

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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The Bible! There It Stands!

Where childhood needs a standard
Or youth a beacon-light,
Where sorrow sighs for comfort
Or weakness longs for might,
Bring forth the holy Bible, —
The Bible! There it stands! —
Resolving all life's problems
And meeting its demands.

Though sophistry conceal it, —
The Bible! There it stands! —
Though Pharisees profane it,
Its influence expands;
It fills the world with fragrance
Whose sweetness never cloys;
It lifts our eyes to heaven,
It heightens human joys.

Despised and torn in pieces,
By infidels decried,
The thunderbolts of hatred,
The haughty cynics' pride,
All these have railed against it
In this and other lands;
Yet dynasties have fallen,
And still the Bible stands!

To paradise a highway, —
The Bible! There it stands! —
Its promises unfailing,
Nor grievous its commands;
It points man to the Savior,
The Lover of his soul;
Salvation is its watchword,
Eternity its goal. JAMES M. GRAY

Bible Classes

Pastors and missionaries of the Lutheran Church do not only preach the Gospel of Jesus in public, but they also lead individuals and groups in the study of God's Word. The Holy Scriptures, God says, are "profitable for doc-

trine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness," 2 Tim. 3, 16. In the Bible, God, the Mouth of all wisdom and knowledge, speaks to us; for the Bible not only contains the Word of God, it is the Word of God. St. Peter declares: "The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost," 2 Pet. 1, 21.

In the Bible, God shows us fully and clearly the way to everlasting life and happiness through faith in Christ Jesus. He gives us also many examples and true pictures of noble, lofty, God-fearing men and women. He teaches us how we, too, may be used by Him in the service of our fellow-men. His love and faithfulness are clearly shown in His plan for our salvation. This should be a reason for every sinner to study God's Word diligently and prayerfully and to seek above all other things His approval and blessing in the work and problems of daily life. God's Book is likewise a source of comfort in times of sorrow. It describes to us the world beyond, where we shall again meet our departed loved ones. St. Paul tells us that the faithful are "fully persuaded that what He has promised He is able also to perform," Rom. 4, 21.

Every reason for happiness in this life and in the life to come urges us to study the Word of God. When Christians leave their Bibles unread, they are denying themselves many blessings which God provided for them. Let us, then, join the pastor's Bible class. Let us study, love, treasure, and apply the Word of God to our conscience and daily life, so that we may grow in faith and in holiness of life to the glory of the blessed Savior. O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

"Thou shalt"

We have studied the Ten Commandments, God's "Thou shalt," and every time we had to confess that we have not kept God's commandments and therefore are under God's curse and wrath. But not only *have* we not kept them, we *cannot* keep them though we try our best. Paul writes Rom. 8, 7: "The carnal mind [the wicked heart] is not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can be."

Why Cannot Man Keep God's "Thou Shalt"?

God created Adam and Eve in His likeness, in perfect holiness and righteousness; but, tempted by the devil, our first parents fell into sin. And now, as a corrupt tree cannot bring forth good fruit, but only corrupt, so Adam and Eve could not have good and holy, but only sinful children. Adam and Eve had been created in the likeness of God, but lost it when they sinned; and then we read: "Adam begat a son in his own likeness." Sinful parents can beget only sinful children. Jesus says John 3, 6: "That which is born of flesh is flesh." Man is born in sin and therefore cannot keep the Law of God. As a poisonous spring can give forth only poisonous water, so the wicked heart of man can bring forth only sin and wickedness. Jesus knows the heart of man, and He says Matt. 15, 19: "Out of the heart proceed [come] evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, false witness, blasphemies." Oh, the wicked heart of man! It loves to do evil and hates to do good. Sin ruined man, both body and soul, and therefore he is only evil in thought, word, and deed.

Why, then, Study God's "Thou Shalt" if We Cannot Keep It?

Paul answers: "By the Law is the knowledge of sin," Rom. 3, 20. From every commandment we learned that we have sinned. And we thank God, dear reader, if these studies have helped you to know your sin and the need of a Savior. Then you are ready to go on with the study of our Catechism; for only if you know your sin, you will appreciate the Second Part, the Three Articles of the Creed, our Christian faith. Let the Ten Com-

mandments therefore always serve as a mirror to you. As you see your unclean face and the need of washing it in a mirror, so let the commandments always show you your many sins and the need of being washed and cleansed from sin. And when you have learned to know the Savior and His forgiveness, then let these commandments teach you how to live a life well pleasing unto your Lord. David says: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to Thy Word," Ps. 119, 9.

We have not kept the Law, we cannot keep it; we have sinned; we need a Savior. And, thanks to God, we have a Savior. Let us love Him and keep His commandments, John 14, 15.

