

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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At the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich., these two deaf girls help each other understand the vibrations of speech

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THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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The Lutheran School for the Deaf

Detroit, Michigan

They brought to Jesus a man who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech; and they besought Him to lay His hand upon him. And taking him aside from the multitude privately, He put His fingers into his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue; and looking up to heaven, He sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. (Mark 7:32-35)

When Jesus met that deaf man nearly 2,000 years ago, He saw all of his needs. As a sinner the deaf man needed forgiveness and faith. As a man he needed understanding of earthly things in order to live a decent life of praise to God.

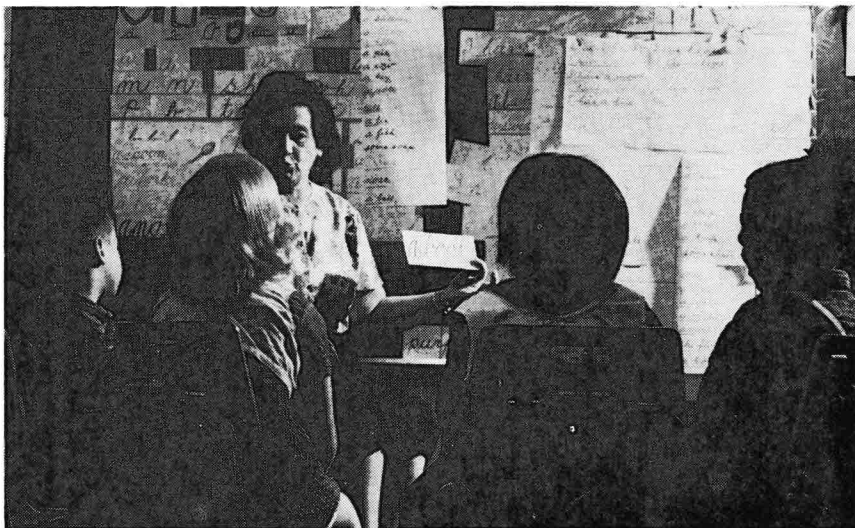
Jesus gave him forgiveness and faith in God. The deaf man also was blessed with hearing so that he could grow with faith. Then to fulfill all his needs, Jesus gave him language to tell others of God's love.

Today we deaf number hundreds of thousands. While God has given men the wisdom to correct the hearing of some deaf, the fact remains that the majority of us will stay deaf all of our lives.

We must underscore our needs. If we are to live decently in this world, then we must be taught the ways of the world — its language, responsibility, and skill. If we are to live for God, who gave us life, then we must hear His Word, believe, and do His will.



The eager, bright eyes of this deaf youngster are characteristic of all the children of the Detroit Lutheran School for the Deaf as they grow in knowledge



A 4-year-old's attention is very brief, yet with concentration he is able to gain much knowledge. This beginning group gives full attention to a review of words at the end of the first year of school

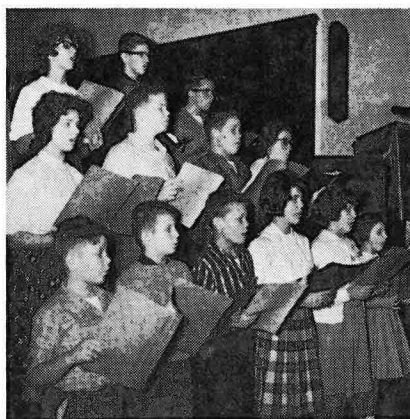


This boy must watch his teacher's lips very closely to catch the meaning. This concentration is necessary for lipreading

