



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

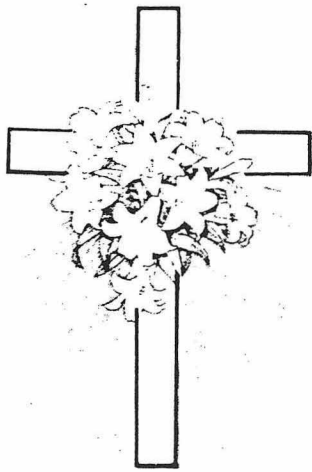
March-April, 1990

St. Louis, Mo.

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## Easter, 1990

# THE POWER OF THE CROSS



*Christ is Risen*

The crucifixion of Jesus Christ took place at a site called Golgotha, and by some as Calvary, just outside of Jerusalem. The exact

spot where it occurred is not known. Following a night of mock trials and false accusations, the Son of God was nailed to a wooden cross, which He had been forced to carry through a narrow street known as the Via Dolorosa or "Way of Sorrow" despite having been cruelly whipped and beaten and suffering

from loss of blood. Faltering under the heavy cross, our Lord was assisted by a man we know only as Simon, who helped him carry the burden to the site of the execution on a small rise outside the city.

Also crucified with Him were two common thieves, or malefactors, one on His left and one on His right. After the nails were driven in His hands and the spikes in His feet, an inscription was placed at the head of our Lord with the letters, "INRI" meaning "King of the Jews" which were actually another form of mockery. It was about 9 in the morning.

The horror and suffering imposed by crucifixion is one of the worst forms of execution ever devised by man. Few people have any concept of what crucifixion as a form of punishment really meant. It was just too terrible to imagine. This form of killing was really a slow and painful death by suffocation, brought about by the weight of the accused person's own body against his chest cavity,

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## "DEAF CHRISTIANS NOW"

By Rev. Bud Palmer  
Emmanuel Lutheran church  
West Allis, Wis.

"Deaf President now! Deaf President now!" A little more than a year ago, students from Gallaudet university in Washington, D.C. were shouting this. Why? The students and many other people in the deaf community felt it was time for a deaf person to lead Gallaudet university. For too long, deaf people have allowed hearing people to make decisions about their education and control their lives. The students were saying, "No more! Deaf people have skills and abilities to lead. Let a deaf person run this university."

A deaf man, Dr. I. King Jordan, was chosen to be president of Gallaudet university and has done quite well. This just proves that deaf people do not have to allow hearing people to do everything for them. Deaf people can do it themselves.

But what is happening in our Lutheran churches? Are we allowing hearing people to do everything for us? First of all, there is the pastor. The pastors in most deaf churches are hearing. Some Lutheran deaf churches do not even want a deaf man for their pastor. **Why?**

Secondly, there is the matter of money.

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## THE POWER OF THE CROSS

making normal breathing extremely difficult. Attempts to get enough oxygen by shifting the body's weight against the nails and spikes would bring on fiery an excruciating pain. The gashes from the flogging received on the condemned person's back would aggravate the pain much more as he tried to move on the cross. At times, the victim's legs would be broken to hasten death.

The extreme barbarity of crucifixion was acknowledged by some during the time of Christ and thus forbidden as a form of execution for Roman citizens. Although Jesus died within six hours after He was nailed to the cross, others were known to live for several days afterwards, enduring the agony and pain.

As the Lord hung dying on the cross, His mother, Mary, wept at the foot of the tree, in the company of several women. At least one disciple was also there, said to be John, whom Jesus loved. Roman soldiers gambled by casting lots for His robe, which had been removed to make the task of nailing and lifting Him up on the cross easier. Soldiers taunted Jesus with the words, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." And others mocked, saying, "He saved others; Himself He cannot save."

The amazing thing is that Jesus, despite the agony and suffering He was enduring, spoke but seven times from the cross. He did not once curse or rebuke His enemies, but rather, He prayed for them. "Forgive them, Father, for they do not know what they do." The second time He spoke, He promised the man condemned on His right that he would be with Him in paradise. The third time, He said, "Woman, behold thy son." and "Behold thy mother."

