



The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

November/December

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 89, No. 6

DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION

Luke 1: 39-45

An old car was seen with a special license plate in a part of town with expensive homes. The plate read **42UNATE**, which mean “fortunate”. I wonder why the owner chose that word. All the other cars in that neighborhood were expensive cars. Maybe the owner wanted to say that he was happy with whatever he had.

That word “fortunate” means receiving some unexpected good thing, as when a car skids out of control on an icy road without any damage to the car or driver. Fortunate is a word that can be used by a family experiencing hard times at Christmas, but an anonymous person sends a check for \$1,000 to help them out. Fortunate is a word that every child of God can use to describe their state as a recipient of God’s gifts of body and spirit, even though totally undeserving of anything good from HIM.

In the text Elizabeth certainly feels fortunate. When her relative, Mary, visits her, she says, “Why are you coming to me?” Her question shows that she feels unworthy in having the mother of her Lord visit at her house. It shows her faith in knowing the baby inside Mary is her Savior by using the word, Lord! Elizabeth felt very fortunate to be in the presence of the Lord and she knew it.

Of course, Mary was fortunate also. She was chosen from among all the women ever living in the past and those that would live in the future to be the mother of Jesus. And Mary realizes this

and begins her song to show it. Mary’s song is a song of humility. This is a good reminder for you and me that our Advent and Christmas is best begun and filled with an honest recognition of our sinfulness and unworthiness. I am sure that you don’t need to think very much to notice the sin in your life and that should send you to your knees in humility before the manager of the Lord and Savior. We are indeed fortunate to have a God that loves us so much that HE willingly sent HIS Son to take our place and to suffer and die in order that we might be forgiven and live with HIM in heaven.

42UNATE - “fortunate” should be on every Christians car or bicycle so that we can proclaim to the world as we live in obedience to God and with our acts of service to others, and lives rich with mercy, lives that show the good fortune we have received because of Jesus.



*Rev. Donald Leber,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor*



1997 Convocation on Deaf Ministry

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

Approximately 100 people attended the Convocation. They include deaf lay people, professional workers in deaf ministry, interpreters, parents of deaf children, social workers, educators and synodical/district executives.

The last Convocation was held sixteen years ago (1981) in Madison, Wisconsin with about 200 people in attendance.

Photos by Larry Ginter



The theme for Kansas City's convocation was "*Vision beyond 2000: Looking into the future with Jesus.*"

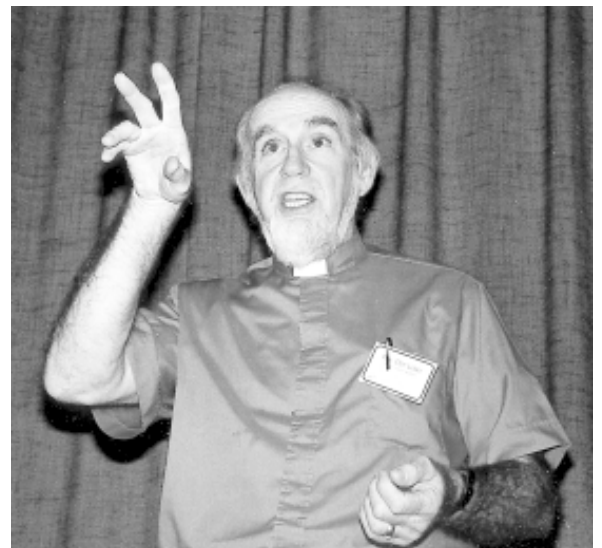
Worships, speakers, questions & comments, group sessions and evening devotions were on the agenda at Kansas City.

Dr. Mark Prowatzke gave the Keynote Address. Don Peterson spoke about "Changes in the deaf world since 1981." Dr. Rodney Rynearson spoke about "Changes in deaf ministry since 1981." Alice Hagemeyer's topic was "Anticipated changes in the deaf world." and Dr. Rodney Rynearson's speech was: "Anticipated changes in deaf ministry."

