



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

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For God and Country . . .

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP

This year, as we celebrate Independence Day on July 4, we are reminded once again that as citizens of this great nation, we have a duty to perform in selecting new leaders to guide our country over the next four years when we vote in the presidential and congressional elections in November. As Christians, there are some things we ought to remember when we go forward to vote.

First, we ought to remember our responsibilities to our government. Not only do we uphold our churches and our trust in God, but we also pledge to uphold our Constitution and the government it represents. Among those duties are voting for responsible and dedi-

cated leaders who will, in our best judgment, live by the highest Christian principles.

We may not by ourselves be those leaders, but we have a powerful voice in how decisions are made in government and we should, as Christians, exercise those rights. That is the ballot.

Voting by secret ballot is a right that millions of people in many countries do not have today. In some of those that do, the voting is manipulated by selfish interests that effectively deny people the right to vote. Many Americans have died in wars to protect those rights we enjoy today.

As Christians, we know that God rules in all things. We know that God is omnipotent, (all powerful); omnipresent (everywhere) and omniscient (He knows all things). We know that God cares and that even a sparrow cannot fall out of a tree without Him knowing about it.

It is true, no government is perfect, mainly because humans themselves will never be perfect, because of sin. For that reason, we need to look upwards to our heavenly Father for guidance to His perfect will. Voting for men and women who will look to God for help in their labors in government is

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP (continue on page 3)

Rynearson Completes Visit to 32 Churches and Stations

Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson, counselor to the Deaf and Blind Ministries of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod since Jan. 1, 1987 will have completed field trips to 32 churches and stations as of June 5, 1988.

Additional trips into the fall of this year are tentatively planned. Exhorting growth and expansion of current churches are a primary target of his extensive travels. He has been warmly received everywhere he has visited, often preaching as well.

Stops made so far include: Houston, Austin, Dallas, St. Louis, Kansas City, Omaha, Indianapolis, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana (3), Iowa West, North Chicago, Minneapolis, South Chicago, Milwaukee, Delavan, New York, Connecticut, New Jersey and Cedar Rapids.

Other places visited in the spring of 1988 have been San Francisco, Los Angeles, Tucson, Rochester, Pittsburgh, Michigan, North Carolina, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Pastor Oettel Leaving Omaha

Pastor Bob Oettel and his wife have announced acceptance of an invitation to teach English and religion at Shinonome high school, Matsuyama, Japan beginning in August, 1988.

Present plans are to leave Omaha in late July, and visit both mothers in both Wisconsin and California before flying to Japan.

Rev. Delbert Thies, a good friend and former pastor to the deaf who is now retired, has consented to serve as temporary pastor.

THE INCOMPARABLE CHRIST

"Almost 2,000 years ago there was a Man born contrary to the laws of life. This Man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity. He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood.

He had neither wealth nor influence. His

relatives were not prominent, and neither training nor formal education.

In infancy He startled a king; in childhood He puzzled doctors; in manhood He ruled the course of nature, walked upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed the multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service.

He never wrote a book, and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him. He never wrote a song, yet He has furnished the theme for more songs than all the song writers together.

He never founded a college, but all the schools put together cannot boast of having as many students. He never practiced psychiatry, yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors near and far.

He never marshalled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun; and yet no leader ever had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made rebels stack arms and surrender without a shot fired.

The names of past proud statesmen of the world have come and gone. The names of the past scientists, philosophers, and theologians have come and gone; but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread more than nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet he still lives. Herod could not destroy Him and the grave could not hold Him.

He stands forth on the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living, personal Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

We are either going to be forever with Him, or forever without Him. It was the incomparable Christ who said: "I am the way, the truth and life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me." (John 14:6)--Unknown

CHURCH OFFERINGS

One of our pastors commented recently in his Sunday sermon that it was a shame that 10% of the members of his congregation were giving 90% of the offerings and 90% of the people gave only 10% of the money to support Jesus' church. It makes us think, doesn't it?

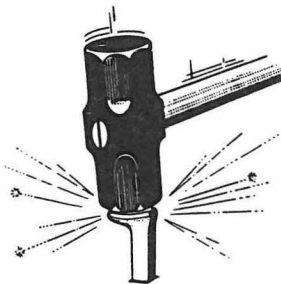
Afraid of Sunday School or Bible Class? Well, Don't Be . . .

How many times do we find the words, "Don't Be Afraid" or "Fear Not" in the Bible? The answer, of course, is many, many times. Are you staying away from Bible class or Sunday school because you are afraid or you fear that you may be embarrassed? If those are your reasons, then you are staying away for the wrong reasons.

