



The *Deaf Lutheran*



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

Winter 2025

St. Louis, MO

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Pastoral Advisor Rev. Daryl Gehlbach



The poet Robert Burns wrote, “The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry.” His point? Life in this world is filled with uncertainty. We can never be sure about what will happen. We can make plans, have it all laid out, but something unexpected could still happen and throw in a monkey wrench. We want to be masters of our life in this world and control our destiny. Yet, the only “certainty” this world can truly offer us is shifting sand.

This uncertainty especially applies when facing death. What happens after we die? Where will we go? This is the most vital question we must consider. For most people, the answer is up in the air, and it remains to be seen. Science, philosophy and spiritualism offer no help. At best they are on the fence, and the answer could go either way. The question of life after death is a religious matter, and only one religion can answer it – Christianity.

Why can we Christians have certainty concerning life after death? Jesus! He alone accomplished everything necessary to open the way to eternal life in heaven. With His awful suffering and death He overcame sin and its deadly power. With His glorious resurrection our Lord conquered death and the grave. The jury is

no longer out! Everyone who believes in Him has one-hundred percent certainty of eternal life filled with joy. Nothing else in this world can offer and guarantee this hope for us.

The best laid plans of God never go awry, never fail. His saving work is a sure foundation upon which to stand. As long as we hold firmly to our Savior, we are no longer tossed to and fro by the winds of uncertainty. The uncertainties in this world cannot overwhelm us. With our faith firmly grounded in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior we can live in this world and face the future in confidence.

“On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.”

President Brian Byer



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Clinton Township, MI! I hope that you all had a good holiday celebrating with your families and friends. I am sure you all are glad that the election is over and praying for the new Government to regulate the laws and order for our country and even the world as we approach 2025 with promises and hope.

Give yourself hope for better things that you need such as better health, finances, a better relationship with God and

others, and job opportunities. **Jeremiah 29:11** “For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

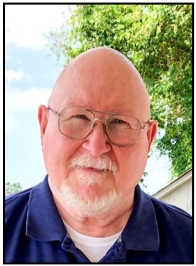
The promise of renewal is eternal and trustworthy. It reminds us of God’s promises to us that we look forward to 2025 and that he has plans for us which we do not know. The future lies before us. He knows when it will happen. We should be thankful for each day as we do in our daily lives. **Revelation 21:5** “He who was seated on the throne said, ‘I am making everything new!’ Then he said, ‘Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”

I plan to continue taking my classes which I just enrolled at Macomb Community College to take a course in Supply Chain Logistics for 12 weeks, I am thankful to my employer for providing me time to complete my career as I work for the Department of Army and as I am nearing my 36th year with the Government service. I am starting to count down toward my goal to retire on December 31st, 2026. Cynthia has fully recovered from our terrible vehicle accident, which happened in June 2023. We are very thankful for her strength and perseverance in her healing process and support from our families, friends, and many blessings from God.

P.S. Important Notes:

I'm encouraging you to watch for the website for the 2026 ILDA Convention in Florence, Kentucky by clicking on this link: <http://www.deaf.jesus.org/ilda.html> for more information or to register. Or if you are subscribing to the Deaf Lutheran, you can find a registration form in it. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Treasurer John Mason



In the Fall of 2024, all current members (2023-2025) received their membership renewal by mail. So far, I did not get any undelivered envelopes back to me. That's good! As of now, I have 23 members who have updated their membership for 2025-2027. Be sure you send yours as soon as possible. A

definition of membership is:

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.

Since the 2024 Dearborn, Michigan convention, \$2,284 has been collected. The goal to reach is \$3,000. Please give as much as you can before the next ILDA convention. We all can do it! \$716 or more to go!

