



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

November-December, 1995

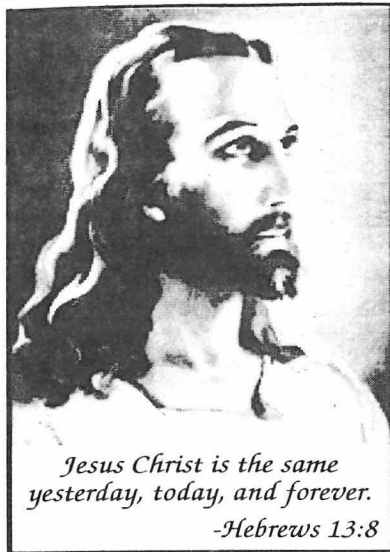
St. Louis, Mo.

Volumes 87, No. 5

## Tis the Season

### THE WORD BECAME FLESH

John 1:14 . . . "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."



*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.*

*-Hebrews 13:8*

During Advent and Christmas, we celebrate the miracle of the incarnation, the miracle of the eternal Son of God taking upon Himself a human body, the miracle of God's great love made manifest in the baby of Bethlehem. Yes, the baby Jesus is in fact, GOD! It is through Him, the second person of the Holy Trinity, that everything in all of creation came into being. He is life itself, through whom everything else that lives received its being. He is the One and Only of all Godly glory who came from the Father in order to live

among us, as one of us, in order to be our Jesus, our Saviour from sin, death and the devil. He, who gave us life in the beginning, came to earth to live the perfect life we cannot live, die in our place on the cross, and restore to us the life which sin took away from us. This is the grace of God, the undeserved gift of God's love to us.

This special season of celebration is grand and wonderful in its meaning! This season holds special memories for each of us who have had the privilege of enjoying it in past years. For those of us who recognize the truth; for those of us who really see Jesus at the heart and center of this time, even all of the little things of Christmas have great meaning and significance.

During this Holy Season, may everyone of us recall precious memories of the past and experience joys which will be wonderful memories in the years to come. May we celebrate Jesus in our life and our hearts in many ways this Christmas.

From our house to your house . . . a blessed Christmas filled with love and peace, and Happy New Year!

## ST. BONIFACE AND THE FIRST CHRISTMAS TREE

I can distinctly remember that Christmas didn't really come around until the first or second week of December. It would then be time to trim the tree and put up the decorations. But nowadays we start seeing this happen in October, well before Halloween arrived! The Malls want us to be sure to remember it is time to shop!

But wait! This is about the Christmas tree. How did this custom get started, anyway? Most of us just take it for granted without ever thinking how the custom originated.

St. Boniface was an English monk who lived

in the 6th and 7th centuries and went to Germany as a missionary. It was a time when idolatry was very much evidence and many people worshipped a false God called "Woden."

One day Boniface came to an unfamiliar village which was quiet, yet in one house he passed. loud weeping could be heard. A woman with her head bowed, was crying uncontrollably. The monk entered and asked if he could help. "They have taken my son; they will offer him as a sacrifice to Woden. No one can help me."

Continued: ST. BONIFACE/Page 2

# FROM BRAZIL WITH LOVE AND THANKS

Dear Pastor Rynearson:

What a wonderful gift for the small Concordia Deaf School in Recife! Your ILDA check for \$3,500 is accepted with most serious thanks to our Lord and all the fine individuals and deaf groups throughout the USA making this gift possible. This amount will be forwarded to Pastor Arnildo Schneider, Mission VP for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil with specific designation for the Recife Deaf School.

The last report from the school showed 60 students in attendance; all is well at the school. All of the students are 'charity' and the school maintain itself with difficulty. Thanks to interested groups and assistance from the outside and individual supporters and the International Lutheran Deaf Association really are the ones to be

thanked.

One action being taken at this time by the BMS (Brazil Mission Society) to assist very needy students from the slums (who often cannot afford bus fare and lunch money) is to introduce a new project: "Deaf/needy children's Assistance--Recife." We intend to send \$100 monthly to help with student dire needs.

Again, thank you for ILDA's prayers and assistance. God's blessing!  
/S/ Norbert Koschmann



The youngest group participating in devotions



Lunch time for one of the groups



Devotions at Lutheran Church next door to school

Continued from Page 1

## ST. BONIFACE

The kindly monk understood immediately, for these pagan worshippers often offered up one of their young men in the belief it would make peace with Gods. He vowed to stop them.

