



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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WAR AND PEACE

(With excerpts from a message by Rev. Roy L. Dahmann, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Fremont, Calif.)

Who would have thought that since the last issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN, we would find ourselves a nation at war only a short time later? Yet, that is precisely what happened Wednesday evening, Jan. 16, when the news came over the television broadcasts that hostilities had started in the Middle East. After several months of attempts by the members



of the United Nations to urge Iraq to withdraw from occupied Kuwait and being rebuffed at every turn, that diplomacy would once again give way to war.

For years, the "Cold War" was a fact of life for many countries; the search for an elusive peace brought about by arming with the latest advances in modern warfare technology at a cost of billions of dollars. What a relief it was when at last a thaw became apparent and people could once again relax as the weapons of war were withdrawn and dismantled.

But, alas, it is not to be. And this starts us to thinking about something that Jesus said as we find them written in John 14:27,

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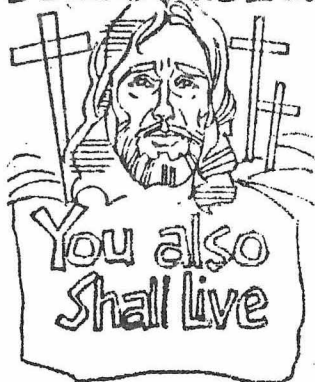
Easter, 1991 . . .

"THE CURE FOR DEATH"

Rev. Steven R. Schlund
Holy Cross Lutheran Church
Delavan, Wis.

"Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection. I am life. The person that believes in Me will have life again after he dies. And the person that lives and believes in Me will never really die.'" (John 11:25-26, English Version for the Deaf)

Because He Lives



Our world today fears death. People don't know what will happen after death. So, people try to stop death, postpone death, and avoid death. People want to live forever. People will try many different ways to beat death.

There was a retired psychologist who was dying of cancer, but he wanted his body preserved by freezing so that it could be revived again if possible. This is called "cryogenic." This man left \$4,200 to buy a steel tube for his body and liquid nitrogen to keep his body frozen at 200 degrees below zero. The man's body will be kept frozen in this tube in liquid nitrogen. The man hopes that someone will find a cure for cancer. Then scientists can "thaw out" his body, cure the cancer, and let him live healthy again.

This is a lot of work and a lot of money. Will it work? Probably not. We cannot stop death. Every person reading this story will die. YOU WILL DIE! Why? Death is our punishment for not obeying God. The Bible says, "When people sin, they earn what sin pays -- death." We have sinned. We will die.

But you can beat death and live--live forever. You don't have to pay \$4,200 for a

Please see "THE CURE FOR DEATH": Page 3

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WAR AND PEACE

"Peace I leave with you; **MY** peace I give to you. I do not give peace to you as the world gives peace. Do not let your heart be troubled or afraid."

From these words of Jesus, it is plain to understand that the peace He gives us is not the peace sought by the world or even the peace that the world understands. I feel sorry for those people who think we can ever have total peace among nations here on earth. "When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not become alarmed. For these things **must happen** first, but the end will not come right away. **Nation will fight against nation and kingdom against kingdom.** There will be great earthquakes and famines and plaques in various places, terrible sights and great miraculous signs coming from heaven." (Luke 21:9-11). Then Jesus will come to judge the world and bring HIS people home! Yes, the world cannot give us real peace: peace that continues always. As Jesus' followers, we should understand this.

On the night before He suffered and died on the cross, Jesus said to His followers, "**I told you this** (you will scatter and leave Me alone) **so you will have peace in Me.** In the world you have trouble. But have courage; I have conquered the world." (John 16:33) Jesus showed His victory over the world by rising from the dead on Easter Sunday. Do you remember what Jesus' first words were to His disciples on Easter Sunday night and again next Sunday? That's right: "Peace be with you!" (John 20:19, 21, 26) Jesus fills His followers with true spiritual peace. A peace that **ONLY JESUS** can give.

Let us take a look at this peace Jesus wants to give to His followers. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, also said, "Do not think that I came to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to turn a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter in law against her mother in law. A person's enemies will be those in his own home. (Matthew 10:34-36; compare Micah 7:6) whoa!! Wait a minute! Does Jesus give peace or not? **Yes,** Jesus gives peace with God--spiritual peace.

But, that peace naturally causes "no peace" (war) with the world! For example, nations that support the military action against Iraq have peace with the United States. But, those

who support Iraq are enemies of the United States. We are all born as enemies of God because of sin and have no peace with Him. Through Jesus we become His friends and have peace with Him. If you follow Jesus, then you will be at war (spiritually) against everything that is evil and sinful in you and in other people.

