



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

January-February, 1987

St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 79, No. 1

★ EPIPHANY

Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Toledo, Ohio

Many people celebrate Christmas only one day every year, Dec. 25. It sure is a shame to spend October, November and December shopping, standing in long lines just for that one day. But the Christian church celebrates Christmas for 12 days, Dec. 25 through Jan. 6. Jan. 6 is called Epiphany, or the 12th day of Christmas.

Many of us give gifts on the first day of Christmas (or Christmas Eve) but maybe we should think about the 12th day of Christmas. Maybe that would be better. Jan. 6 is the day that we remember the Wise Men coming to visit the Baby Jesus. The Wise Men gave the first gifts to the Baby Jesus.

Jesus doesn't receive birthday gifts from us these days. Instead, we give gifts to each other. That sure is a strange birthday celebration for Jesus, don't you think?



The Wise Men knew Jesus deserved their best gift. They brought their gifts to Him. Doesn't Jesus deserve the same from us? On Epiphany, the 12th day of Christmas, we remember that Jesus came for all of us, He came to save us, He came to make us His friends, He came to make it possible for us to live with God forever. Because we are thankful, we give Jesus our very best on Epiphany--and every day of the year. How?

a) Through prayer, (b) Bible study, (c) Attending church regularly, (d) Helping other people, (e) Giving our gifts to God, and (f) we offer Him all our love by our words, signs and actions.

Prayer: Father in Heaven, we thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, into our lives. He is the Light of the World, coming into our lives. We thank You! Amen.

Rev. Donald Zuhn Honored by the ILDA at St. Louis Nov. 1

Rev. Donald W. Zuhn, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Minneapolis, was honored by the International Lutheran Deaf Association at its regular meeting in St. Louis Saturday, Nov. 1 just before he departed to return home.

The honoree was presented a surprise plaque and an inscribed glass emblem of the Luther Rose honoring him for over eight years of service as the synodical representative to the ILDA board of directors from 1978 to 1986. During that time, Rev Zuhn served the

REV. DONALD ZUHN

(continue on page 2)

ILDA to Conduct Leadership Training Seminar in Seattle Jan. 29-Feb. 1

The leadership training program for the west coast, previously canceled due to insufficient registrations, will definitely be held at the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle on the dates of Jan. 29-Feb. 1, 1987. The site of the seminar is located in Issaquah, a suburb of Seattle.

The seminar follows to previous meetings held earlier in Madison, Wis., and Washington D.C., both of which were well attended and quite successful, from the standpoint of participation and interest shown.

Topics to be covered during the 3½ day meeting include evangelism, music, which includes singing hymns in sign language, duties

ILDA TO CONDUCT

(continue on page 2)

HOW ABOUT A PREPAID ILDA CONVENTION NEXT SUMMER IN CEDAR RAPIDS?

ILDA members and friends who are planning to come to Iowa next summer for the biennial convention are being offered an opportunity to reduce the burden of convention expenses by planning ahead.

Local host committees planning our conventions have long been aware that costs for transportation, lodging, meals and actual association costs such as registration fees, tickets, etc. as well as incidentals along the way can make the difference between going and staying home. This is especially true of our older Lutherans on fixed incomes and

the younger 'just marrieds' who must also consider family needs.

Word of God Lutheran church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa wants as many people as possible to come to the next meeting in Iowa, right in the heart of flavorful rural America! And to make this as easy as humanly possible, the local hosts are offering a plan that ease the crunch of convention costs by planning ahead.

Visitors wishing to come to Cedar Rapids are being asked to consider a plan of mailing advance payments, or deposits, towards their convention to the local committee, which will acknowledge all remittances with receipts.

Should plans change for any reason as the convention nears, and a person finds they cannot attend, refunds will be cheerfully given 100 per cent with no questions asked. This method, which admittedly will involve more work for the host committee, nevertheless is being undertaken to enable more visitors to attend.

