



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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Summer 2016

St. Louis, MO

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From the President



Greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen!

Recently in May I went to the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) Board meeting. We discussed the budget, international missionaries (Kenya, India, Ghana and Macau) and voted to approve Rev. Tim Eckert's mission to Kenya. As the ILDA President and together with the LDMS President, we both acknowledged and agreed to the same common goal: to spread the Good News (Gospel) about Jesus Christ. The meeting started at 12:45 p.m. CST and ended about 9:15 p.m. with an hour break for dinner. The meeting was held at Concordia Lutheran Church – Kirkwood, just southwest of St. Louis, MO (right on the historic route 66! How cool is that?)

In June, the Executive Council of ILDA decided that Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne, IN is not suitable for the 2017 convention due to the lack of accessibility for the physical disabilities and the difficulty in walking across the seminary campus for those who use walkers and canes. Most of the bathrooms are located in different levels throughout the campus. The buildings were built in the 1950s and this was before the ADA. I did have difficulty walking across the campus and climbing the stairways. I then realized about the other members who may have more severe difficulty than me. I know, I am not getting younger!

Rev. Alan Rork and the hard working host committee already have "Plan B" for the 2017 ILDA convention. It will be in a hotel located in Indianapolis probably near the international airport and has a shuttle available for transport to the hotel. Our number one priority is the safety of the older members especially those who rely on their walking assistance devices (i.e. walkers, canes, wheelchairs and/or scooters). We do not want to restrict you but give you equal access to attend the ILDA convention. We want to welcome you all to come regardless. It

will be July 20-23, 2017 in Indianapolis. Mark your calendars!

The convention for 2021 is still open to bid for a host. We have not received any formal letter. Please check with your congregation if you want to host the ILDA convention in 2021. Email me the address for you to send your letter: presidentilda20152017@gmail.com. The 2019 ILDA convention will be held in Topeka, KS. As of now, the tentative date is July 18-21, 2019. God Bless!!!

John Mason

From the Pastoral Advisor



We attended the ILDA Executive Council meeting in Fort Wayne, IN on June 24-25. We had a very productive meeting, but we decided to have the host committee relocate the convention to Indianapolis due to accessibility issues on the seminary campus.

When we convene the ILDA convention in Indianapolis in 2017 we are expected to be prepared for the next big year of 2017 because it will be the special 500th year celebration of Martin Luther's famous post of Ninety-five (95) Theses on the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. It happened on October 31, 1517. These statements dealt with such issues as the authority of the Bible and the doctrine of God's grace. But what history cannot accomplish! We are thankful that Luther's message was that of the Gospel to postmodern times.

In light of the recent horrible attacks in Nice and Paris, France and Brussels, Belgium, we have been very aware of the upcoming terrors someplace and please pray to God in the name of Jesus Christ for the victims and their families for comfort and hope. Trying to put these chaos aside, we must keep the faith and trust God for His guidance and our safety. God bless all of you.

Rev. Gregory Desrosiers



Central Region Conference was held in April at Camp CILCDA in Cantrall, IL. Officers elected for 2016-2018 were Mike Ford (President), Wayne Kester (Vice President), Becky Catchpole (Secretary), Donna Madewell-Smith (Treasurer) and Rev. Bud Palmer (Pastor Advisor).

Great Lakes Region Conference was held July 22-24 in Rochester NY. Officers elected for 2016-2018 are l. to r.: Pastor Gary Lawson (Pastor Advisor), Larry D. Ginter (President), Nancy Bergstresser (President Elect), Diane Francisco (Secretary) and David G. Brown (Treasurer).



Midwest Region Conference was held August 5-7 at Camp Io-Dis-E-Ca, Solon, IA. New officers elected l. to r.: Bill Zimmerman (Treasurer), Nola Gray (Secretary), Dorene Sell (Vice President) and Sara Hale (President)



Gerald Bolling was called to Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO as an Associate Pastor as Lead Deaf Ministry Minister. He was installed July 3, 2016. He is originally from Brooklyn, NY and is married to Lorenda, a native of Lincoln, IL. They are expecting their first baby on

October 1st. Bolling will be active in continuing Deaf Ministry at Bethlehem as well as serving the hearing church.

Andrew Gomez was called to Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf in Fremont, CA. He was ordained and installed on July 10, 2016. He is an honorably retired California State Police officer and graduated from the SMP



(Specific Ministry Pastor Program) at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. He is married to Lorena and they have 4 adult children and 5 grandchildren. He succeeds Rev. Roy Dahmann who recently retired as pastor of Memorial Lutheran Chapel.

In Memoriam



Agatha Chizek (4/10/1907 – 4/21/2016) was from Kennewick, WA was the oldest Deaf Lutheran who passed away April 21 at age 109 years old! She had attended Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, MI and South Dakota School for the Deaf in Sioux Falls,

SD. She was active in the Rapid City, SD deaf church there.

