



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Spring 2015

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 104, No. 2

## From the President



### Happy Spring!!

Now, Spring is here at last! Up north, after a long and freezing winter, snow and ice are finally melting and all gone! Now, those who live in Northeastern states

(Massachusetts, New York, Maine, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Connecticut, etc.) must be grateful for the spring and enjoying the smell of blooming trees and flowers after surviving the worst gigantic winter storms this year! As for the rest of the country and Canada, we can enjoy the beauty of God's creation by smelling the fragrance of flowers and blooming trees, feeling the cool breeze on our faces, etc. As for us Texans, we are enjoying beautiful Texas Blue Bonnet all over our lands, fields, etc.

This year, we celebrated Easter on April 5<sup>th</sup> (which was also my husband, Mark's, birthday – that was really a “double-special day” – joining with the day that we celebrated Jesus rising from the dead!) We went to worship at our church, Bethany Lutheran, and our new pastor, Rev. Danner's sermon on that day was about the most dangerous lies that are the ones we believe because we don't know they're not true. Sadly, our culture has brought into many lies from Satan that are destructive. Let me list a few of Satan's most popular lies: 1) Start with Adam and Eve – for example: the Satan telling Eve, if she ate the fruit from the tree of life, she would not die, so forth, 2) People have been told, “You only live once,” so they keep trying to stay young in order to live longer, etc., 3) Self-centered person would say, “I'll do what I want,” “I'll do my ways only!” so on.

In addition, from other resources, namely the book “Lies Women Believe,” I've read and I want to discuss one portion from this resource: lies women believe about sin. But, I find that it does apply to all people, not just women. It mentions that people

believe that there is no absolute standard of right and wrong; that it is truly a personal issue, depending on what's best for you, and that tolerance is the key for unity in our world. But, unfortunately, that's not true. A perfect God exists, and evil exists as well. Let me list 4 lies mentioned in this resource: 1) People can sin and get away with it (get rewards for their sin: money, fame, power and promotions), but they will get the consequences of their sins; 2) Our sin is not really that bad; 3) God can't forgive what I have done; 4) We justify our sins all the time, blaming them on the others but not ourselves.

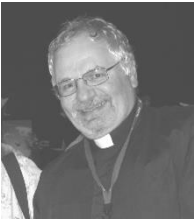
The TRUTH is that sin has consequences, and we can't escape consequences. Every act of sin is an act of rebellion against God and required the death of His Son. No sin is small. We are truly responsible for our actions and reactions. Finally, the best news is that the blood of Jesus is sufficient to cover any and every sin. No sin is too big for God to forgive. God's grace is always greater than our sin! Amen! According to Pastor Danner, while Satan is the father of all lies, Jesus is the TRUTH! Jesus gives us a new life through resurrection! (Matt. 28:1-7, 11-15)

Our Biennial ILDA Convention 2015 in Madison, Wisconsin: **Important Note:** Again, I am encouraging those who have questions to either contact Dawn Polzin or Gregory Werth or check the convention website. *Note to Java Junkies like myself: I am inviting you to join me to have our favorite drinks at a Starbucks Coffee shop by the hotel lobby at the Crowne Plaza! For non-Java Junkies, you are welcome to join, too!* So, I'm strongly encouraging you all to plan on attending (I am hoping to see many of you there!) and check the updates on the website and our prayers are with the host committee that God's blessings may go with them as they work hard to prepare for the convention!

Our Lord Is Risen, Indeed! Alleluia! May our Loving Lord Jesus so richly bless you all!

Carol  
[cseeger@utexas.edu](mailto:cseeger@utexas.edu)

## From the Pastoral Advisor



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

On April 12 the sermon I preached for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter was about “Doubting Thomas” based on John 20:19-31 at Trinity Deaf Lutheran Church, Vancouver, B.C. Canada. The theme was “What Do You Believe?” It explained that people believe what they perceive. We still see this happen all the time. Most of us know things are not always what they seem in the media, on the Internet, in the junk mail like scams we get. Should we be a “Doubting Thomas”? Someone who won’t take what you say on trust? Someone who has to see it for themselves before they believe what you’re saying?

