



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
November-December, 1984 St. Louis, Missouri Volume 76, No. 6

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING TO PROCLAIM JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOUR HERE, THERE, EVERYWHERE

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Beloved Son into this world to suffer and die for me. Lord Jesus, thank You for loving and forgiving even me. O Holy Spirit, thank You for giving me new life through my baptism.

When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

COLOSSIANS 3:4

glory. Help me to use my time wisely in pray-

er, worship, Bible study, and serving You in my daily life. Help me to use my abilities to speak of Your love to my family and friends; to serve You in the church; and to daily live, speak and act as a forgiven child of God.

Equip me, dear Lord, to do those things You would have me do in Your kingdom.

Give me a heart overflowing with thanksgiving. Help me always to be joyful my offerings as I give the first portion of my income to You. Use these gifts, dear Lord, so that people here, there and everywhere, may hear of Your love and forgiveness.

In Jesus' Name, Amen

HAVE AN ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE

An opposed to the foregoing article wherein Jesus tells us the story of the 10 lepers and how only one returned to give thanks, we can



ask ourselves what we have to be thankful for. 1 Thessalonians 5:17 reads, "Pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Thanksgiving comes out of a consciousness of benefits received. An atti-

tude that is sensing independence from God is ungrateful. We need to recognize God's hand in every detail of our lives and recog-

nize our total dependence on Him and His grace. Luther was very much aware of this truth when he stated just before died, "we are beggars, this is true" thereby illustrating his complete dependence on God for every aspect of his life, both physical and spiritual. Our thanks to God need not be verbal--others need not know we are constantly thanking God. But God's Fathers heart will be honored, even as earthly parents are blessed by expressions of gratitude from their offspring.

The following list of a few things for which we can be continually thanking God is given along with some reasons for doing it:

1. God is our Provider. Phil. 4:19
2. God is all holy. Ps. 30:4
3. God sent His Son Jesus to die for us. 1 Cor. 9:15
4. God delivers us from sin. Romans 7:25

HAVE AN ATTITUDE (continue on page 2)

A PORTRAIT OF SOME INGRATES . . .

And then Jesus said, "Was no one found to return and give glory to God except this foreigner?" Luke 17:18

Each year since 1621, when the Pilgrims observed the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Colony, a day has been set aside, usually the fourth Thursday in November, to give thanks to God for His countless blessings on us, both as a people and as a nation. With each annual proclamation of Thanksgiving Day, we encourage a sometimes ungrateful people to remember God, the Source of all their blessings. The problem with thankless people becomes strikingly apparent when we substitute one vowel in the word, "thank" and make it "think." An unthoughtful person is likely to be an unthankful one.

Christ faced the problem of ungratefulness in a border village on His final journey to Jerusalem. There 10 lepers asked for healing, and our Lord, willing to help, sent them to the priests. There was nothing spectacular in the cure He prescribed, as was also the case with Naaman, who was directed by Elisha to bathe seven times in the Jordan. The lepers were cured when they, in obedience to Jesus' instruction, were enroute to the priests. But only one returned to give thanks.

The street of life runs in two directions. Every favor deserves a response. A gift received in "going" needs acknowledgement in the act of "returning" in order to give thanks. An unthankful attitude prompts disappointment even in the heart of our loving Saviour. Are we thankful?

O Christ, Giver of all good and perfect gifts, grant us grace to remember Your kindness. Amen.

--Adapted Portal of Prayers

Little Bundle From Heaven Brightens the Schlund Home

Rev. and Mrs Steven Schlund, Delavan, Wis., are announcing with pardonable pride the arrival of Thomas Steven Schlund (Tom) who arrived at 2:17 a.m. July 28, tipping the scales at 9 pounds and 10 ounces and measuring 22 inches. Tom arrived with a lung problem (pneumothorax) but with many prayers and expert medical help, he is reported to be "growing like a weed."

CONGRATULATIONS!

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear



It came upon the midnight clear
That glorious song of old
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on earth, good will to men"
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still thro' the cloven skies they come,
with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov'ring wing
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

And ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
with painful steps and slow
Look now! for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

For lo the days are hast'ning on
By prophet bards foretold,
When the ever circling years
Comes around the age of gold
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

WORSHIP YOUR GOD

with heart
and hands
and voices! ! !

