



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

January-February, 1997

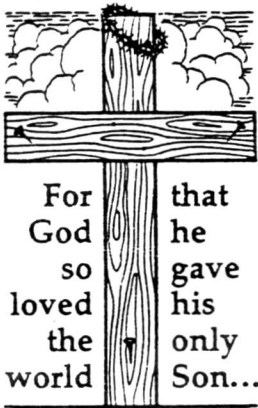
St. Louis, Mo.

Volumes 89, No.1

## Some Thoughts for a New Year . . .

# WILL JESUS RETURN IN 1997

The latest available figures we have on the number of deaf people in this country and all of North America who do not attend church is an appalling 90% to 95%. Simply stated, this means if you have a group of 100 deaf people, no more than five or ten are Christian and attend church with any degree of regularity.



John 3:16

Many of our unchurched brethren feel that they are in no imminent danger of dying and that they have many more years left to live. Death is just something that happens

to old people. Many of our young people and even those of middle age and beyond would rather enjoy life and have a good time. Their rationale is that there is plenty of time to start going to church when I get old; I have no time now. If you are among this group, are you **certain** you are going to live to old age?

Life is very uncertain! No person is guaranteed a tomorrow, in fact, this very day could be the last one for any one of us. Each day we awaken is a gift from God; a new day of grace. A pastor we know told us that this past summer, he conducted three funerals for three boys not even 20.

What does God's Word, the Bible tell us about our life here in the world? There are many passages from Scripture that speak of man's demise, but this one from James 4:14 says it rather well: "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow, for what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth

for a little time, and then vanisheth away." What is a vapor? A good example is the steam we see coming from boiling water in a tea-kettle, it exists and vanishes in a second. Our lives are much like that little vapor: here one minute, gone the next instant.

Is our Lord coming in 1997? No one knows. The world waited 2,000 years for His first coming on the first Christmas; we long for His second coming just as the Christians did for His first one so long ago. But come He will; that is a promise He made and His Word is sure.

Death comes in many forms. AIDS is claiming hundreds of thousands worldwide; many of them are young people. Then we have cancer, auto accidents, illnesses, heart attacks and even murder. The end results is always the same: deaths. The worst part of dying for any person is being **unprepared** to meet the Lord.

This could happen to you.

Jesus is very emphatic about the need for preparedness when He shall come again. Even with His stern warning, widespread apathy seems to be the rule. Our Lord's Words (red letter edition) could very well be interpreted this way: "Watch out! Do not let my sudden coming catch you unprepared and do not let me find you living in careless ease, carousing and drinking and spending all your time with the problems of this life, like all the rest of the world."

Most people are very conscious about the need to lock their doors at night before retiring; least a thief breaks in and steals or worse. Jesus warns that His return will be much like that of a thief: just when we least expect it. Hence, the need to always

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Larry M. Gorton  
S. 3807 Latawah Street  
Spokane, Wash. 99203

The church in Antioch prayed for Paul and others, set them aside for mission work and sent them to tell the story about Jesus to many people. Together, they became "partners in mission."

Often being surrounded by people, Jesus' heart was filled with compassion because the people were frustrated and helpless, like sheep with no shepherd. Compassion is what we find in the heart of our God. His compassion send Jesus to be a substitute for us so that we can have forgiveness, life and hope for the future. The same warm feeling that our God gave to Jesus--a hunger to do something good for people.

We are encouraged to be "partners in mission" in many ways. We pray for people, asking our God to touch their hearts and souls, to create in them a hunger for God. We pray for some of us to tell the people of our hope. We have responsibility to teach, and encourage them in their growth. We pray for

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## WILL JESUS RETURN IN 1997?

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Continued from Page 1

be prepared, for we know not when He shall come again.

How do we prepare? We start **NOW** (we do not wait until tomorrow) to repent of our sins; we acknowledge our sinful condition and the need for forgiveness and accept that forgiveness which Christ bought for us by His death on the cross. The Holy Spirit leads us to believe on Christ: He gives us the courage and faith to come before God in prayer to ask for forgiveness for Jesus' sake.

We just ended another Christmas season and are about to start another year, 1997. Most of us gave gifts to loved ones and received some, too. God gives us gifts all year long and nothing more wonderful or greatest than the gifts He gives us in church every Sunday when we come to hear His Word and receive the blessing of the sacraments.

May God bless your attendance at church every Sunday. And may He find us ever faithful and watching for His return on the Last Day when He shall gather all of His people to Himself and eternal life in heaven.

