



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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## PROCLAIM CHRIST'S TRIUMPH

Rev. Frank P. Wagenknecht  
8408 Potter Road  
Matthews, N.C. 28105

### HE'S ALIVE

The commemoration of the greatest event of human history is the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. Lent and Holy Week direct our attention to cross and the empty tomb.



Three verses are found in Matthew 28 regarding what our action and attitude should be concerning the resurrection. . . .

First, the words, "Fear not" (vs. 5) The resurrection destroys our fear of death and replaces it with hope and the Lord's promise of eternal life. Why should we fear when we know that our lovely Lord has broken the chains of

death, hell and the grave?

### Rev. Larry J. Larsen Installed at Rogate on Jan. 12

Rev. Larry J. Larsen, who has ministered to the Navajo Indians on their reservation on the Arizona-New Mexico border northwest of Gallup, N.M. the past year, was installed as pastor of Rogate Lutheran church, Clearwater, Fla. on Jan 12. Rev. Larsen, who is single, succeeds Rev. Frank Wagenknecht, who accepted a call to the Carolinas.

Pastor Larsen is a 1976 graduate of the Springfield Seminary and vicared at Rogate in 1974-75. He served Joy of Jesus Lutheran church at Peoria, Ill., from 1976 to 1984 before accepting the call to New Mexico.

The rite of installation was performed by Rev. Patrick O'Brien of First Lutheran church, Clearwater, with Rev. Glen Borhart preaching the service, followed by light refreshments.

Second, "Come See" (vs. 6) The angel of the Lord invited the women to examine the empty tomb. We can do the same by seeing for ourselves the tomb is empty. But a better evidence is a full heart. As the hymn says, "You ask me how I know He lives. He lives within my heart."

Third, "Go Tell" (vs. 10) The command is not to go to church, but to go tell others what the resurrection means. It means that we who trust Him must take part in the same. So go tell everyone you know He's alive! He's alive! He's alive!

### JESUS COUNTS ON US

What is our Easter duty? It is to "go quickly and tell."

In one of his books, S. D. Gordon pictures Gabriel as asking Christ when He reached heaven what recognition the world has given of His divine suffering for its sake. Christ replied that only a few in Palestine knew of it. Gabriel feels that more ought to know, that the whole world ought to know, and he asks, "What is your plan, Master, for telling them of it?"

Jesus is supposed to reply, "I have asked Peter, James, John, Andrew and a few others to make it the business of their lives to tell others, and those others to tell others,

PROCLAIM

(continue on page 2)

### Selection of New Secretary for Deaf Ministry Tentatively Set for April

Word received by the editor of THE DEAF LUTHERAN makes it appear likely that the new secretary for deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will not be selected until the April meeting of the board for the mission services.

Board chairperson, Dr. Edward Westcott, indicated that there was not enough time for the necessary interviews prior to the January meeting of the board.

# LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, DETROIT, EXTENDS AND EXPANDS SERVICES UNDER GOD'S GRACE

The Lutheran School for the Deaf, which has served deaf youngsters continuously since its inception in 1873 has been faced with a declining enrollment in recent years with a low of only 44 students in the year 1975. Through the prayers of staff and friends, the school has found new purpose and has been led to that purpose by the Holy Spirit.

In 1975, the board of directors authorized the school's expansion of its mission beyond that of hearing impaired children to include special children beyond its campus in De-

## SUDDEN DEATH

By Croft M. Pentz  
Calvary Chapel of the Deaf  
Cranford, N.J.

On three occasions I have conducted funerals for people under the age of 21. Their lives were ahead, but suddenly death struck!

Every year thousands are killed in auto accidents. None was expecting death, but suddenly life is taken! Thousands die suddenly in accidents at home and work. Others die with heart attacks. For these death gives no warning. It comes without invitation. It comes any hour of the day or night. It comes during work, play, sleep or vacation. Thousands of others in apparently excellent health pass away suddenly.

The suddenness of death does not respect age, creed or color. It doesn't respect one's position in life. The rich die with the poor, the famous with the unknown. Death shows no respect to the Christian or non-Christian.

Since death can come so suddenly, one needs to be ready at all times. Preparation must be made. Most people prepare financially for death. They have insurance, stocks, bonds, social security and other benefits for the family left behind.