"The priests will kill you," the mother warned him, but Boniface rushed to the grove of trees where a large crowd had gathered, and saw the boy tied to a stone. "Let this boy go," he shouted, "the only true God is in heaven! He does not want you to sacrifice this young man. He sent His own Son to die for us on the cross." The priests frowned and one pointed out a giant oak tree, saying, "Our God lives in this mighty oak" and "he will strike you down."

But St. Boniface replied, "I am not afraid of your Gods," and proceeded to chop down the tree with a sharp ax. People screamed; some covered their faces and closed their eyes, afraid of what would happen next. The mighty oak crashed to the ground, and in so falling, snapped off the top of a fir tree. Boniface picked up the fallen fir, and holding it up high, said "Let this make you all remember that there is only one true God."

Amazed, the people took the fir tree, trimmed it with vines and colored berries, and took it into the village.

St. Boniface said a prayer of thanks to God.

# ILDA COLUMN

Larry M. Gorton, President  
S. 3807 Latawah  
Spokane, Wash. 99203

GREETING, I bring to you in the Name of Jesus Christ.

What do we do now? In the next two years? Will the ILDA have another 25 years? We cannot answer the questions if we do not know what the ILDA is. Looking at our Constitution/By-Law as a mission oriented organization, we are encouraged to build up the lives of deaf people through spiritual growth and develop Christian leadership among the people with whom we associate. Thus, we ought to eagerly pray to our God for the direction of ILDA's ministry. Indeed, a continuing challenge to ALL OF US as members, ILDA Board of Directors, ILDA regionals, churches/preaching stations and small groups.

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## SUMMER RETREAT AT ASHTABULA

Twenty-five deaf and hearing youngsters got together at the Lutheran Deaf Camp Aug. 6-12 for a week of fun and devotions in the great outdoors. Activities included fishing, hiking, canoeing on the river in addition to learning more about God's Word.

An Olympic size pool was a real treat, providing cool swims in hot, humid weather. Crafts were another endeavor that kept everyone busy. Awards were given for the biggest fish caught. Thanks were extended to camp staff, Pastor Ed Bergstresser and camp cooks.

The 1996 event will take place in June, instead of August. Report and photo courtesy by Larry D. Ginter of Parma, Ohio.



First, perhaps we need to continue developing leadership skills not only among the officers, but to include members. Because this is important to our Christian growth, ILDA should include workshops at the NEXT and EVERY convention.

Second, and yes, regionals have their own conference, but they should be encouraged to find time to give some attention to developing spiritual workshop/retreat besides doing the region's business.

Third, let's build up the support for THE DEAF LUTHERAN by not only continuing our subscriptions but sharing more interesting mission news with our editor and with each other.

In the coming issues of THE DEAF LUTHERAN, ILDA officers and others will be writing to our readers. Please share yours. Our communicates to us in different ways. So can you.

May God's love be with His people.

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## ROHE HONORED BY THE ILDA

Rev. Herbert W. Rohe, former Executive Secretary of the Board of Missions to the Deaf, and now of Nevada, Mo., was presented a plaque by Mr. Elmer Francisco on behalf of the International Lutheran Deaf Association on Oct. 4. Mr. Francisco, who was visiting in the Kansas City area, was conveniently close to make a side trip to visit the well known and popular pastor.

Pastor Rohe is currently serving two parishes in the Nevada (Mo.) area.

We are hopeful a suitable photo will be available for the next issue that will highlight the occasion.

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## REV. GEORGE WINKLER DIES

We have learned of the passing of Rev. George Winkler, who was killed instantly in a traffic accident in Texas Aug. 10. He was broadsided by a speeding motorist.

His last pastorate was in Denver, Colo. which he left to accept a position as chaplain at a state prison in Texas. He is survived by his wife, Florence and several grown children. Cards may be sent to the family at Rt. 4, 104 Country Road, Angleton, Texas 77515-9804.

There are times when planning a trip can cost us more than we expected. This truth was surely borne out following the recent ILDA convention in Chicago and all the more so when you have a wayward deer contributing to the expenses. Just ask our president, **Larry Gorton**. Jane, who was driving the late model Dodge Caravan, suddenly found a deer in front of her just outside of Yellowstone National Park on their return trip home. A collision couldn't be avoided and the Caravan was damaged to an extent that it could not be driven the rest of the way home. It was necessary to rent a car and go home as repairs were expected to take a week. Excluding the rental car and deductible, the loss was over \$2,000, most of which was covered by insurance. No one was injured, for which the family was thankful to the Lord. And the deer? Well, President Gorton didn't mention the deer, but we assume it wasn't as fortunate as they were.

