



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

April, 1981

ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

Volume 73, No.4

## St. Mark of Baltimore Celebrates 50th Anniversary



In 1968 St. Mark Congregation moved to the present site at First Lutheran Church, Towson, Maryland. In 1975 the members of St. Mark renovated one of the classrooms into their present facilities.

### INTRODUCTION

For 50 years God's grace and blessings have been felt in the life of many deaf people in the Baltimore area through this ministry. In honor of God's graces and blessings, they remember the past 50 years. The accomplishments by Martini/St. Mark Church during these 50 years cannot be claimed by any one person, or any one group. These accomplishments belong only to God. The congregation of St. Mark rejoice and celebrate because God has guided them in the past and He has promised to be with them as their God throughout the unknown and uncertain future.

With thanks and praise to God the congregation will not rest on the accomplishments of the past. Their prayers are that this anniversary will inspire them to put forth renewed and rededicated efforts for the next 50 years.

IN THAT DAY THE DEAF WILL HEAR THE WORDS OF THE BIBLE. (Isaiah 29:18)

### HISTORICAL SKETCH OF ST. MARK

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has carried on the extensive ministries with the deaf for over 85 years. The first services for the deaf were started in 1896 in the city of Chicago. After the initial need was recognized, additional ministries for the deaf were started in many of our larger cities.

The first Lutheran worship services for the deaf in the city of Baltimore, Maryland were held in 1929. These services resulted in an inquiry to the Board for Missions in behalf of Victor Krohn, a student at the Maryland School for the Deaf at Frederick. Rev. Baker traveled

from Pittsburgh, Pa., to MSD and then to Baltimore. Services were held every two months for eight deaf in 1930.

The Rev. Arthur Boll succeeded Rev. Baker as the Lutheran minister to the deaf. Rev. Boll traveled to Baltimore, Frederick, and Washington D.C. from his home station in New York. He conducted the services at MARTINI LUTHERAN CHURCH on Heneritta Avenue. He met with twelve deaf on a monthly basis. He served the deaf until December, 1941.

The Rev. Floyd Possehl followed Rev. Boll as pastor to the deaf. He continued to serve the Lutheran deaf with the same monthly schedule. The next pastor to serve this area was the Rev. T. Frederking. He served until 1949.

The Rev. Walter Westermann served as the next LCMS pastor for Baltimore. During his pastorate, this congregation moved from its location at Martini Lutheran Church to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Edmundson Avenue. After one year the congregation returned to the prior site. Rev. Westermann served until 1962.

In 1962 the Rev. Harry Hoemann was installed as pastor to the deaf in Washington, D.C. and Baltimore. During his interim as pastor he completed the work on his doctoral studies at Catholic University of America. Presently Rev. Hoemann is a professor at Bowling Green State University in Ohio.

A major change in the nature of the Baltimore ministry with the deaf occurred with the arrival of the Rev. Daniel H. Pokorny. His ministry with the Baltimore deaf began in 1967. The worship services increased to twice a month in the afternoon. In addition the location for the services and activities were changed in 1968 to the present site at 40 East Burke Avenue, Towson. The name of the congregation was changed to ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE DEAF.

The Washington, D.C./Maryland Field was divided into two separate ministries for the deaf. Rev. D. Pokorny served as the Chaplain at Gallaudet College and the Rev. Robert Muller became responsible for serving the deaf at Christ (D.C.) and St. Mark. The services for St. Mark were increased from twice a month to weekly.

In February 1979, the Rev. George Natonick was installed as pastor to St. Mark and Christ. For the first time in her history St. Mark and her pastor resides locally. The latest phase in her history has begun. The present ministry at St. Mark include weekly worship services at 10:30 a.m. and a mid-week Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. There is a deep concern for the religious education for the students at both campuses of MSD. On Tuesdays there are classes for Lutheran students at the Columbia Campus of MSD, and classes at Frederick meet on Wednesdays.

St. Mark Lutheran Church of the Deaf gives all thanks and praise to our loving and great God who has guided the congregation for the past 50 years with the establishment of this special ministry.

The members of St. Mark give thanks to GOD, to hearing friends at Martini and St. Mark L.C., and to the Southeastern District, L.C./M.S. for their encouragement and support of this ministry

OUR HANDS HAVE HELD THE WORD OF LIFE.  
1 John 1:1



## Rev. Jerold Munz Installed

-from Signs of the Times newsletter  
St. John's Lutheran Church of the Deaf  
Fort Wayne, Indiana  
Pastor George K. Perry

Many of us remember Pastor Jerry Munz when he was pastor to the deaf in Philadelphia. And some of us remember him when he was a student at the Senior College in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Some time back Pastor Munz took a hearing call to Kansas but the happy news is that he returned to the Deaf Ministry when he accepted a call to be pastor of Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Indianapolis, Ind.

He was installed March 15th at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 6400 E. 46th St., Indianapolis.

Rev. Donald Zuhn, Secretary of North American Missions/Blind and Deaf, preached. Rev. George Perry, pastor of St. John's L.C. of the Deaf, Ft. Wayne, Ind. was the interpreter for parts of the service.

Many deaf and old friends of Pastor Munz attended the service and welcomed him back.

+ + +

## REST IN PEACE

-by Margie Borgstrand  
St. Matthew - New York

Monday, December 1, 1980, Mrs. Margaret Borgstrand, 83 years of age, died after a long illness. She had been a member of St. Matthew Church for 62 years. Margaret was an active member and one of the founding members of St. Matthew. She was a choir member, actively with the altar guild, Ladies Aid, Lutheran Women's Missionary League and the Walther League (no longer in existence). Among her many activities at St. Matthew, could be counted: Church Council, Sunday School and Religious Time teacher (45 years) and confirmation instructor. Mrs. Borgstrand was teacher of Ladies Aid until she became ill.

