



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

July-August, 1992

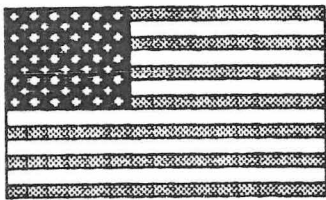
St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 84, No. 4

THE BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM

Rev. Clark R. Bailey
Our Savior Lutheran Church
Detroit, Mich.

In July, we celebrate "AMERICA, LAND OF THE FREE." And if we remember that Canada is part of North America, these words apply to Canadians, too. Both nations celebrate their beginnings early in July with Canadians on July 1st and in the United States on July 4th.



The freedom (or liberty) that we enjoy today cost many people their lives. Many parents and wives have wept for loved ones lost in battles to preserve and keep our freedom. And many other people have suffered many hardships to push the borders of the country westward to open new land for settlement.

In the Bible we find the words "liberty" and "freedom." In the Old Testament the children of Israel had great freedom--IF they obeyed the Law of the Lord. In Exodus Chapters 19 and 20 we see them arriving at Mount Sinai and Moses receiving the Law from the Lord. He promises them great blessings and in verse 8 of chapter 19, "Then all the people answered together, 'All that the Lord has spoken we will do.'"

Our nations have freedom of religion, **NOT freedom from religion.** If we expect the Lord to bless our lives, then we must listen to His Word and live according to that Word. When people do not listen to God's Word and follow it, they have great trouble; they sin and receive its punishment.

St. Paul, writing his second letter to the church in Corinth (3:17) says, ". . . where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Please see THE BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM: Page 2

CHANGES IN 1993 CONVENTION ANNOUNCED

Due to unexpected difficulties with the Austin Marriott Hotel in Austin, Texas to reach an agreement on rates for the 1993 ILDA convention, the tentative contract has been canceled and the site for next year's meeting moved to a new location. The hotel's refusal to cut rates below \$80.00 a night has been given as



the main reason for the change, according to Richard Norton, convention chairperson.

Convention dates have also been moved up one week from June 24-27 to July 1-4.

The new headquarters for the 12th biennial

convention will be the Red Lion Hotel--Austin Airport and rates will be \$55.00 per night for up to four persons. The total for all tickets will be \$100.00 but early birds can obtain theirs for \$75.00 if purchased before April 1, 1993 and for \$85.00 by June 1. After that date all combination tickets will be \$90.00.

A total of four tour packages will be offered for convention visitors on Friday costing from \$30 to \$45 per person, with the prices being tentative until the Fall of 1992.

The theme for the 1993 convention will be "Jesus Is the Lone Star" from Revelation 22:16.

Please see CHANGES IN 1993 CONVENTION: Page 3

GREAT LAKES REGION HAS WINTER RETREAT

By Larry D. Ginter
Christ Lutheran Church
Cleveland, Ohio

Feb. 28-March 1 saw 85 deaf adults and children gather at Camp Mowana near Mansfield, Ohio for the annual Great Lakes Region's Winter Retreat.



The week-end was devoted to workshops, skits, devotions and worship

with plenty of time in between for recreation and tours. It appears that the late winter meeting saw a mixed bag of weather with snow and rain greeting arrives on Friday and much warmer temperatures on Sunday, with the mercury hitting 60 degrees.

A much of area churches donated an undisclosed amount to Andrew Bergstresser, son of Rev. and Mrs. Ed Bergstresser, who needs a kidney transplant.

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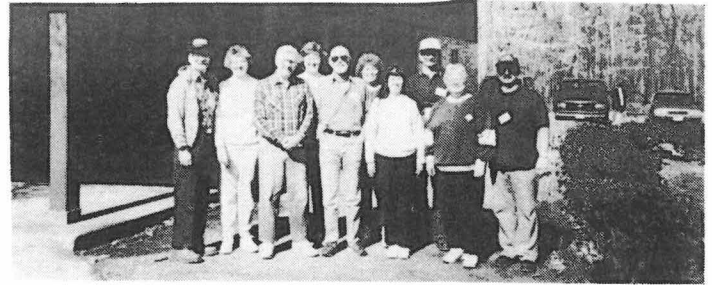
THE BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM

WE have just celebrated Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit to the church. What a wonderful blessing it is that we can read and study God's Word in freedom, and the Holy Spirit helps us believe it.

But some people don't want us free--and Satan doesn't like the idea of our spiritual freedom from sin and eternal death. So St. Paul cautions us (Gal. 5:1) "Stand fast therefore in LIBERTY by which Christ has made us free." Don't let anyone trick you into unneeded bondage, he says.

