

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 57

November 1965

Number 11

For health

and life



and every good
we give Thee thanks,

O Lord.

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THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Letter from Hong Kong

September 8, 1965

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sit in my office writing this letter to you, a steady beat of rain pounds the windowpanes, and Hong Kong welcomes another downpour. Hong Kong has been spared the destructive winds of typhoons this summer, but we have had a goodly amount of rain. In fact, today's heavy rains should completely fill our reservoirs. The 15 million gallons of a full reservoir is a lot of water.

In mid-August we passed the first anniversary of the beginning of a 24-hour-a-day water supply. People who have lived here for 30 years cannot remember another time in that period when Hong Kong's residents have enjoyed a 24-hour-a-day water supply for a full year. Certainly we give thanks to God for this blessing. Hong Kong's summer has been a hot one, and everyone here has appreciated the water for drinking and bathing.

Young People's Outing

July and August have been busy but interesting months for us. On July 1 a group of 90 of us, mostly deaf young people, had an all-day outing to Cheung Chau Island, an hour's ferryboat ride from Hong Kong. When we reached the island, we walked through a fishing village to a small Protestant chapel where we gathered for a brief devotion.

It was an interesting walk back

through the village again watching the villagers put fish out to dry, seeing the small shops filled with colorful wares, and the men and women busily winding hemp for rope. When we reached the other side of the island, some of the older boys played basketball, others began informal games, while still others rested in the shade and talked.

At noon we all walked back into the village to a restaurant for a lunch of soup, two meat dishes, a fish dish, vegetables, rice, and tea. Later in the afternoon most of us enjoyed the cool, refreshing waters of the bay for a few hours' swim. By 5 p. m. we were back at the ferry for the homeward trip. It was a tired group of people that left the ferry in Hong Kong, but each one had memories of a pleasant holiday.

A Chinese Engagement

In mid-July two of our young deaf people, Mr. So and Miss Ku, became engaged and asked for a special church service to receive God's blessings on their engagement. Through this service they planned to formally announce their intentions to marry. I had not experienced a service like this before, neither had Pastor Ho, the Chinese pastor working with the Kowloon deaf.

Miss Ku's home is in Singapore, and she has finished about a junior high school level of education in Taiwan. I had the



Mr. So and Miss Ku (center) pose for a picture with their families. Pastor Philip Ho (far left) had conducted a special service at Nathan Road Chapel a few minutes before to announce their engagement

pleasure of meeting her on both my visits to Taiwan. The couple had met as she passed through Hong Kong on her way to Taiwan 3 years ago, and when Mr. So went to Taiwan in September last year, the friendship became more serious.

Mr. So is chairman of the elders of the Kowloon Lutheran Deaf Congregation, and Miss Ku is receiving instructions and will be confirmed later this fall. Their wedding has been set for Nov. 6. In a later issue of the DEAF LUTHERAN I will describe for you a Christian Chinese wedding.

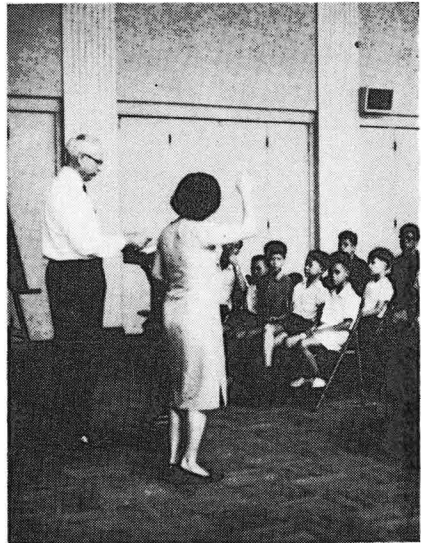
Vacation Bible School (VBS)

We expanded our vacation Bible school program for deaf children this year from one week to three weeks, a week in three

different locations. Counting the children attending all three programs, we taught between 90 and 100 children.

