



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

March-April, 1988

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Easter, 1988 . . .

WINNERS FOREVER . . . IN CHRIST JESUS

By Rev. Roy L. Dahmann
Memorial Lutheran Church
San Lorenzo, Calif.

Victory is usually short-lived. Who won the 1980 Superbowl? Remember the team for the 1970s? Guess who finished last in their division last year!

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

At this time of the church year, we want to remember Jesus' greatest contest. The devil made us slaves to sin all our lives because we feared death. Jesus came to free

us from our fear of death. Jesus used Satan's best weapon, death, to defeat him. Jesus took a human body, like ours, and died "the death"

Leadership Training Program (LTP) for Dixie Being Considered for Next Fall

Following the successful completion of three previous seminars in Madison, Wis., Washington, D.C. and Seattle, Wash., plans are being made to hold at least one more such meeting, this time in the deep south, where there is considerable interest.

The announced date of the 1988 Dixie conference at Jackson, Miss. on the dates of June 17, 18 and 19 have been changed due to a conflict with the District convention there, and the new date is now set for Oct. 14, 15 and 16 at Indian Springs camp, Kosciusko, Miss.

It has been suggested that the conference this year have as its main thrust the LTP by the ILDA, much in the same manner as it has been held in other areas.

We will have additional information concerning this event in a later issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN this year.

to make Satan powerless (Hebrews 2:14-15). All of death's old things--tears, sorrow and pain will "pass away!" There will be no more death (Revelation 21:4). Jesus' victory is forever.

Jesus tells His people to take courage because He has defeated the world. (See John 16:33) Jesus offers us HIS victory for our own. We get HIS everlasting victory over sin, death, and the devil by believing in Jesus as our Saviour and Lord. (John 3:16)

We are encouraged to remain faithful to Jesus in this "game" of life that the Bible calls a "spiritual war." We are fighting for our lives, not playing! We may have to give up our life instead of giving up our faith in Jesus. If we love Jesus more than our own lives, Jesus promises we will sit on HIS throne in heaven with HIM (Revelation 3:21).

That is a beautiful promise. But, if you are sick, depressed or dying, you may doubt Jesus' wonderful victory promise. The apostle Paul, who suffered much for Jesus' name, reminds us, "But in all these things (sufferings) we more than conquer (win) through HIM

WINNERS FOREVER . . . (continue on page 2)

ILDA MISSION BROCHURES

A new printing of ILDA Mission brochures has just been finished and are ready to be mailed to all our churches in the field for inclusion in their newsletters.

The new printing has been increased to accommodate the many requests the ILDA received last year and which could not be filled, as the demand exceeded the supply available.

The new pamphlets are for the 1987-89 mission projects, as adopted at the last convention at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Requests should include the number wanted and addressed to ILDA President Lester Ahls, 1004 Cherrywood Drive, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613. There is no charge.

DR. WALDEMAR FERBER COMPLETES 70 YEARS IN MINISTRY

By Rev. Rodney R. Rynearson, Counselor
Ministry to Deaf and Blind
The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod

On Aug. 25, the Rev. Bernard Lutz, a member of Synod's board for mission services, and Dr. Rodney Rynearson presented the Rev. Dr. Waldemar O. Ferber a plaque commemorating the occasion of the SEVENTIETH (70th) anniversary of Dr. Ferber's ordination.

Ordained in 1917 after graduating from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, he served a hearing congregation from 1917 to 1923. He then became pastor to the deaf in North Dakota, at the same time serving the deaf in Montana, Minnesota and three Canadian provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

In 1965, Dr. Ferber "retired." Rev. Roger Leonhardt became the pastor to the deaf in North Dakota. However, Dr. Ferber continued

to provide regular worship services for the deaf in the Fargo-Moorhead area until 1985. He was also active in providing worship services for the mentally retarded during those years.

