



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Summer, 2000

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 92, No. 2

DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Mark Anderson,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

AMAZING! UNBELIEVABLE! AMAZING!

I thought it was very amazing to see long lines of people so eager to make lottery purchases. It happened about a month ago that there was a seven-state lottery with a gold pot of some \$363,000,000. So many people came and bought. Seeing all those million \$\$ flying around their heads, they dreamed up of so many wonderful things they could buy. They really believed that once they hit it rich, all problems would all disappear with a huge spoof. Well, it turned out that there were just 2 winners and untold millions of losers. So I did some math and figured out that even after those high taxes, both federal and state, they have plenty of money to spend and spend for some 100 years. Just think of that! Amazing! Unbelievable! Amazing!

So amazing it was, and still is, that people see lottery as the perfect and sure way of getting out of all those sad and difficult financial situations. I do not know about you, but money almost never brings happiness and peace. Those people think that all beautiful things from the world can make them happy and satisfied for the rest of their lives. They still believe that money absolutely can buy happiness. Amazing! Unbelievable! Amazing!

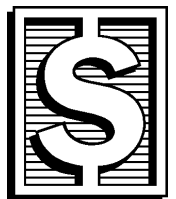
Jesus knows these people very well. Ever since the fall when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, people have always sought for happiness and peace. Jesus made it very clear that we are not to build up treasures on this world, simply because they can be destroyed, stolen or taken away. Rather, Jesus tells us to look up into His kingdom where all those heavenly treasures cannot be destroyed, stolen or taken away. We ask, what heavenly treasures are that Jesus has already in store for us, His followers. They are so many blessings that this world cannot offer: Perfect happiness, pure joy, complete peace,

no pains or death, no tears or troubles of all kinds, etc., etc. Amazing! Unbelievable yet true! Amazing!

Finally, what is so amazing about those wonderful heavenly blessings is that they are all yours for free! No gimmicks at all! No strings attached at all! Absolutely costs you nothing! Not even a meager penny! How is that possible? All you need to do is to simply believe in the Gospel that all your sins are forgiven once for all. That is it! Yep, that is it! That is amazing, unbelievable yet true, amazing that Jesus bought those wonderful blessings just for you and myself with His precious holy and innocent Blood shed on cross. His Blood is much more precious than all gold or all silver you can ever find in this world. Of course, even much more and still more than that gold pot of \$363 million dollars. Amazing! Praise the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world! Amazing, still amazing!

ILDA Pastoral Advisor

FUND RAISER



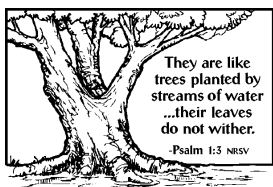
Your help is greatly needed...

The Indianapolis ILDA 2001 Host need money from all deaf churches and ILDA Regions. Because Indianapolis has volunteered to host the last minute 2001 Convention site vacancy, they are in great need for funds to help prepare for the convention. They don't have much time to have a lot of fund raising like all the other host churches had in the past.

All donations can be made to:

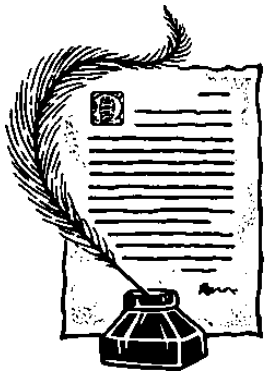
**Indianapolis ILDA 2001 Convention,
Peace Lutheran Church-Deaf, 6404 East
46th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226-3550.**

Thank you! The Deaf Lutheran Editor



They are like
trees planted by
streams of water
...their leaves
do not wither.
-Psalm 1:3 NRSV

Editorial...



My, has the time gone by fast! It has been almost a year since the ILDA convention in Cleveland, Ohio. By now Indianapolis is working hard on their coming ILDA convention in June 2001. Because they have started less than a year ago, they have a lot of work to do in the coming days. Right now they are requesting funds to help them make it. Please give them help. I hope to see their stuffs and forms in the Fall Issue of *The Deaf Lutheran*.

OK, news on my side is that since I now have the time to attend your regional conferences, I cannot attend because of the expenses. I was laid off on March 31st after a total of 33 years of employment due to lack of work by corporation mergers and moves. The Deaf Lutheran budget does not, and I believe never did, include travel and conference expenses for the editor. The reason is to keep the annual newsletter subscription cost down.

I am asking each ILDA regions to submit to the Deaf Lutheran editor photos and highlights of your regional conferences this summer. Also don't forget during your regional conferences to nominate new officers (president, secretary, and treasurer) for ILDA 2001-2003 term.

My present goal is to go free-lance and work out of my home. I am searching for graphics jobs like price lists, catalogs, brochures, yearbooks, packaging sheets, etc. that I can do on my personal computer. It was a good thing that I purchased my new Macintosh computer almost two years ago and have been updating most of the software that I needed.

The layoff also free up my busy time to help with the upcoming remodeling projects at my church, Christ Lutheran Church, Cleveland. We have lot, lot of work to do in the new building this summer.