Margaret "Gretchen" Borgstrand was born August 28, 1897. She was confirmed by Pastor Boll on June 23, 1918. Both Mr. & Mrs. Borgstrand worked very hard for the establishment of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of the Deaf, and for Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf.

Margaret was also active as secretary of Womens Club for the Deaf, New York City from its' start.

Mr. Borgstrand proceeded his wife to eternal rest by four years. Surviving is one daughter an interpreter and sign language instructor. (Margie Bergstrand).

\* \* \*

## A Letter to The Editor: The Mustard Seed

Dear Editor Marshall:

"The Mustard Seed" on page 3 of Feb. 1980 DEAF LUTHERAN recalls to my mind the following also based on Matt. 17:20.

Many insist our Savior was speaking allegorically when He said, "If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed ye shall say unto this mountain, 'remove hence to yonder place' and it shall remove." There are a few, however, with sufficient faith to believe He meant what He said literally.

One exhibiting such faith was an elderly lady living in the mountains of Virginia a quarter century ago. She lived on one side of a steep high mountain. The church she attended was on the other side of that mountain. To get to church was for her a torturous climb up a steep, treacherous trail. As she grew older it became increasingly more difficult to make this climb, especially in winter, for she no longer possessed the stamina of a young mountain climber. Ultimately she became ill trying and ended up in the hospital. While recovering she began praying that the mountain would be moved.

Some people, of course, scoffed at her asking, "Have you gone completely mad?" Nevertheless, she continued to pray for the removal of that mountain.

Several weeks later when she recovered she was sent home, but she didn't recognize the landscape. Something was missing. The imposing barrier which had stood between her and fellowship with her Christian friends had disappeared. The church she attended was now visible from the front porch of her home. The mountain was gone!

What had happened? A new railroad was being built, but that mountain stood right in the way of the railroad so the engineers blasted the mountain out of the way.

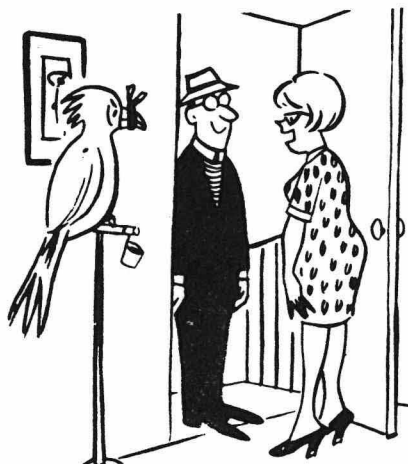
Fellowship at her church was now an easy walk along a perfectly level path paralleling the railroad track because this lady had sufficient faith to believe literally the words of our Savior when He said, "ye shall say unto this mountain, 'Remove hence to yonder place', and it shall be remove."

Sincerely,  
Walt Unruh

+ + +

THANKS, WALT, FOR THE LETTER. IT SURE IS BEAUTIFUL AND LIT UP MY DAY.

- the editor



"COME IN, PASTOR, I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU."

## The DEAF LUTHERAN

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## God's 1,000 Club

This Club is open to any person who wish to help with the operating expenses of the ILDA Board of Directors. Annual dues is \$10 per person. Details about this club will be sent on request. Please make your check or money order payable to:

ILDA Treas. Elmer Francisco  
6861 East Nevada  
Detroit, MI 48234

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Thank You for Your Contribution!

**Plan Now To Attend The  
6th Biennial ILDA Convention  
in Beautiful, Exciting,  
Los Angeles, California  
July 9 - 12, 1981**

**1981 ILDA Convention  
Registration Form**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

ADULTS \_\_\_\_\_ CHILDREN \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF ILDA? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

WHERE WILL YOU BE STAYING? HILTON \_\_\_\_\_

OTHER ARRANGEMENTS \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION	How Many	Amount
(18 yrs. or older)		
Member	\$4.50	_____
Non-Member	5.50	_____
Opening Buffet - -	\$12.00	_____
Tour and Luncheon-	12.00	_____
Banquet - - - - -	18.00	_____
TOTAL - - - - -		_____

Total for all events - \$46.50 for ILDA members  
47.50 for non-members  
Save \$2.00 - - - - - 44.50 for ILDA members  
(combination Ticket) 45.50 for non-members

SEND ONLY CERTIFIED CHECKS OR MONEY ORDERS PAYABLE TO: 1981 ILDA CONVENTION COMMITTEE.

WE ABSOLUTELY CANNOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CASH THAT IS SENT IN THE MAIL.

Total amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to:

ILDA CONVENTION COMMITTEE  
c/o Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
1233 So. Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90006

**Welcome  Members**

**DEAF LUTHERAN FRIENDS WHO PLAN TO ATTEND THE CONVENTION AND WOULD LIKE TO SHARE A ROOM WITH OTHERS**

Any one interested in sharing a room and saving money at the convention may write and contact anyone on the list.

1. Archie D. Marshall and son, Vincent  
3743 Palm Street, St. Louis, Mo. 63107
2. Rad Davis  
215 - 10th Ave. West; Worthington, MN 56187
3. Richard A. Tager  
611 South 11th St., Lincoln, Neb. 68508
4. Bertha Rolph (a widow)  
3907 S.W. Webster St., Seattle, Wash. 98136

I AM SURE THAT EVERYONE ON THIS LIST WILL FIND SOMEONE TO SHARE A ROOM WITH AT THE ILDA CONVENTION. ANYONE ELSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO ADD THEIR NAME TO THIS LIST MAY DO SO BY SENDING A LETTER TO THE EDITOR. GOOD LUCK!

