



The

Deaf Lutheran



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

Summer 2020

St. Louis, MO

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From John Mason, ILDA President



Greetings everyone in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord!

What a wild first half of 2020! The COVID-19 pandemic is still on because of the stubbornness of Americans who refuse to obey their state's executive order. If they only would cooperate with their state government and the

federal's guidelines recommended by the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). However, a few months ago we saw the chart showing a decline of cases and the people started having cabin fever, feeling restless, "need to get out of the house and go somewhere for fun and/or vacation." Unfortunately with Memorial Day weekend and the Fourth of July weekend it made the number of cases increase, also known as "spikes" while foreign countries flattened their curves.



We, ILDA members, know better. We stay home and do our quarantine part, practice safe distance and wear a mask. There are some states that do not enforce wearing a mask but my state (Maryland) does. I

think it should be mandatory to wear a mask until we get vaccinated. Anyway, the White House did not enforce the mandatories. All we can do is pray and put common sense to the stubborn/foolish people.

Normally we would have an ILDA Executive Council meeting every year for us to meet at the ILDA convention site a year before the actual convention. This year I have decided not to have the meeting at the hotel but still have a meeting through a computer software application called ZOOM, for safety and health reasons. The ILDA 2021 convention is still on next year. We should be okay once everyone got his or her vaccine shot.

Now back in the Winter 2020 issue, I mentioned about looking for a host congregation for the 2023 ILDA convention. So far, I have not received any bids or volunteer to host. I want to

remind you, whenever your church allows meeting again, please consider to host. If you can't host by yourself, you can ask another congregation(s) to combine the host committee together. Do it soon, if possible, and send your official church letter to me:

John C. Mason, Jr.
6721 Deep Run Parkway
Elkridge, MD 21075-6557

I close this column with a prayer from:
<https://mycatholic.life/catholic-prayers/a-prayer-for-healing-and-hope/#COVID-19>

A Prayer to Combat the Coronavirus Pandemic

Most Merciful and Triune God,
We come to You in our weakness.
We come to You in our fear.
We come to You with trust.
For You alone are our hope.
We place before You the disease present in our world.

We turn to You in our time of need.
Bring wisdom to doctors.
Give understanding to scientists.
Endow caregivers with compassion and generosity.
Bring healing to those who are ill.
Protect those who are most at risk.
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.

Welcome those who have died into Your Eternal Home.

Stabilize our communities.
United us in our compassion.
Remove all fear from our hearts.
Fill us with confidence in Your care.

Jesus, I trust in You.

Amen.



From the Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tyler Walworth



Matthew 5:17-18 17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them

but to fulfill them. 18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The Law is now a topic of daily conversation as we figure out what laws are needed to protect people and what laws are overreaching. But whatever you may think of the current crisis, it has brought us back to thinking about what the law is really for. According to Dictionary.com “A law is that which a community recognizes as regulatory and it may enforce by penalties.” If you break the law, you will be held accountable by those who enforce that law. And if a law has no force to back it up, then it really is no law at all but rather a suggestion.

Laws order our life. There are formal laws and there are informal laws. A formal law is given by an authority and has specific language and a specific penalty. The mother told her child, “Don’t get out of that chair or you will go to time out!” Law, penalty and force! So an informal law is one that is expected to be followed, but not given specific language or specific penalties. So if you don’t buy your mother flowers on Mother’s Day, even

though it isn’t a formal law, you will pay the penalty! Our lives are ordered by natural laws as well. If you don’t sleep, you will be tired. If you eat too much or drink too much your body will be harmed.

But laws have another function for us as Christians. We have the Law of God, which is above all laws and shapes all laws. Martin Chemnitz in his book *The Enchiridion* says *God’s Law “is the doctrine, given by God, that commands and points out how we ought to be, and what we ought to do [and] not to do.” The Law of God is His will for us. We do not have to wonder what God wants or does not want. We can see clearly in His Law who/how we are supposed to be and what we are supposed to think, do and say in accord with His Word.*

Now what about the Old Testament and all those rules! There are three kinds of laws in the Old Testament. First, there are ceremonial laws that tell the people how to worship and sacrifice in the temple. Second, there are the civic laws of the people of Israel that spelled out what was the punishment for murder etc. Third, there are the moral laws that are universal in time and place telling all people what is good and evil. When Jesus came He completed the moral and civic laws. Now Christians are to look only to the moral laws contained in the 10 Commandments.

