

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 1

New Year

Father, let me dedicate
All this year to Thee
In whatever earthly state
Thou wilt have me be.
Not from sorrow, pain, or care
Freedom dare I claim;
This alone shall be my prayer:
Glorify Thy name.

Can a child presume to choose
Where or how to live?
Can a Father's love refuse
All the best to give?
More Thou givest every day
Than the best can claim
Nor withholdest aught that may
Glorify Thy name.

If in mercy Thou wilt spare
Joys that yet are mine;
If on life, serene and fair,
Brighter rays may shine,
Let my glad heart while it sings
Thee in all proclaim
And whate'er the future brings
Glorify Thy name.

If Thou callest to the cross
And its shadow come,
Turning all my gain to loss,
Shrouding heart and home,
Let me think how Thy dear Son
To His glory came
And in deepest woe pray on:
"Glorify Thy name." *Sel.*

Christ and the New Year

In the name of the Lord Jesus we begin this new year 1937. We pray that it may truly be a "year of our Lord," a year of grace. We know that it is because of His mercies that we are yet among the living and that we are privileged to be called His children. Without Him we can neither begin nor continue nor close the year.

It is a sad fact that many people spend the closing hours of the old and the beginning of the new year in gay company, in rioting and drunkenness, in noisy entertainment, in all manner of sinful pleasures. Such conduct is certainly not pleasing to God and will not invite His blessings for the new year, but rather invoke His anger and displeasure.

May we Christians resolve to take Jesus, our Savior, with us into the coming year! Try to learn more and more about His love for us poor sinners from His Word, pray that He would help us to grow in grace, love, and faith, so that we may receive courage to overcome all obstacles in the new year. With Him as our Leader, we shall never go wrong; with Him as our Companion, we shall never be lonely; with Him as our Provider, we shall never want; with Him as our Light, we shall never be in darkness; with Him as our Protector, we shall never be harmed; with Him as our Comforter, we shall never despair; with Him as our Savior, we shall never perish; with Him as the Resurrection and the Life, we shall have life eternal.

It is true that the future is hidden also for the Christian. None of us can see a day, not even an hour, ahead nor know what lies before us. But it matters not; for as long as Jesus is our All in all, all will be well with us. Let us, then, go forward confidently, trustingly, fearlessly, and without doubting, performing our daily tasks and willingly bearing our crosses, assured that every passing day, every fleeting year, brings us nearer, step by step, to the heavenly goal, the fulfilment of our hopes.

E. M.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE NINTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS

"Thou shalt not covet"

Coveting is in the heart of man. When God says: "Thou shalt not covet," He therefore means to tell us: "Give Me thine heart." God asks for man's heart in the First Commandment, telling him to regard Him as his greatest good. In the Ninth and in the Tenth Commandment He again asks for man's heart, telling him not to consider the things of this world his greatest good. If God has man's heart, He has all that man is and has, all his thoughts and desires, his hands and feet, his eyes and ears, his time and money. All this God wants.

Twice God Says: "Thou shalt Not Covet"

Both in the Ninth and in the Tenth Commandment God forbids coveting. Thereby He wants to impress it upon our hearts that coveting is sin. We often repeat a thing so that people will keep it in mind. For this very reason God twice tells us not to covet. We should remember that God watches also the thoughts in the hearts of men.

What does "Covet" Mean?

Covet means jealously to desire something that our neighbor has. This we learn from the story of King Ahab in the 21st chapter of the First Book of Kings. Naboth had a vineyard which King Ahab wanted. A desire to obtain this or that in a manner that God has not forbidden is not coveting. The king went to Naboth and offered him money for it or another vineyard in exchange. To make such an honest offer is not coveting. But Naboth would not accept the king's offer, and then covetous thoughts arose in the king's heart. He did not want Naboth to keep this vineyard; he wanted it for himself; jealously he desired it. And that God forbids. So if such thoughts are in our hearts; if we begrudge our neighbor what he has and greedily desire it for ourselves, perhaps even wishing that he lose it if we cannot get it, that is sin. And, oh! we are born with such a covetous heart, which always hankers after that which the neighbor has and thinks only of self, as we see it in all the world today. It is a greedy, selfish world. And some people want to tell us that such thoughts are not sin although God forbids them.

