



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

July-August, 1991

St. Louis, MO

Volume 83, No.4

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TOLEDO IN 1991

With the opening-date of the 11th biennial convention of THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION less than two months away and four years in the planning, all eyes focus on Toledo, Ohio as the ILDA celebrates 20 years of meeting in convention since the constitutional convention held in Chicago July 16, 17 and 18, 1971 at the O'Hare-Hyatt House.

The ILDA returns to the Great Lakes Region for only the second time since the 1983 meeting in Pittsburgh and the first ever in the state of Ohio. Toledo which is known as the "Glass City" is centrally located to many population centers where strong congregations of Lutherans live and should be well represented at the 1991 convention Aug 1-4.

In reminiscing back to that first convention, it is interesting to note that at least six or more board members are still active in the organization 20 years later. Among them are Clarence Schulz, then of Detroit and now of Palo Alto, Calif. who was chairman and presently serves on the board as presi-

HENRY O. BJORLIE TO RETIRE

Mill Neck Lutheran School for the Deaf, which is rapidly becoming a familiar name among our Lutheran churches, will lose its superintendent, Mr. Henry O. Bjorlie shortly when he retires from the position he has held since 1978. "BJ" as he is known to many people, will be honored at the retirement dinner in June. He has provided leadership in deaf education not only at Mill Neck, but also in New York state and nationally as well as in community organizations.

Mill Neck will also celebrate 40th anniversary in 1991, having been established in 1951 when the first students were enrolled.

Congratulatory messages may be sent to 'BJ' at Box 12, Mill Neck, LI, NY 11765. We join his many well wishers for a happy and blessed retirement.

dent of the Pacific Region; Donald Mowl, Washington, Pa., whose motion to officially organize and seconded by Richard Crossen of Columbus, Ohio passed and Mowl who is now the ILDA's official historian and Crossen who is serving as president of the Great Lakes Region; former board members Marion Van Manen, now of Des Moines, Iowa; Ted Brighton of Seattle, Wash. and William Fitzgerald of Memphis, Tenn.

The Chicago meeting had as its theme, "Forward With Christ" and some very notable persons were on hand to help launch the new organization in a manner fitting one intended to be international in scope. Dr. William Kohn, Executive secretary of the Board for Missions of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was the keynote speaker. Dr. J. A. Preus was the guest preacher at the Sunday morning service. Banquet speaker Saturday night was then NAD President Robert O. Lankeau of Akron, Ohio.

The ILDA's well known logo was adopted at this meeting with a prize for its design going to Mr. Archie D. Marshall of St. Louis, who would later be recognized as a recipient of The John of Beverley Award. Marshall was a long time member of the Board of Directors.

It was an apparent coincidence that the first meeting of the ILDA would coincide with the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Ministry to the Deaf at the Missouri Synod's 1896 convention in Fort Wayne, Ind. and this memorable event did not pass unnoticed, with Chairman Clarence Schulz taking note of it.

The May/June issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN described two interesting tours available to visitors attending the 1991 convention. The business sessions will no doubt not conduct business, but decide how to celebrate the centennial of deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, which will oc-

VICAR JOHN HOOPMANN TO BE ORDAINED IN AUSTRALIA OCT. 27

After a vacancy of half a century, Australia will finally have a full time pastor serving deaf Lutherans when Vicar John Hoopmann is ordained in his home church in Glynde, South Australia on Oct. 27.

Australia, a vast continent with a land area approximately the size of the United States, will present a formidable challenge to the new minister as he begins his new duties of bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the many deaf living in that country "down under."

Vicar Hoopmann is currently serving churches in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids (Iowa) during the summer after finishing the two-year colloquy program at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. Accompanied by Pastors Darrell Kois and Michael MacDonald, John and his delightful family have met many of the deaf Iowans at their meetings, churches, picnics and other gatherings and wherever God's Word is preached.

They will attend the convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association Toledo, Ohio Aug. 1-4 and begin their flight home

CORRECTION!

In the last issue of *The Deaf Lutheran* it was stated that Mr. Steve Luke, president of the Dixie Region of the ILDA will chair the 1993 convention at Austin, Texas. This is incorrect. The chairman will be **RICHARD NORTON**, an Austin resident. Steve Luke will serve only as a member of the committee. The editor regrets the error.

