



The **Deaf Lutheran**



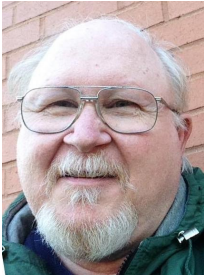
Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society

Winter 2020

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 109, No. 1

From the President John Mason



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

This is probably the most difficult column that I need to address to you all. I recently lost a good friend of mine. I first met him at Deaf School when I was eleven years old. He was my classmate as well, too. He was my best man in our wedding. He died in his sleep on the first day of 2020. My parents passed away many years ago, my uncle, grandparents, cousins, in-laws, relatives near and far, they all also passed away. I, too, will pass away when the Lord calls me home. No one can escape death.

All of us have faced the death of our friends and relatives in our lifetime. Not just people, but we see our businesses no longer exist. For example: major department stores like Montgomery Ward, Sears, and Hecht's. Some went out of business for good because poor economy killed them. Others were forced to downsize to keep their business alive because of online shopping slowly killing them. Amazon is one perfect example and so is Walmart online, too.

Some organizations have stopped and no longer exist. Decrease number of members and lack of donations/contributions are the keys to the death of any organization regardless how small or large they are.

We are International Lutheran Deaf Association, ILDA, a non-profit organization and we have been in existence around 50 years. Are we allowed to be one of them to die? NO! We will continue with our Lord's help. Many conventions ago, we had large numbers of attendees, as large as 300 – 400. Sadly, the number of attendees declined over the years. I did ask some members during the conventions in Vancouver BC, Baltimore MD, Columbus OH, Austin TX, Madison WI, Indianapolis IN and Topeka KS, why the number of attendees fluctuate and decrease? Believe it or not, most of their answers are:

1. Some of them rather attend at Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) conventions due to their limited budget.
2. Some of them are not very interested in ILDA because they were bored of ILDA doing the same old things. No problem going to different locations.
3. Few of them (on fixed income) no longer can afford to attend unless the convention is nearby.

(continued on Page 2)

Mark your calendars!!

2021 ILDA
Convention

July 22-25, 2021

Holiday Inn

1000 Busse Rd.

Elk Grove Village, Illinois
(Chicago area just
15 minutes west of O'Hare
airport)

Start saving your
dollars for this event! It is
ILDA's 50th anniversary celebration!

Registration forms will be
printed in the Fall
(November) 2020 issue of
the *Deaf Lutheran*.

WANTED...

Host congregation for
the 2023 ILDA convention. Please send your
bid by June 2020 to:
President John Mason
6721 Deep Run Parkway
Elkridge, MD 21075

Thanks!

Unfortunately, in the same year, DSA and ILDA host every two years but luckily not at the same time. Did you know ILDA is 20 years older than DSA? We had our first ten conventions before they start their first convention. Perhaps that explain why the number of ILDA attendees gets smaller. Don't get me wrong; DSA is a wonderful thing for nationwide deaf seniors. We don't have a lot of deaf churches (LCMS) nationwide.

As you know, Prince of Peace Church of the Deaf (MN) is the next 26th convention host and it will be held at Elk Grove Village IL, outside of Chicago. It's the first time for any congregation hosting outside of their home state. Keep your eye on future *Deaf Lutheran* issues for more information and registration forms for the convention.

I hope some of you and your congregation will be able to host the 27th convention in 2023. Please discuss with your pastor, church officers and congregation if you want to host, then send a letter to me if you want to bid to host. Do it as soon as possible.

Don't let ILDA cease to exist. ILDA must go on. Thank you and God bless you all.

John Mason (2019-2021)



From the Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tyler Walworth



Does Justification Still Matter?

You are guilty before God because you break His law by nature and by action. By nature, you inherited sin from Adam and you are guilty because you lack anything good in body or soul. You naturally love and desire to do evil. Because of this sinful nature from Adam you think, sign and do evil things. You cannot escape and don't want to escape this evil. You earn the wrath of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and deserve punishment forever in hell. You need a savior!

