

# The Deaf Lutheran



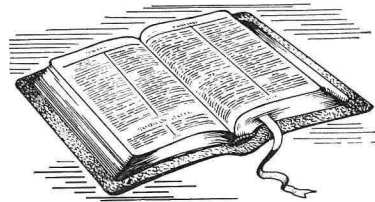
*Ephphatha, that is,  
Be opened.*

MARK 7:34

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Number 10



*The Bible Alone*

*Grace Alone*

*Faith Alone*

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### THE DEAF LUTHERAN

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# The Day of Reformation

Oct. 31, 1517

On this day long ago a young monk, Martin Luther, nailed 95 theses (sentences) to a door of his church in Wittenberg, Germany. The young monk wanted other monks and priests of his church to study the Bible and discuss these 95 theses.

Martin Luther had studied the Word of God for many years. He saw that his church did not teach and practice God's Word as the Bible taught. He wanted the church to reform and change its wrong teachings, but the church would not listen.

The day of reformation had begun. Martin Luther and other priests left the church and established another one founded on the clear teachings of the Bible. What were these clear teachings?

1) Sin controls the desires of all people. (Romans 3:10, 23 and Ecclesiastes 7:20)

2) Sin separates people from God. (Isaiah 59:2)

3) A man cannot save himself — not by his own good deeds, not by his own efforts, not by his own wishing, not by the things he does in his daily life. (Ephesians 2:8, 9 and Romans 3:20)

4) God has given a gift to all people, the gift of forgiveness and eternal life. God did this with His mercy and love, so that the sinner might have life instead of eternal death. (Romans 3:24 and John 3:16)

5) This grace (mercy) of God is shown to us in the blood which Jesus shed in death on the cross. Jesus, God's Son, was our substitute and received punishment for our sins on the cross. (1 John 1:7 and 1 Corinthians 15:3)

6) Every person who accepts this grace of God and looks to Jesus with faith receives forgiveness for all his sins. Then he becomes a child of God and will have eternal life. (Romans 3:28; Romans 8:16, 17, and John 3:16)

These teachings of the Holy Bible, God's Word, point to three foundation stones:

*The Bible Alone.* By studying and teaching only the Bible we can truly hear what God speaks to us.

*Grace Alone.* Accept the free gift of God's mercy. This is the only way to heaven.

*Faith Alone.* The only way to make this gift of life our own is to believe God's promise.

Because Martin Luther was faithful in studying God's Word 448 years ago, the church again heard God speaking through the Bible. We must ask ourselves: "Am I faithful in studying God's Word? Am I faithful to come to church every Sunday to listen to God and worship Him? Am I faithful to Jesus who forgave me all my sins?" God promises us in Revelation 2:10: *Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

# The 11th International Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention

San Diego, Calif., July 21—22

Some 2,500 delegates and guests gathered in San Diego to conduct the business of the international Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

For the next two years delegates chose six projects which will cost \$290,000: \$30,000 for Jeeps for pastors serving congregations in primitive areas of Brazil, \$100,000 for a leprosy treatment program at mission hospitals in India and New Guinea, \$10,000 for Messengers of Christ, a training and recruitment program for studying new languages never before written down, \$35,000 for the Modern III Girls' School at Nung Udoe, Nigeria, and \$30,000 for hospital equip-

ment at Yahe, Nigeria, which is badly needed.

The Board for Missions to the Deaf requested \$50,000 to begin a program of training Sunday school teachers in many hearing Lutheran churches so that they could teach the "oral" deaf children of public day schools. The Missionary League, however, did not accept this as one of their projects this year.

Money for the projects listed above is gathered from the 210,700 members of the Missionary League who give their offerings of pennies or mites. The League has 5,471 societies in Lutheran churches across the United States and Canada. Nine of our deaf congregations have missionary societies.



The deaf choir of Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Los Angeles, Calif. At the international Lutheran Women's Missionary League convention, San Diego, Calif., July 21, this choir signed the hymns during the opening devotions. Rev. A. T. Jonas, their pastor, leads the hymn



**Cynthia Rathmann of San Diego presents an oversized gavel to Mrs. G. O. Hankel of Empire, Colo., international Lutheran Women's Missionary League president. Dr. Oliver R. Harms (left) and Dr. William H. Hillmer (right) look on. Dr. Harms is President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and Dr. Hillmer is Chairman of the Synod's Division of Missions**

## Crazy to Love God?

“Look at him. He gives half his money to his church. He must be crazy.”

