



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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DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION

Rev. 14:12 "This calls for patient endurance on the part of the saints who obey God's commandments and remain faithful to Jesus."

November 1st is called All Saints Day in our church. This is the day that we remember all of our loved ones who died as believers in Christ. Now when we think of that word "saint" we think about a very holy person, someone that was outstanding, like Mother Theresa. Or perhaps you think of someone who has had a great influence on many people, like St. Paul or one of the other apostles or disciples of Jesus. Or perhaps your idea of a saint is one of God's heroes who had a close relationship with God, like Moses, Abraham, or David. But did you ever think of yourself as a "saint"? The true Biblical meaning of the word "saint" is not someone who has struggled to achieve a high level of Christlikeness, but one who is a Christian - nothing more than this, but also nothing less. The necessary requirement for you to become a "saint" is faith and trust in Christ as the Lord and Savior of your life.

Faith and trust in Christ requires that you walk following HIS footsteps and continue on a path of growth in your spiritual life. Your "saintly" life began the day of your baptism as God, because of Jesus' death on the cross, washed away all your sins and made

you one of HIS own precious children. But children don't remain children all their life, they learn every day from their parents and the people around them. They learn that obedience gains rewards. As God's children grow in their faith, their obedience to God's commands brings them into a very special and close relationship with their heavenly Father, and they reap the rewards that that obedience brings (peace, joy, love, contentment, & happiness).

Finally, when we use the word "saint" we do not mean a perfectly holy person. All those we call "saints", living or dead, were still humans and therefore still sinful. As Martin Luther wrote, we are both sinner and saint at the same time. Do I fully understand that idea? No, I confess that I do not fully understand it. Do I believe that it is true? Yes, I do believe that it is true, because the Bible tells me that in so many places. *"Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you the crown of life."* John tells us in Revelation 2:10.



Rev. Donald Leber,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

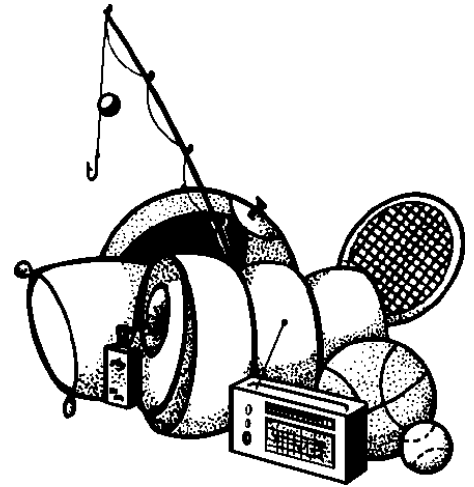


Lutheran Deaf Camp of California 1997...

From Sunday afternoon July 27 to Friday afternoon August 1, forty-seven deaf and hearing children enjoyed the outdoors at El Camino Pines Camp about 60 miles north of Los Angeles. The week included Bible Study, Crafts, Singing, Archery, Swimming, Hiking, Sleeping under the stars, Rock climbing (for the brave at heart), and evening campfires. The children made a wooden cross during the week to take home and hang in their bedrooms. Camp El Camino Pines provides one college age trained counselor for each cabin. The Lutheran Deaf Camp staff included 5 deaf adults, Louise Ellison, Charlie Kotal, Alex Burns, Clifford Combs, & Gordon Goebel, as role models for the deaf children. This year among the children were two deaf children that also suffered from cerebral palsy. 2nd row, 5th from left side,

young Julie Bartenstein can be seen in her wheel chair. Next year Camp Director, Pastor Leber, anticipates the camp will grow to 75-100 children. Along with Pastor Leber, Pastor Brian Smith of Los Angeles, Erica Perkins, a teacher of the deaf, Rachel Leber and Diana Price made up the Lutheran Deaf Camp staff.

For more information about this program you can contact Pastor Leber at: 6950 Center Avenue, Alta Loma, CA 91701.



Newest Pastor for the deaf...



Mark Arnold Ruppert

On Sunday, September 7th, 1997 Larry Ginter and I (David Brown) jumped in my Lumina and we drove three hours to Pittsburgh, PA to witness the Ordination and Installation of Trinity Lutheran Church's newest pastor, **Mark Ruppert**. Trinity has been without a pastor for several years. This special event went well and an excellent dinner and cake were served afterward. His parents and families made the long trip from Illinois to attend this event.

Mark recently accepted the call to serve in Deaf Ministry. He was the only pastor ordained as a missionary to the Deaf in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod this year.

During his vicar year he has served many deaf people in several areas so the congregation of Trinity has welcomed him back their church.