**APPLICATION FOR  
ROOM RESERVATION  
Clip out & mail - TODAY!**

FILL OUT THIS APPLICATION AND MAIL TODAY TO:

THE LOS ANGELES HILTON  
930 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90017  
Telephone: (213) 629-4321  
(voice only)

Dear Reservations Manager:  
I plan to attend the International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA) Convention on July 9-12, '81

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ room(s) for:

Ms. \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. \_\_\_\_\_  
Rev. \_\_\_\_\_  
(Last name) (first name)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in room: \_\_\_\_\_ Cot(s) required? \_\_\_\_\_

Name of roommate (if not family) \_\_\_\_\_

Deposit on room enclosed? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ (or) No \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
(check or money orders only)

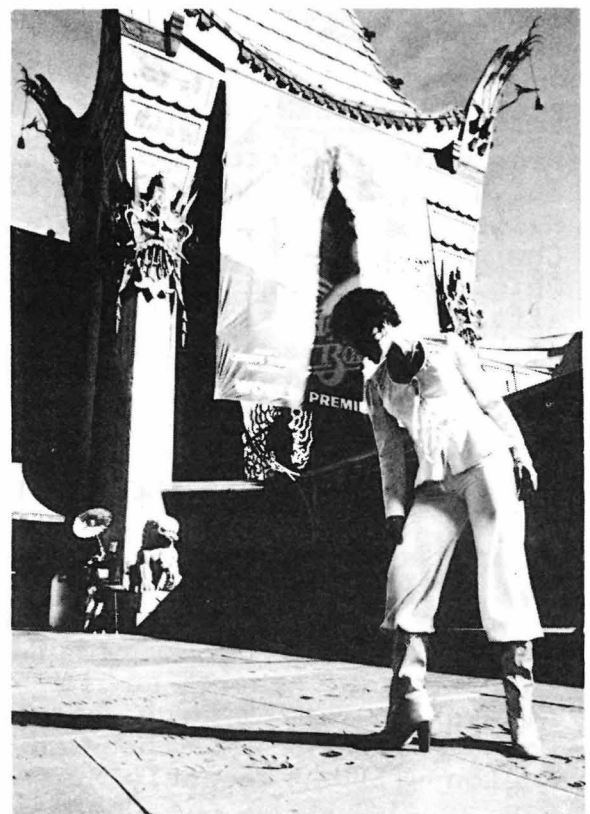


**THERE'S PLENTY TO SEE  
IN LOS ANGELES!**

The history of Spanish Los Angeles is recreated on cobblestone Olivera Street, and its neighboring El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historic Park. Easily reached via the downtown mini bus going past The Hilton.

\* \* \*

FOOTPRINTS OF THE STARS are matched in Hollywood's Chinese Theatre. In the forecourt of this famous theatre are the nostalgic legacies of the film world giants







# Nominees for Office in the ILDA

**I.L.D.A. OFFICER NOMINEES WITH SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES - TO BE VOTED UPON AT THE JULY 9-12, 1981 I.L.D.A. CONVENTION IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.**

*(Editor's note:) There may be more I.L.D.A. officer candidates but whose names have not been sent to me for publication. I urge all Regional Secretaries to check their records of any recent conferences held by their regions and to act accordingly.*

*It is of the utmost importance that 1981-1983 mission projects that are to be discussed and adopted at this coming convention also be sent for publication.*

*Last, but not least, send in also names and information about candidates whom you feel should be considered for our Right Hand Award!*

*Thank you.*

## I -- CANDIDATES: PRESIDENT-ELECT

### BUZZ BYMERS: (No.Highland,s,CA)

Nominated by Pacific Region ILDA Age: 56, birth date: Feb.29,'24. He has been a member of Zion Lutheran Church, No.Highlands, Calif. for 18 years until Rev. Robert Rowland was called and Valley Lutheran Church for the Deaf was organized. Mr.Bymers has served his congregation as Financial Secretary and presently serves as Secretary. He attended primary and high school in Crary, No.Dakota. Has a B.S. degree from Minot State College (N.Dak.) and has also studied at Sacramento State U. of Cal. He has been a mathematics teacher for the past 24 years.

\* \* \*

### RICHARD CROSSEN: Columbus, Ohio

President of Great Lakes Region-I.L.D.A., Board Member of ILDA; Member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Columbus, Ohio. Very active in his church affairs and has held a number of high offices over the years.

\* \* \*

### LESTER AHLs: Cedar Falls, Iowa

Nominated by Midwest Region-ILDA (as well as several other ILDA Regions). Presently ILDA Sec'y., member of Word of God of Cedar Rapids, Iowa where he is very active in his church affairs. Past President of the Midwest Region - ILDA. Recently Mr. Ahls was appointed to the Commission

on Ministry to the Handicapped with the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A. (LCUSA) in New York City. Mr. Ahls will represent the Lutheran Church/Missouri Synod.

\* \* \*

## II -- CANDIDATES FOR SECRETARY:

### LILLIAN LONG: Cleveland, Ohio

Nominated by the Great Lakes Region - ILDA at their 1980 conference. Mrs. Long is a member of Christ of Cleveland and has been very active in her church affairs. She is a familiar person at our conventions.

\* \* \*

### LESTER AHLs: Cedar Rapids, Iowa

(see biographical sketch in the candidates for President-Elect section above).

\* \* \*

## III -- CANDIDATES FOR TREASURER:

### ELMER D. FRANCISCO: Detroit, Mich

Nominated by Midwest Region ILDA as well as several other regions Mr.Francisco is presently ILDA Treasurer. Also was appointed Business Manager of The Deaf Lutheran by the Board of Directors of ILDA, replacing Mr. Russel Healey who moved to Canada. Mr. Francisco is well known for the many years he served as ILDA President before becoming Treasurer. He is a member of Our Savior of Detroit. Mr.Francisco and his wife, Millie, work as house parents at the Detroit Lutheran School for the Deaf.

