

# The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,  
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 55

JULY 1963

Number 7



*"I am the Vine,  
Ye are the branches"*

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These ministers preach in more than 275 cities in our land; they conduct classes in religion at over 50 city and 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.

### THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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 The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

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# Notes from the Executive Secretary

## **Texas Expansion Delayed**

Some of you may remember that a few months ago it was announced in this column that our Board had decided to divide the Texas-Oklahoma field and make a new headquarters in Austin and Dallas. We had hoped to make this division this month by placing in Dallas a candidate from the seminary. However, you will see from last month's news that we received only two candidates instead of the three that we had requested, and so we were not able to place a candidate in Dallas. This does not mean the Board has changed its mind about dividing the Texas field. This division will only have to be delayed for a period of months until arrangements can be made to call a pastor to Texas. For the time being a vicar, James Bengelsdorf, will live in Dallas and begin to have more Lutheran activity for the deaf in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, along with handling the Oklahoma part of the field. We pray God to grant us a man soon for this needed new field in Texas.

## **Ordination and Installation of Seminary Graduates**

Candidate Donald Leber, a graduate of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., will be ordained to the office of the holy ministry at Saint Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Newark, N. J., on Sunday, June 23. He will be installed as pastor of Grace and Peace congregations for the Deaf in Memphis, Tenn., and missionary to the Deaf in the North Dixie field of deaf missions on Sunday, July 14, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Memphis. On that same day Candidate Martin

Hewitt, graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be ordained and installed as pastor of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Cleveland, Ohio, and missionary to the deaf in the northern Ohio field, at Christ Church. May God bless these young men and make them a blessing to many others.

## **A Challenging Synodical Work Program for 1964**

On May 1 and 2 the leaders of Synod and its Districts met in Saint Louis for two days to discuss and finally adopt the Work program for Synod for 1964. The conference finally set the work program at \$36,132,210. During the next months until the end of this year all congregations of Synod, and this includes all our deaf congregations, will discuss this work program and pledge their part of it. In January 1964 all these pledges will be totaled up, and this amount will determine how much of the work program can actually be put into operation in 1964. This is now the second year of the Faith Forward program, and I hope that all our deaf congregations will realize more fully their responsibility and increase their pledges toward Synod's work program. Included in this work program is a total of \$656,521 for the work of our deaf mission. \$225,000 of this amount is for building new churches for the deaf, \$100,000 for a new chapel in South Chicago for Ephphatha Congregation, \$25,000 for a chapel in Indianapolis, Ind., and \$100,000 for the Salvner Educational Building in St. Paul, Minn. These projects can be built only if the money is available, and the total amount of money

will be available only if the congregations of Synod pledge to support the total \$36 million Work program. In the months ahead I entrust that every congregation of our mission will be thoroughly discussing its participation in the work program of Synod. It is my hope and prayer that each congregation will do its very best and more for the Lord in the expansion of His church.

### **A Visit to the Midwest**

On Monday, April 22, I left the St. Louis airport on a TWA jet and 30 minutes later landed in a very hot and humid Kansas City, where our energetic missionary, the Rev. A. E. Ferber, met me. A few hours later the temperature rapidly cooled off, but the reception everywhere was warm. It was interesting to observe the classwork being done by Pastor Ferber at the Kansas School for the Deaf in Olathe. While there I had the pleasant opportunity for a lengthy visit with Mr. Parks, a very able principal of the school. It was encouraging to hear his fine words of commendation regarding our Lutheran program at the school. What a fine group of young people we have at the Kansas School! Eagerly they meet to study the Word of God, not only every Monday but also every Sunday morning at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Olathe, Kans., where our Rev. Warren Naegele is the pastor. The members of Redeemer Lutheran Church provide transportation for the children to and from Sunday school each Sunday morning. After the classes at the Kansas School we hurried back to Kansas City on time for a delicious potluck supper at Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf.