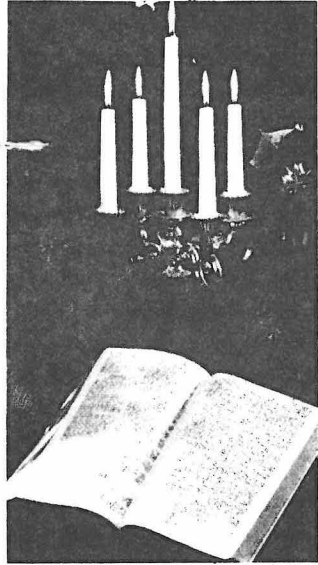
HAVE AN ATTITUDE (continue from page 1)

5. God leads us to triumph. II Cor. 2:14
6. Thanking God for faith of others.
Romans 1:8
7. Death has lost its sting. I Cor. 15:57
O, let us give thanks unto the Lord, for
He is good and His mercy endureth forever."

"Thanks Be Unto God for His Unspeakable Gift"

By Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, former secretary
North American Missions Blind/Deaf, LCMS
RR#3, Box 165
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"It is not really the gift that counts, but the thought behind it." How often we hear that statement. It is used when fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters and other relatives receive a gift, small but significant from a child or someone who has put a lot of personal love and sentiment into a hand-made or home-made gift. It is also often used regarding an inexpensive gift that has not taken a great deal of sacrifice on the part of the giver.



**Thou
shalt
call
His
name
Jesus**

Yet, at Christmas, when we contemplate God's great gift, His precious Son, Jesus Christ, that statement is not true at all. Both the Gift and the thoughtful love of the Giver are most important and significant. God's Gift is by far the gift that counts, the supreme sacrifice of love, His very own and only precious Son. The very gift itself is the height of love and sacrifice on the part of Him who is the Gift. Yes, both the gift and

the thought behind it count very much.

Then contemplate the length of time thru which the gift is effective--through the ages. It never wears out. It never ends. In all this world's history, there has never been another such gift. It is as valid and effective today as it was 7,000 years ago. However, it was also efficacious upon people for the ages before it was given. Man's confidence in the future promise of the gift, provided for him the same blessing and grace that is affords to those who rely upon it today, 4,000 years later and 2,000 years after it was given. Isaiah in his day recognizes this and says, "For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen what

God has prepared for those that waiteth for Him. (Isaiah 64:4)

Then think further of the extent of the Gift in terms of those affected by it--the whole world of God's people, every man, woman and child. There have been and still are events which affect the world and the world's humanity--but there never was an event more profoundly extensive than the coming of Christ. No one on this earth in the whole universe is excluded or denied the intention and grace of God in Christ. No man, woman, or child can say that Christ is not their all sufficient Saviour.

Then we exclaim in awesome wonder, "Thanks be to God for His inexpressible Gift." We really cannot put adequately into the words the marvelous greatness of God's lovely and loving gift. It is beyond description. It is more than we can grasp or fully describe. Indeed, the thought of love, forgiveness, peace and joy intended by God for His people are most meaningful and significant for the Giver, for the Gift Himself, and for us who are the recipients. It is more than we can dream, or ask, or think.

When Jesus faced the cross, we are told "For the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross." The joy in the heart of Christ was a reflection of the joy within the heart of God--as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit contemplated and fulfilled the salvation of all humanity.

That is their gift to the world--to you and me--at Christmas.

Having this, need we look for more? What more can we ask or expect? Having this, our all in all and our all--sufficient Saviour and Lord, we can only make a feeble attempt to repay or requite by giving our best--the gift of self--our life--all that we are--all that we can be or do.

May yours indeed be a truly marvelous, wonderful, joyous Christmas in Christ, God's indescribable, inexpressable and unspeakable Gift.

REMEMBER

We mutter and sputter,
we fume and we spurt;
We mumble and grumble,
our feelings get hurt;
We can't understand things,
our vision grows dim,
When all we need
is a moment with HIM.

NOTES FROM HERE AND THERE . . .

William Palmer, former champion wrestler at the University of Iowa and vicar at Christ Lutheran church and Gallaudet college during the '82-'83 years, was ordained and installed as pastor at Emmanuel Lutheran church, Milwaukee, on July 8, which incidentally, was also the sixth wedding anniversary of the pastor and his wife, Jennifer.

