



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

September-October, 1989

St. Louis, Mo.

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1989 CONVENTION ENDS ON SUCCESSFUL NOTE; NEW ILDA BOARD SWORN IN

PORTLAND, ORE.--Meeting in the unequalled splendor of the Pacific Northwest under ideal weather conditions, the 1989 ILDA convention concluded on Sunday, July 9 in what many will agree was one of the finest gatherings yet of the nearly 19-year-old organization. Attendance nearly equalled the previous 400 mark set two years earlier at Cedar Rapids, Iowa despite the distance many had to travel to reach the site of its 10th biennial convention.

The nearly week-long event opened on Tuesday, July 4 with a meeting of the executive committee and the board of directors at Concordia college, which was also the site for the 1989 meeting of the Ephphatha Conference. Moving to the Red Lion Lloyd center at noon on Thursday, July 6, convention headquarters, most of the day was devoted to registrations for early arrivers, many of whom were already

there. A processional led by ILDA President Lester Ahls of Cedar Falls, Iowa, Russel Healey of Chicago, Ill., Charles Kotal of Bellflower, Calif., Rev. R. A. Bauer of Edmonton, Alta, and two banner bearers, David Miller and Richard Zwirnmann, both of Portland preceded the opening worship, led by Rev. Bauer, who spoke on the convention theme, "Alive in Christ."

The delegates and convention goers were welcomed to Portland by Mayor J. E. "Bud" Clark, who spoke on the many things to see and do while in the city.

Entertainment Thursday evening consisted of five skits presented by Good Shepherd Lutheran church, Toledo, Ohio; Holy Cross LC, Columbus, Ohio; Bethlehem LC, Omaha, Neb.; Emmanuel LC, Milwaukee, Wis., and Hope LC, Portland, entitled, "The California Raisins" with Nora Peacock. The evening was rounded with a reception and fellowship by Hope Lutheran church of Portland and the Northwest Regional Conference.

With approximately 325 registrants on hand for the Friday morning first business session, most of the time was given to reports, appointments to committees and announcements

1989 CONVENTION (continue on page 2)

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT . . .

Arriving at 234 Trailridge Dr. in Garland, Texas a few days early was Mark David Friedrich, newest addition to the family of the Rev. and Mrs. Ronald Friedrich. He joins siblings Beth, age 8; Karen, age 7, and Christine, age 4. Baby Mark was born with some problems, but with the help of a merciful Creator and some skilled doctors, he appears to be doing much better.

We praise God for His goodness and extend best wishes to the family.



NEW PRESIDENT--President Lester Ahls hands the gavel to incoming President Ronald Byington, Milwaukee, Wis. (left) during the banquet Saturday evening.

1989 CONVENTION ENDS ON SUCCESSFUL NOTE

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for events later in the day. Mr Ahls gave his state of the ILDA address, followed by instructions for boarding chartered buses after lunch for the afternoon tour to the Washington Park Rose Gardens, which turned out to be a photographer's delight high above the city; Multnomah Falls and Cascade Locks on the Columbia river, approximately 45 miles east of Portland. These events took nearly eight hours, which included a boat ride on a paddlewheeler and a barbecue lunch which was enjoyed by everyone, most of whom were tired and hungry after the long tour. The Gray Line 47-passenger buses brought everyone back to the hotel in time for a slide show presentation, which unfortunately, had to be canceled due to problems with the projector. Devotions ended a long day.

NEARLY ALL OF SATURDAY was given to business of the association, with four sessions lasting from 1½ to 2 hours each. Dr. Rodney Rynearson, counselor of deaf and blind ministry of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod introduced the pastors serving the deaf in the USA and Canada, who were meeting for their annual conference at Concordia college.

Seizing an opportunity to invite everyone to the 1991 convention in Toledo, Ohio, Pastor Shirrel Petzoldt announced the dates as being Aug. 3, 4, 5 and 6 and urged the convention to make plans to attend. The theme will be, "GOD, YOU ARE. . . ."