This is how the world looks upon the sacrifices and offerings of the servants and members of Jesus Christ. The “children of the world” are only interested in getting as much for themselves as they can. They give nothing away unless it is a way of getting more for themselves. And when they see a child of God giving away his money, time, and ability to the church, they think he is crazy.

But the opposite is true. It is “crazy” *not* to give to the Lord. The world itself has “gone mad” with sinful, selfish, self-seeking. The world does not believe in “storing up treasure” in heaven as Jesus has commanded us: *Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where no moth or rust destroys them and no thieves break in and steal.* (Matthew 6:20, Beck)

The world does not understand that “the Lord knows those who are

His" (2 Timothy 2:19). The Lord provides and blesses the Christian giver with much more than he gives. John Bunyan in his book *Pilgrim's Progress* describes such a Christian giver: "Though some did count him mad — the more he gave, the more he had."

The Christian has real joy in expressing and showing his love for his Savior by giving. The Apostle Paul calls it "hilarious" giving. It makes us jump for joy. *God loves a cheerful giver* (2 Corinthians 9:7).

We sing to God the true words of the hymn:

We give Thee but Thine own,  
Whate'er the gift may be;  
All that we have is Thine alone,  
A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

*The Lutheran Hymnal*, No. 441

It is also true that if a father gives his son a dollar and the son goes out and buys a gift for his father, that father will only love his son much more. So it is with God. He gives us so much, and when we in love bring Him a gift, He can only love us much more. As we love God, we are blessed with much more love in return.

No, we are not "crazy" givers. Our giving is rather a wise "self-insurance" for the future.

REV. H. W. ROHE  
St. Louis, Mo.

## Lutheran Deaf of Finland

At Ephphatha Conference, June 28—July 1, it was a real joy for your pastors to have as their guest Rev. Eino Savisaari of Helsinki, pastor to the Lutheran deaf of Finland.

Pastor Savisaari has been in America this past year studying methods of working with the Lutheran deaf here. His trip was sponsored by the National Committee for Lutheran World Federation, International Exchange Program.

At one of the sessions of Ephphatha Conference Pastor Savisaari presented a slide lecture of the work of the Lutheran Church of Finland among their deaf. This

article will present some interesting facts from this lecture.

### Schools for the Deaf

The first school for deaf children was started sometime in the 1840s. The Lutheran Church of Finland had supervision of this school, for a pastor was the headmaster. As the population grew and the need for schools increased, more schools for the deaf were built. The church added more pastors as headmasters.

These headmasters supervised their schools for most of the year and during the summer months traveled about the country conducting worship services for the





**Rev. Eino Savisaari**

deaf. In 1920 the government accepted control of the schools, and the pastors, for the first time, were able to work full time with the adult deaf.

Today Finland has six deaf schools: four oral schools using the Finnish language, one oral school using the Swedish language, and one school for the slower Finnish students. This last school uses oral instruction with finger spelling and the language of signs.

Since the Lutheran Church is the state religion of Finland, pastors and parents have no problem teaching religion to the children. All are confirmed into the Lutheran Church while they are still in school.

### **Associations of the Deaf**

An estimated 4,500 deaf live in Finland. About 2,000 are mem-

bers of the national association, the Federation of the Deaf. These members form 42 different local or regional associations across the country.

The federation seeks to improve the condition of the deaf in social and employment matters. It gives guidance to the small local associations in their various programs.

The 42 local associations conduct yearly youth camps for the young people during the school vacation periods. Since all the members of the association are Lutheran, each association works closely with one of the pastors.

One of the projects adopted by the federation has been the selection of a committee to compile a dictionary for the language of signs. This committee is composed of three deaf members of the federation with two of the pastors. It is interesting to note that the committee has studied several foreign sources in order to compile a language of signs which is more descriptive and accurate than many of the made-up signs which the deaf have adopted over the years.

