



# The *Deaf Lutheran*



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

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## From the Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tyler Walworth



Many churches today are in panic mode. We have been told that everyone is leaving the church

and we must work hard to make sure people stay and newcomers feel invited. How do we do this? Many have proposed changing our services to be more friendly to outsiders. Some propose making our preaching more engaging. Some propose our content in church more helpful. There may be ways to improve in many of these categories. Will it make people stay? Will it bring people in? To a certain extent, we can say, "Yes!" People will come and stay for a while and if they make friends, then they may stay for a long time. In fact, we could create an entire culture that welcomes outsiders and gives insiders lots to be excited about. The church can fill its pews with a few simple steps and a few improvements here and there.

What do we create by drawing the crowds and making them stay? Check again in the above paragraph to see if Jesus is mentioned one time. Nope, He isn't there. Jesus said, "You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my

church." What is the rock? It is Jesus Himself and the life, cross and resurrection delivered to you in the preached Word of repentance from sin and salvation given to you by His death. This is the only place the church will be and can be. The Church is built by water and the Spirit in baptism. The Church is strengthened by the body and blood of Jesus in the Lord's Supper. Put simply, it is built by Jesus in His way and in His time. In our consideration of how many people are in church and how to save the church, be careful not to forget the Savior of the church and the only one who can give people faith and life.

So when people ask you "How many people are in your church?" your response should be: "There are thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, all of the firstborn of Jesus, God the Father, the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and Jesus. That's how many are in my church." Of course, they will ask you, "What? What do you mean?" Then you can point them to Hebrews 12, where a normal church service is described in the spiritual sense. What actually happens on a Sunday WHEN JESUS IS THERE is what Hebrews 12 describes in detail. Jesus builds the church by the power of His Word proclaimed, His baptism that washes and His body and blood that

strengthens. The number is never the key. Jesus is the key and the rest will all fall into place.

## From the LDMS Executive Director Rev. Ron Friedrich



As I write this, we just received the news that two of our veteran pastors to the Deaf—Rev. Gerhard Gehrs

(California) and Rev. Roger Leonardt (North Dakota) - have been promoted to heaven.

Now that these two faithful pastors have gone, who will be the spiritual shepherd for the Deaf people they served? Maybe **you?**

Bible stories about God's call to His Apostles and prophets can encourage us. You might identify with Moses. Two whole chapters of the Bible report Moses' argument with God: "Who am I that I should go?" "If I tell the people of Israel that the God of their fathers has sent me, they will ask me, 'What is His name?' What should I tell them?" "What if they don't believe me?" "I don't speak well. I talk too slow" "O Lord, *please send someone else!*" Moses was already 80 years old, so he could have complained, "Lord, I am too old!" (Exodus 3 & 4).

(continued on Page 2)

(continued from Page 1)

Then we read about Jeremiah, "Lord, I am too young. I don't know how to speak to people." (Jer. 1:6). And we look at Gideon's many doubts and fears (Judges 6 & 7).

Please read those stories in your Bible. You will see how real, how human those men were. And you will see how God answered their objections. In the New Testament we read about Jesus' call to a group of rough fisherman. "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:19). And before He ascended into heaven, Jesus said, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and you will be My witnesses..." (Acts 1:8).

Isaiah became afraid. "I am not clean! I am a sinful person!" God told Isaiah, "I have taken away your sin." Then God asked, "Whom can I send? Who will go for us?" Isaiah answered, "Here I am. Send me!" (Isaiah 6:1-8).

If you love Jesus, God can use you to help other people to know and love Him too. If you are not sure how, please contact me at [LDMS@deafjesus.org](mailto:LDMS@deafjesus.org).

## In Memoriam

### Jeff McGuire



Austin, TX.

B: 10/6/1962  
D: 11/16/2018  
Jeff was an active member of Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf,

### Rev. Roger Leonhardt



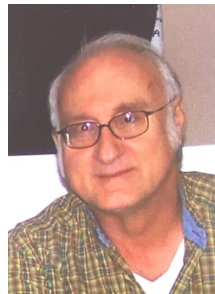
to his retirement.

B: 8/1/1939  
D: 1/7/2019  
Rev. Leonhardt had served the deaf in Devils Lake, ND pri-

### Ted Hagemeyer



### David Naumann



B: 3/14/1931  
D: 11/20/2018  
Ted was a member of Christ Lutheran Deaf Church, Silver Springs, MD.

B: 2/10/1948  
D: 11/24/2018  
David was a member of Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church, Houston, TX.

### Rev. Gerhard Gehrs Jr.



in Riverside, CA and Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Los Angeles, CA.

