



The

# Deaf Lutheran



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

Spring 2023

St. Louis, MO

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## President Carol Seeger



Greetings from Pflugerville, TX, in the name of our Risen Lord Jesus! Spring is here, everything is starting to become

alive – flowers and trees blooming; grass getting greener; ice in lakes/ponds melting; people going out for a walk/hiking; children riding bikes, playing balls/games; families enjoying picnics, etc. Mark and I enjoy going for a drive and observing famous Texas bluebonnets that are blooming all over places - so breathtaking and gorgeous!

It's a good time for spiritual renewal as Easter is all about Jesus' resurrection from the dead! Let me tell you what really hit me at this time. Recently I was watching news on Center Point, more of talk show about today's topics, on a channel, Trinity Broadcasting Network. A pastor named Rev. Jack Graham was interviewed about Spiritual renewal across America, starting with Jesus Revolution at Asbury University in Kentucky. There were at least 2,000 participants (mostly Gen Z students) and God is really working in the hearts of young people who are reconnecting with God. He said that it's not about liberal vs. conservatives but it's about unbelief vs. belief. This revival is reaching out to younger people as I can recall a report on critically injured athlete on a football field, and recovered short time later - young people realized they needed God and cried out to God in prayers. I was in awe while

watching TV – videos were shown. The gymnasium was packed! Needless to say, this Jesus revival is spreading all over our country. I am proud to say this also includes Texas A & M University (strong community) – over 2,000 students attended and are gathering in prayer. Finally, I don't know if you already knew about a movie called "Jesus Revolution". Some of my deaf friends in Minnesota have seen it and they were inspired by it.

So, since our Deaf churches (including Lutheran, sorry to say) are diminishing, which means we really need to get busy to go out and reach out in the Deaf community. How? Don't just wait for people to come to church or place of our ministry to learn about God's love. We can help others in time of need; reach out to non-believers on an individual basis; build relationships with new believers; etc. Finally, let's go and find them and share the Gospel love with them and start our Deaf Spiritual renewal in the Deaf community!

"He is not here, but has risen." Luke 24:6 Rejoice! Our Savior is indeed Risen!! Alleluia! Amen!

P.S. As for bids to host the 28<sup>th</sup> ILDA convention in 2026, 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 by email, [carolseeger1947@gmail.com](mailto:carolseeger1947@gmail.com) or by Videophone, 512-410-6360.



## Pastoral Advisor Rev. Daryl Gehlbach



We live in a time when many people believe that truth is simply an opinion. They deny there is any absolute (100%) truth, especially religious truth. There is no

God-given morality that all people must follow. The Ten Commandments are only suggestions that people can follow if they want. We should not be surprised that sin and evil are spreading, that morals are messed up, and that people are less interested in the Christian faith and Church.

Why do people believe this? They are afraid. Absolute truth means there is something that they must believe. It means there is a Law that judges their thoughts and actions. People like their pet sins – sexual immorality, gossiping, a judgmental attitude, hatred, etc. They like the freedom to make decisions that please them, and so they deny that any law or truth can tell them no. But is this really freedom? Is doing whatever you want really freedom? Jesus says, "The person who does sin is a slave to sin."

Jesus came to bring freedom. He says, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." What is this truth? First, there is the truth that we are sinners and deserve eternal death. "The soul (person) that sins must die." This is God's Law condemning us. We cannot excuse ourselves; we cannot ignore this truth. Yet knowing this truth does not free us.

There is a more important truth,

a truth that brings life and salvation. This is the truth that truly makes us free. We find this truth in Jesus Christ. He accomplished our freedom by becoming a servant. On the cross, He willingly accepted our sins and bore the punishment we deserve. His resurrection demonstrates the truth of His great work for us. "If the Son makes you free, you are free indeed." You are saved from your sins. You are no longer a slave; instead, you are a child of God.

Yes, the Son makes us free, but how do we live out our freedom? We do the good works our Father has prepared for us to do. Where do we find these works? His Law, the Ten Commandments. Here is the way God intends us to live – loving Him above all things and caring for our neighbor. We speak His truth in love so that more people will hear the Son's voice, believe in Him, and become truly free.

## Treasurer John Mason



Good news! As of now, almost 43% of the ILDA members have renewed their 2023-2025 ILDA membership and received the laminated membership card.

Also we have two new members!

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

If you moved and have new address, please email me with your current address to: [ilda.treasurer2021@gmail.com](mailto:ilda.treasurer2021@gmail.com)

Your 2020-2022 membership expires May 31, 2023. New laminated 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 donations 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 if you can.