But who could be born with no sin?

Jesus! As true man, Jesus had no sin and was able to live a perfect life under the law of God. He didn't break any commandments by nature or by action!

But how can Jesus use his perfect life to save you?

He is not just true man. Jesus is true God. He is able to take all of your sin on himself. God the Father punished Jesus for your sin and the sin of all people past, present and future.

Then how does Jesus give this to you?

Jesus declares you righteous through His Word proclaimed to you! The Holy Spirit uses the Word of good news, "Jesus died to forgive you" to give you faith. After the Holy Spirit creates faith in you, He fills it up with the gift of forgiveness. This faith holds on to Jesus through the Word

proclaimed, read, remembered. Faith holds on to Jesus in baptism. Faith holds on to Jesus in the Lord's supper. Through these gifts of Word, Baptism and Supper Jesus takes His forgiveness and gives it to you.

What does this forgiveness do for me?

Because you have received forgiveness by faith you are no longer guilty of breaking God's law. You are justified, which means you are declared righteous before God. This means you may come to God the Father day and night in prayer. This means you will not die but live forever. This means you are safe from the devil and the world.

Does justification still matter? Of course! It is the very heart of what Jesus did on the cross for you. Praise the Lord with all your heart for He has become your king!



Diana Rice joined the Lutheran Friends of the Deaf missionary team last year. She was commissioned and installed as a deaconess on 11/19/2019 at the John of Beverley Chapel on the Mill Neck campus, Mill Neck, NY. Congratulations Diana!

International Lutheran Deaf Association
25th Biennial Business Meeting
Capital Plaza Hotel, Topeka, Kansas
Friday, July 19, 2019

1. Welcome

President Gregory Werth welcomed everyone to the 25th Biennial Convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA).

2. Necrology (Diane Francisco – not present)

Rev. Daryl and Janet Gehlbach prepared a power point presentation showing photos of those ILDA members who have passed away since the 2017 ILDA convention.

3. Invocation

Rev. Edwin Bergstresser gave the opening prayer.

4. Call to Order

The Business Meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by President Gregory Werth.

5. Introductions

Parliamentarian – John Mason

Assistant to the Secretary - Carolyn Snyder-Mason

Tellers – Tim Kearney, Paul Lucero, Jeff Padon

6. Introduction of Interpreters – none**7. Resolutions Committee – none****8. Nominating Committee's Report (John Mason)**

a. Introduction of candidates for 2019-2021 -- no names received for candidates. John Mason explained that officers can serve two terms. John Mason volunteered to move to President and Gregory Werth volunteered to move to President-Elect but need the member's permission to do this.

b. Election of officers:

The following slate of officers for 2019-2021 with the exception of the Secretary were elected by acclamation.

Passed.

President: John Mason

President-elect: Gregory Werth

Secretary: vacant - Janet Gehlbach was chosen by President John Mason to be Secretary pro tem

Treasurer: David G. Brown

Pastoral Advisor: Rev. Tyler Walworth

9. Minutes of the Previous Convention

John Mason (Pam Lang) moved to accept the minutes of the 2017 ILDA convention (July 15, 2017) as corrected.

Passed The minutes were corrected to read "Nominating Committee's report (Carol Seeger) Gregory Werth started the nominating process as Carol Seeger had not yet arrived. was a little bit late to the Business meeting."

10. Treasurer's Report (David G. Brown)

a. David reported he received a lot of boxes from Karen Beiter. A lot of them were from Patrick Sell.

b. \$10,000 was deposited to open checking and savings

accounts. As of June 30, 2019 checking account balance is \$16,878.81 and the savings account balance is \$150,009.21. The money received from St. Matthew's has not been touched. This money was divided into six areas: Mission Projects (\$40,000), DIT (\$10,000), Youth/Camp (\$10,000), ILDA expenses (\$10,000), Convention/fellowship (\$10,000), and Reserved funds (\$40,000).

c. Mission projects of 2017-2019 were paid out with the exception of India. Gregory Werth explained that the money for India needs to go through the proper channels at Synod to send the money to India.

d. Sent out renewal notices for ILDA memberships last summer. Some members did not have current addresses, died or moved. Some of the renewal papers were hard to read.

e. The auditors of the treasurer's report are Ron Grapatin and Rev. Edwin Bergstresser

Jeff Padon (Sara Hale) moved to accept the Treasurer's report. Passed.

