



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

November-December, 1988

St. Louis, Mo.

Volumes 80, No. 6

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our Helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing.
Still our ancient foe,
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and pow'r are great,
And armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth His Name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

And tho' this world with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us;
We will not fear, for God has willed
His truth to triumph through us.
The prince of darkness grim--
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly pow'rs--
No thanks to them abideth;
The spirit and the gifts are ours
Thro' Him who with us sideth.
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;
The body they may kill;
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

ADVENT

Rev. August L. Hauptman (Ret.)
Pilgrim Lutheran Church
Los Angeles, Calif.

Many of you lived before the advent of television. Perhaps a few of you lived before the advent of the automobile.

Advents are important. The advent of television and the motor car changed our lives drastically.



ADVENT

We will be soon entering the season of ADVENT when we prepare to celebrate again the advent of our Saviour. The auto changed things for millions; television changed things for the billions. but the advent of our Lord Jesus changed things for all and forever. The season of advent is about radical change, and a revolution much more important than any other history.

We need this ADVENT season to remind us that God's revolution is going on. We must remember that something most important began

ADVENT

(continue on page 2)

Rev. Bob Case Accepts Call to Pilgrim, Los Angeles

Rev. Robert D. Case, after much careful and prayerful consideration, has announced his acceptance of the call to Pilgrim Lutheran church, Los Angeles, following a ministry in the Houston, Texas area that spanned 10 years. Pastor Case delivered his final sermon in Houston on Oct. 23. The move to California was made during the week of Oct. 30, with installation at Pilgrim on Sunday, Nov. 6.

Rev. Case succeeds Rev. A. L. Hauptman, who retired March 1, 1988 after 43 years in the ministry.

"WHO IS JESUS?"

Rev. Donald W. Zuhn, pastor
Prince of Peace Lutheran church
Minneapolis, Minn.

People have been asking that question for many years, ever since Jesus walked on this earth. And people have been giving many different answers to that question.

Jesus Himself asks, "What do people say about Me? Who am I?" Some people thought He was John the Baptist (although King Herod had recently put him to death). Others thought that Jesus was one of the prophets from long ago.

Recently many Christians have been upset about a movie, "The Last Temptation of Christ." That film answers our question, "Who

is Jesus" much different than the Bible does. The movie shows Jesus is only a man, not the Son of God. The film shows Jesus with many doubts about who He is or what He should be doing. The movie says: Since Jesus was a man, He had all the weaknesses--even sins--that all men have.

This is really nothing new! Unbelieving people have always had some very bad things to say about Jesus--that He was an imposter or a fake-- that He was not born of a virgin (Mary just "played around" and got pregnant) . . . that He was a sinner.

From the Gospel, Jesus asks: "Now, what do YOU say? Who am I?" **This is the key QUESTION!** Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Saviour God promised." How true! Jesus is the Holy God; long ago He said He will come and rescue His people from their sin and evil. He was the perfect man, without sin, although He truly felt all the temptations any man or woman feels. Jesus was the Saviour who knew from the start what must happen, that He must suffer and die for the sins of all people. And He also knew that He would rise from the grave on the third day.

Now, a question for us **personally** . . . Jesus asks each one of us: What do you say? Who am I?"

Our answer is the same. "Jesus is the Saviour . . . our Saviour." He touched our lives with love and mercy. Jesus forgave our sins and still does that every day. He leads us each day, as we live for Him. He is our Lord--our God!

ADVENT

(continue from page 1)

at Bethlehem. something which even Calvary could not stop. These weeks leading to Christmas remind us of that fact, and direct us to look ahead to the final triumph of God's Kingdom, when our exalted Lord returns to judge all.

Therefore' **ADVENT** calls us to have faith and obey our Lord. Our ever present danger is that we settle for nostalgia rather than obedience. The pre-Christmas season is often the "silly season" for the church as well as the world when we allow the sentimental things of the season to hide the spiritual truths.

ADVENT calls us to preach the Gospel to all nations before the end comes. We are to adventure for our dear Lord and Saviour. There is an obvious link between the word "advent" and the word, "adventure."

The dictionary defines adventure as "risk, danger, daring enterprise and hazardous activity." Does this describe what you have been doing in your church?