However, many neglect the most important preparation. Jesus said unless a man is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:1-8). Everyone faces physical death (Heb. 9:27). Probably everyone intends to prepare for death--sometime. The Bible warns we should not boast about tomorrow, since we have no assurance of it. (Proverbs 27:1) Today is the only sure time you have to prepare! Sudden death for you? It's possible. Today could be your last. Are you ready?

troit, which include the learning disabled, the mentally impaired and the gifted.

Children may now receive a Christian education throughout their high school years, even though they may have special learning problems or need assistance in academic areas.

The school, which does not seek or receive any monies from the taxing bodies, issued an appeal for financial help and support through its tabloid, THE DEAF CHILD'S ADVOCATE, JUST before Christmas. The school has been one of the mission projects of the International Lutheran Association.

With its current mission reaching 215 youngsters and with a projected increase in 1986, it has an urgent need for your prayers and support. Mail your gifts to them at 6861 East Nevada Ave., Detroit, Mich. 48234-2983.

**Proclaim** (continue from page 1)

until the last man in the furthest circle has heard the story and has felt the power of it."

"But suppose they do not tell others--what then?" Gabriel asks.

Jesus answers quietly, "Gabriel, I haven't made any other plans. I am counting on them."

He is counting on us to tell others and that is our Easter lesson of duty. He is counting on us to tell others the good news of His birth, and life, and death and resurrection. Go quickly and tell. Tell again and again. Keep on telling the blessed story.

### I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever living Head.

He lives triumphant from the grave,  
He lives eternally to save,  
He lives all glorious in the sky,  
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love,  
He lives to plead for me above,  
He lives my hungry soul to feed,  
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply,  
He lives to guide me with His eyes,  
He lives to comfort me when faint,  
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

Amen

## THE EDITOR COMMENTS . . .

The following account was written by Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, pastor of Trinity, Pittsburgh, Pa. and published in the church newsletter. Pastor Bergstresser is appealing for understanding and forbearance, for the life of many of the servants of God is no bed of roses. The old saying that the minister works only "once a week on Sunday morning" is just a cruel joke. When my wife was severely injured in the explosion in our home in October, our local pastor was in the emergency room to see her in less than 30 minutes. This says a lot about our hard working shepherds of the flock of the Lord's . . . read on. . . .

### WHY HAD I BEEN GONE THREE SUNDAYS?

Here is my explanation of not being here three Sundays. I am not running away to take Sundays off. These three events did not give me rest at all. I worked very hard during three weeks. You feel that I was loafing off to take a break from church works. That is NOT true. Here are three events:

Second Sunday of October, I worked as spiritual gifts teacher for leadership training program, a full four days workshop.

Third Sunday of October, I had a meeting with other pastors of the deaf for their supports and comforts of each other and also made several plannings for next Ephphatha Conference. That weekend was GLRC at Camp Pioneer.

Fourth Sunday of October, two members and I were in St. Louis for music workshop for five days. We worked very hard with little rest. We have learned many new things there. We went to Holy Cross Lutheran Church of the Deaf. I was refreshed by other pastor's sermon. I was glad to hear other pastors' sermon during week at the seminary. I was fed by them with God's Word.

You can see what some members wrote about these events in the November issue. These were not their vacations. These were their work days.

The biggest question among you was should the pastor stay at your church like a prisoner with no fellowship for the benefit of my spiritual growth. You feel that the pastor must be a slave to the church 100 per cent a whole year, feeding the sheep only. HOW WILL THE SHEPHERD EAT for his spiritual life and BE FED by workshops and meetings who give him God's word, strength and knowledge. If the pastor is not permitted to go to any

workshop, his spiritual life is starved. He, then, would not be able to feed you well.

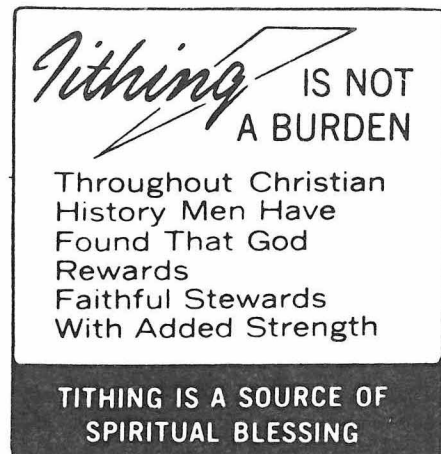
Your pastor wants to grow in spiritual life and faith. He wants to be strong, full of energy to preach and teach God's Word without weakness and doubt. Your pastor is God's representative of His church. He goes to different workshops and meetings to learn new things and uses new ideas to build up His Body of Christ, the church. Your pastor wants His church to grow because of Jesus' command: Matthew 28:18-20.