A HAPPY AND BLESSED NEW YEAR

pastors and leaders so that we can be brave and speak the message as we must.

Jesus commanded his disciples, "Go, teach, preach, make disciples, baptize the people--and I am with you when you do that." Because we live in the spirit of Jesus, we learn to receive things freely and now we give these same things freely.

The first and foremost purpose of the ILDA is to support our Lutheran Christian Ministry in its outreach to deaf people. Our ILDA Mission Projects fund is a wonderful way to support various mission works designated by ILDA in its biennial conventions. This blessed fund has helped many missions throughout the ILDA history. ILDA is always thankful for the continuing support of our "partners in mission." May our God always bless our "compassion" for other deaf people through ILDA MISSION Projects.

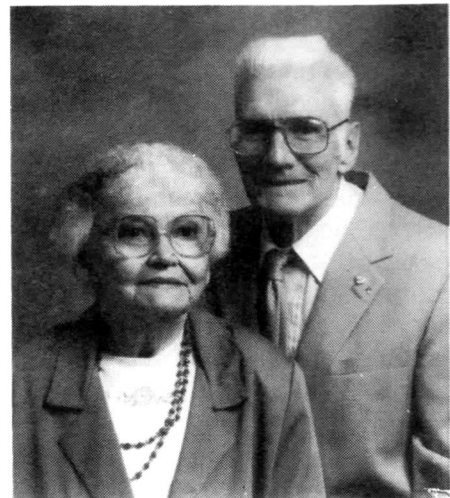
"And God can give you more blessings than you need. Then you will always have plenty of everything. You will have enough to give to every good work." II Corinthians 9:8.

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## GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

ILDA members Donald and Augusta Haines of Sioux City, Iowa observed their 50th wedding anniversary Saturday, Nov. 2, 1996 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Sioux City with many relatives and friends from near and far present for the occasion.

A delicious buffet lunch for approximately 75 guests was enjoyed amid perfect fall weather. The couple are active in their congregation which is served by Rev. Matthew Nix of Sioux Falls, S.D. The couple will also usually be found at ILDA conventions and Midwest Regional Conferences.



# WITH OUR FRIENDS HERE AND THERE . . .

**Rev. Donald W. Zuhn**, former Counselor of Deaf Ministry in St. Louis and now pastor of Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas was hospitalized Oct. 10 after suffering a stroke earlier which has left him paralyzed on his left side. A call to Texas on Nov. 16 has him resting at home. Our prayers to the Great Physician are that Pastor Zuhn will be restored to full health and return to his ministry soon.

o-0-o

**Mrs. Jean Barry**, wife of Synod President Dr. Al Barry, succumbed to cancer Oct. 15 after a long struggle with the disease. We extend sincere sympathy to Dr. Barry and family.

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Our Saviour Lutheran Church observed its centennial with a banquet Oct. 27 at the Rosewood Restaurant in Rosemont, Ill. Speakers at the event were Dr. Rodney R. Rynearson and Rev. Chuck Jones.

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In an unusual case, a deaf defendant in court charged with sexual assault demanded that all of the jurors be fluent in ASL (American Sign Language.) The judge hearing the case turned him down, ruling a single interpreter would be sufficient.

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**Rev. Bob and wife Sheryl Rowland** were the surprise honorees at a Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 10 at Valley Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Stockton, Calif. on the occasion of their 30th wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

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The editor who was a former school mate of **Ray Rasmus** of Fremont, Calif., was saddened to learn that his friend has departed this life to be with our Lord, whom he served so well. Ray died of prostatic cancer Sept. 7 after a long battle with the disease. He leaves to bereave him his wife, Carola of

54 years; four children, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints." Psalm 116:15.

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**Rev. Marlin J. Sampson and his wife, Florence** of Georgetown, Calif. celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 7.

o-0-o

**Mrs. Nonie Schulz**, wife of Clarence Schulz who was one of the founding fathers of the ILDA more than 25 years ago, fell and broke her left hip and wrist Aug. 16. The couple reside in Fremont, Calif. Our prayers go with both Nonie and Clarence.