Our Lord Jesus adventured for us when He left His home in heaven the first Christmas and came to earth to live and die for our salvation. Jesus took plenty of risks and endured the greatest dangers for our sake. Can we do less for Him?

Let us use these days of the **ADVENT** season to examine ourselves and our church life. Let us ask God to inspire us with Jesus' loving, daring and hopeful spirit.

Let the adventure begin!



TROUBLE AT THE INN

For years now, whenever Christmas pageants are mentioned in a certain little town in the Midwest, someone is sure to mention the

name of Wallace Purling. Wally was nine and in the second grade, although he should have been in the fourth. He was big and clumsy, slow in mind and movement. Still, he was well liked by other children in his class, all of whom were smaller than he. He was



always a helpful boy, willing and smiling, a natural protector of the underdog.

Wally fancied the idea of being a shepherd in the Christmas pageant that year but was assigned to a more important role. After all, the play's director reasoned the innkeeper didn't have too many lines, and Wally's size would make his refusal of lodging to Joseph more forceful.

No one onstage or off was more caught up in the magic of pageant night than Wally. The time came when Joseph appeared, slowly, tenderly guiding Mary to the door of the inn. Joseph knocked hard on the wooden door set

into the painted backdrop. Wally, the innkeeper, was there waiting.

"What do you want?" Wally said, swinging the door open with a brusque gesture.

"We seek lodging."

"Seek it elsewhere." Wally looked straight ahead but spoke vigorously. "The inn is filled. There is no room for you." He looked properly stern.

"Please, good innkeeper, this is my wife, Mary. She is heavy with child and needs a place to rest. Surely you must have some small corner for her. She is so tired."

Now, for the first time, the innkeeper relaxed his stiff stance and looked down at Mary. There was a long pause. "No, begone!" the prompter whispered from the wings. "No!" Wally repeated automatically. "Begone!"

Joseph sadly placed his arm around Mary, and the two of them started to move away. The innkeeper did not return to his inn, however. Wally stood there in the doorway, watching the forlorn couple. His mouth was open, his brow creased with concern, his eyes filling unmistakably with tears.

And suddenly, this Christmas pageant became different from all the others. "Don't go, Joseph," Wally called out. "Bring Mary back." His face brightened with a big smile. "You can have my room."

Some people in town thought the pageant had been ruined. Yet, there were others yes, many, many others, who considered it the most Christmasy of Christmas pageants they had ever seen.

Amidst all of our preparations this Christmas season, let's make it a point to make room for God's Gift, the gift of His love expressed through the birth of a child born in Bethlehem.

Perhaps one of the best ways to show our appreciation for the gift of Jesus is to share His love with those who don't really know Him. Think about it! It makes good sense.

THANKSGIVING: A Time for Prayer



RESISTING FRAUD

The prevalence of fraud always seems to be increasing, year by year. However, with the application of a little common sense, most of us can prevent ourselves from being victimized. A good rule to remember is "if it seems too good to be true, it probably is."

'SWINGING AROUND THE REGION

Many of our ILDA members will be happy to know that a new chapel was dedicated at Pax Natura ranch at Clyde, Alta. on Sunday, Sept. 4. The dedication was part of the celebration for 15 years of programming at the ranch. The 4 p.m. service also dedicated special gifts towards the chapel such as the organ, communion ware and a special lectern Bible. The ranch is served by Rev. Robert A. Bauer of Cross of Christ Lutheran church, Edmonton, Alta.

o-0-o

Calvary Lutheran church, Des Moines, Iowa observed its 40th anniversary with an open house and service on Sunday, Sept. 25. Former pastors, Rev. Clark R. Bailey and Rev. Victor H. Mesenbring were on hand for the occasion. The current pastor is Rev. Darrell Kois.

o-0-o

Most of our pastors know what is going on within their respective church congregations, so if you're planning surprises, its necessary to resort to some underhanded plans, especially if you want to surprise him! Such was the case at Holy Cross Lutheran church, Columba, Ohio when the church decided to honor Rev. Don Leber on the occasion of his

25th anniversary as a minister. It appears that congregation president Dick Crossen had to divert Pastor Leber from a staff meeting on the pretext "of meeting someone" outside. Outside were the members of the church, all ready with a banner and a large cake!!