I have been agonized by someone’s comment that s/he prefers hard proof before s/he really believes in it. It becomes common that more people are like jurists who make a final verdict for themselves. How sad more people have lacked trust beyond their own belief! It is a new society of narcissists here and there.

My brother in Christ named Walter just shared an interesting article from the National Post, a popular Canadian-wide newspaper featuring “The Urban Consequences of Vanishing Churches”. I read that thoroughly with care and I found some shocking news of how the Canadian churches are vanishing. The synagogue in Ottawa had to be closed in the progress of being demolished for commercial space and residential condos.

Incidentally, faith groups are the second real-estate holder in Canada, so thousands have been sold, converted to new uses, or demolished, and an estimated 9,000 more will be on the chopping block in the next few years. There are big social consequences: places of faith often meet an array of community needs beyond their spiritual mission like soup kitchens, shelters and low-cost space for non-profit partners. St. John The Divine Anglican Church in Victoria, BC uses its building to meet the needs of the inner city, providing shelter for homeless youths and older street folk, offering an emergency food supply, and providing meeting place to lesbians and gays. It has been blessed in return, signing a 10-year lease with Pacific Opera Victoria, which will use St. John the Divine’s parish hall and invest in improving the facility.

This article made me think of vanishing deaf churches last decades as the older Lutherans passed away and the younger generation have not attended in growth. We have to rent some local gatherings in order to pay for the building bills and we are showing a bigger heart to donate more than how much we can afford to pay. Only God knows our generous hearts and let Him control our church situation in the future. Pray harder and have a wholesome prayer in a group.

We are looking forward to attending the next International Lutheran Deaf Association conference in Madison, Wisconsin on July 23-26. We hope you can join us. We are praying to God for the committee’s wishful plan for Madison in the name of Jesus Christ. See you there this summer and have a safe blessed trip.

Keep the faith. Love in Christ.

Rev. Gregory Desrosiers  
[gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca](mailto:gdesrosiers1@shaw.ca)

### 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



### ILDA Mission Project Update

Pam Kane has resigned as Mission Project Chairperson for personal reasons. Dorene Sell has accepted this responsibility now as Mission Project Chairperson. If you or your organization is interested in applying for mission project funds the deadline is June 1, 2015. You are encouraged, but it is not necessary to develop a slide or power point presentation to show the ILDA Executive Board and ILDA members during the convention so the members can vote for the mission projects. Please send your letter with your request for mission project funds to: Dorene Sell, 531 First St., Story City, IA 50248.



**23rd Biennial Convention of**

# International Lutheran Deaf Association

**July 23-26, 2015**

*in*

**Madison, Wisconsin**

Hosted by  
Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church

**\$185.00**  
**Get it NOW**  
**before final**  
**deadline on**  
**6.15.15**

## UPDATE:

*WE ONLY HAVE 15 SEATS LEFT FOR THE CONVENTION, REGISTER QUICKLY BEFORE IT GETS FULL. THE HOTEL ROOMS ARE QUICKLY FILLING UP, BOOK THE ROOMS RIGHT AWAY IF YOU PLAN TO STAY AT THE HOTEL. ANY QUESTIONS, LET US KNOW AT BELOW INFORMATION.*

## Our Keynote Speaker

**Rev. Wayne Dobratz** has worked in the occult fields and personally worked with people in occult situations. He has worked as a consultant on the occult for the South Wisconsin District and the LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) Committee on Theology and Church Relations for more than 20 years. He retired from the parish ministry in the LCMS in 2009. He has taught classes at Concordia University Madison.

Here are some of his workshop lectures below:  
- Spiritual World - Occults



Email: [ILDA2015Madison@gmail.com](mailto:ILDA2015Madison@gmail.com)

Website: [www.ILDA2015.com](http://www.ILDA2015.com)

## Thrivent Choice Dollars can be assigned to any of the following LC-MS churches or organizations:

Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD  
Christ for the Deaf Lutheran Church, Great Falls, MT

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Flint, MI  
Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas, Austin, TX  
Ephphatha Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL  
Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, Hartland, MI  
Eternal Mercy Deaf Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN  
Good Shepherd of the Deaf Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH

Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church, Delavan, WI  
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fenton, MO  
Holy Cross Three-In-One Deaf Lutheran Church, Houston, TX

Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Austin, TX

KansaSEED, Emporia, KS  
Lutheran Deaf Mission Society, St. Louis, MO  
Mill Neck Foundation, Mill Neck, NY  
Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf, Mill Neck, NY  
Ohio District LCMS, Olmsted Falls, OH  
Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church, Madison, WI  
Peace Deaf Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Spring Lake Park, MN  
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Detroit, MI  
St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Union, NJ  
Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Sioux Falls, SD  
Word of God Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Cedar Rapids, IA  
World Lutheran Deaf Outreach Inc., Janesville, WI

(The list is taken from the Thrivent Financial website listing deaf churches and organizations eligible for Thrivent Choice Dollars.)