On the other hand, we are not to think that we are free from all laws. In the same chapter 5, verse 13, he writes, "Do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh." Oh, how much of that we see and hear about today! And look at all the trouble it brings to people, what great sorrow and suffering!

St. James (1:25) says that when the Christian "looks into the perfect law of liberty, and continues in it . . . he will be blessed in what he does." And St. Peter writes in his first letter (2:16) "Do not use your liberty as a covering for vice, but as servants of God." If you will read these letters of St. Paul, James and Peter carefully, you will find much good advice for a joyful, happy and free life here on earth as you follow God's way.



CAMP MOWANA PLANNING COMMITTEE—Posing for their mid-winter committee picture are (left to right)

Richard and Mary Tingler, Roland and Mary Emerson, David and Sharon Brown, Robert and Pam Kane and Lynn and Larry Ginter. Note: The absence of winter coats!



PRAISE IN SIGN LANGUAGE—Participants at Camp Mowana respond in praise following a song rendered by Pastor Lawson during the winter retreat at Camp Mowana, Mansfield, Ohio.

In Acts 22 we read about an interesting incident. St. Paul is a prisoner of the Roman government and about to be mistreated. Then he comments that he is a Roman citizen! It was against the law to whip a Roman citizen before his trial or conviction. The commander wants to know how Paul became a citizen--the commander had to buy his citizenship for a large sum of money. Paul proudly says (verse 28), "But I was born a citizen."

"You are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor. 6:20)

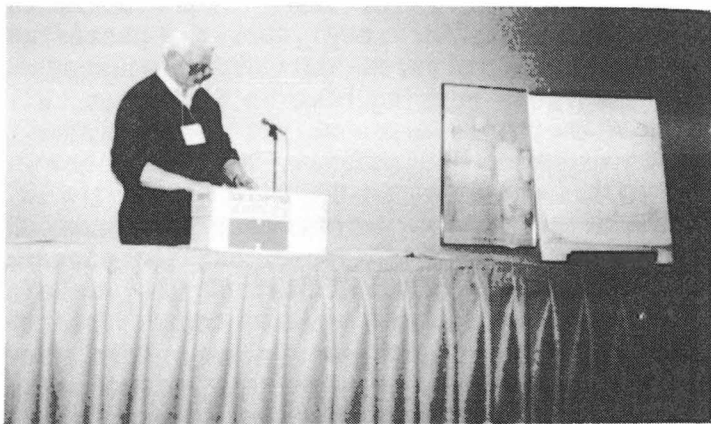
PRAYER

Lord Jesus, Thou who art the Way, the Truth and Life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free.

Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.--Before U.S. Senate

CENTRAL REGION MEETS IN ROCKFORD

Meeting in Rockford, Ill., May 1-3, the Central Regional Conference got off to an excellent start at the Howard Johnson Lodge on the city's south side with 136 participants attending from five states. Chairperson Ralph A. Rose, while very pleased with the number in attendance, probably wished one



NEW CRC PRESIDENT—Jim Swalley, North Manchester, Ind., presides over the sessions at recent Central Region Conference. Jim will be the newest member of the ILDA Board of Directors.



CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE MEETS—Part of the large crowd present for the opening session of the CRC on May 1-3, at Rockford, Ill.

CONTINUED: FROM PAGE 1

CHANGES IN 1993 CONVENTION

With more than a year remaining before the Texas convention, the local committee has raised over \$2,000 for its convention fund and looks very good.

A full page flyer will be found elsewhere in this issue.

more person had registered to break the old record established several years earlier.

Chairing the business sessions was Vice President Jim Swalley, North Manchester, Ind., who acted in the absence of President Archie Marshall, St. Louis, who was still recuperating from surgery.

Among projects moved and passed was a \$1,000 donation to support the videotape project of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis in memory of Dr. Daniel Pokorny.

The Sunday offering was given to another videotape project, Silent Word, of River Forest, Ill.

The banquet speaker Saturday evening was Lester Ahls, editor of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** which was followed by a program many people have seen on television, "The Price Is Right," emceed by sisters Lois Nelson and Charlene Huber.

New CRC officers for 1992-1994 are James Swalley, president; Irwin Bowsby, vice president; Ms. Medora James, secretary, and Ms. Betty Jo Healey, treasurer. Chosen as pastoral adviser was Rev. Mark A. Anderson.

The 1994 meeting will be hosted by Ephphatha Lutheran Church in South Chicago; in 1996, Wausau, Wis., and in 1998, Holy Cross, St. Louis.

YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT

Have you ever had the feeling that "just one more vote didn't matter; that yours probably wouldn't make any difference anyway?" Or that "your presence in church on Sunday isn't important, either?" If that is how you feel sometimes, like many people do, then consider these facts about the power of a single vote:

*In 1654, one vote gave Oliver Cromwell control of England.

*In 1845, one vote brought Texas into the Union.

*In 1868, one vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment.

*In 1876, one vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States.

*In 1960, Richard Nixon lost the presidential election and John F. Kennedy won it by less than one vote per precinct in the United States.

Yes, your presence in church and at the voting booth does matter!

NEWS FROM

A post convention financial report from **Mr. Howard E. Snyder**, 1991 ILDA convention treasurer shows gross receipts of \$29,058.11 and expenses of \$25,568.11 for a net gain (profit) of \$3,490.00. Interesting bits from Mr. Snyder's report showed the best money makers to be the reception on Thursday evening which earned \$1,054.13 and the banquet on Saturday which netted \$1,211.09. Earning the smallest return were the tours to the Art Museum and Sauder Farm on Friday with only \$4.61. Losses for interpreters and miscellaneous expenses totaled \$701.95.

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Very seldom do we hear about a former student returning to his Alma Mater and rising to the top job as superintendent. Yet, this is precisely what has happened at the South Dakota School for the Deaf when **Mr. Larry Puthoff** was named to the position of superintendent on Feb. 11, 1992 by the South Dakota Board of Regents. Mr. Puthoff succeeds Dr. Frank Turk, who resigned after two years to accept a position in North Carolina. Larry, who had been interim superintendent since August is a graduate of Gallaudet University; has an M.A. degree from Augustana College and California State College at Northridge. He has also been a teacher, coach, houseparent and acting principal. We join his many friends and students in wishing him well.

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The PRILDA (acronym for Pacific Region,

International Lutheran Deaf Association) will have its conference this year at Arrowhead Springs, Calif. on the dates of Sept. 11-13. The cost, if you are an "early bird" for registration, room, meals will be as little as \$77.

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We were saddened to learn that **Rev. Martin E. A. Mueller**, for many years the pastor who served deaf Lutheran out of Milwaukee, is confined to a nursing home in Sheboygan, Wis. with Alzheimer's disease. His wife stays with their daughter in Indiana.

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There are quite a few people around the country who feel, it seems, that the '**Separation of the Church and State**' rule is being carried too far! This shocker comes from the paper of our church in Toledo, Ohio (Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt, pastor) in which one member states her surprise that the United States is one of four countries in the world which prohibits the reading of the Bible in schools. It shows, she says, how far our country has slipped. Shame on us.

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A new opportunity to attend worship services is being offered to residents in and around Omaha, effective May 4. An interpreted worship at **Beautiful Saviour Lutheran Church**, 9012 Q Street, Omaha will be for those who cannot come on Sundays and as an outreach to families with deaf children . . . on Monday evenings at 7 p.m.

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Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alta., is making plans for the 30th anniversary of the dedication of their house of worship on the dates of Oct. 10 and 11, 1992.

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Now we hear about an unusual couple in Clearwater, Fla., **Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Heinz**, 98 and 97 years old respectively, who will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary on Aug. 1. They do their own cooking in their own apartment and receive Holy Communion at home via the "Rochester Method" of sign language . . . a system of different hand positions for each letter of the alphabet. The couple is originally from Rochester, N.Y.

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Using plastic (**credit cards**) for long distance toll charges has become a way of life for many people, including some who are deaf, but as convenient as it may be, it is not



MOM AND SON BAPTIZED—Little Ryan Catron and his mother, Judy were both baptized during services in California April 26 by Rev. Roy Dahmann. Shown in picture are Dad, Dennis and Brianne, Pastor Dahmann, Judy's grandmother (in slacks) and sister and maternal grandparents, Larry and Janet Pratt.

THE REGIONS . . .

without some pitfalls, as toll fraud is becoming a fact of life. The way to avoid having your number used by unscrupulous people is to guard your card number as you would anything of value. Never give out your card number to anyone you do not personally know, and when using it in public, do not allow anyone to copy the number. If you think someone is using your number wrongfully, notify your phone company immediately.

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Harold Mowl Sr. and his wife, Betty, observed their 50th wedding anniversary recently with a family gathering from Virginia, Tennessee, Pennsylvania and Rochester. They are the parents of Harold Mowl Jr., superintendent of the Rochester, N.Y., school for the deaf, where they also make their home.