Mark Ruppert grew up on a dairy farm in central Illinois, one of eight children born to Loren and Ethelina Ruppert. After attending Concordia University, River Forest, IL, he worked with his father on the farm, taught school at the elementary level, and was self-employed as a craftsman making pottery. He married Kathy in 1990. Three years later he entered Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, to prepare for the pastoral ministry. His vicarage was with the Deaf in Western Pennsylvania, and at Trinity Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Pittsburgh. Mark and Kathy have three children, Emma, Matthew, and Clara.

Over the last several years, the regional Mission Actin Council has been in conversation with Trinity-Deaf leaders about how to best serve the needs of Deaf persons in Western Pennsylvania as well as in Pittsburgh. Ruppert was called by the district in April 1997 to serve Trinity, as well as to develop and support a network of small-group ministries among Deaf throughout Western Pennsylvania.

Trinity Lutheran's President Donald Mowl hands the church keys to Rev. Ruppert.



Graduation...

Nelson Lawson, son of Christ Lutheran Church's Pastor Gary Lawson (Cleveland) has graduate from Ohio School for the Deaf (Columbus, OH) on June, 1997.

Nelson now lives in Columbus. He is attending College and working at Vectra Printing Company in the bindery area.

Nelson Lawson is shown with sister Angelica and parents Rev. Gary and Carlene Lawson.



News from around the Regions...

Central Region...

Peace Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Indianapolis, hosts FALL RETREAT on October 22-24, 1997.

25th Anniversary of Ordination for **Pastor Jerry Munz** was held at Fort Wayne on June 22nd.. A big group traveled to Fort Wayne from Indianapolis for this event.

Mary Larsen and **Evelyn Squire** (Peace Lutheran, Indianapolis) has become great grandmothers! **Mr & Mrs Dean Hvidston** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Friends who has died are: **Nancy Haibe** (Indianapolis), **Medora James** (Plainfield & Janesville, WI), **Virginia Brake** (Northern Indiana), **Delores Reinbold** (Seymour), **Tony Turner** (Fort Wayne).

Eastern Region...

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Ehmhurst, NY celebrate their church building's 50th Anniversary on Sunday, October 19, 1997.

Great Lakes Region...

News from Trinity Lutheran (Pittsburgh) reported the following people has passed away: **Arthur Caudill** (June 17th), **Earl Stangarone** (July 2nd), **Jane (Heffley) Byrce** (July 14th), **John Jezerski** (July 19th).

The followings from Christ Lutheran (Cleveland) has passed away: **Robert Caldwell** and **Erma Gene Dickerson**.

June 22-28, 27 deaf and hearing campers joined the fun filled week at **Christian Life Camp** in Ashtabula, Ohio. **Pastors Ed Bergstresser, Gary Lawson and Shirrel Petzoldt** helped made it possible for the campers to experience God's goodness and love during their studies... Many campers asked for one more week. We, pastors looked at each other and said YES, it will be more wonderful experience but no, we are exhausted.

The pearl gate of heaven opened to the followings from Holy Cross (Columbus): **Solomon Jeffries, Hedwig**

Volp, Nora Yoli and **Richard Myers**.

Ralph Elliott Lin Webber and **Deborah S. LaClair Tracy** (Good Shepherd, Toledo) has passed away.

Tina Mason and **Jared Marcellus** (Good Shepherd) were married June 28th.

Midwest Region...

Word Of God Lutheran's (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) **Pastor Roger Altenberger's father** was called home to his Lord and Savior in July.

Word Of God Lutheran (Cedar Rapids) held their first annual Deaf Camp at the Lutheran camp IO-DIS-E-CA in Solon on August 16th and 17th. 13 people stayed overnight and enjoyed the activities that the camp offered, and their wonderful dinner and fellowship. Camp will be held again next year.

On September 21st, the pastors, vicars, members & friends of **Calvary Lutheran Church for the Deaf** (Des Moines, Iowa) celebrate 50 years of God's Blessings since they were accepted as an official congregation of LCMS.

Thomas Paul Nielsen was born to **Vicar David & Jean Nielsen** on August 5th at 6:08 PM. 9 lbs. 10 oz & 21½ in. Thomas was baptized on Aug 17th. The Niensens has moved back to St. Louis to complete David's training.

Ralph Rose, 81, **Waldon Erickson**, 84, **Vivian Smith**, 77, and Rev. George Ring's mother **Elsie Ring**, 100, has joined Jesus in heaven.

Northwest Region...

