

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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CHRISTMAS.



Tidings of Great Joy.

That glad immortal host of light
Who took their great announcing flight —
Down from God's throne they came.
They soared across the Eastern sky,
Proclaiming from that world on high
The Savior's glorious name.

The shepherds' hearts with awe were filled,
Their ears were charmed, their souls were
thrilled,
With tidings from above.
They heard angelic lips proclaim
That Christ to earth a Savior came,
Impelled by boundless love.

That star which gleamed in heaven's dome
Announced that Christ left His bright home
And came on earth to dwell.
He lived a holy life below,
Relieving pain and want and woe;
His goodness who can tell?

The Magi from their land afar
Came lighted by that guiding star
To see earth's future King.
They bowed, they worshiped, and they gave
Rich gifts to Him who came to save,
Whose praise all worlds shall sing.

Soon as "the bright and Morning Star"
His beams again shall shine from far,
He'll come to waft away
His loved and dearly purchased bride,
He wants her with Him glorified
In heaven's cloudless day.

C. CROWSTON.

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EDITORIAL.

Christmas.

The world-wide celebration of our Savior's birthday in December is not merely the formal observance of a national or international custom, nor is it just the manifestation of a sickly sentimentality among true believers. There is a profound reason for Christmas happiness and a worthy motive for Christmas festivities. The Christian world in the month of December decorates its homes, offices, and business places with brilliant illuminations, trees, and evergreens because the faithful are celebrating the natal day of the historic and eternal Christ, the King of kings. We, too, have every reason to bow our head in silent reverence and adoration at the cradle of the Babe of Bethlehem.

Christmas is indeed a day to gladden the heart of every one everywhere regardless of station or situation in life. It is the greatest festive day of the year, a day which should and does bring happiness to the cabin and to the mansion, which should and does make envy give place to contentment and sadness to mirth; for on this day we remember that God gave humanity, lost in sin and death, His own Son and with this Christ-child all other blessings for time and eternity. Christmas teaches us to forget, for a while at least, our earthly cares and material interests to ponder upon spiritual values; because the Savior taught us by His Holy Spirit and example the real meaning of love, brotherhood, humility, kindness, service, generosity, and forgiveness.

Many people make of Christmas just a day for merriment of the flesh; they cease from their daily toils and spend their holidays in carousals and carnal pleasures with wicked friends or worldly-minded relatives. To such Christmas brings no real blessing.

The Bible tells us the following with regard to Christmas: "When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman,

made under the Law, to redeem them that were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption of sons," Gal. 4, 4. 5. And the angel on that first Christmas Day said to the shepherds: "Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people; for unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord," Luke 2, 10. 11.

On Christmas there came to this world the God-man Jesus, of whom the angels sang in the plains of Bethlehem: "Peace on earth, good will toward men." On this day pleasure should come to us not so much from receiving gifts as from giving to those whose lives are saddened by want. Seeking happiness apart from the Spirit of the Christ of God is like trying to lift oneself by tugging at one's bootstraps.

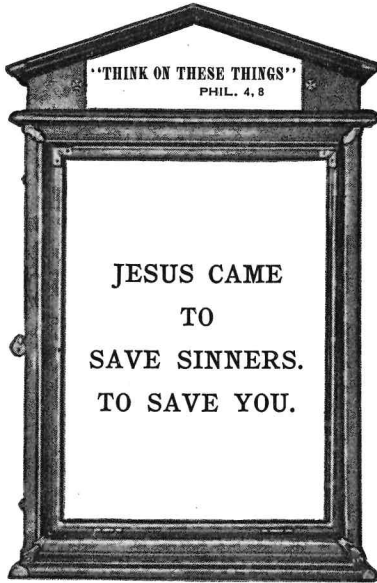
May the Christmas season of 1931 bring real joy to your heart and home! May you take genuine pleasure in your Christmas activities, your reunions, your gifts, and your festivities; but let the motive of your Christmas happiness be your spiritual joy over the birth of your Savior. Be sincerely happy in the love of God revealed to you in the Christ-child, your Helper from sin and death, rather than in the friendships and gifts of men. Thus Christmas will bring to you the peace of soul which this world cannot give and which it also cannot take away. You will then be happy in time and in eternity and well able to join the Christian poetess in her hymn of hope throughout all the years of your earthly pilgrimage:—

What would the world have suffered
If there had been no star,
No Christ-child in the manger,
No angel songs afar;
If there had been no story
Of blessed Galilee,
No messages of comfort
And peace for you and me?

Oh, where had been our Christmas
If Christ had not been born
And where the inspiration
For gifts on that dear morn,
Where, too, the many mansions
That Jesus will prepare
For all the true and faithful
Who seek an entrance there?

Whate'er is good we owe Him;
Joy heralded His birth,
The joy that came from heaven
To bring new joy to earth.
Oh, take the many blessings
This season glad doth bring
And open wide your heart-door
For Christ, the Savior-King!

O. C. S.



EDITORIAL NOTICE.

By resolution of Ephphatha Conference a complete statistical report of all our mission-stations and deaf congregations is to be printed biennially in the DEAF LUTHERAN. We hereby request our esteemed brethren, the members of Ephphatha Conference, to forward their statistical report for 1931 to us on or before January 10, 1932.

O. C. S.

The Blessed Morn.

Dark were the earthly shadows,
 Long was the night of fear,
 Ere on the world that waited
 Shone the fair morning clear.
 Hearts that were faint with longing
 Looked for the coming King,
 Coming to bring salvation,
 Coming the dawn to bring.

