

# The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP.

In humble stall the Savior lay  
While shepherds adoration pay.  
Shall we not come and worship, too,  
The Christ to whom all praise is due?

And wise men from the East have come  
In rev'rence to the sacred home.  
Shall we not bring our gifts as they  
And at His feet our offerings lay?

From stable-door to cross-crowned hill  
He went God's purpose to fulfil.  
Shall we not yield Him service true,  
His will to seek, His work to do?

O Christ of God, I would enthrone  
Thee as my Lord, and Thee alone;  
Unto thy servant now impart  
A willing mind, a loyal heart.



## Christmas Blessings.

In December we again make our annual visit to the manger-bed of our blessed Savior. In Bethlehem will our Christian hopes and joys, like those of the shepherds and all sin-burdened souls, receive new strength. In the Christ-child God gave to us the greatest proof of His everlasting love, kindness, and mercy. With the Babe of Bethlehem He gave us also the promise of greater things to come. St. Paul says: "How shall God not with Him [His own Son] also freely give us all things?" Rom. 8, 32.

The Christ-child brought us peace with God. While sin was unforgiven, there could be no peace; for God is holy, and sin is an offense to Him. Christ removed from us the guilt of sin and cleansed us with His blood. We are now God's dearly beloved children. Christians have peace therefore also with one another. Sin brings anger, strife, jealousy, and hatred; but faith in the Christ-child destroys the power of sin in the believer's heart. In addition it gives peace to the soul and freedom from the fear of death.

Rejoice therefore on Christmas Day and all the days of your life that He who made heaven and earth was born in lowliness and poverty that we might live in His heavenly mansions. Rejoice because the Son of God came down into the depths of misery that we might have peace and life through His blood and merits.

Let us not join the thoughtless world in making of the Christmas holidays only days of feasting and empty talk about good cheer. Let us, on the contrary, like the shepherds of Bethlehem, tell our sin-cursed, suffering fellow-men that there is born in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord, and that "whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life, John 3, 16. O. C. S.

## Studies in Luther's Catechism.

### THE THIRD COMMANDMENT.

*"Thou shalt sanctify the holy-day."*

In his explanation of the Third Commandment Luther tells us that we do not sanctify the holy-day if we "despise preaching and His [God's] Word." This we considered in our last study. Then he shows us that we sanctify it if we "hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it."

### "Hold it Sacred."

"It" refers to "preaching and His Word." And that we should hold sacred, that is, deem most holy. From the words "preaching and His Word" we learn that not every kind of preaching is to be held sacred. Of those who do not preach the Word of God we should beware, as Jesus says: "Beware of false prophets," Matt. 7, 15. Only the preaching of the Word of God is to be held sacred and considered most holy and precious. Thank God if you have a pastor who preaches the Word and nothing but the Word. And then "receive it not as the word of men, but, as it is in truth, the Word of God," 1 Thess. 2, 13. When you enter your church, say: "To-day my pastor will teach me again the Word of God; he will bring a message from heaven to me. Oh, I must take heed lest I lose a word of it. It is God's holy Word." And upon returning home, take your Bible and again read the lesson which you have studied with your pastor. However, bear in mind that the Bible is not a book like other books, but that it is the book of God. Then you will prize it highly, just as you hold precious a line or two from your dear mother. Thus you sanctify the holy-day.

### "Gladly Hear and Learn It."

If you thus hold sacred "preaching and His Word," you will gladly hear and learn it. You will not want to stay at home, but hasten to the house of God with joy every holy-day and say with David: "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord," Ps. 122. And you will stay to the close, yes, perhaps linger there after the service in order to learn more of this precious Word, as did the Boy Jesus when He was twelve years old. Read Luke 2, 42—52. And when you return to your home, you will gladly sit down with Mary at the feet of Jesus and hear His Word, Luke 10, 38—42. For you will surely want to read that lesson again and tell your friend and neighbor of it, who perhaps was not able to go to the house of God with you.

