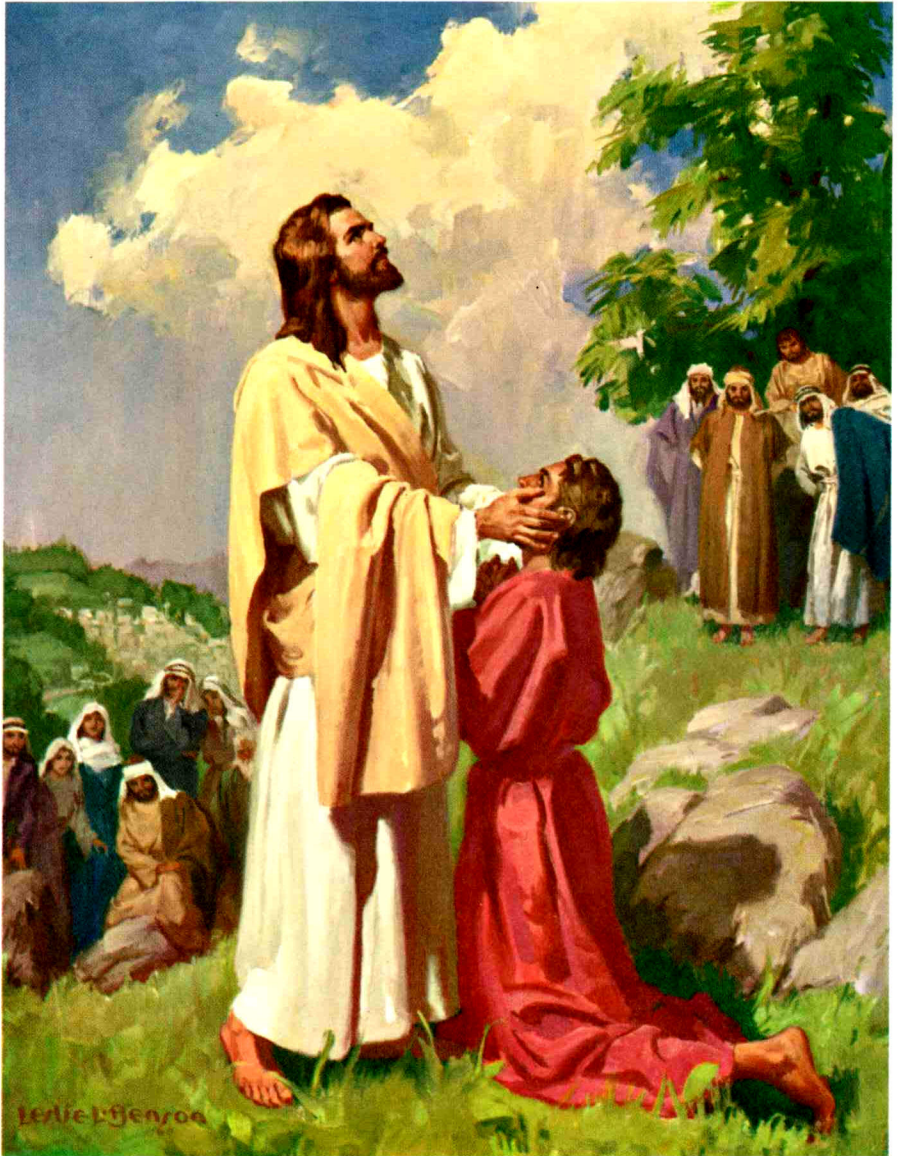




# The Deaf Lutheran



*Ephphatha, Be Opened*



## Do It—Together

An Arab chief wanted to find out which of his three sons loved him the most. He sent them out into the wide, wide world to see which one would bring back to him the most valuable present.

The three boys met in a distant city and compared the gifts they had found. The first had a magic carpet on which he could transport himself and others any place they would like to go. The second son had a magic medicine which could cure any disease. The third son had a magic glass in which he could see what was happening at any place in the world.

The three boys decided, just for fun, to use the magic glass and see what was happening at home. The father was sick and dying. The boys jumped on the magic carpet, and all three were quickly transported home. They gave

their father the magic medicine, and he became well.

As you can imagine, the father could not decide which gift was the most valuable. All three were needed to save his life. Cooperation of the three sons was needed. If they had not cooperated, the father would have died.

This old Arabian tale is a good story to help us understand that cooperation is also needed in the church. God has not given all the brains and all the skills to one or two people. He has divided the gifts of the Spirit among many members (Ephesians 4). He wants us to love Him and love one another. He wants us to work together and cooperate in the business of telling the Good News of Jesus Christ to all the world. If we don't work together, His work suffers or fails.