Silently, softly, slowly,
 Broke the resplendent light,
 Lo, when morning cometh,
 Darkness is put to flight.
 Beauteous, blessed morning,
 Dawn of a fadeless day,
 Now, in thy radiant glory,
 Shadows all flee away.

Lo, He is come, as promised,
 Jesus, the dark world's Light.
 Hail to the wondrous daybreak
 After the age-long night!
 Never again that shadow,
 Banished so long ago,
 Shall in the coming ages
 Darken the world below.

We are the sons of morning,
 Children of day are we,
 Living in light all golden;
 May we His glory see!
 This is the morn of gladness,
 Banish all shades of doubt,
 "Peace and good will" the message,
 Joyfully tell it out.

JULIA H. JOHNSTON.

Studies in the Chief Teachings of the Bible and the Catechism.

Jesus Christ, Our High Priest, Making Intercession (Praying) for Us.

Jesus Christ is our High Priest. He perfectly fulfilled the Law for us, Gal. 4, 5, and paid for our sins with His blood, Luke 22, 19, 20. The high priests in the Old Testament had another work to do for the people. Aaron, the high priest, had to burn incense every morning on the altar before the veil (curtain), Ex. 30, 7, 8, and once a year had to go within the veil, into the Holy of Holies, and to burn incense before the Lord on burning coals, Lev. 16, 12, 13. This burning of incense was to signify prayer, as David says in Ps. 141, 2: "Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense."

And so Jesus Christ, our High Priest, goes before God the Father in prayer for all people, especially for His Church. The prophet Isaiah speaks of it in these words: "He made intercession [prayers] for the transgressors [sinners]," Is. 53, 12. This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus, on the cross, prayed for His enemies: "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do," Luke 23, 34. And in John 17 one of His prayers for His Church is recorded. We hear Him say to His Father: "I pray for them," v. 9. While He was here on earth, He often prayed for the wicked world and for His Church.

And this work of making intercession for His people did not stop with His death on the cross. No, also now that He has gone up to heaven and is sitting at the right hand of God the Father, He still prays for us. Rom. 8, 34 we read: "It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, *who also maketh intercession for us.*" And Heb. 9, 24 tells us: "Christ has entered into heaven itself, *now to appear in the presence of God for us.*" Oh, what a comfort! Christ has gone up on high to sit upon His throne of glory and to be worshiped by all the saints and angels in heaven; but He still is mindful of us and prays for us. He is our Advocate, as John tells us; that is, He speaks for us before His Father, as a lawyer speaks for a man before a judge in court. St. John writes, 1 John 2, 1, 2: "If any man sin, *we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous.*" And He makes intercession for us *continually*; for Heb. 7, 25 says: "Seeing He ever [always]

liveth to make intercession for them," that is, for them "that come unto God by Him." And He prays *for every one*. In John 17, verses 9 and 20, He says: "I pray for them. . . . Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which believe on Me through their word." Forget it not, my Christian friend, that Jesus Christ, our High Priest, is ever before the throne of the Father praying for you and me.

Again and again the Bible says that Jesus prays *for us*. All that He has done, and all that He still does before God's throne, is *for us*. And what does He pray? He asks God the Father to forgive us our sins, as Luke 23, 34 and 1 John 2, 1, 2 teach us. We daily sin much, and therefore our High Priest, before God's throne, asks the Father to forgive us our sins because He has shed His blood for us. He always makes intercession for us and so is able to save us "to the uttermost," that is, perfectly. In John 17, verses 15 and 24, He prays: "I pray not that Thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that Thou shouldest keep them from the evil. . . . Father, I will [wish] that they also whom Thou hast given Me be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which Thou hast given Me." He wants us to be with Him in heaven and to behold His glory forever. And for that He prays.

And we know His prayer is heard. He who is our Advocate is He who is the Propitiation for our sins, 1 John 2, 2; that is, He has reconciled God to us; and He who makes intercession for us is He who died, yea, rather, who is risen again, Rom. 8, 34. It is He who has done the will of the Father and always has done the things that please Him, John 8, 29, and therefore is His beloved Son, in whom He is well pleased, Matt. 3, 17. What a comfort in this world full of wickedness and temptations to know that the beloved Son of God always is at the right hand of God praying for us!

O rejoice in this High Priest, who was born for us in Bethlehem to fulfil the Law for us and to die for our sins and now is in heaven ever praying for us!

J. L. S.

Bible-Studies for Sundays in December, 1931.

"God Gave His Only-Begotten Son."

These words give us the reason for true Christmas joy. God gave His Son to a world lost in sin. God's Son became man to seek and to save that

which was lost. Therefore the angel of the Lord came from heaven with these words of great joy: "Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Of this Christ and Savior, true God and true man, these December Bible-studies will tell you. O read them, trust in this Savior born for you, and with all the holy angels sing now and forever: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Study for Sunday, December 6.

"He that believeth not shall be damned,"

Mark 16, 16.

Bible-Lesson: John 8, 21—30.

"Then said Jesus again unto them, I go My way, and ye shall seek Me and shall die in your sins; whither I go, ye cannot come. Then said the Jews, Will He kill Himself? because He saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come. And He saith unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above. Ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you that ye shall die in your sins; for if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins. Then said they unto Him, Who art Thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge of you; but He that sent Me is true, and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of Him. They understood not that He spake to them of the Father. Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of Man, then shall ye know that I am He and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father hath taught Me, I speak these things. And He that sent Me is with Me. The Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him. As He spake these words, many believed on Him."

