

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 58

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Number 2



**Go everywhere in the world and preach
the good news to the whole world.
He who believes and is baptized
will be saved, but he who doesn't
believe will be damned.**

St. Mark 16:15-16

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THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

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Hong Kong Visitors

The DEAF LUTHERAN recently received the following comments from Rev. Ernest R. Drews, chairman of the Board for Missions to the Deaf, The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. Rev. and Mrs. Drews traveled to the Far East last fall and had the opportunity to visit Rev. William Reinking and the churches for the deaf in Hong Kong. Ed.

You cannot attend a service of the deaf at Nathan Road Chapel, Kowloon, and at Zion Church, Hong Kong, and see a hundred deaf at worship without marveling at God's blessings upon this young mission. Nor can you visit three evening classes of deaf young people without the pleasurable thought, "Here is where the Gospel meets the people."

You cannot witness the preaching of Pastors Philip Ho and Titus Lee and the teaching of Mrs. Cheng and Miss Yip and others without seeing the sparkle in their eyes as they share the good news of Christ with the deaf.

You cannot enjoy the fellowship of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper with the deaf and also the social fellowship at a dinner without a strong sense of kinship in Christ with these delightful people.

Thus did our visit impress us.

Yet one more impression needs to be told. An incident happened on a crowded street in Aberdeen Village. A deaf boy met us and



Rev. and Mrs. Ernest Drews enjoy a Chinese dinner as guests of Nathan Road Chinese Congregation and Nathan Road Deaf Congregation. More than 100 people attended this dinner celebration although a tropical storm was drenching Hong Kong with rain that evening

told us in signs that he would watch our car while we ate in a nearby restaurant. Pastor William Reinking began a conversation with him. Soon more deaf boys joined in and a crowd of Chinese gathered around to watch. When Pastor Reinking told us that no Christian work is yet being done among these people, we felt we must tell this to the Christian deaf and the hearing in America that they may pray for and continue to support the missions of our church.

This beginning of sharing Christ with the deaf in Hong Kong colony impels us to say to our energetic representative, Pastor William Reinking, "more power — Gospel power — to you."

REV. ERNEST R. DREWS
St. Paul, Minn.



Rev. Drews addresses a word of thanks and appreciation to the guests at the Chinese dinner. His talk is twice interpreted. Mr. Yip, standing next to Rev. Drews, interprets into Cantonese, while Miss Yip signs it for the deaf present. Rev. Philip Ho, pastor of both congregations, stands in the background

The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society

The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) is in the news. It should be, and we pray that it will be in the news more and more in the months and years ahead.

Perhaps some of you do not know about this society. Others of you know about it but may not know the story of how it began or what its history has been.



Farewell to Pastor and Mrs. Drews at Kai Tak airport. (L. to r.) Rev. William Reinking; Mrs. Chen, dean of the Deaf Evening School; Miss Yip, the first interpreter in signs for Lutheran deaf work in Hong Kong; Mrs. Drews; a deaf girl; Rev. Drews; another deaf girl; and Rev. Philip Ho

To bring us all up to date on the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society, a series of articles will be published in forthcoming issues of the *DEAF LUTHERAN*. As this series is being written, you are invited to submit to the author of this article any information you may have on the society, especially information about its beginnings and items of interest in its history.

How the LDMS Began

The first mention of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society in the *DEAF LUTHERAN* appeared in the November 1951 issue, p. 86. Comments about the society are in the article reporting on the Ephphatha Conference which met in St. Paul, Minn., Aug. 24—28, 1951:

The most far-reaching report was delivered by Pastor [George] Kraus [then pastor of the New York Field], who spoke about a new society which the deaf on the East Coast have tentatively organized, called *The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society*. The purpose of the society is to gather funds for doing mission work among the deaf of foreign lands. Until now our church has done work among the deaf only in the United States and Canada. He announced that the Board of Missions had approved this society and urged all our deaf to join. Your pastor will tell you more about this great venture.

We have written Rev. George Kraus, who is now pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church (hearing), Brooklyn, N. Y., and asked him what he remembers of the beginnings of the organization. In his reply

Pastor Kraus stated that it was during 1950 that he talked to Pastor Floyd Possehl, then pastor of the New Jersey Field, about the possibilities of a nationwide society among the Lutheran deaf for spreading the Good News of salvation to the deaf in other parts of the world.

