



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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Festival of the Ascension, May 16

LORD OF ALL

By Rev. William A. Ludwig
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Seattle, Wash.

The people of the Old Testament believed their God "filled heaven and earth." Jesus, the Christ of God, ascended so that He might "fill heaven and earth."

Jesus removed His physical presence from a particular geographic location (Jerusalem, Israel) in order to fill places with His presence. As Easter declares Jesus is Lord of life and death; so Ascension means Jesus is Lord of all!

JESUS IS LORD OF ALL! To call Him Lord is to pledge complete loyalty to Him. This confession is an acknowledgement of ownership and an expression of our trust in His ability to deliver us from every evil of body and soul.

As Lord of all, Jesus establishes His Lordship in human hearts in a way that baffles unbelievers. He wields no swords, commands

no armies, drops no bombs, nor does He crush us into submission. He draws and wins our loyalty by His Word (Gospel). He does not scold us into a stronger faith in Him, rather, He blesses us into it.

Jesus is Lord of all even though people shut their hearts against Him and even when His followers cannot understand His strange ways of dealing with those who by grace through faith claim Him Lord.

Jesus Christ, the Risen and ever-living Saviour, is LORD OF ALL, because He is the crucified, resurrected and ascended Saviour of all persons. He is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world and. . . .

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and strength . . . Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God for ever and ever!"

Amen. Revelation 7

THE ETHIC OF HUMAN DISPOSABILITY

By Dr. Jean Garton, President
Lutherans for Life
Pennsauken, N.J.

The PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER carried a front page story a few months ago headlined, "In More and More Cases, Killers Do Not Know Their Victims." The article related the all-too-familiar stories of single or mass murders of people, who as the saying goes, were in the wrong place at the wrong time. The county prosecutor observed that "the perverse conclusion we're coming to is that people are less concerned about human life if they don't know who the victim is."

The article, of course, was not talking

about abortion, but the parallel to that issue is both unmistakable and chilling, for the victims of abortion are surely the most unknown victims of all. They are the unseen, unheard, unborn children of this land who are legally aborted at the rate of 4,000 every day. The latest official figures indicate there were approximately 1,700,000 abortions last year (1983) making it one of the country's major industries.

With an annual gross of over \$700 million dollars (Associated Press story July 1983), abortion is now among the Fortune Five Hundred largest industries in the USA. Killing

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THE ETHIC OF HUMAN DISPOSABILITY

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babies has become big business, demonstrating that money does talk even when unborn children can't. Or can they?

Their story of painful and agonizing death is being heard through the least likely advocate of all, Dr. Bernard Nathanson. A convert to an anti-abortion position, he has stated that "as much as any person in this world, I was responsible for the uncaging of the abortion monster across this planet. With my own hands I have done 5,000 abortions. As founder and director of the largest abortion clinic in the Western Hemisphere, I oversaw another 60,000 abortions."

Dr. Nathanson, an atheist and a secular humanist, does not believe that abortion is sinful. He does know and now believes, on the basis of scientific evidence, that abortion destroys a living human being and that it is the government's primary duty to defend the lives of innocent people--including the unborn. He is committed to doing something about it and is astonished that so many who believe abortion is a sin are strangely silent.

* * * * *

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

American War dead:

Revolutionary War, 25,324; Civil War, 498,332; World War I, 116,710; World War II, 407,316; Korean War, 54,546; Vietnam War, 58,098. Babies killed by abortion from January, 1972 through January, 1983 . . . 9,500,000! Mothers' wombs should be the safest of all places for babies, but it isn't, according to these chilling statistics.

* * * * *

To call America to a response, Dr. Nathanson has just released an extraordinary and horrifying videotape of how an abortion looks under ultrasound. Made in a clinic where a woman refused to change her mind about having an abortion, the tape shows the destruction of an 8-week old unborn child inside the mother's uterus. Forever gone is the Star War fantasy promoted by so many that somehow "the product of conception" is painlessly vaporized into nothingness. In his final moments of life, the aborted child tells it "like it is." You can watch the arms and legs torn away from the child," narrates Dr. Nathanson, "as it writhes in agony. And then there is nothing but a little blood and an empty space."