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

ALL ROADS LEAD TO TOLEDO

cur in the summer of 1996. Since convention sites are planned four years in advance, the special event commemorating the first 100 years of our church's ministry to the deaf will take on special importance.

Plan now to come to Toledo Aug. 1 to 4 and join your fellow Lutherans in worship, praise to our Lord; to help build a greater ILDA and to plan for the centennial that is only five years away. As Clarence Schulz said 20 years ago, the ILDA is our organization of deaf Lutherans, by deaf Lutherans and for deaf Lutherans.

SEE YOU IN TOLEDO!

four weeks later, arriving back in Adelaide Sept. 6.

Vicar Hoopmann's work will be a pioneering deaf ministry, with studies continuing towards a Bachelor's Degree in Theology and later, a look into ministry for all of Australia after about a year.

CONGRATULATIONS!

From Yakima, Wash., we have Mr. and Mrs. Niels Boesen who celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary on June 25.



Mr. and Mrs. Luther E. Sandberg

And from Loon Lake, Wash., another couple just passed the 50th chapter of their marriage that occurred way back in 1941. They are Mr. and Mrs. Luther E. Sandberg who were honored at a reception at the Spokane Deaf Service Center April 28.



Mr. and Mrs. Garland Ford

Another couple who said their vows 50 years ago were Mr. and Mrs. Garland Ford (Glenna B. Gilmore) of Toledo, Ohio. A party in their honor was given by their children on March 3.

ASSOCIATION OF LUTHERAN ALUMNI SOUGHT FOR LCMO AT GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

The Lutheran Campus Ministries Office (LCMO) at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C., is trying to form an alumni association of former Gallaudet students who participated in activities of the LCMO of Gamma Delta. The hope is that a sufficient number of alumni will be obtained to establish this association.

One of the main purposes of the new organization is to form contacts between current students and alumni from the same geographical

area. This arrangement will assist the student to form ties with the local congregation during times when the student is not on campus and is home. Since there are so many students who have attended mainstream programs, few of them have any knowledge of, or contact with any of our Lutheran ministries with the deaf.

A second purpose for this alumni association is to give support to the Lutheran Campus Ministries Office through their prayers and financial support for the programs and retreats and other activities of the LCMO. With the increase in the number of students participating in the LCMO, the strong support of those who experienced the joy, love, peace and fellowship of the LCMO is needed.

To help in obtaining a list of alumni, Rev. George Natonick will be sending out a letter to all of the Lutheran ministers involved in ministry with the deaf. If you are interested in being one of the charter members of this association, send your name and address to Rev. George Natonick, office of Campus Ministries, PO Box 2342, Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. 20002.

FAITH AND HEALTH

Medical evidence indicates that illnesses are often caused by the way individuals relate to themselves and to others. Deaths from cancer, primarily related to smoking, and from homicide have increased steadily since 1960. Suicide is the third leading cause of death among those aged 15 to 34, while auto accidents, primarily related to alcohol abuse are the leading cause of death among persons aged 5 to 34.

Lifestyle accounts for approximately 50 per cent of our health status. And the quality of our relationships is one of the key factors in our lifestyle. Compared with people who maintain supportive relationships, socially isolated people have two to three times the overall risk of dying prematurely. Having a close friend and confidante gives a person significant protection against developing depression. A vital faith is the most important determinant in our relationships and lifestyle. (Copied)

ADDITIONAL ILDA NOMINATIONS

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

Stephen Luke, Killeen, Texas. Presently serving as president of Dixie Region. Special resource teacher for the deaf.

TREASURER:

Elmer D. Francisco, Spokane, Wash. Former ILDA president and treasurer. Currently business manager of THE DEAF LUTHERAN. Retired counselor of Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich.

PASTORAL ADVISER:

Rev. Edwin L. Bergstresser, Pittsburgh, Pa. Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

In addition to the change proposed in the last issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN concerning "Removal From the Office" at the meeting of the ILDA law committee at its meeting on May 27-28, 1990, a second proposed change is being suggested from the meeting of the committee held on April 26-27, 1991 when it completed work on its revision of the ILDA Constitution and Handbook.

ARTICLE V, Membership, Section C--Associate Members, paragraph 1, 1b and 1c on page 2. The word "two" is to be used in place of "three" in paragraph 1. Remove 1b and 1c becomes 1b.

Recommended revisions are to be mailed to all members of the Board of Directors at least 30 days prior to the next meeting of the board now set for July 30-Aug. 1, 1991.

