



The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society

Summer 2014

St. Louis, MO

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From the Pastoral Advisor



Greetings to sisters and brothers in Jesus' name!

I read an interesting article that the number of Canadian Christians has decreased dramatically from 77% in 2001 to 67% in 2011 as per *The Canadian Lutheran*

magazine. This is not a surprise to me, though. It is very similar to International Lutheran Deaf Conference's sliding attendance biannually since the early 1990s. I would like to share my own perception with you about a nearby Starbucks on Sunday mornings. I tend to stop by Starbucks to buy grande chai lattes for my wife, Linda, and myself as a treat before/after attending to our church for worship and service. As I noticed, there was always a long line-up of young customers with their children awaiting for drink orders on Sunday mornings, so that made me wonder whether they are attending to their church. However, I should not be judgmental at that situation, but I have always wondered if they attend or not.

We have seen the Canadian province of Quebec attempt to ban public servants to wear crosses and crucifixes since the Muslim women are not allowed to wear veils and burkas in the same area. We have seen a move to legalize euthanasia and assisted suicide in some provinces and states. The Canadian federal government has been on the way of loosening the laws prohibiting prostitution. These situations have worried us since the Canadian laws are becoming more permissive than the traditional Christian laws. We should not react to it with anger, so let the Holy Spirit guide us with God's grace away from the social and legal ills. The critical bottom line is we need to pray over and over for the betterment of the world in the name of Jesus Christ.

I must admit to you that the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is a real threat to the world population. The Ebola virus is deadly and incurable scientifically and medically. With much astonishment, an infected American doctor without borders and a missionary lady teacher were allowed to be carried in a very tight container in a private jet to Atlanta, GA, for special treatment in Emory University Hospital. Three weeks later, both were healed completely from the Ebola virus with new experimental Canadian-produced medication called ZMapp. Why not? Both are real Christians since they have been praying hard with their wonderful family support for the cure. I believe they are humble with God's grace. Unfortunately, it is sad to state that the global media focused on successful drug experiment rather than their personal praying.

As for the next ILDA conference in July 2015, I wish the host committee in Madison, Wisconsin the best of luck with God's grace. Please spread the word amongst your family, relatives, friends, and enemies about this event. Time actually flies speedily!

God bless you. You are in our thoughts and with our prayers for anything else you request. Thank you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Rev. Gregory Desrosiers
gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca

From the President



Greetings from sweaty, hot, sunny Pflugerville, Texas! Now, can you believe summer is approaching to an end and it is Back-to-School time? It is time to go shopping for school supplies, clothes/shoes for your children, dorm stuff for your college sons or daughters, etc.

Some of us are looking forward to cooler autumn weather... I do, as I am going to my

hometown, Minneapolis, Minnesota, to visit my family and friends in September (instead of the usual August). Why? I truly miss the crispy autumn atmosphere, changing colors of leaves, the smell of burning leaves. Some of you might even go camping or hiking by lakes surrounded by trees with all those beautiful colorful leaves – orange, yellow, red, bright brown, purple (huh?), etc. Or some of you might plan on going to Niagara Falls or up in mountains where there are beautiful colorful trees up there, too!

During the weekend of June 20-22, at the Executive Board meeting, we discussed what we could do better in serving our Lord, Jesus - in our home church and also ILDA (as a group and an individual) as well as our mission work. Our big concern is the shrinking of our church membership as well as ILDA attendance in recent years. Let us start by reading these verses next.

The Spirit's Gifts (1 Cor. 12: 12-22) *"As the body is one and yet has many parts, and all the parts of the body, many as they are, form one body, so is Christ. By one Spirit all of us – Jews or Greeks, slaves, or free-were baptized to form one body, and that one Spirit was poured out for all of us to drink.*

Not one part but many make up the body. Suppose a foot says, 'I'm not a hand, and so I'm not a part of the body'; it is still a part of the body. Or suppose an ear says 'I'm not an eye, and so I'm not a part of the body'; it is still a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, how could we hear? If it were all hearing, how could we smell? As it is, God arranged the parts, fitting each of them into the body as He wanted it to be. If all of it were one part, how could there be a body? As it is, there are many parts and one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you', or the head to the feet, 'I don't need you. No, we really can't do without the parts of the body that we think are weaker."