As noon drew near and the skies darkened, He spoke to His Father in heaven, saying, "My God, MY God, why has Thou forsaken me?"

His fifth words were, "I thirst" which came as He rapidly weakened from the pain caused by the tearing of the nails and loss of blood. A soldier ran to get a sop dripping with vinegar and lifted it to His lips. The intention was to not only alleviate the thirst, but the pain as well. Jesus refused it, intending instead to suffer the full punishment for our sins.

The sixth time Jesus spoke, He knew His time was near, He said, "It is finished." And in a few minutes, His final words, "Fa-

ther, into Thy hands I commend my spirit." Then He died. It was about 3 in the afternoon. He was 33 years old.

The taunts and mockings stopped. It was dark; graves opened and some of the dead came forth. The veil in the temple was ripped from top to bottom. The Roman centurion in charge of the execution said, "Truly, this was the Son of God." Instead of breaking Jesus' legs as was the custom; His side was pierced with a sword to make certain of His death.

When Pilate was informed that Jesus had already died, he was quite surprised. Permission was granted for removal of the body, which was given to the women to prepare for burial. Since the time for the Sabbath was almost upon them, it was done with haste, and placed in a tomb wherein no body had ever laid. The plan was to return early in the week to complete the preparations for burial.

The fact is, many people, including the disciples, did not understand Jesus' teachings that "He must rise from death" (John 20:9) even after He had taught them this many times. His death on Friday seemed to have a ring of finality about it; all their hopes appeared to be ended. It has been said, however, that of all the tombs in this world, one is empty. Death could not hold Jesus Christ.

Early on Easter morning, Mary Magdalene and some of the other women arrived at the tomb, only to discover the huge stone placed at the entrance



rolled away and Jesus' body gone. Mary ran back to inform the disciples; Peter and John immediately went to investigate. Peter entered the tomb and

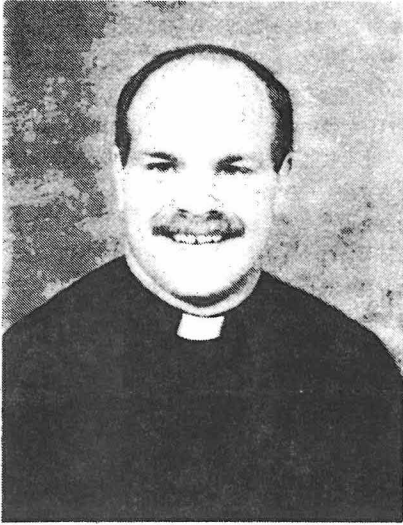
besides noting the body gone, two other important facts were in evidence:

The linen used to cover Jesus' body was lying where the body had been; if the body had been stolen as was claimed by the soldiers, the linens would be gone, too. Likewise the napkin that had covered his forehead, it was wrapped and in a place by itself. If Jesus' body had indeed been stolen, these items would all be gone also. Jesus had simply slipped out of the linens and were left there.

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## "DEAF CHRISTIAN NOW"



REV. BUD PALMER

Most of the money our Lutheran deaf churches use (1/2 to 2/3) is given to us by hearing people. **Why?** We don't even feel ashamed or embarrassed to let hearing people support us, but we feel we should get that money. When the District challenges us to ask for less money, we complain and say, "We can't do that." **Why?**

Thirdly, there is the work in the church. Who in your church tells people about Jesus, invites people to church, visits the sick and shut-in? Is the hearing pastor the only one? Who teaches the Word of God to the children and youth in your church? Often, the hearing pastor and the hearing volunteers

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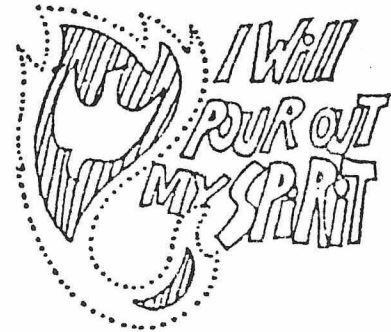
## THE POWER OF THE CROSS

