



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

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Celebrating the Reformation, 1995

THY WORD AS TRUTH

By Rev. Marcus P. Sims
Exton, Pa. 19341

Sola Gratia, Sola Fide, Sola Scriptura. Grace alone, Faith alone, Scripture only. These are the three founding principles upon which the Lutheran Church is founded. Now why are they unique? Let us look at them.

SOLA GRATIA

Grace alone. Now what is grace? Grace, simply defined, is God's free and unmerited favor which He gives to sinful man. By grace God has pardoned our sins through the merits of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. St. Paul writes, "But because of His great love for us, God who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved." Ephesians 2:4-5.

SOLA FIDE

Faith alone. God has paid the price of our sin by placing the punishment for sin on a substitute. Who Jesus Christ. Now sin has been paid for. Pardon is free. But in order to receive the pardon one must accept it by faith. By faith we are dressed in the righteousness of Christ, not our own. So that we may stand before a righteous God, not in our righteousness, but in the righteousness of Jesus Christ alone.

One of my favorite hymns in our hymnal, which clearly states the idea of grace and faith, is "Salvation Unto Us Has Come" (L.H. #377). The first verse states, "Salvation unto us has come by God's free grace and favor. Good works cannot avert our doom; they help and save us **never**. Faith looks to Jesus

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Reaffirmation of Leadership . . .

BARRY RE-ELECTED LCMS PRESIDENT

The Rev. Dr. Alvin L. Barry was the easy winner at the Synod's 59th regular convention election held at the Cervantes Convention Center in St. Louis the week of June 15. Approximately 1,200 voting delegates were in attendance, with about half of them pastors and the remainder lay leaders, representing 2.6 million members of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod of what is the second largest denomination of Lutherans in the United States.

Barry received 754 votes, or 64.9%, easily outdistancing his nearest opponent, Rev. Richard Kapfer of Fort Dodge, Iowa, who re-

ceived 290 votes. Rev. Barry called his victory "an extremely humbling experience. For the past three years I have tried to be for our church body a spiritual leader, a confessional leader and a mission leader. I pray that God will bless me in that capacity.

President Barry's re-election may signal the denomination's determination to stay the conservative end of the spectrum. One voting delegate said privately that Barry was "the most confessional man I know." That means, he said, that Barry bases everything he does on Scripture.

TRUTH AND WORSHIPPERS OF THE GREAT PUMPKIN

By Rev. George Natonick
Christ Lutheran Church
Silver Spring, Md.

Have you ever wondered why outwardly sincere, nice people can believe **garbage**? Why does a girl who grew up as a Christian become a member of a cult, a "Great Pumpkin worshipper," or a member of The Divine Light Mission? Some people with high I.Q.'s think that God is dead, that a certain diet makes one spiritual, or that the stars tell the future. It is heartbreaking when a young student who is seemingly excited about Jesus all of a sudden decides that he is an atheist; that living with his girl friend is okay, or that Zen-Buddhism is the real answer. **WHY DO THESE THINGS HAPPEN?**

Sin in a person's life opens the door for the devil's deception. The devil is always trying to fool people into believing things that are not true. But the person who is willing to give up sin and seek Jesus will find Truth. Jeremiah 29:13 states, "**You will seek Me and find Me; when you seek Me with all your heart.**"

Actions change because of an accompanying change in belief. For example, that young man who decides to move in with his girl friend will usually have doubts about the Bible being the Word of God. Otherwise, it is uncomfortable to be found directly disobeying God.

Deciding that there is no God gives a person "ultimate freedom." Trying to find a church that approves of one's behavior is another way out. Others have secret yearnings

THY WORD AS TRUTH

Continued from Page 1

Christ alone, who did for all the world atone. He is our Mediator."

SOLA SCRIPTURA

Scripture only. God's Word alone contains the plan of how after mankind's fall He did provide the final plan of how salvation could be won by all. Scripture and scripture alone is the sole source and norm from which all church teachings come.