REV. AUGUST HAUPTMAN  
*The Lamplighter*

## Keep Your Fish

### Evangelism

#### In Focus — February

Dr. Richard Caemmerer once wrote, "The intention of God is never merely to rescue His people from death, but to employ them for activities of the rescued and rescuing people."

That is what evangelism is all about. Many articles and sermons have been written to show the need of mankind to hear about and believe in Jesus. Christians

are urged to witness and share their faith with others. This is called "catching fish" for Jesus and is an important part of evangelism. In this article, however, we will discuss keeping the fish we catch.

When we talk about fish here, we are talking about people. Jesus told His disciples, "I will make you fishers of men."

I know many of our deaf readers are experienced fishermen. If

a fish is left lying in the hot sun, out of the water, it will die. It dies because it needs water and no one is taking care of it.

This is also true of "human fish" caught and brought to Jesus' church. Look around in your congregation. What happens to those young people confirmed every year? What happens to those new members? You see it happen: people become new members, seem very interested and excited about their faith for a while, and then stop coming. Maybe they were left in the hot sun — no one took care of them.

How can we keep our fish? First, we will see some of the reasons people have for leaving the church. Then we will discuss the symptoms of leaving and, last of all, prescriptions for preventing the loss.

### Reasons for Leaving

Many people are lost from the church every year. Some die, some join non-Lutheran churches, some are excommunicated, some quit. Our study is concerned with the last three groups: those who quit the church, are excommuni-

cated, or join non-Lutheran churches. Rev. Waldo J. Werning, in his book *Winning Them Back*, offers many reasons why people leave the church. I have put some of Rev. Werning's list in my own words for clarification.

The basic reason for a person's loss of interest in the church is the temptation to sin which is offered to the individual by the devil, by the sinful world, or by the sinful wants of his body. These temptations and sins lead people to reason, to find excuses.

#### *Psychological Reasons*

1. The person may feel the church is not offering what he needs.
2. He is afraid the church will give him responsibilities he cannot fulfill.
3. He feels he cannot be a Christian. The demands and ideals are too high.
4. He is caught in a trap. He thinks he is missing worldly pleasures and has no time for the church.
5. His guilt for sin keeps him from coming too close to God.
6. He has never been led by the church to really understand his faith.

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## THE DEAF LUTHERAN

February 1969, Vol. 61, No. 2

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### *Theological Reasons*

1. He may think, "It doesn't matter." He is indifferent about his faith. He doesn't really know his Savior and God's Word. He hasn't grown in faith since his confirmation.

2. He may have some very deep questions about the Bible. Since he cannot find the answers, he stays away from the church.

3. The programs and meetings at the church may be dull and boring. Maybe the members of the church are not living as Christians. This seems wrong to the new member. He stays away because of this. Perhaps the pastor and the members are not making the Christian message seem an important answer to the troubles and happenings of the modern world.

4. He may be more interested in business and work than in God. His work or his money becomes his real god.

### *Sociological Reasons*

1. He doesn't feel wanted by the members of the church. People in the church have not been friendly to him.

2. Maybe his wife does not belong to the church.

### *Economic Reasons*

He may misunderstand God's encouragement for members to support their church with money. He has little money, so he does not come to church. He doesn't have nice new clothes and is ashamed.

### *Personal Reasons*

1. He is angry with another member in the church.

2. He is angry with the pastor.

After we have read through this brief list of reasons some may have for leaving the church, we should look at our own feelings and actions and ask ourselves whether we are guilty of chasing someone away from Jesus or whether we have left the fish out in the sun to die.

### **Symptoms of Leaving**

A "symptom" is a sign that sickness is present. For example, a fever, a chill, and a cough may be symptoms of a bad cold. So also in the church a symptom may show a member is in danger of falling from faith in Jesus. He may be:

1. A person who does not use the means of grace. He does not read the Bible, God's Word. He does not receive the Lord's Supper. He refuses to follow God's teaching in such passages as Hebrews 10:25; Luke 11:28; and 1 Corinthians 11:23-25.

2. A person who does not lead a God-like life and who refuses to do what Jesus wants as He tells us in John 15:6-8; Galatians 5:19-26; James 1:22; and 2 Corinthians 5:15.

3. A person who does not accept the teaching of the Bible. Read John 8:47.

4. A person who is only interested in himself and the things of the world. He is a person who is not interested in the work of the church — evangelism, Christian education, stewardship. Read Matthew 16:26; 22:37-39; 1 Timothy 6:10.

5. A person who will not accept a Christian brother's criticism of love and who no longer wants to be a church member. Read Colossians 3:16; Titus 3:10; James 5:16.

If a person is sick, he visits a doctor for help. If a church member has one of these symptoms, the church must "doctor" him, visit him, care for his spiritual needs, or he will be lost.

