

# The Deaf Lutheran

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY

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## Christmas

God gave His Gift to me  
Mine own to be.  
Lo, all my days  
Henceforward shall be spent  
In living praise;  
My life, my lips,  
Forever shall proclaim  
His holy name.

He gave His Gift to me  
Mine own to be.  
And I with faith,  
No longer cold and dim,  
Lift up mine eyes  
To look on Him  
Before whom angels fall  
And see in Christ my All in all.

E. H. DIVALL

## Jesus was Born to Save

Christmas will soon be here. Then we all ought to observe Christmas in a proper manner. Yet many people will celebrate at Christmas in a way to insult Jesus very much. Many will exchange gifts and possibly have a decorated tree in the home; they may invite and visit relatives and friends for good meals. Now it is not a sin to do these things. But if during Christmas we do not give to Jesus the proper worship, praise, and glory, then such a celebration will be only worldly and extremely sinful.

Hence, during Christmas we ought first to give attention to Jesus. We should celebrate Christ's birth because He came to save us. If Jesus wanted to die on the cross to remove

our sin, Jesus had to be born a human child. So we may rightly say that Jesus was born to save us from hell. And if you rightly believe in Jesus, you will love your Savior. It will, then, be a pleasure for you to go to church during Christmas, to praise and thank Jesus. And at home you will read with gladness Luke 2:1-20, and in your private prayers you will give all praise to Jesus.

When, on your birthday, your body was born, you came into the world with a living body but with a dead soul. The Bible teaches that, before people believe in Jesus, their soul is dead. Paul once wrote to people who used to be unbelievers: "Ye were dead in trespasses and sin." Their bodies were not dead, but their souls were dead in sin. Even so all other

souls are spiritually dead before believing in Jesus Christ.

A dead body cannot come to life unless God raise this dead body from the grave. Even so a dead soul cannot become a living soul unless the Holy Ghost will raise this dead soul to new life in Christ. The Holy Ghost makes dead souls alive by letting people learn about Jesus, who is Life. When you, dear reader, come to church and receive the Gospel about Jesus, or when at home you read in the Bible about Jesus, the Holy Ghost works in your soul. And if you accept this work of the Holy Ghost in you; if you begin to believe in Jesus, if you accept Him who is Life, then your soul becomes alive through Jesus Christ.

Was your soul born again, my friend? Do you now believe in Jesus and hope to go to heaven through Christ's suffering and death? Does Jesus now live within you by faith in Him? If Jesus lives in you and you are born again, you will greatly rejoice during Christmas. Then you will also love to go to church diligently. At home Bible-reading and praying will be a pleasure. Your daily life will grow in holiness. May you watch and pray that you may abide with Christ and never forsake Jesus again, which happens to those who stop coming to church, praying, and watching. Luke 8:13. Believe in Jesus until death, and you shall be saved. T. F.

## Studies in Luther's Catechism

### THE FIRST ARTICLE

#### *"My Duty"*

When we think of the many good things God has done for us and still does, as we learn from the First Article, we ought to say with David: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all His benefits toward me?" Ps. 116:12. Luther teaches us to say in this Article: "For all which it is my duty to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him."

#### **"It Is My Duty to Thank Him"**

Whenever we do a favor for any one, we expect a "Thank you" from him. And if he does not thank us, we are displeased. So we

owe God hearty thanks for His many blessings. David urges us to do this with these words: "O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good; because His mercy endureth forever," Ps. 118:1. Kind reader, have we given thanks to God for His many blessings? We must feel ashamed. We daily receive many good things from Him, and we have thanked Him so very little. Come, let us go before Him with thanksgiving!

#### **"It Is My Duty to Praise Him"**

But we should speak not only to God of His goodness but also to our neighbor and praise God. You praise your friends, who have shown you much kindness; much rather ought you to sing the praises of your heavenly Father before all men. Again we must look down with shame. We tell our friends of this man's goodness and that man's kindness, but of our Father's goodness and mercy we speak so very little. Let us say with David: "Every day will I bless [praise] Thee, and I will praise Thy name forever and ever," Ps. 145:2.

