



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

March-April, 1995

St. Louis, Mo.

Volume 87, No.2

**Easter, 1995**

## THE CERTAINTY OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION

By Rev. Elmer E. Linen  
224 Collingswood Rd.  
Fairless Hills, Pa.

They still did not understand the Scripture which said He must rise from death. (John 20:9). One scholar who is quoted cites the reality of this verse with the words, "Of all the tombs in the world, one is empty." And this truth is clearly shown to us as we go with Peter and John to that tomb on the first Easter morn so long ago.

### THE EVIDENCE OF THE EMPTY TOMB

Early on Easter Sunday, Mary Magdalene, accompanied by some other women, came to the tomb. When she saw the stone rolled away, she left the others and ran to tell disciples. Peter and John immediately set out for the tomb. By the time they arrived, the other women had left and there was no one there. Peter went inside



and saw two very important facts besides the fact that the body of Jesus was not there.

He saw the linen clothes lying where the body of Jesus had been. If Jesus' body had been stolen as was claimed, then the clothes would have been taken, too. But there they were, as though still wrapped around Jesus' body. But Jesus was gone. Thus the only explanation was that Jesus has slipped out of those clothes when He arose.

Again, Peter saw the linen napkin for Jesus' head lying in a place by itself. This

would indicate that Jesus had removed it from His head after He arose. Again, if His body had been stolen, this napkin would have gone with it. When John saw the empty tomb and the linen clothes and the napkin, it convinced him that Jesus was alive and he believed. However, this is not the only evidence we have.

### THE TESTIMONY OF SCRIPTURE

Throughout Scripture, we find evidence that we could enter eternal life in body and soul. Already in Genesis, we are told that Enoch "disappeared because God took him away." Thus, he did not die, but God received him into heaven bodily. The same thing happened to Elijah who "was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind." Thus we have these two examples of people who did not die but were taken directly to heaven.

In the midst of his trials, Job speaks of his faith in the resurrection when he says, "I know that my Redeemer lives and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh will I see God." He was certain about the resurrection of the body. when the Sadducees came to Jesus, disputing the fact of the resurrection, Jesus reminded them that "God is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living." Each of the Gospels tell us the story of Jesus' resurrection and the empty tomb and the many witnesses who Him.

And Paul speaks of Jesus' resurrection saying, "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance; that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Peter, and then to the

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE NATION

Not very often do we hear of one of our members being named, "Employee of the Year" but on Houston Ms. I. D. Wicker has earned that distinction. Houston's Northwest Bank presented her with a plaque, a beautiful tiara and a dozen red roses.

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St. John Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Fort Wayne, Ind. celebrated its centennial worship service last Nov. 19 with Rev. Ed Bergstresser of Columbus, Ohio as guest preacher at Concordia Theological Seminary. The service was followed with a light lunch and a centennial cake as the centerpiece for the occasion. Rev. Jerold Munz brought several members of his congregation with him

from Indianapolis, including the widow of the late Rev. Dan Pokorny.

o-0-o

The Editor has a letter from Ms. Lydia S. Waters of Baltimore, Md. who says she has attended services of many of our former and present pastors from 1933 to the present. Beginning with Dr. John Salvner back in the thirties when she was a student at the Minnesota School for the Deaf until today, the Editor counted the names of at least 21 pastors whose names she supplied. Anyone want to better her record? She is the former Lydia Marie Seebach and taught school at the Michigan School for the Deaf in 1943-1944.

## 1995 CONFERENCE DATES

**Pacific Region:** Reported to be second weekend in April with Valley Lutheran Church, Stockton as hosts.

**Midwest:** Holiday Inn, Emporia, Kan. with Northeast Kansas Lutherans as hosts. Conference theme: "lift High the Cross." Dates: June 23-25.

**Dixie Region:** The planned conference at Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas did not occur last November due to timing and costs. A second try was made for Feb. 17 to 19 in Houston at St. Mark Lutheran Church.

CONTINUED: FROM Page 1

## EASTER, 1995

twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles, and last of all He appeared to me also (1 Cor 15:3-8a). Thus the Scripture testifies that Jesus who died for our sins is alive and risen from the dead. And most importantly, He is our Saviour. This is our Christian faith. Christ's resurrection shows the difference between true faith and false faith. All religions speak about some kind of life after death but christianity says and we confess that even though our body dies, it will be raised from the dead and we who trust in Christ will live with Him forever in His new heaven and new earth.

Christ is risen. He is risen, indeed! And we, too, shall live.

