

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 1 - Lesson 20
Revelator for the Lord (*Divine Providence* 135)

Theme: The Lord Gives Us Revelation

Note: This lesson may be used in January near the birthday of Emanuel Swedenborg. The main goal of today's lesson is to introduce the children to this man who served as a revelator for the Lord to give us the Writings of the New Church.

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. Church history is the record of how, throughout the ages, the Lord has presented Himself to people, and of how people have responded.
- B. Though Swedenborg talked with angels and spirits, they did not tell or instruct him about what is in the Word or doctrine from the Word. Swedenborg writes, "I have been taught by the Lord alone, who was revealed to me, and who has constantly appeared before my eyes as the Sun in which He is; and He appears in the same way as He appears to the angels, and He has enlightened me" (*Divine Providence* 135).
- C. In Providence, the state of worldly knowledge and freedom of expression advanced sufficiently to make possible the Lord's Second Coming through His servant, Emanuel Swedenborg (see *Continuation of the Last Judgment* 40).

II. Story Circle

- A. Introduce Emanuel Swedenborg
 - 1. Today we aren't going to learn a Bible story. We're going to learn about a man named Emanuel Swedenborg.
 - 2. Emanuel Swedenborg lived 300 years ago in Sweden.
 - 3. The Lord taught Emanuel Swedenborg many, many things about:
 - The Lord
 - The Word
 - Life in Heaven
 - What Is Good
 - 4. Emanuel Swedenborg wrote down all the things that the Lord taught him in many books. We call all these books "the Writings." They are the Word and they teach us about the Lord and about how to be good.
 - 5. We learn about the Lord when we read the Writings, just like when we read the Word.
 - 6. Emanuel Swedenborg was born on January 29th, 1688, and that's why we're talking about him today.

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B. Further Ideas

1. Depending on which project you chose, you may want to explain a little bit about Emanuel Swedenborg.

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "All That the Lord Has Spoken," New Liturgy p. 23
2. "New Hope of Every Nation," New Liturgy p. 476

B. Activities

1. Swedish Charades. The teacher demonstrates the following Swedish words either by acting them out, showing them as a picture or as the real thing, and then saying the Swedish word. The children guess the correct English word and then pronounce the Swedish with the teacher.

"hej!" (pronounced hey)= "hi"

"hejdå! (pronounced hey do)= "goodbye"

"tack" (pronounced tack as in thumb tack)= "thank you" (This one may need a helper.)

häst=horse

docka=doll

Herren=the Lord

Bibeln (pronounced beebeln)=the Word

dansa=dancing

äta=eating

somna (pronounced with a long o)=sleeping

C. Projects

1. Color a line drawings of Emanuel Swedenborg
2. The Angel in the Mirror Project (a picture to color).
 - a. This picture is based on the following story about Swedenborg:

"A charming anecdote is told about [Swedenborg's] near neighbor little Greta Askbom, whose father was on friendly terms with the assessor. Greta had often asked 'Uncle Swedenborg' to show her an angel, and at last he consented. He placed her before a curtain and said, 'Now you shall see an angel!' He drew the curtain aside and the little girl saw herself reflected in a mirror!" (from *The Swedenborg Epic* by Cyriel Odhner Sigstedt, p. 349)

