



# The DEAF LUTHERAN



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

Christmas, 1999

St. Louis, MO

Volumes 91, No. 4

## DEAF LUTHERAN DEVOTION



Rev. Mark Anderson,  
ILDA Pastoral Advisor

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ the only true Savior and Friend of sinners! I am surprised that a wonderful time of celebration is about to be here already! Why, of course, I am talking about Christmas.

The question is this: do we celebrate Christmas as a commercial holiday or a Christian? Still better' do we try to combine both holidays into one so that we can see it as a good old "American" holiday. I believe very strongly that how we sign the word "Christmas" can show very clearly how we celebrate it. We all know that there are different signs used to sign "Christmas." I personally know of five different signs. Maybe you may know that there are more than five of them. In order to understand which sign is more appropriate for us when it comes to Christmas, we should go back to learn on how Christmas itself began.

According to history, the Church in Rome celebrated Christmas, known as the Feast of the Nativity, for the first time as early as 336 AD. The word "Christmas" became part of the English language around 1050 AD as the old English phrase: **Christes Maessee**, meaning "festival of Christ." The shortened version of Christmas as **Xmas** came into use in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The **X** stands for the Greek letter **chi**, an abbreviation of **khristos** (Christ), and also represents the cross on which Jesus was crucified.

Although the Gospels of Matthew and Luke give detailed descriptions of the birth of Jesus, they gave no specific dates of His birth. As a result, the Church in Rome chose December 25<sup>th</sup> as the day for the festival of the Nativity so as to give Christian meaning to existing pagan celebrations. For example, the Church replaced festivities honoring the birth of the Mithra (ancient Persian god of light) with festivities honoring the birth of Jesus, whom the Bible calls the Light of the world.

We Lutheran Christians know very well that Jesus came into the world as a Babe so

that He can save sinners from the world sin, the reign of Satan and the eternal death in hell. Actually, Almighty God created man to live forever, but sin came into our life because of disobedience. So, Christ Jesus came here on this earth to be born in order to die. That is why we celebrate the birth of our Savior. So it is pretty easy to decide on which sign that can be appropriate for the festival of the Nativity. The sign is thus: Christ-Birth-Celebrate. I fully realize that it is difficult to change our usual "pagan" signs of Christmas to the more appropriate Christian sign. With the help of the Holy Spirit, our Comforter from our Heavenly Father and our Savior, it can be done' After all, Jesus Himself says that we can do all things through His strength.

Come, brothers and sisters in Christ, let us be bold to always sign to our friends and family members as well as all other people at work or at play:

### CHRIST-BORN-CELEBRATE!



ILDA Pastoral Advisor



### I am going to Turkey!

**Seth Anderson**, son of ILDA Pastoral Advisor Rev. Mark Anderson will be going to Turkey on December 28th with a team of 79.

After graduating from high school last June, Seth relocated to the Youth With A Mission (YWAM) base in Elm Springs, Arkansas for their 1999 Discipleship Training School (DTS). Please pray for me!

**Seth Anderson, 14210 F. Robbins Rd,  
P.O. Box 30, Elm Springs, AR 72728-0030.  
e-mail: Discipel@mailcity.com.**

2000



# Merry Christmas!



Greetings in the name of our wonderful Savior, Jesus Christ. Soon we are nearing the end of a millennium and entering a new millennium. It has been 2,000 years since Christ's birth and many of us are looking forward to His Second Coming. Recently many of us have been preparing for the "Y2K". Meanwhile, your Deaf Lutheran Editor and Business Manager have been preparing *The Deaf Lutheran* and ILDA for the new millennium.

I had a very extremely busy year this year. It has been a very demanding three-year project for me with the Cleveland '99 ILDA Convention like meetings and doing all the graphic stuffs - fliers, forms, and the program book.

This fall also has been very busy time for me. After receiving Mill Neck Foundation's check, orders were made through the web sites (www.MacMall.com and www.apple.com) and shipments were received, unpacked and checked. A couple of months were spent setting up and preparing the Macintosh to our Deaf Lutheran specifications. As usual with new equipment and software, computer bugs pop up. It has been a long, painful job and about every evenings and weekend were spent getting the equipment ready. Keep in mind that I have over ten years of Macintosh experience, at work and at home.