## IN MEMORIAM

A very impressive plaque honoring the memory of the late Rev. Frank P. Wagenknecht, founding pastor of the Chapel for the Deaf in Charlotte, N.C. has been hung in the chapel.

A fund started by members of the congregation made the memorial possible. Pastor 'W' as he was so affectionately known died Sept. 14, 1993.



IN LOVING MEMORY--Mrs. Karen Wagenknecht holds the plaque honoring her late husband, Rev. Frank Wagenknecht. Photo courtesy, Willie R. Brower

# NOMINATIONS FOR ILDA OFFICES

In order that the International Lutheran Deaf Association can obtain the best qualified people possible to fill its executive committee positions, the nominating committee positions, the nominating committee, in a recent poll, has selected the following candidates:

## PRESIDENT-ELECT

Warren S. Burford Sr., Toledo, Ohio  
 James G. Swalley, North Manchester, Ind.  
 Dennis R. Konkol, Gaithersburg, MD.

## SECRETARY

James G. Swalley (incumbent)  
 Alice Hagemeyer, Silver Spring, MD.

## TREASURER

Susan J. Konkol, Gaithersburg, Md.

## DEAF VIDEO LENDING LIBRARY

Did you know that you could get a FREE membership in SON-SIGN Productions' Video lending library by simply accepting to serve your church as its representative? All you would be asked to do is handle distribution for bulk shipments of tapes to your area and also subscriptions from your church members. If interested, contact the library by sending in the form below along with your name and address and phone number. The form may also be used to start a new or renewal subscription. Do it today!

**LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP + 4: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] TTY

\$11 now & bill me every 3 months.  
I pay postage back to library.

\$14 now & bill me every 3 months.  
Library pays postage back to library.

\$40 now, 1 full year.  
I pay postage back to library.

\$55 now, 1 full year.  
Library pays postage back to library.

I'll Represent my Church!

CHURCH NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(The first Form & Check received is the above Church's Rep., a FREE Membership! Check will be returned.)

Mail Form & Check to: **Son+Sign Productions**  
 101 N Beaumont St, St Louis MO 63103-2227

## MISSIONS PROJECT UPDATE

As of Feb. 2, 1995, the fund stood at \$19,232.27. That leaves \$3,767.73 to go to reach our goal of \$23,000 by convention time! We can do it.

Russel L. Healey, Olive Branch, Ill.  
 Kenneth Norton, Austin Texas

## PASTORAL ADVISER

Rev. Donald Leber, Altasloma, Calif.  
 Rev. John P. Reinke, Omaha, Neb.

## A TIMELY REMINDER

1995 ILDA convention chairperson Carol Ann Pickell wishes to remind everyone of the unique opportunity to take part in the 100th anniversary of LCMS deaf ministry and the 25th anniversary of the ILDA .

In June, 1994 booster sheets were sent out and the deadline for submission of these sheets and the donations there from is **April 30, 1995**. Please forward these to:

Jim Best  
 408 Walnut Street  
 Batavia, IL 60510

If you do not have booster sheets or wish to receive more, please contact the chairperson at 708-488-1613 or Jim Best at 708-879-8394 both TTY only. Thank you!

## REV. LAVEN M. MASS DIES

Rev. LaVern Mass departed this life on Saturday morning, Dec. 17, 1994 at his home in Laurel, Md.

He was 10 days away from his 60th birthday.

A product of the Minnesota School for the Deaf, Rev. Mass was both an accomplished printer and carpenter, having owned a contracting business in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and in Minnesota. He taught graphic arts at the Arizona School for the Deaf for a time.

Following a long held desire to serve in the holy ministry, he entered Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. and was ordained in 1979. He served parishes in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and in Kansas City. He retired from the active ministry in the fall of 1994 due to declining health. His last pastorate was at Christ Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, Md. where he had served as associate pastor.

He was united in marriage to Joan G. Fonder of Sisseton, S.D., on Jan. 31, 1954.

Survivors besides his wife of 40 years are three children, Alfred, Lou Ann and Bobby; a sister, Janet and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Lon.

Blessed are they who die in the Lord.