B: 6/19/1935  
D: 1/9/2019  
Prior to his death, Rev. Gehrs served Mt. Calvary Lutheran Deaf Church

*Blessed Be  
Their Memory*



Jesus Signs workshop was held in Peoria, AZ in 2018. Pictured above are the workshop attendees and presenters.

## ILDA Officers

### International Officers (2017-19)

President – Gregory Werth  
 Pres.-Elect – John Mason  
 Secretary – Janet Gehlbach  
 Treasurer – David G. Brown  
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Tyler Walworth

### Central Region (2018-20)

President – Albert Moore  
 V. President – Mike Ford  
 Secretary – Rebecca Catchpole  
 Treasurer – Tim Kearney  
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Bud Palmer

### Midwest Region (2018-20)

President – Sara Hale  
 V. President – Dorene Sell  
 Secretary – Nola Gray  
 Treasurer – Barbara Zimmerman  
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Daryl Gehlbach

### Northwest Region (2016-18)

President – Richard Sharp  
 President Elect – Patricia Jenkins  
 Secretary – vacant  
 Treasurer – vacant  
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. David Nielsen

### Great Lakes Region (2018-20)

President – Larry D. Ginter  
 Pres. Elect – Nancy Bergstresser  
 Secretary – JoAnna Rushton  
 Treasurer – Karen Beiter  
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Edwin Bergstresser



This year marks the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an important event in LCMS Deaf Missions.

In early 1894 Rev. Augustus Reinke, pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Chicago, received a letter from Hermann Uhlig, headmaster of the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit. In that letter, Uhlig included a plea from a former student, Edward Pahl, now a member of Reinke's congregation. The plea was that the Gospel be preached to the Deaf. Thus, on Sunday, March 4, 1894, Rev. Augustus Reinke, conducted the first Lutheran worship service in sign language in the United States.

Over the next two years Reinke conducted a one-man mission survey in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio. His efforts laid the groundwork for the Missouri Synod to establish a Deaf Missions Board in 1896, with Reinke as the chairman.

At the time he began this work, Reinke was 52 years old and head pastor of the largest congregation in the Missouri Synod. He was founder of the Lutheran Home for the Elderly in Arlington Heights, IL and served as a trustee of the teacher school in Addison. He was the founding pastor of Our Savior, the first organized Lutheran congregation in America.

However, Reinke's work among the deaf would be cut short. On November 18, 1899, less than six years after that first service, he was called to his eternal reward. Although his time of service was brief, he cast the seeds that would grow congregations in Chicago, St. Louis, Milwaukee, Fort Wayne, Louisville, and Indianapolis.



Rev. Dr. John Reinke was installed as Missionary for the Deaf for the Texas District on January 14, 2019, by District President Mike Newman at Lone Star Camp, La Grange, TX. Pictured l. to r.: Dacia Reinke, Rev. Dr. John Reinke and Rev. Mike Newman.

Send submissions  
 for the Deaf Lutheran  
 to:

Janet Gehlbach  
 305 Liberty St. NE  
 Fridley, MN 55432  
 jgehlbach@aol.com  
 VP: 612-424-4747

## ILDA Executive Council minutes July 20-21, 2018

A copy of the full minutes is available to read online in the ILDA website and will also be available to those people attending the ILDA convention in Kansas in July. Below is a summary of the minutes:

### Roll call:

President—Gregory Werth  
 President-elect—John Mason  
 Secretary—Janet Gehlbach  
 Treasurer—David G. Brown  
 Pastor Advisor—Rev. Tyler Walworth  
 LDMS Representative—Rev. Ron Friedrich

### President's report:

1. Will do his best to uphold his position as ILDA President.
2. Discussed restructuring the ILDA Regions.
3. Wants to set up a training workshop before the 2019 conference for ILDA members and officers.
4. Discussed problems with the EIN number assigned to ILDA. Wants to find one bank that can be utilized all over the US instead of having to change banks each time a new treasurer is elected. Would like to invest some ILDA funds into mutual funds to grow more interest.
5. Wants to assign dollar amounts according to the wishes of St. Matthew Lutheran Church who have ILDA a huge donation in 2017. Requested the ILDA Secretary write a thank you letter to St. Matthew's members for their donation and show how those funds will be divided.
6. Asked Becky Jungklaus to be the Mission Project Chair for the 2019 convention.
7. Asked Dawn Werth to be the Right Hand Award Chair for the 2019 convention.
8. Asked the Northern Illinois Deaf Ministry group to host the 2021 ILDA convention but their group declined. Hopefully by September 1, he will be able to find another church to host it.
9. Wants to start advertising ILDA to interpreted churches by creating a new brochure.

