



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

December 1979

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Volume 71, No. 12

## JOY TO THE WORLD - THE LORD IS COME!



Greetings from  
Rev. Don Zuhn,  
Secretary for  
North American  
Ministries  
Blind and Deaf

One night long ago the skies outside Bethlehem were filled with angels - all singing praises to God because the Savior was born! Even since then, Christians have used beautiful Christmas hymns to help bring this wonderful story of Christ's birth.

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing.*

Yes, the Lord has come just as He promised so many times. He came with love ... He came to bring peace to the hearts of people. The shepherds watched and listened to the angels' song ... they found that peace in the manger ... and they went back to their fields with much joy in their hearts.

Jesus came to the earth at Bethlehem; He

also comes to His people today. He comes into their and our hearts as we faith-fully hear the Christmas Good News ... He comes when we share that Good News with one another. He still comes with love for people - all the many people of this world! He still comes to bring peace to troubled hearts of people by giving forgiveness of sins.

As you celebrate Jesus's birth again this Christmas, may you see His love more clearly ... may you find new peace for your life ... may you go back to your "fields" with much joy and singing in your heart!

*Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child.  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace!*





## ABS Helps 'Sign' Christmas Story

St. Louis, Mo.

Children with hearing problems present parents and teachers with special challenges. Especially difficult to come by are effective teaching aids for these youngsters.

Now the American Bible Society has published a Scripture booklet telling the story of the birth of Jesus in Signed English for hearing-impaired youngsters that should overcome some of these difficulties. At the same time, it presents the Scriptures to young people at an early age.

The sign language in the booklet is based on a system developed by Gallaudet College for the Deaf, through its Signed English Project, in Washington, D.C.

The text for "The Birth of Jesus" is from Luke's Gospel and presents a "dynamic equivalent" translation of the original Greek Text into Signed English.

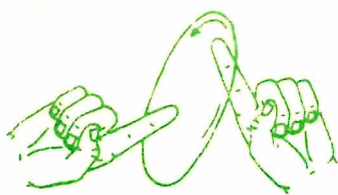
"Dynamic equivalence" is the translator's principle of finding the exact meaning-for-meaning translation for a text, rather than word-for-word translation.

Clear, colorful, and attractive illustrations grace the booklet. Additionally, below each Signed English word appears the word in printed English.

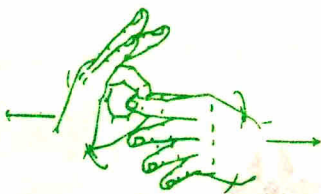
The American Bible Society has long been concerned with making God's Word available to the handicapped. It maintains a variety of Scriptures for both the hearing and visually-impaired, including another Signed English Scripture booklet, "Jesus Stops a Storm."

In fact, since 1816, the American Bible Society has had only one goal: the translation, publication, and distribution of the Holy Scriptures for all people, without doctrinal note or comment, and not for profit.

For more information on how you can obtain "The Birth of Jesus" and other Scriptures for hearing or visually-impaired young people, write the American Bible Society, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.



SIGN



LANGUAGE

## A Friend of Senior Citizens Honored



Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Elmgren. They hold the ceramic cross which Mrs. Elmgren received from the Senior Citizens.

Mrs. Violet Elmgren was surprised recently at the Senior Citizens Christmas party at Prince of Peace, St. Paul, Minnesota, when she received a corsage of red roses and also a ceramic cross. This honor came to her because of her faithful service the past seven years in planning the meals and programs for the Senior Citizens group. This group has been meeting monthly at Prince of Peace, and also at Bread of Life in Minneapolis. All senior citizens are welcome.

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## A Memorial To Concordia Lutheran School for the Deaf in Brazil

Cleveland, Ohio

A total of \$1,400 (\$700 in memorials and \$700 from a rummage sale) was collected from deaf and hearing friends in memory of Mrs. Jean Grapatin whom the Lord called home to Him very suddenly on November 6, 1979.

This entire amount was sent to Concordia Lutheran School for the Deaf in Brazil in memory of Jean Grapatin who so lovingly devoted her time to this project.

May God grant an extra measure of comfort to her husband, Reinhold and two sons Ronald and Dale. Mr. Grapatin is a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Rev. William G. Kohlmeier, and sons Ronald and Dale are members of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Rev. Marlow Olson and Layminister Robert Oettel.

