

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

*Published by the Board of Missions for the Deaf of the Lutheran Synod
of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States*

Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. Subscription price, 25 cts. per annum anywhere in the world, payable strictly in advance. Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at St. Louis, Mo., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized on January 14, 1935.

Vol. 30

St. Louis, Mo., January, 1938

No. 1

Jesus Christ the Same Yesterday, Today and Forever

Heb. 13, 8

The Same

Years recede, but Christ remaineth;
Time and change may do their worst.
All is ours, for Christ abideth;
He is Last as well as First.

Yesterday

We must die, He liveth ever.
Jesus Christ for us did die,
Then arose from death victorious
And ascended up on high.

Today

Yea, our Savior pleadeth daily,
And the virtue of His blood
Intercedes with His own Father,
Intercedes for us with God.

Forever

Gazing down the far forever,
Brighter glows that one sweet name,
Changeless, steadfast, fading never—
Jesus, Savior, still the same.

MARTIN LANKOW

"Our Times Are in God's Hands"

Ps. 31, 15

The passing of the old year and the approach of the new year causes us to realize that God's great clock of time has moved forward. Twelve months have been taken from the present and have been added to the past. One year again is past with all its accomplishments, its failures, its disappointments, and encouragements. A new year with all of its now hopes, life, opportunities, and privileges lies before us.

We often like to think of each year of life as a book containing 365 pages—a page for each day. If we thus look back over the old year, 1937, we discover that its pages are not

altogether to our liking; the pages are not nearly so white and clean as we should like to have them be. In fact, on some pages of 1937 we discover more mistakes and failures than records of success. On many occasions we may not have lived up to the expectations and demands of our heavenly Father. For that reason, realizing that we are sinners, we *resolve* to make the day-book of the new year better and free from mistakes, with the help of God the Holy Spirit.

Looking forward to the new year, not knowing what experiences it may bring us, we feel the importance of the words "With God all things are possible," Matt. 19, 26. Remembering the words of Jesus, we also feel our weakness. He says: "Without Me ye can do nothing," John 15, 5. If we feel proud and independent and think we can live in 1938 without God's guidance and blessings, we may be sure that our new day-book will be no better, in fact, possibly worse than the day-book of the past year.

Let us say with the writer of our psalm, David: "I trusted in Thee, O Lord; . . . My times are in Thy hand," Ps. 31, 14, 15. Upon the many kind invitations of our Savior Jesus we may cheerfully encourage all our Christian friends and readers to enter the new year with their Lord and Savior. Then it matters not what problems or difficulties may meet you in 1938. Your times are in God's hand; these promises are extended to you; with God as your Companion and Guide, you need fear nothing in the new year. Then you can feel sure that your days will not only be spent for the glory of His holy name but also for the welfare of your soul.

A. E. F.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE CREED

"God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth"

Whence This World? Man's Answer

Heaven and earth — who made them? Some people will answer that nobody made this world, but that it came by chance. What would you think if I should tell you that nobody made my watch but that it came by chance? You probably would think that I had lost my mind. And now people want to tell us that the wonderful heavens, with the sun, moon, and stars, and this earth, with its spring, summer, fall, and winter, came by chance! Others will tell us that this world came by evolution. It began, so they say, with a little cell, and it took millions and millions of years until we had this world as we see it today. But whence this first cell? Indeed, "professing themselves to be wise, they became fools," Rom. 1, 22.

Whence This World? God's Answer

No man has seen how this world was made. Man does not know. God Himself tells us in His holy Word. In the first verse of the first chapter of our Bible we read: "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." How simple! *God* made it. Therefore David sings in Ps. 146, 6: "The Lord made heaven and earth and the sea and all that therein is." And, again: "The heavens declare the glory of *God*, and the firmament showeth His handiwork," Ps. 19, 1. And God's people exclaim: "Lord, how great are Thy works! And Thy thoughts are very deep. A brutish man knoweth not, neither doth a fool understand this," Ps. 92, 6, 7. Therefore we confess in the First Article: "I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth," and in Luther's explanation: "I believe that God has made me and all creatures."

The Triune (Three-in-One) God Made the World

In the First Article we say: "I believe in God the *Father* Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth." That does not mean, however, that only the Father made the world. No; all things were made also by the Son and the Spirit. Of

the Son, who saved the world, we read: "All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made," John 1, 3. And in the story of the creation, in the first chapter of Genesis, Moses writes concerning the Third Person: "The Spirit of God moved upon the waters." Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, the Triune God, made this wonderful world. Confessing this First Article, we intend to say: We believe God made this world; it came not by chance or evolution.

