



# The DEAF LUTHERAN

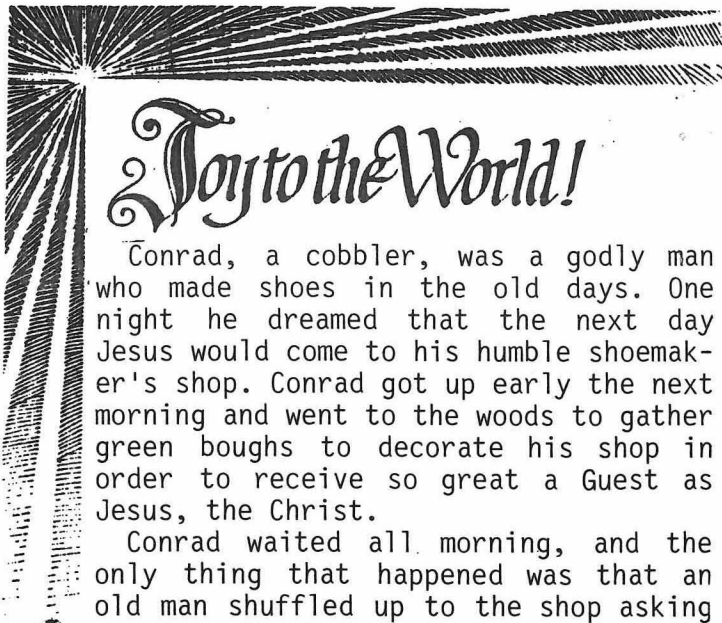


Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

November-December, 1989

St. Louis, Mo.

Volumes 81, No. 6



## Joy to the World!

Conrad, a cobbler, was a godly man who made shoes in the old days. One night he dreamed that the next day Jesus would come to his humble shoemaker's shop. Conrad got up early the next morning and went to the woods to gather green boughs to decorate his shop in order to receive so great a Guest as Jesus, the Christ.

Conrad waited all morning, and the only thing that happened was that an old man shuffled up to the shop asking to rest. Conrad, the cobbler, saw that the old man's shoes were worn through, so he brought the old man into his shop. "I will give you a new pair of shoes," he said, and he put on the old man's feet the best and sturdiest shoes in his shop before sending the old man on his way.



Conrad waited through the afternoon and the only happening was that an old woman came by carrying a heavy load of firewood. She was tired, and out of compassion, Conrad brought her into his shop and gave her some of the food he had prepared for the Christ Child's visit. The old woman ate eagerly because she was very hungry.

Refreshed and rested, she went on her way.

Then, as the shades of night began to fall that Christmas evening, a lost child came to the shoemaker's shop crying bitterly. Conrad was annoyed because he had to leave his shop to take the lost child home. When he returned to his shop, he was convinced he had missed the visit from the Lord Jesus.

JOY TO THE WORLDS

(continue on page 2)

## © Little Town of Bethlehem



O little town of Bethlehem,  
How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
The silent stars go by.  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
The everlasting Light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years  
Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,  
The Wondrous Gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of His heav'n.  
No ear may hear His coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive Him still,  
The dear Christ enters in.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray,  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell:  
Oh, come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!

## CORRECTION

In the last issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN the dates for the 1991 convention of the INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION were given as being Aug. 3, 4, 5 and 6. This is **not** correct. They should be Aug. 1, 2, 3 and 4. The 11th biennial convention will be held in Toledo, Ohio. Incidentally, the convention dates printed on the back cover of the Portland program books carried the same incorrect dates. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

## 65 Years in Ministry

# 1989 ILDA CONVENTION

# HONORS REV. ALVIN E. FERBER

How often does a church have an occasion to honor one of its servants who has given more than 65 years of his life to serving God and his fellow man and bringing the gospel of Jesus Christ to many thousands of deaf and hearing impaired brothers and sisters over his life time? Not very often.

Rev. Alvin E. Ferber, Kansas City, Mo., celebrated his 90th birthday on Sept. 10 this year. The third oldest in family of four boys, all whom entered the Holy ministry in the footsteps of their father, Rev. Ferber was recognized for his long service to the

## JOY TO THE WORLD

(continue from page 1)

Conrad sat down sadly and imagined how he would have visited with Jesus: A knock on the door, he opens, he sees the lighted face, offers a warm drink. He would have kissed the hands where the nails had been, he would wash the feet where the spikes had entered. Then Conrad imagined sitting with the Lord and breaking bread.