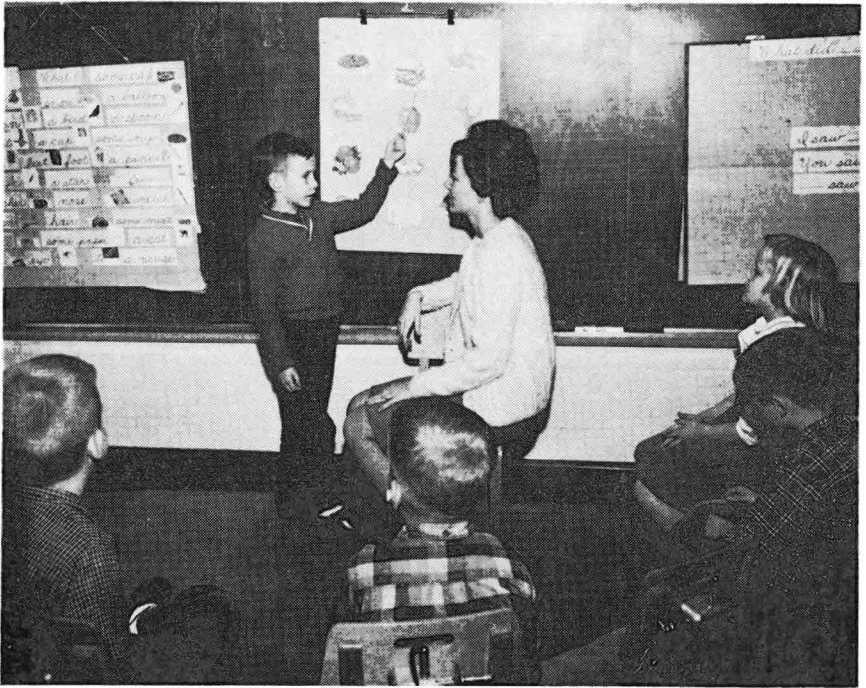
As we think of the history of Lutheran deaf work, we must praise God's name! It was the Lord Himself who led and pushed our Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

to establish schools for the deaf. It was He who brought our hearing brothers' attention to the spiritual needs of the deaf so that we, too, could have pastors and teachers to help us grow with faith in Jesus, His Son.

One of the schools operated by



Deaf children enjoy being able to do many of the activities of a "hearing" child. Here in church this verse choir speaks a hymn of praise to God for His many blessings



Lipreading is a part of the everyday instruction for these deaf children. Here a young class reviews the names of foods

our church, the Lutheran School for the Deaf, was founded 92 years ago in Detroit, Mich. Pictures accompanying this article briefly relate the daily tasks of the staff to provide a Christian education for deaf children. The residential school offers a complete elementary education from the nursery level to the 8th grade.

Together with the weekday school program Christian fellowship and activities provide the proper atmosphere for Christian upbringing. The children are prepared for confirmation and membership in The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

The present staff of 46 workers includes 18 specially trained teachers to care for the 117 deaf children enrolled in the school today. These



Mother and Dad are very far away. This teacher feels it is very important to help this 4-year-old understand the messages of love his mother sends through the mail

children have been sent from homes in many states and Canada. Some live as far away as 3,000 miles.