Mrs. ILENE YOUNG, Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Edmonton, passed away July 9th. Memorial contributions can be made through the Church or to the special account at the Royal Bank in Milton, Ontario, Canada.

News from Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Edmonton: first **Deaf and Hard of Hearing Single Retreat** (25 yrs - up) was held on Aug 8-10, 1997 at Pax Natura Ranch. Nine came and stayed full time. 34 worshipped on Sunday's Rally Day at the Retreat. The Rev. Jon Estes, Bible Class leader, dean and



preacher, gave a great deal of inspiration from God's Word. It is ok to be single. Pastor Bauer led in a nature Bible Study early Sunday morning out on a hill. Delightful meals were prepared by Mrs. Bauer and Kathy Bauer with help from retreaters. Mr. Reg Ulmer cooked on the grill. Ms. Janet Cress of Abbotsford, B.C. gave "labor of love" for her help preparing before and cleaning up afterward at the Retreat.

Anniversary Celebration on October 12th: 35th of Dedication of the Church, 25th as organized congregation, 30 years since Expo Youth travel camp, 20 since Holy Land pilgrimage.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Edmonton will be hosting the ILDA-NW Region 1998 Conference on July 31, August 1, 2, & 3. The Deaf Youth Gathering will be held at the same time.



Above: Deaf Single Retreat Dean/Bible Study Leader The Rev. Jon Estes. Right: Worship - Rev. Jon Estes and Rev. R. A. Bauer.

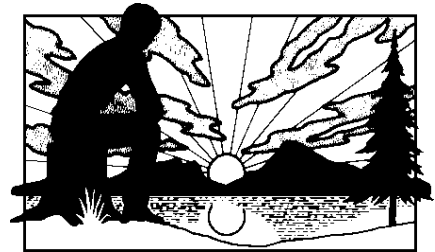
Wedding ceremony for **Dennis Aukett** and **Deborah Piscotty** was held at Faith Lutheran Church of the Deaf (Spokane) on August 15th.

Pastor Martin Hewitt has performed the ceremonies for **Joshua Allen and Laura Lehinger** (June 12) and for **Rodney Skotland and Mercee Aubertin** (July 26).

LLOYD V. REVELLE, Faith Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Spokane, has passed away July 27th. He served faithfully as an officer and volunteer.

September issue of "**Spokane Woman**" printed **Sandra Carr's** picture and wrote a nice story in its "**Among Friends**" feature. They recognized the contributions Sandi is making in the Spokane Deaf Community as Regional Coordinator of Deaf Services for Eastern Washington. The story highlighted Sandi's life, her philosophy of work, her service, and the challenges she faces as a deaf professional in a hearing world. The article may open the eyes of hearing readers to realize that deaf people must meet and overcome a great deal of prejudice. When deaf people meet that challenge and succeed, that is a great achievement.

Pastor William A. Ludwig has retired from the full-time ministry on June 30th.



Lutheran Deaf Ministry Convocation

was held at Savior Pastoral Center in Kansas City during October 3-5, 1997. News from this Convocation will be reported in future **Deaf Lutheran** issues.

Editor

P.S. Pastors Zuhn, Anderson and Seeger are doing well. They came to the Convocation. Praise the Lord!

Letter from Pax Natura Society for Rehabilitation of the Deaf (7/31/97)

It is with great joy that we accept ILDA special grant of \$1,000 US Dollars for the Ranch Program. It is gifts such as this that have kept the programs going and growing for almost 24 years. We will be conducting a special retreat next weekend for Deaf Singles. And next year we are hosting NW Region of ILDA Conference. As more and more members of the NW Region are older and having difficulties with the outdoors, we will be using Concordia College and going out for an afternoon picnic.

E. Bauer, Business Manager

We ask for your prayers!



Rev. John Reinke

A *short-term missionary* opportunity has been presented to **Rev. John Reinke**. The teacher working with the deaf in Ghana, West Africa will be taking a sabbatical starting in December 1997. The Board for Mission Services — LCMS, the Lutheran Church in Ghana, and the Nebraska District Board of Directors have given their approval for Pastor Reinke and his family to go to Ghana.

The plans are for us to leave in early November and stay until June. This is very exciting, but also scary in going to live in another country for 8 months! Please pray for us!

Please pray for us, that God will open the doors for many people to know Jesus. We are going to Ghana to continue the work of teaching West African Deaf and training the leaders in sharing their faith in Jesus Christ.

We are also be looking for people to sponsor us in this trip and ask that you prayerfully consider this opportunity. God has richly blessed us through the years and we look forward to seeing His plans for the future.