\* \* \*

## IV -- CANDIDATES FOR ILDA PASTORAL ADVISOR

### Rev. WILLIAM LUDWIG: Nominated

by Midwest Region - ILDA, as well as several other regions. Pastor Ludwig is the first deaf man to become a Lutheran minister to the deaf, LC/MS. He is pastor of Our Redeemer, Seattle, Washington; Bethany, Everett, Washington; and Calvary, Tacoma, Washington.

\* \* \*

### Rev. DONALD WINKLER: Nominated

by Great Lakes Region - ILDA. He is pastor to the deaf of Trinity L.C. of Pittsburgh, Penna.

\* \* \*

**(NOTICE!)** There are probably more candidate nominees whose names have not been sent in yet. If any regional secretary have them in their records, please send them to the editor immediately so they can be printed in an issue before the convention! Thank You.

# ILDA Regional Conference News

## Great Lakes Region

-by Richard J. Crossen, President  
Great Lakes Regional Conference

The Great Lakes Regional's 28th Annual Conference was held at the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, Michigan, the weekend of July 11, 1980. The theme for the conference was **"GET ON FIRE FOR THE LORD!"**

One hundred and thirty three people registered for the conference including three youth delegates sent by their churches. The cost for these young people attending this conference was equally paid by their congregations and by GLRC. It is hoped that this showing of love by the GLRC will encourage more congregations to send their young people to our conferences.

The Rev.Rodney Rynearson, Superintendent of the school gave a talk about this school. Plans are being made to add a high school Department of Study to this school by 1981. This will encourage students completing their elementary studies to remain at Detroit Lutheran School for the Deaf until they have earned a high school diploma.

GLRC will begin having newsletters twice a year with Mrs. Lillian Long as editor.

Mr. Albert Durairaj from the Lutheran School for the Deaf in India showed some slides of that school and gave a talk about its activities.

Mr. Henry Walls, chairman of the ILDA Coordinating Committee gave his report about the May 31, 1980 meeting of this committee, which is making plans for the 1983 ILDA Convention that will be held in Pittsburgh.

One of the goals of GLRC is to help make ILDA "self-supporting". All congregations in GLRC are being urged to support ILDA financially and prayerfully.

*(please turn to page 5)*

**We Want YOU in the ILDA today!**  
Rejoice with us in Christ's love...Join Today

**ILDA Membership Application** Type (Check One)

Fill in your name and address on the spaces below. Use as many names and addresses as desired. Clip and mail to: Mr. Elmer D. Francisco, 6861 E. Nevada, Detroit, Michigan 48234.  
Make checks or money orders payable to: ILDA Treasurer Elmer D. Francisco.  
**DO NOT SEND CASH!!**  
Membership fee is \$2 per year per person.

NAME _____	1. Active	<input type="checkbox"/>
Address _____	2. Associate	<input type="checkbox"/>
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	3. Sustaining	<input type="checkbox"/>
NAME _____		
Address _____		
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		
NAME _____		
Address _____		
City _____ State _____ Zip _____		

*(Please type or print clearly)*



## ILDA Regional Conference News

(continued from page 4)

The 1981 GLRC will be held in Pittsburgh, Penna. on June 19 to 21. Make plans now to come.

\* \* \*

-by Henry D. Walls, Chairman-Treasurer  
1983 ILDA Coordinating Committee

On May 31st each representative from seven (7) missions of the Great Lakes Regional Conference attended the first meeting of the ILDA Coordinating Committee to discuss the preparation of the 1983 ILDA Convention. It will be held in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The first meeting took place in Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf. Rev. Donald Winkler, Pastoral Advisor of GLRC, prepared the agenda and opened the meeting with a prayer. The committee went to inspect two hotels that may be our ILDA Convention headquarters in 1983 and also looked over the downtown for potential tours and sight-seeing plans. The business meeting concluded with an indoor picnic at Rev. Winkler's home as it had rained heavily that evening.

Let it be understood that the seven (7) missions of the Great Lakes Regional Conference are the sponsors of the 1983 ILDA Convention. Pittsburgh Mission only plays the role as a host of the Convention.

The Executive Staff of the 1983 ILDA Coordinating Committee is comprised of Henry D. Walls, Chairman; Donald Mowl, Co-Chairman; Louis Kieffer, Representative, these three from Pittsburgh, Pa.; Lillian Long of Cleveland is Secretary; Sarah Riddlebaugh of Columbus; Ronald Backer of Flint; and Clarence Schulz of Detroit. There are also representatives from Rochester, N.Y. and Toledo, Ohio who were not present at this meeting.

Committees and their duties are as follows:

**COORDINATING:** (H. Walls) Overseeing all committees, preparing agendas and providing interpreter service.

**REGISTRATION:** (D. Mowl and L. Kieffer) Hotel Reservations, tours, menus and transportation.

**BANQUET:** (C. Schulz) Entertainment, Awards, Guest Speaker, Skits.

**WORSHIP:** (Riddlebaugh) Daily Devotions, Opening & Closing Prayers, Bible Study and Workshops, Banners and Choirs.

**PROGRAM:** (R. Backer) Publicity Boosters, and Advertisements.

The first choice of date of the 1983 ILDA Convention is July 21-24. Other alternative choices would be June 29-July 3; July

7-10; and July 28-31. The final choice of the date of the 1983 ILDA Convention will be decided by the General Assembly of the next G.L.R.C. and will be published in The Deaf Lutheran.

