



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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MADDING TO HEAD ILDA AS CENTENNIAL MARK NEARS

Buckeye State hospitality was proven to be as good as any in the country as the 11th biennial convention of THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION came to a conclusion on Sunday, Aug. 4 after nearly a week of board meetings, workshops, conferences, business sessions and worship. A near record attendance showed the 20-year-old association to be growing significantly as more young people become involved in its expanding ministry.



NEW ILDA PRESIDENT--Ronald L. Madding smiles for the photographer as he assumed the presidency. He and wife, Mae, are from Portland, Ore.

Saying he did not wish to have his name entered into nomination for a second two-year term, President Ronald Byington relinquished his post to President-elect Ronald L. Madding of Portland, Ore., who will serve until the next convention in Austin, Texas on the dates of June 24, 25, 26, 27, 1993 with a good chance of being president until the Centennial of Deaf Ministry to be observed in Chicago in 1995 in conjunction with convention to be held there that year.

A first time ever dinner for members of God's 1000 Club was held on Thursday evening with participation being limited to those

with membership in the club. This group pledges an annual contribution of \$10 which is earmarked for board operating expenses, thus freeing other funds for important mission projects. This event drew an overflow crowd, indicating a large attendance could be expected for this year's convention, it being only Thursday.

If growth could be measured in the number of dollars budgeted for mission projects, the 1991 convention had all the indicators of pointing the ILDA in that direction. For 1991-1993, the convention approved a proposed budget of \$20,000, an increase of almost 38% over the previous budget of \$14,500 passed two years earlier at the Portland convention. Approximately \$7,500 over the next two years will, if fully implemented, be sent to India, Macau and Hong Kong; to two schools in Brazil, \$3,500 and to missions in Lebanon, Ghana and Canada, \$3,000. The Association's Zacharias Fund, which provides scholarships to students studying for the pastoral and teaching ministries, the amount was increased to \$3,000, a jump of over 33%.

The 1991 convention theme was amply demonstrated on this year's banner competition, with numerous entries, making the task of judging a difficult thing to do. This year's theme, "God, You are . . . my Teacher, friend, Light and Rock" was the inspiration

Please see **MADDING TO HEAD ILDA**: Page 2

PASTORS RECOGNIZED FOR LONGEVITY

Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson, counselor of Deaf Ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod took the occasion of the 1991 ILDA convention to present awards to certain pastors with long service in the church and to honor them for their devotion and faithful service.

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MADDING TO HEAD ILDA

for about a dozen entries with first place going to Hope Lutheran church, Portland, Ore. In the skit contest, Christ Lutheran church, Cleveland, Ohio was declared the winner with runner-up being Holy Cross Lutheran church, Delavan, Wis.

Most of the convention visitors appeared to avail themselves of the opportunity to take the guided tours Friday afternoon to Sauder Farm and the museum with several busses being required to take everyone who wanted to go.

The first price increase for **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** in many years was passed during the business sessions on Saturday afternoon with a modest increase of only \$1 being added to both plans. A request for a new copying machine for the business manager of the paper was referred to the board of directors for study.

This was the first convention of the ILDA where two wide screens were employed on either side of the large auditorium to allow unobstructed view of the podium for all of the assembly. Synod President Ralph A. Bohlmann conveyed his greetings to the convention body in the manner, using a taped presentation with Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson interpreting his remarks. Attorney Peter R. Silverman, representing the mayor, who could not be present, gave the welcome address for the city of Toledo.

The speaker for the opening worship on Thursday evening was Rev. Richard Gahl, executive director for Ohio District Missions of Olmsted Falls, Ohio who spoke on the convention theme, "God, YOU are . . . my Teacher."

The keynote speaker for the banquet Saturday at the Holiday Inn was Rev. David D. Buegler, president of the Ohio District of Westlake, Ohio.

Preaching the sermon at Sunday morning's closing worship was Dr. Glenn O'Shoney, executive director for the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod of Manchester, Mo.