Afterward it was my privilege to show the slides both of the deaf in the Orient and of the work that we are doing in the United States and Canada. The next day Pastor Ferber and I boarded the train for Topeka, Kans., where we had the privilege of attending the second day of the Kansas District Pastoral Conference. That evening I presented my slide lecture for our deaf members at Olathe. Afterward Pastor Ferber and I parted company: He went on to Herington, Kans., and I back to Kansas City to catch a flight for Des Moines the next morning. Rev. Bailey met me at the airport, and the first thing on our agenda was to attend the LWML zone rally in Des Moines with a group of ladies from Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf. That evening I presented my slide lecture to a very fine group of interested members from Calvary Congregation. I had not been in Des Moines for some years, and so it was pleasant getting reacquainted once again. The next evening took us to Fort Dodge, Iowa, for my presentation of the slide lecture to that congregation. Here I had the chance of meeting many new friends.

On Friday morning I left by plane for Omaha, Nebr., to spend the weekend there with Pastor Mappes and Pastor Graef. Arrangements had been made by the pastor for stewardship workshops in Omaha on Friday evening, in Lincoln on Saturday, and in Sioux City on Sunday afternoon. Before each of these workshops I had the opportunity of presenting my slide lecture, and then we sat down to discuss the program of Synod and our participation in the program as mem-

bers of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. The interest and the response of the people in all the congregations was very gratifying. I was especially pleased that in every one of the congregations that I visited on this trip a collection was gathered after my slide presentation as a gift to our deaf mission in Hong Kong. This money is certainly welcome over there and will be put to good use in the development of our mission program. In Omaha I was also thrilled to see the fine Sunday school program under way for the children from the Nebraska School for the Deaf who are transported to Bethlehem Church each Sunday morning. The superintendent and staff of the Sunday

school are to be commended for their dedicated work.

May God continue to bless the work of these faithful pastors and their willing workers in the various congregations!

God willing, I hope to attend the Lutheran deaf retreat at Camp Lone Star in Giddings, Tex., the end of May, and a portion of the Eastern Regional Conference at the Poconos the first week in June. I am also looking forward to taking my family out West, where I will assist Pastor Rynearson at his Lutheran youth camp in Kalispell, Mont., in the middle of July.

May you all have a very pleasant, blessed, and safe summer!

REV. W. F. REINKING

## “I Am The Vine”

**Jesus said, “I am the Vine.” (John 15:5)**

Because we don't see Jesus, we are tempted to become careless about our Christian life, especially during the summer. While we are very careful about our vacation plans, about the selection of places to see and of friends to visit, and about planning the family and deaf group picnics, we neglect to think of Jesus. Consequently, we are facing a serious danger of cutting ourselves off from the vine from which we receive our life and strength.

Being Christians, we dare not put Jesus aside, not even for a short summer. Even though we do not see Jesus visibly, we know He is here, in and with us. This is what Jesus teaches in giving a picture of a vine and its branches. He says, “I am the Vine, you are the branches.”

Jesus Himself is the Vine. Jesus'

Word, the Gospel, regenerates us, that means, plants a new life in us. Guided by God's Spirit, we begin to draw life from Jesus and to bud into branches. As the branches are maintained by food from the stem of the vine, our spiritual life is maintained by faithfully reading the Bible, by daily prayers, by regular attendance at our church. In this way we get the food that Christ feeds us with. Can we afford *not* to do these things during the summer? Heed our Savior's words of warning: “Without Me ye can do nothing.” Without Jesus we can only die and become dried-up branches.

On the other hand by living for Jesus we bear much fruit. The grapes are the fruit of the vine. The branches grow from the vine to produce grapes. Now what are the grapes of our spiritual life? St. Paul answers in Galatians 5:22 to

23: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (self-control)." These are the grapes produced by Jesus in our Christian life.

