

The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, that is,
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

Volume 60

December 1968

Number 12



*I was glad when they said to me,
"Let us go to the house of the Lord!"*

Psalm 122:1

Measure One Hundred Years

Christian Social Welfare

In Focus — December

The story has often been told of a poorly clothed boy who was on his way home from Sunday school. On the way he met a man who did not believe in God. The man asked what he had learned in Sunday school that morning.

The boy answered, "God is Love."

"If God is Love," the man replied, "then why didn't He tell someone to give you clothes and shoes?"

After a few moments pause the boy said sadly and softly, "I guess God told somebody, and somebody forgot."

All too often we have been the somebody who forgot. We have known of someone in need, and we do not help. If we were not Christian people, it would be easy to understand why we do not help others. But because we are Christian, it is impossible to find an excuse. In his First Letter, John points out the power Christian people have to be concerned and helpful:

Dear friends! Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Whoever loves is a child of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is Love. This is how God showed His love for us: He sent His only Son into the world that we might have life through Him. This is what love is: it is not that we have loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven.

Dear friends, if this is how God loved us, then we should love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us and His love is made perfect within us. (1 John 4:7-12 TEV)

These words of Holy Scripture challenge us to be what we say we are. We say we love God. Then we ought to prove our faith by giving ourselves to help others. Rev. Edward C. May, executive director of

THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod

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the Wheat Ridge Foundation, recently challenged Christians to act for Christ. He said:

The words come, "Go, make disciples. Go, baptize. Go, teach. Go, heal. Go, preach. Let your light shine, love your enemies, pray for your persecutors. Visit the orphans and widows in their affliction — and the sick — and the prisoners. Welcome strangers. Feed the hungry, clothe the naked, and give a cup of cold water." This is our authority for intruding into the lives of the sick and sorrowing, the poor and lonely, the despairing and fearful, and those who have forgotten or never knew that God loves them. Let no one tell you that the church has no right to impose the life and work of Jesus Christ on others who, in their opinion, are perfectly happy without Him. This is not left to our judgment. All authority is given to Jesus Christ, who says, "Go, baptize, teach, heal," and the like. In order to show that the Son of Man has authority to forgive, He exercises His authority over sickness as He healed the paralytic. We are sent by Christ to do God's will, all of it. We do not have the option of selecting some things and omitting others. . . .

Yes, we need to remember! Many in our churches have remembered the needs of others. Our Lutheran Church will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Lutheran Social Ministry on Dec. 8. Yes, we remember to support Lutheran World Relief in its relief role of helping those who suffer through famine, earthquake, flood, tornado, or war. Last year we shared in the gathering of \$567,313 for the Wheat Ridge Foundation through the Christmas seals campaign, and we have a part in their fine program, which includes medical missions in six foreign fields and the tuberculosis treatment center in Wheat Ridge, Colo. We have gladly given our gifts to support church-related welfare programs.

But have we done this on a person-to-person basis? Have we individually taken the time and effort to really help another person?

It is easy to look back on 100 years of service with the pleasure of knowing what has been done for the needy in the name of Jesus. But our work has only started! Who needs help today — and tomorrow? Let us not be that somebody who forgot!

A Little Boy's Blessing

Near the end of World War I, a company of soldiers in the American army were stationed in Siberia. They had been there for a long time, and they were very weary of the loneliness and the darkness and the bitter cold. Morale became low. Uniforms and men became dirty, and the conversation dirtier still. Then Alex came.

The Sergeant found Alex, a little Russian boy, huddled in a boxcar, trying to keep from freezing to death. So the Sergeant brought him back to the company, because he did not know what else to do with him.

Alex was a lovable youngster, and these men, who had begun to think of themselves as hard-boiled, soon lost their hearts to him. They began to see that they could not teach him to be clean without showing him how to do it! So they began to keep the barracks spotless once more. They cleaned themselves up and shaved every day.

They began to teach Alex how to speak English—and that meant cleaning up their conversation. They cut out the cursing and began to talk like real men again.