11. President's Report (Gregory Werth)

a. President Werth reported the Board has been planning goals and want to see ILDA continue for a long time.

b. Notice that deaf churches are decreased and more interpreted ministries are increasing. He feels the need to ask hearing churches to start helping the deaf churches.

c. Thanked Sara Hale and committee for hosting the 2019 ILDA convention.

d. Eastern Region closed and Christ Deaf, Silver Spring, MD asked to merge with the Great Lakes Region.

e. Re-assigning regions will be a long term process.

f. ILDA's brochure is old and new one needs to be created to send to hearing churches to recruit their deaf members.

g. The Executive Council worked well together and he thanked the officers for their service.

h. Lutheran Deaf Mission Society is starting to partner with World Lutheran Deaf Outreach.

12. Pastoral Advisor's Report (Rev. Tyler Walworth)

Rev. Walworth is gone to the Synod convention in Florida. No report available.

13. Synodical Representative's Report (LDMS) – Rev. Ron Friedrich – not present

Rev. Friedrich is gone to the Synod convention. He prepared a video report which was shown by Rev. Edwin Bergstresser.

a. Rev. Friedrich apologized for not being able to attend the ILDA convention. The Synod convention in Florida conflicted with his ability to be here.

b. Fifty (50) years ago the National Office at Synod gave responsibility to the Districts to fund Deaf Ministries. Some districts were welcoming and whereas others were not.

c. Twelve (12) years ago Synod closed the office of the Secretary of Deaf Ministries. As a result the Lutheran

Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) was set up to coordinate and train deaf people to become pastors and deaconesses to serve deaf congregations in the US and Canada.

d. LDMS has a strong partnership with ILDA.

e. At the Indianapolis convention Rev. Tim Eckert, former Executive Director of LDMS, approached Rev. Friedrich to take over the reigns of LDMS. Rev. Eckert now leads the DIT program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

f. In the video Rev. Eckert asks if you are interested in becoming a pastor or deaconess to please contact him. We need to spread God's Word and DIT is for you! It is open to any member of an LCMS congregation. It is a four year program and you don't need to move to St. Louis. Classes will mostly be online and you will have a pastor mentor. When you graduate you will work at your home church. Pray for God's will for you to become a church worker. Deaf Pah classes are required first and then apply to the DIT program. Classes are expensive but you will be helped in finding financial support. The DIT program at the seminary had a name change to EIIT – Ethic Immigrant Institute of Theology.

g. Some of the staff helping at LDMS are Carissa Huffman and Chris Hamilton (interpreter program) and Sara Hale (Deaf LITES). Rev. Daryl Gehlbach is responsible for planning Ephphatha Conference, the church workers conference. He also does research for the Lutheran deaf ministries. Paula Willig is responsible for technology and the deafjesus.org website. This website also include the ILDA website. She also puts up study lessons in the Deaf Pah area of the LDMS website. Recently there have been new Bible stories and videos posted online.

g. LDMS also supports deaf missions in other countries, i.e. recently sent \$3,000 to India for a building renovation.

h. Other support staff include John Mason (President), Rev. Edwin Bergstresser (Associate Director), Janet Gehlbach (Secretary) and Jeff Padon (Treasurer). Rev. Richard Moody also does a lot of work for LDMS.

i. A summary of what is happening with deaf churches—in the past there were 50 deaf churches and a few hearing interpreted ministries. Now today the balance has shifted – there are more interpreted ministries than there are deaf churches. Some pastors in large cities have preaching stations.

j. There are a lot of older pastors still serving their deaf churches but who will replace them? We need more deaf people to become pastors and deaconesses. The harvest is great.....send more workers!

