

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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THANKSGIVING.

Rejoice, ye righteous, in the Lord,
Sing unto Him a joyful song;
He is your King, great and adored,
His guardian arms are ever strong;
Before His presence come with praise,
Extol His mercy and His grace.

He chose you from eternity
In tender love to be His own;
Forseeing sin's deep misery,
He did elect you in His Son.
Upon you shines His gracious face,—
Extol His mercy and His grace.

He blessed you with His wondrous Word,
His saving Gospel and His Law;
It is the Spirit's conquering sword,
Before which Satan stands in awe;
It breaks sin's hold and dread embrace,—
Extol His mercy and His grace.

His goodness hallows all of life,
His mercies bless each fleeting day;
He gives you peace in every strife
And pours His riches on your way.
O come in Him your trust to place,—
Extol His mercy and His grace.

JOHN THEODORE MUELLER.

Thanksgiving.

Some men believe that this year they have little or no reason to be thankful because the past few years have brought to them poverty, unemployment, as well as losses in money and bodily comforts. That is a mistake.

God has continued to provide the world with the means to secure food, homes, work, and other blessings of this earthly life. He still sends us sunshine and rain. He has given us health and strength to use these blessings of nature to provide ourselves with the things we need.

Moreover, we have reason to thank and praise God daily for the blessed Bible and the loving Savior. Jesus is the subject of the praises which are sung in heaven. Shall He not be our greatest cause for thanksgiving on earth also?

From God's own Word we learn that sickness, poverty, pain, sorrow, losses, and all manner of tribulations are merely blessings in disguise. When a sheep is dipped into water to wash it, there is no intention of the Good Shepherd to drown it. It is a common blunder among Christians to think that the dark times are a punishment for what is past instead of a preparation for what is coming. A life without suffering and sorrow is a life without growth. St. James tells us: "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations, knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience," chap. 1, 2, 3. We need to reach the place that David reached, whose soul was calmed by sorrow.

Let us therefore in spite of hard times thank God with our lips, with our heart, and with a life of obedience and holiness. Let us also give our fellow-men reasons to be thankful by making them happy through the teaching and preaching of the Gospel.

Of no man can a darker thing be said than that he is not thankful. We have God's Word and His gracious promises. We may be considered to be unthankful when we do not use God's gifts. For example, can they be said to be thankful for Bibles, churches, and Sunday-schools who make little or no use of them? May we therefore be thankful to God and may we use His gifts to the glory of Christ both in good and in evil days! God makes no mistakes. His ways and judgments are always right. We need above all things to have faith in His wisdom and love.

O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism.

THE THIRD COMMANDMENT.

"Thou shalt sanctify the holy-day."

The holy-day is the day when Christians come together to worship God and to learn His holy Word. And God commands: "Thou shalt *sanctify* the holy-day," which means in the first place, as Luther says: "We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word."

"Despising Preaching and His Word."

So many people "despise preaching and His Word" and never sanctify the holy-day. On a Sunday morning they rest and sleep after a round of pleasure on Saturday night. Some indeed rise, but they keep busy studying the Sunday paper; others go out for pleasure; still others have some work to do at home. The wife must get the Sunday dinner ready, and the husband must work in the garden or do other work around the house. Alas, for so many the holy-day is a day of rest and pleasure and feasting, a day set aside for themselves, but not for the Lord. Indeed, all who can go to church on a holy-day, but do it not "despise preaching and His Word."

You perhaps will say: "Yes, people who never go to church surely 'despise preaching and His Word'; but I go to church once in a while; especially on Christmas and Easter I will let nothing keep me from church. I would not think of 'despising preaching and His Word.'" My dear reader, does God say, "Thou shalt sanctify the holy-day once in a while"? No, He says, "Thou shalt sanctify *the holy-day*." The holy-day! That surely means every holy-day. If you go to church every Sunday but one and on that day let pleasure or company or bad weather keep you from going to the house of God, then you also have broken this commandment. Will you let pleasure or company or bad weather keep you from your work? O no! Much less should you let these things keep you from the house of God.