The first VBS was held in Kowloon at Concordia Lutheran Church. The deaf themselves took over most of the work of teaching, working with handicrafts, and recreation. I helped them plan for the closing service. The VBS was held in the afternoon this year, for some of the deaf schools still had morning classes.

The following week Pastor Titus Lee of North Point helped the Hong Kong Lutheran Deaf Congregation organize their first vacation Bible school. Sessions here were held in the evenings.



Rev. Herbert Hinz, president of Concordia Seminary, Hong Kong, leads the deaf children in devotion during their vacation Bible school. Mrs. Chan, who interpreted with the language of signs, is signing "God"

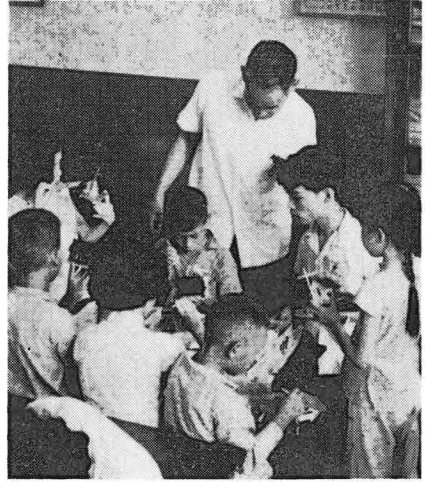
Again I was very pleased to see the older deaf assume responsibility and teach Bible stories. I did very little to help them, for Pastor Lee and his deaf elders had everything well organized.

At the closing service at both Kowloon and North Point I had the privilege of showing the movie about the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, *World of Silence*. Everyone was very interested in seeing how the deaf are taught in America, and they are pleased with the work the Lutheran Church is doing. I have been promised a copy of the new film of the Detroit school, *A New Life for Jennifer*, and I look forward to show this one also.

The second week in August my family and I traveled to Macao where I helped conduct the first vacation Bible school for deaf children ever held there. We were able to rent quarters in a Christian hostel, which was conveniently located near the church and, much to the delight of my children, near a municipal swimming pool.

In Macao we conducted afternoon sessions for the VBS. Since no one else had experience in teaching a deaf VBS, I took on the responsibility and really enjoyed that thrilling experience. By using many visual aids along with my inadequate knowledge of Chinese signs I did manage to get the message of salvation across to the children.

I used a 1-week VBS series



Mr. Yip, a teacher at the Macao Deaf Evening School, guides the deaf children with handicraft projects at the Macao vacation Bible school

called "The Wordless Book," put out by the Child Evangelism Fellowship, and found it very adaptable for teaching deaf children. It is a well-visualized series. One of the deaf teachers from our evening school helped me by writing in Chinese on the blackboard when I needed a written explanation of something.

The children were most interested in the course and were disappointed that it could not continue for another week. On the last day, Saturday, students and teachers hiked to a small hill to play games and eat their lunch. When we finally hiked back, the children were still full of energy, but I was beat.

School Programs

Three weeks before our VBS in Macao I attended the closing ser-

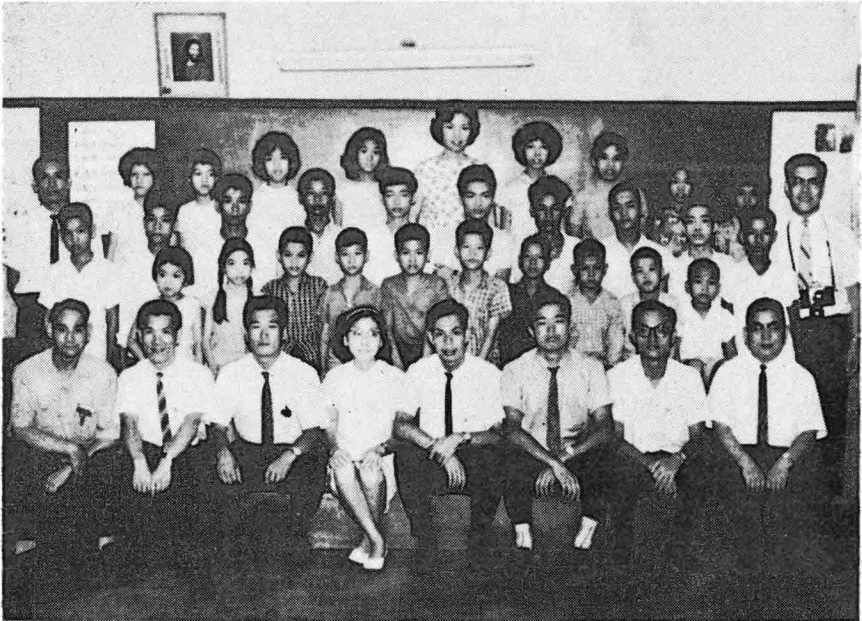
vice for our deaf classes there. About 30 students finished this first year's program and are looking forward to the new term which begins in September.

