater your loss.

Some people are content to spend a week-end with Jesus, but balk at having Him as a permanent guest.

"Keep thy shop, and thy shop will keep thee."
--Old Ben

MIRACLES DO HAPPEN

Prayers and faith in God have worked a wonderful miracle for me. When I was 5 years old, I lost my vision and was blind for a year. When I regained my sight I had to wear thick lenses all through adulthood. Then slowly my sight began to dim. As each year passed it became worse until I felt sure I was going blind. But I never gave up hope that one day I'd be able to see better again. Each day my prayer was, "Lord, let me see a little more today."

As most people often are with doctors, I grew impatient with what I thought was a waste of time. On Oct. 25th I was admitted to Columbia Eye Center and had the operation the next afternoon. For six days I was unable to see and on the seventh day, a Tuesday, I realized that I could see so clearly that it was as if suddenly I had perfect vision again. Everything seemed so new and different. Even my doctor was surprised. He says I see better than he had hoped I would. And after tests he finds that I will need glasses for reading only! Truly God has blessed me a thousand times. I have so much to be thankful for and I received the best birthday gift of my life.

I thank all the friends and family who sent cards and whose prayers truly helped. God truly worked a miracle when He guided my doctor's hands. I feel so wonderful and

ask that all of you continue to join with me in singing His praise. "Oh, happy day, I am in love with God and He loves me too."

Mary Cheese in the New York Deaf Lutheran Newsletter

CLIPPING

From Iowa District West:

"A number of years ago I read a Peter Marshall sermon that talked about a man who, early in his life found a five dollar bill lying on the ground. The rest of his life he walked around with his head down, never looking up, searching the area just before him for more good things. At 70, he could report that he had found 63 dollar bills, 7 more fives, one ten, 1,210 pennies, and a Mason jar of assorted nickels, dimes, quarters and halves. He also had an outstanding collection of pins (safety, straight and lapel) became an expert on sidewalk cracks and was able to document the steady ecological deterioration on the basis of all the trash spread beneath his feet. But he never saw a sunrise or a sunset; never reveled in a rainbow; never gloried in Spring, in flowers or the blazing colors of Autumn; never brightened to the happy face of a friend coming toward him from afar; never witnessed any of the exciting events of life that play out before our eyes. I used to wonder if that man really existed. I now realize that if I am not eternally vigilant, that man is me.

--Calvary Newsletter, Iowa West