



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

May-June, 1984

St. Louis, Missouri

Volume 76, No. 3

BECAUSE HE ROSE

By Peter Marshall
New York Ave. Presbyterian Church
Washington, D.C.
April 4, 1948

What is the mysterious, strange, joyous influence which seems to permeate everything at this time of the year . . . which lingers . . . like sweet perfume, delicate and clean . . . to touch us all its magic?

We have different ways of expressing it. Some of us don new clothes with brighter colors . . . and surely, there is nothing wrong in that? Do not the trees the same? They deck with green lace the branches that were bleak, bare and ugly . . . that looked like black, bony fingers stripped of their jewels in the sleets and ice of winter . . . and they slip on these quickened branches of bright, flashing gems of blossom.

Others send beautiful cards with appropriate messages to those whom they love--because it is Easter.

Others makes gifts. They bring Easter lilies into the sick room, so that trumpets of wax may sound triumphant music, to give courage and hope to the explorers of pain.

Think ye, then, that behind all of this is only a myth? Is there anything incongruous in believing that He who one day walked up to a funeral cortege coming out of the city of Nain . . . stopped it in the street . . . and brought back from death a widow's son . . . should bring Himself back?

Is there anything incongruous in believing that the One who brought back out of a festering grave the rotting body of Lazarus should be able to come out of the grave Himself? If He brought others out of the tomb, He surely knew the way out . . . and He who Himself rose from the dead . . . can also raise us, even as He has promised.

We know more gloriously than ever . . . with a surer certainly . . . and a deeper joy . . . that Jesus meant it when He said, time

BECAUSE HE ROSE

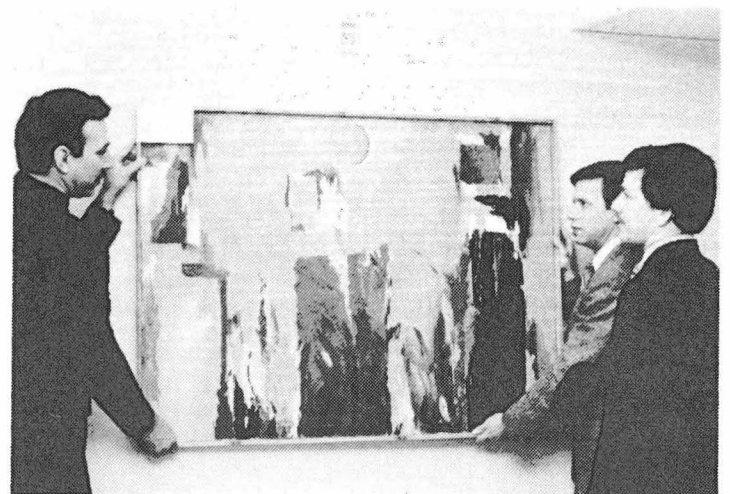
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St. Louis Deaf Artist Donates Painting to Concordia Seminary

ST. LOUIS, MO.--Deaf artist Catherine Joell Atwood recently donated one of her larger oils entitled, "The Magi," to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Mrs Atwood, a St. Louis resident, is regionally recognized for her oil paintings.

"The painting was presented to Concordia Seminary for the love it has shown to the deaf community of the St. Louis area in making available the facilities of the seminary," said Mrs. Atwood.

Concordia Seminary holds the distinction of having the John of Beverley Professor of Deaf Ministry, a chair funded by the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf/Mill Neck Foundation in New York. The seminary is also the home of the Seminary Sign School. The school offers courses in sign language and is open to the public.



THE OIL PAINTING, above, entitled "The Magi" was recently donated to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, by deaf artist Catherine Joell Atwood. From left to right are Daniel Pokorny, the chairman of the department of practical theology and the John of Beverley Professor of Deaf Ministry at the seminary; Mark Anderson, a second year deaf student, and Edwin Bergstresser, a fourth year student at the seminary.

Because He Rose (continue from page 1)

after time, "I will raise him up at the last day."