One more thing! This year I have not see much activities happening to ILDA's 1999-2001 Mission Project goal of \$55,000. Back in late

March, the latest I heard was the goal has reached around \$10,431. I do hope that everyone is making extra effort to reach that goal with less than 12 months to go. Pam Kane and I worked on a brochure that was printed and mailed in January. Karen Beiter, ILDA Treasurer, is working on a letter or flyer to be mailed soon.

David G. Brown, Editor

LATEST INFO... I have just received an e-mail from the treasurer that the Mission Project goal is now around \$17-18,000.

ST. MARK LUTHERAN CHURCH OF BALTIMORE

By Don D. Haug, Interim Pastor

St Mark Lutheran Church is a remnant of a flourishing church for the Deaf in the Baltimore area. I am not critical of St Mark Lutheran Church of the Deaf, because I understand Baltimore is a remnant of a city in the Northeast Corridor. Last year during the hurricane season, Baltimore citizens complained that the weather about hurricane Floyd, the biggest hurricane for Baltimore of the end of the century, was forecast by position in Washington, DC and Philadelphia (Baltimore sits about half way between the two).

The struggle that St. Mark Lutheran Church finds itself is certainly not unique to the area. It opens the doors of speculation for what creative ways may enhance the congregation. The City of Baltimore just approved a new police chief from New York City in order to bring down the crime rate. We at St. Mark Lutheran Church for the Deaf are creatively looking for a way to increase the attendance.

We are having our first Friendship Sunday June 18th during regular service and fellowship afterwards. It is a time to invite our friends and neighbors deaf and hearing to worship and fellowship with us.. We know that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

We are also praying and relying of the Spirit of God to increase the number of those who have faith as they come to hear.

Baltimore may not be the city of prominence it once was. And St. Mark Lutheran Church may not have the prominence it had among churches in DC and Philadelphia or Pittsburgh, but we know many people are hungry for the Word of God in the Baltimore area. They will not hear the Word of God in DC or Pennsylvania, They will hear the Word of God and be cared for by people in Maryland, in Baltimore County and The City of Baltimore. St. Mark Lutheran Church for the Deaf is Gods instrument for that purpose in this place. The miracle here is that the deaf hear through signs. Hallelujah and Amen.

We rely on the strength of the Word of God for our sustenance, Isaiah 55:11 *"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."*

Coming...



**Indianapolis 2001 ILDA
June 20-24, 2001**

Indianapolis, Indiana

R
CROSS
A
D
S

The Crossroads of America
"Choose this day whom you will serve" Joshua 24:15

More Interstates cross Indianapolis than any other city

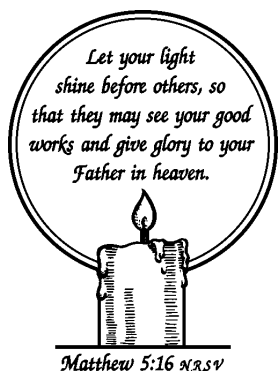
INDEPENDENCE DAY...



Here are some little known facts about the important roles Lutherans played in the founding and early history of the United States. We hope you find them interesting.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

- Lutherans were in America seven years before the Pilgrims?
- The first book translated into any Native American language was Luther's Small Catechism?
- The first "Stars & Stripes" was made by Sara Austin and the Ladies Aid Society of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Philadelphia? It was presented to John Paul Jones and received the first salute granted to the Star Spangled Banner in Europe. It is now in the National Museum in Washington, D.C.
- Our Statue of Liberty was made by a French Lutheran - M. Fredic Bartholdi?
- Washington's army at the Battle of Trenton was composed largely of Lutherans?
- It was a Lutheran boy who called a Lutheran sexton to ring the Liberty Bell?
- The Liberty Bell was hauled from Philadelphia to Allentown, Pa. by a Lutheran, Frederick Leiser, in 1777? The bell was then hidden under the floor of Zion Lutheran Church.

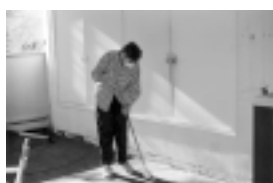


- The second oldest military unit in America was formed by 137 men from St. John's Lutheran Church, Charlestown, S.C. in 1775?
- The first president of the Continental Congress was a Lutheran, John Hanson? He served until Washington was inaugurated.
- A Lutheran, Michael Hilligas, became the first Treasurer of the United States serving until Alexander Hamilton took office?
- It was illegal to hold Lutheran services in New York until 1664?
- A Lutheran pastor, Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg, was the first Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. With John Adams he signed the first ten amendments to the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights?
- Another Lutheran Pastor, Peter Muhlenberg was largely responsible for the Virginia Legislature's passage of a bill establishing religious freedom in 1785? Soon other states followed. The First Amendment was the result. Inspector Von Steuben, a Lutheran, saved the U.S. Treasury \$600,000? His "Rules of Discipline" created our national army and still forms the basis of our military tactics.
- As Lutherans, we have been taught what the Scriptures say about good citizenship. Service to our country and loyalty to our nation are part of our way of life. It has been that way in the past for us Lutherans and we trust it will continue to be so in the future.

Happy Fourth of July!

