

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 60

January 1968

Number 1

*We consecrate to our Savior —
our hands to work for Him,
our feet to go on His errands,
our voice to sing His praises,
our lips to proclaim His redeeming love,
our silver and our gold to extend His kingdom,
our will to do His will, and
every power of our life to the great task
of bringing the lost and erring into
eternal fellowship with Him. Amen.*



— REV. HARRY FRICKE

Expressions of Faith

These lines were penned by Mrs. Rae deRose for the dedication of her church, The Lutheran Church of the Deaf, West Hartford, Conn., in October 1966. The poem expresses our faith as we dedicate (give) and consecrate (give for a holy purpose) ourselves and our churches to serve the Lord in this new year. Ed.

A Dedication Prayer

Dear Lord, this special day we're gathered here
In humble thanks for Thy great bounty
We ask Thee, bless Thy people far and near
Who freely gave their gifts of love for Him
That we, who are bereft of sound, might know
Thy Son — the little Babe of Bethlehem.

God, bless our parents and our teachers too,
Who these long years have trained our minds and hands
That we whose ears are stopped shall justly share
In daily toil, in dues of citizens free,
Trusting the counsel of the Greatest One,
The Jesus Christ who taught in Galilee.

Far richer blessings, Lord, we pray, confer
Upon our pastors — theirs the greater task:
To teach our hearts to listen to Thy call;
To transfer love of I, myself, and me
To you and they — and most of all, to Him,
The Redeemer, who died on Calvary.

Dear Lord, today we dedicate this church,
But greater still, we give our hearts to Thee.
Pray, let Thy Holy Spirit enter in
And grant us strength and light that we may see
Thy pathway, as we serve among our own,
That worthy of the Ransom we shall be.

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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

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Published monthly by Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Mo. 63118. Subscription price, \$2.00 a year (\$1.00 if paid through local Lutheran pastor). Second-class postage paid at St. Louis, Mo.

Send subscriptions, address changes, and cancellations to Rev. Earl Thaler, Subscription Manager, 31 West Beacon St., West Hartford, Conn. 06119.

THE DEAF LUTHERAN goes to press on the 1st Friday, 4 weeks before issue. Send all news, pictures, stories, and articles by the 12th of the month, 7 weeks before issue, to Rev. Martin A. Hewitt, Editor, 1221 Virginia Ave., Cleveland, Ohio 44107.

Tragedy in Nigeria

World Missions

In Focus — January

It's not easy to be a missionary. It never has been. But it becomes particularly difficult when you're a missionary in a country at war.

The most recent example is Nigeria, where tribal conflict turned into civil war. It was a time of decision for both mission boards and foreign governments. Most decided in favor of safety for the missionaries. But not all. Roman Catholics decided to stay, and the Church of Scotland decided to *increase* its staff. Missouri Synod missionaries, acting on the advice of the American consulate and the mission board, decided to leave.

A Hard Decision

For many a missionary this was a difficult decision. It is not easy to leave people — people who are your friends and co-workers, people you have chosen to serve. It is especially difficult to leave when your friends and co-workers gather round and plead with you to stay, assuring you that neither side of the warring factions wants harm to come to you. And you listen, knowing that the brunt of the tragedy will be borne by them, not you, and that their burden-bearing will be doubly difficult because you're not there to share it with them. Somewhat ashamedly you listen as Nigerian friends worry aloud about *you* and *your safety* as you return to an American city torn by riots.

Yet you leave. You've been requested to do so. You don't know when — or if — you will ever return. You know that you want to, but you don't know who or what will be left. These people are at war. They're being killed. Their land is being ravaged. And you go home. *Home?* Your heart is in Nigeria, and your home is a village there.

No Easy Answer

Try to put yourself in the missionary's shoes. Imagine how you would feel if you were ordered to safety but to get it you had to leave your friends and co-workers behind. You know too that some of them — perhaps many of them — may be killed. The tribal conflict in Nigeria runs deep. And it may run long. Would you leave? *Could* you? What could you do if you stayed?

Because of the war it would be almost impossible for the missionaries to carry on their work.