Here in Someone who knows what He is talking about. Here is One speaking with authority. He has done it for others already . . . He did it for Himself. . . . He has done it . . . He can do it again.

Because He rose, we who believe in Him shall rise also.

There lies before us the thrilling, exciting prospect of life without end, going on and on, into all the eternities . . . a life of joy and peace . . . of freedom from sin and bondage of all kinds . . . release from pain and suffering . . . from tears, sorrow and heartache . . . from disappointment and all bitterness.

Because He rose from the dead, we need have no fear about our tomorrows--whatever they may hold. "Be not afraid," He said, "only believe." "He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

"In my Father's House are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you." If there were anything behind the curtain that should terrify you . . . frighten you . . . alarm you or cause you fear. . . . I would have told you.

But I have been there. See, I return to tell you all is well. I have overcome the world. Therefore, fear not, for I am with thee, even unto the end of the ages.

Man has always dreaded the unknown. He has been afraid of the dark tomorrow that lies behind the sable folds of the curtain that hangs between this stage of our life and the next.

But now that Christ has risen from the dead, we need have no fear who trust in Him. Whatever terrors it hid. . . . He has vanquished them to utter rout.

"BE not afraid . . . only believe." His calm, confident, reassuring voice speaks to us this Easter Day.

FUNNY

How a dollar can look so BIG when you take it to church, and so small when you take it to the store!

Do not weary from doing works.

Galatians 6:9

THE HUMAN BRAIN

Man has invented and created many wonderful things, but nothing that even approximates the human brain. Mrs. Margaret McNamara, wife of the former secretary of defense, when asked if computers will ever replace the human brain, came up with some interesting facts. "The human brain is the most magnificent bit of miniaturization in the universe. Though it weighs only three pounds, it contains some 10 billion nerve cells, each of which has some 25,000 interconnections with other nerve cells. To build a computer with the range of choice would require an area equal to the entire surface of the earth."

--Copied

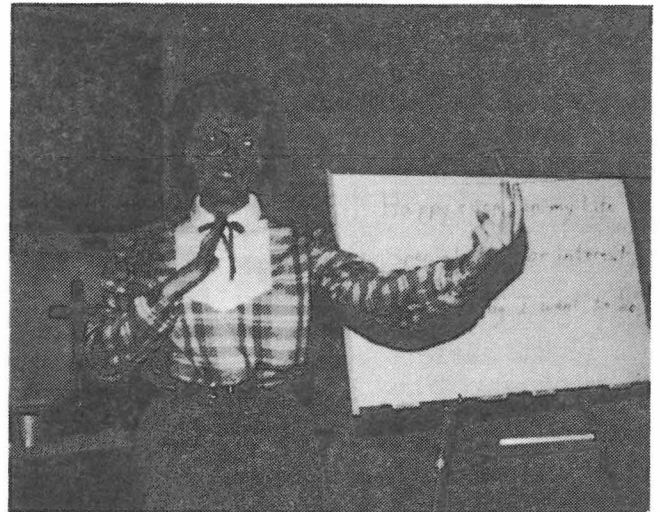
FACTS ABOUT ABORTION

In the last decade, more humans have died because of abortions in the United States than from all the wars fought in the nation's history.

Abortions outnumber live births in 14 U.S. cities including Atlanta, Ga.; Madison, Wis.; Miami, Fla.; San Francisco, Calif., and Washington, D.C.

A fetus is a person. Find this in Isaiah 49:1-5; Jeremiah 1:5 and Psalm 139:13-16.

Abortion is legalized murder. Can we stop it?



WITNESS WORKSHOP--Ms. Dorothy Sparks, the deaf evangelist chairperson of Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran church, Omaha, Neb., is shown here leading the highly successful Witness Workshop for deaf people. For information on how your church can do the same, contact Bethlehem Deaf church, 5074 Lake St., Omaha, Neb. 68104, (402)558-5672.

A bill introduced in the U.S. Senate on Nov. 4, 1983 by Sen. John H. Chafee (R-R.I.) would eliminate over a period of 10 years most federally funded medicaid payments to persons institutionally cared for such as mental retardation in large, long term facilities. The effects of such a far reaching proposal will be the subject of hearings congress reconvenes in January.