The gifts God give me, I want to use the gifts to help His church grow (Matthew 25:16) It is my effort with God's help to do things for Christ the best (1 Tim. 4:7b-10) Because of the gifts, God give to each of us, believers of Christ, He will give us power and love (2 Tim. 1:6-7) Then the Lord will give shepherd (pastor) will lead him with knowledge and understanding (Jer. 3:15).

I am not ashamed to be what God made me to be. I am not afraid to proclaim the Gospel because God called us to be a holy life by His grace--Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life forever through the gospel (2 Tim. 1:8-12)

Because Lord Jesus is our peace who has made the two become one and has destroyed the barrier between you and me (the misunderstanding among you on the pastor's absences) Jesus torn down and creates us one new person instead of two person through the cross by which Jesus put to death their hostility (Ephesians 2:14-16)

TO GOD BE GLORY! His love covers our problems. He wants you and me to work together to build His church with new ways and ideas so that all people may believe in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.





## NEWS FROM HERE, THERE AND EVERYWHERE . . .

Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio will complete 40 years as a congregation on April 20, with 20 of those years in their own church building.

A letter from Dorothy Cohler, Forest Hills, N.Y. indicates that St. Matthew Lutheran church will observe its diamond anniversary on Oct. 19 and some kind of a celebration is being planned. The first service at St. Matthew's was conducted on Sept. 24, 1911 by Rev. Arthur Boll.

Anyone wish to top Bethel Lutheran church of Denver in donating 1,100 Campbell Soup labels? Their gift was given to Good Shepherd Lutheran Home of the west, Terra Bella, Calif.

An interesting letter was received by the editor in December from Durban, South Africa, written by a group calling themselves the "Durban Relations Committee," a multiracial group of people from many walks of life, whose aim is to work together for betterment of their country. The group urges fair play and a moderate and caring point of view by Americans on disinvestment and sanctions against their country. We believe that apartheid, the underlying cause of so much trouble there, will eventually be resolved much in the same way it was in the United States, but will take time.

Rev. Frank Wagenknecht reports that the just issued appeal for funds to remodel the chapel in Charlotte, N.C. has already been blessed with over \$6,000 of the estimated \$8,000 that is needed. Praise the Lord.

Valparaiso university has just announced its new Martin Luther four-year renewable scholarship valued at \$12,000 (\$3,000 per year). The new award is for children of pastors and other full time church workers. Awardees must be children of eligible parents and must be single, under 25 years old, and enrolled in one of the undergraduate programs at Valparaiso university, Valparaiso, Ind. Renewal requires a grade point average of C. Students who receive the Martin Luther award may also be eligible for other need based financial aid from Valparaiso university, but families must file a financial aid form to determine such eligibility. The Martin Luther award will begin with the entering class of fall, 1986.

Dr. Michael Warner, who led the workshop

at the 1984 Ephphatha Conference at Elkhorn, Wis., has resigned his pastorate at Grace Lutheran church in Waterloo, Iowa to accept a position in counseling at Elkhart, Ind. The change was effective Jan. 1, 1986.

The Southern Wisconsin district of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has decided to deed both Silent Lutheran church and Holy Cross Lutheran church properties at Madison, Wis. and Delavan, Wis. respectively to their congregations thus making it possible for the deaf to own their own places of worship. The transfers are being made at special worship services. Emmanuel of Milwaukee is the exception as they already own their building and land.

Rev. Wallace Waite, pastor of Silent Lutheran church, Madison, Wis., has returned a call extended to him from St. Peter's Lutheran church, Riceville, Iowa.

The Central Regional Conference, ILDA, will convene at the Sheraton Inn, 706 John Nolen Drive, Madison, Wis., on the dates of April 4, 5 and 6. Theme for this meeting will be "The Lord of Dance."

The Midwest Conference will be held at the YMCA camp of the Rockies, Estes Park, Colo. on the dates of July 11, 12 and 13, 1986. The theme for the meeting will be "Go and Tell."

