



The

Deaf Lutheran



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President Carol Seeger



Greetings from Pflugerville, TX, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now, it's time for me to write another article. Now that summer is over,

children are back to school, students are back to college, everyone is back to normal life—working, going to football games, hiking and enjoying the beautiful fall foliage, social activities, concerts, deer and duck hunting, preparing for holidays (pumpkin patch, fall festivals, turkey races, Halloween parties, Thanksgiving get-togetherness and devouring bountiful dinners, Christmas bazaars mostly hosted by churches or clubs, Christmas programs at churches and schools, and numerous holiday activities/events/family traditions, etc.)

On the other hand, in the chaos of our times in this unstable, broken world with violence, political turmoil and economic turmoil, power and legalism apparently with no end, we could become real exhausted and go into despair and be discouraged. In addition to that chaos we're facing, there is a pandemic (i.e. Covid) that seems to stay here, without any possibility of an end in sight.

Let me tell you briefly about our experience last August. While my husband, Rev. Seeger, and I were visiting our family in Minneapolis, MN, I started to feel flu-like with a fever. Needless to say, Mark and I tested positive and just as expected, we had to cut our vacation short and we headed for

home. During the second week, after four positive tests, I tested negative. Yikes—Pah! Naturally I became relieved and ecstatic. As you may wonder, Mark tested only once—negative. Praise the Lord!

Most of us would ask God why He allows this pandemic and other chaos in the world to continue, not making them disappear, etc. Do we sometimes feel as if the supernatural power of the devil controls the world? Does the devil overrun the message of God's Gospel or Good News? Well, we need to be reminded that all the troubles and chaos in the world are the result of the first sin.

However, God is in control of the whole universe that He created and we really need not to fear, but trust in Him always. There is Good News: by God's grace, we have the gift of eternal life through our faith in Jesus Christ! Amen! See the verse: *"And we have the prophetic work more fully confirmed to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts."* 2 Peter 1:19.

As the holidays are approaching rapidly, let us to always express our gratitude for all His blessings and most of all, for His gift of eternal life through His Son, Jesus! Praise the Lord!

To my Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I wish you all have a wonderful blessed holidays!

P.S. as for bids to host the 28th ILDA convention, let one of the ILDA regional groups to be more willing to step in and host. I prayerfully hope to hear from some of you interested in bidding. Please contact me by either email, carolseeger1947@gmail.com or by videophone 612-410-6360.

Pastoral Advisor Rev. Daryl Gehlbach



The Reformation was – and remains – a struggle between the world's opinions and God's Word. Martin Luther looked at the Church he loved

and saw how far she had strayed from God's Word. The precious message of Gospel was bought and sold. People were required to do certain works, go to certain places, or pay certain fees. They did this to receive the forgiveness of sins God offers freely through faith in Jesus Christ. These "snake-oil" salesmen gained riches from the poor Christians. In return, they offered the pious faithful a false hope.

God opened Luther's mind and heart. He found the answer in God's Word. "The righteous person shall live by faith." We are "saved by grace through faith" in Jesus Christ our Savior. There is nothing we need to do to earn forgiveness, God offers it freely to all who sincerely desire it.

Where do we find this gift? In God's Word. There we see and learn about all that God has done – and still does! – for our salvation. We see His Son, true God and true Man, suffering and dying on the cross. Jesus bore all sins – yours, mine and everyone's. Only He could offer the perfect, spotless sacrifice that God's Law demands. Everyone trusting Jesus has forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation.

Luther tried to cleanse and correct the Church's errors, but he was persecuted for his efforts. When the Church leaders openly

demanded that he deny his teachings, Luther stood firmly upon the Word of God. "Here I stand. I can do no other."

Luther's famous confession should inspire us today. Our faith and life should firmly rest upon Christ and the Word of God. This is the only sure foundation for God's children. The world seeks to fool us and snare us with its lies. Even other Christians may urge and demand we compromise our faith. All these efforts are darkness and shifting sand.

