



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

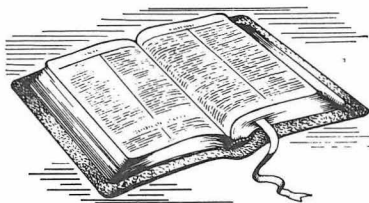
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**460 Years In Use . . .**

## LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM



"The Catechism is the Bible of the layman, which contains the whole body of Christian teaching necessary to bring every Christian to salvation. . . . For that reason we should hold the Catechism honorable and worthy and use it diligently among the youth, because in it has been gathered together all the true, real, ancient, pure and Godly teachings of the holy Christian church."

--Martin Luther

The complete works of Martin Luther would fill more than 100 huge volumes on a library shelf and which would probably encompass the works of Shakespeare by more than a hundred times. Yet Dr. Luther is known to have said

### Farewell Fetes Pastor Oettel and Carol at Omaha June 12

The last worship service by Pastor Bob Oettel was conducted at Bethlehem Lutheran church in Omaha Sunday, July 24 as they prepared to leave for Japan where Bob has accepted a position to teach religion and English at Shinonome high school at Matsuyama. Following a visit to their maternal parents, they will be departing around the middle of August.

A farewell was tendered the couple by the congregation on Sunday, June 12. We all wish them well in their new work.

once that he would not have minded if they were all lost, if only the **catechism** and one other work were saved.

Since the year 1529, the **SMALL CATECHISM** has proved to be one of the most effective books of Christian education ever written. The catechism reflected Dr. Luther's profound belief that if people were to have meaning and purpose in their lives, then they should have the Word of God as an ever present help in their daily lives.

Luther does not use the Catechism to point out where the ancient church has been wrong, nor is he argumentative. He merely points out what it means to be a child of God; what it means to be justified by faith; what it means to be both saint and sinner and what it means that God has revealed Himself in human flesh and comes to us in Word and sacrament.

The advent of Luther's **SMALL CATECHISM** had a long history and was about 13 years in the making. Luther encouraged others with whom he worked to come up with such a manual and more than 30 different versions were written, none of which exactly suited him, and only then did he settle down to write the book that we know today.

The invention of the first printing press by Gutenberg in 1483, the same year in which Luther was born, had the effect of revolutionizing teaching and learning in both the

LUTHER'S CATECHISM (continue on page 2)

### THE EDITOR LANDS A BIG ONE . . .

A couple of days prior to the opening of the Midwest ILDA Conference at Spirit Lake, Iowa, he joined his friends Don Haines and Dean Kruger of Sioux City, Iowa for some fishing at Lake Okoboji. On the second day, Lester pulled in this Muskie which was the first he had ever caught in many years of fishing. These species are generally hard to come by, so he had this one mounted.

# MEMORIAL LUTHERAN CHAPEL, SAN LORENZO, MOVES TO FREMONT DURING JULY

With building plans still on hold, the members of Memorial Lutheran Chapel, San Lorenzo, Calif. will be holding their first worship service at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 858 Washington Blvd., Fremont on Sunday, July 31. Joining them will be the members of the hearing congregation and the service will be followed with a pancake brunch.

Regular services will begin on Sunday, Aug. 7 at 10:00 a.m., followed by a social and

refreshment break from 10:50 to 11:20 and then Bible class until the noon hour.

Memorial Lutheran has been active in the bay area since the 1930's. It moved from it's Grove Street church in Oakland in 1978 where it had been located for about 34 years and after 9½ years in the present building, is moving to Fremont. The church has been served by four pastors in its near 60-year history, Reverends Engel, Gaertner, Bailey and Roy Dahmann who has served since August 1975.

## LUTHER'S SMALL CATECHISM

(continue from page 1)

world outside as well as in the church, and at least some gratitude is due Dr. Luther for this coming about. Illiteracy was common during Luther's time, and the advent of printing drastically changed the picture and many were able to obtain books and even Bibles, of which they were previously scarce or non-existent.

The word, "Catechism" is derived from the Greek word, 'catechismus' which means a ringing out, an announcing, a calling down to man by God. Through its use in the church, it had come to mean a method of teaching Biblical truth. For Luther it was a collection of teachings, a whole body of doctrines which has been taught throughout the ages, with Christ as the center, or focal point of the entire ministry. To others, it was also considered as a manual or handbook.