After two group sessions and ballots, the three goals for deaf ministry for the next 16 years are: 1) *Encourage support for Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) program;* 2) *Unchurched deaf people are important to God, therefore, all pastors become missionaries focusing 1/3 of their time in outreach and another 1/3 of his time to train members in outreach, attitudes and actions;* and 3) *More emphasis on outreach of deaf children/teens, through modern technology, more involvement in church services and church activities.*

The third group session discusses what do we need to do to reach these three new goals.

Special thanks goes to Mill Neck Foundation, AAL, LCMS, and ILDA for generous grants for this convocation. Also a big thank goes to Rev. Mark Seeger and committee for their hard works.



News from around the Regions...



Dixie Region...

Rev. Mike MacDonald of Chapel for the Deaf/Lutheran, Charlotte, NC has been working with several churches around the Carolinas to help them learn about Deaf Ministry. Those of you who are near the area, please join Pastor MacDonald at the followings: *Wilson, NC* – Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at 612 Vance Street NE; *Augusta, GA* – Our Redeemer at 402 Aurmond Road; *Burlington, NC* – Redeemer Lutheran Church at 2306 Lacy Street; and *Chapel Hill, NC* – Advent Lutheran Church at 230 Erwin Road.

Great Lakes Region...

Warren S. Burford, Sr. and **Carolyn Mac Lambert** were married on November 15th. This beautiful wedding was officiated by Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt at Good Shepherd (Toledo).

The Lord has called home **Richard Myers** (Holy Cross, Columbus) on September 1, 1997.

Christ Lutheran (Cleveland) now have a new worship schedule. Worship every Sundays start at 10 AM and Sunday School/Devotion start at 6:30 PM.

The followings from Pittsburgh area passed away are Anthony Hodczak, Harry W. Thomas, James Gilbert, Harry L. Weiland, Jr., and Ted Altheide.

Midwest Region...

Ralph Clayton, 95 of Calvary Lutheran, Des Moines, Iowa has gone to see Jesus on September 27th.

Northwest Region...

From Western Washington Lutheran Church/Deaf two members has joined Jesus the same day. They are **Alice Hazel Barton** (76) and **Eugene Dwaine Mellom** (72).

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Edmonton (Canada) has on October 12th, celebrated: 35th Anniversary of Church Dedication; 25th Anniversary of Congregation Organization; 30th Anniversary of Youth Trip to Expo; and 20th Anniversary of Pilgrimage to Holy Land. *The Edmonton Journal* wrote a large article about the Church's anniversary. The newspaper noticed that the church is Canada's oldest church for the deaf and that Rev. Bob Bauer has been pastor at Cross of Christ since it opened in the early 1960s. The article mostly report about the deaf church, its pastor (Bauer), deaf culture and Pax Natura. The paper also quoted "Bauer, 67, shows off a new grey robe, explaining that people found the white one he'd owned before too bright when they watched him signing."

Mary Had A Little "Lamb"

Fun For The Night!



How well do you know the books of the Bible? In the following paragraph, 16 books of the Bible are mentioned. Some are found in whole words, others in adjoining words. See how many you can find. Don't be dismayed if one or two keep you searching!

I once made a remark about the books of the Bible - it was a lulu - kept people looking so hard for facts, but for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized, but the truth finely struck home to numbers of readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be

a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be a really easy one to spot; other may require judges to help them. I quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. One woman says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are 16 books of the Bible in this story.

