



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

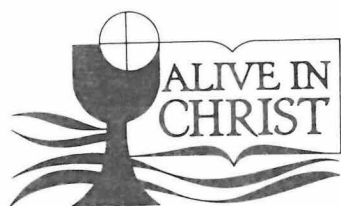
May-June, 1986

St. Louis, Mo.

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ALIVE IN CHRIST

ALIVE IN CHRIST is the name of a synod wide appeal of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod which is not unlike a similar drive conducted about five years ago called "Forward in Remembrance" to raise



a minimum of \$60 million to enhance the church's many endeavors in fields of missions, education, church growth and other opportunities

and challenges which the Lord has opened to us.

The words, "Alive in Christ" not only give the appeal its name, but direct our attention to the verse found in Romans 6:11, which read "Likewise you are to think of yourselves

as dead to sin but alive to God in union with Jesus Christ." In remembrance of God's bountiful grace, we live a life of continuous mission and ministry in whatever way pleases Him.

In the logo above, the Biblical verse appears against the open book, symbolizing the Holy Bible. In this verse is the Word of God, containing the message of salvation, hope and peace that we share with the entire world.

The dark cup and circled wafer remind us of the Lord's Supper; while waves behind them recall Holy Baptism. The cross on the wafer points to the atoning work of Christ. Through two sacraments God offers and gives us for-

ALIVE IN CHRIST

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No Unity Anytime Soon . . .

BOHLMANN: DIFFERENCES REMAIN BETWEEN LUTHERANS AND CATHOLICS

The president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) has discounted suggestions that Lutheran-Roman Catholic unity may be close at hand.

Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann, writing in the *Lutheran Witness*, an LCMS publication, took note of the recent exchange of letters by Bishop James R. Crumley Jr. of the Lutheran Church in America and Pope John Paul II.

Bohlmann said "The spirit of Christian goodwill evident in the letters is surely cause for thanksgiving, particularly when we recall the harsh feelings—even hostilities—that sometimes flared between Roman Catholics and Lutherans when we were children.

"We often find ourselves working side by side to correct such evils as abortion, pornography, and the corruption of family life. I, for one, am grateful to our Lord

BOLHMANN

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DR. RALPH A. BOLHMANN

President of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

"WHEN YOU REALLY BELIEVE IT"

A little more than a month before Easter, the family had returned from the cemetery just outside of town, leaving there the 14-

BOLHMANN

(continue from page 1)

for every such instance of Christian love and goodwill."

Sobering Fact

But, Dr. Bohlmann continued, "honesty compels us to underscore the sobering fact that the Roman Catholic church itself has done little, if anything, to correct its doctrinal positions which caused the divisions of the 16th century. Its condemnation of Luther's Biblical teachings remain the official position of that church body. Tradition Roman Catholic teaching in such areas as justification, papal primacy and infallibility, the role of Mary and apostolic succession remains unchanged.

President Bolhmann also noted, "The fact that some theologians, pastors and laity in both church bodies have made recent progress in such difficult areas is indeed cause for gratitude and hope. But such progress ought not to be promoted and discussed in such a way as to suggest that Lutheran-Roman Catholic unity may be close at hand."

Strong Commitment

Dr. Bohlmann, who met Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in March 1984, described him as a "charming and hospitable man" but added "clearly and consistently he communicates a strong commitment to maintaining traditional Roman Catholic dogma and practice. That includes the nature and unity of the church, with all that implies for a 'return to Rome' as the basis for Christian unity. ". . . much is made of the 'convergence' supposedly established in theological dialogs over the past 20-plus years. I believe that such claims are greatly exaggerated. . . ." Dr. Bohlmann said. The word "convergence" he said means something quite different from consensus.

