



# The Deaf Lutheran



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

Summer 2023

St. Louis, MO

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## President Carol Seeger



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

Gee, it's hard to believe that this month, July, is half over now (at the time I am writing this article). Can you believe some of us are celebrating Christmas in July? How? Some people are starting to do some early Christmas shopping for gifts or crafts (for ex. Hobby Lobby stores are now selling them or Hallmark is showing their Christmas in July movies, etc.!) Let me share something with you. One of the things that Mark, my husband, hates the most is listening to Christmas classic radio programs from the 1940's, 50's & 60's on his truck radio and I love to mock him on this! As for me, I must admit I really do enjoy Hallmark Christmas movies in July and November/December. However, at this time unfortunately, I have to miss three weeks worth of these movies this month. But, other activities I have done are more important and worthwhile anyway like the ILDA Executive Council meeting in Dearborn, Michigan June 29- July 2; visiting my daughter, family and friends in Minneapolis, MN, July 3-16, and teaching one of the Jesus Sign Immersion Workshops in St. Charles, MO,

July 16-21 which is my second year and I plan to continue to serve the Lord as much as I can, hopefully, until I am called home into Jesus' loving arms! During that week of the workshops, it was a wonderful spiritual experience for all of us as we shared our Christian love with each other and grew a much stronger faith in Jesus.

At the Executive Board meeting on June 30 and July 1, we were discussing several different issues, such as ILDA finances, the possibility of a "merge in progress" of the Central and Midwest regions, a new Facebook page on ILDA, in general to be used by the public, designed by Denise Pulfer, in addition to the one FB page for ILDA members only, updates on ILDA 2024 convention planning committee's progress, bids to host 2026 concerns, etc.

We did have a tour at the Double Tree Hotel on Friday, June 30<sup>th</sup>. We met a tour guide/manager named Mimi with a bubbling personality and she walked us through several rooms that we will use for the convention, such as meeting/workshop rooms, a couple of bedrooms, banquet room and a large lounge with a mini shop with coffee, treats, candies, etc., swimming pool with a large spa (Yah!), plus a restaurant with a bar room. For young families, there will be some activities with babysitters being provided.

One big concern I do have is a bid to host the 2026 ILDA

convention. I've been posting this announcement in this newsletter on a regular basis. So far, no one (any congregation or ILDA region) is willing to host. In order to keep ILDA going, we must have conventions every two years in the future. So, therefore, I am strongly and prayerfully encouraging every congregation or region to please consider hosting in 2026 and even in 2028!! I can be contacted at [carolseeger1947@gmail.com](mailto:carolseeger1947@gmail.com) or videophone: 512-410-6360. *"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him."* Colossians 3:17

## Pastoral Advisor Rev. Daryl Gehlbach



The future is uncertain. Of course, we cannot know the future. We cannot predict what will happen tomorrow, or

even in the next few moments. One minute our life can be going along smoothly, then the next minute something can change our lives for better or for worse. We see things in our environment and society that make us more anxious about the future. It seems like we are one natural disaster, one violent act away from destruction.

Yet, we Christians don't need to be anxious about our future. This world and all its problems are not our true future. As the hymn says, "I'm but a stranger here; heaven is my home." We live here in the world, but we don't belong to the world. Our true home, our true future is found in heaven.

We never need doubt our future eternal life. Why? Well, to answer that we must look to the past, almost 2000 years ago. Jesus suffered and died on the cross. He bore the sins of all mankind, accepting the punishment we deserve. Even more, Jesus conquered death, arising victorious from the grave. He conquered everything that would fill us with fear and anxiety – sin, death, and the devil's power. Now everyone who trusts in Jesus can live with hope, their future safe in His hands.

The world may change for the worse. It may become an even more dangerous place for us. Yet we can live with peace and confidence in our hearts, through faith in Jesus Christ.

*"The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God"* (Philippians 4:5-6).

## Treasurer John Mason



As of July 1, 2023, so far 56% have renewed their 2023-2025 ILDA memberships and received the laminated membership card.

I will be sending out a second round shortly to remind you to renew your membership along with an application form. 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. My address is on the form for you to send it to me.

If you've moved and have a new address, please email me with your current address to: [ilda.treasurer2021@gmail.com](mailto:ilda.treasurer2021@gmail.com) God's 1000 Club and Mission Projects donation are on the form. You may want to donate to help out the ILDA officers and/or spread the Good News to the Mission Projects' destinations. They are optional but I encourage you if you can.

Recently, we had an Executive Council meeting in Dearborn, Michigan. The 27th ILDA convention chairpersons and I agree that you are required to bring your membership card with you for verification purposes. So don't lose it!

It's official! The dates for the next ILDA convention is July 11-14, 2024 in Dearborn, Michigan! I hope you all can come! Remember Acts 2:42 *"They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."*

ILDA received Mission Projects donations of \$180.00 from April 1, 2023 to June 30, 2023. Our goal has increased from 91% to 93%. At the time of this issue, approximately \$975.00 is needed to reach the goal by the time of the 27th ILDA convention. Thank you and God bless!