The federation has also looked into the possibility of the establishment of an international language for the deaf. But this study is only in its beginning stages.

### **The Pastor's Work**

Rev. Eino Savisaari is one of four full-time pastors working with the deaf. While his ministry is typical of work in Finland, it

is quite different than that of American pastors.

The deaf in Finland are scattered and are not inclined to live in large cities. Therefore, to serve his 1,200 deaf, Pastor Savisaari must travel a 300-mile circuit to reach his 120 preaching points. About 15 days in a month are spent traveling by car to hold his countryside services. Often these services are conducted in the homes of the deaf, and sometimes Pastor Savisaari has as many as three services a day.

Working closely with the deaf associations, he usually meets everyone who is deaf in his part of the country. He tries to meet each one at least once a year. Otherwise the deaf are left to the care of local hearing congregations for anything that needs immediate attention.

Once or twice a year deaf who live in the country are encouraged to come to the larger cities for a 2- or 3-day "Church Day." A worship service is conducted in the hearing church with the hearing congregation. Bible classes, religious discussion, and mission meetings are held for spiritual growth. Sometimes "Church Day" will center entirely on a 4-to-5-day Bible course.

Besides the four pastors four deaconesses work with the deaf full time. Seven others call on the deaf-blind and another 17 know the language of signs well enough to conduct Bible classes for the deaf in hearing churches.

Sometimes Pastor Savisaari meets a problem with languages. Since both Swedish and Finnish are spoken in Finland, he must have an interpreter on occasion for both the Swedish hearing and deaf who may be present.

### **The Foreign Mission Club**

In 1948 the deaf of Finland became interested in doing something for the deaf in another country. They formed the Foreign Mission Club and began a fund to support some mission work.

By 1955 enough money had been gathered to establish a school for the deaf in Ethiopia. Miss Elsie Roos was sent to begin the work.

Today the school for the deaf in Ethiopia has 34 students with 2 Ethiopian teachers and one Finnish teacher. The language of signs is used as a medium of instruction.

The school is supported by both Swedish and Finnish deaf.

### **Pray for Them**

We look forward to the day when we may meet Rev. Savisaari once again. In the meantime as fellow Christians we ought to pray for each other. Although their pastors do not have a chance to conduct services regularly for the deaf of Finland, we pray that the Lord will bless them with a strong faith in their Savior Jesus.



## The Day Has Come

The day has come, through you, that we may hear  
His Word. Your hands give us the sight to see  
His infinite patience, that we may be  
Patient in silence, and to have no fear  
Of what will come. You give to us our faith  
In Him. You speak His Word that we may know  
That firm belief in Him stills every woe,  
And trouble is a dim, shadowy wraith,  
Earthbound. For us you set a higher goal  
Than worldly pleasures, for you show above  
All other things His eternal love,  
And death can never overcome the soul  
You lead us to the Light, to comprehend  
God's greatness. Who could be a better friend?

Guie C. Cooke, 1938  
Portland, Oregon

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mrs. Guie C. Cooke, elderly member of Hope Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Portland, Oreg., dedicated the above sonnet to Rev. Erich O. D. Eichmann, who was then her pastor. (See page 156.) The poem has been submitted to the *Deaf Lutheran* by Mrs. Narcissa W. Eden, church historian of Hope Congregation, and is rededicated to all missionaries who serve the deaf.