The association's coveted Right Hand Award, first given in 1977 in memory of Uriel C. Jones, a teacher at the Tennessee School for the Deaf, was presented to Lester Ahls, Cedar Falls, Iowa, who joins seven others who have been similarly honored since. The award sym-

bolizes a spirit of voluntary Christian service to others, through their respective churches, regions and association.

Assuming the position of president-elect is Larry Gorton, Spokane, Wash. who survived a close contest with two others.

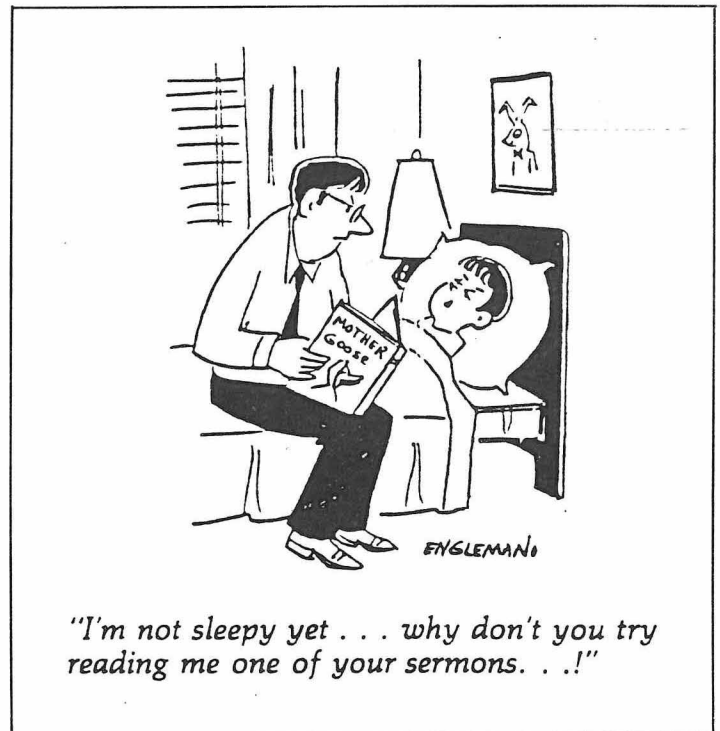
Returning to his office for a second and final two-year term is Charles Kotal, Los Angeles who won a three way race and run-off for secretary.

Succeeding Russel Healey as Treasurer will be Dennis Konkel, College Park, Md.

Serving the board as pastoral adviser will be Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, Pittsburgh, Pa.

A total of \$1,539.50 was gathered for various projects in two offerings on both Thursday's open worship and Sunday's church service. An additional amount was also donated to cover a loss at the dinner Thursday.

Plans for the 1993 convention are well underway already with the Austin Marriot hotel in downtown Austin, Texas designated as convention headquarters. The 1995 convention, while still four years away, will be getting attention soon as plans are formulated, with congregations in Chicago, Wood Dale and Rockford (Ill.) and possibly other areas get together to plan not only for the Centennial of deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod, but for the 25th anniversary of the ILDA, which will occur in 1996.



REV. DARYL GEHLBACH ACCEPTS CALL TO MINNEAPOLIS

Succeeding Rev. Donald Zuhn, who has accepted a call to Houston, Texas, will be Rev. Daryl Gehlbach who will be installed as pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Minneapolis, Minn., on Sept. 8. The family, which includes his wife, Janet and two deaf children, Meng and Jason, come from his former pastorate in West Hartford, Conn.

Pastor Gehlbach, who began his official duties on Aug. 1, will begin church services on Sunday, Aug. 11 following attendance at the ILDA convention in Toledo, Ohio and the Ephphatha Conference in Ann Arbor, Mich.

Pastor Gehlbach and his family can be reached at 1101 University Ave. S.E., Minneapolis, Minn. 55414.