After this a constitution was drawn up and presented to the Eastern Regional Pastors' Conference held in Boston, Mass., March 27 and 28, 1951. It was approved and the name "The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society" was accepted. Miss Ruth Kievit, gifted member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Newark, N. J., now deceased, was designated as temporary treasurer. Rev. Kraus agreed to publish the official Lutheran Deaf Mission Society paper, *Mission Hands*.

Pastor Kraus recalled that at first the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society was not too well received. The chief objection seemed to be that the deaf should be encouraged to contribute to their own churches and help to make them self-supporting. Those who supported the society, on the other hand, contended that good stewardship means supporting all aspects of the Kingdom's work — the work of the home congregation, missions, and welfare all at the same time, even though the home church was not yet able to be self-supporting.

It was a while before the society was supported. Financial records of the society indicate that the first offerings were deposited to its bank account on Aug. 9, 1954:

Dr. John Salvner Golden Anniversary Fund	—	—	—	—	—	\$352.00
Chicago Deaf served by Rev. Rische	—	—	—	—	—	10.00
Jeglum memorial wreath	—	—	—	—	—	9.00

During the years that followed, total contributions have exceeded \$8,000. The New York, New Jersey, and North Carolina fields have made outstanding contributions.

LDMS Surveys the Orient

The society has used its funds primarily to sponsor surveys of the deaf in foreign lands. Early in 1960 the society sponsored a 7-week survey made by Rev. W. F. Reinking of the deaf in the Far East. As a result of this survey our church's Board for Foreign Missions in 1963 called Rev. Reinking to become a full-time counselor for work among the deaf in the Far East, with headquarters at Hong Kong.

You have been reading in the *DEAF LUTHERAN* about the blessings God has been pouring out on Rev. Reinking's work in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macao, Japan, and the Philippines. In forthcoming issues watch for information about the deaf of India, Ceylon, and Korea.

Another Survey — to Africa

The big news now is the second extensive survey of foreign deaf to be undertaken by the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society.

On Nov. 2 Rev. C. Roland Gerhold, together with three members of the board of directors of the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf (an organization of hearing Lutherans in the East who support the Mill Neck Lutheran School for the Deaf in New York), left by plane for a 3-week survey trip to Nigeria and West Africa (DEAF LUTHERAN, December 1965). The chief concern of the survey was the Home for Young Deaf at Ibadan, Nigeria. (DEAF LUTHERAN, November 1964, March and December 1965)

The executive board of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society acted rather quickly to send Rev. Gerhold on this survey and to underwrite his expenses. There were two reasons:

First, the Home for Young Deaf at Ibadan, Nigeria, has aroused interest in all of us. The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society has already responded to the needs of this institution with a \$500 grant in February 1965. The school has possibilities for expanding the work there, with more than 30 children on the waiting list. Yet the work now faces a setback, for Mrs. Charles Yunghans, who has been so deeply involved in the project, will be leaving Nigeria in July 1966 to return to the States. Thus the need is urgent for evaluating the institution at this time and of planning for its future.

The second reason for sending Rev. Gerhold was the fact that the Lutheran Synodical Conference's Board for Missions in Africa indicated an interest in this home. They asked the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf to send a survey team to the home and to explore the possibility for mission work among the deaf in general in Nigeria and other African countries.

The Lutheran Friends of the Deaf agreed to send three men from its board of directors as part of the survey team. In addition, they felt, as did the executive board of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society, that it would also be well to have an experienced minister to the deaf as a member of the survey team. Since the date was already set by the three men of the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf before consulting with the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society, some haste was required to choose a qualified minister to the deaf and to prepare him for the trip. We are thankful that Rev. Gerhold could accept our request and was able to join the survey team.

At this time we can only imagine what the Lord has in mind for our church in thus leading us to Africa. One thing seems very clear — the Lord is calling us to take a long look at a mission field where many deaf, and especially deaf children, know nothing of Jesus and His love.

Surely we will want to help them. Soon the DEAF LUTHERAN will publish a report of Rev. Gerhold's trip, and then we will know better how we can help and what each one of us can do.

The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society has prepared promotional materials and sent them to your pastor. Support your Lutheran Deaf Mission Society with a contribution through your local church.

