

# The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,  
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 58

June 1966

Number 6



What God has joined together . . .

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### THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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# A Prayer

## By Those Married Under the Hand of God

*Heavenly Father, I come to Thee with a prayer of thanksgiving. I give Thee warm thanks for Thy blessing to me of my marriage partner. I praise Thee that by Thy guidance the pathways of our lives met and our hearts were united in true love.*

*I thank Thee, dear Lord, that our love for each other has grown stronger through the years. In Thy kind way of caring for us, all the experiences of life, the good days and evil, sickness and health, our joys and our sadness, have bound our hearts and lives ever closer to each other and to Thee, our God and Lord.*

*I confess to Thee that I have not always been as kind and thoughtful as I should have been. I am sorry that I have sometimes shown selfishness and sinful pride. Please help me to stop sinning and change. Teach me also to be quick to forgive and forget any fault of my life partner. I know that Thou hast forgiven and forgotten my sins for Jesus' sake.*

*If it is Thy will, give us many more years of wedded happiness. As time passes, make the bonds of love that unite us become even more strong. When our life here on earth is finished, take my loved one and me into the heavenly home above which Thou hast prepared for those who love Thee.*

*I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

## The Shepherd of God's People — Our Pastor —

### Part 3

#### Pastor at Work

Throughout the history of time God has been the Shield, the Defender, the Shepherd of His people. As His people grew in number, God appointed men to "feed" and "lead" them. In Old Testament times God chose judges and kings to govern His people, priests to guide their worship, and prophets to teach His Word.

In the New Testament Jesus

called His 12 disciples and sent them into all the world as apostles to gather His people in churches. In turn the apostles instructed leaders for each church to guide His people in the way of truth.

By the Holy Spirit God established the office of the ministry, the pastoral office. He blesses His church with workers to "feed and lead" His people. *He gave us some men to be apostles, some to*



**A pastor spends much time preparing for his everyday tasks. Time is required to write his sermons and to read and study God's Word as well as to keep informed with the events of his church and the world**

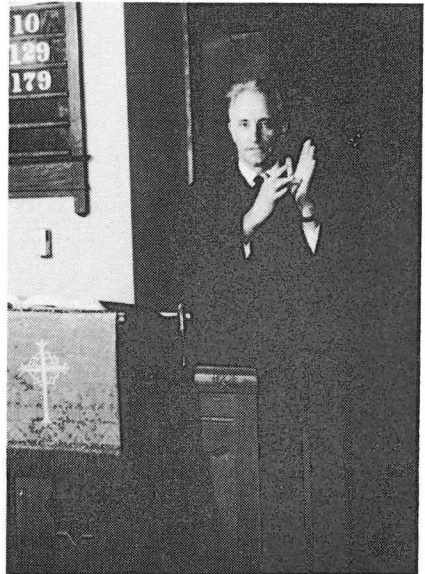
*... speak the Word, some to tell the good news, some to be pastors and teachers, in order to get His holy people ready to serve as workers and build the body of Christ till all of us get to be one as we believe and know God's Son, reach a mature manhood, and grow to the full height of Christ. (Ephesians 4:11-13 Beck)*

In our Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod young men preparing to be pastors spend at least 8 years in study and practical experience. When a young man has completed his preparation, he receives a degree and diploma from his seminary. This diploma declares that he has satisfactorily completed the required courses of study and is qualified to have charge of a Christian congregation or mission field.

Even though a young man has qualified to be a pastor, he cannot of his own accord preach and teach publicly. He must wait until he has been called to do so. In our Lutheran deaf missions a congregation together with the Board of Missions calls a man to be the pastor of that congregation and its mission field. The members of the congregation depend on God the Holy Spirit to lead the right man to accept the call to be their pastor.

### **Daily Preparation**

Preaching the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus' love and forgiveness, is a great honor. But it also means great responsibilities. A pastor must continue to study, so that he can carry out his many duties in a God-pleasing manner.



**The pastor leads his congregation in worshipping God and feeds them by preaching God's Word**



**The youth of the congregation and the unchurched are taught God's Word. The Holy Spirit leads them into membership in Jesus' body, the church. Through the encouragement and teaching of the pastor the Holy Spirit deepens the faith of His people. He strengthens their faith and life through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

Much time is spent in study, especially the study of the Bible. Study time is also spent with books and magazines on theology, the many teachings of Scripture and the church. The pastor must keep up with what is happening in the religious world, but more than anything else he needs strength and support in his faith. Someone wisely said, "As the battle (with sin and Satan) gets hotter and the enemies' methods of warfare become more refined, the pastor needs greater faith, love, wisdom, courage, zeal, patience, and endurance."