This year, Reformation Day falls on Tuesdays, Oct. 31. Let us never, ever depart from those chief teaching of the church: grace alone, faith alone and Scripture alone.

to display intellectual knowledge to win arguments. Many cults provide them with the opportunity.

One lesson that we can learn is that God has given persons **free will**s. A person can choose to follow Jesus or disobey God. If a person does not accept Christ, it does not necessarily mean that there is something wrong with the message. There just might be something spiritually wrong with the person.

PROWATZKE SPEAKS OUT ON INCLUSION

Dr. Mark R. Prowatzke, executive director of Mill Neck Manor Family of Organizations recently presented a paper, "The Irony of Inclusion: Why One Size Does Not Fit All," at the New York State Convention of the Council on Exceptional Children in Rochester, N.Y. The presentation focused on the damaging effects that full inclusion can have on students, especially those who are deaf. Full inclusion is the effort to bring all students, regardless of disability, into the regular classroom.

Prowatzke says that the inclusion movement's assumption that a child must first try and fail in a general education setting could be harmful to some deaf students. He believes that placements should be based on objective evaluations by qualified professionals and informed parents. For some students with sensory deficits, the rush to inclusion results in ill-supported exclusion.

Prowatzke presented a session in Kansas City in May and another in London in August, entitled, "The Illusion of Inclusion: Why a Singular Approach Cannot Serve All Students."



PAX NATURA YOUTH GATHERING



August 16 -20, 1995
Pax Natura Ranch

Youth gatherings seem to be the thing nowadays, with one in deep south (New Orleans, La.,) and at least another one elsewhere. But north of the border? Yes, there was one and this time at Pax Natura Ranch at Clyde, Alberta.

The Leadership Training Event at the Ranch ran from Aug. 16-20 and was aimed at young people in the 16 to 20 year old group with a focus on bringing a knowledge of Christ to as many as possible in a familiar cultural setting. Theme for the five-day event was a verse from the 40th chapter of Isaiah, verse 31, which reads, "they shall rise up on wings like eagles."

Heading the leadership team was Rev. Edwin Bergstresser and his wife, Nancy, of Columbus, Ohio, both deaf and knowledgeable of idiosyncrasies of the deaf youngsters.

The Lutheran Life Insurance Company of Canada made a generous contribution of \$8,000 towards funding the workshop, thus greatly enabling the gathering to be possible and keeping the cost to each person at only \$125.

VOLUNTEER HELPS AT MILL NECK

"As long as I am able, I'll be there," expressed Old Westbury resident Lisa Weissman who has been volunteering at Mill Neck for three years. She offers her assistance three days a week for a couple of hours and is always willing to extend her services in any way she can.

Teacher Diane O'Neill, whose class Ms. Weissman works with 4-7 year olds, says, "Lisa is someone special who takes pleasure in sharing her life, her time and efforts and even her home." Ms. Weissman helps on an individual basis when needed and assists on class trips.

In addition to loving kids, she has a spe-

cial interest in people with hearing loss, as she herself became hearing impaired 10 years ago and uses hearing aids.

She recently went beyond her usual contribution to the school to spearhead a project to obtain TTY's for children to use at home. Through Northwestern Mutual Life Foundation's matching gift program, about eight TTY's will be distributed.

Although there are many other places where Lisa Weissman's services would be welcomed, she says they would not be as rewarding. The good feeling is shared by Mill Neck Manor staff and children who all agree that they are "very blessed to have Lisa Weissman as a volunteer."