Are we bringing forth fruit today? Abide in Jesus, and let His Word influence your total life. Believe in

Jesus, who saved you from your sins. This is the way we are living in Christ and Christ in us — and are led to give fruits to the glory of God, yes, also in the summer months. Please read Jesus' own words about the vine and the branches in John 15:1-8. REV. WILLIAM LUDWIG

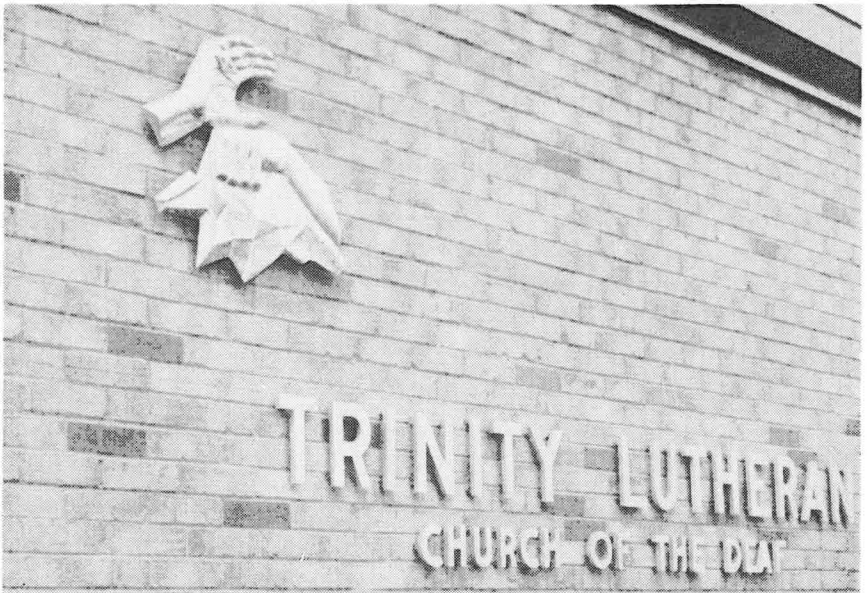
## Meet Your Brothers In Christ— The Pittsburgh Mission

Since the founding of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1922, there has been a sincere hope by this comparatively small congregation that someday God would bless them with their own house of worship. Numbering 42 members, this small flock of God worshiped in various hearing churches throughout the city. To fulfill their dream of a church of their own, Trinity began a chapel fund. But the 1929 depression re-

sulted in the loss of most of the fund through the bank crash.

When a full-time pastor was called to Pittsburgh as a resident missionary in 1945, members of Trinity Congregation took courage, and with prayer and dedication they struggled on toward their goal. Another chapel fund was started.

In January 1962 the fund had grown to an amount large enough to purchase land. The lot purchased is just half a block from the Western

