



The

Deaf Lutheran



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

Summer 2021

St. Louis, MO

Vol. 110, No. 3

26th Biennial 2021 ILDA Convention Report

by Janet Gehlbach, Editor and 2021 ILDA Convention Chair

The 26th Biennial ILDA convention was held July 22-25, 2021 at the Holiday Inn in Elk Grove Village, Illinois. The convention, for the first time, was hosted by an out-of-state deaf congregation, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Spring Lake Park, Minnesota. The theme for the convention was “Remember—Celebrate—Proclaim” based on Psalm 89:15 “Blessed are the people who know the festal shout, who walk, O Lord, in the light of Your face.”

Convention chair was Janet Gehlbach, assisted by Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, and committee members: John Mason, Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Rev. Ron Friedrich, Carissa Huffman, Rev. Tim Eckert, Paula Willig, Lynda Nix, and Rev. Mark Willig with special supporting staff of Sharon Brown and Diane Francisco.

Daily convention devotions were led by Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, Rev. Mark Seeger and Rev. Dr. John Reinke. Workshop presenters were: Rev. Dr. John Reinke (“Online Technologies”), Bob Lenderman/Rev. Ron Friedrich (“Job Openings—Don’t Sit On Your Hands, Get Involved”), Rev. Edwin Bergstresser (“How Do We Share Jesus’ Story?”), Rev. William Ludwig (“A Deaf Pastor’s Perspective on the History of ILDA”), and Rev. Ron Friedrich (“Training for

Service”). All devotions and workshops were well received by the attendees.

Interpreted Ministry Conference (IMC) presenters were Carissa Huffman (“Interpreted Ministry in a Remote Context: Interpreting Worship on Video”), Paula Willig (“What We Have Seen With Our Hands: Making The Message Visual”), and Rev. Dr. John Reinke (“Online Technologies”) — joint session with IMC and ILDA.



On Thursday night, John Mason presented plaques to Sara and David Hale (2019 Kansas convention chairs) and Peggy Gott (KansaSEED rep) in appreciation for their work done during the 2019 Kansas ILDA convention.

On Thursday evening, Janet Gehlbach (2021 chair) invited the Lutheran Church Charities K-9 comfort dogs to give a presentation to the attendees. They had the opportunity to

greet the two dogs present. Their handlers/trainers explained how they go out to crisis events to have the dogs give comfort to the workers and volunteers.

Janet Gehlbach gave a presentation on the ILDA banner—its creation, history and photos of the two banners. The first one was “retired” and given to Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis. The second banner is currently in use at the ILDA conventions.

On Friday night, Rev. Daryl Gehlbach did a trivia presentation of questions and answers of LC-MS Deaf history and also ILDA history. It was very interesting to learn some of our history.

Saturday night entertainment was the “Magic” Morgan magician show with Matthew Morgan and Liliana Morgan from Wisconsin. They were very entertaining and because they are from Wisconsin there were quite a few people in the audience who knew them!

A photo booth was set up for attendees to take selfies. The backdrop was the North Avenue beach view of the Chicago skyline. There was also a sign made in front with the convention logo and location and dates of the 26th Biennial convention. Many thanks to Richard Belling, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Madison, WI, for helping get the

ball rolling in ordering the supplies for the photo booth and to Tim Schoor, Wells Print and Digital Services, Madison, WI, for donating and printing the large sign in the front. Because of COVID-19 issues it was decided that there would be no shared items (hats, boas, other decorative items to hold). If people wanted their photo with a hat, etc. then they needed to bring their own.

Three (3) service projects were done during the convention. The first one was fifty (50) blessing bags put together of toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, body wash, hand lotion, deodorant, hand sanitizer, wipes, shampoo, kleenex, wash cloth), life savers candy, cookies and trail mix. The bags were given to Rev. Jason Pankau at Chicago Hope Church in Chicago, Illinois. The second service project was attendees writing down their favorite memories of ILDA conventions to be typed up into the ILDA 50th Anniversary History Book. The third service project was hand written cards of thanks to military people and given to Packages 4 Patriots (P4P), a non-profit group based out of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit in Elk Grove Village. Randy Mode received the thank you cards and was very appreciative of our efforts to help his organization because many times they do not have enough cards to send with the care packages overseas. It was our intention to have a group go over to the church to help pack care packages but, because of COVID, only the P4P Board members are able to pack them.

