



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

March-April, 1987

St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 79, No. 2

I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES

If someone were to ask you, "What's the greatest thing that ever happened to you?", we would probably recall many possible answers to that question. But as Christians, the greatest thing that ever happened to us, and indeed, the world, is that Jesus Christ rose from the dead and came forth from the tomb on the third day after His death.



It is that event that begin to focus on, ever so clearly, as we enter Lent

and Holy Week which culminates on Easter Sunday, April 19. During Lent and Holy Week, we walk with our Lord through the events that led to the cross and the celebration of His resurrection. As we prepare for Easter, we all think of Easter outfits, Easter eggs and Easter baskets. But our thoughts should be prayerfully centered around that Easter event that occurred just outside Jerusalem almost 2,000 years ago. Matthew helps us zero in on what happened and mentions three things that will help Easter be more than just an event to be celebrated on April 19.

In Matthew 28:5, we read the words, "Fear Not!" The resurrection destroys our fear of death and replaces it with hope and the Lord's promise of eternal life. Why should we fear when we know that our powerful Lord has broken the chains of death, hell and the grave for us.

In Matthew 28:6, we hear the angel of the Lord invite the women to "come and see," to examine the empty tomb. We, too, look for evidence that Jesus is alive. We don't have to look for a tomb--we can simply look and see what he does in our lives as we trust Him. He lives in us! As the favorite Easter hymn says, "I know that my Redeemer Lives! He lives to silence all my fears, He lives to wipe away my tears, He lives to calm my troubled heart, He lives all blessings to impart."

Un Matthew 28:10, we read the words, "go and tell." The command is to go and tell others what the resurrection means. It means --that because He lives--we shall live also. What better way to celebrate Easter, than to tell some other person--He died, yes, for you and me--but He is alive, to let us know we are forgiven and accepted by God.

A blessed and happy Easter!

COMPUTER SYSTEM FOR THE DEAF LUTHERAN MADE POSSIBLE BY GRANT FROM MILL NECK FOUNDATION

After several years as a counselor for young people at the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich., the business manager of the DEAF LUTHERAN, Mr Elmer Francisco, and his wife, Millie will be retiring after the end of the current school year and returning to their home in Spokane, Wash.

The school has been very generous in allowing the newsletter to make use of its computer facilities, a real necessity with all the work involved in getting out the paper. With the retirements of the business manager, it

would mean there would be no longer any place where computers, which have played such a large role in printing the paper, could be obtained.

With these matters in mind, a grant proposal was sent to the Mill Neck Foundation early in the fall, for consideration at its next meeting by its board of directors.

A letter received by President Lester Ahls just before Christmas from Mr. Louis Frill-

COMPUTER SYSTEM

(continue on page 2)

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE--1987 CONVENTION

PRESIDENT:

Lester Ahls, incumbent, Cedar Falls, Iowa, presently unopposed and eligible for one more term. Retired and currently editor of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN**.

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Ronald Byington currently holding the office and will remain if there is no change in the presidency. Ronald Byington comes from Milwaukee, Wis.

Ronald Madding, Portland, Ore. Current president of the Northwest Regional conference. Has held numerous offices in his church and state association. Presently chairman for the 1989 ILDA convention at Portland, Ore. Letter carrier, U.S. Postal Service, 1972 to present.

Elmer D. Francisco, Spokane, Wash., retiring in June, 1987 as a youth counselor at the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich. Former ILDA president and currently business manager of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN**.

SECRETARY:

Beth D. Firnhaber, Philadelphia, Pa. incumbent, unopposed.

TREASURER:

Current treasurer, **Jacqueline Kemper**, St. Louis who is concluding her second term and ineligible for another term.

Computer System (continue from page 1)

mann, project manager of the Mill Neck Foundation, contained a very welcome letter of approval and a check in the amount of \$6000 which will cover the costs of purchasing two units and printers which will be used by both the editor and the business manager.

When fully operational, the new machines are expected to greatly simplify the work of editing, mailing, maintaining subscriber lists and payments. It will also permit linking up with DEAFNET possible.

The board of directors of the International Lutheran Deaf Association are indebted to the Foundation for its generosity and at such a time when the assistance was greatly needed.

To Mr. Louis Frillman, the board of directors of the Mill Neck Foundation, the officers of the ILDA and all others who helped, a big **THANK YOU!**

Frank Cassese, New Brunswick, Ohio, former board member from Great Lakes Region.

Russel Healey, Chicago, Ill., former treasurer and business manager of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN**.

Ronald L. Madding, Portland, Ore.

Richard Crossen, Columbus, Ohio (former board member from GLRC).

