



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

May-June, 1997

St. Louis, Mo.

Volumes 89, No. 3

Meet Me in St. Louis . . .

WELCOME!

14TH BIENNIAL ILDA CONVENTION

Can it be that nearly two years has passed since we celebrated the centennial of deaf ministry and 25 years of our association at the birthplace of both deaf ministry in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the International Lutheran Deaf Association in Chicago? Yes, it is true and it is also true that time seems to move very swiftly and it is now almost time for one more great convention of the ILDA, this time in St. Louis.

in the first place. Also of importance is the input of the members as business which may come before the association is transacted and voting for new officers for the coming two years is taken care of.

As of April 5, over 300 persons had pre-registered. With more than 90 days left before the convention opens, there is ample time for many more to plan to attend. The first 100 drivers coming to the convention and having registered before Dec. 31, 1996 will enjoy four days of free parking in the Adams-Mark hotel garage. Persons flying into St. Louis' Lambert Airport and pre-registered before Dec. 31, 1996 will have free travel to and from the airport to the hotel. Other amenities include 300 free T-shirts and special \$10 off tickets price for youngsters planning to go to 6-Flags, an amusement park near St. Louis.

Bringing the children? Parents need not worry and will be able to enjoy the convention while the kids are supervised by baby sitting services.

Persons coming with recreational type vehicles will find a park with adequate hook-ups not far from convention headquarters. When compared to staying at the hotel, persons coming with these vehicle will find costs much lower and savings very considerable.

The Friday night fireworks reception is very highly recommended (\$15 extra) inasmuch as it allows persons to view the magnificent display from the 18th floor terrace and to avoid the expected throngs on the riverfront and in front of the hotel. Because hotel se-



One of the great things all of us members, visitors and friends look forward to at our conventions is the wonderful fellowship, camaraderie, hugs and handshakes of old friends getting together once more as the convention gets underway. We also gather to worship and honor our wonderful Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who really is the reason for meeting

Continued: MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

For the past 25 years, ILDA has and continues a strong historical commitment to the deaf ministry. However, in this growth of deaf awareness and new teaching of our culture around the world, the ILDA and its regions and churches have struggled to find new and effective ways to share the Gospel. Yes, there have been some gains, but also some reductions in the outreach.

"Teach yourself to truly serve God" (1 Tim. 4:7) As Christians, we want to do well serving our God. When we do not do that, we show our excuses and do not feel worthy to do our God's work again.

We are aware that situations continue to surround us. We still have many interest groups that are conducting struggles as they search effective means of communication and ways to teach deaf children English, which continues to be controversial. Greatly influenced by TTY's, captioned TV/movies and computers, many deaf people reduced their dependence and their needs to attend social gatherings, including church attendance.

But our deafness will continue, and separate us from other people, but we are given a special place. We are worthy as Jesus knew. In Mark 7:33 we read that Jesus "took the deaf man off with Him away from the crowd and healed him." We as deaf Christians see the world differently. We know that each of us has great worth in our God's eyes. God's

Continued from Page 1

MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS

Unlike previous conventions, there will be no tours or sight-seeing trips planned and persons who wish to visit St. Louis will be on their own.

Need additional information? The chairperson, Mrs. Sharon Schwarz may be reached at 404 Eureka Road, Eureka, Mo. 1-314-936-4507.

For hotel reservations, call the Adam-Mark at 1-314-241-7400 (Voice). Rooms are \$85 per night for up to four persons. Reservations should be made before the deadline June 5, 1997. After that date, rooms may still be available, but probably not at the convention rate for ILDA members and visitors. The room tax is 14.1%.

See you in St. Louis.

gift to us is free. We are always looking for many answers, but we already have one in our God's Gift in Jesus. We should use our life for Jesus. When we let Jesus use our lives, we will grow and so will the church.

"Give your life doing those things," (1 Tim. 4:15) tells us serving our God is not something we do once in a while--but it requires all of your life. We must continue to prayerfully thank pastors, teachers, lay people and church leaders to help us and many deaf people feel worthy.

Today, ILDA is struggling to obtain the genuine support of our pastors and lay people as our membership is not what we have always been looking for. No question the present membership is not even that close to the goal of 4,000 established 25 years ago. We are in need of new ILDA (deaf) leadership.

Thank you for your support and involvement in the ILDA so we can continue to give glory to our God because He blesses us in many ways. We must be open to how the Lord will lead us into the bold new future.

"Be an example to show the believers how to live," (1 Tim. 4:12). May God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ grant you peace. See you at the ILDA convention in St. Louis.

THE EDITOR COMMENTS . . .