MaRK Anderson will begin his vicarage under the supervision of Rev. Mark Seeger at Alpha Lutheran church and at NTID, Rochester, N.Y.

The Son-Shiner Signers will be performing at the 25th anniversary celebration of Holy Cross Lutheran church, Delavan, Wis., on Nov. 11. Main speaker will be Rev. Donald Zuhn, St. Louis.

Vicaring at Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio during the 1984-85 year will be Mike MacDonald, a native of Wilmington, Del. Following graduation from NTID, Rochester, N.Y., he enrolled at Concordia, Ft. Wayne, Ind. to study for the ministry. He and his wife, Laur, are the parents of two children. Following his graduation in 1986, he will be the fifth deaf pastor in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, joining Rev. William Ludwig, Seattle, Wash.; Rev. Robert Case, Houston, Texas; Rev. Lavern Mass, Kansas City, and Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, of Pittsburgh.

Sympathy is extended to the staff of Mill Neck Lutheran School for the Deaf, family and friends of two dedicated teachers, Brian Sosnowski and Jim McCarthy, who were both killed in a tragic automobile accident this past summer. Jim's fiancée, Pat Franzier, also died in the crash.

Rev. Louis Jasper, missionary to Hong Kong, has been hospitalized for some time, and has undergone four major abdominal operations since February, with another slated for later this year. Following the third surgery from which he nearly failed to recover, he is reported to be doing better and was hoping to return to the states for the wedding of their daughter, Julia in August.

The Lutheran School for the Deaf opened for its 112th year in September with a projected enrollment of 164.

The Great Lakes Regional Conference convened at the Kellogg Center for Continuing Education on the campus of Michigan State university in Lansing July 27-29 with 78 registered for the banquet Saturday evening.

Elected to serve as officers for the 1984-86 term were; Donald Mowl, president; James Waters, president-elect; Diane Clupper, secretary; Larry Ginter, treasurer, and Lillian Long, historian.

Silent Lutheran church, Madison, Wis., will be observing its 35th anniversary with a celebration on Sunday, Nov. 18. Speaker for the event will be Lester Ahls, Cedar Falls, Iowa, editor of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** and ILDA president-elect. Rev. Wallace Waite is pastor.

Rev. Frank Wagenknecht and his wife, Karen were surprised by their Rogate Congregation at Clearwater, Fla. with a \$100 gift on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary Aug. 29. They also received a hand painted plate inscribed "Frank and Karen, August 29, 1959." The couple thanks all who remembered them.

The Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference met at the Holiday Inn Beachfront in Gulfport, Miss., on Aug. 3-5 with 35 in attendance. New officers for the coming term were: Billy Fitzgerald, Memphis, president; David Naumann, Houston, Texas, vice president; Lordy Smith, Memphis, secretary; Peggy Stewart, Houston, treasurer, and pastoral adviser, Rev. Bob Case. The 1986 meeting will be held in Dallas, Texas.

Eastern Regional officers elected at the conference in Washington, D.C. are: Gerald Ahrens, president, Silver Spring, Md.; Daniel Gleeney of Philadelphia, Pa., president-elect; Alice Hagemeyer of Maryland, secretary, and Herman Spencer, Hickory, N.C., treasurer. Serving as pastoral advisor will be Rev. Joe Varsanyi.

LONGFELLOW could take a sheet of paper and write a poem on it and make it worth \$60,000. That is talent. Rockefeller could sign a piece of paper and make it worth millions. That is capital. Uncle Sam can take an ounce of gold and stamp an eagle on it and make it worth \$40. That is money. A mechanic can take material worth \$5 and make it into an article worth \$50. That is skill. A merchant can buy an article for 80 cents, put it on his counter and sell it for \$1. That is business.

God can take a worthless, sinful life, wash it, cleanse it, put His Holy Spirit within it and make it a blessing to all humanity. That is salvation.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

"One Solitary Life"

How do you explain the greatness of the Man whose birthday we celebrate on Christmas?

He was born in an obscure village, known as Bethlehem. He grew up in another village known as Nazareth. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was 30, and then for three years, was an itinerant preacher. He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held office. He never traveled 200 miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that usually accompanies greatness. He had no credentials but Himself.