Jesus had told the Jews: "I am the Light of the world; he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." But the Jews believed not and followed not, and therefore He said to them: "I go My way [to the Father in heaven], and ye shall seek [look for] Me and shall die in your sins; whither [where] I go, ye cannot come." When they heard this, they began to mock, saying: "Will He kill Himself because He says this?" Jesus then showed them why they cannot go to the Father with Him. They were from beneath [the earth]; He was from above [heaven]; they were of this wicked world, and He was not of this world. Therefore they would die in their sins. For if they would not

believe that He is the promised King and Savior, they would die in their sins. Yes, all those who do not believe that Jesus is the King and the Savior of the world and do not trust in Him will die in their sins; for without Christ there is no forgiveness, no life, no salvation. Do *you* trust in this Jesus?

The Jews now asked Jesus: "Who are you because you say that we shall die in our sins if we do not believe in you?" But Jesus had told them so often from the beginning that He was the one who should come from the Father; however, they would not believe. Now He need not tell them again. But He had many things to say and to judge of them because they did not believe in Him. And He spoke the truth, for He that sent Him, that is, the Father, is true, and He, Jesus, spoke to the world the things He had heard from Him. When we hear Jesus, we hear the Father. But the Jews did not understand that He spoke to them of the Father. So many people to-day do not understand that God is the Father of Jesus and do not believe that He is the Son of God.

Jesus then told the Jews that they would know that He is the Christ and had done nothing of Himself, but had spoken those things which His Father had taught Him, when they would have lifted Him up, that is, nailed Him to the cross. However, in life and death the Father would be with Him and not leave Him alone; for He always did those things which pleased the Father. As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. May also we believe in Him and then go with Him to the Father! Those who do not believe in Him now will see that He is the only Son of God and the Savior of the world when He will come again to judge the world, on the Last Day. But then it will be too late also for them. Come, believe in Him; for only in Him the Father will be pleased with you. And then always do those things which please Him who sent His Son for you.

Read this Bible-lesson again and answer these questions in writing: 1. What does Jesus say of those who do not believe in Him? 2. Only when will the Father be pleased with us?

Prayer: Jesus Christ, Thou only Son of the Father, he that believes not in Thee must die in his sins. Give us Thy Holy Spirit that we believe in Thee and that the Father may be pleased with us and when we die we may go with Thee to the Father's home. Amen.

Study for Sunday, December 13.

"Being made free from sin and become servants to God," Rom. 6, 22.

Bible-Lesson: John 8, 31—40.

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. They answered Him, We be Abraham's seed and were never in bondage to any man; how sayest Thou, Ye shall be made free? Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house forever; but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill Me because My Word hath no room in you. I speak that which I have seen with My Father, and ye do that which ye have seen with your father. They answered and said unto Him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill Me, a man that hath told you the truth which I have heard of God; this did not Abraham."

When some of the Jews believed, Jesus said to them: "If ye continue [stay] in My Word, then are ye My disciples indeed." True believers are those who stay in Jesus' Word. They will not let any one or anything lead them away from Jesus' Word to man's word and wisdom. Blessed are you if you stay in His Word; for then you shall know the truth, the truth about God in Christ. And the truth shall make you free, free from sin and death and hell. Man's word and wisdom cannot do that. Therefore stay in Jesus' Word. May God keep you in it to life everlasting!

When the Jews heard these words, they answered: "We be [are] Abraham's seed [children] and were never in bondage to any man," that is, we never were any man's servants. "How sayest Thou, Ye shall be made free?" What they meant to say is this: We are free, for we are Abraham's children. How, then, canst Thou say that we shall be made free by staying in Thy Word? Jesus then showed them that they were not free, saying: "Verily [truly], verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth [does] sin is the servant of sin." He intended to say: You are living in sin and therefore are servants of sin and are not free. They were servants of sin in the house of Abraham. "And a servant shall not abide [stay] in the house forever; but the Son abideth [stays] ever [always]. If the Son therefore shall make you free,

ye shall be free indeed." Only by Jesus can a sinner be made free from sin and live forever.

But so many think they are free without Jesus. The Jews thought they were God's people and would live forever because they were Abraham's children. So many people think they are saved because they have the name Christian and belong to a Christian church. But Jesus showed the Jews that a man may be the servant of sin even if he outwardly belongs to a church. He told the Jews that Abraham was not their father, although they called themselves Abraham's children; for they were trying to kill Him. And why were they trying to do that? Because the Word of Jesus had no place in them, because they did not believe it. And they would not believe His Word although He spoke only that which He had seen with His Father. They were therefore doing that which they had seen with their father. They again told Him, "Abraham is our father." He then said to them again that Abraham was not their father, for they were not doing the works of Abraham, but were seeking to kill Him, who had told them the truth which He had heard of God. This Abraham did not do. By their deeds (works) they showed that they had another father. Surely, to have the name Christian or to be outwardly a member of a Christian church will not save a man. Only faith in Jesus Christ can make a man truly free. Have you this faith? Do your works show that you believe in Him?

Read this Bible-lesson again and answer these questions in writing: 1. Who are the true disciples, or followers, of Jesus? 2. Only how can we be made free from sin and death?

Prayer: Dear Savior, thanks be to Thee for Thy holy Word. Grant that I may continue in it and through faith in Thee and Thy Word be saved forever. And in my daily life let me show by my works that Thou art mine and I am Thine. Amen.

Study for Sunday, December 20.

"Ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus," Gal. 3, 26.

Bible-Lesson: John 8, 41—47.

"Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to Him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love Me; for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of Myself, but He sent Me. Why do ye not understand My speech? Even because ye cannot

hear My Word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning and abode not in the truth because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe Me not. Which of you convinceth Me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe Me? He that is of God heareth God's words; ye therefore hear them not because ye are not of God."

Jesus had shown the Jews that Abraham was not their father, because they were not doing the works of Abraham, but the works of another father. They quickly answered: "We be [are] not born of fornication [uncleanness]." They intended to say: We have not two fathers, like a child whose mother lived in shame and uncleanness. We have one Father, and that is God. We do not follow other gods. Jesus then told them that God was not their Father; for then they would love Him who had proceeded (come) forth and come from God. How could they be God's children if they did not believe in Jesus, who came not of Himself, but was sent of God? If any man does not believe in Jesus and His Word, God is not his Father. Do not say, "God is my Father," if you do not love Jesus. But they did not understand His speech, for they could not hear His Word. At first they did not *want* to hear His Word, and now they *could* not hear it. That is a punishment from God. If people will not hear and believe, God at last will harden their hearts, and then they can no longer hear and believe.

Jesus then plainly told them that the devil was their father because they wanted to do the devil's lusts (evil wishes). The devil was a murderer from the beginning and abode (stayed) not in the truth because there is no truth in him. In the beginning he lied to Adam and Eve and wanted to destroy both their bodies and their souls. And he is the same liar and murderer to-day. He still seeks to deceive people by his lies and to destroy them. And the Jews, like so many people to-day, had the devil for their father; for they did not want the truth and wanted to see Jesus dead. They could not convince (show guilty) Jesus of one sin, and still they did not want to believe in Him. They showed that they were not of God, not God's children, because they did not want to hear the Word of God and believe it. A man who does not want to hear God's Word and does not believe it is not of God, but of the devil. Oh, do not say, "I am God's child," if you do not

want to hear the Word of God! He who is of God, or God's child, gladly hears the Word of God and during these days rejoices in this Word of the Savior, who was born for all in Bethlehem.

Read this Bible-lesson again and answer these questions in writing: 1. How do God's children show that God is their Father? 2. How do the wicked people show that the devil is their father?

Prayer: Heavenly Father, make me Thy child by faith in Christ the Lord, who was born a Savior unto me. Help me to love this Christ-child whom Thou hast sent to save sinners and gladly to hear and learn Thy saving Word which He has taught us. Do it for the glory of Thine only-begotten Son. Amen.

Study for Sunday, December 27.

"Unto the Son He saith, Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever," Heb. 1, 8.

Bible-Lesson: John 8, 48—59.

"Then answered the Jews and said unto Him, Say we not well that Thou art a Samaritan and hast a devil? Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honor My Father, and ye do dishonor Me. And I seek not Mine own glory; there is One that seeketh and judgeth. Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death. Then said the Jews unto Him, Now we know that Thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead and the prophets, and Thou sayest, If a man keep My saying, he shall never taste of death. Art Thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? And the prophets are dead. Whom makest Thou Thyself? Jesus answered, If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing; it is My Father that honoreth Me, of whom ye say that He is your God. Yet ye have not known Him; but I know Him; and if I should say, I know Him not, I shall be a liar like unto you. But I know Him and keep His saying. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day; and he saw it and was glad. Then said the Jews unto Him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am. Then took they up stones to cast at Him. But Jesus hid Himself and went out of the Temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by."

When Jesus had told the Jews that they were not God's children, but the children of the devil, they called Him names, saying: "Thou art a Samaritan and hast a devil." They despised the people of Samaria and did not want anything to do with them. Therefore they called Jesus a Samaritan, to show that they did not care for Him. Yes, to them He was as one in whom the

devil lives and through whom he speaks. But He told them that by His Word and works He was honoring the Father and that they were dishonoring Him (Jesus), in whom the Father wants people to honor Him and who will judge those who will not give Him this honor. If we wish to honor the Father, we can do so only by believing in His Son, whom He has sent.

Jesus then spoke a wonderful word to the Jews. He said: "Verily [truly], verily, I say unto you, If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death." This word made them angry, and they said: "Now we know that Thou hast a devil." And why did they now say this? Because He had said, "If a man keep My saying, he shall never taste of death," and thus had made Himself greater than Abraham and the prophets, who were all dead. Jesus said this, however, not to honor Himself; no, it is the Father that honors Him, of whom the Jews said that He was their God. But they did not know the Father; Jesus, however, knew Him. If He should say, "I know Him not," then He would be a liar like unto them. But He knew Him and kept His saying (Word). So all those lie who say, "We know God and love Him," but do not love His Word. Those who know the Father and are His children hear His Word and keep it and rejoice in that Babe of Bethlehem come from God. Are you rejoicing in this Child of Bethlehem?

Abraham rejoiced in Him. Jesus said: "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day; and he saw it and was glad." God had promised the Christ and Savior to Abraham, and he believed these promises and was sure that this Christ would come also for him. And that made him glad. The Jews again did not understand Him and asked, "Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast Thou seen Abraham?" Abraham lived many years before Jesus was born, but nevertheless Jesus was before Abraham was. He said: "Before Abraham was, I am." How can Jesus be before Abraham? He is true man, born a long time after Abraham, but He is also true God and therefore before Abraham.

These words made the Jews angry, and they took up stones to cast (throw) at Him. But He hid Himself and went out of the Temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. They could not touch Him if He would not let them. He is the everlasting God. O remember, that Child born in Bethlehem for us is the King

of kings and Lord of lords. He is mighty to save! Rejoice in this Savior also during the new year and all the days of your life.

