

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

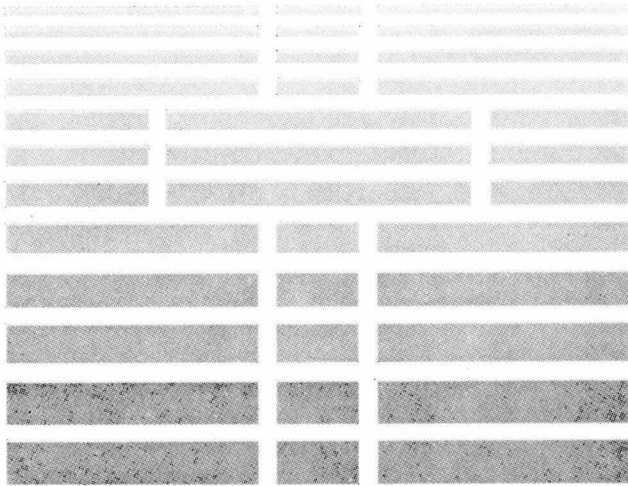
MARK 7:34

Volume 59

January 1967

Number 1

WHAT DOES EBENEZER MEAN?



Expressions of Faith

These lines written by Amilie Juliane in 1699 express the theme of the Ebenezer Thankoffering. The words help us think about 1 Samuel 7:12. The prophet Samuel set up a monument of stone at the place where God rescued His people and helped them win a victory. Samuel called the name of it Ebenezer: "Hitherto [up to this time] the Lord has helped us." Ed.

The Lord hath helped me hitherto
By His surpassing favor;
His mercies every morn were
new,
His kindness did not waver.
God hitherto hath been my Guide,
Hath pleasures hitherto supplied,
And hitherto hath helped me.



I praise and thank Thee, Lord, my
God,
For Thine abundant blessing
Which heretofore Thou hast be-
stowed
And I am still possessing.
Inscribe this on my memory:
The Lord hath done great things
for me
And graciously hath helped me.

Help me henceforth, O God of
grace,
Help me on each occasion,
Help me in each and every place,
Help me through Jesus' Passion;
Help me in life and death, O God,
Help me through Jesus' dying
blood;
Help me as Thou hast helped me!

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For promotional materials write Rev. Earl Thaler, Promotion Manager, 32 Brunswick Ave., West Hartford, Conn. 06107

The Board for Missions of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

Secretary for Deaf Missions:

Rev. H. W. Rohe, 210 N. Broadway, St. Louis, Mo. 63102

(314) 231-6969

Commission for Deaf Work (Advisory):

Rev. Elmer W. Koberg, 1365 First Ave., S. W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52400

Rev. Walter Uhlig, 444 Locust St., Seward, Nebr. 68434

Mr. Fred Fiechtner, 1334 8th Street, S., Fargo, N. Dak. 58101

1967 — A Year of Praise

Ebenezer Thankoffering

Every day this year some 8,000 members of our Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod will go to the mailbox on their birthday and mail an *Ebenezer Thankoffering* for the Lord's work.

The 3,000,000 members of the more than 6,000 congregations of our Synod will support this special offering to gather at least \$40,000,000.

The special offering is for a special purpose. One half of the offering (\$20 million) will be set aside for the building needs of worldwide missions and for church expansion. Some \$800,000 of this is designated for deaf mission building programs. The other half of the offering will be used for the building needs of our colleges and seminaries, Valparaiso University, and the Lutheran Deaconess Association.

Thankoffering of Praise

The special *Ebenezer Year* has been proclaimed by Dr. Oliver R. Harms, President of our Synod. This is a special time of remembrance and thanksgiving because the Lord, our heavenly Father, has blessed us for as long as we have lived.

The prophet Samuel said it in 1 Samuel 7:12, and we say it today and every day of the new year: "*Hitherto* [up to this time] *the Lord has helped us.*"

For us this year Ebenezer means many things. First, Ebenezer means *repenting*. We are sorry we have loved ourselves more than we have loved God. We are sorry we have loved the things of the world more than God's Word. We do not seem to have enough love, faith, joy, or thanks.

Then Ebenezer means *trusting*. We put ourselves into His hands and accept His rich gift of mercy, forgiveness, and love. We know He cares for us as a Father because we are His children through faith in His Son, Jesus.

Ebenezer means *singing*. We praise His name in song and hymn. "*Hitherto — up to this time — He has helped us.*"

Ebenezer means *praying*. We ask the Lord's continued blessings. We ask Him for a thankful heart. We pray for one another that we all may respond to Him with love and thanks. We want to thank Him for life itself and the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ.

