



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

November-December, 1986

St. Louis, Mo.

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## RYNEARSON TO BE NEW SECRETARY OF BLIND AND DEAF MINISTRIES IN ST. LOUIS



REV. DR. RODNEY R. RYNEARSON

The Rev. Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson, for the past 12 years the executive director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, has announced his acceptance of the call to the position of secretary of the deaf and blind ministries of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in St. Louis. He will assume his new duties approximately Jan 1, 1987.

Dr. Rynearson has been serving the deaf ever since his ordination in 1959, the 27 year span covering Faith Lutheran church in Spokane, Wash.; Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Montana and Alpha Lutheran church in Rochester, N.Y. A doctor of education degree was conferred on him May 15, 1985 by Wayne State university.

For many who may not remember, Dr Rynearson had the privilege of assisting in the early beginning of The International Lutheran Deaf Association and then serving as its pastoral adviser for over seven years.

Dr. Rynearson and his wife, Rhoda, are the parents of three boys, Tim, Steve and Peter. Tim and Steve are serving in the ministry and Peter is an accounting student at Wayne State university and working in a co-op program at the Chrysler corporation.

### Rev. Edwin Bergstresser Attends Meeting in England Sept. 1-6

Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, pastor of Trinity, Pittsburgh, Pa. was invited to attend the International Ecumenical Working Group for Pastoral Care Among the Deaf at Jesus college, Oxford, England Sept. 1-6. The theme of the gathering was "The Use of Video in Ministry Among the Deaf People." The committee invited Pastor Edwin to give a presentation during the meeting.

The invitation is considered quite an honor, not only to the pastor, but also to the congregation in that their minister received it.

### Golden Wedding Anniversaries

With the holidays fast approaching, it seems like a good time to remember some special events like weddings that have lasted nearly a life time. Divorce is so common today, nearly half ending in a few years, that it is truly refreshing to read about those who have endured.

During 1986, there are two of note. On July 26, the Rev. and Mrs. Arnold T. Jonas of Auburn, Calif. celebrated the 50th chapter of their marriage in Auburn, a town northeast

GOLDEN WEDDING

(continue on page 2)

## Thanksgiving, 1986

# PRAISE GOD FROM WHOM ALL BLESSINGS FLOW

One of the truths of our times is that we Americans take far too much for granted. The super markets are filled with good things



we can obtain to eat; we have shelter and blankets to keep us warm on a cold winter night; clothes to wear and even when we want a drink of water, we only

have to open a faucet . . . we need to be reminded that this is not true in many parts of the world. It is very difficult to get a clear picture in our minds of how much God has blessed us when there is so much starvation, poverty want and sickness in other places. War, terrorism, and persecution are common place in many other countries.

A man invited a group of friends to his house and placed before them a feast fit for a king's table. However, before each course was served, he showed a film strip of what was involved in the preparation of that par-

ticular item. There were fishermen at work at sea; farmers tilling the soil and harvesting it; flour mills processing grain; manufacturing and all the various things that must be done before food reaches us on the table.

At the end of the bountiful meal, there was one more film to be shown. This was the picture of a Hand, and everyone realized it was none other than the hand of God.

Someone asked once what would happen if "God were to go on strike." Seeds would stop growing, there would be no rain and worse yet, if God were to hide the sun from us, then what? But God has loved us. He gives rain to both the just and the unjust. He is patient and long suffering, not willing that any should be lost. Such a love is too wonderful for us to really understand it. God is love.

As this Thanksgiving draws near, let us once again pause and with reverent hearts, come before our Maker and Saviour with thanksgiving for His goodness to us.

### **Golden Wedding Anniversaries**

(continue from page 1)

of Sacramento. Pastor Jonas served the deaf in South Dakota for four years, then in western Washington for six years, which included Vancouver, B.C. In October, 1948, they moved to the Los Angeles-San Diego field and stayed for 28 years. They are now living in retirement. They are the parents of four children and have several grandchildren and one great grandchild.

