



The DEAF LUTHERAN



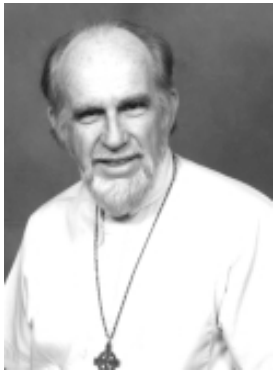
Official Publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association & the Board for Missions of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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St. Louis, MO

Volumes 90, No. 2

DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Donald Leber,
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

Read Matthew 28:1-10

Today while I was sitting in a Bible Study class (this shows you that even a pastor has a lot to learn) I learned some new facts about the resurrection of Jesus. First of all the tomb in which Jesus' body was placed was a brand new tomb that no one had used in the past. It was the Jewish rule that only one person could be buried in a tomb. If a 2nd person wanted to be buried in the same tomb, that would make the 2nd person unclean according to Jewish rules. For Joseph of Arimathea to donate his own tomb for Jesus' body, that was a tremendous gift because the tombs were very expensive. It also meant that Joseph had to go and find a different tomb for himself.

Secondly, on Easter Sunday an angel was sent by God to roll away the stone from the entrance of the tomb. The angel did NOT do that to let Jesus out. Jesus arose from the dead by HIS own power. And Jesus was already out of the tomb by the time the angel arrived because we find HIM down the road meeting the women on their way back to Jerusalem. Notice that the angel rolled away the stone just before the women arrived at the tomb. The stone was removed so that the women and the disciples and that also you and I can look in and see the empty grave and know that Jesus really did arise and become alive as HE said HE would do.

Thirdly, Jesus commanded the women to go and tell the disciples. This is almost the same command Jesus gave to all the disciples in verse 19. They were to go and tell all people about

Jesus suffering, death, and resurrection. This is Jesus command to us today. Through our reading the Bible and studying God's Word together as Christian people we look into the tomb and we believe that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. Now that makes a B I G difference in our lives and we want to go and tell and show people how much God loves them as HE loves us. Some people only come and look in the tomb and never say a word to anyone or demonstrate the love of Jesus in their life. They don't give their time or their offerings or their life to the Lord and so they will not receive the benefits of believing in the true arising of Jesus from the dead. In a Jewish family when a son was old enough to become married the father would go to a neighbor that had a daughter ready for marriage and the two fathers would arrange for the marriage. There would be a price that the boy's father would pay to the girl's father for the bride. When the price was agreed upon, then the boy would hand a cup of wine to the girl and she would make the final decision to drink from the cup and agree to give herself to this man as her husband or to refuse to drink and wait for another family to come to her father. Jesus paid the price by suffering and dying on the cross for you and me, and every time we go to the Lord's Supper and eat HIS body and drink HIS blood we are agreeing to be HIS bride (The Bible calls the Church - HIS bride). That means we give our life, all we have to HIM, as our Lord, our Savior, and our God. Remember that the next time you go to the Lord's Supper.

Pastor Don (via e-mail)


Alleluia!
CHRIST IS RISEN

Bible Class Videos for Deaf Children in Sign Language

A cry has been heard from parents of deaf children for Christian education materials so that they can teach the children about Jesus either at home or at church. Many of the deaf children are mainstreamed into the public schools where there is no chance for them to learn of Jesus love. About two years ago, Pastor Darrell Matthews Missionary for the Deaf in the Rocky Mountain District heard the need and put together enough grant money to start this project moving. The first goal was to put together about 200 lessons on video and in sign language and captioned. The push came to put the entire Bible, Old and New Testament in Bible story form with lessons from various pastors and parents. So the goal suddenly got bigger. The goal now is to put 75 series of lessons on video in sign language. Each series has between 3 to 7 lessons depending upon the Bible stories. At the present time the entire Old Testament has been finished and are presently being edited and captioned by Silent Word Productions in River Forest. This is an example of what a

series will look like: Creation Week, 6 lessons; The Fall, 4 lessons; Cain and Abel, 4 lessons; The World Before the Flood, 5 lessons; etc. By this coming summer they should be available for only the cost of materials and shipping. At that time they will also be made available through the internet.

The story tellers for the lessons are Pastor Bud Palmer from Wisconsin and Barbara Lanmann from Mill Neck, New York. Our teachers are Pastor Don Leber from California, Pastor Ron Friedrich from Texas, and Pastor Darrell Matthews from Colorado. Pastor Matthews is the Director of the Project under Bethel Deaf TV Ministries, Inc. located in Littleton, Colorado.