Christ Lutheran, Cleveland, Ohio

Members at work rebuilding their new church building.



News from around the Regions...



**Remember to
send to the D/L
editor your
church's
newsletters!**

Northwest Region...

Cross of Christ, Edmonton, Canada... **Edward Hanson** and **John Morrison** has joined Jesus in Heaven.

CLS (Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Alberta, Canada) conducted a four-day deaf ministry workshop last November. Participants included Pastors Bob Bauer and David Nielsen, deaf teacher Greg Desrosier and others. The idea was to expose others to what ministry is like with and for the deaf.

Faith Lutheran, Spokane... **Kitty McIntire** of California has entered God's Kingdom.

Lutheran Deaf Camp - NW/ILDA will be held at Trinity Lutheran Camp, Big Fork, Montana on August 17-20, 2000. Contact Rev. Hank Drummond, 3340 11th Ave S, Great Falls, MT 59405 or 1-406-452-3884 (v/tdd)

Pacific Region...

Pilgrim Lutheran, Los Angeles... **Lutheran Deaf Camp** is July 16-21 and Aug 13-18, 2000. Contact Pastor Leber at 909-987-5484 (fax/v/tdd) for more information.

Midwest Region...

Calvary Lutheran, Des Moines, IA... **Janice (Booy) Rentschler** has passed away on Feb 19th.

Elsie Sparks departed this life early Monday morning, April 24th.

Great Lakes Region...

Deaf Family Camp will be held at Wild Cat Ranch near Bolivar, Ohio on July 14-16, 2000. Contact Robin Homer, 1841 Heatherdown Blvd, Toledo, OH 43614 or 419-381-7619 for information.

Christ Lutheran, Cleveland... now has all the permits needed to start the long-awaited reconstruction to the new church building.

Alpha, Rochester, NY... Our Lord has called home **William Wilmarth** and **Leonard VanVechten** to eternal rest with Jesus. A farewell party was given to **Diane Waters** by the Rushtons and Jenny Clupper.

Eastern Region...

Christ Lutheran, Silver Spring, MD... **Edna Adler** has joined Jesus in Heaven on Feb 19th. Pastor George's Appreciation Party was held on March 12th for **Pastor Natonick**. **Vicar Bill Wrede** has been called to be the *Mission Field Developer for the Deaf* in Greater New York City. Two congregations, St Matthews-Deaf and St. Mark-Deaf will be part of his pastoral care along with Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf.

Open reminder is that there are at least 10 fields in the Missouri Synod Deaf Missions that are vacant. We **need** more pastors. The

work is hard and often frustrating. You can probably earn much more in a computer job... but you can't beat the joy that comes from seeing more and more deaf become disciples of Christ when you have had a hand in their conversation! Keep those prayers active!

An Engagement Announcement



Elmer Francisco, (former *Deaf Lutheran newsletter Business Manger*) from Spokane, Washington surprised **Diane Waters** of Rochester, NY with an engagement ring in her glass of wine on her birthday on March 15, 2000. They are to be married on May 27, 2000. The wedding will take its place in



Spokane where they both will reside. Diane's daughter, Jennifer Clupper of Rochester, NY will be the maid of honor. And, Elmer's close friend, Lester Ahls (former *Deaf Lutheran Editor*) of Cedar Falls, Iowa will be the best man.

Congratulation! The D/L staff.

Update on Pastor Leber's Condition...

I know that you are all interested in what has happened to me and what is going on in my life. I am fine physically and spiritually. I still am paralyzed on my right side and do not have full use of my right arm and hand, and also no feeling or little use of my right leg. I can walk with the use of my quad cane, but not very far. It tires me out very fast.

I am trying to do some work on my computer like keeping the records up to date with the camp kids and their parents, keeping the mail list up to date, working on the newsletter, and answering mail and e-mail. I have not done any preaching except for the confirmation service for Julia Velasquez. I expect to be able to do more in the future.

We are currently also taking care of my mother-in-law. She has been in and out of the hospital since last December. It has been very rough on my wife. She is only able to work one day every week or two. The district has been very good to us paying my full salary for the first six months of my disability.

We have not wanted for anything. Praise the Lord. We ask you to please still keep us in your prayers, asking the Lord to give me complete recovery in my right hand and arm. We know that I have been able to do as good as I have only because of the many prayers of all our friends and family.

Future Regional Conference Dates...

Northwest Region...

August 17-20, 2000 at Trinity Lutheran Camp, Big Fork, Montana. Sponsored by Christ Lutheran Church-Deaf, Great Falls, MT.

Midwest Region...

June 23-25, 2000 at Black Forest Camp and Conference Center, North of Colorado Springs, CO.

Dixie Region...

June 23-25th, 2000 at Concordia University in Austin, Texas. Sponsored by Jesus Lutheran Church-Deaf, Austin, TX.

Great Lakes Region...

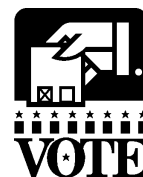
Holy Cross, Columbus will host during late August or early September.

Reminders...

At your ILDA regional conferences during the year 2000... **please remember to** nominate and vote names for 2001-2003 ILDA Officer candidates to be submitted to the ILDA Nominating Committee for election in 2001. Candidates are needed for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Pastoral Advisor.