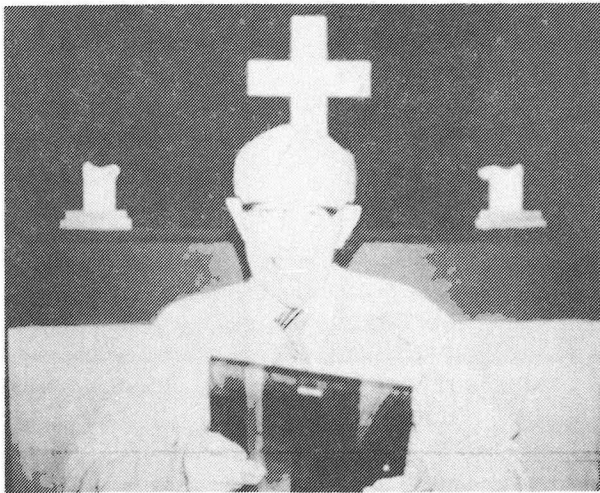
Dr. Ferber is now living in a retirement home in Detroit Lakes, Minn.

The International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA) at its 1987 convention at Cedar Rapids, Iowa passed a resolution of thanks to God and commendation to Dr. Ferber for his 70 years of service and to his brother Alvin who served for 63 years in the Kansas city area and who is now helping with a vacancy there.

A third brother, Gerhardt, was pastor to the deaf in the Los Angeles area from 1927 to 1942.

Pastors Lutz and Rynearson had an enjoyable evening with Dr. Ferber as he shared stories and recounted experiences, both sad and joyous, during his ministry.

We rejoice in the blessings God has given to His church through the dedicated labors of Dr. Ferber.



THE REV. DR. WALDEMAR O. FERBER

Winners Forever (continue from page 1)
who loved us." (Romans 8:37)

Yes, we may seem to be "losers." But thank God, He always leads us in triumph (victory) in Christ (Jesus) 2 Cor. 2:14. Remember, Jesus seemed a pitiful loser on Friday, but, HE arose victorious on Easter Sunday! If you seem defeated, remember those born of God get victory over the world by faith (I John 5:4-5).

Christian friends, let us rejoice as "winners" in Christ Jesus during Lent and Easter. Let us now and forever give thanks to God, HE gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ (I Cor. 15:55-57)

Peace to you all.

CORRECTION!

We are grateful to Frank Cassese Jr., a former ILDA board member from Brunswick, Ohio for informing us that the Great Lakes regional Conference **will not** meet in Detroit, Mich. during the 115th year celebration of the Lutheran School for the Deaf there. Frank rightly says that two celebrations at the same time are a bit too much.

Instead, Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Cleveland, Ohio will host the GLRC on Oct. 21, 22 and 23 at the Marriot Inn off 150th from I-71 in Cleveland. Two important events will be celebrated at this meeting --the 25th anniversary of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) and Christ Lutheran's 40th year.

Rev. and Mrs. Martin Hewitt of Faith Lutheran church, Spokane, Wash., will be honored guests at the event, it being that Pastor Hewitt was instrumental in establishing the church.

God is not only a very present help in time of trouble, but also a great help in keeping us out of trouble.

--Selected

WINTER RETREAT AT CAMP PIONEER DRAWS NINETY-NINE PARTICIPANTS

Camp Pioneer, a Lutheran vacation retreat on the shores of Lake Erie at Angola, N.Y., was again the scene of a week-end of devotions, fellowship, hiking, playing outside, and generally a wonderful time for members of the Great Lakes Regional Conference. A total of 99 were reported in attendance, with

three driving for 11 hours from Indianapolis in order to attend.

The retreat brought together six pastors and two vicars. The dates of Jan. 22-24 were almost the same dates of the last meeting in 1987. The accompanying pictures tell the story.



ALL READY FOR FUN AT CAMP--Part of the group at Camp Pioneer at Angola, N.Y. Note the sign behind them.



WARM HEARTS AND SMILES ON A COLD WINTER DAY--(Left to right) Vicar Tom Nowak, Columbus, Ohio; Rev. Don Leber, Columbus, Ohio; Rev. Mark Seeger, Rochester, N.Y.; Vicar John Reinke, Rochester, N.Y.; Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt, Toledo, Ohio; Rev. Gary Lawson, Cleveland, Ohio; Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, Pittsburgh, Pa.; center, Rev. Jerold Munz, Indianapolis, Ind.