The Eastern Region (ERILDA) will have its 1986 conference at the Quality Inn, Towson, Md. on the dates of June 6-8. Conference theme is "Sow the Seed."

The 21st convention of the LWML (Lutheran Womens Missionary League) will be held at Mercyhurst college, Erie, Pa., June 13-15, 1986. Theme for the convention is "Chosen to Bear Fruit." Dr. Edwin Westcott, executive secretary for the board for mission of the LCMS will deliver the keynote address.



# CHURCH INTERPRETER TRAINING INSTITUTE TO BE REPEATED AGAIN IN 1986

The second Church Interpreter Training Institute on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. will take place June 1 to July 2, 1986.

The first institute in 1985 was termed a great success with 26 people coming from 13

## Have You Made a Will?

So far during the course of your life, you have accumulated some possessions. As time goes on, you will probably accumulate more of them. What will happen to them when you die? Can you control what happens to your property at that time--and equally important, can you help carry out the mission of the church at the same time?

The answer to this last question is "yes" -if-you have a will. A will is a document whereby you direct the disposal of your property following your death. A will must be prepared in accordance with certain legal requirements. Thus the assistance of a lawyer will be required.

For most people a will need not be very complicated. It can usually be prepared at your convenience in a minimum amount of time. By preparing a will, you can assure yourself that your property will go to the persons or causes you direct, and that your property will serve the purposes you want it to serve.

If there is no will (intestate), your property is distributed by a statutory scheme which allocates your property to various classes of relatives, regardless of any preferences you may have had. If no relatives survive you, then your property goes to the state.

For a Christian, a will has an additional important advantage. The Christian can direct in his will that a certain portion or share of his property be given to the church, there to serve the purpose of the Lord.

The work and mission of the church are present on a daily basis in the life of a Christian. Remembering the Lord's work in your will is an additional expression of your desire to see that work continue. Throughout his life the Christian sets aside a portion or share of his income and gives it to the Lord. A will is an assurance to the Christian that, at death, he can then give a portion or share of his wealth for the Lord's work.

states to learn to serve. God truly blessed those efforts abundantly.

People encouraged to apply are wives of seminary students, pastors' wives, parochial school teachers, deaconesses and lay persons. While any christian man or women may apply, preference will be given to members of the LC-MS, then to other Lutherans and thereafter, to members of other denominations.

Preadmission requirements include a letter from the pastor or congregation clearly stating that their church desires to begin or expand its ministry to the deaf, and if the applicant is selected, full cooperation to make that ministry a success will be forthcoming. Concordia Seminary students should contact Dr. George Kraus for the proper recommendation forms.

A limited number of scholarships are available which would cover most, possibly all, of the \$300 course for seminary students who apply and are accepted.

Registration deadline is May 1, 1986 or as soon as 50 applicants have been accepted into the program. Interested persons should write to Concordia Theological Seminary, department of deaf ministries, Church Interpreter Training Institute, 6600 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, Ind. 46825.



## DEAF CHRISTIANS HELPING HEARING PEOPLE

Can deaf Christians help hearing people learn about Jesus? The answer is YES,--in many ways! Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran Church, Omaha, found one way.

During their recent evangelism open house, Bethlehem sponsored a mission dinner. \$250 raised at the dinner was donated to the Lutheran Tape Ministry, and \$250 in matching funds have been applied for from Lutheran Brotherhood, for a total of \$500.

What other ways can you think of for deaf Christians to help hearing people learn about Jesus?

Rev. Fred Naumann, producer and voice of the Lutheran Tape Ministry, knows some sign language and has an interest in deaf ministry, as he preached his first sermon in sign language to deaf people.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Rev. David Mueller of Cedar Rapids, guest preacher; Mr. Ron Thedens, president of Lutheran Tape Ministry, receiving a check for \$250 from Lay Minister Robert Oettel, and Ms. Karen Dammeyer, parish worker.

## TITHING ON WELFARE CHECKS . . .

If every church member in the United States were to suddenly lose his/her job and were still willing to tithe on the amount they received from public assistance (unemployment compensation, etc.) giving to the nation's churches would immediately rise 30 per cent.