### President-elect report:

1. Has been busy involved in events at his church.
2. Recommends the ILDA Handbook be "locked in" for the next 5-6 years and no changes be made.
3. Would like a floor plan added to the Handbook or given to the next convention host so they know the needs of the Executive Council.
4. Expressed concern we need to be careful how we distribute funds to ILDA from St. Matthew's church.. We are a non-profit organization so need to spend the money so that we are not penalized from the IRS.
5. Recently accepted the nomination as Lutheran Deaf

Mission Society (LDMS) President.

### Secretary's report:

1. Signed State of Missouri annual renewal forms for ILDA.
2. Received a letter from the Northern Illinois Deaf Ministry group declining to host the 2021 convention.
3. Received a letter from the officers of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Silver Springs, MD that they approved and voted to be part of the Great Lakes Region.
4. Tried to gather more missing minutes and reports not in the Secretary's minutes binder. There are no minutes from ILDA conventions of 1973, 1977, 1979, 1985 and 1991.
5. Filled three 3-ring notebooks of all the ILDA minutes and reports she has found since becoming Secretary at the Madison convention.
6. All minutes and reports were scanned and now available to read online.
7. Announced she was elected LDMS Secretary.

### Treasurer report:

1. Met with Karen Beiter and she gave him all the treasurer's reports and banking information. Gave a check for \$10,000 to be used as starter money to open a new bank account. A wire-transfer was done later with the rest of the ILDA funds to the new account.
2. Received statements from July-December 2017 from Karen Beiter but did not have a chance to go through them before this meeting.
3. Checking balance as of June 19, 2018 is \$17,495.54. Savings balance as of June 19, 2018 is \$154,201.58.
4. Mission project payments for 2017-2019 were paid to: Deaf Teen Service Project (\$8,000), David Bush (\$2,000), Rev. McDermott (\$2,000), Rev. Schumacher (\$2,000), and World Lutheran Deaf Outreach (\$4,000). Unpaid are Kenya and India (\$8,000 each).
5. Mission projects deposits totaling \$4,695.10 were made since September 20, 2017. He is not sure how much was deposited by Karen Beiter between 9/22/17—1/1/18.
6. Zacharias Fund balances total \$32,988.66.
7. Zacharias Fund balances have been increasing for years and the Executive Council needs to decide what to do with these funds.
8. New membership year begins in August/September 2018. Renewal reminders will be sent out in August. Membership spreadsheet is incomplete because of the lack of current addresses.
9. An issue with the EIN number needs to be fixed.
10. Discussed opening accounts with Lutheran Federal Credit Union (LFCU) but it has not been done because of unknown issues since he became treasurer.
11. Discussed what to do with the \$120,000 received last year. One of the wishes is that some money be used for

ILDA's expenses.

#### **Pastoral Advisor Report:**

1. Has been serving as a missionary and dual parish pastor with a deaf and hearing church in Michigan. Sees a need for reaching out to deaf youth, a need for good interpreters and pastors to enter deaf ministry.
2. What are ILDA's goals? What's our future? How do we reach out to the youth? Need to discuss this at this meeting and at ILDA.
3. Suggests making a video of Christian topics, sign language, and encourage youth participation.
4. Children will learn about Jesus if their parents are involved.
5. As long as we are on this earth we will continue to be attacked by the devil, the world and our sinful nature. We must strive to cling to the words of Jesus and follow Him.

#### **LDMS Director Report:**

1. Announced the resignation of Rev. Tim Eckert. Rev. Friedrich is now the new director.
2. LDMS is exploring opportunity to help Ephphatha Lutheran School in India with funds to build classrooms, a dormitory and office.
3. LDMS approved funding for a pastor in Kenya to receive training in Deaf education so he can serve the deaf there.
4. One student enrolled in the DIT program is Andy Petajan. He is serving his vicarage at Christ Lutheran Church, Silver Springs, MD.
5. Rev. Friedrich took over the Deaf PAH program last year. Continues to work with Paula Willig on the LDMS website.
6. LDMS website has been overhauled.
7. Currently are four students actively studying the Deaf PAH courses with a mentor.
8. LDMS changed the structure of the Executive Committee to allow more deaf participation on the Board. A Deaf President (John Mason) and Deaf Secretary (Janet Gehlbach) were elected on May 5, 2018.
9. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, has changed their curriculum and dropped the DIT program. Rev. Tim Eckert will still work with the seminary to develop a curriculum for deaf students as pastors and deaconesses.
10. Deaf LITES workshop scheduled for September 2018 in Tomball, TX, was cancelled.
11. Planning has begun for the interpreters workshop during the 2019 ILDA convention.
12. Revs. Eckert and Friedrich gathered statistics on the state of LCMS Deaf ministries. [Editors note: for space considerations the list is not being printed here. Please read it on the ILDA website or read it in the Spring issue]

#### **Deaf Lutheran report:**

1. Rev. Daryl and Janet Gehlbach have served as co-

- editors since 2013. Newsletter has been well received.
2. Newsletter mailed out four times a year.
3. Free color copies of the Deaf Lutheran (DL) are on the ILDA website. All back issues of the DL are also on the website.
4. Subscriptions should be sent to Carolyn Snyder-Mason. Cost is \$10 for a one year subscription.
5. Thanked Carolyn and John for preparing the mailing labels.
6. Thanked Rev. Friedrich, Sharon Svenningsen and John Mason for proofreading the DL before printing it.

