



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

May-June, 1991

St. Louis, MO

Volume 83, No. 3

PENTECOST: THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH

Jesus said to His followers, ". . . when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power and you will be witnesses

for me in Jerusalem, in all of Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth." When the day of Pentecost came, all of the believers were gathered together in one place and they saw what appeared

another name for the Holy Spirit. Pentecost marked the fulfillment of that promise. On this date in history, we remember it as the birth of the Holy Christian Church when some otherwise fearful and uncertain disciples were emboldened to begin the preaching of the Gospel and to perform miracles of healing and casting out demons. Through the power given to them by the Spirit, they could now talk in other languages than their native tongues and it became possible for the Word of God to be understood far and wide.

On Pentecost, we are told in the scriptures that the arrival of the Holy Spirit was marked by a wind-like sound, but we are not told there was actually a wind. Cloven tongues of fire appeared over the heads of each disciple as they were filled with the Spirit.

to be tongues of fire which spread out and touched each person there. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to talk in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak." Acts 2:1-4

In 1991, the festival of Pentecost will fall on May 19, which will be exactly fifty (50) days after Easter. The word itself means "fifty" and also occurs ten (10) days after Ascension when Jesus returned to heaven. Before Jesus returned to His Father, He promised to send them the Comforter, which is

The Book of Acts tells us that one of the first results of the disciples new given power and preaching was "the addition of three thousand believers to the church that day." The blessing bestowed by the Holy Spirit at the time of the infant church did not end then, but will continue to bless and empower believers until the end of the world. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given for the building up of the Christian church here on earth.

The next important thing for us to consider on Pentecost is "What do I do with that power that is given to me by the Holy Spirit?" Just as electrical appliances and lights will not operate unless they are plugged into an electrical outlet, by the same token, we must

Please see PENTECOST: Page 2

FARE SAVER DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE TO TOLEDO/DETROIT JULY 26-AUG. 6

American Airlines is offering ILDA convention goers special meeting saver fare discounts from July 26 to Aug. 6, 1991 of 40% on round trip tickets purchased at least seven days in advance of departure on American flights and American Eagle domestic segments. A further discount of 5% is available on qualifying promotional fares, including first class. The discounts are available only through American's Meeting Services Desk. Interested persons should call 1-800-433-1790 or 1-800-582-1573 for deaf and speech impaired 24 hours, seven days a week. Be sure to ask for StarFile #S-017170.

ILDA MISSIONS PROJECTS UPDATE

ILDA Treasurer Russel L. Healey of Chicago reported a total of \$12,617.45 realized towards the ILDA goal of \$14,500 for Mission Projects set at the last convention at Portland, Ore. in 1989. Still to be raised as of January 27, 1991 was \$1,882.55.



1991 ILDA CONVENTION TOURS

Numerous inquiries have been received concerning convention tours at the convention in Toledo this summer. To satisfy the demand for information, the follow is being furnished concerning both the Art Museum and Sauder Farm/Museum tours:

SAUDER FARM & CRAFT VILLAGE: This area was once called "The Great black Swamp" in the wilderness of northwest Ohio during the mid-1830's. After the swamp drained, this place became one of the nation's finest farmlands. In 1876, the Sauder Farm & Craft Village was established as a non-profit living-history complex. Visitors will see cabins and shops which were built over a century ago. You will see their story with costumed staff and skilled craftsmen at work. Many old things and old methods of living will be on display. The tour is recommended for all ages.

The charge for the tour is \$30.00 per per-

son which will cover transportation, admission and meals. If you want this tour, you may add it to your combination ticket. If you have already ordered your combo tickets, you can still send \$30.00 for the tour. Be sure to order before the deadline on July 1, 1991. The tour is set for Friday, Aug. 2 from noon to 7 p.m.

THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART: This museum is one of America's finest art collections in a building of exceptional beauty. The collections are a variety of colorful and skillful crafts in glasses, vases, paintings, decorative arts, sculptures, furnitures, silvers, graphics and many others brought from Egypt, Greece, Rome, Europe and America. Some of the collections are aged up to 5,000 years. For example, there is a mummy in an open casket and you will see old strip of clothes wrapped around the dead person in a good state of preservation. This is an ideal tour for those who love art, crafts and history.

The charge for this tour is \$18.00 which will cover transportation and meals but admission is free. The same rules and deadline as for the Sauder Farm tour apply.

There will be no refunds on tickets purchased for tours unless someone takes your places. Should circumstances require, we reserve the right to cancel either or both tours with full refunds being made.

