

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

*Published by the Board of Missions for the Deaf of the Lutheran Synod
of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. Subscription price, 25 cts. per annum anywhere in the world, payable strictly in advance. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 14, 1935.

Vol. 28

St. Louis, Mo., June, 1936

No. 6

Pentecostal Prayer.

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quickening powers;
Kindle a flame of sacred love
In these cold hearts of ours.

See how we grovel here below,
Fond of these earthly toys;
Our souls, how heavily they go
To reach eternal joys!

In vain we tune our formal songs,
In vain we strive to rise;
Hosannas languish on our tongues,
And our devotion dies.

Dear Lord, and shall we ever live
At this poor, dying rate —
Our love so cold, so faint to Thee,
And Thine to us so great?

Come, Holy Spirit, heavenly Dove,
With all Thy quickening powers;
Come, shed abroad a Savior's love,
And that shall kindle ours.

Pentecost.

Fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, He sent His Holy Spirit with divine gifts to renew the souls of sinful men and to lead them in a better life. On the day of Pentecost the Savior kept His promise: "I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you," John 14, 18. Together with His Holy Spirit He is with us and will continue to be with all believers unto the end of the world.

On the day of Pentecost, Christ changed His disciples through the Holy Spirit into heroes of faith and courage. During the time of His suffering and death they had been weak and cowardly,

but now they boldly preached His Gospel; they cheerfully severed their earthly ties to devote their lives wholly to the service of their Master; they faced insults, violence, torture, and death, yet counted all their sufferings a privilege because they were endured for the sake of the Gospel. Filled with the Holy Spirit, their preaching also at once converted thousands to Jesus and changed hardened sinners from a life of disobedience and hatred to one of godliness and love.

Neither education nor any human blessing can change or regenerate the human heart. Men at times have given up their sins because they feared the results in their body and life; but the Holy Spirit alone creates distaste and hatred of sin. Man through sin is God's enemy. God's power and rule provoke him to anger. Through the Gospel the Holy Spirit effects a complete change in the sinner's heart. He guides him to repentance, faith in Jesus, and cheerful obedience. The converted Christian, through the powerful work of the Holy Spirit, loves God and his Savior Jesus Christ. He commits no sin intentionally. He watches and prays that he may not break God's Law. He also loves his neighbor and is deeply interested in the bodily and spiritual welfare of his fellow-men.

The powers of the Holy Spirit are always with us in the Gospel. Through the Word of God the Holy Spirit continues to call men to believe in Christ, gathers and sanctifies them, and keeps them in the true faith. If we neglect or despise the Gospel, we oppose God's purpose and hinder His means of grace. Let us, then, be faithful to the Gospel and regularly attend our church services, so that the Holy Spirit may continue His blessed work also in us to the glory of Christ and our own soul's salvation.

O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism.

THE SIXTH COMMANDMENT.

"Thou shalt not commit adultery."

A Christian engagement and a Christian marriage will insure a happy home. This we learned in our last study. In marriage, man and wife are joined together unto one flesh. And now God commands: "Thou shalt not commit adultery." Holy marriage must not be broken. And God says: "Thou," that means every one, young or old, married or unmarried.

Do Not Unclean Things.

In the first place God intends to say: "Do not unclean things." Husband and wife are one flesh, and they should not join themselves to any one else. But, alas! the story of David and Bathsheba repeats itself so often. There is so much uncleanness in the world to-day, not only among the married, but also among the unmarried. We must say with Paul: "It is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret," Eph. 5, 12.

And so often the marriage ties are torn apart by a divorce. People heed not the word of Jesus: "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder," Matt. 19, 6. People marry to-day and to-morrow get a divorce for any reason whatsoever, whereas our Savior knows of only one reason, saying: "Whosoever shall put away his wife, *except it be for fornication*, and shall marry another, committeth adultery," Matt. 19, 9. People who get a divorce for any other reason therefore than that given by our Lord are adulterers, and "adulterers God will judge," Heb. 13, 4. "They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God," Gal. 5, 21.

Speak Not Unclean Things.

God also wants to say to us in the Sixth Commandment: "Speak not unclean things." Oh, there is so much "filthiness, foolish talking, jesting, which are not convenient" (Eph. 5, 4) among the people of this world! And do we not at times hear it also among Christians, the children of God? Have not we ourselves already listened to a filthy story and laughed or perhaps even told one of these stories? Who can say, "I am clean"?

Think Not Unclean Things.

Finally God wishes to say to us: "Think not unclean things." Unclean thoughts are adultery before our holy Lord. Jesus says: "I say unto

you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath *committed adultery* with her already *in his heart*," Matt. 5, 28. And Peter speaks of *eyes full of adultery*," 2 Pet. 2, 14. Where can we find a clean heart?

Beware!

Beware of the many things that give rise to unclean thoughts in our hearts. Among these are drunkenness, dancing, filthy pictures, books, or magazines. When we see all these things in the world, need we be surprised that there is so much adultery, fornication, filthiness, and uncleanness upon earth? Oh, let us flee from these things as Paul says 1 Cor. 6, 18, turn to God with sorrow for our sins against this commandment, and ask Jesus to wash us from our sins in His own blood. May God grant it!

