

# The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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## The Lord is Born!

"The Lord is born!"

So spake the leader of the choir  
And sped on wings that never tire  
Both here and there to pass the word along,  
The news exultant like a victor's mighty song:  
"The Lord is born! The Lord is born!"

"The Lord is born!"

And, quicker than a tongue can tell,  
Fared forth the angel Gabriel  
To pasture-fields that lay in slumber deep  
And harbored lowly shepherds with their flocks  
and sheep  
There to declare: "The Lord is born!"

"The Lord is born!"

"Fear not!" the sweet-tongued angel said  
To shepherds full of fear and dread.  
"Behold, good tidings of great joy I bring;  
For unto you to-day in David's town your King,  
The promised Christ, the Lord, is born!"

"The Lord is born!"

And while the sacred echoes rang,  
The multitudes in chorus sang  
The glory-song, the song of peace, good will.  
And on each Holy Night we hear it ringing still  
In countless hearts: "The Lord is born!"

W. M. CZAMANSKE.

## A Christian's Christmas.

The word *Christmas* originally meant a service for Christ; but to-day for ever so many people it is just another day of the year. For many, Christmas means nothing more than a day of greetings and well-wishes, of giving and receiving gifts, of family reunions, dinners, and social doings. That is all that Christmas means to many. They forget the person whose name we find in the word *Christmas*. They do not worship the Savior Jesus Christ, God's wonderful Gift to the sinful world. Oh, what an empty Christmas for so many people!

A Christian's Christmas is different. For him Christmas is Christ's day, the day on which we celebrate the glorious fact that Jesus came into this world as a little babe, in deepest humility, to seek and to save sinful mankind. They rejoice with the shepherds in the sweet message of the angel "Unto you is born this day, in the city of David, a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord." They remember that this Child came to make us members of God's family; they know that this Child Jesus is the Bread of Life and the Living Water, and they joyfully go to the house of God and, as did the Wise Men, worship Him as the King of kings and the Savior of the world. Christians also realize that without Christ the future would be hopeless; without Him they could not hope for a blessed eternity, but would have to perish in the prison of hell.

Let yours be a real and blessed Christmas. Let every gift, or present, that you receive or give, bring to your mind the precious words "God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son." Let each card that you send contain a true Christian greeting from Holy Scripture; for it



will bring to the receiver the true message of Christmas. Let every family or friendship reunion help you to remember that through the Child Jesus you have become children of God's family. Let every dinner urge you to think upon Christ's own words "I am the Bread of Life."

If thus you believe, and rejoice in the fact, that Christ is *your* Lord and Redeemer, yours will be a real and blessed Christmas, and your joy will last not only for a day or two, but it will be an everlasting joy. May God grant that to you!

E. M.

## Studies in Luther's Catechism.

### THE EIGHTH COMMANDMENT.

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

We have learned how people bear false witness against their neighbor, and we also had to confess: "So often we have done this. We are poor, miserable sinners." In this commandment God forbids us to speak evil of our neighbor and therefore commands that we should speak well of him. How to do what God commands Luther tells us in these words: "Defend him, speak well of him, and put the best construction on everything."

#### "Defend Him."

If anybody comes to you and speaks evil of his neighbor, defend the neighbor, help him. Often people say to us, "Have you heard what Mr. Smith has done? He has done such a wicked thing." Let us not listen to him, but defend and help Mr. Smith, saying, "Have you spoken to him? Have you heard what he has to say?" And nearly always people will have to say, "No, I have not." Solomon tells us in Prov. 31, 8, 9: "Open thy mouth and judge righteously and plead the cause of the poor and needy." Jonathan did this for his friend David. When King Saul, Jonathan's father, accused David and sought to kill him, Jonathan hurried to David and warned him and then returned to his father and spoke for David, defending and helping him. So we should do when others speak evil of any one. Have we always done this? Have we always refused to listen to gossip and helped and defended our neighbor? Who can say, "Yes"? Not one.

Indeed, sometimes we must listen, that is, when a man speaks not out of a false heart.

