



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

January-February, 1992

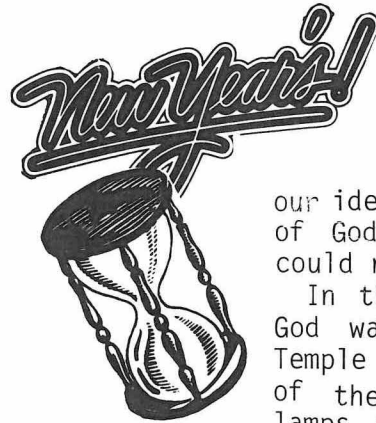
St. Louis, Mo.

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"HOLY TO THE LORD"

We are "a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a HOLY nation, a people belonging to God" (1 Peter 2:9).

As we enter a New Year, it seems very fitting that we, as Christian believers, set aside a few minutes to dwell on the words of Peter and once again, reaffirm our identity as chosen people of God. A higher honor we could not attain.



In the ancient days, when God was worshipped in the Temple in Jerusalem, all of the special bowls, the lamps and utensils of every kind that were used in the Temple were in-

scribed, "HOLY TO THE LORD." All of the tools used in offering sacrifices, all of the incense burners and the priestly garments, every object used in the worship of God or in His service was "Holy to the Lord."

Certain people, too, were "Holy to the Lord." God chose one tribe of the Israelites, the tribe of Levi, to be set apart from the others and dedicated to service in the Temple. They were a "tithing of the tribes" and living sacrifices to God. From the High Priest who officiated at great festivals to the lowest Levite who swept the Temple porticoes or cleaned the Temple stables, all whose lives were dedicated to serving God were holy to Him.

To be holy was to be special. It meant being separated from ordinary usage, and being

Please see "HOLY TO THE LORD": Page 2

THE LEGEND OF ST. VALENTINE

Note: The following story is **not** from the Bible but makes very interesting reading when taken in context with St. Valentine's Day when we remember loved ones with cards, flowers and. . . .

The story of Valentine's Day begins in the third century. The very nasty Roman Emperor

Claudius, ordered all Roman people to worship 12 different gods. But there was a man named "Valentinus" who was a Christian and refused to obey the order. Even though he would be killed, he continued to worship only Christ Jesus.

Valentinus was arrested and thrown into prison. While he was in jail, the man who guarded the jail noticed that Valentinus had a good education. The man asked Valentinus if he could bring his daughter to the jail so Valentinus could give her lessons. The daughter's name was Julia, and she was blind since birth. Valentinus agreed and so every day Julia came to the jail where Valentinus taught her. He read stories about the history of Rome to her. He taught her arithmetic. And he told her about God. Valentinus explained to Julia how beautiful the world is, because she had never seen anything.

Please see THE LEGEND OF ST. VALENTINE: Page 2

1992

This is the beginning of a new year. God has given me this time to use as I will. I can waste it or use it for good. What I do each day of this year is important, because I am exchanging a day of my life for it.

When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something I have traded for it. I want it to be gain, not loss, good, not evil; success, not failure in order that I should not regret the price I paid for it.

OKTOBERFEST CELEBRATION

Pastor Ken Schnepf of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Towson, Md. asks an interesting question: What does sauerbraten and sign language share in common? "Nothing really," he replies, "unless you are talking about the Oktoberfest celebration sponsored by St. Mark Lutheran Church on Sunday, Oct. 20, 1991

which served both as a fund raiser and a fun raiser for both deaf and hearing, the latter members of it's sister congregation, First Lutheran, located at 40 E. Burke Ave., Towson, a suburb north of Baltimore.

Pastor Schnepf reports that funds generated by the event are earmarked for benefit programs and equipment for deaf ministry in Baltimore City and surrounding Maryland counties. He stressed at the Sunday morning service, at which he was both proclaimer and celebrant that "we are always eager to notice differences instead of celebrating the common things we share as God's people" . . . "and that 'handicapped' is not so much a physical barrier as our thinking and perception of others."

An authentic sauerbraten meal was served in the Apostle's Fellowship hall, providing an opportunity for both deaf and hearing to mix and try communicating through sign language.

See Page 3--TWO PICTURES

"LOUIE SAYS. . . .

Just when I think I'm going to make ends meets, someone moves the ends."