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### WORDS OF WISDOM

When angry, count to ten and then keep your head and hands shut! Let the other person do the raving.

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## The DEAF LUTHERAN

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## God's 1,000 Club

This Club is open to any person who wish to help with the operating expenses of the ILDA Board of Directors. Annual dues are \$10 per person. Details about this club will be sent on request. Please make your check or money-order payable to:

ILDA TREASURER, ELMER FRANCISCO  
6861 Nevada  
Detroit, Mich. 48234

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

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STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You for your contribution



## Thirteen Kinds of Church - Goers



1. **PILLARS:** Worship regularly, giving time and money.
2. **SUPPORTERS:** Give time and money IF they like the pastor and treasurer.
3. **LEANERS:** Use the church for funerals, baptisms and marriages, but give no time or money to support the church.
4. **SPECIALS:** Help and give occasionally for something that appeals to them.
5. **ANNUALS OR EASTER BIRDS:** Dress up, look serious and go to church on Easter only.
6. **WORKING LEANERS:** Work but do not give money.
7. **SPONGES:** Take all blessings and benefits. . . but give no money to support the church.
8. **TRAMPS:** Go from church to church but support none.
9. **GOSSIPS:** Talk freely about everyone except the Lord Jesus.
10. **SCRAPPERS:** Take offense, criticize and fight!
11. **ORPHANS:** Are children sent by parents who do not set a good example for them.
12. **BACKSLIDERS:** Members who go back and walk no more with Jesus. (John 6:66).
13. **HYPOCRITES:** Leaners who say they are better than church goers.

Dear readers:

Which one of the 13 categories are you in?

--Quoted.

## Hazards Of Deafness

-from ISAIAH 29 Newsletter  
Washington, D.C.

In his book, Hazards of Deafness, Dr. Roy Holcomb writes about a funny, yet potentially embarrassing, situation. You are cleaning your home with a vacuum cleaner. You move from one room to another and begin to vacuum. Your neighbor arrives and sees you moving the vacuum cleaner but hears nothing from the machine. You have been without power for the vacuum cleaner. You have not been vacuuming the rug. You look and notice that the plug had been

pulled from the wall socket. With the plug on the floor, the vacuum cleaner has no electrical power to work.

What happens when the spiritual power goes out in your life? What happens when you become so busy that you have no time to pray? The power is out. What happens when you think that the church is a very beautiful place, but you very seldom go to worship in it? The power is out. What happens when you have much honor for the Bible, but you never read it? The power is out!

It is very difficult for the vacuum cleaner to pick up any dirt and dust from the rug when it has no electrical power. God finds it very difficult to do work in His church when we disconnect our source of spiritual power from our lives. With the beautiful Christmas season with us now, and Epiphany to follow, we must resist the temptation to disconnect our source of Spiritual Power for the enjoyment of parties, fun and games.

We should make an effort to let God make us the powerful Christians that He wants us to be. To do this we must let Him work with us and through us. We must read the Bible daily, pray often, and attend church regularly. Then through the power of the Holy Spirit, we can become that power-filled person of God!

(selected and adapted)



## A Small Indian Asks A Big Question About Christmas



A couple years ago there appeared a comic strip in one of our Western newspapers named, "The Oregonian". The name of the comic strip was "Catfish". In the strip there are two Indians. One is a small boy and the other is the grandfather. It is a dark night and both are standing on a high hill that is filled with snow. The stars and

moon are shining brightly.

The little boy says, "Grandfather, what is this 'Christmas' the white people are always talking about?" His grandfather answers, "It is the celebration of the birth of their Lord who came to earth offering peace and goodwill among men." The grandson asks, "Why did they turn down the offer?"

When I first read this strip I had to laugh to myself, but the more I thought about it, the more I felt it to be true. Here Jesus came into our world and was born to live, to suffer, die and to rise from the grave to forgive our sins. He offered us peace but since then the most we have done was to argue and fight one another. We hurt one another, tell lies, gossip, and do many other sinful things that cause others to suffer.

Every year when Christmas comes around we say and sing that we have this peace of Christ and that we love everyone, however, as soon as Christmas is over and the new year begins, we go back to our old and hateful habits.