## FIELD

## GLEANINGS

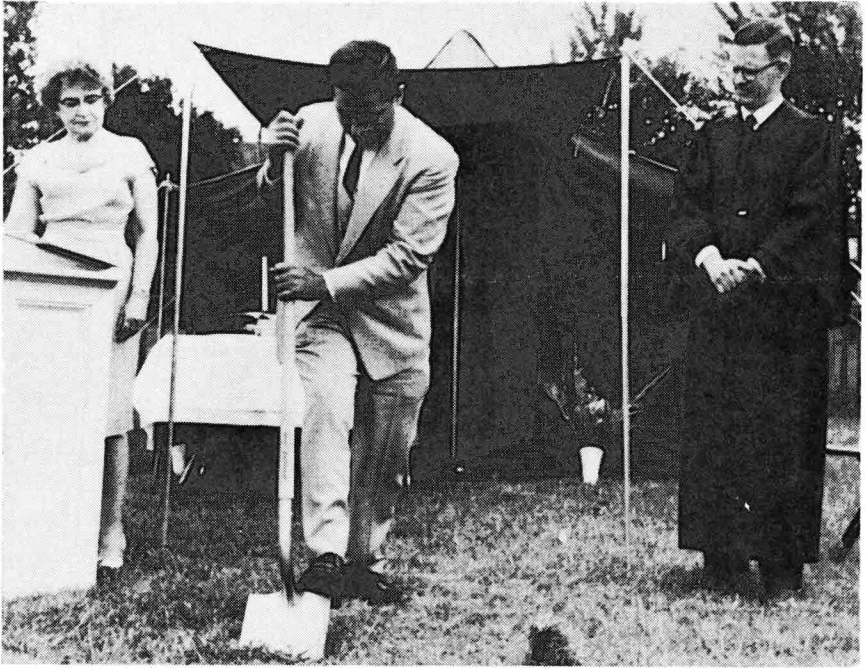
### Groundbreaking for New Chapel

*Columbus, Ohio.* Following their regular Sunday morning worship service on Aug. 1, Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Columbus, held a groundbreaking ceremony for their new chapel.

As Rev. William A. Ludwig, Holy Cross' deaf pastor, conducted the service, Mrs. Russell

S. Moore of Worthington, Ohio, translated his signs into spoken words for the benefit of those hearing friends present. Mrs. Moore also interpreted the brief oral addresses of both Mr. Curt Lindberg, a member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church who serves on Holy Cross' advisory building committee, and Mr. Robert H. Myers, the architect.

Pastor Ludwig was assisted in



### Groundbreaking Day, Sunday, Aug. 1

**Mr. Charles B. Wolford, president of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf voters' assembly, uses a gold-plated shovel to turn over the ground where their new 52' x 62' deaf chapel will be built. Mrs. Marguerite Moore and Pastor William A. Ludwig look on**

turning the ground by some of Holy Cross' members and by Mr. Howard E. Zimmer. The Howard Zimmer Builders of Columbus was awarded the \$106,000 contract to build the church. The congregation of Holy Cross Church looks forward to early 1966 when their new chapel is to be ready for use.

Members of Holy Cross' advisory building committee included four Lutherans from neighboring hearing churches — Rev. Paul W. Stanko, chairman, Rev. D. Marshall Begley, secretary, Mr. Carl Fergus, attorney,

Mr. Curt Lindberg; two members of Holy Cross — Mr. John W. Riddlebaugh, Mr. Harry D. Case; Rev. William A. Ludwig; Mr. Robert H. Myers, architect; and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Moore, interpreters.

### Dixie Lay Conference

*Pensacola, Fla.* Deaf delegates and guests from six fields representing eleven southern states gathered on May 29, 30 in Pensacola to attend the Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference. *Redeemed to Serve* was the conference motto, and discussion centered around

the theme, *How Can We Serve Christ?*

Pastors, laymen, and laywomen presented the theme in lectures: Christ's Service to Us; Bible Characters Serving Christ; Serving Christ in the Home, at Our Jobs, with Our Time and Talents, with Our Treasures; Serving Christ by Serving the Deaf in State Hospitals, in State Schools, in Foreign Countries, and in a Large Field.

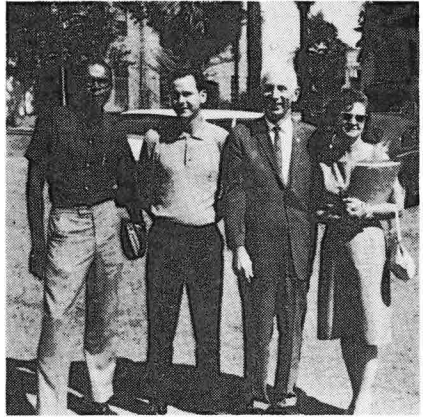


**Mrs. Floyd Wicker, Houston, Tex., presents her lecture to the Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference, Pensacola, Fla., May 29, 30.**

The Dixie Region is served by Rev. William E. Duey, North Texas-Oklahoma Field; Rev. F. G. Gyle, Florida-Georgia Field; Rev. Don Haug, Southern Texas Field; Rev. Donald Leber, Tennessee-Arkansas-Louisiana-Mississippi Field; Rev. E. Oermann, Alabama-Georgia Field; and Rev. W. A. Westermann, South Carolina-North Carolina-Tennessee Field.