An "empty space"--the home of millions of "might have beens"--that cries out for a re-awakening in our land to the reality that they really are killing babies. **Really!** Yet so often it is promoted as compassion. "Let us do evil that good may come" is the philosophy of many--to help the pregnant teenager whose college plans would be altered, to spare the parents who would be embarrassed, to spare the upward mobility of a young couple or the promising career of a professional woman or the budget of struggling family--whatever!

One of the most frightening things about evil is that familiarity breeds acceptance. Our compromised consciences may allow us to tolerate the carnage and the cataclysm that passes under the euphemism of "termination of pregnancy" but evil will not let us off that easily. Evil eventually produces evil consequences, sometimes in unexpected ways.

Such as the discovery of 17,000 little mutilated bodies found in a California dumpster. Or the clump of dismembered unborn children found by police in Texas, police who then bought a coffin and a cemetery plot for the burial of these abortion victims. We can pretend that we are not killing babies, but the babies' bodies won't tolerate such make believe.

In my own state of New Jersey a trash crew recently found the whole or aborted parts of unborn children in plastic jars placed at the curb of a home in an affluent community. Authorities determined that for many months the man had been in business of collecting the mutilated bodies from abortion mills in the area and disposing of them in garbage cans in front of his home. One of his neighbors, in a television interview, said that "At first I was shocked and sick, but then they said it's not against the law, so far as I'm concerned it's all over." It's not against the law but it's not all over, either.

How many "empty spaces" must we see? How many dismembered arms and legs must we find? How many pile of garbage must we read about before we are horrified enough to personally and individually become involved in the defense of "the least of our neighbors?"

The church is devoting no small amount of time and effort to combatting what are called "back door" losses. Perhaps, in light of President Ralph Bohlmann's comments some

OUR INCREASING OLDER POPULATION: AN OVERVIEW

All of us are growing older, which is hardly news to most of us. Those 55 and older are being divided into four categories: older persons are all of those over 55. The elderly are those over 65. The aged are those over 75 and the very old and frail elderly are those over 85. Recent statistics show that those in the 65 to 74 age group have only about 1.5 per cent residing in nursing homes but the figure jumps to 23 per cent by the time a person reaches 85. American society

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months ago that more children are aborted in the U.S. in two weeks than the LC-MS baptizes in an entire year, we ought give more consideration to the massive and growing "front door" losses resulting from legalized abortion.

Too many in the Christian family avoid responding to the silent scream of fetal children by saying that they are pro-life in the "broad sense" . . . that we must stop concerning ourselves with just the single issue of abortion and become involved in equally life-destructive matters such as the threat of nuclear war . . . hunger . . . poverty . . . highway fatalities. All surely threaten human life but none with the urgency of abortion, for while the nuclear threat is serious it is still a **potential** threat compared to the **actual** annihilation of millions by abortion since 1973. And while people suffer from hunger, poverty and violence none of these has been legalized by the supreme court, defended by numerous churches or sanctioned by the medical profession.

In an address at Fordham university on May 5, 1984, the archbishop of New York, John J. O'Connor, protested the popular argument that unless you are engaged in feeding the hungry, you are hypocritical; that you are foolish and stupid when you simply try to keep babies alive. "You can be hungry, but alive," he said. "You can be homeless, but alive. You can be in a wheelchair, but alive. You can be retarded, but alive. But you can't be killed and be alive."

And he might well have added that you cannot preach the Good News to those who are killed before they are born.

The simple truth is that abortion takes a life. All the talk in the world cannot change that.

will see many changes over the next 40 years as the number and percent of the population exceeds 65 years of age from 11 to 19 per cent.

Many issues will be affected by the changes come such as: retirement, work force, Social Security, pension responsibility. Also affected will be changes in purchasing power, housing, health care facilities and costs, to name a few.

Since the church has been traditionally involved in some of these areas, we can anticipate that there will be necessary changes in the years to come how problems evolving from changes in the age of the general population are addressed.