The Iowa convention in Cedar Rapids promises to be quite a bit different from this past, all of which have been held in large metropolitan areas. Cedar Rapids is no where near the size of Washington, D.C. or Los Angeles, yet will offer all of the usual amenities of its larger rivals.

Persons wishing to take advantage of this plan may contact Mr. Norman Wilson, ILDA host committee, 1150 Sierra Drive N.E. No. 18, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

Rev. Donald Zuhn (continue from page 1)

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as secretary of the blind/deaf ministries. He resigned the position more than a year ago to accept a call to Prince of Peace Lutheran church, Minneapolis.

Rev. Zuhn will be succeeded on Jan. 1, 1987 by Dr. Rodney R. Ryneanson, executive director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit.

ILDA to Conduct (continue from page 1)

of church officers, adult Bible instruction, teaching children, to mention a few.

Workshop leaders will all be deaf lay persons chosen from various congregations of deaf ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.


Interested persons wishing to attend should contact their pastors regarding eligibility and funding. This would include persons in the Pacific and northwest regions, as well as members in western Canada.

LETTER TO PREACHER:

"I heard you say to love our enemies. I am only six and do not have any yet. I hope to have some when I am seven."

Love, Amy


The Board of Directors
of the
International Lutheran Deaf Association

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH  MISSOURI SYNOD

in appreciation
for eight years of
devoted service and advice
do on November 1, 1986
present this token of our love to

REV. DONALD ZUHN

*We wish him God's blessings wherever
he goes in his mission of bringing
the Good News of Jesus Christ
to the deaf*



John Allen President
Beth D. Furhaber Secretary

DIXIE LUTHERANS CONVENE

Steve Luke
2044 S. Clack No. 638
Abilene, Texas 79606

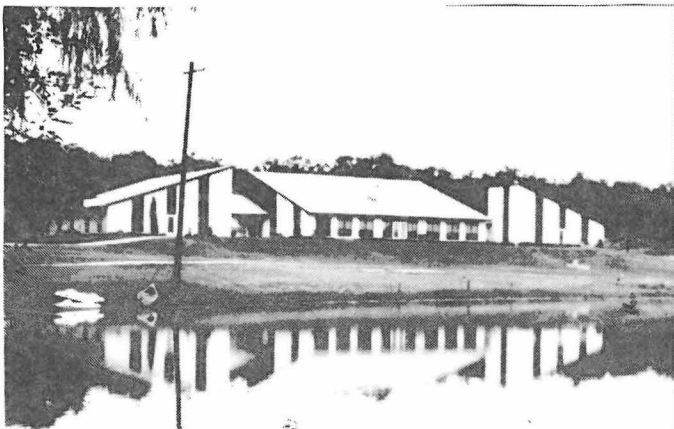
Forty deaf Lutherans participated in the Dixie Conference during the cold week-end of Oct. 10-12 at the Camp Lone Star retreat



DIXIE PRESIDENT SPEAKS—Billy Fitzgerald, Memphis, presides over business sessions Oct. 11 at Camp Lone Star.



GROUP DISCUSSIONS—Jeffery McGuire leads discussions during conference. Pastor Bob Case is seen in center of picture.



DIXIE CONFERENCE SITE—Camp Lone Star, a retreat center near LaGrange, Texas.

center about 65 miles southeast of Austin at LaGrange, Texas. Visitors came from Dallas, Austin, Houston and Abilene in Texas; Memphis, Tenn. and Florida.

Dorothy Sparks, a member of the Son-Shine singers from Omaha, Neb. was guest speaker and led a workshop on witnessing, encouraging her listeners to use American Sign Language (ASL) to translate the songs and Bible readings so deaf worshippers could understand and be inspired during services. She also encouraged the use of talents, skits and visual aids, and emphasizing the use of facial expressions and eye contact, friendliness and welcoming visitors to their churches.