One of the better known homes that would be affected by such a plan is Bethesda Lutheran home in Watertown, Wis., which has long had an excellent reputation built up over many years of caring for persons with severe mental retardation problems who are unable to care for themselves.

Bethesda received \$7,355,00 in such payments in 1983 for care of people in its large institution, or about half of its total budget for the year, which was \$13,914,300. The rest of home's income is derived mainly from contributions and investments.

Senate bill 2053 does not order or force such institutions to close, but the effect of shutting off funding, which would be achieved by reducing medicaid payments every six months until it reached zero, would be the same. Only institutions with sufficiently large endowments that could generate income would be able to continue to operate as in the past. Bethesda, which has been through some rough years in the past, does not fall into this category. When present investments are used up, it would be forced to close.

One of the goals of the bill is to create smaller care facilities, including natural, adoptive and foster homes of 15 or fewer people. Those homes in operation as of Jan. 1, 1983 with 15 or less would not be affected by the phase out of medicaid funds. Other care facilities with 16-75 residents would have 15 years, rather than 10, to end their dependency on medicaid funding.

The objective of such a plan as Senate bill 2053 is commendable in that it urges creation of a better community life for severely handicapped people, but most people who are close to the situation agree that this could be achieved for both large and small care facilities and that putting a cap on funding for such proven institutions as Bethesda Lutheran home would be wrong.

Is the legislation as outlined in Senate bill S. 2053 what we really want?

An institution like Bethesda Lutheran home is unique in that it not only provides care

THE WAY WE WORSHIP

Have you ever wondered why the church uses candles in the worship services? The reason is that candles have a special meaning for the Christian church.

Every candle that is lighted reminds us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world. The Light of Christ shines in our dark world of sin and shows us the way to our heavenly Father.

The two candles on the altar are called the Eucharistic Lights, or the Holy Communion candles. The church lights these two candles only when we celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion. The number TWO reminds us of the two natures of Jesus Christ: Jesus is both God and Man. When we come to the altar to receive Jesus in Divine Worship during Holy Communion, we receive all of Jesus: Body and Blood, God and Man. The two candles on the altar can help us remember that wonderful truth about Holy Communion.

The next time you walk into a church and see the candles, take time to remember that Jesus is the Light of the world. Jesus came here to lead us out of the darkness of sin into His own wonderful world of light.

Facts About High Blood Pressure

High blood pressure can cause strokes, heart attacks and kidney disease.

You usually cannot tell if you have high blood pressure. So have a doctor or nurse check for it. Anybody can have it.

You can control high blood pressure. When it is controlled, you can lead a normal, active and healthy life.

Be sure you understand the doctor's treatment. Then follow the treatment every day. For life.

for bodily needs, but for the spiritual needs as well.

The proposed bill raises many, many questions and it seems safe to say that its supporters are people who may be unaware of what some of the larger care facilities are doing. Large does not necessarily mean "bad" any more than small means "better."

Readers are urged to contact their senators and urged their elected representatives to give thoughtful consideration to keeping funding through medicaid for such institutionally people on par as it has been in the past.

There is too much at stake to do otherwise.

Pastor Returns From Vacation to Discover 'Catastrophe' at the Church in Kansas City

Rev. LaVern M. Mass and his wife decided to take a much needed rest early in February from their labors in God's vineyard in the Kansas City area and headed south to Texas, where they were warmly received in Dallas, Houston and Austin by Pastors Friedrich, Case and Reinap with him serving as guest preacher in Houston and Austin.

For a bit of relaxation, they visited the gulf cities of Galveston and Corpus Christi, with a side trip into old Mexico at Nuevo Laredo.

Returning home Feb. 13, Pastor Mass made plans to dive into what he expected to find as a 'pile of mail' on his church desk and was appalled to discover a hot water pipe had burst, causing extensive damage, among them

being office furniture, including TTY, typewriter, useful books three rooms of plaster walls, two rooms and hallway of carpeting and oak flooring warped, 10x14 ft. plaster ceiling and over 3,000 volumes of various books (Rev. Mass is known to have an extensive personal library) and other items.

