



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

September-October, 1990

St. Louis, Mo.

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A MAN FOR OUR TIMES

It pleased the Lord to call to Himself the soul of our brother, the Rev. Daniel H. Pokorny, 53, professor of the John of Beverley Chair of Deaf Ministry at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, on Wednesday morning, May



REV. DR. DANIEL H. POKORNY
1937-1990

30. Pastor Pokorny had been in failing health for a number of weeks, had relinquished some of his duties at the Seminary, serving only as a guest lecturer the first quarter. His death was attributed to carcinoma.

Less than two weeks earlier, Rev. Pokorny felt well enough to request a pass to fly to Fort Wayne to receive an honorary doctor of divinity degree at Concordia Theological Seminary and return to his hospital bed the same day.

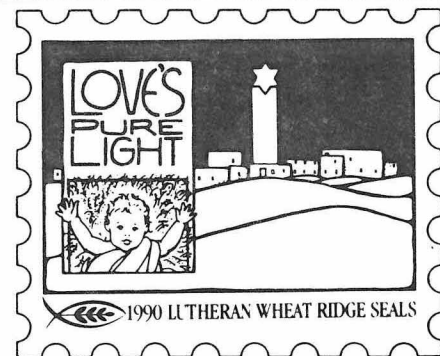
Ordained Aug. 30, 1961 at St. Jacobus Lutheran church, Winfield, N.Y., his nearly 29-year career in the ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod focused largely on service to the deaf beginning with his first pastorate at Peace Lutheran church, Indianapolis, where he served six years from 1961 to 1967. He was the chaplain at Gallaudet

university, Washington, D.C., for 12 years, 1967 until 1979, when he accepted the professorship of the John of Beverley Chair of Deaf Ministry, a position he still held at the time of his death. Besides being an associate professor at the St. Louis Seminary, he was also chairman of the department of practical theology from 1983-1985 and director of continuing education and parish services since 1985. He was interim pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran church, St. Louis for three years.

Dr. Pokorny was much in demand as a speaker at conventions of the International Lutheran Deaf Association and its regions, often conducting workshops which were always well attended. In addition to his many other duties, he found time to instruct his students and others from the community in basic and advanced sign language courses, which were very popular.

Rev. Pokorny was the author of numerous publications as well as contributing articles to **MY DEVOTIONS** and **THE CONCORDIA JOURNAL**. He also presented two major papers at a

Please see **A MAN FOR OUR TIMES**: Page 2



"Love's Pure Light - Let It Shine" is the theme of the 1990 Wheat Ridge Christmas Seals Campaign. Also available from Wheat Ridge are specific "Let It Shine" mission projects for adoption by Sunday schools or other church groups.

CONFIRMATION IS NOT GRADUATION

By Vicar Kevin Kohnke
Alpha Lutheran Church
Rochester, N.Y.

"Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life." Revelation 2:10

Each year a few young people from our churches are confirmed and declare before God and all in attendance that they will continue in the covenant God made with them in Holy Baptism. They will promise to continue to be the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ. God has promised to give them forgiveness of sins, life and salvation because they believe in their Saviour, Jesus Christ.

They will publicly declare:

1. To live among God's faithful people
2. To hear His Word and come often to the Lord's Supper
3. To proclaim the Good News of Christ through word and action
4. To serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus.

After confirmation, these young people will become communicant members of their churches. Does having been confirmed mean they will

never have to be seen in church again? **WRONG!**

Confirmation is not graduation. Upon finishing confirmation classes, none of us have graduated from church. We are to continue to grow in our knowledge of God. We are to continue to hear and learn His word. We are to come often to the sacrament of Holy Communion. Have you treated your confirmation as a day of graduation when you finally are able to sleep late on Sundays and ignore God's third commandment?