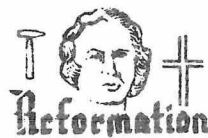
What really spurred Luther to action to write the Catechism was a visit to some villages in Saxony during the year 1528. He was appalled by the religious ignorance he found. At one hamlet, there had been no Bible for 26 years since a fire had destroyed the only one there was; at another, the villagers refused to contribute to the church because no services were ever held there; at yet another, the priest could not recite either the Creed or the Lord's Prayer. Some refused to learn because they felt the Lord's Prayer was too long. Shortly after he returned home, Luther dispatched materials about the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Creed to the printers, which later in 1529 became a part of the **Large and Small Catechisms**.

The demands for Luther's Catechisms was

considerable and became common in most of the countries we now call Europe. It was significant and different in that Luther emphasized faith as the meaning of life with God. This faith is commanded by the First Commandment, because God wants us to trust His love and not our own merits.

The **SMALL CATECHISM** has been in America since approximately 1623, just a few years after the Pilgrims landed, brought by Lutherans who landed in New York. Swedes landing in Delaware brought theirs in 1638.

As we observe REFORMATION DAY this year on Sunday, Oct. 30, we want to remember and praise God for sending a servant who did so much to return His word to its truth and purity as we find it in the Bible. And for those little booklets called "**SMALL CATECHISM**" that so many of us used for instruction as we were growing up in the church.

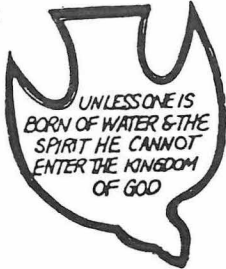


"MY DADDY SAYS WE HAVE TO CUT OUR CHURCH PLEDGE 'CAUSE WE JUST BOUGHT A NEW COLOR TV."

# "THE WATERS OF LIFE"

Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf  
9545 Georgia Ave.  
Silver Spring, Md. 20910

"But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water that springs up into everlasting life."--John 4:14



Someone has told the story about his own boyhood days on his family farm. Every day this lad and his father went out in the fields to work. Many times the days were long and

hard, especially in the hot sun. But they always knew that in the corner of the field was a clear cold spring where they could go for a cool, refreshing drink of water.

Years later the young man now grown into an adult went back to the old family farm, where another family was living. The other family still planted and harvested the same fields. But they always carried a jug of water with them. When they became thirsty, they had to satisfy themselves with a drink of warm water from the jug. They did not know the clear, cold spring that was very close to them. After all the years, the spring

still had the cool, refreshing water to drink.

The fountain of living waters still flows from the love of God. But so many people just pass it by. The promise that Christ made to the woman from Samaria at Jacob's well still remains for us today. "WHOEVER DRINKS OF THE WATER THAT I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL NEVER THIRST, BUT THE WATER I SHALL GIVE HIM SHALL BE IN HIM A WELL OF WATER SPRINGING UP INTO EVERLASTING LIFE."

The temptations of this world cry out for our attention. The world sets before us a table of apparent success and fame. The choice is yours. You can choose the road of defeat, or you can travel side by side with our Lord, Jesus Christ and be led to eternal victory. Christ withstood the temptations of the devil and Jesus became triumphant. With His strength you can triumph and overcome temptations and allurements of this world. Do not let things of this world crowd out God's spirit. His spirit can and will supply all your needs. He gives you the nourishment to pass through the deserts of despair and the valleys of tribulation. Come to the waters of life. Drink the spiritual water. You will receive eternal nourishment.

## ATTENTION ! TEEN-AGERS

If you are tired of being hassled by unreasonable parents, then NOW is the time to take action! Leave home, and pay your own way, while you still know everything!!



A FOND FAREWELL—Mrs Bonnie Meyers and James Corbett bid Pastor and Mrs Bob Oettel (right) goodbye during farewell gathering at the church in Omaha June 12. Photo by Elizabeth Maier.



HOWARD  
STRINGER

"I GUESS I'LL TAKE MY DATE TO CHURCH...I'M TOO BROKE TO TAKE HER ANY PLACE ELSE."

## BITS OF NEWS FROM HERE 'N THERE. . .

Dr. Byron Northwick has resigned as full time pastor to Calvary Lutheran church of Wamego, Kan. to accept a position on the faculty of Concordia college in Minneapolis. He also served the deaf in northeastern Kansas at Wheaton. Rev. Ray Leimkuehler will now serve the deaf from Barnes, Kan., where he is pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran church. He was formerly pastor of Bethel Lutheran church in Denver, Colo.

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Dr. Northwick's current address is 2325 E. Old Shakopee Rd., Apt. 101, Bloomington, Minn. 55425.