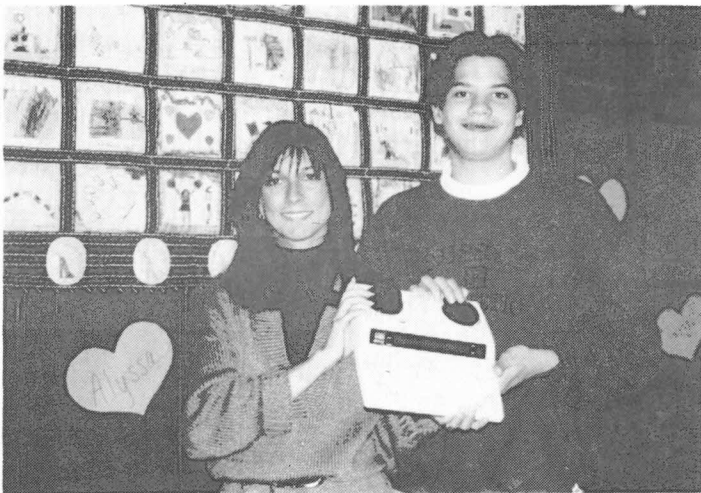
LCMS ADOPTS 1995-1996 BUDGET

The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod Board of Directors has adopted a budget of \$65,964,323 for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

The total is made up of undesignated revenues (\$27,738,000) and funds restricted by donors and used when restrictions are met (\$23,428,459) and sales and services (\$15,345,955). The fourth category of prior years revenue subtracts from the sum of the three categories in the amount of \$548,091 leaving \$65,964,323.

GEORGE WASHINGTON SAID IT . . .

It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God or the Bible.



MILL NECK STUDENT RECEIVES NEW TTY--Lisa Weissman presents student Jeffrey Blanco with new TTY for home use. Thanks to new matching gift program, eight of the new TTY's will be distributed.

DOES YOUR CHURCH NEED A ROLE MODEL

First, what is a role model? Usually, it will be someone to emulate, copy or try to equal in some endeavor, work or profession. We would like to introduce such a couple from North Carolina who are members of the Chapel for the Deaf in Charlotte and have served the Lord for many years in various capacities of church work.



PAULETTE and HERMAN
SPENCER

Paulette and Herman Spencer of Conover, N.C. commute to Charlotte, a distance of a little over 50 miles every Sunday for services and they will often be found there at 10:10 a.m. waiting for Bible class to start.

(We know of some people who live across town and don't bother to come to church!) Letting their light shine for Jesus is nothing new and radiate that faith among all who know the couple.

Herman, a graduate of the Lutheran School for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich., not only serves his church faithfully, but also in the Eastern Region of the ILDA for many years, Paulette is and has been an officer, too and is involved in LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). Active in various organizations for the deaf, church work is always the first priority.

The Spencers are parents of two daughters, both married and last we heard, there was at least one grandchildren, which is their pride and joy.

Quiet and humble, yet determined to share their Jesus with others, the Spencers are people who make a marvelous impact on the deaf community.

WE ARE NEVER ALONE

What sustained Moses during his difficult years as the leader of the nation of Israel? It was not his Egyptian education or his own personal strength. In fact, more than once he almost broke under the load and tried to quit. No, Moses was sustained by a promise: "He will not fail thee nor forsake thee." (Deuteronomy 31:6)

When Moses died, Joshua took over the rule of the nation; and the Lord gave him the same sustaining promise: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee nor forsake thee." (Joshua 1:5) Moses needed the promise for carrying his burdens, and Joshua needed the promise for fighting his battles. And the promise worked!

Today, all of us have burden to carry and battles to fight. God be thanked that we have the same promise that they trusted: "Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have; for He has said, 'I will never fail you nor forsake you'" (Hebrew 13:5). And our Lord's last words to His disciples were, "Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:20)

We Christians are never alone. No matter what burden we must carry or what battles we must fight, our Saviour is at our side.

EDWARD C. MERRILL, JR. DIES

The fourth president of Gallaudet University, Dr. Edward Merrill, Jr. passed away in Asheville, N.C. Jan. 26, 1995 following a brief illness. He was 74 years old.



His tenure lasted 14 years and during that time from 1969 to 1983 enrollment at Gallaudet nearly doubled; many new academic and outreach programs were started and the University's influence began to

spread not only nationally, but world-wide as well.