CONTINUE: FROM PAGE 1

THE LEGEND OF ST. VALENTINE

One day Julia asked, "Valentinus, does God really hear our prayers?" Valentinus answered, "Yes, my child. God hears each one." Julia said, "Do you know what I pray for every morning and every night? I pray that I might see. I want so much to see everything you have told me about." Valentinus said, "God does what is best for us if we will only believe Him." Julia said, "Oh, Valentinus, I do believe. I do!" She knelt and grasped his hand. They sat quietly together, each praying. Suddenly, there was a brilliant light in the prison cell. Julia cried out, "Valentinus, I can see!" "Praise be to God," Valentinus exclaimed.

On the night before Valentinus was executed to death, he wrote one last note to Julia. He told her to stay close to God, and he signed it, "From Your Valentine." He was executed on Feb. 14, 270 A.D., and buried by a church in Rome. And so today, on each February 14, St. Valentine Day messages of love are exchanged around the world.

CONTINUE: FROM PAGE 1

"HOLY TO THE LORD"

set apart to be used by God solely for His purposes. Only the select few were "Holy to the Lord." But, we read in the closing words of the prophet Zechariah, that a day would come when "every pot in Jerusalem and Judah will be holy to the Lord Almighty" (Zechariah 14:21). The day would come when not just the priests and the Levites were especially set apart, but every man, woman and child would be dedicated to God's service.

That Day has come! Those who have been baptized into Christ are all "HOLY TO THE LORD." Each of us is special, chosen and set apart from the rest of mankind, for full-time service to God.

As holy people, set apart for His use, every minute of our day is a minute of service to Him. Just as the Levites were living sacrifices to God, so Christians offer our lives as "living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God" (Romans 12:1) In our homes, every pot (and fork, chair, radio or TV and car) is "Holy to the Lord" just as Zechariah prophesied. Our lives, our goods, everything that we have and are, are dedicated to serving the living God.

Holiness does not mean perfection, although we strive to be so. It means dedication. When we realize that by saving us, Christ made us special, then our life of dedication begins. Christ has called us out of darkness into His most glorious light. As His holy people, we are dedicated to letting that light shine through us. As we do, our lives are continuous worship of our loving Father.

As holy people, "let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

As members of the royal priesthood of believers and followers of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, may we continue to share the Good News of the Gospel of our Lord among all with whom we associate in the New Year, 1992!

HONG KONG SYNOD LOOKS TOWARDS 1997

With a deadline of about five years left before Hong Kong returns to Communist China in 1997, the British Crown colony, which includes Hong Kong Island and the Kowloon peninsula and a part of the Chinese mainland, faces a formidable challenge as the time for reverting back to mainland China nears.

Leaders from two dozen confessional Lutheran church bodies worldwide, including the Missouri Synod, have expressed public support for the Hong Kong Synod during the meeting of the International Lutheran Conference held in Hong Kong at the invitation of the Hong Kong Synod to recognize the challenge that the church faces as the year 1997 looms ahead.

Residents' fear of communist control has already resulted in emigration from the

colony with members and several pastors leaving. Realizing what has occurred in other countries with state sponsored atheism has not helped to calm those fears.

Hong Kong Synod President Benjamin B. W. Chung told the conference, held last Oct. 4-12, "We adopt a careful and optimistic approach to welcome the new challenge, because we believe in the almighty God."

The Conference issued a statement which said in part, "We give Thanks to God for His overflowing blessings to and through the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod . . . confident that the Lord of the church opens doors which no man closes and closes doors which no man can open, we pray that God would permit the LCHKS to build on these blessings, looking forward with confidence to the vast opportunities for mission and ministry in China, government restrictions notwithstanding."

As members of the ILDA, we pray that God will also prosper the work we are currently doing in Hong Kong and Macau among the deaf and which we have given much through our mission projects. Serving there is Dr. Louis R. Jasper. See the November-December 1991 issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN, "The Challenge of Ministry in the Far East."

Winter Sky

By GRACE L. DIMM

How cold and still
Is the winter night,
And the skies are sparkling
With age old light.
From the time of creation
Each cold white star
Like molten silver
Still shines from afar.

In the dark, silent vastness
I feel so small,
But God's wonderful mercy
I do recall
He sent Christ, His Son
On the earth to trod
And we, too, are significant
In the eyes of God.

Mrs Dimm, 80, of Harrisburg, Penn. is a member of Zion Lutheran Church there and has been involved in the deaf community for more than 40 years. The author teaches Sunday school and shares THE DEAF LUTHERAN among her members. Many thanks for the poem!



