



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Winter 2017

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 106, No. 1

From the President



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

Wow, it's hard to believe 2016 went by so fast! Now it's 2017! There will be many upcoming events going on in this world.

However, in the United States, we have two major events in the later part of 2017. In July, the ILDA convention will be in Indianapolis, Indiana, and in October will be the celebration of 500 years of Martin Luther's 95 theses, which led to the reformation from the Roman Catholic Church. This marks the birth of the Lutheran religion. I cannot wait to participate in both!

At the Indianapolis ILDA convention we will see new faces at the site. We will have another group joining us for the convention and they are interpreters. I am not talking about the local interpreters for the ILDA convention, I am talking about the interpreters from the LCMS churches with interpreting services. They will participate in all the events with us except for the general meeting; they will have their own workshop only for the interpreters. While they are with us, we will educate and expose them about the ILDA so when they go back to their churches they can tell their deaf members about ILDA. This is a good way to let them know if they want to become a member of ILDA and join us at the next convention. While we have the general meeting at ILDA the group of interpreters will have their own workshop. I assume the workshop will probably focus on ASL techniques, ethics during the services, support for each other, and much more. I will get more information about them after I talk with a pastor or two and I will keep you posted.

ILDA is truly international, not because of our neighbor members in Canada, but the World! Why? We have seen our volunteers went and spread the Good News about our Lord, Jesus Christ to the people outside of North America! I graciously tip my hat to them: Rev. Alan Rork and Rev. Dennis Konkkel to India; Rev. Tim Eckert to Kenya; Rev. John Reinke to Australia; David Bush to Macau; Rev. Steven Schumacher and Rev. Ryan McDermott to Ghana. If I miss anyone else, please let me know and I want you to be recognized and will acknowledge you in the next issue of the Deaf Lutheran.

As you know, the next convention after Indianapolis will be held in Topeka, Kansas, in 2019. It is almost exactly the

center of the continental United States! For 2021, the convention is still open for any church who is willing to host. I pray some of you will ask your church to submit your letter to me that you and your congregation want to host 2021. Please do it as soon as possible before the coming 2017 ILDA convention so we the Executive Council and the Board can review the bids and announce the winning host. Please send your letter, preferably with your official congregation letterhead, to my attention: John C. Mason, Jr., 6721 Deep Run Parkway, Elkridge, MD 21075.

If you want to send a scanned version in email please send email with attachment to:

presidentilda20152017@gmail.com. I kindly thank you very much and wishing you all the best in the year of our Lord, 2017.

God Bless!!!
John Mason

From the Pastoral Advisor



This year (2017) is a special event for the 500th anniversary celebrations around the world since 1517 when Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses denouncing Catholic Church abuses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. It was an event that changed the world and this great anniversary in 2017 will be marked across North America and Europe. The world is paying tribute to Martin Luther as a monk, professor, and church reformer.

Timing is important to *Deaf Lutheran* subscribers, conventioneers, and members, because Indianapolis will host a special convention (ILDA) this summer of 2017. The host committee has been trying to mark this great anniversary in fitting style. Please attend this convention as it is a once-in-your-lifetime opportunity because the 500th anniversary celebration is a rarity. The host will engage you in celebrations, worship, study and focus on how the gracious love of God, through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, opens opportunities for us as faithful Christians to reach out as peacemakers to the world.

Interestingly, Lutheran leaders discussed the Reformation with Catholic leaders in Canada last September. They discussed several topics like "From Conflict to Communion," a 2014 document produced by

the Lutheran-Roman Catholic Unity Commission which is affiliated with the Lutheran World Federation. They discussed theological areas, liturgical matters, and the subject of the sacrifice of the mass. The Lutheran Church (ELCA) allows women to serve as pastors, while the Catholic Church does not allow women as priests. Intercommunion is a big issue for both sides because it is not permitted between Catholics and non-Catholics. Catholics must confess the Catholic Faith. A non-Catholic cannot receive communion. However, Pope Francis had opened the door to intercommunion between Catholics and Lutherans and had begun a "revolution."

Martin Luther's belief is that we are liberated by grace. We believe we are called to be responsible citizens in God's world and good stewards of God's creation. We are freed by the grace of God to engage in this Christian ministry. As we celebrate this anniversary in 2017, we see it as opportunities to show family and friends God's love in Jesus Christ through acts of service and in our words.

Keep the faith my sisters and brothers!

Rev. Gregory Desrosiers

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."

David and Barbara Bush will be serving the deaf in Macau, China. 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."