1941—FIFTY YEARS—1991

Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf will observe the 50th anniversary of its incorporation on Jan 13, 1941 with a reception and dinner at Newark/Fremont Hilton, 39900 Ballantine Drive, Newark, Calif. on May 4, 1991 at 7 p.m. Entertainment will also be provided.

The event will be followed on Sunday with services at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 858 Washington Blvd., Fremont at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon with a special program in the afternoon from 1:30 to 3:30.

Persons wishing additional information should contact Ray Rasmus, chairperson, 135 Espada PL., Fremont, Calif. 94539 or call TDD (415) 793-5497.

Memorial is the former Evangelical Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Oakland, Calif. Rev. Roy Dahmann is pastor.

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

PENTECOST

also be "Hooked to the power of the Holy Spirit" if we are to be an effective force in God's church. It follows that if we are "turned off or unplugged" from this divine power, we are not going to witness the power of the Holy Spirit flowing through us for the good of the church as a whole.

Trinity Sunday follows Pentecost on May 26 at which time the church honors the Holy Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity consists of three distinct persons: The Father, who is not the Son and the Son who is not the Father and the Holy Spirit who is neither the Father nor the Son, yet there is but One God. The mystery and the uniqueness of the Holy Trinity is so great that it is impossible for us to understand, yet it in no way lessens the truth of God's Word revealed to us in the Scriptures. We worship and give praise and glory to all three persons in the Trinity as being the only true God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.

Our prayer for Pentecost is that the Lord who loved the church and gave Himself for it will continue to bless and preserve His church to the glory of His name and that many more souls may yet know the truth and seek her to their everlasting salvation.

May God grant it!

COCHLEAR IMPLANTS IN CHILDREN: BLESSING OR CURSE?

By Charles C. Estes, Executive Director
National Association of the Deaf
(Use by Permission)

Over the past few years, I have often been asked for my opinion of the cochlear implant. This brings to mind the shameful invasion of Kuwait by much larger and powerful Iraq and the approval of cochlear implants (CI) in children. To many conscientious people, the two are equally repugnant.

The cochlear implant is designed to zap the auditory nerve electrically and tout an awareness of environmental sound where there otherwise is none. Perhaps it does, but so do many other more simple less invasive means.

CI proponents are fond of holding up "studies" that "show" the implant as an aid to lipreading. Granted, a change in behavior accompanies a change in environment, a la the Hawthorne Effect. But isn't it reasonable to assume that any child, surrounded by surgeon, nurse, pediatrician, teacher, speech therapist, parents and a host of others, before and after implantation, with singular expectation, "Thou shalt lipread," then the child is going to lipread, implant or no implant?

The CI has been commercially available in this country since 1985. With millions of Americans known to have a hearing loss where are the lines forming with knowledgeable adult candidates? Where is the evidence that CI enhances speech perception? Where is the evidence that the CI aids in the acquisition of language? What benefit should the congenitally deaf child be expected to drive?

Is it morally right for parents to make a decision for the child on invasive surgery when life is not threatened and when enhancement of life is speculative?

And what about costs? Who foots the bill? Should the American public, already smarting from astronomical tax rates and staggered by health insurance premiums, be asked to participate in the cost of a surgical procedure that is highly experimental and ethically questionable?

Not only is the cochlear implant prohibitively expensive, but it requires a tremendous commitment in terms of time. A very legitimate question is just how much does this surgical procedure and its attendant training

requirements delay the acceptance of the reality of deafness by the child and by the family. And, one must surely wonder how much of a child's overall development is sacrificed to this delusive phantom of hope.

If a consenting adult with the time, money and inclination were to convince a surgeon

to craft for him/her a second navel, such surgery would probably be a private matter between patient and surgeon. But when the cost of acquiring a second navel begins to fall on the taxpayer and the bearer of health insurance premiums, then the procedure becomes a question for public forum. I submit the wisdom of cochlear implants in children is no less questionable.

As members of the deaf community have always known, successful and effective dealing with deafness requires much more than the narrow pathological ear-broke-ear fix approach characteristic of the medical community. While the Food and Drug Administration may deal mainly with issues of biological safety, any single edict by any agency of the government that can unleash an outrage such as a cochlear implant in defenseless children is socially, politically and morally wrong. Will 1991 be the year of rectification of the matter?

TAX LESSON

Sunday School teacher: "Now who decreed all the world should be taxed?"

Student: "The Democrats."



NEWS FROM THE REGIONS . . .