ALPHA, ROCHESTER, HAS NEW PASTOR

Rev. David Boyd, who vicared at Holy Cross Lutheran church, Columbus, Ohio will be installed as pastor at Alpha Lutheran church, Rochester, N.Y. on Sunday, Sept. 15. He succeeds Rev. Mark Seeger, who accepted a call to Jesus Lutheran church, Austin, Texas early in the new year.

TOLEDO GETS VICAR

For the first time ever, Good Shepherd Lutheran church, Toledo, Ohio, where Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt is pastor, the congregation will receive a new vicar in the person of Matthew

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

PASTORS RECOGNIZED FOR LONGEVITY

45 Years

Rev. George C. Ring, Des Moines, Iowa; Rev. Francis Gyle, Penney Farms, Fla.

40 Years

Rev. Delbert I. Thies, Omaha, Neb.

35 Years

Rev. Robert A. Bauer, Edmonton, Alta.

30 Years

Robert M. Corl Jr., Lexington, Mich.

25 Years

Rev. Donald W. Zuhn, Houston, Texas.

Many other pastors with fewer years of service were similarly honored with certificates presented by Dr. Rynearson.

Nix. With him will be his wife, Lynda and daughter, Autumn, 11.

VACANCIES IN THE FIELD

At the just concluded 11th biennial convention of the ILDA in Toledo, Ohio, Rev. Rodney R. Rynearson reported to the assembly that there are currently about nine vacancies in the deaf mission field with the longest unfilled position being in North Dakota, which has not had a pastor for eight years. Second on his list is Kansas City, which has been vacant four years; St. Matthew, New York City and St. Mark, two years; Memphis, Tenn., Jackson, Miss., Madison, Wis., and the newest one, West Hartford, Conn.

There are 52 full time churches in the USA, 17 part time and approximately 200 churches with interpreting services for deaf worshippers.

SEARS TO HANDLE HEARING AID SYSTEMS

Some of the larger Sears stores nationwide will be offering some additional lines to assist the deaf and hearing impaired individuals with assistive devices not previously available in their stores. They have entered into a contract with HiTec Group International of Darien, Ill. to sell independent living devices.

Available will be telephone accessories, smoke detectors, clocks and wake-up devices, assistive listening devices, TV decoders and TDD's.



"Reverend, are you sure there's only Ten Commandments? My mother has about a hundred!"

THE 1991 CONVEN



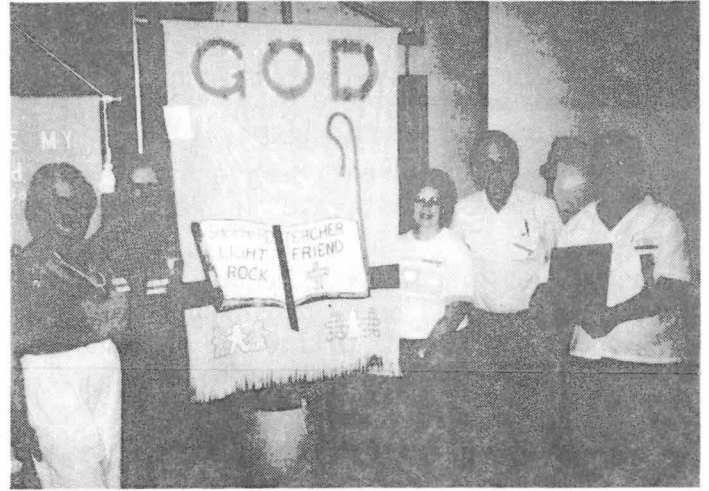
INTRODUCING THE PASTORS--Dr. Rodney Rynearson introduces pastors in attendance at the convention to the assembly. Many more are not shown in the picture.



WINNING SMILES FROM Seattle--Rev. Bill Ludwig and his charming wife, Sigrid, following an elegant dinner at the banquet Saturday evening. Note part of the large crowd in the background.