In the new term we will have three classes every evening of the week, Monday through Friday, at the request of both parents and students.

It was a real thrill to hear from our evangelist in Macao that about 20 students will be prepared this fall for Baptism at Christmastime. What marvelous

blessings the Lord is pouring out upon our work in Macao!

In Hong Kong and Kowloon our informal evening classes will continue as they have in the past. We will open a new Lutheran Deaf Evening School in Kowloon, Sept. 9, using the classrooms of Concordia Lutheran School. We expect about 20 students this first term and will have three classes, up to Primary IV. Two full-time and two part-time teachers will conduct the program.



Students, staff, and guests at the closing service of the Macao Deaf Evening School, July 13, 1965

Seated, front row, 1. to r.: Mr. Yip, deaf teacher; Mr. Wong, deaf teacher who traveled from Hong Kong to teach once a week; a deaf visitor from Japan; Miss Dzou, a deaf teacher; Mr. So, deaf teacher who also came from Hong Kong once a week; a deaf visitor from Japan; Mr. Chen, deaf teacher from Hong Kong who has now moved to Macao to become a full-time teacher; and Rev. Titus Lee, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Macao and principal of the Deaf Evening School

Evangelist Cheong (standing far left) is the dean of the school, and Rev. Philip Ho (standing far right) helped establish our work with the Macao deaf



Rev. Titus Lee watches as Miss Sun Sau Ying teaches English and Mr. Peng teaches Chinese at the informal deaf classes conducted three evenings a week at Zion Chapel, North Point, Hong Kong. Mr. Peng is signing "all"

Remember the staff and the students of these schools in your prayers.

Gifts for Hong Kong

The members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Columbus, Ohio, gathered funds to enable us to buy some simple English Bible story books for the deaf in Kowloon and Hong Kong. How happy they were to receive this fine gift!

Many deaf and hearing friends continue to send us gifts which allow us to help deaf boys and girls with tuition fees, emergency needs, and also our vacation Bible schools. As our new programs develop, it is difficult to list all of the unseen expenses in the budget. Your extra gifts are so very much appreciated.

Family Vacation

Besides taking the family with me to Macao, we did find one

week to take off from all work for a vacation. During that week we acted like tourists doing and seeing things the tourist does when he comes to Hong Kong.

We had our first ride up the peak tram and thrilled at the breath-taking sight of Victoria City, the beautiful harbor filled with ships, and across the harbor the city of Kowloon with hills in the background. These hills, by the way, give Kowloon its name which means "Nine Dragons."

We also went out to visit Tiger Balm Gardens. This is the home of a wealthy man who became rich by selling an all-purpose healing salve called "Tiger Balm." He spent millions of dollars building different animals in concrete as well as many pagodas and images of people famous in Chinese history and culture.

We also had time to visit the large floating village in Aberdeen

harbor for a delicious meal on a floating restaurant. These are only a few of the things one may see in Hong Kong. The rest must wait until our next vacation.

