

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:33

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Number 5



The Christian Family

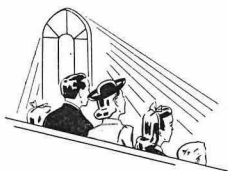
A Standard for the Christian Family

God made us a family



Together we use God's Word
Together we grow in Christ
Together we love all men
Together we serve our God
Together we hope for heaven
Through Christ, our Lord

We need one another
We love one another
We forgive one another
We work together
We play together
We worship together



These are our hopes and ideals
+
Help us attain them, O God

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

Official Paper of the Board for Missions
The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

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Faith of a Child

Thoughts on Going to Church

Should my child attend public worship services? Will he bother other worshippers? Can I expect him to be quiet? Will he understand? Will it do him any good to go to church?

These questions and many similar ones come to the minds of many deaf parents of deaf and hearing children.

Perhaps the best direct answer is to be found in Proverbs 22:6, *Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.* This Bible passage is our guide for training all children, both hearing and deaf.

A child needs the Savior as much as an adult does, and the child should have the opportunity to learn about Him. Through the sacrament of Holy Baptism the child was received into God's kingdom of grace. That is a good start on the road of faith, but that faith has to grow. As parents provide for their child's physical growth, so they should also make sure he grows spiritually.

At a very early age we begin to train our hearing children to be quiet and reverent for a short period of time each day to talk with God in our family devotions. In the same way a deaf child's training must be started early in his life so that he too may learn about his Savior and become spiritually minded. By worshipping together every day, the family

lays the groundwork for going to a worship service at church.

Do not worry whether he understands much or little. The Holy



Spirit is at work in children too. They will learn to love Jesus and trust Him in their childlike simplicity. It is this childlike faith which Christ Jesus had in mind when He said, *I tell you the truth, if you don't receive God's kingdom like a little child, you will not get into it.* (Mark 10:15 Beck)

Speak daily to your child about the love of Jesus. Show him pictures of Jesus. Tell him Jesus loves him even more than Mommy and Daddy do. Teach him simple prayers for bedtime and mealtime. Let us take the time and patiently work with the child.

As he grows older, starting perhaps at 4, take your child to a Sunday school. Your pastor can help and advise you if your deaf congregation does not have one.

At the Sunday school the child will learn more about his Savior Jesus. He will learn the Ten Com-

mandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, and other important teachings of God's Word, so that eventually he may be confirmed and received into full church membership.

Let us bring our child along the way to know Jesus. God commands us to sow the seed of His Good News. He promises to make the seed of faith grow.

It will mean much to the child, whether he is deaf or hearing, to learn of Jesus' love for him. Nothing is sweeter than for a parent to hear or see his child confidently say, "I go to heaven by Jesus. He died for me."

Many parents find much comfort as they answer, "Yes, Jesus

loves you. He loves me too. We are His children." Their hearts are filled with joy, for God has been using them to lead their child's soul to the arms of the Savior.

Be encouraged to take your child to church. Speak daily to him about the love of Jesus, and live that love in your own personal life. Depend on the Holy Spirit to bless your child with a strong faith.

MISS CHRISTINE SECKEL
The Star

Ed. Note: Miss Seckel is chaplain's deaconess assistant at Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis. We thank Miss Seckel for granting us permission to adapt her thoughts to the needs of our children.

The Christian Home

The month of May has a special day set aside for the mother in the home, Mother's Day, May 14 this year. This is also an appropriate time to think about the *Christian home*.

This is the home where a family lives its new life in Christ. The members of this home know the

love of Jesus for each one. They believe that Jesus is their Savior and Lord. Together as a family they pray to Him, asking His forgiveness of their sins and seeking His help in their daily living. They help one another to grow in the love and knowledge of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

The partners in a Christian marriage believe that God has joined them together as long as both shall live. *What God has joined together man must not separate* (Matthew 19:6, Beck). A Christian man and wife understand their responsibility to make their marriage a good one and



The Question Box

Q. *Why doesn't a pastor receive Holy Communion?*

— Mrs. L. W., Columbus

A. Normally a pastor does not receive Holy Communion with his congregation, because no other pastor is there to give it to him. He does not usually commune himself. This, however, does not mean that he never receives the Lord's Supper.