Although He walked the land over, curing the sick, healing the lame, restoring sight to the blind and hearing to the deaf and raising people from the dead, the top established religious leaders turned against Him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial. He was spat upon, flogged, and ridi-

culed. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, the executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on earth, and that was His robe. When He was dead, He was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen wide centuries have come and gone and today He is the central Figure of the human race and the leader of the column of progress.

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as has that ONE SOLITARY LIFE. He was Jesus Christ.

A Massachusetts Reader

Comments on the Robin Polin Story . . .

Dear Editor:

"Robin's Story--A Happy Ending," by Susan Perlman is the most beautiful I've read in the DEAF LUTHERAN. I wonder if any of our readers have ever been called upon to bear witness to our Saviour's loving grace before a hostile audience and as a result been insulted, humiliated, ridiculed, had his (or her) privileges abridged, thrown out of home, disowned by his parents, had his sanity questioned, and hauled into court to be judged "incompetent" because of his faith in Christ.

If so, then he has more than one thing in common with Robin Polin. He shares with her the precious promise of our Saviour recorded in the Gospel according to St. Matthew 5:11-12, which reads, "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven." And our Saviour didn't stop there. He went on to compare such an individual with the prophets for in the next line He stated "for no persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

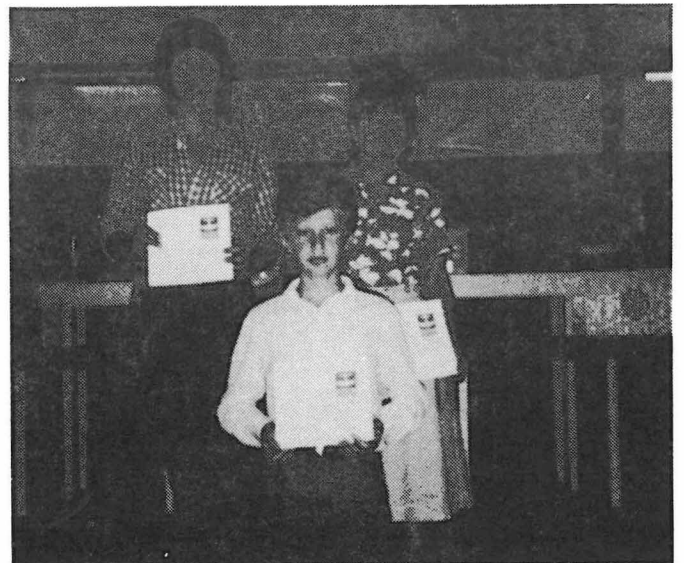
Walt Unruh
Hopedale, Mass.

Romanian Refugees Become Members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church,

On Sunday, June 17, 1984, Veronica, Marcel and Remus Borcila became members of Holy Cross Lutheran church, Columbus, Ohio. They are the family members of Doru Borcila, the Romanian refugee sponsored by Holy Cross. They arrived in the United States on Feb. 29.

The family is very active at Holy Cross and has adjusted well to a new culture.

Veronica is skilled seamstress. Marcel is in high school and worked at a nursery the past summer. Remus is in junior high and does yard work to earn some spending money. The whole family enjoys camping and fishing.



BORCILA FAMILY--Marcel, Veronica and Remus

INDIA CHURCH CONTINUES TO MAKE PROGRESS IN ITS WORK WITH THE DEAF

AMBUR, India--The India Evangelical Lutheran church (IELC) is making significant strides in education of the deaf.

In June, the Missouri Synod partner church ordained and installed its first pastor qualified in both theology and deaf education.

The church's school for the deaf, established in 1970 with nine children and two instructors, has grown considerably. Supported in part by Missouri Synod Board for Mission Services, the sprawling school now has 185 students enrolled from pre-school through the high school level.

Through the use of sign language, students are given the opportunity to learn useful skills such as tailoring, dressmaking, printing and typing, as well as regular academic subjects.

The new pastor, Rev. D. S. Christudoss, spent the past four years training for his unique mission with missionary A. J. Lutz, who has devoted his ministry to working with India's deaf.

Lutz has been instrumental in translating the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments and a short form of the liturgy for worship services into sign language for use at the school.

