



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



I am looking forward and I hope you are too, as we all get ready to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of International Lutheran

Deaf Association this coming July! It is quite another milestone we will reach. I just got my second and last COVID-19 vaccine and I'm still going to the convention. We will continue our practice of safe distancing, wearing our masks, and washing our hands. You should follow your state's recommendation, however, cooperation is all we need to ensure our protection from the deadly virus. I figure by convention time in July that we all will have had our vaccinations completed. If you prayed to God for protection, He did by providing you masks, sanitizers, health preventive education and vaccinations!

Can you imagine yourself back in 1971? That's 50 years ago! Some of you are still around and did attend the first convention. Back in 1971, I was a high school freshman and getting ready to be a sophomore in the Fall. Some of you were a teenager, a pre-teen, a young

kid, a toddler, an infant, a young adult, a newlywed, a parent, in your 20's, 30's and 40's. Some of you were not conceived or born yet.

In 1971, a postage stamp was eight cents! The average price of gas was 44 cents to a gallon! The average cost for a car was \$2,700! A loaf of bread was 25 cents (yes, I remember my grandmother used to buy four loaves for a dollar! Sometimes when it was on sale, five loaves for a dollar!). A gallon of milk was \$1.32! But we have to remember that our average income back then was \$9,111 a year! The average cost of a house was \$42,500!

From a website, I found these words on how to pray daily for a covid breakthrough. Here are some ways we can pray:

1. Ask God to continue to open the eyes of scientists, health professionals and their teams to discover the right treatments for COVID-19.
2. Ask God to intervene now for a discovery for a vaccine for the coronavirus.
3. Ask God to be merciful to those across the globe who have the virus and need healing.
4. Ask God to continue to

eliminate this virus. We know He can miraculously do this.

Stand upon the Bible and what it says in Exodus 15:26: "For I am the Lord who heals you." Let us go to our churches, our Christian ministries, and our workplaces and faithfully call people to prayer for this urgent need.

Let me remind you: Our God is big and can do anything!

ANNOUNCEMENT #1

The ILDA Board (Executive Council members and the Regional Presidents or their representatives) convened a meeting on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. At this meeting the Board unanimously agreed that Gregory Werth is no longer eligible to serve as ILDA President-Elect.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Gehlbach
ILDA Secretary Pro Tem

ANNOUNCEMENT #2

President John Mason has asked Carol Seeger to fill the President-Elect position until the July convention. She accepted. Welcome aboard Carol!

From the Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tyler Walworth



Jesus is our
Salvation by the
Gospel
Dear brothers and
sisters in Christ, I
think good news
is needed now

more than ever! This is what the little word “Gospel” means. It is taken from the Greek word euangelion, which means “good proclamation”. It is good news by its nature because it is contrasted with the bad news of sin, revealed in us by the law. It is good news because it tells sinners there is hope!

Now before we go too far, you must know that Gospel is used in a wide and narrow way. The wide way of the Gospel is the whole message of Jesus, both that we are sinners and that Jesus died for sinners. The narrow way of the Gospel is focused on Jesus’ death for sinners alone. This narrow view of the Gospel will be our focus.

So what is the Gospel? Some people may simply say, “Jesus!” That is true! But many people believe Jesus existed. That is still not good news. So we must know who Jesus is, what He did, why He did it and how He gives it to me.

First, it matters who Jesus is! Jesus is God and Man. He is fully God, of the same essence of the Father and the Holy Spirit. He has all the same power and character. Yet, He is still a different person than the Father and the Spirit. Later, at the right time, Jesus became fully man from Mary. He received a

sinless body made of flesh and blood, body and soul by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Mary. Now Jesus is fully God and fully Man. If He was not God, then He could not die for the sins of the world, if He was not Man, He could not live a perfect life in our place and die.

Second, what Jesus did matters! Jesus was born, lived a perfect life, died for all sin, rose and ascended. This little summary tells us that Jesus has done the work that we could not do. He both took our punishment and gave us His perfect life. If Jesus had not come to really do these things on earth, then we would have no basis for the promise of forgiveness and eternal life. We would have no content to our faith. We would only believe a dream or invention from someone’s mind! Our faith is in real events done by a real Jesus that did real things before the heavenly Father.