**Rev. H. W. Rohe, Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions to the Deaf of our Lutheran Church, attended the Dixie Lay Conference to give a report to the conference from the Board. Waiting for the sessions to begin, Rev. and Mrs. Rohe (right) chat with many of the deaf.**



**Elected officers of the Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference for 1966—67: (l. to r.) Mr. Lawrence Fields, vice-president; Mr. James Barrow, president; Mr. Uriel C. Jones, program chairman; Mrs. U. C. Jones, secretary; and (not shown in the picture) Mr. Herman Spencer, treasurer.**

## Lutheran School for the Deaf Featured on NBC-TV

*Mill Neck, N. Y.* The National Broadcasting Company's series, *I Believe*, will feature a half-hour telecast of the Mill Neck Manor, Lutheran School for the Deaf, on Sunday, Oct. 3.

*Mill Neck Manor Bulletin* describes the program as "an understanding and perceptive account of the school and the problems of the deaf."

The cameras record a day in the life of the student at Mill Neck Manor from the time the school bus picks him up at his home in the morning to 3 o'clock, when the school day is over. The program will explore and explain the trials and triumphs the school meets in teaching the deaf child to understand and be understood.

NBC-TV presents the program in association with The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod. Look for time and station in your local newspaper.

## Rev. Eichmann Retires

*Portland, Oreg.* Rev. Erich O. D. Eichmann, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (hearing) and former missionary to the deaf of the Portland Field, retired from the active ministry June 30.

Of his 44 years in the ministry, Rev. Eichmann served the Portland deaf for 18 years, 1924—42. During the last 23 years as pastor to Trinity's hearing congregation he willingly served the deaf on occasion as guest preacher and as

interim pastor when the Portland Field was without a pastor.

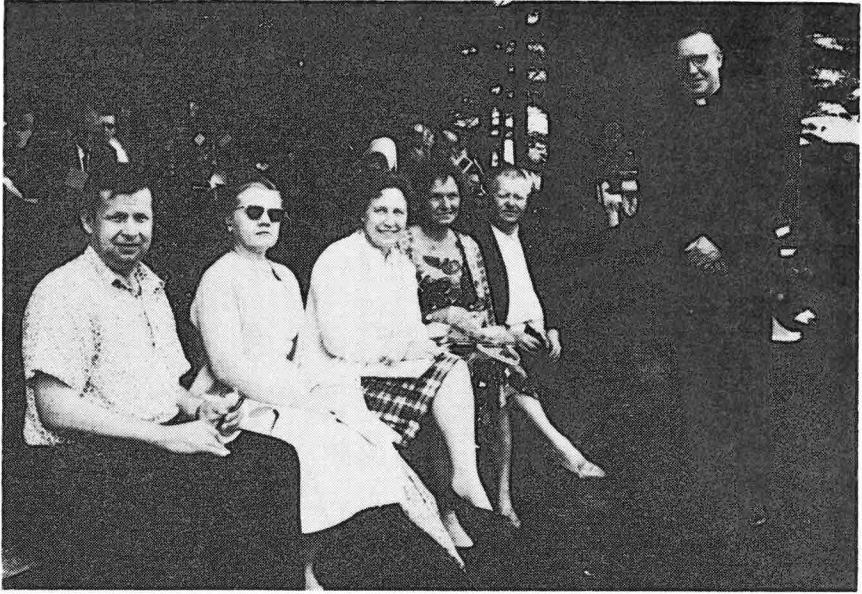
Pastor Eichmann was ordained and installed at Zion Lutheran Church (hearing) in Seattle, Wash., Sept. 11, 1921. Three years later, when the Board for Missions to the Deaf pleaded for more missionaries to work with the deaf, Rev. Eichmann volunteered for this special work. For six months or so he studied the language of signs and received experience in deaf mission work under the guidance of Rev. G. W. Gaertner, who was then pastor of the Seattle Field.