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE.

Bible-Study for June.

"If ye love Me, keep My commandments."

John 14, 15.

Bible-Lesson: Mark 7, 1—13.

"Then came together unto Him the Pharisees and certain of the scribes, which came from Jerusalem. And, when they saw some of His disciples eat bread with defiled, that is to say, with unwashen hands, they found fault. For the Pharisees and all the Jews, except they wash their hands oft, eat not, holding the tradition of the elders. And when they come from the market, except they wash, they eat not. And many other things there be which they have received to hold, as the washing of cups and pots, brazen vessels, and of tables. Then the Pharisees and scribes asked Him, Why walk not Thy disciples according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with unwashen hands? He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoreth Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. Howbeit, in vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandments of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups; and many other such like things ye do. And He said unto them, Full well ye reject the command of God that ye may keep your own tradition. For Moses said, Honor thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father and mother, let him die the death. But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me, he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father

or his mother, making the Word of God of none effect through your tradition which ye have delivered; and many such like things do ye."

The enemies of Jesus, the Pharisees and the scribes, were constantly looking for an opportunity to accuse Him of wrong-doing and to hinder Him in His work. Some of them came to Jesus from Jerusalem. When they saw some of His disciples eat bread with unwashed hands, they at once found fault. The Pharisees and the Jews generally observed many commandments about washing hands and dishes before meals. These were not commandments of God, but the traditions (teachings and customs) of the elders (fathers). When the Pharisees and scribes saw the disciples eat bread with unwashed hands, they thought they had found something against Jesus; for if He permitted His disciples to break these commandments, He was also guilty of breaking them.

See what Jesus tells these Pharisees and scribes. He calls them hypocrites (false Christians) because they honored God only with their lips and not with their heart, as the prophet Esaias had written about them. They paid so much attention to man-made commandments about washing hands and dishes and the like that they laid aside the commandments of God; yes, they even thought that it was more important to obey the teachings of the elders than to obey the commandments of God. These people thought they were serving God; but Jesus tells them that their worship is vain, useless, and displeasing to God; for people cannot worship God by teaching and obeying the commandments of men instead of His commandments.

And now Jesus shows them how they reject (put aside) the commandments of God and instead obey the traditions of the elders. God commands that children should honor father and mother and not curse them. To honor father and mother also means to provide for them when they are old. But the Pharisees and scribes taught that, if a man said, "It is Corban," that is, if he promised to give his money to the Church instead of helping his poor parents, he would be free from the duty of supporting them. So by keeping the traditions of the elders, they broke the plain commandment of God.

Even to-day many people make laws about eating and drinking and many other things and tell us that we must keep these man-made laws if we want to be saved. They also put aside the Word of God; for God's Word tells us that we

are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ. As true disciples of Jesus we will serve Him only and keep His commandments. Only such service as flows from faith and love in Christ is pleasing to God. If you love Jesus, keep His commandments.

E. EN.

IN THE MORNING MAIL.

St. Louis Mission.—On Palm Sunday, Mrs. Daniel Webster George, eighty years old, made the solemn vow "to remain true to the Church until her death." Says Mrs. George: "I have lived a long life and always attended church faithfully, but I never understood the meaning of the Gospel, nor did I know that Christ, my Savior, had freed me from the power of the Law until it was explained to me before my confirmation on Palm Sunday. I know now that God has prolonged my life in order to lead me to my Savior through the Lutheran Church."

Our attendance on Easter Day was not so good because of bad weather. On that day we used for the first time the white choir gowns which the ladies' aid donated to our congregation for use in its church services. It does make the service more beautiful. The hands of the "deaf choir" proclaiming in perfect unison that "Christ the Lord is risen again," the white altar-cloths so kindly supplied by St. Stephen's Church, St. Louis, and the many flowers donated by the members, all gave evidence of the joy in the hearts of God's people because Christ truly rose from the grave and freed them one and all from the power of *death*. May this Easter joy always remain with us!

The evening services on Easter Day were conducted by the students of Concordia Seminary who had learned the sign-language during the course of the school-year. Not all the students who had studied the sign-language could take part because some of them spent their vacation at home or had been invited to preach out of town. The entire service, prayers, Gospel-lessons, Creed, songs, sermons, doxology, was performed by the students, and the fifty deaf who attended the service all said they could understand each student's signing very well. May the Lord, who has awakened the interest for the deaf in the hearts of these young men, also make them willing and eager to preach the Gospel to such deaf as they may meet in their work in the Kingdom! F. A. H.

Milwaukee Mission.—Program for the thirty-fifth anniversary of Emmanuel Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Milwaukee, Wis., 1901—1936, celebrated April 4, 1936.

10.00 A. M. Hymn No. 71: "God of Mercy and of Love"; Mrs. Nelson. Scripture-reading: the Gospel-lesson for the day; Mrs. Wm. Geilfuss. Hymn No. 65: "I will Sing My Maker's Praises"; Miss Paula Bartke. Sermon: Rev. W. Ferber, Duluth, Minn. — Hymn No. 63 by Mrs. Paul Arndt. Prayer and benediction by Rev. Ferber.

