



# 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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## The Candle Burns . . .

### 1996: A NEW YEAR OF OPPORTUNITY

Another Christmas has come and gone. We have before us another year and a new year is always a good time to look and think about what Christmas meant to us. For the followers of Christ, whose first coming we have just celebrated, two very important events come to mind: His lowly and humble birth in a stable at Bethlehem; and secondly, when He shall return again in great glory as Lord and Judge.



The story is told about an event that happened many centuries ago in England. A revolt in the north part of the country forced the king to lead his army into battle, ultimately defeating the rebels. Following his victory, he issued a proclamation which read in part: "An amnesty will be granted and all rebels who were defeated in battle will be forgiven and their lives spared, only if they take an oath of loyalty to the king . . . while this candle is burning."

We know that the life of a candle is not very long. And neither are our lives, which are just a whisp of time in the clock of eternity. In the story, we have an offer from the king to "forgive and forget" everyone who would pledge loyalty to him. We, too, have a standing offer from our Saviour, which we find in II Corinthians 6:2, "Behold, now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation." Yes, we can have that same forgiveness and a promise of eternal life with our God, if we will give our loyalty and trust to Him and accept in our hearts God's solution to the problem of sin.

In the third chapter of the Book of Eccle-

siastes, we read that there is a time to every purpose under heaven. There is a time to act, and a time when opportunity is no more. This is true of health, of wealth, of love, education and knowledge . . . and also of the pursuit of happiness. In life, every opportunity has its "candle." For each of us, the candle burns. What do you do with the opportunity?

As we go through life, we come upon many and varied opportunities. What is the greatest opportunity offered to us? Without question, it is the one that God offers to us. It was made possible by God sending His Son, Jesus, whose miraculous coming we just celebrated.

This offer is further clarified in the Book of Galatians 4:4-7, where we read the follow-

Continued THE CANDLE BURNS/Page 2

## HEAVEN:

### THE DWELLING PLACE OF THE MOST HIGH

Recently, a small child was seen looking skyward, admiring the stars and the many wonders of the night time skies. He then spoke th his father, saying what many of us must have thought ourselves at one time or another, "If it is so beautiful on this side of heaven, what must it be like on the other side?" This innocent observation of a small child has captured the imaginations of Christians down thru the ages, that we feel compelled to look up a bit about the subject of heaven as revealed to us in the Bible.

### WHERE IS HEAVEN?

First of all, it is good to notice that God speaks of three heavens: (1) the atmo-

Continued HEAVEN/Page 3

## REV. HEBERT W. ROHE HONORED

After more than 40 years of faithful service in the Holy Ministry, most of which has been served in congregations with the deaf in Cleveland, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Pa. and in the Missouri area some people must be wondering whatever became of the popular and well known pastor. Following his departure from the office of Executive Secretary of the Board for Mission Services to the Deaf of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod in 1978, he accepted a call to two small hearing churches in Nevada and El Dorado Springs, Mo. where he resides today in quiet semi-retirement.

Pastor Rohe was visited early in October by Mr. Elmer Francisco, a former ILDA President and presently Business Manager of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** and presented with an engraved



**RECOGNITION OF MANY YEARS OF SERVICE**--Rev. Herbert Rohe, right, accepts the plaque awarded him on behalf of the ILDA from Elmer Francisco. He also served as Synodical Representative to the ILDA Board of Directors while in office at St. Louis.

## THE CANDLE BURNS

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ing: "But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the spirit into your hearts, crying 'Abba' (dear) Father. Therefore, we are no longer servants or slaves, but a child. And being children, God has made us heirs, through Christ."

Why did Jesus come at Christmas time? Because sin separates us from God . . . and sins imprisons us from which we had no hope of ever getting out. Someone else would have to free us, and Jesus made this possible by taking upon himself our guilt and paid our debt which we had no hope of ever paying.

The Book of Galatians tells us even more: Not only has Christ freed us from the debt of sin but He has enabled us to become the adopted children of God and we become part of His family through faith, which He also gives to us. We can address God as "Dear Father" and look forward to an eternity with Him in heaven.