Where does duty lie? How much sacrifice is demanded from a Christian? The missionary is also responsible for his family, to his home church, and to his mission board. What is right? Clearly there is no simple answer.

It's not easy to sit safely here in North America. It's not easy because you *know* it's not safe for Nigerians in Nigeria. It's not easy because you know so many Christians here have given so little thought to fellow Christians there.

Or have you?

What Can We Do?

The returned missionaries are unanimous in their appeal for your prayers. Pray for your fellow Nigerian Christians. Pray that God will comfort and strengthen them in this difficult time. Pray for the Lord's work, which they must do alone while the war rages. Pray for a peaceful solution to the war and tribal conflicts. And pray that they — and we — may continue to give a Christian witness to those who live near us.

Time is very short. We know that what we do as Christians and missionaries is the Lord's work, not ours. In some areas He has

graciously given us time to work. In other places He reminds us that His patience with us has an end.

Therefore, while God gives us the time, let us work in full force, using all the blessings God has given us, that we may serve wherever man needs to hear of His Savior. Let us stop wasting time, but with zeal let us bend to the task as God has seen fit to give it to us. Let us willingly join with our fellow Christians the world over in a common task of sharing the Good News — God's gift of a Savior to mankind.

Adapted from
Cross and Caduceus
Marie-Louise Gebhardt, Editor



FIELD

GLEANINGS

Pacific Northwest Regional News

Anniversary Celebration

Seattle, Wash. Congratulations to Redeemer Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Seattle upon its 45th anniversary.

A special anniversary service was held Sunday, Oct. 22. Deaf Lutherans from various fields of the region, including a busload from Vancouver, B. C., Can., gathered for the celebration.

New Chapel Dedicated

Vancouver, B. C., Can. The rain came down steadily on Sept. 10 in Vancouver, but worshipers arrived in a steady stream to attend the morning service of dedication for the new chapel of Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf. Some 212 worshipers crowded the chapel, designed to seat 150.

Rev. Arnold Jonas, pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Los Angeles, Calif., preached a powerful sermon on the text Eph. 2:19-22. He told the



Dedicated on Sept. 10, Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Vancouver, B. C., Can., will seat about 150 persons. A large multipurpose room in the basement will serve as an assembly room and educational area. The building also contains a large kitchen, pastor's study, sacristy, and storage areas

congregation to continue to build the church, which, of course, means people. "The chapel itself is only a tool in the building of the true church. The true church," Pastor Jonas said, "has Christ as its Cornerstone and is built on the foundation of the prophets and apostles."

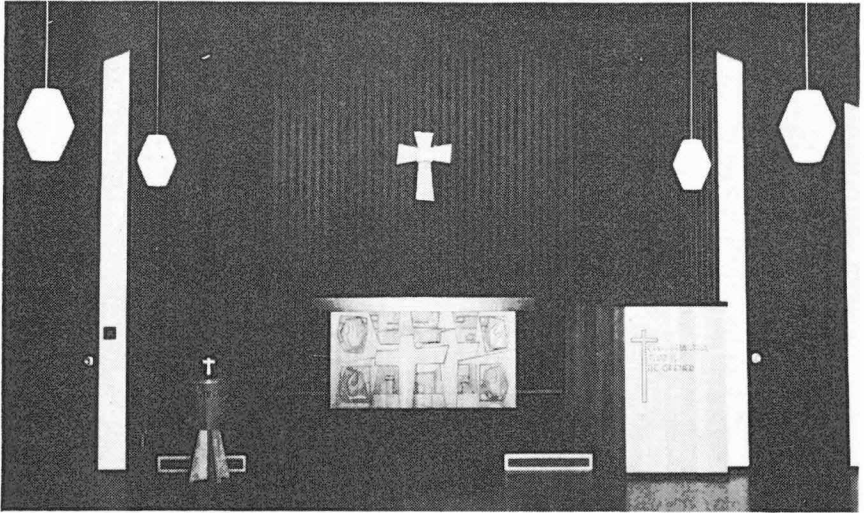
A service of thanksgiving was held at 3:00 p. m. with Rev. Herbert Rohe, secretary for deaf missions, as guest speaker. Pastor Rohe, basing his message on Eph. 3:14-21, spoke about the power of God in the hearts of Christian people, who through the Ebenezer Thankoffering made the building of the chapel possible.