James Drake, Portland, Ore. Has held many offices in his church, NFSD, GCAA and has been delegate to ILDA conventions two times and has attended several of the conventions. Presently entertainment chairman for 1989 convention at Portland.

PASTORAL ADVISER:

Rev. Ronald Friedrich, Dallas, Texas.

Rev. Donald Leber, Columbus, Ohio.

Rev. William Ludwig, Seattle, Wash.

Rev. David Carstens, Portland, Ore.

Rev. Martin Hewitt, Spokane, Wash.

Rev. Robert Bauer, Edmonton, Alberta, Can.

Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt, Toledo, Ohio.

Rev. Clark Bailey, Detroit, Mich.

Rev. Roy Dahmann, San Lorenzo, Calif.

Pictures of Candidates



Ronald L. Madding



James Drake



Rev. David Carstens

1987 LCMS WORLD RELIEF

Rev. Melvin E. Witt, Director
LCMS World Relief
Board for Social Ministry Services

"Then Jesus took five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven and gave thanks to God. He broke the loaves and gave them to His disciples to distribute to the people. Everyone ate and had enough." Mark 6:41-42.

When I compare the world's needs to our

MIKE WETZBARGER

The following article was sent in by Larry Gorton, Faith Lutheran church, Spokane, Wash. Mr. Gorton describes himself as a best friend of Mike Wetzberger and who was also very special to all the deaf in the Northwest. Mike Wetzberger, despite his long struggle with brain tumors and physical impairments, has shown his faith, inspiration and courage of every day living and the hope of being home in heaven to live with our Savior and Lord. We all thank God for what Mike meant to all of us, as was shown in a letter to our newspaper editor:

SPOKANE TEACHER WAS AMBASSADOR

Those of us in Australia who were lucky enough to get to know Mike and Sally Wetzberger during their 1984 teacher exchanged visit, were saddened by the news of Mike's death, Sept. 19.

Mike could have been the model for Readers Digest's "The most amazing character I have met."

He refused to accept the limitations of his physical disabilities and was a keen student of all things Australian. His delightful personality sparkled through his penciled notes which were his main method of communication and he was a wonderful ambassador for America.

Spokane should be proud of this family as they are the perfect role model in courage and love.

As a result of their visit, Americans are welcome any time in my town.

JOHN McDORNAN
Victoria, Australia

Thanks Be to God who inspires us with Christian friends such as Mike Wetzberger. Thanks be to God who comforts us with a lively hope of the resurrection!

resources sometimes I feel like the boy with five loaves and two fish. What can we do with so little? Like Jesus, we must lift our eyes to heaven and give thanks to God. He alone blesses our gifts and multiplies the help they give to the millions around the world who cry out in need.

I give thanks for the **Fulani Evangelism project** that will establish a Word and Sacrament/health and healing ministry among the 100,000 Fulani people in northern Nigeria. Working with missionaries from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the five-year project will include the construction of 10 dams and a rural health care center as well as the development of nurse and veterinarian education, adult, adult literacy training and basic health care services.

Thank you for your gifts to LCMS World Relief. I pray that God will continue to bless you and your continue gifts and prayers for His people in this New Year!

(Sometime, we too, feel that our gifts are not important enough to bother with. Then we should remember the boy with only five

loaves and two fish. The power of God, and what He can do with our gifts to Him! All glory to His Name!)

Video Movies . . . Illegal in Church

Some congregations and youth groups, because of limited budgets, have resorted to video movies as a source of entertainment. Many youth groups enjoy recently released movies on video cassette as a portion of a retreat, lock-in, or recreation night. Full length movies can be rented for as low as \$1. Unfortunately, this practice is illegal.

The law allows video movies to be rented for the sole purpose of viewing "in the home" by a family or friends of the family. Under current law, a church, school or other formed organization cannot rent a movie from such local shops and show it in church. However, the current copyright law does allow a member to rent a film and invite a class, youth group, or the entire church membership to his home to view the film. Naturally, charging a fee for such viewing is against the law.

--Iowa District East Digest

NEWS ROUND UP . . .

A Polish refugee who is deaf and currently in a camp near Rome, Italy, is being sponsored by Cross of Christ Lutheran church, Edmonton, Alberta. Lechoslaw Bieska is expected to immigrate to Canada shortly through the immigration department of Canada, which has been giving assistance.

Rev. and Mrs. Clark R. Bailey, Warren, Mich., are announcing the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Karen Ann, to Mr. Jerry Leeseberg on June 21, 1987 in New Orleans, La. A pre-wedding reception for the couple is being held at our Savior Lutheran church, Detroit, Mich., after the service on March 1. Congratulations!