### **Pastoral Acts**

The most important work of a pastor is to preach. The very fast and tiring life of our day together with the kind of sinful world in which we live generally make the writing and preaching of a sermon extremely difficult. Yet through the preaching of the Word of God the Holy Spirit leads people to faith and keeps them in the true saving faith. Most of our missionaries to the deaf preach in several cities every week and drive many miles to do so.

Besides conducting the worship service for the congregation, the

- pastor also administers the sacraments. Baptisms are performed and the Lord's Supper administered by the pastor in the stead of the congregation. He officiates at weddings, and he also conducts funeral services for those who have died in faith.

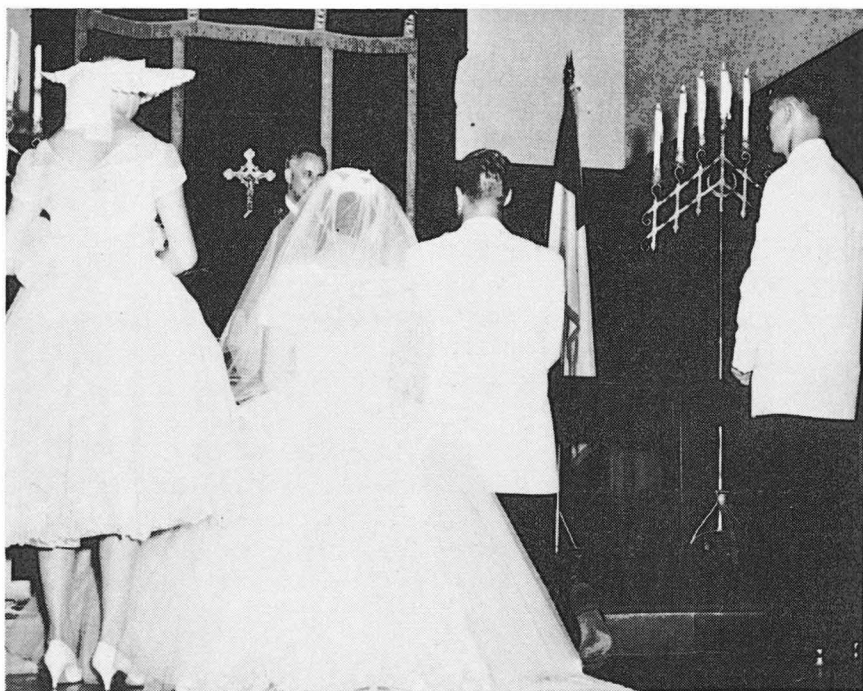
### **Pastoral Care**

While the service of worship is a very important responsibility, it is only one of the pastor's many tasks. Equally as important, the minister of the Gospel is an overseer, a pastor, a watchman, a man who has been given the responsibility from God to care for souls. He is in duty bound to look after the spiritual welfare of each one

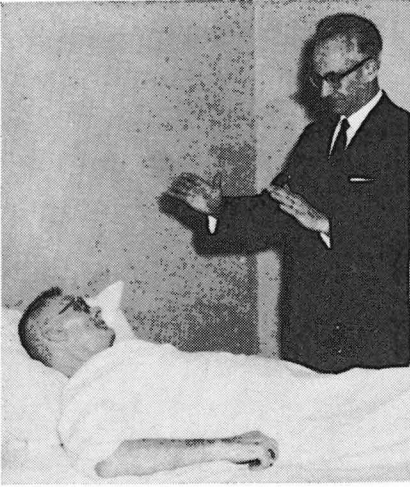
of his members. Like Paul the pastor is to teach publicly and from house to house.

It is the most solemn duty of every pastor to visit the sick and the dying, to attend to their spiritual needs. However, members of the congregation should tell the pastor if they know of a sick person in their congregation. It can happen that a pastor does not know that a person is sick and is later criticized for not visiting the sick.

A pastor also visits people who do not belong to any church. The purpose of such visits is to bring them to know and believe in their Savior, Jesus, so that they may become members of His church.