John of Beverly Award was given by Lutheran Friends of the Deaf (New York) to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) at their banquet July 10 during the Synod convention in Milwaukee. LWML has been a long-time supporter of deaf ministry projects since the time LWML was first established. Congratulations LWML members!

Please support our LC-MS Missionaries

Rev. Ryan and Emily McDermott, Rev. Steven and Cynthia Schumacher serving in Ghana. Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Put "McDermott-Ghana" or "Schumacher – 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. They need more donations before they can get the green light to move to Macau. Donations can be sent to: The LC-MS, PO Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. Put "Bush-Macau" in the memo line of your check. Make the check payable to "The LC-MS."

New school for the deaf to open in the fall of 2016

St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf in Dearborn, MI will be opening Fall of 2016. St. Martin's will provide a bilingual ASL and English environment with a partner hearing church, Emmanuel Lutheran School. St. Martin will provide a comprehensive educational program which fosters each student's growth in knowledge, attitude and skills with a small classroom size and special focus on each child's needs of sign language and total access to education. The ability to read, write and understand the English language is crucial for success not only in all academic areas, but also throughout life. St. Martin will equip the student to succeed in these areas.

Check out the school website: www.smlid.org. If you have any questions contact Board President Brant Engel brant.engel@gmail.com or call St. Martin at 313-241-6383.

Right Hand Award Nominations

Congregations should have already received nomination forms for the Right Hand Award to be given at the next ILDA convention in 2017 in Indianapolis. The deadline for nominations is May 1, 2017. Please fill out the form and return it to Becky Jungklaus. Thanks!

ILDA Mission Project Funds Request

Any individuals, groups or organizations wishing to request funds from ILDA as mission projects must send a formal letter of request by May 1, 2017. Please send your letter to Dorene Sell, 531 First St., Story City, IA 50248-1129.

Youth Service Trip 2016

Five deaf youth and two adult chaperones from Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas went with Pastor Mark Seeger to Seattle, WA for a week to perform service projects for other people. The first service project was at Elk Run Farm in Maple Valley. The farm is growing vegetables for food banks and soup kitchens. Most of the work done was to prepare the soil for farming.



The second day they worked in a very steep wildlife area called Me-kwa-mooks. The purpose was to pull out invasive plants so the natural plants could grow and thrive.

The third project was at the host location, Seattle Lutheran High School. They did a lot of painting and changed the combinations on the lockers to get ready for the new school year. They were thankful the principal, David Meyer, allowed them to stay at the school.



The last service project was at Lincoln Park, again removing invasive plants and trees so the natural plants could grow and thrive.



Each evening was spent in Bible Study. After worship on Sunday they saw the sights of Seattle: Pike Place Market, the "Gum Wall," the first Starbucks and a famous lighthouse. The next day they saw the Space Needle and the 4th of July fireworks.

Rev. Seeger wants to thank ILDA for sponsoring this trip with the mission project grant to Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas. They are in the process of looking for the location for the 2017 Service Trip. If you would like to host them please let Pastor Seeger know MarkDYMT@aol.com Important considerations for the location: 1) not too expensive to fly to, 2) a place where we can put our air mattresses and sleeping bags, 3) showers!, 4) a kitchen.



ILDA Officers

International Officers (2015-2017)

President – John Mason
 Pres. Elect – Gregory Werth
 Secretary – Janet Gehlbach
 Treasurer – Karen Beiter
 Pastor Advisor – Rev. Gregory Desrosiers

Central Region (2016-2018)

President – Mike Ford
 V. President – Wayne Kester
 Secretary – Becky Catchpole
 Treasurer – Donna Madewell-Smith
 Pastor Advisor – Rev. Bud Palmer

Midwest Region (2016-2018)

President – Sara Hale
 V. President – Dorene Sell
 Secretary – Nola Gray
 Treasurer – Bill Zimmerman
 Pastor Advisor – <vacant>

Northwest Region (2015-2017)

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

Great Lakes Region (2016-2018)

President – Larry D. Ginter
 President Elect – Nancy Bergstresser
 Secretary – Diane Francisco
 Treasurer – David G. Brown
 Pastor Advisor - Rev. Gary Lawson

- 23 volunteers came to help make this successful
- 103 people attended at least one time

One family came to know and understand God and His love. This summer their two kids will be baptized. One other family had their son baptized in June. For the summer we are starting an adult confirmation class so that parents will be able to teach their children at home too. We reach out not only to Lutherans but also Catholic, non-denominational and agnostic. One girl has had so much fun that she is bringing her adult cousin (who is agnostic) to the worship. This is a big step for the cousin. We are now in our summer program and having fun!