But you will also gladly give towards the support of your church and for missions. Oh, how gladly and liberally you ought to give for your church! For there you learn the Word of God, which is sweeter than honey and the honeycomb, Ps. 19, 10. And, again, how gladly you ought to give for missions! For that makes it possible to bring this precious Word of God to such as still sit in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**"Hear and Love God."**

All this you should do gladly, from fear and love of God. Friend, have we always had this fear and love of God? Have we always held sacred "preaching and His Word"? Have we always gladly heard and learned it? Have we always cheerfully given for the preaching of God's Word? Who can answer, "Yes"? Oh, give thanks to God for the glad Christmas-tidings: "Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to 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. May this Savior, who was born for us, and His Word always urge us to sanctify the holy-day, to hold preaching and His Word sacred and gladly to hear and learn it!

J. L. S.

**THE BREAD OF LIFE.****Bible-Study for December.**

*"There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked."*  
*Is. 57, 21.*

**Bible-Lesson: Mark 6, 14—20.**

"And King Herod heard of Him; (for His name was spread abroad;) and he said, That John the Baptist was risen from the dead, and therefore mighty works do show forth themselves in him. Others said, That it is Elias. And others said, That it is a prophet or as one of the prophets. But when Herod heard thereof, he said, It is John, whom I beheaded; he is risen from the dead. For Herod himself had sent forth and laid hold upon John and bound him in prison for Herodias's sake, his brother Philip's wife. For John had said unto Herod, It is not lawful for thee to have thy brother's wife. Therefore Herodias had a quarrel against him and would have killed him; but she could not; for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a just man and an holy, and observed him; and when he heard him, he did many things and heard him gladly."

The mighty deeds which Jesus performed soon became known throughout the country, and so it was that King Herod also heard of Him and His mighty works. This report about Jesus, however, filled Herod with fear. He had committed a terrible crime, and this report about Jesus reminded him of it. What was the crime Herod had committed? He had put John the Baptist, the mighty preacher of repentance, to death without cause, and therefore his conscience troubled him. The still, small voice within him gave him no rest;

it constantly reminded him of the man whom he had unjustly killed; and when he heard of this Man who was able to perform such mighty works, he said that John the Baptist had risen from the dead. Some people said that Jesus was Elias; others thought He was a prophet or as one of the prophets. But all these opinions about Jesus gave no comfort and assurance to Herod; always his guilty conscience replied, "It is John, whom I beheaded; he is risen from the dead." Herod had no peace. Only when sin is forgiven, can man have peace with God.

Why had Herod killed John? Herod had married Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. Surely it was not right for Herod to divorce his wife and marry his brother's wife, and John rebuked him for it. Therefore Herodias had a quarrel (grudge) against John and wanted to kill him. Herod, however, was afraid to kill John. So he sent forth and arrested John and put him in prison. While John was in prison, Herod often heard him and did many things which John told him to do. But this one thing Herod did not do — he did not put away Herodias, his brother's wife, but continued to live with her in a sinful union. And from this one sin he was easily led into the other great sin of which Mark tells us in the following verses.

*Prayer:* Lord Jesus, guard us against all sin and by Thy Holy Spirit help us to do those things which are pleasing in Thy sight. And when through weakness we have fallen into sin, help us to repent of our sin and to find forgiveness through faith in Thee. Amen. E. EN.

**IN THE MORNING MAIL.**

*St. Louis Mission.* — On September 8 the St. Louis congregation had its annual picnic on the beautiful grounds of the Lutheran Orphans' Home in Des Peres, west of the city limits. A large number attended, and in spite of the bad weather and the fact that many wandered about for several hours before they found the grounds all reported having spent an enjoyable day. Services were held on the picnic grounds at 2 p. m., which was attended by about 80. Plans are being made for next year's picnic on the same grounds, but at an earlier date.

We are very happy to state that our attendance at services, which dropped rather low during the summer months due to the fact that we changed the location and also to the intense heat, is again steadily climbing back to normal. May God give us all a willing heart both to

understand and believe and do the things He proclaims to us in the services!

Last June, Synod passed the resolution that a course in the sign-language be given at our Seminary here in St. Louis, so that the candidates, after their graduation, will be able to take care of the deaf people in their town and vicinity. This course was begun on October 22. We are pleased to report that a goodly number of the students see and understand the need of the sign-language in their ministry. Up to date forty have enrolled for instruction. The class meets once every week. May the Lord give these students a willing heart to continue the lessons and so to prepare themselves to preach the Gospel of Jesus, our Savior, also to the deaf people whom they may meet later on in their ministry.