The 2.7 million member LCMS is not in altar and pulpit fellowship with any other U.S. Lutheran or Christian church body. Nor is it one of the three Lutheran church bodies uniting to form a new U.S. Lutheran church body.

year-old son and brother. Two days later, the little girl gave up the fight, also. In less than a week, the baby died, too. Only the three-year-old escaped the deadly diphtheria.

When Easter came, the parents and remaining child were in church. The mother's face was pale, but tender and beautiful. She wore no emblem of her sorrow, and the lillies and violets on her coat were like those she had worn every Easter since I had known her. When the congregation rose to sing, she sang softly the words, "The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions hath dispersed."

Her husband stood with his head bowed. He could not sing. But she touched his hand as it lay on the back of the pew, and when they recited the Creed, I heard him say the words steadily, "I believe in . . . the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting." She taught her class of girls that day, and he went to his superintendent's desk, led his class in worship, and read the Easter story with only a break now and then in his fine voice.

All the faces lined with suffering, rebellion, and despair in that Easter congregation had seen a miracle. As a 15-year-old boy rode home with his family from Sunday school, he said, "Dad, I guess Mr. and Mrs. B--- really believe it, don't they? They believe in Easter."

Alive in Christ

(continue from page 1)

givenness of sins, life and salvation, moves us to accept these blessings with thanksgiving, and brings us greater assurance that we possess them.

Finally, the short waves flowing from the left side of the cup stand for the Spirit of God who abides in us, as He did with the first disciples of Jesus.

Thus, armed with God's Word of grace, strengthened by His sacraments and guided by the Holy Spirit, we go forth, Alive in Christ, to proclaim His gospel in whatever way we can in the life He sets before us. ALIVE IN CHRIST helps gather the material resources necessary for all of us to do our part in this venture of love and faith.

Please consider it an honor to participate! As of March 31, the appeal had raised \$25,169,042 from 1,064 congregations with at least 1,075 others to be heard from.

Soli Gloria Dei!

DEAFNET ELECTRONIC MAIL CONNECTS CHURCHES SERVING THE DEAF IN LCMS

ST. LOUIS--The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is now the first church body in the United States to have all of its ministers to the deaf connected through a telecommunications network. Through a grant from the Mill Neck Foundation of New York, DEAFNET for Lutherans is now in place.

DEAFNET is a special users group on an international telecommunications network. A pastor equipped with a special modem (a device which transmits data signals across telephone lines) and a personal computer can pull materials and information from a central pool or "bulletin board." Special liturgies and Bible studies suitable for work among deaf people can be sent to the bulletin by pastors and can then be pulled off instantly by others in the system.

"One of the greatest problems through the years among our pastors working with deaf people is the isolation they feel in their work. They must use a foreign language (American Sign Language or ASL) as they serve a special group of people who have their own culture and organizations.

"One way to break through this isolation is to use DEAFNET. Through DEAFNET we can join all of these workers into a network of mutual support.

Rev. Dan Pokorny, professor of deaf studies

Don Fairman Retires: To Be Succeeded by Rev. David Mueller

For the first time that anyone can remember, Iowa will have both of its mission fields vacant in April with the departure of Rev. David Mueller who accepted a call from the Southern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to succeed Don Fairman at Jackson, Miss.

Mr. Fairman is retiring after a long tenure as pastor in the Jackson area with work largely centered around instruction of students at the Mississippi School for the Deaf and carrying out interpreting services for the deaf.

Pastor Mueller, a native of Paullina, Iowa, has served Word of God Lutheran church in Cedar Rapids for approximately five years, as well as stations in Dubuque, Davenport, Burlington, Rock Island, Ill., and Ottumwa, and western Illinois.

at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, first learned of DEAFNET in July 1982 at the annual meeting of the National Association of the Deaf. The use of DEAFNET by pastors in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod came about through the persistent efforts of Pokorny in seeking the help and support of various organizations. Of primary importance was the support of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). Through funds provided by the LWML on a district level, Pokorny was able to purchase the necessary equipment to subscribe to the DEAFNET system. Not long ago, the Mill Neck Foundation provided \$15,000 for research, demonstration and expansion of the system among the ministers of the deaf of the LCMS.

