

Reformed Church Gleanings

A Monthly Journal Devoted to the Interests of the New Holland Charge, New Holland, Lancaster County, Pa.

Vol. 2.

NEW HOLLAND, PA., NOVEMBER, 1908.

No. 2.

CONGREGATIONAL ITEMS.

Zeltenreich.

The Holy Communion will be held at 10 A. M. on Sunday, November 8. It is to be hoped that there will be a large attendance of the members on this occasion. A full attendance is also desired at the preparatory service on Saturday at 2 P. M., in connection with which some important matters will be considered by the congregation, as already announced. By that time the treasurer, Deacon John Flickinger, will no doubt be ready to report the receipts and expenditures in full so that his accounts can be audited. The congregation created the Finance and Building Committees and these will also be in shape to offer their reports at that meeting. So far as is known there are no outstanding bills.

The furnaces have been put in place, but owing to the mild weather they have not been tested. It is to be hoped that they may prove to be satisfactory. There were both hot and cold places in the old church at the same time; we hope for comfort in the new, even in the coldest weather, especially after riding some distance to get there.

St. Stephen.

At the preparatory service on Friday evening, October 30, Mr. John L. Mentzer, son of Elder Edwin C. Mentzer, was received into full communion with the church by baptism and confirmation, and Mrs. Clara E. Mentzer and Mrs. Anna E. Rutter by confirmation. The pastor instructed Mr. and Mrs. Mentzer during some weeks beforehand, and Mrs. Rutter was a catechumen of her former pastor, Rev. W. F. Lichter, Lancaster, for several years before she came to New Holland.

We are glad to have this addition to the membership of St. Stephen. Young families are the hope of the congregation for the future. And when we come to think of it St. Stephen has an unusual number of such families at present. And nearly all of them have

children, and these children are baptized. This was not the case some years ago. It is now felt that God is the God of these little ones no less than of the parents, and that these lambs should not be brought up outside of the fold.

Elder Edwin C. Mentzer complained of a severe pain in his side some days ago. Upon examination by his physician it was discovered that one of his ribs was fractured. This fracture must have occurred some years ago when he fell from the hay loft. It is a wonder that this injury was not discovered long ago. He is confined to the house because of the irritation caused by the fractured ends in the surrounding tissues. He is under the care of Dr. Winters, of Blue Ball.

Instructions in the catechism will be resumed on Sunday, November 8. The first meeting of the class will be held at 6 P. M., one hour before the service. There are quite a number of persons in the congregation who ought to attend these instructions. We ought to have a larger class for confirmation at Easter than even that of last spring, which was unusually large for this congregation.

St. Paul.

The family of Daniel Schnader has bought a property in Ephrata recently. The family expects to move there in the spring. This will take another family away from St. Paul. During the past ten years this congregation has lost by death or removal fully half of its active membership. The small membership cannot stand such losses indefinitely. What is to be done?

The fall communion will be held in this congregation at 10 A. M., Sunday, November 15, and the preparatory service at 9:30 on the same day.

The pastor will try to get a class together for instruction in the catechism during the winter. There are certainly some persons in this congregation and community who ought to attend such a class. Will the members do what they can to have them attend?

CHURCH ATTENDANCE.

What a difference there is in the members of a congregation in their attendance at the regular services of the church. Some are very regular; their seats are seldom vacant and when they are, the pastor concludes there is some very good reason for it. Others are very irregular in their attendance. There must be some reason for this also. In fact it is to be supposed that members of the church, like all other people, do some thinking before they do anything, whether it is going to church or not. All members, when the hour comes for service, certainly make up their minds whether to go or not to go, and give a reason to themselves for their conclusions in the matter. The question is: What influences their thinking? Solomon tells us that as a man "thinketh in his heart so is he;" and what his thoughts are will also determine his actions.

Now it is quite clear that if the member of the church thinks of pleasing his Lord he will be thinking of what He wishes him to do in this matter; and that if he thinks only of himself and of what he wishes to do the Lord has nothing to do with the reasons which lead to his conclusion, whether that decision is to go to church, to stay at home or to go visiting. The next question is: Ought a member of the Church of Christ be guided and directed in this matter, as in all others as well, by the will of the Lord, or by his own?

But this can hardly be a question with the sincere member of the church. We cannot serve two masters. No Christian can afford to consult his own will first and make that of his Lord secondary, or ignore it altogether. "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." His will is supreme and demands our obedience in all things and at all times; and when a member concludes not to go to church service at the appointed time, and to go visiting instead, he either does, or does not, consult the Lord's will in the matter. If he does, the Lord must have given

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Rev. John G. Noss, Editor.
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him some special work to do for Him that is more important and pressing than the service in His sanctuary; and if he does not he turns his back upon his Lord ignores His will and simply goes where his own heart and will lead him. In that direction great dangers lie, dangers that ultimately, though unrecognized, wean the member from his Lord altogether.

If a member is at all earnest in his desire to do the will of the Lord he will not remain away from the regular service for any and every trifling cause. He may not like the pastor or some of his fellow members, or this or that thing may not please him; but the supreme and only question all the while ought to be: What does my Lord wish me to do? If that question were constantly pondered by the members of the church (and why should it not be constantly uppermost in their hearts and minds?) there would be much less Sunday visiting than there is in this community, the church services would be attended much more regularly, and there would be a better observance than now of the commandment, "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

THE ADVENT SEASON.