'SWINGING AROUND THE REGIONS . . .

Word has been received of the passing of Mrs. Mabel Gaertner, wife of the late pioneer missionary to the deaf, the Rev. Dr. George Gaertner on Nov. 27, 1987. Interment was in Mountain View cemetery, Piedmont, Calif. on Dec. 1. Dr. Gaertner was the second pastor to serve Memorial Lutheran church in the San Francisco Bay area.

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The Central Regional Conference this year will be held in Indianapolis, Ind. on the dates of April 15, 16 and 17 with the theme being, "Run the Race." For more information, contact Peace Lutheran church, 6404 E. 46th St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46226.

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Ms. Beth Firnhaber, ILDA secretary, has resigned her position as parish assistant at St. Phillips congregation in Philadelphia after 5+ years there. Beth is teaching at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf this year, which will keep her teaching certificate current. She is a graduate of Concordia college, Portland, Ore.

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A heavenly bundle arrived at the home of Pastor and Mrs. Richard Vossler on Nov. 7.

REV. A. L. HAUPTMAN RETIRES MARCH 1

After nearly 43 years of serving God in the Holy Ministry, Pastor August L. Hauptman will be retiring on March 1, 1988. For the past 10 years, Rev. Hauptman has been serving Pilgrim Lutheran church in Los Angeles.

Rev. Hauptman preached his farewell sermon on Feb. 28. Also present for the occasion were Rev. and Mrs. Arnold Jonas, who would be observing the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the Gospel ministry. Rev. Jonas was ordained in Feb. 1938 at Sioux Falls, S.D. Pastor Jonas spent almost 30 years of his ministry at Pilgrim, where the event took place.

Another date of note in 1988 will be the 20th anniversary of Pilgrim Tower, a retirement center for many deaf and the forerunner of many other similar homes for elderly deaf retirees.

Pastor Hauptman has not said what his immediate plans are for the future following his retirement, but we wish the couple God's blessings and much happiness in the years to come.

Little Christopher Peter arrived at 12:38 p.m. and weighed 8 lbs., 12½ oz. and was 21½ in. long. He was baptized into God's family by his proud dad on Dec. 20. Rev. Vossler serves St. Matthew Lutheran in Elmhurst, N.Y.

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Past ILDA President Charles Kotal was recently presented with several awards for outstanding service to the Boy Scouts of America as a leader and instructor. Charles resides in Bellflower, Calif. with his wife, Lee.

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TO FORMER STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF PERSONS . . . of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit . . . don't forget the big reunion scheduled for June 10-12 there commemorating the school's 115th anniversary. Contact Ken Carter, 3241 Harvard, Royal Oak, Mich. 48072 or call him at 228-6148 TDD for additional details.

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The 25th anniversary celebration of Trinity Lutheran church in Pittsburgh, Pa. which was originally planned for March 26 and 27 has been changed to April 23 and 24 due to Holy Week and Palm Sunday.

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Former Pastor Dick Reinap of Jesus Lutheran church, Austin, Texas has joined the Family Counseling Center in Des Moines, Iowa as a therapist. He formerly had a pastorate in Indianola, Iowa (hearing) and sometimes served as a substitute pastor for the deaf in Des Moines before going to Texas.

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In the last issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN WE were unable to give the date of the death of Rev. Floyd F. Possehl. We have since learned he passed away on Sept. 12, 1987.

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Rev. LaVern Mass, Washington, D.C., was the guest speaker at the second anniversary service at the Chapel of the Deaf, Charlotte, N.C. on Feb. 28.

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A check for \$100 was received by the ILDA from the Sunday School class of St. James Lutheran church, Lexington, Texas before Christmas. The money was sent to THE DEAF LUTHERAN to help assist the paper. The gift was acknowledged with a letter of thanks by the ILDA president.

An atheist does not find God for the same reason a thief does not find a policeman. He is not looking for him.

--Copied

25 YEARS AGO

Dr. O. C. Schroeder pioneer missionary to the deaf and blind in Chicago, retired from his work after more than 53 years of service to the Lord and His church.

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Rev. Robert F. Cordes accepted a call to a hearing church in Shellsburg, Iowa from Sioux Falls, S.D.