Then suddenly someone thought that they ought to teach him how to pray, and that was harder. Finally one man remembered the prayer "Now I lay me down to sleep," and the Lord's Prayer. Another recalled how he used to

talk simply to God in prayer at his mother's knee. Every night the men not on duty gathered to share in Alex's good-night prayers.

They told him about the Christmas story. When Christmas Eve came, Alex startled them by crying out, "Read me ze story of ze Child in ze Bible, Sergeant!" The old Sergeant scowled for a moment, then grabbed a Bible, thumbed through it clumsily until he found the story, and read it awkwardly, shyly, to Alex and the eagerly listening men.

So Christ came on earth to those disheartened, grimy American soldiers out in the bitter Siberian cold. Christ came and turned them away from their own suffering to care for the suffering of a little boy. As soon as He was within their hearts, He cleaned them up, within and without, as He always does when His Holy Spirit through His Word opens the door to Him!

The most glorious wish for your Christmas is that you will take some sufferer into your heart, into your home, and care for him with all your love and intelligence. If you will do that, your Christmas will be lighted with the radiance that comes only from the manger! For, as soon as Christ is free to work through you anew, He will work His miracles in your own heart, and you will have peace and joy when Christmas dawns.

Selected, author unknown

Can You Make Jimmy Smile?

Jimmy is deaf. His father was an American GI serving in Korea — he came back home. Jimmy's mother was Korean — she abandoned him, left him to die.

GI-Korean children suffer unbelievable harassment in Korea, if they survive at all. About 50 percent die! Thus Jimmy has three strikes against him. He is a GI-Korean child, he is an orphan, and he is deaf.



Through the efforts of the late Harry Holt and the present Holt Adoption Program 4,000 Korean orphans, many of them children of GI's, have been happily adopted into the United States. More are still there and need homes desperately. Some are infants and small children, but many have waited hopefully for years and now are older. After the age of

13 they can no longer be adopted into the United States by federal law.

Jimmy suffers because he is a GI-Korean child, because he does not have the love of a mother and father, and because he is deaf. He is a good boy but he is not a happy boy. He does not understand why he has to suffer. You are deaf — you understand. Can you open your heart to him and tell him you are also deaf? You are an American. Can you love him and be his mommy and daddy? Can you make Jimmy smile?

Many little deaf orphans are waiting and despairing in Korea. If you are interested in adopting one of these GI-Korean orphans, whether or not you have children of your own, you should make application to Holt Adoption Program. It is a fully licensed legal adoption agency. Their office is in Oregon. If you live in another state, the Holt Adoption Program will work through your state's welfare department. It is not difficult. If you think you may want to adopt a child but are not sure, apply anyway. The agency will explain everything, so you will be better able to decide if you want to adopt. If you do, you will literally save a child's life.

The Holt Adoption Program is also willing to place hearing children in homes of deaf parents. Can you find a place in your family for *one* of their children?

Write to: Holt Adoption Program, P. O. Box 95, Creswell, Oreg. 97426.

REV. ROGER PICKERING
Mission of the Holy Spirit
(Episcopal)
Berkeley, Calif.

(ED. NOTE: *The Holt Adoption Program is a Christian, nondenominational and nonprofit organization fully licensed in the State of Oregon. If you are interested in providing a home for one of these children, pray to God for guidance and talk about it with your pastor. He will be happy to help you and counsel you.*)

The Question Box

Q. *Should a recently divorced layman serve in a position of leadership in his congregation?*

— a Great Lakes Region reader

A. The answer to this question is given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Allow me to quote here verse 12, *Let deacons be the husband of one wife, and let them manage their children and their households well.* A deacon is a church officer or leader.

In view of these verses from God's Word, if the layman is guilty of causing or contributing toward his own divorce, he cannot and must not serve as a church officer. On the other hand, if he is truly innocent, only his congregation can decide whether or not he should keep his position as a church leader. His fellow members know his character and reputation very well, and they know the attitudes and feelings of their own church people as well as the thinking of other deaf in their city. He can keep his position only if the pastor and other church leaders have come to the conclusion after testing him, that he has proven himself fully blameless, in order that their church may not receive a bad name. Read verse 10.