Ready to begin his new work, Pastor Eichmann was installed as pastor to the Portland deaf Dec. 21, 1924.

As the Portland deaf look back over the years to Pastor Eichmann's ministry, one day in par-



Rev. Erich O. D. Eichmann



These Lutheran deaf attended the annual Lutheran service at Ringe, N. H., at the national shrine, the Cathedral of the Pines. Dr. Martin Marty of Chicago, guest preacher for the service, was interpreted by Rev. Robert Blakely, pastor to the New England deaf. Since this was the first time a group of deaf had attended this service, the occasion brought much joy and inspiration to the hearing congregation

The pine trees of the cathedral tower straight toward the heavens in this awe-inspiring place of worship. From April to October the Cathedral of the Pines is crowded for the hundreds of Saturday and Sunday services. Reservations for these services must be made a year or two ahead, for almost all denominations schedule annual events

Left to right in the above picture: Mr. Bernard Rajala, Miss Priscilla Sherman, Mrs. Robert Blakely, Mrs. Robert Naschke, Mr. Robert Naschke, and Rev. Robert Blakely, who serves this group from the Worcester, Mass., congregation

ticular stands out. A 10-year-old church building had been purchased by the Board for Missions to the Deaf and Hope Congregation. Feb. 21, 1926, was the day of rejoicing for the deaf congregation as Rev. Eichmann conducted the service of dedication. Hope congregation still worships in this building today.

Rev. Eichmann also served his Savior and his church in various offices: 1936—42, member of the Mission Board, Northwest District; 1939—45, 1st Vice-President, Northwest District; 1945—51, member of the Board of Directors, Northwest District; 1942—47, member of the board of control, Concordia Academy, Portland.

## Church Picnic

*Worcester, Mass.* The Worcester Church of the Deaf sponsored a church service and picnic at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Naschke of Shrewsbury, Mass., Aug. 8. Some 27 deaf attended including a number of visitors from the Boston deaf congregation and from Rev. Earl Thaler's

congregation in West Hartford, Conn.

Much to the enjoyment of all, the Naschke's lovely home was situated on a lake. While some swam, others relaxed by the lakeside and enjoyed the cool breeze coming in off the lake. The day of fellowship came to a close with a worship service led by Rev. Robert Blakely.



## LIGHT FOR YOUR WAY

### Daily Bible Readings

#### for October

- Oct. 1 — Romans 1:1-17.** Do you want the chance to strengthen the faith of your fellow Christians? Ask God to give you the faith and courage to do it.
- Oct. 2 — Romans 3:9-31.** God is angry with our sin, but He forgives us through faith in Jesus. Thank God that He has given us this way to eternal life. Pray that your family and friends will accept it.
- Oct. 3 — Romans 5:1-17.** God's grace is greater than your sin. Come to Him for forgiveness. Pray for all who are troubled with guilt. May they find comfort in God's mercy.
- Oct. 4 — Romans 6:1-23.** What do you really want to do—live for God or live to satisfy yourself? Pray for Mrs. Doris Ring, pastor's wife, Sioux Falls, S. Dak., and for Rev. William Lange, Denver, Colo.
- Oct. 5 — Rom. 8:12-39.** We have comfort that God keeps His promises and hears our prayers. Pray that the Lutheran deaf of Finland may walk with a strong faith in Jesus.
- Oct. 6 — Romans 11:13-36.** God has enough mercy for all people. Pray that all may turn from sin to love God. Pray for Rev. R. G. Blakely, Norwood, Mass.
- Oct. 7 — Romans 15:14-33.** Are you sure your family and friends believe in Jesus? Talk to them about it. Pray for the deaf in the Birmingham, Ala., Field that they may live with love for all people.