--Rev. Bergstresser reminded us to work together and tell deaf people about Jesus. God's love is given to us so we can pass it on. Pray that we can forgive all people so then God can forgive us.

--Sara Hale explained that LDMS and WLDO are starting to partner. LDMS gave WLDO some money to start to

expand the process and continue to reach out to deaf people.

--Rev. Dr. John Reinke gave a statement that he appreciates the partnership with LDMS and that they will sit down and work things out.

a. **Archivist report (Rev. Daryl Gehlbach)** He reported as archivist for LDMS he is researching deaf ministry and its pastors. In two years will be the 50th anniversary of ILDA. He hopes to re-write parts of the history book, add stories and photos. If you know of anyone who was at the 1971 convention then please let Rev. Gehlbach know.

14. Deaf Lutheran report (Janet Gehlbach)

a. Janet and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach have served as co-editors since 2013. Rev. Gehlbach is no longer co-editor as he gave full responsibility to Janet last year. Switching to a new computer program, Publisher, has helped make it easier for her to prepare the Deaf Lutheran (DL).

b. You can read the DL online in the ILDA website. It is free but paper copies cost \$10.00 You can send subscriptions to Carolyn Snyder-Mason.

c. I have extra copies of the DL here with me. Help yourself if you would like a copy. Anything left will be brought home and recycled.

d. Please send me news, photos, articles by January 15, April 15, July 15 and October 15.

e. The next issue in August will have a summary of the 2019 convention and will include photos.

f. Thank you to Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Business Manager and John Mason, Database Assistant for taking care of the LFCU bank accounts and sending me the DL labels.

g. Thank you to Rev. Ron Friedrich for putting on the website the DL issues and any ILDA minutes and reports from the conventions.

14b. Deaf Lutheran Business Manager Report (Carolyn Snyder-Mason)

a. Carolyn's business manager financial report shows a checking account balance of \$162.68 on June 30, 2019.

The savings account balance as of June 30, 2019 is \$1,013.68. The total balance of all accounts is \$1,176.36.

b. Please look at the mailing label on your copy of the *Deaf Lutheran* for the renewal date.

c. Please put ILDA on your check. Do not put Carolyn's name on it.

d. A question was asked about sending the DL out in bulk mail. The answer is "no" because we do not have enough subscribers to do this. The minimum for bulk mail is 200.

15. Finance Committee's Report - None

16. Adoption of the New Budget - None

17. Law Committee's Report (John Mason)

a. Plans are to restructure the regions. But it will be a slow process though.

b. Gregory Werth will send a letter of approval to Christ Deaf, Silver Spring, MD, to join the Great Lakes Region.

c. The regions are older than ILDA itself. Numbers of people attending the regional conferences are going down.

d. Start saving your money now for the 2021 convention!

18. Voting on any Proposed Changes – none

19. Mission Project Thank You's

Past recipients of mission project funding gave their thanks to the convention members:

--Rev. Mark Seeger (Deaf Youth Service Project) explained it is harder to find places to go to because he needs places that have showers for the kids. In 2018 his group went to Minnesota. This was the first time a deafblind girl went on the trip. They did a variety of projects while in Minnesota: painting, putting together bags for the homeless, went to Feed My Starting Children and put together meal bags to send to poor countries. The trip in 2019 will be to Rochester, NY. The group will do service projects again and have fun planting seeds to make new connections with the people there. So far about 150 kids have gone on service trips.

--Rev. Steven Schumacher – no report given

--David Bush – a copy of his recent newsletter was shown to the convention with photos of Macau.

--Rev. Tim Eckert gave a report on Kenya. There is a need for education and church workers there to work with the deaf in Kenya. One man would need a degree and training to work with the deaf. The money sent to Kenya will pay for this. Rev. Eckert traveled to Kenya before and planned to go again last year but had to cancel the trip.