FREE PROGRAM BOOKLETS--All registrants for the Oktoberfest Celebration at St. Mark received Deaf Awareness Program booklets. Individuals are not otherwise identified.



"I LOVE YOU"--Some members give the "I Love You" sign during the Oktoberfest Celebration at St. Mark Lutheran Church Oct. 20.

ILDA President-elect Larry M. Gorton and his wife, Jane, of Spokane, Wash. announce the arrival of David Samuel, who arrived by stork express Oct. 25. Little David tipped the scales at 7 lbs. 9 oz. and was 20" in length. Arriving about 4½ weeks before he was expected, he spend some time in the intensive care unit, but his proud parents report he is doing fine now.

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Bill Ragland, Independence, Mo., was hospitalized recently for chest surgery with a tumor being removed. He is reported doing fine at home.

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Ms. Renae C. Klasse, 18, of Renwick, Iowa is one of the few deaf students we know of who have been awarded AAL scholarships. She attends Iowa Western Community College in Council Bluffs, Iowa. She is taking advanced secretarial training.

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A national conference on substance abuse and deafness will be held in Denver July 5-8 right after the NAD convention concludes. It will be held in the same hotel, the Marriott, City Center. Fees range from \$175 prior to May 15 to \$275 at the door. Full time students and seniors will pay \$80. Interested persons may contact Ms. Deb Guthmann, Minnesota Chemical Dependency Program for the Hearing Impaired, 2450 Riverside Ave., Minneapolis, Minn. 55454. 800-282-3323 (V/TDD).

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Peace Lutheran Church, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada has lost its pastor, Rev. Frank Silver who has accepted a call to Bramalea, Ontario. As this goes to press, Rev. Darrell Kois, Des Moines, Iowa has the call to Regina, but no decision has been reached if he will accept. (Latest report: Pastor Kois has declined the call and will stay in Des Moines.--Ed.)

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Rev. Arnold J. Lutz, 75, a servant of the Lord for 41 years in India where he started two schools for the deaf, passed away Oct. 21 with services being held in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Ames, Iowa on Oct. 24. During Rev. Lutz' missionary work in India, he was instrumental in translating the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, the Ten Commandments and a short form of the liturgy for worship services into sign language for use in instructing deaf children. He also compiled a sign language book featuring translations of 400

ROAMING THE

words commonly used in religious life, the first of its kind in that country.

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The first meeting of the local planning committee for the 1995 synod wide celebration of deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod was held in Rockford, Ill. on Monday evening, Oct. 7 at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Chair-in the first session was **Rev. Mark A. Anderson** who plans on bi-monthly meetings with congregational representatives.

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Rev. Donald Zuhn's latest church bulletin comments on the astounding comeback from last place to the World Series this year. "Impossible," the pastor says. "Impossible." You have to remember that the good pastor just moved to Texas from the Twin Cities not long ago, and he was (and probably is) a booster for the **Minnesota Twins**. Anyone who watched the last game of the series this year must be just as astounded at the 1-0 victory the



REV. ARNOLD LUTZ DIES--This 1984 photo shows Rev. Lutz (right) acting as liturgist at a service in India conducted by Rev. D. S. Christudoss.

REGIONS . . .

Twin pulled off after 10 innings that was 0 to 0. Do I hear the pastor repeating his earlier comment, "Impossible!" He makes a good point when he points out that many people also said "impossible" at the many wonderful things that Jesus did. But He did them.

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The Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference will host a retreat at Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas on the dates of Jan. 3-5, 1992. Special guest will be Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson, Counselor of Deaf Ministry in the LCMS.

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One of the biggest problems of educating the deaf child in the acquisition of language, unless special measures are taken, is the fact that on the average, a deaf child will have only 50 to 60 words at the age of 5 or 6, whereas, the hearing child will have about 3,000.

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We have just learned of the passing of Rev. Clarence C. Bremer of Pelican Rapids, Minn., who died Aug. 26. Pastor Bremer had a number of stations in Minnesota and Chicago areas and served as a vacancy pastor in his home

STUDENTS MAKE UP CORE-STAFF AT PAX NATURA

Two students pursuing degrees in higher education were given summer positions on the staff at Pax Natura Ranch, Clyde, Alta., an outreach program of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Edmonton, Alta., where Rev. R. A. Bauer is pastor.