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Pastor Bob Rowland II of Sacramento, Calif. tells us that recently 15 members of his congregation became card carrying members of the ILDA and they will be striving for 100%! Great! WE can always use more members and also, more readers of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN**.

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Dr. A. L. Barry, president of Iowa District East of the LCMS was recently re-elected to another three-year term as president. Many of us will remember him as the featured speaker at the 1987 convention at Cedar Rapids. Dr. Barry has been a good friend of deaf Lutherans for a long time.



Dr. A. L. Barry

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The Pacific Regional ILDA Conference this year will be held on Oct. 28-30 instead of Sept. 29-Oct. 1.

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The fall board meeting of the ILDA board of directors will take place in St. Louis on the dates of Nov. 25, 26 and 27, just at the start of this year's holiday season.

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Dr. Oswald C. J. Hoffman, speaker of the world famous Lutheran Hour and sponsored by the Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL) will close out a 33-year radio ministry on Christmas Day this year from mainland China. Dr. Hoffmann, who will be retiring at 75, will be conducting the first such broadcast that has originated from mainland China since World War II.

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Pilgrim Lutheran church, Los Angeles, has called Rev. Robert Case, Houston, Texas. Pastor Case and his wife, Mary, paid a visit to Pilgrim on July 15 and a decision is ex-

pected by the end of August.

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Fiftieth anniversary class reunion . . . retired Pastor Rev. George C. Ring and his wife, Doris, returned to the scene of his high school graduation in Chandlerville, Ill., on June 3. The couple hardly looks that old, and the pastor certainly doesn't! We did not learn just how many showed up, or how many original members of the class there were. The year 1938 seems like a different era.

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"God Is With Us" will be the theme for the Great Lakes Regional Conference at the Marriott Inn, 4277 W. 150th St., Cleveland, Ohio on the dates of Oct. 21-23. It will be sponsored by Christ Lutheran church, which will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of the LWML and the 40th anniversary of their church.

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Devout ILDA members Royal and Iva Eklof of Madison, Wis., were very surprised to have been chosen as joint winners of the Madison Quota Club's "Outstanding Hearing Impaired Person of the Year" award for 1988. The presentation was made on May 19. The couple has been members of Silent Lutheran in Madison for many years.

Another couple from Madison being honored in May were Alice and Arnold Walsvik, who celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. They repeated their vows as their daughters signed a song, "The Wedding Prayers" and their sons served as ushers. The event was followed by refreshments in the basement. The editor congratulates his old school mates as we all hail from Wisconsin!

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Want to go on a bike race? From San Francisco to Washington, D.C. in 9 to 13 days? Peter Kosche, son of the late Rev. Martin and Ethel Kosche will be the only entrant from Wisconsin in the grueling Race Across America (RAAM). Most of the riders ride 22 hours and sleep 2.

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The just ended Ephphatha Conference in St. Louis was not without some excitement. One vicar and one pastor almost had their cars stolen. The car belonging to the vicar was found a mile away with the contents gone. The car belonging to the pastor was in the process of being taken, but was stopped in

# MIDWEST REGION CONVENES AT SPIRIT LAKE , IOWA JUNE 3-5

With one of the smallest attendances in many years due to conflicts with other events, only 35 participants were present for the first meeting in three years because of the ILDA convention in 1987. Nevertheless, it was considered to be a very successful meeting from the stand point of the workshops presented and general enjoyment of the members. The theme was "Do You Love Me?"

The conference voted to support ILDA mission projects by earmarking \$500 for the work in Africa and \$500 for THE DEAF LUTHERAN. The Sunday offering was designated to be used to send a young person to the Junior ILDA Youth Program in Portland, Ore. in 1989.

Presenters at the three workshops during the three-day meeting were Pastors Donald Zuhn, Minneapolis; Darrel Kois, Des Moines

## BITS OF NEWS

(continue from page 4)

time by an alarm which had been triggered by a device on the car.

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Rev. Gary Bell was ordained as a Lutheran pastor in his home church in San Jose, Calif. on Sunday Aug. 7. A week later on Aug 14, he was installed as pastor for the Lutheran Deaf Ministry--Minnesota North and as pastor of Faith Lutheran church, Maple, Wis.

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Bryan Borger was installed as vicar at Holy Cross Lutheran church, Columbus, Ohio on Sunday, July 24. He replaces Tom Nowak who is returning for his final year to the seminary.