Although he is called to preach the Word of God and to administer the sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper, the pastor experiences the same guilt and temptations of the flesh that every Christian knows. He needs the same assurance of God's grace, the same strengthening of faith in Jesus' forgiveness, and the same special help of the Holy Spirit to lead a godly life as His ambassador.

The pastor attends a monthly pastors conference, where he receives the Lord's Supper with other ministers in his city. When our missionaries who work with the deaf meet for the annual Ephphatha Conference, they receive the Lord's Supper at the opening Communion service. The blessings which God gives through Holy Communion are as precious to the pastor as they are to all faithful Christians.

REV. WILLIAM A. LUDWIG

Next month a Cincinnati, Ohio, woman asks: *What is the never-forgiven sin?*

Address your questions on any church-related subject to The Question Box, Rev. William A. Ludwig, 360 Morse Road, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

their home a happy one. Good marriages and happy homes do not happen by themselves. They are made by husband and wife with God's help and blessing.

Children in a good Christian family learn to walk with God from an early age. They learn that God loves them through Jesus. The love mother and father have toward each other also touches the lives of the children. Their home is peaceful as each member tries

to follow the forgiving and unselfish way of Jesus.

Members of a Christian home are strong and secure in their faith in the one and only Savior. Their strength is their common love for God and for each other. A Christian home is not a battleground — it is a sanctuary (holy place), a quiet refuge, where each member can find the needed love and trust.

Have you ever met such a wonderful Christian family?

Perhaps many of you have not known the warmth, love, and peace of a Christian home. With much prayer and work, however,

your home can be happier and Christian. It is worth working for that wonderful relationship. It can be a blessing for you and your children.

REV. H. GRAEF
The Silent Visitor

The Ebenezer Proclamation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. Confident of the love of God and in response to His mercy, The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod resolved at its 1965 convention to bring a special thank-offering of at least \$40,000,000 in praise of Him who always helps us, in order to buy and build properties in all parts of the world by which God may achieve His purposes through us.

Therefore, as the president of the Synod, I proclaim the year of our Lord

1967

THE EBENEZER YEAR

By the mercies of God, I beseech you to

praise our Lord by bringing Him a special thankoffering on your birthday during this year

* * *

measure your gift in relation to the years of grace you have enjoyed from your Father's bountiful goodness

* * *

share with your fellow Christians your joy in being alive and your greater joy in being alive in the risen Christ

* * *

plead with God to give us all thankful hearts and enable us to bring a true thankoffering

* * *

A thankoffering which may shock us and will honor God.

* * *

OLIVER R. HARMS, *President*
The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

"Samuel took a stone and set it between Mizpah and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." — 1 Samuel 7:12



Half Moved In

I was enjoying an evening stroll — kicking at a pebble on the sidewalk, breaking off a twig from an overhanging branch. Then I looked up the street. What was that? Someone moving OUT or IN? It is not always easy to tell which, you know.

On the front lawn was an assortment of furniture. Would they leave it there all night? It might rain. Or somebody might steal it.

Curious, I examined the things more closely. Here was a very large lamp. It appeared to be an excellent source of light. Next to it was a strange item of furniture that looked like a throne. Then I saw a very comfortable-looking couch. Finally I spotted what appeared to be a very fine hi-fi playback system.

Walking up to the door I knocked and waited. I asked of the man who opened the door, "Pardon me, but I had to know — are you folks moving in or out?"

Then I looked up and paused in surprise. It was Jesus at the door! He understood my embarrassment.

"Lord," I said, "You . . . here?"

"Yes," He said, "I have been here quite a while. They have welcomed Me, and I live here."

"Oh," said I, "what about the furniture out there on the lawn? Is that Yours or theirs?"

"Mine," said Jesus. He smiled sadly. "I haven't won a full residence yet. They have given Me a welcome; but My furniture is a bit bulky, and they have no room for it."

"Oh," I said, and then I understood. The great lamp — old, somewhat marked with wear, but a source of wonderful light. "Your Word, Lord?" I asked.

"Yes, there are lots of little lamps in the house here — little lamps with burned-out bulbs, mostly. Some flicker occasionally: science, literature, human wisdom, nature. But no place for My Word."