Jesus lives! The evidence is overwhelming. Mary saw Jesus later, and supposing Him to be the gardener, inquired as to what had been done with the body. His gentle response of, "Mary" thrilled her to know He was yet alive; the breaking of the bread at Emmaus after a trek along the way with two believers who did not realize who their fellow traveler was; the appearance in the midst of the disciples and His encounter with Thomas "who would not believe until he saw with his own eyes."

Jesus lives! His resurrection is proof of the power of the cross "that because He lives, we shall live also."

**HAPPY EASTER!**

do most of the work. For example, in the religion classes for the children from the Wisconsin School for the Deaf at Delavan, only three of the 14 people on the teaching staff are deaf. **Why?**



It would be easy to make excuses and say, "Deaf People just can't do those things." But God's Word does not teach that. God promised to "pour out" (give) His Holy Spirit to all people--hearing people AND deaf people. (See Joel 2:28). The Holy Spirit gives power to God's people so that they can serve Him.

On Pentecost (50 days after EASTER), Jesus' followers were together. The Holy Spirit came to them and filled them with power as God promised. Peter boldly preached the Good News that day to the Jewish people. The followers went to the ends of the earth and told the story of Jesus without fear.

YOU have that same Holy Spirit, too. You are Jesus' followers. You received the Holy Spirit when you were baptized. That means you are filled with POWER--God's power. Deaf people CAN become pastors and preach God's Word successfully. Deaf people CAN happily give enough money to support their churches. Deaf people CAN teach God's Word to their children.

"Deaf President now!" Who will forget these words? These words show that deaf people can do ANYTHING, even lead a university. Deaf people do not need hearing people to do it for them. Maybe our cry in Lutheran deaf churches should be "Deaf Christians now!" Deaf people can do ANYTHING for God and His church with the Holy Spirit's help. Don't let hearing people always do it for us. Let us use the power of the Holy Spirit to serve the Lord, bring our offerings, and tell His Good News. Deaf people CAN because the Holy Spirit CAN. And God has poured out that Holy Spirit into YOU.

## NEWS OF OUR FRIENDS FROM HERE 'N THERE . . .

We were greatly saddened to learn of the unexpected and untimely passing of **Alexander Poliak** of Milwaukee, Wis. on Friday, Nov. 3, 1989. While it is very difficult for us to understand such things, we know that our kind and gracious Father does and he is forgiving. Services were held at Emmanuel Lutheran church with Rev. Bud Palmer officiating on Nov. 7.

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Talking about family trees . . . how about this one for size? **Mrs. Ann Browning** of Tacoma, Wash. was blessed with six girls and one boy; 35 grandchildren and more than 55 great grandchildren, and more on the way. Two of her great granddaughters, a beautiful twin, are deaf. Anyone out there want to challenge her with a bigger tree?

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Christmas came a day late for **Calvary Lutheran church** in Des Moines, Iowa . . . on Dec. 26, eight beautiful new full size stained glass picture windows were installed by a company from Omaha. The event was even shown on the 6:00 news at local TV station . . . the window were a memorial for two long time members, Dale E. Van Hemert and Cecil M. Schladetzky.

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**Good Shepherd Lutheran church**, Toledo, Ohio had real cause for rejoicing at their Thanksgiving service. A mortgage burning service was held, with three of the members doing the honors . . . Ken Clark, Howard Snyder and Wendell Clark.

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A special ILDA support dinner was held at **Emmanuel Lutheran church** in Milwaukee, Wis. on Feb. 17. Besides the dinner, an informational meeting was held to explain the purposes of the association and urge support.

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**Rev. Mark Anderson**, Newark, N.J. has accepted a call to the Northern Illinois District and was installed on Jan 21. Pastor Anderson and his family are expected to locate somewhere in the Chicago area.

