



The

Deaf Lutheran



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

Winter 2023

St. Louis, MO

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President Carol Seeger



Happy New Year from Pflugerville, TX! Now, this new year 2023, let us start our year refreshed in God's presence! We can start to improve our

relationship with God. How? Here's some ways we become better connected with God by renewing our mind, refreshing our soul and rediscovering God's purpose for each of us. I, myself, am thinking about when I focus more on God's plan for my life, my life will start to show His love, kindness, faithfulness, joy and more. We are encouraged to read His Word on a daily basis, and He will refresh your soul!

Let's say goodbye to 2022! I believe we all look back at good and bad happenings/events during this past year. I wish to share briefly one of my most memorable experiences: Last October at our 50th Class '72 Reunion at Gallaudet University, I met many old classmates, some of whom I hadn't seen for more than 50 years and had a real great exciting time in socializing with them. To my amazement, several of them have become Christian and been following Jesus ever since our graduation from Gallaudet. In addition, I am pleased to inform you all that I unexpectedly bumped into our former ILDA President, Jeff Padon, who attended his own 35th Class reunion.

Here I am closing with a quotation taken from my friend: "May the Holy Spirit be our guide, not my opinion because Satan

loves to mess with our minds...." (That's so true as it happens to me, so what I need to do is to pray and ask God please to protect me and help me to focus more on His Word consistently.)

Look Back and Thank God!
Look Forward and Trust God!

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 either by email, carolseeger1947@gmail.com or by videophone, 512-410-6360.

Pastoral Advisor Rev. Daryl Gehlbach



Once again, we have come to the beginning of a new year. It is a time to think about the past year, our successes and mistakes, our joys and sorrows. It is

also a time to look to the future and make plans for the next year. There is excitement. There is a feeling of renewal. The old year passes away and a new year, a new life for us is beginning.

Sadly, the new year comes, and life goes on the same. There is still fighting and conflict in the world. Politicians are still divided on issues. The aches and pains in our bodies won't magically disappear. The new job may not come. The division in a family may not get healed.

We can make an effort to improve our lives. Many people do

and will. But nothing will really change. Sin is still in the world. Death will touch our lives. Since Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin and death have been our constant companions. And they shall remain with us until the end of time.

We can certainly look at the future in a very negative way. We can become discouraged and lose hope. Why stand up against the world? Why not just give up and ignore God's plan for living? Maybe we should follow the world and join them in disobeying God. But we know that is not the answer.

Well, there is a reason to hope. God says, "I am making all things new." A day is coming, and God shall remove sin and death. He shall make His people – us – clean and new. He will create a new heaven and a new earth for us to live in.

This is the reason Jesus suffered and died on the cross, so that we can live with God. He is preparing a place for us, an eternal home free from sin. The sorrow we experience on earth, God shall take away. He shall come to each of us and wipe away our tears. He shall fill us with joy, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

This is His promise to us. A promise He made long ago. A promise we know He shall keep. So, here we are at the beginning of a new year. Let us trust in Jesus and have courage to live as children of God. Let us resist the devil, the world, and our sinful flesh. Let us walk in the light of God's truth and hold fast to the Word of Life, Jesus Christ.

Treasurer John Mason



In this issue is the application form to be a member of ILDA which you can use, or if you prefer, print out the application using the link: <http://www.deafjesus.org/ilda/memberinfo.html> and click on the "Click Here" to get the form.

If you have a membership card for the previous year 2020-2022, you don't need to do this. The application for you to renew will be sent in the beginning of January 2023. If you have a new address, please email me with your current address to:

ilda.treasurer2021@gmail.com

Your 2020-2022 membership expires May 31, 2023. New membership cards will be showing June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2025. The reason for the change is that I follow what was written according to the ILDA Handbook.

God's 1,000 Club and Mission Projects donation are on the form. You may want to donate to help out the ILDA officers and/or spread Good News to the

mission projects' destination. They are optional but I encourage you to donate if you can.

ILDA received Mission Projects donations of \$175.00 from October 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Our goal has increased from 83% to 84%. At the time of this issue, approximately \$2,200 is needed to reach the goal by the time at 27th ILDA convention at Dearborn, Michigan.

Some of you asked me what happens if we went over and exceed the mission projects goal. The decision will be made by the ILDA's Executive Council. More likely it will be carried over to the 2024-2026 Mission Projects if we have a host for the 2026 ILDA 28th convention. (Any volunteers to host? Let our ILDA President Carol Seeger know!)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace. Numbers 6:24-26 (NIV)

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



David and Barbara Bush are serving in Taiwan as missionaries. They previously served in Hong Kong and Macau from 2017-2022. They now work with the China Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC) in Taiwan, to explore and establish a ministry to the deaf and those with special needs and will learn the sign language that is used there, since it is different from what is used in the United States and Hong Kong. If you would like to donate to their ministry, you can go to www.LCMS.org/bush and scroll down to the bottom of the page. There you will find links and learn how to make a donation. They thank you for your support in this new mission field.