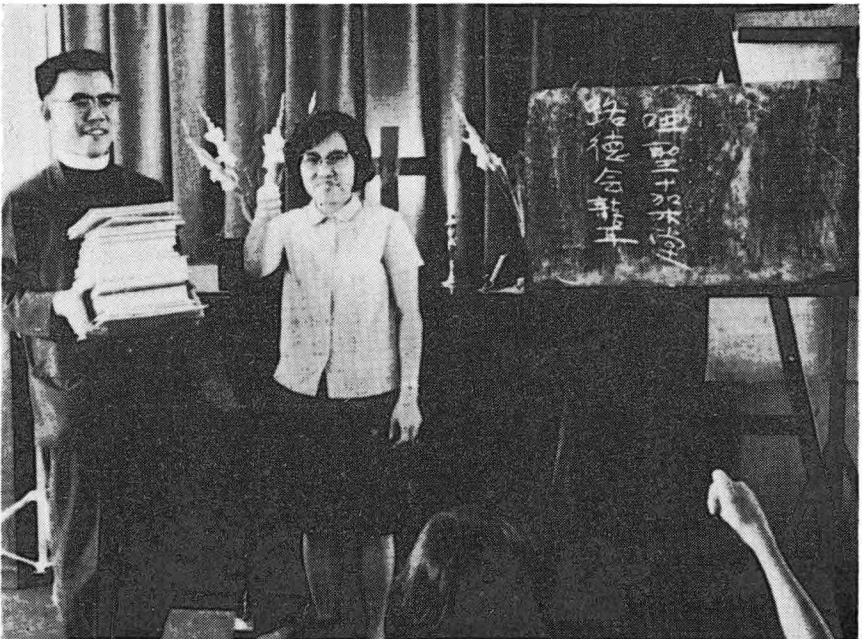
A Tragedy

The Colony was shocked in August by the air tragedy that took the lives of 59 American servicemen returning to Viet Nam after a few days' rest and relaxation in Hong Kong. All flags flew at half mast the next day.

The worst air tragedy in the history of the Hong Kong airport brings us closer to the war in Viet Nam some hundred miles west of us. Newspapers are filled with

the stories of much tragedy in the world — the Viet Nam war, Indonesia trying to start a rebellion in Malaysia, India and Pakistan fighting over Kashmir, riots in Los Angeles and other cities, and the list could go on.

All of this evil in the world should urge all Christians to work twice as hard to spread the Good News of Jesus to the millions who do not yet believe. This means giving yourself in personal witness, in sharing the gifts the Lord has given you, and in time for earnest prayer. The Lord has given every one of us much to do, but how much time do we have left to do that work?



Mrs. Chan signs "thank you" to Holy Cross deaf congregation in Columbus, Ohio, for their gift of English Bible story books to the Kowloon deaf

Mrs. Wong Yuk Fan, a faithful member of the Kowloon Lutheran deaf congregation, and her youngest child attend a deaf service at Chatham Road Chapel in Kowloon. This is the common way for mothers to carry their infants

As you gather this year for your Thanksgiving worship and family dinner, remember your Christian responsibility not only to *give thanks* but also to *live thanks* in lives of Christian service.

REV. W. F. REINKING
Kowloon, Hong Kong



Rev. W. Ferber Retires

Fargo, N. Dak. On July 1 Rev. W. O. Ferber, pastor to the deaf in the North Dakota Field, retired from active mission work. In his 48 years of serving the Lord Jesus as pastor Rev. Ferber has spent the last 42 as shepherd of a deaf flock.

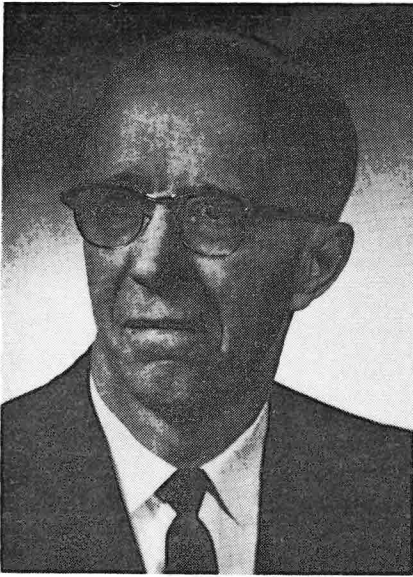
1917—23. Pastor Ferber's ministry began in 1917 when he was installed as pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Park Rapids, Minn. This hearing parish included a congregation at Dorset, Minn., with two other preaching stations.