Higher Things 2017 Conferences

Higher Things is excited to announce that there will be two Deaf Friendly conferences for "Here I Stand 2017." The first will be June 27-30 at Trinity University in San Antonio, TX. The second will be July 25-28 at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, IN. Interpreting will be available for worship services, plenaries, breakout sessions and activities. There will also be breakout sessions taught in American Sign Language (ASL) by pastors active in Deaf Ministry. Registrations are filling up fast. We encourage you to register and let your local Deaf Communities know. Here I Stand in ASL! The website is: <http://higherthings.org/conferences/hereistand2017>

Nominations Needed for ILDA Officers

Important notice!! The 2017 ILDA Convention in Indianapolis is approaching real rapidly and will be here before we all know it! If any of you are interested in running for office or a position as an officer (President-

Elect, Secretary or Treasurer) for 2017-2019, please contact Carol Seeger (ILDA President 2013-2015) as soon as possible. I can be reached at carolseeger1947@gmail.com. Hope to hear from you! Blessings,
Carol Seeger, Nomination Chair

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 – Rev. Paul Tessaro

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

Deaf Ministry in Liberia

(Written by Rev. John Reinke and reprinted from the Lutheran Deaf Outreach December 2016 newsletter)

WLDO Missionary, Rev. Dr. John Reinke, recently returned from an awesome mission trip to Liberia. For years, Rev. Borbor Taifaka Arku, a Liberian deaf pastor has been begging for someone to come and share Jesus with the deaf people in Liberia. We praise and thank God for giving Rev. Reinke the opportunity to go and teach.

WLDO was told to expect about 20 people to attend the week-long workshop. God surprised us all by sending 50 deaf Liberians to come and learn how to share Jesus. We started at 7 a.m. and continued

until dark at 6 p.m. – and they wanted MORE! We studied the Deaf Catechism and the 1000 Deaf questions from the Old Testament and New Testament. Many worked at night by candlelight to finish the materials!

There was a young boy, 13 years old that had never met another Deaf person, never learned to sign, and does not have any communication skills. The boy's mother learned there was a workshop for the Deaf people. She brought him to join the workshop. He was very scared! But he joined in and is now learning how to communicate. Imagine – his first signs are not mom or dad, he does not first learn ABC – his first signs he learns is JESUS LOVES ME! That is VERY cool!

Liberian Deaf have only joined with hearing worship with no interpreter. Can you imagine no interpreter? Or beginning person learning to sign? Thank God there are some hearing people learning to sign/interpret. The Deaf want their OWN worship. We are working in developing their worship: what works is good for them and what is the best way for them.

One person explained for hearing people – would hearing people like to go to a church that speaks a language they do not understand? They must wear a headphone, or have someone sit next to them to whisper in their ear – have someone interpret the language every Sunday. NO! They want in their own language so they can understand. That is the concept these Deaf want. Please pray for them that God will lead them as He wants.

This was a great trip with Rev. Scott Rische and Rev. David Seabaugh to evaluate if it will work to travel together. They taught classes for the Hearing Pastors while I trained with the Deaf people. We made a good team working together. We are planning to travel together for future trips to reach the Deaf people in Ethiopia, Latvia, Brazil, and other areas.

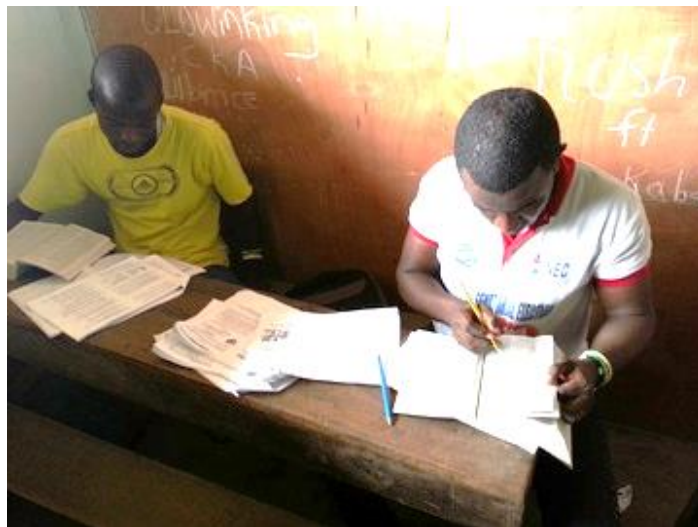
We really appreciate your prayers and financial support to make this training possible! It is very hard for Deaf people to find work. When they take off for 1 to 2 weeks for training, they are giving up work to be involved with the training. We try to help with food and travel so they can focus on the training.