- Oct. 8** — **1 Corinthians 1:4-31.** The promises you believe and follow are God's promises. Pray for your pastor that he will work for God with humility.
- Oct. 9** — **1 Corinthians 4:1-21.** God has not promised to make His work easy. Pray that those who give their lives to God's work may see God's blessings on that work.
- Oct. 10** — **1 Corinthians 7:12-35.** Be a Christian where you are. Only you can speak for Jesus when God gives you the chance. Pray for Rev. Theodore Frederking, Phoenix, Ariz.
- Oct. 11** — **1 Corinthians 8:1-13.** Remember those who look to you for guidance and guide them with real love. Ask God to bless your life and your words. With them you lead others to Him.
- Oct. 12** — **1 Corinthians 11:17-34.** You show your love for your fellow Christians as you receive the Lord's Supper together. Pray for all Christians of all nations that we may be united in the truth of God's Word.
- Oct. 13** — **1 Corinthians 12:1-26.** The church needs your abilities, as you need the help of others. Pray that everyone in your congregation will be eager to use their abilities for God's work.
- Oct. 14** — **1 Corinthians 12:27—13:13.** God has given you love. Now He wants you to love others. Pray for the power to show your love in patience, in humility, in faith.
- Oct. 15** — **1 Corinthians 15:35-58.** Do you live day by day with the eager hope of living with Jesus in heaven? Pray that the elderly and the sick will be comforted with this hope.
- Oct. 16** — **2 Corinthians 4:1-18.** God did not make you a perfect missionary. But He told you, in your weakness, to teach others about Jesus. Pray for Rev. Larry Harris, Portland, Oreg.
- Oct. 17** — **2 Corinthians 5:16—6:13.** Now is the time for mercy, *now* is the time for you to teach about Jesus. Pray for the young people at the deaf schools. May they accept Jesus with faith and be eager to tell others about Him.
- Oct. 18** — **2 Corinthians 8:1-15.** God makes you responsible for people who live far from you. Give your offerings to Jesus with love. Ask God to bless your gift.
- Oct. 19** — **2 Corinthians 9:1-15.** God blesses the person who gives his offering cheerfully, generously, in real sacrifice. Pray that God will make your faith strong so that you will trust Him for everything you need for this life.
- Oct. 20** — **2 Corinthians 11:30—12:13.** We are thankful that God has called us into His church and given us work to do. Pray for the deaf of the Rochester, N. Y., Field that they may grow stronger in faith and love.
- Oct. 21** — **Galatians 1:6-24.** Your faith must be based on God's Word. Pray for the Christian deaf in Hong Kong that they eagerly study God's Word and grow with faith.

- Oct. 22** — **Galatians 3:1-18.** We have a home in heaven only because God in His mercy gave it to us freely. Pray that the deaf in Taiwan will eagerly believe God's promise in Jesus.
- Oct. 23** — **Galatians 3:23—4:11.** We are not slaves of sin anymore, but children of God by faith. Be ready to do the Lord's work. Pray for the deaf of the South Chicago Field that they may work together to spread God's kingdom.
- Oct. 24** — **Galatians 5:13-26.** Does your love, joy, and peace show that the Holy Spirit works in you? Ask that God give you more love to share with those who have body and soul needs.
- Oct. 25** — **Galatians 6:1-18.** You often pray for other Christians. What have you done to find out about their needs? Ask God to give the joy and the desire to help others.
- Oct. 26** — **Ephesians 1:1-23.** God has called you into membership with His people to praise Him forever. Pray for Rev. James Benglesdorf, Des Moines, Iowa.
- Oct. 27** — **Ephesians 2:1-22.** The fellowship of God's people is a close relationship. Look for it, pray for it, show it. Pray for the members of your congregation that they may support one another in faith.
- Oct. 28** — **Ephesians 3:1-21.** God has chosen us to do His work. Pray that He will guide you as you do it.
- Oct. 29** — **Ephesians 4:1-16.** Give your strength to others who need it. Pray for the young people in your congregation that they willingly give themselves to Jesus.
- Oct. 30** — **Ephesians 5:15-33.** The church is in your house. Show the fellowship of love and faith in Jesus at home. Pray that your family will grow with God's blessings so that you may live with love for one another.
- Oct. 31** — **Ephesians 6:10-24.** The Christian life is never easy, it is only blessed. Pray that your church remains true to the Reformation foundation stones of *grace alone, faith alone, and the Bible alone.*

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