REV. MARTIN KOSCHE
Delavan, Wis.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *If any of you have any information about the early history of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society, share it with the readers of the DEAF LUTHERAN. Address all correspondence to Rev. Martin Kosche, 116 Walnut St., Delavan, Wis. 53100.*

Stewardship Corner

It Happened Behind the Bamboo Curtain



Three Chinese men were arrested for witnessing of Christ. They were asked to stop it or be punished. They said: "We cannot deny the Lord Jesus Christ. He was willing to die for us on Calvary, and if it is necessary, we are willing to die for Him!"

They were tied by the thumbs and hung on a pole. The tips of their toes barely touched the ground, and there they hung as the agonizing hours went by. When the first day was ended, their tormentors came and asked: "Are you willing to recant now? Will you turn your back on Christ now? He hasn't saved you! You had better save yourselves." They all answered "No!"

At the end of the third day one of the Chinese relented. He called for his captors. "Cut me down," he cried. "I will no longer be a Christian. I will be a communist!" They cut him down. He was released.

When he arrived home, he was greeted with joy until he made known why they had released him. His fellow Christians seemed stunned to think that he would deny Christ. His own family was astonished that he could leave his companions to bear the cross.

The man could not sleep that night. He could only think of the two hanging by their thumbs while he lay in the comfort and security of his bed. By morning he was wild with shame and grief. He hurried back to jail. He begged the communists to hang him up with his companions. "I cannot deny Christ! I must be a Christian."

Now the jailers were astonished. They were so overwhelmed that they released all three of these Chinese. The three, knowing that their lives had been spared for a purpose, began preaching with a zeal they never had before.

How about *you*, Christian? Are you ready to suffer and die for your dear Savior Jesus if necessary? You say, "Of course!" Well, if you are ready to make this *greatest* sacrifice, why are you not now making all the *little* sacrifices? Are you now sacrificing time, talent, and wealth for the Savior's kingdom work?

REV. A. L. HAUPTMAN
St. Paul, Minn.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *This article was first printed in the DEAF LUTHERAN, June 1957. It is reprinted by request.*



FIELD

GLEANINGS

Deaf Missions Expand in the Philippines

St. Louis, Mo. Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, executive secretary of the Board for Missions to the Deaf, was visited last fall by Rev. Frederick Jagow, missionary in the Philippines. Missionary Jagow's purpose in visiting Rev. Rohe was to discuss mission work among the deaf — in particular, the deaf of the Philippines.

A year ago in January Rev. William Reinking spent 3 weeks surveying the needs of the deaf in the Philippines. It was his purpose to encourage our churches there to be concerned for the deaf and to translate that concern into action.

Missionary Jagow and his con-

gregation accepted the challenge and are presently making a survey and study of the deaf in their area. Several deaf have been brought to doctors for examinations. Besides this, the congregation plans to conduct Sunday school and vacation Bible school classes for the deaf children.

While Missionary Jagow is visiting the United States and especially his home town, Milwaukee, Wis., he expects to visit deaf schools, rehabilitation centers, and social workers. As he studies the work among the deaf here, he will try to determine how he and his people can further aid the deaf educationally, religiously, and medically.

We look forward to hearing

more about the Philippines and the Lutheran churches working among the deaf. Let us join hands and hearts as we pray for the success of this pastor and his congregation in their Christian concern and service for the deaf.

Rev. Aiello Installed

Trenton, N. J. Rev. William C. Aiello was installed as pastor of Nativity Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Trenton, N. J., and as missionary to the deaf of the South New Jersey Field on Sept. 12, 1965.

The rite of installation was performed by Rev. C. Roland Gerhold, missionary to the deaf of the Newark, N. J., Field. Rev. Howard Leber, pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church (hearing), preached the sermon. Bethany Congregation allows Nativity



Rev. William Aiello

Deaf Congregation the use of its church facilities for their Sunday afternoon worship service.

Dr. Paul Scherer, director of missions for the New Jersey Synod of the Lutheran Church in America, was also present at the service.

The South New Jersey Field was recently separated from the Newark Field in northern New Jersey. Services are held each Sunday in Trenton and twice a month in Camden, N. J. The Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf in Trenton is served by both Pastor Aiello and Pastor Gerhold.

