



# The **Deaf Lutheran**



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

Summer 2022

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 111, No. 3

## President Carol Seeger



Greetings from Pflugerville, TX in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen!

Summer is now half over! Many

of us have already had vacation trips and others are planning our fun-filled adventures away from home despite hot and dry conditions, high gas prices, high cost of hotels and camping expenses, food, and other challenges.

From my reading of the Texas edition of the Lutheran Witness magazine (June/July 2022), I am going to use what our Texas District president, Rev. Michael Newman wrote: *“Contrary to the constant negative and heartbreaking narrative of the world, God’s goodness prevails each and everyday. He who is ‘with you always to the end of the age’ (Matt. 28:20) is doing His good work among us. His faithful and loving action is real and lasting – more real and lasting than the hopeless headlines would have you believe.”* I find this writing helpful because with this difficult and troubled reality of the sinful world, instead of being so discouraged and depressed, so full of worrying about all the unknowns of the future, we, as Christians, need to focus on the known promises and presence of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. With help

from the Holy Spirit, we can have more peace in our Christ-centered life! Amen!

Let me share our trips up north in the month of July, first to Minneapolis, MN, and then to St. Charles, MO, and after that, back to Minneapolis to visit our daughter and family. On July 13<sup>th</sup>, my husband, Rev. Mark Seeger and I headed to Minneapolis to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> Minneapolis Deaf-Oral Alumni Reunion on July 15-16. It was great to see my former school classmates/chums, some of whom I have not seen since high school graduation, 55 years ago! Afterwards, we took off to St. Charles, MO.

It was time for our ILDA Executive Council meeting. The meeting was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Charles, July 22-23 in conjunction with the Jesus Signs Workshop planned by Rev. Dr. John Reinke, that started on July 18<sup>th</sup> and concluded at noon on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Ephphatha Conference, for pastors and church workers, also had their meeting concurrently.

In addition with the workshop week and two prior organizations, the Deaf Youth Service trip planned by Rev. Seeger was doing their service projects in St. Charles and St. Louis, July 19-26. Finally, all four groups got together to socialize on Friday night, July 22, as it was organized to develop connections with Christian brothers and sisters through the outreach to the

Deaf Community, using conversations, trust and sharing Christ-like love.

Enjoy the remainder of summer! Let’s walk in Christ always!!

P.S. Anyone who is interested in bidding to host the 2026 ILDA convention, please contact me at [carolseeger1947@gmail.com](mailto:carolseeger1947@gmail.com) or call me on vp: 512-410-6360.

## Pastoral Advisor Rev. Daryl Gehlbach



Summer ... Fall ... Winter ... Spring ... These are the four seasons of the year (although some in

Minnesota would say the seasons are winter and road-repair). As the seasons come and go, we learn to recognize the signs of change. The leaves fall, the wind seems colder, the sun less warm. We know that winter approaches. The snow melts, the grass turns green, the trees bud. We know that spring is coming.

Jesus warns his listeners to pay attention to the signs of His coming again: wars and rumors of wars, famines, earthquakes and so forth. False prophets will lead many people from faith in Jesus. People will hate and betray one-another.

Lawbreaking shall increase, and people’s heart will become unloving and cold. The world will become more and more

against Christ and His people.

Our Lord wants us to see these signs and remember that He is coming again. We don't know the day or the time He will appear. He will come the same-as a thief in the night at a time we don't expect. He wants us to see the signs and be ready. This means nourishing our faith with His Word and Sacrament. This means we must be vigilant so that we resist temptation, avoid sin, and follow our Savior.

The signs of His coming also remind us of an urgent task, a task He gives us – sharing the Good News. We must not allow ourselves to sit back and simply wait-for the end. We must be about our Father's business. He desires that no one perish and that all people know the truth. Where is the truth? His Word – His Word is truth.

People must hear God's Word – both Law and Gospel – and especially the Gospel! They must learn of sin and grace. They must hear the wonderful message that Christ died and rose for them. The seed of God's Word must be scattered upon their hearts so that the Holy Spirit can work faith in them.

So what can we do? First, we can share Jesus with other people we know. We don't need to overwhelm them with Bible verses, but we can gently and patiently share the hope within us. Second, we can support our pastors and missionaries both financially and with prayer. Third – and this is most important – we can pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He will send laborers into this field (this world) that is ripe for harvest.

The signs are there. In fact, the signs have been here

since Pentecost, reminding us that Jesus is really and truly coming again. Time is running out. Indeed, the night is coming when no one can work. Yet, we must not allow these signs to make us self-satisfied or idle. We must not allow the world to mislead us and distract us from our urgent task.