DRAWING FOR DOOR PRIZES--Co-chairman Howard Snyder has a lady draw a ticket for a free two-year membership in the ILDA. Five such winners were named.



ROYAL CANADIANS AND THEIR BANNER--Five persons who came a great distance to attend the 11th biennial convention from Edmonton, Alta, left to right: Eleanor Bauer, Edward Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Anderson and Rev. Robert Bauer.

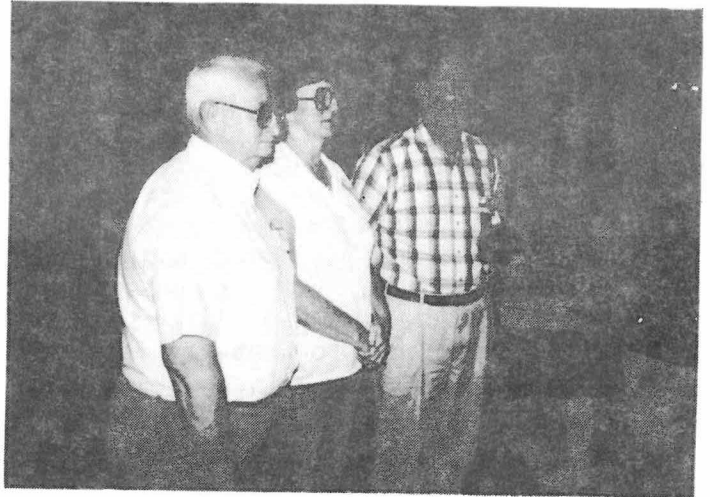


NEW OFFICERS SWORN IN--Pastor Shirrel Petzoldt swears in the new executive board Sunday morning after church services. Left to right: Rev. Edwin Bergstresser, pastoral adviser; Dennis Konkkel, treasurer; Charles Kotal, secretary; Larry Gorton, president-elect and Ronald Madding, president. Immediately behind them are Frank Cassese, Larry Ginter and Rev. Gary Lawson, all from the Cleveland, Ohio area.

TION--IN PICTURES



RIGHT HAND AWARD WINNER--Lester Ahls, Cedar Falls, Iowa, displays plaque awarded him as recipient for the 1991 Uriel C. Jones Right Hand Award. Seven others have been honored since the first in 1977. Larry Gorton, awards chairperson, is on right.



WORTHY CANDIDATES FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT--Shown here, left to right are Jim Swalley, North Manchester, Ind.; Marye Anne Emerson of Cleveland, Ohio, and Larry Gorton of Spokane, Wash., who won the contest after a run-off election was held.



BANNER COMPETITION AWARDS--Three ladies hold award certificates their churches won Saturday evening in banner contest. Phippi Nichols, right, holds first place for Silent Lutheran, Madison, Wis.; Rosemarie Fresh of Emmanuel, Milwaukee, is in center, and at far left is Helen Drake, Portland, Ore.



JUST CHATTING IN RESTAURANT--Friends Rosemary Fresh and Kathy Murphy enjoy a break in the proceedings. Both are from Milwaukee, Wis. Attentive lady in the foreground is Millie Francisco, Spokane, Wash.



"Stand Up for Jesus!"

DR. MARTIN LUTHER REMEMBERED

In the days of the Reformation, when it was not always safe to speak a person's convictions, especially where they concerned the truths of the Bible, we once again see Dr. Luther at the Diet of worms where his famous words, "I cannot recant" were spoken:



"Unless I am overcome by the testimonies of Holy Scripture, I cannot and will not take back anything. For my conscience is bound in God's word, and it is neither safe nor upright to act against conscience. Here I stand; I cannot do otherwise; God help me. Amen."

We, too, need to stand for the courage of our convictions through the power given to us through inspiration by the Holy Spirit. From the words of Paul written in the Book of Romans 1:16, we find: "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ for it is the power of God." And from the Book of Psalms 119:46,

David, the sweet singer of Israel says, "I will speak of Thy testimonies before kings and will not be ashamed."