"Why is it, Lord, that your feet delay?" Conrad cried. "Have you forgotten that this was the day?"

Then, soft in the silence, he heard a voice:

"Lift up your heart for I kept My word. Three times I came to your friendly door. Three times my shadow was on your floor. I was the beggar with bruised feet; I was the woman you gave to eat; I was the child on the homeless street."

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and good will toward men.--Luke 2:14

Christmas is the time of the year we remember and celebrate God communicating to us His great love in person: His own Son came to the world and was born Man, Jesus Christ to live God's perfect life and then to suffer the punishment for sin, to die and rise again in order that He can forgive the many, many times we fail to live and do as God demands. May God's love through Jesus Christ fill you with love and peace and give you a happy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

church during the 10th biennial convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association at Portland, Ore.

Unable to be present to receive an award from Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson, counselor of ministries to the deaf and blind of St. Louis due to the infirmities of age, an appropriately engraved plaque from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and signed by Synod President Dr. Ralph R. Bohlmann, Dr. Edward Westcott, director of the board of mission services and Dr. Rynearson was given to Mr. Harold Nord, president of the Midwest Conference of the ILDA, for presenting to him during meeting at Bonner Springs, Kan. July 29.

The four Ferber brothers cumulatively ministered a total of 210 years, with three of them devoting at least a portion of those years to serving the deaf. They were Walde- mar, who served 70 years and is still living at age 95 and who will be 96 on Dec. 9 and Gerhardt who served the deaf for 15 years prior to entering the Army Chaplain Corps in 1942 in southern California. He died at age 83 in 1980 at Arcadia, Calif.

Despite his advanced age, Rev. Ferber demonstrated a remarkable memory for events of yesteryear and continues to preach on occasion and do some visiting to shut-ins and members in area hospitals at Kansas City.

We thanked and praise our heavenly Father for His gift of such missionaries of His Word and wish Pastor Ferber many more years of good health and happiness. And we extend to him hearty congratulations on receiving this greatly deserved honor.



65 YEARS IN THE MINISTRY--Rev. Alvin Ferber accepts plaque from the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod during presentation during the Midwest Conference. President Harold Nord is at the right.

# TRAGIC ACCIDENT CLAIMS LIFE OF SIX YEAR OLD YOUNGSTER AT IOWA SCHOOL FOR DEAF



Dr. William P. Johnson, ISD superintendent, tells ISD students and staff that this Colorado Blue Spruce tree will be planted in the front of Primary Hall in the loving memory of Jessica Smith.

## "HOW A THIRD GRADER SEES GOD"

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes these to put in the place of the ones that die so there will be enough people to take care of things here on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups. Just babies. I think because they are smaller . . . and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to walk and talk. He can just leave that up to the mothers and fathers. I think it works pretty good.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, as some people, like preachers and things, pray other times besides bed time, and grandma and grandpa pray everytime they eat (except snacks). God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV on account of this. As He hears everything, not only prayers, there must be a terrible lot of noise going on in His ears unless He has thought of a way to turn it off. I think maybe we should all be a little quieter.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere. Which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time asking for things that aren't important or go over your parents' head and ask for something they said you couldn't have."--Copied

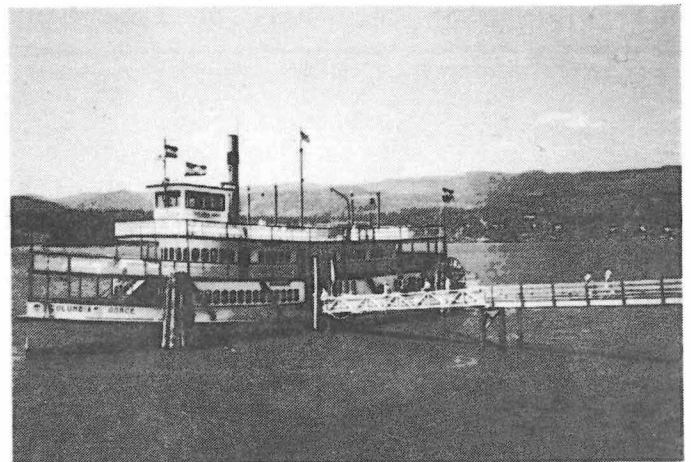
This belated news item, delayed for lack of space earlier, is nevertheless current in relation to our grief at the untimely death of 6-year-old Jessica Smith at the Iowa School for the Deaf at Council Bluffs last March 1.