Now we must get back to that candle. It is still burning, and the opportunity for forgiveness and eternal life is still there. But it will not always be. "Seek the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near." Isaiah 55:6.

"Grace be unto thee and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."

plaque on behalf of the International Lutheran Deaf Association, and honoring him for his service to the deaf over what is truly close to a lifetime.

Rev. Rohe, now 76, retired from active ministry with the congregation (hearing) in El Dorado Springs, Mo. in 1985 and the second parish in Nevada (Mo.) two and a half years ago. He also served the deaf in Kansas City for some time, conducting service a month at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Today he still works with a couple of young people in Nevada who are deaf occasionally.

Pastor Rohe and his wife, the former Effie C. Albertson, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last June. The staff of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** joins the couple's many friends and well wishers in wishing them many more years of happiness and good health after a lifetime of serving others. Persons wishing to send cards to the couple may address them to: RR3, Box 156, Nevada, Mo. 64772-9803.



**SMILES OF APPRECIATION**--Herb and Effie Rohe beam as the couple display their award. They were married 50 years this past summer. The pastoral home is shown in the background.

# HEAVEN

Continued from Page 1

**spheric heavens** where the clouds float and the birds fly, as we have in Genesis 8:2 "the rain from heaven was restrained," and (2) The **celestial heavens**, where the planets spin in their divine orbits, mentioned in Joel 2:10. "The heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark; and (3) **Finally, the third heaven**, the dwelling place of God and His throne (Deut. 26:15; Matthew 5:34.

God's dwelling place is far above all heavens. The apostle Paul was "caught up to the third heaven", where the Lord dwells (II Cor. 12:2) and the Lord Jesus, after rising from the dead, ascended up far above all heavens" (Eph. 4:10) "When He had Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." He has "passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God" (Hebrews 1:3, 4:14 R.V) Thus we see that God's heaven is far above, not only the clouds, but the whole universe.

## WHO DWELLS IN HEAVENS?

By reading you have noticed that the Lord Jesus is in Heaven. Holy angels are there also (see Mark 12:25). But people are there, too--those who trusted Christ in their lifetime. The apostle Paul said he had a "desire to depart, and to be with Christ, which is far better" (Philippians 1:23). He was "willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (see II Corinthians 5:8) How could anybody be so sure? Their answer is simple! God says in John 3:15, "That whosoever believeth in Him (the Lord Jesus) should not perish, but have eternal life."

All those who have trusted the Lord Jesus as their own Saviour, have the following promise directly from the Lord Himself, "In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also (John 14:2,3).

## WHAT IS HEAVEN LIKE?

Heaven is a place of endless day: no pain; no sorrow or tears--a place where eternal life will be enjoyed in its fullness! There is no parting and no dying there. Full of bliss and joy the redeemed of the Lord will gather around their Redeemer, the Lord Jesus Christ, to sing His praises forever and for-

ever. They will joy in the fact that the Lord Jesus died for their sins on the cross (I Cor. 15:3); that He loved them, and washed them from their sins in His own blood (Revelation 1:5). The absolute guarantee of being in heaven forever can be yours today! Forget what "religion" says and believe God!

"Verily, verily, I (the Lord Jesus) say unto you, that he that hears my Word, and believes Him (God the Father) that has sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but is passed from death into life." (John 5:24 R.V.)

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## 1996 CONFERENCE DATES

**EASTERN REGION (ER-ILDA)** June 21-23, 1996  
Ramada Inn, Calverton, Md. (off I-95) Theme:  
"With God, All things are possible."

**NORTHWEST:** June 21-23, 1996 at Vancouver, British Columbia with Trinity Deaf Congregation hosting the event. Exact location to be announced.

**MIDWEST:** June 28, 29, 30, 1996 at Ramada Inn, Sioux Falls, S.D. theme is from Proverbs 16:24, "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones."

