

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 1

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R



On the Threshold of the Year.

On the threshold of the year,
Ere the snow wreaths disappear,
Half in hope and half in fear,
Waits the heart.
When the coming days are sweet
And the buds blow round our feet
In the pathway, who will meet?
Who will part?

When the daffodils expand
And the sun is on the land,
Some will travel hand in hand
Calm and blest.
When the meadows wear their gold
And the lily bells unfold,
Underneath the daisied mold
Some will rest.

On the threshold of the year,
See the Lord is standing near,
And the heart forgets its fear
In His smile.
Trembling soul, He speaks to thee:
"I Myself thy Guide will be;
All the way is known to Me,
Mile by mile.

"On the threshold of the year,
If the path looks dim and drear,
Then My love shall make it clear
To thine eyes;
Only trust thy changeless Friend.
If thou wilt on Me depend,
What awaits Thee at the end?
Paradise!"

EDITORIAL.

Food for the Soul.

When a sinner accepts Jesus as his own personal Savior, he has faith and trust in the power of the Son of God. In love and thanks to Christ for His help the Christian then breaks away from all known errors and sins. He honestly tries to be an "imitator of God" as a dear child.

Christians should remain in this happy state. It is easy to lose the saving faith out of the soul. By nature all men are inclined to do evil and to stray away from God. The wicked world in which we live also tempts the Christian's soul. The air which he breathes is heavy with the germs of doubt and error. All sinners need the daily use of God's Word to keep them in the true faith unto everlasting life.

Our deaf, too, must have regular food for the soul. It is impossible for all of our scattered members to come to church frequently; yet they must be served regularly in some way. For this reason the new DEAF LUTHERAN will be sent out every month. It will always bring to the deaf God's message of love and hope. Our deaf should read it regularly, prayerfully, and carefully. This Word of God is able to keep them happy and hopeful. By His message Jesus will come to them in all their troubles and problems to comfort them and lead them to the honor and glory of everlasting life. May God bless our new monthly paper to His glory and the salvation of the deaf!

O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism.

1. Luther's Catechism.

A catechism is a book which teaches people by means of questions and answers. The book which we shall study is called Luther's Catechism. We call it thus because Dr. Martin Luther wrote it. Luther was born in 1483 and died in 1546. Through Luther God did great things for His Church. In 1934 we celebrated the 400th anniversary of Luther's translation of the Bible, which he finished in 1534. Above all, Luther brought to light again out of the Bible the sweet Gospel, the good news of forgiveness of all sin by faith in Jesus Christ and His blood without the deeds of the Law. This he does so masterfully also in his Catechism, which was written in 1529.

2. Why did Luther Write the Catechism?

Luther visited the churches, and there he found that the common people knew nothing of the Christian teaching, knew not the Lord's Prayer nor the Creed, the three articles of our Christian faith, nor the Ten Commandments. Therefore he wrote this little book to bring the chief teachings of the Bible to the people. In it we have six parts: 1. The Ten Commandments; 2. the Creed, or the three articles of our Christian faith; 3. the Lord's Prayer; 4. the Sacrament of Holy Baptism; 5. the Office of the Keys and Confession; 6. the Sacrament of the Altar, or the Lord's Supper. Then are added a few prayers: evening and morning prayers, prayers before and after meals; a Table of Duties; and Christian Questions. Surely a good book still to-day for every one. If you have not this Catechism, ask your pastor for one and then study it with us.

3. The Catechism, a Short Bible.

If you want to know the chief teachings of the Bible, you need only read your Catechism. It tells you in a few words what the Bible tells you about God and His holy Law, the making of the world and of man, the salvation of man by Jesus, the work of the Holy Spirit, life after death, prayer, and many other important truths. He who knows his Catechism knows his Bible. Therefore our monthly studies in Luther's Catechism will really be studies in the Bible. These studies should lead us into the Bible, the Word of God. Next month we shall begin with the First Chief Part, the Law, or the Ten Commandments.

May these studies help to make the new year a most blessed one for you and me! May God grant it!

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE.

Bible-Study for January.

"Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it," Luke 11, 28.

Bible-Lesson: Mark 4, 21—25.

"And He said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel or under a bed, and not to be set on a candlestick? For there is nothing hid which shall not be manifested; neither was anything kept secret but that it should come abroad. If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. And He said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you; and unto you that hear shall

more be given. For he that hath, to him shall be given; and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath."

The Gospel, the good news about Jesus, is like a candle or a light. For what purpose do we light a candle? To put it under a bushel (bowl) or under a bed, where it cannot be seen? No; we place the candle on a candlestick, where it can be seen and where it can give light. So it is with the Gospel which God has given to us. We are not to keep this Gospel hidden where others cannot see it. We are to bring it out into a world of darkness so that it can become a light to others also and point out to them the way of salvation.

And while we bring this precious message of salvation to others, we want to use it diligently ourselves. Jesus tells us here to hear and listen to His Word and to remember well what we hear. "With what measure you mete [measure], it shall be measured to you." If we diligently hear the Word of God, God will give us more and more understanding and make our faith in the Savior grow stronger. On the other hand, if we have a little understanding of the Word of God, but never read it in our home and neglect to go to church, where we can hear this Word preached, God will take away even the little understanding that we have. Then we shall lose the light and again walk in darkness without Jesus.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Thou hast brought us out of the darkness of sin by the light of Thy precious Gospel. Make us diligent to hear and learn Thy Word, so that our faith, love, and hope may increase to Thy glory. Amen. E. E.

