

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

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No. 11

Count Your Blessings.

Once again our glad thanksgivings
Rise before our Father's throne
As we try to count the blessings
Of the year so swiftly flown,
As we trace the wondrous working
Of His wisdom, power, and love
And unite our "Holy, holy"
With the seraphim above.

As we gather round our firesides
On this new Thanksgiving Day,
Time would fail to count the blessings
That have followed all our way:
Grace sufficient, help and healing,
Prayer oft answered at our call,
And the best of all our blessings,
Christ Himself our All in all.

While we love to count our blessings,
Grateful for the year that's gone,
Faith would sweep a wider vision,
Hope would gaze yet farther on;
For the signals all around us
Seem with one accord to say,
Christ is coming soon to bring us
Earth's last, best Thanksgiving Day.

A. B. SIMPSON, in *Evangelical Visitor*.

Thankful Obedience.

A duty half done is not done at all. A full obedience alone is worthy of any task. A thankful heart obeys, not because it must, but because it delights in doing the will of God. When a man performs a task with an unwilling heart, when the hand obeys while the heart rebels, that is not obedience in the eyes of God. The difference between hand obedience and heart obedience is the difference between pleasing and displeasing God. The prophet Samuel said many years ago: "To obey is better than sacrifice," 1 Sam. 15, 22. Like-

wise St. Paul writes: "Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness?" Rom. 6, 16.

When we fail to obey, we usually blame some one else for our failure. Man from the very beginning, like Adam, has pointed to others for his sin and failure. To cure our disobedience, thanklessness, and shortcomings, we must look into our own heart. We must understand its natural wickedness and place our hope for a new heart on Christ, the solid Rock. Jesus not only cleanses us from our sins, but also gives us the strength to battle against, and overcome, temptations.

Thanklessness, unbelief, wickedness, and disobedience grow in the soil of selfish pride. Let us, then, admit our mistakes and thank God with fervent hearts for His mercy. Thus we shall obey His voice willingly to His glory and our own welfare.

O. C. S.

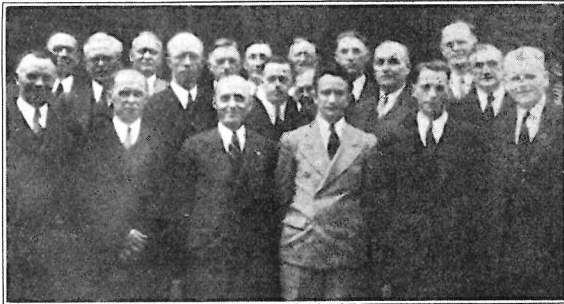
Meeting of the Lutheran Ephphatha Conference.

On the morning of Friday, October 2, the members of our conference assembled in Our Savior Church, 1400 North Ridgeway Avenue, Chicago. This conference of the pastors, who in the name of the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Church teach and preach the way of salvation to deaf people, continued until the afternoon of October 6. At the election of officers Rev. E. Eichmann of Portland, Oreg., was elected chairman and Rev. E. Scheibert of Detroit, Mich., secretary. Since the last conference one new member has been added to the number of missionaries, Pastor R. F. Cordes of Saskatoon, Sask.,

Can., who in the early part of this year took over the work of our Church among the deaf of Western Canada. Present also were two ministers of hearing congregations who have learned the sign-language and are preaching to the deaf in their communities. These men are Rev. Theo. Frederking of Shelby, Mich., and Rev. J. A. Resner of Great Bend, Kans. May God give us more of such men!

A part of every meeting was spent in listening to the reading and explaining of portions of the Word of God. Much time was also given to the signing of passages from the Bible and to a discussion of the signs. In this connection the agreement was reached that in company with the deaf our missionaries should try to make the sign-language uniform throughout the country.

Since the men assembled at this conference



Members of the Lutheran Ephphatha Conference.

came from every section of our country to be strengthened and encouraged in their work, Holy Communion services were conducted in Our Savior Church Sunday afternoon, October 4. These very impressive services were also attended by many deaf of Chicago. Also from Milwaukee, almost a hundred miles away, guests and visitors appeared. Rev. N. Borchardt of Cleveland preached the sermon, and Rev. W. Westermann spoke words of preparation to those who wished to partake of the Lord's Supper. Before the ministers and members of Our Savior Church stepped to the altar, three gray-haired men received Holy Communion. They were the remaining charter members of our Savior Church, which this year is celebrating its fortieth anniversary.

