



The

Deaf Lutheran



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

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President Carol Seeger



Happy New Year from Pflugerville, TX! Have you made any new resolutions? First of all, I haven't,

because I know I would get at the most one third or less chance of achieving success reaching my goals, probably within two weeks, with an exception of one resolution I have—see below. According to multiple studies, the chance of a success, you've got somewhere between 8% and 19% of reaching your goals. Every year we hope things will be different that things are going to be better health-wise (from pandemic, climate, less political turmoil, better financially/economically, etc.). But, God doesn't make us better—He makes us new in Christ!

"Therefore if anyone is in Christ the new creation has come; the old has gone, the new one is here!" (2 Cor. 5:17)

Any kinds of changes or resolutions we make will not bring results that compare to actively seeking Jesus and allowing Him to change us. So...**HAPPY NEW LIFE!**

One most important resolution is to share the Good News, our faith in Jesus Christ to lost souls, including our friends, family members,

acquaintances, etc. That's the one I would do my very best in reaching my goal with help/guidance from the Holy Spirit. Sometimes I've heard some excuses from some Christians, i.e.: "I'm shy, I'm not good with words," "I'm too busy," "I don't have a gift," "I don't want to lose my friends," etc. In fact, our Christian witness is actually more than words and our lifestyle shows who we are. In reality, the Holy Spirit gives each of us a gift like teaching, preaching, serving, helping the poor or sick, writing curriculums/lessons, speaking another language, prophecy, healing, etc. In church we are the body of Christ with different gifts. Each one of us is a part of it. "You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it. First, God has placed apostles in the church. Second, he has placed prophets in the church. Third, he has placed teachers in the church. Then He has given to the church miracles and gifts of healing..." (1 Cor. 12:27-28).

Lastly we need to help to make our church more warmly welcome to the Deaf Community. We need to go out of our safe zone to outreach Deaf people and make friends with them before inviting them to our churches. Suppose if they do show up at your church, will you go to and warmly welcome them? What about people who are different—such as not looking

or dressing like you? Yes, many of us are guilty of these. However, thank the Lord, it's up to us, and the Holy Spirit. God won't force us to share the Gospel any more than he forces us to believe in Him. He gives us free will because he loves us so much that He sent His only Son to die for us, so that we who believe will not die but have eternal life (John 3:16). That's LOVE! Amen!

P.S. Anyone wishing to bid to host an ILDA convention in 2026, please do contact me via email:

carolseeger1947@gmail.com or cseeger@utexas.edu or videophone 512-410-6360.

Blessings in His Love!

Pastoral Advisor Rev. Daryl Gehlbach



Doctors will tell you that the key to a healthy life is eating good, healthy food. We need to eat the right food so that we get the

nourishment we need. At the same time we must avoid food that is not healthy – food with too much sugar or too much cholesterol or too many carbs.

The same is true for our spiritual life. If we want a healthy spiritual life we must eat healthy spiritual food. We must seek out and 'eat' only that spiritual food which makes

our sin-sick souls healthy and strong.

There is much spiritual food available. Notice the many religions in the world. Notice the many teachers and books offering spiritual food. Sadly, these false religions and false teachers offer nothing helpful. In fact, their messages are harmful to our souls.

However, there is one person who offers healthy spiritual food – Jesus Christ. He says, “I am the living bread that comes down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread shall live forever.” He alone offers the one, true spiritual food that heals our souls and gives us life.

Where do we find this Bread of Life? God’s Word, the Bible. Here we learn about Jesus and everything He does for us. We read about His miraculous birth, His sinless life, His powerful teaching, and His wonderful miracles. Most important we read about His suffering and death for our sins and His glorious resurrection which gives us hope.

How do we eat this Bread of Life? Faith. We simply believe in Him, trust Him for our

salvation. When we believe in Jesus, we are eating the true spiritual food that makes our souls healthy and gives eternal life. He defeated death and rose from the grave. Thus, He proves He alone is the food that gives spiritual life and health.

A familiar comment is “you are what you eat.” Thus, let us daily read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the Word of Life. Let us daily feast upon Christ, the Bread of Life. Let us daily trust Him who alone provides true nourishment for a healthy spiritual life.



**ILDA
Treasurer
John Mason**

Every quarter I will report to the Deaf Lutheran, mostly on the

Mission Projects. I received donations of \$175.00 from October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Our goal has increased from 43% to 44%. As you know, the Mission Project on LDMS’s Kenya has met its goal and paid off. We still have two

more Mission Projects that need to be taken care of: Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas and India Deaf Ministry—IELC. With your kind prayers, contributions and donations help ILDA to continue the work of spreading the Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, to deaf people in the United States and foreign countries. The sooner you donate, the faster we can spread the good news and they shall be saved in the name of Jesus Christ!