After confirmation we are to continue to be active in our churches, doing good works and sharing the Good News of the death and resurrection of Jesus. We need to come to church and hear again and again the hope that is ours in Christ. We need to hear how Jesus is with us in our daily lives. We need His strength to live through daily troubles and hurts. We need to hear, "Son, daughter, your sins are forgiven." We need to be reminded that Jesus loves us even if all the world seems to be against us. Jesus can give us the courage to overcome our sins and to live every day in joy. He gives us the joy of eternal life.

Don't forget your confirmation. It was or will be a day when you publicly declare your faith in Jesus Christ. Don't forget Jesus, don't leave Him just because you are confirmed. If He is not in your life today, it is not because He has left you, but you have moved away from Him. God doesn't need your change of address card, He knows where you are, but do you know where He is? He is waiting for you to come and repent and to receive His forgiveness and He is waiting to give you life. Christ is waiting for you, come! He can give you hope that you will not find in the world!

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

A MAN FOR OUR TIMES

Training Seminar on Pastoral Care of Deaf Persons in England in September, 1986 and another at the First Asian Conference on Deafness held in Hong Kong in December, 1986.

The recipient of numerous honors from organizations serving the deaf and also from the Ephphatha Conference and from Gallaudet university, he was also listed in Who's Who in religion.

He was united in marriage to Patricia Louise Florine on April 25, 1964 and to their union was born two boys, Philip D., David A., and a daughter, Elizabeth Ann. The couple also adopted a son, James D.

Despite having felt somewhat better a few days previously, Pastor Pokorny's condition rapidly worsened Tuesday evening, May 29 and he passed away the following morning at 10 at the age of 53 years, one month and 12 days. Services were held at the Old Trinity church, 1803 8th St., St. Louis at 7 p.m. June 2 with interment in New York City.

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant."
--Matthew 25:21



PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE HOSTED BY FREMONT JUNE 22-24

The 1990 biennial conference of the Pacific Region of the ILDA convened at Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf at Fremont, Calif. with over 50 participants registering for the three-day conclave and 80 attending worship on Sunday.

Special guests in attendance included the

president of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Rev. Orval Oswald, who brought greetings to the convention and President-elect Ronald L. Madding of the ILDA, who spoke to the group.

The business sessions included an update on changes to the PRILDA constitution and by-laws led by Charles Kotal. Tours for sight-seers to the California School for the Deaf, the Mission San Jose and Weibel winery.

New officers for the coming two years are: Clarence Schulz, president, Palo Alto, Calif.; president-elect, Marion Kuntze; secretary, Lee Ann Kotal, Westminster, Calif., and treasurer, Norman Davis of Valley Lutheran church, Sacramento, Calif.

The 1992 meeting will take place in Sacramento and be hosted by Valley Lutheran church, or if they are unable to, then by Pilgrim, Los Angeles.

HAROLD O. THUVE DIES

Former ILDA board member Harold O. Thuve, 63, of Gardena, Calif., passed away rather unexpectedly on Friday, June 15 of a heart condition. Although Mr. Thuve was known to have the condition, his passing so unexpectedly saddened his many friends, both in the Los Angeles area and throughout the ILDA, where he and his wife, Joanna are well known.

A native of North Dakota, he worked most of his life in the aircraft industry. He and his wife were devoted members of Pilgrim Lutheran church, where he held various offices over the years. He was treasurer at the time of his death and also served on the board of the Pilgrim Senior Citizen Housing Development Corporation for many years.

He was president of the Pacific Regional Conference of the ILDA, since its inception, for three terms.

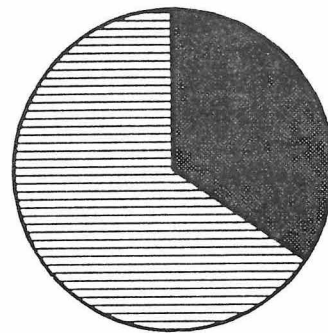
He was united in marriage to Joanne Mae Smith on May 20, 1950 and the union was blessed with two sons, Mark and Matthew.