Mission Projects were voted on for 2021-2024. This list is on the last page of this issue.

During the banquet, Master of Ceremony, Tim Kearney, kept things moving along smoothly and entertained us with laughter.

The Opening Prayer was given by Rev. Tim Eckert. ILDA President, John Mason, gave the toast to celebrate ILDA's 50th Anniversary with a "raise your glass" of sparking apple juice with each other. John Mason also gave out "President's Prerogative Awards" to Patrick Sell (past ILDA Treasurer), David G. Brown (past ILDA Treasurer and Deaf Lutheran Editor) and Larry Ginter (past ILDA Deaf Lutheran Business Manager).

Rev. Daryl Gehlbach showed a power point presentation of the pastoral and church worker anniversaries. The Right Hand Award was given to Howard E. Snyder, Toledo, OH. Janet Gehlbach recognized past ILDA host chairpersons by having them up on stage. Past and present ILDA officers were also recognized on stage.

There were no skits or choir competition at the convention. Only one banner was made and awarded 1st place to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Olathe, Kansas. They received a cash prize of \$50.00. Door prizes were given out by Mark/Linda Johnson and Janet Gehlbach. A few of the door prizes were hand made and beautifully done by several people: Becky Jungklaus (quilted Bible book bag) and Becky Catchpole (two sets of colored notecards and a large framed painted picture of a cross with "I Love You" design on it).

The last door prize was given out to an ILDA member only. This coupon (won by Jennifer Bonura) was worth free registration to the next convention to be held in Michigan in 2024.

Interpreters for the convention were: Rev. Tim Eckert, Rev. Ron Friedrich, Carissa Huffman, Lynda Nix and Paula Willig.

Sunday morning Bible Study was a "Ask the Pastors" session

with a variety of questions from the attendees answered by the pastors. The worship service was an awesome blend of liturgy, Bible lesson readings, hymns (voiced/sung/signed), wonderful sermon incorporating the convention theme of "Remember—Celebrate—Proclaim" and receiving the body and blood of Jesus during communion. The offering, designated for ILDA Mission Projects, total was \$837.00. Praise the Lord for the attendees generosity.

Installation of new ILDA officers was done by Rev. Ron Friedrich. The 2021-2024 ILDA officers are: Carol Seeger (President), Brian Byer (President-Elect), Denise Pulfer (Secretary), John Mason (Treasurer), and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach (Pastoral Advisor). Congratulations to all of you as you begin your term.

Janet Gehlbach (chair) would like to thank everyone on the committee and to those participating and attending the 2021 ILDA convention. It was a great time for all and filled with good fellowship, good food, good service projects, lots of laughter and being spiritually fed with His word. We look forward to seeing you in Michigan in 2024. At the Business Meeting on Friday morning we approved the amendment to change the Constitution and Handbook to meet in even years instead of odd years due to conflicts with Deaf Seniors of America and LWML conventions.

Take care everyone and God bless you all. I appreciate your support and positive comments that you enjoyed the 2021 ILDA convention.

“DO IT!”



**From the
President
Carol Seeger**

Greetings to our brothers and sisters of our loving Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior! Amen! I wish to humbly thank the members of ILDA for accepting me as your president for 2021-2024 and I will do my best to assume my responsibility to do the duties with the council members. I'm eagerly looking forward to serving with you all, most of all, serving the Lord!

Now I wish to thank our former council members of 2019-2021, namely President John Mason, Secretary Janet Gehlbach, Treasurer David Brown and Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tyler Walworth for doing their best job to meet several challenges to keep ILDA going in spite of COVID 19.

With my whole heart, I want to thank the host chairs, Janet Gehlbach and Rev. Daryl Gehlbach for making the ILDA 2021 convention a smashing success! This convention ran real smoothly with God's help. There were a few obstacles occurring during the attendees' trips prior to and after the convention. Here is the list:

1. Rev. John and Dacia Reinke's truck and 5th wheel RV flipped over at the entrance of a rest area in southeastern Minnesota.
2. John and Carolyn Mason's

SUV engine blew up and completely totaled in Ohio.
3. Lisa Erickson and her mother's car—the backing plate for the brake was rusted and trying to fall off.