"Oh, the throne — that is Yours too?"

"Yes," He said. "They have a place for Me but not much place for My rule. Fellowship they want, but not obedience."

"Oh, and the couch — that resting place. Just resting in You — perfect peace."

"Yes," He said. "I am glad you understand."

"And the hi-fi playback — a communication system with heaven. They talk to You, Lord, but they never listen."

"Yes, that is true," He said sadly.

"Well, pardon me," I begged again. "I don't want to be nosey, but I am glad You have explained. Some people have room for You, but no room for Your furniture. They expect You to fit Yourself into their pattern instead of conforming to Your way, Lord."

"O Master," I continued, "I am glad I stopped. I have learned a great lesson. When You move into a life, You want to move in completely. This is what You mean in John 14:23: *If you love Me, you will do what I say, and My Father will love you, and We will come to you and live with you.*" (Beck)

I bowed my head. "Thank You, Lord," I said. "I am glad You made it plain. I've learned a great truth."

I heard Him say, "I hope so," and as I went down the steps I wondered what kind of dream I had had.

For only then did I discover that I had circled the block . . . and look, it was my own house!

REV. L. J. GUTERMUTH
*South Dakota District Supplement,
The Lutheran Witness*

The Pentecost Spirit

LDMS Appeal

This month we will celebrate the great church festival of *Pentecost*, the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to His disciples.

Pentecost, observed this year on May 14, is called the birthday of the Christian church, for it was on this day that the Good News of Jesus' death and resurrection began to be preached and proclaimed to people of the world.

The Holy Spirit came that first Pentecost with wondrous blessing. First He gave the disciples the joy of their salvation and strengthened their faith. Then He gave them the wisdom, understanding, courage, and zeal to go and tell the Good News of Jesus to others.

We are living today in the great Pentecostal era. The Word of life has, through the working of the Holy Spirit, brought the joy of for-

giveness to many, including us. Dedicated pastors, teachers, missionaries, and Christian laymen have carried the message of God's mercy in Jesus to many far places.

But the work is not finished! The church of Jesus has been born and it has grown. Yet its work is not finished, for millions of people have not yet heard of Jesus' love.

Few Deaf Know Jesus

Many of these millions are the underprivileged deaf of other nations. These are the special concern of your Lutheran Deaf Mission Society.

The Word of salvation is for them too. Jesus died for them. The Holy Spirit wants to work in their hearts too. Their greatest need is for someone to bring God's Word to them so that they can understand it. That will give the Holy Spirit a good chance to work in their hearts and bring their souls to faith in Jesus.

The work of the church is not always easy. This task of bringing the Gospel of Jesus to uneducated deaf in foreign countries surely will not be an easy task.

We can, however, count on the Holy Spirit. He is with us to help us. As He gave the strength and wisdom to Peter on that first Pentecost to stand and preach Jesus and His resurrection to the crowds in Jerusalem, so He will give us the strength and wisdom to bring Christ to the deaf of the world. As He blessed Peter's preaching and led 3,000 to be baptized on that day, so He will bless the work of our church among the deaf of other lands.

Support Your LDMS

The greatest need for your LDMS at this time is for growth in members who will support it with their prayers and gifts.

Since Rev. C. R. Gerhold surveyed the needs of the deaf in Nigeria and Ghana in 1965, no one has officially requested LDMS funds. However, as you have read in the DEAF LUTHERAN in the past few years, the Lord has brought to our attention the needs of the deaf in the Far East, Africa, and South America. We *cannot* and we *must not* close our eyes or look away.

Remember your LDMS with a generous contribution at Pentecost this year. Help your LDMS be ready to support the preaching of God's Word when He leads us to open and expand foreign deaf fields.

Knowing Thee and Thy Salvation,
Grateful love dare never cease
To proclaim Thy tender mercies,

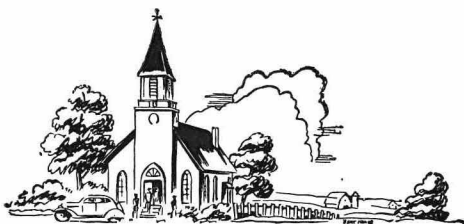
Gracious Lord, Thy heavenly peace,
Sound we forth the Gospel tidings
To the earth's remotest bound
That the sinner has been pardoned
And forgiveness can be found.