A community evening service was also conducted at which Rev. Victor Meyer preached. Pastor Meyer, a longtime friend of the deaf congregation and now retired, spoke on 1 Peter 2:1-9.

The congregation's sign choir presented the hymns at all three services, which were attended by some 536 worshipers. Refreshments were served following each service by the deaf ladies and hearing mothers of deaf children.

Trinity congregation dates its beginning in 1929, when a few Vancouver deaf invited Rev. George Gaertner, then pastor in Seattle, Wash., to conduct regular monthly services for them. In the years that followed, Pastor Gaertner was succeeded by Rev. W. A. Westermann in 1931, Rev. A. T. Jonas in 1942, Rev. W. J. Hintz in 1948, and Rev. John A. Beyer in 1949. The Vancouver deaf Lutherans organized as Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf in 1957.

The congregation's desire for every-Sunday services led them to petition the Board for Missions



Interior of Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Vancouver, B. C., Can.

to the Deaf for a division of the Seattle Field and a resident pastor. Vicar Martin Hewitt was assigned to the Seattle Field in 1961 and lived in Vancouver, where he conducted every-Sunday services and served the needs of the deaf in Vancouver and Victoria, B. C., under the guidance of Pastor Beyer. The congregation's first resident pastor Rev. Wayne C. Bottlinger, was called the next year. Further growth of the congregation led to the commissioning of Alex Brodie, one of the founding fathers of the congregation, as a full-time lay worker in 1966. Now with the Lord's blessing the congregation has its own chapel.

Trinity congregation now has 64 communicant members, with an additional 20 receiving instruction for church membership. The congregation serves 175 souls, including deaf patients at the Riv-

erview mental hospital and the Woodlands School for the Retarded.

REV. RUSSEL JOHNSON, *Reporter*

News from the Dixie Region

Deaf Lay Conference

Memphis, Tenn. "Preach the Gospel to all the world" was the theme of the annual Dixie Deaf Lutheran Lay Conference held Aug. 1—3 in Memphis. Some 100 delegates and guests attended from 12 of the 14 states covered by the Dixie Region.

Guest lecturer was Rev. William F. Reinking, now secretary for missions in Africa and the Middle East, who presented a slide lecture of deaf missions in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines.

Rev. Reinking demonstrated some of the signs the deaf use in the Far East, which are completely different than the lan-

guage of signs we use in this country. "The language of signs the deaf use in the United States is not a universal language," Rev. Reinking explained. "Each country tries to use some form of its written language. In Japan, for example, the language of signs sometimes consists in writing words in the air."

Conference delegates elected the following officers for a 2-year term: president — John Anderson from Florida, vice-president — Lawrence Fields from Tennessee, secretary — Miss Norma Bushey from North Carolina, treasurer — Miss Sara Lee Iriarte from Florida, and program chairman — Rev. W. E. Duey, Dallas, Tex.

Theme of next year's Miami, Fla., conference will be "Fishers

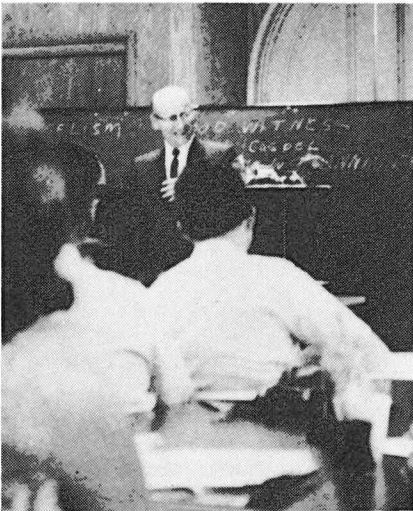
of Men." The newly elected conference president, John Anderson, will also head a constitution committee, with the assistance of Rev. W. Busby, missionary to the deaf in the Florida Field.