Services were held at Pilgrim Lutheran church, Los Angeles on June 19 with former Pastors Arnold T. Jonas and August Hauptmann assisting the present Pastor Robert Case as officiants.

Burial was in Rose Hill Memorial Park cemetery, Whittier, Calif.

1989 - 1991 ILDA Mission Projects

Funds raised as of March 1, 1990



\$14,500.00 Total

5,067.71 Has been donated.

\$9,432.29 More to go

YES!! I want to help bring God's Word to many other people through the ILDA Mission Projects. Enclosed is my offering of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Mr. Russel Healey, Treasurer, ILDA Mission Projects, 2500 W. Belmont No. 111, Chicago, Illinois 60618. May God bless both the gift and the giver. All contributions are tax deductible.



1981 ILDA CONVENTION CHAIRMAN—Harold Thuve is shown as he presented a citation to the former Karen Dammeyer (now Mrs. Darwin Blank) during the convention in Los Angeles.

'SWINGING WITH THE REGIONS . . .

Friday, May 25 saw deaf ministry honored at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. . . . a portrait of the late **Dr. George Kraus** was presented to the Seminary in his memory. Dr. Kraus passed away a year ago of cancer. A scholarship fund in his name has been established to assist students studying to become pastors to the deaf.

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Henry and Anna Walls, long time residents of Pittsburgh and members of Trinity Lutheran church there have decided to move to Virginia to be near Henry's father, who is past 90 and in need of care. A plaque was presented to the couple by the congregation in appreciation of their many years of devoted service.

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Dr. Louis Jasper, missionary to the deaf in Hong Kong, was given an honorary doctorate for his many years of work with the deaf. Dr. Jasper has helped establish several schools for the deaf in Hong Kong and Macau. Their present plans are to remain with the deaf children even after Hong Kong reverts to the Chinese Communists now scheduled to take place in seven more years, July, 1997.

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In a project to donate Wednesday Lent services collections to the **John Hoopmann family** of Fort Wayne, Ind. who is studying to become the first deaf pastor in his home country, Australia, Holy Cross members at Delavan, Wis. brought in \$678.72. Some members had a chance to meet him at the recent CRC conference at Mequon, Wis. Members of Silent Lutheran church, Madison, Wis. gave another \$342.56 to the family.

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Congratulations are in order for **Ms. Charlotte Walsvik**, daughter of ILDA members Arnold and Alice Walsvik, Madison, Wis. on the occasion of her graduation from Christ for the Nations Institute, Dallas, Texas on Mothers' Day. Charlotte received a practical theology diploma and will go to South Africa for a month to help minister to various churches and tribal groups. The Walsviks attended the graduation along with their other daughter, Nancy, from Memphis, Tenn.

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The 1989 Right Hand Award recipient at the convention in Portland, **Mr. Arthur E. Anderson and his wife, Ella**, of Spokane, Wash. observed their 50th wedding anniversary on Sunday, June 17 at a reception in the social

room at Faith Lutheran church, where they have been members for many years. Art and Ella were married June 15, 1940.

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Rev. Donald Leber was the speaker at the 30th anniversary celebration of Pilgrim Lutheran church, Los Angeles, on May 13.

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'**Lutheran Special Education Ministries**' the new name given to the former Lutheran School for the Deaf at Detroit was visited recently by a team of evaluators and endorsed for accreditation by the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's board for parish services. The recommendation for accreditation will now be reviewed by the National Commission for Accreditation, with a final decision expected regarding the school's status expected sometime this summer.

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Calvary Lutheran church, Des Moines, is very pleased that its new security alarm system is working so well! In fact, it works so well that when two individuals forgot to turn it off correctly had the police arrive very quickly. A second false alarm, IF it happens will cost \$25; a third, \$50 and if it should ever happen a fourth time, then it will be \$75!!