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The commencement services at Concordia Seminary at Edmonton, Alberta May 5 saw **Rev. Robert A. Bauer** receive its "Doulos Iesoun"

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### **REV. BRIAN K. SMITH INSTALLED AT LOS ANGELES**

After being without a regular pastor for some months, members of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Los Angeles welcome Rev. Brian K. Smith as their new shepherd and full time pastor during installation ceremonies at Pilgrim on Sunday, July 30.

Preaching the service was Rev. Donald E. Leber and the liturgist was Rev. August Hauptmann. Installing Rev. Smith was the Rev. James Lareva, Pacific Southwest District Special ministry chairman.

A native of Baltimore, Md., he attended Concordia College, Bronxville, N.Y., where he learned sign language, which was of special interest to him due to the fact that he has a deaf cousin. He met his future wife at college and following his graduation in 1991, he and Jenna Olbermann were married. They moved to St. Louis where Brian studied for the ministry. He spend his vicarage at Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa under the supervision of Rev. Darrell Kois.

Pastor and Mrs. Smith are currently making their home in Diamond Bar, Calif.

# **ROAMING THI**

(Servant for Jesus' Sake) award. The seminary's placement service on May 4 was hosted by Cross of Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf in commemoration of the centennial of



*Rev. Robert A. Bauer, recipient of the "Doulos Dia Iesoun" award, and his wife, Eleonore*

deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Rev. Bauer interpreted the service for the deaf who attended the overflow event.

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The Deaf Youth Gathering at Pax Natura Ranch at Clyde, Alberta saw a very successful celebration with approximately 120 persons in attendance for the three-day event Aug. 20. Keynote speaker was Rev. Ed Bergstresser, who came up from Columbus, Ohio with his family. The gathering commemorated the 20th anniversary of the Ranch which had its beginning in 1975. The only thing to cloud an otherwise perfect celebration was a fall from a horse suffered by Rev. Roger Daene, newest pastor to serve the deaf in Regina, Saskatchewan. He suffered a very painful neck injury and was taken by ambulance to a hospital where x-rays showed no broken bones.

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We are already looking ahead to the 1997 ILDA convention, in fact, we are looking at the 1999 convention, also. Mrs. Sharon Schwartz will chair the convention. Convention dates chosen are set for July 3, 4, 5 and 6 with headquarters at the Adams Mark Hotel in downtown St. Louis close to the Arch, which is situated along the Mississippi River. Convention theme for this gathering will be, "I am the Gate . . . the Way." Hotel rates are guaranteed at \$85.00 per night with up to four people to a room. The 1999 event will take place in Cleveland, Ohio, and believe it or not, the folks there are rolling

# REGIONS . . .

up their sleeves, too. We are still awaiting official confirmation that the 2001 meeting will occur in Charlotte, N.C.

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It seems like it was just a short time ago that our deaf brothers and sisters organized a new church congregation in **Charlotte, N.C.** under the leadership of their late pastor, Frank Wagenknecht. They will now be celebrating their 10th anniversary with a banquet on Feb. 24 at the Holiday Inn and worship on Sunday with **Rev. Rodney Rynearson** preaching the sermon. Registration costs for all activities, including the banquet are only \$25.00. with costs so low, it is hoped as many as possible will come.

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Call declined: **Rev. Steven Schlund** of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Delavan, Wis., has declined a call to a hearing church at Ashipun, Wis. Rev. Schlund feels his work is not yet done at his present location.

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**Rev. Mark Anderson**. Who serves the Northern Illinois District, was the guest speaker at the mission festival in Omaha Sept. 29 and 30 the "vision" of what God wants for our lives.

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We received interesting news that a new addition has just been completed to **Columbus Colony's Elderly Care (CCEC)** in Ohio and is probably operative now following approval of the HUD on August. Expansion added 50 beds to the existing facility. The Ohio Alumni Association, which manages the project and facility is seeking 48 more units.

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**Rev. Dave Carstens** of Portland, Ore. was honored on Sept. 24, the occasion being the 25th anniversary of his ministry with the deaf. While making announcements, Ron Madding interrupted him, saying there was an emergency and he was to take the day off . . . with Pastor Bill Ludwig leading the service. Rev. Carstens was presented with an engraved plaque and later a picnic dinner was enjoyed by all.

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Two of our faithful members and friends have moved to Winnipeg, Manitoba where they have begun new lives and new careers. **Greg and Linda Desrosiers** of Council Bluff, Iowa will be sadly missed. It is hoped that this

couple will be the means whereby the Lord may get a new congregation of deaf Lutherans organized in that area of Canada. Greg is a native of Regina, Sask., and Linda hails from Minnesota.