REV. W. E. DUEY, *Reporter*

CORRECTION

The rental rate for *Pilgrim Tower*, an apartment building for deaf and hearing senior citizens in Los Angeles, Calif., was incorrectly reported in our November story. Rent will range from \$78.50 to \$120 per month, depending on the size of the apartment, and will include all utilities, carpets, drapes, refrigerator, and kitchen range.

Since *Pilgrim Tower* will be filled on a first-come-first-served basis, the sooner applications are sent in, the better one's chances are to rent an apartment. All interested deaf are encouraged to write for an application blank to *Pilgrim Tower*, 1233 South Vermont, Los Angeles, Calif. 90006.



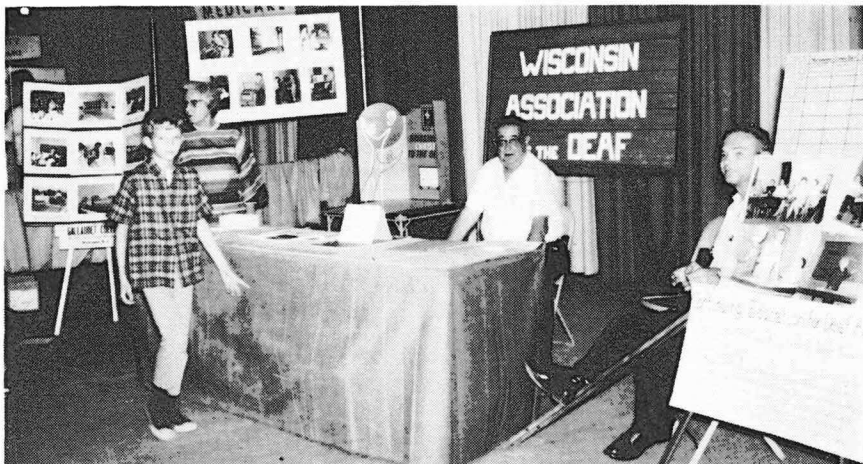
Rev. Herbert Rohe, secretary for deaf missions, presents the Board for Missions report to guests and delegates of the Dixie Deaf Lutheran Lay Conference held last August in Memphis, Tenn.

Central Region News

WAD Exhibit

West Allis, Wis. A few months ago, at the Wisconsin State Fair held this year at West Allis, the Wisconsin Association of the Deaf manned their biennial exhibition booth to promote the cause of education and welfare of the deaf.

Exhibits of the past years aroused so much public interest



Wisconsin Association of the Deaf sponsors an exhibition booth at their state fair, to promote the interests of the deaf. Panels of pictures at the far left represent Gallaudet College, the only college for the deaf in the world. Next to them are pictures showing scenes in the Wisconsin Rehabilitation Center. Pictures at the far right depict scenes in the deaf adult education program. Left to right: unidentified youngster, Mrs. Norma LeTourneau, Kenneth Steinke, and Edward Weiler. This year's booth was managed by Mrs. Lorraine McDaniel and Kenneth Steinke, with the help of many volunteers

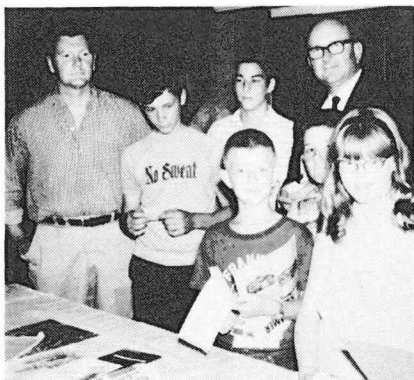
in the education and welfare of the deaf that the project will be financed annually from now on by the State.

This year's exhibit drew thousands of interested persons as exhibit workers handed out 10,000 manual alphabet cards.

One police officer from Beloit took 30 cards so that his fellow officers might learn to communicate with the deaf. Many others registered for a class, to learn the language of signs.

The exhibit workers were especially pleased when the WAD booth was visited by Wisconsin's Governor, Warren P. Knowles, who also posed with the deaf for a picture.

REV. O. ANDERSON, *Reporter*



Rev. Robert Corl, missionary to the deaf in the northern Wisconsin field, volunteered some of his time to serve as interpreter and advisor at the WAD exhibit booth. Here he speaks with an interested family who have neighbors with a deaf child. Their children are very interested in the manual alphabet cards

NOTICE

Change in subscription plan:

From now on subscriptions for the Deaf Lutheran will be handled through your local Lutheran church or pastor.