(Please turn to page 7)

## What If . . .

- . . . you were really as sick as you said you were last Sunday?
  - . . . you bowled as eagerly as you pray?
  - . . . your clothes were really looking as bad as you said they are?
  - . . . you forgot to set your alarm clock for Monday morning the same as you forgot to set it for Sunday morning?
  - . . . as a salesman you recommended a product as weakly as you recommend Christ?
  - . . . your weekly wages were really ten times your weekly offerings?
  - . . . you made each choice and each decision as a direct response to the sacrifice of Christ for you?
- adapted from a Concordia tract

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The Editor,  
Business Manager,  
and other staff members of  
The Deaf Lutheran  
Wish All Our Readers  
A Blessed Christmas  
and A Prosperous  
and Happy New Year!



## KEEP CHRISTMAS SAFETY ON YOUR MIND!



At one time people used candles to light their Christmas trees. The hot wax sometimes dripped down onto the dry Christmas tree needles. The tree would begin to burn. Sometimes it was necessary to call the firemen to save the building from burning.

Many churches tried to be more careful by having men stand guard. They would watch to see that the big tree with its many lighted candles would not begin to burn. But every year some fires would start and church buildings and even homes would burn down.

Today we use light bulbs instead of candlelight to tell that Christians are the light of the world. But still there are fires at Christmastime every year. Often the heat from the Christmas tree bulbs causes the dry branches to burst into flames.

That is one reason for saying, "Keep Christmas Safety on Your Mind!"



## New Disney Release Focuses On Two Deaf Osmond Brothers

BURBANK, CA -- Walt Disney Educational Media Company has announced the release of a new film which explores the world of two talented young men who have been deaf since birth.

THE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL: TOM AND VIRL OSMOND is the story of how the hearing impaired Osmond brothers have made a place for themselves in the world's most famous musical family.

The movie is narrated by Jill Kinmont Boothe whose own story of bravery in overcoming a physical handicap was told in the motion picture, "The Other Side of the Mountain."

The film shows us Tom and Virl through the eyes of their parents, their show business brothers and sister, and their wives and children. With honest, sensitive dialogue, they reveal the special problems and unique rewards shared by the entire family.

Tom and Virl, in their own words, tell of the frustrations of growing up deaf in a musical environment. Both searched for ways to overcome the fact that they would never be a part of the singing Osmonds. Now, the brothers' artistic, dancing, and piano playing talents have become important elements of Osmond Family entertainment.

The film effectively communicates the message that when people with physical handicaps are given the opportunity to lead fully self-sufficient lives, they become contributing, integrated members of society.

In focusing on two individuals, rather on the physical problems of deafness, the film tears down preconceptions and stereotypes about the handicapped.

THE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL: TOM AND VIRL OSMOND is one of a 3-part TRULY EXCEPTIONAL PEOPLE

series. The other two films feature Dan Haley, a blind high school student and Carol Johnson, an award winning college gymnast who has only one arm.

THE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL: DAN HALEY focuses on a musically talented 16 year old high school student. In all respects, he is a healthy, active young man. It often takes people some time before they realize he is blind. However, his hobbies and activities -- which range from playing guitar in a school rock band to mountain climbing -- prove that lack of eyesight does not shrink one's world.

THE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL: CAROL JOHNSTON is the inspiring account of a college gymnast who was born with only one arm. While the producers were filming this segment of THE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL series, Carol broke her knee in a fall during one of her training sessions. The film record of the accident, along with Carol's subsequent determination to recover from the injury and get back in competition, presents a powerful, dramatic story of personal courage.

This film recently won a Golden Eagle Award, the highest honor given by CINE (Council of International Nontheatrical Events). It is being developed into a special 1 hour presentation for "Disney's Wonderful World" television series to be broadcast next fall on NBC.

The great appeal of the films in this series lies in their portrayal of their subjects as four likable, high spirited individuals. No attempt is made to offer broad generalizations or conclusions about the "handicapped."

THE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL: TOM AND VIRL OSMOND/  
Color/14½ minutes  
THE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL: DAN HALEY/Color/14½ min.  
THE TRULY EXCEPTIONAL: CAROL JOHNSTON/Color/  
15½ minutes

All three films are available from the Walt Disney Educational Media Company, 500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, California 91521.

Contact: Paul Goldman  
Public Information Coordinator  
Walt Disney Educational Media Co.

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## AAL Offers Assistance In Conserving Energy

APPLETON, WISCONSIN -- Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) has appropriated more than \$75,000 to assist Lutheran congregations in conserving energy.