### **Preventive Prescriptions**

We may ask: Whose job is it to keep the fish or members in the church? Whose responsibility is it to bring members back to Jesus? Is it the pastor's? Is it the congregational president's responsibility? Let me answer and emphasize: *It is every member's responsibility to keep his Christian brother for Jesus and to win back those who have strayed.*

What can each of us do to prevent the loss of members and to win back the lost ones?

First, let us look at our pastor. He is very busy leading, teaching, preparing sermons, helping people, counseling, interpreting, visiting the sick and the aged, and calling on members. If members are not coming to worship services and are not receiving the Lord's Supper, should the congregation let its pastor bear all of the work? Does the work of the church depend only on the pastor?

The pastor must show his people that all of them need to be concerned about lost members.

He should look at his own preaching and teaching. Is he giving his people a good dose of God's Word? Is he making it well understood?

He should look at his travel schedule. Is he spending too much time "on the road"? Is he making the best use of his time? He should discuss this problem with the officers and elders of his congregation. They are elected and given responsibility in these things by the congregation. Perhaps the congregation and field is too large for one pastor. The congregation should speak up and let the Board of Missions know of their concern and need for additional workers.

Second, let us look more closely at the congregation's responsibilities. Led by its pastor and its officers, the congregation can do several things.

For example, the congregation should have a permanent evangelism committee whose duties are spelled out in the bylaws of the congregation's constitution. The evangelism committee is responsible for getting people trained to share their faith in Jesus with others, to gain new members for the church, and to keep present members active.

Only the people who want to serve should be members of this committee. When the pastor is out of town serving a large field, this committee can be of much help. It should meet every month. Members on the committee could keep the congregation informed

## The Question Box

**Q.** *What is a backslider? How should one reach such a person to bring him back to active membership in the congregation?*

— A reader in the Great Lakes Region

**A.** According to the dictionary, a backslider is a person who loses his enthusiasm for the church.

The second question is a good one because the church is losing a number of people because of disinterest. Many members talk with each other about the backslider and his falling away from faith, but they do nothing to help him. This does not please the Lord who "does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants all to turn away from their sins." (2 Peter 3:9 TEV)

Making the failing member a faithful Christian again is very difficult work. Miracles do not always happen at the first effort. Bringing the backslider back to Christ's church may require much time and love, humility, and patience.

As concerned Christians we should first pray to God for help and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We may do well to consult our pastor for advice on what to say and how to say it. Our pastors know which Biblical passages to recommend, for the Bible is the power of God to lead anyone to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. Since this work of love may continue for a long time, prayer and patience are very important. Our first efforts may fail, but let us not give up. We must continue to pray for the backslider as well as to seek the counsel and help of our pastor.

Remember, if the failing member is finally brought back to active Christian life, there will be much joy in heaven.

REV. WILLIAM A. LUDWIG

*Why does Easter's date always change?* The April Question Box will answer this one.

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

about the need for fishing for new members and encouraging their fellow members through the parish newsletter.

Another helpful program for the congregation is called the Planned Parish Program. This means planning the congregation's

program one year in advance. Members know what is coming. Other deaf organizations will not outdate the church with their plans. Enthusiasm is encouraged when the members know what their church is doing. Committees can work well ahead and do a

better job. *Advance* magazine has many ideas and can be used as a guide for planning a year's program.

The planning can be done on a "retreat" for pastor, officers, and committees. A camp or lodge away from the city is ideal. Major events, estimates of funds needed, and important dates are then planned for the next 12 months, and the results will be a blessing to the life of the congregation.

These are a few ideas for keeping your fish. Be alert! Pay attention and look for the symptoms

of dying fish — inactive members. Work together to win them back and keep them active. You may think of other ways your congregation can grow in serving the Lord. Whatever you do to keep your fish, remember that the source of the Christian's strength is God's Word and His Good News of Salvation. Keep on fishing!

REV. WALTER BUSBY  
Miami, Fla.

(ED. NOTE: *Pastor Walter Busby first presented this article as a lecture for the Dixie Deaf Lutheran [regional] Conference, June 11—13, 1968.*)

## COSD Section on Legal Rights

In the January DEAF LUTHERAN we presented the new Council of Organizations Serving the Deaf, its work, its objectives, and its concerns. One of several areas with which COSD is concerned is the problem of legal rights of the deaf. COSD has activated a section on this problem for study and for finding a way to safeguard the rights of the deaf person in court.

Judge Sherman G. Finesilver of Denver, Colo., is chairman of this legal rights section, and under his leadership a number of important developments have occurred:

1. COSD is now in the final phase of readying a proposed uniform interpreter's law, which would guarantee a qualified interpreter for every deaf person in a court case of any kind. The proposed law will be presented to

the legislatures of several states in the current legislative sessions. Once the law has been adopted, it should pass without much difficulty in the other states.