1923—26. His interest in deaf missions led him to become the pastor of the Duluth Field in November 1923. The field covered northern Minnesota, northern Wisconsin, all of North Dakota, and Winnipeg, Man., Canada.

1927—38. The Duluth Field was extended to Alberta, Canada, when the Lutheran deaf began to move west. By 1936 Pastor Ferber's field was divided with a new field being established in Saskatoon, Sask., and served by Rev. R. F. Cordes.

1939—51. In 1939 Rev. M. E. A. Mueller was called to the Milwaukee, Wis., Field, and the north Wisconsin part of Pastor Ferber's field was transferred to Pastor Mueller's care. During the next 11 years Pastor Ferber served the deaf of northern Minnesota and all of North Dakota from his headquarters in Fargo, N. Dak.

1951—56. When Rev. Cordes accepted a call to another deaf field in 1951, the Saskatoon Field was again added to Rev. Ferber's care. In the fall of 1956 the Board established a new field in Al-



Rev. W. O. Ferber

berta-Saskatchewan and gave the care of the Canadian deaf of those provinces to Rev. Robert Bauer. The province of Manitoba remained in the care of Pastor Ferber, however.

1956—64. Again during these years the Fargo, N. Dak., Field covered northern Minnesota, Winnipeg, and all of North Dakota. In the fall of 1963 Vicar Roger Leonhardt served the Manitoba part of the field under Pastor Ferber's direction and guidance. Then in the fall of 1964 the new Manitoba Field was established with headquarters in Winnipeg. Rev. F. P. Gehrs was called.

Now in 1965 as he looks back over the hundreds of thousands of miles traveled to serve the deaf scattered in three states and two Canadian provinces, pastor Ferber gives thanks to the Lord who

gave him the zeal and the strength to do His work. From the beginning of his ministry he felt the importance of working with the young deaf. Having no large centers of deaf populations, Pastor Ferber spent most of his time working at the deaf schools. His work paid off well, for most of the children that Pastor Ferber confirmed in rural north-central America are today members of many metropolitan deaf congregations across the country.

Sunday, July 11, one of Pastor Ferber's preaching stations in North Dakota gave him a farewell party. Some 17 deaf came to Minot for the Sunday service, a few traveling 80 miles one way. Each one had been baptized and/or confirmed by Pastor Ferber. Their hearing children, attending with their parents, had been baptized by Pastor Ferber at various points in North Dakota.

The worship service was conducted on the lawn of Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Kenyon. The deaf served a lunch following Pastor Ferber's farewell service, and in respect to the pastor they loved they presented him with a cash gift.

Pastor Ferber was well thought of by other pastors too. The following comments were published in the August *North Dakota District Edition* of the *Lutheran Witness* and were written by Rev. John D. Fritz, District President, in honor of Pastor Ferber:

"We are grateful for the example of dedication and devotion he

has set for all pastors during his tenure [48 years] in the holy ministry. His gentleness and firmness, his deep humility and love for souls, and his holding forth the bread of life [the Good Shepherd, Jesus] to many souls will serve as a continuous pattern to all of us who know him and love him as a co-worker in the Kingdom. . . . Constantly on the go, the boundless energies of this man of God have been a testimony of his love for souls."

In a letter to the DEAF LUTHERAN Mrs. Marinda Nye of the North Dakota School for the Deaf wrote recently:

"As I watch Rev. Ferber, our religion teacher, happily planning retirement, I want to tell someone about what seems to some of us

the most remarkable part of his work.

"In the fall after a few meetings with the primary children Pastor Ferber has given them a treasure. They come back to the dorm wearing a most beautiful expression. Each one clutches a picture and signs or says, 'Jesus loves me.' They repeat it to anyone who will listen, and this gives them joy. At night they are asleep with the picture of Jesus still clutched in their hand."

Mrs. Nye concludes, "We always feel that Pastor Ferber has started something on which we can build."