This Christmas issue of *The Deaf Lutheran* is the first issue produced on the new equipment. The page layout is now produced with Adobe PageMaker 6.5 Plus software. The mailing database has been changed to Microsoft Excel 98 software and printed on smaller label to save cost of the label sheets. Instead of 20 addresses per sheet, we now print 30 addresses per sheet. The three former address files are now combined and printed in zip code order on label for easier sorting.

Now after being your editor for a little over two years, I am now more experienced with ILDA procedures and events. I have received many good comments about the Cleveland '99 convention coverage (photos) in the last issue. I apologize to the St. Louis '97 committee for not publishing much of their convention, as I was new to ILDA back then. More coverage improvements will be made for future conventions.

Another new millennium project I am working on is ILDA's new brochure. Hopeful printing and distribution date is January 2000. ILDA's millennium goal should be to increase membership and spread the gospel. Starting in January is a good time to start making a list and suggestions to the Board and to ILDA's Mission Project chairperson where our 2001-2005 Mission Project goal should go.

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New "Millennium" Year!

*Editor*

P.S. Your Deaf Lutheran Business Manager now has an e-mail address which is [LarryDGinter@aol.com](mailto:LarryDGinter@aol.com)



## Web Sites to Visit...

LCMS Deaf Ministry Locations... I personally visited this site and this is a really great site to visit. It tell you the location, time, pastor, etc. for each deaf churches and others. See for yourself at: <http://members.aol.com/revrmoody/deafministriesFrameSet.html>

Holy Cross (St. Louis) web site provide transcripts of Sermons each Sunday with a Bible Study and Wednesday Bible Study...visit: <http://members.aol.com/revrmoody/hcdchur.html>

Check out the LCMS' Pentecost 2000 website. It is a list of new ministries being started. There are several Deaf ministries being started, small group ministries, camps, etc. Their web site address is: [www.pentecost2000.com](http://www.pentecost2000.com)



*In the last issue of the Deaf Lutheran, we couldn't remember what the 1st place banner during the Cleveland ILDA Convention look like. LeeAnn Kotal of Polgrim Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, California, recently sent me this photo. Standing l-r: Ermalean Presley, Elizabeth Morgan, LeeAnn Kotal, Jenna Smith, Gordon & Carol Goebel, and Diane Lessing.*



## Federal regulators warn Americans of phone billing scams

A recent article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer has attracted my attention. I don't know of any ILDA members in the Caribbean so for you mainland ILDA members, here is what the article is about.

Be alert to the 809 area code. One common variation of the scam is for a person to receive an e-mail message saying something like: "Thank you for your order. This is to confirm \$375 is being charged to your Visa card. If you believe this charge to be in error, please call..."

At that point, the message directs callers to a number **without specifying** that it's in a Caribbean area code.

People who immediately call the number to avoid an improper charge to their credit card have fallen into the trap and may find a charge of \$25 or more on their next phone bill.

An e-mail isn't the only way victims are hooked. An even simpler method scammer use is to leave a "please return call" message on a person's pager.

The fraud involves duping people into making long-distance calls to offshore phones, generating high per-minute charges. **So watch out for any phone number that have an 809 area code in it.**

*Editor*

# The Installation of Pastor Robert Case

The Installation of Pastor Robert Case On August 29, 1999, Sunday was most joyful day for the members at the Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran Church in Omaha. On this day Pastor Robert Case was installed as our pastor. Rev. James Moll, vice-president of the LCMS Nebraska District, performed the Rite of Installation. Rev. Richard Gudgel of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Omaha was the Special Guest Speaker. Rev. Gudget had been our vacancy pastor for several months. About nearly 65 members, friends and family gathered on this special day at church for the Installation of Pastor Robert Case. Nearly 70

people attended the luncheon after the service. Pastor Robert Case graduated from the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in May 1978. He was assigned to Holy Three-In-One in Houston, Texas where he pastored until receiving the Call to Pilgrim Lutheran Church for the Deaf in Los Angeles, California. He retired from there in 1993 and moved to South Padre Island, Texas until he accepted the Call to Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran Church of Omaha on August 1999. Praise the Lord for bringing him and his wife, Mary, to the Bethlehem Deaf Lutheran Church. May the love of Christ dwell in them richly.