What Should We Not Covet?

In the Ninth Commandment God says: "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house." So often our heart jealously desires the neighbor's house. Perhaps he builds a new house or inherits a beautiful home from his parents; at once our heart is filled with envy, jealousy. It grieves us to see him have it, and — oh, how wicked! — our heart would rejoice if he should lose it. That is true also of his wife, his manservant, his maid-servant, his cattle, or anything that is his. Our heart is full of these wicked covetous thoughts.

Our New Year Prayer: "Lord, Have Mercy!"

When we begin a new year and think of our wicked heart, we cannot but cry out: "Lord, have mercy! Forgive us!" And, lo, our Savior, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, stands before us with outstretched arms, saying: "Come unto Me; I will give you a new heart!" May this be our comfort during the new year, and may He daily help us to overcome all evil desires in our heart!

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for January

"Go out quickly and bring in hither the blind"
Luke 14, 21

Bible-Lesson: Mark 8, 22—26

"And He cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto Him and besought Him to touch him. And He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town; and when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands upon him, He asked him if he saw aught. And he looked up and said, I see men as trees, walking. After that He put His hands again upon his eyes and made him look up; and he was restored and saw every man clearly. And He sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town nor tell it to any in the town."

After Jesus and His disciples had crossed the Sea of Galilee and landed on the northeast shore, they continued their journey until they came to Bethsaida. Here Jesus and His power to perform miracles were also known; for it was near this place that He fed the five thousand men with five loaves of bread and the four thousand with seven loaves. When it became known therefore that Jesus was in the city, the

people brought a blind man to Him and besought (asked) Him to touch him. They believed that, if Jesus would only touch him, his sight would be restored.

And Jesus gave ear to their request, just as He does to all the requests that we bring to Him in prayer. See how He dealt with this blind man. He took him by the hand and led him out of the town; then He spit on his eye and put His hands upon him and asked him if he saw aught (anything). And now the man was able to see dimly; the people seemed to him like trees, walking. Gradually the Lord restored his sight in order that the blind man might fully realize how great a miracle the Lord was performing on him. And when He placed His hands again upon the man's eyes, he looked up and saw everything clearly; his sight had been completely restored.

Jesus then told the man not to go into the town nor to tell the people in the town what He had done, but to return to his home alone. There, in the quiet of his home, away from the multitudes, he should meditate on the great blessing which he had just received from the Lord. So we should also often meditate on the blessings of body and soul which we daily receive from the Lord and thank Him for His goodness.

As we read this story of the blind man and Jesus, as we see how in love and mercy Jesus stretched forth His hands to help this blind man as well as all those who were brought to Him, let us bear in mind that He is the same Jesus today that He was yesterday and will remain the same forever; and that we can take all our cares and troubles to Him in prayer, with the assurance that He will hear and help us, too.

E. EN.

IN THE MORNING MAIL

Chicago Mission.—St. James's Ev. Lutheran Church, Fremont St. and Garfield Ave., Chicago, called Pastor Dahms to be associate to Rev. L. Seidel. After due deliberation by our church council and congregation, Rev. Dahms was given a release on October 22, 1936, by unanimous vote with the prayer that God bless his future work. On October 29 the Board of Missions also gave the pastor a peaceful release to our sister congregation.

On November 8 Rev. Dahms was installed at St. James's Church, and he preached his German and English inaugural sermons on November 15. St. James's offers him a large field for labor in the future. It has over 1,400 souls, about 900 communicants; a school with

four teachers and 220 children, a Sunday-school, and a number of societies for men, women, and the young people. Pastor Dahms begs all the deaf to remember him in their prayers, to ask for the guidance of God's Holy Spirit in all his work, and for God's blessing.

Now a word of farewell to all our Lutheran deaf. It is my sincere hope that you will all cling to your Savior Jesus Christ and remain faithful to Him and to the Lutheran Church, as you have vowed to do.