A memorial service at the University was held on Feb. 8, 1995.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE REGIONS

Arthur (Art) and Doris Allen observe their 50th wedding anniversary recently by returning to church to repeat their vows before 150 guests. Escorted to the altar by their three daughters and their son-in-laws to given to each other again until they meet the Lord face to face, Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt read from the 4th chapter of Ecclesiastes as part of his sermon. It was followed by a celebration at the hall. Art will be remembered by many as the toastmaster at the 1991 convention at Toledo, Ohio.

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Rev. Jessie Forrest was ordained at Silent Madison Lutheran Church, Madison, Wis., on Sunday, July 30.

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Two centenarians, **Alvin and Clara Heinz** of Safety Harbor, Fla., both well over 100, passed away during the month of May. Originally from Rochester, N.Y., they were believed to be charter member of Alpha Lutheran Church where an eulogy was read for them by their long time friends, Ms. Ruth Leach. Alvin died May 3 and his wife of 77 years, Clara, died three weeks later.

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A long time member of Peace Lutheran Church at Indianapolis, **Mr. Melvin Squire**, passed away Feb. 20 at home. He taught math and computers at the Indiana School for the Deaf and also photography for 22 years.

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Two **Gallaudet University** students were killed in an automobile accident north of Baltimore, MD. and two passengers in the back seat seriously hurt when the car left the road and struck a tree. It happened on April 14. Jaws of life were necessary in order to get them out of the wreckage.

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Following semi-retirement, **Richard Windisch** of Clark, N.J. is assisting Rev. Ziegler at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church during times the pastor has to be absent by leading worship services. He is also studying to be certified lay minister with the New Jersey District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

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The **preaching station** at Kenosha, Wis. has been closed for lack of attendance, it has been announced. But there is a possibility that one in the Racine area will be started for either worship services or Bible study. The church council at Holy Cross, Delavan, Wis. has approved having some interpreters

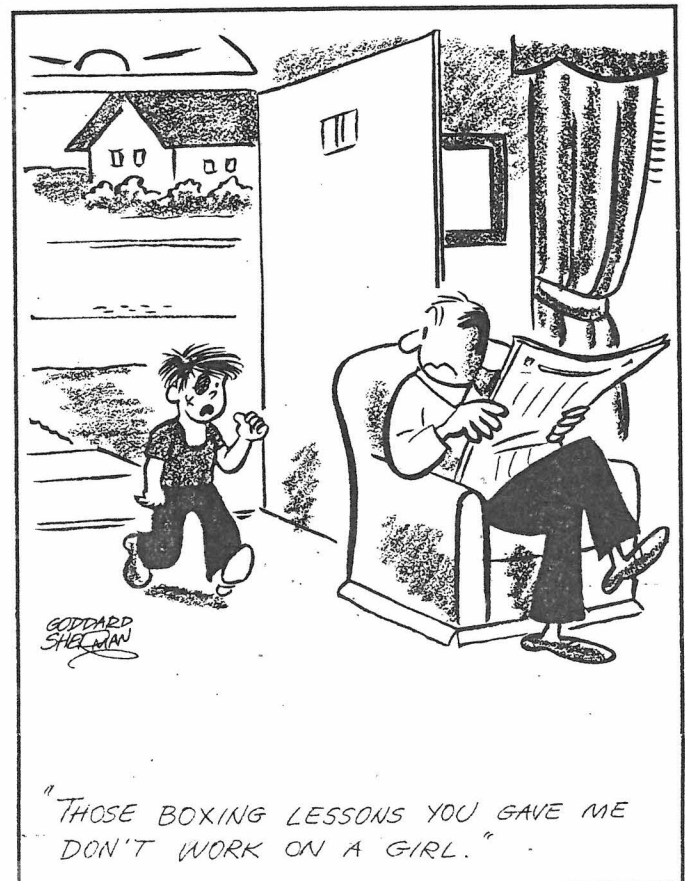
for their deaf/blind ministry.