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We note with interest that Dr. Edwin Lehman, president of Synod's Alberta-British Columbia District for the past 10 years, has been elected the first president of an autonomous Lutheran Church at its constituting convention on the second ballot. Autonomy is set to begin on Jan. 1, 1989. Dr. Lehman is no stranger to deaf ministry, having been the speaker at a special service to "bless the seed and the soil" at Pax Natura ranch at Clyde, Alberta on May 19, 1985. We wish Dr. Lehman blessings in his new duties.

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Amid perfect weather, approximately 300 visitors attended the recent reunion at the Lutheran School for the Deaf at Detroit.

and Michael MacDonald of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

New officers chosen to serve the next two years are: Harold Nord, president, Manhattan, Kan.; Roy Klein, Minneapolis, vice president; Donald Kissel, secretary, Des Moines, and for treasurer, Ruth Nester, Hiawatha, Kan.

Rev. Donald Zuhn will serve as pastoral adviser. The 1989 meeting will be in Kansas.

## Indianapolis Hosts Central Region Meet

The ILDA Central Region Conference met at the Holiday Inn North in Indianapolis April 15-17. The conference theme was "Run the Race" based on Hebrews 12:1.

Elected president was Archie D. Marshall, St. Louis; James Swalley, Fort Wayne, Ind., vice president; Mrs Kathryn Kahl, Oak Creek, Wis., secretary; Irwin Bowlby, Pekin, Ill., treasurer, and Albert Moore, Jacksonville, Ill., historian/financial secretary. Rev. Steven Schlund was chosen as pastoral adviser.

## ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

We are always pleased to print news concerning our leadership training programs (LPT's) of which there have been three so far, but when one of them results in wedding plans for some of the participants well, that makes them even better!

We are very happy to announce that Miss Jane Joseph of Los Angeles and Mr. Larry Gorton of Spokane, Wash. are planning to wed this summer and to reside in Spokane, where Miss Joseph has already transferred her employment. The couple are active in their church and the ILDA. They met at Northwest LTP at Seattle.

We extended heartily congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple.

## REMINDER: DUES ARE DUE

Most of us should have received a letter by now from ILDA Treasurer Russel Healey reminding us that memberships expired on March 1 and the \$5 dues should be sent in for 1988.

As a matter of convenience, members of the God's 1000 club can send in their pledges for the current year at the same time, and save additional postage and paper work for the treasurer.

# A KICK OFF OF JUNIOR ILDA AT 1989 CONVENTION IN PORTLAND, ORE.

A letter from ILDA secretary, Beth Firnhaber to all REGION PRESIDENTS:

The purpose of Junior ILDA is to get young people involved both in the goals and fellowship of ILDA. These young people are the future of ILDA. While we can provide guidance, we hope that the youth will contribute their own ideas and dreams and grow on that. Beth received word from Northwest Region president, Ron Madding, that he has selected a chairperson to begin making plans in Portland. This young man's name is David Miller. David, son of Stan and Judy Miller, has kindly agreed to serve as the first host of the Junior ILDA gathering in Portland. Since he needs your ideas to plan this event, please send the attached survey back to Beth Firnhaber, 412 W Miner St., West Chester, Pa. 19382 and she will forward the same surveys to David and both of them will keep you updated. If you have any bright ideas or suggestions, please contact Beth or David. David's address is 12706 S.E. Riveridge Drive, Vancouver, Wash. 98684.

### SURVEY

1. Are you still interested and willing to help start Junior ILDA? YES ... NO ...
2. Will you be attending the ILDA convention in Portland, Ore. July 1989? YES ... NO ...
3. Can you refer us to anyone else in your region who can help with this venture?  
.....  
.....  
.....
4. Which age range do you feel is best for Junior ILDA? 13-21 ... Confirmation-adult ...  
Other ...
5. Which would you favor? (Circle as many as you like.)
  - a. Each region sends one youth delegate with a full or partial scholarship.
  - b. Each region provides partial scholarships to several youth delegates.
  - c. The youth in each region attend as finances permit.
  - d. The youth delegate shall attend with a regional chaperone, possibly with his/her church delegate.
  - e. Each church sends a youth delegate with full or partial scholarship.
  - f. ???
6. Possible agenda for Junior ILDA:
  - a. Discovering the goals and mission/ministry of ILDA.
  - b. Attending part of ILDA business session.
  - c. Time during workshops to become acquainted, share ideas.
  - d. Own recreation time during adult tours, etc. (pizza party, ice skating, mall shopping, swimming, etc.)
  - e. Voting for a mission project (if it isn't one of ILDA's).
  - f. ???
7. SUGGESTIONS/COMMENTS? .....

