

The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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No. 7

The Church

Behold the sure Foundation-stone
Which God in Zion lays
To build our heavenly hopes upon
And His eternal praise.

Chosen of God, to sinners dear,
Let saints adore the name;
They trust their whole salvation here,
Nor shall they suffer shame.

The foolish builders, scribe and priest,
Reject it with disdain;
Yet on this Rock the Church shall rest
And envy rage in vain.

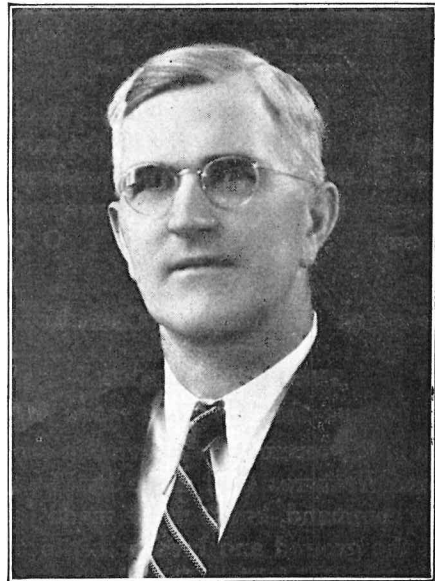
What though the gates of hell withstood,
Yet must this building rise;
'Tis Thine own work, Almighty God,
And wondrous in our eyes.

ISAAC WATTS

The Convention of Our Church

In June our Synod met in St. Louis, Mo., for its triennial convention. The first meeting of the Missouri Synod was held in Chicago, Ill., in 1847. It consisted of twelve voting pastors, eleven advisory pastors, three delegates, and seven guests. In 1938 this group numbers 3,294 active pastors, who serve 4,937 congregations and preaching-stations. There are now 1,322,466 baptized members. Our Synod today supports 1,354 parochial schools with an enrolment of 75,721 pupils in addition to thousands of Sunday-schools having 251,136 scholars. Founding and supporting new stations, our Church carries on mission-work in North and South America and in foreign countries, China, India, and Africa. It also sends out missionaries to the foreign-tongue people of our country, to the Indians, to the Jews, to the Negroes, to immigrants, to the deaf and the blind. Moreover, it main-

tains 18 colleges and seminaries. Among its charitable institutions are listed many hospitals and orphanages, sanitariums, deaconess schools, homes for the aged, and home-finding societies. A Lutheran school for the deaf, the only Protestant school for deaf children in America, is located in Detroit, Mich.



Rev. J. W. Behnken, D. D.
President of Synod

These various interests together with many others related to the building of the Church of Jesus were discussed by the convention. The assembly also celebrated with thanks to God the centennial of the Saxon immigration. The members of this colony were used by God to found the Synod of which we are members.

Our deaf, too, should know these facts and be deeply interested in them; for this Synod has provided the deaf with trained ministers

to preach the Gospel of life and salvation in the sign-language in America, so that among the deaf also the broken-hearted may be comforted, sinners may be saved, and Christ may



Rev. F. Pfothenauer, D. D.
Honorary President of Synod

be glorified. May our deaf, who have been led into the light and the liberty of the pure Gospel, ever be mindful of God's abundant grace, and support their Church with prayers, time, and money! O. C. S.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE FIRST ARTICLE

"I believe that God has made ME"

Man is the foremost of all visible creatures. All other creatures God made by His mighty word or command, but man He made from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. But there is another reason why we call man the foremost of all creatures. When God was about to make man, "He said, Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness. . . . So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them," Gen. 1:26, 27.