And He Became Our "SHEPHERD"

*Submitted by Dolly Keliher
of Colorado Springs, CO*



Editor's Note: An article from one of the church newsletters sent to me was very interesting. This newsletter write articles for each of their future newsletters about other Lutheran Churches for the Deaf. I felt it would be interesting to reprint it for you *Deaf Lutherans* readers to read about it. For your information, there are 55 Deaf churches in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in the USA.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of the Deaf

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of the Deaf has been an organized congregation since 1898. It is the oldest deaf church in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and one of the oldest in the United States. Emmanuel is one of three deaf church in South Wisconsin District and is also a member of the Central Region Conference of the ILDA. We have several worship sites in our 92 year history. Our church moved to its third location in May 1987 and continues to serve the Deaf in the Greater Milwaukee area. We are now located at 2306 South 98th Street, West Allis, Wisconsin, 53227.

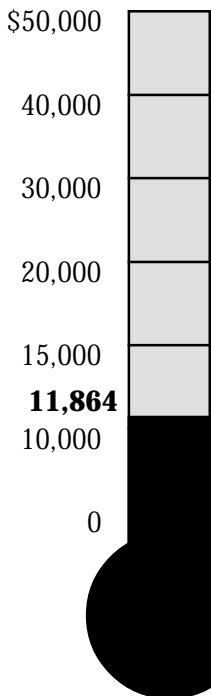
Currently worship is every Sunday at 9:45 am with Bible Study at 9:00 am. We provide Adult and Youth Confirmation Classes. We have Sunday School with

about 12 children attending, 4 of them are deaf. We have a men's club and a Ladies Aid group. These organizations help support the church through various fund raising activities and also assist in spreading the Good news about Jesus. We have a banner committee which makes beautiful banners to praise God and glorify His name. We have an AAL Insurance Branch. Each summer we have a "Summer Sign Language Class" in order to reach out to the Hearing community.

Emmanuel has had 5 previous pastors. Rev. William "Bud" Palmer is the sixth pastor. He has been privileged to have served at Emmanuel since 1984. Pastor Palmer also travels one preaching station. He ministers to 2 Deaf Lutherans in Sheboygan. He also ministers to another group of about 15 deaf Lutherans in the Menasha/Oshkosh area. Together Emmanuel has 130 communicant members along with 198 baptized members.

Pray that God will continue to bless the wonderful ministry of Emmanuel, Pastor Palmer and their 100th anniversary next year.

Pray for one another...



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**



Looking ahead...
Next ILDA convention
- Cleveland, Ohio
June 24-27, 1999...
Please plan to join us!

Our Cleveland '99 committee is growing! We recently had our monthly meeting and more vounteers have joined.

Look for our exciting tours we have planned to have during ILDA '99! Start saving now for these exciting events.

Believing What We Cannot Understand!



An unbeliever once said, "I will believe only what I can understand; none of that 'mystery stuff' for me." Well, life has many mysteries; see if you can explain these: (Doesn't this sound a bit like 'doubting Thomas?'" (ed.) First of all, consider the transformation that takes place in a caterpillar, whom a smart aleck has described as "an upholstered worm." The caterpillar covers itself in a homemade casket and is changed into a beautiful butterfly. Its hair is changed to scales, a million to the square inch. The many legs of the caterpillar become six legs of the butterfly. The yellow becomes a beautiful red. The crawling insect becomes a soaring masterpiece. Can you explain this mystery? I can't. Neither can any scientist or naturalist. Its a mystery we have to accept.

Secondly, consider the mystery of sugar. It is composed of hydrogen and oxygen, both of them odorless. They are combined with carbon which is insoluble (cannot be dissolved). The result of this strange combination is beautiful, white, sweet

sugar. Explain it? I can't. Neither can you!

Thirdly, think about how the limb (branch) of a tree grows straight out from the trunk for forty, fifty or sixty feet, with no other anchorage than fifteen or eighteen inches of fibres which lose themselves in the trunk of the tree. No man has discovered how to apply this principle in the construction of buildings or bridges. Try to explain this mystery?

Fourthly, speaking of unusual structures, consider an elephant. Its four legs bend forward in the same direction. No other animal that has four feet is so made. It has too large a body to live on two legs. For this reason it was given four fulcrums (props) so that it could rise from the ground easily. The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first. The cow rises on its two hind legs first. But the elephant uses all four legs at the same time. Explain it? Yet it is true!