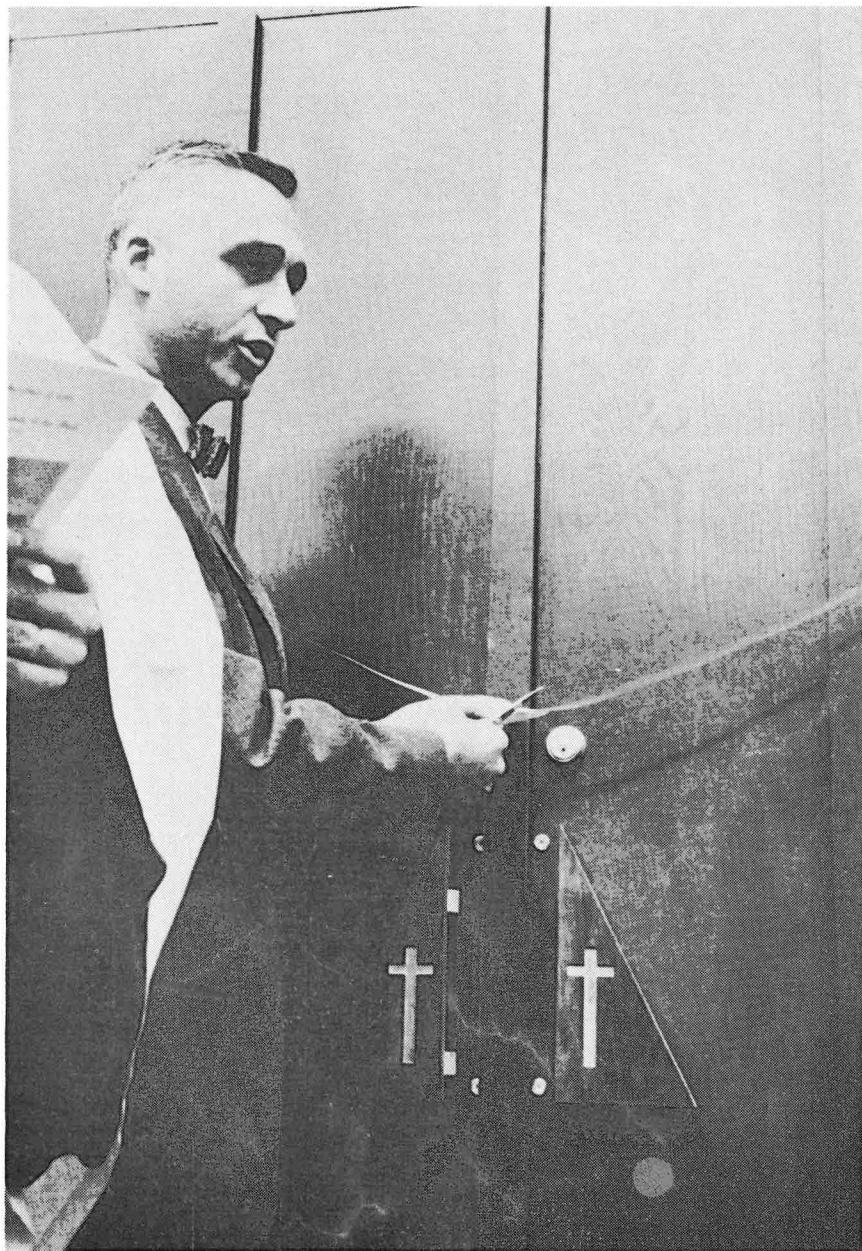


Sculptured symbol of the sign for "church" on the front of the church building



Pennsylvania School for the Deaf. Ground-breaking ceremonies were held July 22, 1962. God crowned the work of His faithful people with

success, for on March 31, 1963, the first chapel of and for the Deaf in Pittsburgh was dedicated to the glory of God.



Wallace Moll, architect, cuts the ribbon at dedication



The chancel of Trinity Church

### Dedication Ceremonies

Approximately 600 people crowded into the new Trinity Church for dedication day services. Rev. William F. Reinking, Executive Secretary of the Board for Missions to the Deaf, preached the dedication sermon in the morning service. Rev. George Kraus, pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn and missionary to the Deaf for 12 years, was the speaker for the afternoon service of thanksgiving. Rev. Harry Hoemann, missionary to the Deaf in Washington, D. C., and former pastor of Trinity, assisted Pastor Wagenknecht with the liturgy.