Looking toward the future, Pokorny says, "It would be trite to say 'I have a dream,' but I do. I have a dream that one day all of the districts and the churches of our synod will be linked."

Lutheran Church Headquarters Picked After Commission Meets in Minneapolis

A new Lutheran church body, encompassing three existing Lutheran church bodies in America has agreed to merge, effective Jan. 1, 1988 with headquarters tentatively set to be located in Milwaukee, Wis.

Chicago, Minneapolis and New York City were contenders for the site of the new church's headquarters, but a 70-member commission eventually choose Milwaukee, subject to approval of the three merging churches later this summer during conventions.

The new Lutheran body, to be known as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will replace the Lutheran Church in America, currently with 2.9 million members; the American Lutheran Church with 2.3 million and the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches with 110,000 members. The new church will be the largest Lutheran body with 5.3 million.

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod will not be a part of the new organization. The LCMS, with 2.7 million members, will continue to have its headquarters in St. Louis, where it recently finished construction of a new International Center.

SCANNING THE NEWS FROM HERE AND THERE . . .

The Great Lakes Regional Conference will convene at Lutheran Memorial camp, Fulton, Ohio on the dates of Aug 15-17. Everyone attending this year's meeting will get a free T-shirt with the conference logo. Theme for the conference is "One Family in Christ."

Meeting under a theme of "Hope Is Remembering with Praise," Hope Lutheran church, Portland, Ore. will observe its 60th anniversary of deaf missions to Oregon and southwest Washington on May 16-18.

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) has given a grant of \$5,000 to buy videotape equipment for the three deaf churches in south Wisconsin. Other preaching stations (like Menasha, Wis.) will be able to have church and Bible study more than once a month. Deaf churches in Iowa (and Colorado) are already doing this. Deaf churches in northern Illinois are putting worship services, Bible studies and captioned religious programs on cable TV (for free!!). There are many ways to use videotape equipment to help people grow in their faith.

It is not too early to mention now that the next great commission convocation of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod will be held in St. Louis on the dates of Nov. 3-6, 1988 according to its planning committee.

Another reminder: the 1986 Ephphatha Conference will convene at Indiana Central university on the dates of July 16-20 with its opening scheduled to begin with the evening meal on the 16th and concluding with the noon meal on the 20th. Indiana Central is located in Indianapolis.

Dr. Jean Garton, president of Lutherans

PLEASE

The subscriptions of a number of our readers have been delinquent for some time, but have been graciously extended by the business manager so as not to interrupt service.

However, this cannot be done indefinitely and readers whose subscriptions have already expired are urged to renew by sending in the remittances.

Failure to renew will result in such subscriptions being canceled.

for Life, and who chairs the Missouri Synod President's Commission on Women, was one of 20 pro-life leaders to meet with President Ronald Reagan at the White House Jan. 22, the 13th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion. The group made a strong appeal for research into abortion's effects on women. Abortion is the sixth leading cause of maternal deaths, and at least 5,000 cases of serious medical complications are documented annually from the procedure.

Two officials of Lutheran World Relief were in St. Louis in January to thank the Synod for its support of LWR. From fall 1984 through last December, LCMS members gave almost \$2 million in funds designated for African drought and famine relief.

A special service of remembrance to honor the memory of Rev. Frederic Schumann was held at Trinity Lutheran church, Pittsburgh, Pa. on Jan 12. Rev. Schumann was instrumental in securing the building lot and parking space for the members, as well as being deeply involved in assisting the deaf with the needs for their worship services for many years. A granite cornerstone marker was dedicated at the Jan. 12 service to perpetuate the memory of a man who did so much for the deaf.