It was agreed that the Dixie constitution would need to be revised with the help of the ILDA. New officers chosen for the 1986-88 biennium are: Billy Fitzgerald, re-elected; Stephen H. Luke, vice president; Jeffery G. McGuire, secretary, and Betty Le-Clair, treasurer. Rev. Bob Case, Houston, is pastoral adviser.

The meeting adjourned on Sunday, a rainy day, with Pastor Case leading Bible study with Pastors Friedrich, Reinapp and Bush conducting the service. The Sunday offering was given to ILDA missions.

Charlotte Considers Expansion

Eight short months after beginning a new congregation in Charlotte, N.C., the church is contemplating the need to expand its present location, due to growth, which has gone from 0 to 36 communicant members and 44 baptized members, with Sunday worship services averaging over 30. The present chapel, a part of Ascension Lutheran church, was thought to be adequate for a number of years, but this has been the subject of discussions in recent months, due to the number attending services.

An architect and engineer has been called in to advise the congregation on its plans to remodel another section of the present buildings with an eye to relocating there later.

The Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has been asked for \$30,000 to help with the project and if these plans can be coordinated with Ascension Lutheran church and the board for missions, a new chapel may be a reality by the fall of 1987.

ROUNDING UP THE NEWS FROM HITHER AND YON . . .

We have just learned that Rev. Joseph Varsanyi, pastor of St. Phillips Lutheran church, Philadelphia, has accepted a call to hearing congregation and left deaf ministry on Nov. 30, 1986. We wish Pastor Varsanyi God's blessings in his new work and that the congregation at St. Phillips will have a new shepherd in a short time.

Harold Rife, a former ILDA board member from Portland, and his wife, Fern, are reported to have purchased a mini motor home and have been seen taking up camping this past year. How about showing us next summer in Cedar Rapids, folks? We have also heard that our new secretary of deaf ministry, Dr. and Mrs. Rynearson, also have one, too, and may be doing some traveling.

Two AAL branches in Palo Alto, Calif. and Burlingame sponsored an ice cream social this past summer, realizing \$1,130.00. This was then matched by the AAL home office, resulting in a total of \$2,250.00 which was given to the new church in Fremont for the purchase of a rear projector and screen. The church is thanking everyone who had a part in it.

A new television and media production facility was dedicated Oct. 5 on the campus of Concordia college, River Forest, Ill. Materials produced there will be open captioned to be accessible for the hearing impaired. Lutheran Television and Media productions,



EPHPATHA AWARD—Fred Harbart receives the award during the LCMS convention in Indianapolis. Left to right Rev. Arnold Kromphardt, president, Eastern District of LCMS; honoree, and Dr. Rodney Rynearson, executive director of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit.

Inc. will operate the center, built with a \$55,000 grant from the Mill Neck Foundation of Mill Neck, N.Y. In exchange for housing the center, the college will share in its use. LTMP is a not-for-profit corporation representing pastors and members of hearing impaired congregations, Concordia college and the Synod's Northern Illinois District.

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) was cited for being on the scene early with famine relief and on Oct. 15, was presented the Presidential End Hunger Award for 1986 by Tom McKay, deputy administrator of USAID for private voluntary agencies. He noted that LWR was the only private organization aiding victims of famine on both sides of the Ethiopian civil war.

Alpha Lutheran church, Rochester, N.Y. observed its 35th anniversary Oct. 5-8 with an open house. Guest speaker for the event was Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Toledo, Ohio.

The Deafness Research Foundation of New York City is planning to form a new consortium of educators, medical experts on problem of deafness, technical, informational and others to make an effort to make "significant gains in fighting a lack of general knowledge and the problems of hearing impairment and deafness in this country." The foundation, which is made up of almost 40 officers and directors, is planning a meeting in Washington, D.C. to explore the feasibility of starting the consortium and creating a mission statement for the new group.



CONFIRMATION CLASS—Youngsters at the Indiana School for the Deaf pose for their class picture during the spring of 1986. Rev. Jerold Munz is their pastor.