Consider:

1. In 1900, just one person in 25 was 65 years of age or older.
2. In 1935, 30 persons were working for every one (1) retired person when Social Security was written.
3. In 1980, one person in nine was over 65.
4. In the year 2030, one person in every five will be over 65.
5. We can anticipate that by 2020 less than two persons will be employed for every one person retired. This will require that the Social Security system be overhauled again.

DID YOU KNOW?

The other day I read something funny in a church paper. Why are firetrucks red? Well, firetrucks have four wheels and eight men. Everybody knows that four and eight make twelve. There are twelve inches in a foot. A foot is a ruler. Queen Elizabeth, a ruler, is also the name of the largest ship on the seven seas. Seas have fish and fish have fins. The Finns bought the Russians. Russians are red. Firetrucks are always rushin'. Therefore, firetrucks are red. And if you think this is wild, you ought to hear some people trying to explain why they don't come to church.

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YOU CAN HELP . . . important pro-life bills in Congress such as "Unborn Children's Civil Rights Act of 1985" (S.46) introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-NC) and "The Abortion Funding Restriction Act of 1985" (S.522) by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) deserve our support. Let them know!!

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SCANNING THE NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE

Our Savior's Lutheran church, Detroit, will be observing its 75th anniversary Nov. 9 and 10 with a banquet at the Hoffman House on Van Dyke in Warren on Saturday evening and the festival worship at the Lutheran School for the Deaf chapel on Sunday. Former members and visitors wishing to attend can stay at the motel portion of Hoffman House. Contact Elmer Francisco, 6861 East Nevada Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48234 for details and arrangements.

Approximately 185 people gathered at Calvary Lutheran church on Sunday, April 21 to wish Rev. George C. Ring and his wife, Doris a fond farewell as the pastor concluded a ministry to the deaf that spanned almost 40 years. The couple received many cards, a cash gift and good wishes as they begin their retirement. They will continue to live in Des Moines.

Ever hear of "The Love Loaf Program?" That is what the relief effort to feed the hungry of the world is called by the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran church, Toledo, Ohio. With each \$20 raised, they are able to help feed one family of seven for a month. So far, over \$300 has been realized in the ongoing campaign. Last year, the group was able to raise \$200 for the needy.

Dr. Michael D. Warner, who made the main presentation at the 1984 Ephphatha conference has regretfully bowed out of an expected return this year. Taking his place will be Dr. Frank Turk of Gallaudet college whose topic will be "Leadership Development in the Local Congregation." Dr. Turk comes with considerable experience in leadership training in the National Association of the Deaf and the Junior NAD.

Rates for the 1985 conference to be held immediately following the conclusion of the ILDA convention in Milwaukee at Lutherdale, Elkhorn, Wis. are given as \$80 for adults which include meals and lodging. Participants coming with campers and staying on the premises will pay \$32 for four nights, plus meals. For additional particulars, contact Rev. Donald W. Zuhn, 1101 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55414. Phone (612) 331-2747 church or (612) 894-3079 home. The Lutherdale phone is (414) 742-2352. The address to write to is Route 1, Box 122, Elkhorn, Wis. 53121.

Albert Reeves, an accounting technician in

the budget and reports branch, accounting division, transportation operations at Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, retired from his position after 34 years on Feb. 1. A 1941 graduate of Gallaudet college, Albert has been very active in numerous organizations for the deaf, as well as Peace Lutheran church, Indianapolis.

Rogate Lutheran church, Clearwater, Fla. observed its 20th anniversary along with a pastor's appreciation dinner on Sunday, May 19.

Despite his acceptance of a call to Prince of Peace Lutheran church in the Twin Cities, Rev. Donald Zuhn continues to serve on an interim basis as a consultant to the board of missions in the area of the deaf ministry in St. Louis, with trips there as the need arises. At the present time, the work of both deaf and blind are being divorced, at least temporarily, pending a permanent decision to be made later. Input will be sought at the upcoming Ephphatha conference and studied by the board for missions before a final decision is announced.

At their last voters meeting, Alpha, Rochester, voted unanimously to proceed with plans to build an addition to the present church of 61'x32' in an effort to relieve overcrowding and promote growth.