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The deaf church in Hong Kong continues to grow with 56 baptized members and 15 communicants. Pastor Philip Ho and Evangelist Titus Lee carry on the work with the help of several lay people.

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Some beginning work was being done in New Guinea by Mr. Don Yarrell to reach the deaf on the island with some sign language, where none has existed. The object is to bring the Word of God to the deaf there.

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Rev. Louis Jasper announced that money had become available for a ward at the Rockland State hospital in New York for deaf patients who needed psychiatric help. Many deaf had

been in wards where there was no one to talk with them and no doctors knew sign language.

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Clarence and Nonnie Schulz have transferred their membership from Rogate Lutheran church, Clearwater, Fla. to Memorial, San Lorenzo, Calif. The couple, originally from Detroit have settled in Fremont. Clarence is a former ILDA board member and co-editor of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN**.

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Rev. Robert A. Bauer and Rev. Walter Busby spend a few days to survey the possibility of starting work in the Canadian province of Ontario.

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The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod's budget review commission has set aside \$431,000 from its \$ 31,000,000 budget for 1963 to support deaf ministry.

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Rev. George C. Ring conducted the first services for the deaf in Eugene, Ore. on Oct. 21, 1962. Average attendance has been about 38 persons.

NEW PASTOR-AT-LARGE CALLED FOR NORTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

The Rev. Carl W. Bassett, a 1987 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, was recently installed as Northern



REV. CARL W. BASSETT

Illinois District pastor-at-large in hearing impaired ministry. The joint hearing-deaf installation service was held at St. John Lutheran, Elgin, Ill., on Oct. 11, 1987. The message was delivered by the Rev. Charles Jones, resource coordinator for NID's hearing impaired ministry program. The Rev. Ted Laesch, president of NID, performed the rite of installation.

Rev. Bassett has been called by the District board for ministry, to provide pastoral at Our Saviour Deaf, Franklin Park, and Rockford Deaf, Rockford. In addition, he will conduct on-going deaf awareness programs for selected hearing congregations and other interested groups, to promote deaf ministry, and encourage the formation of new hearing impaired missions, which can "mainstream" with existing hearing congregations by means of interpreted worship services and Bible study.

Pastor Bassett, and wife, Lisa and their three daughters reside in Wood Dale, Ill.

MERGER OF "THE DEAF LUTHERAN" AND "EYES THAT HEAR" TO BE DISCUSSED

Serious consideration is being given to merging the two publications primarily targeted for the laity and clergy of the ministry to the deaf of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

"Eyes that Hear" which is distributed among pastors serving the deaf of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and edited by Dr. Rodney R. Ryneanson, counselor to the Deaf and Blind of the LCMS and "The Deaf Lutheran" would become a single publication under the

plan.

Anticipated date of the change is Jan. 2, 1989. The proposal will be on the agenda of the next ILDA board meeting, where it is expected to be favorably received.

"The Deaf Lutheran" has had a total of 12 editors since its inception in 1909. Lester Ahls, the current editor, has served since 1983. The business manager, Elmer Francisco, has served longer. Both are members of the laity, and are deaf.

REV. WAYNE SCHWANKE INSTALLED AT MADISON, WIS. JAN. 10

A native Wisconsinite in the person of Rev. Wayne Schwanke has filled the vacancy at Silent Lutheran church, Madison, Wis. He succeeds Rev. Wallace Waite who accepted a call outside of deaf ministry.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens point, he earned a bachelors degree in philosophy and sociology. He entered several fields of work prior to entering Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. in 1983. There he studied sign language and attended the church interpreter training institute. Pastor Schwanke served his vicarage at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection at Water-

ville, Me., where he was able to start a deaf ministry there at the hearing church and train four people to interpret the worship services.

Pastor Schwanke completed his work at Concordia and accepted the call to Silent Lutheran on Nov. 20, 1987. The installation took place on Jan. 10.

He and his wife, Eileen were married on July 15, 1984 and are currently in the process of adopting a baby girl, Catherine Elizabeth, from Guatemala, who was born on June 26. They are anxiously waiting to go there and bring her home.