**Asking our heavenly Father to bless a young couple in marriage, the pastor conducts a wedding service**



**The pastor gives comfort from God's Word to the sick and prays the Holy Spirit to strengthen their faith**

Calls are also made on members who have "given up" going to church to worship God. These members are encouraged to use the means of grace, God's Word and the Lord's Supper, regularly. Through these blessings the Holy Spirit strengthens our faith and life in the world. Much time is used and many miles are driven by our pastors in making calls, but it is a necessary part of their work.

Time is also spent in giving advice and counsel to members with problems. The pastor is always ready to listen, and he kindly helps members to find the answers to their problems. Our missionaries to the deaf are often called upon to interpret in court and for other important occasions.

**In Addition**

Lutheran missionaries to the deaf attend pastoral conferences.

They attend the conferences of the Lutheran pastors in the city where they live; the conference of the District in which they work; as well as the sessions of Ephphatha Conference, which is held annually for our Lutheran missionaries to the deaf. These conferences help to keep the teachings of our church pure and also help to increase and enrich the pastor's knowledge of God's Word. It is both a duty and a privilege to attend such conferences regularly.

The missionary and pastor to the deaf who has given himself to the Lord's work does not have an 8-hour day, but often a 12- or 16-hour day. He has to be "on call" at all hours of the day and night.

Faithful pastors are mindful of the Lord's admonition through the apostle Paul, *Do your best to come before God as one whom He approves, a worker who doesn't have to feel ashamed as he teaches the Word of truth in the right way.* (2 Timothy 2:15 Beck)

As your pastor works with you in your congregation, encourage him in his work. Pray for him. Ask God to give him much strength in faith and zeal by His Holy Spirit. Your pastor is as human as you are. Forgive his mistakes as Jesus has forgiven yours. Always give thanks to your heavenly Father that He has blessed your congregation and your church with dedicated pastors.

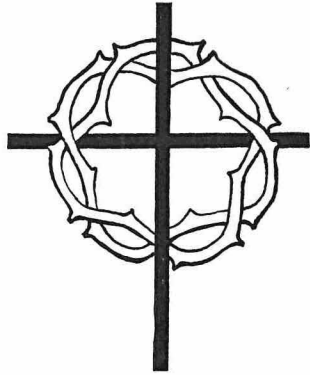
REV. N. E. BORCHARDT  
Detroit, Mich.

## Expressions of Faith

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The following poem has been submitted by Mrs. L. Brook, a member of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Elmhurst, N. Y. We encourage our readers to submit their "expressions of faith" for this corner.*

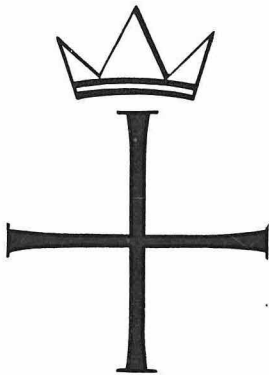
I give my thanks to Jesus  
For what He did for me.  
He gave His holy body and blood,  
Nailed to that rugged tree.

I give my thanks to Jesus,  
I know He cares for me.  
Though I am a helpless sinner,  
Yet there is hope for me.



I give my thanks to Jesus,  
He suffered much for me.  
Through my shame and sinful living  
I nailed Him to that tree.

I give my thanks to Jesus;  
He rose in victory  
And lives with God the Father,  
Where He made a home for me.



## Notes from the Secretary for Deaf Missions

### Dear Friends:

Our Lord has given us His command and work to go into all the world, bring the Good News of forgiveness and hope to all people, preach, teach, baptize, build churches, and continue to make disciples for Jesus. God promised

to bless His work with the strength of the Holy Spirit, and He has kept His promise.

In fact, God has opened so many doors for our mission programs and congregations that our church cannot keep up with its task. The cost of the proposed



needs of our mission program is too far above the present budget. Last year the mission program was cut back because not enough money was available for missions. This has even cut into the building needs for our deaf missions at home.

### Synod's Decision

The DEAF LUTHERAN (Dec. '65) has reported that our church at its June 1965 convention voted to accept a plan to gather a special offering for missions and for improving our colleges and seminaries. Plans for this special offering are taking shape, and it will be called the *Ebenezer Thankoffering*.