Jessica's scarf became entangled in a playground slide during a 15-minute recess and in the process of trying to free herself, she fell off the top of the slide. When recess ended and the kids returned to their classrooms, Jessica was found to be missing. An immediate search for the girl was started, first inside the building, then outside. She was discovered dangling under the slide by the school staff and resuscitation efforts were begun right away, which proved to be ineffective. The county medical examiner said the child had probably been hanging about 10 to 20 minutes before she was found.

The whole school and the staff were very upset by the incident, and all parents across the state were notified of the tragedy. Funeral services were conducted a day before Jessica would have been 7 years old.

A memorial service for Jessica Smith was held in the school auditorium on March 6 with Dr. William P. Johnson, superintendent, delivering the eulogy.

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EVANGELISM is 'one beggar telling another beggar where food may be found.'



**SUMMER BREEZES ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER**--The 1989 ILDA convention is only a pleasant memory now, but nice to remember on a cold winter day. This is the paddlewheeler, "Columbia Gorge" which took visitors for a two-hour cruise. Note the perfect weather.

# SWINGING AROUND

Easter was an exciting time at **Faith Lutheran church** in Spokane, Wash. this year when the new \$12,000 chair lift elevator was dedicated. The project was made possible by generous gifts and donations, a LWML grant, fund raising projects and matching AAL and Lutheran Brotherhood funds.

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**Denise Marjorie Gorton** was born June 9 about six weeks earlier than expected. She is the daughter of **Larry and Jane Gorton**, members of Faith Lutheran church in Spokane, Wash. We praise God for this little blessing!

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**Pastor Martin and Janet Hewitt** are new grandparents this year. Pastor Hewitt baptized James Thaddeus Drew on April 2. He is the first son of J. Samuel and Julie Hewitt Drew of Olympia, Wash.

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**Rev. David Bush**, Memphis, preached his final sermon at Eternal Mercy Lutheran church on Aug. 6. He has accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Ft. Wayne, Ind.

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We were sorry to learn that **Mrs. Evelyn DeMeyere** of Detroit had the misfortune to slip and fall at Holden Village at Chelan, Wash. after the ILDA convention adjourned. She broke her left shoulder but has since healed and without any further problems, for which we give God thanks.

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**Mr. Harry Petrowske**, Detroit, Mich. was the recipient of the "Hall of Fame Award"

from the Central Athletic Association of the Deaf for all the work he has done for promoting softball among the deaf.

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The members of Valley Lutheran church, Sacramento, Calif. and Memorial Lutheran church, Fremont, Calif. joined to surprise **Rev. Bob Rowland** at a picnic in Lodi on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of his ordination into the ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod on June 11.

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The members of Memorial Lutheran church in Fremont, Calif. remembered their pastor and his wife on their 20th wedding anniversary this summer on July 23. **Rev. and Mrs. Roy Dahmann** were quite surprised. Light refreshments were served after church.

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A loan from the Iowa District East Church Extension Fund has permitted **Word of God Lutheran church** to replace an old heating system and install air conditioning for the church, which was badly needed. Some additional repairs will be made on the church with leftover funds.

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The Quota Club of Madison, Wis. honored **Annette Binn** of Monona as the Outstanding Hearing Impaired Person of the Year at a banquet on May 18 this year. District 22 of Quota International comprises clubs from five states, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, also honored Iva Eklof of Madison as District Woman of the Year at a luncheon on April 29.

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Iva Eklof's name has now been submitted to the top level of Quota International in Washington, D.C. to compete with 11 other nominees from all over the country for the highest honor as the Woman of the Year.

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**Annette Binn** has also been honored by Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) for her exemplary volunteer service to the church and



**LINING UP FOR DINNER**--Part of the large crowd waiting for barbecued chicken and steak after the cruise ended at Cascade Locks, Ore.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PRAYERS, INTEREST AND SUPPORT. MAY THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS BE REAL TO YOU!

# THE REGIONS . . .

the community. She was a nominee in AAL's search for its 1989 Fraternalist of the Year. Although the title was awarded to another person, it is quite an honor for her to be nominated out of 1.5 million AAL members nationwide! May our Lord bless both of "our ladies" as they continue to serve our Lord and His people.