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO DO BETTER . . .

A young boy complained to his father that most of the church hymns were boring to him--too far behind the times, with tiresome tunes and meaningless words. His father put an end to the discussion with his son by saying, "If you think you can write better hymns, then why don't you?" The boy went to his room and wrote his first hymn. The year was 1690, and the teen-ager was Isaac Watts. "When I survey the Wondrous Cross" (Above) and "Joy to the World" are among the almost 350 that are attributed to him. Feeling bored? Let the world remember you for 300 years!--Copied

People do not miss church services because they live too far from the building; it is because they live too far from God!

"EASTER--THERE IS A DIFFERENCE"

Nothing much seemed different as the dawn broke on that greatest day in history ... except possibly three women hurrying down a road . . . and a stone which no longer was in place where it had been when the sun went down on Saturday. . . .

But Easter is different . . . what happened then holds time and eternity together. . . "The third day He rose . . ." Pilate's seals were broken . . . inside the tomb the shroud and burial clothes lay empty . . . the soldiers were gone . . . the angels were there . . . and no one else . . . our faith, build on the foundation, is true in the garden . . . our hearts may be burdened with pain and torn with the memory of open graves....

but the garden is still empty . . .

LTMP UPDATE

By Philip A. Hyssong, Executive Producer
Lutheran Tv and Media Productions, Inc.
7400 Augusta #24s, River Forest, Ill. 60305

I don't really know how cold or warm it is in other parts of the country, but this greeting is coming to you from Chicago where it is about minus 10 degrees!

It has been several months since the ILDA convention and you haven't heard from us. I apologize for that and want to get off on the right foot for 1988.

The Lord was very good to us in 1987. He helped us earn more clients, which helped keep us operating. He increased our staff by another full time person and as part-time person and the best of all, He helped get us on every major cable system in Chicago area, except two, boosting our potential viewership to over 500,000 homes. We certainly do thank Him for all this. He sure is GREAT!

We also sent out a questionnaire/survey to all the deaf or hearing impaired congregations in Synod. We asked your congregation leaders to tell us what you need as far as television programming goes for your church. I would also invite you to write to us at the address above and let us know what you would like to have us make for you. Please include shows that you would like to use at church as well as shows you would like to see on your own TV set. We need **your** ideas.

I look forward to hearing from you. Remember, we are here to serve you. We know we make mistakes and would like to do better, so please let us know how we are doing.

there is no dead Jesus
where they laid Him . . .

No death . . . and empty grave. . . .
that makes all the difference in the world on that spring morning in far away Judea...
That small group of men and women who had been so confused and discouraged by the events of Good Friday became those who would bring the message of "Good News" . . . the Gospel, to the world . . . and by doing so, would cause the roman empire to tremble ... and would bring mankind freedom from the fear of death.

No death . . . and empty grave . . . It makes all the difference today . . . to you and me . . . to my grave and yours . . . to pain and tears . . . all the difference to eternity.

Blessings and Joy in His resurrection!

Why Does the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Have Closed Communion?

All of our churches welcome guests at our services. But as confessional Lutheran Christians, we cannot offer a general invitation to receive communion to non-Missouri Synod members because of the sad divisions in Christianity.

Reception of Holy Communion by Christians not fully united with us would simply imply a oneness which does not exist (1 Cor. 10:17, Acts 2:42) and for which we must all pray. Our practice is in no way to be veiwed as judging a person's faith, but rather a sincere desire that all who receive communion do so in the faith and in the way that God desires. (1 Cor. 11).

Pastors welcome the opportunity to visit with you in person if you feel you would like any additional clarifications. Usually, a good time to visit and make your request for communion known to the pastor is before the service.

