



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

May-June, 1995

St. Louis, MO

Volume 87, No, 3

THE POWER OF PENTECOST

From the Western Washington Field
Rev. William A. Ludwig, Pastor
Seattle, Wash.

We all know what happens when the electricity is shut off. In office buildings the computers and other machines suddenly stop, and workers become idle, except those whose duty is maintenance and fixing things. Outside, traffic signals stop working, hospitals must rely on auxiliary power, especially during surgery, and homes become dark. There is no TV, VCR, and furnaces, refrigerators and freezers quit. A total blackout is possible.



The Church of God runs on **spiritual power**, the power of the Holy Spirit who lives in every member of the Christian Church and works through them. On the day that Jesus

ascended to heaven, He promised His followers, "You shall receive **power** after the Holy Ghost is come upon you." On the day of PENTECOST, 10 days later, "they were all filled

with the Holy Ghost." Read the entire second chapter of the Book of Acts in your Bible to see the result of this power of the Holy Spirit in the daily lives and activities of the Christians during 100 A.D.

This year we celebrate Pentecost, which means "fifty days after Easter" on June 4. You and I as members of Christ's church need the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives, too. Only when the Holy Spirit dwells in us are we true members of Christ's church, and our daily work and activities are pleasing to God and worthwhile.

Pentecost is truly an important day in the church year. The reason Pentecost never made it big in the secular world like Christmas and Easter is that it appears to hit the calendar at the wrong time. It never has a chance to create much interest or excitement because it comes when the people are busy with their lawns and gardens or when they are having outdoor pleasures such as hiking in the mountains, fishing, boating, swimming,

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HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE DEAF, TOO?

More than 500 years ago, some members of the clergy were not sure if deaf people should be allowed to take Communion. This interesting fact was found in an article written by Dr. Martin Luther who insisted that deaf people have the same



privileges of the church as anyone else in the year 1520. The following paragraph, taken from Dr. Luther's articles, explains his stance on the

subject:

"Some have asked whether the Lord's Supper should be offered also to the deaf (and dumb). Some (priests) think it is a kindness

to practice a (religious) fraud and think that the deaf (and dumb) should be given un-blessed wafers. This mockery is not good; it will not please God, who has made them Christians as well as us. They deserve the same things that we do. Therefore if they (think clearly) and can show by clear signs that they desire the Lord's Supper with true Christians devotion, as I have often seen, we should leave it to the Holy Spirit what is His work and not refuse him what he demands. It may be that in their hearts they may have a better understanding and faith than we; and this no one should (hatefully) oppose."

Please see HOLY COMMUNION: Page 2

REV. LOUIS JASPER RETURNS BRIEFLY

Rev. Louis R. Jasper, who serves in Macau and Hong Kong, returned stateside briefly in February for about three weeks to spend precious time with his father who passed away Feb. 16 of cancer.

Just prior to coming home, he learned that

MILL NECK FOUNDATION APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Mark R. Prowatzke, Executive director of the Mill Neck Foundation announces the appointment of Mr. George W. Meyer as Director of Development for the Foundation.

Currently president of Drug Testing International, Mr. Meyer brings considerable expertise in fields of education, managements, human resources, publishing, all of which are considered important to his new position.

Mill Neck provided support not only for its school, but national and international projects as well.

the Macau government will not be reducing its subsidy to the school, which amounts to about 60% of its budget. The remaining 40% comes from the faithful who share their love with the school.

Despite free publicity from radio and television and newspaper accounts, not much has resulted in increasing enrollment at Concordia School. Only an estimated 10% of the children in Macau with impaired hearing have been identified. One of the struggles with this ministry is with parents who hide their handicapped children, believing efforts to educate them are a waste of time and effort.

In order to devote more time to professional training for staff and mission outreach, Dr. Jasper has tendered his resignation as director of Concordia School, to become effective when a replacement is recruited. A new business manager has been found for Hong Kong and Macau, which will further reduce his work load, perhaps in May.

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HOLY COMMUNION

Luther's words show that deaf people came for the Lord's Supper. Some pastors did not think that the deaf should come, so they gave them unblest bread. This meant that the deaf did not receive the Lord's Supper. Luther was upset about this.

Luther believed that deaf people can be Christians, too. The Holy Spirit work faith in their hearts and makes them children of God. They should be able to receive the same blessings as every other Christian. This includes the Lord's Supper.

These words from Luther show that the Lord's Supper (and worship) are important for the deaf Christians. In the Lord's Supper we receive forgiveness of sins. And with forgiveness we receive life and strength for our faith. It doesn't matter how well our ears work.