# ILDA 25TH ANNIVERSARY



13TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION  
HYATT REGENCY HOTEL - WOODFIELD, SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS

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## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

(AS OF JUNE 1, 1994)

### Thursday-June 29

- 1:00 p.m. Registration
- 6:00 p.m. Opening Worship
- 7:00 p.m. Welcome/Orientation
- 7:30 p.m. Skit/Choir/Banner Competition
- 9:00 p.m. Reception/Fellowship

### Friday-June 30

- 7:30 a.m. Registration
- 7:45 a.m. Opening Devotion
- 8:00 a.m. 1st Business Session-one hour
- 9:00 a.m. Brunch-Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Pick-up for Tour-Odyessey Cruise
- 8:00 p.m. Historical Drama/Songs-100th Lutheran Deaf Ministry
- 10:00 p.m. Reception

### Saturday-July 1

- 7:30 a.m. Registration
- 8:00 a.m. Opening Devotion
- 8:30 a.m. 2nd Business Session-one hour and half
- 10:30 a.m. Coffee Break
- 11:00 a.m. 3rd Business Session-one hour
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (on your own) (*Special luncheon for God's 1000 Club members only*)
- 1:15 p.m. Workshop (ILDA Officer Training Only)-two hours
- 1:30 p.m. Free Time
- 3:30 p.m. 4th Business Session-one hour and half
- 5:00 p.m. (End of the Session)
- 6:00 p.m. Banquet/Entertainment

### Sunday-July 2

- 7:00 a.m. Buffet Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. Bible Study
- 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
- Installation of Officers
- 1997 ILDA Preview
- ILDA Banner given to 1997 ILDA Host
- 12:00 p.m. Convention Adjourned





# **ILDA**

## **25TH ANNIVERSARY**



**13TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION**  
**HYATT REGENCY HOTEL - WOODFIELD, SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS**

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### **TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION**

**HYATT REGENCY WOODFIELD**  
**1800 EAST GOLF RD**  
**SCHAUMBURG, IL 60173**

#### **FROM O'HARE AIRPORT TO HYATT:**

MAKE RESERVATION IN ADVANCE (24 HOURS BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT O'HARE) BY CALLING "MY CHAUFFEUR" 1-800-824-5055 VOICE (PLEASE USE YOUR LONG-DISTANCE TDD RELAY)

**COST:** \$15.00 PER PERSON EACH WAY-SHARING RIDE WITH PEOPLE  
\$39.00 PER PERSON EACH WAY-PRIVATE RIDE

#### **FROM MIDWAY AIRPORT TO HYATT:**

MAKE RESERVATION IN ADVANCE (24 HOURS BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT MIDWAY) BY CALLING "MY CHAUFFEUR" 1-800-824-5055 VOICE (PLEASE ALSO USE YOUR TDD RELAY)

**COST:** \$63.00 PER LIMO, NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE RIDE TOGETHER IN A LIMO.

#### **FROM CHICAGO TRAIN STATION TO HYATT:**

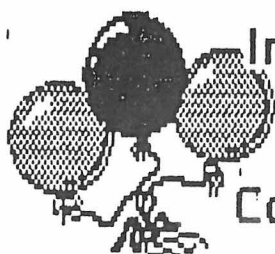
MAKE RESERVATION IN ADVANCE (24 HOURS BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT CHICAGO TRAIN STATION) BY CALLING "MY CHAUFFEUR" 1-800-824-5055 VOICE (PLEASE USE YOUR TDD RELAY)

**COST:** \$63.00 PER LIMO, NO MATTER HOW MANY PEOPLE RIDE TOGETHER.

IF YOU PREFER TO TAKE A TAXI FROM THE TRAIN STATION, YOU CAN DO THAT- THE COST FOR A TAXI IS ABOUT THE SAME AS A LIMO.

#### **FROM THE GREYHOUND BUS DEPOT TO HYATT:**

TAKE A TAXI TO HYATT - PRICES VARY FROM ONE TAXI COMPANY TO ANOTHER TAXI COMPANY BUT NOT MUCH.



# International Lutheran Deaf Association Convention Babysitting



**Good News!**

We will provide babysitting services at the Hyatt Woodfield throughout the convention.

**Your Job!**

We must have all children registered in advance. Please return the bottom form so we can serve you fully.

Youth from the local Lutheran churches and adult supervisors will provide babysitting services and fun activities for the children of I.L.D.A.

We will ask for donations to help pay the costs of the snacks and activity supplies.

**Deadline** Please return the completed form by May 15, 1995. (we can not guarantee babysitting services if forms are received after May 15, 1995.)

If you have any Questions, call Deaconess Laura at (815) 397-4737 V/TDD.

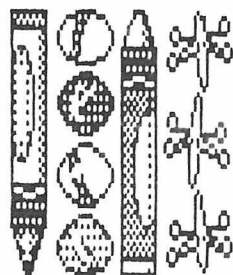
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Mail to Laura Budzynski Babysitting Coordinator.  
810 15th Street. Rockford, IL. 61104

I request babysitting services for my child/children.

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(Please list the names and ages of your children.)