Perhaps he has told Mr. Smith of his sin, as Jesus commands in Matt. 18, 15, but he would not hear, he would not turn from sin. This man then perhaps comes to you and tells you of that brother's wickedness and asks you to go with him, as Jesus again commands: "If he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more," v. 16. Then you must listen and also go with him; for then you will not harm your neighbor, but help him and try to save his soul.

#### "Speak Well of Him."

While others speak evil of their neighbor, we should speak well of him. While they cover up his good deeds and speak only of his evil doings, we should speak of his good deeds and cover his evil ones. Jonathan did this. When his father spoke evil of David, Jonathan spoke well of him. Oh, we must be ashamed! There is so much evil-speaking among us and so little speaking well of our neighbor.

#### "Put the Best Construction on Everything."

When our neighbor says or does anything that is not right, we should not quickly think evil of him, but put the best construction on it, think the best of him, excuse him. Paul says: "Charity [love] thinketh no evil," 1 Cor. 13, 5. Perhaps a friend promises to see you at 3 p. m. You wait and wait, but he does not come. Then do not quickly judge him, saying, "He is a liar. Never again will I believe him." No, think the best of him and say, "Perhaps he is sick; maybe his work kept him from coming." Again we must bow our heads in shame and say, "We have not done this; we have sinned."

#### "Unto You is Born a Savior."

We have so many sins. We have done that which is evil and not that which is good, and therefore God's curse and wrath are upon us, and we deserve only punishment. Oh, what shall we do? Go to Jesus, "in whose mouth there was no guile" and "out of whose mouth proceeded gracious words." He has redeemed us from the Law, Gal. 4, 4, 5, and also from the curse of the Law, by hanging on the cross, Gal. 3, 13. Therefore the Christmas angel's joyful message is: "Unto you is born a Savior." Trust in this Savior and by His grace thank Him by keeping this commandment.

J. L. S.

## THE BREAD OF LIFE.

### Bible-Study for December.

*"Beware of false prophets." Matt. 7, 15.*

**Bible-Lesson: Mark 8, 14—21.**

"Now, the disciples had forgotten to take bread; neither had they in the ship with them more than one loaf. And He charged them, saying, Take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the leaven of Herod. And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have no bread. And when Jesus knew it, He saith unto them, Why reason ye because ye have no bread? Perceive ye not yet, neither understand? Have ye your heart yet hardened? Having eyes, see ye not, and having ears, hear ye not, and do ye not remember? When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto Him, Twelve. And when the seven among the four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. And He said unto them, How is it that ye do not understand?"

Jesus and His disciples departed from the region of Dalmanutha, where He had rebuked the Pharisees and Sadducees for their unbelief and hypocrisy, and entered a ship and crossed over to the eastern shore of the sea. In their hurry to get away the disciples had forgotten to take bread; all they had in the ship with them was one loaf.

While the disciples were worried about the shortage of food, Jesus' thoughts turned to something much more serious and important, and He called their attention to this by saying, "Beware of the leaven [yeast] of the Pharisees and of the leaven of Herod." The disciples did not understand the words of Jesus. They thought that He had spoken them because they had no bread and that He meant to warn them against buying bread made with yeast from the houses of the Pharisees.

The disciples spoke among themselves, but Jesus knew what they were saying to each other. He knows all the thoughts and words of man. And he quickly rebuked them for having such thoughts and for failing to understand His words of warning. Why should they worry about having only one loaf of bread on hand? Had they already forgotten what Jesus taught them? Did they not remember that Jesus had fed five thousand with five loaves of bread and, on another occasion, four thousand with seven loaves and that on both occasions much food was left over? Surely, if Jesus

could feed so many people with only a few loaves of bread, He could also feed the disciples with the bread they had on hand.