If you have any questions you can e-mail Pastor Matthews at: **dmattthews3@juno.com** or write to him at: **4563 South Hoyt St., Littleton, CO 80123.**

If you wish to support this project as we continue into the New Testament please contact Pastor Matthews. You will be kept informed of the progress of this project in later The Deaf Lutheran editions.



Pastor Ron Friedrich teaching a lesson on Moses





Rev John Reinke with the deaf in Adomrobe. Left of Reinke is Ambassador Dalton Noack. (Photo, dated November, 1997, obtained from the web page via internet)

Greetings to you who are across the wide ocean.

Life in Ghana continues to be an adventure! We are writing quickly now as we have power. The Volta Lake, where the electric generators for the country are, has gotten seriously low. (Also three of the seven turbines are not working) Thus the Ghana Electric Association has announced that there is not enough power for the country. In some areas they are doing 12 hours on and 12 hours off for electricity. Here in Kumasi they are doing 24 hours on and 24 hours off. The first few time it took some getting used to, but now we are adjusting fine.

This means we cannot keep much in our refrigerator as it does not keep it cool during the 24 hours off. The first day we had to eat the meat from our little freezer so it would not spoil. We also moved some to the Mission House close to us as they have a generator and use that every few hours to keep things cool and to do a little work. (Most generators here only have enough fuel for four to five hours, so they cannot be run continuously) We also need to watch the water as when the power is off at the pumping station, there is no water pressure. So we try to keep our tank as full as possible.

Other challenges that have come up with the power rationing are: communication - hard to call someone if either you or they do not have electricity, thus e-mail and faxes are equally hard; shopping must be some each day or every other day so the food does not spoil, not much for leftovers; having our meetings and Bible Classes with the Evangelists has been a challenge, we have had many by candlelight and kerosene lantern; we have borrowed a gas burner(just like camping out) as our stove is electric - really surprised us when it would not work with the power off HAHA. With a few adjustments to work around the power, things continue to move along.

We are continuing the training with the Evangelists. We have slowed down a little to work through the course on Lutheran Confessions using the Book of Concord. With the varying work schedules of the evangelists I have meetings almost every morning and most evenings during the week and on Saturdays. Monday is usually the day I prepare the

lessons and work ahead. We have also started to do goal setting to move ahead with ideas for the ministry in Kumasi.

In the village of Adomrobe we recently saw the story of the rich man and Lazarus from the Bible (Luke 16). An older deaf man in the village died, buried the next day, short funeral time. He did not have much money. But he was baptized, one wife, and attending our services regularly. An older man from the village also died. He was an important man in the area, lots of money, three wives, a big idol worshipper. They froze his body to keep for four week so that the funeral could be arranged. They had music and dancing all day and night before the burial (almost like a wedding in the states). We were allowed to greet the chiefs gathered for the funeral and see the body of the man. He was covered in Kente cloth, gold rings on his fingers, and gold dust sprinkled on his face. Now you know the story - which one do you think is in Heaven?

We see many things everyday that remind us how God has blessed us. And we thank Him for this opportunity to come here and be a part of this ministry and spread the Gospel. We want to thank all of you who are praying for us and supporting us - we very much appreciate it! We enjoy the letters and email you send, thank you. It really brightens our day to receive things in the mail. Please continue to pray for us and keep in contact.

God bless you and keep you. In His care - the Reinke's

•••••

Please pray for John and Joshua. Both are being treated for malaria. The blood smears came back negative - but the doctor says that the blood tests aren't really reliable - and since they both have the symptoms of malaria they are being treated for it. If they have malaria, the treatment will help them. If they don't have malaria, the treatment will not hurt them.

We would also like to thank God for the procurement of a generator. We have been without electricity for 7 days. Not only is the power being rationed; but we are also in an area where some of the wires have gotten knocked down. The man responsible for fixing these wires is ill and cannot get it done. But now we have a generator that allows us to have power for some time during the day - just enough to keep our fridge going. The Lord does provide!

Dacia <>< (via e-mail)

News from around the Regions...



Great Lakes Region...

Trinity Deaf, Pittsburgh... **Lois Frank**, **Russell Altheide**, **John Doellinger**, and Myrtle Hooper's mother has passed away. Also **Earl Bayle** has died. His death was followed by the death of his wife **Gladys**, one week later. John Doellinger, age 25, is the son of Rev. Paul and Sue Doellinger.