Christ Deaf Congregation in Montana has invited the Northwest Region to attend a retreat with them Aug. 22-25, 1996. Location to be announced.

Additional listings will be announced as they are available.

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## As With Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old  
Did the guiding star behold;  
As with joy they hailed its light  
Leading onward, beaming bright  
So, most gracious Lord, may we  
Evermore be led by Thee!

As with joyful steps they sped,  
Saviour, to Thy lowly bed,  
There to bend the knee before  
Thee whom heaven and earth adore,  
So may we with willing feet  
Ever seek Thy mercy seat!

As they offered gifts most rare  
At Thy cradle, rude and bare  
So may we with holy joy  
Pure and free from sin's alloy  
All our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ, to thee, our heav'nly King!



## NOTES FROM HERE 'N THERE . . .

We seldom have word from our brothers and sisters in Florida, so we were pleased to hear that the church in St. Augustine which is served by **Rev. Walter Busby** is planning extensive repairs to the roof of their building and perhaps do some renovation work also. The 42 year old building is in close proximity to the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind. Members of Our Saviour also worship in the same church and have already given \$4,500 to the project in addition to what the deaf have raised. A day of thanksgiving and re-dedication is being planned after the work is done. Fall, 1995 marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of a full time Lutheran missionary to serve the needs of the Florida School for the Deaf and Blind and the 10th anniversary of the building as the Lutheran Center and Chapel of Our Saviour.

o-0-o

We have just recently learned that our ILDA pastor adviser, **Rev. Donald Leber** of Alta Loma, Calif., is suffering from an inoperable brain tumor that is reported to be malignant. He is presently receiving radiation treatments. Pastor Leber recently moved to California from Columbus, Ohio where he was pastor at Holy Cross for 16 years. We pray that the Great Physician, who is none other than our Lord Jesus Christ will bless Pastor Leber with his healing touch and take care of his family. The ailment was discovered following

a couple of seizures he suffered earlier this past fall and extensive tests.

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Bits of news from Ohio: **The Columbus Care Elderly Care Center** recently had a ribbon cutting ceremony to inaugurate its newest addition . . . a 50 bed expansion of its facility which now numbers 150 units which was first started back in 1979.

o-0-o

**Rev. Mark Anderson**, who serves the Northern Illinois District Deaf Ministry was unable to attend the mission festival in Nebraska recently due to complications associated with diabetes. We pray for his recovery and that God will permit adjustments to be made in his schedules.

o-0-o

Did you know that former ILDA historian, **Donald S. Mowl** of Washington, Pa. has two nephews who are superintendents of schools for the deaf? Gary E. Mowl assumed the position of superintendent of the North Carolina School for the Deaf at Morganton on Aug. 7. His brother, Harold M. Mowl holds a similar position at the School for the Deaf in Rochester, N.Y., and has been there since Aug. 1, 1990.

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An open house held at **Memorial Lutheran Chapel for the Deaf** in fremont, Calif. on the dates of Oct. 26-30, 1995 had as its speaker the Rev. Steven Schlund, pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Delavan, Wis.

## ILDA CHAPTER

By **Ronald Madding**, Immediate Past President  
1940 N.E. 57th Ave.  
Portland, ORE 97213-3552

The International Lutheran Deaf Association Board of Directors adopted Article VII-ILDA Chapters for our ILDA HANDBOOK in 1992. Deaf Lutheran congregations are encouraged to form their own ILDA chapters. The purpose is for better communications between ILDA chapters and their ILDA Regional Branch. Participation in the ILDA chapter gives members the opportunity to plan programs, projects, and goals to raise funds for their regional branch or the ILDA.

Hope Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Portland, Ore. established their own ILDA chapter back in December, 1992. The congregation

joined with Hope's Aid Association for Lutheran (AAL) branch members to raise matching funds for ILDA mission projects prior to the 1995 ILDA convention. We thank Hope Lutheran Church and their AAL branch for raising mission funds for the ILDA.