2. COSD has gathered almost 1,000 names on a roster of knowledgeable and influential people who are concerned with the rights of deaf persons. This list is filed by state and by category and includes lawyers, judges, doctors, educators, policemen, detectives, rehabilitation leaders, employers and businessmen, legislators, communications people (TV, radio, newspaper) and religious leaders.

3. A special list of lawyers and judges is being compiled by Judge Joseph Pernick of Detroit, Mich. These legal people who have handled cases involving the deaf, whose parents are deaf, or who are able to communicate with the



deaf may form a new bar association with special interest in the welfare of the deaf.

4. COSD is also compiling all known court cases involving deaf people, especially cases where there is suspicion of miscarriage of justice. This file will be set up for matters of precedence and reference.

With this kind of coordinated effort in working toward the solution of the many difficulties confronting the deaf today, the world the deaf face tomorrow will be less unjust, less frustrating, and less lonely. COSD is helping to usher in a new era for the deaf, and we are a part of COSD.



## FIELD

## GLEANINGS

### *Eastern Region News*

#### **Music — for a Deaf Church**

*West Hartford, Conn.* Mrs. Bernice Konner, confirmed Dec. 8 at the Lutheran Church of the

Deaf, West Hartford, plays the organ for the congregation's worship services. Mrs. Konner, who has normal hearing, is the mother of Ricky Conner, who was confirmed in the church last year.

Since music adds to worship a feeling of joy and beauty of God's presence, Mrs. Konner drives more than an hour to church every Sunday. Her work is greatly appreciated by the hearing people present (pastor included) as well as the hard-of-hearing members of the congregation.

#### **Surprise for Pastor**

*West Hartford, Conn.* The Lutheran Church of the Deaf in West Hartford planned a surprise celebration Nov. 3 to honor their pastor, Rev. Earl Thaler, on his 10th anniversary as a minister. It was a complete success.

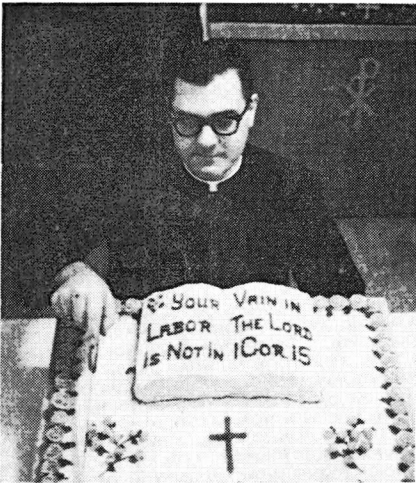
The congregation planned the



**Mrs. Bernice Konner, organist for a deaf congregation at worship**

special service, brought Rev. William A. Ludwig from Columbus, Ohio, as guest speaker, and provided a reception following the service.

We add our congratulations to Pastor Thaler and applaud the congregation for their show of devotion to their pastor.



Pastor Thaler cuts the large cake baked for the congregation's celebration of his 10th anniversary as pastor. Mrs. Edna Rinas, a hearing member of the deaf congregation, baked the cake

### Church Officers Attend Retreat

Elmhurst, N. Y. "Fishermen for Christ" was the theme of the St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the Deaf 1968 church leaders retreat held Oct. 19 and 20 at Pocono Crest in the mountains of eastern Pennsylvania.

Seven church leaders and three wives attended the retreat with their pastor, Rev. Daniel Hodgson, and discussed the meaning of Jesus' words in Luke 5:10, "Don't

be afraid; from now on you will be catching men."

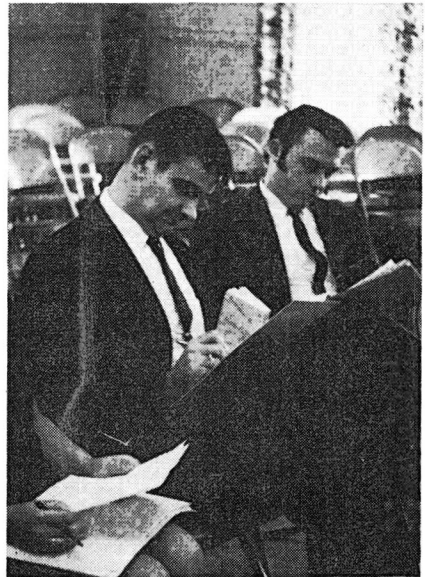
The retreat had three objectives:

1. That we all confess to God that we have often failed to speak and act in a way that leads others to Christ, their Savior;

2. That we learn and promise to do and say everything we can as individuals to lead our friends to Jesus; and

3. That we work together as one congregation to do and say all we can to show others that we want them to know Christ as their Savior and helper.