He has also compiled a sign language book featuring translations of 400 words commonly

used in religious life. Due for publication early next year, it will be the first manual of its kind for the deaf in India.

The ordination and installation services of Christudoss, June 10 and 28, respectively, were well attended by parishioners and students of the deaf school, and both ceremonies were interpreted into sign language by Lutz.

* * * * *

The ministry of Rev. A. J. Lutz of India is one of the various overseas mission projects the INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION has supported the past few years. Rev. Lutz was a recent visitor at the LCMS headquarters in St. Louis and supplied the accompanying photos.

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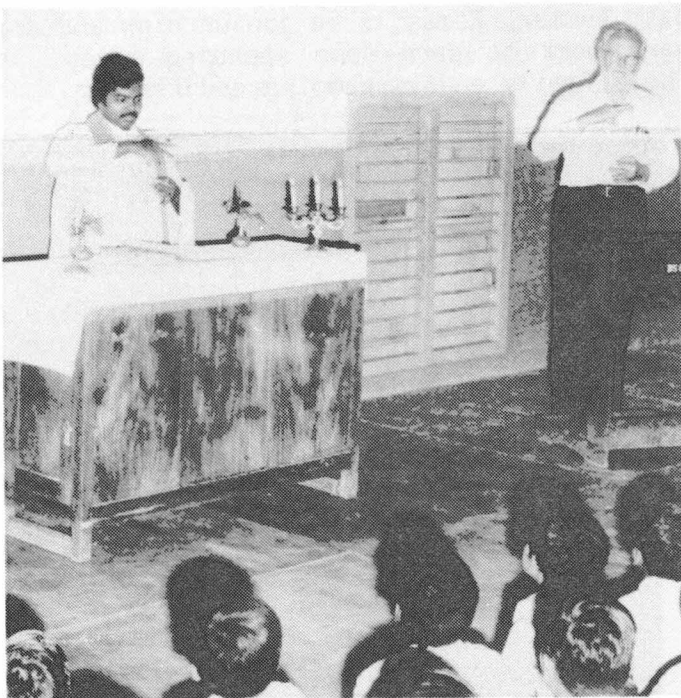
J. Isaac, correspondent for the school, expressed his optimism for the future of the school's programs. "Now God has done the wonderful miracle of making the deaf hear the Gospel preached to them, which means that the Lord Jesus brought the kingdom of God to the deaf through our school," he said.

"With the dedicated staff and Rev. Christudoss, we do hope the Lord would extend His mission to the deaf in other areas of our vast land," Isaac said.

THE PERFECT PASTOR

Results of a computerized survey indicates that the perfect pastor preaches exactly 15 minutes. He condemns sin, but never embarrasses anyone. He works from 8 a.m. 'til midnight and is also the janitor. He makes \$60 a week, wears good clothes, drives a new car, and gives \$50 a week to the poor. He is 28 years old, has been preaching for 25 years, is wonderfully gentle and handsome, loves to work with the young and spends all his time with the elderly. He makes 15 visits a day and is always in his office when someone wants him.

If your pastor does not measure up, simply send this letter to six other churches that are tired of their pastors, too. Then bundle up your pastor, and send him to the church at the top of the list. In one week, you will receive 1,643 pastors. One of them should be perfect. --copied



Rev. D. S. Christudoss and Rev. A. J. Lutz

AFTER ALL IS SAID AND DONE, MORE IS SAID THAN DONE.

U (you) R (are)



By Rev. A. Leimkuehler
Bethel Lutheran church
Denver, Colo.

What is missing in the picture above? What is missing from Bethel (or yours) deaf Lutheran church? Only you know the answer and only you can supply what is missing!

I have two questions to present to you. The first question, I will answer. The second question, I really don't know how to answer and would appreciate your help.

FIRST: Why should you come to church? (a) Because there I am able to hear more of God's Word and receive the sacrament, and thereby revive/ refresh my spiritual life, and (b) because God knows what is best for me, and therefore tells me (in the Bible) to go to church faithfully.

- (1) Acts 20:7 "On Saturday evening they gathered together for fellowship meals and Paul spoke to them."
- (2) Acts 2:42 "They spent their time learning from the apostles, taking part in fellowship, sharing in meals and prayers."
- (3) Hebrews 10:25 "Let us not give up the habit of meeting together for worship, like some are doing."