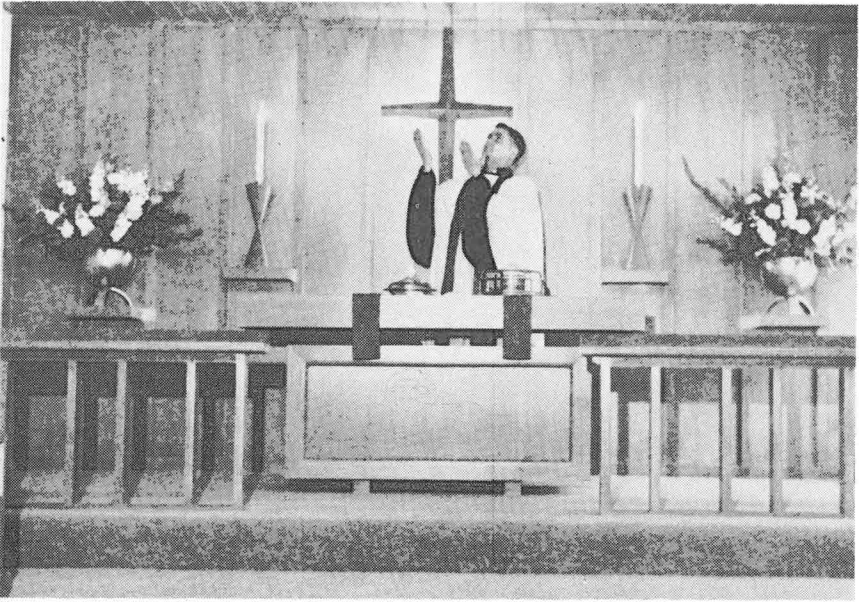
### The Church Building

The church was designed especially for the Deaf by Wallace V. Moll of Niagara Falls, N. Y. The nave of the church seats approximately 90 in pews, with an overflow seating of 130. The fellowship hall in the basement seats about 100.

Also included in the building are the pastor's study, a sacristy, kitchen, storage rooms, and rest-rooms. The interior furnishings of the church are of mahogany stained very light blue. The total cost of the structure complete with furnishings was about \$34,000. This low cost was made possible by general contractor Clyde Bachmann. A "hearing" man, Mr. Bachmann belongs to a Lutheran congregation in the Pittsburgh area, where he takes a very active part in the church's work. He sacrificed his profit for the love of God's kingdom among the Deaf.

The members of the congregation were not idle "sidewalk superintendents." They participated actively in the building of the church. James Paul deserves special recognition for building the ladies' beautiful birch cabinets in the kitchen. Mr. Paul took upon himself the work and worry connected with





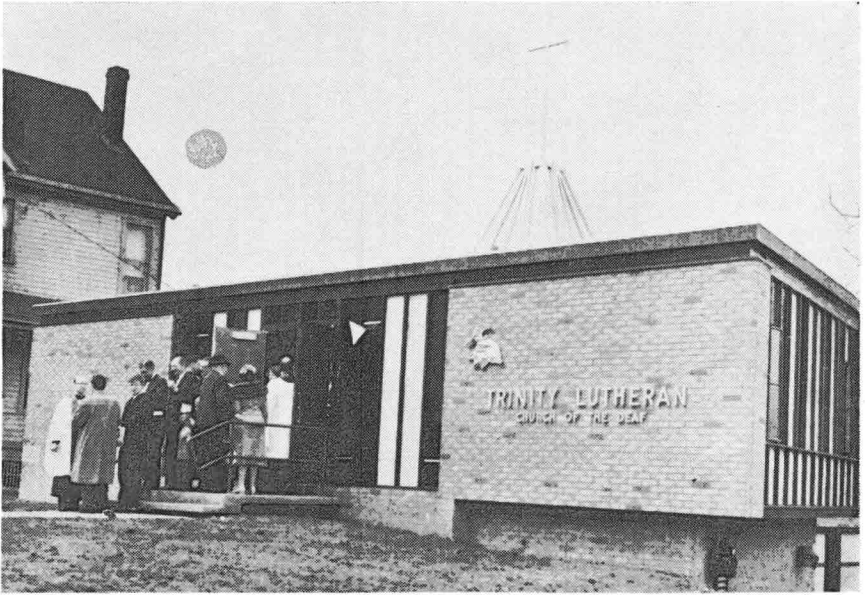
**Rev. Frank Wagenknecht, pastor, offers a prayer of thanks to God in behalf of the congregation for the new chapel**

a custom installation. At the present time members of the congregation are busy landscaping the church lawn.

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, through the Board for Missions to the Deaf, gave Trinity Congregation \$25,000. The LWML,



**Choir on dedication day, l. to r.: Mrs. Stanley Barwiolek, Mrs. Louis Kieffer, Mrs. James Paul Interior view of Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh**



The exterior of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf

Eastern District, made a grant of \$4,000 to be used for interior furnishings. Other funds were gathered from sister congregations and from the Deaf themselves.