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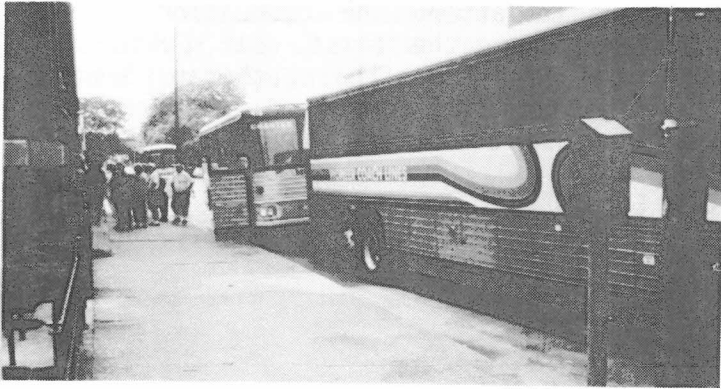
Belated bit of news: **Rev. Eric Ziegler** made a trip to Adelaide, South Australia last November to attend the graduation of Rev. John Hoopmann, the first deaf Lutheran to be ordained, from the Lutheran Seminary there. Pastor Ziegler was an interpreter for Rev. Hoopman at the seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. for some of his classes and represented the Ephphatha Conference at the ceremonies in Australia. He was almost prevented from returning home on time due to an airline strike but managed to catch "the last flight out" and made it home after 30 hours of flying time.

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Vicar Roger Altenberger was ordained into the Holy Ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod on Sunday afternoon, Aug. 13. Rev. Darrell Kois of Des Moines, Iowa preached the service at Word of God Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. A large gathering of members and friends attended the 4 p.m. installation and was followed by refreshments afterwards in the church parlors. Rev. Altenberger will serve the Eastern Iowa District as Missionary-at-Large.



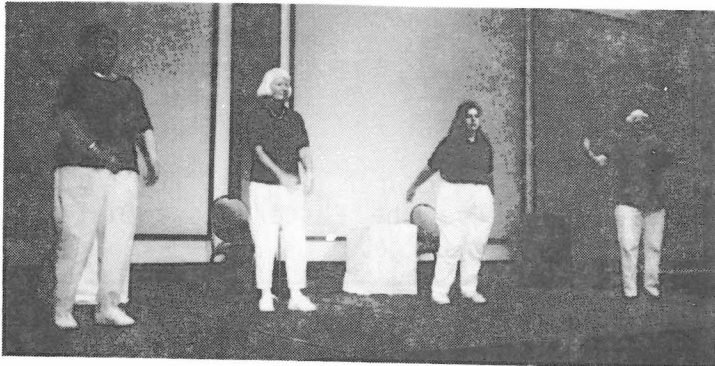
THE FABULOUS 1995 CONVENTION



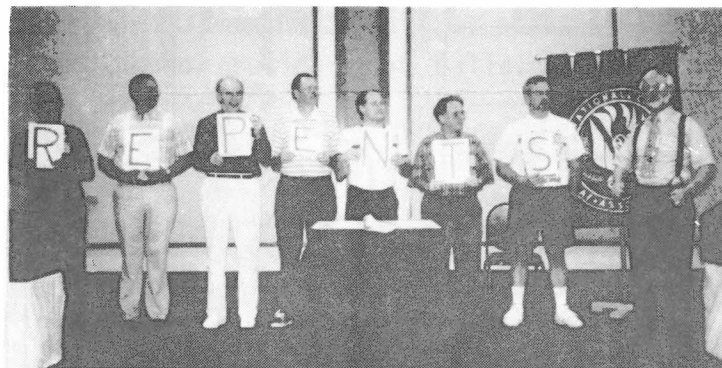
GETTING READY FOR THE CRUISE AND TOUR--Shown are some of the buses ready to board for cruise on Lake Michigan.



1993-1995 ILDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS--Front row: Dennis R. Konkell, treasurer, Gaithersburg, Md.; Larry M. Gorton, president-elect, Spokane, Wash.; Ronald L. Madding, president, Portland, Ore., and Jim Swalley, secretary, North Manchester, Ind. Center row: Lee Ann Kotal, Pacific region, Westminster, Calif.; Rev. Ed Bergstresser, pastor adviser, Columbus, Ohio; Pam Kane, Great Lakes, Cleveland, Ohio. Back row: James Cheese, Eastern, New York, N.Y.; Ken Derby, Midwest, Council Bluffs, Iowa; Russel Healey, Central, Olive Branch, Ill., and Richard Sharp, Northwest, Tacoma, Wash.