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About 60 persons gathered in Rockford, Ill. on Sunday, Sept. 17 for the second annual banquet of the **Northern Illinois District** of Lutheran Churches for the Deaf. Guest speaker was Lester Ahls, immediate past president of the ILDA. Included was a magic show by Rickie Rowray of Cedar Rapids, Iowa with door prizes being drawn.

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The **Great Lakes Regional ILDA Conference** met at the Laurelville Mennonite church center in Mount Pleasant, Pa. Sept. 15-17. The 1990 meeting will be at Concordia college,

Ann Arbor, Mich. in June.

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**Mrs. Jennifer Palmer**, wife of our pastor in Milwaukee, received some good news recently in that she will not have to go to North Carolina for a bone marrow transplant. The doctors were satisfied that chemotherapy had killed all the cancer cells in her blood and that her bone marrow is back to normal. However, what is normal for her is far below normal for everyone else. She still has her original blood disease and that has not been cured. Jennifer can stay home now and go back for periodic check-ups. For this, we give thanks to our Lord, our Great Physician.

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The **Riverside Medical Center** in Minneapolis, Minn. has had its license changed and it now serves hearing impaired adolescents ages 16-25. Phone numbers are 612-337-4402 (V), 337-4114 (TDD) and their toll free line is 1-800-282-DEAF.

## MIDWEST REGION CONVENES IN KANSAS JULY 28-30

Some ILDA members were able to get together two times in less than a month when the Midwest Regional Conference met at the Saviour of the World Pastoral Center in Bonner Springs, Kan. about three weeks after the 10th biennial ILDA convention ended at Portland.

The former seminary provided excellent facilities for the 55 persons who were registered for the three-day meeting amid some

very hot, but typical Kansas summer weather.

Meeting to the conference theme of "Catch the Visions," the gathering coincided with the Kansas District's centennial observance.

An inspiring workshop on dreams and goals was led by Rev. Donald Zuhn, Minneapolis followed by a viewing of one program of the signed TV ministry recently initiated in Denver, Colo.

One of the high points of the meeting was an appearance by Rev. Alvin Ferber, nonagenarian pastor, who was presented a plaque brought to the conference by President Harold Nord from the ILDA convention in Portland, which Pastor Ferber could not attend. His appreciation at receiving the honor was apparent to everyone.

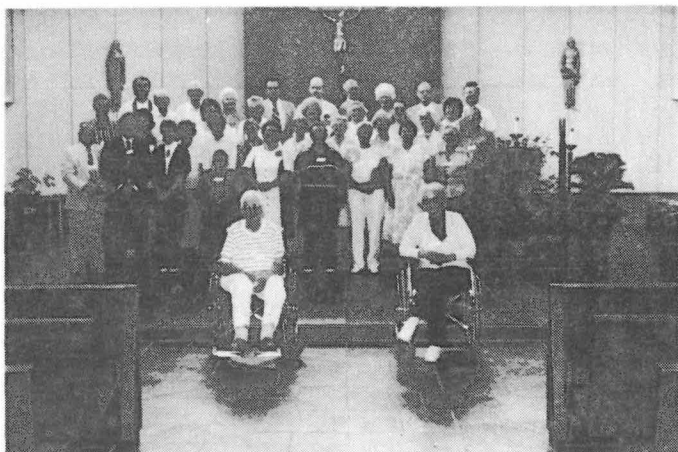
The conference ended on Sunday with a communion service preached by Rev. Ray Leimkuehler, Barnes, Kan. The 1990 meeting will be in Roseville, Minn.

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All things invite God's love; all times are His seasons.

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Age is mostly a matter of mind. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter.



**MIDWEST GROUP POSES FOR A PICTURE**--Meeting outside Kansas City, Kan., at the end of July, they pose after church services on Sunday.

# 80 YEARS OF CHRISTMAS SEALS

In 1904, a Danish Lutheran postal clerk came up with the idea of using "charity stamps" as a means of raising funds for TB (tuberculosis) and other worthwhile causes. Three years later, the idea had spread to the United States, and were used by what is

now the American Lung Association.

In 1910, the Lutheran Sanatorium printed its first issue and sold them door-to-door to raise funds to assist patients who had come to Colorado to be cured of TB.