Solution: all three mishaps have been solved. See Romans 8:28 *“And we know that in all things God works out for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.”*

In addition, I'm looking forward to working with the ILDA 2024 Convention host, Chair Brian Byer and committee for the next three years!

Now I'm closing with Psalm 103:19: *“The Lord has set up His throne in heaven. His kingdom rules over all!”*

Blessings to you all!



**From the
Pastoral Advisor
Rev. Daryl
Gehlbach**

**Happy
Anniversary
ILDA!**

My wife and I have just returned from the 2021 ILDA convention. It was a great convention as we celebrated the 50th Anniversary. *[You can read about the convention in this issue. – Ed.]* Our theme was “Remember—Celebrate—Proclaim!”

Yes, we had many opportunities to remember. We had many opportunities to celebrate. We had many

opportunities to proclaim.

Yet, our convention did not focus on us alone. Our focus was on the triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God is the reason we have ILDA. He guided the events and people so that ILDA began in 1971. God is the reason we celebrate. He has blessed us abundantly during these past fifty years. God is the reason we proclaim. His Good News is the message we all must hear and believe.

Our convention theme is also for us personally. Each one of us has a reason to “Remember—Celebrate—Proclaim!”

God invites us to remember His tender mercy for us and all people. He sent His Son to suffer and die on a cross to forgive our sins. He raised Jesus from the dead so that we might not perish but have everlasting life.

His saving work is our reason to celebrate. He has redeemed us, purchased and won us from sin, death and the devil. We are no longer slaves, but Jesus has made us free. He has given us the Holy Spirit to create and sustain our faith. His Spirit gives us strength to trust Him, bear our crosses, and joyfully live our faith in the world.

Everything God has done for us gives us a reason to proclaim. Yes, Christ commands us, but it is our joy and privilege to proclaim the Gospel. He promises to give us the words we need to say. His

Spirit dwells in us so that with gentleness and respect we can “tell everyone what He has done.”

May God grant us strength so that we can daily go forth to remember His saving work, celebrate His abiding mercy, and proclaim His abiding love for all the world to see and believe.

[Rev. Daryl Gehlbach is a 1983 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He served Lutheran Church for the Deaf, West Hartford, CT. Since 1991, he has been pastor of Prince of Peace Deaf Lutheran Church, Spring Lake Park, MN. – Ed.]

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 – 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 (current officers)

President – Richard Sharp
 President Elect – Patricia Jenkins
 Secretary – Linda Desrosiers (now vacant)
 Treasurer – Gary Wilson (now 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 President ...Treasurer John Mason



The 26th ILDA Convention was successful as we celebrated our 50th year anniversary. Kudos to Janet Gehlbach and the support committees. We had a blast seeing old and new faces. Entertainment of the magic show by Matthew and Liliana was wonderful! I looked around and I saw several people

saying “how did they do that?”

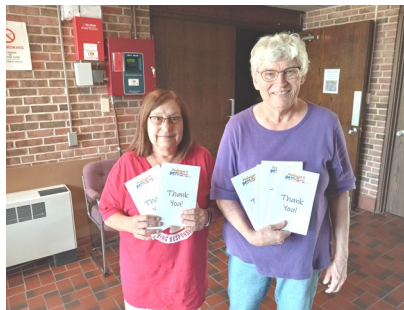
Despite my pinched nerve in my back, I am not stopping what I am doing. Yes, I finished my second term as your president, however I am not gone yet. I want to thank you for accepting me as your ILDA Treasurer.

I want to thank David G. Brown for his work as ILDA Treasurer and Janet Gehlbach for her work as ILDA Secretary. Both of them deserve more than just a pat on the back!

Also, I want to thank Dawn Werth for taking care of the Right Hand Award and Carolyn Snyder-Mason for the Mission Projects. Thank you Rev. Tyler Walworth for being our pastoral advisor. Thank you Rev. Ron Friedrich for being a representative of Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS).