A resolution was made and passed at the 1979 GLRC Convention that each of the seven missions should provide \$200 for capital expenses of the 1983 ILDA Coordinating Committee.

\* \* \*

## Midwest Region-ILDA Conference News

-by William G. Zimmerman, President  
Midwest Region - ILDA

Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran of Omaha was host to the Midwest Region - ILDA, June 20-22, 1980. There were 75 registrants. The theme of the conference was "**SOWERS FOR GOD**".

At this conference, Midwest Region - ILDA, made a decision to give the ILDA 1/2 of the proceeds of every conference. This is to be given with absolutely no strings attached. However, since we were unfortunate to have to take a loss at this 1980 conference, \$500 was withdrawn from our savings account fund and donated to the ILDA.

The Midwest annual fee will, on a voluntary basis, include ILDA Membership Dues and ILDA's God's 1,000 Club dues.

Colorado Deaf Lutheran congregation has accepted the invitation to host the 1981 Midwest Region - ILDA Conference. It will be held on July 3-5, 1981 in Colorado Springs where the school for the deaf is located.

Nominations for ILDA officers (to go on the ballot at the 1981 ILDA Convention in Los Angeles, Calif.) are:

President-Elect: Lester Ahls  
Secretary: Lester Ahls  
Treasurer: Elmer D. Francisco  
Pastoral Advisor: Rev. William Ludwig

Elected to serve as Midwest Region - ILDA officers were:

President-Elect: Ron Nester  
Vice-Pres: Harry Searles  
Secretary: Betty Ahls  
Treasurer: Augusta Haines  
Pastoral Advisor: Lay Minister Marion Van Manen

Rev. Gordon Hein, a citizen of Canada, has accepted a call to Northern Minnesota (Duluth). Although he still serves in Thunder Bay, Canada, Rev. Hein is required to become a U.S. citizen for his new position.

The Sunday Service offering was \$221.10 which will be donated to Pax Natura Ranch in Canada.

Lay Pastor Robert Oettel has accepted the call to Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran of Omaha, Neb. He was installed last July.

\* \* \*

## Dixie Region

-by Lawrence Fields, President  
Dixie Deaf Region - ILDA

The Dixie Deaf Region - ILDA Conference was held in Clear Water, Florida, August 1-3, 1980.

There was a large turnout of deaf registrants from all over the Dixie Region.

In a report given by Rev. Robert Case, pastor of Holy 3-in-1 of Houston, Texas, he noted that there were now two churches for the deaf that were vacant. They are in Dallas, Texas and Miami, Florida.

Officers elected to serve the Dixie Region - ILDA for 1980 thru 1981 were:

President: David Naumann of Houston, Texas  
Vice-Pres.: Robert Spencer of North Carolina  
Secretary: Lordy Revels of Memphis, Tennessee  
Treasurer: Mrs. Stewart of Houston, Texas

Pastoral Advisor: Rev. Frank Wagenknecht of Clearwater, Fla.

Jackson, Miss. and Memphis, Tenn. congregations were hosts of a big picnic in Grenda, Miss. Over 100 deaf people attended this extremely friendly affair.

\* \* \*

## Eastern Region - ILDA Conference News

-by LeRoy Treibel, President  
Eastern Region - ILDA

First of all, we rejoice and give thanks to God and the Lord Jesus Christ for sending us 3 pastors to shepherd the members of our long vacant churches in the Eastern Region. Three of four vacancies in the region have been filled by new graduates from the seminary. Pastor Scott Schuett came to Lutheran Church for the Deaf-West Hartford, Conn., Pastor Mike Hayes was placed in St. Matthew and St. Mark in New York City, and Pastor Joseph Varsanyi filled the position at Delaware Valley in Philadelphia. We still have one vacancy at St. Mark's in Baltimore. However, we are fortunate to have the services of Vicar Brian Truog to ease the situation at the present time. Pastor George Natonick has moved to the Washington, D.C. area to be pastor of Christ and Gailudet College which has been split into a separate field from the Baltimore church.

Pastor Francis Gyle (Eastern Canada) will very likely retire in 1981.

Rev. Robert Collins, Co-ordinator of Ministries with the Deaf in the Central PA. Synod has started to encourage and lead the deaf to begin governing themselves.

(please turn to page 7)



SATAN, like all fishermen, baits his hook according to the appetite of the fish!

SEATTLE-EVERETT-TACOMA, WASHINGTON... A great week of Christian recreation for the deaf will be held at Holden Village in the beautiful Cascade Mountains during the week of June 20 to 27th. There will be interpreters for deaf guests. There will also be a boat ride between Chelan and Lucerne. On the agenda for this wonderful week will be interpreted worship, Bible study, and discussions about the role of Christians in our world. Other activities include hiking, crafts, fishing, meals and sauna. This should turn out to be a very memorial week for deaf Christians.

ST. LOUIS, MO... Holy Cross L.C./Deaf will have its second annual LUTHERANS AND FRIENDS DAY AT SIX FLAGS on May 30th. Each ticket sold will give a donation to the Fred Radteke Family to help with a tremendous medical bill resulting from an airplane crash in which four members of this family was seriously injured in June 1977. You may order tickets to this event from any young member of the congregation or by contacting Pastor Richard Moody, 101 N. Beaumont St., St. Louis, Mo. 63103. Tickets may be used any day after May 30th by those who purchase them but are unable to attend on this particular day. This privilege is good until Six Flags Amusement Park closes in the fall.

**HOTLINE INFORMATION**

If you have complaints about Hazardous Products and Products that are defective, there is a toll-free number that all the deaf can use with their TDD's: 1-800-638-8270. Call between 8:30 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (eastern time). You can also get recall information and safety pamphlets and fact sheets. Call the hotline about product safety in your home, school, or recreation area.