Trust in This Mighty Maker of Heaven and Earth during the New Year

At the beginning of the new year let us say with David: "Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth," Ps. 124, 8. This is the mighty God who sent His only-begotten Son into the world, who died on the cross and was declared to be the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, Rom. 1, 4. Without fear, but with bold joy, we enter the new year, trusting in this Almighty Maker of heaven and earth. May God grant every one of us such a blessed new year!

J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for January

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,"
Eph. 2, 8

Bible-Lesson: Mark 10, 23—27

"And Jesus looked round about and saith unto His disciples, How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answereth again and saith unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God. And they were astonished out of measure, saying among themselves, Who, then, can be saved? And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

When the rich young man had departed, turning his back upon Jesus and the kingdom of heaven because he was not willing to "sell all that he had and give the money to the poor and take up his cross and follow Him," Jesus "looked round about" on His disciples

and warned them against the dangers of riches, saying, "How hardly shall they that have riches enter into the kingdom of God!" Man's sinful heart is inclined to put its trust in money and earthly possessions, and therefore it is difficult for those possessing riches to enter into the kingdom of heaven.

As the disciples wondered what He meant with these words, He pointed out to them again how hard, how impossible, it is for those that trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God; yes, "it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

At these words of Jesus the disciples were astonished beyond measure (very much), saying among themselves, "Who, then, can be saved?" If it is true what Jesus said, then nobody can be saved! Jesus answered them that it is indeed impossible for man to save himself; God alone can do that. God alone can change the heart of man and make him a child of God and an heir of the kingdom of heaven. Man's salvation is entirely an act of God's grace and mercy; nothing that man can do can bring him one step nearer heaven. God, however, can also change the heart of the rich so that they do not put their trust in their earthly possessions but only in Jesus, their Savior.

Whether we are rich or poor, God Himself must, through the power of His Word, tear our hearts away from the love of earthly treasures and fill them with faith and trust in His saving grace, for "by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." E. EN.

Silver Anniversary of the New York Lutheran Mission for the Deaf

The Lutheran mission for the deaf in New York observed an event of significance, of wholesome influence on the lives of many of the deaf people in our great city. The year 1937 was a milestone in its history. Twenty-five years have passed since the Lutheran Church has opened wide its portals to the deaf of New York in general and to their

children in particular. For twenty-five years its present pastor, the Rev. Arthur Boll, has endeavored to lead them into the light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, into the grace of God as manifested in the appointed Savior of mankind. He has instructed them in Sunday-school and special classes; he has ministered to the deaf in the hour of trial; he was at their bedside in their homes and in the hospital; he has also shared the many joys which a bountiful God has showered upon them.

The committee chosen for this occasion recommended that this happy event be celebrated by a service and a supper at St. Luke's Church, 308 W. 46th Street, New York City, on the afternoon of Sunday, November 28, at three o'clock. This committee, of which Mr. H. C. Borgstrand, 145 E. 33d Street, New York, was the chairman, desired that all confirmed members as well as the Sunday-school pupils be present on this occasion and cordially invited them to be their guests.

The Lutheran mission for the deaf is really an answer to prayer. Praying and perturbed mothers, praying and perplexed fathers, were bringing their petitions for counsel and guidance with respect to their deaf children to the Throne of Grace, to the Father of all mercy. He was pleased with them. They were according to His will. He determined to answer them. He made the Lutheran Church at large His willing and zealous servant. A. B.

IN THE MORNING MAIL

Mission for Blind and Deaf.— We wish it were possible for us to accept all the invitations for lectures from congregations and societies in and around Chicago. Whenever such requests do not interfere with our regular schedule, we gladly accept them. The blind and deaf of our territory, however, must always be given first consideration, since there is no one to take our place when we are absent from regular appointments.

In November we addressed the societies of Rev. R. Reinke's congregation. Pastor Reinke is a son of the founder of our Deaf Missions.

We receive approximately 1,000 letters each year from the blind or their friends. This morning one of the readers of the *Lutheran Herald for the Blind* in Pennsylvania sent us the address of a blind friend who wishes to be placed on our mailing-list. He added: "I appreciate my copy of the *Herald* greatly and enjoy it very much." We are always glad to hear from the friends of our Missions and send a reply to all communications.

O. C. S.

Minneapolis Mission.—Two little ones were brought to Christ in November: Lester Adolph, born October 31, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Chizek, was baptized November 22 at Watertown, S. Dak.; Diane Eleanor, born October 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Haugley, was baptized November 27 at Faribault. "As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ," Gal. 3, 27.