Can you believe it or not? Our Biennial ILDA Convention 2015 in Madison, WI, will take place in less than a year! How the time flies so rapidly that we could hardly believe it! I'm strongly encouraging you all to plan on attending and those who plan to attend your regional conference please encourage the members to plan on attending!

Now, let me tell you some of my encounters with some of my dear Christian brothers and sisters. When I discussed how important it is to attend ILDA conventions and made every effort to encourage them to plan on attending, etc, all I got from them were excuses or reasons why they don't make plans on attending. Some (not limit to) of those reasons are: 1) too expensive; 2) Not enough

people attending; 3) Other vacation /trip plans at the same time; 4) Not enough young people attending; 5) Other conventions to attend; 6) too far from my home; etc.

Finally, we need each of YOU to be one of the participants at the convention in order to make our beloved ILDA grow and become much stronger again. We all need to put God, our loving Lord at the TOP priority!

In addition, you are the body of Christ, every one of us has his/her place in it. We each have our own gift(s) given by the Spirit – some of us have a gift or two to teach, the others are to preach or serve as miracle workers, helpers, designers, cook, develop curriculum, outreach the lost souls, minister to sick and elderly or shut-ins, lead Bible studies, teach Sunday School, etc. Can we do everything? No! We are to use our own gift(s) blessed by our Lord! At last, let's work together using our gifts, at our churches as well as ILDA! (See 1 Cor. 12:27-31)

Note to everyone: I regretfully inform all the ILDA regions that I have been unable to attend any of your conferences as I had hoped to do so because of the high cost of airfares. May your ILDA regional conference be highly blessed and have a big success! May our Loving Lord Jesus so richly bless you all!

Carol Seeger, ILDA President
cseeger@utexas.edu

Pulfer travels to Honduras

Denise Pulfer (Madison, WI) went to Honduras in June for one week to reach out and tell the deaf children and teens about Jesus and His love for them. She joined a team of six (3 deaf and 3 hearing) from different parts of the US to work with a local deaf church in San Pedro Sula. The group also hosted a deaf camp for 40 deaf children in the area. There are less than 5 deaf churches in the country of Honduras. How will they know Jesus if no one tells them? Please continue to pray for the work there.



ILDA Officers

International Officers (2013-2015)

President – Carol Seeger
Pres. Elect – John Mason
Secretary – Becky Jungklaus
Treasurer Pro Tem – Patrick Sell
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Greg Desrosiers

Central Region (2014-2016)

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Secretary – Betty Jo Lucero
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Secretary – Dorene Sell
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Secretary – Diane Francisco
Treasurer – Gary Wilson
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Dixie Region

Not active

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Secretary – Karen Beiter
Treasurer – JoAnna Rushton
Pastor Advisor - Rev. Edwin Bergstresser

Eastern Region

President – Carolyn Mason
V. President – vacant
Secretary – Lorrey Padon
Treasurer – vacant
Pastor Advisor - Rev. Ron Friedrich

Pacific Region

Not active

Please send any corrections or updates to the editors.

Konkel leads tour group to Israel

On February 10-19, 2014, Pastor Dennis Konkel hosted a group of 21 people (17 Deaf and 2 Interpreters with their husbands) on a tour to Israel. They walked where Jesus walked. The guide who was born in Nazareth was a very good and friendly Christian to help the group throughout the Israel tour. They rode aboard a beautiful private bus and stayed at three different classy hotels (Nethanya by Mediterranean Sea, Tiberias by Galilee Sea, and Jerusalem). Buffet foods at the hotels were far-out! They had a few good luncheons while they traveled. Fish from the Galilee Sea tasted good. The sightseeing was very amazing!