o-0-o

The Pacific Region held its first conference in four years at Pilgrim Lutheran church, Los Angeles, on Oct. 27-30 under the theme, "Caring for Others." Three or four workshops were held in connection with the conference theme. The keynote speaker was Rev. Kenneth Behnken, administrative assistant to the president, missions of the Southern California District of the LCMS.

o-0-o

Dr. and Mrs Louis R. Jasper visited with members of both St. Matthew and St. Mark Lutheran churches in New York City on Sunday, Aug. 7. Dr. Jasper preached the service for the combined worship, later showing slides of God's work in Hong Kong and Macao where they have served as missionaries for 15 years. Dr. Jasper served the churches from 1959-1967 and from 1978-1979.

o-0-o

Is your church considering entering the banner competition at the 10th biennial ILDA convention next year at Portland, Ore.? We urge your participation! It should reflect



ANNIVERSARY REMINISCES BRING SMILES—Former pastors. Rev. George C. Ring (ret.) of Des Moines, Iowa, left, and Rev. Frank P. Wagenknecht, Charlotte, N.C., right join present pastor, Rev. Edwin Bergstresser for an anniversary photograph during the 25th anniversary of Trinity Lutheran church, Pittsburgh, Pa. April 23-24, 1988.



EASTERN REGION--ILDA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS: Giving the thumbs up sign, left to right, Rev. Mark Anderson, pastoral adviser, Newark, N.J.; Elroy Triebel, treasurer, Hockessin, Del.; Dennis Kondel, president-elect, Washington, D.C.; Mary Sue Tanner, secretary, Charlotte, N.C., and Donald J. Wetzal, president, Newington, Conn.

VS FROM HERE 'N THERE . . .

the convention theme, "BE ALIVE" and be 40" wide and 57" long. Any material may be used.

o-0-o

Rev. David Johnson was installed at Our Saviour Lutheran church in Franklin Park, Ill., on Aug. 21. Rev. William (Bud) Palmer, Milwaukee, was the preacher and the president of the Illinois District of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod was the officiant.

Alumni Association Formed for Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit

The Lutheran School for the Deaf Alumni Association, formed by a vote of those in attendance at the 115th year reunion this past June 10, 11 and 12 at Detroit, must be regarded as a positive out growth of the highly successful gathering, which saw 280 former students and staff sit down to a banquet on Saturday evening.

The reunion, the first ever, brought tears and joy as old friends got together and reminisced of old days shared at the landmark institution. Former students who may have failed to attend this year's meeting will be glad to know that future reunions will be held every five years.

Ken Carter, 1988 reunion chairperson, expressed his thanks to all who came to the meeting and for making it the huge success it was.

Persons wishing to receive information on future reunions can send in their requests to the school, which will relay such information as it is received.



Ken Carter, reunion chairman, expresses thanks to all who came to the banquet.

Over 30 deaf were at the event, which was followed by a delicious meal. He came from Enid, Okla.

o-0-o

Greg Braun, director of alumni relations at Concordia college, River Forest, Ill., has left to become director of development at the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich.

o-0-o

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod ended the fiscal 1987-88 year with expenses exceeding by approximately \$775,000, the first time in many years this has happened. The 1989 budget is also out of balance by about \$219,000 and a solution to the problem is being sought.

o-0-o

Rev. Mark Willig, Guttenberg, Iowa and Rev. Roger Leonhardt, Devils Lake, N.D., have both declined the call to Jesus Lutheran church, Austin, Texas.

o-0-o

The Dixie Regional Conference met at Indian Springs campground, Kosciusko, Miss. Oct. 14-16, which is about 80 miles northeast of Jackson. The main thrust of the three-day meeting was a leadership training program sponsored by the ILDA. Leading two seminars were ILDA Secretary Beth Lockard of West Chester, Pa. and Charles Kotal, Los Angeles. Another on evangelism was led by Rev. David Bush, Memphis.

NORTHWEST REGION ELECTS

The Northwest Regional Conference met at the Lutheran Bible Institute at Issaquah, Wash. Aug. 12, 13 and 14 with the following persons elected for the two-year period, 1988-90.