## Praise the Lord in Sign . . .

## Deaf Lutheran Song Book

The Board for the Mission Services of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has available for the deaf a new song book, "Praise the Lord in Sign" which was copyrighted in 1982.

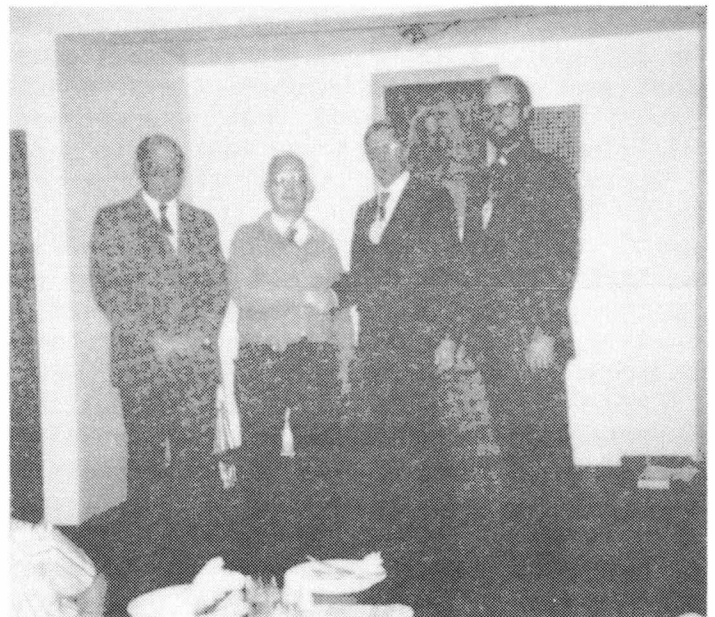
It is an assimilation of many different hymn books such as the Lutheran Hymnal, Lutheran Worship, Lutheran Book of Worship, the Service Book and Hymnal.

Those involved with providing materials and translation of the hymns are Doris Myhre, Clark Bailey, Theo Delaney, William Lang, Martin Kosche, Francis Gyle, Donald Leber, Roland Gerhold, Waldemar Neisch, Ronald Friedrich, Daniel Mueller, William Ludwig, Ruth Strauch, Pam Rosenkotter and Fern Cole.

You can get a copy of "Praise the Lord in Sign" by writing to:

Board for Mission Services  
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
1333 South Kirkwood Road  
St. Louis, Mo. 63122-7295

Note: The cost for this book is not known. It is suggested that interested persons inquire from the address above before ordering.



MR. JAMES CORNETT, president of Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran church and Mr. Ron Thedens, president of Lutheran Tape Ministry are shown shaking hands at the conclusion of a successful and delicious dinner to raise funds for Lutheran Tape Ministry. Looking on are Lay Minister Robert Oettel and guest preacher, David Mueller, minister of Word of God Deaf Lutheran church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



# ON DOGS, SKUNKS & SIN, ETC., ETC.

By Rev. Mark Seeger  
1969 S. Clinton Ave.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14618

Many of you know what happened to my dog last August. Some of you have heard the story two or three times, but for the benefit of those who have not heard the story, I'd like to give you a brief account. My dog, George, was hit by a . . . (ugh!) . . . skunk! PHEW!!

The more I think about what happened, the more I see how similar it is to the situation we are in with sin.

First, George was completely covered with the skunk smell, just like we are completely covered with sin! It was very obvious what happened to George; anyone within 25 feet knew that he had been sprayed. It is very obvious that we are sinners; anyone who watches us for a few minutes can see the sin in us.

Second, when it happened, my wife and I tried to ignore it. We hope the smell would go away. But the smell didn't stop. It stayed and stayed. . . . People hope that sin will go away. It won't. If we ignore sin, it doesn't go away but instead, it stays and stays and stays. . . .

Third, we tried to remove the smell. George was bathed twice with tomato juice, once in liquid Tide, and once in a bleach and water solution (the vet told us!) and George still smells. He doesn't smell as bad, but he still does smell! People try different ways to wash away their sin. Some people will pray to saints, asking the saints to remove their sin, but saints can't help. Some people try to remove their sins by doing a lot of good deeds for the church and other people. But good works don't remove any sins. Other people might try to buy forgiveness. They think they can give a lot of money to churches and hospitals and other charitable organizations and that will buy forgiveness for them. But all the money in the world cannot wash away one sin! There are some people who try to wash away their sins by punishing themselves. They think, "if I punish myself, God won't have to punish me later." But that also fails. No one can "punish" away their sins.