Read this Bible-lesson again, answer these questions in writing, and then send all your answers to your pastor: 1. How could Abraham be glad in Christ when He was not yet born? 2. How is Jesus before Abraham?

Prayer: Jesus Christ, true man, born after Abraham, and also true God and therefore before Abraham was, grant that I rejoice in Thee and Thy salvation as Abraham did and with him sit down in Thy heavenly kingdom, singing praises to Thy holy name, forever and ever. Amen.

J. L. S.

The Chimes.

A Christmas Legend.

Once upon a time a beautiful church stood in the middle of a large city. Way up in the ivy-grown tower of this church was the most wonderful thing about the whole building — a marvelous chime, or set of bells.

They were supposed to be Christmas chimes, and it was said that the hand of man could not play them. When the greatest and best gift was laid on the altar, then, it was said, there would come sounding through the music of the organ and the choir the Christmas chimes in the belfry.

Every year the people had continued this old custom of bringing their gifts to the Christ-child on Christmas Eve, but none of the gifts, these many years, had caused the chimes to ring. Perhaps it was because the people had become less careful of their gifts, or perhaps they gave them to make a display of their generosity rather than for the love of the Savior.

In one of the little villages near this city lived a boy named Peter and his little brother. They were orphans. Peter had planned to attend the next Christmas service and to take his little brother along. For many weeks he had been saving of his meager earnings in order to lay his savings on the altar as his gift to the Christ-child.

It was very cold, and it was snowing hard as Peter and his little brother started out. Night began to fall as they neared the city. Suddenly they were startled by a low moan. Upon investigating, Peter found a poor woman, fallen in the snow, too weak and tired to go on.

Peter saw at a glance that, if left alone, the unfortunate woman would freeze to death. So he stooped down and tried to rouse her by calling to her, by tugging at her arms, and finally, by rubbing her face and hands with snow to bring warmth into them again. His heart became heavy within him when he began to realize that it would take some time before he could revive her, but he had no thought of leaving her to her fate, and bravely he turned to the little brother and said, "You will have to go on to church alone; I must remain here."

"But, Peter, you will not get to hear the beautiful service," replied the little brother.

"Would you want me to leave this poor woman? Look at her face. How like our own mother she looks! If I go on and leave her, she will surely die. Take these few pennies which I have saved and place them as my offering for the Christ-child on the altar. When the service is over, bring some one back here with you to help me get this woman under shelter. Hurry now, or you'll be late."

So the little brother ran as fast as his short legs would carry him.

The service in the great church that night was one long remembered. The organ played, and the people sang the old Christmas hymns with such fervor that even Peter, outside of the city wall, alone at his work of mercy, could hear the sound, which in spite of himself brought tears of disappointment to his eyes.

The main part of the service ended, the people proceeded to bring their offerings for the Christ-child, laying them on the altar. Great and rich men brought rare jewels of fabulous value, others brought gold and silver in abundance. The people gazed in wonder and waited expectantly, for surely the chimes would ring to-night. A great, world-renowned writer laid down a book upon which he had spent many long years of hard work. A famous warrior came and laid his sword on the altar. A woman brought a beautiful dress which she had woven with her own hands. A maiden brought flowers planted and watered by herself, — but the bells in the tower remained silent.

At last the people saw their king take the royal crown, all set with brilliant jewels, and lay it gleaming on the altar as his gift to the holy Child. Nothing like that had ever happened before, and the multitude waited breathlessly to hear the chimes ring out their heavenly melody; but only the sigh-

ing of the wind broke the deathlike stillness of the old tower.

The people were disappointed once more. As the choir prepared to sing the closing hymn, a small boy, breathless, with his tiny hat clutched in one hand, hurried to the altar, upon which he laid a few coins.

Then the most wonderful music, the sound of the chimes in the tower, filled the church, the air, the whole city, with glorious harmony. The congregation was held spellbound for a moment, and then the people fell upon their knees in joy and thanksgiving.

At his post of vigil outside of the city gate, Peter, too, heard the angelic sound, and a great peace filled his heart and great joy shone from his happy face. His own small gift had made the chimes ring out at last because it was given in the spirit of sacrifice, when he willingly gave up something on which his whole heart was set to save the poor woman's life. — *Selected.*

Christmas.

The earth has grown old with its burden of care,
 But at Christmas it always is young;
 The heart of the jewel burns lustrous and fair,
 And its soul, full of music, breaks forth on the air
 When the song of the angels is sung.

The Only Answer Is God.

Vast as are our mighty mountains and terrible as are the depths of the sea, we know that in comparison with the diameter of the earth they are no greater than the roughness of the skin of an orange.

Imagine looking at the earth from the distance of one thousand miles. The great Himalaya Range would hardly be noticeable. With the most powerful of telescopes it would be difficult to see a six-foot man at the base of these mighty mountains. Let us call our imagination into play still further. A two-hundred pound man has a brain which rarely weighs one per cent. of his weight. We are told that human beings use only a part of their brains, and yet that insignificant human being, a mere speck beside the vast mountain range of the Himalayas, which, in turn, is, compared with the earth, hardly noticeable, can through his mind and brains weigh the earth, the sun, and the

moon, can compass the size of mighty Betelgeuse, whose bulk would fill the space from the earth to the sun and stretch as far beyond the sun on the other side.