A free will offering for the newly established "Junor ILDA" brought in \$280.41 and the convention assembly was thanked by David Miller, a member, from Vancouver, Wash. A fund raiser at Hope Lutheran church raised \$220.

WITH THE MISSION PROJECTS from the previous two-year goal set at Cedar Rapids met, the convention approved a new program of projects for the 1989-91 biennium, which if fully funded, are expected to exceed the previous goal by at least \$4,000 or \$12,000. Included are scholarships, \$2,000 for the Lutheran church in Ghana, assistance for Francis Anwana, who was also a recipient of the mission program during the previous two years, and which will help him complete his education in this country; a video tape project for the ILDA; funds to produce Luther's Small Catechism and others which will be funded as money becomes available.

The long awaited book of guidelines to help local convention committees with plan-

ning future meetings of the association and setting various procedures to be followed in implementing such things as the scholarship program, mission projects, etc., was introduced at this convention and adopted by the convention.

OFFICERS for the coming biennium will be Ronald E. Byington, Milwaukee, Wis., president; Ronald L. Madding, Portland, Ore, chairman of the 1989 convention and voted in by acclamation as president-elect; Charles J. Kotal, Bellflower, Calif., a former ILDA president for secretary, and Russel Healey, Chicago, re-elected as treasurer. Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt, Toledo, Ohio returned as pastoral adviser.

The convention voted to accept the bid of Austin, Texas as the site of the 1993 conclave, following a slide presentation given by Mr. Stephen Luke, president of the Dixie Region. The Texas meeting will be the farthest south the convention has yet met.

CHECKS TOTALING \$3,468.83 were given to Treasurer Healey during the four-day meeting from the following donors: Our Savior Lutheran church, Detroit, Mich., \$2,000 for mission projects; \$1,170 from the local convention committee at Portland and also earmarked for ILDA mission projects; \$248.83 from Emmanuel Lutheran church, Milwaukee, Wis., and for missions projects, Mrs. LeLa Mae Schladetzky, Des Moines, Iowa, presented \$50 to the association as a memorial to her late husband, Cecil, Schladetzky, who died earlier this year.

Attesting to the success of the 1989 meeting at Portland, Chairman Ronald Madding announced as of July 19, a total of \$12,512.78 in gross receipts had been realized with the likelihood of a few more donations coming in before a final tally could be made.

A LARGE CROWD was on hand for the banquet Saturday evening with Mr. Richard French, a lay minister from Seattle, Wash. on hand as master of ceremonies. Following an elegant dinner, Rev. George Natonick, pastor of Christ Lutheran church, Washington, D.C. spoke to the gathering, followed by Dr. Rodney Rynearson as Synodical speaker.

The association's coveted Right Hand award this year was presented to Mr. Arthur E. Anderson, Spokane, Wash. by Elmer Francisco, chairperson of the selection committee. Mr.

BOHLMANN RE-ELECTED TO 4TH TERM

Dr. Ralph A. Bohlmann, 57. president of The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod since 1981, was re-elected to a fourth term of the Synod during the 57th convention July 7-14 at Wichita, Kan.

Winning re-election during the first day of business sessions on the first ballot, Dr. Bohlmann will continue to head the 2.6

million member Lutheran body, the only large Lutheran denomination not joined to the newly established ELCA.

Commenting on member support for the Synod and its work, Dr. Bohlmann said member giving is approximately \$380 annually per communicant, which is above the national average.

A study concerning the possibility of changing the name of the church to reflect more accurately the church's evangelism and mission will be made with a report due at the next convention in 1992 for a decision.

The convention at Wichita is also believed to have passed a resolution to observe the 100th anniversary of our deaf ministry at its convention which will occur in 1992. A report will be made in **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** when the actual text of the resolution is received.

The first service in sign language for the deaf was preached in Chicago on March 4, 1894 and the ministry to the deaf was incorporated into the church at the Fort Wayne convention in 1896 following an appeal to do so by Rev. Augustus Reinke.