First aid for stranded motorists . . . late in October, the family of Nancy Britt, Washington, Pa., were involved in car trouble and forced to stop near the exit to Pittsburgh. It was cold and dark and many cars whizzed by without any one stopping to offer help. Nancy's dad, Don Mowl, attempted to flag down someone and finally a kind man from Wexford stopped, taking them to the nearest phone to call for a tow truck, then taking the family to Don Mowl's home. They say there are still good and honest people out there!

We were saddened to learn that the youngest sister of Millie Francisco, Detroit, passed away in December and Millie and Elmer were separated for the first time in 43 years over the Christmas holidays while she attended the funeral in Montana.

Fern Rife, wife of former longtime ILDA board member Harold Rife of Portland, Ore., was in the hospital for surgery to correct an undisclosed ailment during December. We hope they are still able to come to the convention in June. Get well, soon, Fern!

The 1987 Ephphatha Conference will be held in the general area of Cedar Rapids, Iowa on the dates of June 28 to July 1, immediately following the close of the ILDA convention. Mr. Mark Prowatzke of Oakdale, Minn. will speak to the group on "Deaf Teens and Young Adults: What makes them ticks?"

The members of Holy Cross Lutheran church have decided to ask the Southern Wisconsin district for a 5 per cent cut in their subsidy for 1987 in an increased effort to accept more of the responsibility for the support of their church. A new roof on the 25-

year-old church was installed recently.

The new design for Memorial Lutheran church to be built sometime during the first half of 1987 will be an L-shaped structure of some 6,000+ square feet in Fremont, Calif. To date, over \$10,000 has been pledged towards their goal of \$50,000. Some folks not living in the immediate area have expressed a desire to help with contributions, which are being welcomed. Send your gifts to Memorial Lutheran Church for the Deaf, 633 Hacienda Ave., San Lorenzo, Calif. 94580 with a note that it is for the "Building Fund."

WE share in the grief of the family of Robert Munz, Great Bend, Kan., who passed away Monday afternoon, Dec. 1. Services were conducted on Thursday, Dec. 4 at Trinity Lutheran church in Great Bend. Bob and his wife Wilma, were familiar figures in our Midwest Conferences. We take comfort in the words of our Saviour, who has promised eternal life to all who trust in Him.

It would appear that some congratulations are certainly in order for some of our friends in Wisconsin! William and Verona Mueller, Waukesha, observed their 45th wedding anniversary Nov. 2 with a coffee and cake reception before church that day. The couple usually attend ILDA conventions.

Then we have two other couples who reached their 50th milestone on the sea of matrimony. Mr. and Mrs. Leon Elmer (Linda Prill) were married on Nov. 14, 1936 by the late Rev. Gade in Milwaukee. The couple, who reside in Madison, hosted a cake and ice cream at Silent Lutheran church and then took a second honeymoon trip to California by Amtrak and were gone 16 days.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Fisk observed their 50th on Sept. 29 with family and friends in Black River Falls, Wis. Their two daughters flew home from California and were joined by about 50 friends from Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, was the recipient of 125,000 Campbell Soup labels last August, given by the Michigan Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars to be used for the acquisition of supplies, books and various materials for the education program at LSD. The gift has a monetary value of \$1,250.

NEWS ROUND UP . . . (continue on page 7)



The
9th
Biennial Convention
of

INTERNATIONAL
LUTHERAN
DEAF
ASSOCIATION

Thurs. Fri.
June 25, 26,
Sat. Sun.
27, + 28, 1987

**STOUFFER
HOTELS**

FIVE SEASONS
350 First Avenue N.E.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401

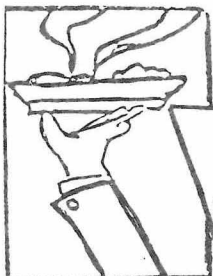
Get Acquainted



WELCOME

YOU

Thank you for requesting reservations at a Stouffer Hotel. Our entire staff would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to you during your upcoming meeting.