IN THE MORNING MAIL.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—In the past months we received a letter from the United States Government, Department of the Interior, with regard to a sightless Indian living on one of the Government reservations. We trust that our recommendations have met the requirements of this blind man and that he may become a constant reader of our *Lutheran Herald*, Moon type. O. C. S.

Minneapolis Mission.—Again we must report several deaths. October 12 Charlotte Hagemann passed away, and November 14 Leona Hull departed this life. Miss Hagemann, confirmed in 1933, had been sick and crippled for several years, but the Word of Jesus and His love always filled her heart with joy. She reached the age of 65 years. Miss Hull, baptized by the pastor in 1914, was sick only a few days and died at the age of

43 years. "If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him," 1 Thess. 4, 14.

Baptized into Christ: Betty Bertha, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. L. Chizek, Watertown, S. Dak., on September 19; Bernard August, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur W. Bren, Hopkins, on November 23; Donald Willard Tremel, grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. H. Nageler, Minneapolis, on December 2. "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ," Gal. 3, 27.

Confirmation and Baptism in Faribault. Three deaf from the school were added to the number of our communicants in Trinity Church on December 9: Raymone Edward Schultz, of Duluth; Kenneth Eugene Elmgren, of St. Paul; and Beatrice Arlene Nelson, of Keewatin. Miss Nelson also was baptized. Two of our smaller boys also received Holy Baptism: Robert Le Roy Clark, of Osakis, and Jack Edward Guyette, of Austin. Forty-one pupils from the school, ten adult deaf from the city, and a large gathering of our hearing friends attended this service. The collection for our mission amounted to \$10. After the services the young people's society of Trinity Church gave the pupils from the school a Christmas party, which was enjoyed by all. A short Christmas program was rendered by the smaller ones. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life," Rev. 2, 10. J. L. S.

Evening.

Slowly the day is dying
Out of the purpling west;
Gently the night-wind is sighing,
Soothing the world to its rest.

Out from the windows of heaven
Star candles silently gleam;
God's benediction is given
Unto His flock while they dream.

Sleep, weary world, till the morrow
Flings back the portals of light,
Banish all care and all sorrow,
Rest, sweetly rest through the night.

Sufficient Grace.

A great preacher was asked if he had grace enough to be a martyr. He replied, "No. What do I want with a martyr's grace now? If I am ever called to be a martyr, then a martyr's grace will be given me. What I need now is grace for my present circumstances." That is right. Whatever is allotted to us in the way of tribulation, we shall find God's grace allotted in sufficient abundance to meet it. Let us thus live on God's strength moment by moment, so that, "as our day is, so shall our strength be." And He has said: "My grace is sufficient for thee."

Man's Extremity — God's Opportunity.

When you feel you can't accomplish
 What you once set out to do
 And you feel you are not able
 To press on and see it through;
 When you've failed and tired of trying
 And there's no use — so you think —
 Struggling on beneath the burden;
 When you've reached "Old Failure's" brink,
 Take your burden to the Savior;
 Put it in His hands and say,
 "I have tried, but failed completely;
 Lord, direct it in your way."

What a wondrous transformation!
 Such a glorious change takes place
 When you follow Jesus' leading,
 Undergirt by His love and grace.

"Though we try, we are but mortals —
 'Tis impossible," we say;
 Then comes Jesus to the rescue,
 Showing us there is a way.

Just when we have gone our limit
 And the paths of failure trod,
 Then we'll find that human failure
 Does not mean defeat to God.

Evangelical Visitor.

Confidence in God.

The secret of a happy life is confidence in a gracious heavenly Father. Two boys were talking together of Elijah's ascent in the chariot of fire. Said one, "Wouldn't you be afraid to ride in such a chariot?" "No," said the other, "not if God drove." God drives the chariot of every human life. So fear not, but believe and hope; for His power and love are omnipotent.

Travelers.

Many people who pass the Rothschild mansion in the fashionable quarter of London notice that the end of one of the cornices is unfinished. The thought has occurred to many, "Could this rich man not afford to pay for the finishing of that cornice, or is the fault due simply to carelessness?" The explanation is a very simple, yet suggestive one when it is known. Lord Rothschild is an orthodox Jew, and every pious Jew's house, tradition says, must have some part unfinished to bear testimony to the world that its occupant is only, like Abraham, a pilgrim and a stranger upon the earth. The incomplete cornice on the mansion seems to say to all who hurry by in the streets,

bent on amassing worldly wealth or going along with the maddening crowd in the paths of folly, "This is not Lord Rothschild's home; he is traveling to eternity." We, too, should remember that we are travelers. A pious English pastor left as an inscription to be placed on his tomb these words: "The end of a traveler on his way to Jerusalem." Thus we, too, are travelers on our way to Jerusalem.

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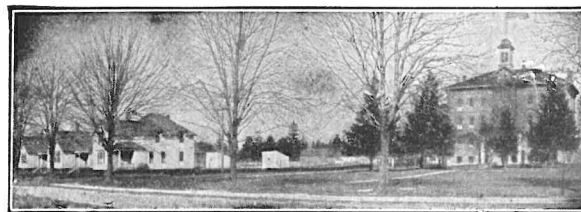
Missionaries to the Deaf and the Blind.

Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.
 Rev. A. Kuntz, 805 Lindaraxa Park, Alhambra, Cal.

These missionaries preach in nearly 200 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at many State schools for the deaf. You will find them ready to serve you; call upon them or write to them. The deaf need God's Word.

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