Pastor Hodgson opened the re-



At their congregation's leaders retreat, Joseph Allgair (left), president of St. Matthew Deaf Congregation in Elmhurst, N. Y., and John Woods, treasurer, concentrate on what God says about winning souls for Christ



**Louis Brook (left), trustee of Saint Matthew Congregation, and Louis Abrahamsen, elder, eagerly complete their study of materials and Scripture as they participate in the discussion-study retreat for officers of their church**

treat with a flannelgraph presentation of Luke 5:1-11, "Jesus Calls the First Disciples." The story tells about the many fish Peter caught when Jesus told him not to give up but try again. The boat in this story is like the Christian church, the fishermen are like Christians, the water is like the world around the church, the fish are like people without Christ in the world, and the net the fishermen use to bring the fish into the boat is like the words and actions Christians use to bring people without Christ into the church.

Much discussion focused on how each deaf person could "catch" other deaf people for

Christ. One way is to be a "real friend" to them. Another way is to share our own joys and happy experiences with them. This means we do not argue or try to force people to attend church worship services. Instead we tell others why Christ and worship are important to us.

The leaders also discussed how their church as a congregation can "catch" the deaf for Christ. Many of them wanted to have church activities which would draw people to St. Matthew's. After much discussion they decided that any activities planned to lead new deaf people into the church should not be used to make a profit. In other words, the leaders agreed that their church should mainly be interested in "catching" other deaf for Christ. With this idea in mind, they decided to put on a Thanksgiving dinner and show.

Pastor Hodgson concluded the retreat meeting by emphasizing that church leaders should never forget that they are not working alone, but that God sends each of them His Holy Spirit, who leads and helps them to "catch" the deaf who do not yet have Christ in their hearts.

REV. W. AIELLO, *Reporter*

### ***Pacific Coast News***

#### **Surprise Celebration Honors Pastor**

*Oakland, Calif.* Last summer our congregation at Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf, Oak-

land, was encouraged to give a surprise celebration in honor of Rev. Clark R. Bailey, our pastor, who has completed 15 years of service to the deaf.

Our president divided responsibilities in the surprise plan among several deaf people. He assigned me to take care of all correspondence, to take photographs, and to write an article for the DEAF LUTHERAN.

Rev. Marlin Sampson was asked to help make the celebration a success. He wholeheartedly agreed, much to our delight.

We decided that the celebration should coincide with the grand get-together of the Oakland and San Francisco Fields in Oakland on Sunday, Oct. 13. The purpose

of the meeting, following the noon dinner, was to plan the future of deaf missions in the Bay area and in the Great Valley now served by the two fields. Pastor Bailey, who planned the meeting, knew nothing of the extras planned for that day.

On the hard-raining Sunday, Oct. 13, right after the noon dinner, Pastor Bailey was surprised to see a large cake being paraded among the 80 people present. The cake was placed in front of him. A certificate from The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, acknowledging his 15 years of service, was placed beside him. Rev. Sampson opened the celebration with an applaudive speech congratulating him. Everyone was visibly happy.

Messages of congratulations from Rev. Herbert Rohe, secretary for deaf missions; Rev. William F. Reinking, who encouraged Pastor Bailey to enter deaf mission work; and Rev. Theodore DeLaney, for many years his neighbor and fellow worker in San Francisco, were read by three members. A gift of \$175 was given to Pastor Bailey by the Ladies' Guild Society as part of the down payment on a new automobile he needs very much. More monetary gifts were given to him for the same purpose.

After the celebration we got down to business to discuss the future of our congregations' work in this part of California. Everyone tried his best to suggest better ways to enlarge the kingdom



**Rev. Marlin Sampson (right) congratulates Rev. Clark Bailey on his 15th anniversary as pastor and missionary to the deaf. Pastor Bailey serves the Oakland, Calif., Field; Pastor Sampson, the San Francisco Field**

of God among the deaf. We all found the whole afternoon enjoyable and profitable.

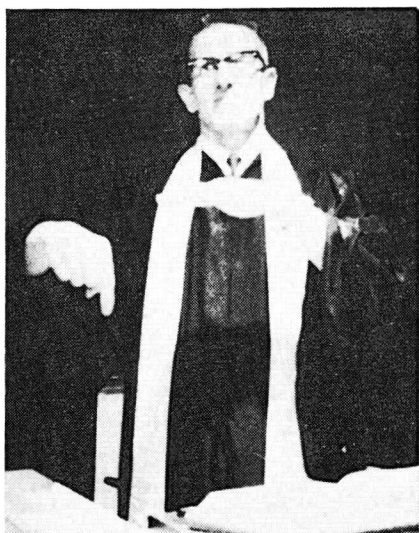
NORMAN L. DAVIS

### ***Dixie Region News***

#### **Conference Theme — Evangelism**

*Miami, Fla.* Evangelism is an invitation to see Jesus. For the church to survive in each generation, it is necessary for its members to *share* the Gospel. The delegates to the Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference, June 11—13, 1968, rededicated themselves to this first work of the church.