Whence came that brain, that mind? What transcendent power endowed man with the ability to know so much about the universe? The only answer is God. — *J. W. Han.*

MISSION NEWS.

Omaha Mission.— During the summer months three lectures were given by the pastor on mission-work among the deaf— June 28 at Ireton, Iowa, August 9 at Manning, Iowa, and September 13 at Lyons, Nebr. Envelopes were distributed at these services for the support of the Omaha Chapel Fund. We hope to hear from the respective congregations in the near future.

Classes at the state schools, Omaha and Council Bluffs, have begun in earnest, and large numbers of pupils are again attending these religious instruction classes. Let us all pray for these children that they may learn to know the right way to heaven through faith in God's Word.

During his vacation, August 16 to 30, the pastor and his family visited with parents and relatives at Oklahoma City, Norman, and Muskogee, Okla. While there, we held a service for the deaf of Oklahoma City and vicinity. Twenty-two deaf attended this service in spite of a rainy evening. Rev. A. E. Ferber of Kansas City preaches monthly at Oklahoma City, and the deaf there spoke very highly of him.

Joy and sorrow entered the home of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Broekemeier of Wisner, Nebr., during the past two months. A son was born to them a short time previous to the death of Mr. Broekemeier's mother. We congratulate these friends upon the arrival of a healthy child and also extend our sympathy to them over their loss.

From Mitchell, S. Dak., came the sad news on July 28 that one of our Lutheran members, Mr. Arthur Brown, was killed instantly when the airplane which he himself had made and in which he was taking his third ride fell from a height of about three hundred feet and was completely destroyed. The accident happened over the farm of Mr. J. H. Noble, a deaf man living near Mitchell.

On account of our missionaries' conference and special service on August 2 the pastor was unable to conduct the funeral service. A local minister in Mitchell officiated. E. M.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.— In the past few months we have made many valuable and worth-while contacts in the Chicago area with sightless individuals and with their educational, recreational, social, literary, and industrial centers. Mr. Charles E. Comstock, division chief of the Division of Visitation of Adult Blind of the Department of Public Welfare of the State of Illinois, has shown us special courtesies in our endeavor to promote the Lutheran activities among the 2,000 sightless

in this community. Mr. Comstock informed us that the seventeen teachers for adult blind in his charge teach the Moon system to nearly all elderly blind persons.

O. C. S.

Central California District.—In order to reach the many deaf of this immense community, which has a population of one million people, three central missions were established last month. It is impossible to expect the deaf who live in Oakland and East Oakland to make the distance to Berkeley to attend church services. A separate mission has been opened in Oakland to make it convenient for the East Oakland and Alameda and Oakland deaf. The original mission at Berkeley has been retained in order to convenience the deaf of Berkeley, Albany, and Richmond. San Francisco will require but one center. The plan has worked out admirably. Our attendance is 30 in all three centers. These will be served twice a month, and the advantage of the plan has appealed to the deaf. San Jose has responded well to our services and throughout a fuller order of service is being inaugurated, since volunteers to sign hymns are not lacking. Friends of our mission here for years are assisting nobly in reestablishing our work. We can mention the Nilsons, Buckings, Musladins of San Francisco and the Wests, Spielers, Goodriches, Fentons, and Crawford of Oakland. At the School for the Deaf we shall resume instructions for Lutheran children each Friday of the month. A class of four is under way. Mrs. C. Lehman, a deaf-blind, accepted with readiness the opportunity to study the Moon System of reading and in the few instruction periods given her has mastered the art and will soon overcome her lonesome hours when the Lutheran periodical for the blind arrives. Enthusiasm ran high upon the arrival of the missionary. A splendid enclosed church sign was presented the mission by Mr. Goodrich, and the local club for the deaf, where they all congregate, consented to give it a space in their lobby. The deaf here have shown a fine spirit, and realizing that the missionary was in a strange land, they did not hesitate to visit the parsonage in good numbers.

G. W. G.

St. Louis Mission.—In a recent communication from St. Louis, Mo., we were informed that our co-worker Pastor C. Schubkegel finds it necessary to submit to another operation for abdominal tumor. The doctor has, however, assured him that the tumor will be removed in this final operation and that a restoration of health and strength may be expected.

Our esteemed fellow-worker, in his days of trial and affliction, has the assurance of the omnipotent Savior's presence. May Pastor Schubkegel take comfort in that glorious Gospel of Jesus which he has preached so many years to the deaf and to the hearing. The DEAF LUTHERAN wishes him a speedy and complete recovery.

O. C. S.

Minneapolis Mission.—For several years we have been instructing Mr. Henry Thielmann of Wilmot, S. Dak., and Miss Joyce Gauper of Claire City, S. Dak., has been taking the correspondence course and has completed it. On the fourth day of November these two confessed their faith in the presence of the Wilmot con-

gregation (the Rev. Huesener, pastor) and then promised faithfulness to their Lord and Savior until death. After the confirmation they partook of the Lord's Supper with three other deaf. May God keep them in His grace to life everlasting!

The day before the Wilmot service we held services with eight deaf in Aberdeen, S. Dak., three of whom are being instructed in God's Word and Luther's teaching pure. Also in Fergus Falls, Minn., three deaf are taking this course in the chief teachings of the Bible, and in Minneapolis two are studying the Word of God, one of them coming in from New Germany every week. At the Faribault school 17 are attending the classes, and in Minneapolis 10 are enrolled in our oral Sunday-school on Sunday afternoons. May God richly bless His Word in the hearts of all and by it save their souls! J. L. S.