May our zeal to help the heathen
Be increased from day to day
As we plead in true compassion
And for their conversion pray.
For the many faithful heralds,
For the Gospel they proclaim,
Let us all be cheerful givers
To the glory of Thy name.

The Lutheran Hymnal, No. 498

On Pentecost Sunday bring your offering for LDMS to your home congregation. Ask your pastor for a contribution envelope. Gifts may also be sent to the LDMS financial secretary, Rev. R. G. Blakely, 233 Winter St., Norwood, Mass. 02062.

REV. MARTIN KOSCHE
Delavan, Wis.



FIELD

GLEANINGS

New Congregation Organized

Toledo, Ohio. At their voters' meeting on March 12 the congregation of Good Shepherd of the Deaf Lutheran Church, Toledo, adopted the final draft of their constitution. In years to come the congregation will mark this date as one to remember.

Good Shepherd Congregation has applied for articles of incorporation in the state of Ohio and is seeking membership in the Ohio

District of our Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod.

In the near future the deaf of Good Shepherd plan to conduct a service of thanksgiving in which they will dedicate themselves to the work of our Lord in the Toledo area.

Seeking to accept all the responsibility and work of a congregation, they have elected officers and adopted a budget. Officers for this historic first year are:

president, Howard Snyder; vice-president (financial secretary), Joseph Soncrant; secretary, Elmer McVicker; treasurer, Merwin Speweike; and elders, Robert Davidson and Paul Hetrick.

In addition the congregation has petitioned the Board of Missions for a full-time resident pastor and a division of the Ohio fields.

This will not be the first time that Toledo has been blessed with a resident pastor. While not giving a complete picture of the history of deaf missions in the Toledo area, the early issues of the DEAF LUTHERAN indicate that our church first began to work in Toledo in 1901. Rev. Theodore Claus, traveling from Chicago, preached here occasionally.

In the same year Rev. Arthur Boll took over the preaching station and sometime thereafter decided to live in Toledo. Rev. Boll lived here only a few years, however, and soon moved to Detroit, where the deaf congregation was growing faster.

Many historic facts are missing in the picture after this time, but sometime in the next 18 years the Toledo deaf were organized as a congregation and by 1919 had more than 30 communicant members.

After several years many deaf had died or moved away, and the congregation once again became a preaching station.

Now the Lord has once more blessed His work in Toledo. The congregation has grown to 44 com-

municant members and looks forward to winning more for Christ from the area's deaf population of approximately 500. The congregation is presently part of the Cleveland, Ohio, field, served by Rev. Martin Hewitt.

Congregation Moving

Portland, Oreg. After 40 years at one location, the congregation of Hope Lutheran Church for the Deaf will move to another area of Portland. The move will be an *experiment* to test a new area of the city as well as to find out whether the congregation should try to relocate near a hearing church.

For the past several years Hope Congregation has been seeking an answer and solution for its many problems. The church building needed much repair, and more space was needed for the growing congregation's activities. Busses seldom ran on Sunday, and members felt unsafe coming to church at night. The congregation wanted a Sunday school for their hearing children. They wanted to serve the oral deaf of Portland as well as the younger deaf.

The congregation looked into the possibility of relocating their church nearer one of Portland's hearing Lutheran churches. One congregation, Resurrection Lutheran Church, offered Hope Congregation the use of its old chapel. Resurrection Congregation had built a new chapel on their property and used the old chapel for their Sunday school

classes. The two congregations made an agreement to conduct an experiment for one year to see if this area would serve the needs and plans of the deaf congregation.

The old chapel needed much work to adapt it to the worship needs of the deaf. Then on March 5 the deaf began to use their new worship facility. The deaf adults treat this experiment with a "wait and see" attitude. Their hearing children, on the other hand, seem happier that they can go to hearing services while their parents worship at the deaf service.

The deaf congregation now looks forward to starting an oral deaf Sunday school and hopes to recruit some hearing members of Resurrection Congregation as teachers.

