



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

September-October, 1996

St. Louis, Mo.

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MARTIN LUTHER ON PRAYER

Few Christians down through the centuries have been better qualified to discuss prayer than Dr. Martin Luther. As we once again approach the time when we remember the Reformation, let us share a few of his thoughts on the subject of prayer from one of his many works, "What Luther Says: An Anthology, Volume II."



LUTHER

"Praying is the work of faith alone and something no one but a Christian can do. For Christians do not base their prayer on themselves, but on the Name of the Son of God, in whose Name they have been baptized; and they are certain that praying in this way is pleasing to God because He has told us to pray in the Name of Christ and has promised to hear us."

"For this reason, Christ Himself also significantly adds the phrase, 'in My Name.' He wants us to learn that without faith no real prayer can be offered and that apart from Christ, no one is able to pray a single letter that is worth anything before God and is acceptable to Him."

"Learn, therefore, that there can be no real prayer without this faith. But do you feel weak and fearful? Your flesh and blood is always putting obstacles in the way of faith, as if you were not worthy enough or earnest to pray. Or do you doubt that God has heard you, since you are a sinner? Then hold on to the Word of God and say, 'Though I am sinful and unworthy, still I have the commandment of God, telling me to pray, and His promises that He will graciously hear me, not on account of my worthiness but on account of the Lord Jesus Christ. In this way you can chase away the thoughts and the doubts, and you can cheerfully kneel down to pray. You need not consider whether you

are worthy or unworthy; all you need to consider is your need and His Word, on which He tells you to build."

"We enjoy the benefit that our prayer is always heard; for if it is not heard according to our own desires, yet it is heard according to the will of God, which is far better than ours. Furthermore, it is not necessary that God always hear according to my will, for then He would be my prisoner of slave. And further still, why should He hear our prayers if He knows of something that is better for us?"

"The granting of our prayer is to be so defined that God does not always do what we desire but does what is beneficial and good for us. For since God is good, He can give

Continued: Martin Luther/Page 2

HALLOWEEN AND THE OCCULT

Like it or not, witchcraft, devil worship, cult practices and horoscopes are spreading faster than any anyone thought possible only a few years ago. For many young people, the devil has become a role model to such a degree that many churches and Christian youth groups are abandoning traditional Halloween practices of employing costumes depicting witches and grotesque characters and replacing them with short skits and Bible characters from the life of Jesus.

Contrary to what many people may think, satanistic cult activity is not a joke and the devil is real and is not harmless. His only purpose is to steal us away from eternal life with Jesus and he has no qualms about how he accomplishes his purposes. He is to be totally rejected.

It is not easy to ask kids to give up "trick or treats" of any other of the familiar traditions, but we need to look at what they are learning from all of this. The church can show the way.

1997 ILDA CONVENTION

As mentioned in the last issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN, 1997 combination ticket prices will be \$93.00 for those attending the ILDA 14th biennial convention at the Adams Mark Hotel in St. Louis on the dates of July 3, 4, 5



and 6. However, early birds can save \$13.00 if paid by Dec. 31, 1996. The cost will be only \$80.00. After that date, the cost advances to \$87.00 until April 30, 1997. Afterwards, the full charge of \$93.00 will prevail. Why

not save yourselves some money?

It is also possible to save additional costs for the hotel rooms by sending the money directly to the convention chairperson by Dec. 31. Rooms, while very nice, are also quite expensive at \$85.00 for up to four persons per room. Prepaying to chairperson by the end of December can save visitors the

MARTIN LUTHER

Continued from Page 1

nothing but what is good. However, we often ask for our children, our friends, ourselves, not what is good, but what seems to be good. In such cases God grants our prayer even when He does not do what we ask. This is why in the Lord's Prayer we pray for the hallowing of the Name of the Lord; for the coming of God's kingdom, and for the fulfilling of His will with the words, "Thy will be done" before we pray for our own concerns and the necessities of life. In such matters God may do not what seems to be good to us but what is really good."

"Let this be said as an exhortation (strongly advise) to pray that we may form the habit of praying with all diligence and earnestness. For next to the preaching of the Gospel, wherein God speaks to us and offers us all of His grace and blessings, the highest and foremost thing that we can do, in turn, is to speak with Him through prayer. Indeed, prayer is highly necessary for us; for we must, after all, achieve everything thru prayer: to be able to keep what we have and to defend it against our enemies, the devil and the world. And whatever we are able to obtain, we must seek here in prayer. Therefore, prayer is comfort, strength, and salvation for us, our protection against all enemies, and our victory over them."

sales tax. Persons paying direct to the hotel will not receive this benefit.