Even if the congregation does not have enough able and active leaders who will serve as good officers, this group cannot afford to have a recently divorced officer with a doubtful character record. The fact that the deaf know each other well makes it important that church officers be faithful members who have very good reputations although they may be neither smart nor experienced.

REV. WILLIAM A. LUDWIG

How would you answer next month's question? *When a pastor receives a call to move to another congregation, how does he know if God wants him to move?*

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



FIELD

GLEANINGS

Great Lakes News

Rochester Congregation Dedicates New Facilities

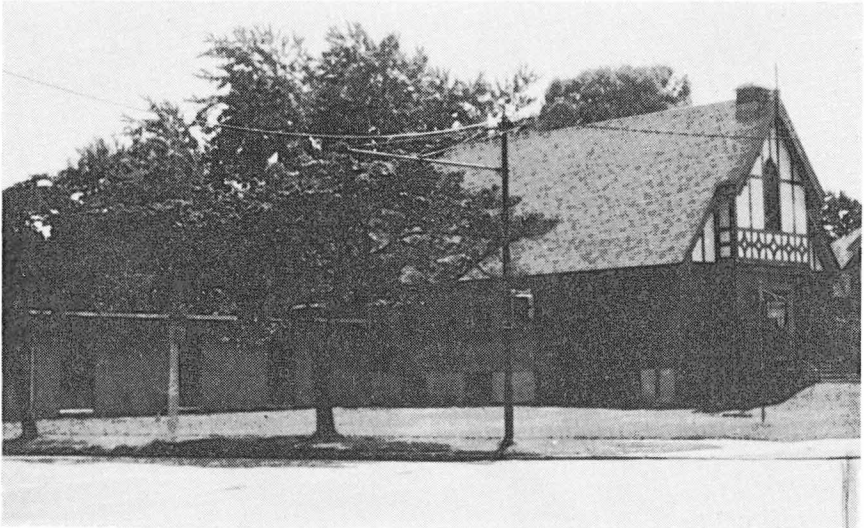
Rochester, N. Y. Our warm congratulations to Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Rochester on the dedication of their new chapel and parish hall facilities on Sept. 8. Pastor Rodney Rynearson sent us the following news regarding their joyous day.

“More than 180 people attended the dedication ceremony in the morning, at which Rev. Herbert Rohe, first resident pastor of Al-

pha and now secretary for deaf missions, was guest speaker.

“At noon a picnic lunch was served in the parish hall to the many guests, including more than 40 from western New York and northwest Pennsylvania. Rev. Enno Schmoock of North Tonawanda, N. Y., first vice-president of the Eastern District, was guest speaker at the afternoon festival of thanksgiving, at which over 150 deaf and hearing friends worshiped.

“This dedication is but one more high point in God’s rich blessings in Alpha congregation.



The new chapel and parish hall facilities of Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Rochester, N. Y., were dedicated on Sunday, Sept. 8

In 1953 a very small group of deaf earnestly prayed to God for some kind of a worship building. It became possible to buy from an estate a large mansion on fashionable East Avenue in Rochester for half price. That still meant, however, that the handful of deaf needed to raise \$30,000. Synod's Board for Missions to the Deaf granted \$20,000 from the Conquest for Christ funds. Over the years with the help of many hearing friends and congregations in the Eastern District, the deaf regularly paid the interest and most of the balance.

"Eleven years later it became apparent that the structure needed much repair and was

really no longer adequate. The building was then sold for \$120,000. What a blessing from the Lord! Some of the money was used to buy the present church, a 40-year-old brick structure. Some of the money was used to remodel it, with the deaf donating thousands of hours of labor. Then architect W. V. Moll of Niagara Falls designed the parish hall addition. Contractor William Ruster, also of Niagara Falls, agreed to build the new addition. The new addition contains a large fellowship-meeting room, church offices, committee-meeting rooms, and rest rooms. The total replacement value of the entire plant is close to \$200,000.