If you are interested, please contact us and we have more information we can share with you. Thank you for all of your

support in the past. We pray God continue to bless you and your ministries. All contributions can be sent to:

**Nebraska District – LCMS
ATTN: Ghana Mission
P.O. Box 407
Seward, NE 68434**

Whether here in Nebraska or in West Africa, I ask that you keep us in prayer. I especially ask you to pray that God will empower me to lead people to know and trust Jesus as their Savior i a powerful way; so they will indeed know the HOPE to which the Lord has called them.

*In His Service,
Rev. John Reinke,
Missionary-at-Large/Deaf*

EDITOR'S NOTE: Between November 1, 1997 and June 30, 1998 Rev. Reinke, wife, Dacia and sons Joshua and Joseph can be reached by mail to: Ghana:

**P.O. Box 3536
Kamasi
Ghana West Africa**

or in US:

**c/o Dr. H. J. Jording
P.O. Box 440
Hankinson, ND 58041**

Mission Project Goal - \$50,000

Let's see how high we can go on this Barometer!!

Watch this thermometer grow in each issue of the **Deaf Lutheran** for the next 20 months.

Please send contributions to:

**Ms. Karen Bieter, Treasurer
ILDA Mission Projects
7500 Briggs Rd
Lima, NY 14485**

*EDITOR'S NOTE: A minor correction to the Mission Project Goals listed in the last issue of The Deaf Lutheran. Starfish Lutheran Church is wrong. It is suppose to be **Starfish Learning Center**, a project through Christ Lutheran Church-Deaf of Cleveland, Ohio.*

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What is the potential for outreach in Ghana? What are the goal?

Kamasi has a population of one million people, we know of approximately 400 deaf who live and work in the area. Most of the leaders and members work during the day. There are also five or six schools for the Deaf children around the country.

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Looking ahead...

**Next ILDA convention
– Cleveland, Ohio
June 24-27, 1999...**

Please plan to join us!

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Business Manager's Report...

Praise the Lord! Hello! My name is Larry Ginter. I am a member of Christ Lutheran Church/Deaf, Cleveland.

Last July 6, Elmer Francisco announced that I am your new Business Manager at ILDA Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. Lester Ahls announced that David Brown is your new Editor. David is very outstanding computer. We really thanked the Board of ILDA accepted us to be your new Editor and Business Manager. Also we thanked retired Elmer Francisco and Lester Ahls were serving as the Deaf Lutheran Staffs for twenty years.

I grew up in Cleveland Area and attended Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit, Michigan. I was confirmation there with David Naumann of Houston, Texas. Pastor Mark Anderson of Illinois is one of my close friend since we were students at Lutheran School for the Deaf.

I met David Brown at Emerson Junior High School (oral and deaf school) in Lakewood, Ohio. I married David's sister, Lynn and have three children. Diane is 10th grade and Joanne is 9th grade at Normandy High School. Mark is 7th grade at Hillside Junior High School in Parma, Ohio.

I graduated from Lutheran High School-West in Rocky River, Ohio in 1968. I grew up to go to Messiah Lutheran Church (hearing) with my parents. Until 1970's I transferred to Christ Lutheran Church/Deaf. I serve the Lord's church as President, Treasurer, Secretary, Sower Newsletter (editor) and Lay Ministry.

I worked bindery and platemaker at Watt Printing Company for nine years. Then I works color proofs at RE May Lithograph Company (near our deaf church-downtown of Cleveland) for 18 years.

You know that David Brown and I are rookie Editor and Business Manager. Elmer Francisco explained me about the Deaf Lutheran Subscription Fee.

Please send your new subscription fee and inform me of address changes to:
Larry D. Ginter, 4134 Sarasota Drive, Parma, Ohio 44134-6242 or **FAX: 440-885-1020** or phone **TTY: 440-885-5479**. (Please note that area code 216 has changed to 440.)