Family worship continues at Our Savior Deaf Church, Madison, WI

Do you think church is boring? NOT HERE! That has been our motto for the year when we started our family worship program. We wanted to reach out to families that have a deaf/hard of hearing child so that the child can finally learn about God's love in their own language.

We started in the summer of 2015 with classes once a month. In October we decided to continue testing and changing things to fit as we grew. We held a Christmas party for families in December and started a sign class in April. After a while we wanted to see how much we have grown and how things were going so we started keeping track of who came (this was also good follow-up on people who missed worship).

For spring 2016 here is what God has done:

- 35 adults and kids average per week
- 53 adults and kids was our largest count
- 12 different families came

Holy Cross, Columbus, Ohio celebrated the 50th Anniversary of their church building

Members and friends of Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church in Columbus, OH celebrated on April 17, 2016 with a special service in the morning and a banquet at noon at the Berwick Banquet Center. Featured guest speaker was Rev. William A. Ludwig, Seattle, WA who was the pastor during the planning, construction and dedication of the building in 1966. Pictured above are l. to r.: Rev. Edwin Bergstresser and Rev. William Ludwig.

Do you know ILDA has a Facebook page?

Check it out! Search for "International Lutheran Deaf Association." ILDA President John Mason has put up four vlogs so far on the page. There are a lot more pictures to look at from the regional conferences/conventions and gatherings.

AROUND THE SYNOD

**Higher Things Conference
Nashville, Tennessee**



Rev. Matthew and Lynda Nix attend the Higher Things Conference. Rev. Nix was one of the presenters.



Chris Hamilton interpreting the conference.



Rev. Ryan McDermott, Rev. Tyler Walworth, Jennifer Ceyanes and Chris Hamilton attended the Higher Things Conference.

"Bread of Life"

**LCMS Convention
Milwaukee, Wisconsin**



Rev. Steven Schumacher and Rev. Alan Rork.



Rev. Alan Rork, Rev. Matthew Nix and Dacia Reinke.



Unidentified person (left) who won a free t-shirt during the Synod Convention is pictured with Rev. Tim Eckert (right).

***"Upon This Rock: Repent,
Confess, Rejoice"***

**LCMS Youth Gathering
New Orleans, Louisiana**



Rev. Richard Moody led a group of 2 adults and 10 youth from St. Louis, MO going to the National Youth Gathering.



Stephen Eckert (son of Rev. Tim and Susan Eckert) and Paula Willig.



25,000 Lutherans gathered together for the National Youth Gathering.

"In Christ Alone..."

<p align="center">The Deaf Lutheran Subscription (Print Edition) One-Year Subscription – \$10.00</p> <p>Please Select: <input type="checkbox"/> Renew <input type="checkbox"/> New</p> <p>=====</p> <p>Jeff Padon is the Business Manager for <i>The Deaf Lutheran</i>. All subscriptions should be sent to him at the address below. Make your check or money order payable to “<i>The Deaf Lutheran</i>.” Thanks!</p>	<p>Attach mailing label or fill in:</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>State _____ Zip Code _____</p> <p>Email _____</p> <p>Phone/VP/Fax _____</p>
<p>Mail to: Jeff Padon, Business Manager, 7910 Severn Tree Blvd, Severn, MD 21144</p> <p>(cut on the dotted line)</p>	

Can you help?

--Does anyone have copies of ILDA minutes from 1973, 1977, 1979, 1985, 1987 and 1991? Please contact Janet Gehlbach, ILDA Secretary, and let her know! Thanks! jgehlbach@aol.com

Jesus Signs 2016

Jesus Signs Workshops are designed to train and equip others to share Jesus with deaf people and their families. We will provide you with opportunities to learn/improve religious sign skills, immersion into deaf culture, opportunities to learn about deaf ministry and resources for deaf training.

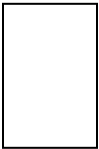
There will be four classes: beginner signers, intermediate signer, advance signers and Deaf. For more information and to register for a workshop checkout out their website: www.LutheranDeafOutreach.org or email LutheranDeafOutreach@gmail.com

Deadline for the next issue:

Fall issue – October 15, 2016
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
dgehlbach@aol.com
jgehlbach@aol.com



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7910 Severn Tree Blvd.
Severn, MD 21144

In this Issue:

Youth Service Trip



Mission Projects for 2015-2017

Deaf Youth Service Project.....\$ 5,000
Fiji Special Education Center.....\$ 5,000
DIT students\$ 7,000

Amended for each new DIT student...\$ 16,000

Donations for the ILDA 2015-2017 Mission Projects can be sent to ILDA Treasurer Karen Beiter, PO Box 218, West Henrietta, NY 14586. Put "Mission Projects" in the memo line. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.