Heartsick, there was nothing to do but 'pitch in' and do what must be done. It is not known if the loss was covered by insurance.

Lent: A Time to Ponder

Rev. Ronald E. Friedrich
ILDA Pastoral Adviser
John of Beverley Chapel for Deaf
Dallas, Texas

Can you feel good and bad at the same time? Can you be happy and sad, both about the same thing? How does a mother feel when her daughter gets married? She is happy for her daughter, but sad that her daughter is leaving home. This is what people call having "mixed feelings."

Remember the story about Jesus' death on the cross. How does it make you feel?

How do you feel knowing that Jesus suffered terrible pain in His body and in His spirit?

How does it make you feel knowing that it was your sins that nailed Jesus to the cross? Does it make you feel sad?

How does it make you feel knowing that Jesus' death gives you life?

How do you feel knowing that the suffering Jesus felt paid for your place in heaven?

How do you feel . . . knowing that Jesus' cross is now the bridge between you and God?

Does it make you feel happy?

We are in a time called "Lent." It is a time we have mixed feelings, both sad and happy. But Easter reminds us that the story is good news, and feeling that wins is joy! The joy of Jesus helps us to trust Him, no matter how bad we suffer, He suffered, too! The joy of Jesus leads us to thank God for Jesus' death, because it was God's way of giving us life!

CAN YOU TOP THIS?

Mrs. Evelyn Dobson has been a faithful member of Bethlehem Lutheran church, Omaha, ever since she was confirmed on June 11, 1916 by Rev. L. Jagels. That figures to 68 years this summer.



Mrs. Evelyn Dobson

How many Lutheran churches of the deaf have a member who can top Mrs. Dobson's record? We would like to hear from you. Mrs. Dobson is shown here displaying the plaque she received at Bethlehem's recent confirmation reunion.

1894-1984: Ninety Years of Lutheran Mission to the Deaf--A Miracle of God's Grace

By Rev. Robert A. Bauer
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
Edmonton, Alberta

"Our hands have held the Word of Life." 1 John 1:1, the theme for the 90th anniversary of the beginning of church services for the deaf in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



Rev. R. A. Bauer

Ninety years ago there were few, if any, worship services for the deaf population. God, in His love, gave His message of salvation and life to deaf people in a very unusual way and through one of His servants, a Lutheran pastor.

The board of directors of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf has declared 1984 a time of celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Lutheran Mission to the Deaf.

The celebration was fittingly commemorated with a special service of worship in which Rev. Les Gierach, Alberta-British Columbia district mission executive was preacher for the service on March 11, 1984. This was followed by a fellowship lunch and a skit which involved all the worshippers of the day. Other activities will follow as the anniversary year continues.

In 1894 it is recorded that a young deaf man, a graduate of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich., Mr. Edward J. Pahl, was moved to do something about the fact that there were no church services for the deaf.

Because Mr. Pahl was unable to have the full benefit of a hearing service together with his parents, he wrote a rather strong letter to his former school superintendent, Mr Daniel Uhlig, requesting some action towards church services for the deaf. Mr. Pahl wrote not only in his own behalf, but also for all of the deaf friends who were forgot-

ten by his church and left without Christian instruction and worship. In part, Mr. Pahl wrote in his letter: "Jesus says, 'Preach the Gosepel to all creatures; teach all people.' But who preaches to the deaf? Should they remain without God's Word? Could not a pastor be found at least in the larger cities, who might also serve the deaf with God's Word?"

When the Lutheran School for the Deaf board of directors reviewed Mr. Pahl's letter, Dr. Uhlig sent the letter to the pastor of the largest Lutheran congregation in the city of Chicago, Ill. This congregation was Bethlehem Lutheran church and the pastor was the Rev. August Reinke. Pastor Reinke took up the problem of no worship services for the deaf and accepted the responsibility to try to do this work for the Lord. After some very hard work, Pastor Reinke learned enough sign language to have the first Lutheran worship service on Sunday, March 4, 1894. Sixteen deaf people attended the first service at which Pastor Reinke preached a sermon from 1 John 4:8 under the theme of "God is Love."