The pastors who led the worship services of dedication and thanksgiving are, l. to r.: Rev. E. L. Saresky, pastor of Faith Lutheran Church (hearing) in Penfield and circuit counselor; Rev. Rodney Rynearson, pastor of Alpha congregation; Rev. E. Schmoock, pastor of St. Paul hearing congregation, North Tonawanda, and first vice-president of the Eastern District; and Rev. Herbert Rohe, secretary for deaf missions, St. Louis, Mo.

"The Lord of the church has richly blessed Alpha, and the congregation is thankful for an adequate plant to serve the 100-plus Protestant students at the Rochester School for the Deaf, the students of the new National Technical Institute of the Deaf in Rochester, and the growing adult deaf community."

REV. ROBERT BREMER, *Reporter*

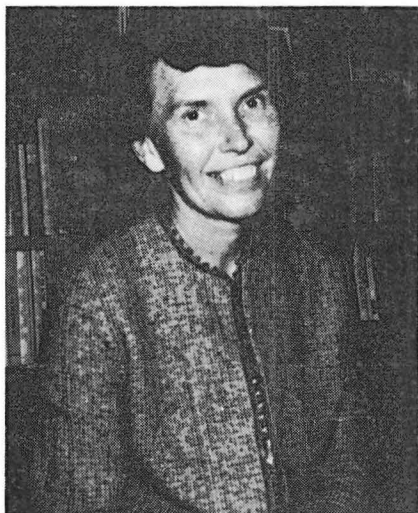
Eastern Region News

Madagascar Missionary Visits Deaf Congregation

Elmhurst, N. Y. Miss Ingebjorg Finstad, missionary to the deaf of Madagascar, arrived in New York City, Sept. 16, for a 3-month study tour of churches of the deaf and educational institutions for the deaf throughout the eastern half of the United States.

Miss Finstad, a member of the exchange program of the National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation, will observe various aspects of the work among the deaf in this country. She is seeking information and resource material on methods and activities used in serving the religious needs of the deaf.

Missionary Finstad was sent to Madagascar, a large island in the western Indian Ocean off the east coast of Africa, by the Norwegian Mission Society of the Lutheran Church of Norway. She has served in Antsirabe since 1951. There she has charge of a deaf school with an enrollment of 80 students.



Missionary to the deaf of Madagascar, Miss Ingebjorg Finstad

Miss Finstad, a most personable and delightfully interesting person, speaks quite fluently in Norwegian, French, English, and the native language of Madagascar as well as the language of signs of Madagascar's deaf. Although she has come here to gain "new ideas and inspirations" for her work, she will also impart new ideas and inspiration to the many Americans she will meet here.

In particular her visiting schedule includes: St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Elmhurst, N. Y.; Mill Neck Manor Lutheran School for the Deaf, Long Island, N. Y.; the Lexington School for the Deaf, New York City; St. Mary's School for the Deaf, Buffalo, N. Y.; the Vocational Training Center, Rochester, N. Y.; the Marie Katzenbach School for the Deaf, Trenton, N. J.; the Clarke School for the

Deaf, Northhampton, Mass.; Gal-
laudet College, Washington, D. C.;
Central Institute for the Deaf,
St. Louis, Mo.; and St. Joseph's
School for the Deaf, St. Louis, Mo.

When Miss Finstad returns to
her work in Madagascar, she
hopes to take with her many new

insights for the development of
more modern training methods
for teachers of the deaf. May God
bless her tour of deaf work here
and give her courage and wisdom
in her work in Madagascar.

REV. WILLIAM AIELLO
Reporter

Pilgrim Tower

Pilgrim Tower, recently constructed new home for the deaf in the heart of Los Angeles, provides comfortable living for deaf people who are financially in the modest income range. The Tower was built and is owned by a private corporation. Some members of the board are members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf. Located next to the church, the Tower stands as a witness to the increasing Lutheran concern for the deaf.