Ebenezer means *witnessing*. We are happy to tell others what God has done for us. We are glad to say why we are glad to be alive, especially what it means to live in Jesus Christ.

Ebenezer means *planning*. Our church and our Synod must plan to do the work God has given us to do now and in the future.

Ebenezer means *buying*. To

spread His Word in the world better than we have done before, our church needs to buy property and build facilities in all our mission areas all over the world.

Ebenezer means *building*. The world is growing. We will have more and more people to tell the wonderful news of salvation. We need to build more educational facilities to train more pastors and teachers as future leaders in our Synod.

Ebenezer means *sharing*. Together 3,000,000 Lutherans pray for God's blessings on His church. Together we support our church with our gifts of time, skills, and money. Together we share the Good News of God's mercy and love as we witness to the world.

Ebenezer means *loving*. We love God and love all men as God in Jesus has loved us. Love sees the needs of people in all parts of the world and seeks to share with

them God's mercy and forgiveness.

Ebenezer means *celebrating*. Each member of Synod will celebrate an Ebenezer birthday. In praise and thanks to God for His blessings as long as we have lived we will give a gift to Him for His work.

Ebenezer means *multiplying*. As God has blessed us for our many years of life, we will set aside a gift for Him. We will multiply our number of years times a certain amount of dollars to decide the size of our gift to Him. And then we will mail that gift on our birthday.

The Lord has challenged His church in Ebenezer. He asks us, "Do you love Me?" Let us accept the challenge. Let us respond with love to God as we set aside our gift of thanks and as we mail that gift on our Ebenezer birthday.

LCUSA – A Mark in History

On Jan. 1 this year another milestone in the history of Lutheranism in the United States was established. Four Lutheran churches representing 96 percent of Lutherans in this country will work together in a new instrument of Lutheran cooperation — The Lutheran Council in the United States of America (LCUSA).

The four Lutheran churches — The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, the Synod of Evangelical

Lutheran Churches (SELC), The American Lutheran Church (ALC), and the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) — serve a combined membership of more than 8,695,000.

With headquarters established in New York City LCUSA's activities will be guided by the first General Secretary, Rev. C. Thomas Spitz, Jr., a pastor of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

For most of its activities



The Lutheran Council in the United States of America. Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 16—17, 1966. Lutheran Leaders Find New Harmony. The presidents of the four Lutheran church bodies in the new Lutheran Council in the U. S. A. show their spirit of enthusiasm and cooperation. From the left are Dr. Fredrik A. Schiotez, American Lutheran Church; Dr. Oliver R. Harms, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, Lutheran Church in America; and Dr. John Kovac, Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Churches.

LCUSA allows the participating churches the freedom to choose the areas in which they will cooperate. This involves church-related activities in public relations, service to military personnel, and Christian service in the areas of education, missions, and welfare.

One agency already set up for joint support is Lutheran World Relief. In another area the LCA and the ALC have already outlined their combined campus ministry program to students.

Every church is required to participate in the Division of Theological Studies. A broad program of study will allow the churches to seek theological agreement. This, of course, will be important not only for the Lutheran Church but also for the Christian church in the world.

The constitution of LCUSA was formally adopted by 42 voting delegates of the member churches at the constituting convention in Cleveland, Ohio, Nov. 16—17, 1966.



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

for January

Daily Bible Reading Guide for 1967

Lutheran history has turned another corner as four Lutheran bodies join hands for work together in LCUSA (see p. 4). This is noteworthy for another reason. This year is the 450th anniversary of the Reformation, and the participating churches of LCUSA plan to support this observance using the theme *Life — New Life*.

The theme is based on the Gospel of John's references to Jesus as the Life of men and the new life (of repentance and renewal) which the Spirit of God wants to give men of today through Jesus.

The theme explains the two goals of the Reformation observance:

1. Lutherans want to proclaim Jesus as Lord of the church and Savior of men, encouraging and urging them to accept Jesus. The Christian faith is God's greatest blessing to satisfy man's deepest needs now and forever.

2. We want to stir all Christians to greater faithfulness and devotion. We want to help them realize once again the richness of our faith.

Therefore this year we encourage one another to faithfully use God's Word so that we may grow in faith and love and that the Lord will strengthen us to do His wonderful works of love.

After the Bible reading for each day we have added a few words about its meaning for you. Think about this quietly for a while.

We encourage you to pray and talk with God. He always hears you. He will answer your prayer if you believe. When you pray, always thank and praise your God for His goodness to you. Remember that you are before God as a sorry and forgiven sinner.