EDMONTON, ALBERTA ... Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf has set up a "LIDYA FUND" to raise \$1,000 by June of this year. Lidya is an 8 year old deaf girl living in Venezuela, South America. Her parents cannot afford to purchase this hearing aid that is required by her school. The family belongs to El Salvador Lutheran Church Caracas, Venezuela. Anyone wishing to make a donation can send it to:

Rev. Robert A. Bauer  
 Cross of Christ Lutheran Church/Deaf  
 11460 - 60th Avenue  
 Edmonton, Alberta T6H 3L3

WASHINGTON, D.C. ... At least five Lutheran students will be graduating from Gallaudet in May, so the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf decided to give them a Graduation Dinner after church service on Sunday, April 26th. We will know more about the names of those graduates and their majors later.

Janet Steinbach and Julie Holland achieved academic honors during the past semester at Gallaudet College. Both of these co-eds are Lutheran students who are not only involved with their studies and campus affairs, but are most active and involved with the Gamma Delta Society and participate in the district Lutheran Student Movement! CONGRATULATIONS!!!

WILLOUGHBY, OHIO ... Despite difficulties, church members surpass their goal for world relief. Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Johnstown, PA, with 130 communicant members, has surpassed its 1980 World Relief goal of \$2,000 by \$199. "This generosity is magnified by the fact that Johnstown has the highest unemployment in the state and that many of our young adult members are attending school and are jobless," stated Paul M. Kushner, World Relief appeal chairman in the congregation. "Yet 10 unemployed, retired, or student parishioners gave \$20 or more."

**LAUGHTER - THE BEST MEDICINE**

Three men were in the hospital waiting room when the nurse came out from the maternity ward. She said to the first man, "Congratulations, you are the father of twins." Wonderful! he exclaimed, "Isn't that a coincidence, I am a member of the Minnesota Twins baseball team." Later the nurse returned and said to the second man, "Congratulations, you are the father of triplets. "Wow", the father said, "another coincidence, I work for the 3M Company." The third man jumped to his feet, shouting, "I'm getting out of here. I work for the 7-up."

**IN CHRISTIAN MEMORY**

The Rev. Frederick H. Goos died on March 11, 1981.

Pastor Goos was born in Walkerton, Ontario in 1904. He attended Waterloo College, Ontario and the Lutheran Seminary at Philadelphia. He was ordained in 1934 and served as Assistant Pastor at the Mark J. Dixel Deaconess Home, Gladwyne, Pa.

From 1937 until 1943 he was pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Eggharbor City, N.J. Pastor Goos then began his chaplaincy ministry as the Service Pastor to Military personnel for the National Lutheran Council in Newport News, Virginia from 1943 to 1947.

From 1947 to 1979 Pastor Goos served as Chaplain for the Board of Social Ministry, Lutheran Church In America. He served as Pastor of St. Philip's Congregation (Deaf) which met at Ascension Church.

He is survived by his wife, Janet Louise; two sons, Frederick and Harry, a daughter in law and two grandchildren. For Pastor Goos, we offer Thanks to God.

-from The Good News newsletter  
 Delaware Valley L.C. Deaf  
 Pastor Joe Varsanyi

OMAHA, NEB... Mr. Gregory Geisler of Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran Church videotaped worship service that was held there on March 15th. Unfortunately, thieves broke into the Geisler home on Monday, March 16th and stole a number of things, including the video equipment with the tape of the service in it. Mr. Geisler had watched the tape on Sunday afternoon, and says he hopes the thieves will watch Mr. Oettel's sermon about "Following Jesus"

**LUTHERAN SYNOD MEMBERSHIP ROSE IN '80**

Membership in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod gained in 1980 for the first time in nine years, according to newly released figures of the St. Louis-based denomination.

The total membership for 1980 was 2,719,319, or 1,323 more than the previous year.

Synod spokesman Victor W. Bryant said the church was "ecstatic" over the latest figures. "All mainline denominations lost during the '70s," he said. "We hope this shows the end of that phenomenon."

The synod lost about 100,000 worshippers during the '70s. The biggest loss was in 1977, when 55,000 people left the synod after a doctrinal dispute over interpretation of the Bible, Bryant said. Sunday school enrollment also showed a gain - 583 to 579,801.

DETROIT, MICHIGAN ... TTY or TDD's are now available on lease from Michigan Bell for \$6.68 per month for 60 months. Then you own the machine. You can contact them on TTY at 1-800-482-3141; or go to a PhoneCenter store.

Reserve June 19 to 21st for the Great Lakes Regional Conference at the Western Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, Pittsburgh. The cost will be about \$40.00 per person with a dinner cruise on the Gateway Clipper where the banquet will be held on Saturday evening. Blessings And Promises is the theme.

CONGRATULATIONS to Clarence Schulz who was chosen to take part in a Workshop in Chicago March 26-29 sponsored by the NAD.

**PROJECT WILL TRAIN WORKERS TO HELP DEAF IN PARISHES**

A workshop to be held June 22 to July 17 at Concordia College, Ann Arbor Michigan is designed to train workers to help pastors and teachers work with deaf and hearing-impaired persons in the congregation.

Project Brother's Keeper will include learning American Sign Language, techniques for signing and interpreting, and study of needs and behaviors of hearing-impaired persons.

This project is endorsed by the blind and deaf ministries department of the Synod's Board for Missions.

For a brochure on the project, listing additional information and costs, write to Darrell Matthews, 503 Harold St., Olathe, KS 66061 or write to Deaf Ministries, Board for Missions, 500 N. Broadway, St. Louis, MO 63102.

MIDDLE AGE: That difficult period between adolescence and retirement when you have to take care of yourself.