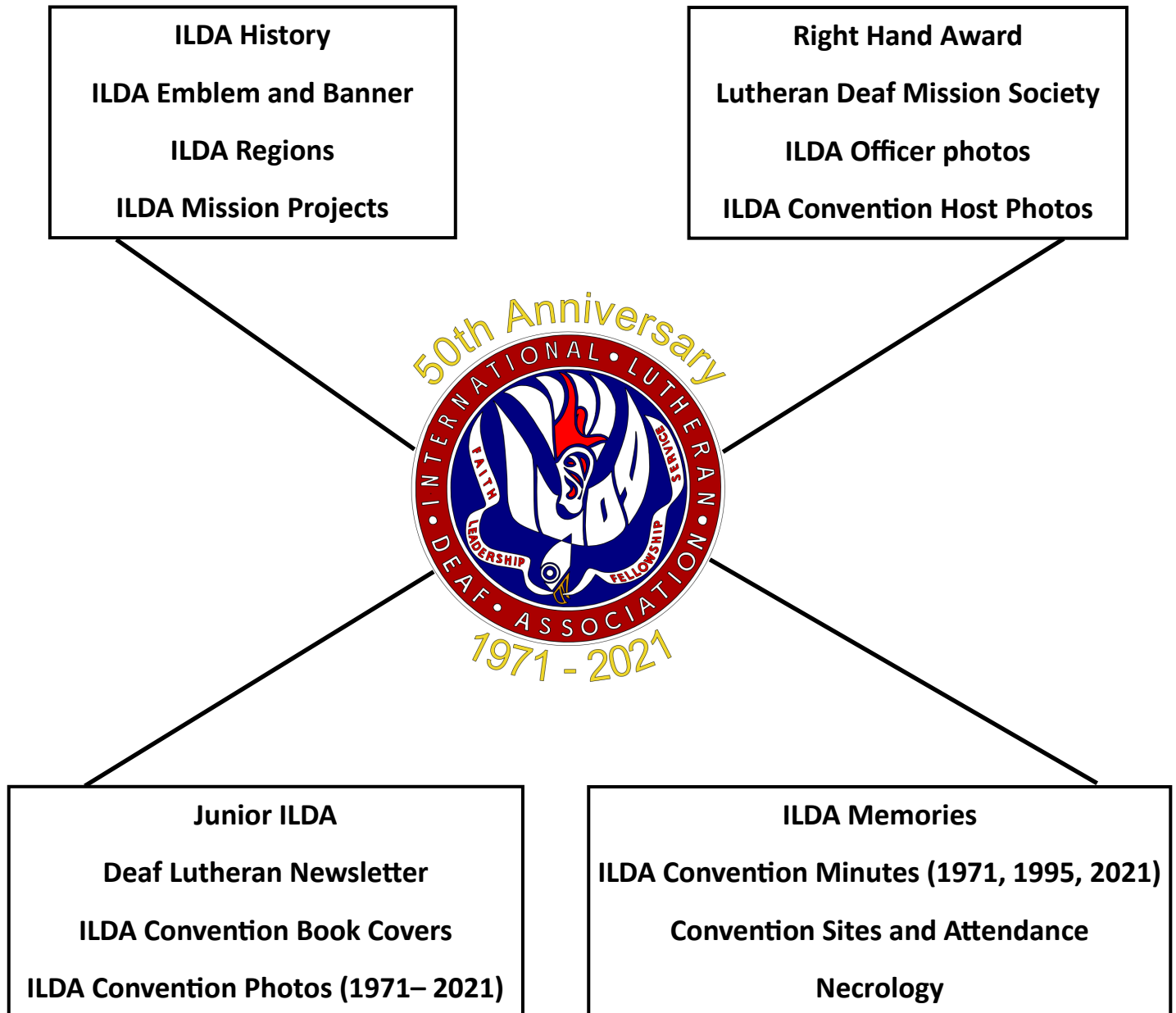
See you all in 2024 at Dearborn, Michigan, for the 27th ILDA Convention. Please consider hosting the 28th convention in 2026. Ask your congregation and make your proposed bid to the Executive Council as soon as you can. Just like Bob Lenderman said in his workshop presentation.....”DO IT!” God bless you all!

Email address: ilda.treasurer2021@gmail.com



Janet Gehlbach (right) presented to Wendy Sass at The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, the “Thank You” cards that attendees wrote to military people on behalf of the Packages 4 Patriots program (service project done during the convention).

ILDA 50th Anniversary History book Contents



Over 120 pages and so much more! Convention attendees are receiving a FREE copy. All others wanting a copy can fill out the order form (see middle insert in this issue) and mail it with your payment to Janet Gehlbach.

