



The

# Deaf Lutheran



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

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## From the President John Mason



Greetings

everyone in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

What will 2021 bring us as we leave 2020 behind? Wow, a year we all endured and survived! I am looking forward to getting vaccinated. By the time this newsletter is mailed out, my wife, Carolyn, and I will probably have received the vaccine per our state government guidelines. I encourage you all to get vaccinated.

Do you know what I miss the most? Not being able to attend church services. I am sure some of you miss this too. Some of you probably are attending church wearing masks, safe distancing and washing hands thoroughly and staying well.

Most of us have been staying home while the pandemic COVID-19 is still around. I noticed some positive things occurred. 1) We spent time focusing on ourselves, our health, and our relationship with the Lord. I trust Him and I know He will make it better.

2) We listen and follow our state government's decisions and recommendations. Unfortunately, there are some people who refuse to cooperate and/or follow the laws/orders. 3) I don't know about you all, I noticed spending less gas money than the year before. I filled up my tank four times during 2020! I normally do it about 15-20 fill ups a year.

I am closing this column with Dr. Martin Luther's prayer on Government as we welcome the 46th President of the United States, Joe Biden, and his administration:

*Lord God, as I pray for all who are in authority, I thank You especially for the form of government given us in our beloved country. Give me the grace with my fellow citizens to value the officers and the magistrates of our government as those sent by You. Instill in me that respect and honor that is due them. Lord, endow them with wisdom for their several duties, with a spirit of sacrifice for the common welfare, with mercy and justice, with uprightness and kindness. Correct the evils of selfishness,*

*greed, and vain desire for honor, or abuse of power among us as well as in the other governments of the world. Grant that the true purposes of government may prevail, safeguarding peace and prosperity, so that we may live soberly and uprightly in Your sight and have opportunity to tell of You and Your kingdom. These petitions I direct to You because in Jesus I know You as my Father and Lord. Amen.*

Don't forget to pray for Donald J. Trump, as outgoing president, as he finished his term.

## From the Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tyler Walworth



### What is Sin Anyway?

1 John 3:4-5 (ESV):

"Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and in him there is no sin."

What is, or What Do You Call, Sin? Whatever is

contrary to the law of God, or against the precepts of the Decalog, namely not only what is done in every deed, either outwardly or inwardly, but also whatever in our nature is not in conformity with the law of God.

The answer to the little question “What is sin?” makes most people uncomfortable and even upset. But Jesus came to save us from our sins. The problem is if we try to hide our sins or even say we don’t have any sins, then we are pushing away our savior.

Instead of hiding from our sins or pretending they aren’t there, let us learn what sin is so that we can confess our

sins and receive forgiveness from Jesus.

There are two kinds of sin: actual and original. Actual sin is any thought, word, or deed against God, which means against the Ten Commandments. So take time to memorize these 10 commands so you can decide what is sin and what is not.

But there is also original sin. You received this sin from Adam. This sin is being born without the fear of God, without trust in God and with the inclination to sin. Paul calls this Adam’s sin and says it works like a law in your members.

Now know when you know your sin, confess it to God. For example: Lord I know I have not cared for my child like I should. I have harmed him with my words and not used my thoughts to help him. Please forgive me for the sake of Jesus and His death. Amen.

The more you know your sin and confess it, the more confidence you build on Jesus. Jesus doesn’t want you to carry around the burden of your sin. Give it to Him and rest.

In Christ,  
Pastor Walworth

## 2021 ILDA convention update by Janet Gehlbach

Forms for the 2021 ILDA Chicago convention can be seen at: [www.deafjesus.org/ilda/2021](http://www.deafjesus.org/ilda/2021). If you have any questions contact me via email or videophone: [jgehlbach@aol.com](mailto:jgehlbach@aol.com) or VP 612-424-4747. **Deadlines are below:**

<b>March 31</b>	Early combo cost of \$180 ends. The cost goes up after this date.	See website for registration form
<b>April 20</b>	Mission Projects funding requests	Send to Carolyn Snyder-Mason
<b>May 15</b>	Advertising (ads and donors)	Send to John Mason
<b>May 22</b>	Exhibit applications	Send to Janet Gehlbach
<b>June 1</b>	Banner, skit, and choir competitions	Send to Janet Gehlbach
<b>June 15</b>	Registrations deadline—no registrations accepted after June 15	Send to Carolyn Snyder-Mason
<b>June 20</b>	Right Hand Award nominations	Send to Dawn Werth
<b>June 25</b>	Hotel room reservations due	See website for direct link to hotel

**A summary of the minutes of the ILDA Executive Council Zoom meeting held July 23, 2020, is printed below. The full minutes, with all submitted reports, can be seen on the ILDA website: [www.deafjesus.org/ilda](http://www.deafjesus.org/ilda).**

The Executive Council meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by President John Mason. Rev. Tyler Walworth gave the opening prayer. Roll call of officers were: John Mason, Gregory Werth, Janet Gehlbach, David G. Brown, Rev. Tyler Walworth and Rev. Ron Friedrich. Attending the meeting later were Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Dawn Werth and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach.