Jesus Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas (Rev. Mark Seeger, pastor) is using some new tools for its ministry, thanks to a generous donation of \$800 from the LWML. The XT clone computer (from Rev. Mike King) is upgraded with a hard drive, a mouse and a modem. A 24 pin printer is donated by Richard and Natalie Norton in memory of Richard's father, Earl H. Norton. The church council also has approved the purchase of a stereo system loud enough for the members to hear and feel.

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Philip Pokorny, son of the late Dr. Dan Pokorny and his wife, Patricia, and Julie love were married Feb. 14 in Columbus, Ind. They will reside there.

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The rise in postal rates recently means bad news for many publications which must somehow find additional money each month to mail their bulletins. The increase in first class mail went up .04¢ and newsletters in most cases went up from .084¢ to .111¢ each. As an example, this would mean a jump of \$2.70 for a church mailing out 100 copies each time.

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Peace Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, Ind. received 11 new members on Dec. 9, 1990. Six are adults and five are children. Of the adults, one by transfer, 2 by profession of faith and 3 by adult-confirmation. All six are deaf and the children are hearing whose parents are new members. The congregation thanks God for an increase of 20% in membership in 1990.

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Rev. Richard Moody, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis, has declined the call to Alpha Lutheran Church, Rochester, N.Y.

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We were greatly saddened by the news that the Gulf war has claimed the life of Air Force Staff Sgt. Timothy Harrison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orval Harrison of Maxwell, Iowa. Sgt. Harrison was a gunner on a AC-130 gunship returning to Saudi Arabia when it was shot down off the coast of Kuwait. All 14 crew members are designated as killed in action after first being classified as missing. The Harrison family are members of Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa where Rev. Darrel Kois is pastor. We extend sincere sympathy to the family.

Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) awarded a grant of \$250,000 to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to fund 18 different projects. AAL "encourages church bodies to use the money for effective leadership, volunteer service or organizational strengthening."

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The Wheat Ridge Foundation (best known for its annual Christmas Seals) has a new president. Mr. Richard Bimler, formerly executive director of LCMS' Council for Mission and Ministry will succeed the Rev. Robert Zimmer, Wheat Ridge president from 1974-90. Zimmer has accepted a call to a parish in Florida.

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Do you remember how rare it used to be for a deaf person to assume the superintendency of a state school for the deaf? It is gradually becoming much more common place as there are now approximately eight such positions now filled by deaf or hearing impaired individuals. The editor knows of these schools recently acquiring new superintendents who are known to be deaf: South Dakota School for the Deaf at Sioux Falls, Mr. Frank Turk; Mississippi, Mr. Gary W. Olsen; Ohio, Dr. Edward C. Corbett; Marie Katzenbach School, West Trenton, N.J., Gertrude Galloway; Rochester, N.Y., Mr. Harold Mowl; California School for the Deaf, Riverside, the assistant superintendent is Lawrence Newman. We believe the position at the Arkansas school is filled by Mr. Ralph White and possibly the Washington State School has a superintendent who is hearing impaired, Mr. Archie Stack.

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Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alta. and Calgary Deaf Lutheran Church both conducted worship services for the deaf on Sunday, March 3 during the XII World Winter Games for the Deaf at Banff National Park, Alta. Services were held at Jacques Funeral Home at 211 Bear St in Banff which provided its facilities free of charge for the services. The Canadian Bible society provided Bibles in different languages for display; the Alberta-British Columbia District of the Lutheran Church-Canada provided a grant towards expenses and the Lutheran Life Branch donated drinks, cups and napkins for visitors. The remainder of the needs were met by volunteers who brought food for the brunch assisted with the service of worship.

1942--LWML 50TH ANNIVERSARY--1992

One year ago it was only a dream. That dream was to make 10,000 refrigerator magnets for the LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League) convention in Cleveland, Ohio. The reason for these magnets was a simple "thank you" to the LWML for their unwavering support of deaf ministries the past 50 years.

Fifty years ago the first international

LWML convention was in Cleveland, Ohio. The first LWML mite box project went to help build Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Cleveland. Ever since on the zone, district and international levels, the LWML has been a strong support for our LCMS deaf churches both in North America and throughout the world.

The dream was to make 10,000 I-love-you refrigerator magnets. In American Sign language (ASL) the sign for I-love-you is formulated by using the letters I and L and Y into one encoded sign. The challenge then was to make these magnets out of plastic canvas using yarn in the LWML colors of purple and gold.