Hope Congregation will have a very interesting year.

Observes 10th Anniversary

Denver, Colo. Bethel Deaf Lutheran Church of Denver passed an important milestone in its congregational life when, on April 2, it gave thanks to the Lord on the 10th anniversary of its founding.

After about 20 years as a preaching station of Rev. A. E. Ferber's Kansas City Field, the deaf received their first residential pastor in 1953, Rev. Clark R. Bailey. Under Pastor Bailey's spiritual guidance the deaf were organized as a congregation on April 7, 1957, with a charter membership of 30 communicants. Rev. William H. Lange served the con-

gregation from 1960 to 1966. Presently the congregation is being served by Rev. Donald Zuhn.

At its April 2 celebration the congregation together with their hearing friends joined in a service of thanksgiving. A program in the afternoon recounted the blessings of God on the congregation during the past 10 years.

Denver Lutheran Forum

Lutherans in the News

Washington, D. C. A recent issue of the *Gallaudet Record*, published on the campus of Gallaudet College, Washington, included a compliment about a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, St. Paul, Minn.

Alan Finke, a Gallaudet senior, was named to the 1966 All-Conference Defensive Football Team of the Mason-Dixon Intercollegiate Conference.

Coach Gary Klingensmith said Finke "was the most versatile and best all-around player on the Gallaudet team this past season."

Alan is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Finke of Minneapolis, Minn. Mrs. Finke serves Prince of Peace Church as parish worker.

Choose a Name

Worcester, Mass. The deaf who worship together at Worcester are growing in numbers and with the Spirit. Without any formal organization as yet, they have decided to call themselves the "Deaf Church of Our Savior." Rev. Robert G. Blakely serves the deaf of Eastern New England.

Anniversary Celebration

Newark, N. J. In a special service on Jan. 15 the congregation of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Newark, gave thanks to God on its 30th anniversary.

The congregation invited Rev. William A. Ludwig of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Columbus, Ohio, as guest preacher for the anniversary service.

The Newark Field is served by Rev. C. Roland Gerhold.



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings for May

Your mission work begins with your family.

- May 1 — Genesis 2.** Is your marriage unselfish? Are you helping each other? Pray that God will bless the youth of the church as they plan their future life.
- May 2 — Genesis 29.** Do you have that love for your wife (husband) which makes helping her (him) a real pleasure? Ask God to bless your spouse with a stronger faith.
- May 3 — Judges 14.** If you are married to a Christian, God help you appreciate it. If not, may He give you added strength to remain faithful to God. Pray that all Christians will have courage to speak of Jesus to their non-Christian relatives.
- May 4 — Joshua 24:1-28.** May the motto of **your** family be: "We will serve the Lord." Pray for the women in your congregation that they may make their homes a Christian center.
- May 5 — Song of Solomon 1 and 2.** Though both you and your marriage partner know your weaknesses, may your love be true. Pray that parents in your church rule their families wisely.
- May 6 — Job 1:1-5.** Are you concerned for your children's spiritual welfare? Pray that many young people in our church will accept God's call to become pastors and teachers.
- May 7 — Psalm 128.** When you find yourself being impatient with your children, God help you remember that they are His blessing to you. Pray that God will save you from all temptation.
- May 8 — Proverbs 10.** Would Solomon call you a wise person? Would he call your family a wise family? Ask that God teach you and your family to humbly give yourselves to do His will.