### The Church Activities

Trinity has a very active ladies' aid and men's club. The ladies have sponsored several projects throughout the years for the new church. The largest single project was probably the fall bazaar two years ago, when \$600 was gathered for the building fund. The men are actively engaged in the Lutheran dartball league in Pittsburgh and gained the final playoffs in their first year in the league. The newest organization, a result of the new church, is the choir. Many of the young people at the school for the Deaf are active in this area of service to the Lord. The ladies also enjoy offering praise to God through singing in the choir

and are ordering their own robes. An altar guild has also been organized for the care of the chancel furnishings and Communion vessels.

### Mission Outreach

Pastor Wagenknecht serves the Deaf in western Pennsylvania: Greensburg, Beaver Falls, Franklin-Oil City, and Erie. He also extends services to the Deaf in Warren, Ohio, and Youngstown, Ohio. These mission stations receive services once a month. Although smaller in membership than the Pittsburgh congregation, they still receive God's Word and sacraments. They participate in prayer and praise to their Creator and Redeemer. Some of the mission stations enjoy a fellowship hour after church services. Almost all the mission stations supported the new Pittsburgh chapel with a special memorial gift.

### The Task

The primary function of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf and

its mission stations is not boasting over statistics, not planning dinners and meetings, sales and socials. The



Crowd leaving after the dedication service. Pastors Hoemann (left), Wagenknecht (center), and Reinking (right) greet those who attended the service. Gary Faust, in the foreground, is inquiring about the thanksgiving service at 3 o'clock that afternoon

first task God has given the congregation is to win deaf souls for Christ. The church program must be centered on that goal, or it no longer fulfills its function as a church. The Pittsburgh congregation and every deaf congregation needs to keep in mind these words of Jesus: "Go ye

therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." (Matt. 28:19, 20).

## Rehabilitation Workshop

*Washington, D. C.* On July 1, 2, 3, 1963, will be held workshop on deafness and rehabilitation at Gallaudet College, Washington, D. C., for personnel in the Lutheran Church who are serving the Deaf. This meeting is made possible through a grant from the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Gallaudet College, the sponsor of the workshop, is a private corporation subsidized by the United States Government.

Participants at the workshop will

number approximately 100. Twenty-five of these will be provided by the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration for the presentation of its program. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will furnish 50. The Lutheran Church in America and the American Lutheran Church will furnish 12 each, with one participant from the National Lutheran Social Welfare Department.

A complete report of the proceedings will be published after the workshop. THE DEAF LUTHERAN will carry articles on the program.



### Great Lakes Regional Conference Canceled

*Columbus, Ohio.* The dates for the Great Lakes Regional Conference conflict with the dates chosen for Ephphatha Conference, with the result that the Great Lakes Conference had to be canceled for this year. God willing the conference will be held next year, 1964, in Columbus, Ohio.

### Easter Baptisms

*Pittsburgh, Pa.* Lois Marie, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Sa-

raka, and Harry Paul, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knetzer, were baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Pittsburgh. Pastor Frank Wagenknecht officiated.

*Omaha, Nebr.* Stephen James, born March 9, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. James Cornett, was baptized at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Omaha. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gettman were sponsors.

### New Communion Rail

*W. Hartford, Conn.* David Halberg has completed a beautiful

Communion rail for worship services in West Hartford, Conn. The rail is handmade and finished to blend with the altar. An attractive maroon kneeling cushion was the gift of Mrs. Mary Sandberg of Worcester, Mass. (now at White Plains, N. Y.), as part of a memorial gift in memory of her husband, John Sandberg.

## **Welcome New Members**

### **In Columbus**

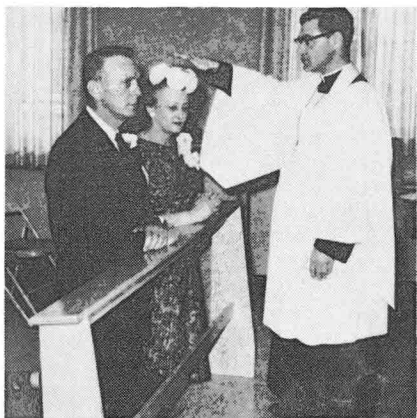
*Columbus, Ohio.* Holy Cross Deaf Congregation at Columbus welcomed three new members recently: Mrs. Eleanor Samuels by transfer from Chicago and Miss Doris Montgomery and Mrs. Peggy Phillips by confirmation on Palm Sunday.