*Adapted from Seattle Newsletter
Rev. William Ludwig, Pastor*



Hands On Ministry

*Welcoming
Deaf People Into
the Church*

Of the 235 million people in the United States," says Barbara Lanman, "it is estimated that 20 million have some kind of hearing loss. Of that, about 500,000 people use sign language to communicate." It is also estimated that about 97% of the Deaf population is unchurched.

To help churches reach out to Deaf people, Mill Neck Foundation has developed a 10-minute video and booklet called, "Welcoming Deaf People into the Church."

This video outlines simple ways for the church community to make their churches more accessible to Deaf people. The accompanying booklet teaches some simple signs and includes a list of suggested resources.

Any church interested in starting a Deaf Ministry program can receive a copy of this video and booklet for \$5.00, the cost of postage and handling. Contact Mill Neck Foundation at 1-800-264-0662.

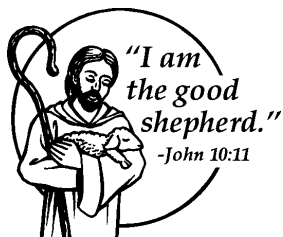
From Mill Neck Newsletter Sept '97

Want to hear more mysteries?

Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind. Each orange has an even number of segments. Each corn's ear has an even number of grains. All grains are found in even numbers on the stalks, and GOD specified 30-fold, 60-fold and 100-fold, all even numbers.

A handful of clay is placed deep in the earth, many miles down. It is treated with heat below, pressed with rocks of the mountain above, and eventually it is transformed into a glorious diamond, fit for a king's crown! Try and explain this mystery, eh? Nobody can, yet it happens.

Other mysteries: Who can explain the mystery of the Holy Trinity? The Trinity consists of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit, yet all three are **ONE** God. Or consider the mystery of our God. He is from everlasting to everlasting, with no beginning and no end, eternally God. Who can explain these mysteries? By the power of our own reasoning and understanding, we cannot, but by the gift of faith, which is given to us by the Holy Spirit, we can believe and accept these truths. **"BELIEVE** on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Acts 16:31.



What does Christmas mean to you?



- C - Christ, the Son of God who died for our sins.
- H - Hope, we have this in Christ to face the problems of the world.
- R - Resurrection, this assures us that Christ lives today.
- I - Immanuel, God with us, who will never leave or forsake us.
- S - Star, it shone bright reminding us that Christ is the Light of the world.
- T - The symbol of the cross where Christ died for us.
- M - Mission, to share Christ's love to a lost and desperate world.
- A - Agape, the unselfish love of God which He wants us to show others.
- S - Savior, we have access to God, the Father through Jesus Christ.

from Messenger of Hope, Portland

Something for you to think about...

"If you refuse to forgive others, you destroy the bridge over which you yourself must cross."

Margaret Abraravich of Walnut Manor (California)

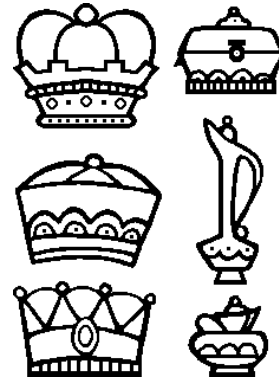
Do you know...

...how many of our Lutheran deaf churches have no pastor? Would you believe 11? And that number is growing as more pastors reach retirement age and as we try to expand into new areas. Here is the current listing of churches without a pastor to serve them: Kansas City, MO; Northern Minnesota; Fargo, ND; New York City; Augusta, GA; Northern Illinois; New England; Jackson, MI; Omaha, NE; Delavan, WI; and Phoenix, AZ.

Have you thought about being a church leader? We have a Deaf Institute of Theology to help you. Ask one of the pastors about it.