Most of us were stunned at the news that came over the airwaves on Wednesday evening, March 28 when the deaths of 39 cult members were announced. The group believed that by committing suicide, they would move to a higher level of existence and go there by boarding an UFO they believed was trailing the Hale-Bopp comet. The tragedy is how could some intelligent people who had everything going for them, fall victim to some lies and false beliefs that had absolutely no basis for fact.

If there is a lesson to be learned from all of this, we cannot emphasize how very important God's Word is in our lives, and the need for diligent Bible Study and church attendance so that the Father of all lies, the devil, will have no power over us.

We extend sincere sympathy to the many families who have lost loved ones, some of whom had not been seen by their families for years.

1997 CONVOCAATION ON DEAF MINISTRY

Savior Pastoral Center
Kansas City,
October 3-5, 1997

By Rev. Mark W. Seeger, Chair
1307 Newton Ave.
Austin, Texas 78704

In November 1981, approximately 200 people involved with the deaf world went to Madison, Wis. to participate in the first convocation on Deaf Ministry. From that convocation came ideas, goals and plans for the future of deaf ministry. The future is here and now, 16 years later, we are working on plans for the Convocation on Deaf Ministry II, "Vision beyond 2000: Looking into the future with Jesus."

At this time, we are accepting nominations for participants to this convocation. We expect to have 125 participants . . . deaf lay people, professional workers in deaf ministry, interpreters, parents of deaf children, social workers, educators and synodical/district executives. A minimum of 51% of the participants will be deaf.

There will be a \$50 registration fee per participant, paid by the sending congregation. All other expenses will be paid by gen-

erous grants from the Mill neck Foundation, Aid Association for Lutheran (AAL), International Lutheran Deaf Association and the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

Please prayerfully consider people you know from the above categories and ask them if they would be willing to attend this convocation. If so, and if your congregation agrees to pay the \$50 registration fee, please send the nomination form by June 15, 1997 to me at the above address.

If you have any questions, contact me by phone at:

(512) 442-1715--church

(512) 251-3125--home

(512) 251-3254 TTY at home

or by e-mail at: seegerm@austin.concordia.edu

With your help, this convocation will lay the groundwork for continued success in bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the deaf.

SERVICES HELD IN HOLLY, MICHIGAN

The first Sunday of every month deaf people from Flint, Lansing, Royal Oak, Sterling Heights and Westland meet at Gethsemane Church in Holly for a day of worship, fellowship and Bible study. This service has been held in Holly since October 1996. An outgrowth of a Saturday morning Bible study, the group decided to meet on the first Sunday to provide an opportunity for deaf worship with the Lord's Supper.

The language and historic liturgy used is done in sign language. The service is spoken and signed by Rev. Brant A. Engel, pastor of Our Saviour Church of the Deaf in Royal Oak, so that both deaf and hearing can worship together.

Schedule for worship is 11:15 a.m., potluck lunch, 12:30 p.m., Bible study at 1:30 p.m. The meeting site, Gethsemane Lutheran Church, is located at 961 E. Maple Rd. in Holly, 2.5 miles west of I-75 off exit 98.

--Courtesy of Gordon Bachman



FORTY YEARS IN MINISTRY--Rev. Robert Bauer and his wife, Eleanor cut the cake to serve guests at the reception for the couple in Edmonton, Alberta last Sept. 22. Note the computer enhanced picture of Pastor Bauer at the beginning of his ministry in the center of the cake. Looking on is Luba Gouziech, 7, a deaf youngster is very interested in what is going on.

It would take 48,000 hummingbirds to equal the weight of one ostrich. How much does one hummingbird weigh?

ROAMING THE

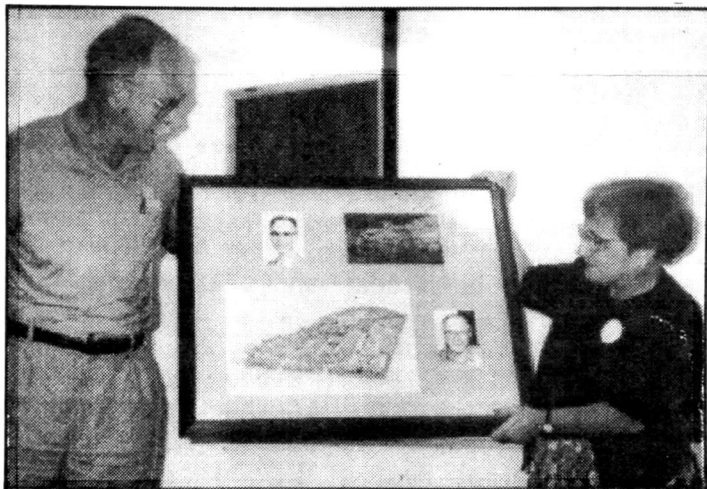
Chapel for the Deaf, Charlotte, N.C. observed its 11th anniversary with worship services, Bible study and a potluck dinner Feb. 23. Pastor Mike MacDonald challenged bowlers to beat him in a 3-game series Feb. 8 at the Coliseum Lanes in downtown Charlotte. Those attaining a higher average than the pastor's were allowed to throw a pie in his face at the celebration on the 23rd. (Hey, pastors, this sounds like an excellent fund raising idea! How about it?) We hope pastor Mike likes lemon meringue pie with the meringue about 4" thick.