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Retired Pastor George C. Ring and his wife, Doris, recently became grandparents again (!) when daughter, Debbie and her husband David presented them with a new granddaughter, Linda Marie. They now have 18 . . . nine grandsons and nine granddaughters. Will it last long?

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The **Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod** has adopted an unrestricted operating budget for fiscal 1990-1991 of \$31,983,000 which is \$100,000 less than the current year. Also approved was \$19,524,559 in restricted operating funds, which is \$773,000 more than the current year's restricted budget for an operating budget total of \$51,507,559.

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An **interesting letter** was received recently by the editor from a newly formed organization in Poland. It's object appears to be consolidating young Lutherans into various cultural events and in the near future, a second Olympics for Protestant youths.

EASTERN REGION MEETS IN NEW YORK CITY JUNE 15-17

Under a theme, "Let There Be Light," the 1990 ER-ILDA conference met on Long Island for three days of business sessions, workshops and tours and Bible study.

Alice Hagemeyer of Silver Springs, Md. was the presenter for one workshop entitled, "Lutheran Deaf Way" using the idea from the 1989 "Deaf Way" that was held at Gallaudet university in 1989. Just as there are many different cultures in people throughout the world, by the same token, deaf Lutherans should be proud of our unique heritage which has endured for close to the century.

James Cheese of St. Mark's Lutheran church

in New York was chosen as president-elect, to succeed Dennis Konkel of College Park, Md. beginning in 1992-1994.

Two buses were provided by the Mill Neck Foundation to take visitors to two different sites, one to the Mill Neck School for the Deaf and the other to Teddy Roosevelt's Long Island home.

Former Pastor Rev. Daniel Hodgson of Tucson, Ariz. was the speaker at the banquet. Pastor Hodgson served St. Mark and St. Matthew a number of years ago.

Rev. LaVern Mass of Washington, D.C. was the preacher at the Sunday morning service.

MIDWEST ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Meeting June 22-24 in the north Minneapolis suburb of Roseville, the Midwest Region convened at the Holiday Inn with 64 registered and 109 present for church services on Sunday.

Marion Van Manen of Des Moines and Lester Ahls were the presenters at two workshops based on the theme, "Joined Hand in Hand." Some keen competition developed between the various churches when a "Bible Bowl" was begun, based on an idea used in a television program. Questions would be asked by the mediator (Rev. Don Zuhn) based on the Bible and the first team to reply correctly would

be awarded points. Each contestant had access to a switch to turn on a light if he knew the correct answer. Through the process of elimination, Minneapolis won.

Mime artist Michael Hennessy entertained the crowd for about an hour with his show.

New officers elected to serve for the next two years are: Bill Zimmerman, president, Monticello, Iowa; Mark Johnson, vice president, Minneapolis; Don Kissel, secretary, Des Moines, Iowa, and Ronald Nester, treasurer, Hiawatha, Kan.

The 1991 meeting will be in Des Moines.

CENTRAL REGIONAL CONFERENCE DONATES \$2,000 TO MISSION PROJECTS

The Central Regional Conference of the International Lutheran Deaf Association (ILDA) comprising members from eastern Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana convened for their biennial meeting at Concordia university, Mequon, Wis. on June 1-3 under a heading of "Made Alive" as this year's conference theme.

With over 100 participants present for the three-day event on the spacious grounds of the university along the shores of Lake Michigan, the successful conference proved that

the CRC is, indeed, alive, and wishes to remain alive to Christ.

Important decisions made at this meeting among others were: to donate \$1,000 to ILDA mission projects; to donate a second like amount to Lutheran Friends of the Deaf in memory of Pastor Dan Pokorny. A retreat in 1991 to be hosted by Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Jacksonville, Ill. was also passed.

Officers elected to serve for the next two years are: President, Archie Marshall, St. Louis; vice president, James Swalley, Fort Wayne, Ind.; secretary, Kay Kahl, Oak Creek, Wis., and treasurer, Irwin Bowlby, Peoria, Ill. Serving as financial secretary will be Albert Moore, Jacksonville, Ill. and as pastoral adviser, Rev. Steven Schlund, Delavan, Wis.