DO YOU HAVE ENOUGH INSURANCE?

Rev. Donald Leber
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Columbus, Ohio

Do you have a car? It's the LAW in Ohio (and most other states, too! Ed.) that every car must have liability insurance. That means if you have an accident, and it's your fault, that your insurance can pay for the damage to the other car and people hurt. You should **NOT, NEVER, NO, NEVER** drive your car without liability insurance.

Do you have a house or an apartment? What happens if there is a fire or a storm and your furniture gets damaged or destroyed? Do you have homeowners insurance to cover the contents of your home? If you have lots of money to buy all new things, then you don't need this insurance. But most of us cannot afford to buy a house full of new furniture and appliances.

Do you have pension insurance at your job? Almost everyone has Social Security insurance, but many businesses offer pension plan insurance to its workers. When you retire, you still need some income to pay the bills. With

It's Time to Think About Taxes Again

April 15 is a date most Americans dread and the day the Internal Revenue Service expects to get a letter from us.

For taxpayers who are deaf, finding help for tax problems can be frustrating. Last year, the editor found out, to his dismay, that the local IRS office no longer gave free assistance as it had in the past and a letter to the area office in another city went unheeded.

So what does a deaf taxpayer do when he needs help? If you are one of those people, help is available. Special TDD service is available from Jan. 1 to April 15 from 7 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. by calling this toll free number 800-428-4732. The rest of the year, the calling hours are Monday-Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Specially trained IRS employees can answer many tax problems, some of which may concern deductions for TDD equipment, hearing aids, cost and care of hearing dogs and cost of sending children to special schools, to name a few.

If you get a busy signal, don't give up. The IRS has a few lines for this service and they could be busy, especially during filing times in the spring.

pension insurance, you can know that there will be money when you need it.

Do you have health insurance? The cost of medicine, doctors and hospitals is very expensive. Health insurance can help us pay all or part of the costs. Medicare or Medicaid is not enough. You need to be sure to have health insurance in case you get hurt very bad and maybe stay in the hospital for one month or more.

Do you have Life insurance? Life insurance is the wrong name. It should be called Death insurance. If you died today, will your family have any money to continue on with their life? If you are older, then you need to worry only about the cost for burial. If you are younger and have a family depends on you. How can the family pay for someone to take your place after you die? Life insurance can help.

But all of the above insurance are related to this earth. What about **HEAVENLY INSURANCE**? Can you buy a policy to guarantee a home in heaven? **No!** You can't buy one, because Jesus already paid for it with **HIS** life, death and resurrection. It is a free gift. And all you have to do is open your heart and let Jesus put His gift inside. This is one insurance policy that will never fail or go bankrupt. But, we can lose it. Yes! If you fail to let Jesus reign over your life. If you fail to worship **HIM** weekly and show your thanks to **HIM**. People attending church once in a while have to worry if their heavenly insurance is good or not. By regular attendance at worship and the Lord's Supper we hear God's comforting words that **HE** has prepared a place for us. That is our regular reminder that we belong to **HIM**. And when we die, we can cash in Jesus' insurance policy and enjoy the rewards of heaven.

Get your policy now! It's free! Every Sunday at Holy Cross (and your church, too!)



Go Tell It On The Mountains That
Jesus Christ Is Born!

FOOLISHNESS? NOT TO ME

Mark W. Seeger, Pastor
Alpha Lutheran Church
Rochester, N.Y.

The story of the Cross is something foolish to those who perish, but it is God's power to us who are saved." I Corinthians 1:18

Is the story of the cross foolish to you? It sure isn't to me! To me it is the greatest story I could ever hope to hear. To think that God would love me, and all people, so much that He would send His only Son to die in my place and take away my sins, and the sins of the whole world, WOW! That is so fantastic, so wonderful, so great that it fills me with awe. It is definitely not a foolish story to me!