The first night that George was sprayed, we let him back into his "bedroom-garage." That was a big mistake! Now the whole garage smells like skunk! We should have been wiser and left him outside until we had an opportunity to clean him. We threw away part of his bed, washed the other part twice, mopped the

floor with bleach twice, and put deodorant blocks in the garage. But it still stinks! The whole place smells just like the skunk. The smell is into every thing!

When we allow sin to continue around us, we can become influenced by that sin. If the people you associate with are openly doing things you know are wrong, and you don't do anything to stop them or remove yourself from them, you can be pulled into the same sins they are doing. It is important for us to remove ourselves from people who openly sin and don't try to stop. As the Bible says, "resist the devil and he will flee from you."

I realized too late that I should not have let the dog back in. We often realize too late that we let "sin" in.

So, what do I do now to remove that smell? I don't know, but I'll keep trying. And if I find a way to remove skunk smell, you can be sure that I will let you know. I will let everybody know! I will have advertisements in magazines, newspapers, on TV and radio . . . maybe I'll even hire a "sky writer" to put the message in the sky! If I find a way to remove the skunk smell, I'll tell everyone! and maybe even become rich. However, for right now, I really can't help anyone remove a skunk smell.

How can we remove sin? I DO KNOW! And I'll tell you. I'll tell everyone who wants to know, and I'll tell some people who don't want to know!

Sin is removed in one way, and in only one way. The only way to have sin removed is the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Jesus' death on the cross washes away our sin. We can do nothing to take away our sin. We can't pray it away, we can't pay it away, we can't play it away. Only God can remove our sin, and He decided to do that through the death of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

We have all been sprayed by sin. That skunk named Satan has hit us all. But thanks to God, Jesus removes that sin from us.

If I find a way to remove the skunk smell, I will let you know. Now, I know how to make us clean from sin, and that only through Jesus. Amen!

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233 language groups now have the complete Bible. Another 501 have only the New Testament. Translation is in progress for 980 languages.

But the people of 3,186 still do not have a Bible translation in their own language.

# "I AM"

In the Gospel of John there are seven (7) "I ams" of Jesus. Please note the **present** tense--I **AM**. Not I was, but I am. Though a historical person, Christ is present to help those who trust Him.

"I **am** the bread of life." He that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst." John 6:35

"I **am** the light of the world." He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." John 8:12

"I **am** the door." by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." John 10:9

"I **am** the Good Shepherd." the Good Shepherd giveth His life for the sheep. John 10:11

"I **am** the resurrection and the life." He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die. John 11:25-26

"I **am** the way, the truth and the life." No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me. John 14:6

"I **am** the vine." Ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bring forth much fruit: for without Me, ye can do nothing. John 15:5

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Many people know that Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, but many will not be able to explain what "Ash" stands for. This year, Ash Wednesday starts on Feb. 12, which is 40 days before Easter.

On Ash Wednesday, throughout much of the Christian world, millions of people are

## BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOME

Did you know that Bethesda Lutheran home is the largest kind of facility of its kind in the world with 640 current residents, all of whom are mentally retarded? That all of the hallways, if you were to walk them, would take you 10 miles? That all of the buildings are connected by tunnels, making it unnecessary to venture outside in the winter?

God has truly blessed this unique institution at Watertown, Wis., which cares for the least of these, His children.

With 60 per cent of the residents unable to speak and 80 per cent hearing impaired, the use of sign language is common place, however, it differs a lot from the language of signs used by the deaf.

The cost of caring for each dependent is about \$25,000 annually so simple arithmetic would tell us the total cost each year to operate the institution is somewhere around \$16 million dollars, and that may be conservative.

Bethesda operates several group homes in other states and the latest acquisition is one about four miles west of Winter Garden, Fla. This one, to be dedicated Feb. 23, joins 14 others in 10 states.

marked on their foreheads with ashes. The ashes outwardly show a person's sorrow for past sins committed. During the intervening 40 days until Easter, we look into our hearts and what we see there is not a pretty picture. Then we remember that is why Jesus suffered and died to cleanse our hearts from all unrighteousness and make it possible for us to become His children.

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March-April, 1986

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