

# 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., February, 1938

No. 2

## Just a Thought

The deeper the darkness,  
The brighter the morn;  
The spirit's rare gladness  
Of sorrow is born.  
The fiercer the tempest,  
The sooner the calm;  
The sharper a wound,  
The more soothing the balm.  
The brightest of blossoms  
Lie close to the sod;  
The lowliest hearts  
Are the dearest to God.

*Selected*

## The Return from Bethlehem

Great was the expectation of the shepherds and the wise men who went to find Jesus in Bethlehem. But they received a rich reward for their efforts. If it was a cold, cold journey through many dangers of that country for the wise men, they soon forgot all suffering when they *saw* the Christ-child. With the help of God the Holy Spirit they understood that this was the long-promised Savior.

But these followers of the star were now far away from home. They had a long, hard return trip before them. However, under God's guidance they cheerfully went their way. No doubt they felt the same inspiration as did the shepherds "who returned glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen." "And they *made known abroad* the saying which was told them concerning this Child," Luke 2:20, 17.

It is a certain fact that especially the wise men from the far East realized the full truth of the statement that "God will have *all* men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of

the truth," 1 Tim. 2:4. They were *not* Jews. Yet the star appeared to them. It was a wonderful proof to them a Savior had been born to all, a Savior who brings free salvation to all who believe on Him. These men fully realized by this gracious act of God that they received these spiritual blessings alone by the grace of God and not because they had in any way deserved them, or earned them. They must have understood that in Christ's kingdom all is grace, and nothing but grace.

In a similar manner it is well for us to pause at this time of the year and ask ourselves: "What spiritual blessings did we gain from the past holiday seasons?" Did all our great enthusiasm which was shown at the anniversary of the Savior's birth suddenly come to an end now? Or are we in spirit also "returning from Bethlehem," and are we taking God's Word at its face value when He says: "*By grace* are ye saved through faith," Eph. 2:8.

Knowing that God through Christ gives us a free salvation, we feel thankful. We want to work for the advancement of His kingdom. We do not only pray "Thy kingdom come"; we also want to *help* enlarge that kingdom in our country in 1938 by leading others to Jesus. We want to be volunteer workers for Jesus in His vineyard, church-workers on whom Jesus can depend from one year to another.

There is no standstill in spiritual life. As time goes by, we either become better or worse Christians. Indifference leads to greater indifference. Staying away from church becomes easier with the repeating.

But let us show that we are growing in "knowledge of the truth"; let this new year

find you working harder than ever before in your life for Jesus.

Time is hastening by. If you, dear reader, are fifty years old, you have already seen 2,600 Sundays. If God lets you live until you are seventy-five, you will see only 1,300 more. Let us, then, on each and every Sunday, and often during the week, return in spirit from Bethlehem, showing that we desire to *grow* in God's grace, that this Jesus and His salvation *means* something to us, that we want to learn His Word, that we understand it and *believe* it. Then you are one of the good workers in the vineyard of whom Jesus says: "That on the good ground are they which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, *keep it* and bring forth fruit with patience," Luke 8:15.

A. E. FERBER

### Where to Look

If you want to be *distressed*, look *within*.  
 If you want to be *defeated*, look *back*.  
 If you want to be *distracted*, look *around*.  
 If you want to be *dismayed*, look *before*.  
 If you want to be *delivered*, look to *Christ*.  
 If you want to be *delighted*, look *up*.

Selected

## Studies in Luther's Catechism

### THE CREED

"God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth"

### The Holy Angels

God made all things. Paul writes, Col. 1:16: "By Him were *all things* created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible." We have learned of the creation of the visible things, the things which man can see. But there are also invisible creatures, among which we find the angels in heaven.

### God Created the Angels

The first chapter of our Bible tells us of the creation of the world but does not mention the angels. But God made also them, for Scripture tells us: "The Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and *all that in them is*," Ex. 20:11. And when did God make the angels? This same verse tells us that He made all "in six days." It is clear the Lord God made the angels during the six days of creation.

### The Angels Are Spirits

Heb. 1:10 calls them "ministering *spirits*." The angels are spirits, and our risen Savior tells us: "A spirit hath not flesh and bone," and therefore the Bible calls them invisible. But you ask: "Did angels not appear to Abraham and other saints, yea, eat with them?" Indeed, but they only appeared in a bodily form, for the Bible says they are spirits.

### The Angels Are Good and Holy

We read in the Book of God: "God saw *everything* that He had made, and, behold, it was *very good*," Gen. 1:31. God made them good and without sin. Therefore Jesus calls them holy angels, saying: "The Son of man shall come in His glory and all the *holy angels* with Him," Matt. 25:31. They have not fallen into sin as man or other angels but always do the things that please Him. And therefore they "*always* behold the face of the Father which is in heaven," Matt. 18:10. They shall be in heaven forever and ever.