\* \* \* \*

On July 31, Mr. and Mrs Richard C. (Elizabeth) Miller of Defiance, Ohio observed their Golden wedding anniversary and were honored at an open house and blessing service at St. John Lutheran church. The couple met while both were students at the Ohio School for the Deaf and were married on July 31, 1936 at Auburn, Ind.

There are four children, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

They are members of Good Shepherd Lutheran church, Toledo, Ohio.

### **NORTHWEST REGION ELECTS**

The Northwest Regional Conference met at the Bishop Topel Retreat center north of Spokane, Wash. Aug. 15-17 with Dorothy Sparks, a skilled workshop leader from Omaha, Neb. present to lead a seminar on church growth and hymn singing. The conference theme was "Serving and Praising with Signing Hands."

A skit was presented during the church services on Sunday with Elmer Francisco playing the role of Jesus; Lee Ann McLane as the Caanite woman and Gary Anderson, Ron Madding and Carl Verwiebe, disciples.

Rev. William Ludwig, who preached the service on Sunday, installed the following new officers: President, Ronald Madding; vice president, Larry Gorton; secretary, Lee Ann McLane; treasurer, Clyde Catron, and pastoral adviser, Rev. David Carstens.

The next conference will be hosted by Hope Lutheran church in Portland, Ore. in August, 1987.

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**NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY TIP . . . No party complete without nuts. Invite a few.**

# LCMS SYNODICAL CONVENTION MEETS IN INDIANAPOLIS JULY 18-25

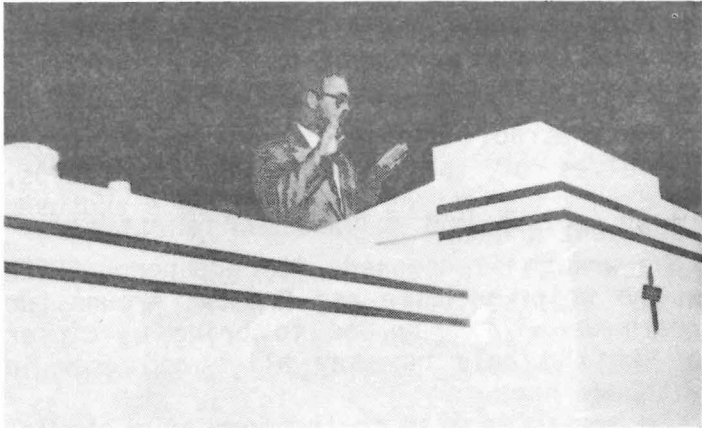
The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod met for its biennial synod convention in Indianapolis July 18-25 and appeared to be well represented by deaf persons. Attending as lay

delegate was David Naumann of Houston, Texas.

Professor Donald O. Peterson and his wife, Ruth, were the recipients of the 21st and 22nd John of Beverley medals. Don, who is on the faculty of Gallaudet college, was selected because of his teaching career, work with the Navy department and his role model for the deaf. Ruth was cited for her artistic contributions and many years of service to the church, both of whom are members of Christ Lutheran church in Washington, D.C.

The 1986 Ephphatha Award was presented to Mr. Fred Harbart.

Five members of the choir of Prince of Peace Lutheran church, Indianapolis, sang, "Lift High the Cross" during opening devotions on Sunday July 20.



**DONALD PETERSON HONORED**--The John of Beverley recipient expresses his appreciation and thanks during the recent convention in Indianapolis.