Yes, Jesus starts war (spiritually) by bringing you peace with God! This makes you an enemy of the Devil, the sinful world around you, and the old evil person ("Old Adam") inside you. Your warfare here on earth is short; but your peace with God begins now and continues forever!

Remember, you are not alone. All Jesus' followers are fighting with you. That is why Jesus brings His people together in His church. Soldiers don't fight alone: they are joined together in armies. "Stand up for Jesus, you soldiers of the cross ... the strife will not be long: this day the noise of battle, the next, the victor's song." (LH, #451) Jesus' church on earth is called "The Church Militant" (at war) and His church in heaven is called "The Church Triumphant" (victorious). Through toil, and tribulation and tumult of her war she (the church) waits the consummation (beginning) of peace forevermore." (Lutheran Worship, #289).

Although war is part of the world we live in, the Bible also tells us in Psalms 46:9 that "He maketh wars to cease" and therefore our prayers to God that He may allow that to happen should be offered up to Him, according to His will.

Friend in Christ, there will never be peace in the world around us. In fact, if we follow Christ Jesus we can expect spiritual war also with those in our own families sometimes! But, Jesus wants to give us true spiritual peace with God that begins now and continues forever. Members of our church, please remember Paul's words: "Also let the peace of Christ, to which you were called as one body (church), rule in your hearts--and continue to be thankful!" (Col 3:15).

"May the God of peace be with you all."
Romans 15:33.

DOCTOR'S FAITH STRENGTHENED BECAUSE OF CHILDREN'S VISIONS

The first time Dr. Diane M. Komp sat at the bedside of a dying child, she was there from duty and certainly not from any sense of "anticipated joy." But the 7-year-old, afflicted with leukemia, taught her differently.

Before the little girl died, the pediatrician said she "found the energy to sit up and say, 'The angels--they're so beautiful! Mommy, can you see them? Do you hear their singing? I've never heard such beautiful singing.'"

Komp, a professor of pediatrics at Yale University School of Medicine, has sat at the bedsides of many dying children. She said that she has seen so many of her young pa-

tients die in peace after having had visions that she no longer is the skeptic whose religious convictions were derailed in medical school. "The impartation of peace is one of the things that was convincing to me" in reaffirming her Christian faith, she said. She has found among the children reliable witnesses to Jesus' admonition "to look to the children to find the secrets of the kingdom of God."

Her favorite story is of a dying boy at Yale-New Haven Hospital whose parents had given strict orders not to have death or religious faith discussed. "There were two women who were volunteers for a hospice type of activity to support the family, but they had been forbidden to touch on any of these topics which were off limits from the family's point of view.

"And that child, who had leukemia, had a dream.... A school bus pulled up to his house and in his dream Jesus was on the school bus and invited the child onto the bus. Jesus told him of his coming death and in the telling gave him great peace, which is one of the common threads in all of these stories.

--L.A. Times News

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

"THE CURE FOR DEATH"

steel tube and liquid nitrogen. You don't have to freeze your body. You can beat death because Someone beat death FOR you. That "Someone" is the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Jesus died on a cross on Good Friday many years ago and was buried in a cave, or tomb. If the story ended there, it would not be an important story for us. A Jewish teacher dying 2,000 years ago means nothing to us.

However, the story about Jesus does not end on Good Friday. Three days later, on Easter Sunday morning, Jesus rose from the grave and became alive again. Jesus lives and never dies! That is an exciting story: a man was dead and becomes alive again!

But what does it mean for us? Jesus made a promise to His followers, "The person that believes in Me will have life again after he dies. And the person that lives in me will never really die." Jesus beat death Himself! And Jesus promises that His followers will also beat death and live forever. Our bodies will become old, weak and die, but we will never really die. If we trust in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, we will continue to live with Jesus forever in heaven.

Christians all over the world will celebrate Easter because of this happy news: we have the cure for death through Jesus Christ. We have no reason to fear getting older. We have no reason for being afraid of death. WE WILL LIVE AGAIN! WE WILL LIVE FOREVER!

REPORT CARD

Dad to son: "It makes my heart glad to see such a fine report card from your school. Here is a nice new shiny dime for you."

Son: "Don't you have any dirty, old wrinkled dollar bills instead?"

HAS YOUR SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRED?