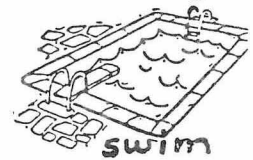
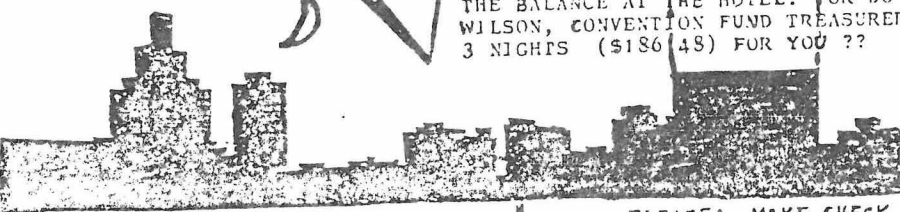
eat

\$56.00 per night
3.92% city tax
+ 2.24% state tax
**\$62.16 flat rate per
night for one
or more persons.**

YOU MUST SEND ONE NIGHT'S FULL PAYMENT (\$62.16) BEFORE JUNE 1st TO HAVE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION GUARANTEED. (PROMISED.) THEN YOU CAN TELL HOW MANY NIGHTS YOU PLAN TO STAY AND YOU CAN PAY THE REST OF THE BALANCE AT THE HOTEL. OR DO YOU WANT NORMAN WILSON, CONVENTION FUND TREASURER, TO TAKE CARE OF 3 NIGHTS (\$186.48) FOR YOU ??



**AIR
CONDITIONING**



swim

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Sharing room with _____

PLEASE: MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO **STOUFFER HOTEL**. DO NOT SEND CASH.

SEND TO: -----

NORMAN WILSON
1150 SIERRA DR. N.E. #18
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52402.

— Two Double beds
or
— One King bed Check one

Cots will be given for extra person. However, there are a limited number available.

Arrival Date _____
Arrival Time _____
Number of Nights _____
RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
June 1, 1987



rest

How do you come? Please check one =

BUS



PLANE

TRAIN



CAR



SHIP



Need information about camping sites? check _____

Need a map of Iowa? check _____

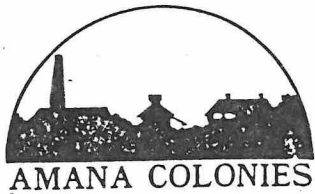
IOWA

Picture from Gazette, many times ideas - JLW

BUS TOUR ON FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1987.

TO AMANA COLONIES

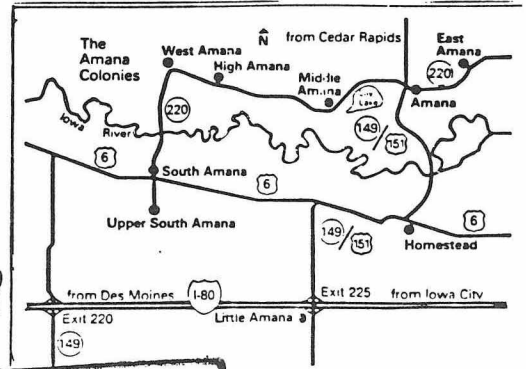
7 historic villages
since 1854 in Iowa



The 9th Biennial
Convention of
International
Lutheran
Deaf
Association
at Hotel Stouffer,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

JUNE
26-28,
1987

You will also
see the oldest
General Store,
Woolen Mill, and
Wine Shop.



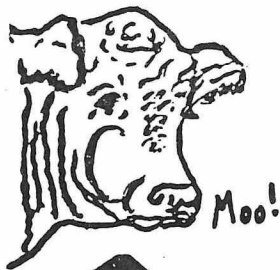
HAHN'S
ORIGINAL
Hearth Oven Bakery



Welcome
To The Amana Colonies



Amana
Furniture
Shop



Amana Meat Shop
& Smokehouse



Your dinner
at ↓

The
Colony Haus
RESTAURANT



* Pictures from Amana Tourbook, Gazette, 3/87

Telling Others About Jesus . . .

IS IT WORTH IT TRAVELING HUNDREDS OF MILES?

In missionary work, we usually deal in small numbers. It is seldom that people turn to Christ in large numbers. As a rule, men are won to Christ one by one. It is the same with the work among the deaf. In most places, the gatherings are very small. Although at times, we can preach to several hundred, but more frequently, to 30, 40 or 50 deaf. But in most of our mission stations the attendance is small one. Our missionaries



often travel hundreds of miles to preach to maybe only five deaf and then go to another place and preach to seven, etc. Upon hearing this, a person is tempted to ask, "Is it really worth while?"

A missionary perhaps at times feels discouraged at these small numbers and asks this same question, "Is it worthwhile?" Our Lord and Master says, "Indeed, it is."