The editor received a letter from a lady who resides in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia stating she will be visiting the western parts of the United States this year. Her name is Ee Joo Choo and is 32 years old. It is possible she may be contacting some of our pastors on the west coast while in this country to meet people and attend some of our events and social functions.

Sage Advice:

Should I talk to the pastor? If this question crosses your mind, there is reason to do what it asks.--Selected

1987 ILDA CONVENTION
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
June 25-28

ON TEMPTATION . . . WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Rev. Martin Hewitt
Faith Lutheran Church
2733 Northwest Blvd.
Spokane, WAsh. 99205

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." James 1:12

"Let me get this straight. You are asking me to have a love affair with you?" Carl couldn't believe it.

"Yes, it isn't such a shocking thing anymore. It is done all the time today. We're two consenting adults," she announced matter-of-factly.

"But, Vera, I'm your husband's best friend. I can't do that to him."

"Can't you see it as doing something for him," she said coolly. "It would keep our marriage together."

"How do you figure that?" he asked, stirring his coffee nervously.

"My husband is too busy getting his company going to give me the love and affection I need," she explained. "If you can give me those things until he has the time, it will keep me happy and keep our marriage together until he can take over again. It isn't such a big deal. You would be doing him a favor."

Why me?" he questioned out loud.

"Because I have always been attracted to your strength and gentleness," Vera said. "From the minute I met you, I have been strongly attracted to that. It only makes sense that I would choose a man like you to give me what I need."

"Vera," he began, taking her hand, I am very flattered. And please understand it isn't that I don't find you unattractive. . . ."

"Oh, here it comes," she said, pulling away, the 'let her down easy' bit."

"Please hear me out," he interrupted. "I think I'm beginning to see what you are going through. I know it isn't easy for you being in the house all the time. And I guess I can even understand what you are needing from me. But, I value both of your friendships too much to ruin either of them."

Vera sat back on the couch and felt strangely calmed by what he was saying.

"For of all, I want you to know that your husband loves you very much. He talks about you all the time. There is no doubt in my mind that he truly cares about your well being and happiness."

Before he could go on, Vera broke down in tears. She felt so ashamed of her solution after hearing what Carl was saying about her husband. She realized she wasn't such a "modern woman" after all.

"Vera, I am sure that if you tell your feelings to your husband," Carl continued, "he will try to be a better lover to you. And I mean that in the fullest sense of the word. Give it a try, will you?"

"I'll try," she said, regaining control of herself. "But . . ." she continued in doubt, "what if. . . ."

"If he doesn't listen, you can come to me, and I will try to help him understand," Carl assured her. "And Vera," he added, "there's something else I would like to share with you before you go back home. It is about the qualities that attracted you to me."

"You are one of the warmest people I have ever met," she said again.

"Let me tell you where that comes from. I think what you are responding to is Christian love. That comes from my knowing Jesus. He is working through me to show you His love. Do you understand what I am saying?"

"I think so, but I'm not sure," she said hesitantly.

"Jesus loves each one of us on this earth. He moves people--Christians--who trust Him to show His love to others. He gives Christians the example of how to live. Then He gives them the power to live and love. The kind of love I have for you and for others --even for your husband--is Christian love. It is a strong and lasting love that overcomes temptations and problems. When we have problems--like you are having right now--we can go to Him for the answer, the solution. We know that God's Holy Spirit will guide us and give us the strength and the power to overcome them . . . and grow from them."

"That sounds too good to be true," she said wishfully.

"It isn't," Carl assured her. "When we take our problems to God in prayer, we know that He cares and will help us find the answers . . . answers that will be the right thing for every one involved."

"Instead of what I was trying to do, you mean?" Vera asked.

"Yes. It isn't easy to live in the kind of world that we do, is it? We are given all

INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION THE DEAF LUTHERAN

Reader Survey

Name Age ... TDD (.....)

Address City State ...

Occupation Church or Congregation

Name of Pastor..... ILDA Member?

