

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. 31

St. Louis, Mo., April, 1939

No. 4

Easter

Jesus lives! No longer now
Can thy terrors, Death, appal me;
Jesus lives! By this I know
From the grave He will recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! Henceforth is death
But the gate to life eternal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense,
"Jesus is my confidence!"

C. F. GELLERT, 1757

Jesus Lives, and We Shall Live

Every Easter we observe the oldest festival of the Church to thank Jesus that He rose from the grave. He now lives forever as Victor over Satan. However, there always have been people who have doubted that Jesus really rose from the grave.

We can show from history as well as from the Bible that He who was crucified and died rose from the grave on the third day. Josephus, a Jewish historian, did not believe in Jesus, but he was at least honest and did not deny the resurrection of Jesus. In his *History of the Jewish War* he writes, page 548:

"Jesus was the Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men among us [Jews], had condemned Jesus to the cross, those that loved Him at the first did not forsake Him; for He appeared to them alive again the third day."

Jesus lives. The Bible not only tells us that and how He rose from the grave,—and that is all-decisive for us,—but also that He appeared to His disciples at various times as well as to other believers. And the early

Christian Church, knowing that the Old Testament ceremonial laws did not concern the New Testament believers, and therefore, among other things, were not bound by the Jewish Sabbath law, chose Sunday as the day of public worship, calling it the Lord's day, because Jesus had risen from the dead on the first day of the week.

What joy and comfort and hope we derive from the fact that Jesus lives, "lives and reigns to all eternity"! How glad we are that we can prove this from the Bible and that also history records this important event! If God raised up Jesus from the grave, then we, too, shall rise from the grave; for Jesus said: "The hour is coming in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth, they that have done good unto the resurrection of life, and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation," John 5:28, 29; and: "Because I live, ye shall live also," John 14:19.

All men will rise from their graves when, on the Last Day, Jesus will return visibly and His voice will penetrate their graves, whether they want to rise again or not. Many dread to be called to life again and to be summoned before the judgment-seat of Christ because they love sin and refuse to repent and believe in Him who has saved them from sin and the devil.

However, if you, dear reader, have accepted the Gospel of Jesus, if you believe that Christ was delivered on the cross for your sins and was raised again for your justification and salvation, you will be glad to hear that Jesus lives and that you, too, shall live with Him in all eternity.

Let us, then, be wise and keep Easter, rejoicing over Christ's victorious resurrection from the dead and over the fact that we shall live with Him in the heavenly mansions. And then let us gratefully and faithfully serve the crucified and risen Savior every day of our lives. Let us love Him, sincerely hate sin, and resist the temptations of Satan and our own flesh. Let us fight the good fight of faith until we shall leave this world as victors over Satan and sin. Then we shall rise on the Last Day with glorified bodies and be with our Lord forevermore. T. F.

Studies in Luther's Catechism

THE SECOND ARTICLE

*"Jesus Christ, true man,
born of the Virgin Mary"*

In our last study we learned to confess with our Catechism: "I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity" (everlasting). And the Easter-story makes us still more sure of it; for "Jesus Christ was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of Holiness, by the resurrection from the dead," Rom. 1:4. He is risen from the dead. Yes, He died, He is also true man.

Jesus Christ, True Man, Made of a Woman

Jesus is true man, born of a woman like all the children of men. Paul tells us: "God sent forth His Son, *made of a woman*," Gal. 4:4. This woman is Virgin Mary, as we confess in our Creed. In Bethlehem "she brought forth her first-born Son," Luke 2:7. Therefore our Bible calls Him "*the man* Christ Jesus," 1 Tim. 2:5. And our Catechism teaches us to say: "I believe that Jesus Christ, . . . true man, born of the Virgin Mary."

Jesus Christ, True Man, Has Body and Soul

God made the first man out of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. God gave man body and soul. And so Jesus has body and soul and therefore is true man. He has a true body, true flesh and blood. When He instituted the Holy Supper, He said, "*My body*" and "*My blood*." And on the first Easter Day He said

to His disciples: "Behold *My hands* and *My feet*, that it is I Myself; handle Me and see; for a spirit hath not *flesh and bones*, as ye see Me have," Luke 24:39.

And as Jesus had a true body, so He also had a soul. On that darkest of all nights He said to His disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane: "*My soul* is exceeding [very] sorrowful," Matt. 4:2. And on Good Friday He prayed: "Father, into Thy hands I commend [give] *My spirit*," Luke 23:46.