Detroit Mission.—Upon our visit to Western New York in September we also conducted a service for a group of six deaf in Niagara Falls, N. Y. On the Monday after the services in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, N. Y., we also visited the Western New York State



A Group of Saginaw, Mich., Deaf Served by Pastor E. Scheibert of Detroit, Mich.

School for the Deaf in Rochester, N. Y., where there is an enrolment of 212 pupils. We were not aware of the fact that our people in Rochester had taken considerable interest in the deaf; but when I called on the Rev. C. A. Behnke, I learned that through the stimulus given by him our Lutheran Mission Society of Rochester, N. Y., was just then making an effort to induce a missionary for the deaf to visit their city regularly if possible. The mission society had addressed a letter to me regarding this matter, which, however, reached my home after I had left for New York State. Thus it seemed providential to me that without knowing of developments in that city I had decided to visit Rochester on my last trip. Pastor Behnke knows the manual alphabet and had undertaken to do something for the spiritual uplift of the deaf of his city. An aged deaf lady is a communicant member of his church. Pastor Behnke conducted the funeral service for that lady's husband last year, with a large number of deaf and an interpreter present. Pastor Behnke has also instructed and confirmed several deaf in Rochester and assures me that he will give me his hearty cooperation if I come there to hold services with the deaf. He also promised to keep in touch with the deaf between times, and so, with the Lord's help, we hope for some success there.

In Detroit, Arthur Heier and Minnie Taube were united in holy wedlock on October 1. Miss Taube had lost her mother through death during the summer, and as her father is stricken with blindness, the young couple will make their home with Mr. Taube. May the Lord Jesus be a constant guest in their home!

The undersigned is happy to be able to mention that on the 29th of August, a day after the oldest daughter's birthday, the missionary's home was again blessed with a healthy baby girl, Ruth Elaine.

In Saginaw the deaf continue to show a very lively interest in our work by attending the services in goodly numbers. At our last visit we were informed of the illness of Mr. Alexander Gibson of Bay City. Mr. Gibson was in a rather critical condition in the Mercy Hospital of that city. His condition had not been fully diagnosed, and an X-ray was necessary. We hope he is again on the way to recovery.

On August 25 Mr. and Mrs. Philip Schwartz of Toledo, O., were forced to hurry their six-year-old son Kenneth to the hospital on account of a very severe case of peritonitis. Already early the following morning little Kenneth passed away. The Christian burial was conducted on the following Friday. May the sorrowing parents and sisters comfort themselves with the fact that Kenneth died in his baptismal grace and with the certain hope of a blessed reunion in heaven.

On September 30 there was born to Mr. and Mrs. Geo. P. Riehm of Perrysburg, O., a son, George Raymond, who was baptized in their home on the evening of November 1. Mr. Elbert T. Reddington, who for many years was a very faithful member of our Toledo flock, was taken to the Home for the Aged and Infirm Deaf at Westerville, O. We are glad that Mr. Reddington need not lose contact with our mission through his removal, since the Rev. N. E. Borchardt of Cleveland, O., regularly visits this institution. E. J. SCHEIBERT.

Detroit School News.—Pastor E. Scheibert in a recent communication informs us of events in Detroit as follows:—

"You may be interested to hear of the outcome of the special meeting of the Society of our Lutheran Deaf School held October 20. The former resolution to build on the Plymouth site was rescinded, and it was resolved to get plans ready with the intention of building right here in Detroit. The society felt that something should be done as soon as possible, and as conditions do not warrant building at the other site, it was decided to go ahead on the Nevada Ave. site as soon as feasible. The vote stood: 17 congregations in favor of remaining on Nevada Ave., 7 opposed to it; 6 were absent, and 1 did not vote. It is too bad that this proposition had to be held up so long. Since this is now the development, it may be possible for us at some future time to place the chapel for our mission-work right on the same site with the school. Many members of the society are in favor of this; but, of course, we can't expect them to finance such a building. That will have to be worked out some other way. However, I have now also come to the conclusion that it will be a very good idea to have a Lutheran center for the adult deaf at the same place with the school." O. C. S.

TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT OF COLLECTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS.

For three months, ending September 30, 1931.