Education: High School graduate? College

1. Are you a subscriber to the DEAF LUTHERAN?
2. Is it hard to read? Is it hard to understand?
3. Are the type or print readable?
4. Do you feel the DEAF LUTHERAN could be improved?
5. If so, how?
6. Would you like to see Regional Reports printed in the paper?.....
7. Should more Bible stories appear in the paper?
8. Do you like games, puzzles, etc. to come in the paper?
9. Do you think the cost of a subscription is reasonable?
10. Does the paper arrive on time?
11. Will you continue to take the paper?
12. Did you attend the last ILDA convention in Milwaukee?
13. Are you planning to attend the next one in Cedar Rapids, Iowa?
14. Have you told your friends about the DEAF LUTHERAN?
15. Do you have any complaints or suggestions about the paper?

REMARKS:

Please mail this questionnaire to Lester Ahls, Editor, The Deaf Lutheran, 1004 Cherrywood Drive, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613-1614.

FIRST SERVICES FOR THE DEAF HELD AT CHARLOTTE, N.C. ON FEB. 23

More than 70 grateful worshippers gathered at the just completed chapel for the deaf located at Ascension Lutheran church, Charlotte, N.C. Rev. Frank Wagenknecht, until last year, pastor at Rogate Lutheran church, Clearwater, Fla. led the service with visitors coming from Hickory and Greensboro and

surrounding areas. Services are held every Sunday at 11 a.m. with a joint worship and potluck with members from Greensboro and Hickory on the 4th Sunday of each month.



Natalie Hensley expresses her joy at the opening of a Chapel for the Deaf.



Lay Leader Richard Bowman leads the congregation's part of the liturgy.



Chapel for the Deaf overflows at the first worship service.

On Temptation . . . (continue from page 5)

sorts of solutions to our problems; almost anything goes. So it isn't easy to tell right from wrong." Carl said.

"Boy, that's for sure!" Vera sighed.

"I'm glad you came to me with this problem," Carl said.

"Yeah, I would hate to think what would have happened if I had gone to someone else," she said, taking a deep breath.

"I think God is already guiding you," Carl said confidently.

"Yes, I'd say He is." Vera said thankfully.

--From Lutheran Laymen's League

PRAYER

I asked a friend once why she prayed. Without pausing, she asked me, "Why is there air?"

We breathe because we need air to live. We pray because God's spirit prays in us, keeping faith alive.