Pray about your own needs, and give the needs of others into God's care. Pray for your church, your fellow members, and their needs. Pray for your pastor, for all the missionaries to the deaf, their wives and families, and for our special workers. The date on which their names appear is their birthday.

May God bless you with a stronger faith as you hear God speak to you every day of this 450th Reformation anniversary year.

God calls you His ambassador to speak for Him

- Jan. 1 — Psalm 92.** God's love has no limits. Pray for courage to expect great things of God.
- Jan. 2 — Psalm 51.** May God's love work in me and give me a fuller joy of my salvation. Ask that God lead the Christian church to repent of its weaknesses and sins.
- Jan. 3 — Psalm 100.** If God did not bless me, I would not live. Pray for the children in your Sunday school that they may know the thrill of growing up in Jesus.
- Jan. 4 — Psalm 103.** May I live knowing God's forgiveness and offering Him my total service. Pray God to comfort all people who do not know of His forgiveness. Pray also for Rev. A. T. Jonas, Los Angeles, Calif.
- Jan. 5 — Psalm 23.** Nothing will ever be discovered or invented which can cancel the value of your eternal life. Ask that God's people will know that He has called them as His own.
- Jan. 6 — Hebrews 11.** Follow Abraham, knowing that God can lead you only to the truth. Pray that you may find the faith and the strength of the great men of God.
- Jan. 7 — Mark 16:14-20.** God wants us to use our wisdom to look for ways to serve Him. Pray that each Christian may know his responsibility for witnessing and serving.
- Jan. 8 — Matthew 28:16-20.** May God inspire me with an understanding of His never-failing grace. Pray that we may not look down on any other person and think that he is not fit for God's mercy and love.
- Jan. 9 — Jonah 1.** Let me remain before You, Lord, and serve You! Pray for those people in your congregation who run from their responsibilities of doing God's work.
- Jan. 10 — Jonah 2.** Never be ashamed to plead with the Lord for help and forgiveness. Pray for church members who are caught in the sin of pride that God may show them their sin and bring them to repentance.
- Jan. 11 — Jonah 3.** May we learn the importance of always turning to God. Pray that God may look in mercy to the wicked world, bring it to its knees in repentance, and give it forgiveness.
- Jan. 12 — Jonah 4.** "And forgive us our sins as we forgive. . . ." Have you shown mercy to every person you have met? Ask God to give you mercy to show sinful mankind.
- Jan. 13 — Romans 8.** You have God's Spirit. No evil can hurt you. Pray for church workers who serve God in slum areas of your city and nation.
- Jan. 14 — Romans 9:1-18.** Do you understand the mercy of God? Pray that you may never sin against God with pride. Pray also for Rev. J. A. Beyer, Seattle, Wash.
- Jan. 15 — Romans 9:19-33.** Do you stumble in faith because you do not see your need for God's mercy and forgiveness? Pray that Christians may bravely witness of God's love in every land and nation.

- Jan. 16 — Romans 10:1-13.** We need more than words. We need the deeds of living Christianity in today's world. Pray that the splits among Lutherans in your country may be healed.
- Jan. 17 — Romans 10:14-21.** Live your faith and you will draw people to Christ. Pray that Christians may let God's light shine wherever they go.
- Jan. 18 — Romans 11:1-24.** We stay in our faith because of the mercy of God. Pray that the members of your church may gladly be thankful to the Lord for His blessings.
- Jan. 19 — Romans 11:25-36.** God's wisdom guides all that He shows us. Pray for Christian students in college that they may not be led astray from God's Word of truth.
- Jan. 20 — Psalm 42.** Are you poor or in trouble? This cannot separate you from the love of God. Pray that God will give your church more pastors and teachers.
- Jan. 21 — John 3:1-21.** This is the center of truth — God saves the world. Pray that the writers who influence our future pastors and church leaders may speak the truth of God's plan for salvation.
- Jan. 22 — John 3:22-36.** We must be loyal only to the Triune God. Pray for Christians in our Armed Services that they may give their truest loyalty to God.
- Jan. 23 — John 4:1-42.** God sees to the deep places of your heart. Pray that church members may be led to bring their deepest sins before the throne of God.
- Jan. 24 — John 4:43-54.** Can your neighbors see in you the life of Christ? Pray for the comfort of all who mourn that they may know the blessing of eternal life.
- Jan. 25 — John 5.** The Father sent Jesus. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit send you. Pray for the courage to go and do the Lord's will.
- Jan. 26 — John 6.** We belong to God. He bought us and feeds us. Pray that you may follow where the Lord is leading.
- Jan. 27 — John 12.** May our hearts be filled with the love of Jesus, who paid for our sins and brings us into His fellowship. Pray for the lonely aged, the lonely sick, the lonely dying. Pray also for Rev. R. Bauer, Edmonton, Alta., Can.
- Jan. 28 — Psalm 27.** Be confident of God's will and power to save you in your day of trouble. Pray for God's guidance in your daily life. Pray also for Mrs. Ferol Lee Hauptman, pastor's wife, Saint Paul, Minn.
- Jan. 29 — Matthew 5:1-12.** Heaven and earth, comfort, satisfaction, mercy — all this is ours! Pray that all Christians may know the thrill of a living faith.
- Jan. 30 — Matthew 5:13-48.** Each Christian gives constant testimony *for* or *against* God. Pray that the members of your congregation may set a good example in their deaf community.
- Jan. 31 — Matthew 6:1-15.** Father in heaven, what promise and joy is there in close relationship with You! Pray that God will answer the prayers of His people.