Man Created in God's Image

God is a spirit, and man is flesh and blood. What, then, is the image of God? God tells us in His holy Word. The Apostle Paul says Col. 3:10: "Put on the new man, which is re-

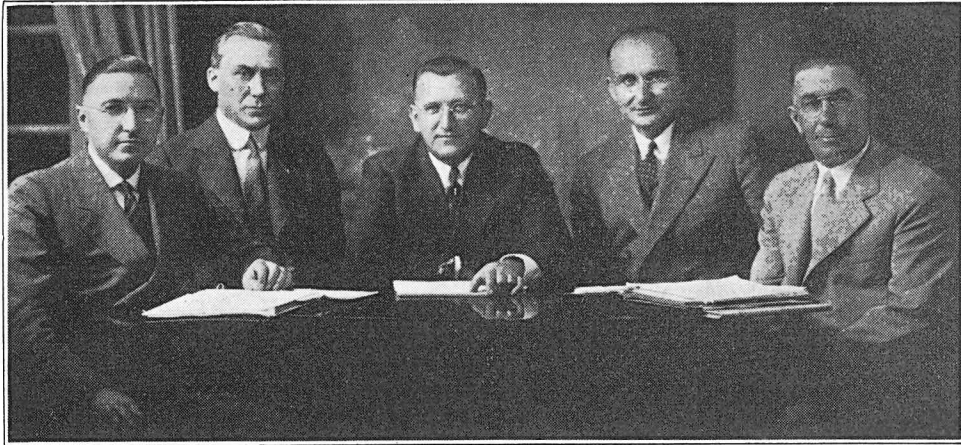
newed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." God, who knows all things, gave man great and wonderful knowledge. In the Garden of Eden man perfectly knew God and His holy will; he knew God was his dear Father and he God's dear child. And in this knowledge he was supremely blessed. But the image of God is more than this. In Eph. 4:24 St. Paul writes: "Put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." God is righteous and holy, and now He created man after His image and made also him holy and righteous. Man had no sin; gladly he did the things that please God. Man made after the likeness of God, in perfect knowledge and righteousness and holiness!

Man Lost the Image of God

When we look at man today as he is by nature, we find that he no longer knows the true God; he is no longer holy and righteous. Man has lost the image of God. He has fallen into sin. And "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them," 1 Cor. 2:14. By nature man now is "dead in trespasses and sins," Eph. 2:1. Sadness must fill our hearts when we read: "Adam begat a son in his own likeness, after his image," Gen. 5:3. Every one of us must say with David: "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me," Ps. 51:5. Now we all are no longer after the likeness of God but after the likeness of sinful man.

The Image of God Being Restored

We have lost the image of God, but — O rejoice! — the heavenly Father has sent His only Son into the world to take away sin, which has destroyed the image of God. Christ again brings us to the knowledge of the true God through the Gospel. Through Him we again know God as our dear heavenly Father. By faith in Christ and His blood we again are holy and righteous before God. True, the Christian still daily sins much, but daily he goes to his heavenly Father and is cleansed from all sins in the blood of Jesus Christ, then puts on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and holiness, and so from day to day he increases in the knowledge of God, in righteousness and holiness. Thus the image of God is being restored already in this



Left to right: Rev. E. Witte, Mr. J. Miller, Rev. H. Gamber (Chairman), Rev. E. Bertram, Mr. Kruse (former Treasurer). Mr. E. A. Gehrke is the present Treasurer

world. However, when our Lord Jesus will come again in glory, then those who have clung to Him in true faith in this life shall behold His face "in righteousness," Ps. 17:15. And "we know, when He shall appear, *we shall be like Him*; for we shall see Him as He is," 1 John 3:2.

May God grant us this for Jesus' sake!
J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible-Study for July

"He that abideth in Me and I in him the same bringeth forth much fruit." John 15:5

Bible-Lesson: Mark 11:12-14

"And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, He was hungry; and seeing a fig-tree afar off having leaves, He came if haply [perhaps] He might find anything thereon; and when He came to it, He found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever. And His disciples heard it."

On the Sunday before Easter, as Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem riding on a colt, the people of the city welcomed Him as their King, shouting their praises and spreading their garments and palm-branches on the way. This day is now known in the Church as Palm Sunday. After entering the city, He went into the Temple "and looked round about upon all things." In the Temple He saw many things which displeased Him very much, but as it was now late in the day, He left the Temple

with the Twelve and returned to Bethany to spend the night, v. 11.

Early on Monday morning Jesus and His disciples left Bethany to return to the Temple in Jerusalem. As they walked along the way, Jesus became hungry. He was so concerned about His work that He had not even taken time to eat. In the distance He saw a fig-tree which was full of leaves. When leaves appeared on the tree, figs could also be expected. However, when He came to the tree, He found nothing but leaves; it was a barren fig-tree. Therefore Jesus said to the tree, "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter forever."