Later when treatment for tuberculosis had advanced enough for patients to be treated in their home communities, the sanatorium at Wheat Ridge, Colo. was sold, but the stamps have continued their mission of serving suffering people down through the years.

For 1989, a special sheet containing some of the designs from the past eight decades are included, along with the first issue.

Projects approved by the Wheat Ridge board of directors for 1989-90 will be more than ever, totalling with \$308,850 in first year funding and \$582,350 over the next three years.



## LOGISTICS

The word above is not generally in the realm of daily church uses, or even its language. However, it comes into focus when we read the episode in the Bible where Moses led God's people out of Egypt for the 40 years to the Promised Land.

Logistics has to do primarily with supply and it most often is connected with the military in war time. We shall use some mathematics from the Quartermaster General of the Army as to what would have been required to equip the people that followed Moses over that 40 years by today's standards, if God had not done it. We are looking at 3 or 3½ million people, which is only an estimate. They had to be fed and have water to drink . . . remember, they were in the desert.

A conservative estimate is that 1,500 tons of food would be needed each day which God supplied as manna. Do you know that to haul that much food today, two freight trains, each a mile long, would be required? And what about firewood for cooking? That would take 4,000 tons of wood and a few more freight trains each a mile long, just for one day. Don't forget, either, this was not for just a day, or even two days, or a week. IT WAS FOR 40 YEARS!

And drinking water, of course. That would take approximately 11,000,000 gallons each day, and a freight train with tank cars 1,800 miles long to bring it. And how about the crossing of the Red Sea? Since it happened

very quickly, in just one night to escape Pharaoh and his army a space 3 miles wide was created by the Lord (it would be needed) for 5,000 to walk abreast to get across in that short span of time. If they had to walk a narrow path double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would take 35 days and nights for everyone to get through.

And camping? At the end of each day, a campground two-thirds the size of Rhode Island would be needed, or a total of about 750 square miles of space. When Moses said, "Yes," to God and that he would lead His people out of the bondage of the Egyptians, do you think that he thought of all this? I doubt it.

You see, MOSES BELIEVED IN GOD, and he believed that God would take care of His people. Let us have the same kind of courage as we face a new year soon.

HE WILL TAKE CARE OF YOU.

*"Joined Hand In Hand"*

1990 MIDWEST ILDA CONFERENCE

Holiday Inn

Roseville, Minn.

June 22, 23 and 24

Hosted by Prince of Peace LC

Mark A Johnson, Chairman

Lino Lakes, Minn. 55014

# LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Exciting things are happening every day through the Lutheran Church Extension Fund! Churches and schools are being built, land is being purchased for new missions and facilities are being expanded and remodeled with the funds of LCEF investors.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund has many different investment plans to meet your various investment needs, too. Flexible investment certificates, term notes and IRAs allow you to save a portion of your income that provides a financial nest egg to help you reach long-range goals or meet those unexpected emergencies.

What makes LCEF unique is that the dollars you invest not only earn interest at competitive rates, they are also used to provide a source of low-cost loans for new church

sites and building to support the mission and ministry of the church. Buildings financed with Church Extension dollars are unique buildings. In these buildings, pastor and people gather around Word and Sacrament and are equipped for ministry, outreach and service.

If you would like more information about LCEF investments, call toll free 1-800-THE-LCEF (1-800-843-5233). In Missouri, call 1-314-966-2630. Your call will be received by an operator not equipped with a TDD. Simply press the space bar of your TDD and your call will be transferred to an individual who will acknowledge your call with a TDD. When a representative is available, your call will be forwarded and your questions will be answered.

## 1989 ILDA Convention Video Tapes Are Available

Would you like to have for your film library some copies of the 1989 ILDA convention taken by professional camera people? A series of five such tapes are available by mail that covered all the important events from July 6-9.

Tape No. 1 covered the first day including orientation, skit competition and the grand reception on Thursday.

Tape No. 2 for the business sessions on both Friday and Saturday.

Tape No. 3, for the banquet on Saturday evening which includes all the activities including guest speakers, entertainment, and Rosie the Clown.

Tape No. 4, "Sunday Morning" includes the worship service, Holy Communion, installation

of officers, etc.

Tape No. 5 contains edited highlights of the tapes one through four with about two hours of running time.