Subscriptions will still cost only \$1.00 if you pay through your church.

All other subscriptions will be raised to \$2.00.

Your pastor has all other information and can answer any questions you may have.

This change is necessary because of increases in postal rates and printing costs. Instead of raising the subscription rates for our Lutheran subscribers, we are changing to this special plan. Ed.

Daily Bible Reading Plan for 1968

The theme of the 450th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation celebrated last October was *Life — New Life*. The Bible materials printed for the year's celebration, however, arrived too late for us to use in our daily Bible study. This year we will adapt them for our own use in the DEAF LUTHERAN to nourish (feed) our Christian lives through thoughtful daily

study of God's Word.

Each month we will use a different theme, emphasized in the many periods of Biblical history and experience. As you read, *listen* to God's voice and see how He deals with mankind. *Think* what it means for you today. Then *pray* about it. May God bless your study as He strengthens your faith.



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings for January

This month remember one or more of the following in your daily prayers:

- the deaf of Nigeria who do not understand the war and who do not yet know Jesus as Savior.
- the members of your family and home congregation.
- your pastor and the leaders of your congregation.
- your thanks to God for His many blessings.
- that every Christian may bravely witness of God's love at home and in all the world.
- your church's need for more pastors and teachers.
- our church workers who celebrate birthdays this month:

Pastor A. T. Jonas, Los Angeles, Calif. (4)

Miss Judith Torgerson, parish worker, Edmonton, Alta., Can. (14)

Pastor J. A. Beyer, Seattle, Wash. (14)

Pastor R. Bauer, Edmonton, Alta., Can. (27)

Mrs. Ferol Hauptman, pastor's wife, St. Paul, Minn. (28)

Mrs. D. Haug, pastor's wife, Houston, Tex. (30)

Theme: "Life — New Life." Jesus Christ, who declared "I am . . . the Life," is the Lord and Savior of all God's people.

Creation and God's Promises of a Savior

- Jan. 1 — Genesis 1:1-31.** God, who created the universe and made man, has also made me to live for Him.
- Jan. 2 — Genesis 2:1-25.** God blessed the 7th day as the Sabbath. As God planted the garden for Adam and Eve, He wanted mankind to live in perfect righteousness and joy.
- Jan. 3 — Genesis 3:1-24.** Evil entered the world when man refused to obey God. Man's sin is the cause of evil in the world. In His mercy God promised man victory over evil through the Savior who would come. (v. 15)

Noah and the Flood

- Jan. 4 — Genesis 6:1-22.** The growth of sin. Noah loved and trusted God, and God promised to save him from the Flood to come. Through Jesus God promises to save me from His punishment against sin.
- Jan. 5 — Genesis 7:1-24.** In His mercy God preserved animal and human life during the Flood through Noah and the ark. God still pre-serves life through the Good News we preach and teach in the church.
- Jan. 6 — Genesis 8:1-22.** After leaving the ark Noah built an altar to worship God. We thank God for His forgiveness in Jesus as we too worship Him by word and deed.

God's Promise to Abraham

- Jan. 7 — Genesis 12:1-20.** In His grace God promised Abram that his children would be a great nation. Through them He would show His salvation for all men. We are God's people today, and He uses us to tell the Good News to all.
- Jan. 8 — Genesis 13:1-18.** Abram showed his kindness in dividing the land with Lot. We also show that God lives in us by our concern for the welfare of others.
- Jan. 9 — Genesis 15:1-21.** God again gives His promise to Abram. Because Abram believes, he is made right and holy before God. God's love continues today as He continually blesses us with His grace.
- Jan. 10 — Genesis 16:1-16.** In human weakness Abram and Sarai follow their own plan to make God's promise come true, but it fails. We also must depend on God to fulfill His promises of love in His own way and time.
- Jan. 11 — Genesis 17:1-27.** God renews His promise, changes their names to Abraham and Sarah, and institutes the rite of circumcision as the outward sign of His favor. Today our Baptism reassures us that we are truly God's children through Jesus Christ.