1989 CONVENTION

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Anderson, a retired farmer and accomplished carpenter, was honored for his years of service to his church and congregation and joins six previous winners of the award, three of them from the Northwest Region: James M. Lowell, Tacoma, Wash. in 1977; Mrs. Stanley Miller, Portland, Ore. in 1979; Mrs. Florence Peterson, Omaha, Neb. in 1981; Donald Mowl, Washington, Pa. in 1983; Robert Schneider, Greenfield, Wis., 1985 and who died shortly afterwards and Elmer D. Francisco, Spokane, Wash. in 1987.

THIS YEAR'S WINNERS in banner competition were: Emmanuel Lutheran church, Milwaukee, Wis., first place; Memorial Lutheran church, Fremont, Calif., second, and Silent Lutheran church, Madison, Wis., third. Approximately 16 or 17 entries were in the contest. Winners were presented plaques by Ronald Madding, newly chosen president-elect of the association.

Mr. James Drake honored the following churches entered in the skit contest on Thursday evening: First place and \$100 to Emmanuel Lutheran church, Milwaukee, Wis., which had also won first place in the banner competition; second place and \$75 to Holy Cross Lutheran church, Columbus, Ohio, and \$50 and third place to Good Shepherd Lutheran church, Toledo, Ohio.

STAGE ENTERTAINMENT by Jim and Sandy McKnight, Rosy the Clown and Nora Peacock rounded out a delightful evening.

Sunday Bible class and worship was preceded by a continental breakfast at the Red Lion and newly elected officers were sworn in by Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt. The offering of \$765 was voted to be sent to the Ghana Lutheran church by the assembly on Saturday.

The 1989 convention officially ended at 1 p.m., check out time with plans already underway to meet in Toledo in 1991.

--By Mrs. Helen Drake
Convention Reporter

July 13, 1989

PASTOR ROHE COMMENTS

Dear Lester:

The picture on the back page of the last issue of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** brought back some precious memories of days gone by. Of the 25 men pictured, 15 have entered the new life in eternity and the remaining 10 have retired. Pastor William Buege, who was then chairman of the Board of Missions to the Deaf, has also retired. Eight of the men have received the John of Beverley Medal.

Cordially,
HERBERT W. ROHE
Route 3, Box 165
Nevada, Mo. 64772

Editor's note:

Pastor Rohe, formerly secretary of the Board for Missions to the Deaf and Blind in St. Louis and Synodical representative to the ILDA until 1978, is currently serving two parishes in southwest Missouri. He is a member of the board of directors of the Mill Neck Foundation.

NOTHING runs itself unless
it is running downhill!

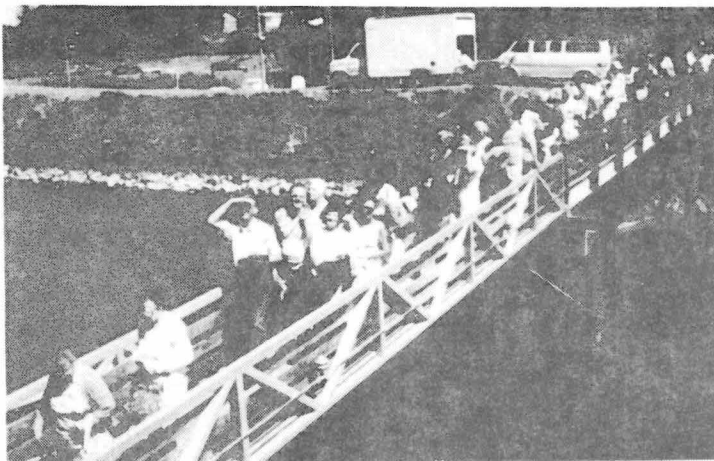
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WATCHING THE SKIT PRESENTATION—Part of the large group on hand is shown here Thursday evening. Left to right: Steve Luke, Killeen, Texas; Phippy and Bob Nichols, Madison, Wis.; Archie Marshall, St. Louis, Mo.; Yachtman Sue, Anaheim, Calif., and Frances Raymond, also of California. Man behind Marshall wearing glasses is Richard Schenck, Stoughton, Wis.