Jesus Christ, True Man, Lived and Died as Other Men

The boy Jesus "*increased in wisdom and stature*," Luke 2:52. When His friend Lazarus had died, "*He wept*," John 11:35. In the midst of His suffering on the cross He said, "*I thirst*," John 19:38, and at last "He bowed His head and *gave up the ghost*," John 19:30. True man indeed! He was born like other men, He lived like other men, He died like other men!

Rejoice in This Son of Man!

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, became our Brother, our flesh and blood. And He did it for us. He was "made of a woman, made under the Law, to redeem them that were under the Law," Gal. 4:4. He truly suffered and died and so paid "for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world," 1 John 2:2. God be thanked, "He was delivered for our offenses [sins] and was raised again for our justification [forgiveness]," Rom. 4:25.

Rejoice ye, then, that through His Son
God is with sinners now at one;
Made like yourselves of flesh and blood,
Your Brother is th' eternal God. J. L. S.

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Bible Study for April

*"We love Him because He first loved us,"
1 John 4:19*

Bible-Lesson: Mark 12:41-44

"And Jesus sat over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury; and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And He called unto Him His disciples and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That this poor widow hath cast more in

than all they which have cast into the treasury; for all they did cast in of their abundance, but she of her want did cast in all she had, even all her living."

When Jesus had concluded His address to the people in the Temple, warning them against the teachings and hypocrisy of the scribes, He sat down "over against the treasury and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury." By "treasury" is meant the collection-boxes in the Temple into which the people placed their money for the support of the Temple, the priests, the poor, and so forth. Near this treasury Jesus sat down and watched the people as they cast [put] their money into it.

"And many that were rich cast in much." The rich gave much money to the Church; but Jesus paid no special attention to their gifts. However, when a certain poor widow came and put two mites into the treasury, Jesus immediately called His disciples and pointed out to them how large a gift this poor widow had really given. And what does Jesus say? This poor widow, He tells the disciples, who gave only two mites, or about one-fourth of a cent, gave "more than all they which have cast into the treasury." Though the rich men gave large sums of money, perhaps amounting to thousands of dollars, the small gift of this widow was much larger in proportion. "They," the rich men, "cast in of their abundance," of their surplus money. The poor widow, on the other hand, had only two mites, but she "cast in all she had, even all her living." Out of love to her Lord and God she sacrificed the very last means of living which she possessed. In proportion she had indeed given much more to the Lord than all the rich men who had placed large sums into the treasury. Her love for God and her trust in His promise to provide for His children prompted her to give as she did.

Do you, my friend, love the Lord Jesus, and are you willing to make sacrifices for Him, and to do so cheerfully, as did this widow? Watch how much you are giving for Him and His kingdom and whether you are giving it willingly and cheerfully and out of love to your Savior, who died for you. Only those gifts which are brought cheerfully and out of love for Jesus are pleasing and acceptable to God; for "God loveth a cheerful giver." E. EN.

IN THE EDITOR'S MAIL

Detroit, Mich. — When we made out our yearly report, we fully realized how wonderfully the Lord blessed our Detroit mission during the past year. This fact can be seen particularly from the number of confirmations in this field last year. In all, twenty-four persons became members of our Church in 1938. Seventeen were confirmed in Detroit, six children from the Ev. Luth. Institute for the Deaf and eleven adults, three in Saginaw, two in Jackson, one in Flint, and one in Monroe.

The last class was confirmed in Detroit on the first Sunday in December. The members belonging to this class were: Mr. and Mrs. Dan Whitehead, Mrs. Carl Anger, Mrs. Alma Jacks, Albert Town, and Mr. Small from Monroe. These were confirmed after they finished studying the chief doctrines of the Bible. May they continue to study these doctrines and read their Bible daily! But above all it is my hope and prayer that they will remain in the true faith and finally inherit eternal life.

Another class was started on the last Sunday of January. The members of this new class are: J. Bertram, E. Saba, H. Bartholomay, and Mrs. Olive Stemplowsky. May the Holy Spirit grant them wisdom to understand the doctrines taught and faith to accept them! N. B.

Duluth-Superior Field. — Our Duluth-Superior deaf have decided that, in order to give the Merrill and Waupaca deaf a chance to have Sunday services during February, they would excuse their pastor from serving them on one Sunday during that month. So the undersigned can now serve these deaf of the Milwaukee field.

Renewed enthusiasm is quite noticeable in the Duluth-Superior congregation, for which we are very thankful to Jesus. In our annual voters' meeting it was decided that we would strive for greater and more regular use of our envelopes. While our hearing brethren are doing their share in inducing more members to come to our church, as a thank-offering for our Church's hundredth anniversary, the deaf of Duluth-Superior wish to show their appreciation by both a more regular contribution to their church and by attempting to get those deaf who so far have not been regular in attending our services to come more regularly.