Please return this survey to the addresses above; Thank You!

# ADOPTED DEAF YOUNGSTER IS NATURALIZED DURING CEREMONY AT SPRINGFIELD JUNE 16

Nathan Wayne Kester, 7, adopted Asian-born son of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne (Pam) Kester of Springfield, Ill., was granted U.S. citizenship during a naturalization ceremony by the United States district court for the central district of Illinois on Thursday, June 16. The event occurred in connection with the reopening of the Lincoln Home, taken over by the U.S. National Park Service from the State of Illinois.



**NEWEST U.S. CITIZEN**—Nathan Wayne Kester holds his citizenship papers as Rev. Paul Dorr smiles his congratulations.



**NATURALIZATION CEREMONY AT THE LINCOLN HOME**—(Left to right): Rev. Paul Dorr, U.S. District Judge Richard Mills, and the adoptive parents, Wayne and Pam Kester. Nathan stands in front of the judge.

Wayne Kester, the father of Nathan, is a long time postal employee and the mother, Pam, operates a word processor. All three are members of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf, of which Rev. Paul H. Dorr is pastor.

Mrs Kester only recently completed many weeks of pre-confirmation classes and took her vows to become a member of the Lutheran church as a Christian.

An encased article referring to the time Abraham Lincoln became a Christian after ascending to the presidency of the United States and the Christian and American flags were a gift to Nathan from his pastor. The gift also referred to the Bible text we find in Hebrews 11:13-16 which reminds us that as Christians, we hold two citizenships.

We extend hearty congratulations to all of the Kester family, and to Rev. Paul Dorr, who has made the article available to our readers.

## FINALLY . . .

What some other denominations are saying about current events in our every day world . . . read on:

### **SOUTHERN BAPTISTS SAYS HOMOSEXUALITY 'AN ABOMINATION'**

SAN ANTONIA, Texas--Southern Baptists charged modern society with an "erosion of moral sanity" Thursday and condemned homosexuality as "an abomination in the eyes of God."

"This deviant behavior has wrought havoc in the lives of millions," said assembled "messengers" of the 14.7 million member denomination.

On the last day of the convention, it adopted one of the most unqualified denunciations of homosexuality in recent church annals.

"The Bible is very clear in its teaching that homosexuality is a manifestation of a depraved nature," the convention said, adding:

"Homosexuality is a perversion of divine standards and a violation of nature and of natural affections."

The resolution said, "Homosexual are justified and even glorified in our secular media."

# COMMON SIGN LANGUAGE TRANSLATIONS OF THE ORDERS OF WORSHIP MAY BE PRINTED AND TAPED

A new project being developed 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.

The proposed project will have a team of six translators, two editors and a review committee of five individuals.

There will be two teams of three translators and each will be assigned an editor, whose duty it will be to watch for consistent application of the principles of translation and preparation of the gloss. The responsibility of the editors will be to review the

work of the translators and possibly send it back for additional work.

Upon approval of the editors, the work would be submitted to the review committee, who may or may not approve it and quite possibly send it back "down the ladder" for more work and only after the work has the full approval of the review committee will it be ready for publication.

The starting date for the project has not been announced and only the selection of the team members has been done. Rev. Donald W. Zuhn, Minneapolis, is project director.

## A I D S

The Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. C. Everett Koop, has just sent out a pamphlet on Acquired Immodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) to every household in the United States. Your own copy may have already reached you. This is an effort to educate the public about the fast spreading disease, which is always fatal. The disease is growing rapidly in our permissive society. As of Jan. 18, 1988, 29,000 Americans have died of the disease out of approximately 50,000 cases. Estimates place the number of people carrying the virus at 1.5 million with projections that by 1991, 270,000 Americans will have developed the disease, with 179,000 deaths.

long time ago how to avoid the pitfalls such as AIDS and other social illnesses which are so widespread today.

God had a beautiful plan for his people when He instituted Holy Marriage at the beginning of Creation. We have made a mockery of His divine will, and people are paying a dreadful price for their disobedience. Sex is for mutually faithful partners married to each other.

One pastor asked recently if this does not sound a bit old fashioned. Perhaps it does. However, when God laid down the rules for his people to live by many years ago, He surely intended that they benefit His people by giving them good health and long and happy lives.

Do you think our Father knew what He was doing? Yes, pastor, I do.

In spite of all the talk about things like "safe sex" there is someone who told us a

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