June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2025

ILDA Membership Enrollment Form

Please fill in the information needed, print this form, make check payable to "ILDA" and in the memo line put "ILDA membership dues" and mail the form & payment to:

John Mason, ILDA 2021-2024 Treasurer
6721 Deep Run Parkway, Elkridge, MD 21075-6557

E-mail: ilda.treasurer2021@gmail.com

Type of Membership (please circle one)	<u>Active*</u>	<u>Associate**</u>	<u>Supporting***</u>
Your Membership due \$30	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Spouse membership dues \$30 (if applicable)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Your God's 1000 Club, add \$20 (optional)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Spouse God's 1000 Club, add \$20 (optional)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Contribution-ILDA Mission Projects Fund for 2021-2024 (optional)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

Title (Mr / Mrs / Ms / Miss / Rev / etc.) _____

Name _____
 First Middle Last

Subtitle (Sr, Jr, II, Etc.) _____

Spouse's full name _____

Street Address, Apartment No. _____

City _____ Zip Code + 4 _____

State/Province _____ Country _____

Phone no. _____ VP Voice TTY (please circle one)

Txt Msg no. _____ e-mail _____

(Please print clearly. Thank you)

***Active members** are deaf Lutheran lay people who are members of an LCMS congregation and have full voting privileges.

****Associate members** are hearing people of an LCMS congregation, or LCMS pastors (deaf or hearing), or Deaf Lutheran people who are members of a non-LCMS congregation and will have limited voting privileges.

*****Supporting members** are non-Lutheran Christians and have no voting privileges.

Thank you for your support!





ILDA Executive Council Meeting Minutes Immanuel Lutheran Church, St. Charles, MO July 23, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by President Carol Seeger. Rev. Daryl Gehlbach gave the opening prayer.

Roll Call:

President – Carol Seeger
 President-Elect - Brian Byer
 Secretary - Denise Pulfer
 Treasurer - John Mason
 Pastor Advisor - Daryl Gehlbach
 LDMS Representative – Edwin Bergstresser
 Deaf Lutheran Editor – Janet Gehlbach
 Deaf Lutheran Business manager – Carolyn Snyder-Mason
 Mission Project Chairperson – Carolyn Snyder-Mason
 Right Hand Award -Janet Gehlbach
 LDMS Archivist – Daryl Gehlbach
 2021 ILDA Convention Host Report – Janet Gehlbach
 2024 ILDA Convention Host Chairperson – Brian Byer

Minutes

Daryl Gehlbach moved to accept the minutes of the Executive Council meeting of July 21, 2021, in Elk Grove Village, Illinois as read. Seconded by Brian Byer. Passed.

President's Report (Carol Seeger)

1. Welcomed new LDMS Executive Director, Rev. Edwin Bergstresser.
2. Discussed the ideas for who will host the 2028 ILDA convention. The idea of creating a committee that will work with host regions was brought forward by John Mason and Brian Byer. This will be discussed at the Great Lake Regional Conference in October. Daryl and Janet Gehlbach will discuss this at Midwest Regional Conference.
3. Mission grants were talked about. Discussed how to inform others about grants and how to apply. Some of the grants have rules that need following.
4. Talked about the possibility of social media to inform members and others about ILDA and its missions. This was sent to new business.
5. Plan to meet in Michigan for the next ILDA

Executive meeting.

6. ILDA president is now on the board of directors for LDMS.
7. See attached for the full report.

President-Elect Report (Bryan Byer)

1. No outstanding reports.
2. Working to finalize the dates for the 2024 convention in Dearborn, Michigan.
3. See attached for full report

Secretary Report (Denise Pulfer)

1. Officially received prior binders of ILDA minutes.
2. No other outstanding reports.

Treasurer Report (John Mason)

1. Recently distributed the money for Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas.
2. Explained the expense form for reimbursement for the Executive meeting that needs to be submitted in 30 days.
3. One donation was given through Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas. Carol Seeger explained the deposit to ILDA was a personal donation and needs to be written that way.
4. See attached for full report.

Pastoral Advisor Report (Rev Daryl Gehlbach)

1. Reported on Central ILDA meeting once a month for workshops. Possibly expanding to Midwest. Need to decide which church and where, then chose what happens.
2. ILDA pages talk about Ron Freidrich retiring and information needs to be sent out.
3. No written report given.