Good Shepherd Deaf, Toledo...

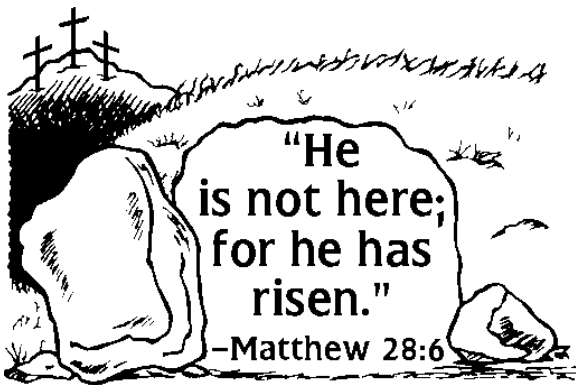
Chester Kerr and **Florence Adams** (100) were called home to his Lord and Savior. As quoted by Rev. Shirrel Petzoldt, "Chester loved 'Walking With Jesus Daily' and confessed proudly '*Jesus is my Lord.*'" Chester's body went into the grave with his **WWJD** bracelet that Rev. Petzoldt put on his arm some time ago and was never removed.

Winter Camp at Camp Mowana in Mansfield, Ohio during February was a success. Over 75 people camped.

Central Region...

Peace Deaf, Indianapolis... **William Bearhope** and **Martha Swank** have entered God's Kingdom.

Deadline for Camp Lakeview to be held on June 21-26th is getting near. Contact Peace Lutheran for details.



Midwest Region...

Calvary Deaf, Des Moines... **Mary Lee Krueger** went to be with her Lord January 13th. Apparently Mary wasn't feeling too good that day that she left her car running to warm it up in her garage (under her bedroom) and went upstairs to lie down for a little bit. She collapsed in her bathroom. Fumes from the garage has entered her bedroom. Mary was known for her loving work, inviting all the Deaf people she could find to her home to eat potluck together and Study God's Word.

Visit Calvary's On-Line! <http://www.ioweb.com/calvary/home.html>

Nebraska Lutheran Deaf Ministries, Omaha... Families with Deaf Children 2nd Annual Camping Weekend will be held on June 12-14th at Timberlake in Marquette, Nebraska. Write or e-mail LuthDeafMi@aol.com for registration.

Midwest I.L.D.A. will be held on June 26-28th at Ramada Inn in Roseville, MN. Theme: "**Angels Around Us.**" Contact Prince of Peace Deaf Lutheran Church (612) 331-2474 for details.

Northwest Region...

Faith Deaf, Spokane... **Clyde** and **Charlotte Catron** were named "Couple of the Year" for being wonderful role models for their Deaf Community.

Our Redeemer Deaf, Seattle... **Annie Margaret Ferwerda**, 99, and **Laurence Redverse Pinckston** (95) has joined Jesus in heaven.

Pacific Region...

Pacific Region, International Lutheran Deaf Association (P.R.I.L.D.A.) will have a retreat in Northern California this year. We will get together to support the mission work of our churches, train our deaf lay people to do the work of ministry, and grow in our faith. Contact Rev. Smith (909) 468-9040 or Rev. Leber (909) 987-5484 for more information.

Don't forget the Lutheran Deaf Camp (Aug 2-7, 1998). Contact Rev. Leber.

Pilgrim Deaf, LA... **Mary Koritzer**, **Elijah Huddleston** (Freddie Mae Gibson's son) and **Walter Burns** (Jack Burns' father) were called home to heaven.

Important Notice!

Please be aware that your Business Manager and I have put in many hours on the mailing list. **The post office does not inform us of anyone moving or wrong address.** It is your duty to let Larry Ginter know of any address changes.

For those of you (individual and blanket plan subscribers) who have recently received "Last Notice" postcards, please check your "last paid" date above your name on the mailing label. This issue will be your final issue unless you pay soon. Blanket Plan subscribers, check with your church to why your subscription hasn't been paid on December 31st.

David G. Brown, Editor

Thought you might enjoy this:

Here's a good for computer folks...



One day, a great contest was held to test the skills of the world's greatest prophets.

After days and days of fierce competition, only two leaders remained for the last day's event: Jesus and Mohammed.

The judge described the software application required for the final test, and gave the signal to start writing code. The two contestants feverishly typed away on their keyboards.