ILDA received Mission Project donations of \$1,098.00 from January 1, 2023 to March 31, 2023. Our goal has increased from 84% to 91%. At the time of this issue, approximately \$1,150 is needed to reach the goal by the time at 27<sup>th</sup> ILDA convention at Dearborn, MI.

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



Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Jacksonville, IL, celebrated their 75th Anniversary on Easter Sunday, April 9, 2023 with worship service and potluck. Congratulations for 75 years of blessings serving our Lord, Jesus Christ!







**CITA**  
CHURCH INTERPRETER  
TRAINING ACADEMY

**AUGUST 3-6, 2023**

**CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA**

Classes Include:	Registration:	
Religious Signs	Deadline: July 1, 2023	
ASL Linguistics	Follow this link:	
Interpreting Scripture	<a href="https://bit.ly/23CITA">bit.ly/23CITA</a>	
Interpreting Worship	Tuition \$300, plus \$50 non-refundable deposit	
Interpreting Church Music	Includes all classes and meals.	
Deaf Culture	Students responsible for their own lodging.	
For More Information:	Dorm rooms \$30 a night.	
Call: (616) 634-1100	List of hotels in the area given upon request	
Email: <a href="mailto:citaelms@protonmail.com">citaelms@protonmail.com</a>		

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**Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society for the Deaf**

All skill levels welcome!  
Ask about CEUs



**Celebrate the  
*Lord of the Nations***  
Psalm 33:12-15

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) will have their next convention in Milwaukee, WI. The dates are June 22-25, 2023. Check out the LWML website: [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org) and click on "Convention Central" for more information and for registration forms. Deaf and hard-of-hearing women are encouraged to attend. You may also contact Jennifer Ceyanes, a member of the LWML Special Ministries Task Force, at [jencytex@gmail.com](mailto:jencytex@gmail.com) for more information.

BE **KIND** AND  
**TENDER** TO ONE  
ANOTHER. **FORGIVE**  
ONE ANOTHER, JUST  
AS GOD FORGAVE  
YOU BECAUSE OF  
WHAT CHRIST HAS  
DONE.

EPHESIANS 4:32



Becky Jungklaus received a Deaconess call to Lifebridge Community Lutheran Church in Sealy, TX at the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, call day on April 26, 2023. Congratulations Becky!



## Great Lakes Regional Conference

October 6-8, 2023

Registration form and  
information will be in  
the next issue of  
Deaf Lutheran  
(Summer 2023)

The conference will be held at  
**Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf**  
**9545 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring, Maryland**

### In Memoriam



**Wilhelm Wegner**  
B: 4/10/1931  
D: 8/11/2022  
Wegner had served as  
Missionary-at-Large to  
deaf congregations in  
Delavan, WI and Great  
Falls, MT



**Rev. Fred H. Allen**  
B: 2/23/1941  
D: 2/2/2023  
Rev. Allen had served as  
pastor at Ephphatha  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church for the Deaf in  
Chicago, IL from 1973-  
1984.



**Sharon Schwartz**  
B: 6/30/1937  
D: 3/9/2023  
Sharon was a long time  
former member of Holy  
Cross Lutheran Church  
Deaf, St. Louis, MO and  
was the 1997 ILDA  
Convention Chairperson  
(St. Louis).



**Rev. Bob Case**  
B: 1/4/1932  
D: 4/8/2023  
Rev. Case had served  
churches in Milwaukee,  
Memphis, St. Louis,  
Houston, Los Angeles,  
Omaha and Dallas.

# Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf



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Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf  
16935 W 14 Mile Rd  
Beverly Hills, MI 48025  
(816)590-1692 Text (313)334-7571 VP  
help@oslcd.org

Christ Is Risen—He Is Risen, Indeed!

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

2024 ILDA Dearborn Convention is coming closer than we thought. We are still in the planning stages. We have secured four wonderful speakers for the workshops on which we are working. The theme for the convention will be “Defending our Faith.”

Our 2024 ILDA convention announcements will be posted through Facebook under “Our Savior Lutheran Church of the Deaf” and a new Facebook page called “2024 ILDA Dearborn Convention” which will be coming out soon.

Be on a look-out for the “2024 ILDA Dearborn Convention” on the Facebook for more details soon.

In Christ’s Blessings,

Brian Byer  
OSLCD President,  
President Elect-ILDA 2021-2024  
2024 ILDA Convention Host  
byer2000@gmail.com



Michigan

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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**

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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:

- Summer issue.....July 15, 2023
- Fall issue.....October 15, 2023
- Winter issue.....January 15, 2024

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!



**May 14**

**June 18**

**HAPPY  
FATHER'S  
Day!**



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

Spring Issue 2023

**RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**



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

	<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	\$4,846
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$12,846 (91%)</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.