No tours are being planned for this convention as in former years. One of the reasons is that the 4th of July holiday falls on Friday next year and there is expected to be a gala fireworks display down by the river front, which is in close proximity to the Adams Mark and should be very enjoyable for visitors. A secondary reason will be the huge crowds expected to be present in the area and security concerns during the holiday festivities. Hotel guests may be required to wear special identification in order to permit easy entrance and exiting convention headquarters.

Driving to St. Louis? No problem. Guests will be able to leave their vehicles in the large hotel garage underneath the building and take the elevator upstairs. You will take your parking tickets to the cashier who will validate them, permitting guests free parking privileges. At this point in time, questions regarding those coming with recreational type vehicles will need to have their queries handled by the local committee.

"Meet Me in St. Louis" was the title of a popular movie starring Margaret O'Brien many years ago. Today, we will repeat that phrase and add one more which will be our convention theme, "He is the Gateway." If you have questions, please call or write to the chairperson:

Ms. Sharon Schwarz
1116 Lindsay Lane
Florissant, Mo. 63031
1-314-576-2005

MIDWEST CONFERENCE MEETS

The Midwest Conference of the ILDA held its annual meeting at the Ramada Inn, Sioux Falls, S.D., June 28-30 with 98 registered for the three day event.

All of the Sunday offering was earmarked for ILDA Mission Projects.

New officers for the next two years are Robert E. Dunnington, Sioux City, Iowa, president; Ronald Nester, Hiawatha, Kan., vice president; Betty Rose, Roseville, Minn., secretary, and Barbara Zimmerman, Monticello, Iowa, treasurer. Pastoral adviser will be Rev. Matthew Nix, Sioux Falls, S.D. The 1997 meeting will be in Omaha.

PASTORAL DEVOTION

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

Are the ten commandments only ten suggestions? Many members of our deaf congregations think and act like the 10 commandments are only suggestions, and they don't even try to follow them in their life.

Recently on Sunday morning the Gospel lesson for the day was a reading from John 14:15-21. In verse 15 Jesus says, "If you love Me, then you will keep My commandments." Then I did a word search in the New Testament to see all the commands that Jesus gave to us and I found only one. That should be easy. No more worrying about obeying all ten commandments. We only need to worry about 1.

But when you see that **one command, it will make you realize exactly the thing that Jesus meant.** Jesus said in John 13:34, "A new command I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you." Easy . . . just show your love to everyone you meet. No . . . hard . . . As a matter of fact, when you look at the 10 commandments, the first, second and third teach us the proper way to show our

LOVE to God. Then commandments six to ten teach us the proper way to show love to everyone else. You can't escape the ten commandments. They are part of every day living. And if you have not learned and memorized the 10 commandments, then now is as good a time as any to do it:

1. You must have no other gods, only ME.
2. You must not use the Name of the Lord your God in a wrong way.
3. Remember the worship day and keep that day holy.
4. Honor your mother and father.
5. You must not kill.
6. You must not break the holy marriage law.
7. You must not steal.
8. You must not speak lies against your neighbor.
9. You must not jealousy-want your neighbor's house.
10. You must not jealousy-want your neighbor's wife, servants or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

And all God's people said, "Amen! Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Amen!.

ILDA COLUMN

By Russel L. Healey, Treasurer
P.O. Box 223
Olive Branch, Ill. 62969

Greetings:

Betty Jo and I attended the ILDA Board of Directors' meeting in St. Louis April 12-14, 1996 and on Saturday afternoon, the officers and visitors went on a tour at Adams Mark Hotel. Wow! This hotel is one you will appreciate and it is one of the finest hotels in the Midwest.

I would encourage you all to come to the 1997 convention . . . it's all here within walking distance; Busch Stadium for Cardinal baseball; Laclede's Landing; the charming riverfront melange of night clubs, restaurants and galleries; the various riverboat attractions along the Mississippi River; the Spaghetti Factory; the urban shopping center with more than 125 chic stores and shops and many more. I am sure you don't want to miss the 1997 "4th of July Celebration" St. Louis ILDA convention.

I am happy to announce that the check for \$20,000 for the project in India (India Lu-

theran Church, Hosur) was sent to Rev. Rodney R. Rynearson, Counselor for Deaf Missions, on May 29, 1996 and I just received a letter from him on June 18 thanking the ILDA for the check.