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The 1996 election campaign is all over, but **Russel and Betty Jo Healey** of Olive Branch, Ill. will remember the stop President Clinton and wife Hillary made in Cairo, Ill. where they were waiting with an interpreter for their arrival. Russ, who is our ILDA treasurer, says they both put up their hands in the familiar, "I love you" sign and Hillary, who remembered what the sign was, went right through the line of state troopers to greet them!! Wow! Russ, does that mean you are a Democrat for life?

o-0-o

**A. Janice McKenney**, 66, of Lansing, Mich., passed away Sept. 17 after a long struggle with pancreatic cancer. She was a retiree of the Fisher Body Plant after 36 years of service; a member of the Michigan Association of the Deaf and Trinity Lutheran Church. Survivors include her husband, William; a daughter, two grandsons and her mother. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. North P. Sherrill on Sept. 21.

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Do you know someone who is a shut-in, unable to go out and would like to receive "cheer-by-mail" cards and greetings from time to time? There is an organization that does just that! There is no charge; they send this cheer to any place in the USA. A form will be sent to applicants which must be filled out and returned and the information is kept confidential. Write to the **A. Eugene Hooper foundation, Deaf Outreach**, P.O. Box 2142, Columbia, Md. 21045.

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## 1995-1997 ILDA MISSION PROJECTS

### Updated Report

Chicago Convention Surplus .....	\$ 8,393.80
Churches .....	7,123.32
Individuals .....	1,745.75
Interest .....	874.09
Regional Conferences .....	1,177.12
Total as of October 31, 1996 .....	\$19,314.08

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### IT'S A MYSTERY

Why does a person who runs five miles a day for exercise need a remote control for the TV?

OFFICE USE ONLY: AMOUNT RECEIVED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) PARKING ( ) T-SHIRT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / 97

# 14TH ILDA BIENNIAL CONVENTION JULY 3- 6, 1997

PLEASE USE ONE FORM FOR EACH PERSON AND **PRINT** THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

NAME: LAST \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ DEAF \_\_\_\_\_ HEARING \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Flying ( ) Bus ( ) Car  
( ) I will be the main driver  
OR  
( ) I will ride with \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF TRANSPORTATION

Please check the events you want to participate in. Enter the amount in the last column, then add your total at the bottom.

EVENT	COMBO TICKET	OR	SELECT	TOTAL
REGISTRATION FEE (REQUIRED)	INCLUDED		20.00	
THURSDAY RECEPTION	INCLUDED		15.00	
SATURDAY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST	INCLUDED		12.00	
BANQUET	INCLUDED		35.00	
SUNDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET	INCLUDED		20.00	
<b>SUB-TOTAL</b>	<b>SEE BELOW</b>		<b>102.00</b>	
COMBO PACKAGE #1 BEFORE 12-31-96 (See back page for WOW savings)	85.00	◇	◇◇◇◇◇	
COMBO PACKAGE #2 BEFORE 4-30-97	95.00	◇	◇◇◇◇◇	
COMBO PACKAGE #3 BEFORE 6-1-97	100.00	◇	◇◇◇◇◇	
<b>(EXTRA ITEMS BELOW)</b>				
FRIDAY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST			12.00	
FIREWORKS RECEPTION on July 4th			15.00	
GOD'S 1000 LUNCHEON			20.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>				

**NON-MEMBER'S REGISTRATION FEE IS \$25.00**

Check here if you have special needs:

( ) Special diet

( ) Wheelchair accessibility

( ) Special visual needs

( ) Baby sitting

We will send you a special registration form for those needs.

**EARLY REGISTRATION FREE T-SHIRT**

Please check your size:

\_\_\_\_\_ S \_\_\_\_\_ M

\_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL

**For XXL or XXXL, add \$2 to total on form.**

\_\_\_\_\_ XXL \_\_\_\_\_ XXXL

COMBO PACKAGES DEADLINES:

#1 COMBO PACKAGE FOR \$85.00 MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1996