Routines, classes, applets and applications flew by on their screens at incredible speeds. Windows, dialogs, and other intricate graphics began forming on their monitors.

The clock showed that the contest would soon be finished.

Suddenly, a bolt of lightening flashed and the power went out.

After a moment it came back on-just in time for the clock to announce that the last competition was over.

The judge asked the two contestants to reveal their finished software.

Mohammed angrily said that he'd lost it all in the power outage.

The judge turned to the other competitor.

Jesus smiled, clicked a mouse and a dazzling application appeared on his screen. After just a few moments, the judge was clearly impressed and declared Jesus the victor.

When asked why the decision was made, the judge pointed out the unique characteristic that set the winner apart from all the other leaders: Jesus saves.

Pastor Mike MacDonald

You don't need to buy Internet access to use free Internet e-mail. Get completely free e-mail from Juno at <http://www.juno.com> Or call Juno at (800) 654-JUNO [654-5866]. (Editor's note: please be aware that free Juno **does not** access World Wide Web WWW and other internet services.)

1998 ER-ILDA Conference

St. Mark Lutheran Church for the Deaf, Manhattan, New York will host the **Eastern Region-ILDA Conference** May 29, 30, & 31, 1998. It will be held at Tuscarora Inn Conference Center, Mount Bethel, Pennsylvania. The theme is "**Glory Of God Is Surrounding Us**" from Acts 1:8.

Mary L. Burgess, Chairperson

AAL Branch Honored...

Appleton, Wis. (February 1998) — Members of Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) Branch 3838, St. Louis, have been awarded a Gold Star rating by the fraternal benefit society in recognition of exemplary volunteer service to the community.

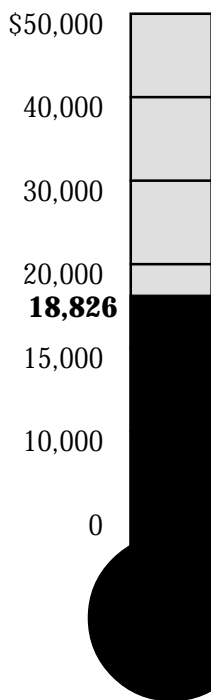
AAL's 9,838 branches are ranked in several performance categories. To achieve a Gold Star rating, branches annually must sponsor at least one AAL benevolent activity (fund-raiser, work project, etc.), conduct at least 12 meetings, sponsor at least one educational activity and on member awareness event, and comply with AAL's attendance, voting and reporting requirements.

AAL Branch 3838 is led by: Gene Schellin, President, Fenton, MO; Mary Davis, Vice-President, Lovejoy, IL; Karen Schellin, Secretary, Fenton, MO; Diane Larson, Treasurer, Fenton, MO

Branch 3838 is supported by AAL District Representative Ronald Schrader, LUTCF, FIC, St. Louis.

AAL, based in Appleton, Wis., is a fraternal benefit society of 1.7 million Lutherans joined together for insurance, investment, educational and volunteer opportunities.

Members of Holy Cross Lutheran Church of Deaf, St. Louis earned their Gold Star for donating to Habitat for Humanity, helping cloth and feed people at Homeless Shelter, help equip a new child care center in Illinois, help an ill member's family with expenses, and help raise funds for their youth to go to Atlanta this summer.



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 14 months.

Please send contributions to:

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

The Heaven Test

One day, a teacher, a garbage collector, and a lawyer all die and go to Heaven. St. Peter's there and was having a bad day since heaven was getting crowded. When they get to the gate, St. Peter informed them that there will be a test to get into Heaven: they each will have to answer a single question.

To the teacher, he says, "What was the name of the ship that crashed into the Iceberg and sunk with most of its passengers?" The teacher thinks for a sec, and then replies: "That would have been the Titanic, right?". St. Peter lets him through the gate.

St. Peter turns to the Garbage man, and, figuring that Heaven doesn't REALLY need all the stink that this guy would bring into heaven, decides to make the question a little harder: "How many people died on the ship?"

The garbage man guesses: "1228". St. Peter says "That happens to be right; go ahead."

Then St. Peter turns to the Lawyer and says: "Name them."

For Your Information...

DR. RUSSELL'S 'BIBLE DIET'

Finally!—a book about diet, nutrition, and healthy living written with wit, humor, and Biblical wisdom by a Christian medical doctor.

This new, best-selling book—What The Bible Says About Healthy Living (Regal Books)—was written by Rex Russell, MD.