This new 13-story apartment building comes out of the heart and planning of Los Angeles deaf Lutherans. It was the dream of Pastor A. T. Jonas, shepherd for the past two decades of Pilgrim's deaf congregation, and was developed by suburban Pasadena's Lutheran planner, Robert B. Cummings, and his associates.

The structure's 112 living units are available on a month-to-month basis at modest rentals. The Tower affords pleasant recreational and cultural facilities, both indoors and outside.

Pastor Jonas and his people are confident that their new Tower, completed last spring, will be a mecca for qualifying deaf people for years ahead and will minister to such handicapped folks in the spirit of the Good Samaritan.

The management of the Tower is able to converse with the language of signs. It is seeking another couple to assist Mr. and Mrs. Tom Saunders, managers of the Tower. It will be necessary for one of the couples to hear and talk on the telephone as well as to be able to use the language of signs. A small compensation and an apartment will be available for the qualifying couple.

Anyone interested in this position should contact Mrs. Saunders, 1207 South Vermont, Los Angeles, Calif. 90006.

Directory of Regular Sunday Services

The listings in this directory are limited to those congregations that conduct regular services every Sunday.

In addition to these, your Lutheran missionaries serve 184 preaching stations throughout the United States and Canada.

If you are interested in these unlisted once-or-twice-a-month services in your state, the pastor serving your area is listed on page 192 of this magazine. He will be happy to answer any questions.

For your information as you read this directory, "SS" means Sunday school, "BC" means Bible class, and times listed are a. m. except where noted otherwise.

ARIZONA

Phoenix, Our Savior

5105 N. 7th Ave.
SS — 9:30. Worship — 9:30
Rev. Theodore Frederking, pastor

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles, Pilgrim

1233 S. Vermont Ave.
SS — 11:00. Worship — 11:00
Rev. A. T. Jonas, pastor

Oakland, Memorial

1011 Grove St.
Worship — 10:00. BC — 11:15
Rev. Clark Bailey, pastor

Riverside (at Hope)

2882 Arlington Ave.
CSDR Worship — 8:30
Rev. G. Gehrs, pastor

San Francisco, St. John

22d near Mission & S. Van Ness
See Rev. M. Sampson for information

COLORADO

Denver, Bethel

700 S. Franklin St.
Worship — 11:00
Rev. Donald Zuhn, pastor

Colorado Springs, Immanuel

Pikes Peak Ave. at Institute
Worship — 9:45. SS — 10:45
Rev. Donald Zuhn, pastor

CONNECTICUT

West Hartford, Lutheran

31 W. Beacon St.
Worship — 9:30. Tues. BC — 7:30 p. m.
Rev. Earl J. Thaler, pastor
Mrs. Rae deRose, parish worker

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Washington, Christ

5101 — 16th St. N. W.
Worship — 10:00
Gallaudet College (school yr.) — 11:30
Rev. Daniel Pokorny, pastor

FLORIDA

Miami, Deaf Zion

15000 N. W. 27th Ave.
Worship — 11:00
Rev. Walter Busby, pastor

ILLINOIS

Chicago, North, Our Savior

1400 N. Ridgeway Ave.
Worship — 10:00 p. m.
Friday BC — 7:30 p. m.
Rev. C. Jones, pastor

Chicago, South, Ephphatha

7956 Martin L. King Dr.
Worship — 10:00
Wednesday BC — 7:30 p. m.
Rev. Leroy W. Mason, pastor

Jacksonville, Christ

104 Finley St.
Worship — 9:00
Rev. Orin Anderson, pastor

INDIANA

Indianapolis, Peace

4201 N. College Ave.
SS — 9:30. Worship — 10:30
Rev. Myron Prok, pastor

IOWA

Des Moines, Calvary

7th and Forest Avenue
Worship — 10:30
Rev. James Bengelsdorf, pastor

MICHIGAN

Detroit, Our Savior

6861 E. Nevada Ave.
SS — 10:00. Worship — 10:00
Rev. N. E. Borchardt, pastor

Flint, St. Paul's

402 S. Ballenger Highway
Worship — 11:00
Rev. Robert Bremer, pastor

MINNESOTA

St. Paul, Prince of Peace

205 N. Otis Street
Worship — 10:00
Rev. A. L. Hauptman, pastor
Mrs. F. Finke, parish worker

MISSOURI

Fulton, at St. Paul's

Highway 54 & Douglas Blvd.
Worship — 8:30 a. m.
Rev. C. Bremer, pastor

Kansas City, Pilgrim

38th St. & Gillham Road
SS & BC — 9:45. Worship — 10:45
Tuesday BC — 7:30 p. m.
Rev. A. E. Ferber, pastor