David G. Brown (Gregory Werth) moved to accept the Executive Council minutes of July 17, 2019 as read. Passed.

#### **President's report (John Mason)**

- Discussed different scenarios if ILDA dissolves because no host bid for 2023 has been received. ILDA members are encouraged to read the Constitution and the Handbook regarding dissolution.
- Deaf Seniors of America (DSA) is one of the major conflicts with ILDA conventions. Discussed moving the ILDA convention to a different year.

#### **President-elect report (Gregory Werth)**

- No report given but he sees a conflict between DSA and ILDA conventions.

#### **Secretary report (Janet Gehlbach)**

- Signed renewal registration form for ILDA from the State of Missouri.

#### **Treasurer report (David G. Brown)**

- Discussed the status of a couple mission projects (Texas Youth Ministry and Togo)
- Mission project donations so far is \$6,366.83.
- Executive Council accepted David's financial reports. They will be audited prior to the Chicago convention.

#### **Pastoral Advisor report (Rev. Tyler Walworth)**

- Not a lot to report at this time. Covid-19 has people afraid and hopes this doesn't influence people not to come to the convention in Chicago.

#### **LDMS report (Rev. Ron Friedrich)**

- Updated the Executive Council on the statistics of Deaf Ministry in the LCMS.

- LDMS Board is now taking up the deaf children's education project that was previously supported by ILDA.
- Requested information on the 1971 convention to be given to Rev. Gehlbach. 2021 is the 50th Anniversary of ILDA, 150th Anniversary of Deaf Ministry in the LCMS and 50th Anniversary of Mill Neck Manor.

#### **Deaf Lutheran Editor (Janet Gehlbach)**

- Brought up the issue of officer nominations not being put into the Deaf Lutheran any more.
- John Mason noted convention bids are to be submitted four years in advance.

#### **Deaf Lutheran Business Manager (Carolyn Snyder-Mason)**

- The same number of people are renewing their subscriptions each year.
- Mailing labels now have a renewal date on them.
- Financial reports will be audited prior to the start of the 2021 Chicago convention.

#### **Mission Projects (Carolyn Snyder-Mason)**

- Letter and application form for mission projects 2021-2023 will be mailed out in January.
- Applications received will follow postmarked date. Paper applications will be accepted. No email applications will be accepted.
- It was suggested to combine the 2021 convention registration packet to be mailed out in January to include the Right Hand Award application, Mission Project application and a copy of the ILDA membership form.

#### **Right Hand Award (Dawn Werth)**

- It was suggested a signature line be added to the Right Hand Award nomination form to avoid fraud that someone would nominate themselves.

#### **LDMS Archivist (Rev. Daryl Gehlbach)**

- Planning to go to St. Louis to Concordia Historical Institute (CHI) to do more research.
- Any important papers related to ILDA should be given to him before the Chicago convention.

#### **2021 ILDA convention hosts (Janet and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach)**

- Asked David to assign a membership card number to ILDA members.

- Host committee is not fundraising. We are asking for donations from churches and individuals. So far have received \$12,300+ despite COVID-19 issues.
- Hotel food costs have gone up a lot so that's why we don't want to cancel the convention.
- Cancellation fee of \$50 is written into the registration form. Refunds given only through a doctor's note or death certificate.
- Need ideas for service projects.

**Old Business: none**

**New Business:**

- It was decided to wait until next year to decide about ILDA dissolution.
- John Mason picked a committee to draft a change to the Constitution regarding ILDA conventions. It will be put into the Winter issue (February 2021).
- John asked that a copy of the Constitution and a copy of the amendment and resolution be put into the registration packet for the 2021 convention.

**Announcements**

- David announced he will be sending out ILDA membership forms soon for renewals.

Closing prayer given by Rev. Tyler Walworth

The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m. CST / 3:57 p.m.

EST

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Gehlbach, ILDA Secretary Pro Tem (2019-2021)



Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Cleveland, OH, held its last worship on Sunday, December 27, 2020. The congregation has closed. Rev. Chip Lawson also retired as pastor of Christ Deaf. We wish the congregation's members and Rev. Lawson God's blessings as they begin their new journey.



Rev. Kenneth Stadnick was ordained and installed as pastor of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada on Sept. 20, 2020. He succeeds Rev. Bob Bauer, who passed away Sept. 3, 2020. God's blessings to him as he begins his new ministry to the deaf congregation of Cross of Christ.



Rev. Joshua Reinke was installed as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church and Christ Deaf Lutheran Church, Great Falls, Montana on 11/29/2020. He succeeds Rev. Steven Schlund who retired and moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana. God's blessings to Rev. Reinke as he begins these two new ministries.