Since the beginning of Lutheran preaching to the deaf in Chicago by the Rev. A. Reinke was also the beginning of all Lutheran preaching to deaf people, this anniversary was observed by all with much thanksgiving to God and with much rejoicing. After the services in the chapel a banquet

was held in the basement of the church, which was so well attended that no more room could have been found or made for more than those who were present. At eight o'clock that evening those who attended the banquet met with many other people, both deaf and hearing, in Bethlehem Lutheran Church at North Paulina and McReynolds streets for another very impressive service. It was in this same house of God that Rev. Reinke forty years ago gathered sixteen deaf to preach to them the first Lutheran sermon in North America in the sign-language, speaking on "God Is Love." Vice-President Henry Grueber of Milwaukee preached the anniversary sermon, which was interpreted by Pastor J. Salvner. The Scripture-lessons, hymns, and announcements were signed by Rev. A. Dahms of Our Savior Church.

May God grant the saving Gospel to our oldest congregation and to all the other Lutheran churches for the deaf to the end of time, and may He always give us ministers who will never teach and preach anything but Christ Crucified, the only Savior of sinners! G. H. F.

Studies in Luther's Catechism.

THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT.

*"Thou shalt not bear false witness
against thy neighbor."*

False witnesses lie about their neighbor. And we learned that "all men are liars," Ps. 116, and therefore all are under God's curse and wrath and need a Savior. But we break this commandment also by betraying.

Betray.

A betrayer is one who tells what has been told him as a secret or makes known to other persons a sin of a fellow-man which he alone knows about, as Solomon says, Prov. 11, 13: "A talebearer revealeth [makes known] secrets." Judas betrayed his Lord and Master. For a long time the enemies of Christ had sought to take and to kill Him, but they could not because of the many people who generally were with Him. Then Judas, who loved money more than Jesus, went to the enemies and offered to give his Lord into their hands for a little money. And he himself was willing to lead them to the garden where Jesus was; and in order that they would not make a mistake because it was night, he said to them: "Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is He; hold Him fast." All betraying

comes out of a false heart, a heart wishing to hurt the neighbor. And people do this especially when they know a secret sin of their neighbor. Oh, we all often make known what we know in secret!

Slander.

Slandering is speaking evil of our neighbor to his hurt. So often this is done by gossiping. God forbids this in the Eighth Commandment and also says Jas. 4, 1: "Speak not evil one of another." And there is so much gossip in this world. So often we catch ourselves speaking evil of our neighbor. Slander is of the devil. When he spoke to Eve, he slandered the Lord God, Gen. 3, 5. And not only they who speak evil, but also they who listen to slander or gossip, break this commandment. How eager we are to hear evil of our neighbor! Who can say: I never gossiped or listened to gossip? Not one.

Defame.

Absalom wanted to be king in his father's place and tried to get the kingdom by speaking evil of him and defaming him. He tried to rob him of his good name. And so often people do the same thing that Absalom did. When others think and speak highly of some one, they become jealous and seek to ruin his good name by evil-speaking. Have you never done this?

Thinking Evil.

All this false witness comes forth from man's wicked heart, Matt. 15, 19. Also evil thoughts against our neighbor are sin. God says: "Let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbor," Zech. 8, 17. Oh, so quickly evil thoughts arise in our hearts against our neighbor!

Sinner, Trust in Jesus!

God is merciful, and in His great mercy He sent His only-begotten Son into the world to save us. "He did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth," 1 Pet. 2, 22. No evil word ever came from His lips. He perfectly kept also this commandment, and then, as Peter furthermore tells us, "He His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree," v. 24. And all this He did that "we, being dead to sin, should live unto righteousness," v. 24.

Come, trust in Him for the forgiveness of all your sins and then please Him by no longer deceitfully belying, betraying, slandering, or defaming your neighbor.

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE.

Bible-Study for November.

"This is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the World." John 4, 42.

Bible-Lesson: Mark 8, 10—13.