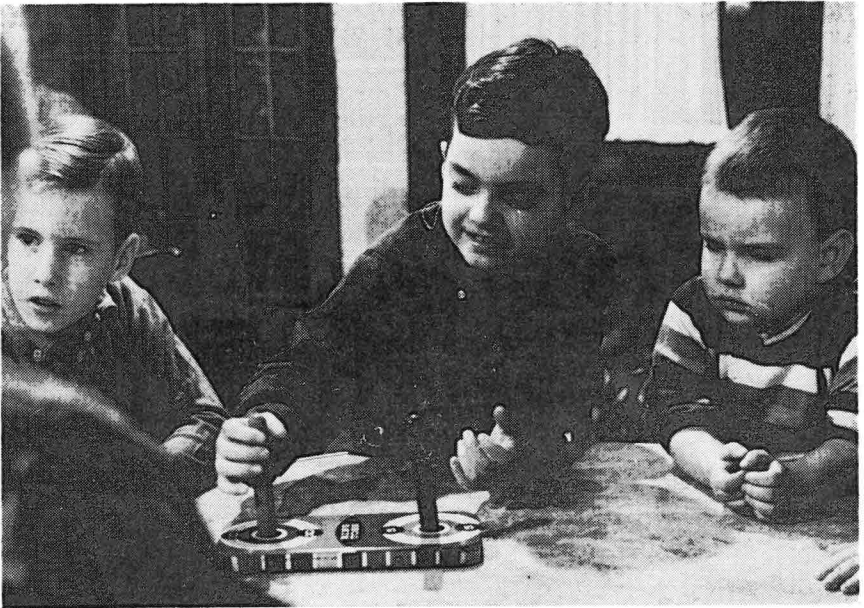
The buildings in use today on the beautiful 20-acre site were erected in 1936 and 1940. During the past several years, as the enrollment increased, classroom and bedroom facilities became inadequate. To satisfy the needs of the children, a room in the girls' dormitory was "borrowed" for classroom use. The rhythm room was converted into a classroom, the arts-and-crafts room moved into the basement, and the boys' hospital room became a regular daily bedroom. Besides this, more adequate dining room facilities are needed.

For many years the school has rented the neighboring public school gym for one afternoon period a week during the winter months so that at least the older boys could have a physical-education program.

The needs of the children speak loudly. Plans are now underway to add a new wing to the rear of the present building. This new unit will provide much-needed classroom, bedroom, and living room space, plus a large physical-education room. The cost of such an addition is estimated at \$270,000. Thanks to the continued support of the Christian friends of the school, sufficient funds are available to cover the cost of construction.



"Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest, and let Thy gifts to us be blessed." Prayers at all meals by the children with their houseparents help them to be drawn closer to Jesus



The activities in the dormitory include a large variety of games — any kind used by children around the world



The daily schedule for a boy is much the same at school as at home. Activities include those which help to develop the body as well as those which refresh the mind

The future holds many wonderful challenges for the staff of the Lutheran School for the Deaf as they serve the needs of these many children. Yet the work is expensive. It takes \$3,000 a year to teach and care for the needs of one deaf child. Because parents are not expected to pay more than one eighth of this cost, the school depends on the freewill offerings of fellow Christians for \$300,000 annually.

The school recently made a new movie, *A New Life for Jennifer*, to publicize its fine Christian work with deaf children. The 27-minute color movie portrays deaf children from tiny tots to 8th-graders as they progress through their special educational program of preparation for this life on earth and for heaven. Ask your pastor to interpret it for you. It is excellent!



A long day is over, but tomorrow is another day. She thinks about her home, her parents, her life at school. She prays to Jesus, her Friend. Christians, both hearing and deaf, join their hands to help her learn more of her Savior

Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf

A follow-up meeting on the Workshop for Interpreters, which was held at Muncie, Indiana, June 14 to 17, 1964, took place in Washington, D. C., January 28 and 29 at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Sponsored by the Catholic University of America, the two-day meeting brought together deaf leaders, educators, clergymen, and representatives of the Vocational Rehabilitation Administration. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss ways of carrying out training programs for interpreters as well as methods to strengthen the registry of interpreters proposed at Muncie.

The Constitution of the National Registry of Interpreters and Translators for the Deaf was revised. The name of the organization was short-

ened to Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Topics discussed were: "Guidelines and Methodology for Training Interpreters," "Implementation of Training," "Implementation of the Registry," "Examination and Certification of Interpreters," "Code of Ethics," and "Future Action."

It was apparent from the beginning of the meeting that the response to the proposed National Registry of Interpreters far exceeded expectations and that the tasks which confront the infant organization are enormous.

In order to place the organization on a more solid financial base and to provide funds for services which the organization can be reasonably expected to contribute, annual dues of \$1.00 per year were

proposed with a provision for changing the dues should the officers and members agree at some future date. It was pointed out that the annual dues would also tend to keep the registry up to date.