In the middle of this issue is an insert for the Great Lakes Region Conference (GLRC) to be held in October. Any questions contact John Mason.

## Nominations Chairman John Mason

According to the Constitution and Handbook, when the President finishes his/her term they automatically become chair for the next convention. This duty falls on me even though I am currently ILDA Treasurer.

As of now, Carol Seeger will finish her term after this upcoming convention. Brian Byer is currently President-Elect and will be the next President.

Nominations needed to fill: President-Elect (vacant), Secretary, Treasurer and Pastoral Advisor

The rest of us (Secretary, Treasurer, Pastoral Advisor) will complete our first term and may stay for a second term if we want. You will need to nominate each officer again during the election at the next convention. Don't worry I will explain the procedures.

Please contact me if you are interested to be President-Elect. At the same time, I will contact several ILDA members to fulfill the position. My email address is: [ilda.treasurer2021@gmail.com](mailto:ilda.treasurer2021@gmail.com).

The Bible verse I used when I became President-Elect back in 2013 at Austin, Texas, as well as every term as President and Treasurer is: 2 Timothy 1:7 (NIV) *"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."*

Scripture calls us to have self-discipline, yet another important skill for any good leader. So, as you're looking at Bible verses about leadership qualities, 2 Timothy 1:7 is definitely worth keeping in mind. When we struggle in this area, we can find help from the Lord. Thank you and God bless!



## Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) News

### DIT: Deaf Institute of Theology/EIIT Curriculum

- Becky Jungklaus received her deaconess certification from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. She has a call to Lifebridge Community Lutheran Church, Sealy, TX.
- Two deaf men will complete their second year of study in the DIT/EIIT program.
- Two ladies from Kansas (deaf and hearing) are in their first year under the mentorship of a local pastor.
- One new deaf student will join the DIT program this fall.

### Foreign Missions by Rev. Thomas Dunseth

- LDMS has two ongoing and one future project opportunity. The first project is supporting the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya and helping the pastor with his studies in deaf education to better serve the Deaf in his region. The second project is the India Evangelical Lutheran Church. Funds were requested to renovate their school properties. The deaf school was forced to close until further renovation was done. So, LDMS sent money to help complete the project. Third, a project for the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus. A Church Interpreter Training program is greatly needed to serve the largest Deaf population in Ethiopia. Partnering with the Ephphatha Lutheran Mission society might be possible. It is pending right now.

### LDMS DeafPah

- Bob Lenderman continues to develop video lessons on Church History. Rev. Ron Friedrich has been editing the lessons and coaching Bob in his video work.

(Adapted from the July 2023 LDMS newsletter written by Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, LDMS Executive Director)

## 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 —  
 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



Top photo: Rev. Larry Lieder celebrated his retirement from Holy Three-in-One, Houston, Texas, on August 28, 2022.

Bottom photo: Rev. Mark Seeger celebrated his retirement from Deaf ministry on July 2, 2023 with the members of Holy Three-in-One, Houston, Texas.

Congratulations to you both on your retirements!

Many thanks to Jennifer Bonura for the photos!

**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)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>

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!**





**Lutheran  
Women's  
Missionary  
League  
(LWML) news**

A National LWML grant of \$47,000 was given to Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS) at the most recent LWML convention held in Milwaukee, WI. The grant supports two projects that we submitted. The first was to strengthen and expand the Church Interpreter Training Academy (CITA), formerly the CITI (Church Interpreter Training Institute). It was something ELMS has been wanting to do for a long time but have not been able to. The need of the church is great as pastors and church workers and church leaders have found it is very difficult to get interpreters. Part of the reason is because the interpreters who are out there do not feel they have the

skills and understanding to interpret a worship service. So, this grant will help with four CITA programs for three years and will help to establish church interpreting workshops in four key areas.

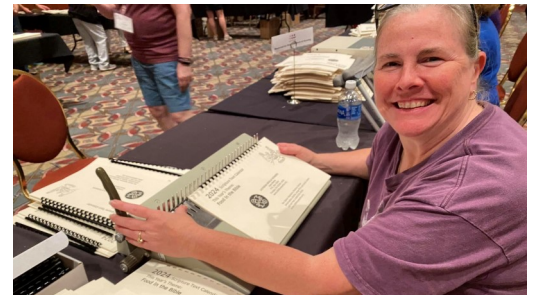
The second project in the grant supports the translation of the Lutheran Service Book (LSB). ELMS has received many requests for good resources for interpreters and Deaf members. There are older resources for former lectionaries and hymnity but not much for the new hymnal. The project will be in video format, and will be done by a Deaf translation team and will be an online resource.

(adapted from an article submitted by Rev. Thomas Dunseth, Michigan District)

## Congratulations



Rev. Edwin and Nancy Bergstresser manned the LDMS booth at the LWML convention in Milwaukee.



Melissa Kearney helped bind braille books at the LWML convention.