#### **"It Is My Duty to Serve Him"**

Thinking of the many good things we receive from our heavenly Father, we ought to be willing to do anything and everything for Him. If a man has shown you a favor, you want to do something for him in return. Above all we ought to serve our good Lord who daily loads us with benefits. Every morning our first question ought to be: What can I do today to please my good God and Lord? But are we always so glad to serve Him? For shame we must cover our faces. Come, let us willingly serve our kind Lord!

#### **"It Is My Duty to Obey Him"**

Every day we ought to ask: What does my good God want me to do? In His commandments He tells us how we may please Him. Therefore obey His commandments, and do it gladly, saying, "I delight to do Thy will, O God." But, oh, so unwillingly do we do the things that please Him! When we should pray or read the Bible or go to church or do any other commandment, we so often murmur. Let us daily think of His many blessings, and we shall with joy obey and do His commandments.

### Do It All for Jesus' Sake

Indeed, we have been so unthankful to our God; we have praised Him so very little; we so often are unwilling to serve and obey Him; and yet He has not punished us but comes to us with the Christmas-message "Unto you is born a Savior" and through Him forgives us all our sins. That ought to urge us still more "to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

J. L. S.

## THE BREAD OF LIFE

### Bible-Study for December

*"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers," Rom. 13:1*

Bible-Lesson: Mark 12:13-17

"And they send unto Him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians to catch Him in His words. And when they were come, they say unto Him, Master, we know that Thou art true and carest for no man; for Thou regardest not the person of men but teachest the way of God in truth: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not? Shall we give, or shall we not give? But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye Me? Bring Me a penny that I may see it. And they brought it. And He saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto Him, Caesar's. And Jesus, answering, said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's. And they marveled at Him."

The "leaders" of the Jews, the chief priests, scribes, and Pharisees, had determined to put Jesus to death. They were afraid, however, to lay hold on Him and carry out their wicked plans because the people still loved Him. So they tried another plan. They sent certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, enemies of Jesus, to ask Him a question about paying tribute (taxes) to Caesar, hoping to "catch Him in His words," that is, to find something in His answer of which they might accuse Him before the Roman government.

The Jews were under the Roman government and therefore had to pay tribute, or tax-money, to Caesar, the Roman ruler. They disliked the Roman government and especially the payment of tribute-money. It was in this connection that they hoped to "catch" Jesus in His words. They asked Him, "Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not? Shall we give, or shall we not give?" These enemies of Jesus

knew that, if He should say it was right for them to pay the tax-money, then the people would no longer care to follow Him and eagerly listen to His words. On the other hand, if Jesus should say it was wrong to pay tribute to Caesar, then they planned to accuse Him of disobeying the Roman government and have Him put to death for rebellion against the Roman ruler. With this question they felt certain of trapping Jesus and putting an end to Him and His teaching.

Though they tried to hide the real purpose of their question behind flattering words: "Master, we know that Thou art true and carest for no man; for Thou regardest not the person of men but teachest the way of God in truth," Jesus knew that they were hypocrites. He knew their evil hearts and their evil thoughts. And therefore He answered: "Why tempt ye Me? Bring Me a penny that I may see it." When they had brought a Roman penny, He asked them, "Whose is this image [picture] and superscription [name]?" And they said, "Caesar's." The answer which Jesus then gave them completely silenced them: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's."

With these words Jesus told them to honor and obey the government which God had placed over them, and this included the payment of tribute-money. But above all they should render [give] to God the things that are God's, that is, give Him the honor and obedience due Him.

These words are written also for us. Let us above all things honor and worship God in Christ, who died for our sins, and out of love to God also honor and obey the government which He has placed over us. E. EN.