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The **Texas District of the LWML** has presented Jesus Lutheran Church for the Deaf with a gift of \$16,000 for a van.

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**Rev. Bill Ludwig**, Seattle, Wash. was the preacher at the open house at Jesus Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas Oct. 1-3.

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**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**, St. Louis, which has sponsored a video tape project is announcing some news . . . both good and bad. The news is that their project will continue. The bad news is that pending some retraining and restructuring, the project will be delayed from six to eight months.

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We ask your prayers for Pastor Darrell **Kois**, Des Moines, Iowa and his family. Pastor Kois is gradually losing his eyesight to a disease known as retina pigmentosa. Also your prayers are needed as the congregation at Calvary Lutheran Church there ponders their future.

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## Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing  
And heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Saviour reigns!  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, Hill and  
plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,

Repeat the sounding joy.  
No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,

He rules the world with truth and grace  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of His love  
And wonders of His love.

## MONTHLY PASTOR DEVOTION

By Rev. Donald E. Leber  
6950 Center Ave.  
Alta Loma, Calif. 91701

Editor's Note: Hopefully, we will be able to carry a devotion in each issue, starting with this number. This month's column is by ILDA Pastoral Adviser Donald Leber.

### THE POWER OF PRAYER

Have you read the story of Daniel recently? Read it again, especially Daniel Chapter 6. Notice that in verse 10, it says that Daniel prayed to God three times every day. Most of us Christians have a hard time with our busy schedules to pray to God once or twice

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### PRESIDENT BARRY ILL WITH LEUKEMIA

Synod President Dr. Alvin L. Barry has been diagnosed with a form of leukemia. He will be undergoing treatment for about the



DR. ALVIN L. BARRY

next six months consisting of chemotherapy. Physicians say that full remission for this form of the disease is about 75% for most persons who acquire it.

Adding to the dismay is that his wife, Jean, is also ill with cancer and undergoing treatment.

Barry had no inkling that anything was wrong until about two weeks after the synodical convention in St. Louis when he began to experience a sudden loss of energy. Hospital tests confirmed the diagnosis. We pray for his complete recovery and his wife, also.

a day. How many times have you fallen asleep at night while trying to pray? And also notice that Daniel did not keep his prayer life a secret. He prayed any place and anytime he wanted no matter that people watched him. And we are so ashamed to do that. We try to hurry our prayer before the waiter or waitress comes back. The only reason we don't pray more often and more publicly is perhaps because we feel that to pray has no power, and that it is wrong. Notice in our story that angels came to close the mouths of the lions that they cannot harm Daniel. That is powerful! Daniel's prayers are heard by God, and God sends angels to help Daniel. Those are the facts. Prayer can be powerful. The other day I was on the phone with my friend, Bob Bauer, and when he heard about my physical problems that I had recently, Bob immediately asked me to fold my hands and bow my head and we prayed over the phone line. No one ever did that with me before, and I wondered why I never thought to do that over the TTY with people that I call. Bob's prayer had power to change me, and maybe my prayer will have power to help change someone else.

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### ROGER ALTENBERGER

### ORDAINED AT CEDAR RAPIDS AUG. 13

Rev. Roger K. Altenberger, who served his vicarage the past year in Iowa District East, was ordained into the Holy Ministry Sunday, Aug. 13 before a large group of family, congregation members and well-wishers. The 4:00 p.m. service was presided over by Rev. Dr. Curtis Moermond, president of the Iowa District East and with Rev. Darrel Kois of Des Moines' Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf preaching the sermon.

A native of Michigan, Rev. Altenberger holds degrees from Michigan State University in East Lansing and a Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. Prior to studying for the ministry, he held position as a Psychiatric Social Worker for six years in the Detroit area and was a chief technician and engineer in the cable television industry.

Pastor Altenberger and his wife, Kim, who hails from New York state, reside at 339 Windsor Dr. N.E., Cedar Rapids, Iowa and their family.

**The GLORIA IN EXCELSIS in our Liturgy**  
**By George Ring**

Divine Service I (p. 138) - "Glory be to God on high and on earth peace good-will toward men."

This is a quote of Luke 2:14. It is a song or saying of a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and announcing peace toward men.

Divine Service II (p. 160 & 180) - "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth."