## Sigatoka Special Education School Mission

Written by Patricia (Francisco) Woodworth

I have had many people ask me why I decided to adopt a school in Fiji as “my mission.” Perhaps if I tell you a little bit about myself it will clarify my thinking. I was born as a normal, overactive, chatty child into a family with a hard-of hearing mother and a deaf father. I have aunts, uncles, cousins who are also deaf, so it was our life and as normal as any other life.

My parents, Elmer and Mildred Francisco, were loving parents who took us to church and modeled the life a Christian should lead. I grew up in the deaf culture, spent many hours in the company of deaf family and friends. As an adult, God called me to interpret for three deaf friends living in my community, who did not have a deaf church to attend. I interpreted church services, Bible study and church meetings for 10+ years.

I was blessed to be called a teacher and I taught school for 17 years. I also spent a year as an interpreter in a public school for two deaf children. At that time I “got to learn” SEE sign, which is what they wanted me to use. After my years of teaching I became an elementary school principal. My heart is for children. They have been a source of humor, they amaze me and I never doubt what they can achieve.

Two years ago my husband and I, who are now retired, traveled to Fiji. This year will be our third trip there and I cannot express the joy it gives us to be with these loving, unselfish, humble, Christian (for the most part) people. Last year I learned

about a special education school and heard that they have deaf children attending. So to satisfy my curiosity, I went to visit. The school had 55 students, 5 teachers and a principal. The students have a range of disabilities—deafness, blindness, Down’s Syndrome, Autism, seizure disorder, etc.

I was shocked at the lack of materials and supplies for the teachers. I was also stunned that there was no additional adult help for the teachers. There is no way in the United States that teachers of special students with these type of disabilities would not have many adults at their disposal to help and the supplies necessary to do their job. Imagine trying to teach deaf children when you don’t know their language (Auslan) and don’t have the books from which to learn. The lack of materials and lack of help were my first two concerns.

After wrestling with what I could do, I decided I could tell others about this school and tell them that we can help supply them with the things they need materially. I finally turned it over to God because He knows I don’t like to ask people for money. I have been so blessed to receive more cash and other supplies than I could have really hoped for. So now others are doing my work of getting the word out and this thing is growing. I trust that those who hear are moved to help will do so. I am going to spend 2 days a week at the school as a volunteer. Won’t that be fun and interesting?

God’s blessings,  
Patricia Woodworth



[Editor’s note: Patricia is the daughter of Elmer and Mildred Francisco. She has been volunteering at a school in Fiji. Diane Francisco asked to print the previous article in the Deaf Lutheran. If you would like to make a donation please write a check payable to “Diane Francisco” and in the memo line put “Fiji” and mail it to Diane. Her address is in this issue on the bottom of Page 2].

### In Memoriam

**Duane Peterson** passed away on February 4, at 2015 at age 72. A memorial service was held February 15 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Milwaukee, WI. Blessed be his memory.

**Lee Ann Kotal** passed away May 1, 2015 at age 67 in Westminster, CA. A funeral service was held May 6. Blessed be her memory.