Even as the world seeks to silence us, we must not let fear overwhelm us. The One who died and rose again, He fills us with His Spirit. Thus with His help we can be vigilant and active, doing the urgent task He has given while we await the day of His glorious appearing. Even so, come Lord Jesus!

## ILDA Treasurer John Mason



ILDA received Mission Project donations of \$291.00 from April 1, 2022 to June 30, 2022. Our goal has increased

from 74% to 77%.

As you know, inflation impacted us big time. I am aware some of you may not be able to make a donation. However, you just do what you can afford to donate. I leave you with this verse:

### Mark 12:41-44

The Widow's Offering

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very*

*small copper coins, worth only a few cents.*

*Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."*

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!

Thank you and God Bless!

Luke West (pictured below) is shown interpreting one of the daily chapel services at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN. prior to his vicarage assignment to Our Savior Lutheran Church in Cheyenne, WY.



Photo credit: Lori Vickers



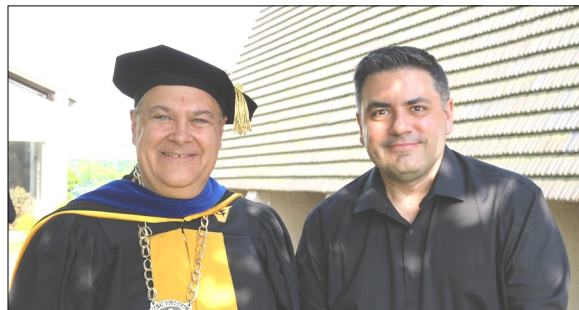
**Rev. Larry Lieder, Holy Three-in-One Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Houston, TX, receives “Alumnus of the Year” award from Concordia**

**Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN**

Congratulations to Rev. Larry Lieder ('87) for receiving his award. His son, Matthew, accepted the award on his behalf during graduation ceremonies on May 30, 2022.



Pictured is Matthew Lieder (center) receiving the award. Photo credit: Rebecca S. Ahlersmeyer/Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne



Concordia Theological Seminary President Lawrence Rast and Matthew Lieder. Photo credit: Colleen M. Bartzsch/Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne



Pictured front row: Diana and Rev. Alan Rork. Second row: Rev. Fuller from Christ Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN; Rev. Dunseth (Michigan); Lori Vickers (Ft. Wayne, IN); Camille Cox (new deaconess intern for Deaf Mission in Indianapolis); Chris Hamilton (Texas); and Jane Cole (Michigan). Church Interpreter Training Academy (CITA) classes were held in Ft. Wayne and three from the class were able to travel to Indianapolis to interpret the Sunday worship service. Photo credits: Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS) Facebook page.



The 2022 Deaf Youth Service Trip went to St. Louis this year. Pictured above are the six youth and two chaperones who accompanied them. More information will be printed in a future issue of the *Deaf Lutheran* newsletter.

*Congratulations*

## Deaf Vacation Bible School (VBS) a success!

A Deaf Vacation Bible School was held in conjunction with the Immanuel Lutheran Church—St. Charles, MO VBS on June 6-10, 2022. ASL and spoken English were used for children who were deaf, hard of hearing and hearing. Photo credits for the below two photos: Matthew Gerzevske, Immanuel, St. Charles and Rev. Dr. John Reinke, Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church, Maplewood, MO.



Rev. Dr. John Reinke (right) is shown in both photos interpreting different events at VBS

## What is Happening with Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Indianapolis?

In early spring of 2021, the Indiana District, LCMS contacted the Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, ELMS, (an RSO of the LCMS that specializes in Deaf ministry) with a request to spend 1 year revitalizing Deaf ministry in the district. Historically, Deaf ministry in Indiana included the Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf (PLCD) and mission sites in over 6 cities throughout the state. Pastors Thomas Dunseth and Brant Engel from ELMS worked with retired PLCD pastor Alan Rork to get to know all the former district Deaf mission work and made contact with the mission sites, members of PLCD and the Deaf community in Indianapolis.

During the 12 months, bi-monthly Lutheran Divine Service was held at PLCD and monthly Bible studies at 3 mission sites. Discussions were held with Peace members during this time. At the end of the year, PLCD members decided to sell the Deaf church and move to a local hearing congregation in Indianapolis not far from the Deaf church location. Upkeep of the building had become too expensive and difficult for the aging congregation to maintain. Christ Lutheran church opened its doors for PLCD and in June of this year, members of Peace moved to the new location. Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf will keep its name and identity as an LCMS Deaf congregation and mission efforts will be conducted from its new home within Christ Lutheran Church.

The Indiana District will continue its support of Deaf ministry, and besides the district, local hearing congregations also pledged their support. What will Deaf ministry look like in Indiana? In May, a deaconess intern from the Deaf ministry program from Concordia Theological seminary was assigned to PLCD and the mission sites. She is fluent in American Sign Language and is a former interpreter from Colorado. After the 1 year internship, PLCD, together with the Indiana District will decide to call a deaconess or pastor to continue Deaf mission in Indiana.