Tapes one through four are \$14.95 each, plus \$2.50 for postage and handling or \$14.45 to any point in the United States or Canada. Tape number five is \$25.00 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling or \$27.50. If all five tapes are desired, the cost is \$65.00 plus \$7.50 for postage and handling or \$72.50, a saving of \$24.80 if bought separately.

Orders should be sent to City Video, 2415 N.E. Broadway, Portland, Ore. 97232. Visa or Mastercard acceptable.

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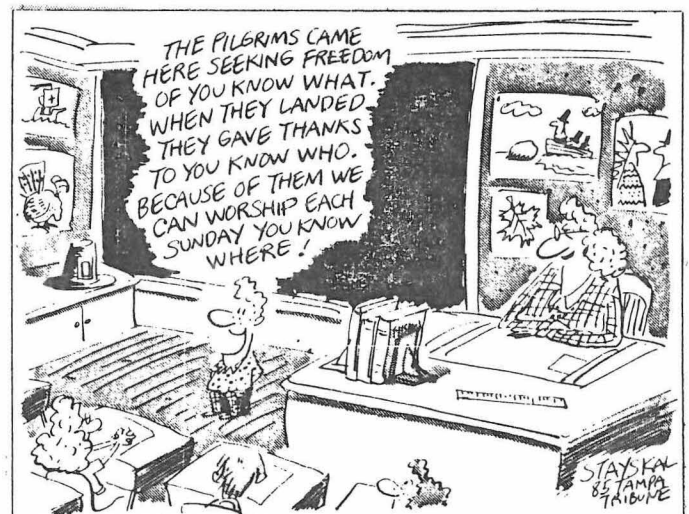
He who cannot forgive others breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.

## SERMON IN SOAP

DUZ you DREFT with the TIDE? VEL, now is the time to CHEER up. If you want real JOY, the TREND is to BREEZE to church on Sunday.

Too many people WOODBURY their heads in a pillow or work to make their cars SPARKLE, forgetting that the Lord's Day is for LEST-OIL. When the Lord is put first, a DOVE will never go S.O.S.

Maybe we ought to DIAL you to remind you od the IVORY palaces yonder. Worship is your LIFEBOUY, so WHISK yourself out of bed next Sunday, dress SPIC AND SPAN and DASH like a COMET to Sunday school and church. As you sing praises to God and hear His word, you, ll feel like MR. CLEAN all over!--Copied



# 25 YEARS AGO

Attending the Montana District convention at Glendive were **Victor Lyon**, for Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Montana as delegate: Vicar Donald Zuhn and Rev. Rodney Rynearson on Aug. 24-28.

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Religious orientation night at Gallaudet college on Sept. 13 had standing room only when **Pastor H. Hoemann** arrived. Forty-five students filled the student union chapel.

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A spacious carport served as a shelter for a rained out picnic in Washington, D.C. as **hurricane Dora** struck the east coast and brought rains. Many thought it would be canceled, however, those who showed up anyway were treated to char-broiled hot dogs and grilled hamburgers by Chef Hoemann.

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**Peter M. Rynearson** was baptized July 12 at Spokane, Wash. His parents are Dr. and Mrs Rodney Rynearson.

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**Rev. Alvin E. Ferber** served as chaplain at the 17th biennial convention of the Kansas Association of the Deaf at Hutchinson Aug. 8-9.

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Rev. Hoemann resigned as editor of THE DEAF LUTHERAN and **Rev. Martin Hewitt** assumed the task following an extended discussion of the paper, articles, subscriptions and size by the Ephphatha Conference.

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The **Midwest Conference** met at the YMCA camp at Estes Park, Colo., and was described by executive secretary Herb Rohe as a fine meeting.

The Lutheran Festival at the World's Fair Pavilion was packed by 2,500 people on Sunday, July 19. Interpreting for the deaf was **Rev. Louis Jasper**.

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A rare oil painting of Abraham Lincoln and his son, Tad, was presented to Gallaudet college by **Mr. Fred Maloof** of Oxon Hill, Md. as a centennial gift to the college. It was placed in the Hall of Fame.

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**Rev. Clark Bailey** was installed as missionary to the deaf at Oakland, Calif. as Dr. George Gaertner retired after 48 years of serving deaf Lutherans.

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**Rev. Herman Graef** confirmed 14 pupils from both the Nebraska and Iowa Schools for the Deaf, with four also being baptized.

## Thanksgiving



# The DEAF LUTHERAN

November-December, 1989

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