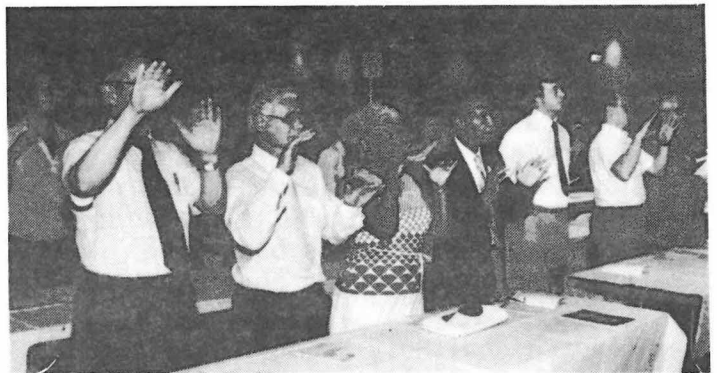
**JOHN OF BEVERLEY AWARD**--Ruth Peterson expresses thanks during the synodical convention after being awarded the John of Beverley medal.



**"LIFT HIGH THE CROSS"**--Ladies from Prince of Peace choir, Indianapolis, sing the song during opening devotions during the synod's convention.



**INTERPRETD FOR THE PETERSON**--Mill Neck Lutheran School for the deaf superintendent Henry Bjorlie.



**OPENING CEREMONIES**--Left to right: Rev. Bill Ludwig (face concealed), Rev. LaVern Mass, Hazel Kindred, Joe Kindred, Rev. John Fritz, Vicar Mike King and Rev. Russell Johnson. Second row: David Naumann.

## Silent Night, Holy Night

One of the miracles of Christmas is how great things came from small, humble beginnings and in obscure places which most of the world might not have otherwise noticed.



Behtlehem was such a place. So was Nazareth. In fact, the town of Nazareth, where Jesus lived as a boy was held in contempt as shown in John 1:46, where Nathanael replies to Philip, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

And so it was on Christmas Eve, 168 years ago when the pastor in a small Bavarian village went to a home where a new child had just been born. Contemplating the wonder of life and death as he trudged home in the snow, he began to write the famous Christmas hymn as soon as he got back and by early morning, it was finished.

At church that morning, Rev. Joseph Mohr gave the new composition to his organist, Franz Gruber who wrote the music for his guitar because the organ was broken. By the time the church was filled with Christmas worshippers, the song that has been sung in Christian churches all over the world since 1818 was heard for the first time:

Silent Night! Holy Night!  
All is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace!

Silent Night! Holy Night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight!  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia"  
Christ, the Saviour is born!  
Christ, the Saviour is born!

Silent Night! Holy Night!  
Son of God, love's pure light!  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face  
With dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

## THE ADVENT WREATH

The Evangelist John frequently talked about Jesus as the Light of the World. This name was not new to him. Isaiah, many years before, looking ahead to our world said, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light."



Christmas is all about the Light of the World. Advent reminds us that there is still much darkness in the world. It is a darkness made up of sin, hatred, ignorance and pride. To remind themselves of the growing power of Jesus, the Light, Christians have long made and used the Advent wreath.

The wreath is covered with greenery. **GREEN** is the color of Life and **Growth**. Around our wreath we will pray God to bring us closer to Him and help us stay alive and grow in faith and hope.

The wreath is also in the form of a circle. A circle has no beginning and no end. What better way to picture eternity to our minds than this? Our life with God is everlasting, beginning, always, now.

The candles are significant both in their color and in their light. Three of the candles are violet. **VIOLET** is the color of **repentance**. During the next four weeks we want to look inward and see ourselves as the sinners we are. The **PINK** candle we will light on the third Sunday as this is called **Joyful Sunday**.

The light these candles put forth may be small, but these flames, growing brighter each week, stress the growing power of Christ Jesus over darkness. On Christmas Eve the candle within the circle is lighted. The **Christ Child Candle** tells us that He who is the Light for our darkness has been born.



**CONVENTION VISITORS GET TOGETHER**—Left to right: Rev. LaVern Mass, Kansas City; Joe and Hazel Kindred, Indianapolis; Bill Wegner, Rev. Donald Simon, Rev. William Ludwig, Seattle.