Third, why Jesus did all of His work matters! If Jesus did not plan on giving us His benefit, but instead only planned on showing us what He could do as God, then we are still lost sinners! Jesus tells us WHY He is born, dies, rises and ascends. He did it to save us. That means all of the things we learn about Jesus is specifically for you! Every event in the life of Jesus was for the sake of the whole world so that everyone would have a payment for sin and hope for eternal life.

Fourth and finally, how Jesus gives this to us is the last piece of the puzzle. If Jesus is fully God and Man, born, dies, rises, ascends all for your sake, but

there is nothing we can do to receive these benefits, then we are still lost! This would be like having one million dollars in a bank account that you don’t know how to access. It’s there, but what good is it! Jesus does not do all of these things to save you and then forget how to give it to you. Jesus delivers these gifts now by preaching, baptism and the Lord’s Supper. This is how Jesus makes your faith and fills it with Himself and His benefits.

So the Gospel is a small but mighty word. It is Jesus. It is who He is, what He does, why He does it and how He gives it to you. The good news is, Jesus comes to you and all sinners with all of His benefits in Word and Sacrament. It is free to you, though it cost Jesus everything. May this give you hope in your greatest need, for Jesus lives and our hope cannot fail.

In Christ,
Pastor Walworth

Interpreted Ministry Conference

Update: This information is in addition to what is printed on Page 5 of this newsletter. The Interpreted Ministry Conference (IMC) is now offering a one day registration (Friday). You can print up the registration form and the schedule from the website on Page 5. If you plan to stay overnight or attend the whole ILDA convention there is also a direct link for hotel reservations.

Forgiveness by Rev. Tim Eckert

True or false: We must forgive people, but we don't have to accept them.

Let's talk about that! If God doesn't forgive us, then we can't be Christians. Our life with God depends completely on Him forgiving us. He forgives us because Jesus died and rose alive for us. The Bible says that means our sins are gone, as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103:12). Does God put your sins in a drawer to forget about for now, but He will pull them out later and remind you how you sinned? No, never! He gives true forgiveness that makes a new and wonderful relationship with Him. We can trust Him because we know He

will not use our sins against us.

God gives us that same opportunity – we can forgive people and have a new and better relationship with them. Then why do we sometimes forgive people but still avoid them? If God forgives us and that means we have a new and right relationship with Him, then when we forgive other people, that should create a better relationship with them.

2 Samuel 13-14 has an interesting (and sad) story about revenge and fake forgiveness. Two of David's sons, Absalom and Amnon, had serious problems. David should have punished Amnon for a wrong that he did, but David did nothing. Absalom got revenge, killed Amnon, and ran away. After three years, David finally "forgave" Absalom and

welcomed him back to Jerusalem, but he said Absalom could not visit David. Is that true forgiveness? Absalom said it wasn't. If David would not see him, that is the same as not forgiving him. Eventually, David truly forgave and welcomed him. The same is true for us. If we "forgive" someone, but we refuse to see them, that is not true forgiveness. The statement above is false. If we say we forgive, but we refuse to accept that person, then we have not forgiven. Forgiveness gives healing for relationships. That is what God has given us, and His grace allows us to give forgiveness to others and heal our relationship with them.

2021 ILDA convention update by Janet Gehlbach

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

April 20	Mission Projects funding requests	Send to Carolyn Snyder-Mason
April 30	Registration deadline extended for \$180 combo cost	See website for revised registration form
May 15	Advertising (ads and donors)	Send to John Mason
May 22	Exhibit applications	Send to Janet Gehlbach
June 1	Banner, skit, and choir competitions	Send to Janet Gehlbach
June 15	Registrations deadline—no registrations accepted after June 15	Send to Carolyn Snyder-Mason
June 20	Right Hand Award nominations	Send to Dawn Werth
June 25	Hotel room reservations due	See website for direct link to hotel

125th Anniversary of Deaf Ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Written by Rev. Daryl D. Gehlbach, LDMS Archivist

This year marks the 125th anniversary of Synod's decision to begin mission work among the deaf. A few years ago someone posed the question if we could narrow down the beginning to an exact date. The following is based upon information reported in official Synod publications and in local newspapers in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Synod took up this mission work in 1896 during its convention at Fort Wayne, Indiana, held Wednesday, April 29 through Saturday, May 9.