Remember to keep Pastor and Mrs. Ferber in your prayers as they continue to serve their Savior Jesus during their retirement.



FIELD

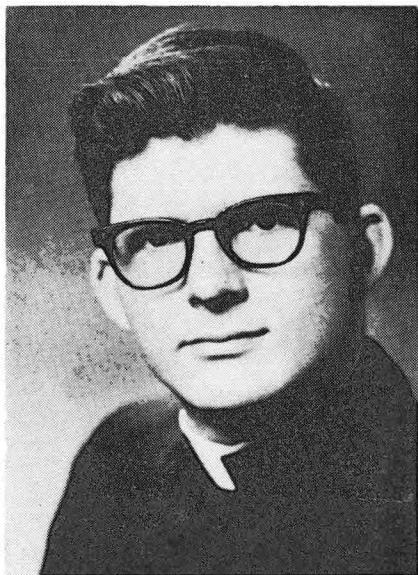
GLEANINGS

Pittsburgh Deaf Break Ground for Addition

Pittsburgh, Pa. Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Pittsburgh, held a service of groundbreaking June 20 for the building of a new educational wing. The special service was conducted by Rev. Frank Wagenknecht, pastor of the Pittsburgh Field, after the regular worship service.

This groundbreaking comes only 3 years after Trinity held a service to break ground for the construction of their new chapel. In those 3 years Trinity has grown from 35 to 112 members.

The new educational wing is being built for the chief purpose of providing larger and better facilities for teaching deaf children of Jesus' love and forgiveness.



Rev. James C. Bengelsdorf

Rev. Bengelsdorf Installed as Pastor of the Iowa Field

Des Moines, Iowa. Rev. James C. Bengelsdorf was installed as pastor of Calvary Congregation, Des Moines, and Faith Congregation, Fort Dodge, and as missionary to the Iowa Field on Aug. 1.

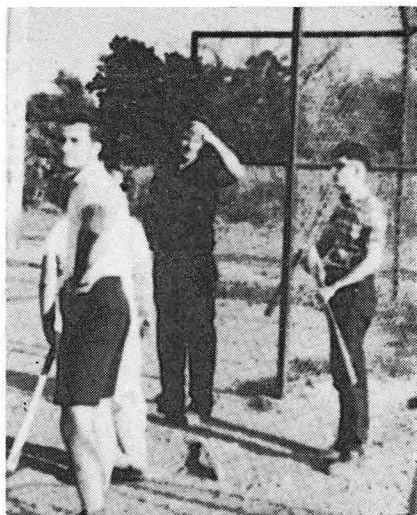
A 2:30 p. m. service of installation was conducted at Trinity Lutheran (hearing) Church, Des Moines. Rev. Paul G. Stephan, host pastor, led the service, while Rev. R. G. Dohrmann, circuit advisor to the hearing pastors in Des Moines, preached and read the rite of installation. The service was interpreted for the deaf by their vacancy pastor, Rev. George Ring of the Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Field. Rev. Herman Graef, Midwest regional counselor representing our Board for Missions to the

Deaf, interpreted the rite of installation.

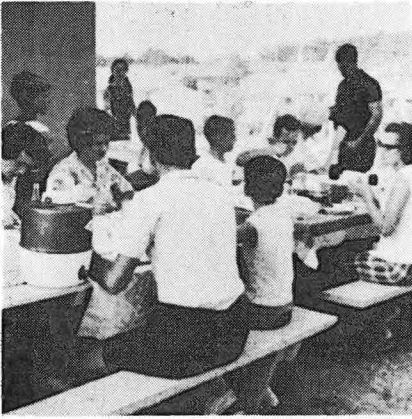
After the service the Ladies' Aid Society of Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf served at the reception held for Pastor and Mrs. Bengelsdorf.

Pastor Bengelsdorf was born in Monroe, Mich., Oct. 26, 1937, and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bengelsdorf, still make their home there.