Because we are a religious organization, one of the hardest things to do is cut a subscription for a reader who has not renewed. Our Business Manager is a very lenient man, who often keeps sending the paper long after a renewal notice has been sent to someone who has not been heard from. Financial constraints will not permit this practice to be done indefinitely, so if you are one of these readers, won't you send in your renewal today?

Thank you and God bless.

'SWINGING AROUND THE R

Mrs. Mae Madding, wife of ILDA president-elect, Ronald L. Madding, of Portland, Ore. entered the hospital Friday, Jan. 18 for major spinal surgery. Mae, who has endured a host of problems involving her back, causing walking to be quite painful and subject to falls, had an epidural stimulator inserted during a 4½-hour operation. A trial device was tried for four weeks prior to surgery and was determined to be quite helpful. Our prayers are with you, Mae, for a full and complete recovery....

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The Liturgy Project Editors and Review Committee will be meeting in St. Louis Jan. 31-Feb.3. Videos have been sent to all members of the panel, who will use the three-day meeting to offer criticism and suggestions for a final updated version of the Liturgy for use in all churches of the deaf in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

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Spending several days in the hospital during the holidays was **ILDA Treasurer Russel Healey** of Chicago, who underwent major surgery. Russ is reported to be feeling much better after a six-week period of recuperation and is back to work at the Silent Cooperative, where he is maintenance supervisor, a large housing complex for seniors and the disabled.

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Our prayers are needed for a new arrival in the home of **Rev. and Mrs. Edwin Bergstresser** of Pittsburgh. Little John Andrew was born Nov. 14 with only one kidney, which is functioning fairly well. The doctors are advising a kidney transplant after baby gains at least 15 pounds. Medication is helping.

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The 100th anniversary of the founding of **The International Walther League** will be observed May 21-24, 1993 in either Denver or Chicago, according to an announcement from the Wheat Ridge Foundation in a recent release. The league was organized at Trinity Lutheran Church, Buffalo, NY on May 23, 1893.

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During the Christmas Season, an announcement of the engagement and approaching marriage of **Miss Janet Black to Mr. Stephen H. Luke**, both of Killeen, Texas was received. Both the prospective bride and bridegroom are special education teachers who also teach Sunday School and Bible Class. The nuptials

will occur on June 8, 1991 with the couple planning to attend the ILDA convention in Toledo in August. Steve was reelected president of the Dixie Conference during its meeting at Camp Petit Jean near Morrilton, Ark. in September and will also chair the 1993 ILDA convention in Austin, Texas. We extend hearty congratulations to the happy couple and God's blessings on their life together.

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The Dixie Conference voted two purchase two books to be placed in the Concordia Seminary Library in memory of Dr. Daniel H. Pokorny, former professor of the John of Beverly Chair of Deaf Ministry with an inscription in both volumes noting the donation.

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1990-92 officers of Dixie (DDL) are: **Stephen Luke**, president, Killeen, Texas; **Stephen Usener**, president-elect, Austin, Texas; **Lordy Smith**, secretary, Memphis, Tenn.; **Richard Norton**, treasurer, Austin, Texas, and **Rev. Ronald Friedrich**, pastoral adviser, Dallas, Texas.

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Rev. Mark Seeger preached his final sermon at Alpha Lutheran Church, Rochester, NY on Sunday, Jan. 13. The service concluded with a potluck dinner. Pastor Seeger will begin his new duties in Austin, Texas a short time later.

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Mrs Carolyn Hetrick, a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Toledo, Ohio was recently named "Deaf Woman of the Year" by the Quota Club. Carolyn works with the deaf and multiple handicapped children at DeVilbiss High School. She joins four other ladies from Good Shepherd who has won this prestigious award, **Veronica Doudt**, **Dawn Watts**, **Grace Sieja** and **Julie Soncrant**.

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Beginning his vicarage at Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa will be **John Hoopmann**, a native of Australia who will come in March and with his family will reside with Rev. and Mrs. Darrell Kois. Come July or August, they will return to Australia, where John will be the only deaf pastor for the deaf there.

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Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa will begin construction of an addition of almost 2,000 square feet to their present building on its northeast side on April 1.

REGIONS HERE 'N THERE . . .

Members are donating some of the labor to reduce costs and present building codes make it unnecessary to hire a licensed architect for construction of less than 2,000 square feet additions will further reduce costs.

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Cross of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf had a loan balance against its church building of \$4,746.19 as of Aug. 31, 1990. The amount was forgiven by the Mission Department of the Lutheran Church-Canada and the congregation burned its mortgage on Nov. 11, 1990 in a service of praise to God and thanks for the support received from the Alberta-British Columbia District and the Lutheran Church-Canada. Cross of Christ is located in Edmonton.