Also make sure your churches submitted their reports to your regional conference leaders.

Deadline for submitting conference dates in the next *The Deaf Lutheran* issue is August 15, 2000!
Please, please send to the Deaf Lutheran editor news and photos of your regional conference. Because of his recently layoff and tight financial situation, the Editor cannot attend your conferences this year.



LAST CHANCE TO SIGN UP FOR CRUISE TO BERMUDA

**7 NIGHT TO ST. GEORGES & HAMILTON
ABOARD THE ROYAL CARRIBEAN
NORDIC EMPRESS**

**Departure from New York City
Aug. 27 - Sept 3, 2000**

COST FOR THE CRUISE INCLUDING ALL TIPS & TAXES
\$1300- \$1350 per person double occupancy from
NEW YORK CITY.

AIR FARE WILL BE DETERMINED AFTER YOUR
DEPOSIT OF \$500 IS RECEIVED.

Contact: Pastor Leber for details at 909-987-5484

All cabins together on the same deck.

Bible Study, Worship, & Interpreting by Pastor Leber.

A Deposit of \$500 per person must be paid NOW.

The Balance of \$800 - \$850 per person is due before

June 30, 2000

The air fare is due by July 1, 2000.

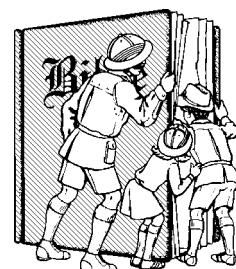
Additional trip cancellation insurance is available for \$90.

All Checks made payable to: **Interworld Travel Agency.**

Mail checks and registration to:

Rev. Don Leber, 6950 Center Ave., Alta Loma, Ca, 91701

Come and Join Us for Ten Awesome Days in Israel!!



- Sail on the Sea of Galilee
- Visit Nazareth, Bethlehem and Capernaum
- Wade into the Jordan River
- Swim in the Dead Sea
- Tour the Old City of Jerusalem
- See the place David and Goliath fought
- Walk on the Mount of Olives
- Enter the Garden Tomb
- See the Place of the Skull where Jesus was crucified
- Worship God at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem
- plus many more sites!!

This tour is planned for Fall 2001 and will be interpreted. **Approximate cost is \$2300 per person.** This includes air travel, first class hotels, most meals, tours, admissions and tips. Pastor Shirrel and Janet Petzoldt (of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-Deaf, Toledo, Ohio) will be your hosts.

If interested, please contact:

Pastor Shirrel and Janet Petzoldt
4908 San Joaquin Drive
Toledo, Ohio 43615
419-531-3457 v/tty
petz@accesstoleado.com

ILDA 1999-2001 Mission Project Goal...

is now around \$17,000. We still need \$38,000 to reach the \$55,000 goal by June, 2001!



Sara McKinney

E-Mail From Sara Anne McKinney from Macau

Hi Everyone!

Happy New Year! I can't believe I've been here for a month already. The month of December was full of different activities. I'm picking up on the signs pretty good. The mission team and the students are fun to work with.

I am watching how Jennifer and Pastor Dunseth do Wednesday and Friday morning devotions. And I am also helping Jennifer teach a student, Wendy, things she needs to know before Pastor baptizes her.

On December 11th, we had a girl's group Pizza party. Jennifer and I ordered Pizza Hut for the girls. We all had fun sitting around eating and talking together. It was a great opportunity for me to watch the language in motion.

On Dec. 17th the high school students performed "The Old Shoe Cobbler" for the rest of the school, their parents, and the mission team. The performance was a success, everyone enjoyed it, and the students had a great time.

The "Old Shoe Cobbler" is about an old man who saw Jesus in a dream. Jesus said he will come to his house tomorrow. So the man got his house ready. As he sees needy people, he invites them in. He gives them warm clothes and food he planned to give to Jesus. Then he felt disappointed because Jesus never came. Later that night Jesus appeared again in the dream and said he was the needy people that the old man invited in and helped.

The students had the opportunity to perform again at the Lutheran Nursing Home on Coloane on December 23rd. Coloane is an island that is a part of Macau. The Nursing Home residents really appreciated the students performing.

The school was closed due to Christmas vacation starting December 17th until January 3rd. Jennifer and I had a slumber party for the girls' group on December 18th. We made cookies and

bead angels, and did some Bible devotions together. A fun way to begin the Christmas season.

On December 19th at midnight Macau became part of China again. It was a big event that lasted for a few days. At about 11:30 the Portuguese flag was lowered and exactly at midnight the Chinese flag was raised. The following day at noon there was a grand parade with lots of beautiful floats and more. It was an exciting experience to be here witnessing history being made. Everyone asks do I notice any differences now that China is in control of Macau. Not really. The only differences so far is that everywhere I go I see Chinese flags. And every now and then I will see a Chinese Army guard stationed somewhere. But that's pretty much the only differences I see. Macau will have its own government for 50 more years. Then the Chinese government will take over.