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We have learned that **Rev. LaVern Mass** of Washington, D.C. has been promoted to the position of REGIONAL DIRECTOR of the financial consulting firm he works with. His wife, **Joan** also won a promotion with National Science Foundation where she is employed. For Joan, it means her own office, telephone line and computer. They recently flew to Min-

neapolis for the funeral of their oldest son, who passed away after an extended illness. We extend sincere sympathy to the family.

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For **Washington State motorists** . . . you would do well to remember there is a new law in effect Jan. 1 . . . you **must** be covered for liability insurance. The law says you must have at least \$25,000 insurance for injuries to another person and \$50,000 to all others and \$10,000 in property damage protection. Should you happen to be stopped for a traffic violation and are unable to produce proof that you have the insurance, you can be fined \$250.

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**Pastor and Mrs. Delbert Thies** are celebrating the arrival of their 21st grandchild. Congratulations! The couple resides in Omaha, Neb.

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Do you like to watch "**Unsolved Mysteries**" on NBC? A future airing will show a deaf girl who is from Ohio and trying to locate her father. Watch for it!

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A new arrival in the USA from Hungary is **Janos Koszorus**, who arrived recently after a long wait. He is currently at the home of Mr. and Mrs Marion J. Van Manen in Des Moines, Iowa, until he can find a job and a place to live. Janos has a good friend still in some indeterminate location, either Austria or Hungary awaiting papers to come here, too. Janos is very happy to be in America and is learning American Sign Language and English.

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The 1990 meeting of the **Eastern Region** of the ILDA (ERILDA) will be held on the dates of June 15, 16 and 17. Site of the meeting will be New York City.

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**Eddie Plicque Jr.**, a long time member of Ephphatha Lutheran church, Chicago, was one of 10 winners to receive a free round trip from Southwest Airlines to travel to their native cities over the holidays. Eddie choose New Orleans, La. as his destination. Congratulations!

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When you forgive, you in no way change the past--but you sure do change the future!!

## MILL NECK TO TERMINATE FUNDING OF THE JOHN OF BEVERLEY CHAIR IN 1993

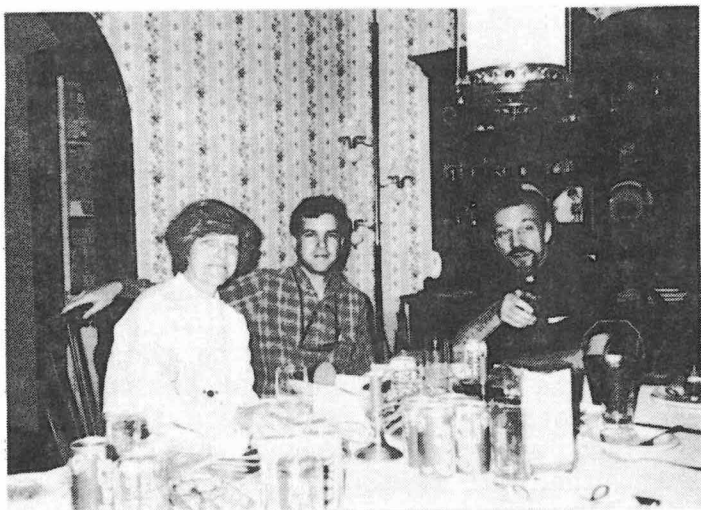
Since 1979 Daniel H. Pokorny has been on the faculty of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, as the John of Beverley Professor of Deaf Ministry. Over the years he has helped deaf students to become pastors (Bergstresser, Anderson) and deaf pastors to get further education (Case). He has also taught hundreds of people the American Sign Language.

Seminary students and people from the St. Louis area are welcome in the ASL classes of the seminary sign "school." Recently, seminary students were given an additional informal opportunity to improve their sign

language ability. The "Ordo Corporum Silentium sed Amantium-OCSSA" (The Order of Silent but Loving Bodies) met for lunch once a week at Pokorny's home. For 20 minutes of the lunch hour there was only silence at the table and all had to sign. Students quickly learned to communicate "pass the bread" and other practical concepts. It was either learn or starve!