I hear another say: "Well, I am glad to be able to state that I am in church every holy-day. It does not seem like Sunday to me if I am not in church." Friend, going to church in itself is not enough. You may go to church every Sunday and still "despise preaching and His Word." In the house of God we so often see a man talking with his neighbor, another is sound asleep, and

another's thoughts are far away, with his friends and with pleasures, while the pastor speaks of God's great love in Christ Jesus. Surely every one of us must confess: "Also I very often have 'despised preaching and His Word.'"

And that is sin. Jesus said to His disciples when He sent them out to preach His Word: "He that despiseth you despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me," Luke 10, 16. Therefore Paul writes, Heb. 10, 25: "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is." Also read the words of warning in Matt. 10, 14, 15, and you will no longer say: "It does not harm if I do not go to church." It does harm. They who "despise preaching and His Word" sin against the good Lord, who by the preaching of His Word wants to save their souls.

"Fear and Love God."

Luther says: "We should fear and love God that we may not despise preaching and His Word." Very often we have not feared and loved God and therefore "despised preaching and His Word." Let us ask Him to forgive us our sins for the sake of Jesus, who loved us and gave Himself for us. And may His mercy and love in forgiving us for Christ's sake fill us with true fear and love of God, so that we shall no longer "despise preaching and His Word." _____ J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE.

Bible-Study for November.

"Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." Mark 16, 15.

Bible-Lesson: Mark 6, 7—13.

"And He called unto Him the Twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two, and gave them power over unclean spirits, and commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse; but be shod with sandals and not put on two coats. And He said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place. And whosoever shall not receive you nor hear you when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the Day of Judgment than for that city. And they went out and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many devils and anointed with oil many that were sick and healed them."

When the people of Nazareth did not receive the Word of God which Jesus preached to them, He turned away from them and began to preach in other cities and villages. At this time He also sent out His twelve disciples to help Him in the glorious work of preaching the message of salvation and bringing men to Christ; and He gave them power to drive out unclean spirits, or devils. By performing these miracles, they were to show that they had been sent by God and that their message was true. For their journey they were not to carry a scrip (small bag) nor bread nor money; they were to take nothing but a staff, one coat, and sandals on their feet.

But how were they to obtain food and clothing on their journey? The people to whom they preached should provide this. Therefore Jesus told them to stay in the first house which they would enter in any city or village. The people to whom they preached should give them food and clothing, so that they could give all their time to the preaching of the Word of God.

What were they to do, however, if the people would not receive and hear them? They were to go away from that place, and in going away, they were to shake off the dust under their feet for a testimony (witness) against them. God will judge all people who despise the preaching of His Word, and their judgment will be greater than that of Sodom and Gomorrah, the cities which God destroyed with fire from heaven for their wickedness. What a great sin it is to despise the Word of God! How terrible will be God's judgment upon the unbelievers! The disciples did as Jesus told them. They preached that men should repent, should turn from their sin to God, should believe that in Jesus they have forgiveness of sins, and they cast out many devils and healed the sick. The Lord was with them in their work and blessed it.

The message which the twelve disciples preached is the message which the ministers of Jesus should preach to-day. They are to call men to repentance; they are to point to Jesus, the Lamb of God, which takes away the sins of the world. When, therefore, the ministers of Jesus come to you with this message, receive them gladly; believe the Word which they preach to you; support them in their work.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, Thou wilt have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. Make us all full of love and zeal for this

Thy work, so that we shall gladly support Thy work and help to bring Thy glorious name to all people for the salvation of many. Amen.

E. EN.

IN THE MORNING MAIL.

Minneapolis Mission.—September 22 was a day of great joy for our Minneapolis congregation; for it was just twenty years ago that Grace Chapel was erected and dedicated to the service of our God and Savior.