Thank you and God bless you all!
John Mason
ILDA treasurer 2024-2026

ILDA Officers

International Officers (2024-2026)

President — Brian Byer
President-Elect — Tim Kearney
Secretary — Becky Catchpole
Treasurer — John Mason
Pr. Advisor — Rev. Daryl Gehlbach

Central Region (2018-20)

President — vacant
V. President — vacant
Secretary — vacant
Treasurer — Tim Kearney
Pr. Advisor — Rev. Bud Palmer

Midwest Region (2018-20)

President — Sara Hale
V. President — vacant
Secretary — vacant
Treasurer — vacant

Pr. Advisor — Rev. Paul Tessaro

Great Lakes Region (2023-2025)

President — Nancy Bergstresser
President-Elect — Jeff Padon
Secretary — Karen Beiter
Treasurer — Larry Blout
Pr. Advisor — Rev. John Rushton
Historian — Diane Francisco

CORRECTION

In the Fall issue of the Deaf Lutheran newsletter on Page 6 (Business meeting minutes), the first column, it reads: "Honor of Rev. Ludwig, Founder of International Lutheran Deaf Association"

It should be: "Rev. William Ludwig participated with Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, Executive Director, Lutheran Deaf Mission Society, in presenting "The Rev. William Ludwig Award" to Rev. Mark Seeger at the end of the Business meeting."

Editor's note: Rev. William Ludwig wants to make a clarification that he is not the founder of ILDA. The founder was Rev. Herbert Rohe. Rohe had coined the name "International Lutheran Deaf Association". He wrote a constitution and a committee of fourteen people was established to make plans for the first convention.



**Volunteers needed
(congregation or
region) to host the
2028 ILDA
convention. Where?
It's up to YOU!
Contact ILDA
President Brian Byer
via email:
byer2000@gmail.com
or VP 586-239-0022 or
586-580-4725.**

Alpha Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Rochester, NY Celebrates 100th Anniversary on December 8, 2024



JoHanna Rushton and Rev. John Rushton



Photo credit: Karen Beiter



Congratulations and God's blessings to the members of Alpha on their 100th Anniversary!

World Lutheran Deaf Outreach leaders Rev. Dr. John Reinke and Rev. Bud Palmer's mission trip to Ghana December 28, 2024—January 13, 2025



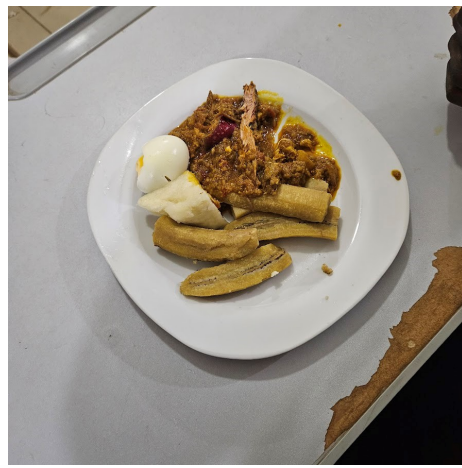


Photo credit:
Rev. Dr. John Reinke
and Rev. Bud Palmer



June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2027

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 2024-2026 Treasurer
6721 Deep Run Parkway, Elkridge, MD 21075-6557**

Type of Membership	<u>Active*</u>	<u>Associate**</u>	<u>Supporting***</u>
Your membership dues \$35	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Spouse membership dues \$35 (if applicable)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Your God's 1000 Club, add \$20 (optional)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Spouse God's 1000 Club, add \$20 (optional)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Zacharias Fund	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
ILDA Mission Projects Fund for 2024-2026	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
General Donation for _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Deaf Lutheran Subscription \$5.00 before May 31, 2025. (8 issues) \$10.00 after June 1, 2025. (4 issues)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

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

Name _____
First Middle Last

Spouse's 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!

**The Deaf Lutheran Subscription
(Print Edition)**

- One-year subscription -- \$10.00
- Two-year subscription -- \$20.00
- 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!

**John 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, 2025
 Summer issue.....July 15, 2025
 Fall issue.....October 15, 2025

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!

In Memoriam



Albert Moore

B: 12/31/1951
 D: 12/31/2024

Albert was the Central Region President at the time of his death and also President of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Jacksonville, Illinois.



Mary Case

B: 4/17/1937
 D: 10/30/2024

Mary was the wife of Rev. Robert Case who preceeded her in death. She was a resident of Texas at the time of her death.

Mark your calendars! Plan to attend the next ILDA convention scheduled for June 11-14, 2026 in the Florence, KY, area

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

Winter Issue 2025

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED



ILDA Mission Projects for 2024-2026 as of January 1, 2025

	Funds Requested	Donations up-to-date
Lutheran Deaf Mission Society -- Kenya	\$3,000	\$2,284 (76.1%)

Donations for the ILDA 2024-2026 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 2024-2026" 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.