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for June

"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil," 1 John 3, 8

Bible-Lesson: Mark 9, 14—29

"And when He came to His disciples, He saw a great multitude about them and the scribes questioning with them. And straightway all the people, when they beheld Him, were greatly amazed and, running to Him, saluted Him. And He asked the scribes, What question ye with them? And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto Thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; and wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him; and he foameth and gnasheth with his teeth and pineth away. And I spake to Thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him unto Me. And they brought him unto Him; and when he saw Him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming. And He asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire and into the waters to destroy him. But if Thou canst do anything, have compassion on us and help us. Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe; all things are possible to him that believeth. And straightway the father of the child cried out and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried and rent him sore and came out of him. And he was as one dead, insomuch that many said, He is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him

up; and he arose. And when He was come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, Why could not we cast him out? And He said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing but by prayer and fasting."

When Jesus returned from the transfiguration with the three disciples Peter, James, and John, He saw a large multitude gathered round the other disciples and heard some of the scribes (Jewish teachers) questioning (arguing) with them. When Jesus asked the scribes what they were arguing about, one of the multitude stepped forward and told Jesus that his son was possessed by an evil spirit, who made him dumb and deaf and tormented him in many ways. And when he brought his son to the disciples and asked them to heal him, they were not able to do so.

Jesus then scolded the people and the disciples because they had so little faith, saying: "O faithless generation [people], how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer [be patient with] you?" Jesus had been with them so long and had done so many wonderful works, and still they did not believe.

Then they brought the boy to Jesus. When the evil spirit saw Jesus, he again tormented the boy so that he fell to the ground and wallowed (rolled around), foaming. The father then told Jesus that his son had been tormented by the evil spirit since he was a child and that the evil spirit had often tried to destroy him by throwing him into the fire or into the waters; and he begged Jesus to have compassion (pity) on them and help them.

But the father's faith in Jesus was weak, very weak; for he said, "If Thou canst do anything, help us." Had Jesus not many times given proof of His power to help? Therefore Jesus said to him, "If thou canst believe; all things are possible to him that believeth." It was not a question of Jesus' power, but of the father's faith. The father now saw that it was sinful for him to doubt and therefore said with tears of sorrow for his sin, "Lord, I believe; help Thou mine unbelief." Is it not often so with us also? Our faith is weak, and we doubt Jesus' words and promises and for that reason receive no help and blessing.

Now Jesus did what the disciples had not been able to do. He commanded the evil spirit to come out of the boy and to enter no more

into him. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil, and in the presence of Jesus the devil loses all his power.

What a great blessing it is to be delivered from the power of the devil and to be a child of God through faith in Jesus! And with true faith in Jesus, our Savior, we can bring all our needs to God in prayer, with the assurance that He will hear us.

E. EN.

IN THE MORNING MAIL

Detroit and Chicago Missions.—On April 11 Our Savior Congregation for the Deaf of Detroit celebrated an occasion which filled the hearts of the members with gratitude to God, who had again provided them with a pastor in the person of the Rev. Norbert E. Borchardt, formerly of Cleveland. The occasion was the installation of their new pastor. The service took place before a large gathering of hearing friends and the deaf congregation in Epiphany Lutheran Church, of which the Rev. E. T. Bernthal is pastor. The installation sermon was based on the words of the Lord to the prophet Jeremiah, chap. 1, 7, 8: "Thou shalt go to all that I send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces; for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord." We had the privilege and pleasure of being present at this joyous occasion and of rendering the entire service in the sign-language. The choir of Epiphany Church sang the beautiful anthem "Praise Ye the Father," which was also interpreted for the benefit of the deaf congregation. The offering was apportioned to the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf and to Our Savior Church for the Deaf. We pray the Lord of the Church that He may shower His richest blessings upon the labors of Pastor Borchardt among the deaf in his new field of activity.

On April 18 the Detroit deaf gave a welcome dinner to their new pastor and a grocery shower. Superintendent J. A. Klein and his wife of our Lutheran School for the Deaf together with about 60 deaf attended the celebration.

The angel of death visited our ranks in Chicago twice within recent weeks. On March 2 Elvira Schaumburg, a member of our confirmation class, passed away rather suddenly and unexpectedly. On Easter Day she would have attained the age of thirty-six. However, the Lord has called her unto Himself to celebrate a more glorious Easter in heaven. On April 23 Mrs. Helen Anderson passed away at the age of forty-one. She had been taken to the hospital in the early afternoon, and shortly before midnight she passed away. We had the privilege to comfort her with the promises of God's Word a few hours previous to her passing. These untimely deaths are a solemn lesson to all of us. Yea, "Lord, so teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Walter Thiele on March 31. May she soon be brought to Christ in Holy Baptism!