God Said It

I Believe It

And That Settles It

'SWINGING AROUND THE REGIONS . . .

The Hyatt Regency O'Hare, the hotel near Chicago's O'Hare Airport has chosen as the site for the 100th anniversary celebration for the International Walther League on May 21-24, 1993. It is the former youth organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

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The 1991 Hearing Impaired Week at Holden Village near Chelan, Wash., will occur on the dates of Aug. 17-24, which will be about two weeks after the conclusion of the ILDA convention in Toledo, Ohio. Serving as coordinator again this year will be Ms. Beth Lockard, former ILDA secretary, from West Chester, Pa. and leading Bible studies will be Rev. Joe Varsanyi, former pastor of St. Philips' Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Philadelphia, Pa.

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Cruising on the Caribbean this spring were Melba and Luther Sandberg of Loon Lake, Wash., who decided such a trip was just the thing to do to commemorate their 50th wedding anniversary.

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Preaching the Sunday morning service at Memorial Lutheran church, Fremont, Calif. during the 50th anniversary celebration May 4-5 was former pastor, Rev. Clark R. Bailey, Detroit, who served the church for 10 years when it was located in Oakland.

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In the State of Indiana, travelers will see many signs which read, "Watch Your Speed --We Are." For us who are Christians, we could say, "Watch Jesus--He is watching you."

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Omaha, Neb. dedicated its new addition on Sunday, May 19.

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Aspirin call: The bad luck to hit Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Ahrens, members of Christ Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Md., was to have two teen age boys "borrow" their Ford Taurus and when it was recovered, it needed more than \$3,000 in repairs. Gerald and Rita have been using a Ford Escort while theirs is in the shop.

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At least three seismic tests for gas and oil exploration have been completed at Pax Natura Ranch for the Deaf at Clyde, Alta. over the last three winters with the results to be discussed by members of the board shortly. Also to be discussed is the response from the Alberta government regarding future

development of the ranch.

The 122nd commencement service at Gallaudet University had, perhaps, the longest exercise in history of the institution last two hours 45 minutes with a very unusual speaker on hand. ABC's Peter Jennings, anchorman for "World News Tonight" bearing his name. Likewise, it was one of the best attended commencements to date. One of the surprise (!) actions was by one graduate, who before accepting his diploma, thanked everyone for their help while he was a student, with one very special girl being singled out for honor. To the complete surprise of everyone, he proceeded to pull out an engagement ring before the audience, and proposed to her! By the way, she said "yes!"

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At least one other individual will run for office in the ILDA this summer, according to a letter from Archie Marshall, president of the Central Region. He is Mr. James G. Swalley of North Manchester, Ind., a registered architect. However no particular office is mentioned, so he is not listed with the others. We welcome Mr. Swalley and hope he will make his wishes known prior to voting.

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At a recent world drug conference at Nashville, Tenn., DR. Louis Sullivan cited the volunteer organization of AAL's "Get Involved Before Your Kids Do" as being a role model for other civic and fraternal organizations to emulate. He said the government cannot fight the battle against drugs alone.

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Most people will agree that there is a lot to be said for computer training in our schools. This fact was amply demonstrated when two senior boys from Mill Neck Lutheran School in New York placed second in the New York State Computer Technology Fair, not among schools for the deaf, but high schools.

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Please keep the family of Rev. Ed Bergstresser in your prayers. Their baby son, John, will need a kidney transplant this summer as soon as he reaches 15 pounds (4 more needed). At present time, medication is helping.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

King James Version--John 3:16

ROCKFORD LUTHERANS OBSERVE CHARTER SUNDAY APRIL 21

After many decades of being a preaching station with church services being conducted routinely by various pastors serving the Northern Illinois District, the Rockford (Illinois) Lutheran Church of the Deaf became an official congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod on Charter Day Sunday, April 21 with many visitors in attendance for the historic event.

Following a service preached by Rev. Mark A. Anderson of Sterling, Ill., the official document signifying the church as a recognized congregation of the LC-MS was signed by congregation President John Neal, and Secretary Ms. Charlene Huber and Rev. Kenneth



SIGNING THE CHARTER—John Neal, congregation president, affixes his signature as Rev. Kenneth Young, Executive for Missions and Ministry, and Ms. Charlene Huber, secretary of the church, watch. Rev. Mark Anderson is on far left.