God's Word is "a lamp for my feet and a light for my path." His Word guides us through the spiritual darkness of this world and reveals the safe path. Our friends and family may mock us for our stand. The world may persecute us for our faith. As it was with Luther it is with us: it may be difficult but it's never a mistake to stand firmly on the Word of God.

ILDA Treasurer John Mason



ILDA received Mission Project donations of \$875.00 from July 1, 2022 to October 31, 2022. Our goal has increased from 77% to 83%.

Inflation still impacts all of 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 two verses I found:

PROVERBS 3:9

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops"

This one is simple – honor the Lord with what he has given you. Giving is just one way we can honor him with our possessions. Putting our resources to good use, for the sake of the church, our communities, and the benefit of others is how we honor him.

MATTHEW 6:3-4

"But when you give to the needy,

do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

This is another verse that speaks on not boasting about your charity — and is also perhaps one of the more well-known verses on giving in the Bible.

This verse from Matthew also ends with a powerful note, stating that when you give in secret, God will see what is done even when no one else has, and will reward you. Those that give will be welcomed into Heaven with open arms.

Source: <https://mobileaxept.com/2019/10/24/bible-verses-about-giving/>

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!

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 — vacant
Treasurer — vacant

Pr. Advisor — Rev. David Nielsen

Great Lakes Region (2023-2025)

President — Nancy Bergstresser
Vice President — Pamela Kane
Secretary — Karen Beiter
Treasurer — Larry Blout
Pr. Advisor — Rev. John Rushton
Historian — Diane Francisco



The Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society, St. Martin Lutheran School for the Deaf and deaf Lutherans from across Michigan celebrated the 20th Annual Deaf Mission Festival with St. Lorenz Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth, MI on August 28.

God's 1000 Club: Dead or Alive?

by John Mason, ILDA Treasurer

What is God's 1000 Club? Do you really want to know what this is? Has anyone explained the purpose of God's 1000 Club to you? Some of you already know what this is all about, while others don't understand this. Okay, let me explain to you. This is from the ILDA's Handbook Article XVII (17) in *italic format*.

1. *Originally, in order to raise needed funds for the ILDA Mission Projects, operating expenses and to continue with the ILDA's supporting status, the ILDA God's 1000 Club was proposed by Rev. Herbert Rohe, former Secretary for Deaf Ministry. The goal was for 1,000 ILDA members to donate \$10.00 per year, raising \$10,000. This information should be printed periodically in The Deaf Lutheran newsletter.*

Back in the old days, we did have a large number of ILDA members that could easily have 1,000 contributors. Sadly we don't have many members any more. So, instead of 1000 members, let's make it the "goal" of reaching \$1,000 biennially!

2. *The guidelines are:*

a. *All ILDA members are encouraged to contribute \$20.00 every two years (plus dues) and those doing so will automatically receive biennially a special membership card, one special lapel pin and be eligible to attend the God's 1000 Club meetings. Their names will be on a list at the biennial conventions.*

The keywords are "encouraged to contribute." What does this mean to you? You are voluntarily to contribute \$20 for two years. Not bad! It's just \$10 a year, which is less than 85 cents a month!

b. *The ILDA God's 1000 Club will have a special informative meeting (a luncheon) at all biennial conventions.*

It's up to the convention chair's decision, whether or not to have a special luncheon. However you have a lapel pin to be recognized that you are a contributor to the God's 1000 Club.

c. *All receipts from contributions and pledges shall be sent to the ILDA treasurer and deposited into the God's 1000 Club account.*

It's part of the ILDA treasurer's duty to receive and deposit your contribution to God's 1000 Club. Also this will report to the executive council and to the convention chair. It's an honor to have your

name printed in the convention program book! If you contribute and I'm sure many will follow! Won't you consider joining the bandwagon?

d. *The ILDA God's 1000 Club funds shall be used to help finance the ILDA's Board of Directors meetings. These meetings are limited to twice a year (when necessary) or when there is an emergency or crisis.*

This part is not necessarily to have it since we live in the world of technology, the videoconference! Therefore we don't need to make special emergency trips. I am going to refer this section d. to the law committee that we revise this part or strikeout from the handbook.