These 10 Commandments then are the way we Christians are to be and behave. We can then see what is good and evil, sin and obedience, right and wrong. We can learn to both confess our sins and guide our lives in the way of our heavenly

Father. The Law of God is a wonderful gift to us that frees us from all false laws we make for ourselves and for others. Most importantly, the Law of God is the reflection of the character of the heavenly Father, it defines what love is and how we can love others.

2021 ILDA convention chair report by Janet Gehlbach

As I am putting this newsletter together, as DL Editor and as the chair of the 2021 ILDA convention, the coronavirus is still spreading. Those states that reopened early have seen an increase in COVID-19 cases. Many restaurants and bars have had to close again.



The 2021 ILDA convention is still on. Many other groups have postponed or cancelled their conventions but we still plan on having the convention next year in July.

The registration form for the convention will be printed in the November issue. A fact sheet will explain a lot of things about the convention and hotel registration information will also be included.

The early bird registration deadline will be March 31, 2021. Then the combo cost continues to rise until the deadline of June 20. Any cancellations prior to June 20 will result in a \$50 cancellation fee. Full refunds given only from a doctor’s note or proof of a death certificate.

There will be two different combo costs. One is for ILDA members and the other is for non-members. You are encouraged to become an ILDA member so the cost is cheaper. **No registrations will be accepted after June 20, 2021.**

Our theme for the convention is: "Remember—Celebrate—Proclaim." We will be remembering ILDA's 50 years, the 150 years of LC-MS Deaf Ministry through its history, we will be celebrating in worship and song and we will continue to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions please contact me via email or videophone:

JGehlbach@aol.com

VP 612-424-4747

On Page 4 of this newsletter is a donation form if you would like to make a donation to help defray 2021 convention expenses. Please fill it out and mail your check or money order to the address listed on the bottom of the form. Many thanks in advance for your financial support. Your name will be listed in the convention book on the donor page unless you wish your donation to be anonymous.

On Page 5 is the ILDA membership form. Please renew your membership for 2020-2022. Fill out the form and send it with your payment to David G. Brown.



Finally, volunteers are needed for the 2021 convention. If you would like to help in any way, please contact Janet Gehlbach. A more detailed list of volunteer needs will be printed in future issues of the *Deaf Lutheran*.

Bits and Pieces...

The Great Lakes Region conference scheduled for October 2020 is cancelled.

The Central Region Conference scheduled for Fall 2020 is postponed to 2022.

Rib Mountain Deaf Lutheran Church members from Wausau, Wisconsin made 145 masks and sent them to New York. Pictured below are: Anh Stieve, Kathy Lutzke and Wendy Hughes.



Online services and videos

Due to COVID-19, because of state and government restrictions, many churches, deaf and hearing, are live streaming their services. To find a list of those deaf churches and interpreted ministries please go to the following website:

www.deafjesus.org/worship

The International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA) Facebook page also has shared videos and devotions from different individuals and pastors. You can request to join the ILDA page, if you have not yet done so, so that you can access the videos.

ILDA 50th Anniversary Convention July 22-25, 2021



Sponsoring individual, organization or church:
(Please print all information below)

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- _____ Donor (\$250)
- _____ Contributor (\$100)
- _____ Friend (\$50)
- _____ Supporting (\$25)
- _____ Other _____

Please write a check or money order payable to "2021 ILDA Convention" and mail it to:

John Mason, Convention Treasurer
6721 Deep Run Parkway
Elkridge, MD 21075

Office Use Only:

Check # _____

Check Date: _____

Date Rec'd: _____

October 1, 2020 – September 30, 2022

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:

David G. Brown, ILDA 2019-2021 Treasurer
1467 Bradshire Drive, Columbus, OH 43220-2617

E-mail: ILDAmembership22@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 2019-2021 (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 Officers

International Officers (2019-21)