AAL will pay for the costs of buying and mailing two publications that promote energy conservation to any Lutheran church in the United States which accepts the offer. The Leadership of each church body can choose which two publications it prefers. The most-requested titles are "The Energy-efficient Church, Total Energy Management" and "Reducing Energy Costs in Religious Buildings."

"We believe that churches have a responsibility to conserve energy simply because, typically, their buildings are large and were built during times when energy-efficiency was not necessarily emphasized," said Fred Pahl, manager of AAL's General Benevolences area.

"Put that with the fact that since 1972, the cost of fuel oil has increased from 20 cents per gallon to 85 cents, and you can see that churches have a great opportunity to contribute towards our country's efforts to conserve energy," Pahl added.

(please turn to page 5)



## AAL and Energy Conservation Tips

(continued from page 4)

There are more than nine million Lutherans in the United States who are members of approximately 18,000 Lutheran congregations. If each church bought its own literature to take energy conservation measures within church buildings, the cost to the churches would be twice as much as what AAL paid for the books because the Appleton-based fraternal benefit society was able to buy them in huge quantities.

As a fraternal, the purpose of AAL is to enable its members, who are Lutherans who own AAL insurance, to aid themselves and others. Pahl said that one way AAL helps its members is with programs such as this one. The publications that AAL is making available cover topics like heating systems, types of fuels, inside and outdoor lighting, air conditioning, do-it-yourself projects like insulating and weatherstripping, and efficient scheduling of activities to make the best use of fuel.



## Rehabilitation Gazette Publishes New Annual Issue For Disabled

ST. LOUIS, MO. -- The REHABILITATION GAZETTE, an international journal and information service on independent living for the disabled, published its 22nd annual issue this week.

The 64-page issue contains a wide assortment of specialized information for individuals with all types of disabilities, for professionals who work with them, and for institutions that serve them.

The 1979 issue features nutrition and independent living. The lead story urges its readers to assume responsibility for individual self-care. Titled, "Diet: A Key to Better Health." Another article lists books to help its readers save money and eat more wisely. Other features include a high bulk/high nutrition diet for its spinal cord injured readers and a study of the psychological benefits of diet to those with multiple sclerosis.

The life experiences of two St. Louisians who were deaf are told in a featured article, "The World of Oral Hearing-Impaired Adults."

The special feature on independent living promotes the concept of freedom of choice to live where and how one chooses. It includes sources of information on centers for independent living and on a national personal care system. Disabled individuals offer their suggestions for hiring, training, financing, and firing attendants and for figuring IRS deductions for attendants.

Disabled individuals share their lifestyles, including the special techniques for living alone by a C4, 5, 6 quadriplegic. Other quads describe a new computer programming training program, Mensa's special programs, a built-to-order home, an innovative remote control legbag valve designed by a St. Louis engineer for his quadriplegic son, joystick controls and foot steering, a new portable lift, an Australian transportable car seat, a mouth-operated drafting device, and piano pedal modifications.

Book reviews cover experiences with blindness, multiple sclerosis, and mental retardation and guides to chronic neurologic disease, sex, and techniques of coping with daily living. Other regular features include travel, resource material, and letters from readers around the world who seek pen friends.

Entirely staffed and written by volunteers, the REHABILITATION GAZETTE was founded in 1958 by its editors, Gini and Joe Laurie, and is supported by donations from its readers. The new issue is available from 4502 Maryland Ave., St. Louis, Missouri 63108. Upon writing in for a copy, please enclose a donation of \$3.50 if you are disabled or \$6 from non-disabled readers and institutions.

The majority of staff members of the GAZETTE are disabled individuals who share their personal experiences with various phases of coping with disability and make the publication a unique form of group therapy by mail and a guide for independent living.

The GAZETTE's staff correspondents include disabled individuals in South Africa, Taiwan, Australia, Japan, Brazil, England, Mexico and Canada. It reaches disabled and professional readers in 83 countries and has been translated into Japanese, German, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.

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## Open House At Bethlehem

OMAHA, NEBRASKA -- On Saturday evening, October 27th, Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran Church began their Open House program with a Youth Rally. Dorothy Sparks worked hard to plan this program and visited many young people. Everyone had lots of fun, played games, sang songs and ate 6-foot Submarine sandwiches. That was good fellowship in Jesus' name.