From Luther's explanation of the Second Article in his Small Catechism, we read:

"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with His holy precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."

(Some of our readers may wonder what the precise meaning of "to recant" means. Webster defines the word as 'to make a formal or public withdrawal or renunciation of beliefs or statements formerly held.--Ed.)

TWIN CITIES LUTHERANS CELEBRATE DOUBLE ANNIVERSARIES IN 1991

As the centennial of deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod nears it is very interesting to note that one of the earliest preaching stations was in the Twin Cities area where the first service to the deaf was preached on Oct. 16, 1898 by Rev. Augustus Reinke, of Milwaukee, Wis., who may rightfully be regarded as the father of deaf ministry in the LC-MS. Rev. Traugot Wangerin also of Milwaukee, continued to serve the new mission area until Aug. 1901 when Rev. John L. Salvner was ordained by Rev. Wangerin on Aug. 25, 1901.

To commemorate not only the 90th anniversary of deaf ministry in the Twin Cities but the 80th anniversary of the Ladies' Guild as well, a number of events have and will occur throughout the year from January through September with fund-raisers to support missionary projects around the world slated throughout the period.

Events have included a potluck and bake sale in March; open house and dinner in April

with former pastor Bill Lange as guest preacher and vacancy pastor, Rev. Byron Northwick conducting the liturgy. A festival picnic in Arden Hills was held Aug. 25 which provided the members with a chance to get acquainted with their new pastor, Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, who had earlier accepted their call, moving to the Twin Cities from West Hartford, Conn. to succeed Rev. Donald Zuhn, who had accepted a call to Texas.

Rounding out the nearly year long observance was a poolside fellowship and social and banquet in conjunction with Deaf Awareness Week in Minnesota Sept. 21-22. Delivering the address at Holiday Inn, Roseville, Minn. was Rev. A. L. Hauptmann, former pastor and now retired and living in California. Conducting the liturgy was Pastor Gehlbach.

As deaf Lutherans in Minnesota near the first century of worshipping as a congregation, our prayer is that the Lord of the church will continue to bless their work for Him to the glory of His Name.

IOWA EAST CALLS PASTOR-AT-LARGE

In an effort to resolve a number of problems that have been persistent in the deaf ministry for the Iowa East District, the following 'Deaf Ministry Statement' is being published showing how the new setup will function in the years ahead following its adoption, which is already in place.

'DEAF MINISTRY STATEMENT'

This statement has been adopted by the Iowa District East Board of Directors. This statement needs to be adopted by Word of God congregation (Cedar Rapids) for final approval.

1. Iowa District East initiates a position of missionary-at-large to replace the current style of deaf ministry to serve about half time for Word of God congregation, Cedar Rapids, and half time for Iowa District East.

A. This position will be filled by a call extended by the missions committee as empowered by the Board of Directors.

B. This called worker will be administratively responsible to the mission committee through the missions executive.

C. This called worker will meet with the missions committee at least three times annually for a review process of goals/projects/performances.

2. Members of Word of God who live outside of Cedar Rapids will be encouraged to affiliate with the local Missouri Synod congrega-

tion in the community which they worship.

3. Word of God congregation in Cedar Rapids no longer receives financial subsidy from District, but take responsibility for the church building, maintenance, programs and mission work of the congregation. It provides the missionary-at-large office space and equipment, secretarial help and supplies for Word of God and preaching stations.

4. All offerings received from the preaching stations will be submitted to the District.

5. Each preaching station shall identify one lay contact person for communication with the District mission executive and the mission committee.

6. District preaching stations and Word of God will work together through quarterly gatherings (training, fellowship, workshops, rallies, worship, etc.) to enhance the work of deaf ministry in the District.

7. Re-evaluation and possible renegotiation to take place in the fall of each even numbered year by representatives of Word of God, preaching stations and the District missions committee or whenever a vacancy occurs.