In this service a substitution is made in the Gloria in Excelsis. "His people" replaces "men" which means all people. These words (his people) are perhaps taken from Matthew 1:21 - "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for He shall save his people from their sins." Here "his people" means the Jewish nation. Christ came to save the Jews. The words of Simeon clarify this. Luke 2:31-"Mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel." Notice how Simeon makes it clear that salvation is for all; that it is for both Jews and Gentiles.

PEACE to all people. PEACE to His people. PEACE to the Gentiles. PEACE to the Jews. All are correct statements, but to use them interchangeably in the Gloria in Excelsis does not seem right.

At one time in history a multitude of angels announced "peace on earth good-will toward men. To substitute what one angel said to one man in a dream for the words of many angels announcing peace to the world is hardly fair. The same is true of the words of Zacharias in Luke 1:68 - "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people." Is it fair to use the words of Zacharias in the Gloria in Excelsis? His words are not the words of the angels.

Many translations of Luke 2:14 speak of a peace among people. But the peace which God announced through His angels was not a horizontal peace. It was a perpendicular peace; a peace between heaven and earth, between God and all men. Ephesians 2:14 - "Christ is our peace, who has made both one." Luke 2:10 - "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." The GOOD NEWS is from heaven.

We rejoice that many of our hymns use the words of the Gloria in Excelsis:

Hymn 36 - Let Creation praise its Lord - verse 3

37 - From heaven above to earth I come to bring good news to everyone

38 - Welcome to earth, O noble Guest, through whom this sinful world is blest

49 - Hark the herald angels sing, Glory to the new born King

Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.

51 - (Refrain) To God on high be glory, And peace on earth to men.

53 - Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

55 - Angels we have heard on high. Refrain - Gloria in excelsis Deo.

59 - O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 2) And peace to all the earth.

70 - While Shepherds Watched their Flocks (See v. 1 and v. 3)

215 - All glory Be To God On High.... And offers peace good-will to all.

I have asked several people what "his people" in Divine Service II means. The answers that I get are: It means the believers. It means the Church. It means those who have faith. Does "his people" have the same meaning as "all people"? Is peace only for some people and not for others? Is his peace only for believers and not for unbelievers?

Peace and good-will from God are for me. They are also for you. How do we know? The Gloria in Excelsis tells us so.

# Dr. Luther Says . . .

## HOLY COMMUNION IS THE BREAD OF LIFE

"Now let us here notice that the Lord approaches us so lovingly and graciously, and offers us Himself--His blood and flesh--in such gentle words that it should in all reason move the heart to believe that this bread, His flesh and blood, born of the Virgin Mary, was given because He had to pay the penalty of death and suffer in our stead the torments of hell, and, besides, to suffer the guilt of sins He never committed, as if they were His own.

This He did willingly and received us as brethren and sisters. If we believe this we do the will of the heavenly Father, which is nothing else than the we believe on the Son. . . .

It is now evident that whoever has faith in this bread of heaven--in Christ, in this flesh and blood, of which He here speaks that it is given to him and that it is His--he also accepts it as his own, and has already done the will of God and eaten of this heavenly manna. . . .

The whole New Testament treats of this spiritual supper, and especially as does John. The Sacrament of the Altar is a testament and confirmation of this true supper, with which we should strengthen our faith and be assured that this body and blood, which we receive in the Sacrament, has rescued us from sin and death, the devil, hell and all misery."

## THE CHRISTMAS CANDYCANE

A candymaker in Indiana wanted to make a candy that would be a witness, so he made the Christmas candy cane. He incorporated several symbols for the birth, ministry and death of Jesus Christ.

He began with a stick of pure white, hard candy. White to symbolize the virgin birth and sinless nature of Jesus; and hard to symbolize the Solid Rock, the foundation of the church, and the firmness of the promises of God.

the candymaker made the candy in the form of a "J" to represent the precious Name of Jesus, who came to earth as our Saviour. It could also represent the staff of the "Good Shepherd" with which He reaches down into the ditches of the world to lift out the fallen lambs, who like all sheep, has gone

astray.

Thinking the candy was somewhat plain, the candymaker stained it with red stripes. He used three small stripes to show the stripes of the scourging Jesus received by which we are healed. The large red stripe was for the blood shed by Christ on the cross so that we could have the promise of eternal life.

Unfortunately, the candy cane became known as a candy cane--a meaningless decoration seen at Christmas time. But the meaning is still there for those who "have eyes to see and ears to hear" and we pray that this symbol will again be used to witness TO THE WONDER OF JESUS AND HIS GREAT LOVE that came down at Christmas and remains the ultimate and dominate force in the world today.

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