On Sunday morning, there were 44 people in church to hear Mr. Marion Van Manen preach. Since this also was Reformation Sunday, they used a special liturgy of Prayer and Praise and special songs were sung by the choir. This included a duet by Karen Dammeyer and Verla Hamilton. Verla is a member of the current sign language class at Bethlehem. Following service, a Fellowship Hour was observed with refreshments being served. In the afternoon of that day, Layminister Van Manen and Rev. Mork travelled to Fremont for a service with the deaf there.

On Monday and Tuesday mornings, Layminister Van Manen and Pastor Mork, with Karen Dammeyer as interpreter, met at Bethany Lutheran Church with all the other guest preachers and pastors from the Omaha area churches who attended the Open House. Rev. Mork had the opening devotions on Monday. This was followed by interesting lectures and Bible studies. Tuesday was spent listening to lectures about the "Shroud of Terin" which most of you must have read about in your daily newspapers. It is believed that Jesus was buried in that shroud (cloth wrapped around Jesus' dead body and buried in the tomb). The ladies of Bethany served a delicious lunch that day.

Tuesday evening, October 30th Layminister VanManen wrapped up the Open House celebration with a final sermon that was most inspiring.

Despite the rainy weather that day, 55 people were in attendance which brought the total to over 110 worshippers during the four days of the Open House festivals.





If the safety pin had been invented today instead of long ago it would probably have six moving parts and two transistors, and require a service man twice a year.

-Author unknown

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Hiawatha, Kansas. . . Miss Rochelle Nester, 14 year old daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Nester has entered St. Paul's College High School in Concordia, Mo. She has been elected President of the freshman class. Ronald Nester, Rochelle's father, is a former member of the I.L.D.A. Board of Directors. Also attending St. Paul's College High School are Dan and Mike Lange, nephews of Rev. William Lange of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Dan is a freshman and Mike is a senior.

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Rochester, New York. . . The Concordia Sunday School presented Pastor Mark Seeger a check of \$148.00 to be used in the Religious Educational Classes at Rochester School for the Deaf. The deaf education classes had been Concordia Sunday School's mission project last year.

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Western New York. . . Church services for the deaf have been started in areas of Buffalo, Niagara Falls, Lockport and North Tonawanda by Pastor Mark Seeger. He is still searching for new areas in which to bring the Good News to more deaf in Western New York!

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Washington, D.C. . . Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf celebrated their annual Fall Apple Festival, Friday, November 2nd. The Festival was held at Ascension Lutheran Church, Landover Hills, Maryland. Everyone had lots of fun, played games and took part in other activities which were enjoyed by entire families. There was an Aunt Mary's Corner for "White Elephants". A Walt Disney movie, "The Rescuers" was shown. The feature event of the evening was, of course, the variety of apple desserts.

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DENVER, COLORADO. . . The Board of Directors of the Colorado District of LCMS recognized Pastor George Winkler on the 25th anniversary of his service in the ministry. He was presented with a cash gift. . . The Winklers will have an "Open House Day" on Sunday, December 16th. The congregation and pastor invites all to come and join in praising God from whom all blessings flow!



#### RECOGNITION FROM THE DEAF . . .

Congressman Paul Findley (R-Ill) is shown in the photo above with an award presented to him last month by the Telecommunicators of Central Illinois, an organization representing the hearing-impaired, for his work on the behalf of the deaf. Findley has introduced legislation to aid the deaf and hearing-impaired in purchasing and operating a TTY, a device necessary to enable deaf people to use the telephone.

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT. . . Deaf members, hearing volunteers, Sunday School teachers, interpreters and pastors in the Northern Illinois District came together on Sunday afternoon in October for a District DEAF FORUM. Forty-eight people met at the District office to share problems and ideas to improve our Lutheran Deaf ministry.

Deaf members met and discussed how they can encourage other deaf people to come to church. Sunday school teachers shared materials and ideas on how to teach deaf classes. Interpreters talked about how they can best help hearing churches serve deaf in their areas.

The response was enthusiastic. Everyone wanted to do this again and to spend a whole day on their topic. Also, for the first time many of our workers at different churches got to meet each other and to encourage one another in the work of Christ among the deaf.