# ER-ILDA Conference News

(continued from page 5)

Our ER Biannual conference was held June 13-16 this year. St. Matthew of New York was the host and provided us with a top quality job, all without the benefit of a pastor there. You may have read about this conference in the D.L. I will give you a summary of the business conducted:

1. Because of our special situation this year with more new pastors than veterans we voted to suspend our constitution for the fall Board of Directors meeting and invite all pastors to come with their representatives.

2. Pastor Zuhn challenged us to grow in evangelism, to gather 600 more deaf souls in the ER.

3. We adopted as our next E.R. project the raising of \$1,500.00 to support the work among the deaf in Hong Kong.

4. Voted that the ER-ILDA conference offering would be designated for National ILDA's Scholarship Fund.

5. I, LeRoy Treibel, gave a flip chart presentation on National ILDA's goal to become self-sustaining. A motion was adopted to help work toward that goal.

6. Adopted a budget of \$2,550 for the next two years.

7. Officers elected were:  
 President-Elect: Gerald Ahrens (Washington, D.C.)  
 Secretary: Don Galloway (St. Matthew of N.Y.)  
 Treasurer: Mary Burgess (St. Mark of N.Y.)  
 Pastoral Advisor: Rev. George Natonick (Washington, D.C.)

8. The next conference will be hosted by Lutheran - West Hartford in 1982.

9. No nominations were offered for National ILDA officers.

As you may have read in the D.L., our guest speaker for the banquet was Archie Marshall, editor of the D.L. and winner of the John of Beverley medal. Our guest preacher at the Sunday morning worship service was the Rev. Robert Collins.

St. Matthew, New York, the host congregation deserves much gratitude and recognition for the leadership it has shown in organizing and leading this conference. They raised over \$1,400 by various fund raising affairs. Over \$200 worth of t-shirts with the ER-ILDA conference theme: "NOW WITH CHRIST" were sold at cost. All this fund raising went far in keeping the conference fee at a minimum. No reimbursement was asked or needed.

Our ER-Board of Directors meeting was held in September

with all representatives and all pastors except our most veteran pastor, Rev. Gerhold, present. A more detailed report of this meeting will be given later. Right now it should be mentioned that we held a workshop session with all the new pastors and board members tossing out all their ideas on how they felt ILDA and the churches and pastors could and/or should work together in congregational life. There were two main concerns that came out of this discussion. They were:

1. That ILDA needs to be more visible, more alive, offering to members more than just the opportunity to attend regional and national conventions, and

2. It needs to have more specific purpose for existing, specific goals which members can work for. There seems to be no purpose in belonging to an organization which funds projects regardless of whether the goal is met or not...because generous Uncle Synod is always there to help.

A couple of milestones were observed in the ER during the past few months...

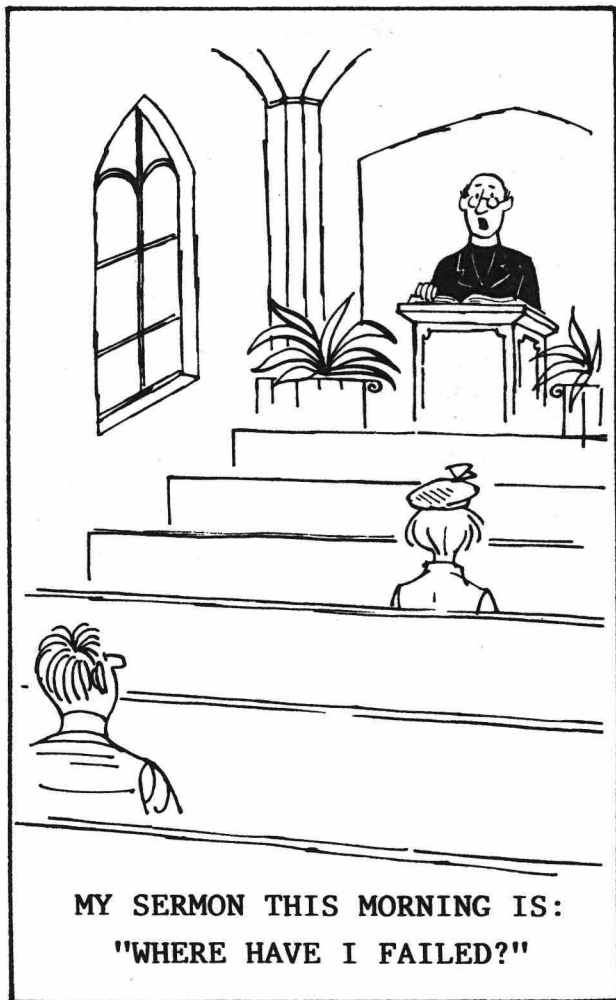
1. St. Mark, New York, observed its' 30th anniversary in April, and

2. St. Marks, Baltimore, just celebrated its' 50th anniversary two weeks ago (Oct. '80). Three of its' charter members were present at this observance.

\* \* \*

**MORE REGIONAL CONFERENCE NEWS WILL BE PRINTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE - - - BE SURE TO SAVE AND BRING THESE ISSUES TO THE ILDA CONVENTION IN LOS ANGELES IN JULY FOR DISCUSSION!**

\* \* \* \* \*



# Missions, Education, Aided by Foundation

-from THE REPORTER

ST. LOUIS - Grants totalling \$111,749 have been provided by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Foundation for support of Synod work in missions and student education.

The funds come from various contributions to Foundation programs such as Life Income Plans who have designated purposes for which the funds are to be used.

Mission efforts which are to receive funds include:

-Nigeria, for building purposes, \$30,000;

-Student aid, \$4,000;

-Hong Kong, for China missions \$858;

Deaf Missions, for confirmation materials and for the handicapped, \$16,603;

-Nigeria, for student aid \$150

-England, for Student aid, \$5,117; and

-Botswana, for new mission work, \$55,021.