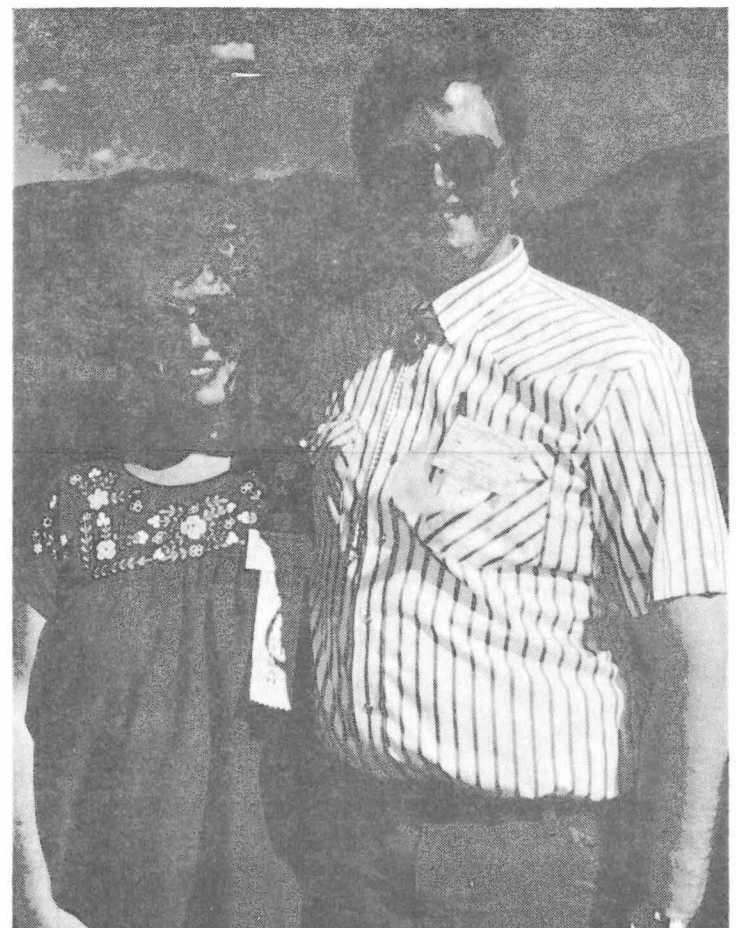
JUNIOR ILDA—Convention Chairman Ron Madding hands a check for \$220 from Hope Lutheran church, Portland, to David Miller, Vancouver, Wash. as seed money for the new organization of young people, as other members look on. Mae Madding sits at the right.



BOAT CRUISE—Part of the large crowd boarding the sternwheeler, "Columbia Gorge" for two-hour cruise on the scenic Columbia river.



BOAT CRUISE ON THE COLUMBIA—A couple of sailors enjoy the boat ride Friday afternoon during the tour. Here we see "Buzz" and Tillie Byers of North Highlands, Calif. enjoying themselves.