The conference was planned to help the delegates accept the challenge of evangelism. Presentations were given to encourage them to start a Fisherman's Club.



**Preaching at the Sunday service during the Dixie regional conference, Rev. Ervin Oermann tells the worshipers, "Go out into the deep of the world to catch (invite) people to come and see Jesus"**

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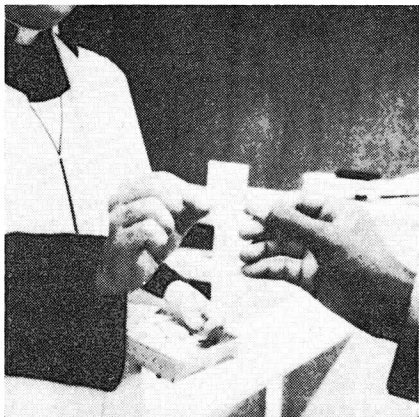
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*Business manager: Rev. Earl Thaler, 31 West Beacon St., West Hartford, Conn. 06119.*

The club would meet regularly to pray and study God's Word and to train members for visiting others, for sharing their faith, and for inviting others to come and worship. Club officers or leaders were to be as equally interested in their work as the dartball captain or the bowling team captain.

In preparing the delegates for their witness opportunities, Rev. Don Haug explained how to answer the many excuses people give when visited by a "fisherman." Rev. Donald Leber gave the group tracts and other printed materials helpful for training visitors and for inviting the unchurched deaf to learn about Jesus. His fishing rod with its many different "lures" showed the importance of developing a variety of ways to reach people. Rev. Walter Busby shared ways of keeping members active in the church. (See page 17)

The best work for each member of the congregation is evangelism. Through it each one will grow in his own personal faith as he witnesses to others. Evangelism is



In the service of dedication at the close of the conference, delegates accepted the challenge to be fishermen for Jesus. Each delegate received a fishhook lapel pin as a token or sign of his rededication

### Notice to Subscribers

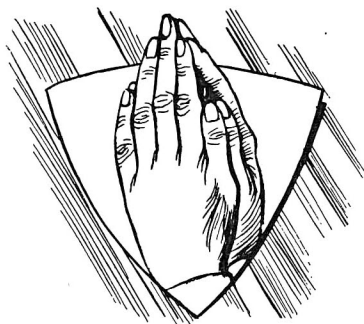
All subscriptions under the congregation's blanket plan for 1969 are due this month. Please give your \$1.00 subscription to your pastor or church treasurer **now**.

Thank you.

like an athlete's workout to improve his skill. The more we share Jesus with others, the more we grow in our Christian faith.

The 1969 Dixie conference will be held in Gulfport, Miss., June 9—12. Our emphasis will be "Lutheran Leadership."

REV. W. DUEY, *Reporter*



## LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

Daily Bible Readings

February 8—April 6

**Include the following in your prayers this month:**

- that Christians the world over may be united in the faith.
- that members in your congregation may love and understand each other.
- that God's Word and Spirit may lead many unchurched deaf to faith in Jesus.

- that the straying members of your congregation may return in love to worship and serve the Lord.
- that God may forgive your sins and give you an understanding of His greatest gift.
- our church workers who celebrate birthdays:
  - Pastor Marlin Sampson, San Francisco, Calif. (2-1)
  - Pastor A. L. Hauptman, St. Paul, Minn. (2-6)
  - Pastor Charles Jones, Chicago, Ill. (2-6)
  - Pastor Clarence Bremer, Fulton, Mo. (2-20)
  - Pastor Ervin Oermann, Milledgeville, Ga. (2-18)
  - Pastor F. P. Gehrs, Winnipeg, Man., Can. (2-21)
  - Mrs. Delores Anderson, pastor's wife, Jacksonville, Ill. (2-23)
  - Pastor William Ludwig, Columbus, Ohio (2-28)
  - Pastor Orlin Anderson, Jacksonville, Ill. (3-1)
  - Pastor George Natonick, Portland, Oreg. (3-1)
  - Mrs. Polly Peterson, pastor's wife, Decatur, Ill. (3-7)
  - Mrs. Lorena Mueller, pastor's wife, Milwaukee, Wis. (3-8)
  - Mrs. Martha Beyer, pastor's wife, Seattle, Wash. (3-10)
  - Mrs. Sonja Leonhardt, pastor's wife, Devils Lake, N. Dak. (3-12)
  - Mrs. Florence Finke, parish worker, St. Paul, Minn. (3-15)
  - Pastor Delbert Thies, Omaha, Nebr. (3-17)
  - Pastor Myron Prok, Indianapolis, Ind. (3-20)
  - Mrs. Florence Sampson, pastor's wife, San Francisco, Calif. (3-22)
  - Mrs. Ellen Lange, pastor's wife, Omaha, Nebr. (3-30)
  - Mrs. Catherine Bengelsdorf, pastor's wife, Des Moines, Iowa (4-1)
  - Mr. Donald Fairman, lay assistant, Los Angeles, Calif. (4-1)
  - Pastor Arnold Jonas, Los Angeles, Calif. (4-1)
  - Mrs. Eleanor Bauer, pastor's wife, Edmonton, Alta., Can. (4-6)