The Advent Season is at hand again. The Scripture lessons and the hymns and sermons, during this season, direct our attention to the second coming of our Lord. Nothing is more explicitly taught by the Saviour and the apostles than that He will come again at the end of this age to take the Church to Himself. The hour and the day of that coming we do not know; but all the more are we to look for it. That coming will result in glorifying the living and the dead members of His church and their entrance into the inheritance of the kingdom prepared for them. We shall be with Him where He is, and "we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is."

This is a glorious hope for us all,

both living and dead. We long for perfection. We realize our limitations and imperfections. Our thoughts also naturally turn to our beloved dead. The graves in which their bodies lie do not have the power to keep them forever—not any more so than the tomb had in which the body of Jesus lay. "I have power to lay down my life and I have power to take it again." "I am the Resurrection and the Life." "Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming in which all that are in their graves shall hear His voice and shall come forth." "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory." These passages are precious truths for our contemplation at this season. Our meditations upon them and others of like character ought to comfort us concerning those who have fallen asleep, and at the same time to make us realize the importance of the things with which we have to do in our present daily life and the certainty of those which confront us—how soon we know not.

THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

By the time this number of the Gleanings is printed the result of the Presidential election will be known. Whatever that result may be it becomes us all, and it is also our duty, to accept the verdict of the majority without question. Members of the church, especially, ought to be free from narrow views in civil affairs. We ought to be patriots rather than partisans, nor ought we to forget that we are members of a kingdom that is not of this world. That thought ought to keep us from attaching undue importance to politics in the sphere of the governments of this world. It is, indeed, our privilege and our duty to be concerned about our relation to the government under which we live, and to the best of our knowledge and ability to perform such duties as may be legitimately required of us; but it is manifestly wrong for Christians to become so engrossed by the affairs of this world as to forget their relation and duties to the higher and greater things of the kingdom of God to which they belong. At best the affairs of the kingdoms of this world are, like the world itself, but temporal. We are to look rather upon those things which are unseen and eternal. In that direction the best efforts of our minds and hearts should be given. Whether Mr. Taft or Mr. Bryan is elected he will be President for only four years,

and that of a temporal government; our Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Head of the eternal Kingdom to which we belong.

DEATH OF DR. KOHLER.

Dr. John P. Kohler, a widely known and respected physician of New Holland, departed this life on Friday, October 30. Dr. Kohler was a son of the late Rev. Dr. John Kohler, a man also widely and favorably known in Pennsylvania and elsewhere, especially in the Lutheran Church, in which he was an honored clergyman for many years. Dr. Kohler, the son, was the physician of the pastor and his family and of quite a number of the Reformed families of the New Holland charge, from time to time, during the past years. He was a man of very kind heart and had unbounded sympathy for the poor and the afflicted. Paul calls Luke "the beloved physician", and many of those who knew Dr. Kohler intimately have cause to think and speak of him in the same terms. The pastor, especially, feels that he has sustained a personal loss in the death of Dr. Kohler—a man who as a neighbor and physician manifested unvaried and unceasing kindness to him and to his family. May the Lord reward him at that day when the secrets of the heart shall be made known. In common with all others, the pastor sympathizes with the bereaved members of the family, who have been called upon to give up the beloved at a time when he seemed to be most needed. But the Father knows and does what is best.

BAPTISM.

At the parsonage, New Holland, October 8, Anna Margaret, daughter of William H. and Catharine Good, born August 30, 1905.

With God go even over the sea; without Him, not over the threshold.—Russian.

None knows where the shoe pinches as well as he who wears it.—Latin.

An ounce of mother-wit is worth a pound of school-wit.—German.

God hath often a great share in a little house.—French.

He who pitches too high won't get through his song.—German.

All are good maids; whence come the bad wives?—Spanish.

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He that would have the kernel must crack the shell.—Dutch.

A fool is happier thinking of himself than a wise man is in others thinking well of him.—Scottish.

It is easier to stem the brook than the river.—Danish.

The third heir never enjoys a fraudulently acquired fortune.—Latin.

Where the will is ready the feet are light.—German.

He who scatters thorns let him not go barefoot.—Italian.

A quarrelsome dog comes limping home.—Scottish.

Every day in thy life is a leaf in thy history.—Arabic.

CHURCH CALENDAR.

The services for November are as follows:

Zeltenreich.

Sunday, 8th., Holy Communion at 10 a. m.

Sunday, 22nd, 2 p. m.

St. Stephen.

Sunday, 8th., 7 p. m.

Sunday, 15th., 7 p. m.

Sunday, 22nd, 10:30 a. m.

Sunday, 29th, 10:30 a. m.

Sunday School, 9:15 a. m. every Sunday.

Mid-week service at 7:30 p. m. each Wednesday.

Catechism at 6 p. m., every Sunday.

St. Paul.

Sunday, 15th., Holy Communion at 10 a. m., Preparatory service at 9:30 a. m.

Sunday, 29th., 2 p. m.

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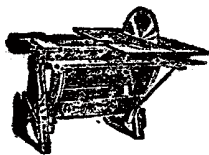
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