Cross of Christ was able to apply for a special Canadian government grant to subsidize salaries for students Cory Habershtock and Tracy Metzger. Corey is seeking a degree from Concordia College at Edmonton; Tracy is a graduate of the Alberta School for the Deaf and will be continuing her education

A BIT OF HUMOR

"How much are the hearing aids?" asked the customer.

"Oh, it depends," said the salesman. "They run from \$2.50 to \$1,500."

"Let's see the \$2.50 model," said the customer. "Certainly, let me show you how to wear it. You put this button in your ear and this string in your pocket."

"How does it work?"

"It does not work, but when people see it on you, they'll talk louder."

area after retirement a number of years ago.

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Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis., has adopted a new budget for the coming year 1991-92 which calls for \$32 million and an additional \$650,475 for capital equipment and repairs. The budget includes a 5% merit pay increase for approximately 1,000 employees.

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1993 ILDA Convention update: As of October, 1991, the local convention committee has raised \$1,414.85. The convention dates are June 24-27 at the Austin Marriot.

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Many of our ILDA members will remember the late Rev. Ernest Mappes, who served many of us so well before he went home to be with the Lord. His wife, Emma recently passed her 90th birthday.

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Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller of Defiance, Ohio celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary last summer. They are the parents of four sons and have seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A reception in their honor was given to them by their children.

at Vancouver City College.

The two assisted Pastor and Mrs. Bauer in planning and directing programs involving Deaf Youth Camp, Special Deaf Adult Camp, Sign Language Immersion Week, Family Retreat, to name a few.

The ranch, which is located approximately 30 miles north of Edmonton, has been a recipient of ILDA Mission projects for a number of years.



TIME OUT ON THE RANCH--Left to right, Corey Habershtock, Rev. Bauer, Tracy Metzger and Mrs. Eleanor Bauer.

ILDA BOARD MEETS IN NOVEMBER

The first meeting of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the ILDA since the 1991 convention in Toledo, Ohio took place in St. Louis Nov. 22-24.



Dr. Rodney Rynearson, Synodical Representative and Counselor of Blind and Deaf Ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod spoke to the group assembled at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge adjacent

to the LCMS International Center. Rev. Rynearson assured the members of Synod's continuing support for deaf ministry and that no programs for the deaf would be cut. With the centennial observance for deaf ministry slightly more than three years away, plans were being formulated to ask for permission allowing the deaf to conduct the opening worship at the synod's 1995 convention. He mentioned unsubstantiated reports that Rev. Augustus Reinke was given a similar honor at Synod's 1896 convention in Fort Wayne, Ind. where he used sign language to conduct that opening service. As many deaf Lutherans already know, Rev. Reinke was the first Lutheran pastor to serve the deaf before the turn of the century on March 4, 1894 in Chicago.

Still other plans include asking Districts to include a half hour in their 1994 conventions to focus on deaf ministry; compiling a booklet on history of deaf ministry along with television coverage at the centennial convention. Other plans are to conduct Lutheran Open Houses in 1994 with the kickoff for all events to commence on Sunday, March 6, 1994, the Sunday closest to the original date of Rev. Reinke's first sermon in sign language.

Plans for the ILDA's 1995 convention and news concerning its 25th anniversary celebration and centennial observance will appear in the pages of *THE DEAF LUTHERAN* as they become available.

With at least seven former presidents of the ILDA still living, some of whom are no longer serving in any official capacity, it was decided to form a "Past Officers' Advisory Council" whose expertise and past experience could be called upon should the need arise. The council would also form the nominating committee of the ILDA and would direct its efforts at obtaining the best qualified people possible to serve on the ILDA Board

of Directors.

A "Past Officers' Advisory Council" could also be the basis for a new camaraderie of former presidents who could look forward to get-togethers and possible dinners at future conventions.

In other business, the board failed to pass a proposal that would have changed the way *THE DEAF LUTHERAN* is produced and distributed. A plan to purchase a new copying system was the subject of extensive study and debate and was finally rejected as not being cost efficient when compared with the present production and distributing method.

Attending this meeting was Richard Norton, Austin, Texas, General Chairman for the 1993 ILDA convention in that city, the farthest south yet that an ILDA convention will have been held. Mr. Norton reported on convention preparations saying plans were progressing well. The dates for the 1993 convention will be June 24-27, both dates inclusive with headquarters at the Austin Marriot Hotel.