Many deaf people and some hearing friends from across the United States and Canada from 25 deaf churches put their needle work together. The dream is now becoming a reality. Soon these I-love-you refrigerator magnets will be placed into tote bags. Everyone attends the Cleveland LWML convention will have a memento to say "thank you" to the LWML for 50 years of continued support of our LCMS deaf ministries.



HONG KONG SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF--School vice principal and Carol Oettel pose in a classroom during a visit there in December. Note the decorations and mike on principal's sweater.



AFTER CHURCH IN HONG KONG--This picture showing (left to right) the pastor and his wife, Bob Oettel and wife, Carol (back) and school vice principal (on far right) after services Sunday, Dec. 30. Others pictured are church members.



AT HOME IN HONG KONG--Dr. Louis R. Jasper and his wife, Joan (right) welcome Mrs. Carol Oettel to their home during the holidays while Carol and husband, Bob, were visiting from Matsuyama, Japan where Bob teaches.

1991-'93 ILDA NOMINATIONS

PRESIDENT:

Ronald L. Madding, Portland, Ore. Mr. Madding is currently president-elect of the ILDA. Employed by the U.S. Postal Service. At the present time, it is unknown if Ronald Byington, Milwaukee, Wis. will seek a second term.

PRESIDENT-ELECT

No nominations. If Ronald Madding moves up to the presidency, nominations for this office will need to come from the floor.

SECRETARY:

Charles Kotal, Westminster, Calif. Mr. Kotal is presently secretary and past president of the ILDA. Employed by Johnson Controls, Los Angeles.

Lester Ahls, Cedar Falls, Iowa. Past president and secretary of the ILDA. Now serves on ILDA budget committee. Presently editor of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN**. Retired.

Ms. Lordy Smith, Memphis, Tennessee. Employed by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. Presently secretary of Dixie Deaf Conference. Active in Tennessee Association of the Deaf.

JAMES M. LOWELL, FIRST RIGHT HAND AWARD WINNER, DIES JAN. 27

Mr. James M. Lowell, 95, of Tacoma, Wash. a 53-year member of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Seattle, Wash., passed away Jan. 27 at his home in Tacoma where he had resided for 72 years. Mr. Lowell was a 48-year veteran with the U.S. Postal Service where he worked as a dependable accountant. Among his outdoor hobbies were mountain climbing and he once went with a group of climbers to the summit of Mount Rainier.

Mr. Lowell received his elementary and secondary education at the Pennsylvania School for the Deaf (Mt. Airy) and later attended Oregon State University. He was very active in organizations for the deaf and won the first Uriel C. Jones Right Hand Award at the 1977 ILDA convention in Spokane, Wash.

He and his wife Mary celebrated their 50th anniversary in April 1989 and she preceded him in death 15 months later. Services were held Feb. 1. Surviving him are two daughters, eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

TREASURER:

No nominations. Russel L. Healey will complete his second term this year and is not eligible to run again for this office. Mr. Healey is maintenance supervisor for a large housing complex in Chicago where many deaf retirees and other disabled people make their homes.

PASTORAL ADVISER:

Rev. George Natonick, Washington, D.C.
Rev. William A. Ludwig, Seattle, Wash.

PARENTS SUE BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD FOR COCHLEAR IMPLANT REIMBURSEMENT

Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas has denied reimbursement for Houston resident Ryan Rasberry, 12, to receive a cochlear implant. The boy is deaf, has used hearing aids in both ears and claims no benefit from their use. Ryan uses sign language and read lips.

The insurance company has classified the cochlear implant as a "hearing aid" and therefore not eligible under its policy for reimbursement. The family denies the device is a hearing aid.

The Rasperrys are suing on grounds of deceptive trade practices, breach of contract, breach of duty of good faith and fair dealing and failing to cover their insurance obligation.



The 11th Biennial Convention of the
INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION
August 1-4, 1991

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1991

1:00 p.m. -- Registration
 5:00 p.m. -- Supper on your own
 6:30 p.m. -- Open Worship
 7:30 p.m. -- Orientation/Welcome
 8:00 p.m. -- Skit Competition
 9:30 p.m. -- Reception/Fellowship by Good Shepherd of The Deaf
 Lutheran Church/Great Lakes Region, ILDA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1991