St. Louis, Holy Cross

101 N. Beaumont
BC — 9:00. Worship — 10:00
Rev. Floyd Posschl, pastor

Toledo, Good Shepherd (St. Paul)

428 N. Erie St.
SS and Worship — 11:00
Rev. Larry Harris, pastor

MONTANA

Great Falls, Christ

3726 5th Ave. N.
Worship — 9:30. SS — 10:45
Rev. R. Johnson, pastor

OREGON

Portland, Hope

1700 NE 132nd St.
SS — 9:15. Worship — 10:30
Rev. George Natonick, pastor

NEBRASKA

Omaha, Bethlehem

51st and Lake Sts.
Worship — 10:30
Rev. W. H. Lange, pastor
Gilbert Berninghaus, lay assistant

SOUTH DAKOTA

Sioux Falls, Trinity

101 S. Mable Ave.
Worship — 10:00
Rev. George Ring, pastor

NEW JERSEY

Newark, St. Matthew's

510 Parker St. at Ballantine Pky.
SS — 10:00. Worship — 10:00
Rev. C. R. Gerhold, pastor

TENNESSEE

Memphis, Grace

210 Washington St.
SS — 9:00. Worship — 10:15
Rev. Donald Leber, pastor

Trenton, Nativity (at Savior)

Front and Montgomery Sts.
Worship — 11:00
Rev. William Aiello, pastor

Memphis, Peace

1008 E. McLemore Ave.
SS — 2:30 p. m. Worship — 1:00 p. m.
Rev. Donald Leber, pastor

NEW YORK

Elmhurst, St. Matthew

41—01 75th St.
SS — 9:30. BC — 1:30 p. m.
Worship — 11:00
Rev. Daniel Hodgson, pastor
Miss Johanna Becker, teacher

TEXAS

Austin, Jesus

1307 Newton Ave.
Worship — 11:00
Rev. Don Haug, pastor

Garden City, L. I. (Resurrection)

Stewart at Clinton St.
Worship — 8:30
Rev. Daniel Hodgson, pastor

Dallas, John of Beverley

7611 Park Lane
SS and BC — 9:00. Worship — 10:30
Rev. William E. Duey, pastor

New York, St. Mark (Mt. Zion)

145th at Convent
Worship — 3:00 p. m.
BC — 4:00 p. m.
Rev. Daniel Hodgson, pastor

WASHINGTON

Seattle, Our Redeemer

1101 15th Ave.
BC — 10:30. SS and Worship — 11:00
Rev. John A. Beyer, pastor

Rochester, Alpha

580 Winton Rd. N.
BC — 9:30. Worship — 10:45
Rev. R. Rynearson, pastor

WISCONSIN

Delavan, Holy Cross

116 Walnut St.
Worship — 10:00
Rev. M. Kosche, pastor

NORTH DAKOTA

Devils Lake

SS — 9:00. BC — 9:45
Worship — 8:10
Rev. R. Leonhardt, pastor

Madison, Silent

1929 Huxley St.
Worship — 9:30
Rev. Robert Corl, pastor

OHIO

Cleveland, Christ

E. 25th and Payne, downtown
SS and Worship — 10:45
Wednesday BC — 8:00 p. m.
Rev. Martin A. Hewitt, pastor

Milwaukee, Emmanuel

4328 W. North Ave.
BC — 9:00. SS — 9:45
Worship — 9:45
Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller, pastor

Columbus, Holy Cross

360 Morse Road
SS and BC — 9:30. Worship — 10:45
Wednesday BC — 7:30 p. m.
Rev. William A. Ludwig, pastor

CANADA — ALBERTA

Edmonton, Cross of Christ

115 St. and 60th Ave.
SS and BC — 9:30. Worship — 10:30
Rev. Robert A. Bauer, pastor
Miss Margery Becker, parish worker



LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

for December

Include the following in your prayers this month:

- that God will bless the widows, the orphans, the aged, and all who lack the necessities of life.
- that all who have promised to be faithful to Jesus may always trust Him.
- that the unchurched deaf of your city may know and love the Savior.
- that the witness of your congregation to the birth of the Savior may lead many to faith.
- our church workers who celebrate their birthdays this month:
 - Pastor Daniel Hodgson, Elmhurst, N. Y. (12-3)
 - Pastor Waldemar Ferber, Fargo, N. Dak. (12-9)
 - Mrs. Eleanora Bremer, pastor's wife, Fulton, Mo. (12-12)
 - Pastor Wayne Bottlinger, Vancouver, B. C., Can. (12-19)
 - Pastor Clark Bailey, Oakland, Calif. (12-27)
 - Lay worker Alex Brodie, Vancouver, B. C., Can. (12-31)

Theme: "The Bible — The Cradle of Christ." Throughout its pages the Bible reveals and proclaims Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of Man, as Savior and Lord. Thus the Gospel, the Good News of Jesus Christ as the power of salvation to all who believe, is the Bible's theme and God's most important message and gift to mankind.

Ruth, a Gentile Ancestress of Jesus

- Dec. 1 — Ruth 1:1-22.** The historical background of Ruth. Ruth pleads successfully with Naomi to go with her to Bethlehem.
- Dec. 2 — Ruth 2:1-23.** Ruth gleanes from the fields of Boaz. Boaz becomes personally interested in Ruth.
- Dec. 3 — Ruth 3:1-18.** Ruth indicates to Boaz her willingness to become his wife.
- Dec. 4 — Ruth 4:1-22.** Boaz redeems Naomi's property and marries Ruth.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver, Trinity

2960 School Ave.
(2900 Kingsway)
SS and BC — 11:00
Worship — 11:00 and 7:30 p. m.
Thursday BC — 8:00 p. m.

Rev. Wayne Bottlinger, pastor
Mr. Alex Brodie, lay assistant

MANITOBA

Winnipeg, Jesus (Immanuel)

College and McKenzie
Worship — 11:00
Rev. F. P. Gehrs, pastor

Isaiah's Good News About Jesus

- Dec. 5 — Isaiah 1:1-31.** Israel's ungrateful unbelief and God's concern for its salvation. In our own age of unbelief let us remember that God wants all people to be saved through Jesus Christ, the Babe of Bethlehem.
- Dec. 6 — Isaiah 6:1-13.** Isaiah's vision of God, in which he accepts God's call to become a prophet to proclaim God's judgment on Israel's unbelief and God's saving mercy. So God calls us in our day to bear witness to His grace in Christ.
- Dec. 7 — Isaiah 7:1-25.** Isaiah's message to Ahaz at the time of the Syro-Ephraimite War. The sign of Immanuel (v. 14), our Savior. (Read also Matthew 1:23)
- Dec. 8 — Isaiah 9:1-21.** The Messianic King. God's judgment on Ephraim and its lesson for Judah.
- Dec. 9 — Isaiah 11:1-16.** The Messianic Age is to be started by the Davidic Messiah (Jesus). The future restoration of Israel prophesied. This refers to the New Testament period, in which we live. Through our telling the Good News God brings His kingdom of love to men today.
- Dec. 10 — Isaiah 12:1-6.** In a new day (the New Testament period), God's people "with joy will draw water from the wells of salvation." In our Bible we can learn more of God's life-giving "water of salvation."
- Dec. 11 — Isaiah 40:1-31.** The coming of the Lord, the Creator of all things, to bring salvation and renewal to mankind.
- Dec. 12 — Isaiah 53:1-12.** The Suffering Servant of God psalm is fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Jesus was born to be the Suffering Servant who by His death and resurrection would bring salvation and hope to us.
- Dec. 13 — Isaiah 55:1-13.** God has much grace to offer all people through Jesus Christ. Through His Word God would save us and all people from the slavery of sin and death.
- Dec. 14 — Isaiah 60:1-22.** The glory of the Lord is coming. A light will shine in darkness to draw people to the Light of men. Gentile kings will come with camels laden with gifts to worship the Lord, the everlasting Light. Jesus Christ is that Light who would bring hope and salvation to our world of despair and unbelief.
- Dec. 15 — Isaiah 61:1-11.** The glad tidings of salvation to Zion are brought by Jesus (see Luke 4:18-19). Jesus is the Blessing sent to God's people, the people of God's everlasting covenant (promise) of grace and mercy.