God is **never** mocked when we put forth our best efforts to understand Him and His Holy Word better. He knows that not everyone has the same level of understanding and intellect and our efforts to learn are sure to be blessed.

So if your church provides a Bible study or a Sunday school class, please avail yourself of its opportunities to know our Lord better. Better yet, invite a friend to go with you.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL
will have an
IMPACT!**



**on YOUR
Christian life
& maturity!**



**Start a good habit.
Attend every Sunday.**

ONLY BY THE SPIRIT

No one can say, "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit. . . . I Cor. 12:3

Pentecost is the fulfillment of a promise. Before His suffering, death and glorious resurrection, Jesus had promised to send the Holy Spirit to His disciples. Now 50 days after Easter, the Holy Spirit came to them. That day is called PENTECOST, and this year the observance was on May 22. When the Holy Spirit came upon them, He gave them much power. The disciples were not afraid to boldly proclaim the Gospel. Many people became aware of their sin and their need to repent and believe. On Pentecost, the New Testament Church was born.

The coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples was very important to them, just as it is to us today. It is only through His power, working in the Word (the Bible) and the sacraments (Baptism

and Holy Communion), that we are Christians. The Holy Spirit opens our eyes and hearts to see our sins and to repent of them. He gives us the understanding that Jesus Christ is our only hope for forgiveness and eternal life. The Holy Spirit creates faith in our hearts that we can confess, "Jesus is Lord." And finally, the Holy Spirit gives us the strength to live every day as the children of God.

So we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples on that first Pentecost. We also praise and thank God for the coming of the Holy Spirit into our hearts and lives today.--THE MUSTARD SEED, May 1988

BULLETIN

We have just been informed that Rev. Steven R. Schumacher, current pastor of St. Phillips Church for the Deaf, Philadelphia, Pa., has accepted a call to the northern Wisconsin area, based in Wausau. He was installed Sunday, June 12 at the Rib Mountain Lutheran church, 3010 Eagle, Wausau. Rev. Donald Zuhn of Minneapolis, who served as the vacancy pastor for the past year, preached the service.

Another vacancy will be filled later in the summer when Mr Gary Bell graduates from Concordia Seminary, Ft. Wayne and takes up his duties in the Minnesota north region. Mr. Bell is 33 years old, and he and his wife are the parents of three children.

We thank God for these workers for His church.

CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP

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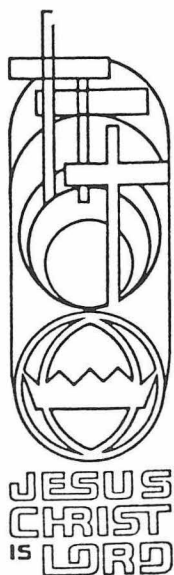
of paramount importance and care should be used in voting for such people.

George Washington was the perfect example of a leader who put his trust in God. During the terrible winter at Valley Forge when the nation's fortunes looked very bad and all but lost. He was not too ashamed to get down on his knee and ask God for help.

This year, when we vote, remember that we are citizens of **two** kingdoms: the kingdom of God and of our nation with responsibilities to both. First, we honor and love God and obey Him and next we honor our country by voting for good and responsible government in keeping with our Christian principles.

THY WORD AS TRUTH--

No one is so deaf as he who refuses to listen to God's Word.



ADOPTED CHILDREN FROM COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA BRIGHTEN LAWSON HOME--Carlene and Angelica, 3½, who is learning English; Nelsen, 11, who is deaf, and Pastor Gary Lawson. Note the happy smiles.



NEWS FROM THE REGIONS HITHER AND YON . . .

Trinity, Pittsburgh, observed its 25th anniversary celebration of the dedication of its church building April 23 and 24 with 155 present for the banquet Saturday evening and 113 at THE SERVICE Sunday. Former pastor Rev. George C. Ring was guest speaker.

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Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, Pittsburgh, Pa., was the guest speaker at the open house for Holy Cross Lutheran church, Columbus, Ohio on May 1.

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The many friends of Miss Jane Joseph of Los Angeles and Mr. Larry Gorton of Spokane, Wash., will be pleased to hear of their plans to be married at the date to be announced later. Miss Joseph is having her job transferred to Spokane and will be moving there sometime in the spring of 1988.