Improve your physical and mental health and lift your spirits. Dr. Russell recommends that you eat many of the natural foods which the folks in the Old and New Testament ate. Avoid the foods they avoided. He also recommends doing what those Biblical folks did—an occasional short fast.

Dr. Russell is 56. He interned at the Mayo Clinic, and now is a radiologist at Sparks Regional Medical Center in Fort Smith, AR.

So how did a Southern Baptist, cattle-raising, Mayo Clinic-trained radiologist come to study and recommend "Dr. Russell's Bible Diet"?

In 1976, Russell's long-standing diabetes was worsening. He also was suffering from chronic abscesses, arthritis, swelling in his legs, and deterioration of his arteries, eyesight, and kidneys.

Because I'm a doctor, I searched for medical answers with many physicians," he says, "but illness and confusion continued.

"One evening in desperation I pulled a Bible off the shelf. In Psalm 139:14, the psalmist praises God because 'I am fearfully and wonderfully made.' I said: 'If we are so wonderfully made, why am I so sick? God, why didn't You give us a way to be healthy?'"

He received this answer: "Rex, have you really read my Instruction Book?"

Dr. Russell began to study about faith. Searching the Bible, he discovered not only spiritual laws related to health, but also dietary and physical principles. So he changed his life style and ate more natural foods. After four years his health improved.

Although he still is dependent on insulin, he has not had an abscess or symptom of arthritis in 20 years. He now has 20/20 vision. His overall health has improved in every respects, he says.

Meanwhile, Dr. Russell studied a lot of ongoing medical research that confirmed that many of the dietary recommendations and restrictions found in the Old and New Testament have a scientific basis.

Although he's not a vegetarian, this physician/cattleman believes "most people in the United States would benefit from eating less meat.

Only 5% of his daily calories comes from meat.

Dr. Russell also recommends that people avoid caffish, as well as pork.

The folks in the Bible, he says, ate meat only once in a while, and considered meat "a celebration food," eaten only for special occasions.

In a chapter titled "Mom was right: Eat your fruits and veggies," Dr. Russell recommends a diet with plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, grains, seeds, and beans.

Eat some garlic, too. Medical research shows that garlic lowers bad cholesterol levels significantly, lowers high blood pressure, and protects people from infections.

Another prominent Biblical food, olive oil, has a beneficial effect on health, especially in preventing hardening of the arteries.

Dr. Russell recommends three principles which he believes will improve a person's health. "They are not a cure-all," he says, "but I believe they will help all."

—Eat the foods God created for you.

—As much as possible, eat fresh fruits and vegetables.

—Avoid food addictions.

Dr. Russell has three other suggestions to improve one's health:

1) Exercise regularly. "The Bible says: 'By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food.' (Gen. 3:19). Because most of us no longer work in the fields for our food, physical exercise should be substituted. It is my belief that we need enough exercise to work up a sweat six days a week."

2) Don't forget to smile. "Both the giver and the receiver of a smile benefit through the release of prostaglandins. These substances help balance the hormonal functions of the body."

3) Everything in moderation (so said the Apostle Paul).

This physician, fascinated by the relationship of mind and body, remembers what the Apostle Paul said 2,000 years ago: "All of you surely know that you are God's temple and that His Spirit lives in you."

—From **The Joyful Noiseletter**

Reprinted from **Look Up with FAITH, Spokane (Deaf)**

† Rev. Warren J. Keating, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Yuma, AZ, says that the best prayer he ever heard was: "Lord, please make me the kind of person my dog thinks I am."

† A Woman went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. "What Denomination?" Asked the clerk. "Oh, good heavens! Have we come to this?" said the woman. "Well give me 50 Baptist and 50 Catholic ones."

† On a very cold, snowy Sunday in February, only the pastor and one farmer arrived at the village church. The pastor said, "Well, I guess we won't have a service today." The farmer replied: "Shucks, if even only one cow shows up at feeding time, I feed it."

† During a children's sermon, Rev. Larry Eisenberg asked the children what "Amen" means. A little boy raised his hand and said: "It means - 'Tha-tha-tha-that's all folks!'"

† I was at the beach with my children when my four-year-old son ran up to me, grabbed my hand, and led me to the shore, where a sea gull lay dead in the sand. "Mommy, what happened to him?" the little boy asked. "He died and went to Heaven," I replied. My son thought a moment and then said, "And God threw him back down?"