Our Savior Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Chicago extends a hearty welcome to any of our readers and friends who may be in our city at the time of the convention of the National Association of the Deaf this summer, July 26—31. The church is located at 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., off North Ave., at the end of the Humboldt Park "L" line, and services are held at 10 A. M. on Sundays.

ERNEST J. SCHEIBERT

Portland, Oregon.— Though no report on the Portland field has been made for a long time, the work, under God's blessing, has made steady progress. At last year's District convention Hope Congregation of Portland was received into membership with the Oregon and Washington District. As a result there has been increased interest on the part of the members in the work of the Church at large. Larger contributions for the work of the Lord's kingdom have been made, so that last year the congregation was able to raise its full budget for Synod's work. With God's help it will do so again this year, even though the budget is increased.

On Easter Sunday Miss Helen Robbins of Portland, Mr. Geo. M. Hill, and Mr. and Mrs. A. Rebitzke of Salem were received into communicant membership. May the Lord grant them grace and strength to remain faithful to their Savior!

On the last Sunday in May our class of catechumens at the Vancouver School will be confirmed. For a number of years this class has diligently studied Luther's Catechism.

In Spokane, Mr. and Mrs. H. Landreyou and Mrs. Bishop are being instructed in the Christian doctrine. In Portland instruction classes are attended by Miss Louise Spieler, Walter Hultberg, Marjorie McKinnon, Gladys Linn, and Wm. McDaniel. God willing, they will be confirmed this summer.

On April 23 Mr. Charles Gannon, for many years a member of our church, departed this life after a brief illness. May the Lord comfort the members of the family in their bereavement! "So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom," Ps. 90, 12.

Mrs. Cora Walthers, a faithful and active member of our Portland congregation, recently moved to Hardin, Mont., to make her home with her daughter. Her many friends in Portland wish her well.

Mr. H. Nelson, our treasurer, was recently removed to the hospital to undergo a serious operation. May the Lord, if it be His will, grant him a speedy recovery!

E. EICHMANN

St. Louis Mission.— On April 10 the Lord in His great mercy called Mrs. Octavia Berry to her eternal home in heaven. Mrs. Berry had reached the age of 86 years. Although she was forced to suffer much during the last years of her life, we never once heard her utter one word of complaint about her suffering, but in childlike faith she humbly said: "Thy will, O Lord, be done." More than a year ago, Mrs. Berry fell and broke her right shoulder. She was never able to use her right arm again. She spent the greater part of the last two years lying in bed or merely being able to sit up in a chair. Although she could not read the newspaper much, she spent much time with her Bible, which was

always lying on the table near her within easy reach. Her favorite Bible verse was Ps. 23: "The Lord is My Shepherd; I shall not want," and this verse we chose as the text for her funeral sermon, showing what a consolation this psalm is to a true child of God and that only a child of God could rightly understand this psalm and be comforted by it. Mrs. Berry was often sought out by many of the local deaf when they needed good, sound Christian advice, and she was always ready to help them in every way. Staunch in her faith, bold in her confession of her Savior, patient in tribulation, continuing daily in fervent prayer, she could, when the angel of death called her, say: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me." Although we all miss her very much, we are looking forward to the time when we shall be united with her again in everlasting glory. May her departure from this world of sorrow remind us that we must also die and now, while it is yet day, prepare for our departure. Let us also learn to say with confidence: "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" 1 Cor. 15, 55, 57.

On April 7 we opened a new preaching-station in De Soto, Mo. In this first service we had an attendance of 16. All present asked us to continue our services there and expressed the desire to learn more of that Savior who has died also for them. May God bless this new mission!

Although we have been visiting the Deaf School in Fulton, Mo., regularly, we could not until the present time conduct services there with the resident deaf of the city because we had no place in which to meet for such services. On April 23 we conducted our first service, having secured a room in the public library. The attendance was 18 deaf, who also said they wished us to continue these services and to tell them of the Lamb of God who was slain for our offenses and raised again from the dead for our justification. May God in His great mercy bless our humble efforts also in this station and let the seed of His holy Word fall on fertile ground!

Our mission for the colored deaf in St. Louis is going along well. We do wish we had more time to devote to them. Sunday evening, April 25, we had an attendance of 11 in spite of the rain and cold weather. We are now beginning a course of instruction with this group and greatly appreciate the interest they are showing. May the Lord soon cause them to ask as did the eunuch in Acts 8, 36: "What doth hinder me to be baptized?" and confess with this same man, v. 37: "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God." F. A. H.

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