*Haggai was a prophet who returned with the children of Israel from Babylon to Jerusalem under Zerubbabel. He encouraged the despairing Jews to build God's temple.*

- Feb. 8 — Haggai 1:1-11.** Every good gift is from God. He takes away blessings only in love.
- Feb. 9 — Haggai 1:12-15.** God's people are encouraged to build.
- Feb. 10 — Haggai 2:1-9.** Outward appearances do not always show the truth.
- Feb. 11 — Haggai 2:10-23.** The humble Christian worships in the acceptance of God's great gifts.

*Malachi is the last of the Old Testament prophets. The Jewish people, after they had returned from captivity in Babylon, lost their devotion to God. Malachi inspired them to deeper worship and greater work.*

- Feb. 12 — Malachi 1:1-14.** Less than complete devotion is an insult to God.
- Feb. 13 — Malachi 2:1-9.** Your love for God may be known by what you say about your faith.
- Feb. 14 — Malachi 2:10-17.** Marriage without God has often led His people astray.

- Feb. 15** — **Malachi 3:1-12.** The Lord of forgiveness will judge those who reject and refuse His forgiveness.
- Feb. 16** — **Malachi 3:13-18.** Have you followed the guidance of your pastor in your worship and life?
- Feb. 17** — **Malachi 4:1-6.** The Lord will always act to keep His people true.
- A slave escaped from his master, Philemon. He was converted to faith in Jesus by Paul and sent back to his master with this letter.*
- Feb. 18** — **Philemon 1-25.** Do you meet your employers and fellow workers as Christians or only as fellow workers?
- Mark wrote the shortest of the four gospels. He tells the story of the public ministry of the Christ as the Son of Man.*
- Feb. 19** — **Mark 1:1-11.** Jesus is announced and dedicated as the Savior of men.
- Feb. 20** — **Mark 1:12-28.** With authority Jesus calls men to follow Him. Have you answered His call to be His disciple?
- Feb. 21** — **Mark 1:29-45.** Christian love helps those in need wherever it is able.
- Feb. 22** — **Mark 2:1-12.** Your greatest gift is the forgiveness of your sins.
- Feb. 23** — **Mark 2:13-28.** Those who love the Law will always object to the Good News of Jesus.
- Feb. 24** — **Mark 3:1-19.** You have been called and chosen as a disciple and a witness.
- Feb. 25** — **Mark 3:20-25.** Even the friends of Jesus misunderstood and opposed Him.
- Feb. 26** — **Mark 4:1-20.** Your open heart is the soil; God's power brings the fruit.
- Feb. 27** — **Mark 4:21-34.** God's kingdom grows as men understand His Word.
- Feb. 28** — **Mark 4:35-41.** Fear defeats the Christian's power.
- March 1** — **Mark 5:1-20.** Your story of what God has done for you begins in your own home.
- March 2** — **Mark 5:21-34.** The humblest faith may be the strongest.
- March 3** — **Mark 5:35-43.** There is no death for the Christian.
- March 4** — **Mark 6:1-13.** Have you asked for honor for yourself, or can you give God all glory?
- March 5** — **Mark 6:14-29.** The preaching of the Word touches and changes men at all levels of society.
- March 6** — **Mark 6:30-44.** Jesus trained His disciples by giving them a task and showing them how to do it.
- March 7** — **Mark 6:45-56.** The disciples understand the power and love of Christ.
- March 8** — **Mark 7:1-23.** When you use the Law, God's commandments, do you use it for yourself or only for others?
- March 9** — **Mark 7:24-37.** God's love in you should lead you to help others whenever you can, whether the needy person is worthy or not.
- March 10** — **Mark 8:1-10.** How well have you shown your Christian fellowship in sharing your bread?