Pastor Aiello also conducts regular classes for mentally retarded deaf children at the Johnstone Research Center, Bordentown,, N. J., as well as a Sunday morning Sunday school for deafened children ages 9—12.

Rev. Aiello is married to the former Carolyn Nan Simpson of Ann Arbor, Mich. They have one daughter, Kathryn Charlotte.

Building Site Dedicated

Great Falls, Mont. In an afternoon service held outside on Sept. 19 Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Montana dedicated the new site for its Great Falls chapel.

Rev. Rodney Rynearson, pastor of the Spokane, Wash., Field (which covers eastern Washington, Idaho, and Montana), read the liturgy and prayers. Rev. H. W. Rohe, executive secretary of the Board for Missions to the

Deaf, preached the sermon and brought greetings to the congregation from the board. The first vice-president of the Montana District, Rev. E. T. Leckband, also brought greetings and spoke of the goodwill of the Montana District toward the Lutheran deaf congregation.

The full site consists of two lots. Both are corner lots on either side of the street. These lots are approximately 3 blocks from the Montana State School for the Deaf. A chapel built on this site will serve the congregation as a place of worship and as Sunday

school quarters for the children from the school.

Though the day was cool and the breezes chilly, the hearts of all who attended the dedication were warm with the prospect of a future chapel for the deaf. Some 50 persons attended the dedication service.

Two other events highlighted the day for Christ Congregation. At the morning service at Peace Lutheran Church, where the deaf presently worship, Peace Congregation presented a gift of 40 Bibles to the deaf congregation.

The second event took place



Present for the dedication service of the site of the new chapel for Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Montana are (l. to r.): Rev. E. T. Leckband, first vice-president of the Montana District; Rev. H. W. Rohe, executive secretary, Board for Missions to the Deaf; Rev. Rodney R. Rynearson, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Montana; Rev. A. F. Droegemueller, executive secretary of missions, Montana District; Rev. A. Kreidt, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church (hearing), Great Falls, Mont. The deaf congregation now worships at Peace Lutheran Church; Vicar Charles Jones, 1965—1966 student-pastor serving the deaf in Montana under Rev. Rynearson's guidance

during the morning service of the deaf congregation. Mr. Charles Jones was installed as vicar serving the deaf of the Montana congregation for this current year 1965—1966.

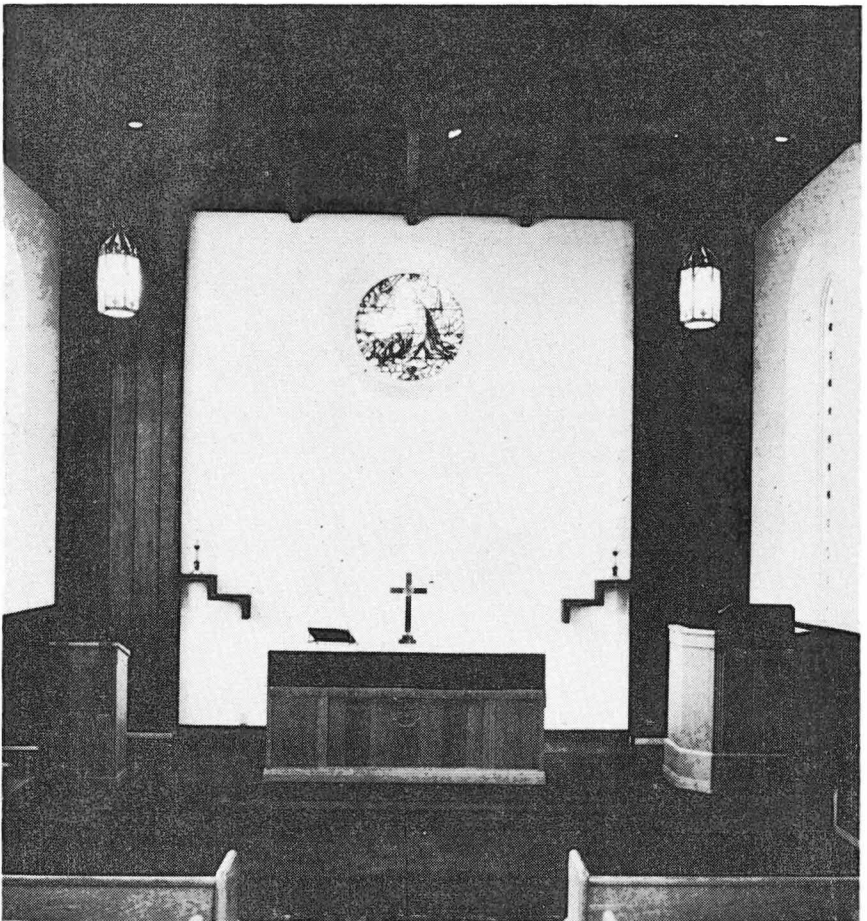
Dedicate Renovated Chapel

Cleveland, Ohio. Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Cleveland, rededicated their