*Rev. James Moll; Cynthia Feldhusen (Pastor's daughter) of Brookfield, WI interpreted the whole service; and Pastor Case, kneeling.*



*Rev Gudget, Rev. Moll, Cynthia Feldhusen, and Pastor Case, kneeling*



*Pastor Case*



*Pastor Case and Mary*



*l-r: Pastor Case's daughter, Cynthia; wife, Mary Case; Dad, Richard Case from Oklahoma; and Pastor Case.*





# News from around the Regions...



Coming...  
**Indianapolis**  
**2001 ILDA**  
**June 20-24,**  
**2001**

## Northwest Region...

Cross of Christ, Edmonton, Canada... **Florence Olga Youngs** has entered God's Kingdom on Aug 4th. Rally Day and Groundbreaking events were held at **Pax Natura Ranch** on September 5, 1999. The ranch (established in 1976) is set on three quarters of crown land. The facility includes six trailers housing staff and residents, a diner, modern kitchen, library, showers, two utility units, a classroom and chapel. Pax Natura is roughly translated in Latin "at peace with nature."

Faith, Spokane... **Alfred Gordon Harding** was called home at the age of 82 on June 9, 1999.

## Pacific Region...

Pilgrim Church, LA California... **Diane Burnett** was called home to heaven at Walnut Manor nursing home in August. Lutheran Deaf Camp week are July 16-21, 2000 at Frazier Park and Aug 13-18 at Oak Glen. Contact Pastor Leber at Phone/Fax/TDD: 909-987-5484 or by e-mail: RevLeber@aol.com. See Pilgrim's web page for their newsletters: <http://www.psw.lcms.org/deafministry.htm>

## Midwest Region...

Word of God, Cedar Rapids, IA... Jesus called home **Thomas Tingle, Sr** on July 12th. The **Lutheran Deaf Ministry for the Quad Cities** has begun. Pastor Altenberger and Iowa District East did a lot of work to help get this work started. Contact Pastor Eckert (319) 355-9447 v/tty. **Rev Tim Eckert** was officially installed on August 1st at Trinity in Davenport, Iowa.

Calvary, Des Moines, IA... **Pastor Kois** is now on disability. Keep him in your prayers.

**Rev. Reinke** celebrated 10 years as a pastor and missionary-at-large for the deaf of the Nebraska District.

## Great Lakes Region...

Trinity, Pittsburgh, PA... Called home to Heaven are **Carl Vogtsberger, Francis Adams, John W. Miller, Mrs Catherine Slates, Rose Marie Garvin, Thomas Garvin, Mary Sassz, Clyde Fairbanks, Betty Robinson, Anna Barchie, Anna Fronzaglio and Irene Stanley.**

Holy Cross, Columbus, OH... continue praying for **Johnny Bergstresser** with surgery. This year Vacation Bible School include a mission program from the **Lutheran Hour Ministries-By Kids for Kids.** Theme was about the small island of Puerto Rico.

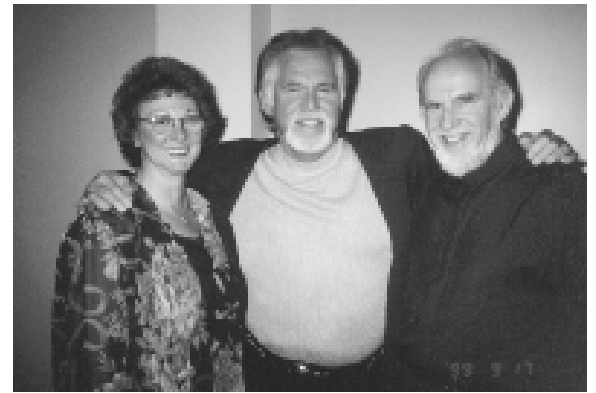
Good Shepherd, Toledo, OH... **Winter Camp 2000** is coming on February 4-6 in Mansfield, Ohio. Contact the church for details at (419) 536-3370.