A. C. D.

Kansas City Mission.—We are happy to say as we read Acts 2, 47: "The Lord added to the church." On November 22, 1936, Mrs. Everett Wimp of Wichita, Kans., became a communicant member of our church. Having been duly instructed in the chief doctrines of the Bible as offered in our usual Lutheran study course, Mrs. Wimp learned of the great blessings that are offered in Holy Baptism. Therefore she earnestly desired to be baptized into Christ. Earlier in the season another sincere Christian woman joined our church by confirmation. It was Agnes Renne of Forest Green, Mo. Miss Renne received part of her instructions in our Bible classes at the Missouri State School for the Deaf at Fulton. However, she also did considerable studying, taking our correspondence course during vacation. May the Lord bless both our new members!

On October 21 a patient sufferer peacefully fell asleep in Jesus at Lawrence, Kans. The Lord called Mrs. L. N. Curtis to her heavenly home. Although she had been afflicted with painful attacks of rheumatism, she cheerfully trusted in the Lord Jesus, believing that He not only saves us from physical suffering, but that above all He has redeemed our soul by suffering and dying for us on the cross. She faithfully believed that "the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us," Rom. 8, 18.

October 25 was an important and happy day for our mission in Oklahoma. On that day our coworker Rev. Martin Mueller officially established his headquarters in Oklahoma City. We had been invited to worship with Zion Lutheran Congregation, the Rev. A. C. Dubberstein, pastor. This congregation has contributed much to the progress of our mission in that city. The undersigned preached a sermon of welcome on Luke 14, 23b. May the Lord richly bless the work of our missionary which is now being carried on in Oklahoma and Texas from the new headquarters. A careful study showed that our work could be made more effective in this way, and therefore our Board advised the transfer.

A. E. FERBER.

Omaha Mission.—Plans for the Omaha chapel and parsonage have been accepted and at this writing bids both for the general contract and the special contracts are being received. We hope that building operations may begin very soon and that by Easter our congregation may worship in its new church. We pray for God's blessing and guidance in this undertaking.

Eighteen new pupils have been enrolled in our religious instruction class at the Council Bluffs school and eight at the Omaha school since the beginning of the school-year. The two new superintendents, Mr. Berg at

Council Bluffs and Mr. Jackson at Omaha, are cooperating with us, and our work at both schools is progressing well.

The pastor and all the deaf in the Omaha mission-field join me in extending to all readers of the DEAF LUTHERAN a very blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous new year.

E. M.

The World Admires the Man —

Who would rather try again than give up;
Who would rather be an optimist than a pessimist;

Who would rather be out of style than in debt;

Who would rather win a friend than an argument;

Who would rather have character than capital;

Who would rather disappoint his friends than offend his God. — *Selected.*

Personal Mission-Work

Every member of the Church is a missionary. The command of our Lord Jesus Christ "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" was not given to the ministry exclusively. It was given to the five hundred who composed the entire Christian Church on the day of Christ's ascension. These five hundred were made up of apostles and laymen. Therefore every one in the Church is commissioned to do mission-work. How can each and every one do mission-work?

1. By coming regularly to church. Such testimony cannot be without effect. If men and women, boys and girls, see Christian people faithfully attending church, it cannot leave them unimpressed. Your going to church is a silent testimony to the power of the Gospel.

2. By bringing others. We all have friends and acquaintances who are unchurched, especially in larger communities. These we should invite to attend with us the public worship.

3. By telling others. This we cannot always do ourselves. Therefore we delegate others to testify for us. We call them missionaries. These we send into all parts of the world, and they, as our representatives, preach of the hope that is within us to those whom we cannot directly reach.

4. By praying for the Church, its mission-

ary work, and its missionaries. Prayer accomplishes much. We should acquaint ourselves with the names of missionaries and pray for them and for the success of their work.

5. By supporting the work with our money. Each missionary sent out by the Church represents you and me. We have sent them. Therefore we must support them. Only if we support them financially, are we fully meeting our obligations.

Lutheran Missionaries to the Deaf

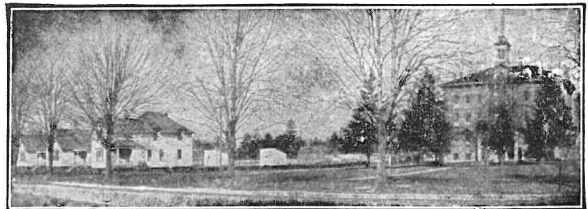
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Missionaries to the Deaf and the Blind

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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