Christmas Eve was beautiful. It was at the Concordia English Center spoken in Chinese with English writings and interpreted into Macau Sign Language. It was nice to see a lot of Chinese people here learning about Jesus' birth. We spent Christmas day at Pastor Tom Dunseth's home with the Mission team, and I enjoyed celebrating Christmas together.

To welcome the New Year, Rita, Jennifer and I went to Hong Kong and met some other missionaries. It was an exciting experience to be with thousands and thousands of people doing the countdown together. Hong Kong is so different from Macau in so many ways. Macau is more traditional while Hong Kong is so modern in everything. It is so beautiful at night with all the lights from the Peak. It was a nice way to begin the new Millennium.

That sums up the month of December. Remember to keep praying for me as I reach out to the students. Thank you for your continuing support!

Love in Christ, Sara Ann



Easter Sundays at Eggshelland...

A family in Lyndhurst, Ohio has decorated their lawn for 42 years with eggshells for the Easter Seasons. Visit this web site for past decorations at <http://eggshelland.tripod.com>.

Mill Neck Manor High School Students Participate in Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry Servanthood Project...

The Servanthood Project, a program developed by Mill Neck Foundation, was launched in 1998. It teaches Mill Neck Manor students the importance and value of volunteering to help others. This year, the student team members will be volunteering for 8 hours, during the months of March and April at the Lutheran Family and Community Services' Food Pantry in Hempstead. At the Pantry, two team members, along with Servanthood Team Leader Barbara Lanman, (Mill Neck Foundation's Coordinator of Deaf Ministry), help box up food that is donated by local churches. These boxes are then delivered to needy families by the LFCS staff.

Barbara Lanman said, "the visits to the pantry will prepare the team members for the Jamaican Project. The team will be headed to Kingston, Jamaica during the week of May 6-13, where they will be working at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf. They will be helping to construct a school facility for Deaf children from the Kingston area. Lanman says, "This will be a wonderful experience for our students, not only as a way of building self-esteem, but making them aware of how lucky they are to have so much available to them at Mill Neck Manor, unlike other Deaf students in the world." The students selected to be part of this year's Servanthood team are: Jeffrey Blanco, Shameka Edwards, Nelexis Garces, Charmaine Konoski, Michael Powell, John J. Rivera, Nancy Tseng and Victor Urich.

According to Lanman, past Servanthood Projects have proven to strengthen the students' confidence and give them "once in a lifetime experiences." The Projects are funded and directed by the Mill Neck Foundation. This year, Mill Neck Foundation was granted money from the Long Island Lutheran High School Crusader Fund to subsidize a large part of the airfare and room and board costs.



Mill Neck Manor High School Students J.J. Rivera and Victor Urich, together with Servanthood Team Leader Barbara Lanman, busy filling up packages for the needy at the Lutheran Family and Community Services Food Pantry in Hempstead.



AAL Member Gift-Matching Program Benefits Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf

Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) recently presented \$730 to Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf in Mill Neck, NY through the AAL Member Gift-Matching Program. The total reflects AAL's matched portion of contributions received from members during the fourth quarter of 1999.

Annual gifts of \$25 to \$100 made by an AAL member to a participating Lutheran elementary or secondary school, college or seminary are matched dollar-for-dollar by AAL. Since the program's 1998 inception, AAL has given more than \$9 million to Lutheran academic institutions nationwide through the gift-matching program. This is an ongoing program that is open to all AAL members. For more information about the AAL Member Gift-Matching Program, contact your local Lutheran institution or AAL representative.

AAL, a Fortune 500 organization based in Appleton, Wis.I, is a fraternal benefit society of 1.7 million members who are joined together for insurance, education and volunteer opportunities. AAL also supports the work of Lutheran education institutions, organizations and church bodies.

Health Ministry Self-Study for Congregations...

New resource from Wheat Ridge Ministries

ITASCA, IL—The Health Ministry Self-Study for Congregations is a new resource from Wheat Ridge Ministries available free upon request.

"The Health Ministry Self-Study will help congregation leaders assess their congregation's involvement in intentional health ministry," said Dr. Richard Herman, Vice President.

The Health Ministry Self-Study is a process which is self-contained and can be completed by a team of people. It is designed to help congregations:

- Integrate health ministry into the mission of the congregation
- Identify current health ministry efforts and activities
- Establish on-going evaluation of health ministry
- Envision possibilities for the well-being of the faith community.

"The self-study is easy to use, but also challenges a congregation to pursue excellence in health ministry. Like all assessment tools, the self-study will be most effective when it is done with the knowledge and participation of the entire leadership of the congregation" said Herman.

Congregations may choose to submit the completed self-study to Wheat Ridge Ministries, including documentation, if they wish to receive feedback. Wheat Ridge will assign a qualified person to read and provide feedback and suggestions for further developing health ministry in the congregation.

The study is available free to all Lutheran congregations upon request. Contact Wheat Ridge Ministries at **(800) 762-6748** or order through its website: **www.wheatridge.org**

Special assistance in the development of this resource was provided by Amy Hoemann, a former staff member of the Board for Human Care Ministries of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.



Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry Awarded \$3000 Grant from the Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School through the Lutheran Crusader Fund

Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School faculty, staff, and students recognized Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry with a \$3000 grant from the Lutheran Crusader Fund during a special chapel service on Thursday, March 23.

According to Barbara Lanman, Mill Neck Foundation's Coordinator of Deaf Ministry, the grant will be used to subsidize a large part of the airfare and room and board costs for Mill Neck Manor's Servanthood 2000 Project. The Servanthood Project is a program developed by Mill Neck Foundation and was launched in 1998. It teaches Mill Neck Manor students the importance and value of volunteering to help others. This year the Servanthood student team members will be headed to Kingston, Jamaica during the week of May 6-13, where they will be working at the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf. They will be helping to construct a school facility for Deaf children from the Kingston area.

Provided by an anonymous private foundation, a generous \$1 million contribution has been used to establish the Lutheran Crusader Fund, which has a mission "to provide funding for innovative projects that benefit Christian schools, churches, social service organizations, and people in need within their ministry communities." This gift expands the outreach of the Long Island Lutheran High School Association, which is comprised of the 21 Lutheran congregations across Long Island that own and operate the school.



Executive Director of Long Island Lutheran Middle and High School Dr. David Hahn presenting Mill Neck Foundation's Coordinator of Deaf Ministry Barbara Lanman with a check for \$3,000.

Grant proposals were evaluated by LuHi's LCF Grant Selection Committee. "In a difficult (but joyful) process, over 50 applications were reviewed - a great response to our Fund's first year," stated Executive Director Dr. David Hahn. "Thanks to our wonderful donor and the wise decisions of our investment committee, over \$95,000 will be distributed to 22 worthy ministry projects."

The three principal criteria that were the focus of the committee were: spreading the Gospel, assisting people and/or organizations in times of exceptional need, and creating groundbreaking programs which will serve as a model to be replicated throughout the Church.

ASAP

What a wonderful new meaning for ASAP, "Always Say A Prayer (A.S.A.P.)"

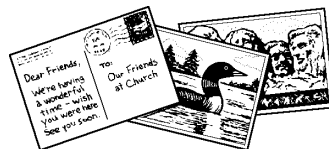
There's work to do,
deadlines to meet,
you've got no time to spare,
but as you hurry and scurry,
always say a prayer.

In the midst of family chaos,
"quality time" is rare.
Do your best;
let God do the rest:
always say a prayer.

It may seem like your worries
are more than you can bear.
Slow down and take a breather
always say a prayer.

God knows how stressful life is;
He wants to ease our cares,
and He'll respond A.S.A.P.;
Always Say A Prayer!

—Author Unknown



Canadian Postal Stamps...

Gary Andersen, President of the Northwest Region ILDA asked all of us to save Canadian postage stamps. Send them to: *Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, 11460 60th Avenue NW, Edmonton, AB T6H 1J5, Canada.* They will be sent and donated for the fund-raising campaign at Concordia School of Special Education for the Deaf in Macau, China. *Thank you.*

Final Update - March 30, 2000

From a weekly update of Dr. Rodney Rynearson's fulfillment of his dream to walk the 2160 mile Appalachian trail for D.I.T. ... Rod had a great time interacting with God's creation, both mountains and people. His trail name was "Big Rhino."

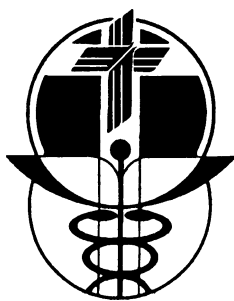
On Tuesday March 28, after climbing 4 mole hills and three mountains he arrived at the sign that said shelter to the right. Straight up a hill 75 feet was the shelter. Everyone there agreed that the person who picked its location should be forced to carry packs up to it everynights. The Gooch gap shelter was well designed for 4 people but as he found out it could hold seven.

On Thursday March 30, Rodney Rynearson declared "I ain't no mountain goat nor a pack mule - What I am I doing here?" He then walked 6 miles further and caught a cab to Atlanta and a plane to Detroit. On Sunday he drove home to St. Louis!

All pledges are canceled, if you would like to contribute to the Deaf Institute of Theology (D.I.T.), you are welcome to. Contact him at 4101 Behnke, St. Louis, MO 63129 or RodRyn@aol.com.

2000 and Well

From LCMS Health Ministries



Serving Older Adults in Health Ministry

"I believe that God has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them" (First Article of the Creed, Luther's Small Catechism). We acknowledge God as our Creator, and recognize that our whole being is a gift and sacred trust from Him.

Until recently, health was believed to be a fixed state and illness a breakdown of health. Medical doctors and hospitals were believed to be the sufficient agents of a cure. Recent discoveries have changed that perception. Poor relationships, lifestyle choices and spiritual emptiness can contribute to illness, delay cure or even prevent it. Christian lifestyle choices that recognize our bodies as God's gift will raise our well-being to higher levels of health than before enjoyed.

Today, people place great emphasis on total health. Exercise is "in"; proper nutrition is a common topic of conversation; and many people take part in health screenings. Recognizing that healing and health are ultimately the gift of Jesus Christ, the church is asserting a new presence in the health field. It recognizes and gives thanks to Christ for the healing ministry of medical professionals and institutions that seek the cure of the sick. Through prayer, sacrament, ritual, Christian caring and teaching whole-person health, the church brings the healing ministry of Christ into the present.