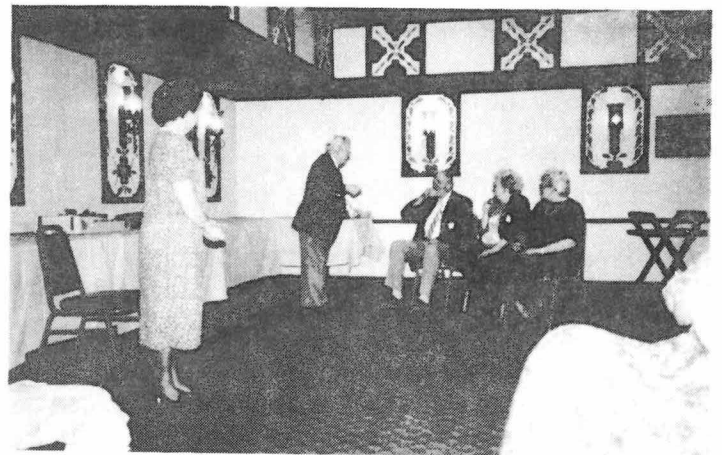
SHOWING OFF THEIR 'OSCAR'—Charter Day winners at Rockford April 21 are left to right, Jeff Robbins, Carol Robbins, Evelyn Niemeyer, Lester Ahls and Ralph Rose.

Young, Executive for Missions and Ministry of The Northern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri synod, as Rev. Anderson looked on.

The event was celebrated with a banquet at Hoffman House with Rev. Charles Jones as the keynote speaker. Following a delicious dinner of cornish hen and all the trimmings, some members acted out in mime some of Jesus' miracles with the audience being asked to guess which ones they were. Winners were presented "Oscars."

A talk on the history of the church was given by Lois Nelson who mentioned at least 13 pastors or vicars who served the church that she could remember in the years her family had lived in the community. Among them were Pastors Bremer, Scheibert, Mackensen, Kosche, who had the longest tenure at 25 years, Friedrich, Jones, Bassett, Fritz, Marsh, Waite, Kois, King and the present pastor, Mark Anderson, who is their first deaf person to serve them, but not the first in the LCMS who is himself deaf. The church also prides itself in having the only deaconess in the LCMS serving a deaf congregation, Ms. Laura Herman, who takes care of Bible studies, visits shut-ins, does interpreting and assists the pastor and church councils.

The day's program ended with a song, "Love in Any Language," rendered by Charlene Huber and a closing prayer by Mr. Russel Kroll of the Northern Illinois District for Ministry.



LIGHTER MOMENT—Members of the congregation act out in mime some of Jesus' miracles for the audience. Pictured left to right are Charlene Huber, Richard Nelson, John Neal, Lois Nelson and Betty Musgrove.

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Schedule

TOLEDO:

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DETROIT METRO AIRPORT

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**TOLEDO TO
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Marriott	Sheraton Westgate	Arrive Metro
4:50 am	5:00 am	6:00 am
5:50 am	6:00 am	7:00 am
7:15 am	7:30 am	8:30 am
8:45 am	9:00 am	10:00 am
10:15 am	10:30 am	11:30 am
11:45 am	12:00 pm	1:00 pm
1:15 pm	1:30 pm	2:30 pm
2:45 pm	3:00 pm	4:00 pm
4:15 pm	4:30 pm	5:30 pm
5:45 pm	6:00 pm	7:00 pm
7:15 pm	7:30 pm	8:30 pm
8:45 pm	9:00 pm	10:00 pm
10:15 pm	10:30 pm	11:30 pm

DETROIT METRO AIRPORT TO TOLEDO

Int. Term.	North Term	South Term	Sheraton Westgate	Marriott
6:05 am	6:10 am	6:15 am	7:30 am	7:15 am
7:05 am	7:10 am	7:15 am	8:15 am	8:30 am
8:35 am	8:40 am	8:45 am	9:45 am	10:00 am
10:05 am	10:10 am	10:15 am	11:15 am	11:30 am
11:35 am	11:40 am	11:45 am	12:45 pm	1:00 pm
1:05 pm	1:10 pm	1:15 pm	2:15 pm	2:30 pm
2:35 pm	2:40 pm	2:45 pm	3:45 pm	4:00 pm
4:05 pm	4:10 pm	4:15 pm	5:15 pm	5:30 pm
5:35 pm	5:40 pm	5:45 pm	6:45 pm	7:00 pm
7:05 pm	7:10 pm	7:15 pm	8:15 pm	8:30 pm
8:35 pm	8:40 pm	8:45 pm	9:45 pm	10:00 pm
10:05 pm	10:10 pm	10:15 pm	11:15 pm	11:30 pm
12:20 am	12:25 am	12:30 am	1:30 am	1:45 am