Mrs. Betsy Anderson, aged 83 years, died at Minneapolis on November 7. She had been ill only two weeks. During the last days of her life we visited her every day and told her of Jesus and His love. She was not a member of our church but often attended our services, and also Rev. Ferber's services in Fargo. The funeral address was based on the words of Christ in John 14, 6: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me," one of the Bible verses we explained to her on her death-bed. Her body was laid to rest November 9.

December 5 the Young People's Society of Trinity Church at Faribault again gave a Christmas party to the 52 boys and girls under our care at the Faribault School for the Deaf. At 3.30 P. M. we had a Christmas program in the church, and then we went over to Trinity School, where the young people had arranged games for all, and then we sat down at beautifully decorated tables loaded with good things to eat. This day always is a day of joy for our boys and girls. The little ones were taken back at seven, the others could stay till nine, playing games with the young people of Trinity Church. Hearty thanks to the Young People's Society for their kindness to us! May God reward them! J. L. S.

Golden Gate Missions.—For the past four years this field has never been without a confirmation class. As soon as one group completed its study in San Francisco, another was under way in Oakland or in San Jose. One delightful feature of our instruction classes is the fact that the former members attend them as well as they do the regular church services. This year the following have been confirmed: Miss Lois Hall, Mr. H. Canaris, Effie Johnson, Mr. A. Davis, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Bull, Mr. C. Billing, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Drews, Mrs. W. Stephens, Mr. W. Boettcher, Mr. H. Hortop, and Mrs. E. Tilden. At the California State School we conduct two services each week. On Thursdays the instruction period and on Sundays the morning service, followed by another instruction period. Our classes there are attended by 40 children regularly. The credit for this increase at the school belongs to two pupils, Walter Hammerlund and Margaret Engel, who interested other pupils in the Bible-truths and helped gain the consent of other parents for their schoolmates.

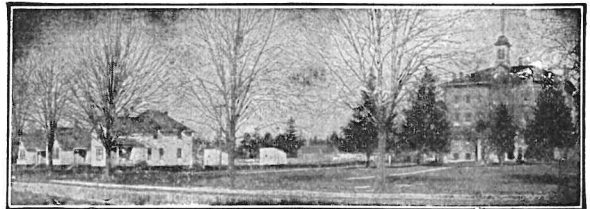
Two years ago a candidate for the ministry, A. Jonas, started to study the sign-language. He took up a temporary charge in Colorado in the hearing field. Here he continued to practise the few signs he had. Last October the Board of Missions extended to him a call to Sioux Falls. He was ordered to come to Oakland and complete his studies of the signs, and last Sunday, after only a brief period of hardly two months, delivered a splendid sermon in the signs at San Jose. By all appearances he is very serious to be proficient, and there is no doubt the South Dakota deaf will soon have a pastor in their midst well capable to take over the work of such excellent pastors as Rev. J. Salvner and Mappes. He is planning to leave from here the first of the year.

At the California State School for the Blind we have another example of a real church-worker. One little fellow, quite a man for his age, wished to have confirmation instructions. Although this work is really assigned to the hearing churches of the vicinity, Alvin Meyer could find no one ready to serve him. So the missionary for the deaf took up the work, and during the two years of instruction Alvin brought in three others. After a two-year period of instruction the young man was presented to his family's pastor at San Pedro, Cal., and upon an excellent profession of his faith and knowledge was duly confirmed. In this entire Golden Gate mission we are witnessing excellent examples of soul-winning among the deaf, and this is the prime reason why we number some 150 members here in this short time. An additional blessing is that we have also enrolled 28 children of deaf parents with our hearing Lutheran churches.

G. W. GAERTNER

BOARD OF MISSIONS FOR THE DEAF

Rev. H. A. Gamber, Chairman, 924 Margaret St., St. Paul, Minn.
 Mr. E. A. Gehrke, Treasurer, 1986 Berkeley Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
 Rev. E. Witte, Secretary, 1930 Sargent Ave., St. Paul, Minn.
 Mr. J. P. Miller, 1617 Elliot Ave., S., Minneapolis, Minn.
 Rev. E. H. Bertram, 849 Armstrong Ave., St. Paul, Minn.



Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich.
 Mr. John A. Klein, Acting Director
 6861 Nevada Avenue, Detroit, Michigan

The Deaf Lutheran

Official Organ of Lutheran Church Missions for the Deaf
 Published Monthly

Twenty-five Cents per Annum in Advance

Send all subscriptions, changes of address, and cancellations to **Concordia Publishing House, 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis Mo.**

THE DEAF LUTHERAN goes to press on the 12th of the month preceding month of issue.

Send all articles intended for publication in this monthly to Rev. O. C. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.