The funds are being made available from matured income plans with designations for missions; earnings from the Mission Endowment Fund; and direct gifts.

The Foundation programs which have matured were written many years ago. During the past six years, the Foundation has increased its assets considerably so that it administers funds of about \$35 million at this time.

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# Lester Ahls and Rev. Don Zuhn To Serve on Commission

ST. LOUIS, MO. - Rev. Donald Zuhn, Secretary of North American Ministry - Blind/Deaf, LC/MS and Lester Ahls, Secretary of the I.L.D.A. were named to the Commission on Ministry to the Handicapped by the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., headquartered in N.Y.C. Also named to represent the Missouri Synod was Marshall Nelson, of the Ministry to Mentally Retarded - LC/MS.

As has already been printed in this publication previously, 1981 has been designated "The Year of the Disabled" by the Lutheran Churches in North America and also by The United Nations.

Each church body will be sending three representatives who will meet to find ways the churches can more effectively serve the handicapped. The first meeting was held in N.Y.C. last November 12-13.



## What Is a Church?

You know a church is a place where we learn about God and His love for us. In church we hear about Jesus our Savior.

Church is a place where we worship God in faith and love. Church is a place where we sing praises to Him for giving us the Savior. Church is a place where we talk to Him in prayer.

Church is the place to bring others to hear about God's love. Church is the place where we learn how we can show our faith in our daily life.

A church is a building in which God's children meet to worship Him together. That's why we call church the house of God.

But the Bible says: The church of God is within you. It is also a place that is in your heart. You and all God's other children are the church. The church is the people who believe in Jesus as their Savior. The church is the people who look to Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins and become reconciled to God, their Father, and become His children.

\* \* \* \* \*

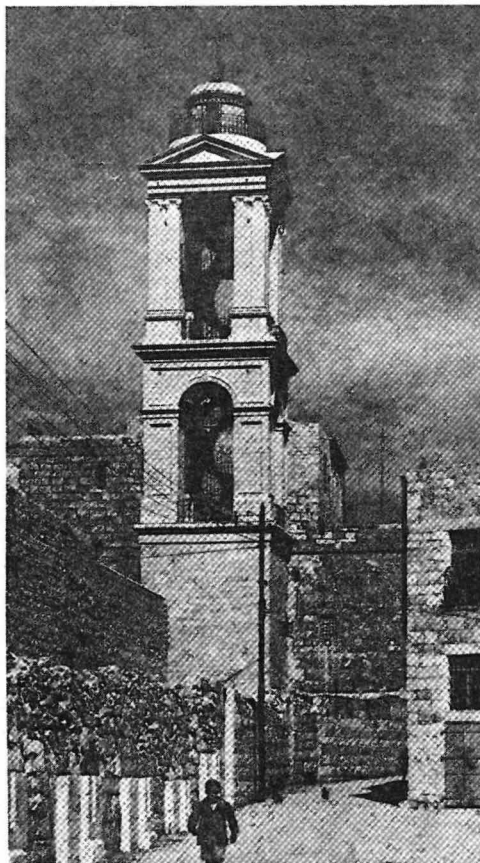
## A Church Where Jesus Was Born

Do you remember the Christmas story? Can you tell your friends where Jesus was born?

Long ago some of God's children went to see the town where Jesus was born. Ever since that time God's children from many lands go to visit this place.

One year someone said, "Let's build a church in the town where Jesus was born." And so they did. Today this church is very old. But it still shows to everyone that God's children have faith in the Baby Jesus. He is God's Son, who was born in this town (Bethlehem) long ago.

Looking at the picture of this church is like paying a visit to Bethlehem and to our Savior. Every day Jesus comes to visit us also. Every day He lives in the hearts of God's children and blesses them.



\* \* \* \* \*

GOOD ADVICE IS WHAT YOUR OWN CHILDREN DISREGARD BUT SAVE TO GIVE TO THEIR CHILDREN.

IF YOU DON'T LEARN FROM YOUR MISTAKES, THEN THERE'S NO SENSE IN MAKING THEM.

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## Fitness - in Body and Soul



Right: Mr. Stagg looks at a new Bible that was presented to him by the American Bible Society on his 100th birthday. Left: Rev. Bob Richards (left) instructing a Bible class in his church in LaVerne, California.

Bob Richards. That's the name of a man who became famous in the field of sports. More than ten years ago he won two gold medals as the champion pole vaulter of the world.

At that time (around 1970) he was a familiar figure on TV. Usually he was seen running, bending, or kicking a football while telling about a well-known breakfast cereal. In this way he shows what one must do to keep his or her body healthy and strong - eat wholesome food and exercise regularly.

One summer around that time, to encourage the people of the United States to keep their bodies in good condition, Bob Richards led a Fitness Crusade across the land. Those who took part rode bicycles some of the way and ran slowly, or jogged, the rest of the way. Taking care of the body is good and well pleasing to the Lord.

But besides a body, one also has a soul. It too requires attention. Bob Richards knows this. So he reads and studies the Word of God. He also preaches it on Sundays. You see, he is the pastor of a church in California.

Another famous man who believed in taking care of both body and soul was Mr. Amos Alonzo Stagg. As a young man he played college football while studying for the ministry. However, instead of becoming a pastor, he became the football coach of the University of Chicago. Throughout his life he remembered the Lord and kept in close touch with Him through the regular reading of God's Holy Word.

Some people think that only weaklings and sissies believe in God, read His Word, and go to church and Sunday School. After reading this story about Rev. Richards and Mr. Stagg, what do you think?

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