That is why we need to raise approximately \$5,000 per person for each trip to cover airfare and supplies. We bring NlrV Bibles with us, plus we pay for copying materials, meals, and help with transportation.

This continues to be our goal – to equip more and more Deaf people to become trained as leaders, Deaconesses, and Pastors to teach more people! Please pray and consider sponsoring one or more of these Mission Training Events! And pray for God to

continue blessing the people involved in training and open the doors to expand training to new areas.

Donations can be sent to Lutheran Deaf Outreach, PO Box 1795, Janesville, WI 53547.



24th Biennial ILDA Convention
“Focus on Jesus”
July 13-16, 2017
Hilton Garden Inn, Indianapolis, Indiana

The following forms can be found on the ILDA website:

<http://www.deafjesus.org/ilda/ILDAconv.html>

- Right Hand Award nomination form
 - Nominating form for election of officers
 - ILDA 2017-2019 mission project application
 - Skit/banner/choir competition application and rules
- Noah's Ark flyer
 - Registration form
 - Hotel information form
 - Booster form

Combo ticket cancellations will be accepted but refunds are given in full with a Doctor's note, 50% refund before May 31, 2017 and no cancellations and/or refunds will be given after June 1, 2017. There will be no refund given for any individual day tickets.

The Hilton Garden Inn is the convention site in Indianapolis. Room cost is \$114 per night plus tax. This rate also includes breakfast in the morning. The group code is: **PEA**. The cut-off/release date for the room block is June 17, 2017. Should anyone need a reservation after that date and if they still have rooms available they will honor the \$114 rate. The room cancellation policy is 24 hours (1 day) prior to arrival date. Any questions on the hotel should be directed to: deafpeace@att.net.

Workshop Presenters:

Fri. July 14, 10 a.m. “LWML” by Donna Madewell-Smith

Fri. July 14, 1 p.m. “Martin Luther History (500 years)” by Rev. Ron Friedrich

Fri. July 14, 3 p.m. “ILDA's History (50 years in 2021)” by Rev. Daryl Gehlbach

PLEASE fill in the Right Hand Award nomination form ASAP and return to Carolyn Snyder-Mason. Her address is on the bottom of the nomination form. The deadline is May 31, 2017.

Booster forms should be returned to Peace Deaf Lutheran Church, Attn: Donna Madewell-Smith, 6404 East 46th St., Indianapolis, IN 46226-3550. Please send payment by check (no cash) payable to “2017 ILDA Convention.”

Hope to see you all there in Indianapolis!

ILDA Constitution proposed changes

The following changes to the ILDA Constitution are to be voted on during the business meeting of the 24th Biennial Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana on July 13-16, 2017. As required by the ILDA Constitution (Article XXI, 2nd paragraph), these changes are to be printed in The Deaf Lutheran or sent out by written letter. For this purpose they are being printed in The Deaf Lutheran 2017 Winter issue and can be read on the website. All proposed changes are underlined. The present language has ~~strike-outs~~.

Article X

The ILDA will cooperate with the regional branches for the purpose of carrying out its programs, plans and projects; promoting its purpose; soliciting funds; and coordinating the efforts of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod or its partner churches, ~~the Board for Mission Services,~~ the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society, the ministry with deaf persons, regional branches, deaf congregations, people involved in the pastoral ministry and all the people of the ILDA. Regional branches shall be governed by the terms, provisions and conditions set forth in This Constitution.

Article XIV, Section A #2

The Handbook shall contain articles on administration, operation, coordination, conventions, regional branches, congregations and/or fields, ~~the Board for Mission Services,~~ the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society, the ministry with deaf persons, public relations and any other things that might serve the purpose.

Article XVII, Paragraph 1

The ILDA may be dissolved upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active members present and voting at an official and legally called ILDA convention. All assets and property of the ILDA upon dissolution shall be given to the ~~Board for Mission Services~~ Lutheran Deaf Mission Society of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod for deaf ministry.

Article XVII, Paragraph 2

Upon the dissolution of the Association, the Association shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the Association, dispose of all the assets of the Association exclusively for the purposes of the Association in such a manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under section 501c(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States

Internal Revenue Law), as the Board of ~~Trustees~~ Directors shall determine. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article XVIII

The ILDA or its regional branches shall be solely responsible for all debts incurred. The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod ~~is and~~ the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society are not responsible for any debt incurred by the ILDA or its regional branches.