Rev. M. J. Hayes, Pastor of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, New York City, Dies

A sense of deep loss and sadness fell on the members and friends of the congregations of St. Matthew's and St. Mark's Lutheran churches in New York City following the announcement of the untimely death of Pastor Michael J. Hayes on Thursday, March 14.

Pastor Hayes would have been 31 years old on April 26. He was a native of South Dakota.

Services were held at the Ninth Avenue United Methodist church, Watertown, S.D., at 2 p.m., Tuesday, March 19, with Rev. Eldon Reich officiating, following earlier services in New York. Interment was in Webster cemetery, Webster, S.D.

We commend Pastor Hayes to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, whose love surpasses all human understanding and may He comfort the members of the Hayes family.

IT'S DOCTOR RYNEARSON NOW!

On Wednesday, May 15, a Doctor of Education degree was conferred on Rev. Rodney R. Ryneanson, executive director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich. by Wayne State university. His major area of study was philosophy of education, with minors in the areas of special education and management. His dissertation was written on an examination of the philosophy of the special education act often called the "mainstreaming law."



DR. RODNEY R. RYNEARSON

Dr. Ryneanson began ministry with the deaf in Spokane, Wash. and Montana in 1959. With the dedicated leadership of deaf members, Christ Lutheran church in Montana was established, the planning for the building in Great Falls was started, ministry was begun in Idaho (Lewiston, Boise area and Gooding) and Faith, Spokane, was remodeled.

In 1967, the Ryneansons moved to Rochester, N.Y. to minister with deaf Lutherans at Alpha, Rochester (later expanded to include all the members in western New York.) During that time, Dr. Ryneanson worked in educational ministries at the Rochester and Rome schools, with mentally retarded deaf at the

Rome state school, and with college students at NTID and RIT. In 1972, he was awarded a master's degree in education from the University of Rochester for his study on the ways that deaf individuals learn.

Since 1974, Dr. Ryneanson has been the executive director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit. As the school finishes its 112th year ministry, it has 207 students studying on six campuses in the Detroit area and five in the Chicago area.

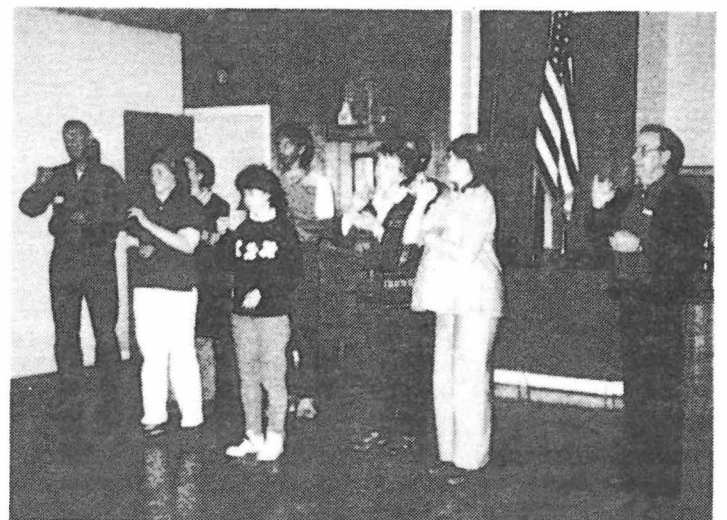
In addition to many delightful experiences as missionary and pastor with deaf Lutherans, Dr. Ryneanson had the privilege of assisting many people in the beginning of the International Lutheran Deaf Association in Chicago, and then serving as its pastoral advisor for over seven years. ILDA has shown its ability to serve our Lord through many different projects, especially its mission projects and the editing of THE DEAF LUTHERAN. In these days of transition in administration of deaf ministry, ILDA continue to have many challenges.

(For the many deaf friends who know the Ryneanson family, Rhoda continue to serve with a delightful smile as librarian at the deaf school. Three sons were born in Spokane. The oldest, Tim, is graduating from Concordia seminary. In August, he and his wife, Ruth, will be going to Wolsey, S.D. to minister there. Steve and his wife, Linda, will be going to Greenwich, Conn. to vicar. Peter is studying accounting at Wayne State university and working in a co-op program at the Chrysler corporation.)