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No doubt, many of our readers are aware of attempts in some states to close our schools for the deaf and merge the students in mainstreaming programs as a "cost saving measure." Some states we know about where it has been tried are Minnesota, Ohio, Nebraska, to name just three and we are certain there are others. Now ILDA member Dorothy Cohler of New York tells us that they are trying to close Public School 47 that was established way back in 1908 as the only P.S. (public school) serving deaf children for all five boroughs of New York City. The action is the result of the decision of one man acting unilaterally without consulting any of the parents, alumni, teachers or professionals in deaf education, the result being a predictable uproar in the deaf community. Concerned persons are urged to write to Mr. Joel Goldfarb, J.H.S. School for the Deaf, 225 E. 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

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A revised and updated ILDA brochure will

become available this year with some 3,000 copies printed. Handling the project for the ILDA Board is Lester Ahls, editor of THE DEAF LUTHERAN.

REV. VOSSLER ACCEPTS CALL TO N.Y.

Rev. L. Richard Vossler, pastor of St. Philip's Lutheran Church, Philadelphia has announced his acceptance of a call to a hearing church in Chenango Bridge, N.Y., which is located about 50 miles north of Scranton, Penn.

Rev. Vossler will preach his last service at St. Philip's on July 5. The departure of Rev. Vossler leaves about eight or nine vacancies in the field of deaf ministry.

1991-1993

ILDA MISSION PROJECTS

MISSION PROJECTS GOAL--\$20,000

YES!! I want to help bring God's Word to many other people through the ILDA Mission Projects. Enclosed is my offering of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail to: Mr. Dennis Kondel, Treasurer, ILDA Mission Project, 8712 34th Ave., College Park, MD 20740. May God bless both the gift and giver. All contributions are tax deductible.

Zacharias Fund	\$ 3,000
Hong Kong Deaf School	1,500
Concordia School, Macau	1,000
Bible Studies in Simple English	2,000
Lutheran Deaf Church, Ghana	2,000
Brazil Teaching Materials	1,000
Recife (in Brazil)	2,500
Child of Nazareth School	1,000
TIM (Together in Mission)	4,000
Pax Natura	500
Deaf School in India #1	500
Deaf School in India #2	500
Deaf School in Lebanon	500
Total Mission Projects	\$20,000



CAN WE DO LESS

By Meta Luetzow
Seattle, Wash.

Jesus watched the people place their offerings in the Temple treasury, the rich, the poor, the young and the old. Then she came and Jesus saw two mites drop into the treasury. Two mites, worth less than half a cent, nothing in comparison to what others had given. Yet, we are told that Jesus honors this nameless woman by setting her up as a shining example in Christian giving.

Notice Jesus' words to His disciples, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living (Mark 12:43-44 RSV).

The poor widow knew the real meaning of giving. She did not have much to live on. She probably did not know where her next meal was coming from. Yet, we are told she gave all she had. She trusted her Lord to supply all her needs. Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Jesus Christ." She gave to her Lord cheerfully.

There was no hesitation in her giving. Jesus did not see her holding tightly to the coins and pondering if she should go buy bread. She simply drops them in the treasury and goes her merry way. The Apostle Paul wrote in II Cor. 9:7, "Each one must do as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

Jesus saw the rich give more than the poor widow. He was aware of how little it was. The rich had made sure of their needs and pleasures first and then they gave of their offerings. The widow put God first in her life, trusting that God would provide for her needs. Her gift was a sacrificial gift. From II Cor. 9:8, we read, "God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that you may always have enough of everything and may provide in abundance for every good work." Jesus saw true love in action in the widow's gift. She only had the promise of the Saviour; she had not seen that promise fulfilled in Jesus' death on the cross.

Just as Jesus gave His all for the sins of the world, so the poor widow gave her all because she loved God and trusted in Him.

Can we do less?

NO EXCUSE SUNDAY

To make it possible for everyone to attend church next Sunday, we are going to make it very special. A cot will be placed in the sanctuary for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep." Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV too late on Saturday night. We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I came to church." Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold and fans for those who say it is too hot.

We will have hearing aids for those who say the pastor talks too softly and cotton for those who say he talks too loudly. We will have available score cards for listing hypocrites present and 100 TV dinners for those who say they can't cook dinner and go to church, too . . . a selection of trees and grass for those who like to see God in nature . . . a putting green near the altar for those who say "Sunday is my day for golf" . . . and the sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who have never see the church without them!