## SIFTING THE NEWS FROM HERE 'N THERE . . .

Many of our churches around the country are celebrating their longevity with banquets. Among the recent ones have been Trinity, Pittsburgh, Pa., 60 years, Hope, Portland, Ore., 60 years; Our Savior, Detroit, Mich., 75 years. Next May there will be yet another one! Western Washington Lutheran church will be observing their 75th with a celebration May 30-31, 1987. And, oh, yes, we don't want to forget St. Matthew of New York, who celebrated their 75th on Oct. 19.

The Rev. Dr. Robert Blakely, who ministered to the deaf in both Boston and Dallas, died July 21 at Charleston, S.C. following a heart attack. A Navy veteran, burial was at Arlington National Cemetery on July 24.

Some new workers in deaf ministry who began their duties this year: Rev. David C. Johnson who is serving deaf needs as an assistant in a hearing parish in Enid, Okla.; Rev. Darrell Kois at Calvary, Des Moines, Iowa; Rev. Michael MacDonald at Word of God, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and Rev. Mark Anderson at St. Matthew in Newark, N.J.

Some of our friends went abroad this summer. Among those we know about are Rev. Martin and Janet Hewitt of Spokane, Wash. who decided a trip to Norway to visit their daughter was the thing to do. Julie had just finished a year of study and was their interpreter and guide. They rented a car and toured the country, staying with friends of Julie. Be sure and ask the good pastor about driving the roads there.

Dorothy Cohler also went to Europe and we understand she was away about a month. She is from Forest Hills, N.Y.

The Washington State School for the Deaf observed its Centennial Aug. 7-10 with a celebration of homecoming fun, banquets, class reunions, history presentations and just chatting away with friends. At least 325 were there.

About 80 persons registered at the YMCA camp high in the Rockies northwest of Denver for the Midwest Conference of the ILDA July 11-13. Amid beautiful snow covered peaks and natural air conditioning, it is hard to imagine a more beautiful setting for a meeting. Officers for the next two years are: Donald L. Kissell, Des Moines, president; Dean Krueger, Sioux City, Iowa, vice president; Frances Burgess, Omaha, Neb., secretary, and

Ruth Nester, Hiawatha, Kan., treasurer.

The news from California is that Pastor Emeritis Theodore DeLaney was in the hospital for an undisclosed ailment in late June. He may be reached at 911-A Julieann Lane, Porterville, Calif. 93257.

After Oct. 24, 1986, Gallaudet college will be officially known as GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY. The status was accorded to the school when President Ronald Reagan signed the Education of the Deaf Act of 1986. A week long convocation will inaugurate the college's new status Oct. 20-25.

One of the weddings of note this summer occurred in Omaha at St. Mark's Lutheran church on Aug. 31 when Miss Karen Dammeyer became the bride of Mr. Darwin Blank. Karen, who has been a parish worker with Bethlehem Lutheran church for over eight years and a member of the Sonshine Singers since its inception leaves a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. All their friends wish the newlyweds many blessings in their new life together. Their address is 1201 South Main St., Madison, Neb. 68748.

Guess where Dorothy is going to next? Texas! We are having trouble keeping up with her travels. Last time we heard, she was in Canada, then in Washington state. Dorothy will lead another workshop at the Dixie Conference at Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas Oct. 10-12. Miss Sparks is also one of the Son Shine Singers who have left their mark at many conferences and conventions.

Perhaps its a bit early to announce something that is almost two years away, but there will be a big reunion at the Lutheran School for the Deaf (Detroit) to mark the school's 115th anniversary on June 10, 11 and 12, 1988. The gathering is being directed to all former alumni, whether graduated or not, teachers, houseparents and school staff. Interested persons should contact Mr. Ken Carter, a former student at (313) 288-6148 TDD or write to him, 3241 Harvard, Royal Oak, Mich. 48072.

Emmanuel Lutheran church, Milwaukee, Wis. is announcing a new beginning! First started in 1898, worship services have been held in at least three different buildings. The present church building at 4328 West North Ave. has been sold to Zion Baptist church of Mil-

## SIFTING THE NEWS

(continuing from page 5)

waukee and the closing was on Sept. 15. The church plans to own another building, either buying or building in a better location, which will provide better parking, safety and service for its deaf members.

