

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 11

Thanksgiving

Thanks we give for love and care,
Harvest first-fruits we will share.
All Thy wondrous works we see;
Now, dear Lord, we're thanking
Thee.

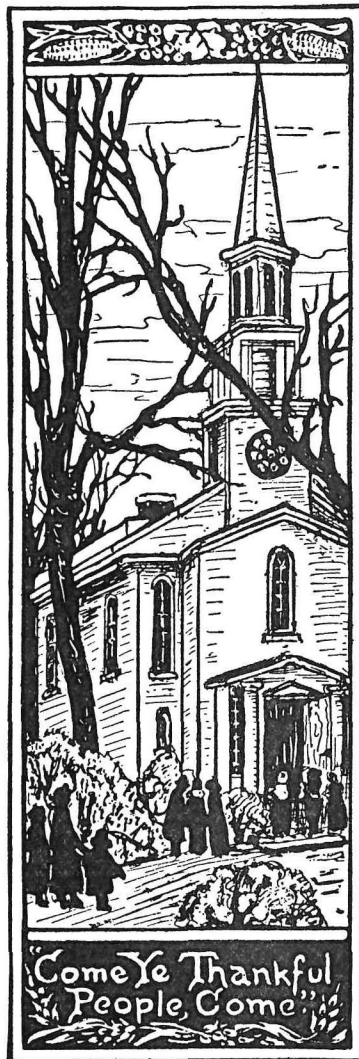
Keep us humble, keep us true,
Show us what Thou'd have us do.
Gracious Lord, lead us each day
In the straight and narrow way.
Vainly shall we try to stand
If we do not hold Thy hand.
Now a nation's voice we raise,
Giving thanks with songs of praise.

W. C. MARSHALL

Keep GOD and THANKS in Thanksgiving

We, Thy people, . . . will give *Thee*
thanks forever. *Ps. 79, 13*

This is the declaration of all Christians on Thanksgiving Day. The first American Thanksgiving proclamation in 1621 called for *thankful* people to give thanks to God. The world knows that they *did* give sincere thanks to God. They had received only a small harvest, but they were thankful for it; they were thankful for having been kept alive; whereas many of their fellow-immigrants died in this their first year in the New World. They were also thankful for *salvation* and for the opportunity to make a living. Although in bitter cold winter these Pilgrims had no comforts in their rude huts of wood and clay, nevertheless they *gave*



thanks. Though in danger of being attacked any moment by angry natives, they *gave thanks*. They were *content* and happy with what they had.

It was so with the Apostle Paul. Not from a comfortable office, but from behind prison-bars in Rome he writes: "In everything, . . . *with thanksgiving*, let your requests be made known to God," Phil. 4, 6.

What a lesson in *thankfulness* this is for us! We are living in an age in which food is plentiful. Unusual comforts of home and daily life are ours. Above all we have religious liberty. Among us the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached freely, and it is also for us the power of God unto salvation. Of all people we Americans should give *most* thanks.

It is regrettable that many who receive and *accept* God's kind gifts are *not* moved to thankfulness, but, on the contrary, *forget* Him.

When the first national proclamation of Thanksgiving Day was delivered, most inhabitants of the city of New York celebrated the day with much noise. The President of the United States, however, quietly attended church. In another part of the city wild celebrating resulted in a near riot. Is it not true that today also very little of the

devout, religious spirit of Thanksgiving is found? Instead of gathering in family groups or in churches to offer thanks to God for the blessings of the year, Thanksgiving Day is given over to gay, careless feasting, football games, and other worldly amusements. Not many have time and courage to offer thanks publicly. How forcefully the warning applies to many: "When the Lord, thy God, . . . shall give thee houses full of good things, . . . when thou shalt have eaten and be full, *then beware lest thou forget the Lord,*" Deut. 6, 11. 12.

But it is much different with the true Christians. In large numbers we find them saying on Thanksgiving Day, "We will give *Thee* thanks." We see them going to God's house for thankful worship. Let us remember that the only reason for this day of thanks is a religious one. Let us *keep God and thanks in thanksgiving!*

O render thanks to God above,
The Fountain of eternal love,
Whose mercy firm through ages past
Hath stood and shall forever last.

A. E. F.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE CREED

"I believe in God"

We have learned to know the true God, the Triune (three-in-one) God: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. There is no other. And now we confess in the Creed: "*I believe in God.*" "I believe," two little words, but very important. People have different kinds of belief. Every man has some kind of belief. In the Creed we confess the true Christian faith. Now, what does it mean to believe in the true God? Only the Bible can tell us.