TRUST

How excellent is thy loving-kindness, O God! Therefore, the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Thy wings. Psalm 36:7

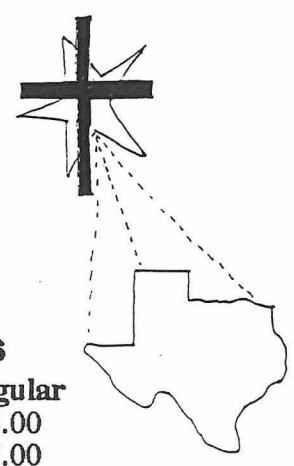
Our great and mighty created the world with all things in it, including you. He didn't then turn His back on the world and you; rather, He continues to uphold, preserve and bless the world and you. His mercies are new every morning. His supply of loving-kindness never runs out. Although you daily sin much in thought, word and deed and deserve nothing but the wages of sin, which is death, our God does not reward you according to what you deserve. Instead, while you were yet a sinner, Jesus died for the forgiveness of all your sins.

He continues to shower His blessings upon you. Your faith that continues to grow, the air that you are breathing, are part of His preserving. How grateful you ought to be for each day, for each moment, and how joyful over each improvement in health! How pleasant to trust in Him and to know that you are under the shadow of His wings!

The 12th Biennial Convention of the International Lutheran Deaf Association



at
Red Lion Hotel-Austin Airport
hosted by
Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf
Austin, Texas



July 1-4, 1993

Convention Theme "Jesus is the Lone Star" Rev. 22:16

			Regular
Registration (required).....			15.00
Program Book.....			5.00
Thursday (refreshments).....			12.00
Friday (brunch).....			18.00
Saturday (snacks and banquet).....			36.00
Sunday (breakfast).....			10.00
		Total for tickets	\$100.00
	Before	Before	After
	April 1, 1993	June 1, 1993	June 1, 1993
Special for Combo Tickets	\$75.00	\$85.00	\$90.00
Non-member of ILDA, add.....	\$10.00	\$10.00	\$10.00

Note: Pay \$5.00 to ILDA Treasurer for membership to save \$5.00 before April 1, 1993.

Lodging: at Red Lion Hotel-Austin Airport
ILDA Convention (Thurs.-Fri.-Sat.) \$55.00 per night

Tour Packages: Friday afternoon (include bus fare, admission and dinner)
Tentative Prices (subject to change until Fall 1992)

- Excursion to San Antonio \$45.00 each
- LBJ Ranch/Fredericksburg \$40.00 each
- Austin Tour \$35.00 each
- Fiesta Texas (Theme Park) (excludes meals) \$30.00 each

Convention Special Services
Do you or someone in your family need special assistance or special diet? () yes
Do you want to contribute your services as a deaf-blind or oral interpreter or wheelchair assistant? () yes

If you said yes to the above questions, please fill out and mail this form for special registration forms:

Name: _____ Ph Nu: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Mail to: **Special Services
ILDA Convention '93
Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf
1307 Newton Avenue
Austin, TX 78704-3028**

SIGNS OF THE SEASON

By Rev. Kenneth Schnepf
St. Mark Lutheran Church/Deaf
Towson, Md.

A special concert of song and sign language was performed by the deaf sign choir of Christ United Methodist Church, Baltimore City, on Sunday evening, March 29. St. Mark Lutheran Church sponsored the event.

The "Signs of the Session" music set the mood of the concert as we anticipated a change of time--from winter to spring and reflecting the penitential season of Lent to anticipating the promises of Easter.

Mrs. Catherine Vaccarino directed the choir in a concert that blended traditional and

contemporary music with expressions of sign language. This ranged from familiar favorite hymns like "Amazing Grace" and "The Old Rugged Cross" to such popular modern music as "From a Distance" and "Love in Any Language." The highlight of the concert was with the last song signed. The choir incorporated the special effects of a black light to make white gloves glow in the dark. It was a very dramatic interpretation of the song "Glorify Thy Name!"

The concert was followed with refreshments and a free will offering in the amount of \$125 which was matched by the Lutheran Brotherhood Branch 8001, which will be used to support future programs for deaf ministry in the area.

25 YEARS AGO

Rev. Daniel Pokorny accepted a call to be campus pastor at Gallaudet University, being installed on April 23.

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Rev. Waldemar Ferber was presented the John of Beverley Award for his "outstanding work in providing spiritual help for the deaf."

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Nebraskans celebrating the state's Centennial year at Hastings had a beard contest with one of the participants, Rev. Del Thies receiving mention for having the "best trimmed" beard.

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The Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS) had a balance of \$5,124.83 at the end of 1966 with deaf contributors giving a total of \$2,177.73.



SIGN LANGUAGE AND TAPED MUSIC--The audience is mesmerized while watching a performance of music in sign language simultaneously with a tape. Ms. Catherine Vaccarino, center stage, leads the choir.

The DEAF LUTHERAN

July-August, 1992

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