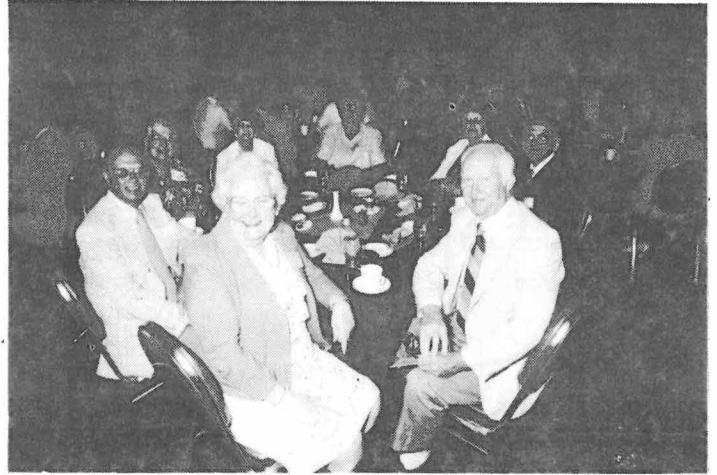


ENJOYING THE BOAT RIDE—Newly chosen President-elect Ron Madding and his wife, Mae, smile for the photographer while on the Columbia river cruise Friday afternoon.

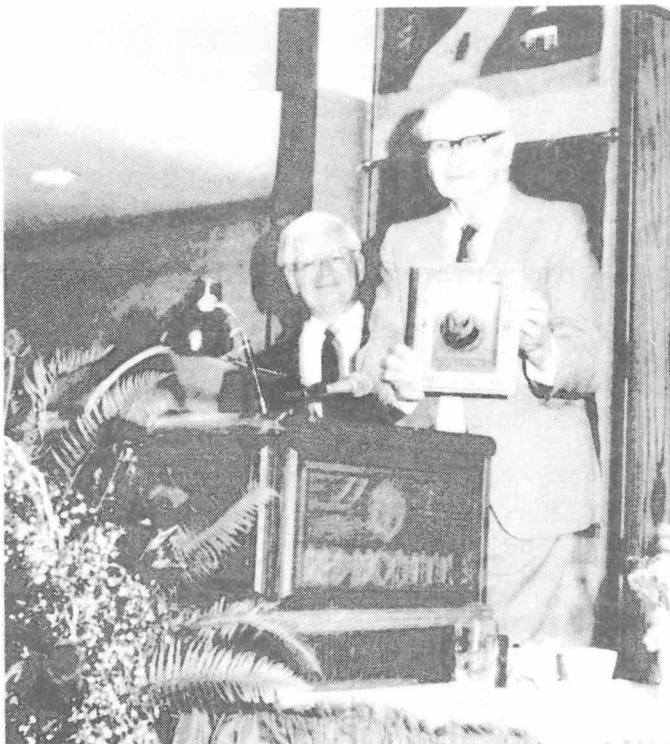
E ILDA CONVENTION



BANNER COMPETITION—David Christensen, Milwaukee, Wis., displays award received by Emmanuel Lutheran for first place in banner competition.



ENJOYING THE BANQUET—This table was just one of many shared by old friends Saturday evening. In fore front: Evelyn and Emil DeMeyere, Detroit, Mich. to left, Allen Rich, Flint, Mich.; Lillian Long, Clearwater, Fla.; Thea Sveen, LaCrosse, Wis.; Mrs. Munz, Great Bend, Kan., and Verona and William Mueller, of Racine, Wis.



RIGHT HAND AWARD—Arthur E. Anderson, Spokane, Wash. displays plaque received for outstanding service to his church and congregation. Committee Chairperson Elmer Francisco smiles approval.



SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICES—Albert Arneson and his wife, Ramona, Milwaukee, Wis., accept communion from Rev. Orlin Anderson of Calgary, Alta. Others are unidentified.

HIGHLIGHTS AND 'SIDELIGHTS' OF THE 1989 ILDA CONVENTION . . .

Treasurer Russ Healey, upon arriving at Portland by United Airlines, took the wrong luggage from the airport with him and upon arriving at Concordia college for the board meeting, discovered the error. A hurried trip back to the airport was made where he found his own. . .

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Driving their 13-year-old 1976 Chevrolet all the way to the convention and down to Los Angeles and back to Pittsburgh were **ILDA Historian Don Mowl and his wife, Mary**. Don had the misfortune to suffer a fall on the street enroute home in St. George, Utah, which was quite painful, but he was still able to drive. Several days' rest in Des Moines, Iowa at the home of Rev. and Mrs. George Ring helped the healing process.