Christ Lutheran, Cleveland, OH... continue with their new church building project. Now have keys to the new building and many volunteers are working inside getting it ready for contractor(s) to start remodeling. Target moving date is early 2000.

## Eastern Region...

Christ Lutheran, Silver Spring, MD... **Gallaudet Lutheran Campus Ministry** continue with their regular Sunday Afternoon services at 2 pm in Ely 223. **Vicar Bill Wrede** was given a farewell picnic on July 18th before returning to St. Louis. **Don Peterson** was given a surprised 70th birthday party on July 24th.

Remember to send to the D/L editor your church's newsletters!



## Can you Guess?

Who is the man standing between myself and Karen?

*Rev. Don Leber via e-mail*

**Editor's Note:** Rev. Leber had a massive stroke in St. Louis on Tuesday, November 9th during the Deaf Institute of Theology event. Latest information at this writing is that he is alert. He had blood leaking into the thalamus (brain) and the doctor had stopped it. He had several seizures before he went to the hospital on Monday night and early Tuesday morning. This has nothing to do with the tumor or cancer that he had before. He recognized everyone and he sleeps alot. However, he does have major paralysis on his right side and while he is able to communicate, his speech has been affected. Please keep him in your prayers.

REMEMBER OUR  
**Hospitalized**  
**GET WELL SOON!**

# Future Regional Conference Dates...

Northwest Region...  
No dates submitted yet.

Pacific Region...  
No dates submitted yet.

Midwest Region...  
**June 23-25, 2000** at Black Forest Camp and Conference Center, North of Colorado Springs, CO.

Central Region...  
**May 4th-7th, 2000** at Holiday Inn I-94 and Rt. 132 (Grand Ave) in Gurnee, IL. Theme: "Paradise of God"

Dixie Region...  
**June 23-25th, 2000** at Concordia University in Austin, Texas.

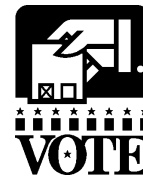
Great Lakes Region...  
Holy Cross, Columbus, business meeting. No dates submitted yet.

Eastern Region ILDA...  
**May 26-29, 2000** at Ramada Inn, Whitehall, PA. Hosted by St. Matthew (Clifton, NJ), St. Mark (Manhattan, NY) and St. Mathew (Elmhurst, NY). Contact person is Rev. Eric Ziegler, FAX (973) 614-1737.

## Reminders...

At your ILDA regional conferences during the year 2000... **please remember to** nominate and vote names for 2001-2003 ILDA Officer candidates to be submitted to the ILDA Nominating Committee for election in 2001. Candidates are needed for President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Pastoral Advisor.

**Also make sure your churches submitted their reports to your regional conference leaders.**



**Deadline for submitting conference dates in the next *The Deaf Lutheran* issue is February 15, 2000!**



## News from Concordia Seminary in Saint Louis...

The first half of this school year at Concordia Seminary is off to a great start. We are excited to have three men who are preparing for Deaf Ministry.

A new first-year student, Carl Muehler, is taking ASL I and is making great progress. Carl's wife Justina is also taking classes and is really picking things up quickly. We have a few second-year students who are taking ASL classes but none of them are interested in full-time work with the Deaf... keep praying. Dennis Konkel is a vicar this year in Indianapolis. We miss not having Dennis and his wife Susan on campus this year. The fourth-year student is Bill Wrede. Bill is finishing his classes and will be ready for a call on April 11. Please keep all of our students in your prayers.