### Though the Path Be Rough

If your pathway had been smooth, you would have depended upon your own sure-footedness; but God roughened that path, and so you have had to take hold of His hand. If the weather had been mild, you would have loitered along the water-courses; but at the first howl of the storm you quickened your pace heavenward and wrapped around yourself the warm robe of the Savior's righteousness. — *Christian Victory.*

## IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Chicago, Ill. — Mrs. Augusta Eggebrecht, aged 76, one of the first members of our congregation, peacefully fell asleep in Jesus on the morning of Oct. 17. We were privileged to be with her at the time of her passing. She had shown Christian patience and cheerfulness in her lingering illness and the sure hope of heaven through the merits of Jesus, her Savior. She dearly loved the Word of her God, and even when she was no longer able to come to the services of her church by herself, she was happy when a fellow-member brought her to church in his automobile. Hers was a fine example to other members and friends in the congregation of faithfulness and love for her church. Let us keep her in loving memory.

Walter Sering, who for a time was a resident of the State Hospital at Manteno, Ill., has now been transferred to our own institution at Watertown, Wis. Walter was overjoyed at the prospect of entering our Lutheran institution, where he will be in Christian surroundings. — Fred Ullrich, a member of our last year's confirmation class, recently left for Los Angeles, Cal., where he intends to remain over the winter months.

At our last service for the colored deaf in St. Philip's Lutheran Church, of which Rev. M. N. Carter is the pastor, we were pleasantly surprised to see a packed church of hearing and deaf people. It was the occasion of St. Philip's annual mission-festival. Dr. J. T. Mueller of St. Louis delivered the sermon, and the entire service was interpreted for the deaf. We were glad to see new faces among the deaf, and hope that our Negro friends of the South Side will continue to take advantage of our monthly services in increasing numbers in the future.

Our deaf-blind friend Mr. Paul Tischner is busily engaged constructing a trailer, and has the firm intention to go to the New York world's fair in 1939 and there take up a concession for the production and selling of leather articles. Paul is an ardent reader of our Lutheran literature for the blind. E. J. SCHEIBERT

Minneapolis Mission. — Arthur Westover, a communicant member of our oral group, and Edith Johnson were united in holy matrimony Sept. 24. May they take Jesus, our Lord and Savior, with them on their journey through life! Then all shall be well.

Jerome Douglas, grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Nageler, was baptized Sept. 8 at the home of his grandparents. May he ever abide in Jesus, in whose name he was baptized!

J. L. S.

Mission for Blind and Deaf. — By special request we visited the State schools for the deaf in Mississippi and Louisiana during October and also met some deaf in New Orleans, La. We sincerely hope that our visits and contacts with the local ministers will result in the furtherance of our work among the deaf in that territory.

Our blind friends are always eager and ready to tell others about our magazines. A Michigan reader last week wrote to us as follows: "I am writing to you about the *Lutheran Herald for the Blind*. I have a blind sister who is staying with me. A blind cousin of hers sent her the *Herald*. She was happy to be able to

read the Moon type and sent the magazine on to her cousin, who is also blind. It did not take her long to learn the system. She is sending the *Herald* to a blind friend in another city and wishes to know whether you will be able to send her future numbers of the *Herald*." Most of the readers of our magazines are blind folks who learned of our publications from other readers. May they continue to do this sort of mission-work!

O. C. S.

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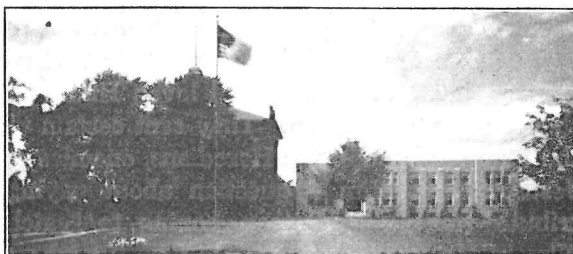
## Ministers to the Deaf and the Blind

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

These ministers preach in 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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