"And straightway He entered into a ship with His disciples and came into the parts of Dalmanutha. And the Pharisees came forth and began to question with Him, seeking of Him a sign from heaven, tempting Him. And He sighed deeply in His spirit and saith, Why doth this generation seek after a sign? Verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation. And He left them and, entering into the ship again, departed to the other side."

When Jesus had fed the four thousand with seven loaves of bread and a few small fishes, He sent them away and straightway (immediately) entered a ship with His disciples and came to a place called Dalmanutha, on the west coast of the Sea of Galilee. Here the enemies of Jesus, the Pharisees, came to Him and asked for a sign from heaven. They knew that Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, the Savior whom God had sent into the world, but they refused to believe in Him and accept Him as their Savior. Even the miracles which Jesus performed, miracles which clearly proved Him to be the Son of God, did not convince them. And when they now demanded a special sign from heaven, it was not because they wanted to know whether He really was the Son of God; they asked Him in order to tempt Him. They were not sincere in their request; they were hypocrites.

Therefore Jesus sighed deeply in His spirit. He felt sad because they believed not His works. It grieves Jesus and fills His heart with sorrow when people hear His Word and see His wonderful works and then do not believe in Him. Jesus saw the unbelief of the Pharisees and said, "Why doth this generation seek after a sign?" He knew that, even though He should perform a miracle especially for them, they still would not believe. Therefore He said, "Verily I say unto you, There shall no sign be given unto this generation."

Jesus had given the Pharisees many signs in the past; they had even been given just such a sign as they now asked for, a sign from heaven. At the baptism of Jesus the voice of the Father had been heard from heaven, and the Spirit had descended in the form of a dove. Many signs had been given them, and still they would not believe.

Therefore Jesus left them and entered a ship and departed to the other side.

This same Jesus comes to you also with His message of grace and salvation. May the Holy Spirit help you to receive this precious Gospel with a believing heart!

E. EN.

The Wrong Robe.

An artist wanted a man who would represent the prodigal. One day he met a poor beggar and thought, "That man would represent the prodigal." He found the beggar ready to sit for his painting if he would pay him. The man appeared on the day appointed, but the artist failed to recognize him.

He said, "You made an appointment with me."

"No," replied the artist, "I never saw you before."

"You are mistaken; you did see me and made an appointment with me."

"No; it must be some other artist. I have an appointment with a beggar at this hour."

"Well," said the beggar, "I am the man."

"You the man?"

"Yes."

"What have you been doing?"

"Well, I thought I would get a new suit of clothes before I got painted."

"Well," said the artist, "I don't want you," and he would not have him so.

If you are coming to God, come just as you are. Do not go and put on some garments of yours and think the Lord will accept you because you have some good thoughts and desires. (John 3, 3.)

D. L. Moody.

If the Cross were Gone.

On Lone Mountain, around which cluster the cemeteries of San Francisco, there formerly was a tall white cross. After some years it was destroyed by a wind-storm. The sailors who were accustomed to enter Golden Gate Harbor had it replaced at their own expense. The white cross, which they could see when miles out at sea, had become a familiar and welcome signal, and they could not bear its absence.

How the world, which is giving little thought to the meaning of the Cross of Christ, would be lost in bewilderment and distress if deprived for one day of its blessings!

If God will show me anything that I can do for the redemption of the world that I have not yet undertaken, by His grace I will undertake it now; for I must do the utmost God enables me to do to diffuse His glory throughout the whole wide world.

Lutheran Missionaries to the Deaf.

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 Rev. N. Borchardt, 2132 W. 93d St., Cleveland, O.
 Rev. E. Scheibert, 160 Cortland Ave., Detroit, Mich.
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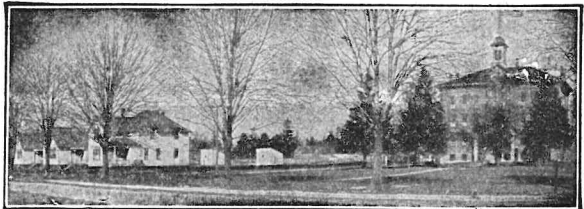
Missionaries to the Deaf and the Blind.

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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