Several more services were scheduled during the next few months, one of which was at Fort Wayne, Ind. A report written at that time said in part, "The Rev. A Reinke of Chicago came here to preach a sermon in the sign language to a number of deaf . . . as the text was not verbally announced to the large audience nor any words of explanation given, the service was very tedious." We are not surprised that the service of worship was tedious to the hearing people because they were now in the very same position that the deaf usually find themselves in a hearing church. We can understand that the worship service was anything but tedious for the deaf people, because now they could worship the Lord in their own language. One more fact makes this service very unusual: the German language was not used in this service as Pastor Reinke was accustomed to using it. This pastor was now able to work among the hearing people in both English and German and in the deaf world he used English and sign language. While still the pastor of the Lutheran church's largest congregation, Pastor Reinke brought God's Word to the deaf in cities such as St. Louis, Cincinnati, Milwaukee, Louisville, as

A Few Church Happenings Here and There . . .

Alpha Lutheran church, Rochester, will be moving to a new home at 1969 S. Clinton in Rochester, following receipt of permission from their district board of directors to purchase the building there for \$132,500. The move is expected to be completed in May, following the closing on May 15. The church was the recent recipient of a gift of \$100,000 from the LCMS Forward in Remembrance.

Rev. Donald Zuhn will be the featured speaker at the Pacific Regional Conference

1894-1934 (continue from page 5)

well as Fort Wayne and of course, Chicago. All of this happened when Pastor Reinke was at the mature age of 53 years.

The official paper of the Lutheran church in December, 1895 wrote about Pastor Reinke's work among the deaf, "Promising openings of mission work showed themselves in several cities, but who should utilize these openings?" Pastor Reinke felt that he was unable to carry on in both theses ministries in this his 30th year in the ministry. He was more and more worried as to who would carry on this big responsibility of bringing God's Word to the deaf.

In 1896 (at Fort Wayne, 23rd general convention, Rev. H. C. Schwan, president) the work among the deaf became the responsibility of the Lutheran church rather than that of one man. Today there are 61 full time people working in the Lutheran mission to the deaf; they are pastors, teachers, parish workers, and lay ministers throughout the United States and Canada. There are 52 mission fields in 236 cities.

In answer to the prayer of a deaf layman, Mr. Edward J. Pahl, God has blessed this work and moved it from a small and weak beginning to a progressive and growing ministry. Lutheran missionaries to the deaf throughout these 90 years have carried God's Word into the lives of many deaf in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong and Brazil. At the same time, missionaries have always taken a deep personal interest in the daily life of the deaf people. A great many schools for the deaf in North America have children who learn the Good News of their Savior from our Lutheran missionaries.

Together, all of us, both deaf and hearing, have every reason to praise and thank God for these 90 years of His love.

"PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOWS"

in Los Angeles May 18-20.

Rogate Lutheran church, Clearwater, Fla. recently received a check for \$500, a gift from their Christian friends at First Lutheran, something these friends have been doing twice yearly for several years. Rogate Pastor Frank Wagenknecht preached at the hearing church on Jan. 22 a sermon from Mark 7 based on JESUS AND THE DEAF MAN.

Memorial Lutheran church, San Lorenzo, Calif., was blessed and remembered with a grant of \$55,000 from LCMS "Forward in Remembrance" which has been used to pay off their debt to the LCEF, thus rendering their property in Fremont "free and clear." We rejoice with them also and praise God for His goodness. Rev. Roy Dahmann, pastor of Memorial Chapel, recently returned a call to the Northern Illinois District, electing to remain in the Bay area.

Delaware Valley Lutheran church (Joseph Varsanyi, pastor; Beth Firnhaber, parish assistant) of Philadelphia has decided to go back to their former church name prior to 1974 when they were known as St. Philip's Lutheran church. As of March 1, 1984 their church home will be at 11047 Bustleton Ave. Joining their work with St. Paul's Lutheran church in Somerton there will be two congregations, but one pastor and different programs and ministries.