FIELD

GLEANINGS

Deaf Vacation Bible School

St. Augustine, Fla. Deaf children of the St. Augustine area have a special summer treat—a weeklong vacation Bible school. This past summer in the latter part of August, 13 deaf children ages 5 to 15 gathered at Memorial Lutheran Church (hearing) for a Bible study program under the direction of Rev. F. G. Gyle.

The 5-day school began at 9

o'clock each morning with a brief devotional opening. Classes were set up by age groups and were taught by Pastor Gyle and his staff of four volunteers—two parents of deaf children, the daughter of a deaf couple, and Pastor Gyle's daughter Isabel.

The controlled periods of lessons, art, and handcrafts centered around the theme "God, My Country, and I." A midmorning



Miss Isabel Gyle, volunteer VBS teacher in St. Augustine, Fla., discusses a lesson with Eddie Braren (center) and John Magee, both 15. Miss Gyle is the daughter of Rev. F. G. Gyle, former missionary of the Florida field. This year's program centered on the subject "God, My Country, and I" and was sponsored by the Florida field of Deaf Missions

snack break and recess session “allowed the children to let off some steam in a fairly orderly manner,” according to Pastor Gyle.

The program at St. Augustine is under the direction of Lutheran Deaf Missions in the Florida field, which has headquarters at Deaf Zion Lutheran Church, Miami.

Rev. Gyle, who lives in Saint Augustine, currently serves as dean of students in the deaf department at the Florida State School for the Deaf and Blind. He

also is the coordinator of campus religious activities.

Each fall as school sessions begin at the deaf school, Lutheran activities are also scheduled. Early in September Rev. Walter Busby, missionary of the Florida field of Deaf Missions, starts making his weekly trips from Miami to the school in St. Augustine.

Pastor Busby sets up regular weekly Monday afternoon and evening classes and twice a month conducts a Sunday morning chapel service. Classes arranged



Seminary Students Learn to Preach in Signs . . .

During the last few years at our seminary in St. Louis students have had the opportunity to see themselves practice preach. While the student preaches to his fellow classmates and professor, a TV tape recorder, seen above at the right, picks up his every move

This new electronic helper has been a blessing particularly for students interested in serving their Lord in deaf missions. These students practice preach in two languages — spoken English and the language of signs

Rev. Floyd Possehl, pastor of the St. Louis field, conducts the language of signs class

according to academic level are conducted for 60 blind and 100 deaf students in the evening session. Some 60 deaf children are divided into four groups for the afternoon classes.

This program of Lutheran education for the deaf began about 14 years ago and expanded to weekly visits in 1956.

Chamber of Commerce
St. Augustine, Fla.

Dedicate New Church Facilities

West Hartford, Conn. The new church building of the Lutheran Church of the Deaf of West Hartford was dedicated in a special service on Oct. 23 last year. Rev. H. W. Rohe, Secretary of Deaf Missions, was guest preacher. The liturgists were Rev. Robert G. Blakely and Rev. Earl J. Thaler, who serve the New England deaf missions field.



. . . And Improve by Seeing Themselves

After delivering his sermon the student sits down with his professor to listen and see himself preach as the tape is replayed. The tape can be replayed as often as necessary with sound or without the sound. This is important for the student who thinks and preaches in two languages, for he can easily see his mistakes or failures to communicate in one or the other language. The recorder helps the student to develop good habits and good expression

The TV tape recorder was a gift to the seminary by the Aid Association for Lutherans. It cost about \$25,000

In the afternoon a special service of thanksgiving was conducted with Rev. Martin C. Duchow of Bethany Lutheran Church, West Hartford, as guest preacher.