Mr. Robert Schneider, the recipient of the 1985 ILDA Right Hand Award during the convention at Milwaukee, has moved to a nursing facility. Bob suffers terminal cancer and we pray the Lord will grant him understanding, patience and wisdom.

Mr. Werner D. Hoewisch, Milwaukee, a staunch ILDA member and alumnus of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, succumbed on July 15. May the Lord comfort the family, and especially his wife, Leona, who is also a former student of the Detroit school.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Boldt, Milwaukee, observed their 50th wedding anniversary with a renewal of their vows at Emmanuel Lutheran church on July 27. Rev. Bud Palmer conducted the service. Harvey is reported to have suffered a mild heart attack recently and is recovering.

The Great Lakes Regional Conference met at Lutheran Memorial camp in Fulton, Ohio in August. According to the reporter, it must have been quite a bit of fun! "The weather was good, the food was out of this world, and the friendships were all made in heaven." One of the events (oh, yes, they had business but this was more fun!) was tossing water filled balloons across a sheet and trying to hit the guys on the other side. A few are reported as "getting a little wet!"

New officers for the GLRC are James Water, president; Richard Crossen, president-elect; Diane Clupper, secretary; Frank Cassese, treasurer; Pam Kane, historian, and Pastor Gary Lawson, pastoral adviser.

Toledo won first place in banner competition followed by Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Detroit. The 34th annual meeting closed with a promise to return in 1987.

Pilgrim Lutheran church, Kansas City, celebrated its 45th anniversary Sept. 21 with 11 a.m. worship at the church followed by a delicious dinner. Speaking was Bill Angelbeck, a member of the Mid-Missouri congregation at Columbia, Mo. a newly formed group

served by Rev. LaVern Mass, pastor of Pilgrim church.

The Wheat Ridge Foundation which sponsors the annual Christmas seal drive announced contributions for 1985 had decreased from the all-time record giving of the year earlier. In acknowledging what was probably a tough year for many donors, totals collected amounted to \$668,417.

President Ahls and Rev. L. Mass had the pleasure of calling on Rev. Alvin Ferber in Kansas City following the close of the Midwest Conference. Cheerful and up and around the house, the pastor was in good spirits, altho he greatly misses his departed wife, who has gone home to be with the Lord. Rev. Ferber, who is well into his 80's, is a pastoral assistant at Calvary Lutheran church (a hearing church) in Kansas City. His brother, Waldemar, who served the deaf in Fargo, N.D. for many years is still living, and is well past 90.

Twenty-one adults were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, May 18 and confessed their faith making them charter members of the just organized Chapel for the Deaf in Charlotte, N.C. where Rev. Frank Wagenknecht is pastor. Four others were accepted by transfer, making for a total of 25.

The Alive in Christ appeal has passed the \$50,000,000 mark. The funds are to be used for world and north American mission programs, professional church worker training, elimination of the synod's operating deficit, acquiring better communication facilities and reinforcing the pension plan for retired professional workers.

The small deaf mission field in Hickory, N.C. which had been active since about 1945 was closed in June. All of the members joined the Chapel for the Deaf in Charlotte as active members. Serving them as pastor is the Rev. Frank Wagenknecht.

Henry D. Walls, who chaired the 1983 ILDA convention at Pittsburgh, was recognized on July 14 for his contributions and dedication in serving the deaf. Tom Page, manager of public relations for AT&T said at a presentation "that through Henry Walls' efforts, they were completely able to revise, update and improve the AT&T TTD/TTY operators service handbook.



It is something NEW as it has never been done before since ILDA was established. We are offering our "1987 ILDA CONVENTION" SAVING PLAN to anyone planning to attend the convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa--Thursday through Sunday, June 25-28, 1987.