### The Angels Are Mighty Spirits

In Ps. 103:20 David says: "Bless the Lord, ye His angels, *that excel in strength*." How mighty they are we can learn from the Second Book of Kings, where in chapter 19 we read of the mighty hosts of the Assyrians besieging the city of Jerusalem, and then "the angel of the Lord went out and smote in the camp of the Assyrians an hundred four score and five thousand." Indeed, mighty spirits, mightier than man!

### There Are Many Angels

In the precious story of our Savior's birth, in Luke 2, we read of "a *multitude* of the heavenly host." And Daniel writes: "*Thousand thousands* ministered unto Him, and *ten thousand times ten thousand* stood before Him," Dan. 7:10. What a great host!

### For Us!

And now that God, who wonderfully made us and then saved us by the death of His only Son and brings us to saving faith in the only Savior by His Holy Spirit, that God, in His great mercy, made also the holy angels for us and for our good. Of this precious truth we shall, God willing, learn more in our next study.

J. L. S.

## THE BREAD OF LIFE

### Bible-Study for February

*"Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven," Matt. 5:12*

Bible-Lesson: Mark 10:28-31

"Then Peter began to say unto Him, Lo, we have left all and have followed Thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house or brethren or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands for My sake and the Gospel's but he shall receive an hundredfold, now, in this time, houses and brethren and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions, and in the world to come eternal life. But many that are first shall be last, and the last, first."

Jesus gave His life for us on the cross, and therefore we ought to give up gladly all for His sake and follow Him. The rich young man, as we read in verses 17-22, was not willing to do this because he loved his riches and earthly possessions more than he loved Jesus. And when Jesus warned the disciples against the dangers of riches and pointed out to them how impossible it is for those who trust in riches and earthly possessions to enter the kingdom of heaven, Peter quickly said to Him, "Lo, we have left all and have followed Thee."

What Peter meant to say is clear. Jesus had told the rich young man that, if he gave up all his riches for the sake of Jesus and followed Him, he would receive treasure in heaven. The disciples had done what the rich young man was not willing to do: they had forsaken all and followed Jesus. And now Peter wanted to know whether they would also receive a reward.

In His answer Jesus promises His disciples and all believers a great and most glorious reward. Every one who has given up anything for the sake of Jesus and His Gospel will receive a great reward both here on earth and in the world to come. He who gives up houses or brethren or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands — things which are dear to him in this world — for the sake of Jesus and His Gospel will be repaid an hundredfold. Spiritual blessings, — forgiveness of sins, peace with God, eternal life, — which Jesus in His mercy showers upon His children in return for their temporal losses, are far more precious than anything this world has to offer.

In the midst of all these blessings, however, the believer will also suffer persecutions from the children of the world. Yet such persecutions often turn out to be a great blessing, for they draw the believer closer to the Savior and strengthen his faith and trust in Him.

The Lord, in His grace and mercy, has also given this promise of a reward in heaven to us. May we, however, always remember that heaven is a reward of His grace and mercy and that no man can enter heaven by trusting in his own good works! Therefore Jesus adds the words "But many that are first shall be last." If we have given up anything for Jesus, let us not think that by doing so we have earned heaven. For if we trust in our own works, we shall be "last" and have no place in the kingdom of heaven. But if we hope to be saved by faith only, we shall be "first" and receive from Jesus the reward of eternal life.

E. EN.

## IN THE MORNING MAIL

*Minneapolis Mission.* — December 29 Grace Chapel was filled to its capacity for the annual Christmas program. By word of mouth and also in the sign language boys and girls from both the Minneapolis and Faribault schools for the deaf and children of deaf parents sang the praises of God for the gift of His love, our dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This precious truth was impressed upon our hearts and minds: "O little Lord Jesus, For me Thou art come," and urged every one to say: "All my life for Jesus! Shall my motto be."

An offering of \$12.09 for our Savior's work among the deaf was lifted in this service. May our good Lord bless our work more and more in the Minneapolis and Faribault schools, where we have 24 and 54 boys and girls under our care, unto the glory of the Christ-child and the salvation of many souls!

J. L. S.

*Mission for Blind and Deaf.* — Our records for 1937 show that 39 deaf in this field became full members of our Church during the past year. May they ever be loyal to the Savior! Being saved by grace, may they live in true separation from the world to the glory of the blessed Redeemer! Several additional classes are being prepared for full church-membership.