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Congratulations to Diane Waters of Rochester, N.Y. upon receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award for her service to the Rochester School for the Deaf. Diane has been volunteering her time to assist with mailings, various duties and working at the Spring Festival.

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This interesting bit was gleaned from "THE PILGRIM TORCH", the publication of Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Los Angeles. . . . "Did you know that there are over 200 million deaf people all around the world, and if they were all to come together in one place, they would form the 4th largest nation in the world . . . and yet, only two percent (2%) profess to be Christians. Not long ago, 400 Mexican deaf people heard the Gospel of Christ, many for the very first time. A deaf ministry team from the USA shared the Good News about Jesus through drama in Cuernavaca and Mexico City.



RETIRES FROM GALLAUDET--Prof. Don Peterson is presented a photo montage by Gallaudet University Alumni Association President Donna Drake on the occasion of Prof. Peterson's retirement after 44 years on the faculty.

Being deaf people, we feel a kinship with others throughout the world who share our handicap . . . we were saddened to hear that one of the seven Israeli school girls killed in a massacre along the Israel/Jordan border March 13 was fluent in sign language and served as her deaf parents' link to the hearing world. Another tragedy.

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Something new . . . something different, White Water Rafting Extravaganza! Silent Lutheran Church of Madison, Wis., is offering such an event for the week-end of June 21 at a location in northern Wisconsin to be announced later. Cost is \$18 per person for rafting.

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Emmanuel Lutheran Church in West Allis, Wis. is planning a big celebration for its centennial in August, 1998. Emmanuel is the second oldest deaf church in all of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

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One of the long time members of Memorial Lutheran Church, Fremont, Calif., Mr. Victor Krohn, 82, was called home to be with the Lord on Sunday morning, Jan 5, as he was getting ready to go to church. Victor's wife, Gladys, preceded him in death a year ago. He leaves four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

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Calvary Lutheran Church, Des Moines, Iowa was the recipient of an unusual gift recently consisting of several pages and a couple of megabytes of memory from a Univax Super Computer in Utah to publicize the church on the Internet. Kevin Duis, who owns a computer business and who is a member of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, also in Des Moines, made the gift. Any business would have to pay several hundred dollars for such Internet publicity. Feedback from Calvary's webpage is already showing results. One man from Holland, Mich., is enrolling in Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. and is interested in deaf ministry.

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Christ Lutheran Church in Silver Spring, Md., now has a TTY at the church, thanks to a generous gift from the John Mason family, which had an extra one.

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The Church Interpreter Training Institute (CITI) at Concordia Theological Seminary in

REGIONS . . .

Fort Wayne, Ind. will run from June 15 to July 11 this year. This four-year course is offered to allow individuals to learn religious sign language interpreting for worship, classroom and personal evangelism.

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Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta was the recipient of a \$5,000 grant from the Alberta-British Columbia District of the LWML for a computer.

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Pastor Bill Ludwig of the Western Washington Deaf Field (Everett, Tacoma and Seattle) has agreed to stay on beyond his retirement date which was to occur by the end of March. He will continue until the arrival of a missionary-at-large or until the end of the year, whichever occurs first. Pastor Ludwig will not be going to the Yakima station this year and will cease services in Tacoma by

the end of June.

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The storage barn at **Peace Lutheran Church** in Indianapolis, Ind. was broken into Jan. 25 and its riding lawn mower stolen. After the police were notified, the loss was reported to the insurance company and we hope it will be replaced.

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One of the ILDA's devoted members, **Mrs. Virginia Lauer** of Portland, Ore. passed away Feb. 27.

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Rev. Robert Corl, now retired, observed the 50th anniversary of his ordination into the ministry last Dec. 1. Pastor Bob and his wife Althea celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Dec. 27. Belated congratulations. They now reside in Lexington, Mich.