Up to the date of June 28, 1996, collections for Mission Projects reached a total of \$15,874.70 and we need \$15,125.30 more to meet our goal of \$31,000 set at the last convention. Your generous donations are needed to support Mission Projects.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Dixie Deaf Lutheran Conference will meet at a Baptist Camp south of Dallas, Texas on the dates of Oct. 11-13.

The Pacific Region will be at the Arrowhead Springs Conference Center, San Bernardino, Calif. Sept. 20, 21 and 22, 1996. Hosts will be Pilgrim of Los Angeles, under a theme of "A Century of Blessings and a Future of Hope."

The Great Lakes Region met at Pittsburgh, Pa. Aug. 2, 3 and 4.

NEWS FROM HE

Two well known nonagenarians celebrated birthdays this past summer. On Sunday, June 9, members of Prince of Peace, Minneapolis, gathered at Messiah Lutheran Church at Mounds View, Minn. to celebrate **Julia Hefley's** 90th birthday. Following a program, a delicious buffet meal was served to a large group of friends and well wishers.

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On Aug. 25, friends gathered after church at the University Lutheran Chapel in Lincoln, Neb. to honor **Mrs. Emma Mappes** on the occasion of her 95th birthday. Mrs. Mappes is the widow of the late Rev. Ernest Mappes, who served many years in Iowa and Nebraska.

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Members and friends of Word of God Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa went by chartered bus to Mall of America for an all-day excursion to visit the well known mall in Minneapolis, Minn.

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Rev. Cory Eckstrom, a recent graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, was ordained into the Holy Ministry at Concordia Lutheran Church, Red Wing, Minn. on Sunday, June 16. Preaching the service was Rev. Daryl Gehlbach, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Rev. Eckstrom will serve as missionary-at-large in the Nebraska District.

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Donald Peterson, chemistry professor at Gallaudet University, Washington, D.C. will retire from the University in August. He and his wife, Ruth, are long time members of Christ Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, Md.

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Rev. Robert A. Bauer of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta, received a plaque at the recent Ephphatha Conference in Indianapolis in recognition for 40 years in the ministry to the deaf. At another event, he was inducted into the Legion of Frontiersmen, Canadian Division, with the rank of major. He will serve as "padre," as all clergymen are known. Frontiersmen are always at the service of the government in any emergency.

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Surprise for the future? Maybe. But, hopefully plans are in the early beginnings of possibly building an addition to the existing church structure at **Word of God**, Cedar Rapids, Iowa that will greatly increase space and accessibility for the future. The Church

Board and Iowa District East are talking about the possibility and designs that would accomplish those purposes.

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A visitor from Germany, **Jutta Spremberg**, has been a guest of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta and at Pax Natura Ranch to study deaf ministry. She attended the Northwest ILDA Conference at Langley, B.C. and interviewed several people. Her picture appears elsewhere in this issue.

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Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Des Moines, Iowa will observe its 50th anniversary as the deaf church for western Iowa in 1997. Mr. Bill Kautzky is chairing the planning committee.

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Recently, the faculty and the Board of Regents of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis approved the concept of a **Pastoral Training Program** for deaf students through an extension program. This will make it much easier for person who are deaf to study for the ministry.

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Rev. Mark A. Anderson will be the guest preacher at an open house at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Delavan, Wis., on Oct 6. Worship is at 10:30 followed by dinner at noon.



CANADIAN VISITOR FROM GERMANY--Jutta Spremberg is spending most of the summer learning about deaf ministry as a guest of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta. She interviewed a number of persons at the Northwest ILDA Conference at Langley, B.C. She will return home Sept. 1.

RE 'THERE . . .

Vicar David Nielsen will begin his work at Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa on Aug. 11.

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You can't say Pastor Don Leber isn't full of surprises. Following his long recuperation from a cancerous brain tumor from which he has made a miraculous recovery, he asked his wife to drive them to the cruise line in Long Beach, Calif. after church Sunday, April 28. There he handed her the tickets for their four-night cruise to Catalina Island and Esanada, Mexico. She was shocked! Karen had less than 24 hours to get ready. It was a marvelous trip which both badly needed. Any more surprises, Don?!!

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Mrs. Martin Mueller died recently. She was the wife of Rev. Martin Mueller, who remains in a nursing home near Sheyboygan, Wis.

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Marvin Neuschwanger, 87, of Des Moines, Iowa, a faithful member and frequent soloist at Calvary Lutheran Church, was called into eternal rest on May 25 following a stroke suffered four days earlier. His rendition of beautiful hymns in sign language were a frequent part of church services at Calvary for which he will be remembered. He leaves his wife, Fonda.