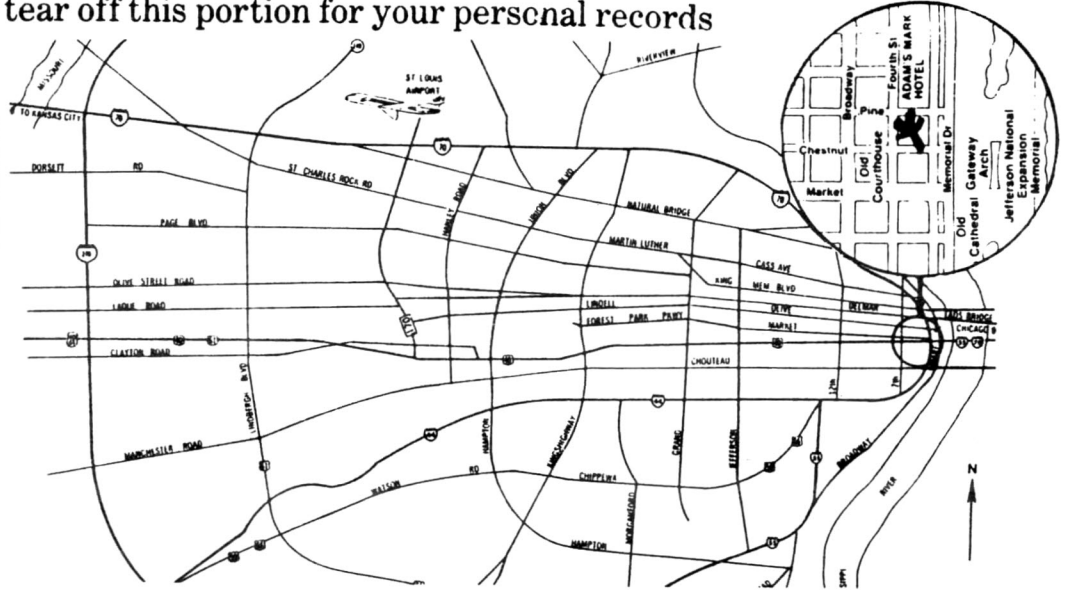
#2 COMBO PACKAGE FOR \$95.00 MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE APRIL 30, 1997

#3 COMBO PACKAGE FOR \$100.00 MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 1997

Please tear off this portion for your personal records

I have a reservation at the Adam's Mark on \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 Check in time 3p.m.  
 Check out time 12 noon.  
 Adam's Mark-St. Louis  
 Fourth & Chestnut  
 St. Louis, MO 63102  
 (314) 241-7400

A confirmation of your reservation will be mailed to you.



Adam's Mark/St. Louis Welcomes **INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION**  
 404 EUREKA ROAD EUREKA, MO 63025-2155

Date: July 02, 1997

Reservation Deadline June 05, 1997

Arrival date: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of nights you will stay: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people in room: \_\_\_\_\_

Approx. arrival time: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (check-in 3p.m., check-out 12:00 noon)

Method of transportation:

Car  Air  Other

Please Note: Special conference rates are based on reservation deadline. After this date, all subsequent reservations will be subject to availability and current hotel rack rates.

Special Conference Rates (circle rate desired)*					
	Single Bedded Room	Two Bedded Room		Concierge Floor	Suites
Single (1 person)	\$85.-				Phone hotel directly if suite is desired
Double (2 people)	\$85.-	\$85.-			
Triple (3 people)		\$85.-			
Quad (4 people)		\$85.-			
Suites	Rates \$ _____ & up.				

Check here \_\_\_ if rollaway is needed (\$15.00 ea.)

\*If rate requested is not available, the next available rate will be assigned. To secure lowest available rate, early response is suggested.

Name (last) \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (initial) \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Sharing room with: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requests:  Prefer non-smoking  Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Every attempt will be made to honor your request, however we cannot guarantee a special request.)

To guarantee your reservation we require first night's deposit or credit card guarantee. Please include **14.1%** 1 \_\_\_\_\_ city room tax with deposit. **DO NOT SEND CASH.** Make check or money order payable to the Adam's Mark Hotel.

Amer. Exp. # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp.: \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

The preceding methods of payment are acceptable to guarantee your guest room. Upon arrival we also accept Visa/Mastercard, C.B./Diners and Discover Card.

**DON'T BE A NO-SHOW!**

To cancel your reservations call 1-314-241-7400. Deposit refunded only if reservation is cancelled 48 hours prior to arrival and you have your cancellation number

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (signature) (date)

A room confirmation will be mailed

# 1997 ILDA CONVENTION UPDATE

The Editor sincerely regrets some misinformation that was published in the last two issues of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** and which was based entirely on the minutes of the board



proceedings in St. Louis in April, 1996. A change in management at the Adams-Mark Hotel and a subsequent lack of communication resulted in some significant changes being made.

First, 1997 combination ticket prices as announced

then as being \$80 if purchased by Dec. 31, 1996 were, in fact, \$85. They are now \$95 until April 30, 1997 and will go up to \$100.00 and must be received by June 1, 1997.

The total of all the items in the combo package, if bought separately, will be \$102.

Secondly, it was stated that persons coming by car would obtain free parking in the hotel garage. This is no longer true. Only the first 100 drivers (only drivers) will obtain this benefit and must have registered by Dec. 31, 1996.