Ronald L. Madding, president.

Larry Gorton, vice president.

Mrs. Helen Drake, secretary.

Elmer D. Francisco, treasurer.

Rev. David Carstens, pastoral adviser.

No meeting in 1989. The 1990 conference will be in Edmonton, Alberta.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"What are good reasons for Christians not to go to church? As I look in the Bible, I have **never** found a good reason to stop going to church.

--Rev. Michael MacDonald
Cedar Rapids, Iowa

THE HOLY MINISTRY: A VOCATION BLESSED OF GOD

In 1862, Dr. C. F. W. Walther, the first president of the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod (as it later became known) received a letter from a young boy in Accident, Md. The boy, the son of poor German immigrant parents, wished to pursue a career in the ministry of the Lutheran church, but his par-

ents had not the financial means to send him to school. A friend of the family suggested the letter to Dr. Walther, whom it was felt, would know what to do.

Dr. Walther's letter, dated June 3, 1862, is now in the Archives of the Church in St. Louis. Dr. Walther gives much encouragement to the 14-year-old boy and said in part:

"Neither do they consider what glorious promises God gives to those who preach the saving Gospel to this lost world. For it is written: "The teachers will shine as the brightness of heaven, and they who point many to righteousness, as the stars forever and ever." (Daniel 12:3)

"May the dear God strengthen you and richly give His Holy Spirit to you, so that you remain firm in your resolve to be a servant of Jesus Christ, who is also your faithful Saviour. May He also move your dear parents to give you joyfully to the service of God's house."

It is good, as we approach Thanksgiving once again, to praise and thank God for the gift of dedicated servants, who work tirelessly to bring His word to His people.

(The boy graduated with honors from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1872 and became known far and wide as an excellent pastor.)

ILDA SECRETARY WEDS

Miss Beth Diane Firnhaber, secretary of the International Lutheran Deaf Association since 1985, and Mr. William H. Lockard of West Chester, Pa. were united in marriage Saturday, July 2 with Rev. Joseph Varsanyi officiating.

The bride, who has been actively involved in parish work at St. Phillips Lutheran church in Philadelphia, is currently a member of the faculty at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf, where the groom is also on the school staff.

A reception was held in the church parlors for many guests and family members among whom were ILDA President Lester Ahls and his wife, Betty; President-elect Ronald Byington and ILDA Historian Donald Mowl and his wife, Mary.

The couple will be making their home at 412 West Miner St., West Chester, Pa.

Heartly congratulations and blessings on their life together.



NEWLYWEDS CUT THEIR CAKE--Bill and Beth Lockard cut their wedding cake following their nuptials at West Chester, Pa. July 2.

THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

In the United States, the flower most symbolic of the Christmas season is the Poinsettia. It was brought to this country in 1828 by Dr. Joel Poinsett, the first United States ambassador to Mexico who discovered it there and for whom the flower is named.

A Mexican legend tells that many years ago in a certain village there was the custom each Christmas Eve of placing gifts before the creche in the church. A small boy having nothing to give knelt to pray in the snow outside. When he awoke, he found in the spot where he knelt a beautiful plant with scarlet leaves and a yellow flower in the center. He picked the stalk and presented it as his gift to the Christ Child.

The Mexicans call it the "Flower of the Holy Night" and think it resembles the Star of Bethlehem.

VACATION TIME LAMEN

There is never enough time to do all the **NOTHING** you want!!