## Constitution Proposal for the ILDA Business Meeting, July 23, 2021

### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS The International Lutheran Deaf Association Constitution, Article XI, states:

The ILDA shall hold conventions every two (2) years in odd numbered years. Regional branches are encouraged to meet in even-numbered years. The conduct as well as all plans, conditions and provisions shall be set forth in this Constitution and its Handbook. All of the ILDA conventions shall be self-supporting.

And WHEREAS the current ILDA convention schedule of meeting in odd-numbered years often conflicts with conventions of other national organizations which ILDA members attend, be it therefore

RESOLVED that Article XI of the Constitution be amended as follows:

The ILDA shall hold conventions every two (2) years in **even**-numbered years. Regional branches are encouraged to meet in **odd**-numbered years. The conduct as well as all plans, conditions and provisions shall be set forth in this Constitution and its Handbook. All of the ILDA conventions shall be self-supporting.

And be it finally RESOLVED that this change in the ILDA convention schedule begin three (3) years following the ratification of this amendment.



## Interpreted Ministry Conference

Hello Interpreters!

The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society is excited to bring you news of our third Interpreted Ministry Conference designed especially for interpreters working in Lutheran churches. This conference will be held in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, July 22-25, 2021. The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society is partnering with the International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA) to bring you this conference. Workshop topics include “Interpreted Ministry in Remote Contexts: Interpreting Worship on Video” and “What we have Seen with Our Hands: Making the Message Visual.” There will also be five additional workshops to be announced. There will also be multiple social activities and a banquet. This year the International Lutheran Deaf Association celebrates its 50th Anniversary, so expect to help celebrate.

Registration and other information can be found at <http://deafjesus.org/ilda/2021>. You will find links to IMC information and conference registration. The last line of registration needs some explanation. You can join ILDA (\$30) and pay the reduced member cost for the conference. ILDA membership is good for two (2) years and the money supports the mission of ILDA. If you want RID CEUs, add \$35.

As your partner in Deaf ministry, we are thrilled to bring you this conference and pray it is a blessing in your work of sharing God’s Word in American Sign Language.



## 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

## Nominations needed for the 2021 ILDA convention in Chicago:

President-Elect  
 Secretary  
 Treasurer  
 Pastoral Advisor

Please email names to:  
 John Mason  
 presidentilda20152017  
 @gmail.com



## From the ILDA Treasurer

### David G. Brown

ILDA Mission Projects has raised \$8,473.83 so far. This is way below the 2019-2021 goal before the ILDA 2021 convention this summer. Please consider donating to the ILDA Mission Projects. Thank you for your support.

## In Memoriam



### Rev. David Carstens

B: 7/10/1944

D: 10/25/2020

Rev. Carstens last served the Portland, Oregon, deaf congregation and lived in Portland at the time of his passing.



### Joan Mass

B: 6/14/1934

D: 11/2/2020

Joan was the wife of Rev. LaVerne Mass, and lived in Cedar Rapids at the time of her passing. She was a member of Word of God Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Cedar Rapids, IA.



### Helen Dalton

B: 6/25/1932

D: 1/11/2021

Helen was a faithful member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church of the Deaf, West Allis, WI, at the time of her passing.



### Rev. Gary Bell

B: 2/28/1948

D: 1/23/2021

Rev. Bell previously served deaf churches in northern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin and lived in California at the time of his passing.



### Rev. Richard (Dick) Reinap

B: 4/21/1945

D: 2/2/2021

Rev. Reinap formerly served Prince of Peace Deaf in St. Paul, MN and Jesus Deaf Lutheran Church in Austin, TX.

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

One-year subscription—\$10.00

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

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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:

Spring issue...April 15, 2021

Summer issue...July 15, 2021

Fall issue...October 15, 2021

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!

**2021 Convention Help Wanted:**

- Childcare Coordinator to plan childcare activities during the convention
- Childcare volunteers to assist the Coordinator
- ASL interpreter(s) for the childcare room

If you are interested, please contact Janet Gehlbach by email: [jgehlbach@aol.com](mailto:jgehlbach@aol.com) or VP 612-424-4747. Thanks so much!

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

Winter Issue 2021

**RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED**

**ILDA Mission Projects for 2019-2021**

1. <del>Pittsburgh Lutheran Deaf Ministry (PLDM)</del>	<del>\$ 1,000</del>	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	<b>PAID IN FULL 8/7/2020</b>
3. Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas	\$ 10,000	<b>\$5,000 paid 8/31/2020</b>
4. David and Barbara Bush—LCMS (Macau)	\$ 2,000	
5. Rev. Ryan McDermott—LCMS (Togo) *	<del>\$ 2,000</del>	*No longer serving Togo but is currently serving Madison, WI.
6. Rev. John Reinke—World Lutheran Deaf Outreach	\$ 10,000	
<b>Total raised so far.....\$8,473.83</b>	<b>TOTAL \$ 27,000</b>	\$3,000 has been removed from the original total amount due to forfeits.
	<b>\$ 24,000</b>	

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.