Send your check or money order (please do not send cash) as often as you want from now on until the convention time. You may send any amount such as \$10, \$20 or whatever you want. Norman Wilson, convention treasurer, will record each check or money order being received and send a receipt to each sender each time. Your money will be ready for you at your arrival.

If you change your mind or can not make it to the convention, your money will be cheerfully refunded 100%.

Make out a check payable to:

1987 ILDA CONVENTION FUND

Name -----  
 Address -----  
 -----

Amount enclosed: \$-----  
 Send your check to:



Norman Wilson  
 1150 Sierra Dr. N.E. #18  
 Cedar Rapids Iowa 52402

NOTE:

Only certified checks and money orders accepted after June 1, 1987.

★ 9th ★  
**Biennial Convention**  
**INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN**  
**DEAF ASSOCIATION**  
 \* \* \* \* \*

"THE WHOLE WEEKEND"

★ JUNE 25-28, 1987 ★

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CONVENTION THEME IS:

**"A TIME FOR**



**EVERYTHING"**

ECCLESIASTES 1:1-8

BANNER CONTEST

1. Measurement: Follow your own judgement.
2. Originality in picturing the theme, "A TIME FOR EVERYTHING".
3. Neatness: The general overall appearance of the banner.
4. Beauty: The sharpness of colors, co-ordination and blending of colors.
5. Judges discretion (judgement) about the above rules and personal feeling about the banner display of 1987 ILDA Theme.



\* WILL BE GIVEN TO THE WINNERS. \*

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# St. Matthew Lutheran Church , New York City, Observes Diamond Jubilee Oct. 19

The prophet Isaiah declares, "The deaf shall hear the Word." (Is. 29-18) and it has been happening at St. Matthew Lutheran church in New York City for 75 years this fall as the church gets ready to observe its Diamond anniversary on Oct. 19.

A morning dedication service, dating back to 1911, delivered by guest preacher Rev. Edwin Bergstresser of Trinity Lutheran church, Pittsburgh, Pa. followed by a banquet in the afternoon with former pastor Rev. Floyd Possehl as guest speaker were among the events planned to mark the occasion.

The history of the church's mission began on Sept. 24, 1911 when the late Rev. Arthur Boll conducted the first service for the deaf in the area with 13 deaf and four hearing in attendance. That service was held at the historic St. Matthew's Lutheran church on Broome street in Manhattan. In the following year, the Atlantic District mission board requested that Rev. Boll conduct a survey of the deaf in the New York metropolitan area and in 1913 a group of 10 deaf formed the charter congregation of what is now St. Matthew's.

During the first 10 years, St. Matthew's deaf moved at least five times and finally found some permanency when it located at Immanuel on South 9th street in Brooklyn where it stayed until 1947 when the Lutheran Church --Missouri Synod erected the present building on 75th street and 41st in Elmhurst, Queens.

The early years were not easy for the small church but the deaf found strength and hope

in their faithful pastor, Rev. Boll, who labored tirelessly for his Saviour, his church and his deaf parishioners. He died on Dec. 14, 1941 after nearly 20 years of service to the deaf in New York.

Rev. Floyd Possehl was called as pastor in March, 1942 and under his leadership, the present church building was erected and dedicated on Jan. 11, 1948. Others serving St. Matthew since 1950 have been Rev. George Kraus, Rev. Harry Hoeman, Rev. William Hausmann, Rev. Donald Simon, Rev. Orlin Anderson, Rev. Louis Jasper, Rev. Daniel Hodgson, Rev. Fred Anson and the late Rev. Michael Hayes. The present pastor, Rev. L. Richard Vossler, was installed at St. Matthew on Oct. 6, 1985.

The congregation gives praise and thanksgiving to the Lord and to all faithful members who have served Him and its church these past 75 years.



NEW PASTOR INSTALLED IN CEDAR RAPIDS---Rev. Philip Michael MacDonald was installed on June 29 at Word of God Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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