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Visitors to the 1983 ILDA convention at Pittsburgh may remember Mayor Richard S. Caliguiri who welcomed us to his fair city. Mr. Caliguiri passed away recently of a very rare heart disease after more than 10 years in office. He was 56.

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Rev. Clark Bailey was in the hospital March 1 and April 16 a heart catheterization and angioplasty (balloon treatment) and the left rear artery branches that were 85% blocked are now 100% open. For this we thank God. Pastor Bailey serves the deaf at Our Savior Lutheran church, Detroit.

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The total number of students receiving direct service from special education teachers at the Lutheran School for the Deaf Special Education Ministries has grown to 306, an all time high. This is 52 more children than 1986-87.

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Gallaudet university's federal appropriation for fiscal year 1988 was set by Congress at \$61,238,000, a decrease of \$762,000 from fiscal 1987. It is said to be the first time since the Great Depression that the school has received such a large cut.

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Also of interest is the recent discovery of the Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet statue in the University of Illinois library at Champaign-Urbana. The find is the original plaster model used to make the bronze models now located at Gallaudet university and the American School for the Deaf.

The Central Regional of the ILDA met in Indianapolis on the dates of April 15, 16 and 17 with approximately 140 people present. Along with regular business there was a tour of the Indianapolis 500 speedway, a banquet and devotions on different flags used in the race. Rev. Rodney Rynearson was present and gave a sermon on the checkered flag, stating that all Christians were winners in Jesus!

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Rev. Steve Schlund, pastor of Holy Cross, Delavan, Wis., has been chosen to serve on a national committee to translate Lutheran liturgy into sign language. The project will, if fully funded, produce in print and on videotape new or revised sign language translations of the orders of worship most commonly used in Lutheran congregations.

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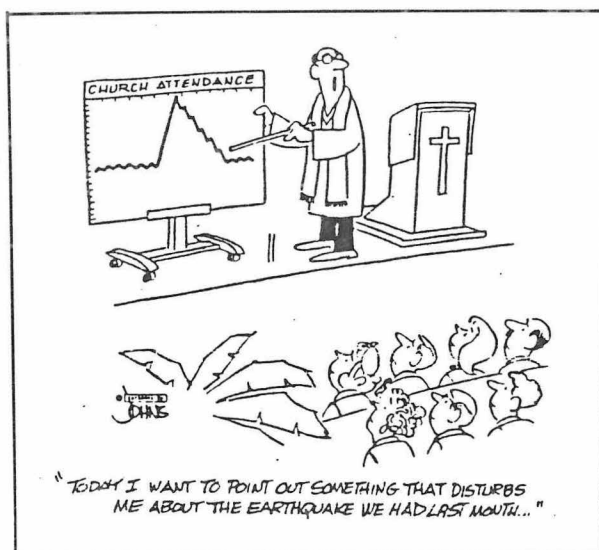
This year Holy Cross gave its offerings from its lenten services to the ILDA mission projects. Each year the group chooses a special mission projects to support during its Wednesday evening services during Lent.

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Rev. John A. Fritz, formerly of Missoula, Mont., was installed as pastor of Hope Lutheran church, Aurora, Ill. on Jan. 24. Pastor Fritz, who served the deaf in Montana, will also serve the deaf in the northern Illinois district. Many of the deaf already know their "new" pastor . . . he served as a vicar under Rev. Ron Friedrich.

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Pending the arrival of a new pastor, Rev. August Hauptman will cover the vacancy with twice a month services at Pilgrim Lutheran church, Los Angeles.



Fire Destroys Church in Philadelphia May 24

The congregation of Holy Cross Lutheran church, Philadelphia, Pa., which is served by Rev. Joseph Varsanyi, former pastor of St Phillips Lutheran Church of the Deaf of the same city, lost its church building in a disastrous fire on Tuesday, May 24.

The conflagration is believed to have started in the roof area where workers spilled propane gas. The entire structure burned to the ground.

Approximately 100 children sleeping in the day care center were evacuated safely without any injuries.

VACANCIES

At the present time, there are vacancies in the following churches:

Jesus Lutheran church, Austin, Texas
Pilgrim, Kansas City, Mo.
Waterville, Me. (part time)
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada (½ time)
Vancouver, B.C., Canada



GLRC CONFERENCE COMMITTEE, CLEVELAND, OHIO—Front row, left to right: Lynn Ginter, Mary Tingler, Theresa Taylor, Mary Anne Emerson and Pam Kane. Back row, left to right: Larry Ginter, Richard Tingler, Fred Waltz, Pastor Lawson, Roland Emerson and Robert Kane. The group will observe the church's 40th anniversary and 25th for the LWML on Oct. 21-23. Photos by Larry Ginter.