## **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)**

President – Dawn Polzin  
V. President – Albert Moore  
Secretary – Betty Jo Lucero  
Treasurer – Paul Lucero  
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Tom Phillips

### **Midwest Region (2014-2016)**

President – Ronald Nester  
V. President – Janet Gehlbach  
Secretary – Dorene Sell  
Treasurer – Bill Zimmerman  
Pastor Advisor – Rev. Daryl Gehlbach

### **Northwest Region (2014-2016)**

President – Richard Sharp  
President Elect – Patricia Jenkins  
Secretary – Diane Francisco  
Treasurer – Gary Wilson  
Pastor Advisor – Rev. David Nielsen

### **Dixie Region**

Not active

### **Great Lakes Region (2014-2016)**

President – Deacon John Rushton  
President Elect – Stephen Rute  
Secretary – Karen Beiter  
Treasurer – JoAnna Rushton  
Pastor Advisor - Rev. Gary Lawson

### **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.***

## **Jennifer Ceyanes' Mission Trip to China**



Jennifer Ceyanes from Jesus Lutheran Church for the Deaf (JLCD) in Austin, TX will be serving in volunteer missions with the deaf in Macau, China for four weeks beginning April 27, 2015. She

previously was sent there by the LCMS World Mission from 1998 to 2000. She served in the deaf school with students ages 4 to 22 and in the local deaf community. Her work included leading morning devotions, teaching Bible stories, leading several Christmas and Easter dramas, having a girls group and a large student fellowship group. Jennifer had to learn the Chinese Sign Language quickly so she could communicate with the deaf. By the time she left she was fairly fluent.

These deaf children are all grown up now. Some are married and have children of their own! Jennifer will be returning to work with them as adults, re-teaching the Bible and reminding them of God's love for them. One of the things Jennifer will be doing is teaching a Parenting Class for her previous students who have children. Also some of her previous students no longer attend church or Bible Study so she hopes to meet them again and encourage them to return to the Lord. There will also be Bible studies, gatherings, and workshops in an attempt to get everyone together again in order to hear God's Word through their own sign language.

JLCD is supporting this mission trip along with the help of other brothers and sisters in Christ. Your prayers are needed and greatly appreciated.

## **Signed Worship Part of Multicultural Congregation**

Worshippers speak many different languages at Christ Lutheran Church, located in Woodside, NY in the New York city borough of Queens -- Spanish, Chinese French, Urdu, Bengali, English, "and whatever other languages are represented at that particular time," says the Rev. Dr. Joshua Hollmann.

But despite any lingual ebb and flow at this multicultural congregation, the 11 a.m. service always includes sign language, ensuring that a core group of worshippers who are deaf "hear" the Gospel in their own special way.

For the past few years, members of St. Matthew Lutheran Church for the Deaf have worshiped at Christ Lutheran adding yet another dimension to the diversity that Hollmann calls "a blessing for us both." Read more at [Icef.org](http://Icef.org)

(reprinted from the *Interest Time* of the Lutheran Church Extension fund newsletter, 2014, Issue 4)



## Life in Christ Lutheran Church, Peoria, AZ Celebrated Deaf Ministry Week

Rev. Tom Dunseth (Michigan) was the featured presenter during the week long Deaf Ministry Week held March 1-8, 2015 at Life in Christ Lutheran Church (LICL) in Peoria, AZ. Dunseth met with the interpreters on improving their signing, signing hymns and held American Sign Language (ASL) classes for the church's members and led Bible Studies. LICL had sent their interpreters to attend the Church Interpreter Training Institute in Fort Wayne, IN where Pastor Dunseth taught. He had seen a huge improvement in his students! Dunseth also gave presentations on China Deaf Ministry, conducted worship service with ASL interpreters and in ASL signing the service as well as leading Bible Studies in ASL. Dunseth also worked with the church elders in learning signs for communion and overall general communication skills.



Dunseth also led ASL Bible Study at the Apache ASL Trails in Tempe and attended the 2015 Deaf Expo at the Veterans Coliseum.

Jim and Sheri Johnson (Colorado) attended the interpreted service and were warmly greeted and welcomed by church members signing to them. They also reported that the pastors at LICL are also learning sign language and were able to sign to the Deaf worshipers during communion. For more information about LICL visit their website: [www.licl.org](http://www.licl.org)

## Congratulations!

Denise Pulfer, Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church, Madison, WI, was installed as Director of Christian Education on April 12, 2015. Congratulations Denise!



Tom Schlund, son of Rev. Steve and Becky Schlund, Great Falls, MT, has received a call to Trinity Lutheran Church, Algona, IA (Associate Pastor). Congratulations Tom!

Andrew Schlund, son of Rev. Steve and Becky Schlund, Great Falls, MT, has received a call to Mexico City, Mexico as Missionary to the LCMS Board for International Missions, St. Louis, MO. Congratulations Andrew!