### Ebenezer Year — 1967

Remember that word — *Ebenezer* (Eb-e-NE-zer)! The word is taken from 1 Samuel 7:12 and is the name of a stone which Samuel set up to praise God for His help given to His people Israel to win a victory. The verse reads:

*Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying "Hitherto (up to this time) the Lord has helped us."*

Just as Samuel took the stone and set it in a special place to mark a special time of remembrance and thanksgiving to the Lord for all His many blessings of the past, so Dr. Oliver R. Harms, President of our Synod, has proclaimed 1967 as an *Ebenezer Year* for our church.

Dr. Harms, speaking for the 1965 synodical convention, urges the 3,000,000 Christians of our Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod to give special thanks to our Lord. *Hitherto the Lord has helped us.*

### Deaf Lutherans too

I remind you that our many deaf congregations are also responsible to Jesus' command to go into all the world. Let us be part of the whole church as it goes *forward* with *faith* and *trust* in God and with *love* for all men!

Let us — each one of us — make a special effort to cooperate with this Ebenezer Thankoffering. The church wants to set aside \$800,000 of this thankoffering for deaf missions, especially to build new chapels for the deaf.

We will be reading and thinking much about the Ebenezer Thankoffering at our regional conferences, in your congregational meetings, and at the pastors' Ephphatha Conference.

Please pray fervently for the success of this thankoffering and give it your wholehearted cooperation.

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

† Rev. Ernest C. Mappes †

*Omaha, Nebr.* Veteran missionary to the deaf Rev. Ernest C. Mappes departed this life on Thursday, March 24. He was 68.



## FIELD

## GLEANINGS

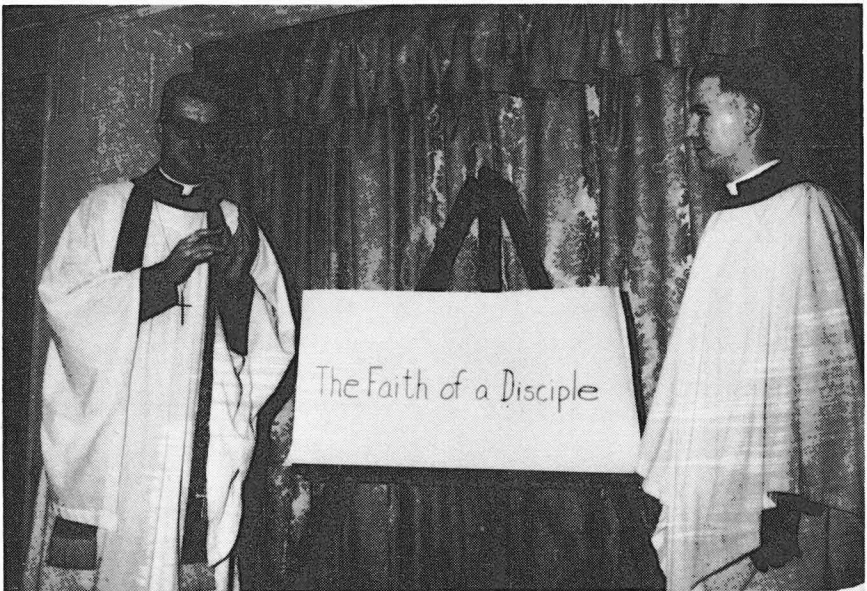
### Messengers for Christ

Elmhurst, N. Y. St. Matthew's Congregation in Elmhurst has a continuing program of evangelism, called *Missionaries for Christ*. "Evangelism" means to bring the Good News of Jesus' love and forgiveness to those who do not know Jesus. St. Matthew's "missionaries" have accepted their Christian responsibility to bring Jesus to others and to bring others to Jesus.

The program began on Mission

Sunday, Feb. 6. The morning worship service had as its theme "Discipleship," or how we follow Jesus. It was emphasized that all Christians must be active followers of Jesus.

Instead of preaching a sermon Pastor Louis Jasper talked back and forth in dialog with Vicar Daniel Hodgson. They used a large flip chart to explain how to follow Jesus as His disciple. Vicar Hodgson spoke the central ideas of true discipleship. Pastor Jasper explained these ideas with prac-



Pastor Louis Jasper and Vicar Daniel Hodgson explain the meaning of true discipleship, how we follow Jesus

tical advice and examples from life and from the Bible.

Only talking about it does not make us followers of Jesus. We must also act. At the end of the dialog four practical steps were explained to show how Christians could use words of faith to become more active in faith. (1) Choose one person you know who needs Jesus. (2) Pray for that person. (3) Visit that person and invite him to come to church with you. (4) Tell the pastor or vicar about your visits and talk with him about any problems or questions you have.