DEADLINE TO ORDER IS AUGUST 20, 2021

Miscellaneous photos



Executive Council Meeting



Board Meeting



K-9 Comfort Dogs presentation



Attendees



2021 Convention Banner



Host Committee: Janet Gehlbach (Chair), Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, Rev. Ron Friedrich, Rev. Mark Willig, John Mason, Carolyn Snyder-Mason, Paula Willig, Carissa Huffman, Lynda Nix and Rev. Tim Eckert

Miscellaneous Photos



John Mason presenting certificates of appreciation to Sara and David Hale and Peggy Gott (KansaSEED representative) on behalf of the 2019 Kansas ILDA convention.



Meeting Room Sign



**Registration Desk
John Mason, Carolyn Snyder-Mason and Sharon Brown**



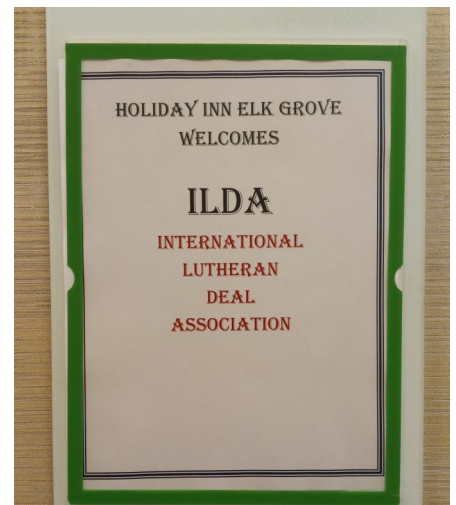
**Rev. Theodore Frederking
Cleveland, OH
"Father" of ILDA**



Exhibit



**Janet Gehlbach
Convention Chair**

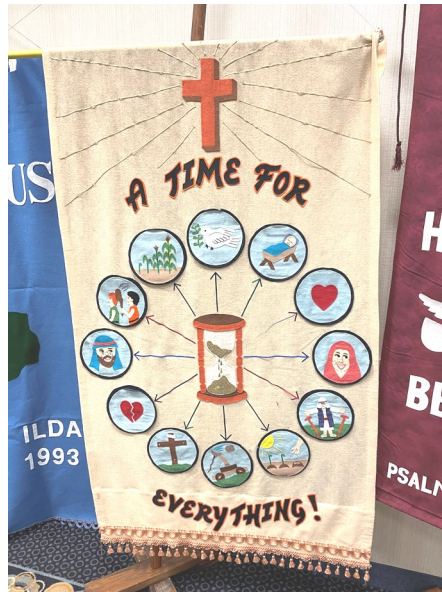


Can you spot the typo?

Past Convention Banners



1985 Milwaukee, WI



1987 Cedar Rapids, IA



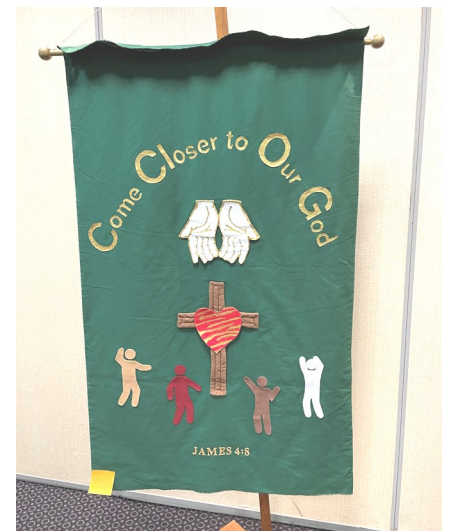
1993 Austin, TX



1997 St. Louis, MO



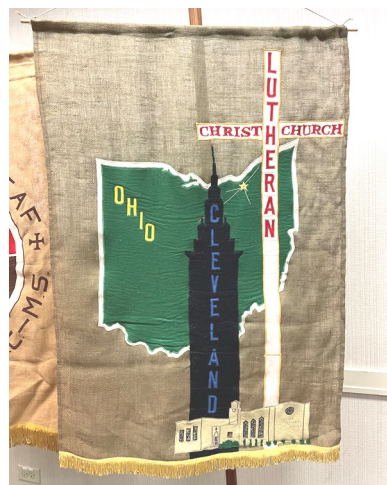
2003 Minneapolis, MN



2011 Columbus, OH



2019 Topeka, KS



Banners shown at the 1971 ILDA Convention and made by Christ Lutheran Deaf Church, Cleveland, OH