How can deaf congregations establish an ILDA chapter? Deaf congregations interested in starting an ILDA chapter for their church should contact an ILDA member from their own church, ILDA Regional branch officers or an ILDA officers for information. An ILDA member should have a copy of the ILDA HANDBOOK, who can share with your congregation information about Article VII, ILDA CHAPTERS, page 6, dated June 26, 1995.

# MONTHLY PASTORAL DEVOTION

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

There are many beautiful psalms in the Bible but have you recently read Psalm 65? It says, "Praise is waiting for YOU, O God, in Zion." If you could have one wish for the year of 1996, what is the most important thing that you would want to see happen? Let me share with you my dream or vision. I would really like to see every seat in our deaf church here in Los Angeles filled with people raising their hands in praise to Jesus the Saviour.

God's people began a long time ago in the Old Testament worshipping and praising God by piling up stones and making an altar on which they offered their burnt offerings to God. Later God showed Moses how to build the Tabernacle (Tent Church) that the Jewish people carried around from place to place, then set it up and worshipped God.

Next God gave specific directions to King Solomon on the way to build the temple. All of these places for worship are God's gifts to us for us to go and hear HIS words of love

and forgiveness, and for us to go and offer our prayers and praises to HIM. We are truly a most blessed people. We have more opportunities for deaf people here in the United States than any other country in the world. We have more deaf churches and pastors than any other place on this beautiful earth. There is no reason that our deaf churches should have empty seats.

Recently I talked to one of my fellow pastors and he reminded me about the story in the Bible of the lost sheep. The shepherd went out searching for the one sheep that was lost. Jesus called men to become HIS disciples one by one. We cannot expect deaf people to come running to our deaf churches. Each of us must go out and find that lost sheep (deaf person) and help lead that person to Jesus' cross. That is the way each seat will be filled, one by one.

Become a friend to someone and show them the love of Jesus shining in your life, and then you can more easily lead that wandering sheep to that special seat next top you on Sunday morning. And all God's people said, "Amen! Praise the Lord! Amen!"

## DIRECT DEPOSIT: SMART, SAFE AND PRACTICAL

Getting any group of people to agree on a single course of action may be hard to do. It has been said that even getting a three-fourths vote on almost anything is all but impossible. But more than 26 million Social Security beneficiaries already agree that direct is the smart, simple and most convenient way to receive monthly benefits. It's also the most reliable and safest way.

People who choose direct deposit provide savings for themselves . . . and the government. For themselves, the savings are in the form of the time saved in cashing checks each month. For Uncle Sam, the savings are a whopping \$115 million dollars--about 35¢ for each check. The government could save another 100 million dollars if everyone used direct deposit.

Beneficiaries with direct deposit never have to worry about:

1. A lost, stolen or misplaced check.
2. An unprotected check sitting in a mailbox when they are away on vacation; if they are sick or hospitalized, or
3. making a special trip to the bank or standing in line to deposit their checks

. . . in good weather or bad.

In the past 10 years, the reported number of check thefts has more than doubled. It makes good sense to choose the safest, most convenient and most cost effective way to receive your benefits. If you didn't receive direct deposit when you began receiving benefits, you can sign up now.

To begin direct deposit of your SS checks, contact the customer service representative where you bank. You can get more information about direct deposit by calling Social Security toll free number 1-800-772-1213 any business day between 7:00 A.M. and 7:00 P.M. Be sure to have your Social Security number and your personal check or bank statement handy when you make your call.

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**God**

**Is**

**Love**

# CONCORDIA SCHOOL/SPECIAL EDUCATION

PO Box 224  
MACAU

7 October 1995

Dear Members of ILDA:

Thank you for your donation of US \$1,150.00 to Concordia School for Special Education in Macau as one of your designated mission projects. The cheque which was forwarded to me by Dr. Ryneason arrived this week while I was in Macau. Your continued interest and support for the program of Concordia School is greatly appreciated.