In the morning services, oral at 9.30 and in the sign-language at 10.45, our Duluth missionary, the Rev. W. Ferber, preached the sermon from Ps. 23. He showed how the good Lord has been our Shepherd in the past and that He will be our Shepherd also in the future. About a hundred deaf attended these services. Our ladies then served dinner to about 125 deaf and hearing. In the afternoon Pastor Schumacher, formerly missionary to the deaf in St. Paul, delivered the sermon, basing it on Ps. 126, 3: "The Lord hath done great things for us, whereof we are glad." He set forth what the great things were that God has done for us during the past twenty years in our church and urged us to rejoice in the Lord. Rev. J. Beyer, our St. Paul missionary, interpreted. At the close of the service Pastor Schumacher addressed a few words to the deaf in their language. Also this service was attended by about a hundred deaf. Lunch was served to 125 deaf and hearing. In the evening we had an informal meeting, in which first Mr. Jens Hansen and Mr. G. H. Humble, president and deacon, respectively, twenty years ago, spoke of bygone days. Thereupon the Rev. E. G. Nachtsheim, chairman of the Board for Deaf-mute Missions in 1915, addressed the deaf in the sign-language, which was appreciated by all, and then Rev. H. Gamber, the present chairman of the Board, extended both his own and the Board's congratulations and spoke words of encouragement. Pastors Beyer and Ferber, whose fields were part of the Minneapolis field twenty years ago, also were called upon to say a few words. The closing remarks were made by Mr. C. Gruber, president of our congregation to-day. About 125 deaf were with us in the evening. We were glad to have the congregation of Calvary Chapel for the Deaf or St. Paul with us all day.

It was indeed a day of joy and thanksgiving unto our Lord. Our prayer is:—

Abide with richest blessings
Among us, bounteous Lord;
Let us in grace and wisdom
Grow daily through Thy Word.

J. L. S.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—When we are not busy at home attending to our correspondence with hundreds of sightless persons or are not engaged in preparing manuscripts for our magazines, we make missionary and pastoral calls on many blind and some deaf-blind shut-ins in and around Chicago. It has been our privilege to hear some remarkable confessions of faith and expressions of Christian hope in these homes of God's afflicted children. In addition to their sorrow of blindness many are suffering from pain, sickness, poverty,

loneliness, and other miseries of life; yet they are cheerful, trusting in God and His Word. Their courage and faith would put many grumblers to shame who constantly complain about hard times and mere trifles.

O. C. S.

Chicago Mission.—About 65 deaf attended the service in South Bend, Ind., on September 15. Through a misunderstanding some were late; 80 deaf and 20 children were present for the supper after service.

A. C. D.

"FAITH sees victory ahead, but sight is fighting in uncertainty."

Lutheran Missionaries to the Deaf.

Rev. A. Boli, 192 Hewes St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Rev. N. Borchardt, 2132 W. 93d St., Cleveland, O.
Rev. E. Scheibert, 160 Cortland Ave., Detroit, Mich.
Rev. A. C. Dahms, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, Ill.
Rev. F. C. Gade, 1717A W. Meinecke Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.
Rev. E. C. Baker, P. O. Box 453, Indianapolis, Ind.
Rev. A. E. Ferber, 2538 Quincy Ave., Kansas City, Mo.
Rev. E. Mappes, 2331 N. 63d St., Omaha, Neb.
Rev. J. Beyer, 1162 Marshall Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
Rev. J. Salvner, 1221 N. 22d Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.
Rev. W. Ferber, 116 Chester Parkway, Duluth, Minn.
Rev. F. A. Hischke, 5046 Aubert Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
Rev. W. Westermann, 1101 15th Ave., Seattle, Wash.
Rev. E. Eichmann, 4424 N. Kerby Ave., Portland, Ore.
Rev. G. W. Gaertner, 3233 62d Ave., Oakland, Cal.
Rev. G. H. Ferber, 1467 W. 45th St., Los Angeles, Cal.
Rev. W. Gielow, 4863 Ashland St., Detroit, Mich.
Rev. M. E. A. Mueller, 1925 Lyle Ave., Waco, Tex.

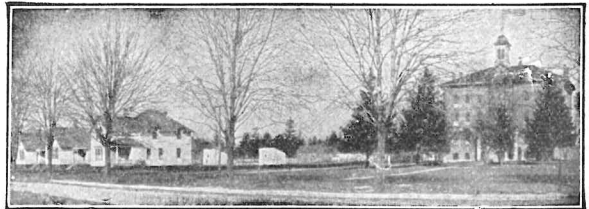
Missionaries to the Deaf and the Blind.

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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