Rev. Mass Speaks at Anniversary Celebration



REV. LAVERN MASS

Rev. Lavern M. Mass, Assistant pastor of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Silver Spring, Md., was the speaker at the second anniversary celebration at the Chapel for the Deaf, Charlotte, N.C., on Feb. 28. A total of 76 worshippers gathered for the occasion to observe two years of every Sunday services.

The recently renovated classroom turned Chapel was the topic of an article in the local paper and also showed ILDA members Herman and Paulette Spencer during worship services.

We congratulate Pastor Frank Wagenknecht and his congregation on a marvelous job.



ILDA HANDBOOK TASK FORCE—Meeting in St. Louis Nov. 5-7, 1987 to draw up guidelines for the new book were: Seated (left to right): Beth Firnhaber, Philadelphia, and Ron Byington, Milwaukee. Standing (left to right): Don Mowl, Washington, Pa.; Lester Ahls, Cedar Falls, Ia.; Archie Marshall, chair, St. Louis, and Rev. Ron Friedrich, Dallas, Texas.

"YOU KNOW, THOSE BALLOONS . . .

A man we heard about was driving when he spotted a helium filled balloon floating toward the ground about 15 feet from the road. Intrigued, he pulled over and got out of the car to fetch it. The message attached to it, signed by a seven-year-old boy, was even more of a surprise:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Mat. 28:19-20)

That balloon, carrying the Great Commission, was released shortly after noon on March 7 by Jeremy Gullicksen, a first grader at Zion Evangelical Lutheran school in Pierce, Neb. Jeremy was one of more than 100 students who took part in Zion's balloon lift-off to celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week.

Our motorist found the balloon in Cazenovia, Minn., some 150 miles away, at about

4 p.m. the same day. Two days later he wrote to Jeremy, congratulating him on his "balloon's successful flight."

". . . I find it very amazing that it (the balloon) landed at the same time I was driving by. And the message that was on the balloon is even more amazing because I have three kids--a sixth grader, a fourth grader and one in kindergarten and none of them have been baptized, which has been bothering me lately.

"I know you sent the balloon and the message, but I also believe that God sent it directly to me. So with incentive like that, I'm going to take care of this problem very soon."

The motorist's name and address was sent to an LCMS pastor in nearby Pipestone, Minn. for follow-up.

And little Jeremy? He had enrolled in the school only six days earlier, it being his first experience in a Lutheran school.

--ALIVE, April 1988

YOU ARE LIVINGSTONES?

Our initial reaction here might be one of wonder, as we pondered what was meant by "livingstones." We need not have wondered

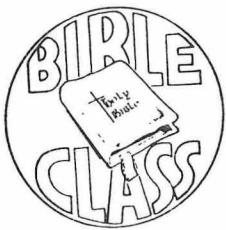
as Good Shepherd church, Toledo, Ohio has a number of Bible classes in various locations nearby and its members are what we would call by the term who are active participants and supporters of God's church.

The mid-week meetings with an average attendance of 10-14 members,

have been quite successful and could certainly serve as models for other localities to try.

Meetings usually conclude with lunch or a potluck with a social following. In warmer months, a picnic or outing might be just the thing.

If you would like additional information on how you could start a "livingstones" Bible class in your area, Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt would be happy to give you some pointers. or you can contact the editor of THE DEAF LUTHERAN who would also be happy to assist you.



SAFETY TIPS

1. Don't ride in a cars. They are the cause 20% of all fatal accidents!
 2. Do not travel by air, rail or water . . . 16% of all accidents are the results of one of these activities.
 3. Don't stay at home, either . . . 17% of all accidents happen there.
 4. Do not walk on the streets . . . 14% of the accidents happen to pedestrians.
- %. Only .001% of all fatal accidents do occur in church, so it is obvious that being in church is the safest place to be!! Isn't it grand to be here?



"Let me get this straight . . . those things go into effect immediately without us voting on them?"

THE LAW OF SMALL POTATOES

Many years ago, Chinese farmers decided that they would eat the good, big potatoes and use just the small ones for seed. A new understanding of the laws of life came to

25 YEARS AGO

For the first time ever, deaf communicant membership in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod topped 5,000 for a total of 5,022 members, an increase of 1.4% over the previous year.