While going about to do His Father's will, He often took pains to win one soul and thereby intended to say, "Even if you win only one for My Kingdom, it is worth while." This our Lord also taught us when He healed the deaf person, we find written in Mark 7:31-37, when Christ came from the coasts of Tyre and Sidon unto the sea of Galilee, through the midst of the coasts of Decapolis, they brought Him a deaf person and they asked Him to put His hand upon him. And what did Jesus do? Did He perhaps say, "I cannot trouble Myself with one deaf-mute, while I can teach a great multitude?" Oh, no! This

News Round Up . . . (continue from page 4)

With a total of 2,206 students enrolled in undergraduate, graduate, preparatory and non-degree-credit sign language programs, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. saw a 3.7 per cent increase over Fall, 1985 figures. Encouraging are the achievement scores of matriculating students the past two years when compared with hearing students who have had a rather dismal scores in reading and math upon entering colleges and universities in the U.S.

one deaf person seems of great value to our Lord. He left the multitude and took him aside, put His fingers into his ears, and He spit, and touched his tongue and looking up to heaven, He sighed and said unto him, Ephphatha, that is, BE Opened.

Our Lord thought it worthwhile to deal with this one deaf person, so surely, we like Him, ought to think it worth while, if we can tell the word of salvation to one, two or three. Some people may think, "Why go to all this trouble and expense to bring the word of Jesus to a few deaf?" What if our missionaries said, "Why should we spend our life in preaching to a few deaf here, and a small number there: why not go and preach to a multitude of hearing people?" No one will be led to Christ. Let us look unto our Master! He left the multitude and went aside with one deaf person.

Let us not lose sight of the value of one soul. One soul saved, that is more than if a man gains the whole world. (Matthew 16:26) There is joy in the presence of the Angels of God over one sinner that repenteth (Luke 15:10). Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him, let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death and shall hide a multitude of sins (James 5:19, 20). How precious, if one soul is saved by our work among the deaf!

If only one were saved, that ought to make us rejoice forever. But, deaf reader, not only one, but hundreds of deaf have been brought to the saving knowledge of Jesus, to thousands . . . by missionaries who have preached the word of salvation in sign language. Is it not worth while?

Come, let us continue in this work. Let us ever turn our eyes to our Master, who thought it worth while to leave the multitude and help this one deaf person, and we will, with joy, carry on this work and diligently pray for it, and gladly give to the support of it.

YES, IT IS WORTH WHILE!

Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you, for as it springs up it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.

Heb. 12:15b TLB

CARD OF THANKS

I would like to take time to thank all of you members of the ILDA for your Christian love and kindness in presenting me with a scholarship. This scholarship is very helpful to me as the cost of my education is quite high.

My intent is to work with the deaf either in an established deaf church or in developing deaf churches. My prayer is that the Lord will use me and my family, in any way, that we may continue to serve Him. I am especially anxious to meet all of you and thanking you in person.

May the Lord be with all of us as we celebrate the birth of Christ our Saviour and look toward the time when He shall come again in glory, to take all believers to our eternal home with Him.

In Christ's Love,
Steven R. Schumacher
337 W. Branning Ave.,
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46807

1987 REGIONAL CONFERENCES

GREAT LAKES (GLRC): Lutheran Memorial camp, Fulton, Ohio, Aug. 21, 22 and 23, 1987. This is the same location as last year.

NORTHWEST: Concordia college, Portland, Ore., Aug. 28, 29 and 30, 1987.

MIDWEST: No conference in 1987 due to ILDA convention. Next meeting in summer of 1988 at Lake Okoboji in northwest Iowa.

Regions are invited to announce their meetings in these pages. Please inform the editor.

Peace, Indianapolis, Gives \$500 to ILDA Missions Projects Recently

A surprise and welcome letter arrived from the congregation of Peace Lutheran church, Indianapolis, Ind. early in January through its President Joseph Kindred. The contents included a check for \$500 to be applied on mission projects of the ILDA.

The current two-year goal of \$8,500, approved at the last convention at Milwaukee, has not as yet met, and contributions such as this are much needed and welcome.

Thank you very much, all of you members of our sister church in Indianapolis.

THREE VACANCIES OCCUR

Over the past few weeks, three vacancies have occurred in the deaf mission fields. Rev. Joseph Varsanyi of St. Phillips Lutheran church accepted a call to Holy Cross Lutheran church, a hearing congregation of about 900 members, in the same city, Philadelphia. Rev. Elmer Linen, their circuit counselor, is serving as vacancy pastor until a new shepherd is named.

Rev. Ray Leimkuehler, pastor of Bethel Lutheran church, Denver, Colo., also has left.

In Madison, Wis., Rev. Wally Waite has accepted a call to another church and the congregation is currently without a full time pastor.

We pray these fields will soon be filled with new workers to minister to the flocks.

ON RETIREMENT . . .

Most ministers have retirement plans that are out of this world!!

The DEAF LUTHERAN

March-April, 1987

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD FOR MISSION. THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD, PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY CHRISTIAN ARMOY 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 SUBSCRIPTIONS FEES AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELMER FRANCISCO, BUSINESS MANAGER AND PRINTER, 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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