-by Rev. Ronald E. Friedrich

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FLINT, MICHIGAN. . . On Thursday afternoon, November 1, 1979, the Great Lakes Region staff meeting opened with Holy Communion and Pastor W.O. Neisch had the happy privilege of being hosted by Trinity, Pittsburgh, the Rev. Donald Winkler, Pastor, along with other co-workers -- Clark R. Bailey of Detroit, Donald Leber of Columbus, Marlow Olson and Robert Oettel of Cleveland. Oneness in the Body of Christ was also expressed by these men through a phone call to St. Louis, Mo. to Secretary Don Zuhn, on behalf of Great Lakes Region.

Later on in the month of November (Nov. 11th) Rev. Donald W. Zuhn, Secretary of North American Ministries Blind/Deaf was the house guest of Pastor Neisch and his family. Rev. Zuhn was guest speaker at St. Paul's Deaf Lutheran Church of Flint that Sunday. (This is Missouri Synod's 85th year in parish ministry to the Deaf).

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## A Deaf Fire Heroine

ELMHURST, NEW YORK. . . St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the Deaf has a member who is a fire heroine! One early morning Sylvia Bamberger woke up for church early on Sunday morning. As she got out of bed, she felt odd, lightheaded, and noticed an acrid smell in the room. Alarmed, she shook her husband, Edward awake. Silently, she motioned for him to inhale. Startled, he did. Smoke! A quick look around their second floor apartment showed smoke coming up from the floor under the stove, going around their windows and doors, curling throughout their four room apartment. Fire! The two grandparents ran into the hallway of their six-family dwelling on 68th Street. They tried to yell to warn their neighbors, or for help. Both are deaf.

Mrs. Bamberger's only thought was to let the neighbors know of the danger. She ran to the other apartment on the floor, banging furiously on the door. No one answered. Her husband, concerned for her safety, signed to her, "Come," he said, pushing toward the hallway and the cold winter air, as he left to pull the fire alarm signal. "No," she signed, her hands rapidly forming the letters, and she pushed up another flight through the smoke, fighting the darkening clouds that blocked her vision and choked her as she climbed. She got to the third floor, dizzy and scared, and banged on her neighbor's door until it opened a crack. A hastily dressed man greeted her, obviously dragged out of a deep sleep by the noise. His wife bundled up their year old baby, and the four made their way down the fire escape, into the icy morning air. "I was very cold," she said, her hands outlining the letters of the phrase, her mouth forming the words. "I didn't even have shoes on before he gave me his." The family that Sylvia woke was able to get down and out of the burning building, but Mrs. Bamberger, disoriented and shaken from the smoke and effort, stood alone on the second floor fire escape until the firemen came and brought her down from her perch in their rescue bucket. She was taken to Lutheran Medical Center, where she was treated for smoke inhalation, and released three days later.

Neighbors called the Home Reporter and Sunset News after the incident occurred because they felt the couple, who are well liked by people living in the area, deserved to be honored for their quick and selfless action.

"All I could think of was the people upstairs," Sylvia said, looking toward her husband who smiled as she continued, "I've read so much about fires in the newspapers that I was afraid that the same could happen to me, but it seemed more important at the time to get everyone out of the building."

## WORDS OF WISDOM!

Laugh and the world laughs with you . . . frown and see who cares.

Be a good listener, but be careful who you listen to.



A SMALL INDIAN ASKS A BIG QUESTION ABOUT CHRISTMAS

(continued from page 3)

Dear friends and fellow Christians let us remember this Christmas that Jesus gave up His Life to give us His PEACE and JOY! Let us never again turn down His offer of PEACE! Accept His JOY! Accept His PEACE! Then REJOICE and GIVE THANKS and PRAISE HIM for everything He has done for us!

-adapted from a newsletter by Rev. Petzoldt.



Handicapped Sensitivity

BEIRUT, LEBANON -- Six hundred-thousand people are dead - men, women and children. Many young people learn to carry guns. Those who are lucky - young and old alike - became handicapped instead of dead. Now the handicapped are a major problem.

Lebanon has approximately 40,000 handicapped with only 2,000 lucky enough to get treatment in 21 institutions in the country which has no community or governmental programs to help.

In the aftermath of the 1976 civil war, continual unrest, violence - even full scale battles - still plague the country. And the number of handicapped grows, especially if we include the full range of physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped. In order not to extend itself beyond the humanly possible, the Beirut Contact and Resource Center has limited itself in this program to offering resources to the handicapped in Beirut and three nearby villages.