Tour: Nethanya, MT. Carmel, Caesarea, Megiddo, Druze Village, Nazareth, Cana (marriage re-vows and good wine), Galilee, Nazareth Village where Jesus grew up, MT. of Beatitudes, Capernaum where Peter and Jesus as adult lived, boat ride on Galilee Sea (really the storm -- real experience), Jordan River (five got baptized into the river), Golan Heights, Caesarea Philippi where Jesus' transfiguration occurred, Tel Dan, Beit Shean, Jerusalem, MT. Olives, Palm Sunday Road, Garden of Gethsemane, Temple Mount, Bethlehem, Qumran, Masada, Dead Sea Swim/Float, Shrine of the Book, Model City, and Garden Tomb where Jesus died.

The tour was very amazing and very unexplainably spiritual for each person in the group! They enjoyed sightseeing around the beautiful villages and cities.

Note from Pastor Konkel: He advises you that you must try to go there. Certainly, you will enjoy each minute and have a spiritual experience there.

Editors' note: Given the highly volatile situation right now in Israel wait until things calm down before going!



Minnesota Servant Event

In June six people from Our Savior Deaf Church, Madison, WI traveled to Henning, MN in June to the Lutheran Island Camp. The Camp has a program that they run in the summer to teach campers about horses. Attendees learned how to care for, ride and work with 35 horses. New fences were also set up. Every day Pastor John Reinke and Denise Pulfer led three hours of Bible Study along with prayers and devotion at campfire.



2014 Regional Conferences

Great Lakes Region, September 26-28, hosted by Holy Cross, Columbus, OH

Central Region fall retreat, October 31 – November 2, at Camp CILCA near Springfield, Ill. Theme: "Your Good Shepherd"

Deadline for Future issues

Fall 2014 – October 15, 2014

Please send photos, articles and items of interest for future issues of The Deaf Lutheran to:

Rev. Daryl and Janet Gehlbach
305 Liberty St. NE
Fridley MN 55432

Voice: 612-386-4824
VP: 612-424-4747 (Sorenson users)
651-964-3124 (Purple users)

TTY: 763-561-0767

dgehlbach@aol.com

JGehlbach@aol.com

ILDA Memberships dues

If you would like to renew your ILDA membership please contact Patrick Sell, 531 First St, Story City, IA 50248-1129 or VP 515-337-0766.

Letters to ILDA members informing them their dues expire September 30, 2014 were mailed out recently. Patrick would appreciate you sending your dues to him before December 31, 2014. As always donations to ILDA Mission Projects would be greatly appreciated.

In Memoriam

Bertha Sweezo
Aug 9, 1924 – Jun 18, 2014
Minnesota



Necrology Report

If you know of any ILDA members who have passed away since the 2013 Austin, Texas convention please send pictures and obituaries to:

Diane Francisco
13320 E. Mission Ave. Apt. 252
Spokane Valley, WA 99216-2770



23rd Biennial Convention of

International Lutheran Deaf Association

July 23-26, 2015

in

Madison, Wisconsin

Hosted by
Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church

**Save
The
Date!**

"I will meditate all day and all night"
I will spend time thinking about everything you have done.
I will consider all of your mighty acts. - Psalm 77:12



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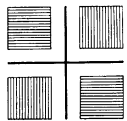
Email: ILDA2015Madison@gmail.com

VideoPhone: 608-234-4674

Website: www.ILDA2015.com

Texas Teen Deaf Lock-In

by Becky Jungklaus



The Texas Teen Deaf Ministry had a Lock-In at Holy Three in One Lutheran Church in Houston, TX on July 25.

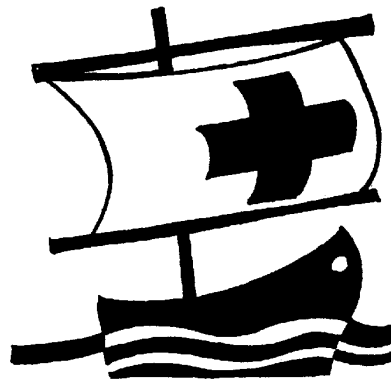
They had a BLAST! The 6 kids from the Houston city-wide area came and spent a night. We had Bible Trivia, Bible Study and even had a visitor sharing his deaf ministry at Moldova at midnight. Of course we had a water balloon fight! The kids were asking me to stay another night! We will have another lock-in next summer. It is a good way to spread God's word to young deaf teens.



