



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

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MY NEW FAITH

By Judith K. Bierman

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About a year ago, I was converted to the Lutheran faith. Having been a devout Baptist for many years, I never thought I could come to love and appreciate the beliefs and teachings of Dr. Luther. How wrong I was, and how happy I am!



The depth and meaning I have found in the Lutheran church has literally brought me to tears on many occasions. Let me explain, in part. In the Baptist church, communion is nothing more than a simple reminder of Christ's death.

There is no power, or forgiveness of sins. No living Christ coming to each person at the table. Before becoming a Lutheran, I generally avoided church if Communion was to be served, as all it meant was an exceptionally long service. I was more than able to remember Christ's death without joining the church in this infrequent remembrance. Now that I understand what this Sacrament is actually all about, I am both excited and deeply touched by God's love when

I am privileged to share in it.

Then there is the Office of Keys. This is sadly nonexistent in the Baptist faith. Truly, we can all come straight to the throne of grace and find forgiveness from our Lord and Saviour. But God knows that people such as I have difficulty always accepting that forgiveness. We so often need to audibly hear and see the face of the one who would grant us absolution. It greatly helps us "feel" forgiven, and thereby helps us to forgive ourselves. Knowing God's forgiveness has been a key ingredient to the peace that passes all understanding. Had it not been for the Lutheran faith and the Office of Keys and Confession, I would have missed out on knowing God's forgiveness so completely.

In addition to the deeper faith I enjoy as a Lutheran, I am also blessed by the higher degree of reverence which is shown for God. As a Baptist, God was chiefly portrayed to me as a very powerful, loving friend. While I knew He was divine, His divinity became swallowed up in the informal, casual services of the church. I still know God to be my ever present Friend and Helper, but His Holiness and my need to respect and revere Him has been filled in the Lutheran church.

I am forever grateful to have found the

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ON CALLING A NEW PASTOR

As we enter the New Year of 1991, we note that there are approximately eight (8) vacancies in our mission fields, some of which have been without a shepherd for some time. We have also noted that more often than not, the congregation seeking a new minister would prefer extending a call to someone with "experience" with the result often being a long delay in finding a new pastor.

Since we must depend on the Holy Spirit

to fill all of our pastoral needs, demanding an "experienced" man may not always be in our best interests. Calling a candidate who is a recent or upcoming seminary graduate can provide our vacant fields with well trained, willing and able pastors who will not only meet our needs, but often exceed them. It is not a very good idea to restrict the work of the Holy Spirit because we feel

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WAYS SOUGHT TO IMPROVE TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR THE DEAF IN IOWA

Iowa, like all other states in the U.S.A. must find ways to improve telephone accessibility for deaf and hearing impaired people to comply with a new law to take effect in July, 1993. By that date the new law mandates that hearing disabled people have equal access to phone service as that enjoyed by non-disabled people.

Presently, deaf people using TDD's (telephone devices for the deaf) have two methods available to them when using a TDD: (1) Both parties have similar equipment which permits transmission of typewritten messages over the phone lines, or (2) relaying his message through an operator who contacts his party by voice and responds back in the same manner, and (3) hearing callers must also call an operator to reach a deaf TDD user, and receive responses through the same third party. The disadvantage is that this service is not available around the clock, in small towns and in rural communities, which as a

result, isolates many deaf people from truly accessible telephone service. In some cases, only a long distance call to a relay operator will permit deaf TDD users to reach the party they wish to call.

Former Midwest Regional President and Board Member Donald L. Kissell of Des Moines, Iowa, who serves on a panel with representatives of the telephone industry in Iowa was featured in an article in the Des Moines Register on Nov. 21. Don is shown with two models he uses, one at home (in background) and a portable model for use away from home.

ILDA MISSION PROJECTS UPDATE

With the 1991 ILDA convention only about seven months away, Treasurer Russel Healey, in a letter mailed to the Board has informed us that as of Sept. 28, 1990, a total of \$10,801.20 has been realized towards the goal of \$14,500.00 set at the Portland convention. The amount included a generous donation of \$1,000.00 from one couple in Omaha, Neb.