#### **Deaf Lutheran Business Manager Report:**

1. Financial report is from 1/1/2017-6/30/2018.
2. Balance in checking is \$313.19. Balance in savings is \$1012.53.

#### **Minutes to be continued in the Spring (May) issue of the Deaf Lutheran.**



### **2019 ILDA Convention**

- The banquet is on Saturday night, not Friday night as printed in the registration form in the Fall 2018 issue of the Deaf Lutheran.
- Deadline for the early bird combo registration was January 31. Tickets from now to May 1 will cost \$250.00 per person.
- All meals are provided unless noted otherwise in the ticket cost.
- Childcare is provided and free with lots of activities planned. All adult volunteers have been vetted with a thorough background check to ensure your child(ren)'s safety.
- Go to the ILDA website to print a copy of the registration form for the 2019 Kansas convention.
- Any questions contact Sara Hale:  
Kansas.seed@gmail.com
- Changes to the ILDA Constitution were made at the 2017 Indianapolis convention. See the ILDA website online for an updated copy.
- The ILDA Mission Projects request forms were mailed to congregations by Becky Jungklaus. The deadline to request any funding is April 15, 2019. You can print a copy of the Mission Projects Request form online. Contact Becky with any questions or for more information.
- The nomination forms for the Right Hand Award were sent to congregations by Dawn Werth. The deadline to submit nominations is June 19, 2019. Contact Dawn with any questions or for more information.

## 2019 ILDA Convention – July 18 – 21, 2019

### Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

#### “ God Above Gold”

“Therefore I love your commandments above gold, yes above fine gold.”

-Psalms 119:127

(All meals provided unless otherwise mentioned)

#### **Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 to 5:00 pm: Registration opens

5:00 to 6:30pm: Dinner on your own

7:00pm: Opening Devotion, banner presentation, skits/songs, social

#### **Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>**

7:00am: Breakfast

8:00am: Devotions

8:30am: Business meeting

10:15am: Break

10:30am: resume Business meeting

12:00pm: Lunch

1:00pm: resume Business meeting if needed or tours on your own (Topeka has many museums and several wineries and breweries to tour)

5:30pm: Dinner

7:00pm: Evening social (Hollywood Squares...a chance to challenge your Pastors/ Church Workers)

#### **Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>**

7:00am: Breakfast

8:00am: Devotions

8:45am: Breakout session 1

10:15am: Break

10:30am: Breakout session 2

12:00pm: Lunch

1:00pm: Breakout session 3

2:30pm: Servant Project

5:30pm: Banquet — Keynote speaker: Rev. William Wrede

#### **Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup>**

7:00am: Breakfast

8:30am: Bible Study

10:00am: Worship service with Communion (installation of officers, banner presentation to 2021 host, closing)

**The Deaf Lutheran Subscription  
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**Jesus Signs workshop attendees in San Antonio, TX, January 2019**

**Jesus Signs workshop attendees and presenters in Houston, TX January 2019**



*The Deaf Lutheran*  
Janet Gehlbach, DL editor  
305 Liberty St. NE  
Fridley, MN 55432

Winter Issue 2019

**RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**

**Lutheran Women’s Missionary League 38th Biennial Convention** will be held  
June 20-23, 2019 in Mobile, Alabama. The convention will be interpreted.  
Please check out the website: <http://www.lwml.org/2019-convention>

**ILDA Mission Projects for 2017-2019**

Deaf Youth Service Project	\$ 8,000	paid
Rev. Ryan McDermott (Africa mission)	\$ 2,000	paid
Rev. Steven Schumacher (Africa mission)	\$ 2,000	paid
David Bush (Macau mission)	\$ 2,000	paid
India mission	\$ 8,000	not paid
Kenya mission	\$ 8,000	not paid
World Lutheran Deaf Outreach	<u>\$ 4,000</u>	paid
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$34,000</b>	

**UPDATE: \$11,109 is  
needed to meet the  
mission projects goal  
of \$34,000 before the  
July 2019 Kansas  
convention.**

Donations for the ILDA 2017-2019 Mission Projects can be sent to: ILDA Treasurer, David G. Brown, c/o Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church, 360 Morse Rd., Columbus, OH 43214. Make your check payable to “ILDA” and put “Mission Projects 2017-2019” 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.