GOING THROUGH ROUTINE--This group from Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio are shown during intense competition.



EMPHASIZING REPENTANCE--Pastor and Laymen hold up letters to make a point. Left to right: Rev. Don Zhun, Houston, Texas; Rev Roger Altenberger, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Rev. Don Leber, Alta Loma, Calif., Layman Marion Van Manen, Des Moines, Iowa; Rev. Darrell Kois, Des Moines, Iowa; Layman Charles Kotal, Westminster, Calif.; (unidentified). At the far right is Rev. Jerold Munz, Indianapolis, Ind. narrator.



GOD BLESS THE LADIES AT BOARD MEETING--Front row: Rhoda Rynearson, St. Louis; Hazel Kindred, Indianapolis; Mary Mowl, Washington, Pa.; Betty Ahls and grandchildren, Zeth and Gabe, Cedar Falls, Iowa. Back row: Jackie Van Manen, Altoona, Iowa; Betty Swalley, North Manchester, Ind.; Susan Konkell, Gaithersburg, Md.; Betty Jo Healey, Olive Branch, Ill., and the last lady is unidentified. The man in background is Joe Kindred, Indianapolis, who has the distinction of being the "only man among fair ladies."

Upon Missing Church . . .

DOES GOD REALLY UNDERSTAND?

One of the easiest ways to prove the devil's cunning work is to absent ourselves from the House of the Lord when there is worship. Once we have been away once, twice . . . it becomes increasing more difficult to go back to church again, no matter how good an excuse we may have had for the first absence. The devil can show us how easy and convenient it is.

Then, we say to ourselves, "Well, I know I should be going to church, but I think God

understands." Another way the devil deceives us is to let us substitute our own judgment instead of listening to the Word of God. Let us read what HE says in the Book of Hebrews, 10:25, Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." in plain, simple words, this means that God does not want us to quit going to church. For extra emphasis on the importance of church attendance, look up the first verse of Psalm 122, where we read, "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

Now the question: Does God understand?

YES, HE DOES! God does understand that we need to meet in church to praise Him and study His word. God does understand that other people need encouragement from us, and that we are a family that He put together. God does understand that we need to help strengthen each other. God does understand that when we miss church, that satan is leading us to become church dropouts.

But do WE understand these things? Many times we do not--and that is the reason so many people allow satan to give us many little excuses in our lives until we are finally separated from our God and His Church.

Let us pray that God will help us to understand the need, purpose and power of our attendance at Bible class and worship. Let each of us do our part to make every week in church a time of love, praise, and spiritual growth. It is a matter of our spiritual life and death, not only for us, but also for other people watching the things we do.

BOARD FOR MISSION SERVICES RECEIVES JOHN OF BEVERLEY AWARD

The Board of Directors of the Mill Neck Foundation, Inc., of Mill Neck, N.Y. has announced that the recipient for its 1995 John Beverley Award will be the Board for Mission Services of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

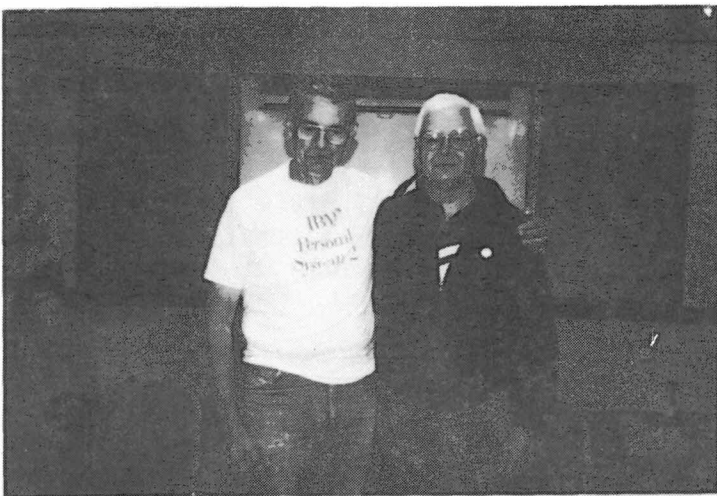
The medal is given in recognition of significant contributions made to others who live in a world of silence and was first created in 1958 by an internationally known sculptor.