With only \$3,698.80 or less still to go, we have an excellent chance of reaching or even surpassing our goal set two years ago.

THE DEAF LUTHERAN also received an unrestricted donation of \$150.00 from the Men's Breakfast Club of Christ Lutheran church, Washington, D.C., which is gratefully acknowledged with thanks.

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MY NEW FAITH

love and guidance so willingly given in my local group of believers, and I thank God for the deeper, purer love I have developed for my Lord as a result. May the Lutheran church and each believer in it be blessed.



DECODER CHIP ACT IS NOW LAW

On Aug. 2, 1990, the U.S. Senate passed bill S.1974, the TV Decoder Circuitry Act and on Oct. 1, 1990, a similar bill, (HR4267) was passed by the House. It was signed into law by President Bush on Tuesday, Oct. 16. What this new does is require all new and imported television sets 13" or larger to

1987 CONVENTION HOTEL LISTED IN BANKRUPTCY ACTION

Many ILDA members who attended the 1987 convention at Stouffer's Five Seasons Hotel in Cedar Rapids, Iowa will be surprised to learn the hotel was sold at a sheriff's sale to the Aetna Life Insurance Co. on Sept. 29 when the owners defaulted on payments.

have a built in closed caption circuitry that will permit viewers to obtain captions at the flick of a switch or push of a button.

Millions of people will be given access to programming, whether they are at home or traveling with the passage of this new law, which takes effect after July 1993.

It appears that all the present day TV decoders in use will eventually become obsolete as decoder chip circuitry becomes common place in the years ahead.

THIS IS A JOKE, ISN'T IT?

Yes, God created man before woman, it is true, but it is also true that you create a rough draft first before going on to the final masterpiece!

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

ON CALLING A NEW PASTOR

we need "experience." Helping pastors who are newcomers to the art of using manual communication in the ministry is something we can all do, too.

We are told of one congregation which was having a difficult time calling a new minister. The chairman of the search committee was getting quite discouraged and losing patience with the way things were moving along. One Sunday he stood before his congregation and asked, "Will you have this man for your pastor?" and proceeded to read a letter of application, which went like this:

"Understanding that your church pulpit is vacant, I should like to apply for the position. I have many qualifications. I've been a preacher with much success and also some

success as a writer. Some say I'm a good organizer. I've been a leader in most places I've been. I'm over 50 years of age. I have never preached in one place for more than three years. In some places I have left town after my work caused riots and disturbances. I must admit I have been in jail three or four times, but not because of any real wrongdoing.

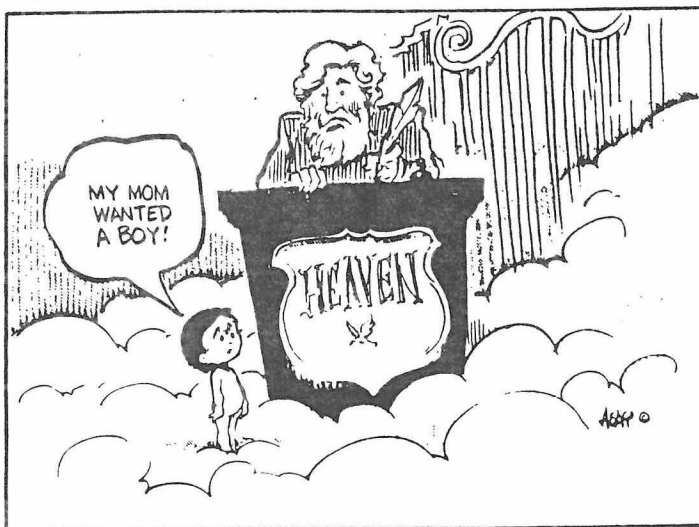
My health is not too good, though I still get a great deal done. The churches I have preached in have been small, though located in several large cities. I've not gotten along well with religious leaders in towns where I have preached. In fact, some have threatened me and even attacked me physically. I am not too good at keeping records.