COME TO THE 1989 ILDA CONVENTION AT



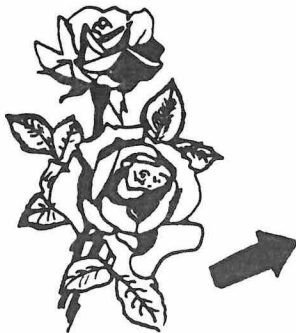
BUS RIDE
Evergreen Stage Line



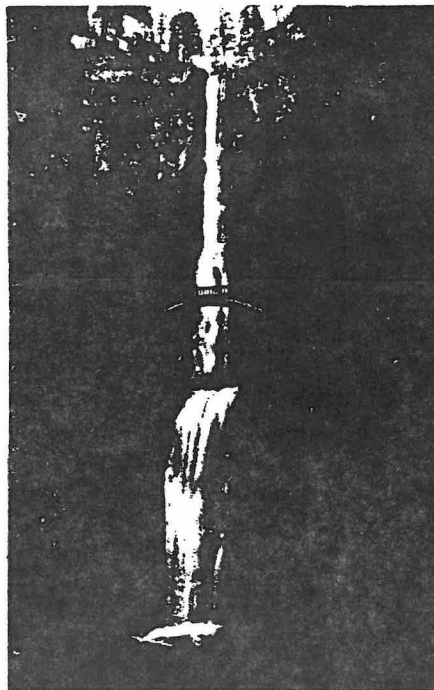
Gray Line



ROSE GARDENS



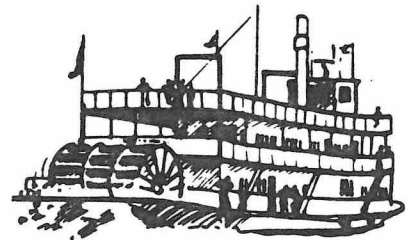
MULTNOMAH FALLS



DINNER



STERNWHEELER
"COLUMBIA GORGE"



BOAT RIDE

AWARDS

At the 1988 Ephphatha Conference at St. Louis, Mo., the following pastors in Deaf ministry were recognized for service longevity.

Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, West Hartford, Ct., and Rev. Steven Schlund, Delavan, Wis., five years each,

Rev. David Bush, Memphis, Tenn., 10 years.

Rev. George Natonick, Silver Springs, Md., and Lay Minister Gilbert Berninghaus, Great Falls, Mont., 20 years each.

Rev. Martin Hewitt, Spokane, Wash., and

Rev. Donald Leber, Columbus, Ohio, 25 years each.

Rev. John Nickerson, Mundelein, Ill., 30 years.

Rev. Clark R. Bailey, Detroit, Mich., 35 years.

Two of our retired pastors, Revs. Arnold Jonas, Auburn, Calif., and Walter Uhlig, Lincoln, Neb., have 50 years each.

Rev. August Hauptman, Los Angeles, who retired last March 1, has 40 years.

Mr. Donald Fairman, Frederick, Md., 20 years.

PROJECT LIFT

Sometimes we not only need to have our spirits 'lifted' but our physical beings as well! Enter "Project Lift." This is an effort by two of our churches to raise capital to fund elevator projects within the church proper to assist certain members with physical disabilities to negotiate the steps in their buildings.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Minneapolis, of which Rev. Donald Zuhn is pastor, has received a gift from the Minnesota South District of the LWML of \$20,000. Also assistance is being received from the Minnesota south District of the LCMS. The church itself has set a goal of a minimum of \$3,000 in a fund raising project and it is hoped the improvement will be in operation by Christmas this year.

Faith Lutheran church, Spokane, Wash., has a similar project in mind. The church, which is served by Rev. Martin Hewitt, has received

\$7,000 from the LWML for a chair lift that will run on a rail up a stairway. The gift represents three-fourths of the project cost.

Thanksgiving, 1988

Sing to the Lord, all the world!
Worship the Lord with joy;
Come before Him with happy songs!

Acknowledge that the Lord is God.
He made us, and we belong to Him;
We are His people, we are His flock.

Enter the temple gates with thanksgiving;
Go into its courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him and praise Him.

The Lord is good;
His love is eternal
And His faithfulness lasts forever.

--Psalm 100

The DEAF LUTHERAN

November-December, 1988

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD FOR MISSION. THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD, PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY CHRISTIAN ARMORY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO 3RD CLASS POSTAGE PD. COLUMBUS, OHIO. SUBSCRIPTION FEES: INDIVIDUAL .. \$5.00 PER YEAR. CHURCH BLANKET PLAN .. \$4.50 EACH MEMBER PER YEAR. PLEASE SEND ALL SUBSCRIPTIONS FEES AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELMER FRANCISCO, BUSINESS MANAGER, 10004 EAST MISSION, SPOKANE, WASH. 99206. PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, STORIES AND PICTURES TO LESTER AHL, EDITOR, 1004 CHERRYWOOD DR., CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613.

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT 1444
COLUMBUS, OHIO