Work in the State schools was again taken up with the beginning of the school-year. In Jacksonville, Ill., we have an enrolment of about 40 children, who are showing a greater interest in their study of the Catechism and Bible History this year. Fulton, Mo., now reports an enrolment of 7 pupils; but we hope to increase this number greatly before the end of this term. May the loving Savior, who said: "Suffer the little children to come unto Me and forbid them not," create in the hearts of also these little ones a burning desire to know and understand more about Jesus, their Savior.

The attendance at our monthly services in the outlying stations was quite good during the summer months in spite of the heat and uncomfortable weather. Averages: Jacksonville, Ill., 33; Memphis, Tenn., 15; Little Rock, Ark., 26; the colored deaf of St. Louis, 6. May the Lord awaken an even greater interest in the hearts of these our friends in the different stations and awaken in them a burning desire to learn ever more of Him who came into this world to save them! F. A. HISCHKE.

*Minneapolis Mission.*—September 6 a member of our Aberdeen mission, Richard Wilkinson, suddenly was taken out of this vale of tears to our dear Lord in heaven. But on October 23 we received two new members at Aberdeen, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob J. Schmitt of Long Lake, S. Dak., about forty-five miles from Aberdeen. They attended our services regularly and were instructed in the precious teachings of God's holy Word. Mr. Schmitt was received after a confession of faith, and Mrs. Schmitt (*née* Hazel Richards) was baptized and confirmed in our services on that day. Both then partook of the Lord's Supper together with four others. Thus our good Lord blesses the preaching of His Word and adds one after another to His Kingdom of Grace. May these two new members—and we all—remain true lovers of the Word of God and steadfast in faith until we shall be taken into the Kingdom of Glory, where we shall sing praises forever and ever "unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood," Rev. 1, 5. J. L. S.

*Chicago Mission.*—Our members are now receiving their penny-a-meal boxes instead of Christmas envelopes.

Monthly services are held for the Negro deaf in St. Philip's Colored Lutheran Church, 6400 St. Lawrence Avenue, on the South Side, on the first Sunday of the month, at 8 p. m. Also Bible-study has been begun with

them. The meetings are held twice a month, on the second and the fourth Monday.

Mrs. John Bauer has recovered from her operation. Miss Minnie Rehberg underwent an operation in the American Hospital and is doing well. Mr. J. J. Ellman was very sick with pneumonia, but is recovering now. Mr. Chas. Flair of South Bend was reported sick; but his ailment is not serious.—We extend our good wishes to all sick brethren for an early recovery of health.

A. C. D.

*Omaha Mission.*—On June 30 the first service for the deaf in the vicinity of Spencer, Iowa, was held. Through the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Snyder and Miss Irene Heien twenty deaf gathered for this service at the State Fair Grounds in Spencer. As most of the deaf came from a distance, each brought lunch along, and all spent the day at the park. We hope to find room on our schedule some time to serve this group more regularly. May the Lord bless the preaching of His Word among these our friends!

It pleased God to take out of this world the soul of Mr. Wm. Snyder of near Albert City, Iowa, on October 17. Well and happy on the previous day, he retired for a night's rest never to awake again here on this earth. Heart failure was given as the cause of his death. Funeral services were held on October 19 in the Lutheran church near the Snyder home. Mr. Snyder was sixty years old. The deceased helped to organize the deaf group in Spencer, Iowa. May the Lord comfort the bereaved wife and relatives and remember them according to His grace!

Through this incident the Lord surely wishes to remind us again how near our life's end may be. He knows the number of our days and He has given us His Word of Peace, which we should daily learn and believe. Will death find you prepared?

About fifty deaf joined with Faith Lutheran Congregation at Sioux Falls (Rev. G. Steffen) on the day of their mission-festival, September 29.

In Omaha forty-five deaf and a large number of hearing friends attended mission-festival services on October 20. Most of the deaf stayed all day since the ladies' aid served both the noon and the evening meal in the church basement. All services at Sioux Falls and Omaha were interpreted in signs for the deaf.

Mr. Edward Maier, a voter of the Omaha congregation, and Miss Elizabeth Horton, also of Omaha, were united in marriage on the evening of October 27. Mrs. Maier will be received into the Lutheran Church after a course of instruction in the chief doctrines of the Bible. We wish these our friends a blessed and happy future. E. M.

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