Unfortunately, there are many people in this world who **do** think the story of the cross is foolishness. They don't believe in Jesus as their Saviour, they don't acknowledge the death and resurrection of Jesus as God's way of making the world right with Him

again. Some of them have heard the gospel, and refuse to believe. We can't force them to believe, we just pray for them and share with them what we can. Others have never heard the Gospel of Jesus christ. These are the people we must approach, these are the people we must tell. They are all around us.

Some of them don't belong to a church, others belong to non-Christian church, but they do not believe. It doesn't matter what the situation is, the results are the same --if they don't believe in Jesus as their Saviour, they are headed for an eternity in hell.

Let us bring the message of the cross to them. Let us tell them that their sins are forgiven by the death and resurrection of Jesus on the cross. Let us tell them His blood washes away their sins. We know the story of the cross, it is our power. Let us share that great story to all who need to hear it.

NEW DEVICE TO ASSIST BLIND

Just as new technology has aided the deaf and hearing impaired in marvelous ways in recent years, a new device to assist the blind to telling the difference in various denominations of paper currency is being developed. No longer will blind persons have to depend on sighted persons to tell them if a bill is \$1, \$5 or \$10 and so on. The device will do it for them.

Lutherans Gather at Waterloo, Iowa to Mark Anniversary of Iowa District East

Iowa District East of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which comprises 115 congregations of the eastern one-half of the state gathered in Waterloo on Sunday, Oct. 26 to hear an address by President Dr. Ralph Bolhmann and 'to praise and give thanks' for a half century of blessings.

The district, which includes Word of God Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Cedar Rapids, the site for the 1987 ILDA convention and about five other preaching stations, was formed in 1936 when the entire state had only 88 congregations.

One of the speakers was Dr. A. L. Barry, who will be the banquet speaker at the 1987 convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association.

The Bank of Canada and Carleton university's Science Technology Centre in Ottawa have designed a device that identifies, in English or French, bills from \$1 to \$100. A person slips a bill in a check-book size reader and presses a button on the side. A light then passes through the bill, deciphering bar codes printed at both ends and activating a voice synthesizer that specifies the denomination. If the bill is a phony, the voice says "unreadable."

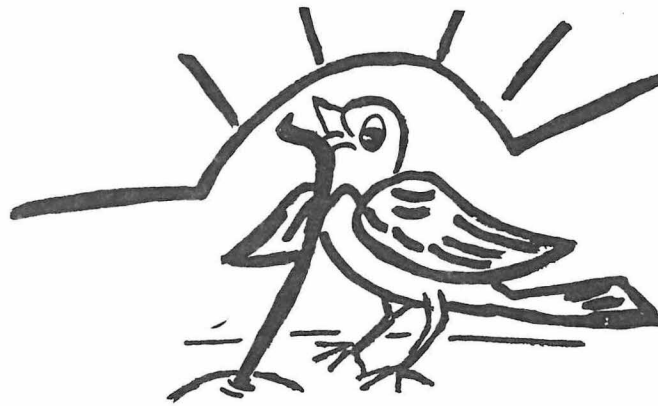
Tests so far have involved play money because Canadian notes don't have the currency codes. The Bank of Canada intends to issue currency with the markings but hasn't announced a date.

The device, expected to cost around \$35, has blind Canadians very enthusiastic about it. It will allow blind people more independence in their financial dealings.

The question will probably be asked how it will aid persons who are both deaf and blind. We do not know, but it will not surprise us if science comes up with an answer to that problem, too.

"I'm Mrs Olsen, your new teacher. I have a master's degree in elementary education. I also have a black belt in karate."