Miscellaneous Photos



Pastors and Church Workers in attendance: Front row: Rev. Ryan McDermott, Rev. Brian Wolfmueller, Becky Jungklaus, Diana Rice, Rev. Mark Seeger, Becky Catchpole, Denise Pulfer, Ted Pulfer. Second row: Rev. Matthew Nix, Rev. Dr. John Reinke, Rev. Tim Eckert, Rev. Tyler Walworth, Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, Rev. Ron Friedrich and Rev. Mark Willig

Blessing Bag Service Project—bags donated to Chicago Hope Church



**PHOTO
BOOTH
Chicago
skyline**



International Lutheran Deaf Association
 Holiday Inn Chicago-Elk Grove Village
 50th Anniversary
 July 22-25, 2021

International Lutheran Deaf Association
 Holiday Inn Chicago-Elk Grove Village
 50th Anniversary
 July 22-25, 2021

Miscellaneous photos



Interpreted Ministry Conference attendees



Current and future Deaconesses doing a zoom meeting



Brian and Cynthia Byer working on writing their favorite ILDA memory for the 50th Anniversary History Book



Convention interpreters Lynda Nix, Carissa Huffman and Paula Willig

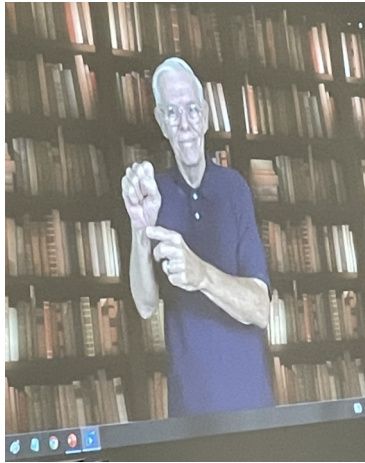


2021 ILDA Convention bags

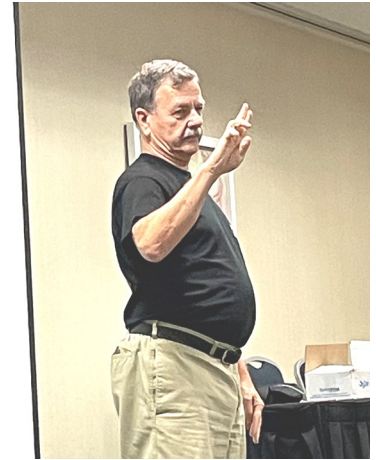
Workshops



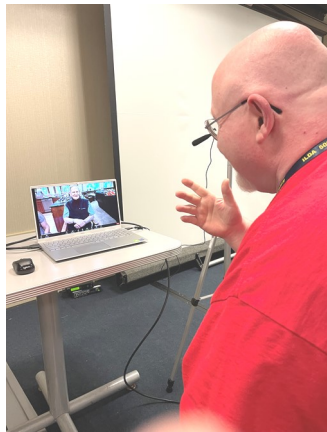
Rev. Ron Friedrich



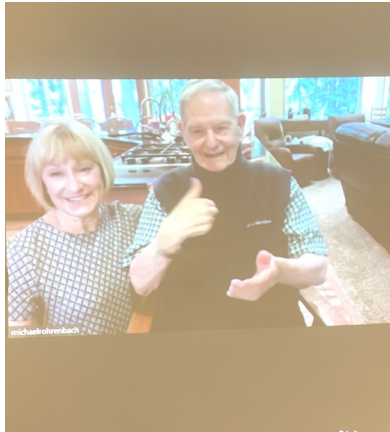
Bob Lenderman



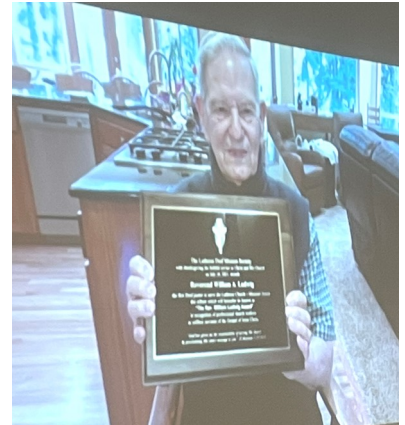
Rev. Edwin Bergstresser



John Mason chatting with Rev. Bill Ludwig

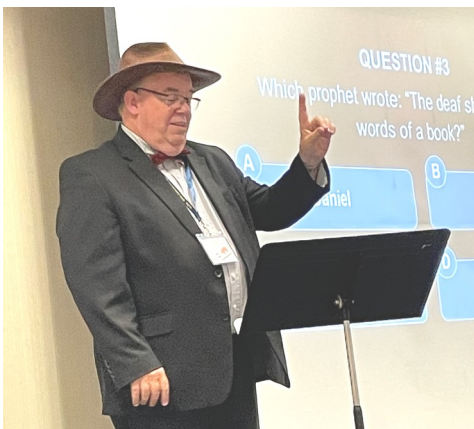


Rev. Bill Ludwig and his daughter, Mara Ludwig Rohrembach

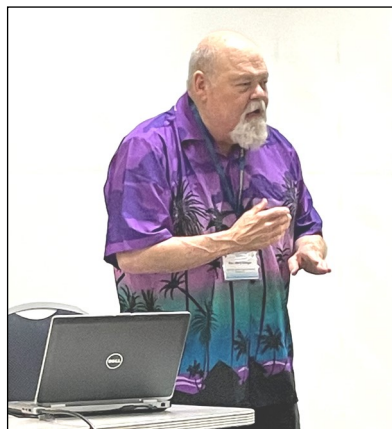