For attacking the more technical problems, such as the certification of interpreters and the creation of a manual and curriculum for the training of interpreters, committees were appointed to work toward a solution. It is hoped that a workshop for about 10 people can be held during the summer of 1965 to prepare a manual for training interpreters and to develop a curriculum for a training program.

Attending the Washington meeting from among Lutheran clergymen were Rev. Eugene McVicker, assistant professor of religion at Gallaudet College, and Rev. H. W. Hoemann, missionary to the deaf in the Baltimore-Washington Field.

Officers of the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf include Mr. Kenneth Huff, president, Dr. Elizabeth Benson, vice-president, and Mrs. Virginia Lewis, secretary-treasurer. Mrs. Lillian Beard and Mr. Frank Sullivan are members of the board. The purposes of the organization as outlined in the revised constitution are:

1) To prepare, maintain and distribute a registry of accredited interpreters and translators.

2) To establish certification standards for qualified interpreters and translators.

3) To recruit qualified interpreters and translators (manual and oral) for the deaf.

4) To work for the advancement and training of qualified interpreters and translators.

5) To prepare literature dealing with methodology and the problems of interpreting and translating.

6) To prepare a guideline of terminology applicable to the various aspects of interpreting.

7) To work within the framework of organizations of the deaf insofar as possible.

8) To adopt and promote a code of ethics.

By Dec. 31, 1964, the deadline established at Muncie for the admission of charter members to the Registry, over 500 names had been submitted to the secretary for inclusion. Among them were approximately 75 workers among the deaf from The American Lutheran Church, the Lutheran Church in America, and The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. Until such time as certification standards are adopted by the organization, new members may be admitted by being sponsored by two charter or sustaining members.

REV. H. W. HOEMANN
Washington, D. C.

Christ, the Crucified

To the inmates of the state prison it was just another bleak, dreary day in an endless series of days and nights and years. But this day, as the long columns of grey-clad men marched two by two through the

hall from the dining room, one of them suddenly cried out, "Look there!"

There on the stone wall which had been scribbled full of "dirty" pictures someone had chalked a

large cross and on it the lifeless body of Christ.

Some prisoner, remembering that it was Good Friday but embarrassed to face the laughter of his fellow inmates, must have crept into that hall while no one watched. Perhaps it was in the middle of the night when he had sketched this picture of the crucifixion.

Now, as the prisoners viewed this wall, it just did not seem right that the cross and Christ should appear in such surroundings. A few of the men began scraping and scratching at the marred wall until the entire space about the new drawing was clean and bare. Now it was right.

This is just another example of

how Lent and our meditations on the cross of Jesus Christ bring to us again the forceful message: "Christ died for you." We know, as we think deeply about Jesus' death on the cross, that Jesus Himself draws us from the sins and mistakes of our daily lives and changes us into better Christians. This is the purpose of Lent and our Lenten services.

May we again this year "look there" and behold the cross of Christ. Let us remember that "He died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died and rose for them." (2 Corinthians 5:15)

REV. H. W. ROHE
St. Louis, Mo.

Dead and Alive!

The grave was empty, and the huge rock at the mouth of the cave had been rolled away when the women arrived. These women were close followers and friends of Jesus and had come back to His grave after the Sabbath rest to carefully and lovingly embalm Jesus' body for a long, peaceful rest in the grave. But the grave was empty! Jesus' body was gone!

The women talked among themselves. "Everything happened so quickly. A little while ago Jesus was living and speaking so wonderfully about God's love for us."

"He had been so kind to the sick, the blind, and the deaf — truly a friend of sinners! Oh, how could this happen?"

They remembered their tears of grief, their moments of gripping fear and hopelessness as they saw Him spat upon, whipped, pushed around, and then cruelly crucified. His suffering had been so innocent and so patient, His death so cruel.