First, to Believe in God, Man must Learn to Know God

Paul writes in his Letter to the Romans, 10, 14: "How shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?" A man cannot believe in God and His only-begotten Son if he has never heard of Him. Therefore Paul also says: "Faith cometh by hearing [preaching] and hearing by the Word of God," Rom. 10, 17. And in Acts 18, 8 we read: "Many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed." And John writes: "Many more believed because of His

own word and said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying; for we have heard Him ourselves and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world," John 4, 41. 42. And in his first epistle, chap. 5, 13, John says: "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that ye may know that ye have eternal life and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God." How necessary that we hear and learn the Word of God! For only then shall we know God and believe in Him. And how necessary also that we do missionary work and bring this saving Word to all the world!

Then, to Believe Means to Accept the Word of God as True

Men may know what the Bible says of God and of His Son Jesus Christ and still not have the true faith. The Jews knew what Moses wrote of Jesus, but they would not believe it. So today people know what the Bible says of God, of sin, and everlasting punishment, of the blood of Jesus Christ and salvation; but they do not accept it as true and therefore have not true faith. You may therefore have memorized many Bible-verses and still will not enter everlasting life. In John 3, 36 we read: "He that believeth not the Son," that is, he that believes not what the Son teaches, "shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." To believe therefore means also to accept as true the things we have learned to know from the Word of God. Friend, do you believe that the Word of God is true? Do you accept it as true? God grant it!

Finally, to Believe Means to Trust in This Word for One's Own Self

A man may know what the Bible teaches and accept it as true and still not have the true faith. The devils know what the Bible teaches and also know it is true, but they fear and tremble; for this Word is not for them. True faith says: "For me." One day we called upon a poor troubled sinner. When we told her of Jesus and His cleansing blood, she sadly shook her head, saying, "That is all very true, but it is not for me." She accepted the Word as true, but could not put her trust in it. By God's grace, however, the Holy Spirit wrought true faith in her by His precious Word, so that she

could joyfully exclaim, "Yes, this is also for me." Of the Triune God true faith says: "God is *my* Father, God's Son is *my* Savior, the Holy Ghost is *my* Comforter and Guide." True faith says therefore: "I, I, I, believe."

May This True Faith Be Yours!

"I believe"—precious words! Let us no more thoughtlessly and carelessly recite these words of the Creed, but always bear in mind what they mean. And when death comes to call us out of this life, we can then joyfully close our eyes in death, saying: "I believe"; "I know whom I have believed." This is the faith that overcomes the world, that conquers death and hell, that will come forth victorious over all enemies. And then we shall see and enjoy forever what we have here believed. May God grant it to you and me! J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for November

"Except ye be converted and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven," Matt. 18, 3

Bible-Lesson: Mark 10, 13—16

"And they brought young children to Him that He should touch them. And His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God. Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child he shall not enter therein. And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them."

While Jesus was on His way to Judea, teaching the people as He went, some mothers brought their little children to Him in order that He might lay His hands upon them and bless them. These mothers believed in Jesus, their Savior, and brought their children to Him that they, too, might share His grace and blessing. How important it is for mothers and fathers of today to follow this example! All children are born in sin and need forgiveness of sins to enter the kingdom of heaven. To obtain this great blessing for your children, you must do as these mothers did — *bring your children to Jesus*. You bring them to Jesus in Holy Baptism.

The disciples, however, would not permit the mothers to bring their children to Jesus.

Yes, they rebuked (scolded) them for bringing the children. No doubt they supposed that the children would only annoy Jesus and take too much of His precious time. But when Jesus saw what happened, He was much displeased and said to them, "Suffer [let] the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not; for of such is the kingdom of God." Let the children come to Jesus. The kingdom of heaven is also for them, and they can enter heaven only through Jesus, by faith in Him. And the Lord Jesus, who suffered and died also for little children, has prepared a way of imparting divine grace and salvation to them, namely, Holy Baptism. Through the power of God's Word in Baptism the Holy Ghost creates faith in the heart of the child and makes it a child of God.

Not only does Jesus command children to be brought to Him; He also says that, if we want to enter God's kingdom and be saved, we must receive it as a little child. "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein." We cannot be saved by our good works or by our reason and understanding but only by childlike faith in the Lord Jesus, who saved us "from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold and silver but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that we may be His own."

May God grant to all of us such a childlike faith in the Savior! Then He will also "take us up in His arms, put His hands upon us, and bless us."