The sad things is that many deaf Christians don't think that the Lord's Supper is important. They are members of a church, but almost never come to worship services. They stay away from the Lord's Supper and let their faith die. Dr. Luther's words encourage us all--deaf and hearing--to be active in our coming for worship and the Lord's Supper.

--Taken from THE LAMPLIGHTER

Rev. Daryl D. Gehlbach, Minneapolis

NOTICE

The next issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN will be the post convention number. It is likely the paper will be delayed a few days inasmuch as the convention takes place June 29 through July 2. Our desire is to present the news in a timely manner. Your understanding is sincerely appreciated.--The Editor

CONTINUED: From Page 1

THE POWER OF PENTECOST

camping or looking at the pretty flowers, to name a few.

Without the Holy Spirit, who is the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, we cannot be living Christians. We would miss His gifts: love, joy, peace, kindness, patience, goodness, humility and self-control. If we really want the personal change, there is plenty of room here for everyone to start letting a little Pentecost come in.

REMEMBER the Pentecostal power, the power of the Holy Spirit, comes to us through the Word of God, the Bible, and the two Sacraments, Baptism and Holy Communion. Use them faithfully and you will have real power to live for God and His Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ! --Adapted from Lutheran Witness

LUCK? THERE IS NO SUCH THING

From the Holy Bible, please read the verses in GALATIANS 6:7-8.

You cannot fool God, so don't make a fool of yourself! You will harvest what you plant. If you follow your selfish desires, you will harvest destruction, but if you follow the Spirit, you will harvest eternal life."

So many of God's natural laws govern our lives. Washington State is famous for its apples. Suppose someone decides to plant apple trees to grow apples, sell them and make a profit. Doing this will take some work to prepare the soil, to cultivate, to water, to spray against the apple maggot and to protect the crop from birds. Finally, he needs a market to sell the apples.

When it is all done, he counts his profit. Wow! He made a lot of money! Suppose, then, his friends say, "You were just lucky." Lucky? Luck has nothing to do with it. God's

natural law was working. You harvest what you plant, you reap what you sow.

Someone did a study on family trees to see how this natural law works. Here is one example:

Jonathan Edwards lived in New York in the early 1700's. He loved the Lord and made sure that his children were in church every Sunday. He served the Lord to the best of his ability.

Over the next 200+ years, Edwards had 929 descendants. Of these, 430 were ministers; 86 became university professors; 13 became university presidents; 75 were authors of good books; five were elected to the United States Congress and two to the Senate. One was Vice President of the USA. His family never cost the state one cent, but has contributed immeasurably to the life of plenty in this land today. Were they just lucky? Luck has nothing to do with it. It's God's natural law that He set in motion. We teach our children by example, and they are sharp to watch and quick to copy.

We will reap what we sow for years and years, and it will touch the children not yet born to your grandchildren.

Here is another example from the study: Max Jukes also lived in New York about the same time as Edwards. He did not believe in Christ or in Christian training. He refused to take his children to church, even when they wanted to go. He had 1,026 descendants in those 200+ years: 300 were sent to prison for an average term of 13 years; 190 were public prostitutes; 680 were admitted alcoholics. His family, at the same time of the study, cost the state more than \$420,000. These people did nothing good for their community.

Suppose a man is lazy and does not want to work, then he will not have a comfortable life. Do we name him "unlucky?" No, he sowed laziness and reaped no money. God's law works for everyone.

What are you planting?--LOOK UP WITH FAITH

ASK THE PASTOR

Q: I do not feel comfortable talking to Mormons or Jehovah's Witnesses who come knocking on my door. What should I do?

A: Mormons and Jehovah Witnesses are non-Christian cults. They claim to be Christian, but don't believe that Jesus is true God and our Saviour from sin. Their religions lead to damnation.

Obviously, we don't want to listen to their false teachings, but we also understand they are lost sinners needing the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. A good way to prepare for speaking with cult members is to read books that teach how to witness to them. One excellent series is "How to Respond to" produced by Concordia Publishing House. In them you will learn more about the cults and how to share your faith with them.

* * * *

(This bit, "Ask Your Pastor" was taken from the "Lamp Lighter" and answers one of the most frequently asked questions in the church today, so widespread are cults. Our thanks to Pastor Daryl Gehlbach of Minneapolis.--Editor.)

* * * *

The Second National Deaf Senior Citizens Conference at the Hyatt Regency Greater Columbus (Ohio) Convention Center drew 1,531 attendees. With 40 workshops and 45 exhibitors there was at least something for everyone who came. The next conference will be in Phoenix, Ariz. in 1997.