"And now they have stolen His body!"

"Look!" Two men stood in the cave dressed in dazzling white clothing. The women were afraid to look at them and hid their faces.

"Why do you seek the living among the dead?" the men asked. "Remember how He told you, while He was still in Galilee, that

the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." (Luke 24:5-7)

"On the third day rise!" the women echoed. "Today! Jesus alive!" They hurried to tell the others!

Yes, Jesus was alive in the flesh, with the scars of the terrible crucifixion in His hands, feet, and side. He had conquered death — something no man had ever done. It was a victory!

Death is a terrifying thought. Yet now death is not the end but the beginning of the blessed, joyous, and glorious life with our heavenly Father. "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the Law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

The Easter joy can be yours, too, if you believe and accept Jesus as your personal Savior. Jesus said: "This is the will of My Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day" (John 6:40). Again Jesus said: "Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)

St. Paul said it this way: "To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Philippians 1:21)

This is the joy of Easter. We live for Jesus, who took our place in death so that He might give us eternal life. We are faithful to Him with regular worship on Sundays. We are faithful to Him by hearing and reading His Word. Live for Jesus — every day. This is the way He draws us closer to Him. This is the only way to experience the joy of Easter.

Notes from the Executive Secretary

Rev. Frank Wagenknecht

Rev. Frank Wagenknecht, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Pittsburgh, Pa., received a call from Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Des Moines and Faith Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Fort Dodge, Iowa. After much consideration and prayer, Rev. Wagenknecht declined the call.

It is our fervent prayer that the Lord will continue to guide these congregations at Des Moines and Fort Dodge in their future call

meetings. May they soon select a pastor who, guided by the Holy Spirit, will be led to accept their call and become their pastor.

Ephphatha, Chicago

Eight hundred people attended the dedication services of Ephphatha Deaf Congregation's new chapel, Chicago, Ill., in spite of extremely cold weather on Sunday, Jan. 31. The Sunday morning service at 10:30 was attended by nearly 200 persons, the majority of

whom were deaf. At the 3:00 o'clock afternoon service deaf from the surrounding area congregations and hearing brethren from Chicago sister congregations packed the house with standing room only. I had the honor of preaching at both services



This Christian Loves . . .

Columbus, Ohio. In his monthly newsletter Rev. William Ludwig tells this act of love by one Christian woman toward his deaf congregation.

This woman had followed the ways of the world and had done some wrong against society. She was sent to the Marysville Reformatory for Women. Here she met Pastor Oscar C. Decker, who often visits the reformatory for visits and worship services. The woman heard the Word of forgiveness spoken by Pastor Decker and came to trust that Word. In Jesus she found strength for her long and hard life under a long sentence.

Today with all Christians this woman shares a concern that all people should hear this blessed Word of freedom from guilt. How much did she care?

She sent a gift to Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Columbus for the building fund for their new chapel.

How much was the gift? It was \$2.00 — but she earned this money at the rate of 4 cents an hour! That means she invested about 50 hours

while the host pastor, Rev. L. W. Mason, served as liturgist and Ephphatha's deaf choir led the worshipers in praise to God with hymns.

May you all have a very blessed Easter.

REV. H. W. ROHE
St. Louis, Mo.

FIELD

GLEANINGS

of her time and energy to do, as she felt, her share in making certain that Jesus' Word of forgiveness reaches those who are deaf!

Yes, this Christian woman loves. She loves Jesus, and, as Jesus teaches, she loves all others.

† Jule C. Vaughan †

San Diego, Calif. Jule C. Vaughan, 66, departed this life on Jan. 12 after an illness of more than 15 months. He was born in Climax, N. C., on Oct. 7, 1898, and attended the Colorado School for the Deaf in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Mr. Vaughan was a member of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, San Diego, for more than 20 years. He is survived by his wife Essie and many friends.