- May 9** — **Proverbs 21:1-25**. Are you bringing joy to your parents? Ask God to bless your family with friendship and love for each other.
- May 10** — **Proverbs 30:1-17**. What can you do to help the youth of today be respectful and obedient? Pray for the courage to meet difficult times in your life with a strong faith and trust in God.
- May 11** — **Proverbs 31:10-31**. For wives: Does this picture fit you? For husbands: Do you appreciate your wife? Pray that God would give wisdom to our pastors as they help us with our family problems.
- May 12** — **Genesis 24:34-61**. For those thinking of becoming engaged: Is he (she) a Christian? If you marry him (her), will it help or hinder your Christian worship and life? Pray that God will help you make your decision. Pray also for Mrs. Sonja Leonhardt, pastor's wife, Devils Lake, N. Dak., and Rev. E. J. Thaler, West Hartford, Conn.
- May 13** — **Matthew 2:13-23**. Do you ask God to show you His will for your life and then follow without doubt? **Tomorrow is Lutheran Deaf Mission Society day**. Pray that our Lutheran deaf will praise God's name by bringing to church their generous gifts for missions.
- May 14** — **Luke 2:21-52**. Parents worshiping God, children obeying parents — is this a picture of your family? Pray for all the members of your family that you may be united in faith and love.
- May 15** — **Matthew 19:1-15**. God help you to take marriage seriously — not entering it without thought or breaking it sinfully. Pray for the married couples in your church that God would bless their relationship.
- May 16** — **Deuteronomy 4:1-40**. Thank God that your forefathers preserved the Word of God. May God help us to do the same for our children. Pray for spiritual growth among God's people. Pray also for Mrs. Janet Hewitt, pastor's wife, Cleveland, Ohio.
- May 17** — **Ephesians 5**. May you see your marriage from the Christian viewpoint and live accordingly day by day. Pray that God will guide you through all difficulty and trouble.
- May 18** — **Ephesians 6:10-24**. Are you strong enough to fight against the forces of evil? Ask God to help all the members of your congregation.
- May 19** — **Ecclesiastes 12:1-7**. How important it is to take time for God while you are young, so you will grow up both physically and spiritually! Pray that you may always know that God is with you. Pray also for Rev. Louis Jasper, New York, N. Y.
- May 20** — **1 Corinthians 7:1-27**. Whether you are married or unmarried, the important thing is that you are faithfully serving the Lord. Pray for God's blessings on the work of your Lutheran Deaf Mission Society.

- May 21 — Mark 7:24-30.** When problems enter your home, do you turn to Jesus for help? Pray for our pastors working with the deaf, that God will keep them safe in their travels.
- May 22 — 1 Peter 3.** We receive God's blessings together. Does this help and enrich your life together as a family? Pray for your children that they be blessed with a strong faith. Pray also for Mrs. Ethel Kosche, pastor's wife, Delavan, Wis., and Mrs. Dorothy Mason, pastor's wife, Chicago, Ill.
- May 23 — Ruth 1.** Do you have an in-law problem? Are you part of the problem? Pray for the deaf of the world who have not heard about Jesus, that God would lead someone to tell them.
- May 24 — Ruth 2.** Your family's greatest security for the future is this: God will take care of you. Pray for the new pastors who will begin to work with the deaf next month. Pray also for Mrs. Dorothy Frederking, pastor's wife, Phoenix, Ariz.
- May 25 — Ruth 3.** May our young people find their marriage partner among their "kinsmen" in the spirit — the Christian family. Pray for the Sunday school teachers in our church that they may be a strong Christian influence on our children.
- May 26 — Ruth 4.** Two things are necessary for beginning a happy marriage — consent from parents and a prayer for God's blessing. Pray that you may always know that God is with you. Pray also for Rev. William Aiello, Trenton, N. J.
- May 27 — Colossians 3:12-25.** The solution to family problems is found by teaching one another Christ's Word, with each family member following His example. Pray for a heart that hopes for heaven.
- May 28 — 1 Samuel 1.** Do you realize that your children are first of all God's children? Ask God to comfort the hearts of those who lost loved ones in war.
- May 29 — 1 Samuel 2.** What is your family doing with the Fourth Commandment? Pray that God will strengthen your children against the temptations of life.
- May 30 — Psalm 68:18-21.** Jesus Christ is victorious! You can face life — and death — unafraid. Ask God to give your congregation a full measure of eagerness to do His work.
- May 31 — Ephesians 4:1-16.** Do you appreciate God's gifts? Are you growing up spiritually? Ask that your family and you may grow in knowledge and wisdom as well as in faith and love.

Remember your *Ebenezer Thankoffering* and pray:

O heavenly Father, we are Your children. We come to You with only one prayer: Forgive us for our foolishness. Forgive us for our unwillingness to trust You, our slowness to love You, and our resistance to serve You. Give to all who have birthdays this month the wisdom to believe You, the quickness to love You, and the obedience to serve You, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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