The Concordia Seminary Sign School is also doing very well this year. After a brief slump last year, we are back up to 58 students in four different classes. The Lord continues to bless our program with motivated students and teachers. A group of about 12 students will be traveling to Washington, D.C. in March to see Gallaudet University and Christ Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

*If you are ever in the Saint Louis area, let us know and we would love to give you a tour of our campus. We can be reached at [signschool@csl.edu](mailto:signschool@csl.edu) or by calling 314/505-7151 TTY or 314/505-7120 Voice.*

## Share Jesus—YES!!

On labor day weekend in Omaha, Nebraska—Rev. Mark Anderson led a workshop sponsored by Lutheran Deaf Ministries on the best ways to share Jesus with our friends. Wow, what a wonderful experience! During free time, in the setting of a rustic retreat center, we enjoyed outdoor activities such as swimming and canoeing, and inside basketball and games. Missionaries Rev. John Reinke and Rev. Cory Eckstrom ask for your prayers for outreach. Equipped now with tools, and renewed in spirit and prayer, we ask God's blessing on our faith sharing and bringing others to learn and experience God's saving love! *Photos shown right.*

## Friends and Family Celebrate With Emma Mappes

On Sunday, August 22nd, a special celebration of thanks was held for Emma Mappes. Emma, born August 23, 1901 is a living witness to God's unfailing love and care. Emma is the widow of the late Rev. Earnest Mappes, LCMS Missionary at Large and circuit rider for the Deaf (Midwest) for many years. During their ministry together, Emma was a dorm parent at the Nebraska School for the Deaf, involved in Deaf choir, and teacher for adults and children of all ages. What a legacy—to be able to pass the faith down to the next generation. Well done, good and faithful servant of God!. Letters and cards can be sent to her at Emma Mappes, Village Manor Nursing Home, 3220 North 14th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68521.



# ILDA Publicity and Deaf Awareness Committee

This new committee has been formed for the purpose of informing the ILDA membership and the deaf community of ILDA history, activities, and the mission project. The first task of the committee is to complete the production of a 15-minute ILDA Publicity Video. This video, funded by the Mill Neck Foundation for Deaf Ministry, is tentatively entitled, "Signing Hands Show Us the Way." Our video producer, James DeBee, expects to be free in coming months to finish work on it. For more information about this videotape, please refer to "Updates on ILDA Publicity Video Project" on page 5 of the DEAF LUTHERAN (Fall 1999)

As the outgoing ILDA secretary, one of my final duties is to sort out old letters, reports, memos and other artifacts from my ILDA File. I am preparing them to be sent to Mae Madding, our historian. Mae will decide which items should be preserved at the Concordia Historical Institute in St. Louis, Missouri. Mae also does this sort of screening for each of the eight ILDA regions.

About the ILDA Publicity Videotape, I have arranged a few months ago with one ILDA member to check with the Concordia Historical Institute for certain black-and-white photos of the following subjects from their collection. I am still waiting for them.

- Edward Pahl while attending the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit and later at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Chicago.
- Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit in 1890s.
- Rev. Augustus Reinke in both his early and later ministry.
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Chicago in 1890s.
- Lutheran Church Missouri Synod(LCMS) convention in Fort Wayne in 1896.
- Meeting site of the founders of the ILDA in Chicago in 1971.
- Marion Van Manen as the first ILDA president in 1971.

If there is a chance that you know of someone who may know a source of the above illustrations or have such pictures yourself, please let me know through David Brown, your editor. If they are used, either in the videotape or in the DEAF LUTHERAN, you will receive credit.

## ILDA Trivia: Why did Edward Pahl want deaf church services in Chicago?

*Answer: Many deaf people like him worked in the Chicago area. He felt that people who have learned the word of God from Lutheran School should continue with their bible study. Rev. Augustus Reinke in Chicago was willing to learn American Sign Language from Edward Pahl. On March 4, 1894, Rev. Reinke began to preach using sign language to 13 deaf people at his church.*

Alice L. Hagemeyer, Chairperson via e-mail



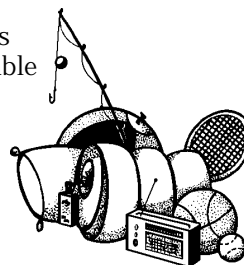
## Mill Neck Deaf Camp for Children at Camp Ma-He-Tu, Bear Mountain

For the sixth consecutive year, children from Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf participated in a Camp for Deaf children ages 8 through 12, at Camp Ma-He-Tu in Bear Mountain, New York. Barbara Lanman, Coordinator of Deaf Ministry for Mill Neck Foundation, is the organizer of this spiritual camping experience. The counselors and leaders at this camp are Deaf and/or skilled in sign language, which helps to make this camp an even more rewarding experience for the Deaf campers.