Christian burial took place at Greenwood Memorial Park on Jan. 14. Rev. Gerhard A. Gehrs, Jr., preached on one of Mr. Vaughan's favorite Bible passages, Psalm 23.

**Great Lakes Regional
Retreat
June 4—6, 1965**



Jule C. Vaughan

Holy Scripture reminds us: "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God that in due time He may exalt you. Cast all your anxieties on Him, for He cares about you." (1 Peter 5:6, 7)

A Deaf Boy, His Mother, and Jesus

Riverside, Calif. Mrs. Marion Christy has a deaf son. "Naturally," she says, "my lifework concerns

working with the deaf." She is doing just that — dedicating her time to work with deaf children.

Mrs. Christy was urged by Rev. Gerhard A. Gehrs, Jr., pastor of the Southern California Field, to teach a Sunday school class of deaf children at Faith Lutheran (hearing) Church, Riverside. "At first I was slow to say yes," Mrs. Christy confessed, "because I did not know the language of signs well enough."

Pastor Gehrs asked her what she would do if she had to handle all the teaching of her own son Daniel, now 12 years old. "I would learn and find a way," she replied.

"That's your answer," said Pastor Gehrs. "Will you do it?"

Without further thought Mrs. Christy answered, "Yes!"

She began to learn the language of signs eagerly. "It's all a matter of interest," she said. "You have to live with it."

In a few weeks Mrs. Christy had



Photo by the *Arlington Times*

Mrs. Marion Christy (left) teaches Chris Rittman, Phillip Coleman, and Daniel Christy. This is a special Sunday school class for deaf children at Faith Lutheran (hearing) Church, Riverside, Calif.

learned enough signs to begin teaching her special Sunday school class. Every week she meets with Pastor Gehrs to study and prepare the lesson for the coming Sunday.

The students in this class use handcraft projects to help illustrate the stories they hear in the language of signs. The class meets every Sunday morning at Faith Lutheran Church.

Mr. Doug Thomas, who took the accompanying picture for an *Arlington Times* article, commented:

“The children talk with her as she teaches — on their hands — and the sight of these childish fingers accompanying Mrs. Christy’s graceful hands on a trip into Biblical days is awesome and beautiful.”

Our Lord Jesus would encourage us all to seek every way possible to reach our hearing and deaf children with His Word of forgiveness. “Let the little children come to Me,” Jesus once said. “Don’t keep them away. God’s kingdom belongs to such as these.” (Mark 10:14)



“LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY”

Daily Bible Readings

for April

- April 1** — **2 Kings 22:1-13.** God speaks to you today through His Book, the Holy Bible. Hear His Word and gladly do it. Ask God to bless the work of the American Bible Society as it prints and distributes the Bible in many languages.
- April 2** — **2 Chronicles 36:1-23.** God’s patience with sinners will end. If sinners repent, God will show His love again. Pray for the teachers and leaders in your church that they always hear and do God’s Word.
- April 3** — **Ezra 3:1-13.** The first action of Christian love is worship of God. Pray for the two Hong Kong churches for the deaf.
- April 4** — **Ezra 6:13-22.** Show your joy as God’s child with your gifts of thanks to Him. Thank Him for His blessings — your congregation, your place of worship.
- April 5** — **Nehemiah 2:1-18.** As we live from day to day, our actions give a name to God’s church, good or bad. Are you living by faith and love? Ask God to guide your every thought, word, and deed.
- April 6** — **Nehemiah 4:1-23.** People who do not know God’s love will perhaps laugh at your speaking about Jesus. Ask God to give you courage to do His command.
- April 7** — **Nehemiah 10:28-39.** If you make a promise, be eager to keep it. Pray that all members in your church will do God’s work together with love and patience for one another.