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Many of us deaf Lutherans are simply unaware that **Dr. Rodney R. Ryneanson** not only serves the deaf in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, but his work also involves the blind as well. Each month some 500 volunteers put out braille editions of 13 Christian magazines for the blind library and Dr. Ryneanson says he could easily use 200 more volunteers. He says current needs are six more "braille press work centers" with 30 to 35 people to work at each site with age being no barrier . . . even some in their 80's join in.

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Bits of interest . . . **Lutheran World Relief (LWR)** was ranked third among the top 100 U.S. charities by Money magazine in its December issue, with only 4.4% of its income being used for administrative and promotional purposes.

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Among the sad events near the close of 1990 was the untimely death of a former student at **Gallaudet University** who became involved in a dispute with his former instructor in the English department concerning a grade. Campus security had to restrain him with handcuffs at which time he began to have cardiac arrest. CPR was administered, but he was pronounced dead upon arrival at a local hospital. He leaves a wife and four children.

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Chapel for the Deaf, Charlotte, NC, of which Rev. Frank Wagenknecht is pastor claims to be the fastest growing deaf congregation in the U.S. among our Lutheran Churches. Anyone want to challenge that claims? Only five

years old, the communicant membership was 75 at the close of 1990. A special 5th anniversary worship service of praise will occur on Feb. 24 followed by a southern style catered dinner and program at which two well known deaf comedians, Charlie McKinney and Alan Barwiolek of "Chalb Productions" will perform.



NEW CHAPEL FOR DEAF MEMBERS AT CHARLOTTE, NC--
Front row: Lynn Fierro, Karen Dula (with Megan), Joyce McLain. Second row: Tico Fierro (with Hubert) Ricky Dula, Jimmy Lin, Kevin Mears. Back row: Pastor Frank Wagenknecht and Billy McLain. Two infants baptized in 1990 were Amanda Dawn Neal and Hubert Stuart Fierro.



CHAPEL PRESIDENT WILLIE BROWER extends his thanks to Ascension President Mike Talbert at the 4th anniversary celebration. Mike has just handed Willie a check for \$400 as a love offering to the Chapel from Ascension Lutheran Church. Pastor Wagenknecht interprets in voice and sign. We are so thankful for the continued support and love we receive from Ascension "hearing" church.

Operation Desert Storm

SENDING "CARE PACKAGES"

In a nutshell, don't ship just anything to U.S. Servicemen serving in the Persian Gulf area during the current conflict. There are strict guidelines enforced by Saudi Arabia's customs office.

Inasmuch as the state enforced religion in that country is Islam, introduction of photos of women in shorts, bathing suits or any brief attire is prohibited as is pork or any of its by-products. Also included on the list of no-no's is potato chips or other food fried in lard or any alcoholic beverages. Literature of a religious nature may be sent to individual service people, but

bulk mailings are not allowed.

Some things that have been requested are dry gatorade mix, gum, hard candy, Q-tips, paper, envelopes, tooth paste and brushes, soap and home-made cookies. Cookies can be packed in dry (no oil or butter), unsalted popped corn. Also, do not mail pressurized cans. If you do not know of a service person in the Gulf area, letters and packages may be sent to **Any Service Person, Operation Desert Storm**, FPO New York, NY 09866-0006.

CHILLING ABORTION FACTS

Since 1973, there have been 25 million abortions in the United States, 1.5 million annually; 4,400 daily and one every 20 seconds. That number is equal to the population of 13 western and mid-western states: CO, KS, UT, NM, OK, WY, NE, IA, MN, SD, ND, ID and MT.

The apparent ease with the way teens can get abortions nowadays was demonstrated when one girl was told by the school nurse that she would need parental consent to receive an aspirin, and she is seen telling a friend that she will 'just have an abortion' with no advance consent from the parents needed.

A recent survey of 1,900 women showed 95% as giving social reasons as the basis for their decision to have an abortion with only 1% citing rape or incest.

WHAT IS A "COLLOQUY?"

From time to time, we are asked what a "colloquy" is. The dictionary defines a colloquy as a "conversation." In the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod it is the way lay people who have graduated from a non-synodical college or university can obtain the theological training necessary for full-time church work, whether it be a pastor, DCE (Director of Christian Education) or teacher. Candidates in the colloquy program are required to pass the religion courses taken by undergraduate students in our synodical colleges. After completion of these courses, comprehensive written and oral exams are given to determine competency and orthodoxy. Upon successful completion of this procedure, the candidate is eligible for placement in the Lutheran Churches.