Jacob's Prophecy

- Jan. 12 — Genesis 49:1-33.** In his old age Jacob, Abraham's grandson, prophesies that God will preserve Judah as a nation until the Savior is born. Today God promises to preserve His church to the end of the world so that it might share His love and forgiveness with all people.
- Jan. 13 — Genesis 50:1-26.** The descendants of Jacob hear the prophecy that God will someday lead them back to Canaan, and they promise to take Joseph's body with them. God still rules all things so that what He wants will happen.

Malachi, the Prophet

- Jan. 14 — Malachi 1:1-14.** Malachi proclaims God's judgment on faithless Judah and God's choice of Gentiles (non-Jews) as His people. Today we have been given the task of sharing the Word of the Lord with the world.
- Jan. 15 — Malachi 2:1-17.** Judah falls into sin because of faithless priests. God encourages us to be faithful in sharing and telling His Good News.
- Jan. 16 — Malachi 3:1-18.** God's judgment on Judah for their lack of zeal for God, and His promise of a prophet to prepare the way for Jesus' coming. Have we been eager to do the Lord's work faithfully?
- Jan. 17 — Malachi 4:1-5.** Although God will surely judge mankind, He will send the Sun of Righteousness for man's salvation. Salvation from God's judgment on sin today is possible only by faith in Jesus.

Early Life of Jesus

- Jan. 18 — Matthew 1:1-25.** Joseph's family tree goes back to David and Abraham. Surely through his legal father Jesus is truly the Promised One. That Holy One of God will save His people from their sins.
- Jan. 19 — Matthew 2:1-23.** The coming of the Magi shows Christ's mission to all peoples. God protects Jesus and keeps His promise in spite of human opposition.
- Jan. 20 — Matthew 3:1-17.** To prepare the way for Jesus, John the Baptizer preaches repentance. At His baptism Jesus is anointed by the Father and the Holy Spirit for His public ministry as the Suffering Servant of God. Through suffering and death Jesus has won salvation for us. Trust Him!
- Jan. 21 — Matthew 4:1-25.** Jesus refuses to let the devil tempt Him away from His work of gaining man's salvation through suffering and death. With the power of the Word let us stand strong against the temptation of sin and unbelief.

- Jan. 22 — Matthew 5:1-48.** God deals with His people with grace and mercy, not judgment. We too as God's people are to be loving, forgiving, and merciful in our relationship to others.
- Jan. 23 — Matthew 6:1-34.** The true worship and life of the believer. Is God — not self — first in your life?
- Jan. 24 — Matthew 7:1-29.** God's people are to avoid a harsh, critical spirit. Fruits of faith include a life of prayer and devotion. If we build our life on God's love in Jesus and show that love in our lives, then we have built well.

Closing Days of Jesus' Ministry

- Jan. 25 — Matthew 26:1-75.** To prepare His disciples for His Passion, Jesus accepts Mary's expression of gratitude, foretells the betrayal and denial, and institutes the Lord's Supper. He prepares Himself with prayer, is captured and tried at the court of the high priest. He tells that He is the Christ. Jesus accepted that suffering for me!
- Jan. 26 — Matthew 27:1-66.** Jesus' suffering, death, and burial for my salvation. In Him I trust; for Him I live!
- Jan. 27 — Matthew 28:1-20.** Jesus is risen and lives through all eternity! Because He lives, my body will be raised at the Last Day, and I will live with Him forever.

The Final Victory of the Kingdom of God

- Jan. 28 — Revelation 1:1-20.** The beginning of the visions given to John in his old age. Today God is also concerned with my spiritual welfare.
- Jan. 29 — Revelation 2:1-29.** Strengths and weaknesses of four churches in Asia Minor. Do you know the weaknesses of your congregation? How can they be corrected?
- Jan. 30 — Revelation 3:1-22.** Warnings against spiritual indifference and spiritual death. May God give our churches renewed zeal and life.
- Jan. 31 — Revelation 22:1-21.** Jesus will come again to receive us into Paradise to live with Him forever. Come, Lord Jesus!

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