WEEKLY GIVING

ANNUAL INCOME	WEEKLY INCOME	PERCENTAGE										
		3%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	9%	10%	12%	15%	20%
\$ 5,200	\$ 100	3.00	4.00	5.00	6.00	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	12.00	15.00	20.00
\$ 7,800	\$ 150	4.50	6.00	7.50	9.00	10.50	12.00	13.00	15.00	18.00	22.50	30.00
\$ 10,400	\$ 200	6.00	8.00	10.00	12.00	14.00	16.00	18.00	20.00	24.00	30.00	40.00
\$ 11,700	\$ 225	6.75	9.00	11.25	13.50	15.75	18.00	20.25	22.50	27.00	33.75	45.00
\$ 13,000	\$ 250	7.50	10.00	12.50	15.00	17.50	20.00	22.50	25.00	30.00	37.50	50.00
\$ 14,300	\$ 275	8.25	11.00	13.75	16.50	19.25	22.00	24.75	27.50	33.00	41.25	55.00
\$ 15,600	\$ 300	9.00	12.00	15.00	18.00	21.00	24.00	27.00	30.00	36.00	45.00	60.00
\$ 16,900	\$ 325	9.75	13.00	16.25	19.50	22.75	26.00	29.25	32.50	39.00	48.75	65.00
\$ 18,200	\$ 350	10.50	14.00	17.50	21.00	24.50	28.00	31.50	35.00	42.00	52.50	70.00
\$ 19,500	\$ 375	11.25	15.00	18.75	22.50	25.26	30.00	33.75	37.50	45.00	56.25	75.00
\$ 20,800	\$ 400	12.00	16.00	20.00	24.00	28.00	32.00	36.00	40.00	48.00	60.00	80.00
\$ 22,100	\$ 425	12.75	17.00	21.25	25.50	29.75	34.00	38.25	42.50	51.00	63.75	85.00
\$ 23,400	\$ 450	13.50	18.00	22.50	27.00	31.50	36.00	40.50	45.00	54.00	67.50	90.00
\$ 24,700	\$ 475	14.25	19.00	23.75	28.50	33.25	38.00	42.75	47.50	57.00	71.25	95.00
\$ 26,000	\$ 500	15.00	20.00	25.00	30.00	35.00	40.00	45.00	50.00	60.00	75.00	100.00
\$ 28,600	\$ 550	16.50	22.00	27.50	33.00	38.50	44.00	48.50	55.00	66.00	82.50	110.00
\$ 31,200	\$ 600	18.00	24.00	30.00	36.00	42.00	48.00	54.00	60.00	72.00	90.00	120.00
\$ 36,400	\$ 700	21.00	28.00	35.00	42.00	49.00	56.00	63.00	70.00	84.00	105.00	140.00
\$ 41,600	\$ 800	24.00	32.00	40.00	48.00	56.00	64.00	72.00	80.00	96.00	120.00	160.00
\$ 46,800	\$ 900	27.00	36.00	45.00	54.00	63.00	72.00	81.00	90.00	108.00	135.00	180.00
\$ 52,000	\$1,000	30.00	40.00	50.00	60.00	70.00	80.00	90.00	100.00	120.00	150.00	200.00
\$ 57,200	\$1,100	33.00	44.00	55.00	66.00	77.00	88.00	99.00	110.00	132.50	165.00	220.00
\$ 62,400	\$1,200	36.00	48.00	60.00	72.00	84.00	96.00	108.00	120.00	144.00	180.00	240.00
\$ 67,600	\$1,300	39.00	52.00	65.00	78.00	91.00	104.00	117.00	130.00	156.00	195.00	260.00
\$ 72,800	\$1,400	42.00	56.00	70.00	84.00	98.00	112.00	126.00	140.00	168.00	210.00	280.00
\$ 78,000	\$1,500	45.00	60.00	75.00	90.00	105.00	120.00	135.00	150.00	180.00	225.00	300.00
\$ 83,200	\$1,600	48.00	64.00	80.00	96.00	112.00	128.00	144.00	160.00	192.00	240.00	320.00
\$ 88,400	\$1,700	51.00	68.00	85.00	102.00	119.00	136.00	153.00	170.00	204.00	255.00	340.00
\$ 93,600	\$1,800	54.00	72.00	90.00	108.00	126.00	144.00	162.00	180.00	216.00	270.00	360.00
\$ 98,800	\$1,900	57.00	76.00	95.00	114.00	133.00	152.00	171.00	190.00	228.00	285.00	380.00
\$104,000	\$2,000	60.00	80.00	100.00	120.00	140.00	160.00	180.00	200.00	240.00	300.00	400.00
\$109,200	\$2,100	63.00	84.00	105.00	126.00	147.00	168.00	189.00	210.00	252.00	315.00	420.00
\$114,400	\$2,200	66.00	88.00	110.00	132.00	154.00	176.00	198.00	220.00	264.00	330.00	440.00
\$119,600	\$2,300	69.00	92.00	115.00	138.00	161.00	184.00	207.00	230.00	276.00	345.00	460.00
\$124,800	\$2,400	72.00	96.00	120.00	144.00	168.00	192.00	216.00	240.00	288.00	360.00	480.00
\$130,000	\$2,500	75.00	100.00	125.00	150.00	175.00	200.00	225.00	250.00	300.00	375.00	500.00

The DEAF LUTHERAN

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