WANTED!



Does anybody have any copies of the 1920-1950 Deaf Lutheran newsletters? Please contact DL editor, Rev. Daryl Gehlbach dgehlbach@aol.com if you are able to assist him in locating these issues



Rev. William Knaack Celebrates 20 years

On August 2, 2014 the members of New Hope Deaf Lutheran Church in Wausau, WI, had a surprise celebration in honor of Rev. William Knaack's 20th year in Deaf Ministry. North Wisconsin District President Duane Lueck spoke at the celebration and Jennifer Ceyanes spoke on how her father was a shepherd on the farm when she was a little girl and now he is a shepherd for God's lambs. Pictured below is the Knaack family.



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Devotion

(The following devotion is from the September 1952 issue of The Deaf Lutheran—Ed.)

Saved Only by Faith, Not by Works

³⁷After Jesus spoke, a Pharisee invited him to have lunch at his house. So Jesus accepted the invitation. ³⁸The Pharisee was surprised to see that Jesus didn't wash before the meal.

³⁹The Lord said to him, "You Pharisees clean the outside of cups and dishes. But inside you are full of greed and evil. ⁴⁰You fools! Didn't the one who made the outside make the inside too? ⁴¹Give what is inside as a gift to the poor, and then everything will be clean for you. *(Luke 11: 37-41, GWTN)*

What do you speak about when you visit your friends? Learn from Jesus. He accepted a Pharisee's invitation for a meal. There, as always, He spoke of heavenly things. He is come to save souls. So let us never forget that God lets us stay in this world to speak for Jesus and to lead sinners to Him. When we visit our friends, let us speak not only of the weather, of war, of Presidential candidates, of the pleasures of this world. Above all, let us speak of heavenly things. Jesus did that in the Pharisee house. The Pharisee was surprised that Jesus did not wash His hands before eating.

The Jews thought that if they did this and other commandments of men, God would accept them and receive them into everlasting life. That was wrong. Therefore Jesus did it not. He showed them that it is not enough to clean the outside of the cup and the platter and then let robbery and all wickedness stay in their hearts. The heart cannot become clean by the washing of hands and the doing of other commandments. Even God's Law cannot clean the heart. We cannot be perfect, and therefore we are under God's curse and punishment. The Law only shows us our sin and God's wrath. Now if God's Law cannot save us, then surely doing the commandments of men cannot save us. Many people think that if they do not smoke or drink a glass of wine, they are good and righteous before God. But their hearts keep anger and hatred and pride.

Only by faith in Jesus and His blood our hearts become clean and then are filled with love and kindness. We shall give gifts to the poor and do other good works. And then all things are clean unto us. We are saved by faith alone, not by works. And faith works by love.

PRAYER: Dear Lord Jesus, make my heart clean from sin by faith in Thy blood. May this fill my heart with love to Thee and my neighbor. Amen.

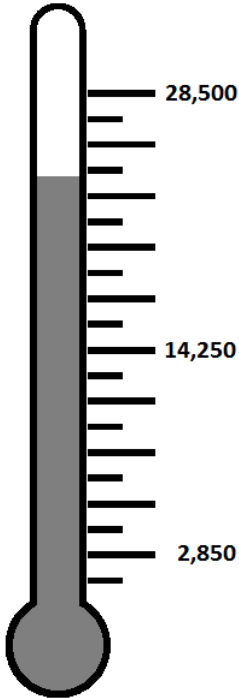
The DEAF LUTHERAN

7910 Severn Tree Blvd.
Severn, MD 21144

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Inside This Issue:
2015 ILDA Convention
Flyer



ILDA Treasurer Report *by Patrick R. Sell, Treasurer Pro Tem*

The money collected for ILDA mission projects 2013-2015 is over \$ 25,800+ now. This is about 84% of the total needed. Three projects have met their goal. Two more to go. There are 10 months left to raise our goal of \$ 28,500. Deadline for donations is May 31, 2015.