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It is true that we live in a very sinful world, but sometimes it takes an unusual turn of events to bring that truth home to us. Why should a house of worship even need an alarm system? Is not the House of God sacred? Apparently not always. Peace Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, has just decided that it would be prudent to have this kind of protection after the hearing church next door was broken into not once, but twice! We are aware of other churches serving deaf ministry that have had such things happen.

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Ruth Seeger, a member of Jesus Lutheran

Church, Austin, Texas, set the United States women's (age 70-74) national discus record at the Waterloo Track and Field Championships in Buda, Texas. Seeger won a total of six gold medals in the competition nearing national records in several other events. **CONGRATULATIONS, RUTH!**

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Gallaudet University's president, Dr. I. King Jordan was one of the 10,000 individuals nationwide who were selected to be torch Bearer carrying the Olymic flame during its 15,000 mile journey from Los Angeles to Atlanta.

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Elmer F. McVicker, 92, of the Columbus Colony Elderly Care, Westerville, Ohio, passed away on May 9. He was a retired GM employee from the Chevrolet transmission plant in Toledo, Ohio having worked there 38 years. He also held some diving awards from his earlier years and was a member of various deaf organizations. Mr. McVicker was a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Toledo. Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt officiated at the funeral May 11.

EASTERN REGION MEETS

The Eastern Regional Conference of the ILDA convened at the Ramada Inn in Calverton, Md. June 14-15 under a theme of, "With God, all things are possible." A total of 78 persons were registered for the three day meeting with over 100 attending the banquet.

In addition to an election of new officers, the conference voted to expend approximately \$950.00 to support various endeavors: ILDA Mission Projects, \$350.00; School for the Deaf in Brazil, \$300.00 (Porto Alegre) and Sunrise Lutheran Outdoor Ministry, Pottersville, N.Y., \$300.00.

New officers chosen for the coming biennium are Ms. Donna Wright, president, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Ms Diane Munoz, president-elect, Maryland; Mr. Ward Pettis, secretary, Silver Springs, Md., and Ms. Betty Baer, treasurer, Charlotte, N.C.

The 1998 meeting will be hosted by St. Mark in New York City.

NOTICE

All Regional Conferences should send in their nominations for national ILDA offices to the editor before **JAN. 15, 1997**. These names are required to be published in THE DEAF LUTHERAN prior to the 1997 ILDA convention in St. Louis, Mo.

Your cooperation is appreciated.

God loves His children, not because of who they are, but because of WHO He is!"

TRINITY, VANCOUVER, B.C. HOSTS NORTHWEST REGION JUNE 21-23

The Northwest Regional Conference of the ILDA held its biennial meeting at the Northwest Baptist College, Langley, B.C. with about 70 in attendance from many parts of the Pacific Northwest. Hosting the event was Trinity Lutheran Church for the Deaf, which is served by Rev. Wayne Bottlinger.

Several workshops and presentations were given including one on the importance of communications by former ILDA President Ronald

Madding; another on the Holy Trinity by Pastor R.A. Bauer as well as Bible topics by Pastors Ludwig and Hewitt. Current ILDA President Larry Gorton spoke to the group as did Editor Lester Ahls and Elmer Francisco, of THE DEAF LUTHERAN staff.

A tour of Fort Langley, located a scant few miles from the college, was taken where visitors saw what things were like when the area was just beginning to be settled long before the turn of the century.

The workshop on communications will be repeated by Ronald Madding at the Pacific Conference at Arrowhead Springs Conference Center in San Bernardo, Calif. Sept. 20, 21 and 22.

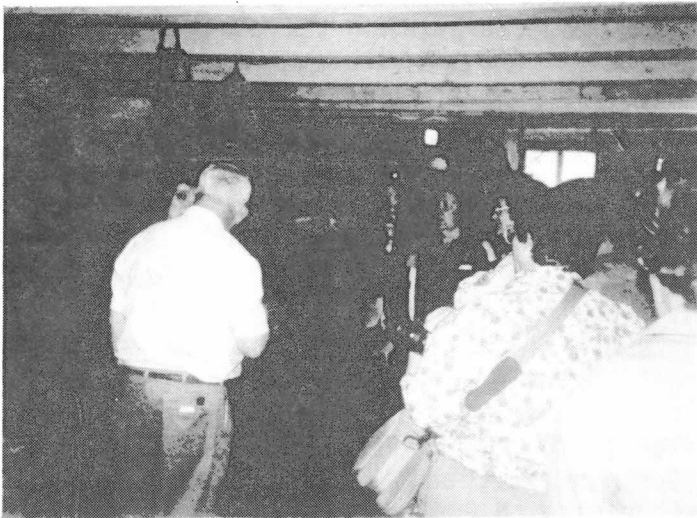
A skit performed by Pastor Robert Bauer and members from Edmonton amused the crowd where Pastor Bauer acted out the role of a "doubting Thomas" and the difficulty in convincing him that he needed Jesus. (He was won over.)