Only about 60% of the school's income comes from the Macau government and less than 10% of the budget from the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod. Therefore, every gift, such as yours, is considered a great blessing for which we are most thankful.

Since the Macau government does not prohibit the teaching of religion in the school, the deaf students of Concordia School have Bible study as part of the regular curriculum. Also, a weekly worship experience for each of the students and members of the

## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Do you have a sin that has been bothering you for a long time? Most of us do. Write that sin down on a piece of paper, then set the paper on fire.

Then realize that the forgiveness that Jesus earned for us on the cross destroys the sin more completely than the fire destroys the paper.

It is true. When God forgives us, His forgiveness is so complete that He no longer remembers it. It is a peace that surpasses all human understanding.

### INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN DEAF ASSOCIATION

14th Biennial Convention

ADAM'S MARK HOTEL

(Across street from Gateway Arch)

St. Louis, Mo.

July 3, 4, 5 and 6, 1997

Ms. Sharon Schwartz, Chairperson

1116 Lindsay Lane

Florissant, Mo. 63031

teaching staff in one of the three chapel services held each Wednesday morning is part of the regular program of the school.

Please continue to support this mission project with your prayers. Also, I urge you to enlist prayer support of other members of your congregations.

Peace and joy in His service!

Sincerely,

(Rev.) Louis R. Jasper, D.D., Ed.D.  
Director

## BE CAREFUL . . .

. . . . about what you eat! That is good advice. We know that some foods taste very good, but may not be good for our health. Two foods that I love are doughnuts and sausage (especially one kind made in LaGrange, Texas) Both are high in fat, which is not very good for the heart. God wants us to take care of our bodies, because we belong to Him. therefore, I must be careful not to eat too much of these two favorite foods.

. . . . about what you feed your family! It does not make much sense for a parent to be very careful about what he or she eats, but then let the children eat all the junk food they want. Love for the family means we take care of one another.

. . . . about what you feed your mind and your family's minds! It does not make much sense to be very careful about what we feed the body, but then feed the mind all kinds of "garbage"! I am talking about the "garbage" that is becoming much easier to find in TV programs (maybe I should say it is becoming much harder to avoid this "garbage"). Many of the programs in the evening use dirty language, or they show a sexual life that is not pleasing to God, or they make fun of God and people who love Him. The people who produce these programs call it "comedy" . . . . but it is not funny! Even the TV columnist in the HOUSTON CHRONICLE is upset about it.

## THANK FROM PAX NATURA

Most of our churches are aware that there is a ranch in Clyde, Alberta, Canada, that is an outreach program of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church Edmonton, Alberta. The recent Youth Gathering Event held there Aug. 16-20 saw upwards 120 young people (deaf) from Western Canada and one young lady from Columbia, South America in attendance.

For a number of years now, the ILDA has included the ranch in its mission projects and the 1995 convention renewed that commitment with a donation of \$1,000 and included an extra \$150 for the 1995-97 biennium.

A letter of thanks acknowledging the gift and a receipt from the Pax Natura Society dated Oct. 5, 1995 has been received.

## CHARLOTTE'S CHAPEL FOR DEAF CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The congregation of the Chapel for the Deaf/Lutheran in Charlotte, N.C., will be celebrating their 10th anniversary Feb. 23-25, 1996 at the Woodlawn Holiday Inn in Charlotte. Anyone wishing to join the festivities may request a registration form and information from Chapel for the Deaf, 1225 E. Morehead St., Charlotte, N.C. 28204. Or you may call 1-704-334-8319 V/TTY or 1-704-532-1452 V/TTY. The deadline for both hotel and event registration is Feb. 9, 1996. Registration for the activities and banquet is \$25.00 and hotel rooms are \$52.00 a night (both single or double) plus 12% motel tax.

Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson, Counselor for Deaf Ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will be the speaker.

## LUTHER'S BIBLE FOUND

A researcher, who was cataloging a huge collection of Bibles in the Baden-Wuerttemberg State Library in Germany has found what appears to be Dr. Martin Luther's personal Bible. Hand written notes found in it and compared with known samples of Luther's handwriting appear to lend authenticity to the find. The Bible, the ancient Latin version known as the Vulgate, had unnoticed for over two centuries.