--Rev. Ryan McDermott (Togo) gave a video of his work in Africa. He thanked everyone for their support.

--Rev. Dr. John Reinke (World Lutheran Deaf Outreach) thanked everyone. He already went to Liberia and will be going again hopefully in November with Becky Catchpole going with him. He also hopes to go to Brazil next spring. Recently he met some pastors who work with the deaf in Finland. They have no resources for the deaf and Rev. Reinke plans to go there too in the future. The need right now is for volunteers to go with Rev. Reinke on his outreach trips.

The Business meeting recessed for lunch and reconvened at 1:20 p.m.

19a. Mission Project Chairperson's Report (Becky Jungklaus)

Becky reported she sent letters for mission project funding to all the deaf churches. She received two in the mail whereas the others were sent by email or hand delivered. The Executive Council ranked the mission project requests in the order they were received. They will be paid out in the same order.

ILDA Mission Projects 2019-2021

Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry.....	\$1,000
LCMS Int'l Missions ELCG Ghana.....	\$2,000
Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas.....	\$10,000
David and Barbara Bush—LCMS (Macau).....	\$2,000
Ryan McDermott—LCMS (Togo).....	\$2,000
John Reinke—World Lutheran Deaf Outreach.....	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$27,000

b. Voting on Mission Projects

Carol Seeger (Dawn Werth) moved to approve the 2019-2021 mission projects as proposed. Passed.

20. Previous Convention Committee Chairman Report – Rev. Alan Rork

a. Rev. Alan Rork reported there were 92 people in attendance at the 2017 ILDA convention in Indianapolis, IN. The financial report showed income of \$21,566.00 and expenses paid out of \$18,546.38. Net profit was \$3,019.62 and was paid to ILDA. The financial report was submitted by Norman L. Wilson and audited by Michael Fork, Rev. Alan Rork and Alvin Daugherty.

b. Rev. Tim Eckert, former LDMS Executive Director, established the new IMC (Interpreter Ministry Conference) in 2017. IMC was held for the first time at the ILDA conference in Indianapolis, IN in July 2017. Attendance record was 74 ILDA registrants and 17 IMC registrants for a total of 92 attendees.

21. The ILDA convention bids presented by future host congregations

Janet Gehlbach and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, on behalf of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Spring Lake Park, MN, announced their bid for the 2021 convention was accepted by the Executive Council and will be held in Chicago, Illinois. They prepared a power point presentation showing highlights of the Holiday Inn in Elk Grove Village (convention headquarters) and announced sleeping room rates of \$92 per night plus tax. The exact dates of the convention will be announced in the November 2019 issue of the *Deaf Lutheran*.

22. Introduction of pastors and church workers in attendance

Pastors: Edwin Bergstresser, Tim Eckert, Daryl Gehlbach, Mark Larson, William Ludwig, Robert Muller, David Nielsen, Matthew Nix, John Reinke, Alan Rork, and Paul Tessaro. Absent from the photo are: Gerald Bolling, Ron Friedrich, Mark Seeger, Tyler Walworth and Bill Wrede
Deaconesses: Becky Catchpole, Pat Hyncar and Dawn Werth

23. Resolution Committee's Report - none

24. Unfinished Business - none

25. New Business

Motion # 1: Paul Lucero moved that deaf members become interpreters at their hearing churches. Howard Snyder (Rev. Alan Rork) moved to table this motion and

refer to the Law Committee. Passed.

Nancy Bergstresser moved to close new business. Passed.

26. Voting on Resolutions - none

27. Announcements

1. John Mason announced he will be making vlogs on the ILDA Facebook page and thanked everyone for coming to the convention.

2. Janet Gehlbach announced changes to the Facebook ILDA page. She is the administrator and will be adding Rev. Tyler Walworth as a second administrator for doctrine content approval. She stated that the ILDA page is only for ILDA members and Deaf Lutheran subscribers. All others will be removed as soon as she gets the updated ILDA membership list from David Brown. She apologized if names get accidentally deleted. You can join again if you answer three questions: 1. Are you a member of a deaf or hearing LCMS congregation? 2. Are you a member of ILDA? 3. Have you attended ILDA conventions in the past?

28. Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m. with a closing prayer by Rev. Edwin Bergstresser.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Gehlbach
ILDA Secretary 2017-2019



In Memoriam



Neil Mayberry

B: 12/30/1926
D: 10/7/2019

Shirley Mayberry

B: 8/25/1926
D: 10/30/2019

Neil and Shirley were active attendees of Midwest Region conferences.



Betty Jo Healey

B: 12/28/1929
D: 1/17/2020

Betty Jo was an active member of ILDA and very involved in LCMS Deaf Ministry. She is survived by husband, Russel.



August Hauptman

B: 2/6/1923
D: 1/9/2020

Rev. Hauptman served deaf congregations in Great Falls, MT; Spokane, WA; Minneapolis, MN; and Los Angeles, CA.

ILDA Officers

International Officers (2019-2021)

President – John Mason
President-Elect – Gregory Werth
Secretary pro tem – 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 – vacant
Secretary – Nola Gray
Treasurer – vacant
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

Central Region Convention April 30—May 3, 2020

Camp Cilca near
Springfield, Illinois

Theme: “20/20 Perfect Vision”

For more information
contact:
Judi Flesher
cr_ilda2020@yahoo.com

www.illinoisdeaf Lutherans.org
Deadline: March 15

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(Print Edition)**

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Make your check or money order payable to "ILDA" and put **Deaf Lutheran** in the memo line.



All subscriptions should be sent to the address below. Thanks!

**Carolyn Snyder-Mason
6721 Deep Run Parkway
Elkridge, MD 21075**

Attach mailing label or fill in:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Email _____

Phone/VP/Fax _____

From the DL editor....

Deadlines for 2020 issues are:

Spring issue....April 15

Summer issue....July 15

Fall issueOctober 15

Please send photos or news articles to: JGehlbach@aol.com

From the ILDA Secretary...

For those of you who are members of the ILDA Facebook page, I would like to remind you, again, that this page is for ILDA members or those who are *Deaf Lutheran* subscribers. If you have not paid your membership dues, there are quite a few of you on this ILDA page, please do so. Fill out the membership form online and



mail it to David G. Brown. His address is listed on the membership form. If you are not sure about the status of your ILDA membership, then please contact David Brown. Thanks!

From the 2021 ILDA convention chair....

The 2021 ILDA convention dates are July 22-25, 2021. Start saving your dollars to attend this convention! It's ILDA's 50th Anniversary! The DL issue to be mailed in November will have registration forms for you to fill out. Hotel information will also be available at that time and you will be encouraged to reserve your room(s) as soon as possible. Hotel room cost is \$92 plus tax. ILDA mem-

bership dues will not be paid via the convention registration form for the 2021 convention. These dues will be paid from a separate form that you will fill out, include your payment and mail to David Brown. This will make things easier for the convention registration person and David Brown as well. Previous conventions have had people forgetting they already paid membership dues and then paid again on the convention registration forms. Any questions let me know!
Janet Gehlbach

Remember - Celebrate - Proclaim



Psalm 89:15

"Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of Your face."

The Deaf Lutheran
Janet Gehlbach, Editor
305 Liberty St. NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Winter Issue 2020

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

ILDA Mission Projects for 2019-2021

1. Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry	\$ 1,000
2. LCMS Int'l Missions ELCG Ghana	\$ 2,000
3. Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas	\$ 10,000
4. David and Barbara Bush—LCMS (Macau)	\$ 2,000
5. Ryan McDermott—LCMS (Togo)	\$ 2,000
6. John Reinke—World Lutheran Deaf Outreach	\$ 10,000
Total raised so far—\$2,923.21	TOTAL \$ 27,000



Donations for the ILDA 2019-2021 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 2019-2021" in the memo line. These mission projects will be paid out in the order listed above. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.