Each member of St. Matthew's who serves Jesus as His follower is called a *missionary for Christ*. Names of missionaries are divided into groups according to the area where they live. A poster in the church hall lists the names of each mission group, and each group has meetings from time to time to discuss their experiences in visiting and to further study about personal witnessing for Jesus.

An effort is being made to include all members of St. Matthew in this program. Hopefully, each member will actively accept his responsibility to follow Jesus and daily serve his Savior with personal witnessing.

In addition to this mission program of the congregation, the young people's Walther League has also been active in visiting. The youth try to visit all the young people who are often absent from church. If possible, they see these people on the same

Sunday they are absent or on the following Monday to encourage them to worship their Savior regularly.

VICAR DANIEL HODGSON

### News Notes from the Field

*Rev. William Lange* was installed as pastor of *Bethlehem Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Omaha, Nebr.*, and missionary to the deaf of the Omaha Field on April 24. Pastor Lange had been serving the Denver, Colo., Field.

*Deaf-blind* across the country observed the *Anne Sullivan Centennial Commemoration* during the month of April. Miss Anne Sullivan is one of the very few persons in history whose life was one of devoted service to the deaf-blind. She was the "teacher" of Miss Helen Keller, one of the most outstanding deaf-blind personages of all time.

## Central Regional Conference

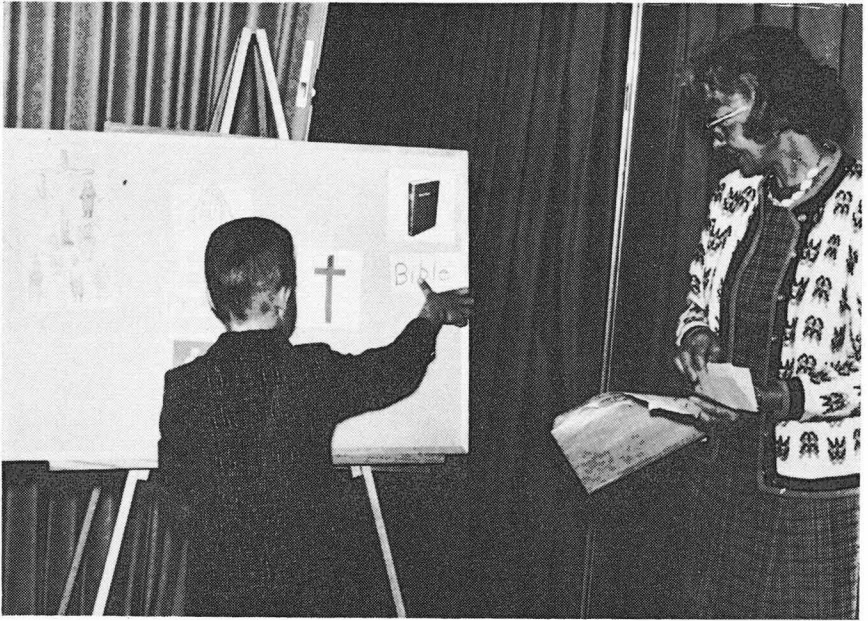
at

**Emmanuel Lutheran  
Chapel for the Deaf**  
4328 W. North Avenue  
Milwaukee, Wis.

**postponed to  
August 26—28, 1966**

### Our Deaf Sunday School

*St. Paul, Minn.* At Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf in St. Paul, Sunday school for deaf children is in session



**Mrs. Tanger, a hard-of-hearing member of Prince of Peace, St. Paul, teaches her class the meaning of new words by matching the new words with pictures**

from September to June. The average enrollment is 30 children. Two taxicabs bring the children from the St. Paul area. The church's Volkswagen bus, two private cars, and one taxicab gather children from across the river in Minneapolis. The cost of this transportation is covered by Sunday school offerings and gifts. When necessary, it is supported by the congregation.

Our teachers use the oral method in the Sunday school. Opening worship follows the order of a hearing Sunday school, with a few changes. After the opening worship with the hearing children, both hearing and deaf children go to their separate classrooms. Classes are made up of 4 to 7 stu-

dents. Lessons are taken from the Concordia Sunday school series. These lessons are prepared to the grade level of each class and are presented with visual aids.