Total communicant membership is now 59.

### **Received into Membership**

#### **In New England Field**

*W. Hartford, Conn.* Mr. and Mrs. William Pearson were received into church membership on April 28, Mr. Pearson by Baptism and Mrs. Pearson by confirmation. Rev. Earl Thaler is their pastor.



Mr. and Mrs. Pearson confirmed

## **New Members in Texas-Oklahoma Field**

*Houston, Tex.* During the month of April several new members were added to the Texas-Oklahoma Field. In San Antonio were confirmed Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Gates and Jacob C. Zeiler. Confirmed in Austin were Virginia Kochlin, Melvin Rueffer, Thomas Tabor, and James Bronson. Dwain C. Dube was confirmed in Dallas.

Letters of transfer were received in Austin for Miss Norma Maner and Michael F. Belitz.

### **Weddings in the New England Field**

*W. Hartford, Conn.* Edward Timko of Bridgeport and Beverly Phelon of W. Hartford were united in holy wedlock on April 20.

Richard van Hoorn of Simsbury and John Umlauf of W. Hartford were united in marriage on April 27.

Alfred Bacon of Manchester and Dorothy Dorey of Coventry were united in marriage on April 27 in the Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

### **Membership Additions In the Spokane Field**

*Spokane, Wash.* On Sunday, April 21, eight young people confessed their faith in Jesus Christ before God and the members of Christ Lutheran congregation. During the worship service held at Great Falls five were baptized and three were confirmed. Those baptized were Sheri Ann Eckhardt, Robert Alan Gililland, Karen LaDon Juffman, Lee Ann McLane, and Vivian Frances Memefee. Those confirmed were Leslie David Sherrard, Sandra Lynn Sherrard, and Lon Kenneth Ulvestad.



On Sunday, April 28, Tami Lyn Sandberg was received into the church by Baptism. The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Sandberg of Spokane was born April 6.

Also on April 28 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Covell became members of Faith Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Spokane by the rite of confirmation.

Mrs. Dorothy Helen Smith of Boise, Idaho, was baptized on Thursday, April 4.

May God the Holy Spirit, who has called these people to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, keep them strong to life eternal in heaven.

### Two Weddings in Vancouver

*Vancouver, B. C., Canada.* Wedding bells rang twice during May at Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Vancouver. Dick Van Santen and Lora Kruzik were united in marriage Saturday, May 4, at 6 P. M. Walter Whyte and Annette Cayer

were united in holy marriage on Friday, May 17, at 7:30 P. M. Rev. W. C. Bottlinger officiated.

### Received as Member

*Delavan, Wis.* Anthony Callies of Beloit, Wis., was received into communicant membership with the Lutheran Church of the Deaf at a recent Delavan voters' meeting. At the same meeting Herman Riege's membership was transferred to Emmanuel Congregation, Milwaukee, where he is living now.

### Received into Membership

*Vancouver, B. C., Canada.* Nine persons were received into membership with the Vancouver Field on Sunday, April 7. Kenneth Gordon, Jerome Riggs, and Mrs. Ralph Baker were baptized, and the others were confirmed: Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Gray, Ralph Baker, Mrs. Kenneth Gordon, Miss Annette Cayer (now Mrs. Walter Whyte), and Walter Whyte.



Front row, l. to r.: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Gordon, Rev. Wayne Bottlinger, Mrs. and Mr. Walter Whyte. Back row, l. to r.: Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Gray, Jerome Riggs, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Baker



### **Jacquelyn Doubt Baptized**

*Columbus, Ohio.* Jacquelyn May, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Doubt of Delphos, Ohio, was baptized on April 28 at Findlay, Ohio, by Rev. William Ludwig. Sponsors were the grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Doubt.