I need Babysitting on  
Thur\_\_\_\_ Fri\_\_\_\_ Sat\_\_\_\_ Sun\_\_\_\_

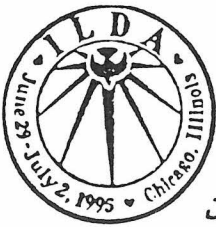
Please write your name  
address, and phone number  
on the back of this form.



After we receive your request we will mail you Emergency Release forms for each child and further information.

See you at I.L.D.A.





**The Fourth Biennial Convention of the  
Junior International Lutheran Deaf Association**  
At Hyatt Regency Hotel-Woodfield \* hosted by Northern Illinois District Hearing Ministry  
Convention Theme "Behold He Shall Make all Things New"

June 29 - July 2, 1995  
Convention Registration Form

	Youth Price
Registration (Required)	\$10.00
Trip to Magic Waters (Box lunch included)	\$14.00
Odyssey Cruise (Lunch included)	\$60.00
Gino's East Pizza (Friday evening)	\$ 4.00
Medieval Times (Saturday evening & 13 & up)	\$42.00
(12 & below)	\$20.00
Sunday Brunch	\$10.00

OPTIONAL PACKAGE: (please use other form for this)  
Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.: Bus tour of Chicago & Cruise w/Luncheon  
\$60.00 per person age 11 or over. Please note there will be no chaperones for youths on the bus and cruise tour.

MAGIC WATERS is Illinois largest heated wave action pool, and it is operated by the Rodford Park District. It also has the water slides, tube slides, and sand beach volleyball.

MEDIEVAL TIMES: Please see other form for more information.

For more information, please write : Erika Sipchen  
Jr. ILDA Convention '95.  
21 W. Canterbury Drive  
Arlington Heights, Il. 60004

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Check:  Male or  Female

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church's City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Adult Youth Leader's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks or money order payable to:

I.L.D.A. Convention 1995 (Jr.)

Mail to: Ephphatha Lutheran Church of the Deaf  
7956 S.Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive  
Chicago, IL 60619

# GOD'S 1,000 CLUB MEMBERSHIP DUES

Do you belong to the ILDA 1,000 Club? If not, this would be a good time to join. The money is used to help defray expenses of the Board of Directors so that more of the Association's funds can be directed to important mission projects, which currently has a two-year goal of \$23,000 by the time of the 1995 convention.

Members pledge an annual gift of ten dollars (\$10.00).

There will be a special luncheon for the members of this select group at noon on Saturday, July 1, 1995 during the ILDA convention.

Send a check or money order for \$10.00 payable to "ILDA Treasurer" Mr. Dennis R. Konkel, 18609 Chickadee Lane, Gaithersburg, Md. 20879-1730.

You could also mail your ILDA membership dues of \$5 at the same time.

# DEAF GO CAMPING IN OHIO

It may seem strange to talk about camping in the middle of the winter. This article from Larry Ginter got lost and therefore, delayed. Starting last Aug. 7 about 40 deaf,

hearing and staff people met at a camp near Ashtabula, Ohio for a week of devotions, games, canoeing and even fishing. There was even some house work to do.

Rev. Ed Bergstresser, newly installed pastor at Holy Cross in Columbus, did the honor as director for the week's activities. His wife, Nancy, joined him in teaching the kids how to paint T-shirts.

One of the big attractions for the kids was the Olympic swimming pool which they loved! There was a campfire every night before bedtime with songs. Also a hayride on Thursday night.

The weatherman waited until the last day to send a deluge, but it didn't dampen anyone's spirits! Thanks is extended to all of the staff, cooks, pastors and teachers for a great time.



CAMPING IN OHIO--Pictured is the group of young people who attended Lutheran Deaf Camp at Ashtabula the week of Aug. 7-12, 1994. Photo courtesy: Larry D. Ginter

## God Is Love

I John 4:8

# The DEAF LUTHERAN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION AND THE BOARD OF MISSION, THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD, PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY BY KERRY HOOPER PRINTING OF GALENA, OH. 3RD CLASS POSTAGES PD. WESTERVILLE, OH. SUBSCRIPTION FEE: INDIVIDUAL ... \$6.00 PER YEAR. CHURCH BLANKET PLAN ... \$5.50 EACH MEMBER PER YEAR. PLEASE SEND ALL SUBSCRIPTION FEES AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ELMER FRANCISCO, BUSINESS MANAGER, 10004 EAST MISSION, SPOKANE, WA 99206-3938. PLEASE SEND ARTICLES, STORIES AND PICTURES TO LESTER AHL, EDITOR, 1004 CHERYWOOD DR., CEDAR FALLS, IA 50613-1614.

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