1997 RIGHT HAND AWARD

By Carol Seeger, Chairperson
2000 Magic Hill Drive
Pflugerville, Texas 78660-8175

Preparing for the coming International Lutheran Deaf Association Convention (ILDA) in St. Louis, Mo. on July 3-6, 1997, we plan again to award the URIEL C. JONES MEMORIAL "RIGHT HAND AWARD." Will your congregation kindly nominate one or more individuals for this award?

Some rules on this nomination are:

1. The award is to give on the basis of continuous and exceptional meritorious service to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

2. The nominee must be a lay individual, male or female, who has been involved in leadership in the congregation and/or region among the deaf for many years.

3. Clergy, full time lay ministers and ILDA Board of Directors officers are not eligible.

NOTICE

This will be the last issue until after the ILDA convention in St. Louis. That number will cover the convention with many pictures. As the Editor will be taking a short vacation at the close of the convention to visit family, it is likely the paper will be several days late. Your understanding is sincerely appreciated.

4. The individual is to be nominated by the congregation in a formal voter's assembly.

The Board of Directors will meet and make their final selection a few days prior to the opening of the convention. Please fill out the form in this issue of THE DEAF LUTHERAN and mail same to me at the above address by May 15, 1997 or as soon as possible thereafter.

May God continue blessing you!

Right Hand Award Committee
Carol Seeger, Chairperson
Richard Norton

MILL NECK TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE

The Mill Neck Foundation has once again set aside funds to assist with the cost of providing sign language interpreters at 1997 District Conventions. The sum of \$200 has been earmarked for each District of the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod.

Mill Neck anticipates that the assistance being offered will serve as an incentive for the Districts to provide this means of communication for those participants who use sign language. It is also hoped that such assistance will encourage members of the deaf churches to take an active role in District Conventions. Mill Neck believes deaf members are a vital part of church life and the Foundation is here to assist you.

SHOULD WE WELCOME HOMOSEXUALS IN OUR CHURCHES?

By Rev. Cory Eckstrom
639 E. 10th Ave. C103
York, Neb. 68467

This past month several people have asked about Bible study on homosexuality, so we are using a program called KEYS. This is a program that uses the Bible to show seven (7) different areas that people struggle with homosexual temptations.

1. **A DESIRE TO CHANGE**--pray and study with people so they will give up sinful ways and follow Jesus.
2. **GOD'S WORD**--pray and study with people to trust and use God's Word to get out of temptation, just like Jesus did with satan.
3. **LOVE**--our idea of love is different from God's--we pray and study His way of loving people--unconditionally!
4. **FORGIVENESS**--we pray and study His Word to learn how to forgive other people, even when we know they will not forgive us back.
5. **SELF-SURRENDER**--we pray and study His Word to learn how to help other people give up control of their mind, bodies, and hearts and use them to love God and others instead of sinning.
6. **ANGER**--we study and pray that we will control our anger by learning from Jesus how to know when satan is bothering us and ask God for His help.
7. **REBUILDING**--We pray and study His Word to **take out old sinful ways and put in new God pleasing ways**--and pay attention to His Word so we don't listen to satan again, but follow our loving Saviour instead!

This Bible study drew many people, both deaf and hearing, who came to learn about how we can help and pray for people who live in this lifestyle. Often gay people wonder if God really loves them. **We learned how to become ministers of mercy for Jesus.** We learned how to show mercy to people in danger. God wants gay people to be free from that sin. We are all sinners--all of our sins are the same in God's eyes.

Yes, homosexuality is wrong! God wants you and I to invite sinners into church and hear about Jesus so they can get out of that sin. **OUR CHURCH IS FOR SINNERS ONLY.** We need to

hear about Jesus and if you aren't a sinner, then you do not need to come to the deaf church. Why is the deaf church here? Why do you come to church? A comfort place for you? Yes, but **we need to share with other people that sin is wrong.**