(c) Because if I stay away from church, I am in danger of losing my faith! Thomas showed his weakening faith in John 20:24-25, due to his absence.

SECOND: Why would someone not want to come to church? Some people will have "ready made" excuses for not coming, but they are only excuses. People always have excuses when they do something wrong. But no excuse is necessary when you have done right!

Party Fetes Brant Engel on Completion of Vicarage

Sunday, June 24, Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio gave a "Kick Out" party for Vicar Brant Engel and his family, who would be returning to the seminary at Ft. Wayne, Ind. after a successful year in which Brant improved his signing skills and made many new deaf friends.

Following a meal and cake served by the young people, a string was handed to the vicar by Richard Crossen, chairperson. Attached to the string, but out of view, was a Bible, a set of five clergy stoles, a cross, a cash purse and some humorous gifts.



THE ENGLES--Linda, Brandon, Gordon and Brant



RICHARD CROSSEN presented gifts to Vicar Brant Engel.

WHO IS JOHN OF BEVERLEY?--John was a person; Beverley is a place. John of Beverley was an English pastor who lived between 640-721 A.D. He made history's first recorded attempt at deaf education.

Be careful what you pray for; you might get it!
--Old French proverb

"Can Man Destroy God's Word?"

Many times man has attempted to destroy the Bible. In A.D. 303 the Roman Emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy Christians and their Bible. The persecution that followed was brutal. Over a burned and extinguished Bible, Diocletian built a monument on which he wrote these words, "Extincto nomine Christianorum" (the name Christian is extinguished).

Twenty-five years later, Diocletian was dead and the new emperor, Constantine, commissioned 50 copies of the Bible to be prepared at government expense.

In 1776, Voltaire, the French philosopher, announced, "One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible on the earth except one that is looked upon by an antiquarian curiosity-seekers."

One hundred years later, Voltaire was dead and his own house and press were being used to print and store Bibles by the Geneva Bible Society. One hundred years from the day of Voltaire's prediction, the first edition of Voltaire's works sold in Paris for 11 cents, while the British government paid the Czar of Russia half a million dollars for an ancient Bible manuscript.

"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Word shall not pass away." Matthew 24:35

If the church would have but one-tenth of the money spent for liquor and cigarettes, she could within a year cover the world with the Gospel.

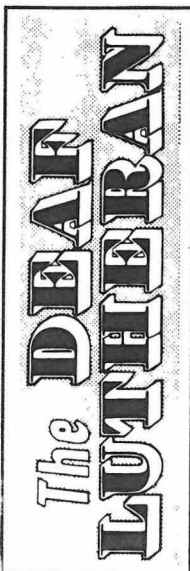
TRINITY, PITTSBURGH, WELCOMES NEW PASTOR

There was rejoicing at Trinity Lutheran church of the deaf, Pittsburgh, Pa. On Aug. 12 as Rev. Edwin Lot Bergstresser was installed as pastor of the church in a 4:00 p.m. ceremony attended by numerous clergy, family and friends as well as members of the congregation.

Dr. Arnold Kromphardt, president of the Eastern District, LCMS, performed the rite of ordination-installation. Delivering the message of the day was Rev. Daniel Pokorny, professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Serving as liturgists were Rev. Joe Fremer of Michigan and Rev. Kenneth Hoener, circuit counselor of the Pittsburgh S.E. circuit. Officiating was Rev. Donald Leber, Columbus, Ohio.

U (you) R (are) (continue from page 7)

In (b) above, it says to come to church faithfully. If you miss 2, 3 or 4 days of work out of each month, does the boss call you faithful? Apply that to your church attendance. Don't be the object of a joke, like this one: "Does your husband attend church regularly?" "Oh, yes! He hasn't missed an Easter Sunday service since we were married." Also, in (a) it says, 'coming to hear God's Word and to receive the sacrament, will revive/refresh my spiritual life.' Vacations are an excellent time to take a break from work and to refresh ourselves, physically and mentally. Why then, when some people take vacations, do they take a break from church also? When we refresh ourselves mentally and physically, we should refresh ourselves spiritually also.



November-December

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