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Babies making their debuts during the convention were **Jesse Allen Lockard**, two-month-old son of **Bill and Beth Lockard** of West Chester, Pa. His mother is two-term secretary, the former Beth Firnhaber. Baby Jesse was baptized in Sherwood, Ore. Sunday, July 2, exactly a year to the day his mommy and daddy were married. The church is the same one served by Rev. Donald Winkler, former pastor of Trinity, Pittsburgh. Pastor Winkler invited a number of his former parishioners over for a visit and salmon barbecue during the convention.

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The other baby was **Denise Marjorie Gorton**, newly arrived daughter of **Larry and Jane Gorton**, of Spokane, Wash. Her mom is the former Jane Joseph of Los Angeles. Baby Denise's dad is the new president of the Northwest Regional Conference, succeeding Ron Madding, who became president-elect of the ILDA.

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We asked **Dr. Rodney Ryneanson** where his trailer was at Portland, noting he had come only with his suburban GMC. It turns out he left it in Rapid City, S.D. where he and Rhoda had attended the LWML convention. Rod said he didn't want to spend the extra money for the gas and they were going to Holden Village in north central Washington anyway.

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It was announced that **Rev. Louis Jasper** is continuing to improve since the injuries he sustained in a beating in Hong Kong.

Rev. and Mrs. David Mueller of Jackson, Miss., while enroute to the Ephphatha Conference, received the sad news of the death of Mrs Mueller's father while they were in Boise, Idaho. Plans to come to Portland had to be abandoned and fly home to St. Louis where they attended the funeral at Columbia, Ill. We extend sincere sympathy to the family.

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Good news announced at the convention by **Dr. Ryneanson** was that the LWML convention in Rapid City, S.D., which he had attended had voted to fund a project by Bethel Lutheran church, Denver, Colo. which had requested assistance for a video tape project costing approximately \$16,000. The project was number one in the voting, getting 450 votes, A project for the blind was second, with 426 votes.

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Mrs. Bud Palmer, wife of our pastor from Milwaukee continue to undergo chemotherapy for a rare blood disorder. Our prayers to the Lord for the family are from all of us.

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The jinx which seems to have followed us at so many of our previous conventions when someone would get hurt or injured during the week failed to occur this time, for which we give thanks.

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It was reported that about 14 individuals attended Holden Village at Chelan, Wash. at the close of the convention. **Pastor Clark Bailey and his wife, Louise** went up to Canada's famed Lake Louise (her lake!) as did the Elmer Franciscos, the Russ Healeys and Ahls, but we did not meet them.

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A telegram extending greetings to the **Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod** meeting in convention the same time we were sent to them at Wichita, Kan by President Ahls.

"God, You Are . . ."

INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION

11th Biennial Convention

August 3, 4, 5, 6, 1991

TOLEDO, OHIO

It is not too early to plan!

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

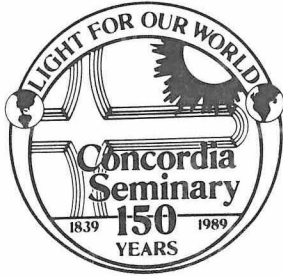
THE FIRST 150 YEARS

It was a humble beginning. The log cabin school in Perry County, Mo. founded eight years before the organization of the Synod itself, was a scant 16x21 feet in size and offered only a dirt floor and a few rude benches to the 11 students who entered on Dec. 9, 1839.

And the first years were difficult ones.

The colony of Saxon settlers suffered from poverty and disease. They were beset with doctrinal doubts and conflicts in the early days, and within a short period of time the four founders had all departed, either because of illness or upon accepting calls elsewhere. Somehow, the school survived, and today, 150 years later, we can count more than 10,000 graduates who have gone out to preach the Gospel of "Jesus Christ and Him crucified" in more than 40 countries around the world.