President – John Mason
 President-Elect – Gregory Werth
 Secretary pro tem – Janet Gehlbach
 Treasurer – David G. Brown
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Tyler Walworth

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. Daryl Gehlbach

Northwest Region (2016-18)

President – Richard Sharp
 President Elect – Patricia Jenkins
 Secretary – vacant
 Treasurer – vacant
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. David Nielsen

Great Lakes Region (2018-20)

President – Larry D. Ginter
 Pres. Elect – Nancy Bergstresser
 Secretary – JoAnna Rushton
 Treasurer – Karen Beiter
 Pr. Advisor – Rev. Edwin Bergstresser

From the ILDA Treasurer David G. Brown

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Soon I will be sending all of our ILDA members their membership dues renewal notices. At the last convention in Topeka, KS, last summer, some people suggested that I send renewal notices by email. I pray that you watch for this email reminder from me and pay your dues. Not everyone has an email account. Those not on my email list will receive paper renewal notices in the mail. I am trying to avoid spending money for 300 some postage stamps and the cost of my personal ink jet printer inks. September 30, 2020 is the due date for ILDA 2020-2022 memberships.

Membership dues will NOT be collected in the convention registration form at this time. There will be a separate membership form for you to fill out and mail back to me. Blessings to you and stay safe from the COVID-19 virus.

[NOTE from Janet Gehlbach (2021 convention chair): The deadline for registering for the convention is June 20, 2021. Because of food count total deadlines no registrations will be accepted after June 20. Please make sure you get your ILDA member dues paid and sent to David G. Brown before that date. Non-member registration costs will be much higher. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.]



In Memoriam



Paul Myers

B: 6/3/1943 D: 6/3/2020
 Paul was a member of Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Cleveland, OH and served as offering counter and usher.



Russell Rains

B: 8/26/1926 D: 7/23/2020
 Russell was an active member of Holy Cross, Delavan, Wi.



Richard Crossen

B: ? D: 5/27/2020
 Richard was a member of Holy Cross, Columbus, OH



Marion Wright

B: 4/10/1940 D: 6/4/2020
 Marion was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh, PA.



Richard Heckle

B: ? D: 6/3/2020
 Richard was a member of Christ Deaf Cleveland, OH



Kathryn (Strickland) Murphy

B: ? D: 8/5/2020
 Kathryn was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, West Allis, WI.

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

One-year subscription—\$10.00

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**

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:

Fall issue...October 15, 2020

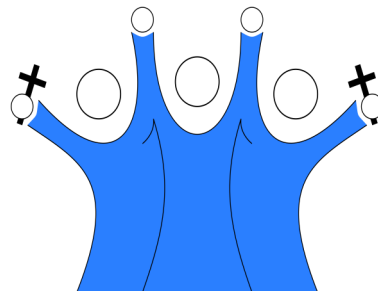
Winter issue...January 15, 2021

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!

Remember - Celebrate - Proclaim



Psalm 89:15

"Blessed are the people who know the festival shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of Your face."

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

Summer Issue 2020

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

ILDA Mission Projects for 2019-2021

1. Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry (PLDM)	\$ 1,000	PLDM asked to forfeit the mission project funds due to COVID-19 as the funds could not be used for its original purpose.
2. LCMS Int'l Missions ELCG Ghana	\$ 2,000	PAID 8/7/2020
3. Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas	\$ 10,000	
4. David and Barbara Bush—LCMS (Macau)	\$ 2,000	
5. Rev. Ryan McDermott—LCMS (Togo) *	\$ 2,000	*Subject to change as Rev. McDermott is no longer serving Togo but is currently serving Madison, WI.
6. Rev. John Reinke—World Lutheran Deaf Outreach	\$ 10,000	
Total raised so far.....\$6,366.83	TOTAL \$ 26,000	**This TOTAL amount may change.

Donations for the ILDA 2019-2021 Mission Projects can be sent to: David G. Brown, ILDA Treasurer, 1467 Bradshire Drive, Columbus, OH 43220-2617. Make your check payable to "ILDA" and put "Mission Projects 2019-2021" in the memo line. Your prayers and donations help ILDA to continue our work in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the U.S. and foreign countries.