Students from Concordia College in St. Paul help teach the deaf children. They are dedicated to this challenging task of bringing deaf children to know their Savior. The students develop their own lessons and visual aids with guidance. Their learning to know the deaf and the work of our missions, we feel, will be of benefit to the deaf mission program as these future church workers go into their chosen fields.

The hours and money we have spent to bring the children to the Sunday school each Sunday and

to know their families has been worth the effort. Through the Sunday school program more than 20 young deaf became members of Prince of Peace by confirmation. Today, while only 33 percent of our adult members maintain regular church attendance, 75 percent of our young members attend church regularly.

These young deaf have also shown themselves to be active and interested members. Our church ushers are active Junior League members who have been organized by schedule for each Sunday by the head usher, who is a teenager. Our acolytes, who light the candles for each worship service, are chosen from the confirmation class. The girls also help as assistants in the Sunday school and once in a while even substitute for an absent teacher.

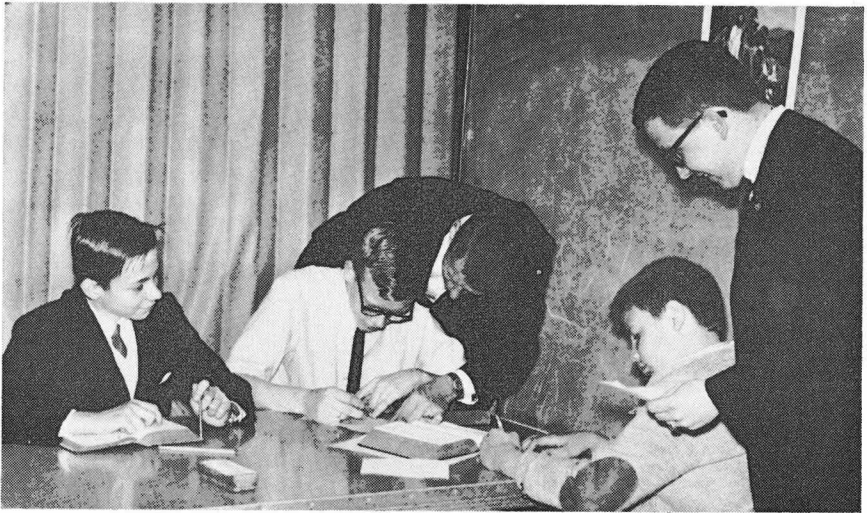
We at Prince of Peace firmly



**Mr. Lawrence Finke uses visual aids to explain the meaning of the First and Second Articles of the Apostles' Creed to his Sunday school class at Prince of Peace**

believe that if you keep the youth active and interested in their church, they will stay with the church.

MRS. FLORENCE FINKE  
Parish Worker



**This class gets special help from their teachers, Ron Tabbert and Al Krahn, Concordia College students**

**Portland Deaf —  
40th Anniversary**

*Portland, Oreg.* Hope Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Portland, celebrated the 40th anniversary of its organization as a congregation, March 19.

The anniversary banquet was attended by 121 members and friends of the congregation. Rev. John A. Beyer, missionary of the Seattle, Wash., Field, was guest speaker.

Rev. Beyer recalled the days between 1919 and 1923 when he was pastor to the deaf in Portland. He recounted the many blessings God has given the congregation in the many years since.

Many visitors from various cities in Washington and Oregon remained in Portland overnight and attended the worship service of thanksgiving on Sunday morning conducted by Rev. Erich Eichmann, who served the Portland Field 1924—1942.

**EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

at  
**Pocono Crest, Pa.**  
**June 3—5, 1966**

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**PACIFIC NORTHWEST LAY  
CONFERENCE**

at  
**Camp Lutherhaven**  
**near Spokane, Wash.**  
**July 29—31, 1966**



**LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY**

**Daily Bible Readings**

**for June**

**June 1** — **1 Kings 12:1-20.** The new king accepts the wrong advice and loses his nation. Pray for peace in your nation and your world. Pray for Rev. Robert Bremer, Flint, Mich., and Rev. Rodney Rynearson, Spokane, Wash.

**June 2** — **1 Kings 17:1-24.** God's prophet sets himself against the king and his sinful nation. Ask God to give the pastors and teachers of your church the courage to stand against the sins of your world.