Older members of the congregation experience diminished physical energies, chronic and acute illness characteristic of their time of life. Specific effort to identify and address the health/illness experience of older members - especially in view of their growing numbers - should be the concern of the congregation.

After a qualitative assessment of needs/opportunities older members are open to (obtained by listening to them) consider the following suggestions:

- Sponsor guided conversation events on topics of interest to them, e.g., normal aging.
- Develop group wellness exercises supported by biblical motivation.
- Create and post a monthly calendar of events for older members, including health events at the local hospital and in the community.
- Sponsor intergenerational events to stimulate social interaction and health in older adults.
- Offer Bible studies that speak to the spiritual issues of older adults to stimulate spiritual growth.

- Periodically conduct services of the Word and prayer in the church for the disabled and homebound, followed by a social hour.
- Offer a pharmacist's presentation on the healing effects and dangerous interactions of drugs commonly taken by older adults. Attendees will bring a list of their prescriptions and the dosage strength of each.
- To alleviate/prevent caregiver stress, periodically invite a group to identify stressors in caregiving, negative effects on family relationships and offer the alternatives of home care or institutional care.

*Article submitted by LCMS Health Ministries
Information provided by LCMS Older Adult Ministries*

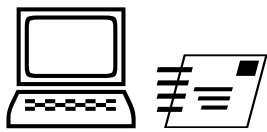
Is Your Congregation a Healthy Place for Church Workers?

At a recent "think-tank" hosted by Wheat Ridge, a group of church workers and experts in ministerial health met to discuss the issue of church worker wellness. One of the tasks of this group was to describe characteristics of congregations that effectively address the health needs of pastors, teachers, and staff. These characteristics included:

- * regularly discussing and addressing issues related to worker health;
- * affirming and celebrating each person's unique gifts;
- * the congregation's values regarding worker care align with its mission;
- * professional development is supported;
- * people have realistic expectations of pastors, teachers, and staff members;
- * all workers clearly understand their roles and responsibilities;
- * salaries and benefits meet or exceed community standards;
- * staff members are empowered and trusted to carry out their duties;
- * an atmosphere of respect and affirmation exists;
- * effective performance review systems are used;
- * peer support is promoted and encouraged;
- * intentional preventive maintenance regarding health issues is the norm;
- * planning in the congregation includes concern for worker health issues;
- * effective systems for managing conflict are utilized.

Do any of these characteristics describe your congregation? What could be done to better support the health of your church workers? As you consider these questions, take time to thank God for these dedicated people who serve your congregation!

*Article submitted by LCMS Health Ministries
Information provided by Wheat Ridge Ministries*



e-mails and web stuffs...

A Joke...

One night, a torrential rain soaked South Louisiana; the next morning the resulting floodwaters came up about 6 feet into most of the homes there.

Mrs. Boudreaux was sitting on her roof with her neighbor, Mrs. Thibodaux, waiting for help to come.

Mrs. Thibodaux noticed a lone baseball cap floating near the house. Then she saw it float far out into the front yard, then float all the way back to the house; it kept floating away from the house, then back in.

Her curiosity got the best of her, so she asked Mrs. Boudreaux, "Do you see that baseball cap floating away from the house, then back again?"

Mrs. Boudreaux said, "Oh yes, that's my husband; I told him he was going to cut the grass today come Hell or high water!"

Another Joke...

Three Pastors in the south were having lunch in a diner. One of them said, "You know, since summer started I've been having trouble with bats in my loft and attic at church. I've tried everything, but nothing seems to scare them off."

Another pastor said "Yes, me too. I've got hundreds living in my belfry and in the narthex attic. I've even had the place fumigated, and they won't go away!"

The third pastor said, "I baptized all mine, made them members of the church, and haven't seen one back since!"

Funny joke about 3 boys...

There are three boys living in a very small town... two hearing and one deaf.

The deaf boy can lip reading very well with those two hearing boys... very close friends.

They all three played Little League baseball together... later growing up, going out with girls as triple dates together... later going local college together... later getting married and having children ... later three of them got older, older.

Finally, one of two hearing men got very sick and passed away to heaven... in several years later... the other hearing man got very sick and passed away to heaven... the deaf man missed them so much and could not find any of his other friends like those two hearing men... deaf person happened to live very long time until 94 years old... finally he became very ill and passed away to heaven. At last, he met two hearing men up in the heaven.

Deaf man said to them, "Gosh, I missed you both so much... so happy to see you both again with hugs".

Then deaf man went up to the higher "judge" asking him why it took so LONG for him to go into the heaven... The "judge" said, "Yeah, I had been trying to call you number of times but you could not hear me".

Kid Joke...

A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned to salt." His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

Amish Visit Elevator...

MIRACLE for youthfulness/beauty...

An Amish boy and his father were visiting a mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move.

"What is that Father?" asked the boy.

The father (never having seen an elevator) responded, "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life. I don't know what it is."