During the week, the campers enjoyed a variety of activities and craft projects. The activities included kayaking, making homemade ice cream, tie-dye t-shirts, archery and enjoying bon fires. There was a prayer before each meal. "The focus was on the fact that we are all part of God's family and as family members we learn acceptance and forgiveness of one another. This is especially important as we live together as a "camp family," says Barbara Lanman. Mrs. Auslander, the wife of Mill Neck Manor's Board member, Rudolph Auslander, made a special visit to the camp this year to give the campers a class on constructing origami. The campers made paper hats, boats, birds and flowers.

According to Barbara Lanman, one very important component of the camp program is the idea of giving service back to the camp facility. In appreciation for using the Ma-He-Tu camp facility, the children painted the boat racks that hold the canoes and picked up litter. Last year, they participated in litter pick up and painted a railing around the dining hall. "These "giving back" activities foster positive Christian values which encourage our deaf children to participate in Mill Neck Manor's Servanthood Project when they get older," says Lanman.

Since it's beginning in 1994, this special camp has proven to be an unforgettable experience, filled with lots of good memories for all involved.



## 1999-2000 Grants Awarded by Mill Neck Foundation

Association of Lutheran Older Adults (ALOA) - Valparaiso, IN: *Helping Older Adults with Hearing Problems*

Bethel Deaf TV Ministries - Spring Hill, KS: *Video Classes for Deaf Children in Sign Language*

International Deaf Lutheran Association (ILDA) - Parma, OH: *The Deaf Lutheran Publication*

Lutheran Association for Special Education - St. Louis, MO: *Speech and Language for All Ages*

St. David's Lutheran Church - Massapequa Park, NY: *Deaf Ministry at St. David's Lutheran Church*

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf - Indianapolis, IN: *Funding for Vicar*

East Meets West - Oakland, CA: *Village of Hope - DaNang, Vietnam*

National Council of the Church of Christ, West Chester, PA: *Generations X & Y; New Hands for Deaf Ministry*

Mid-South District - LCMS - Memphis, TN: *Nashville Area Deaf Ministry Facilitator*

Dalton Noack- Kumasi, Ghana, West Africa: *Dalton Noack to Attend Church Interpreter Training Institute*

ILWML - Minneapolis, MN: *Captioning, Interpreting and Scholarships for Convention*

St. John Lutheran Church - Wausau, WI: *Interpreter for the Deaf at St. John Lutheran Church*

Mill Neck Foundation- Mill Neck, NY: *Deaf Ministry Projects*

Christian Blind Mission International, Inc. - Greenville, SC: *CBM Collaborations in Brazil and Jordan*

Concordia School for the Deaf - Macau: *Assistance to the School*

LCMS - Ephphatha Conference - Cleveland, OH: *Interpreter Services*

International Lutheran Deaf Association - India: *India Project: ILDA Mission Project*

North Wisconsin District - LCMS - Macau: *Support Missionary Work of Jennifer Knaack*

Mill Neck Family of Organizations



# Why Jesus Is Better Than Santa Claus

Santa lives at the North Pole ...  
JESUS is everywhere.



Santa rides in a sleigh...  
JESUS rides on the wind and walks  
on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...  
JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...  
JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...  
JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then  
enters your heart.

You have to wait in line to see Santa...  
JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap...  
JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is  
"Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"...  
JESUS knew our name before we did. Not only  
does He know our name, He knows our  
address too. He knows our history and  
future and He even knows how many hairs  
are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...  
JESUS has a heart full of love.

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...  
JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry" ...  
JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care  
for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys...  
JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts,  
repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but...  
JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...  
JESUS became our gift and died on the tree.

It's obvious there is really no comparison. We  
need to remember WHO Christmas is all  
about. We need to put Christ back in  
Christmas, Jesus is still the reason for the  
season. Yes, Jesus is better, he is even  
better than Santa Claus.

Merry CHRISTmas!!!