EARLY BIRD



ILDA COMBINATION TICKETS

Sponsored by:

Word of God Lutheran Church for the Deaf
1515 -- 29th Street N.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 52402

		Amount	No. of Persons			Amount	No. of Persons
Registration (MUST)		\$ 7.00	()			\$ 9.00	()
Program Book		\$ 2.00	()			\$ 2.00	()
Thursday Evening ALL YOU CAN EAT SUPPER AND ENTERTAINMENT		\$12.00	()			\$14.00	()
Friday Bus Tour to Amana Colonies AND FAMILY STYLE GERMAN DINNER (All You Can Eat)		\$20.00	()			\$22.00	()
Saturday Banquet AND Entertainment		\$25.00	()			\$27.00	()
Sunday Breakfast ALL YOU CAN EAT		\$ 5.00	()			\$ 6.00	()
ONLY Saturday Entertainment		Total \$71.00		Total \$80.00			
\$10.00		SAVE \$59 IF YOU SEND BEFORE JUNE 1 (DEADLINE)		ONLY Saturday Entertainment \$12.00		\$68 EARLY BIRD COMBO. SAVE \$12.00	
<p>★ MORE INFORMATION ON BUS TOUR WILL BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE.</p> <p>FOR YOUR HOTEL INFORMATION</p> <p>It costs: ★</p> <p>\$56.00 per night 3.92 7% city tax 2.24 4% state tax</p> <p>\$62.16 FLAT RATE PER NIGHT FOR ONE OR MORE PERSONS. MORE INFORMATION ON THE HOTEL IN THE NEXT ISSUE.</p>		<p>EARLY BIRD COMBO. SAVE \$12.00</p>		<p>PLEASE MAKE OUT A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO: 1987 ILDA CONVENTION FUND.</p> <p>Name</p> <p>Address</p>		<p>Send your check to: Norman Wilson 1150 Sierra Drive N.E. #18 Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402</p>	

★ JUNE 25, 26, 27 & 28, 1987
 THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY

NEW CONGREGATIONS GROW IN 1986

It is very encouraging to report all the new places where worship services for the deaf have sprouted up during the last few months. "The deaf shall hear the Word" (Is. 29:18) was never more true when we look back over the recent accomplishments. Let's review a few of them.

The state of Tennessee has opened a new school for the deaf at Jackson, in the western part of the state about 80 miles north-east of Memphis. According to information received from Rev. Thomas Hoyt of Jackson, Concordia Lutheran church there began in March one interpreted service each month but by Aug. 3, all the Sunday services were being translated into signs through assistance from Henry and Ruth Widmer, who are new church members. Plans are now underway to start a week day Bible school for the deaf children at the new school. Concordia also began the first sign language classes Sept. 4 with 29 in attendance, 25 of whom were church members

and four others coming because of an article in the paper. Readers in western Tennessee are encouraged to get the word out about the new services being offered.

Another church beginning to bloom into a beautiful flower is located in Columbia, Mo. This congregation is served by Rev. LaVern Mass, who makes trips from Kansas City to assist the new parish. It is possible this new station will host a Midwest ILDA Conference in the future.

After being without the services of a pastor for several years, deaf Oklahomans again have a pastor in the person of Rev. David C. Johnson who began working in the Enid-Tulsa area this summer.

And in the Carolinas, we have Rev. Frank Wagenknecht, fondly known to every one as "Pastor W" who began services in Charlotte just a short time ago and the church now has 25 charter members. The small station in Hickory, N.C. has been closed and members joined with the new church in Charlotte.

Update on Hearing Aid Batteries

What you didn't know can hurt you: if a youngster swallows a hearing aid battery, it can cause severe injury or even death. To help protect your small child, do not change batteries in front of them and keep unused batteries in a safe place. Throw out old, used ones and do not permit them to play with batteries or battery cases. A bad tasting can be painted on them, in case a child happens to.

For more information, call the National Capitol Poison Center, (202) 625-3333 voice or (202) 625-6070 TDD.

PRAYER

Prayer by the late Peter Marshall:
"Forgive us for thinking that prayer is a waste of time and help us to see that without prayer, our work is a waste time."



The DEAF LUTHERAN

January-February, 1987

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