Having received some experience in deaf missions as a vicar under the guidance of Rev. H. Rohe in the Dallas, Tex., Field, Pastor Bengelsdorf was active in the deaf missions class at Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Ill., taught by Rev. Orlin Anderson,



Waiting their turn to bat, fathers play softball with their sons at the church picnic of the Des Moines congregation. Rules of the father-son game demanded the right-handed fathers to bat left and the left-handed fathers to bat right. The sons won 18-17. Rev. James Bengelsdorf waits his turn at the left



Members of Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Des Moines, Iowa, enjoy the fellowship of a church picnic on Aug. 14 with their new pastor, Rev. James C. Bengelsdorf

pastor of the Jacksonville, Ill., Field.

Pastor Bengelsdorf is married to the former Miss Catherine L. Whitmarsh of Houston, Tex.

Lutheran Preps Welcomed at Gallaudet

Washington, D. C. Forty eight preparatory students at Gallaudet College attended the reception planned for them by Lutheran campus pastor H. W. Hoemann on religious orientation night, September 12.

Religious orientation night is directed by the Rev. Eugene McVicker, head of the department of religion. It provides an opportunity for the new students at Gallaudet College to become acquainted with the staff of campus pastors and religious student organizations and for the campus ministers to meet with their

groups individually to welcome them to their church community on campus.

Mrs. Shirley Hoemann served as hostess for the reception. Pastor Hoemann guided the members of the group to become better acquainted with each other by playing "Human Bingo." The orientation concluded with a candlelight vespers service.

Pastors' Families Blessed

We congratulate and rejoice with five of our pastors and their families who were blessed with newborn children this past summer.

Pastor and Mrs. Roger Leonhardt, Devil's Lake, N. Dak., were blessed with a new daughter on June 9.

On June 13 a new daughter was born into the family of Pastor and Mrs. Wm. Aiello, Trenton, N. J.

Philip Daniel, infant son of Pastor and Mrs. Daniel Pokorny of Indianapolis, Ind., arrived on August 9 weighing 9 lbs., 10 oz.

Sheila Gertrude, infant daughter of Pastor and Mrs. Wayne Bottlinger, Vancouver, B. C., Can., also arrived on Aug. 9.

Pastor and Mrs. Larry Harris were blessed on Aug. 12 with a new daughter, Rebecca Sue.

Let us remember these children and their parents in our prayers.

**Go to Church
Regularly!**



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

for November

- Nov. 1 — Philippians 1:12-30.** As a Christian you do not meet the troubles of life as great as Paul's. Meet them in the strength of your congregation. Pray for Rev. M. E. A. Mueller, Milwaukee, Wis.
- Nov. 2 — Philippians 2:1-18.** You have been saved! Live by the gift of forgiveness you have in Jesus. Pray for a stronger faith to accept your Christian responsibility.
- Nov. 3 — Philippians 4:4-20.** Whatever happens in your life you still have one joy—be happy that God chose you to be His own. Pray for the thousands of deaf in the United States who do not know their Savior Jesus.
- Nov. 4 — Colossians 1:9-23.** By your faith in Jesus God took you out of darkness into His kingdom of light. Ask God to help make His name holy as you speak, and ask His forgiveness when you sin.
- Nov. 5 — Colossians 2:8-23.** As a Christian be eager to live with God and follow His way. Pray for Rev. Robert Corl, Madison, Wis.
- Nov. 6 — Colossians 3:1-17.** Pay attention to your promise to obey God's commands and live a holy, clean life. Ask God to give you perfect love with humility so that you may live and work for God on earth.
- Nov. 7 — Colossians 3:18—4:6.** You also serve Jesus in the way you treat your family and friends. Pray for the deaf of the Sioux Falls, S. Dak., Field that they live with love for God and each other.
- Nov. 8 — 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10.** Help your congregation show its faith in Jesus as an example for other Christians to follow. Ask God to bless your worship on Sundays that it may give praise and respect to Him.
- Nov. 9 — 1 Thessalonians 4:9—5:11.** Prepare in worship, prayer, and work for the second coming of Jesus into the world. Ask God to strengthen your hope of eternal life as you study the Bible and worship.
- Nov. 10 — 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12.** The Lord will come to judge His enemies. Pray for faith to be found faithful until the end of your life.
- Nov. 11 — 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18.** Your Christian faith is no excuse for

laziness and selfishness. Pray for eagerness to serve God. Pray for Mrs. Shirley Harris, pastor's wife, Portland, Oreg.