You can mail your donation to: John Mason, ILDA Treasurer, 6721 Deep Run Parkway, Elkridge, Maryland 21075. You can send funds by PayPal to: ILDA Mission Projects: <https://deafjesus.org/ilda/MPform.html>

“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:6-8)

Thank you and God bless!

Church Interpreter

Training Academy

July 7-10, 2022

Concordia Theological Seminary

Fort Wayne, IN

Open to all levels

Call (260) 452-2100 to register

Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas

Interested in knowing more about the awesome work we do? Go to our webpage to see materials, prayers, and ways to donate. God is working!

deafyouthministrytx.org

Deaf Sisters in Christ

Deaf women meeting weekly on the internet to study God's Word written by Melissa Kearney

It started a little over a year ago. Different deaf women in different states meeting weekly for Bible Study in ASL. We use both Zoom and Videophone (phone specifically for the deaf to use) to get together. Throughout the year, we grew in faith and fellowship. Some of us went to ILDA (International Lutheran Deaf Association) convention in Chicago and had a great time together meeting in person for the first time. It is a gift from God.

How did it start? Life changed. I became isolated, needing patience to figure out to teach my daughter with remote homeschooling, losing the support of my mom who recently died, and needing Christian deaf friends for growing in faith. This made me irritable, creating a difficult life. Inside I was dark and needed spiritual help. God had two friends reach out to me. We started chatting online about God. I realized I was not alone! We decided to begin meeting weekly and started a Bible Study. Then, I reached out to friends who joined our weekly studies.

Currently, we have three different study times with others on Zoom or Videophone. Last year, we went through a book anchored on trust while studying people in the Bible. This year, we plan to study women in the Bible, which will be very interesting. Every week, we begin with prayer and 15 minutes of personal discussion. During the study, all of us learn from and teach each other. We work as the body of Christ as He would want. This brings up thoughts,

questions, and different viewpoints.

When summer came, the Bible study groups had to decide if should hold until September or continue. Our support for each other and the love of learning answered our question! God then gave us the idea of studying our favorite verse in the Bible. At first, the idea sounded like short studies but WOW there is so much to learn about the language, culture, and connection to other verses.

The Bible is not boring to us!

We examined and learned about:

- “Be still and know that I am God” Psalms 46:10
- “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding. In all your ways obey him. Then he will make your paths smooth and straight: Proverbs 3:5-6
- “The heavens are higher than the earth. And my ways are higher than your ways. My thoughts are higher than your thoughts” Isaiah 55:9

Deaf women, you are more than welcome to join our Bible studies to grow in faith. Invite friends to join current ones, or we can add new days and times. We also have a friend offering free t-shirts that say “God loves you” to any new members.

You can connect with us:

Facebook: Deaf Sisters in Christ

Email: deafsistersinchrist@gmail.com



Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf



16935 W 14 Mile Rd
Beverly Hills, MI 48025
(816)590-1692 Text (313)334-7571 VP
Website: <https://oslcd.org>
Email: OSLCD.Michigan@gmail.com

Letter from the President – Elect

Knowing that the year 2021 has come to end and welcoming the new 2022. Hoping that this new year will bring us a little better than the year 2021. Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf (OSLCD) has accepted to host the 2024 International Lutheran Deaf Association convention at Dearborn, Michigan. The committee is rolling their sleeves to plan several fund-raising events and planning for the convention as we will be having our first Host committee meeting this January. The dates and lodging will be announced as we are still in the planning stage. I am currently working on the new Facebook page for our church so there will be updates, announcements, and wonderful history of Detroit/Dearborn.

So be on a lookout for the new Facebook page for the latest announcements.

Our Facebook page will be “Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf”.

In Christ’s Blessings,
Brian Byer
President-Elect, ILDA
President of OSLCD



**You Deaf? This is for you!
You hearing and Interested in Deaf Ministry?
THIS IS THE PLACE FOR YOU!!**

**Want to improve your religious sign skills?
Desire to share Jesus with Deaf people?
THIS IS THE PLACE FOR YOU!!**

Jesus Signs Workshop

WEEK-LONG IMMERSION • JULY 18 - 22, 2022



WE ARE PLANNING 4 DIFFERENT TRAINING GROUPS:

Deaf Group with in-depth training and resources
Hearing Groups: Beginner, Intermediate, and Advanced (Interpreters)

The Jesus Signs Workshops are designed to give you:

- Religious sign skills – beginning, intermediate, or advanced
- Resources for teaching and training Deaf people
- Ongoing support and resources to use in your area
- Skills and ideas how to reach out
- Sharing ideas how we can work together to meet your needs.