Afternoon service, 2.30. Hymn signed by the Misses Zerbe, Warren, Fischer, and Arseneau No. 3. Address

by Rev. O. C. Thusius, Delavan, Wis., interpreted by Rev. Ferber. — Address by Victor A. W. Mennicke of Reeseville, Wis. Films from the Duluth field and scenery from the Black Hills were shown at this time.

Evening service at Zion Church, 7.30. Hymn sung by the hearing people and signed by the "singers" of the deaf congregation. Sermon, both preached and signed by Rev. Arthur Dahms, Chicago. Address by Rev. Enno Duemling, Milwaukee. It may be of interest to know that he spent six years in the Deaf Missions before entering upon institutional work here in Milwaukee in 1902. Hymn No. 9: "Abide, O Dearest Jesus," sung and signed. Benediction by Rev. Dahms. Doxology: "Praise God, from whom All Blessings Flow."

Anniversary Prayer: O Lord Jesus Christ, Thou great Shepherd and Bishop of our souls, we, Thy unworthy servants, are permitted to stand before Thee this day to give Thee whole-hearted thanks for Thy many gifts. The house Thou gavest us thirty-five years ago still stands unharmed, and the congregation which Thou



Confirmation Class at Columbus, O., April 26, 1936.

Left to right: Denella Sidensticker, Marjorie McClish, Wanda Irvine, Glenna Watkins.

didst gather more than forty years ago has remained in the same confession and has kept its faith unchanged. This is Thy work, and we are here to thank Thee for this heavenly gift. Many of our members have entered the eternal rest since the founding of this congregation, while others have been brought into Thy fold. When grave dangers threatened to dissolve our little flock, Thou didst let us tremble a little while, but only long enough to teach us that with might of ours we can do nothing. Then didst Thou, as by the turn of the hand, defeat the evil plans of the wicked. For this we heartily thank Thee this day. Furthermore, we know only too well that in thirty-five long years our chapel, at various times, was threatened by fire and storm, but Thy protecting hand was held over it, and these elements had to let our chapel stand to this day. Thanks, thanks, to Thee, dear Lord. — And now we are gathered here, looking into the future. We are unafraid, yet we are concerned. Above all we are concerned about the doctrine to be preached here. Give us at all times men who will preach Thy holy Word and nothing but Thy Word. We know how easily men fail in this. Therefore we call upon Thee, guide our ministers also in the future and keep them in the true doctrine. Give them courage to preach the truth without fear or favor. Protect also,

we pray Thee, our chapel and our congregation in the future as Thou hast done in the past, for Thy glory's sake. Amen.

C. GADE.

Detroit Mission. — Mr. and Mrs. John Lotz of 4202 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, Ind., celebrated their golden wedding on April 5 by entertaining seventy-five guests in St. Paul's Lutheran Auditorium. Both attended our Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, Mich. They had five children, one of whom, Philip, died. The living are: Mr. John H. Lotz Jr., Cleveland, O.; Mrs. O. C. Rolf and Adolph and Herman of Fort Wayne. There are also six grandchildren.

Mrs. O. C. R.

(Hearty congratulations! — Ed.)

Minneapolis Mission. — May 3 was another joyful day in the history of our work at the Faribault school. On that day thirteen boys and girls vowed faithfulness to their Lord and Savior, four receiving Holy Baptism and nine renewing their baptismal vow in confirmation. This is the fourth and also the largest class that has been confirmed by us in Faribault. After the baptism and the confirmation the new members partook of the Holy Supper with ten others. May God grant that they and we all remain faithful to the end! The address was based upon 1 John 4, 19: "We love Him because He first loved us." These thirteen now join the Bible class, which meets every Saturday; and a new confirmation class will be formed. Forty-seven attend these Saturday classes. May the good Lord be with us and "establish the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands, establish Thou it," Ps. 90, 17.

Norman Deike, a member of the confirmation class at Faribault, had been ailing the greater part of the year and finally was taken to Rochester, where he passed away in March. Diligently he studied the Word of God with us, and therefore our sincere hope is that he now is with Christ. — May 13 John Jacobsen, a communicant of our Minneapolis congregation, was found dead in bed. For many years he had been at the Glen Lake Sanitarium, first as a patient and then as a helper, and often we visited him there and ministered unto him. Several years ago he moved back to Minneapolis and attended services here. He was confirmed by the pastor in 1920 and on Easter Day partook of the Lord's Supper for the last time. May 15 he would have been sixty-five years old. We trust that he fell asleep in Jesus. The body was taken to Calmar, Iowa, for interment. — Thus young and old are taken from our midst, this time one after a lingering illness and the other suddenly. Friend, we know not when God shall call us out of this world. Are we ready? "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved and thy house," Acts 16, 31.

J. L. S.

The Deaf Lutheran.

Official Organ of Lutheran Church Missions for the Deaf.
Published Monthly.

Twenty-five Cents per Annum in Advance.

Send all subscriptions, changes of address, and cancellations to **Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis, Mo.**

The DEAF LUTHERAN goes to press on the 12th of the month preceding month of issue.

Send all articles for publication to Rev. O. C. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.