- March 11** — **Mark 8:11-26.** It is through remembering Jesus that your heart will be kept with God.
- March 12** — **Mark 8:27—9:1.** Do you worship and work for God's sake or for your own?
- March 13** — **Mark 9:2-13.** As Christians, we want to know and fully understand the Christ, the Son of the always-living God.
- March 14** — **Mark 9:14-29.** When faith fails, Christian work fails.
- March 15** — **Mark 9:30-50.** You have one great need: a humble desire for God.
- March 16** — **Mark 10:1-16.** Have you truly understood the greatness and glory of the kingdom God has prepared for us?
- March 17** — **Mark 10:17-31.** Have you been able to choose rightly between wealth and the work of God?
- March 18** — **Mark 10:32-45.** Love and forgiveness are never earned; they are only given.
- March 19** — **Mark 10:46-52.** When you pray, pray for mercy, not for reward.
- March 20** — **Mark 11:1-14.** Jerusalem recognizes its King.
- March 21** — **Mark 11:15-33.** The authority of Jesus is proved by His acts, accepted by your faith.
- March 22** — **Mark 12:1-12.** Those who cannot give gifts cannot accept them either.
- March 23** — **Mark 12:13-34.** It is only a faint faith that puts Jesus to the test.
- March 24** — **Mark 12:35-44.** You serve God not by your success but by your devoted love.
- March 25** — **Mark 13:1-13.** Have you expected ease and comfort from your God? *Pray for courage to withstand the temptation of suffering.*
- March 26** — **Mark 13:14-17.** Wait in hope for the return of the Christ.
- March 27** — **Mark 14:1-16.** No gift to God is ever lost.
- March 28** — **Mark 14:17-31.** Be careful not to be overly self-confident. Know that you depend on Christ.
- March 29** — **Mark 14:32-42.** You are never safe from temptation. *Pray God to strengthen you to do His will in spite of trouble and fear.*
- March 30** — **Mark 14:43-52.** Have you forced your own wants on Christ, or have you let His will guide you?
- March 31** — **Mark 14:53-65.** Man's hatred of God shows itself in complete rejection.
- April 1** — **Mark 14:66-72.** Has fear led you to speak unfaithfully about Jesus?
- April 2** — **Mark 15:1-15.** No sinner is so evil that Jesus cannot forgive.
- April 3** — **Mark 15:16-20.** Jesus accepted the world's hatred and forgave it.
- April 4** — **Mark 15:21-39.** Jesus' complete triumph is accomplished by His death.
- April 5** — **Mark 15:40-47.** A Christian's despair is a distrust of God.
- April 6** — **Mark 16:1-20.** Your life has been given to you, and you will have it forever.

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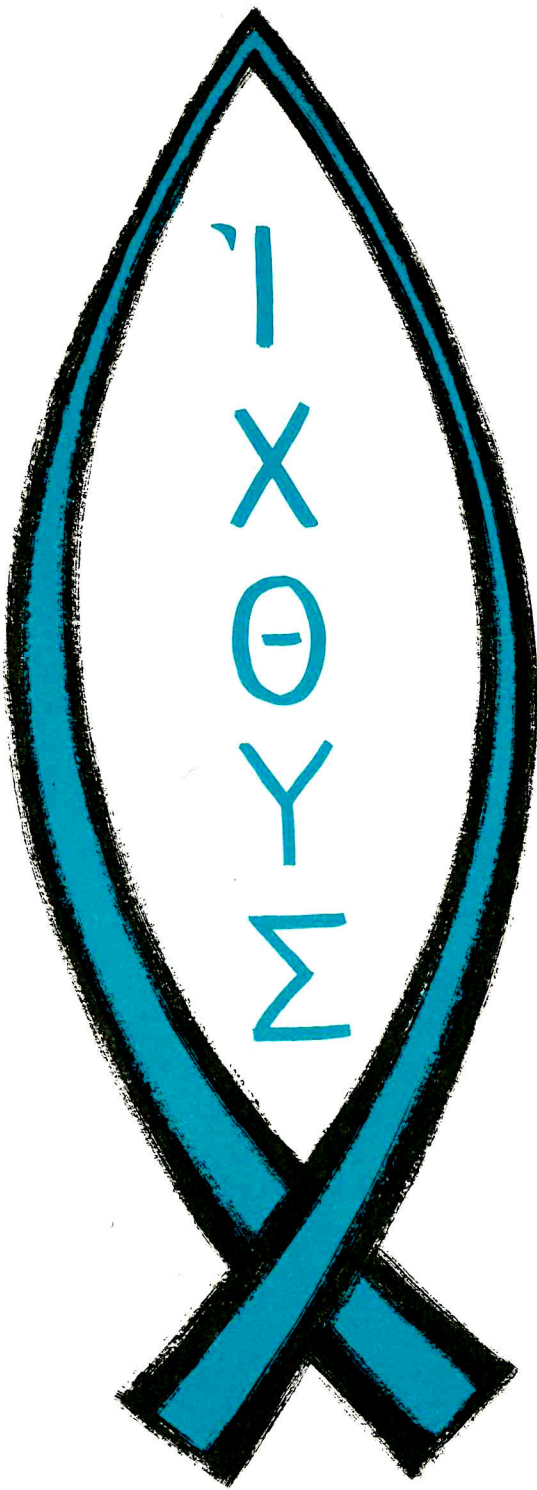
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**JESUS**  
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**GOD'S**  
**SON**  
**SAVIOR**