chapel to the worship and service of the Triune God on Oct. 24.

Rev. H. W. Rohe, who once served the congregation as a vicar, was the guest preacher for both dedication services as the congregation joined hands and hearts to praise and thank God for His many blessings.

Renovation of the 16-year-old building was made necessary by



The renovated chapel of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Cleveland, Ohio. This picture was taken a few weeks before the dedication and does not show the new altar rail, the baptismal font, the American and Christian flags, or the flower vases



Mr. David Watts, Jr., and Mr. Michael Moore inspect the altar rail they made and installed to complete the work of renovating their chapel in Cleveland

the excessive cracking of the chapel walls and the failure of some electrical circuits. Accepting the challenge to make the chapel ready for worship, the congregation drew up the plans to modernize the chapel and to redecorate their fellowship hall.

Redwood and dry wall construction on the interior walls of the chapel draws the worshiper's attention to the altar and above the altar to the beautiful stained-glass portrayal of Jesus praying in Gethsemane.

Since color encourages an emotional response from the worshiper, the deeply-stained redwood, the light-blue side walls, the off-white of the wall behind the altar, the blues, reds, and yellows of the stained-glass window, and the deep red of the carpet

work together to create the feeling of warmth and awe in the worshiper.

To complete the chapel for worship, the congregation raised the level of the chancel, converted the altar to a free-standing position away from the wall, and added an altar rail.

Most of the work of remodeling and redecorating was done by 20 members of the congregation who volunteered their skills and time to get the work done. Special recognition was given to Mr. David Watts and Mr. Michael Moore for their fine skill of carpentry and their many long hours spent faithfully at the task.

Total cost of the project was about \$1,800, which the congregation gathered over a number of years.

Rev. M. A. Hewitt serves the Cleveland, Ohio, Field.



Mrs. Louise Crittle and her brother William Arndt have been members of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Cleveland, ever since Rev. Arthur Boll began preaching there in 1909

News Notes from the Field

Rev. Herman Graef, pastor to the deaf of the **Omaha, Nebr., Field**, has accepted a call to become the pastor at Atonement Lutheran Church (hearing), West Omaha. Pastor Graef announced his acceptance on Nov. 14 to Bethlehem Congregation, Omaha, and explained that he felt this was the decision the Lord wanted him to make. He served

the deaf of the Omaha Field for 7½ years. We pray that the Lord will bless Pastor Graef as he accepts new responsibility and work in the Lord's kingdom.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Omaha, Nebr., began the task of remodeling the chancel of their chapel on Nov. 29. They expect the project to be finished before Christmas if all goes well.



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

for February

- Feb. 1** — **Genesis 28:10-22**. God shows Himself to Jacob. Pray that God will give a vision of His promise to His church that He might strengthen the work we do in His name.
- Feb. 2** — **Genesis 29:1-14**. Jacob is welcomed in the home of his mother's brother Laban. Ask God to give you the faith to act with love without worry.
- Feb. 3** — **Genesis 29:15-30**. Laban plans a double marriage. Ask God to strengthen the unity of each Christian family that His name may be praised. Pray for Mrs. Sue Reinking, pastor's wife, Hong Kong.
- Feb. 4** — **Genesis 30:25-43**. Riches come through the blessing of God. Ask God to support your church's planning with His blessings.
- Feb. 5** — **Genesis 31:1-18**. Jacob begins the trip home to his father's house. Pray for the strength and faith to go where God's Spirit sends you.
- Feb. 6** — **Genesis 32:1-12**. Fear lets doubts come upon us. Ask that God help us to repent of our sins — and to forgive others. Pray for Rev. A. L. Hauptmann, St. Paul, Minn.
- Feb. 7** — **Genesis 32:22-32**. Prayer at the time of great crisis. Do not stop praying for the needs of your church and for the success of its work in the Kingdom.