The 1992 conference will be held in Rockford, Ill.

NOTICE

All nominations for office in ILDA are to be in hands of editor by Jan. 15, 1991 for publication in THE DEAF LUTHERAN prior to 1991 convention in Toledo.

YOU DO NOT OWN YOUR BODY

By Meta Luetzow
13454 Second Ave. S.W.
Seattle, Wash. 98146

He staggered up the steps of the Skid Row Mission. His clothes were torn and soiled. His long black hair looked as if it had not been combed for days. His eyes had a strange, glassy far away look. The unbuttoned shirt revealed open sores on the man's chest, which he admitted came from lice.

He asked where the de-lousing room was. "I've been on drugs," he confessed "I don't know how long I was spaced out. I need help." He was taken to the basement clean up room and given medical attention and clean clothes.

This young man is one of thousands of people who ruin their bodies and minds because of alcohol and drug addiction and other sinful pleasures which lead to mental breakdowns, kidney and venereal disease and the latest, AIDS. Much suffering and grief not only for the victims but also their families has ruined many a life.

You may think your body is yours to do as you please. You may believe you are smart when you say, "I can do what I want with my life, it's my body. If I want to drink or smoke pot, that is my business. No one can tell me what to do." But wait! The Bible, God's Word, makes it very clear who owns your body. The Apostle Paul told the Corinthian Christians, who were also letting sinful pleasures ruin their life, "Do you not know

that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, within you, which you have from God? You are not your own, you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body." I Corinthians 6:19-20

It can't be said any better than that. Whether you believe in Jesus or not, Jesus paid a high price to free you from sin, death and the devil. He died on a cross and rose again for the sins of the world, yes, even the sins of the 20th century.

When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, your body becomes the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit. You belong to Jesus Christ, who created you and gives you the power to overcome the temptations of the world.



THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM--Tandanori Ishikama kneels before Pastor Robert Cunningham to receive baptism Sunday, June 3 at Matsuyama Lutheran church, Matsuyama, Japan. Tandanori is deaf.



NEW CONFIRMANDS--Confirmed at Emmanuel Lutheran church, Milwaukee, on May 20 were (left to right) Denise Davy, Barbara Hersil and Betty Still. That is their pastor, Bud Palmer standing at the rear.



AFTER THE SERVICE--Standing outside Matsuyama Lutheran church (left to right) Carol Oettel, Bob Oettel, Tandanori Ishikawa, Miss Aya Yamasaki and Rev. Robert Cunningham. Tandanori had just confessed his faith and been baptized.

WHAT IS THE I.L.D.A.?

The International Lutheran Deaf Association was founded in Chicago during the first biennial convention in 1971. The purpose, according to the revised constitution, is "to coordinate and strengthen the religious activities and services in our congregation to help promote their growth to the highest possible level in service to their Lord and Savior; to promote the Christian faith and life of Lutheran Deaf people, all deaf individuals, and others with whom we associate; and to carry on our ministry throughout the world."

The I.L.D.A. shall communicate and convey to the deaf members the programs, plans, and goals of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It shall support lay-leadership among deaf Lutherans in all areas of faith and life.

In 1975 the members voted ratification of the revised constitution. The historic document will help develop the I.L.D.A. image and facilitate the operation and administration of the association. The members also supported the goal of recruiting as many lay people as possible and getting them actively involved in the I.L.D.A. affairs.

In 1987 the aim of I.L.D.A. is to carry out the objectives of serving the Lord in His church and to obtain the financial support that would lead to self-sufficiency. It is hoped that many programs and projects for the ministry and mission of the I.L.D.A. will become a reality.

Membership in the I.L.D.A. is open to all deaf, and is divided into three categories: ACTIVE, ASSOCIATE, and SUSTAINING.