Our quarterly magazines for the blind, edited in Chicago, now have a mailing list of 1968 addresses. We are constantly receiving new applications for subscriptions. Our readers tell others of the glorious Gospel which they learn from our papers and recommend the periodicals to their friends. The matron of a home for aged recently wrote to us as follows: "Mrs. K. wishes to have me write you and tell you how much she enjoys the *Lutheran Herald*, Moon type. She looks forward to the time when the magazines are due and reads them with such joy and pleasure. We enjoy watching her.

When she finds a song or prayer that she likes particularly, she commits it to memory and repeats it to us. She is nearly deaf as well as blind, so you can realize how utterly she is shut out from the world. I think your Church is doing a wonderful work. May God richly bless your mission! Sincerely yours, N. R., Matron." The printed Word of God is indeed effective in the hearts of the blind. Our Church is rendering a noble service in supplying the sightless with embossed Christian literature. O. C. S.

*Chicago Mission.*—Beverly Jane, the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Thiele was baptized into the Christian faith on September 19.—On January 3 Mr. Amos Henry was laid to rest in Mount Hope Cemetery in Chicago, having passed away on December 30, after but a week's illness. He had fallen some time ago, sustaining an injury to his back, which may have been indirectly the cause of his death. He leaves his wife, Olga, and two sons, James and Merritt. May they comfort themselves with the sure hope of a blessed reunion in heaven.

When we look back upon the past year, we realize that the four whom the Lord called from our midst through death in Chicago were all rather young. What an important lesson for each and every one of us ever to be ready to leave this world and to meet our God! Yea, Lord, "teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

Mrs. A. Neely, one of our oldest members, recently fell upon leaving the church and has since been unable to get about very much. Mrs. J. Ellman received a broken leg when a stranger's auto hit her after it had jumped the curb. After several weeks in St. Mary's Hospital she is now again at home. Mrs. C. Hayford is on the road to recovery after a serious illness this fall. Ruth Heyer, Mr. and Mrs. C. Heyer's daughter, had a severe attack of pneumonia in November. We are happy with the Heyers that the Lord spared their daughter's life. We were saddened to learn of the accidental death of Mr. Pahl's son, Edward, Jr., and of the passing of Mrs. A. Myers' brother. Mrs. E. Reinecke is also on our sick-list, and her brother, Mr. O. Lorenz, suffered severe cuts about the head in an auto collision last month, which almost proved fatal. We are happy with his family that he is recovering from the effects of the accident.

We have taken over the work in Muskegon and Grand Rapids, Mich., which was formerly so faithfully and successfully carried on by the Rev. Theo. Frederking, now of Cleveland, O. In both these cities we feel very much encouraged, for in spite of the blizzard weather on our last two visits real interest in our work was shown by our friends and members there. We were pleasantly surprised each time by the fact that the greater part of the deaf population of these cities braved these wintry storms to take advantage of our services. Also in South Bend, Ind., our work is progressing well. During the latter part of the summer we were privileged to conduct an outdoor service there with some 150 deaf in attendance. About 30 people regularly attend the monthly services. A small class has taken up the study of the Catechism in preparation for church-membership. Our services for the Negro deaf in St. Philip's Lutheran

Church, 6400 St. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, once a month are attracting some 30 deaf to our church.

In a special service of thanksgiving on December 5 we were privileged to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the dedication of our house of worship at 1400 N. Ridgeway Ave. It was on December 3, 1922, when our present building was dedicated to the service of the Triune God. All were happy to see our former pastor, the Rev. A. C. Dahms, with us for the evening, when a supper was arranged by the good ladies of our church in honor of this occasion. Pastor Dahms related, among other things, interesting reminiscences of the time when this church was built fifteen years ago.

ERNEST J. SCHEIBERT

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Rev. A. Boll, 192 Hewes St., Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Rev. N. E. Borchardt, 7635 Grixdale Ave., Detroit, Mich.  
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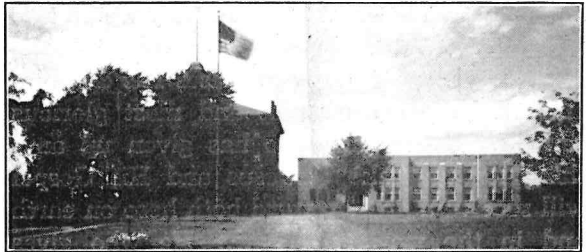
### Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

Rev. O. Schroeder, B. D., 1648 E. 85th St., Chicago, Ill.  
 Rev. A. Kuntz, 805 Lindaraxa Park, Alhambra, Cal.

These ministers 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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### 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.