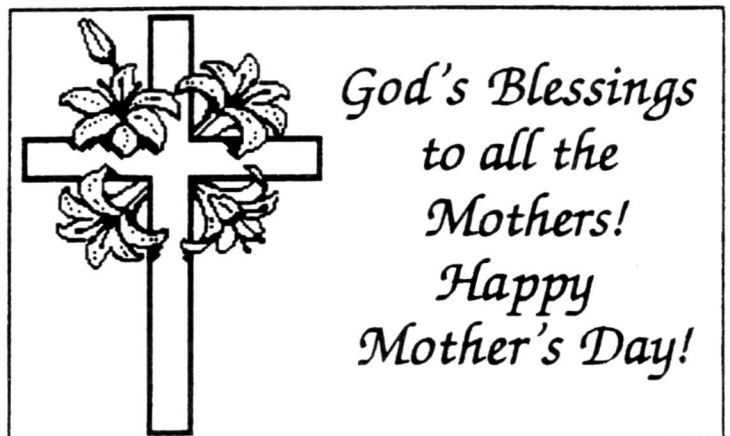
Do you want to hide Jesus from your deaf friends? What would you say to a deaf homosexual who came to your church? Would you tell them to get out, we don't want you here? NO! What would Jesus do? First, show sin, then offer hope and forgiveness. There are **many Christians today who live in freedom** yes! They were homosexuals before, but now they know how to resist temptations from satan. God free them and helps them every day. Praise God for his help! Will you listen to your friends and help them? They are in pain about sin in their lives and need your help and prayers. They need you to invite and welcome them to our church.

Pray for them, please! We all need to learn how to be merciful to everyone who sins. If you have questions about this program, KEYS and would like further help, feel free to write to me at the above address, or call me at 1 (402) 362-3973 V/TTY.

MISSION PROJECTS UPDATE

According to Mission Projects Chairman Pam Kane of Euclid, Ohio, donations had reached \$26,188.32 on March 13, 1997, or slightly more than 81.8% of the goal of \$32,000 set at the last convention in Chicago two years ago. Still needed is \$4,811.68 by convention time in St. Louis.

We can do it and put it over the top!



Nomination for Participation
in
Convocation on Deaf Ministry II

Mr Miss Mrs Ms Rev Dr

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Member of _____ Church

in _____

Deaf Hard-of-hearing Deafened Hearing

Age: <25 25-39 40-54 55-70 70+

Leadership position(s) in the church (present or past):

Check all that apply: Lay person Pastor Other full-time church worker

Parent of Deaf child Educator of the Deaf Sign Language Interpreter

+++++

We nominate this person to be a participant in the Convocation because

If this person is selected to be a participant, this congregation will pay the registration fee.

President or Secretary

Pastor

+++++

I accept nomination to be a participant in the Convocation and will attend, God willing.

signature

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SYNOD

King Frederick William III of Prussia issued a decree in 1817, ordering the union of Lutheran and Reformed churches. Many pastors and lay people, who felt that serving



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD

in the union made them unfaithful to the Lutheran Confessions, were persecuted and even imprisoned for their refusal to obey the

king's decree. Reaction against the decree led many Lutherans to emigrate rather than compromise their faith. In 1838-39, a group of over 600 Saxons left Saxony for America, among them Dr. C.F.W. Walther, later to be the first president of the Missouri Synod.

Most of these immigrants settled in Perry County, Missouri, about 100 miles south of St. Louis. A second strand of immigrants who would become charter members of the Missouri Synod came to America via New York, many of them settling in Wisconsin, Indiana and Ohio. "Der Lutheraner", a newspaper started in 1844 under Dr. Walther's leadership, was the me-

dium of communication that brought these other like-minded Lutherans in contact with the Saxons in Missouri. One clergyman thus contacted was a traveling missionary in the Fort Wayne area, Pastor F. C. D. Wynaken, later to be the second president of the Synod.

Wynaken went to Germany and pleaded with Lutherans there to help bring the Gospel to the "forsaken" immigrants in America. The most influential clergyman to respond was Pastor J. K. William Loehe in Bavaria, who established a seminary in his house to train 'emergency workers' to go to America. By the time the Missouri Synod was founded in 1847, twenty-two (22) Loehe-trained men had arrived in America.

GREAT COMMISSION CONVOCATION

The early registration fee for the Synod's Great Commission Convocation, set for Aug. 7-10, 1997 was \$97 per person until April 15. It is now \$100 and will rise to \$120 after July 15. Registration began on Jan. 1.

Theme of the Convocation, which includes servant events, workshops, fellowship and Bible Study, is "Festive Hope." The event will be held in St. Louis.

IS VIDEO RELAY SERVICE IN FUTURE

A recent experiment in Texas by Sprint Communications to study the feasibility of visual sign language over the telephone was so successful that it will be expanded to other areas. Simply stated, it means that a person will be able to sign, rather than type a message as is now done, and relay the communication over the telephone lines. An operator fluent in sign language will translate it to the hearing party in voice, and vice versa.

Equipment for this will require the need for a desktop video computer and other hardware pieces that are H320 compatible. This break-through will permit many deaf people to use their native language, ASL, when using the phone.

The DEAF LUTHERAN

May-June, 1997

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