Third, the usual charge for the shuttle from the airport to the hotel is \$15.00 and would have been waived for those registering by Dec. 31, 1996. The waiver will cover only 200 people.

Fourth, persons registering by Dec. 31 would be given free T-shirts with a value of \$10. Only 300 of these will be free.

Fifth, young people registering by Dec. 31 will be given \$10 off tickets to 6-Flags, an amusement park near St. Louis.

## EXTRA COST ITEMS

There is a continental breakfast on Friday morning costing \$12 per person. And a fireworks reception on Friday evening for \$15 per person and which will include refreshments. Since a huge crowd of thousands of persons are expected to be in the vicinity of the hotel and the Gateway Arch on the evening of the 4th of July, this option might be desirable.

The God's 1,000 Club luncheon for members will be on Saturday at noon and is \$20 per person.

The deadline for hotel reservations is June 5, 1997 in order to obtain the special rate

for ILDA members and visitors. There may still be rooms available after that date, but not at the cost of \$85 plus 14.1% room tax that conventioners will pay. Guests are urged to share accommodations to save expenses. Up to four persons per room are allowed at the \$85 rate.

As this issue goes to press, no information is available regarding parking for recreational vehicles and it is suggested that such persons contact the chairperson or make their own arrangements.

The last two issues of **THE DEAF LUTHERAN** gave Chairlady Sharon Schwarz' address and phone number as 1116 Lindsay Lane, Florissant, Mo. 63031 (Ph. 1-314-576-2005). **THIS IS NOT CORRECT! SHE HAS MOVED**. For further information, she may be reached at:

**Ms. Sharon Schwarz, Chairperson**  
1997 ILDA Convention Committee  
404 Eureka Road  
EUREKA, MISSOURI 63025-2155  
1-(314)-938-4507

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## MS. FLORENCE PETERSEN DIES IN OMAHA OCT. 2

Mrs. Florence L. Petersen, 86, of Omaha, Neb. passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 2, 1996. A 46 year veteran of service at the Nebraska School for the Deaf; tireless worker for church causes and supporter of the International Lutheran Deaf Association, Mrs. Petersen was awarded the prestigious Right Hand Award at the 1981 ILDA convention at Los Angeles, only the third such person to be so honored in the long history of the association. Of the 10 award recipients to date, her passing leaves only seven still living.

Mrs. Petersen was baptized by Rev. Ernest Mappes at age 22 in 1932, and a year later, was united in marriage to Nick Petersen, who coached at NSD. He preceded her in death in 1991 after 58 years of close companionship.

Of the many things that Mrs. Petersen did in life one of the most important was her encouraging young people to know Christ. We praise and thank the Lord for allowing such a person to touch our lives and those of so many people.

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**FLEE TEMPTATION AND  
DON'T LEAVE A FORWARDING ADDRESS.**

# PASTORAL DEVOTION

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

Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, (19) to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

The year of 1997 is fast approaching us Quicker than that, the year of our Lord Jesus' Second Coming as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords to judge this world is coming upon us. I am curious exactly how many deaf people will be judged worthy to enter heaven?

I heard a joke the other day about doctors going to heaven. First a cardiologist knocked on heaven's door and St. Peter asked why he should enter heaven. The doctor answered that he believed in Jesus the Saviour and that Jesus had helped save many people's lives through the doctor's hands. St. Peter looked into his book and found the doctor's name and said, "Come on in, your name is right here." Second, came a neurosurgeon knocking on the door and St. Peter asked him why he should enter heaven. The doctor answered that he believed in Jesus the Saviour and that Jesus had helped save many people's lives through the doctor's hands. Peter looked into his book and found the doctor's name and said, "Come on in, your name is right here."

Then next came a doctor who was the head of an H.M.O. (Health Maintenance Organization) knocking on the door and St. Peter asked why he should enter heaven. The doctor answered that he had helped save millions of people's lives through his H.M.O. insurance Company. St. Peter looked into his book and found the doctor's name and said, "Come on in, your name is right here. But you can only stay for three days."