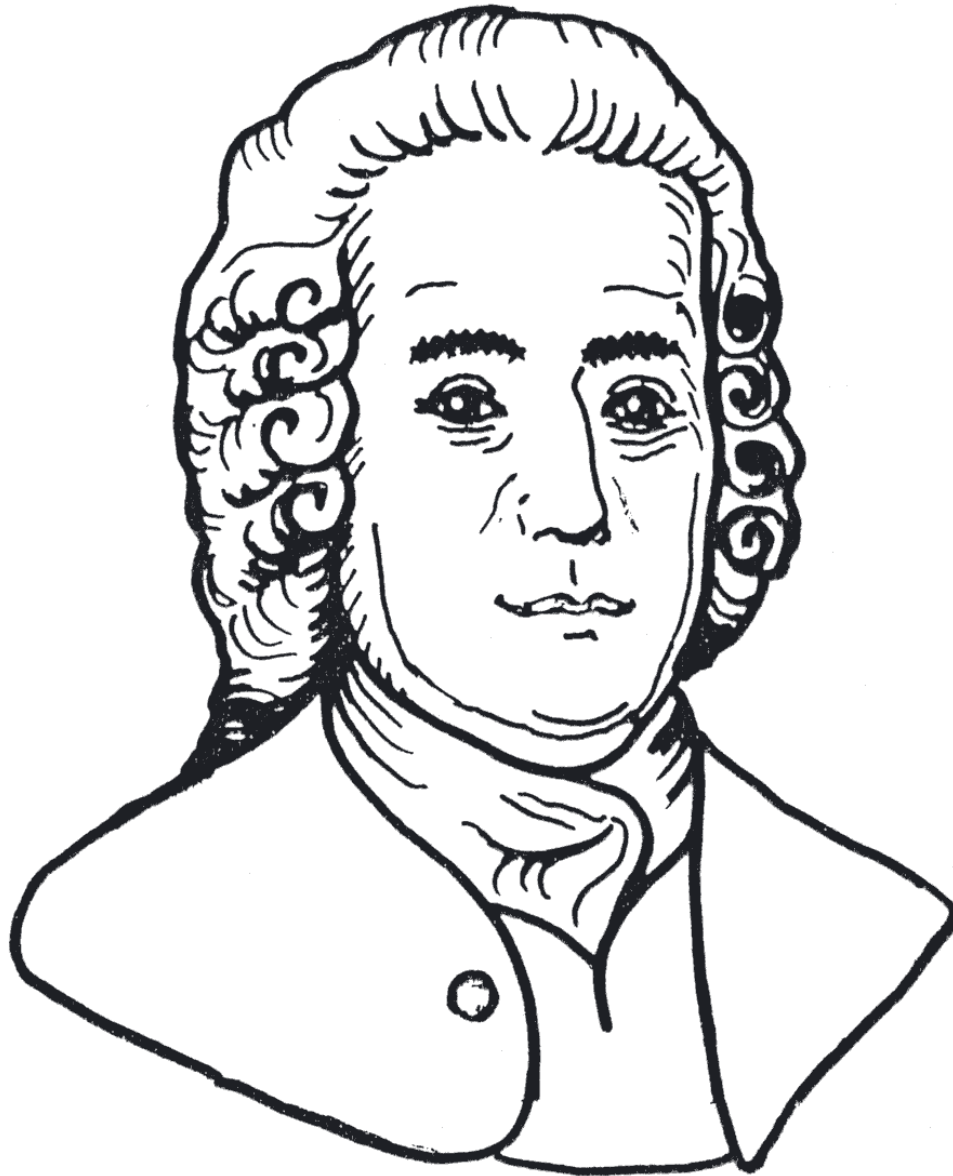
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- b. Before class preparations for doing project:
 1. Photocopy the “Angel in the Mirror” picture so there are enough for each child.
 2. Purchase mylar from a craft store (e.g. Michael’s). (Mylar comes in thin sheets somewhat like tissue paper and has a mirror-like appearance.) Or use aluminum foil.
 3. Cut the mylar or foil to fit the frame beside Swedenborg. Glue the mylar inside the frame. This will serve as a mirror.
 4. Cut a piece of felt to fit over the mirror. Glue the top edge of the felt down to the top edge of the mirror, so that the felt lifts as a flap. This will serve as a curtain.
 5. Prepare enough mirrors so that each child gets one.
- c. During class tell the story to the children. Show them a sample picture and point out Swedenborg. Then give them each their own picture with the prepared mirrors and ask them to find an angel. Have the children color the picture.
3. Serve a Swedish feast
 - a. Meatballs and gravy or cranberry (Purchase frozen meatballs and gravy in a jar.)
 - b. Hard bread served with thin slices of cheese (You could use Wasa crackers from the super market.)
 - c. Pickled beets
 - d. Strawberries, blueberries, and raspberries served with whipped cream.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Drawings of Emanuel Swedenborg
- B. A set of the Writings or even just one book

V. Further Reading for the Teacher



EMANUEL SWEDENBORG
JAN. 29, 1688 - MAR. 29, 1772

The Angel in the Mirror