Recommendation of the foregoing statement to the Board of Directors. If this statement is accepted by the IDE Board of Directors, the mission committee recommends that Rev. Michael MacDonald be called to this position.

(Rev. MacDonald is currently the pastor serving East Iowa and western Illinois.--Ed.)

MORE ALPHABET SOUP

Most of us are already familiar with such acronyms as the ILDA, NAD, NFSD, CSUN, JR ILDA, ERILDA, PRILDA, IAD, and many more, too numerous to list here. Now we will add one more, ALDA.

ALDA stands for ASSOCIATION FOR LATE-DEAFENED ADULTS. Created in 1987 to provide support for individuals who became deafened during their adult years. At the present time, there are 13 ALDA chapters around the country, including groups in New York, Connecticut, Florida and the Bay Area of California.

The third international conference of ALDA CON III will be held at the Westin Hotel in Chicago Nov. 6-10, 1991.

ALDA seeks presentation proposals for its theme, "Facing Deafness" and leadership for ALDA chapters. 90 minute presentations will be considered.

For an application or further information contact Karina Graham, 2445 W. Cuyler St., Chicago, Ill. 60618. Phone numbers are 312-604-4190 (voice) or 312-604-4191 TDD.

DENNIS THE MENACE



"CAN I BRING MY DOG NEXT SUNDAY?
HE'S NICER THAN MOST PEOPLE."

ROAMIN' THE REGIONS . . .

Our prayers are needed for **little John Andrew Bergstresser**, who was nine months old on Aug. 14 and weighs only 11 lbs. 12 oz. and is only 23½" long. You see, little John, who is the son of Pastor and Mrs. Edwin Bergstresser of Pittsburgh, has a serious kidney deficiency, which may require a transplant, if it is determined to be necessary by his doctors. His one kidney shows little sign of operating according to normal bloodwork chemistry, which is .2 to .3. When born, his creatinine level was 4.7, which is too high. The creatinine level is now 2.2, which indicates John still has a long way to go. On the bright side, he does all the normal things babies do, creeping, laughing, babbling and of course, he wants his milk.

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Does your church need an organ? **Jesus Lutheran church**, Austin, Texas wishes to sell its fine Hammond organ with a tone cabinet for an asking price of \$1,200 or best offer. The congregation feels the instrument is too big for its building and is using more contemporary music for its services.

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Roy Klein, a long time member of Prince of Peace Lutheran church, Minneapolis, the Midwest Region of the ILDA and the parent organization, passed away May 17 with Christian burial on May 20. Roy was an ardent Christian, with strong ties to his church and family. We ask the Lord's comfort on his wife, Ardella and family.

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Rev. and Mrs. George C. Ring of Des Moines, were the honorees at a surprise 45th anniversary

party after church services at Calvary Lutheran church on Sunday, June 9. Coffee and cake were enjoyed by many of Pastor Ring's former parishioners who came to wish the couple well.

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Remember the **Sonshine Singers** of Omaha, Neb. of a few years ago? One of the two members, Karen Dammeyer Blank, now of Madison, Neb., and her husband, Darwin, are expecting a little gift from heaven.

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Congratulations to **Rev. Martin Hewitt** who was re-elected at the District convention to another term as circuit counselor for the nine LCMS congregations in the Spokane, Wash. area.

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A few fond words as **Vicar John Hoopmann** and his family prepare to leave the USA for home in Australia . . . Adelaide, their home, long ago had a pastor for the deaf. He worked hard and the deaf built a church and fellowship area below it for the deaf people of southern Australia. That building was built in 1929, and the pastor cared for the club and taught the deaf about God's love for them and Jesus' forgiveness for them through His blood on the cross. The pastor retired and another came and left, but the church has now been without a pastor for more than 50 years. John Hoopmann has been called to fill this need.

THOSE who aim at nothing usually hit it.

SUCCESS consists of getting up just one more time than you fall down.

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