New officers for the next two years are: President, Victor B. Lyon, Seattle, Wash.; vice president, Gary Anderson, Edmonton, Alberta; secretary, Ronald Madding, and treasurer, Richard Zwirnmann, both of Portland, Ore.

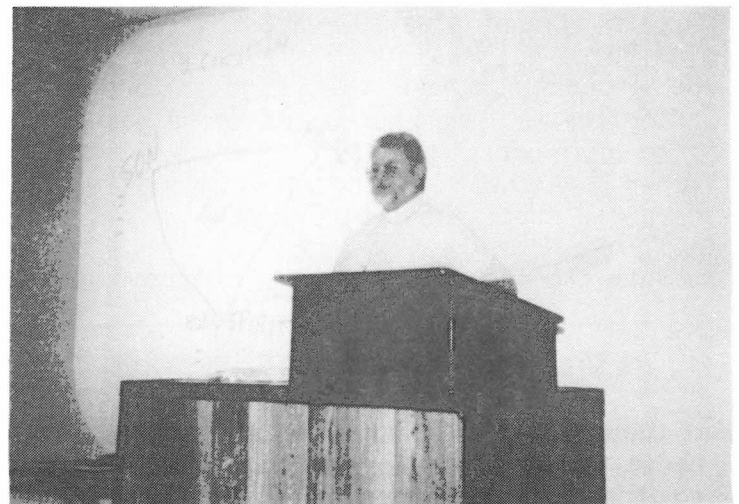
Proceeds from the Conference will be directed to ILDA Mission Projects. The 1998 meeting will be held in Edmonton, Alberta.



LEARNING AT THE CONFERENCE--Members and visitors pay rapt attention to the presenter during the Northwest Conference. Show is only part of the group attending.



AT HISTORIC FORT LANGLEY--Shown are just a small group of the many who visited the site. Interpreting the guide's remarks are Rev. Wayne Bottlinger (back to camera). Visitors readily identified are Charlotte Doland, Spokane, WA (center) and Betty Ahls, Cedar Falls, Iowa. This shop looked the same as it did when early settlers lived there.



THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY TRINITY--During the workshops, Pastor Robert Bauer used charts to explain the Biblical truth of the Holy Trinity to the conference in Langley, B.C.

JOHN OF BEVERLEY CHAPEL WELCOMES REFUGEES FROM WAR TORN BOSNIA

By Rev. Ron Friedrich, Pastor
7611 Park Lane
Dallas, Texas 75225

On April 4, 1996, Dulsa, Jasna, Emir and Elvir arrived in Dallas, tired, but healthy and a bit uncertain about the future that lay before them. Dulsa and Jasna are hearing; Emir and Elvir are deaf. The Hodzic family fled their home in Bosnia four years ago and have been refugees, living in temporary quarters in Croatia ever since. Realizing they had little future where they were, they sought immigration at the consulates of several different nations. When finally the American office said, "Yes," Dulsa told her children, "Thank God."

Thank God, indeed! We have seen the Hand of God guiding and providing for the arrival of our Bosnian friends in a most remarkable way. In just two weeks following our decision to sponsor the Hodzices, friends and other ministries donated over \$3,000, enough to cover the six-month lease on their apartment. Surprisingly, half of that money was given by people who did not know that we needed support for refugees. By the third week we had all the furniture we needed. But we were only four days away from the family's arrival when we finally found an apartment for them.

The day Dulsa's phone was connected, she received two calls from relatives in Croatia, which helped her overcome her initial loneliness in this new land so far from home. Other Bosnian immigrants in this area have

made their presence known and are helping tremendously bridge the culture and language gap for the family.

As we wait for the last of the bureaucratic loose ends to be tied up, we are preparing the family for work and independent living. We have been riding the bus, looking up ESL classes, checking employment opportunities, filling out job applications and even learning about the county hospital.