10th Biennial Convention
of the
INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION

July 6-9, 1989

RED LION LLOYD CENTER
1000 N.E. Multnomah
Portland, Ore. 97232

AN OUTDOOR PANORAMA AT CHRISTMAS

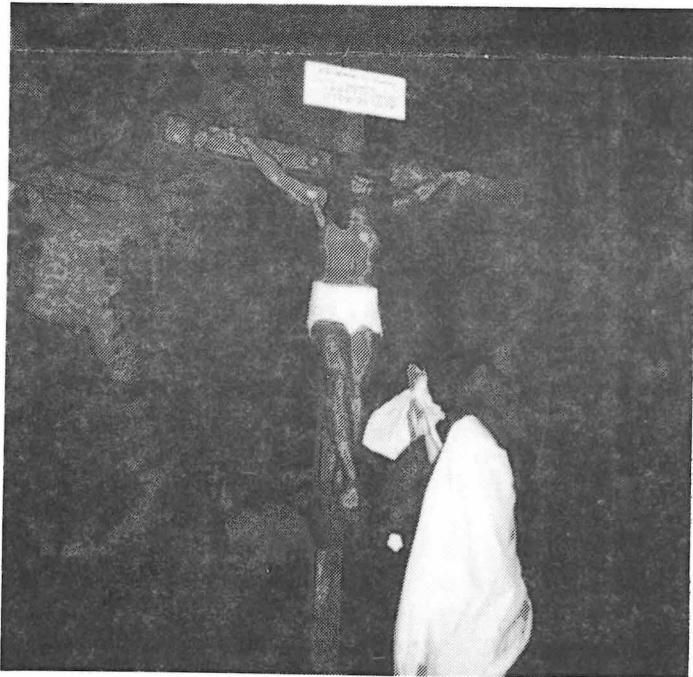
Jackson, Miss.--An outdoor panorama of the promise and life of Jesus Christ was presented as a cooperative effort of deaf and hearing Lutherans in Jackson, Miss. during the week-end before Christmas. "The Promised Fullfilled" involved more than 50 participants in five living scenes from the Bible. Nearly half of the participants were members of the Lutheran Mission to the Deaf.

The five scenes included (1) God's Promise to Abraham, (2) the birth of Christ, (3) the Sermon on the Mount, (4) the Crucifixion,

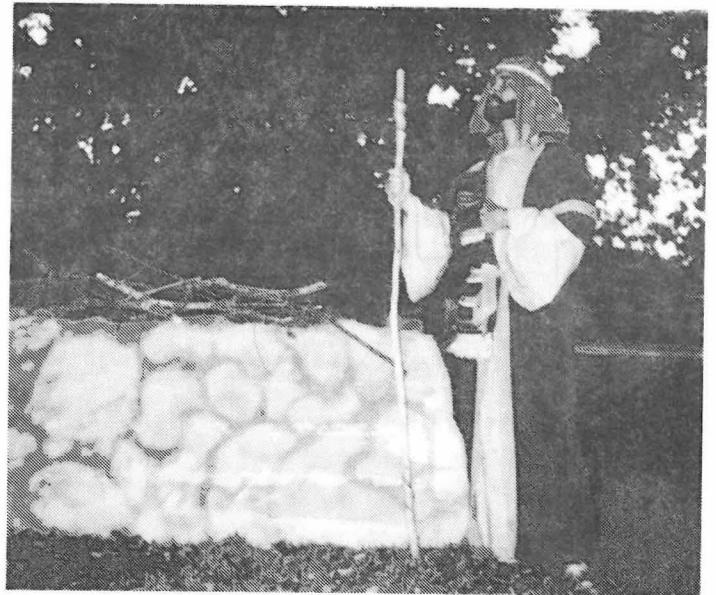
and (5) the angels at the empty tomb. Each scene included a message on audio tape, and the same message in sign language, focusing on God's promise of a Saviour for the world and His promise becoming true.

The panorama was viewed by people who drove or walked along the church driveway. One year ago, during the first panorama, more than 200 cars viewed the scenes during three nights. This past Christmas, an even larger turnout was expected, but had to cancel several nights due to rain. Even so, more than 100 cars came through the panorama.

--Submitted by: Rev. David L. Mueller



THE CRUCIFIXION--Two unidentified women stand at the foot of the cross as Christ (unidentified, also) hangs from the cross during the panorama.



SCENE AT THE JACKSON PANORAMA--Abraham at the altar when God halted the sacrificing of his son, Isaac and promised that Abraham's Descendant (Christ) would bring blessing for the world.

The DEAF LUTHERAN

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