I have been known to forget whom I have baptized. However, if you can use me, I shall do my best for you."

The board member looked over the congregation and said, "Well, what do you think? Shall we call him?"

The good church folks were aghast. Call an unhealthy, trouble-making, absent-minded ex-jailbird? Was the board member crazy? Who signed the application? Who had such colossal nerve? The chairman eyed them all keenly before he answered.

"It's signed, 'The Apostle Paul.'" The moral here, if there is one, is that our pastors may not be perfect, but we sure need them!



NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS . . .

The two vacancies in the Texas field have been filled with the acceptance of a call to Holy-Three-In-One Lutheran church in Houston by **Rev. Donald W. Zuhn** of Minneapolis, who will be moving to Texas early in the New Year. The vacancy in Austin at Jesus Lutheran church, created by the resignation of Rev. Mike King to accept a call to a hearing church in Kansas City, will be filled by Rev. Mark Seeger of Rochester, N.Y.

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Memorial Lutheran church, Fremont, Calif. is making plans to observe its 50th anniversary this spring, now tentatively set for May 4-5. Readers with historical information about the early beginnings of the work in the Bay area are urged to send in such data to Rev. Roy Dahmann.

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Memorial has forwarded a check in the amount of \$352,080 to the California-Nevada and Hawaii District of the LCMS to be used for the purchase of land to establish a church in either Santa Rosa or Sacramento. The money came from the sale of church property in Fremont which was bought for new housing development. Upon approval of the building company's plans by the city of Fremont, a final \$100,000 plus interest will be released to Memorial.

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Mr. David Boyd, a fourth year student at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis was the recipient of a \$200.00 scholarship from Cross of Christ Lutheran church in Edmonton, Alta. Mr. Boyd is preparing for a ministry in work with the deaf.

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A 1983 Ford van has been purchased by the van committee of the Chapel for the Deaf in Charlotte, N.C. for bringing folks to church on Sundays. A gift of \$2,500 and some hard work has transformed the vehicle into something to be proud of! The money came from the Carolinas District of the LWML.

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An induction service to install **Ms. Mary Sue Tanner** as Teacher/Communicator of Chapel for the Deaf Lutheran church in Charlotte, N.C. was held on Sept. 16 with Rev. Frank Wagenknecht conducting the installation.

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It is always a sad decision to be forced to decide whether or not services are to be continued in one of our preaching stations. At this particular location, and average at-

tendance of three or none at all has been the rule for more than a year which are held on the 5th Sunday of the month, which occurs four times a year. The last two Sundays when the month had five, services were canceled due to parties. Obviously, this cannot continue and a decision has to be made whether we want to hear God's Word or if earthly concerns comes first in our lives. Let us stand up and be counted for Jesus--always!

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A memorial service for the late **Dr. Dan Pokorny** was held in the chapel at Gallaudet University Monday, Nov. 12. Pastor Pokorny was chaplain at the university during his tenure at Christ Lutheran church there.

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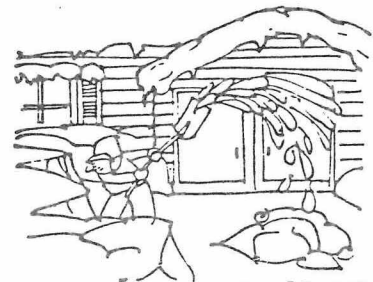
Robert Oettel, who served Betlehem Lutheran church in Omaha as pastor two years ago before accepting a teaching position in Japan, has returned there for another two years after a visit back in the states during the late summer. Bob and Carol welcome letters from their many friends.

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We will want to keep in our prayers the family of **Rev. Wayne Schwanke** of Madison, Wis. who has been on disability leave from his duties since July 1. Pastor Schwanke suffers from irregular heart rhythm, with doctors seemingly unable to pinpoint the exact cause of the problem. Other pastors and lay people have eased Pastor Schwanke's work load through sharing the duties. It is hoped he may return soon.