Interpreted worship



Members of PLCD at their church sign before the building was sold



## Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church begins outreach to the homeless

When a homeless shelter was built across the street from Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church, Madison, WI, in 2021, this seemed like an answer to prayer for the deaf church and members to serve their community in some capacity. Through a series of meetings with different organizations and Madison city officials it came to be that serving meals to those homeless people would be the right fit. Since the homeless would be across the street it would be easy for them to walk over to get a free meal on Sunday evenings. And if they so desired they would also be able to attend worship services since services are

voiced and signed. What an answer to prayer! Sunday evening meals have been prepared and served since February 2022. Rev. Ryan McDermott serves the Madison congregation and feels so blessed that they have this opportunity. Volunteers from the deaf church and nearby hearing churches prepare and serve the food on Sunday evenings. May God continue to bless this ministry!



Photo credits: Richard Belling and Our Savior Deaf Lutheran Church Facebook page.

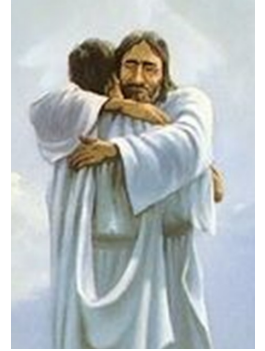
...but  
as for me &  
MY HOUSE,  
We will serve  
THE LORD.  
Joshua 24:15



**GOAL MET!** Rev. Mark and Paula Willig want to express their sincere thanks for everyone’s generosity in donating to help raise funds for the wheelchair accessible van. The van is paid off! Praise the Lord!

Even though the van is paid off there are still ongoing expenses (maintenance, gas, insurance, etc.) If you would consider donating to the “Accessible Van Maintenance” fund—Friends in Christ” your donations would be great appreciated. Send your donation to: Lutheran Church Charities, 3020 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, IL 60062. Make your check payable to “Lutheran Church Charities” and in the memo line put “Accessible Van Maintenance—Friends of Christ: Your donations will be very appreciated. Thank you and God bless you all!

## In Memoriam



### Kathleen “Terry” Blout

B: 4/22/1957

D: 5/10/2022

She was a resident of West Henrietta, NY and a member of Alpha Lutheran Deaf Church, Rochester, NY.



Main Street Living is a regional television program broadcast by 10 television stations in 8 states and features Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod pastors and members. Local LCMS pastors record a half hour worship service which is broadcasted on the MainStreetLiving.com website. Two of the stations, Sioux Falls, SD and Lincoln/Omaha, NE have their broadcasts interpreted for the deaf by Lynda Nix (SD) and Pat Monroe (NE). For more information go to the website [www.MainStreetLiving.com](http://www.MainStreetLiving.com) for more details, to watch the broadcast, and to make a donation to support this ministry.



Lincoln/Omaha broadcast interpreted by Pat Monroe



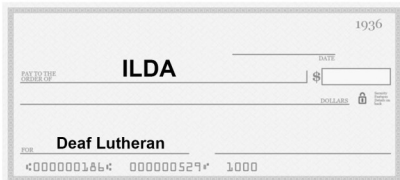
Sioux Falls broadcast interpreted by Lynda Nix

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**6721 Deep Run Parkway**  
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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:

Fall issue.....October 15, 2022

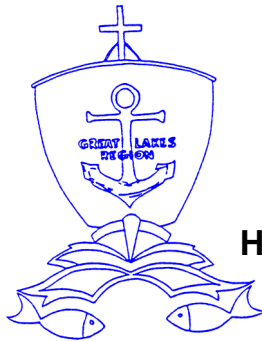
Winter issue.....January 15, 2023

Spring issue.....April 15, 2023

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!



## Great Lakes Regional Conference

**October 7-9, 2022**

**Holy Cross Deaf Lutheran Church**  
**360 Morse Rd.**  
**Columbus, OH 43214**

**Featured workshop presenter will be**  
**Rev. Dr. John Reinke**

**Deadline to register is September 18, 2022**  
**(no refunds after September 30)**

**Flyer and registration form was inserted into**  
**the Spring 2022 issue of the**  
**Deaf Lutheran**

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

Summer Issue 2022

**RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**

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

	<b>Funds Requested</b>	<b>Donations up-to-date</b>
1. Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas	\$7,000	\$7,000 (goal completed)
2. Lutheran Deaf Mission Society -- Kenya	\$1,000	\$1,000 (goal completed)
3. India Deaf Ministry -- IELC	\$6,000	\$2,723
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$10,723 (77%)</b>

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 or money order 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.