Questionnaires Mailed To Assess Services In Special Education

ST. LOUIS, MO. -- Seven different kinds of questionnaires have been mailed to various groups in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to assess special education services that are available or needed in educational programs of the church.

The project will evaluate services which are needed - as well as those that are offered - for students who are physically handicapped, mentally retarded, emotionally disturbed, or who have learning disabilities.

Using the acronym SERVICE, (Special Education Research for Viable Institutional Community Experiences) the project will result in recommendations for developing special education programs for day schools, congregations, seminaries and synodical colleges. Some recommendations will also address services or needs in specific Districts of the Synod.

The materials are going to Lutheran schools and congregations that have special education programs as well as those who do not. They will also go to regular and special education teachers at day schools and Sunday schools and to students at colleges and seminaries.

Others will be sent to determine opinions of District education executives, families with exceptional children, and families which do not have exceptional children.

An eighth questionnaire is being sent to public and private colleges and universities to obtain information about programs which are offered to train teachers in special education areas.

Jan Case, who is heading up the research effort, said the questionnaires will be followed up with visits to many schools, congregations, and Districts.

Plans call for the research gathering phase of the project to be completed by May 15, 1980 with recommendations to be published by July 15.

SERVICE is a project of the Synod's Board of Parish Education office in St. Louis. It is funded by a grant from Aid Associations for Lutherans of Appleton, Wisconsin.

God Understands Our Language

Read Acts 2:4-8

There are many missionaries from different countries in Africa. Their children go to a school for missionary children in Obot Idim. There were students from five different countries at the school. All the children spoke English very well except Anna. Anna was nine years old and was used to speaking in her native tongue or language.

The teachers were very careful to help Anna, but she still became very frustrated when she couldn't understand the homework and lessons given in English. Her native language was like a barrier between her and the English speaking world.

But one day, her life changed! Her teacher was telling the story of Pentecost during the religion class. "Everyone heard the story of God's love in their own language," the teacher said.

Anna became excited and raised her hand.

"Do you mean that God understands my language?" she asked in her broken English.

"Naturally," the teacher said, "And He loves you."

Anna smiled, and her worry and frustration was forgotten for a long time.

Yes, God understands our language, sign language also! And that is a comforting knowledge for all of us. He understands all the prayers we don't know how to say with our mouths. He is happy about the prayers we raise. God has given us clear teachings about Himself through Jesus Christ, His Son. And we know that we are forgiven and will have eternal life because Jesus died for us.

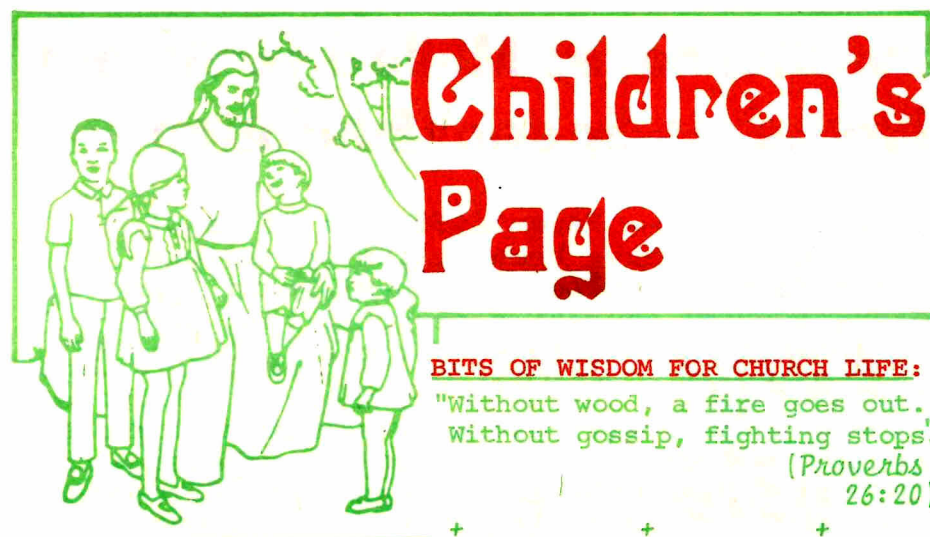
Thank God for His love that breaks all language barriers!