Rev. Bill Ludwig was presented an award from the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS)

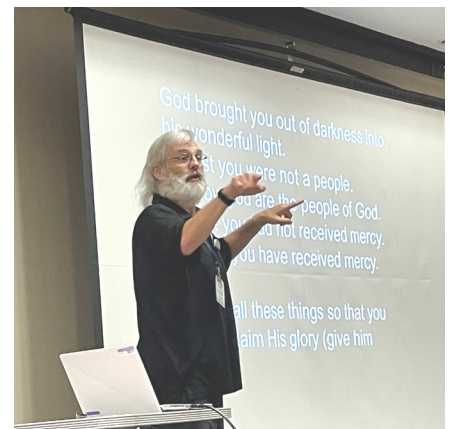
Devotions



Rev. Daryl Gehlbach



Rev. Mark Seeger



Rev. Dr. John Reinke

Banquet Table Photos



If you would like a copy of any of these banquet table pictures on Pages 12 and 13, please contact Janet Gehlbach. Each photo has a number. She will email you a copy.

Banquet Table Photos



Redeemer Lutheran Church, Olathe, KS, won the banner contest. Left to right: Chris Baker, Peggy Gott, Nola and Duane Gray

Jennifer Bonura won a free registration to the next ILDA convention. Tim Kearney is holding the coupon.

Banquet Photos



Past ILDA Officers

Front row: Jeff Padon, Rev. Mark Seeger, Carol Seeger, Karen Beiter, John Mason and Rev. Edwin Bergstresser

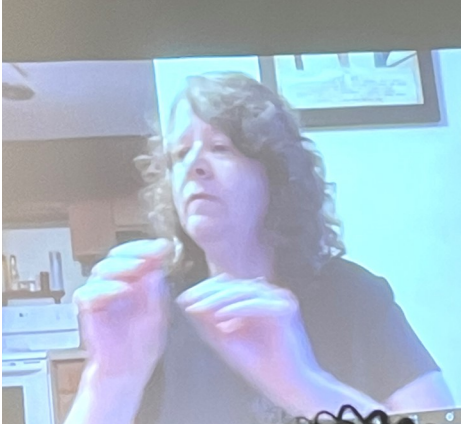
Second row: Rev. Ron Friedrich, Pam Kane, Jennifer Ceyanes, Janet Gehlbach, David G. Brown and Jennifer Bonura



ILDA Convention Chairs

Left to right: Janet Gehlbach (2021), Jennifer Ceyanes (2013), Nancy Bergstresser (2011), Karen Beiter (2009), Jeff Padon (2007), Mark Johnson (2003), Pam Kane (1999), and Howard Snyder (1991)

Right Hand Award Photos



**Left to Right: Dawn Werth announcing the winner of the Right Hand Award via ZOOM
John Mason holding the award with Howard Snyder (winner) chatting with Dawn
John Mason presenting the award to Howard Snyder**



**Howard Snyder
2021 Right Hand Award Recipient**



Dawn Werth pictured with Howard Snyder

Congratulations Howard!