- Nov. 12 — 1 Timothy 1:1-20.** If you cling to the one truth that God has forgiven your sins, no trouble can hurt you. Pray for the deaf of the New York City Field that they may learn to depend on the Lord for all their needs.
- Nov. 13 — 1 Timothy 2:1-15.** Learn to pray with your fellow Christians for the needs of all men. Pray for the teachers and students at the Hong Kong, Kowloon, and Taiwan Lutheran deaf schools that as they grow in wisdom of worldly things they may also grow in faith.
- Nov. 14 — 1 Timothy 3:1-16.** When your congregation asked you to accept the responsibility as an officer, did you gladly do it or did you fail? Ask God to give you the courage and the eagerness to give your time and ability for His work.
- Nov. 15 — 1 Timothy 6:1-21.** Do not let your wants for things of this world hurt your trust in God. Ask God to bless your congregation with the gifts of the Holy Spirit — love, joy, peace, patience, faithfulness, kindness, self-control.
- Nov. 16 — 2 Timothy 1:19.** The only center of our faith, teaching, and worship is the love of God in Jesus. Pray that the deaf-blind in the world today may learn and accept that love.
- Nov. 17 — 2 Timothy 4:1-8.** Follow Paul's command in your family, your work. Ask God to give you courage and faith to speak of your trust in the one, living, merciful God.
- Nov. 18 — Titus 2:1-15.** Be an example for others. Without your knowing it, some people copy your life. Do you show them a Christian life or one of sin? Pray that God may use you to lead others to Him.
- Nov. 19 — Titus 3:1-15.** As a Christian you have the responsibility to live a moral and respectful life obedient to the laws of your nation. Pray that you may live by love and not by hatred and prejudice.
- Nov. 20 — Philemon.** In Christ there is no relationship of master and slave, but only of brothers. Pray for the deaf of the Riverside, Calif., Field that they be united in love and ready to serve the Lord Jesus.
- Nov. 21 — Hebrews 2:1-18.** Pay attention to the teaching in your church. This way our faith grows. Ask God for a stronger faith that you may depend on Him in your daily trials and troubles.
- Nov. 22 — Hebrews 3:7-19.** As one Christian to another urge your fellow Christians to give their lives to God. Ask God to give you the chance to serve Him.
- Nov. 23 — Hebrews 4:14—5:10.** Jesus, your High Priest, knows your troubles; He can help. As you pray, put all your needs before God, your heavenly Father.

- Nov. 24 — Hebrews 7:23—8:13.** By God's grace you know Jesus. Give your life to live with Him. Pray for the deaf of the Newark, N. J., Field that they, too, may love Jesus and give their lives to serve Him.
- Nov. 25 — Hebrews 10:19-31.** You show your faith as you daily decide to obey His will. Ask God to give you the comfort of knowing He is with you.
- Nov. 26 — Hebrews 11:32—12:2.** You have the same God as Abraham, Moses, and Gideon had. Pray that God will give you the blessing of their courage and faith.
- Nov. 27 — Hebrews 12:12-29.** Do you understand the glory of what you have accepted as a Christian? Not terror, but mercy and love. Give thanks to God for His love in Jesus.
- Nov. 28 — James 2:1-13.** Only one thing is important as you live with the members of your congregation — God gives His mercy equally to each one. Pray for all the members of your church, especially for those who are in need or trouble.
- Nov. 29 — James 2:14-27.** Faith lives as you work. What have you done for other people? Your faith means that you want to help others. Pray for Mrs. Effie Rohe, pastor's wife, St. Louis, Mo.
- Nov. 30 — James 3:1-18.** Speaking with love demands practice. Can you say that you have tried to speak well of all the people you know? Ask God to give you understanding of other people's troubles and the love to help them.

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