*God's richest blessings,
Larry D. Ginter
Business Manager*

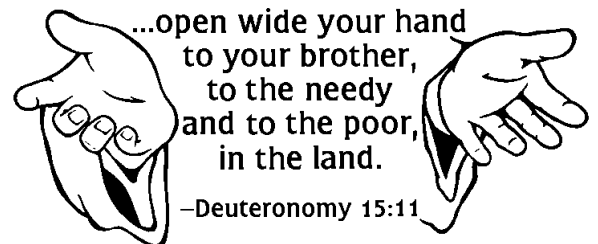
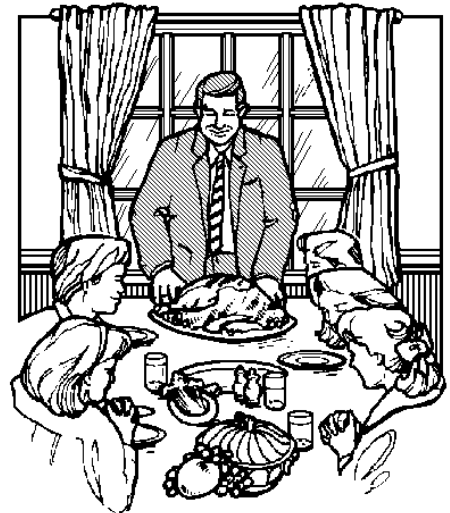


Important information about your mailing label...

Due to an old IBM 5-1/4" floppy disk and the lateness of receiving it, we have scanned the addresses from a printout on our scanner to get it into the Macintosh computer system.

Please check your address (label) carefully and let Larry Ginter know of any correction(s) needed.

Also because of a short time frame to work on the address labels, we have established a new way of labeling it (codes). On the first line, the first three digits (**000, 061, 441**, etc.) are our codes for individuals or home churches of the blanket plan. The letter following the three digits (**I** or **B**) indicates if you are paying under the blanket plan or individually. The following four digits with a period indicate the last date your subscription has been paid to. For example, **12.97** mean you have paid for issues up to December of the year 1997.



...open wide your hand
to your brother,
to the needy
and to the poor,
in the land.

—Deuteronomy 15:11



Editor's Message

Greeting in the name of Jesus Christ. During the ILDA Convention in St. Louis, MO, the ILDA Board has announced that *The Deaf Lutheran Newsletter* now has a new Editor and a new Business Manager. The new Editor is **David G. Brown** of Parma, Ohio and the new Business Manager is **Larry D. Ginter** also of Parma, Ohio. David and Larry are members of Christ Lutheran Church of Cleveland, Ohio.

Let thanks Lester Ahls and Elmer Francisco for many years of serving as *The Deaf Lutheran* editor and business manager. May God guide them with their future plans.

Introducing myself, I and my wife, Sharon, are life-long resident of the State of Ohio. We were confirmed as member of Christ Lutheran Church of Cleveland, Ohio by Rev. Gary L. Lawson on Palm Sunday, 1985. We grew up in Cleveland area and briefly lived in Lexington, Ohio from 1987 to 1996. Due to lay off from my job of 21 years, Sharon and I moved back to the Cleveland area. I am now employed at Ad/Art Studios in downtown Cleveland. Sharon and I have two children, Christine, a senior at Ohio State University in Columbus and Scott, a senior at Normandy High School in Parma.

I am a Graphic Artist and have been doing desktop publishing jobs on the Macintosh computer since 1989. I have done newsletters for a hearing church in Mansfield, Ohio and Christ Lutheran's (Cleveland) newsletters. I have also produced newsletters for a deaf camping club, *The Ohio Silent Wanderers Club* which I am a 12-year member of the club. I was nominated for *The Deaf Lutheran* editor position by Pam Kane of Christ Lutheran.

As a nominatee, I have begun redesigning *The Deaf Lutheran* newsletter. As you can see in this issue, I have used a five-column format and 12 pt. Novarese typefaces. There will be a

mixture of three- and two-column page layouts, depending on the contents of the newsletter. I have a scanner so I will be scanning photographs to be placed in Adobe PageMaker 6.0 page layout application. I can also import TIFF and EPS files and place them in the page layout.

GUIDELINES ON HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES AND NEWS FOR FUTURE *Deaf Lutheran* NEWSLETTERS:

If you have a Macintosh computer, you can send me your Microsoft Word or WordPerfect text files on floppy disks.

If you have an IBM or compatible, you can send to me on 3 1/2" floppy disks MS-Word and WordPerfect files. (Also please send me a copy saved in "Text Only" or ASCII format in case I have trouble importing the original files.)

For those who don't have a computer, but do have a typewriter, I can scan typewritten copies sent to me to be placed on the pages. Please avoid dot matrix types as they do not scan very well.

Try to avoid handwritten copies as they are hard to read and can create a lot of errors!

Photographs, black & white or color, can be sent to me (the better quality of the photos, the better looking the newsletter will be).

As of this writing, I do not have an e-mail address yet, but do I have a separate **FAX** number which is **440-886-2961**.

Please send news and photos to:

David G. Brown, Editor
The Deaf Lutheran
3434 Klusner Avenue
Parma, OH 44134-5030

David G. Brown, Editor

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