If you did attend ILDA conventions in the past and you elected the officers, we the officers, in the past and current, thank you for your votes. Would you kindly help us to defray the cost of our travel expenses? The more you give, the more morale support will be given to the ILDA officers! Is God's 1000 Club dead or alive? Only you and I will keep this alive! Before I close this, I found this online. Let's pray together:

Dear God,

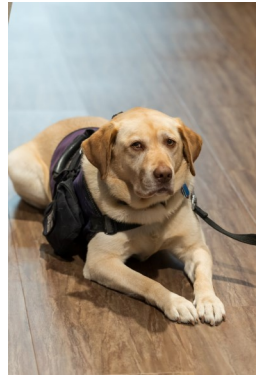
Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you that you are able to bring hope through even the toughest of times, strengthening us for your purposes. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your mercy and grace. Thank you that you are always with us and will never leave us. Thank you for your incredible sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life.

Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits; fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy!

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

[Editor's note: There will be a June 1, 2023—May 31, 2025 ILDA membership form printed in the Winter 2023 issue of *The Deaf Lutheran*. There is a line item where you can donate to God's 1000 Club.]

Jesus Signs Workshop Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Charles, MO July 18-22, 2022





Photos credit on Pages 4 and 5 by Karen Thaemert



In Memoriam



Helen Shoup
B: 1/13/1933
D: 10/19/2022
Helen was a member of Alpha Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY. She loved making quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



Rev. Mark Anderson
B: 3/10/1950
D: 10/24/2022
Rev. Anderson served deaf congregations in Newark, NJ and Cedar Rapids, IA. He was living in Morrison, IL at the time of his death.

Deaf Youth Ministry Service Trip St. Louis, MO

July 19-26, 2022



Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas (DYMT) traveled to St. Louis, MO, this past summer for their annual service projects. Lutheran High School, St. Charles, MO, was their host during their stay there. They participated in service projects at the Orphan Grain Train, Lutheran Resale Shop and other locations. DYMT was founded by Rev. Mark Seeger in 2001 as outreach to deaf students at the Texas School for the Deaf and since then over 1,500 Deaf youth have participated in these annual service projects. In the 21 years of this ministry the Deaf youth can hear the Gospel in their own language of American Sign Language. DYMT is a ministry of Holy 3-in-1 Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Houston, TX.

ILDA donates funds for the Deaf Lutheran mission in Kenya

Last year, \$1,000 was given to the ILDA Mission Projects from the 2021 Chicago ILDA convention profits and designated to be given to the Kenya Deaf Lutheran mission. Some of the money paid school fees for Deaf children and most of the money was used to buy 11 goats for families of Deaf children. In the future these families can sell baby goats ("kids") so the parents can continue to send their Deaf children to school.



Deaconess Rosemary Mukoko and Pastor Adonija Lavisha, who is studying for Deaf Ministry, are pictured with deaf children at the school where they attend.



Goats that were purchased for families of Deaf children.

On Page 2 of this issue is a list of the Regional officers of ILDA. Some of the regions may no longer be active. Please let ILDA President Carol Seeger know of the status of your region. The years listed are quite old for a number of the regions and we would like to have this list updated. Thanks for your cooperation in this matter!

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(Print Edition)**

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

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

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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:

- Winter issue.....January 15, 2023
- Spring issue.....April 15, 2023
- Summer issue.....July 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!

The Deaf Lutheran staff wishes everyone a blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



THANKSGIVING



CHRISTMAS



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

Fall Issue 2022

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED



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

	Funds Requested	Donations up-to-date
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	\$3,598
TOTAL	\$14,000	\$11,598 (83%)

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.