The Kellogg Center for continuing education on the campus of Michigan State university will be the site for the 1984 Great Lakes Regional Conference July 27-29. Theme for the meeting will be "Growing More in 1984." The meeting in East Lansing will feature opportunities for growth in the areas of Christian stewardship and evangelism, according to the host pastor, Rev. W. O. Neisch. Post banquet entertainment will be a presentation by the Son-Shine Signers of Bethlehem Lutheran church, Omaha, who have been well received at numerous conferences.

I WAS JUST THINKING . . .

A dime has the same ratio to a dollar that a \$20 bill has to \$200. Something to think about next time we bring our tithes to the Lord's house.

It takes three to have a successful marriage: A man, a woman and most important, GOD!

THE CHOICE IS YOURS!

By Rev. Ronald E. Friedrich
John of Beverley Chapel for Deaf
Dallas, Texas

One young deaf man in his mid-twenties was living at home with his parents. He has a part-time job to earn a little money.

Sometimes he did not get along with his parents. He thought they were unreasonable and unfair. When they had arguments, the young man would often go to the pastor's house very upset. "Mother got mad at me. Father told me to get out! They are not fair to me. Why?!"

Finally, after many visits, the pastor called the young man's father and got the parents' side of the story. Then the pastor explained to the young man what he could do. The young man had TWO CHOICES:

A) Live in his father's house and help with the house work, and do everything his parents asked him to do, or . . .

B) Move out, live in an apartment or motel. There, he would meet more "unfair" people worse than his parents.

The young man did not like those two choices:

C) Live in his father's house, not honor his parents, and only do things he wanted to do.

How foolish! The father did not give his son that choice. If you were the father, what would you do?

This story is true.

But did you know that most people act just like that young man? They act that way toward their heavenly Father, God. All people have two choices:

A) We can live in the Father's house (heaven) and do everything the Father asks us to do (trust Him, love Him, obey Him) or. . . .

B) We can move out, live in an "apartment" or "motel" (hell) where the rent is very high, and the landlord is the worst.

But people do not like these two choices. They want a third choice:

C) Live in the Father's house, not honor the Father, and only do things they want to do.

How foolish! The wise heavenly Father has not given us that choice.

What is your choice? _____

When people sin, they earn what sin pays: Death. But God gives His people a free gift: Life forever with Jesus Christ, our Lord."

Romans 6:23)

Rev. David L. Carstens Accepts Call to Portland, Ore.

Following a call extended to Rev. David Carstens of North Carolina by Hope Lutheran church on Dec. 3, 1983, the pastor and his wife, Penny were invited to fly to the great Northwest, arriving on Jan. 24 for a two-day visit.

Rev. Carstens, following several days of prayerful deliberations, phoned his acceptance on Feb. 1.

Installation ceremonies will take place on Palm Sunday, April 15.