The students had a good time and learned a lot. It is hoped from time to time the OCSSA will meet again and there will be more students eager to learn ASL and bring the Gospel to people who are deaf.

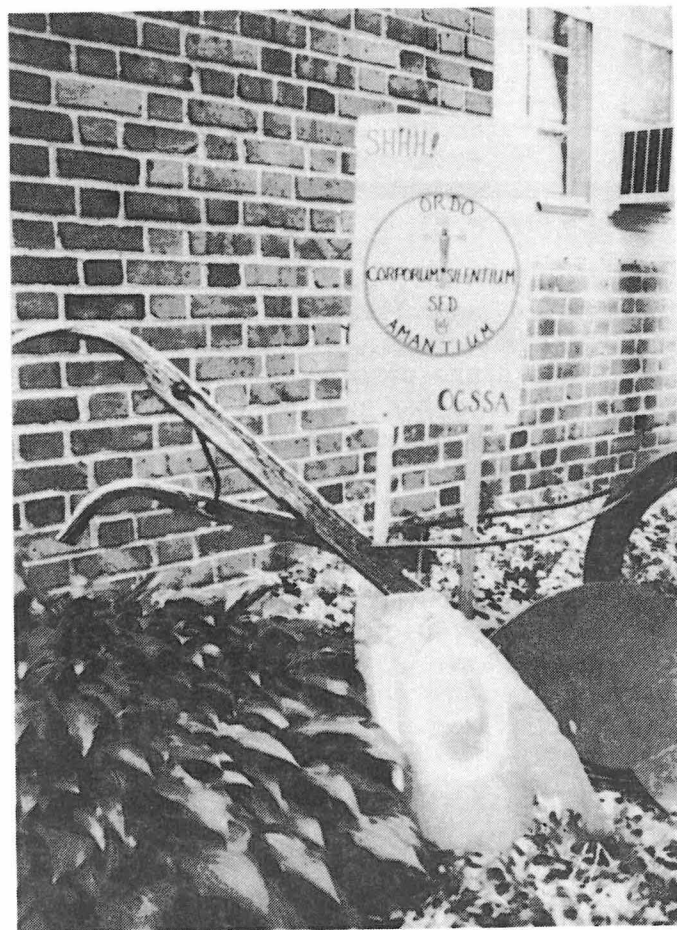
Funding for the John of Beverley Chair of Deaf Ministry has been provided over the years by the Mill Neck Foundation. The Foundation recently informed the seminary it intends to discontinue support of the chair by 1993.



REV. DAN POKORNY and his wife, Pat, entertain Vicar David Boyd (center) now of Columbus, Ohio when he was at seminary.



I LOVE YOU—Five seminary students gather at the Dan Pokorny home in St. Louis (left to right): Edward Clemens, Edward Bierman, Daniel Ramsey, John Reinke (now pastor at Omaha) and Lester Wolfgram.



A SPECIAL SIGN—Announces an OCSSA meeting at the Pokorny home in St. Louis. That looks like an antique walking plow in front of the house from a bygone era, but we doubt if the pastor uses it.

## THE RIGHTS OF A HITCH-HIKER

By Rev. George C. Ring (Ret.)  
3215 Cedar Ct.,  
Des Moines, Iowa 50320

Remember the days when the thumb was used to catch a ride and travel from city to city, state to state, and even nation to nation? It was a happy moment for a hitch-hiker when a driver stopped to give him a ride. Now suppose when a driver didn't want a hitch-hiker riding with him any more that he had the right to kill him and push him out the door. You and I will readily agree that such action would be deplorable. We would judge that driver guilty of murder. The life of a hitch-hiker is and should be protected even when he is riding in someone else's car.