The I.L.D.A. relies on its official publication, THE DEAF LUTHERAN, to convey information of its activities and services to deaf Lutherans.

God's 1000 Club

God's 1,000 Club was established by the I.L.D.A. Board of Directors and it aims to continue to grow.

The name "God's 1,000 Club" was chosen because first of all the work of I.L.D.A. is to get the Good News of God's Son to the deaf everywhere. 1,000 represented the number of donors or club members we hope to enlist.

People who become members in God's 1,000 Club are asked to contribute \$10.00 each year thereafter. This is not a part of the regular I.L.D.A. dues and it does not pay for a subscription to THE DEAF LUTHERAN. Any donations given to God's 1,000 Club can only be used to help pay the expenses of I.L.D.A. board meetings.

CUT OUT AND MAIL TO:

Russell Healey
 ILDA Treasurer
 2500 W. Belmont #111
 Chicago, IL 60618

YES!

I want to continue as a member of the International Lutheran Deaf Association.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Enclosed is my check or money order of \$5.00 per person.

----- * * * -----

YES!

I want to continue my support GOD'S 1000 CLUB!

Enclosed please find my check or money order of \$10.00 per person for this year 1990!

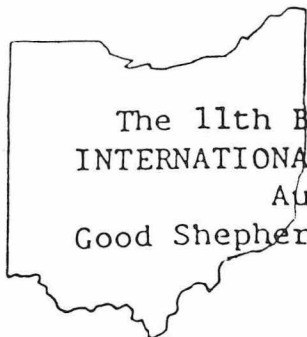
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

ILDA Renewal Membership Dues March/April 1990 - 1991



The 11th Biennial Convention of the
 INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION
 August 1, 2, 3, 4, 1991
 Good Shepherd of the Deaf Lutheran Church
 Toledo, Ohio



EXCUSES! EXCUSES!

It can't be done.
 We tried that before.
 It costs too much.
 That's beyond our responsibility.
 We don't have time.
 Too radical a change.
 Let nature take it's course.
 We're not ready for it.

Let's appoint a committee to look into it.
 We'd be a laughingstock.
 It isn't in the budget.
 It'll make equipment obsolete.
 We're too small for it.
 That's not our problem.
 Why change--it's working OK.
 We're never done that before.
 Anyone else try it?
 Won't work in our business.
 We're doing the best we can.
 Doesn't apply to us.
 We're doing OK without it.
 If it was good we'd already be doing it.
 Now that we know what the excuses are, we don't need to use them!

CIVIL SERVICE TEST IN BRAILLE PLANNED FOR THE BLIND IN JAPAN

Beginning in 1992, blind applicants for Civil Service positions in Japan will be able to compete for the jobs as well as other non-handicapped individuals, if a new Braille test can be developed.

At the present time, deaf and persons who have lost the use of their legs may take the test, but not the blind.

The matter came to a head this year when a blind applicant asked to be allowed to take the test and nothing in Braille was available.

ILDA MISSION PROJECTS UPDATE

The 1989 convention at Portland approved a \$14,500 package of mission projects for the 1989-1991 biennium which ends Aug. 1, 1991 at the next convention in Toledo, Ohio.

As of March 1, 1990, a total of \$5,067.71 of the goal has been met, with additional contributions received by Treasurer Russel Healey not tabulated in the above figure. Churches and individuals wishing to support this endeavor are urged to mail their gifts to the treasurer at 2500 W. Belmont, No. 111, Chicago, Ill. 60618.

PEACE . . .

In a few more weeks, it will be Christmas again, and many of the cards we will be mailing will contain words of 'PEACE'. Yet, people question why there is so little peace in this world of ours.

The trouble is, the definition of the word 'Peace' as used by the world is not the same definition intended by God.

The only **true peace** there is peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We will never find that peace in this world until we know Christ.

SOMETHING TO PONDER: If you do not enjoy what you have, how could you be happier with more?

The DEAF LUTHERAN

September-October, 1990

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