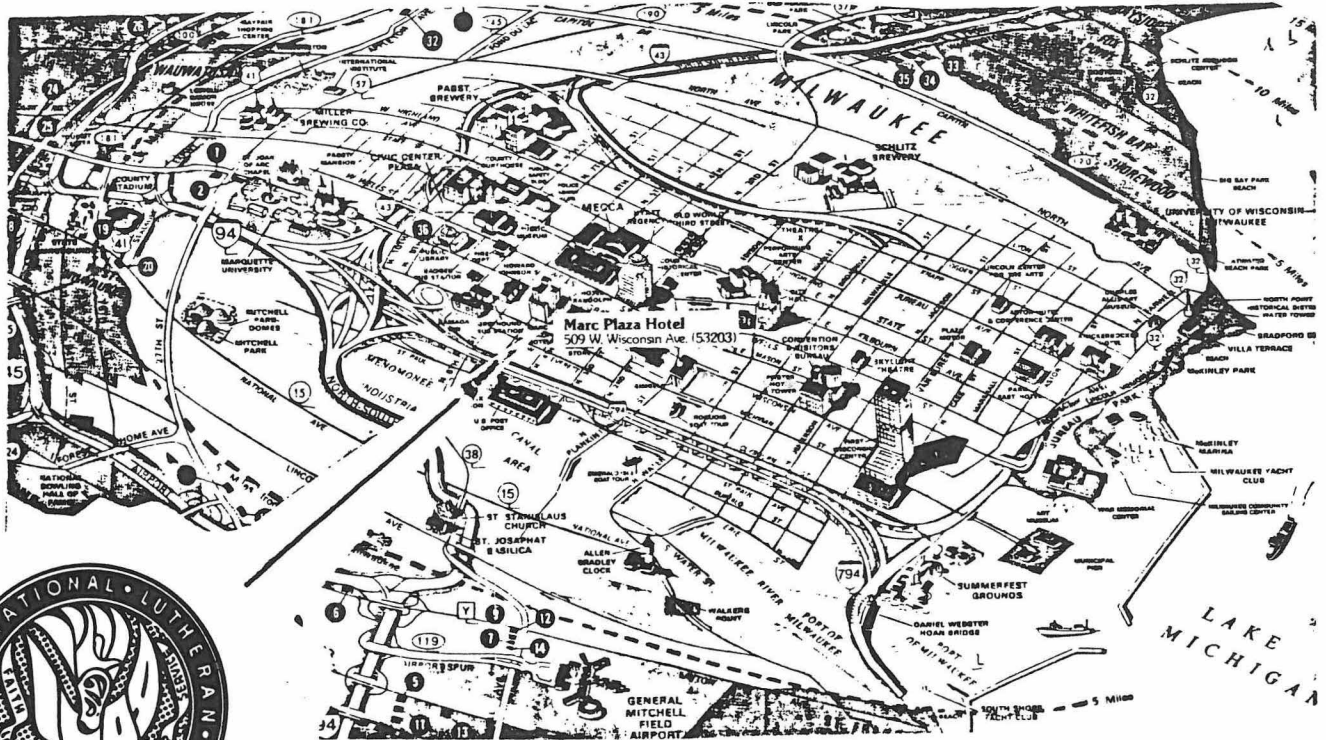
1983-84 CONFIRMATION CLASS--Bethlehem Lutheran church, Omaha, Neb. FRONT ROW: Left to right, Teena Eaton, Central City, Neb.; Jackie Halterman, Des Moines, Ia.; Laura Lang, Royal, Ia. MIDDLE ROW: Jeremy Woody, Altoona, Ia.; Tammy Burns, Sioux City, Ia. BACK ROW: Karen Dammeyer, parish worker; Mina Stinger, teacher; Robert Oettel, lay minister.

SINGLE FILE

It's unbelievable, but if all the unsaved people in the world were to line up single file at your front door, that line would reach around the world 30 times . . . and horror of horrors, this line would grow by 20 miles each day! If you were to drive 50 miles per hour for 10 hours a day it would take you four years and 40 days to get to the end of the line of these lost souls. By then, it would have grown by 30,000 miles.

--Selected

REMEMBER **MILWAUKEE** IN 1985



Eighth Biennial Convention
INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION

Milwaukee, Wis.

CENTRAL REGION

JULY 3-7, 1985

The DEAF LUTHERAN

May-June

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD FOR MISSIONS, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD. PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY CHRISTIAN ARMORY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO 3RD CLASS POSTAGE PD. COLUMBUS, OHIO. SUBSCRIPTION FEES: INDIVIDUAL.. \$4.00 PER YEAR. CHURCH BLANKET PLAN.. \$3.50 EACH MEMBER PER YEAR.
PLEASE SEND ALL SUBSCRIPTION FEES AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELMER FRANCISCO, BUSINESS MANAGER, 6861 EAST NEVADA AVE., DETROIT, MICH. 48234.
PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, STORIES AND PICTURES TO LESTER AHL, EDITOR, 1004 CHERRYWOOD DR., CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613.

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