† Bill Keane, creator of the Family Circus cartoon strip tells of a time when he was penciling one of his cartoons and his son Jeffy said, "Daddy, how do you know what to draw?" I said, "God tells me." Jeffy said, "Then why do you keep erasing parts of it?"

† After the church service, a little boy told the pastor: "When I grow up, I'm going to give you some money." "Well, thank you," the pastor replied, "but why?" "Because my daddy says you're one of the poorest preachers we've ever had."

† My wife invited some people to dinner. At the table, she turned to our six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?" "I wouldn't know what to say," she replied. "Just say what you hear Mommy say," my wife said. Our daughter bowed her head and said: "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

More from Ghana...

A selection of photos obtained from the web page of March '98. Try to visit: <http://members.aol.com/luthdeafmiafmi/ghana.html> to see a greater selections and stories!



This is the highway from Walewale to Gbintiri. Notice the dust blowing. It almost looks like fog but it is really dust. We took picture north during the narmattan.



Dalton and Deanne Noack have morning devotions on their front porch every morning. They invite the people in the neighborhood to join them. There are usually a lot of children there. During the Noack's absence John has taken over the morning devotions. This is a photo of him greeting the children after morning devotions.



These are the deaf that gather to worship in Kumasi. This was taken at Christmas time while the students were home on holiday.



This is the classroom that the deaf use for worship in Kumasi.

Websites to visit!

<http://members.aol.com/luthdeafmi/ghana.html>
<http://www.ioweb.com/calvary/home.html>



This is a photo of us that was taken at the Kakum National Park. It was taken at a juncture of the canopy walkway. The canopy walkway is suspended from trees in the rainforest and we were able to walk among the tree tops.



The International Lutheran Deaf Association Membership Dues...

*Active, Associate, or Sustaining Membership... \$5.00 year per person.
Join God's 1000 Club... \$10.00 year per person.*

Help support the International Lutheran Deaf Association!

Desiring to be faithful people of God, led by Him and our blessed Saviour, Jesus Christ, and inspired by His Word as it is brought to us in the doctrines, teachings and confessions of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the International Lutheran Deaf Association commenced its ministry during its first biennial convention in Chicago in 1971.

Send check or money order payable to: "**The I.L.D.A. Treasurer**" and mail to: **Karen Beiter, ILDA Treasurer, 7300 Briggs Road, Lima, NY 14485.**

SPREAD THE WORDS AROUND. Encourage your Christian friends to join! Write or e-mail to one of your Deaf Lutheran staff for more information.

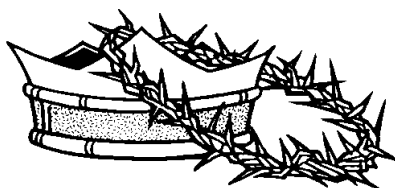
"Then looking up to heaven, He sighed and commanded, 'OPEN.' Instantly, the man could hear perfectly and speak plainly!" —Mark 7:34



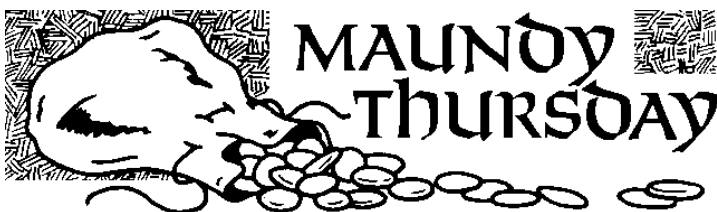
Looking Ahead!



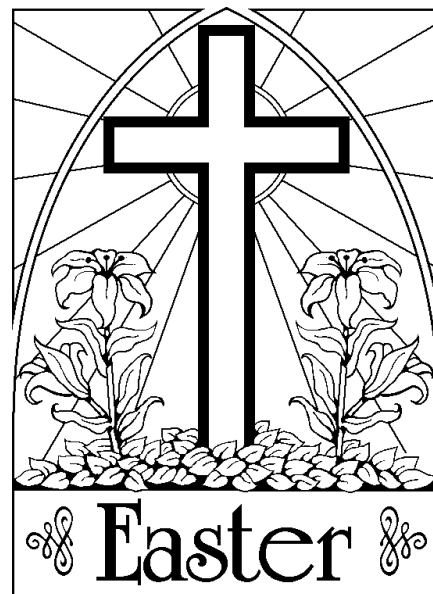
PALM SUNDAY



Good Friday



MAUNDY THURSDAY



Easter

The DEAF LUTHERAN

March/April, 1998

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