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Robert J. L. Zimmer, president of the Wheat Ridge Foundation of Chicago the past 16 years, has announced his resignation to accept a call to a parish in Sarasota, Fla. The Foundation he headed conducts the annual Christmas Seals drive.



IT ISN'T BEING BUSY
THAT COUNTS-IT'S
WHAT YOU GET DONE.

THE URIEL C. JONES MEMORIAL "RIGHTHAND AWARD"

"See, I will not forget you . . . I have carved you on the palm of my hands." Isaiah 49:15. . . . "Don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." Matthew 6:3. Our actions are done voluntarily, not for praise or honor, but in service to others....

URIEL C. JONES was a wonderful example of a Christian volunteer. He willingly gave time, skills and gifts to promote God's kingdom among the deaf. Mr. Jones was an educator at the Tennessee School for the Deaf and was also a former editor of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN**. In 1974, the Boy's Vocational Building at the Tennessee School for the Deaf was named in his honor.

For this year, 1991, Mr. Larry Gorton,

President of the Northwest Region and chairman of the award committee is requesting nominations from the regions' congregations be sent to him for decision at the Toledo convention.

Previous winners are:

James M. Lowell, Tacoma, Wash. 1977

Mrs. Judy Miller, Portland, Ore., 1979

Mrs. Florence Petersen, Omaha, Neb., 1981

Mr. Donald S. Mowl, Washington, Pa. 1983

Mr. Robert Schneider, Greenfield, Wis., 1985

Mr. Elmer D. Francisco, Spokane, Wash. 1987

Mr. Arthur Anderson, Spokane, Wash. 1989

Mr. Gorton's address is S3807 Latawah, Spokane, Wash. 99203.

See page 6 for "RIGHT HAND AWARD" NOMINATION FORM

DO GOOD PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN?

Yes, they would certainly go to heaven . . . **IF there were any good people!** But the Scriptures plainly declare that there is not so much as **one** good person on the face of the earth (Ecclesiastes 7:20 and Romans 3:12) Moreover, the very things that human beings call "righteousness" . . . morality, religion, philanthropy, pleasing personality . . . those are the things God calls "filthy rags" (Isaiah 64:6) because His holiness so far surpasses our righteousness.

No doubt, you have said, "I believe that if I do the best I can and treat everyone fairly, I will go to heaven." Let us examine these claims to virtue. Be honest . . . do you really do the best you can? And now, complete and utter honesty, did you ever in all your life, even once, do the best you could? And did you ever treat anyone fairly? Then by your very own standard of what God would pass as befitting a person bound for heaven you have ruled yourself out and to hell!

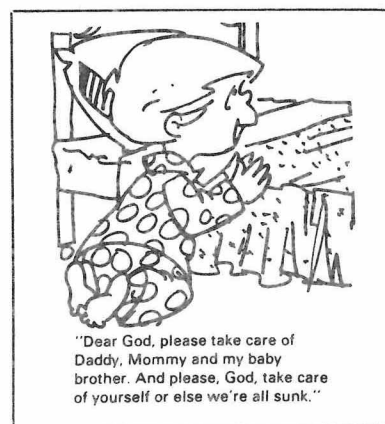
Heaven is for bad people--people so bad they saw themselves condemned before God and fled to Christ, the Saviour. They trusted Him, and were delivered from God's judgment . . . but the good people, the ones who were so righteous in their own estimation that they did not need a Saviour are condemned to the blackness of hell forever.

God will not trade you eternal life for a tarnished bunch of shabby morality no matter how good you may regard it to be. He offers as an unconditional gift to you . . . without any return at all . . . eternal life

simply confessing your sin, and receiving His dear Son into your heart as Lord and Saviour. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Don't try to earn everlasting life . . . don't try to prepare yourself for heaven. You would do a very bad job. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works" (Ephesians 2:8-9). Just turn yourself over to the Saviour, let Him prepare you, and let Him give you His free gift of everlasting life.

Believe . . . receive . . . rejoice. How simple it is! God planned it this way! "These are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing ye might have life through His name" (John 20:31).