The new church building of the deaf was formerly owned by the Assembly of God church and has now been completely renovated both inside and out. Outside renovations consist of a complete new front and the erection of a large steeple and redwood ballasts, over which is fixed a 14-foot cross lighted from within.

The interior was completely re-decorated and the sanctuary remodeled. A very beautiful permanent screening was constructed under the direction of Mr. Edward Haffty, a member of the church. Under his direction many long hours were put into this very detailed latticework screening.

Because of the many long hours of work on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond DeMars of Bristol, Conn., our church is the very proud owner of a new altar, pulpit, lectern, registry stand, and a beautiful 6-foot cross which is suspended in front of a dark-gold dossal curtain and lighted from within. All of these items are made of solid birch and finished in natural color. Mr. and Mrs. DeMars also made our beautiful Colonial-type outdoor sign, which is lighted in the evening hours.

With the money collected in our building fund for the past several years many deaf and hearing

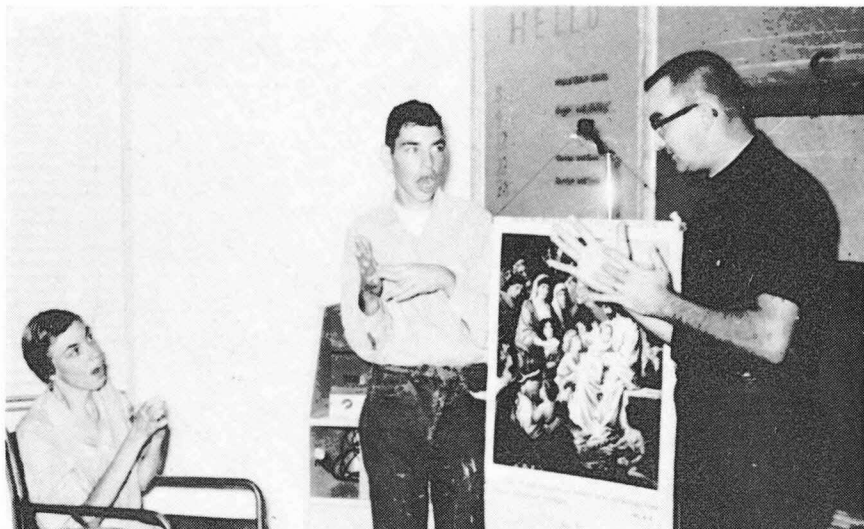
members and friends completely remodeled our kitchen with a new commercial-type stove and dishwasher, new cupboards, and other necessary equipment.

Our new church contains on the basement level the kitchen, furnace room, work office, library, restrooms, and fellowship hall. On the main floor is the chapel with a vestry, treasurer's room, coatroom, and the pastor's office. The second floor holds our choir room and a beautifully furnished nursery for parents with young children.

We are proud to announce that numerous items in our new church were obtained through trading stamps gathered from many sources over the years. For example, a large frost-free refrigerator-freezer was purchased with World Green stamps, an electric water fountain with S & H Green stamps, a complete set of dishes and silverware — service for 70 people — and all sorts of kitchen equipment through Plaid stamps. Our entire nursery room was furnished with Triple-S Blue stamps. In addition to this we have also obtained a great deal of equipment for our summer camp program with trading stamps.

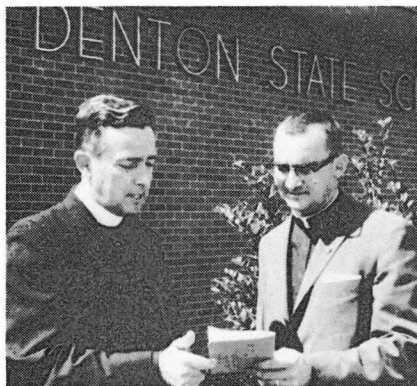
Our congregation is indeed grateful to our Lord and Savior for the wonderful gift of a church home for our deaf here in the East. We pray that the Lord will help us use this building to lead hundreds of deaf souls to Jesus, our Savior.

REV. EARL J. THALER



Pastor Serves Deaf Retarded

Dallas, Tex. Rev. William A. Duey (right), pastor to the deaf in North Texas and Oklahoma, teaches religion to a group of trainable and a group of educatable deaf and hard of hearing mentally retarded youngsters at the Denton State School, Denton, Tex.



Receives Award

On Sept. 19, 1966, at the annual awards banquet for volunteer workers at the Denton State School Rev. Duey (right) was awarded a 100-hour pin for volunteer service teaching the deaf retarded. Rev. Duey and Rev. Alton Donsbach (left), who has been working with hearing teen-age boys, were the only two Lutherans among the 467 volunteers who received awards

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