To learn more about our Lutheran Deaf Ministry program you can write to: Rev. R. Rynearson, Mission Department of the L.C.M.S., 1333 S. Kirkwood Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63122 or phone him at 1-800-433-3954.

Merry Christmas!



They offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

– Matthew 2:11

No Time

*I knelt to pray, but not for long,
I had to much to do.
Must hurry off and get to work,
For bills would soon be due.*

*And so I said a hurried prayer,
Jumped up from off my knees,
My Christian duty now was done,
My soul could be at ease.*

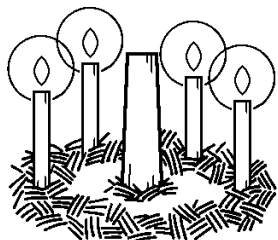
*All through the day I had not time,
To speak a word of Christ to friends,
They'd laugh at me If eared.*

*No time, no time, too much to do.
That was my constant cry,
No time to give to those in need.
At last t'was time to die.*

*And when before the Lord I came,
I stood with downcast eyes,
Within His hands He held a book,
It was the "Book of Life."*

*God looked into His book and said,
"your name I can not find. I once was
going to write it down, but never
found the time."*

Get ready...
Get set...
"Advent"



ADVENT

"If I don't know when it will happen, how can I be ready?"

So many people were shocked when a big snow '97 hit Nebraska, Michigan, Colorado and Iowa last October. They were not ready for cold homes, cold beds, cold water, cold food and no wood for their fireplaces.

This is the season of Advent in the church a time to focus our hearts on the Lord Jesus' first coming and His second coming.

Some people were ready for the storms. They had back-up plans. Some had gas-fed generators. Some were campers with their Coleman stoves. They had candles, plenty of batteries for flashlight, food set aside for emergency. For them the snowstorm that knocked out electrical power all over the area was an adventure. Winter has not arrived yet, but will you be ready for the next power outage?

This is the season of God's children listening to Him – a time to get ready.

For some Christ's coming will be a surprise. They will have their excuses why they are not ready.

For Christians, Christ's coming will not scare us. We enjoy relation to Him as His children. During worship we understand how much He loves us. It is a time to hear His Word and enjoy His gifts

and support each other. We know He will never leave His dear children. We want Him to be close. We show love to people as Jesus loved us. You saw lots of examples of that during Snow Storm '97.

We practice making peace with people. People get into trouble with their misunderstanding or with gossip, or by anger. We practice making peace with people who hurt our feelings or with people we hurt. Jesus promised to be with us and help us.

We practice telling the story of Jesus, how He touches our lives.

We come often to the Lord's Supper as Jesus Himself feeds us to strengthen our faith and give us forgiveness, life now and forever. Then His coming will not surprise us. We already live with Jesus. We are ready. Are you with us?

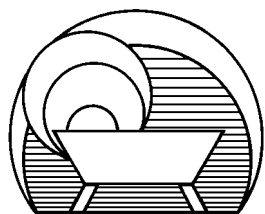
*Reprint from the "Gospel Post",
Trinity Lutheran Church, Pittsburgh*



Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year

from

David G. Brown and Larry D. Ginter,
your Deaf Lutheran
Editor and Business Manager!



"... you shall call
his name Jesus ..."

-Matthew 1:21

The DEAF LUTHERAN

November-December, 1997

Official publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association and the Board of Mission, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, published bi-monthly by Adam Pangrace & Sons Division, Fairview Park, OH.

Subscription Fee: Individual... \$6.00 per year, church Blanket Plan... \$5.50 per year.

Please send all subscription fees and address changes to: Larry D. Ginter, Business Manager, 4134 Sarasota Dr., Parma, OH 44134-6242. FAX: 440-885-1020.

Please send articles, stories and pictures to: David G. Brown, Editor, 3434 Klusner Ave., Parma, OH 44134-5030. FAX: 440-886-2961. e-mail: Creabrowns@AOL.com

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
CLEVELAND, OH.
PERMIT NO. 1471