Becky Catchpole received her call as Deaconess to Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church, Madison, WI. Congratulations Becky!

Rev. John Reinke, Our Savior Lutheran Church in Madison, WI, will be graduating in May from the Doctoral Program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. Congratulations Rev. Dr. Reinke!



## LC-MS Missionaries



**Rev. Ryan and Emily McDermott** will be serving the deaf in Accra, Ghana and training Ghanaian pastors on how to do deaf ministry in their congregations. Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Put "McDermott-Ghana" in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."



**Rev. David and Barbara Bush** will be serving the deaf in Macau, China. Rev. Bush will also be the Director of the Concordia English Center. Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 790089, St. Louis, MO 63179-0089. Put "Bush" in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."



**Rev. Steven and Cynthia Schumacher** are serving the deaf in Accra, Ghana and training Ghanaian pastors on how to do deaf ministry in their congregations. Donations can be sent to: "The LC-MS, PO Box 790089, St. Louis MO 63179-0089. Put "Schumacher-Ghana" in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."

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Jeff Padon is now the Business Manager for the Deaf Lutheran. All subscriptions should be sent to him at the address below. Make your check or money order payable to "Deaf Lutheran." Thanks!

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Mail to: **Jeff Padon, Business Manager, 7910 Severn Tree Blvd, Severn, MD 21144**

(cut on the dotted line)

**Deadline for the next issue  
Summer 2015 – July 15, 2015**

**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](mailto:dgehlbach@aol.com)  
[jgehlbach@aol.com](mailto:jgehlbach@aol.com)

**Congratulations**

Tyler Walworth received a call to Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, Mill Neck, NY as Deaf Mission Facilitator. Congratulations Tyler!

**.....SAVE THE DATES.....**

**LWML Convention**

June 25-28, 2015

Des Moines, IA

Website: [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)

**ILDA Convention**

July 23-26, 2015

Madison, WI

Website: [www.ILDA2015.com](http://www.ILDA2015.com)

**Houston Deaf Teen Lock-In**

August 7-8, 2015

St. John Lutheran Church

Cypress, TX

Contact: [Beckyjungklaus@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Beckyjungklaus@sbcglobal.net)

**Moving???**

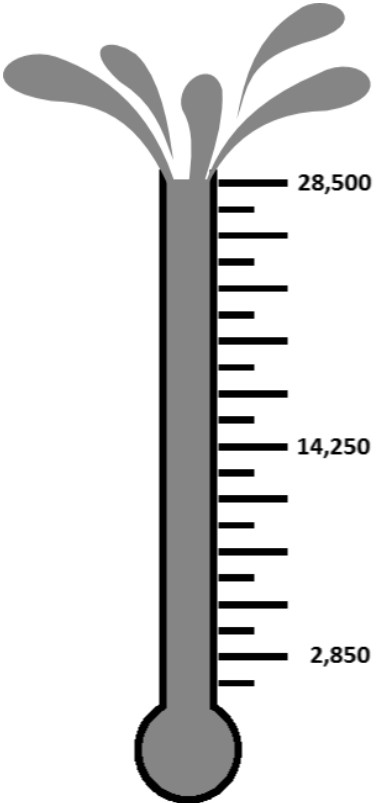
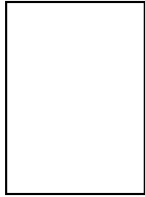
Make sure you let Jeff Padon know of your new address. His address is in the Deaf Lutheran subscription box printed above.



Does anyone have any copies of the Deaf Lutheran from 1920 – 1950? Please contact Rev. Daryl Gehlbach and let him know! Thanks! [DGehlbach@aol.com](mailto:DGehlbach@aol.com)

# The DEAF LUTHERAN

7910 Severn Tree Blvd.  
Severn, MD 21144



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

The ILDA Mission Project goal for 2013-2015 has been met! Yay!!! Any donations from now until June 1, 2015 will be put into a savings account for the 2015-2017 mission projects. You can also donate to the ILDA General Fund if you wish. Write a check to "ILDA" and put "General Fund" in the memo line of your check. Mail it to Patrick Sell, 531 First St., Story City, IA 50248. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.