Congratulations To Doctor Ryneanson!



"WOULDN'T YOU GET A BIGGER CROWD IF YOU SOLD POPCORN?"



YOUTH AND ADULT CHOIRS--Bethel Deaf Lutheran Church, Denver, Colo.

THE MEANING OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Martin Hewitt
Faith Lutheran Church
Spokane, Wash.

On a cold winter evening a man suffered a heart attack. After being admitted to the hospital, he asked the nurse to call his daughter. "You see, he explained, "I live alone and she is the only family I have."

The nurse went to the phone and reached the daughter. Now the daughter was quite upset and shouted, "You must not let him die." Then she went on to explain: "You see, Dad and I had a terrible argument a year ago. I have not seen him since. All these months I wanted to go to him for forgiveness. The last thing I said to him was, 'I hate you.'"

The daughter cried and then said, "I'm coming now. I'll be there in 30 minutes." The patient went into cardiac arrest, and code 99 was alerted.

The nurse prayed, "Oh, God, his daughter is coming. Don't let it end this way."

The efforts of the medical team to revive the patient failed. The nurse watched one of the doctors talking to the daughter outside the room. She could see the emotions and hurt in her face. The nurse took the daughter aside and said, "I'm sorry."

The daughter responded, "I never hated him, you know. I loved him, and now I want to go see him." The nurse thought, 'Why put yourself through more pain?'

But she took her to the room and the daughter went to the bed and buried her face in the sheets as she said goodbye to her deceased father.

The nurse, as she tried not to look at this sad goodbye, noticed a scrap of paper on the bed table. She picked it up and read:

"My dearest Janie, I forgive you. I pray you will also forgive me. I know that you love me. I love you, too, Daddy."

If you still have time . . . make peace with the ones whom you have hurt. It will go a long way to heal the bruises in your own heart.

"Be kind and tenderhearted to one another and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ." Ephesians 4:32

EVERYBODY LOVES A WEDDING

Holy-Three-In-One Lutheran church, Houston, Texas, was the scene of a beautiful wedding Saturday afternoon, March 30 when Miss Roxanne Van Pelt became the bride of Mark Gasaway in a 3 p.m. nuptials performed by Pastor Robert Case and witnessed by a church packed with friends and relatives of the couple.

The happy couple, both deaf and 31, met at Gallaudet college during their first year. The bride has a bachelors degree in journalism from the University of Houston and the bridegroom a bachelors in social work from the University of Georgia. He is presently pursuing studies for His masters and plans to take his final courses at SUN, Northridge, Calif. CONGRATULATIONS!



THE HAPPY COUPLE--Left to right: Laura Kahanek, maid of honor; Roxanne VanPelt, bride; Mark Gasaway, bridegroom, and Johnny Gasaway, best man.



RECEIVING PASTORAL BLESSING from Rev. Robert Case who officiated at ceremony.

HOW TRUE . . .

The Bible admonishes us to LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS and also to LOVE OUR ENEMIES, probably because they are often the same people.

YOU ARE OF MORE VALUE

By Meta Luetzow
13454 Second S.W.
Seattle, Wash. 98146

"In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for Thou alone, O Lord, makest me dwell in safety." (Psalms 4:8)

David in his flight before Absalom had come to the east side of the Jordan. He had a number of faithful men with him, but Absalom's army far outweighed his. To stimulate his own courage and bring back the spirits of his men, David wrote the inspiring words of Psalms 4, which have become a song of consolation to all who are in trouble.

David trusted in God for his salvation. Not even Absalom's rebellion could disturb his sleep. Undisturbed by worry and anxious thoughts, David could drop off to a refreshing sleep, knowing that under God's protecting care he was safe from all fears.

David's words reminded me of a nest of jaybirds at my friends' home in Kansas City, Mo. The nest was no more than three feet from Katherine's deck. She had watched the jaybirds build the nest in the crotch of the Red Bud tree.