Alpha Lutheran Church, Rochester NY moves to a new location

Alpha Lutheran Church sold its church building and has moved to Pinnacle Lutheran Church, 250 Pinnacle Road, Rochester, NY 14623. Alpha's



mailing address is PO Box 24708, Rochester, NY 14624.

The members of Pinnacle have been a wonderful group of people in welcoming the members of Alpha to use space in the small chapel for their worship services and Bible Studies. Their deaf worship is separate from the hearing worship services. Worship is at 10:30 a.m. and Bible Study is at 11:30 a.m.

Alpha will have a potluck/birthday celebration the 1st Sunday of the month after worship. There is no Bible Study on that Sunday. Frewsburg/Jamestown worship is on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4 p.m. and after worship they share dinner together.

If you would like more information you can contact Deacon John Rushton at jrushton@rochester.rr.com.



Alpha President David Williams

The Deaf Lutheran staff news

We would like to thank Jeff Padon for his service as *The Deaf Lutheran* Business Manager the past several years. Waving hands!! His duties are now being passed on to Carolyn Snyder-Mason. Carolyn is a member of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Silver Spring, MD. She will be responsible for the subscriptions, depositing of the checks and paying the expenses of *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter. Welcome aboard Carolyn!

Janet Gehlbach, co-editor, will be printing *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletters in Minnesota and processing them for sending out through the mail. As usual Pastor Ron Friedrich will be providing her with the address labels to affix to each issue of the newsletter. Many thanks to Pastor Friedrich for doing this important duty!

Finally, *The Deaf Lutheran* has a new bank account that will make it easier for future business managers of *The Deaf Lutheran* to take care of the depositing of subscriptions and paying the expenses without the hassle of closing and opening up bank accounts. The bank is Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LFCU) based out of St. Louis, MO and is run by The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. LFCU has shared branches all over the USA and allows members to make deposits at a local credit union or branch close to his/her home as well as making ATM withdrawals. For more information you can check out www.lutheranfcu.org.

World Lutheran Deaf Outreach is on the move

Rev. Dr. John Reinke and his wife, Dacia, traveled to different parts of Australia during the month of January to lead workshops in how to share Jesus with deaf people. You can check out their blog www.WLDORoadSigns.com.

Rev. Reinke will also be presenting Jesus Signs Workshops in various parts of the US. If you know of deaf people who would like to be involved in this training to become leaders and more hearing people involved in ministry to become equipped to share the Gospel then these workshops are for you! If you would like to get on the schedule please send email to: LutheranDeafOutreach@gmail.com or call Rev. Reinke at 608-436-9600.

Our Savior Lutheran Church celebrates baptisms



In 2016 there were 13 children baptized into God's family at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Madison, WI. Many of these children and their families attended the Family Worship on Thursday nights. Please check out more photos on Facebook under "Our Savior Deaf Church."

We thank God for His Holy Spirit working in the hearts and lives of these families and for the faithful workers sharing God's Word, encouraging each other and growing together in faith. Please pray for all our families and members working together to reach out with the Gospel.

(adapted from the LDO newsletter, December 2016)



<p style="text-align: center;">The Deaf Lutheran Subscription (Print Edition) One-Year Subscription – \$10.00</p> <p>Please Select: _____ Renew _____ New</p> <p>=====</p> <p>All subscriptions should be sent to Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Business Manager of the <i>Deaf Lutheran</i>, at her address below. Make your check or money order payable to “ILDA” and put <i>Deaf Lutheran</i> in the memo line. 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: Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Business Manager, 6721 Deep Run Parkway, Elkridge, MD 21075</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

ILDA Membership Dues

Please send \$30 for your ILDA membership dues to:

Karen Beiter, ILDA Treasurer
PO Box 218
West Henrietta, NY 14586

Make your check payable to “ILDA” and in the memo line put “membership dues.”

If you would like to receive free copies of *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter you can go to www.deafjesus.org/ilda and read the issues there. If you want a paper copy of the newsletter then please fill in the subscription form above and send it with your \$10 to Carolyn Snyder-Mason. Thanks!

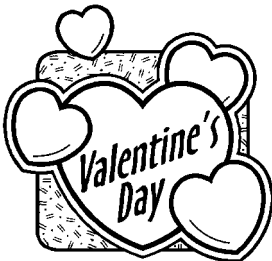
Deadline for the next issue:

Spring issue - April 15, 2017

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
Videophone: 612-424-4747
dgehlbach@aol.com
jgehlbach@aol.com



The DEAF LUTHERAN

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Winter Issue 2017

In this Issue:

Liberia Report
ILDA Convention News
Constitution Changes



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.