**WITH
GREAT
BOLDNESS...**

**TELL
EVERYONE
WHAT HE
HAS DONE!**

FAMILIAR WORDS—But added to them to form the theme for the 1992 synodical convention in Pittsburgh is the phrase "With Great Boldness," from Acts 4:29. LCMS President Ralph A. Bohlmann said those three words call for the Synod not only to continue telling the world of God's salvation in Christ, but to do so quickly, decisively, wholeheartedly and boldly.

WHY SOME QUIT COMING TO CHURCH

There probably isn't one single answer that fits all individual cases. Some people cannot get along with the pastor; others get upset by one or more members of the congregation and will not return until that particular person(s) is gone. In those cases, forgiveness by all the people involved is the only answer.

In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus reminds us that we **MUST** forgive each other because God has forgiven us. Forgiveness and forgiving one another is central to the teaching in our churches.

Another reason people stop coming to church is because they never gave God a chance in their lives. You can attend worship and Bible class and still not give your life into God's hands. When you give your life to God, then HE can begin to pour HIS blessings on you. God doesn't force Himself into our lives, but HE comes to us through HIS Word when you

attend worship regularly, come to Bible class and pray to HIM every day. A change happens in our lives and then everything we do at home, at school, at work, all the small and big things we do not do for ourselves, but for His glory.

Some people stop attending church because Satan has used their friends, or family, or other tempting earthly things to keep them away from God's Word. We need to be an example for other people to follow. We need to show the same love and kindness that our Saviour showed to all people. When you notice someone is missing from worship, call them or visit them and see if you can help to keep them strong in God's Word.

Pray for them!

AIDS TDD HOTLINE

While we have no statistics on the number of deaf people in this country who may be infected with the HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) we are providing a toll-free phone number any person can call to obtain information about AIDS prevention, testing, and treatment. The number is 1-800-243-7889 and is answered by deaf information specialists.

NOTICE

Postal regulations may soon require all mailings to have an additional four digit zip code to the present five numbers currently contained. For example, the editor's zip code with all numbers included is 50613-1614. The business manager's zip code is 99206-3938.

When ordering subscriptions to **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** or sending in renewals, please include your full zip code number.

Thank you very much!

ILDA SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

While this program has been available for a number of years now and has assisted many young people with college or seminary training, still the ILDA feels a need to further empathize that it has scholarships for young people entering the pastoral or teaching ministries and with plans to serve the deaf in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod at the conclusion of their studies.

Interested persons should submit a recommendation from their pastor, financial aid officer at the college or seminary and a personal letter in which they state their intent to serve in deaf ministry.

Applications should be sent to Mr. Dennis Konkel, treasurer, International Lutheran Deaf Association, 8712 34th Ave. College Park, MD 20740.



PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF NEWSLETTERS

Most of our churches, especially the larger ones, have a newsletter sent out free each month or two to their membership at no charge. However, they often request a donation to support this endeavor, as it puts a real crimp in budgets. As an example, we will use the one from Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Omaha, Neb. to show what these costs run and why they solicit readers' help with those costs.

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Bulk mailing | \$ 55.00 |
| Stencils | 5.00 |
| Paper | 35.00 |
| Ink | 10.00 |
| Labels | 2.00 |
| Totals, 1 month | \$107.00 |

For a year, this would be \$1,284.00 and does not cover such things as equipment maintenance, labor or for copies returned because readers neglected to inform them of a new address.

For THE DEAF LUTHERAN, these costs are much higher and the annual subscription rate of \$6 barely covers these costs. We encourage your continued support and cooperation with address changes and subscription renewals.

LOVE IS . . .

LOVE is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish.

LOVE is always patient and kind; it is never jealous.

LOVE is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

LOVE takes no pleasure in other people's sins; but delight in the truth.

LOVE does not take offense, and is not resentful.

IF YOU LIVE THROUGH THE YEAR 1992 . . .

If you live through the 366 days of 1992 (this year has one extra day for Leap Year) your heart will beat 37,929,718 times, your blood will travel over 61,320,000,000 miles, you will breath over 8,409,000 times and you will inhale 176,295 cubic feet of air. On the average, you will eat 1,200 lbs. of food and you will drink 1,060 quarts of liquid. It looks like you will have a busy year taking care of the needs of your body.

How many time will you spend taking care of your soul?

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Our God, our Help in ages past,
Our Hope for years to come,
Our Shelter from the stormy blast,
And our eternal Home!

Under the shadow of Thy throne
Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone,
And our defense is sure.

Before the hills in order stood
Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God,
To endless years the same.

A thousand ages in Thy sight
Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night
Before the rising sun.

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