Fearing a neighbor's cat or curious child would disturb the nest, Katherine had it destroyed, hoping the jaybirds would build in a more secure place. The next day, the birds began building again in the very same spot. Soon four speckled eggs filled the nest and at the appointed time, three naked jaybirds could be seen with mouths wide open waiting to be fed.

Day after day the nest rocked to and fro in the Kansas City wind. Rain and hail pounded the tree, but the family of jaybirds dwelt in safety, undisturbed by nature's fury, just as secure as David and his small army survived the army of Absalom while under God's protecting arms.

Doesn't the Bible tell us, "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's will. But even the hairs of your head are numbered. Fear not, therefore, you are of more value than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29-32)

Dear Heavenly Father: Just as you care for the birds of the field, so care for us and help us to dwell in peace and safety.

Apt Definitions . . .

Recession: When your neighbor is out of work. Depression: When you are out of work.

BETHEL, DENVER, GOES ON AIR

February saw some exciting events emerge for members of Bethel Lutheran church, Denver, Pastor Ray Leimkuehler reports. On Wednesday, the 13th, both youth and adult choirs performed at a dinner given by the Rose Hill Grange at which time a special presentation of a video-tape recorder and TV decoder were given to the congregation. The gift was made possible from a memorial fund established for the late husband of Mrs. Hamil Householder, both of whom were members of the Grange.

Four days later the news team from KCNC channel 4 came to conduct a special segment on the deaf worship service which was aired on the 5:00 and 10:00 news

The VCR will be given to the Greeley (Colorado) Preaching station whose members belong to Bethel for viewing the services from the home church in Denver.



NEW EQUIPMENTS—Pictured left to right: Mr. George Dietz, Mrs. Hamil Householder, Rev. Ray Leimkuehler and Mrs. Lydia Thornsby. Mrs. Householder's husband's memorial fund made this gift possible.

Prayer Is the Answer . . .

Prayer in the hands of a Christian is a powerful spiritual tool. More is wrought in this world by prayer than most people realize.

Q: Where will deaf people go who do not accept Jesus Christ as their Savior?
A: To the same place as hearing people

LIFE AFTER DEATH

It's actually getting harder to die today. Amazing resuscitation machines are "bringing people back from the dead." Individuals who experience a cessation of heartbeat, respiration and even brain wave activity are somehow regaining conscious life. And they are telling stories of "where they have been" while they were "dead."

The question must be asked: Did the people giving these reports really die? And if they died, do their stories match up?

If one takes the definition of death as the **irreversible** cessation of life functions, then none of these people really died. If I am badly injured or mortally sick, I may have dreams, nightmares, or who knows what else. If I am then resuscitated, and I am told, "You've come back from the dead!" Perhaps I'll think my dreams were real. This instance most likely explains the majority of life-after-death reports.

But why do the people's stories match up so well? Many dying people report a sense of their spirit leaving their body; they see a bright light and hear beautiful music; they see passed-on friends and family; and they experience a great sense of well-being.

There is a simple answer to these reports from the Word of God, the Bible. "The last enemy to be conquered is death," writes the apostle Paul, and it seems that these days

God's enemy, Satan, has come up with a masterly deception. He intends now to whitewash even death.

Today, Satan is saying in effect, "You can conquer death without a Saviour to die for you. You will be accepted on 'the other side,' and your sins are not in question.

Everyone will live on in great joy and peace."

But the truth is that not everyone will live in joy and peace. For the Bible teaches that "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment," The question is not shall we live on, but where we will spend eternity.

The Bible teaches that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Before a holy God each of us stands condemned in our sins: "for the wages of sin is death" (eternal separation from God.)

But there are good news: "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jesus Christ came to bring us this new life. When He died on the cross, He took God's judgment for our sins upon Himself. When He rose from the grave, and ascended to His Father in heaven, He provided for our eternal life with God.

Do you know where you will spend eternity? "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Receive Jesus as your Saviour today and you can have the assurance of sins forgiven and everlasting life in heaven.

Truths to Ponder . . .

If your church needs financial support, be glad! It is proof that it is alive and well. Only dead churches do not need money.

If you cannot think of anything to be thankful for, then you have not got a very good memory!

The DEAF LUTHERAN

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