SPECIFIC PRAYERS

A minister was surprised when a lady of his congregation asked him one Sunday morning after services to pray for her gall bladder, he told her rather apologetically that it wasn't his habit to be quite so specific in his prayers. "Oh, but you are!" she exclaimed. "Why just last week, you prayed for all those loose livers."

NEWS FROM HITHER AND YON . . .

The newest preaching station in the Midwest area is at Faribault, MN where **Pastor Daryl Gehlbach** will start services shortly.

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St. Philip's Lutheran Church of the Deaf has voted to request membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA). This congregation, located in Philadelphia, PA, was formerly aligned with the ELCA, but joined the Missouri Synod about 30 years ago. Rev. Joe Varsanyi is serving the group.

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A new and unusual service is being provided to the deaf in Des Moines, IA. Using a TTY, information can be obtained for almost any purposed concerning the deaf community by dialing a number and following with a code letter for the type of information desired. Examples might be the Iowa Association of the Deaf, birthday anniversaries, Iowa relay, Calvary Lutheran Church, or even general deaf community information! Any other localities doing this?

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New officers for the coming biennium of the **Dixie Conference** are; Richard Norton, president; Carol Seeger, president-elect; Martha Malone, treasurer and Becky Jungklaus, secretary. Serving as pastoral adviser will be Rev. Don Zuhn.

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For those who reside in the **Midwest**, the featured speaker for the Regional Conference at Emporia, KS June 23-25 will be Rev. Dan Kunkel, a Lutheran Missionary to Ghana, Africa. Come and hear him talk about the work there and the new churches he has helped start.

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With the sick . . . **Mrs. Rhoda Rynearson** of St. Louis is recovering from cancer surgery and chemo treatments. Most of us know her from the many travels she has made all

over the USA and Canada with her husband, Dr. Rodney Rynearson (Dr. RRR). We wish her a speedy recovery.

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Pastor Don Leber of California, gave his family and everyone else a good scare by passing out and being rushed to the hospital. After umpteen tests and three days in the hospital, he was released and apparently no worse for the experience.

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Seldom do we hear about a double baptism of both **father and son**. Such an event happened in Frewsburg, NY Jan 22, 1995 when Dad David Long and son Justin were both welcomed to God's family during the regular monthly worship service. Dad is a dairy farmer who has been selling milk products in western New York for over 40 years.

o-0-o

For our sports minded readers, it is good news to report that the **United States Olympic Committee (USOC)** has agreed to support the World Games for the Deaf (WGD) financially. This year's event takes place in Finland and costs are conservatively estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$270,000.

HOMEBOUND OR IN NURSING HOME?

Did you know there is an organization in Columbia, MD that sponsors a "Cheer-by-Mail" program? It sends birthday greetings and other items to people who for one reason or another, are unable to leave their homes.

Bernice B. Hoepfer, a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Silver Springs, MD saw the story in the November/December issue of THE **DEAF LUTHERAN** concerning centenarians Alvin and Clara Heinz in Safety Harbor, FL and have added their names to the list of people they reach out to with cheer.

If you know of a lonely person or persons you may contact the organization, giving the names and addresses and the foundation will do the rest.

The address is: A. Eugene Hoepfer Foundation, Deaf Outreach, P.O. Box 2142, Columbia, MD 21045.

IN SHOCK!

Many doctors believe in shock treatments. They are mailed on the first of each month.

ONE MOMENT, PLEASE . . .

We would appreciate it very much if our individual subscribers whose expirations are past due would please remit their renewals, it would be very helpful. We are very lenient with past due accounts, but cannot keep up the practice indefinitely. Thank you for your understanding.--The Business Manager

New Tape Ministry**"DAILY ALONE WITH JESUS"**

Are you subscribing to the new video tape ministry Library in St. Louis? The Library presents a novel way for families to have devotions every day throughout the year by watching signed devotions from your VCR.

While most devotions have been led by Pastor Richard Moody, some have been made by Rev. Martin Hewitt of Spokane, WA.

Following recent hikes in postage costs, the Library has switched to mailing three tapes at a time at a cost of \$1.53 instead of \$1.12 for each one, saving patrons considerably.

Readers of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** are encouraged to use the coupon below to order your own videos. The only restriction is that the tapes may not be reproduced or copied, because they are copyrighted material.

LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP FORM

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\$11 now & bill me every 3 months.
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Library pays postage back to library.

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

\$55 now, 1 full year.
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Praise Him for His Ephphatha

Text by Rev. Robert A. Bauer
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
Edmonton, Alberta

Praise Him for His Ephphatha (open)
Healed the deaf man that He saw
Praise Him for His glory there,
Praise Him for His glory here.