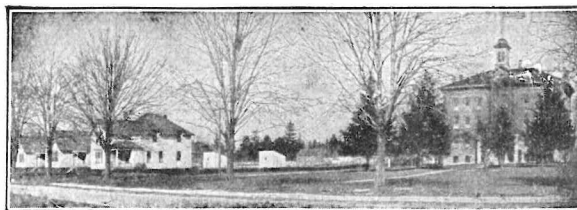
<i>Rev. A. E. Ferber.</i>	<i>Rev. G. W. Gaertner.</i>
Kansas City\$26.73	Tacoma\$8.89
Oklahoma City 3.21	Vancouver 6.25
Tulsa75	Bellingham 3.90
Salina 1.27	Anacortes 6.70
Lawrence 2.56	<i>Total</i>\$25.74
Atchison 4.50	<i>Rev. N. E. Borchardt.</i>
Joplin78	Findley-Fremont \$2.96
Springfield 1.56	Columbus 2.95
Herington 3.00	Cleveland 3.05
Wichita 6.45	Elyria 1.50
St. Joseph 1.00	Youngstown-Erie 3.24
Denver 3.17	<i>Total</i>\$13.70
<i>Total</i>\$54.98	<i>Rev. A. C. Dahms.</i>
<i>Rev. W. Ferber.</i>	South Bend \$7.76
Duluth-Superior ...\$13.60	Elgin 2.40
Fargo43	Bradley 3.10
Grand Forks 2.33	<i>Total</i>\$13.26
Rice Lake 5.30	<i>Rev. O. C. Schroeder.</i>
International Falls.. 1.75	Fort Wayne\$ 6.75
Staples 1.72	Mrs. Klingler 1.00
Lengley 1.52	Detroit School 6.11
Bismarck 3.01	N. N., for Blind 13.00
Anamoose 6.00	<i>Total</i>\$26.75
Minot 1.45	<i>Rev. F. C. Gade.</i>
Ottertail 22.25	Madison \$ 7.14
Hackensack75	Watertown 7.15
<i>Total</i>\$60.11	Sheboygan 16.61
<i>Rev. G. H. Ferber.</i>	Manitowoc 2.05
Alhambra \$ 4.21	Kenosha 1.57
Los Angeles 15.09	Oshkosh 5.20
Santa Barbara 3.65	Merrill 3.30
San Diego 2.37	Racine75
Orange45	North Freedom 1.75
Long Beach 3.10	Delavan 1.05
Anaheim25	<i>Total</i>\$46.57
Berkeley 1.00	<i>Rev. E. Mappes.</i>
San Francisco 2.05	Lincoln \$ 1.40
San Jose75	Sioux City 2.60
Pasadena 2.56	Mitchell 2.10
June Collections ... 16.24	Sioux Falls 2.30
<i>Total</i>\$51.72	Fort Dodge 15.17
<i>Rev. A. Boll.</i>	Boone 4.00
Binghamton \$.88	Des Moines55
Baltimore 4.80	Hawarden 10.26
Sunday-school 2.72	<i>Total</i>\$38.38
Confirmation Class .. 2.08	<i>Rev. E. C. Baker.</i>
<i>Total</i>\$10.48	Louisville \$4.10
<i>Rev. J. A. C. Beyer.</i>	Evansville 6.80
Eau Claire \$ 1.62	Memphis 1.90
Stillwater 1.35	Terre Haute 3.00
Black River Falls... 3.00	Indianapolis 1.65
Decorah 3.60	Columbus 1.50
Mason City 1.16	<i>Total</i>\$18.95
Austin 13.26	<i>Miscellaneous.</i>
La Crosse 1.25	Geo. Kreidt, Treas.,
Winoona 1.20	Portland, Ore.\$30.00
Dubuque50	Martin Eber, Treas.,
Goodhue 10.62	Pittsburgh, Pa. ... 4.65
<i>Total</i>\$37.56	<i>Rev. J. L. Salvner.</i>
<i>Rev. C. Schubkegel.</i>	Dawson \$ 2.95
St. Charles \$.70	Watertown 2.20
Indianapolis 1.25	Fergus Falls 2.10
Louisville 1.50	Gaylord-Arlington ... 2.50
Miss Thelma Skedsmo 1.00	Mankato 2.35
<i>Total</i> \$4.45	Big Stone City 13.00
<i>Rev. W. Gielow.</i>	Saginaw, Mich. 2.00
Fort Wayne \$9.60	Miss Hoffman 1.00
<i>Rev. E. J. Scheibert.</i>	Mrs. Hartig 1.00
Toledo \$6.35	Ladies' Aid, Wheaton 10.00
Mount Clemens 3.35	Mrs. Hannah Bienert 5.00
Saginaw 2.40	<i>Total</i>\$44.10
Buffalo 2.65	<i>Rev. F. Hischke.</i>
Fort Wayne 6.62	Missoula \$ 2.20
<i>Total</i>\$21.37	Spokane 21.75
<i>Rev. F. Hischke.</i>	<i>Total</i>\$23.95
Missoula \$ 2.20	
Spokane 21.75	
<i>Total</i>\$23.95	

O. J. PRIGGE, Treas.

FOR BLIND MISSIONS.

Rev. A. H. Kuntz.

Sam Hoch	\$ 5.00	School at Shawano,	
Herm. Mueller	2.00	Wis., through	
Mr. O. J. Ronecker ..	1.00	Teacher Felten ..	50.00
Mrs. Mary Kirchner ..	5.00	St. Paul's <i>Kraenzchen</i> ,	
Miss Clara Koch ..	1.00	Brooklyn	15.00
Rev. F. J. Graeber ..	1.50	Mrs. G. W. Ledford ..	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. Harper	2.00	Edna Schnutenhaus ..	8.00
Mr. and Mrs. Bussong	1.00	Elsa Nielson	3.00
Ernestine McDowell ..	2.00	Mona Wampler	2.00
Herman R. Mueller ..	1.00	Ruth Peterson	2.00
School at Clintonville,		Mrs. Mary Kirchner ..	5.00
Wis., through		Clemma Craig	1.00
Teacher A. Kuntz ..	71.00		
Mission Circle, Mer-			
rill, Wis.	16.00		
		Total	\$185.50
		O. J. PRIGGE, <i>Treas.</i>	



Lutheran School for the Deaf, North Detroit, Mich.
Rev. Wm. Gielow, *Superintendent*.
6841 Nevada Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

Lutheran Missions for the Deaf.

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- Rev. Geo. W. Gaertner, 2500 62d Ave., Oakland, Cal.
Richmond, Albany, Berkeley, first and third Sunday of
the month, 3 p. m. San Francisco, first and third Sunday,
3 p. m. Oakland, Alameda, East Oakland, second and fourth
Sunday, 3 p. m. San Jose, second and fourth Sunday, 8 p. m.
Sacramento, second Wednesday, 8 p. m.

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