A baby in a womb is a little hitch-hiker. In most cases, someone has stopped to permit him to come aboard. No one will criticize a woman who has made that choice. It is her body and it is her choice. But we are now being told that when the little hitch-hiker is no longer wanted that the driver should have another choice--to keep him as a passenger or to kill him and push him out the door. What a choice! Poor little hitch-hikers!

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### HARRY C. SEARLES DIES

Harry C. Searles, 65, of Colorado Springs, Colo. passed away Tuesday, Dec. 19 following an extended illness. His death followed by just 10 weeks the passing of his wife, Irene, on Oct. 9. Both had not been well for some-time and were not able to participate in their many church and organizational functions for which they were well known.

A native of Kansas, Mr. Searles was a devout member of Bethel Lutheran church of Denver, and was an inspiration to his many friends in both Colorado and Kansas. The couple could always be found at ILDA conventions and church conferences of which they were loyal members.

Services were conducted on Friday, Dec. 22 with Rev. Ray Leimkuehler Barnes, Kan. officiating.

Harry Searles and his wife, Irene, will be sorely missed at future meetings of the ILDA and its Midwest Conference where their friendly, smiling faces and wholehearted support were always to be counted on.

We extend sincere sympathy to the family.

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The millions of little hitch-hikers in wombs throughout the world and especially in America need our prayers and the right to life. We need to make our voice loud and clear that we want to protect the life of every little hitch-hiker unless he is a threat to the mother's life. There are those who say that abortion does not destroy life. They say that it is only a glob of tissue that is aborted. Every living person is proof that they are wrong. All of us were hitch-hikers at one time. If we had been aborted, we would not be here today. Our lives were respected when we were in the womb. No one killed us and pushed us out the door. As you thank God for your life, will you also pray and work to preserve the lives of others?

### A PASTOR SPEAKS UP

Dear Editor:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus who came, is here, and will come as our glorious King!

As you know, we had our voters' meeting last week and a new president was nominated, who accepted without opposition after the outgoing incumbent declined to run. No one wanted the positions of vice president nor the secretary. A few who have the ability declined and the positions were left open until the next meeting which, I hope, will be in January.

The spirit of volunteerism, of services in word and deed, seems to be on the decline here. That is sad. All the encouragement, preaching and teaching has not produced results. It seems the spirit of timidity, fear, and I dare say, selfishness are the rule of the day.

I have often wondered what has happened to the spirit of boldness that the Apostle Paul advocated and lived. It seems that safety, security and non-involvement have become life-styles of the Christian, a far cry of the times and places which brought religious courage in the face of persecution.

I do not want to continue in this vein. Let us pray for the people, for the Holy Spirit to awaken their faith to a life full of excitement, boldness and daring faith that is shared with all in word and deed.

My love and greetings to all.

Yours in Christ our King,  
(NAME WITHHELD)

## **ECCLESIASTES 3: THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING, WELL, ALMOST . . .**

A recent story out of Milwaukee went like this:

A pastor was calling on his parishioners. He stopped at one home and rang the bell. He waited. No one answered. However, he could hear someone walking inside the house. He rang the bell again. Still no response.

Before he left, he took out one of his business cards and wrote a message on the back:

"Revelation 3:20 'Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with Me.' "

Then he forgot all about the card until the following Sunday.

### **Liturgy Translation Project Committee Meets in St. Louis Jan. 20-21**

A meeting of the five member committee of the Liturgy Translation Project met at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis over the weekend of Jan 20-21. The objective was to attempt to coordinate in American sign Language all of the liturgy in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod currently used by deaf ministry.

To date, two taped translations have been produced with signs made by Reverends Donald Leber of Columbus, Ohio and Jerold Munz of Indianapolis, Ind. The committee will evaluate these with suggestions for changes and or improvements.

Serving on the committee are Rev. Donald Zuhn, Minneapolis, Minn., project director; Rev. William Ludwig, Seattle, Wash., Rev. David Mueller, Jackson, Miss., Ms. Jo Ann Vieluff, Collinsville, Ill., and Lester Ahls, Cedar Falls, Iowa, editor of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN**.