## In Memoriam



### Betty Rose

B: 10/29/1935  
D: 5/13/2023  
Betty was a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Spring Lake Park, MN. She resided in Roseville, MN.



### Elaine Lieder

B: 8/5/1949  
D: 6/27/2023  
Elaine is the wife of Rev. Larry Lieder who served Holy Three-In-One Deaf Church in Houston, TX. She resided in Crockett, Texas at the time of her death.



### Joan Ziegler

B: 10/29/1947  
D: 6/5/2023  
Joan is the wife of Rev. Eric Ziegler, who formerly served St. Matthew's in New Jersey. She resided in Stroudsburg, PA at the time of her death.



### Dorene Sell

B: 1/25/1941  
D: 7/19/2023  
Dorene was an active member of ILDA and the Midwest Region. Her husband, Patrick, was the former ILDA treasurer. She resided in Story City, Iowa.



# Ghana mission trip

Rev. Dr. John Reinke, Rev. Bud Palmer, Deaconess Becky Catchpole and Vicar Johnny Szupica traveled to Ghana in June for a mission trip.





**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**

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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, 2023
- Winter issue.....January 15, 2024
- Spring issue.....April 15, 2024

Please send photos or news articles to: [JGehlbach@aol.com](mailto:JGehlbach@aol.com) or mail to:

Janet Gehlbach  
 305 Liberty St. NE  
 Fridley, MN 55432

Thanks so much!



Diana Rice (right) helped with the braille book binding at the LWML convention in Milwaukee.



Social time at the LWML convention in Milwaukee.

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

Summer Issue 2023

**RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**

**Mark Your Calendars**  
2024 Convention in Dearborn, Michigan  
July 11-14, 2024  
More info coming in the next issue



**ILDA Mission Projects for 2021-2024  
as of July 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	\$5,026
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,000</b>	<b>\$13,026 (93%)</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.



# Great Lakes Regional Conference



**October 6-8, 2023**  
(Columbus Day Weekend)

To be held at  
**Christ Lutheran Church  
of the Deaf**  
9545 Georgia Ave.  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910  
443-296-3222

**Theme: "God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all."**

## Friday, October 6:

3:00-6:00 PM	Registration at church
6:00 PM	Open Devotion
6:30 PM	Skits / Songs / Videos
7:30 PM	Social / Refreshment
8:00 PM	The Bible Feud Game
10:00 PM	Evening Devotion / Good Night!

## Saturday, October 7:

--- Breakfast on your own ---

9:00 AM	Morning Devotion
9:15 AM	Business Meeting
10:30 AM	Break / Light Refreshment
10:45 AM	Resume Meeting
12:00 NOON	Lunch
1:30 PM	Unfinished Business Meeting (If necessary) or Workshop

## Saturday, October 7: - continue -

2:45 PM	Break / Refreshment
3:00 PM	Workshop / Bible Study
4:00 PM	Break / Social
5:00 PM	Dinner
6:30 PM	Break
7:00 PM	Entertainment
8:30 PM	Social / Refreshment
9:30 PM	Evening Devotion / Good Night!

## Sunday, October 8:

--- Breakfast on your own ---

9:00 - 9:45 AM	Bible Study
9:45 AM	Break
10:00 AM	Worship Services Lord's Supper Passing of the Banner
12:00 NOON	See you at Rochester in 2025!

There are plenty of good lodgings between 2 to 10 miles from the church. Please use Google Maps (<https://www.google.com/maps>) which when clicking on lodging's name, a pop up menu list prices and contact numbers.

Direction: <http://www.christdeaf.org/location.html>

Parking: <http://www.christdeaf.org/parking.html>

# Great Lakes Regional Conference

October 6-8, 2023

Christ Lutheran Church

of the Deaf

9545 Georgia Ave.

Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

443-296-3222

Theme: "God is Light, and in  
Him there is no darkness at all."  
1 John 1:5

## INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

Registration (Required)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	\$20.00	\$20.00
Saturday Lunch	Select One: <input type="checkbox"/>	\$12.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Virginia Ham & Cheese Sub	<input type="checkbox"/> BLT Sub		
<input type="checkbox"/> American Cold Cut Sub	<input type="checkbox"/> Italian Cold Cut Sub		
Chips, Condiments and Drinks will be provided			
Banquet Dinner	Select One: <input type="checkbox"/>	\$35.00	
<input type="checkbox"/> Flank Steak	<input type="checkbox"/> Marinated Grilled Chicken		
Herb Roasted Potato	Brown Rice		
Garden Salad	Garden Salad		
Salad Dressing: French, Italian, Ranch, Thousand Islands and Blue Cheese Drinks will be provided			

Gluten Free ? Lactose? Vegetarian?

Contact: Carolyn Snyder-Mason 443-296-3222

DEADLINE: SEPT 18, 2023

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

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ENCLOSED \$

(no refund after Sept 29, 2023)

Make check payable to: **CLCD** and write in memo: **GLRC 2023**

Mail to: Mark Friedrich, 814 Brice Road, Rockville, Maryland 20852