While the boy and his father were watching wide-eyed, an old lady in a wheelchair rolled up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened and the lady rolled between them and into a small room. The walls closed and the boy and his father watched small circles of light with numbers above the wall light up. They continued to watch the circles light up in the reverse direction. The walls opened up again and a beautiful 24-year-old woman stepped out.

The father said to his son, "Go get your mother!"

Ten things FOR good health...

1. Less alcohol, More tea
2. Less meat, More vegetables
3. Less sugar, More fruits
4. Less eating, More chewing
5. Less salt, More vinegar
6. Less worry, More sleep
7. Less driving, More walking
8. Less words, More actions
9. Less greed, More giving
10. Less anger, More laughter

Interesting Facts...

If you yelled for 8 years, 7 months and 6 days, you would have produced enough sound energy to heat one cup of coffee...

If you fart consistently for 6 years and 9 months, enough gas is produced to create the energy of an atomic bomb.

The human heart creates enough pressure when it pumps out to the body to squirt blood 30 feet..

Banging your head against a wall uses 150 calories an hour...

On average people fear spiders more than they do.

Twenty to One...

A one-dollar bill met a twenty-dollar bill and said, "Hey, where have you been? I haven't seen you around here much."

The twenty answered, "I've been hanging out at the casinos, went on a cruise and did the rounds of the ship, back to the United States for a while, went to a couple of baseball games, to the mall, that kind of stuff. How about you?"

The one dollar bill said, "You know, same old stuff - church, church, church."

More Humors...

Pity the fellow who couldn't find anyone to sing with. He went out and bought a duet-yourself kit.

A man was speeding down the highway, feeling secure in a gaggle of cars all traveling at the same speed. However, as they passed a speed trap, he got nailed with an infrared speed detector and was pulled over.

The officer handed him the citation, received his signature and was about to walk away when the man asked, "Officer, I know I was speeding, but I don't think it's fair. There were plenty of other cars around me going just as fast, so why did I get the ticket?"

"Ever go fishing?" the policeman suddenly asked the man.

"Ummm, yeah... so," the startled man replied.

The officer grinned and added, "Ever catch **ALL** the fish?"

A dog, walking along the street, sees a sign in the window, "Help Wanted. Must type, be computer literate and bi lingual. An equal opportunity employer."

The dog walks in and points to the sign. The office manager says, "We don't hire dogs." The dog points to the "equal opportunity sign."

"OK," says the office manager, "But you have to type." The dog walks over to the typewriter and types a letter at 70 wpm with no errors.

"You have to be computer literate," says the manager. The dog boots up the computer and goes through a couple of programs like an expert.

"Hah," says the manager, "You have to be bilingual"

The dog says, "Meow!"

Advantages to Aging

- Finally you can eat dinner at 4:00 pm.
- Your investment in health insurance is finally beginning to pay off.
- Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
- It's harder and harder for sexual harassment charges to stick.
- If you've never smoked, you can start now and it won't have time to hurt you.
- People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
- Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- Your supply of brain cells is finally down to a manageable size.
- Your eyes won't get much worse.
- Adult diapers are actually kind of convenient.
- Things you buy now won't wear out.
- No one expects you to run into a burning building.
- There's nothing left to learn the hard way.
- Your joints are more accurate than the National Weather Service.
- In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.

Another, Another Joke...

As a young man, Norton was an exceptional golfer. At the age of 26, however, he decided to become a priest, and joined a rather peculiar order. He took the usual vows of poverty, chastity, but his order also required that he quit golf and never play again. This was particularly difficult for Norton, but he agreed and was finally ordained a priest.

One Sunday morning, the Reverend Father Norton woke up and realizing it was an exceptionally beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf.

So... he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and convinced him to say Mass for him that day. As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Norton headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away. This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish.

Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church! At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Father Norton hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole. It WAS A 420-YARD HOLE IN ONE!

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?" The Lord smiled and replied, "Who is he going to tell?"

Some Taxing Thoughts...

The Gettysburg address is 269 words, the Declaration of Independence is 1,337 words, and the Holy Bible is only 773,000 words. However, the tax law has grown from 11,400 words in 1913, to 7 million words today.

There are at least 480 different tax forms, each with many pages of instructions.

Even the easiest form, the 1040E has 33 pages in instructions, and all in fine print.

The IRS sends out 8 billion pages of forms and instructions each year. Laid end to end, they would stretch 28 times around the earth.

Nearly 300,000 trees are cut down yearly to produce the paper for all The IRS forms and instructions.

American taxpayers spend \$200 billion and 5.4 billion hours working to comply with federal taxes each year, more than it takes to produce Every car, truck, and van in the United States.

The burden of compliance is the equivalent to a staff of 3 million People working full time for a year, just to comply with the taxes on individuals and businesses.

The IRS employs 114,000 people; that's twice as many as the CIA and five times more than the FBI.

60% of taxpayers must hire a professional to get through their own return.

Taxes eat up 38.2% of the average family's income; that's more than for food, clothing and shelter combined.

AND THAT IS ONLY THE FEDERAL TAX—NOT COUNTING STATE, LOCAL, PROPERTY, SALES TAX, ETC.



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