This barren fig-tree is a picture of the Jewish people, and by pronouncing a curse upon it, Jesus wanted to call the attention of the disciples to the curse which would come upon the Jewish people for rejecting the Savior whom God had sent. They were God's chosen people; they had been blessed by God above all nations on earth; the Savior had been in their midst for three years with His Word, calling them to repentance and faith. They professed to be God's people, but in their heart they rejected Him and His salvation. They were like this green fig-tree, full of leaves but lacking fruit. Their rejection of the Savior brought God's curse upon them.

Many people today are also like this fig-tree. They want to be called Christians. Perhaps they are baptized and members of a church, but in their heart they have no faith and do not honor their Lord with a Christian and godly life. Jesus looks for fruit. He does

not only want men to confess Him with their mouth, but also to accept Him as their Savior in true faith and honor Him with a godly life.

If we abide in Him and He in us, we cannot but bring forth much fruit. E. EN.

IN THE MORNING MAIL

Detroit, Mich. — On Palm Sunday a class of adults was received into membership of Our Savior's Church through confirmation. The following were confirmed: Charles Huegel, Tony Swetnick, Carrol Wood, Mrs. Rudolph Huhn, Vern Rein. In the afternoon of the same day we confirmed Wilbur Bruns in the presence of the elders of our church. Wilbur was called home because of the death of his brother. He was to be confirmed with a class of children from the Lutheran In-



stitute on April 24. His home is in Oklahoma. May the Lord graciously sustain the newly confirmed that they remain steadfast in faith until death! And may the Lord comfort Wilbur in his grief!

The confirmation service was very well attended. One hundred and forty-two were present. This included fifty-eight children from the Lutheran School for the Deaf. Mrs. Russow beautified the services by signing two appropriate hymns.

Minneapolis Mission. — May 15 two boys of our Faribault classes were confirmed and vowed faithfulness unto death to their Lord Jesus, who laid down His life for them. They are Willard Haagansen of St. Paul and Russell Rose of Minneapolis. After the confirmation they came to the Lord's Table with twelve others. May the Good Shepherd Jesus keep them in His grace to the end! — Three members of our Bible class at the Faribault school, Marjorie Butenhoff, Dorothy Gulbranson, and Ruth Stuemke, were graduated in May and will no longer meet with us for Bible-study. May our good Lord be with them and bless them, and may they continue to love the Word of Jesus, which alone can save our souls!

We had to officiate at a very sad funeral May 24. It was that of Mrs. Andrew Pangrac. May 21 she gave birth to a healthy boy, and a few hours after she passed

away. The last time she was in church was during Lent. We hope that she accepted the suffering Savior as her Savior. The pastor based his remarks on the words "Thy will be done." May God comfort the bereaved husband and the other relatives with the truth that He does all things well and that all He does is for our eternal good. Rom. 8:28; Mark 7:37. Little Floyd Andrew was baptized in the name of Jesus and made a child of God the evening of the day when his mother was buried. May Jesus, the true Friend of children, ever keep him as His own! J. L. S.

Mission for Blind and Deaf. — On Sunday, May 29, we had the pleasure of addressing Holy Cross Congregation of the Deaf in St. Louis, Mo. We were pleased to meet these deaf and also to attend the meeting of the voters, which was efficiently conducted by Pastor F. C. Streufert, Director of Missions for Synod. We hope that the minister who has now been called, the Rev. N. P. Uhlig of Wisconsin, will accept the call so that these deaf may again have a shepherd to look after their spiritual needs.

A Jewish deaf-blind reader of our *Lutheran Herald*, Moon type, living in New York, last week wrote us as follows: "Your magazine reached me in good condition. I enjoy reading my Christian periodical for the blind very much. I know many Jews who are friendly to Jesus and have joined the Christian Church. I, too, love Jesus." O. C. S.

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Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

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 Rev. A. Kuntz, 805 Lindaraxa Park, Alhambra, Cal.

These ministers preach in more than 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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