During the afternoon session on Friday, May 1, floor committee #5 (Missions) presented its report, together with Rev. Augustus Reinke's petition, to the convention. The committee prayed that Synod take up the mission work among the Deaf begun by Pastor Reinke. It urgently pointed out that it was "not sufficient for the Synod to maintain its school for deaf and dumb children at North Detroit, Mich., but also to preach the Gospel to such unfortunate adults." The committee recommended that a standing board composed of five people, with Pastor Reinke as a member, be elected to oversee the mission, and that a special treasury be set up for this mission.^[1]

Upon learning that Pastor Reinke would conduct a service in sign language for the deaf Sunday night (May 3), the convention voted to postpone consideration until Monday.^[2] The service was the object of much attention as it was held "in the presence of a large assembly which had filled the church."^[3]

Did Reinke himself address the convention? The official record of the convention does not answer this question. The *Lutheran Witness*^[4] wrote: "Probably no transaction evoked more deep-felt interest than the introduction of resolutions to enter upon missionary labors among the Deaf and Dumb of our country. Rev. A. Reinke, of Chicago, who has been prosecuting the work with much success, advocated the cause in fervent and eloquent words." This would seem to indicate that he did indeed make a personal appeal.

On Wednesday, May 6, during the morning session, "a mission for deaf-mutes was decided upon and a committee composed of five men with Rev. E. Reenke [sic] as chairman was appointed. All members of this committee to reside in Illinois."^[5] The election of the board was completed during the final session, Saturday morning, May 9.^[6]

So, based on my research, May 6, 1896, is the official beginning of LCMS taking up mission work among the deaf. The closest Sunday to the anniversary date in 2021 is May 9.

^[1] *Fort Wayne Gazette*, 2 May 1896.

^[2] *ibid.*

^[3] *Der Lutheraner*, 19 May 1896.

^[4] *Lutheran Witness*, 7 Jun 1896.

^[5] *Fort Wayne News*, 6 May 1896.

^[6] *Fort Wayne News*, 9 May 1896

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 pro tem — Carol Seeger
 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



From the ILDA Treasurer

David G. Brown

ILDA Mission Projects for 2019-2021 so far has raised \$9,238.00. Please see Page 8 for an update on the status of which mission projects have been paid and which have not.

ILDA needs a new treasurer for 2021-2023. I am nearing the end of my 2nd term. I am limited to 2 terms so I am retiring at the end of this term due to age and mental issues. Please submit name/nomination to President John Mason before our July convention. The treasurer needs to know accounting, banking and IRS filings. Thank you and God bless.

In Memoriam



David Williams

B: 7/10/55

D: 2/10/2021

David was an active member of Alpha Lutheran Church, Rochester NY. He lived in Medina, NY at the time of his passing.

Nominations needed for the 2021 ILDA convention in Chicago:

President-Elect
 Secretary
 Treasurer
 Pastoral Advisor

Please email names to:
 Carol Seeger
 cseeger@utexas.edu

(CORRECTION: The Winter issue of the Deaf Lutheran had the wrong name printed. The editor apologizes for this error.)

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.



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**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, 2021

Fall issue...October 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!

EYEGASSES WANTED...

If you are coming to Chicago for the ILDA convention in July, please bring with you any old eyeglasses that you no longer use. We will be donating them to the LWML group of a hearing church in Minnesota that collects eyeglasses and sends them to M.O.S.T., an organization based in Michigan that sends eyeglasses to poor countries to those people who need eyeglasses.

DEADLINES for the ILDA convention in July...

May 15 for any advertising ads for the ILDA convention book or donations to help offset convention expenses.

May 22 for any exhibit applications.

June 1 for banner, skit and choir competitions.

June 15 for registrations—no registrations accepted after this date.

June 20 for Right Hand Award nominations.

June 25 for hotel room reservations.

Spring Issue 2021

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 IN FULL 8/7/2020
3. Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas	\$ 10,000	\$5,000 paid 8/31/2020, the balance
4. David and Barbara Bush—LCMS (Macau)	\$ 2,000	PAID IN FULL 3/10/2021
5. Rev. Ryan McDermott—LCMS (Togo) *	\$ 2,000	Forfeited because McDermott is no longer serving Togo.
6. Rev. John Reinke—World Lutheran Deaf Outreach	\$ 10,000	
Total raised so far.....\$9,038.00	TOTAL \$-27,000	
	\$ 19,000	Revised total

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.