DIVORCE IN THE NINETIES

Is your family in trouble? We are well aware the current statistics show the divorce rate to be fairly steady or rising some where between 50% and 60% of all the marriages. But the saying "that the family that prays together, stays together" is still very true.

Witness these facts:

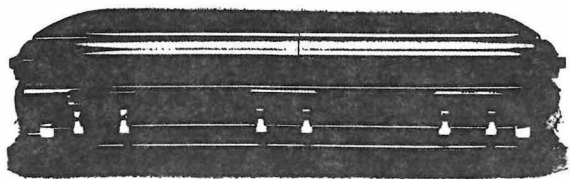
In families that go to church together, only one out of 40 get a divorce.

In families that pray together, only one out of 400 get a divorce.

In families that read the Bible together, only one out of 1,005 get a divorce.

Very clearly, then, joining a Bible Class, attending worship and church together and keeping prayer and devotions in families will build a 'house on a solid rock that neither wind, nor rain, nor storm will be able to tear down, for it is built on the Word of God.

Grounded At Age 16.



No sports. No parties. No dating. No phone calls. Like 12,000 other high school kids this year--get caught just once doing the wrong drug or the wrong combination and you're grounded. That's final.



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

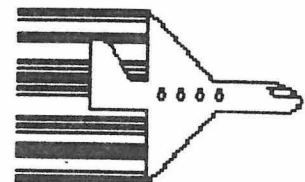
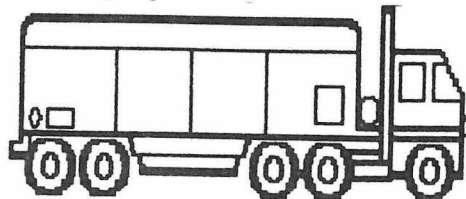
PLACE? IN THE HOLIDAY INN, near the meeting rooms

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.

DES MOINES TO HOST 1991 MIDWEST CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Midwest Region of the ILDA will convene at Camp Sunnyside, Des Moines, Iowa on the dates of May 24, 25, 26 and 27. The site is owned by the Easter Seal Society of Iowa and has hosted Midwest meetings in the past.

Rev. Donald W. Zuhn of Minneapolis, Minn. has submitted his resignation as pastoral

adviser to the region in preparation to move to Houston, Texas where he has accepted a call to Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church. Succeeding him as interim adviser will be Rev. Darrell Kois of Des Moines.

As voted by the region at it's 1990 meeting in Minneapolis, the 1992 conference will convene in Omaha and the 1993 gathering will be in Colorado Springs, Colo.

The Church's One Foundation

THE CHURCH'S ONE FOUNDATION -
The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word;
From heav'n He came and sought her,
To be His holy bride:
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

Elect from every nation
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses,
With every grace endued.

Mid toil and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore;
Till with vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

ALL ABOUT BONES ! !

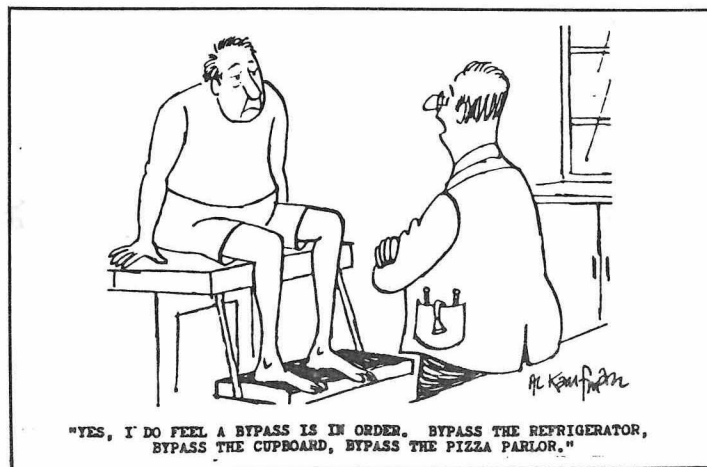
There are four kinds of bones that make up the membership of most churches. Which are you?

Wishbones: Those who spend all their time wishing someone would do all the work.

Jawbones: Those who do all the talking but little else.

Knucklebones: Those individuals who knock everything others try to do.

Backbones: Finally, we have those who get right at the job and get it done!!



The DEAF LUTHERAN

March-April, 1991

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