This year's award was made during a dinner at the Missouri Athletic Club on July 17 in downtown St. Louis.

GOD'S FABULOUS BLESSING

God has been at work in the hearts and minds of deaf and hearing people in southern Wisconsin! In the past month, God has added 15 new members to Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Delavan, Wis. This represents a 15% increase of total membership in a little over 30 days. This number included six adults baptisms (which are quite rare. Four people were received by profession of faith. Three people were confirmed. One was received by transfer. One child was baptized.

Many people are worried about our churches becoming older. However, 10 of these new members are teenagers or younger. Holy Cross which is served by Rev. Steven Schlund has some members who are not deaf and have no connection with deafness in any way. Even so, God has led both hearing and deaf to faith in Jesus Christ by both voice and in sign.



THE DEAF LUTHERAN STAFF--Lester Ahls, Editor (L) of Cedar Falls, Iowa and Elmer Francisco of Spokane, Wash. get together during a break in the Board of Directors' meeting.

A STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Are you giving until it hurts? Or are you giving until it feels good? Sometimes we as Christians express our feelings about the stewardship of our monies using both of these experiences. How does one come to a truly JOY FILLED experience in area of their stewardship life? The Biblical principles listed below provide the answer:

1. **Give First Fruits.** That means it's off the top, set aside first (Genesis 4:4) not what's left over.
2. **Give According to Plan.** It doesn't happen by accident on Sunday morning by hurriedly writing out a check; it's planned. (1 Cor. 16:2)
3. **Give a percentage.** A percent of what the Lord has given to me. The Old Testament tithe can serve as an example of percentage giving.
4. **Give Personally.** It's between me and the Lord. It's the percentage I plan to return to the Lord from what He has given to me. (1 Cor. 16:2) The church doesn't dictate what you shall give.
5. **Give As The Lord.** It's not dues to the church to "my fair share" to the church or "my fair share" to the church so the bills and the salaries can be paid. It's giving to the Lord for His work of mission and ministry in this place and in this world.

* * * * *

TOO MUCH INCOME?

A long time ago there was a man who was making \$50 a week (that was still pretty good money in those days) and he pledged the tithe (10%) or \$5 a week. As he grew older and more

experienced in his career, his income grew proportionately higher also . . . \$100, then \$200 and eventually reached a swell \$1,000 a week! He continued to tithe faithfully until he reached \$1,000 weekly. Then he began to think. Ten percent of his new income was costing him \$100 weekly, he decided to call his pastor.

The pastor dutifully came to pay a visit (yours will, too, ask him!) and they talked over all the latest happening and the old days as they were friends for many years. Then the church member got down to the point. "Do you remember the promise I made years ago to tithe? I need to be allowed to be free from it. At first, it was \$5 a week but now it is costing me \$100 a week. How can I get out of paying \$100 a week?"

The old pastor thought for a while, then he replied, "I'm afraid we cannot release you from your promise, but there is something else we can do. We can now kneel in prayer and ask God to shrink (cut back, reduce or or make smaller) your income so that you can afford to tithe \$5 a week once more.

Note: The good thing about percentage giving is that no matter how much the Lord blesses you, the level stays the same percent, i.e., ten percent is always ten percent.

FOUR THINGS TO LEARN IN LIFE

1. To think clearly without hurry or confusion;
2. To love everyone sincerely;
3. To act in everything with the highest motives;
4. To trust God unhesitatingly.

- Helen Keller

The DEAF LUTHERAN

September-October, 1995

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