## **HOLDEN VILLAGE**

Some of our friends who attended the 1989 'Deaf Week' at Holden Village on beautiful Lake Chelan in the north Cascade mountains of Washington State may wish information for this year's event.

The 1990 dates are July 21-28. Interested persons are encouraged to write for information from the Registrar, Holden Village, Chelan, Wash. 98816. Be sure to mention 'Deaf Week.'

As the people were leaving the church, a young woman greeted him and gave him a slip of paper. Busy talking to everyone, he slipped it into his pocket. Later at home, he read the message. It was very brief. It just said, "Genesis 3:10."

Puzzled, the pastor went to his study to check the passage:

"I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

## **LOSS OF HEARING BRINGS READER CLOSER TO GOD**

By Lorena Borgstedt  
1010 S.W. 134th #29  
Seattle, Wash. 98146

Now I, m truly hearing God's Word! My hearing had been bad and seemed to slowly becoming worse. Although over 70 years of age, I decided to study sign language. At my age, study and memory was hard, but I have found it has been a wonderfully worthwhile effort. It has been so rewarding . . . more than I could ever have imagined.

In order to be with deaf people, I started to attend Our Redeemer Lutheran church (Seattle). The minister, Pastor William Ludwig, is such a dynamic personality and with his help and that of Kathy Macks interpreting, I continued to attend.

At the hearing church, I used to study the stained glass windows and admire my neighbor's dress and to look and see who was missing . . . I guess my attention wandered. In a deaf church, I must watch the signs. I must not day dream or I've missed an entire phrase.

Now I realize I am truly hearing God's Word. I must pay attention. Every sign or word has a new and wonderful meaning to me. What a beautiful language I've learned and what wonderful friends I've made!

## **Luther Speaks . . .**

Whoever seeks Christ must first find the church. Now, the church is not wood and stone but the group of people who believe in Christ. Whoever seeks the church should join himself to them and observe what they teach, pray and believe. For they certainly have Christ among them.

# ALL ABOUT TIPPING, PAYING GRATUITIES, ET CETERA . . .

A church member invited one of his non-Christian friends to lunch one day. The two friends went to a nice restaurant where the food was good and the service even better.

After they enjoyed the fine food and service, they got up to leave. The friend noticed that the church member left a generous tip, well over the customary 15% usually left for good service. As they walked toward the door, the friend asked the church member, "You must have really liked the service because you left almost 20% for the waiter. I'm curious, what percent are you supposed to give to your church?"

"Well," replied the church member, "The Bible says to give 10% toward the work of the church, but I really give just whatever I can. It's unrealistic to think that a person in my situation could give 10% of his income to the church."

The friend said nothing in reply, but thought to himself, "My friend always talks a big line about how much he loves God, but it seems as though he thinks the waiter 'served' him better than his Lord."

--Copied/Crossroads  
Columbus, Ohio

## The Old Rugged Cross

On a hill far away,  
Stood an Old Rugged Cross,  
The emblem of suffering and shame;  
And I love that old cross  
Where the dearest and best  
For a world of lost sinners was slain.  
(Chorus)

In the old rugged cross,  
Stained with blood so divine  
A wondrous beauty I see;  
For 'twas on that old cross,  
Jesus suffered and died,  
To pardon and sanctify me. (Chorus)

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,  
Till my trophies at last I lay down;  
I will cling to the old rugged cross  
And exchange it some day for a crown.

To the old rugged cross  
I will ever be true,  
It's shame and reproach gladly bear;  
Then He'll call me some day,  
To my home far away,  
Where His glory forever I'll share. (Chorus)

Oh, that old rugged cross,  
So despised by the world,  
Has a wondrous attraction for me;  
For the dear Lamb of God  
Left His glory above  
To bear it to dark calvary.  
(Chorus)

"Never measure the height of a mountain until you have climbed to its top. Only then will you know how low it is."

--Gag Hammarskjold

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