During the year 1938 a total of 311 deaf has attended our services at 27 different stations. The greatest number of deaf in attendance at any one station naturally was in Devils Lake, where 88 children attended our classes. These children have an enviable record for faithfully coming to the Lord's Table, averaging more than four times for each confirmed person for the year. It is hoped that their good example will make other deaf more willing to partake of the Lord's Supper as often as possible.

The new officers for the Duluth-Superior local congregation for the year of 1939 are: President, Mr. S. Berland; Vice-President, Mr. L. Platte; Secretary, Mr. Wm. Jones; Treasurer, Mr. C. Arneson. We trust that under their leadership the congregation will by God's grace enjoy a blessed year for the salvation of many souls. W. F.

Southern California Mission. — After having worshipped in Trinity School on West Eighteenth Street at

Cherry for a little more than three years, Pilgrim Church of Los Angeles again moved to Grace Church on West Vernon Avenue on January 1, as a more suitable and convenient room could be had here for Sunday worship. It has always been a great joy to the members of Pilgrim Church and their pastor to see how anxious and willing both these congregations have been to be of service by giving a room for worship and other gatherings. At Grace Church it is also possible to have one Sunday evening service besides the regular Sunday morning services.

At the annual meeting of the Los Angeles church the following officers were elected for 1939: Elder, Carl Torrell; Chairman, Harry Newmann; Secretary, Omer Thoe; Treasurer, Claude Wakefield. Mr. Wakefield has held his office since the organization of the congregation five years ago. "The Gild," which is a club of men and women in the local church, elected these office-holders for the new year: Carl Torrell, President; Marion Hedden, vice-president; Mrs. D. Ludwick, secretary; Henry Schlanser, treasurer. The chief purpose of the "Gild" is to learn to know the Bible and the teachings of our Lutheran Church better. Another aim is to serve Pilgrim Church in every way possible.

On his last trip to Arizona the pastor had the pleasure of addressing the pupils of the Deaf and Blind School in Tucson, where he was given a very friendly welcome by Superintendent Robert Morrow and others connected with the school. Since last summer four of our friends in Phoenix have entered holy matrimony: Horace Bell and Lucille Neal, and Virgil McKennan and Emily Mason. To perform the marriage of the first-named couple, the pastor traveled about 850 miles, and as far as those present could recall, it was the first wedding in the State performed in sign-language. May God grant both the Bells and McKennans a happy Christian married life!

G. H. FERBER

St. Louis Field.—On February 1 a large and beautiful residence at 4517 West Pine Boulevard, St. Louis, was purchased by the Board of Missions to serve as a chapel and parsonage for Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf. The purchase was made possible by a loan from the Church Extension Board of the Missouri Synod. When, by March 1, a few alterations will have been completed, the whole outlay will be about \$9,500.

This gives us a fine location in the exact center of St. Louis, not far from Kingshighway and Lindell Boulevard, near Forest Park. The lot is 67×185 feet, near Taylor Ave., and the house furnishes a chapel for 100 people with an adjoining room for 50 people more. On the first floor are large reception-rooms, a chapel, a social room, a kitchen, and a ladies' rest-room, and up-stairs there are five fine rooms for the missionary and additional quarters above that. A spacious barn will probably become the hall for the men's club and other organizations.

We must thank God. The fortunate purchase of this substantially built house, erected at a cost of \$30,000, about twenty-five years ago, gives us, with hardly any sizable alterations, all we need for the years to come. The central location alone is of very great help and importance. While the place will be occupied by us

about March 1, the dedication services will probably be held a little later.

Among the number of interested learners of the sign-language at Concordia Seminary is Dr. J. T. Mueller of the faculty, who has with great enthusiasm and a fine grasp of essentials taken up the study of the sign-language.

Pastor Uhlig has been enabled to help out in the Milwaukee field through the fact that Seminary students, Floyd Possehl, Clarence Bremer, and N. Zellmer, supplied the St. Louis congregation in his absence.

N. P. U.

Notice

Since March 1, 1939, the undersigned has resumed the duties of Treasurer of the Board of Missions to Deaf and Blind.

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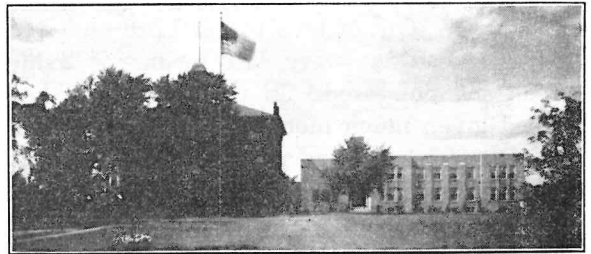
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The Deaf Lutheran

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.