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A new Sunday school program was initiated at Bethlehem Lutheran church in Omaha, Neb. where Rev. Herman Graef is pastor. A chartered bus brings students from the Nebraska School for the Deaf to the church for worship and spiritual instruction, where Mr. Charles Doering is superintendent and class instructor. A teacher training class was also started.

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Pilgrim Lutheran church, Los Angeles, honored Rev. Arnold T. Jonas on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his service to the Lord.

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A week-end retreat for the deaf at Camp Lone Star in LaGrange, Texas was arranged by Rev. Herbert Rohe. The cost for two nights' lodging, five meals, and registration was less than \$10.

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More than 100 people attended the 25th anniversary of the dedication of Bethlehem Lutheran church, Omaha, Neb. with a service and luncheon. The special anniversary offering was sufficient to retire the church debt and cover needed alterations to conform to city fire regulations.

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The Ephpatha Conference met in Washington, D.C. June 25-30.

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Mr. and Mrs Russell Rains of Rockford, Ill. faced some dark days as Mrs. Rains, a native of Iceland became very ill with a rare and severe form of tuberculosis. Their youngest child was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nelson into their home during the crisis, and cared for about four months until Mrs. Rains regained her health.

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Rev. Ernest Mappes, Omaha, Neb. declined a call to the Sioux Falls, S.D. field.

them when through the years during which they kept up the practice, nature reduced all their potatoes to the size of marbles! These farmers learned through bitter experience that they could not keep the best things of life for themselves and use the leftovers for seed.

The laws of life decreed that the harvest would reflect the planting.

Planting small potatoes is still common practice; but foolish and wasteful practice . . . too many people take all the big things of life for themselves and only plant the leftovers. They expect that by some crazy twist of the laws of nature, our selfishness will reward us with blessings. We cannot always eat the big potatoes and keep having them. Planting small potatoes simply means that is all we can expect in return. That law will apply in family relationships, friendships, on the job, community affairs, politics and everywhere else.

The law of 'small potatoes' applies also to churches. As long as we continue big plans, startling activities, attempt great things for our God, we can expect great things from Him. We succeed when we sacrifice. Whether it is in worship, Bible study, witnessing, working, or our offerings, the big potatoes given to Him in love always "open the windows of heaven and pour out to you such blessings that you will not have room enough to receive it."--Copied

EASTERN REGION--ILDA



ER-ILDA Secretary Alice Hagemeyer has informed President Ahls that its gift of \$200 for interpreting services at the last convention could be used for any project considered most needed by the ILDA board. For this, we give them sincere thanks. President Ahls has decided that the money will be kept for the same purpose at the 1989 convention.

Humor in the Grocery Store . . .

A certain woman, preparing to entertain guests, went to a small grocery store to buy food. She stopped at the meat counter and asked the butcher for a large chicken. He reached down in the cold storage compartment, grabbed the last chicken he had, and placed it on the scale.

"This one weighs four pounds, ma'am," he said.

"I'm not sure that will be enough," the woman answered. "Don't you have a bigger one?" The butcher put the chicken back into the compartment, pretended to search through the melting ice for another one. Finally, he brought out the same bird and added some finger pressure on the scale.

"Ah," he said with a smile, "this one weighs six pounds."

"I am just not sure," the woman answered with a frown. "I'll tell you what--wrap them both up for me."

(Moral: Your sin will find you out!" Read Numbers 32:23)



The Synod's Great Commission Convocation this year will be held in St. Louis on the dates of Nov. 3-6. It is not for leaders only. All members are invited to attend and participate in the workshops, view the displays and worship the Risen Christ.

So if your church provides a Bible study or a Sunday school class, please avail yourself of its opportunities to know our Lord better. Better yet, invite a friend to go with you.

Once Again: A Hearing Aid Battery Warning to Consumers

Hundreds of instances of hearing aid button battery swallowing by young children have occurred that have resulted in severe injury, permanent damage and even death. Some hearing aid companies are now recognizing this potential danger and are offering to place tamper-resistant battery drawers on hearing aids free of charge. Precautions should include:

1. Keep the aid, their parts and their batteries out of reach of anyone who might swallow them.
2. Never change the battery or adjust the

controls in front of children.

3. Discard used batteries carefully in a non-accessible receptacle.

4. Never put hearing aid batteries in your mouth for any reason.

If a hearing aid battery is swallowed, call the National Button Battery Ingestion Hotline collect at (202) 625-3333.

INDEPENDENCE DAY, 1988

"Live as free people, but do not use your freedom to cover up evil. Live as servants of God."
--I Peter 2:16

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