Banquet Photos



David G. Brown (left) received a “President’s Prerogative Award” from ILDA President John Mason in appreciation for his service as the Deaf Lutheran Editor for ten (10) non-consecutive years. Larry Ginter, in absentia, received an award for his past service as the Deaf Lutheran Business Manager for twelve (12) years and Patrick Sell, in absentia, for his service as ILDA Treasurer for three (3) consecutive terms.



Rev. Ron Friedrich, on behalf of the Lutheran Deaf Mission Society, handed out two door prizes (t-shirt) to Wendy Hughes and Karen Sharp.



Becky Catchpole painted this as a grand prize given out at the banquet. Mary Ann Barton was the winner. Unfortunately, the photo on the left has a reflection of a ceiling light on it. The photo on the right side is actually how it looks.



Linda and Mark Johnson handed out door prizes to the banquet attendees.



Banquet gift 50th Anniversary logo and convention logo imprinted on a stemless wine glass



John Mason received Starbucks gifts from Carol Seeger. They enjoy teasing each other about their like or dislike of Starbucks!

Banquet Entertainment



Matthew "Magic" Morgan and his wife, Liliana, performed a magic show for the Saturday night banquet. Left to right: Matthew "Magic" Morgan, Janet Gehlbach holding a bird that was a part of the show and Liliana Morgan. They gave an awesome show and everyone LOVED it!



Since no photos or videos were allowed during the show, the banquet attendees had the opportunity to take photos with Matthew and Liliana after the show. The ILDA convention theme banner was moved aside to allow for photos.



This is a photo of a glass pitcher that shattered inside a plexiglass enclosure as part of the magician's act. The lady holding the glass pitcher was wearing protective gloves. It all happened so fast that she actually screamed really, really loud as it scared her so bad when it broke!

Entertainment by:
Matthew "Magic" Morgan and Liliana
 info@magicmorgan.com
 Office phone: (262) 347-3121



Photos courtesy of www.magicmorgan.com

Sunday Worship Photos



Howard Snyder (Lay Reader) and Rev. Mark Willig (Liturgist)



Becky Jungklaus (Signer) and Carissa Huffman (Voice Singer)



Brian Byer (1st Lesson) and Rev. Mark Willig



Becky Catchpole (2nd Lesson)



Ted Pulfer (Gospel Lesson)



Rev. Daryl Gehlbach (Sermon)



Rev. Mark Willig, Mark Johnson and Tim Kearney (offering)



Paula Willig (Hymn Signer)



Karen and Richard Sharp receiving communion



Lynda Nix (Hymn Signer) and Carissa Huffman (Voice Singer)



Rev. Ron Friedrich installing the new ILDA officers



2021-2024 ILDA officers

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**Carolyn Snyder-Mason
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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, 2021
Winter issue...January 15, 2022

Please send photos or news articles to: JGehlbach@aol.com or mail to:

Janet Gehlbach
305 Liberty St. NE
Fridley, MN 55432

Thank you so much!

Photography credits for the 2021 ILDA convention as shown in this Summer Issue of the Deaf Lutheran:

- David and Sharon Brown
- Rev. Daryl Gehlbach
- Janet Gehlbach
- Pam Kane
- Jeff Padon



**ILDA Banner Hand-off
Janet Gehlbach, John Mason, Carol Seeger and Brian Byer**

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

Summer Issue 2021

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

ILDA Mission Projects for 2021-2024

1. Deaf Youth Ministry of Texas	\$ 7,000
2. Lutheran Deaf Mission Society—Kenya	\$ 1,000
3. India Deaf Ministry—IELC	<u>\$ 6,000</u>
TOTAL	\$ 14,000

Please hold donations for ILDA Mission Projects until the treasurer transition can be made from past ILDA Treasurer, David G. Brown, to the present ILDA Treasurer, John Mason. More information will be printed in the Fall issue of the *Deaf Lutheran*.