The Bible was printed in 1519, two years after Luther posted the historic 95 theses that brought him into irreversible conflict with the Roman Catholic Church. From the Bible's date, it was likely that Dr. Luther used it in 1521-22 when he translated the New Testament into German.



## THELMA THWARTUM — By Alex

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Criminal Justice Services





## CALL YOUR PASTOR!

No one should ever assume that your pastor is either too busy or does not wish to be bothered with personal problems. Many times, he is the last person to know when a member is facing a problem. If the truth be known, a pastor is never too busy to care for his people. As an example, my own pastor answered his phone at 3:30 a.m. when a church member needed to get to the hospital.

The pastor's work is not limited to preaching on Sunday mornings, leading Bible class and driving to various preaching stations . . . or just to visit the sick in hospitals.

He is available for counseling on marriage problems, family, drugs, alcohol and many others. You are not alone. Your pastor subscribes to a code of strict ethics of confidentiality and there is no need to worry

that he will violate your trust.

Pastors are what the word means "shepherd." This why he is called to be your pastor. He is not here to be a ruler, but God has appointed him to serve and care for you.

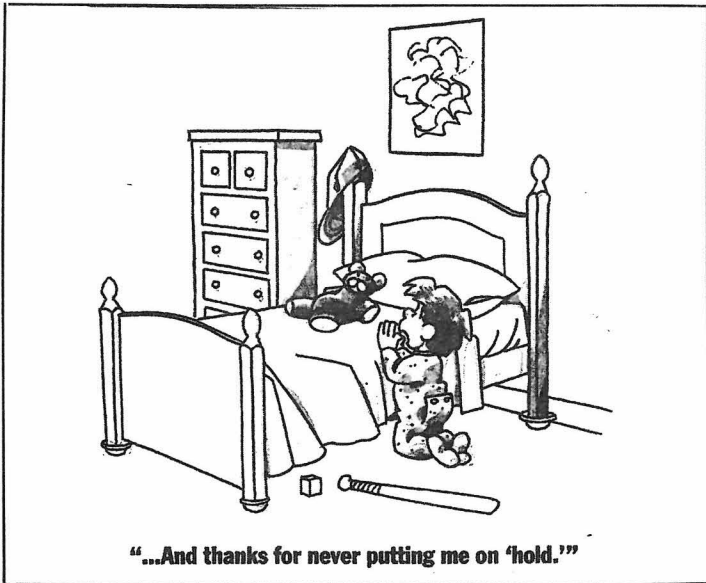
Don't overlook this valuable resource next time you need help--your pastor.

### MONTANANS GET FULL TIME PASTOR

Henry E. "Hank" Drummond, who spent one year as vicar at Christ/Deaf Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Mont., in 1993-1994, has returned to become the church's first full time pastor. Rev. Drummond was ordained and installed at a service on July 2, 1995 at Trinity Lutheran Church which shares the building with Christ for the Deaf. Dr. George Wollenburg, President of the Montana District, presided over the ordination service and pastor Bruce Zagel gave the message. Other pastors in the service were Robert Eckelman, Rev. Robert Weishoff, Rev. Gilbert Berninghaus and Rev. Donald Bren.

Christ Lutheran Church for the Deaf of Montana has grown in the last two years from 5 members to 60. Services are held on the 2nd Sunday of the month at the First Lutheran Church in Missoula and on the 4th Sunday at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Billings and with every Sunday morning worship at 10:45 at Christ Lutheran in Great Falls.

Pastor Drummond graduated from Fort Wayne, Ind., with a Master of Divinity degree; is a sign language instructor and interpreter for the deaf. The new pastor and his wife are parents of a daughter, Jennifer, age 9.



"...And thanks for never putting me on 'hold.'"

# The DEAF LUTHERAN

January-February, 1996

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