8:00 a.m. -- Registration
 8:30 a.m. -- Opening Devotion
 8:55 a.m. -- Winner Of 2-year Membership of ILDA
 9:00 a.m. -- 1st Business Session
 9:45 a.m. -- Bible Study
 10:45 a.m. -- Brunch at Hotel Cafeteria
 12:00 p.m. -- Bus ride to Sauder Farms/Museum
 Bus ride to Toledo Art Museum
 5:00 p.m. -- Dinner at Sauder Farm Restaurant
 Dinner at _____ ? from Toledo Museum
 7:00 p.m. -- Bus ride back to Hotel
 8:30 p.m. -- Bible Story/Closing Devotion

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1991

8:00 a.m. -- Registration
 8:30 a.m. -- Opening Devotion
 8:40 a.m. -- Winner of 2-year membership of ILDA
 8:45 a.m. -- 2nd Business Session
 9:30 a.m. -- Workshop
 10:30 a.m. -- Coffee break
 10:40 a.m. -- Winner of 2-year membership of ILDA
 10:45 a.m. -- 3rd Business Session
 11:30 a.m. -- Lunch on your Own
 12:40 p.m. -- Winner of 2-year membership of ILDA
 12:45 p.m. -- 4th Business Session
 1:45 p.m. -- Bible Study/Workshop
 2:45 p.m. -- Coffee break
 2:55 p.m. -- Winner of 2-year membership of ILDA
 3:00 p.m. -- 5th Business Session
 4:00 p.m. -- Bible Study - Rev. Martin Hewitt
 5:00 p.m. -- Adjournment
 6:00 p.m. -- Banquet/Entertainment

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4, 1991

7:00 a.m. -- Buffet Breakfast
 9:00 a.m. -- Bible Class
 10:00 a.m. -- Worship Service/Holy Communion
 Installation of Officers
 11:30 a.m. -- 1993 Host Chairman - Convention Plans
 Take with them ILDA Banner, Poles and bases

1993 ILDA CONVENTION UPDATE

Although the 1993 ILDA convention is more than two years away, we have lots of activity in the Austin/Dallas, Texas area as our brothers and sisters there plan for it.

In selecting a site for this meeting, a committee of four was chosen comprised of Steve Luke, Carol Christ, Richard Norton and Stephen Usener to evaluate four potential sites which met criteria for space and price. Those four were the Doubletree Hotel, Austin; the Austin-Marriot; Red Lion Hotel-Austin airport and the Wyndham Southpark Hotel. The committee chose the Austin Marriot for the headquarters for the 12th biennial convention and the dates will be June 24, 25, 26, 27, 1993.

Fund raising for this event has already got off to a good start with the ladies at the John of Beverley Chapel in Dallas raising \$832.40 through a bake sale. The church council at Jesus Lutheran Church in Austin voted

that the proceeds from the sale of sodas at the church would be earmarked for the fund also. This has added about another \$40.

Mr. Steve Luke, president of the Dixie Conference of Killeen, Texas, will be the convention chairperson.

WAR STORY

Father: "What did you learn in Sunday School this morning?"

Son: "We learned How Moses went behind enemy lines to rescue the Jews from the Egyptians. Moses ordered the engineers to build a pontoon bridge. After the people crossed, he sent bombers back to blow up the bridge and the Egyptian tanks that were following them, and then. . . ."

Father: "Did your teacher really tell it like this?"

Son: "No, but if I told you what he said you would never believe it."

1991 NORTHWEST ILDA CONFERENCE

The 1991 Northwest Regional Conference will take place at beautiful Camp Lutherhaven which is about eight miles south of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho and conclude about 10 days prior to the ILDA convention in Toledo. The camp is along the shores of Lake Coeur d'Alene a scenic area of the northwest. The cost of the three-day meeting is only \$39.50 for meals and lodging plus a small registration fee.

We understand some visitors will be on their way to the ILDA convention while attending the Northwest Conference.

Conference dates are July 19-21.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

ARTICLE VI SECTION C: Removal from office --All ILDA officers are subject to removal from office by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at a Board of Directors meeting for any of the following: . . .

The Law Committee recommends the words, "two-thirds" be deleted and the word, "majority" be inserted in its place.

The Law Committee chaired by President-elect Ronald Madding met in Seattle, Wash. April 26-28 to do some additional work on the ILDA Handbook prior to the upcoming convention.

The DEAF LUTHERAN

May-June, 1991

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. PLEASE SEND ALL SUBSCRIPTION FEES AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELMER FRANCISCO, BUSINESS MANAGER, 10004 EAST MISSION, SPokane, WASH. 99206-3938. PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, STORIES AND PICTURES TO LESTER AHL, EDITOR, 1004 CHERRYWOOD DR., CEDAR FALLS, IOWA 50613-1614.

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