answers to crossword puzzle on Page 8

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST	
Down:	1 - Bethlehem
Across:	2 - Jesus 5 - Angel 7 - Men 10 - Star 11 - Mary 12 - Shepherds





## BITS OF WISDOM FOR CHURCH LIFE:

"Without wood, a fire goes out.  
Without gossip, fighting stops."  
(Proverbs 26:20)

## The Birth of Christ

## Across:

- 2—The baby born in a manger in Bethlehem.  
5—An \_\_\_\_\_ told the shepherds to fear not.  
7—The heavenly host sang, "... good will toward \_\_\_\_\_."  
10—The Wise-men saw the \_\_\_\_\_ in the east.  
11—The mother of Jesus.  
12—The new baby's first visitors.

## Down:

- 1—The city where Jesus was born.  
3—The shepherds were keeping watch over their \_\_\_\_\_.  
4—There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
6—The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Lord shone round about the shepherds.  
8—The \_\_\_\_\_ men came to worship the Christ child.  
9—The king who asked the Wise-men where he could find Jesus.

(answers are on page 7)



(Read Luke 2:1-20  
and Matthew 2:1-12)

## THE SONGS OF CHRISTMAS

The songs of Christmas go back many years. They were written and sung by Christians in many lands around the world. The songs of Christmas, like the Psalms of the Bible, tell the message of God's love. They tell of man's thankfulness and his praise for God's gift of Jesus the Savior.

People do not need to wonder why we Christians sing at Christmastime. As we sing the songs of Christmas, we tell others of the joy and happiness in our hearts. God's love in us shines out for everyone to see.

Singing songs about the birth of Jesus is one way to keep the real meaning of Christmas alive. Christmas songs about Jesus help us to remember Christmas. Other people who do not yet know our joy and peace at Christmastime learn why Christmas is important. Singing Christmas songs can tell others of our faith. We can witness that God loves everyone.

SCRAMBLED  
SONG TITLES

## Words in the title

All This Night My Heart Rejoices . . . . .	All
Angels of Glory from the Realms . . . . .	Angels
How the Lovely Morning Star Shines! . . . . .	How
Upon a Clear Midnight it Came . . . . .	It
There's in the Air a Song . . . . .	There's
Tell Us Watchman of the Night . . . . .	Watchman
O All Ye Faithful Come . . . . .	O
On Christmas Day I Heard the Bells . . . . .	I
Now Rejoice We Sing Now . . . . .	Now
As with Men of Old Gladness . . . . .	As

## First Word

REMEMBERING  
CHRISTMAS

What's a creche? Do you have a creche (kresh) under your Christmas tree?

Did you know that the word "creche" is an old French word for manger? We use the word today for the manger scene at Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

Each Christmas we put the manger scene under the tree. We remember that night long ago when Jesus the Savior was born. We remember the angels coming to the shepherds on the plains outside of Bethlehem. We also remember that sometime later the Wise Men came to worship the Baby King.

Setting out the manger scene (creche) is a custom hundreds of years old. It is followed by many Christians around the world in many different lands.

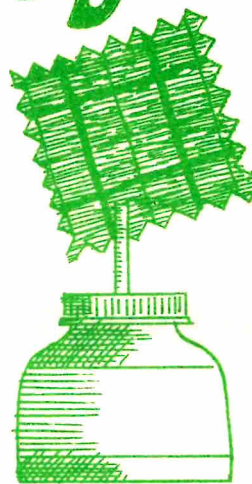
In the picture below can you tell what figure is Donna holding? What figures will be added to the scene?



Donna and Paul use their nativity set to retell the story of the birth of Jesus.



## SCISSORS



## CLOTH



## PASTE

## ART

Here are two samples of one way to make pictures more interesting. The picture of Mary and the Baby Jesus has changed by adding real cloth for Mary's dress. Cloth has also been used to make some real blankets. Can you see the Baby Jesus in the manger?

In the picture of Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem, cloth was added for their coats and head coverings. Yarn was used for a bridle leash for the donkey.

Pasting cloth and other materials to pictures is just another kind of artwork like painting and drawing. If you like you may start with a simple picture that has only one or several large figures. The picture can also be very simple and one that you are interested in doing. You may also work by yourself, or as a team with your friends. It would also

be a very good idea as a Sunday School project when the whole class can work together on a simple picture.