- April 8** — **Psalm 1.** Your blessing comes from God too. It comes by hearing and reading God's Word. Pray for the leaders of your nation that God would guide their decisions.
- April 9** — **Psalm 6.** Sin and guilt make us feel lonely and afraid. Learn to know Jesus and hope in His mercy. Pray that God will forgive you, and pray for others who wronged you.
- April 10** — **Psalm 14.** Repentance means telling your sin to God, asking His forgiveness, and turning away from sin to do God's will. Pray for a repentant heart.
- April 11** — **Psalm 23.** Let the Lord be *your* Shepherd and follow Him. Pray for those who do not know Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to give them faith in the forgiving Savior.
- April 12** — **Psalm 24.** The Lord is King. Ask God to bless your pastor with a strong faith that he will be able to lead and guide the congregation's life.
- April 13** — **Psalm 42.** We need *God* more than all the blessings we receive. Pray that God will give you a faith strong enough to trust Him in time of any trouble.
- April 14** — **Psalm 46.** Be afraid of nothing on earth. You belong to God through Jesus, His Son. Pray for the grace never to be afraid as you do God's will.
- April 15** — **Psalm 69.** Jesus knows your weakness and temptations; it was your agony He accepted and carried on the cross. Pray for Mrs. Marilyn Gehrs, pastor's wife, Riverside, Calif.
- April 16** — **Psalm 77.** How great is our God to save mankind from the curse of sin by punishing His Son instead! Pray that all people may accept Jesus as their personal Savior.
- April 17** — **Psalm 84.** When you go to church for worship, go to be with God. Pray that all who worship Him may experience the joy and awe of His presence.
- April 18** — **Psalm 96.** This day proves the joy of Christians. Jesus' victory makes certain our hope. Pray for Rev. Daniel Pokorny, Indianapolis, Ind., and Rev. Ernest Scheibert, Chicago, Ill.
- April 19** — **Psalm 90.** Life is short and filled with sin and sorrow. Pray for wisdom to live and walk with God.
- April 20** — **Psalm 115.** When you worship or pray, remember God's strength and greatness. You cannot ignore Him. Ask God to bless the work of missionaries to the deaf on Taiwan.
- April 21** — **Psalm 118.** Thanks be to God, who gave us a victory over sin, death, and the devil, Satan. Salvation is ours. Pray for Mrs. Ruth Behrends, vicar's wife, Santa Ana, Calif.; Rev. George Ring, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.; and Rev. Walter Westermann, Greensboro, N. C.
- April 22** — **Psalm 130.** We look forward to our heavenly home which we have through Jesus' death and resurrection. Pray for all Christians that they may be comforted and assured of their heavenly hope.

- April 23 — Psalm 139.** Fear God; but know this, although He knows you perfectly, He still loves and forgives you perfectly. Pray that you will grow in the knowledge of God and love for Jesus.
- April 24 — Psalm 148.** Praise the Lord! All worship begins and ends with this. Pray that your enemies and people who do not like you may learn of Jesus' love and accept Him as their personal Savior.
- April 25 — Proverbs 1:1-19.** The sinner is never happy in his sin. Pray for Mrs. Marie Ferber, pastor's wife, Kansas City, Mo.
- April 26 — Proverbs 4:1-19.** Know the difference between the good and the evil of all knowledge. Ask God's protection for all the missionaries to the deaf as they travel the hundreds of miles to serve the deaf.
- April 27 — Ecclesiastes 2:1-26.** A God-pleasing life with satisfaction is the best happiness. Pray for Rev. Walter Busby, Rochester, N. Y.
- April 28 — Ecclesiastes 3:1-22.** God has given you time to enjoy your life and your work. Pray for Mrs. Anna Bailey, pastor's wife, Oakland, Calif.
- April 29 — Ecclesiastes 12:1-14.** Old age and death will happen. If you have peace with God, you can enjoy these too. Pray for the aged people in your congregation that God may keep them in His care.
- April 30 — Song of Solomon 2:1-17.** So the church desires the presence and love of God. Pray for those who write for your church's magazines that they may truly picture the love of God.

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