E. EN.

Voltaire's False Prophecy

Voltaire, the French infidel, once stated that within one hundred years of his day men and women would be so enlightened that they would not want to read the Bible — they would be reading his works instead. He stated that he did not think that the Bible would be published at all. Not long after this the press on which his blasphemous writings were printed began to be used for printing Bibles, and today, after a hundred and fifty years, it is a rare thing to see a volume of Voltaire. And the Bible is being printed in ever more languages and is read by millions the world over.

Selected

IN THE MORNING MAIL

The Cleveland Field.—It may interest the reader to receive a message from the new missionary in Ohio. The undersigned preaches to the deaf in the following cities: Cleveland, Columbus, Westerville, Findlay, and Youngstown, O.; Pittsburgh, Washington, and Erie, Pa.; Buffalo and Rochester, N. Y. It is also my privilege to preach to a hard-of-hearing group in Cleveland by speaking through a microphone attached to twelve ear-phone sets.

Deaf children are taught in the Christian religion in the schools of Cleveland, Columbus, and Pittsburgh. In Columbus we have a Sunday-school of 35 Lutheran children, which is faithfully taught by Mr. A. E. Anderson, a loyal worker in God's kingdom.

The undersigned must travel each month 1,400 miles on trains and busses, not counting the mileage when he is visiting deaf in the various cities. Such extensive traveling is of course the work of all missionaries, and they gladly undertake this difficult task in order to bring the Gospel of Christ to the deaf.

May the kind readers remember the work of the new missionary in their prayers and often beseech the Lord to grant success to all our missionaries laboring among the deaf.

THEO. FREDERKING

Minneapolis Mission.—September 12 Pastor Kohn's congregation at Chaska, Minn., celebrated its annual mission-festival. Upon request the Minneapolis missionary lectured on our mission among the deaf. It was a unique festival, for in the same service, after the lecture, Emil Gruening, fifty years of age, who has never attended a school for the deaf, was confirmed. For four years we had instructed him, beginning with Bible pictures, and on the evening of September 12 he answered about sixty questions on the chief teachings of the Bible which were put to him by the missionary. He made a good confession of his faith. He also partook of the Lord's Supper in this service. Several Minneapolis deaf had gone out with us to rejoice with Mr. Gruening and the whole congregation. May God keep him in this faith to the end!

August 15 Arthur Misbe and Eleanor Bergstrom, both communicants of our mission, were united in holy wedlock in Zion Church at Little Falls. May Jesus be their Guide through life to everlasting life! After the ceremony a service was held with eleven deaf.

J. L. S.

Mission for Blind and Deaf.—In the past weeks we have received several requests to meet new groups of deaf along the route of our regular journeys. The deaf in La Fayette, Indiana, informed us that they have never had an opportunity to attend services for the deaf and asked us to minister to their spiritual needs. We hope to meet them for the first time during October. By special request we also conduct services for the deaf in Elwood, Indiana, a city of 12,000 people, near Kokomo. About twenty deaf attended the service and urged us to meet them regularly. The invitation to serve the deaf of the Indiana Home for Aged and Infirm Deaf will also be accepted. This summer nine new deaf in this territory requested baptism and confirmation. Our recent service in Lexington

was well attended in spite of a heavy rain. If we really love the Lord Jesus and His message, inclement weather will not prevent us from attending public worship.

A letter from one of our readers of the *Lutheran Herald for the Blind* says: "I enjoy reading the *Herald* so very much. It is a real comfort to me." Another deaf-blind reader, among many other things, wrote us as follows: "The sample copy of the *Herald*, received from friends, has been a great comfort to one who cannot read anything that is not in Moon type. She will be most happy to receive it regularly and would gladly pay for it if her limited means would permit." May the Savior continue to bless the reading of His Word to the hearts of the blind and the deaf-blind!

O. C. S.

Lutheran Ministers to the Deaf

Rev. A. Boll, 192 Hewes St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
 Rev. N. E. Borchardt, 7635 Grixdale Ave., Detroit, Mich.
 Rev. E. Scheibert, 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Rev. F. C. Gade, 1717 a W. Meinecke Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.
 Rev. A. E. Ferber, 2538 Quincy Ave., Kansas City, Mo.
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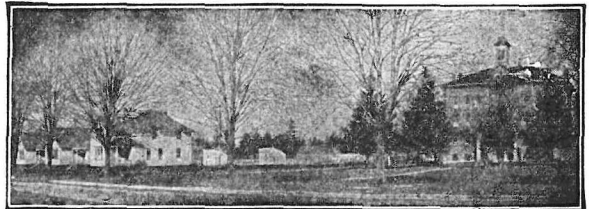
Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

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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