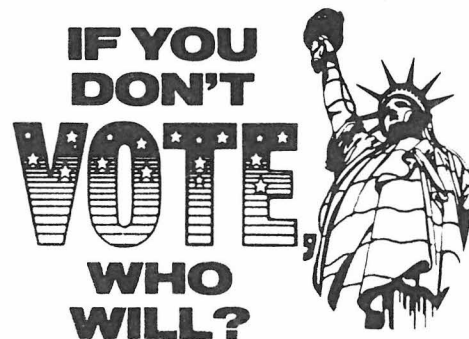
Dulsa knows about as much survival German as I do, with which we can communicate directly. Her daughter, Jasna knows a little English, and is picking up more every day. Dulsa's sons, Elvir and Emir, are both congenitally deaf. Emir has been feverishly studying his English/Croatian language texts. He uses his newly acquired English in finger-spelled conversation every chance he gets, while Elvir prefers to study a set of video tapes from Lutheran Social Services, which demonstrate vocabulary in both American and Bosnian Sign Languages. Emir and Elvir are now taking language classes at the Dallas Deaf Action Center, while Dulsa and Jasna are enrolled at a nearby community college to learn English.

In Bosnia, Dulsa worked as a department store clerk and Elvir worked at the government autobody shop, repairing trucks. Emir was a student at the state school for the deaf when the Serbs arrested him and his fellow students. He had an uncle in the Red Cross who intervened and secured his release.

The Bosnian sign for **Serbia** is the traditional Catholic sign of cross. Those identified by the sign of the cross are the ones who have killed many members of Dulsa's family and have forced her, with her children, to flee their home. We now have here a tremendous opportunity to share the genuine love of Jesus.



JOHN OF BEVERLEY WELCOMES REFUGEES--Elvir Hodzic (front row, center) Jasna Hodzic (front row, second from right) Dulsa (second row, holding pastor's son) Emir Hodzic (back row, fourth from left.) Pastor Friedrich is in back row, far left.



PAX NATURA RANCH HAS A FIRE

Anyone who has ever passed through a forest must have thought at one time or another the possibility of the 'unthinkable' . . . a forest fire. Such an occurrence happened at Pax Natura Ranch at Clyde, Alberta, Canada on Monday, June 10. The blaze, discovered about 4:00 p.m. by Pastor Robert Bauer, came within 150 yards of the camp's church. Pastor Bauer seldom makes the trip to the camp on Mondays from Edmonton, where he is pastor of Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, but on that particular day he did go, and he describes it as a "gut feeling" that the Lord wanted him to go.

Upon his arrival, the fire was already out of control and fire departments from both

Clyde and Westlock answered the call immediately. They fought the fire for two hours and had it pretty well put out. However, they were called back the next day to quash small hot spots where there was a chance of reigniting the flames where it had burned ten acres.

Pastor Bauer says he does not know what they would have done if their small church had been lost and everyone is grateful to the Lord God and the fire fighters who answered the call for help. The cause of the fire has not been determined, but it appears to be suspicious. Both the fire department and the police would like to know. While the area around the camp is heavily forested, the fire was described as a "brush fire."

The camp was the scene of a Deaf Leadership Training Event a year ago with over 120 young people from all over Canada and elsewhere in attendance. Pax Natura has also been the recipient of many of the ILDA's Mission Projects in recent years.

TIMOTHY C. ECKERT ORDAINED

Tim Eckert served his vicarage at Calvary Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Iowa from August, 1994 to August, 1995 and then returned to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, where he graduated in May. He returned to Des Moines and was ordained into the Holy Ministry at 3:00 p.m. June 23, in the same church where he had been vicar the year before.

Rev. Eckert was installed at Alpha Lutheran Church in Rochester, N.Y. on July 21 at a 7:00 p.m. service, followed by a reception for him and his bride-to-be, Miss Susan Friedmann of Dubuque, Iowa. The couple will repeat their vows in Miss Friedmann's hometown on Sept. 21.

We pray God's blessings on Pastor Eckert's ministry and on the couple in their new life together.

HOW TO MAKE A DEAL

A father and son made a deal. Dad will buy Junior a car if the boy will shave his beard, cut his shoulder-length hair and read his Bible every day.

He bought the car and Junior did his reading every day. But he did not get his hair cut or shave his beard. When dad asked him about it, he said, "Well, Dad, I've been reading about Jesus and He had long hair and a beard."

"Yes, He did," the father agreed, "and He also walked everywhere He went."

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