Praise Him for the friends that brought
Their deaf friend whom Jesus sought
Praise Him for His wondrous love
Jesus, Saviour dear, above.

With great love did Jesus show
How our love must grow and grow
His great love the deaf did touch
Let our love increase as much.

For Christ healing love we praise
For Christ's urging us we pray
Let our words and actions be
Filled with love and grace so free.

Glory to our wondrous King
Letting us His praises sing
Praise Him for eternal love
Heed His Word sent from above.

Let us like the friends if old
Sing His praises just as bold
Make us able workers, who
For You, Lord, in all we do.

Glory to our gracious King
Glory, let creation sing

Glory to the Father, Son
And the Spirit, Three in One! Amen.

Tune: TLH #570

This song was composed in commemoration of the centennial of the deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and also in celebration of the 25th anniversary of the International Lutheran Association.





ILDA 25TH ANNIVERSARY

13TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL - WOODFIELD, SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS



Special Luncheon for God's 1,000 Club Members FOR \$15.00

(1995 ILDA CONVENTION REGISTRATION REQUIRED)

Menu

Shaved Turkey on Croissantwich
with Swiss Cheese

Market Salad, Soup Du Jour

Fresh Fruit Medley

Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee and Tea

[] Yes, I want to attend this special luncheon with other
God's 1,000 Members. Enclosed \$___ for ___ person(s).
Only God's 1,000 members are eligible for this luncheon on
Saturday noon, July 1st, 1995. Deadline for this luncheon is
June 15th, 1995.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Print names of adults in your group who will attend: _____

Make checks or money order payable to: 1995 ILDA COMMITTEE

Mail to: SHIRLENE WILLIAMS

GOD'S 1000 CLUB

EPHPATHA DEAF LUTH CH

7956 MARTIN LUTHER KING DR

CHICAGO, IL 60619

**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"
Saturday evening, July 1, 1995

Convention Tour Registration Form



Medieval Times
Dinner & Tournament



The year is 1093 A.D. and you are the guest of the royal family. The Lord of the Castle has invited over 1000 friends, neighbors and foes to a royal tournament. Every detail has been faithfully recreated for your entertainment and delight. Imagine stepping back in time one thousand years, as you feast on a hearty four course banquet served by your own servant. You will marvel as spirited stallions perform complex maneuvers. See the fearless knights on horseback contest in adventurous tournament games.

Cost: \$42.00 Adults
 20.00 Children 12 & under
(includes the cost of bus ride and interpreters)

Registration deadline: June 10, 1995 Advance reservations required.

Medieval Times Dinner & Tournament

Please note do not use this form if you register for JR. I.L.D.A.

Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip code _____

Number of Adults reservation: _____ Total Cost: \$ _____
Number of Children reservation: _____ Total Cost: \$ _____

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

No Refunds given.



WINTER RETREAT IN OHIO

Most of the churches in the Great Lakes Regional Conference has members in attendance at Camp Mowana near Mansfield, OH on the dates of Feb. 17-20 with the weather much more favorable than it was a year ago when sub-zero temperatures were the daily fare.



About 75 persons were there, including youngsters of all ages. Delicious sloppy joes greeted arrivers on Friday evening, followed by devotions led by Pastor Shirrel Petzoldt.

Saturday saw everyone enjoying a hearty breakfast, and joining workshops and singing

led by Pastors Lawson and Bergstresser. Hiking about the beautiful winter scenery was very enjoyable, a snowball fight ensued before coming back to the lodge. Skits were played depicting Bible themes.

The retreat ended on Monday, Feb. 20.
--By Larry D. Ginter, Chair

SAVE QUAKER OATS BAR CODES

Ephphatha Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chicago, which is one of the churches hosting the 1995 ILDA convention has been given until June 1, 1995 to collect as many bar codes as it can from Quaker Oats products. Some of those products are:

- Quaker Oats Oatmeal
- Instant Quaker Oatmeal
- Aunt Jemina Pancake Mix
- Van Camp's Pork & Beans
- Quaker Grits
- Aunt Jemina Syrup
- Quaker Corn Meal
- Rice-A-Roni
- Quaker Instant Grits
- Aunt Jemina Grits
- Cap'n Crunch Cereal
- Gatorade Thirst Quencher

Send them to the church at 7956 South Martin Luther King Dr., Chicago, IL 60619-5607 (Attention; Yolanda).

HELPFUL HINT

If you want to lose weight, try the new Chinese diet; eat constantly, but only use one chopstick.

- Definitely not from Confusious



WINTER RETREAT ON OHIO--Rev. Ed Bergstresser is shown leading sign-singing at Camp Mowana during winter retreat Feb. 17-20.--Photo courtesy, Larry D. Ginter

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