FARES TO AND FROM TOLEDO:

ADULTS: \$12 Each Way / \$20 Round Trip
SPOUSE/CHILDREN: (3-17 years, accompanied by parent)
\$9 Each Way / \$15 Round Trip
SENIOR CITIZENS: (60 Yrs. & Over)
\$10 Each Way / \$18 Round Trip
Children Under 3 Years FREE
 FARES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

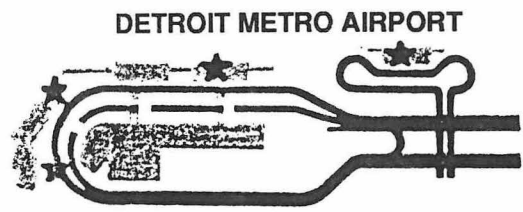
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THE 1991 ILDA CONVENTION . . .

CAMPING, ANYONE?

Visitors traveling to Toledo to attend the 1991 ILDA convention will be coming in different ways . . . air, train, cars . . . and yes, there will be some campers.

Where to stay?

The local committee recommends for reason of convenience and easy access, the Stony Ridge KOA, 24787 Luckey Road, Perrysburg, Ohio 43551. Phone number (419) 837-6848.

This camp is 7 1/2 miles from the hotel with excellent traffic to and from convention headquarters. An RV campsite for two (2) adults with water and electric is \$14. Without water and electricity, \$2 less. For sewer, add \$2. Children, age 17 and under,

\$1.50; additional adults, age 18 and over, add \$3 per person.

* * * *

A second possible choice would be the KOA on state route 295, Swanton, Ohio, a distance of 18 miles from the hotel. Too much traffic and many traffic lights.

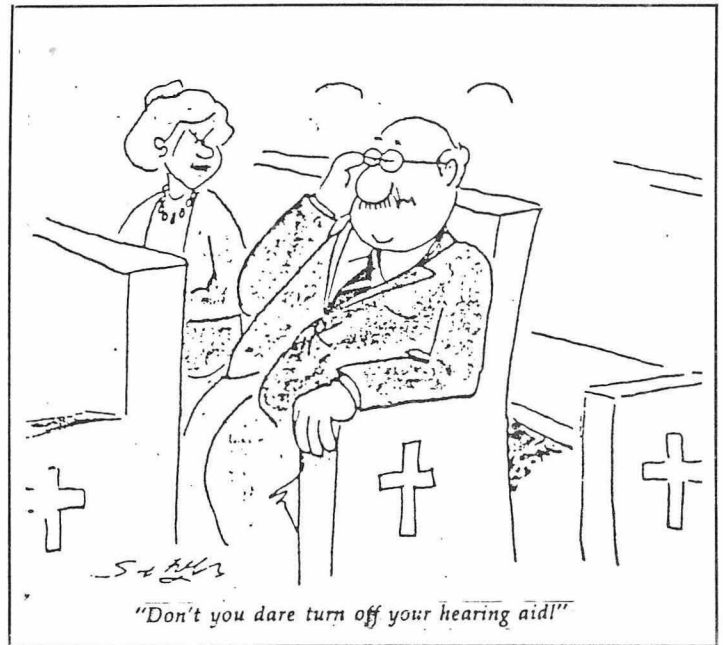
Costs would be identical to those quoted above. Phone number is 419 826-8748. However, if you really prefer to rough it and pitch your own tent, the cost for two persons will be \$14 at the Stony Ridge KOA and \$12 at the one in Swanton.

REV. WAYNE SCHWANKE RESIGNS

The entire congregation of Silent Lutheran church, Madison, Wis. was saddened by the resignation of their pastor, Rev. Wayne Schwanke, due to continuing problems with his health. It had been increasingly difficult for Pastor Schwanke to carry on his pastoral duties while suffering from an irregular heart beat.

He had been on disability leave since July 1 of last year, with others covering for him while he sought medical treatment. The resignation was effective Feb. 28, 1991.

His many well wishers are hopeful the Lord, who is the Great Physician, will bless Pastor Schwanke with renewed good health and that he may return to the ministry.



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