*via e-mail*

# If Noah lived in the United States today...

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In one year, I am going to make it rain and cover the whole earth with water until all flesh is destroyed. But I want you to save the righteous people and two of every kind of living thing on the earth. Therefore, I am commanding you to build an Ark." In a flash of lightening, God delivered the specifications for an Ark. In fear and trembling, Noah took the plans and agreed to build the Ark. "Remember" said the Lord, "You must complete the Ark and bring everything aboard in one year." Exactly one year later, fierce storm clouds covered the earth and all the seas of the earth went into a tumult. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard weeping. "Noah", He shouted. "Where is the Ark?" "Lord, please forgive me!" Cried Noah. "I did my best, but there were big problems. First, I had to get a permit for construction and your plans did not meet the codes. I had to hire an engineering firm and redraw the plans. Then I got into a fight with OSHA over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system and floatation devices. Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning ordinances by building the Ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission. Then I had problems getting enough wood for the Ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to protect the Spotted Owl. I finally convinced the US Forest Service that I needed the wood to save the owls. However, the Fish and Wildlife Service won't let me catch any owls. So, no owls. The carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or a hammer. Now I have 16 carpenters on the Ark, but still no owls. When I started rounding up the other animals, I got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to me only taking two of each kind aboard. Just when I got the suit dismissed, the EPA notified me that I could not complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take very kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of the Creator of the universe. Then the Army Engineers demanded a map of the proposed new flood plain. I sent them a globe. Right now, I am trying to resolve a complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that I am practicing discrimination by not taking godless, unbelieving people aboard. The IRS has seized my assets, claiming that I'm building the Ark in preparation to flee the country to avoid paying taxes. I just got a notice from the state that I owe them some kind of user tax and failed to register the Ark as a "recreational water craft." Finally, the ACLU got the courts to issue an injunction against further construction of the Ark, saying that since God is flooding the earth, it is a religious event and therefore, unconstitutional. I really don't think I can finish the Ark for another five or six years." Noah wailed. The sky began to clear, the sun began to shine and the seas began to calm. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up hopefully. "You mean You are not going to destroy the earth Lord?" "No," said the Lord sadly. "I don't have to. The government already has."

*via e-mail*

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The Lord is my programmer, I shall not crash. He installed His software on the hard disk of my heart; All of His commands are user-friendly. His directory guides me to the right choices for His name's sake. Even though I scroll through the problems of life, I will fear no bugs, for He is my backup. His password protects me. He prepares a menu before me in the presence of my enemies. His help is only a keystroke away. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, And my file will be merged with His and saved forever.  
Amen.

*via e-mail*



**Our Savior  
is Born**

# 1999-2001 ILDA Mission Project Goals...



1. Deaf Mission Planters Institute ..... \$15,000
2. Macau (Volunteers) ..... 2,000
3. Ghana ..... 2,000
4. D.I.T. and Zacharias ..... 16,000
5. Pax Natrua Ranch (Canada) ..... 1,000
6. Camps for the Deaf
  - Nebraska ..... 3,000
  - California ..... 3,000
  - Ohio ..... 3,000
7. Starfish Learning Center ..... 6,000
8. Computer (Deaf Lutheran) ..... 4,000

**Total ..... \$55,000**

Pam Kane of Cleveland, Ohio will continue to be your ILDA Mission Project Chairperson. Payments and contributions are to be made out to: **1999-2000 ILDA Mission Project** and mailed to:

**ILDA TREASURER  
Karen Beiter  
7300 Briggs Rd.  
Lima NY 14485**



*In the last issue of The Deaf Lutheran, we couldn't remember what the 3rd place banner during the Cleveland ILDA Convention look like. Dawn Polzin of Silent Lutheran Church, Madison, WI sent me this one*

*Thanks!*



## It is Deaf Lutheran Subscription Renewal Time!

November/December is renewal time. Check your mail or your church for payment due if not already paid.



**Christmas, 1999**  
 Official publication of the International Lutheran Deaf Association and the Board of Mission, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, published quarterly by Adam Pangrace & Sons Division, Fairview Park, OH.  
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 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

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