- Feb. 8 — Genesis 35:1-15.** God renews His covenant (agreement, treaty) with man. Pray that we always remember God's promise and our great need for forgiveness.
- Feb. 9 — Genesis 45:21—46:7.** God leads His people for their own sake. Put your trust in Him. Ask God to help you understand the way He leads you. Pray for the strength to follow Him.
- Feb. 10 — Genesis 49:1-33.** Father Jacob blesses his sons. Pray for the parents and the elderly people in your congregation that they may be strong in faith and accept the grace of God in Jesus Christ.
- Feb. 11 — Genesis 37:1-11.** The one sin of envy may become the sin of hate. Ask God to forgive your selfishness and to teach you to love others.
- Feb. 12 — Genesis 37:12-36.** Even the suffering and misery of slavery may serve God's purpose. Pray that all who are slaves of sin be set free through faith in the Savior Jesus.
- Feb. 13 — Genesis 39:1-6.** Although Joseph is a slave, he knows the Lord's blessing. Ask God for courage, faith, and freedom from despair when others look down at you and reject you.
- Feb. 14 — Genesis 39:19-23.** God rewards Joseph's faithfulness and ability again. Pray that you may have the strength to remain faithful to your God.
- Feb. 15 — Genesis 41:14-45.** Joseph is blessed. He is raised from the depths of prison to the rule of Egypt by the hand of God. Pray that God strengthen the hope of all Christians for the glory of His promise — life in heaven by faith in Jesus.
- Feb. 16 — Genesis 42:1-25.** Joseph helps his brothers in their need. Ask God to help us overcome our sinful thought that we are better than others, and pray that He teach us to treat all men with love and forgiveness.
- Feb. 17 — Genesis 43:15-25.** God works among men through the needs of people. Pray that God will give you the chance to give the Good News of Jesus' forgiveness to people in need.
- Feb. 18 — Genesis 45:1-15.** Former enemies are brought together as friends by forgiving each other. Pray for the faith to welcome everyone who comes back to God with repentance. Pray for Rev. Ervin Oermann, Birmingham, Ala.
- Feb. 19 — Genesis 47:1-12.** Joseph brings his father to Egypt. Pray for the children in your congregation that they treat their parents with respect and love.
- Feb. 20 — Genesis 47:20-26.** Joseph was a skillful statesman for an earthly king. Pray that God give you the eagerness to use your earthly skills for God.
- Feb. 21 — Genesis 50:15-26.** A man of God dies in a strange land. Ask God to give you a peaceful death in faith and hope. Pray for Rev.

Ernest Mappes, Omaha, Nebr., and Rev. F. P. Gehrs, Winnipeg, Man., Can.

- Feb. 22 — Exodus 2:1-10.** God provides a teacher for His chosen leader. Pray for those who teach the children of our church. Pray for Mrs. Alma Scheibert, pastor's wife, Chicago, Ill., and Rev. William F. Reinking, Hong Kong.
- Feb. 23, Ash Wednesday — Matthew 16:21-28.** Jesus prepares His disciples for His death. Ask God to help us remember Jesus' sacrifice with humble thanks. Pray for Mrs. Delores Anderson, pastor's wife, Jacksonville, Ill.
- Feb. 24 — Exodus 2:11-22.** Moses loved his people, but as he acts to help, his deed leads to trouble and flight. Ask God to forgive our weakness and our lack of skill in our work.
- Feb. 25 — Exodus 3:1-12.** God prepares to deliver His people from slavery through one man. Pray for the strength to accept God's plan for your life without fear or laziness.
- Feb. 26 — Exodus 5:1-9.** Moses and Aaron face a difficult task for God. Ask God to give you the courage to speak for Him when the chance is given you.
- Feb. 27 — Exodus 12:1-14.** God establishes the ceremony of deliverance — the Passover. Ask God to give you comfort and forgiveness as you believe His promises and receive the Lord's Supper.
- Feb. 28 — Exodus 12:29-37.** The Lord leads His people out of slavery. Ask God to lead His people today with a strong hand to do His will. Pray for Rev William Ludwig, Columbus, Ohio
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