Christ Our Beautiful Savior

- Dec. 16 — Luke 1:1-80.** Luke writes his Gospel to his friend Theophilus, a non-Jew interested in Christianity. Events leading to the birth of John the Baptizer are told, as well as the angel's announcement about the birth of Jesus. Note Mary's hymn of praise.

- Dec. 17 — Luke 2:1-52.** The birth, infancy, and childhood of Jesus.
- Dec. 18 — Luke 3:1-38.** The ministry of John the Baptizer and the baptism of Jesus. The human family tree of Jesus through Mary (read Matthew 1:1-17 for Jesus' family tree through Joseph).
- Dec. 19 — Luke 4:1-44.** Jesus' temptation and victories over Satan and demonic powers. Nazareth rejects Jesus. Jesus is our Victor over evil.
- Dec. 20 — Luke 5:1-39.** First disciples are called. The healing miracles of Jesus. The call of Levi (Matthew). Parables of the wedding guests, the patch, and the wineskins. Jesus came to bring us wholeness of life.
- Dec. 21 — Luke 6:1-49.** Jesus' activities of mercy on the Sabbath. Jesus' great sermon concerning love and mercy. We can proclaim God's love for us as shown in Jesus by showing love and mercy toward others.
- Dec. 22 — Luke 7:1-50.** Jesus' healing ministry. Jesus' relationship with John the Baptizer. Jesus and the penitent sinner. In Jesus we have complete healing from the sickness of sin.
- Dec. 23 — Luke 9:1-62.** Jesus and His disciples. Jesus sets His face toward Jerusalem to suffer and die as the Suffering Servant of God.
- Dec. 24 — Luke 10:1-42.** The mission of the Seventy. The Good Samaritan. Martha and Mary.
- Dec. 25 — Luke 15:1-32.** God's great love for the lost. Jesus was born that we might be brought back to our heavenly Father.
- Dec. 26 — Luke 19:1-48.** Jesus and Zacchaeus. Parable of the pounds. Jesus enters Jerusalem. Attempts to destroy Jesus. How do you receive Jesus?
- Dec. 27 — Luke 20:1-47.** The Great Council challenges Jesus' authority. Allegory of the vineyard. Questions about taxation, the resurrection, and the Davidic descent of the Christ. Jesus warns against hypocritical (two-faced) religious leaders. *Lord, may I accept Jesus my Savior in simple faith. Amen.*
- Dec. 28 — Luke 21:1-38.** The widow's gift. Events marking the end of this age. *Lord Jesus, trusting firmly in You, I wait for Your second coming, when You will bring me to eternal glory. Amen.*
- Dec. 29 — Luke 22:1-71.** Jesus' last supper, farewell talk to the disciples, the arrest, and the hearing before the Great Council.
- Dec. 30 — Luke 23:1-56.** The condemnation, crucifixion, and burial of Jesus. This He did willingly for me.
- Dec. 31 — Luke 24:1-53.** Discovery of the empty tomb. The risen Jesus Christ appears to His disciples. Jesus' final message to His disciples, and His final parting. As we begin another year, let us resolve that with the power of the Spirit we will be more earnest in sharing with all people the "Life — New Life" found in Jesus.

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