We owe much to our Saxon forefathers, to Walther, Brohm, Buenger, Fuerbringer, Loeber and others. Think of it: the school was begun just 10 months after these people landed on the banks of the Mississippi.



Ultimately, however, the history of Concordia Seminary is not the story of human piety, doctrinal concern or of achievement. It is the story of **WHAT HE HAS DONE**. That is what we want to tell everyone; how HE led our fathers and mothers in Christ to establish this school of the prophets, how HE blessed the education and training for the ministry, how HE has to this day preserved to us the pure doctrine of His sure and un-failing Word.

Our anniversary theme is "Light for Our World." It speaks for our Saviour, "the Light of the world" and of the Holy Scriptures, "a lamp to our feet and a light to our path" and of that Gospel light that "has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. Through His spotless life and innocent suffering and death as our Redeemer we are freed from the darkness of sin, death and hell.

That Saviour and that message was light for the world of 1839. It is also light for our world. May we, the grateful heirs of the immigrants, hold high that light and thus **TELL EVERYONE WHAT HE HAS DONE.**

By Karl L. Barth
President, Concordia Seminary

SUBSTANCE ABUSE: WHAT IS IT?

It used to be that we hardly ever heard the word, 'abuse' and then only on very rare instances. But today, it has become a household word we hear almost daily in the media, TV and radio. How shall we define the word, "abuse?"

WE shall define 'abuse' in the context of God's Word. Abuse is defined as 'using a person or substance in a way unintended by Him.'

Substance abuse, as well as other types of abuse, arises out of an attempt to meet personal needs in ineffective ways. Opinion differ to whether abuse is and of itself a disease, but none the less, it is an effort on the part of the abuser to find a solution to a life problem for which the abuse is not the solution.

Read Ephesians 5:18; Proverbs 23:29-35; I Timothy 3:3; Exodus 20:3, and Matthew 6:21.



NEW OFFICERS SWORN IN—Clarence F. Schulz, Palo Alto, Calif., shakes hands with Pastor Sherril Petzoldt following the swearing in Sunday morning. Others are, left to right: Harold Nord, Midwest, of Manhattan, Kan.; Steve Luke, Dixie, of Killeen, Texas; Schulz; Larry Gorton (hidden by pastor) of Spokane, Wash. for the Northwest, and Paul Phillips of Columbus, Ohio.

JOHN OF BEVERLY MEDAL

The 23rd person to receive the prestigious JOHN OF BEVERELEY MEDAL, first given in 1959 to the late Dr. John L. Salvner of Minneapolis, Minn., was awarded on July 10 to Dr. Elaine Costello during the convention of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod at Wichita, Kan.

Rev. John P. Reinke Begins Work in Omaha July 2

Rev. John P. Reinke began work in the Nebraska District of the Lutheran Church-- Missouri Synod as missionary-at-large to the



Rev. John P. Reinke

deaf. A native of Gaylord, Minn., he graduated from Concordia Seminary on May 19, 1989 with a master of divinity degree. Pastor Reinke served his vicarage at Alpha Lutheran church in Rochester, N.Y.

Reinke and his wife, Dacia, are the parents of two children, Joshua, 2, and Joseph, 3 months.

Bethlehem Lutheran church, Omaha has been without a pastor since Lay Minister Robert Oettel accepted a two-year call to teach in Japan in July, 1988 and the church has been served by Vacancy Pastor Delbert Thies.

The medal, commissioned by the board of directors of Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, desires to call attention to individuals who serve the needs of the deaf and the hearing impaired.

The medal is named after an English clergyman, John of Beverley, who lived during the 7th century and is the first person of record to teach a deaf person to speak. Of those receiving the award to date, three have received it posthumously.

This year's honoree is recognized for her many contributions to deaf education over a 25 plus year span and for a variety of books she has written and published. She is presently director and editor-in-chief of the Gallaudet University Press.



"I was over at Jimmy's house playing church. We just baptized his cat."

The DEAF LUTHERAN

September-October, 1989

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