That is funny, but it is also sad, because many deaf people will never get to heaven because they have no relationship with Jesus their Saviour. The words from St. Luke were first spoken by the prophet Isaiah, and these words are meant for you and me today. Every member of our Lutheran Deaf Church has the Spirit of the Lord in them. That happened on the day of your baptism. God called you to be HIS holy people. And your responsibility as a member of HIS kingdom is to preach

the Good News. Now, that doesn't mean you have to get in the pulpit on Sunday in church and begin preaching. No! That is the reason our churches call pastors to serve them. But in our every day life we are asked by God to preach (or speak) the Good News to all people, to show them the joy we have inside us knowing that Jesus died and took away our sins. Many deaf people do not know the meaning of sin and that they are prisoners hooked to their sins. Sin is like a drug or alcohol addiction. By yourself you are powerless to break the habit. But thank to God for doctors and medicine that can help people break those habits, so also God has called you and me to offer HIS medication for forgiveness to help heal and free people from their addiction to sin.

Forgiveness is a great tool that He can use to help lead people to Jesus. To open the eyes of the blind doesn't mean that you must become a faith healer, although that would be great if God the Holy Spirit used you or me to physically heal someone and we gave all the credit to Jesus for that. But I believe that God wants us to open the Scriptures to them to show them the only way to heaven is by believing in Jesus the Saviour. There is no other way as Jesus Himself said, "I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE: NO MAN COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME."

God the Holy Spirit working through you and me will help us to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. The question you must ask yourself is this: "IS THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK

God the Holy Spirit working through you and me will help us to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor. The question you must ask yourself is this: "IS THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK IN MY LIFE? IF NOT, WHY NOT?"

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## IS THIS WHY THE DEAF ARE CLANNISH?

A deaf person is dining with a group of hearing people. The hearing people are chatting away and enjoying their meal. The deaf person, in the meantime, is left alone with his isolated thoughts, yet his presence is "appreciated" by the hearing group.

--DeafDigest

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## God Love You

# ASH WEDNESDAY

By Rev. Jerold Munz  
Peace Lutheran Church  
Indianapolis, Ind.

At the end of February is Ash Wednesday. (This year it falls on Feb. 12) Ash Wednesday begins 40 days of Lent wherein we focus ourselves on our Lord Jesus Christ. The question we always ask is "why?" did Jesus have to suffer and die for us. The answer is always the same. Jesus died for our sins. Then people want to ask if we sin. Do people sin?

What does the word, "sin" mean? For some sin is when you say something bad one. Sin is talking about people hurting people. For some people sin is when you hurt some people sin is when you hurt some hurting people. For some people sin is when you do something naughty. Then we have to discuss what being naughty is. For most people sin is something about doing or talking bad against some one.

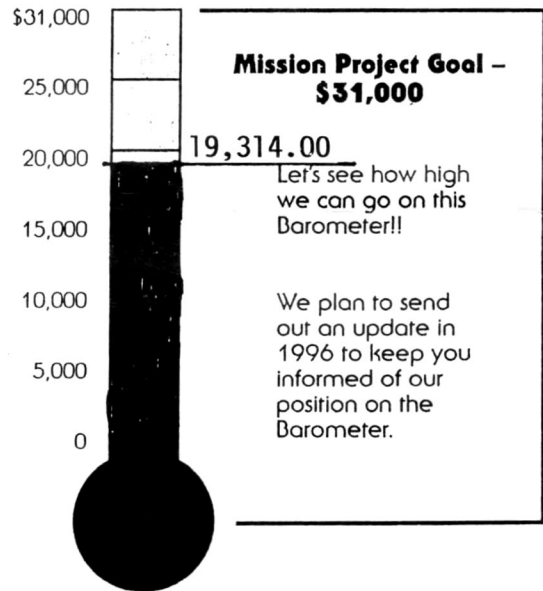
Most people never think of sin as something to do with God. In church we talk about sin as doing or thinking or talking against God. Sin is rebellion against what God has already decided that you and I ought not to do. To sin is to go against the Lord. For that there is only one punishment. That punishment is eternal death itself in hell fire and brimstone.

To explain: when you or I break the law, we have to satisfy the law. Most often to satisfy the law requires you or I to pay a fine or go to jail for a limited number of time. However, when you or I sin, the punishment is not that easy. It is for an eternity. Hell is a place where God is not.

For that reason, to avoid hell, God has

established a plan of escape. That plan is Jesus Christ. John 3:16 explain it best. "For God so loved the world that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life." Believe on the Lord this day and you shall be saved from hell for heaven.

## 1995 - 1997 ILDA Mission Projects



YES!! I want to help bring God's Word to many other people through the ILDA Mission Projects. Enclosed is my offering of \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: **Mr. Russell Healy, Treasurer**  
**ILDA Mission Projects**  
**P.O. Box 223**  
**Olive Branch, IL 62969-0223**

# The DEAF LUTHERAN

January- February, 1997

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