Why Jesus Signs?

We want to help equip people with heart for Deaf Ministry. We want to connect with and support people who have a heart for reaching out to the Deaf people in their area.

Would you like to help reach Deaf people but need more skills and resources?

Do you have Deaf people in your area and no way to reach out?

There is a great need to teach Deaf people! 98% do not believe in Jesus as their Savior.

Come and join us – learn how you can help us reach this hidden group of people in your area.

Plans for the Workshop:

Our Week-long Immersion Workshop is July 18 - 22, 2022 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in St Charles, MO. We will begin each day at 9:00 a.m. If you are coming from out of town, please plan to arrive July 17, the day before the event begins. Look at www.Mark732.org for hotel giving us a discount. Plus there are many lodging choices in the area.

Registration is \$200 (Scholarships and CEU credits are available). We will provide breakfast, lunch, and dinner and we ask you bring snacks to share during break time.

We will have sessions on:

Deaf Outreach Training and resources, Deaf Outreach in specific to your area, Deaf Culture to-day...A variety of resources you can use!

Plus many other hands on times to practice what you are learning. Our goal is to help you become better equipped to share your faith with Deaf People in your area.

To Register:

Register online at www.Mark732.org/JesusSigns

Mark732

PO Box 283 St. Charles, MO 63302
www.Mark732.org Contactus@Mark732.com 608-436-9600

In Memoriam



Steven Luke
 B: 9/28/1951
 D: 11/8/2021
 Steven was the 1993 Jr ILDA chairperson and taught in the Killeen, TX ISD for 24 years in deaf education.

Betty Ahls
 B: 7/6/1932
 D: 12/22/2021
 Betty was an active member of ILDA and is the wife of Lester Ahls (deceased).

Beverly Lachowitz
 B: 3/2/1938
 D: 1/1/2022
 Beverly was an ILDA member and member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Spring Lake Park, MN

ILDA Officers

International Officers (2021-2024)
 President — Carol Seeger
 President-Elect — Brian Byer
 Secretary — Denise Pulfer
 Treasurer — John Mason
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Daryl Gehlbach

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. Paul Tessaro

Northwest Region (current officers)
 President – Richard Sharp
 President Elect – Patricia Jenkins
 Secretary – Linda Desrosiers (now vacant)
 Treasurer – Gary Wilson (now 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

Please let DL Editor, Janet Gehlbach, know if there are any corrections to the above list.



VALENTINE

Wanted...

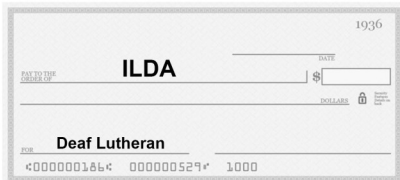
Administrator for the ILDA Facebook page. Janet Gehlbach would like to step down as current administrator. If you are interested in this position please contact President Carol Seeger. Her contact info is on Page 1 of this newsletter. Thanks!

The Deaf Lutheran Subscription (Print Edition)

- One-year subscription -- \$10.00
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 Additional donation -- \$ _____

Please select: ___ Renew ___ New

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 _____

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From the Deaf Lutheran Editor

If you have any photos or articles of interest to print in the newsletter please let me know! Deadlines for the next issues are:

Spring issue...April 15, 2022
Summer issue...July 15, 2022

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

Janet Gehlbach
305 Liberty St. NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Thanks so much!



2021 ILDA convention tote bags and stemless wine glasses for sale

I have several convention tote bags and glasses available from the Chicago convention if anyone is interested in purchasing them. The price has been reduced for both.



Please go to the ILDA website, www.deafjesus.org/ilda and click on "conventions" and scroll down to the 2021 convention information. You will see an order form. Print it up and send it with your payment to the address on the bottom of the form.



Janet Gehlbach, 2021 ILDA Convention Chair

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

Winter Issue 2022

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED



ILDA Mission Projects for 2021-2024 as of January 1, 2022

	Funds Requested	Donations up-to-date
1. Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas	\$7,000	\$3,117
2. Lutheran Deaf Mission Society -- Kenya	\$1,000	\$1,000 (goal completed)
3. India Deaf Ministry -- IELC	\$6,000	\$2,075
TOTAL	\$14,000	\$6,192 (44%)

Donations for the ILDA 2021-2024 Mission Projects can be sent to: ILDA Treasurer, John Mason, 6721 Deep Run Parkway, Elkridge, MD 21075-6557. Make your check payable to "ILDA" and put "Mission Projects 2021-2024" 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. If using Paypal, go to [www.https://deafjesus.org/ilda/MPform.html](https://deafjesus.org/ilda/MPform.html)