- June 3** — **1 Kings 18:20-40.** The test of truth — God's prophet against the false god. Ask God to keep His people faithful to Him.
- June 4** — **1 Kings 19:1-18.** God gives Elijah comfort and support in the time of his despair. Ask God to give hope and strength to the newly graduated pastors and teachers.
- June 5** — **1 Kings 19:19-21.** A prophet calls his successor. Your church needs many pastors. Pray that God will call many to choose the ministry of the church.
- June 6** — **2 Peter 1:16-21.** The Triune God makes Himself known. Pray that your church will teach all things in full truth. Pray for Mrs. Thelma Blakely, pastor's wife, Norwood, Mass.
- June 7** — **1 Kings 21:17-29.** The man of God has the courage to speak before the king. Pray that God would strengthen your church as it speaks against sin. Pray for Mrs. Viola Gerhold, pastor's wife, Newark, N. J.
- June 8** — **2 Kings 1:1-17.** God condemns those who worship the false god of pride. Pray that your pastors and teachers remain humble before God.
- June 9** — **2 Kings 2:1-12.** A great man is taken home to God. Ask God to reward in grace all who have given their lives to Him.
- June 10** — **Matthew 1:1-13.** A conversation with the Lord Jesus. Pray that God will keep you in the hope of eternal life with Him.
- June 11** — **2 Kings 2:9-22.** Power is given by God. Pray that God will support the young pastors in the work of their ministry.
- June 12** — **2 Kings 5:8-27.** Slow to believe, Naaman is healed. Pray that God will give you the faith to trust His promises.
- June 13** — **2 Kings 6:8-23.** God defends His people with a miracle. Ask God to support and defend His church in its difficulties throughout the world.
- June 14** — **2 Kings 8:7-15.** God knows of evil before it happens. Pray that God will protect us from the violence of His enemies. Pray for Mrs. Karen Gehrs, pastor's wife, Winnipeg, Man., Canada.
- June 15** — **2 Kings 13:14-21.** Elisha speaks for God eagerly and carefully until he dies. Ask God to keep you from selfishness and fear at your death.
- June 16** — **Hosea 1:1-11.** Hosea prophesies in his family life. Ask God to unite broken and divided families.
- June 17** — **Hosea 3:1-5.** A wife is brought back in love. Ask God to teach us to love one another as He loves us.
- June 18** — **Hosea 5:13—6:10.** The terrible sin of worshiping false gods by Israel, God's people. Pray that God would free our nation from our proud love and worship of worldly things.
- June 19** — **Hosea 14:1-9.** A plea to Israel to come back from sin to love God. Ask that God support us in time of sin that we repent and humble ourselves under His hand. Pray for Rev. G. A. Gehrs, Riverside, Calif.
- June 20** — **Jonah 1:1-3.** Jonah runs away from God's call to duty. Pray that God encourage us to accept our calling.

- June 21** — **Jonah 1:4-16.** The man who ran from God's work is thrown overboard. Pray that God would support church workers in all their troubles.
- June 22** — **Jonah 1:17—2:10.** God prepares a rescue for His prophet. Pray for your pastor that God may strengthen him in His work.
- June 23** — **Jonah 3:1-10.** God's Word has power to change man's sinful heart. Pray that God's Word will work in the hearts of all members of your congregation. Pray for Mrs. Irene Possehl, pastor's wife, St. Louis, Mo.
- June 24** — **Jonah 4:1-11.** A selfish man does not want God to share His love with sinners. Ask God to forgive our human selfishness.
- June 25** — **Amos 1:1-2.** God calls a shepherd as His prophet. Pray that God will lead many young men to work with the deaf in our church's worldwide mission.
- June 26** — **Amos 5:18-24.** God gives His prophet boldness and courage. Ask God to strengthen all who speak for Him. Pray for Rev. C. R. Gerhold, Newark, N. J.
- June 27** — **Amos 7:1-9.** A prophet's prayer for God's people, Israel. Ask God to hear the prayers of His church. Pray for Mrs. Salem Westermann, pastor's wife, Greensboro, N. C.
- June 28** — **Amos 7:10-17.** The man of God speaks with boldness to a king who refused to hear. Pray for the will to accept the responsibilities God gives you.
- June 29** — **2 Kings 18:1-8.** A good king chooses the Lord. Ask God to give understanding and a strong faith to His people.
- June 30** — **2 Chronicles 32:1-23.** God's people are saved from an enemy. Pray for Rev. Leroy Mason, Chicago, Ill.

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