LDMS Representative Report (Rev. Edwin Bergstresser)

1. Update on the decline of deaf congregations.
2. LDMS updates
 - a. Deaf Seminary students under EIIT.
 - b. DeafPah! Training program
 - c. World Mission new director Rev. Tom Dunseth.
 - d. Technology is continuing during the pandemic.
 - e. Interpreted Ministry to include members of interpreted churches to ILDA.

- f. New ministry team.

Deaf Lutheran Editor (Janet Gehlbach)

1. Deaf Lutheran newsletters will now be printed in black and white.
2. Right Hand Forms will be sent out January 2024
3. See attached for full report.

Deaf Lutheran Business Manager (Carolyn Snyder-Mason)

1. Discussed the account balance for the Deaf Lutheran Newsletter.
2. See attached for full report.

Mission Project Chairperson (Carolyn Snyder-Mason)

1. Reported on mission goals that had been met including Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas and ministry in Kenya, Africa.
2. See attached for full report.

LDMS Archivist (Daryl Gehlbach)

1. Announced that ILDA information is now at Concordia Historical Institute. (CHI)
2. No report given

2021 ILDA Convention Host Report (Janet Gehlbach, Chairman)

1. See attached for full report.

2024 ILDA Convention Host Chairperson (Brian Byer)

1. ILDA Convention in 2024 will be hosted in Dearborn, Michigan.

2. They are fundraising for the event and have already raised \$750.00

Old Business

1. John Mason and Brian Byer accept no Old Business. Passed.

New Business

1. John Mason made a motion to submit the corrections and modification of the constitution and handbook to the law committee. Seconded by Edward Bergstressor. Passed. Report enclosed.
2. Denise Pulfer made a motion for an Ad Hoc committee to set up to discuss revising the ILDA social media group and/or setting up a new social media page. Passed

Meeting was adjourned at 1:50pm with a closing prayer led by Rev. Ed Bergstresser

**Respectfully submitted,
Denise Pulfer, ILDA Secretary 2021-2024**

Editors note:

Due to space limits all reports indicated above in the 2022 Executive Council minutes can be found on the ILDA website: www.deafjesus.org/ilda/ILDAconv.html

Click on "ILDA Reports & Minutes" to read all the reports.

In Memoriam

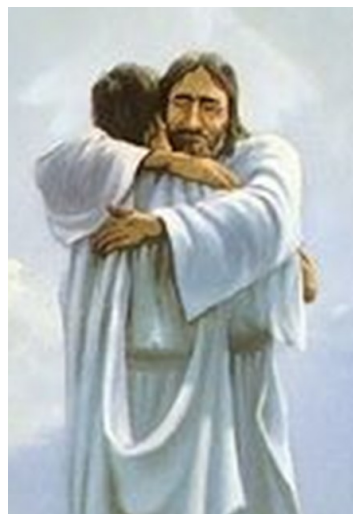


Paul Consoer

B: 11/29/1932

D: 11/3/2022

Paul served deaf congregations in Miami, FL, South Dakota, and the surrounding regions of Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota. He was a resident of Prescott Valley, AZ at the time of his death.





Great Lakes Region elected new 2023-2025 officers at their convention held October 7-9, 2022 at Holy Cross, Columbus, OH. Pictured l. to r. are: Diane Francisco (Historian), Larry Blout (Treasurer), Nancy Bergstresser (President), Karen Beiter (Secretary), Pamela Kane (Vice President) and Rev. John Rushton (Regional Pastor Advisor). Workshops were presented by Rev. Dr. John Reinke, World Lutheran Deaf Outreach (WLDO).



Saturday banquet theme was Oktoberfest and Rev. Edwin and Nancy Bergstresser wore German costumes



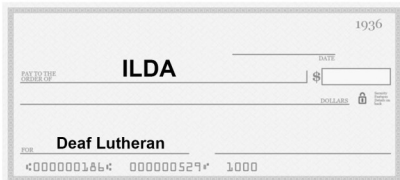
Rev. Dr. John Reinke leading a workshop

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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 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, 2023

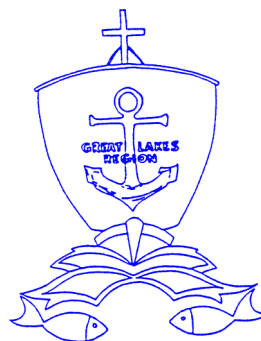
Summer issue.....July 15, 2023

Fall issue.....October 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!



Mark Your Calendars

Tentative dates for the Great Lakes Regional Conference in Frederick, MD are October 6-8, 2023. More information will be provided in the next issue.

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

Winter Issue 2023

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED



**ILDA Mission Projects for 2021-2024
as of January 1, 2023**

	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	\$3,748
TOTAL	\$14,000	\$11,748 (84%)

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.