### **Picnic Scheduled for Rochester Field**

*Rochester, N. Y.* A picnic for the Deaf of western New York and northern Pennsylvania is planned for August 25 at Camp Pioneer, Angola, N. Y., on the shore of Lake Erie. The Alpha Lutheran Church Picnic will be on August 18.

### **Celebrate Anniversary**

*Rochester, N. Y.* Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ode of Buffalo, N. Y., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last June.

### **LWML Convention**

*Kansas City, Mo.* The Lutheran Women's Missionary League international convention will be held July 17 and 18 in Kansas City, Mo. Rev. A. E. Ferber of Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf will serve as an interpreter for all deaf delegates and visitors to the convention.

### **Officers Elected in Kansas City**

*Kansas City, Mo.* Officers elected at Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Kansas City are Bernard Goetting, president; Leroy Wheeler, vice-president; Alan Peterson, secretary, Louis Meyer, treasurer; Bernard Sage, financial secretary, and E. E. Richardson and O. Spotts, trustees.

For the ladies' Dorcas Society, Mrs. B. Goetting was elected presi-

dent; Mrs. O. Spotts, vice-president; Mrs. Shirley Gouby, secretary, and Miss D. Jeffries, treasurer.

### **Katherine Busby Baptized**

*Rochester, N. Y.* Katherine Anne, infant daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Walter Busby, was baptized on March 24 at Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf. Vicar and Mrs. Lester Dumer acted as proxies for the sponsors, Miss Carolyn Martel of Ottawa, and Ronald Matson of Sudbury, Ontario.

### **Johncox Children Baptized**

*Rochester, N. Y.* Marvin Glenn and Jeffery Todd, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Johncox, were received into membership by Baptism on March 31. Sponsors were Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Lay for Marvin Glenn and Mr. and Mrs. Terry Dickson for Jeffery Todd.

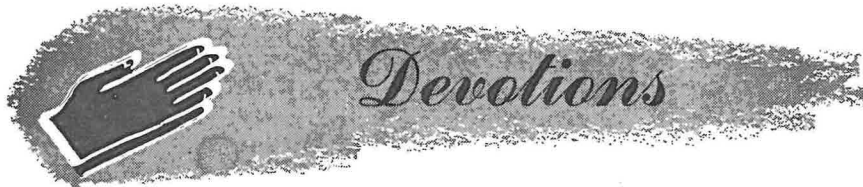
### **Rochester Confirmation**

*Rochester, N. Y.* Benjamin Wilkerson was received as a member of Alpha Lutheran Church, Rochester, by the rite of confirmation on Easter Sunday.

### **Missouri Synod**

#### **Membership Figures**

*St. Louis, Mo.* The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod gained 67,151 baptized members during 1962 to bring its total membership in North America to 2,611,695. Communicant membership increased from 46,806 to 1,677,943. An additional 143,180 baptized members and 84,473 communicant members in Latin America bring the totals for both Americas to 1,762,699 communicants and 2,754,875 baptized members.



**"Light for Your Way"  
Daily Bible Readings for July**

July 1 — James 3  
July 2 — James 4  
July 3 — James 5  
July 4 — John 1:1-18  
July 5 — John 1:19-34  
July 6 — John 1:35-51  
July 7 — John 2:1-11  
July 8 — John 2:12-25  
July 9 — John 3:1-21  
July 10 — John 3:22-36  
July 11 — John 4:1-42  
July 12 — John 4:43-54  
July 13 — John 5:1-18  
July 14 — John 5:19-47  
July 15 — John 6:1-21

July 16 — John 6:22-71  
July 17 — John 7:1-24  
July 18 — John 7:25-53  
July 19 — John 8:1-30  
July 20 — John 8:31-59  
July 21 — John 9  
July 22 — John 10:1-21  
July 23 — John 10:22-42  
July 24 — John 11:1-44  
July 25 — John 11:45-57  
July 26 — John 12:1-19  
July 27 — John 12:20-36  
July 28 — John 12:37-50  
July 29 — John 13:1-17  
July 30 — John 13:18-30  
July 31 — John 13:31-38

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