He asked them again, "How is it that ye do not understand?" And from Matthew we learn that the disciples now understood that Jesus warned them not against the leaven of bread, but against the false teaching and sinful works of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

How important it is that we remember this warning of Jesus in our day, when we are surrounded on every side with false teachings! If we permit only a little false teaching to come into our churches, it will spread more and more, just as a little yeast will spread through the whole mass of dough; and the false teaching will lead us away from Jesus, destroy our faith, and rob us of the kingdom of heaven. Let us continue faithfully in all the teachings of Jesus, for then we shall be His disciples indeed and know the truth, and this truth shall make us free. E. EN.

## IN THE MORNING MAIL.

*St. Louis Mission.* — On October 16 the course in the sign-language was again begun in Concordia Seminary at St. Louis. Thirty-seven students were enrolled in the class, all eager to learn the language of the deaf that in their work as pastors they may also minister unto the deaf whom they may meet in their work. Concordia Seminary is an institution from which Lutheran ministers graduate. May God give to each one of these young men who are now learning the sign-language eagerness and willingness to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the many deaf whom our regular missionaries cannot reach.

We are glad to report that Rev. C. Schubkegel, who was overcome by the heat last summer, is again getting along nicely; but we are sorry to report that his faithful wife, who has stood by his side for almost fifty-five years, was overcome by a paralytic stroke on October 23. She is now lying helpless in our Lutheran Hospital here in St. Louis. Let us, dear Christian friends, remember her in our prayers.

On the evening of September 16 about 35 deaf met on the lawn of Trinity Lutheran Church in Memphis, Tenn., for a basket lunch and out-door services. After the very tasty lunch had been served, the entire group gathered for a church service under the Dixie stars in the balmy Southern air to praise and thank God, from whom all blessings flow. We hope that a service of this kind can again be held next summer. Our thanks go to all who helped to make this affair a success.

To all who may read this DEAF LUTHERAN we of the St. Louis field wish a very merry and blessed Christmas.  
F. A. H.

*Minneapolis Mission.*—Again death has come into our midst and taken from among us several deaf who have been under our spiritual care. In September, Philip Pervencher, a patient at the Willmar State Hospital, was called out of this world. We never could speak much with him and therefore always showed him pictures of our Savior and His cross, and then he signed the precious name Jesus, the only hope of sinners.—October 20 Fred Wallner of Faribault met with sudden death at the age of seventy-five years. He always attended our services, and therefore we shall miss him. He was being instructed by the pastor preparatory to confirmation and admission to the Lord's Supper.—And on Tuesday, October 27, Fred Peterson, a member of the Minneapolis congregation since June, 1934, was taken from this vale of tears. He had been ill for several months, and on Saturday, October 24, we talked with him for the last time about his Savior. Upon our asking him whether he believed that this Savior had taken away also his sins he nodded and smiled. The next day we found him unconscious, and thus he lingered on until late Tuesday night. Interment took place at



Deaf Bible Class, Logansport, Ind.

Sturgeon Lake, Minn., October 30.—May the crucified and risen Savior comfort their sorrowing relatives and friends! Every death calls loudly to us: "Prepare to meet thy God." Are you prepared? You are if you trust in this Jesus, who says: "This is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son and believeth on Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the Last Day," John 6, 40. J. L. S.

*Mission for Blind and Deaf.*—In the past week we received a letter with a contribution for our work among the blind from a reader of our *Lutheran Herald*, Moon type, in Cape Colony, South Africa.

In our territory nine adult deaf received Holy Baptism and thirty-six joined the Church by confirmation or confession of faith during the past twelve months. May they ever be thankful to God, who gave the sin-cursed world His Son for a Savior. He emptied heaven of its choicest treasure to settle the sin question for all men, also for the deaf.

In the past months we met many unchurched deaf in Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Georgia, who are now attending our meetings. Mr. and Mrs. John Patmeier, shown on the picture to the right of Pastor Schroeder (center, front row), have been very helpful to us in gathering the deaf of Northern Indiana for services. May the Savior, whom they serve, graciously reward them!

O. C. S.

SOME ONE says it is far easier to die a martyr's death than to live a martyr's life. Therefore, if you would have the greater privilege and the greater reward, "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service," Rom. 12, 1.—*Christian Life.*

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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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