"Dear God, please take care of Daddy, Mommy and my baby brother. And please, God, take care of yourself or else we're all sunk."

"RIGHT HAND AWARD" NOMINATION FORM

Name

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Congregation

CONGREGATION OFFICES:

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

REGIONAL OFFICES, COMMITTEES OR BOARDS:

OTHER CHRISTIAN SERVICE:

I.L.D.A. CONVENTION

BABYSITTING SERVICES!!

ARE YOU WONDERING:

What am I going to do with my kids during the ILDA convention?

Worry no more! ILDA convention Babysitting Services are here to serve you! Here is the deal:

Open When?	Thursday,	August 1	from 5 PM to 10 PM
	Friday,	August 2	from 8 AM to 10 PM
	Saturday,	August 3	from 8 AM to end of banquet
	Sunday,	August 4	-free children's worship time

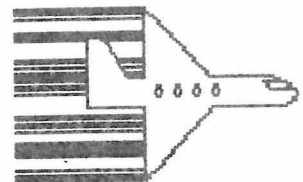
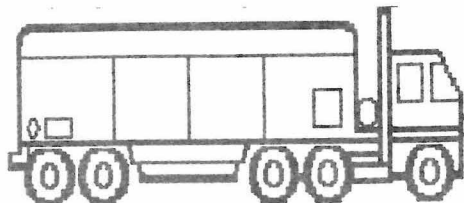
PLACE? IN THE HOLIDAY INN, near the meeting rooms

COST? Only 50 cents an hour per child. That's only \$17.00 per child for the full weekend!

* You pay for your child's lunch and supper (McDonalds etc.)

ACTIVITIES?

movies
 toys
 games
 snacks
 crafts
 swimming
 possible trips to park or other outings.



SUPERVISED BY?

Lutheran high school students with adult present at all times.

The 11th Biennial Convention of the
INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION

hosted by
 Good Shepherd of the Deaf Lutheran Church
 Toledo, Ohio

August 1-4, 1991

	Reg.	Price		
For Youth (age 13-21)				
Registration.....	5.00	x	_____ person(s)	= _____
Friday Brunch.....	12.50	x	_____ person(s)	= _____
Trip to Putt/Pond--Fri. pm	22.00	x	_____ person(s)	= _____
Sat. Banquet/Entertainment.	18.00	x	_____ person(s)	= _____
Sunday Breakfast (full)....	7.50	x	_____ person(s)	= _____
Total.....	65.00			= _____

Name of your sponsor: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____, State _____, Zip _____

Enclosed a check, money order or cashier check for \$ _____

NO personal checks will be accepted after July 1. Payable to:
 1991 ILDA Convention and mail to Lois Snyder, 10439 Mandell Rd.,
 Perrysburg, Ohio 43551. Phone 419-874-4527. Thank You!

ILDA YOUTH, PLEASE NOTE

Because of the age restriction by Holiday Inn for renting their rooms, please contact adults coming from your area and make some agreements to stay with them in their rooms. This will save you some money and also save the people you stay with some money.

<p>The DEAF LUTHERAN</p>	<p>January-February, 1991</p> <p>OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD OF MISSION, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD, PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY CHRISTIAN ARMORY OF COLUMBUS, OHIO. 3RD CLASS POSTAGE PD. COLUMBUS, OHIO. SUBSCRIPTION FEE: INDIVIDUAL .. \$5.00 PER YEAR. CHURCH BLANKET PLAN .. \$4.50 EACH MEMBER PER YEAR.</p> <p>PLEASE SEND ALL SUBSCRIPTION FEES AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELMER FRANCISCO, BUSINESS MANAGER, 10004 EAST MISSION, SPOKANE, WASH. 99206.</p> <p>PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, STORIES AND PICTURES TO LESTER AHL, EDITOR, 1004 CHERRYWOOD DR., CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613.</p>	<p>NON-PROFIT U.S. POSTAGE PAID PERMIT 1444 COLUMBUS, OHIO</p>
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